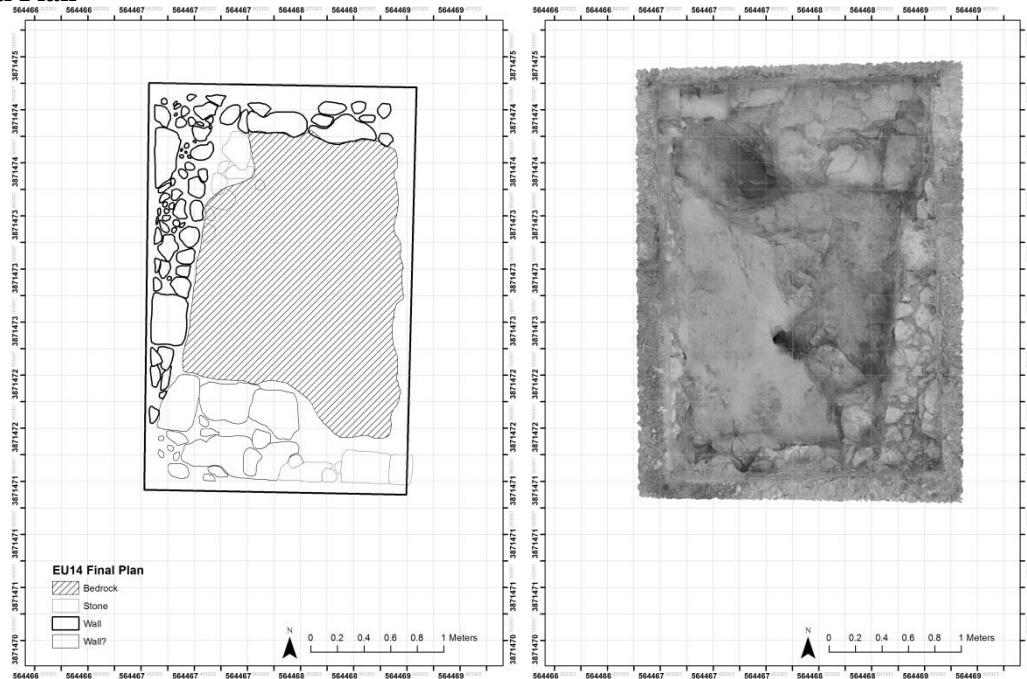


Vigla: Excavation Unit 14

Trench Supervisor: Brandon Olson

Final Plan



Section 1. Introduction

Vigla EU 14 was excavated from May 21-June 4, 2012 under the supervision of Brandon Olson with the assistance of Megan Piette, Jimmie Nelson, Liz Deforest, and Laura Goodling. The unit produced a sizeable, well-preserved assemblage of artifacts: varied ceramic, metal weapons, two coins, and shells. The features uncovered in the trench include two walls that define an interior room of a building. The interior room appeared to be domestic in nature as evidenced by the utilitarian objects found, three floors, two of which were partially covered with gypsum slab flooring. The features, artifacts, and stratigraphy all suggest three phases of floor construction and occupation dating to a narrow chronological window, likely within a century, between the late Classical and early Hellenistic periods. The high-quality preservation of the objects and floor surfaces of the interior space indicate a relatively rapid burial by mudbrick collapse. Altogether, this excavation substantiates the chronology and architecture of the Vigla settlement established by two previous seasons of limited excavation in 2008 and 2009, continuing to indicate that the architecture during the late Classical and Hellenistic periods was domestic rather than monumental in nature and included a small-scale military presence.

Section 2. Location, Purpose, and Previous Work in the Area

Vigla EU 14 is situated on the east central Vigla plateau northwest of the lookout shed in the southeast corner. The unit is bounded in the north at 3871474.96 N, in the south at 3871471.90 N, in the west at 564467.02 E, and in the east at 564469.07 E. All coordinates given are based on the following projection system: WGS1984 UTM Zone 36N. EU 14 is approximately 13 meters south and 3 meters west of EU 15 (Aaron's trench), while EU 16 (Dallas' trench) lies farther to the northwest on the northern fortification wall. EU 17 (Jon's trench) is far to the southwest. In relation to the closest EU excavated in 2008, it lies 12 meters north and 15 meters west of EU 1 and in relation to the closest EU excavation in 2009 it is situated 16 meters north and 1 meter east of EU 8.

The purpose of Vigla EU 14 was to ground truth the resistivity work conducted during the 2007 field season, refine our understanding of architecture defined through excavation in the 2008 season, and to bolster the site's domestic ceramic corpus in order to parse the individuals living at Vigla in the late Classical/early Hellenistic period. From the maps displaying the geophysical data, we recognized one long, rather large linear feature running east/west through the middle of the trench. Vigla EU 14 was positioned to intersect this feature. Consequently, the trench was 2 meters wide (E-W) and 3 meters long (N-S). The goals of the trench included identify the wall, determining the relationship between it and those excavated in EUs 1, 2, 5, and 8. Broader goals of the Vigla excavations included producing an artifact assemblage to compare to the survey assemblages in order to discuss relationships of surface and subsurface deposits, and further define Vigla's chronology through a comprehensive evaluation of a sizeable domestic ceramic assemblage.

Section 3. Methods of Excavation

The methods employed in Vigla EU 14 mirror those dictated in the PKAP excavation manual. Staff members defined the excavation unit by utilizing geophysical maps and a Sokkia Set 3BII Total Station oriented using GPS points collected in previous seasons. The corners of the 2 X 3 meter trench were marked with rebar and given UTM coordinates with the total station. An elevation datum was placed on the southeast corner of the trench and assigned an elevation (55.60 m), from which all elevations were taken during excavation. After two weeks of excavation, all elevations were checked using the total station and proved accurate.

The excavation strategy included stratigraphic excavation. Pick axes and trowels were used to excavate one stratum at a time, removing the most recent levels first where possible. All of our SUs represent true stratigraphic units although SU 5111 was, because of an oversight by the trench supervisor (see explanation below in Section 4B), a mixed SU including material from the entire subfloor deposit beneath 5110, but it also contained material from 5112 and 5113. All the material from SUs in EU 14 was sifted through .5 cm² wide mesh.

The recording system utilized in the 2008 and 2009 excavations served as the basis for the 2012 excavations. The only difference from previous years included the testing of a 3D recording platform using PhotoScan by Agisoft, which uses photographs taken in the field to generate a

point cloud and a textured 3D model. Most of the floor surfaces and bottom of certain SUs from all EUs were recorded successfully using Agisoft.

Section 4. Stratigraphy and Harris Matrix

Vigla EU 14 consists of 13 separate SUs (5101-5113) which belong to several cohesive strata and represent stratified natural and cultural deposits. The following discussion aims to be interpretive and is based on both the descriptions of the SUs in the EU notebook and the strata clearly visible in the scarps at the end of the season. All strata are annotated from the top down (i.e. from youngest to oldest).

A. There are three strata that extend across the entire trench and represent either natural or modern formative processes (SUs 5101-5103):

- 5101: Ground Surface: SU 5101, visible across the entire trench. SU simply represented weeding, removal of artifacts visible on the surface, and a light (2-3 centimeter) scraping. One ceramic and one shell bag was collected.
- 5102: Modern Plow Zone (Loamy Sand, coarse grained compact): This stratum is the narrow plow zone (5-10 cm thick) created by shallow plowing in recent times. The sediments of this SU are spread evenly throughout the trench and contained gravel to pebble sized clast and produced two bags of pottery, two shell bags, and a glass bag. As in previous seasons, excavation began in SU 5102 with plow furrows oriented east/west and closed when sediments became more fine grained. Unlike in previous years, however, a different set of plow furrows running north/south were not encountered. (Note that the 2008 excavation at Vigla EU 1 and 2, as well as the 2009 excavation at Vigla EU 8 demonstrated the same depositional pattern (furrows changing from east/west to north/south)). It is entirely possible that the unseasonably wet spring has something to do with the elusive north/south plow furrows.
- 5103: Natural Fill below Plow Zone (Loamy Sand, fine grained compact): This stratum averaged 12 centimeters in depth and consisted of a natural fill immediately below the modern plow zone. This layer is a consistently narrow stratum (ca. 10 cm) of loamy sand, reddish-brown in color (5 YR 5/4), which includes amounts (10%) of gravel and pebble sized stones with few artifacts.

B. The following strata represent successive construction, occupation, and destruction levels of three phases of the interior of a room within a domestic structure (SUs 5104-5113):

- 5104: Destruction Level without Evidence of Mudbrick (Silty Clay Loam, fine grained firm): This soil in this unit was compact firm, reddish brown (5YR 5/4), with moderate pebble sized inclusions (20%) and numerous artifacts. The layer, approximately 13 centimeters thick, most likely represents wall collapse to the east of 5104_f1. The only difference between this unit and the one above it was the sharp increase in the number of pottery sherds. The sediment clast and matrix are very similar, though this layer is slightly less compacted. One would expect to find mudbrick in such a level, but after

carefully excavating the unit, no evidence of mudbrick was found in this level. Again, perhaps the unseasonably wet spring has something to do with this anomaly. Unit closed with the appearance of a north/south oriented wall and the appearance of mudbrick. The unit produced four bags of pottery, stone artifacts, and shells.

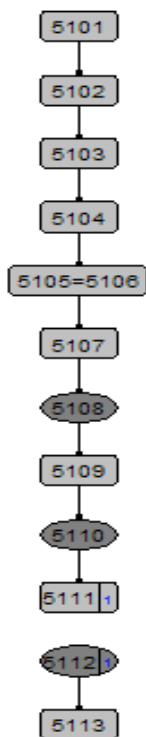
- 5105 and 5106: Destruction Level with Mudbrick (Clay Loam, fine grained firm): The two units, about 15 centimeters thick, were initially separated because of the presence of a few cobble sized stones oriented roughly east/west .50 meters south of the northern baulk. After a small pass, the stones turned out to be floating, but both units were still excavated separately. The units consisted of large pockets of brown mudbrick, as opposed to the brick-red colored variety discovered in previous years, chalk, and firm fine grained sediments with moderate cobble sized inclusions (30%). Artifact densities for both units were high, which, when combined, included 6 bags of ceramics, stone artifacts, shells, and two special finds (FS 5106_1001 bronze coin and FS 5106_1002 shell bead). A mudbrick sample was also collected. Unit closed when mudbrick densities decreased and sediment became less compacted.
- 5107: Occupation Level above Floor Surface (Sandy Clay Loam, fine grained firm): The unit represents the occupation debris of the occupational surface above a floor surface (5108). The unit averaged 10 centimeters thick and included an abundance of artifacts (4 bags of pottery, a stone artifact, and shell), low cobble sized inclusions, and wall tumble. In some instances, the wall tumble laid directly on top of the floor surface and larger pottery fragments. Unit closed when irregularly spaced gypsum flooring slabs and a compact earthen surface were uncovered. At first glance, diagnostic pottery included an Attic lamp spout, rim, body, and base fragment.
- 5108: Gypsum Slab and Compacted Earthen Floor (Sandy Clay Loam, coarse compact): The floor surface consisted of gypsum flooring slabs, examples of which were found in situ in the southwest corner of the trench, and compacted earth. The unit had a sizeable proportion of gravel to pebble sized stones, approximately 70%, and the unit yielded two bags of pottery and some shell. The limestone flooring is similar to examples found in EUs 2 and 8 in previous years and was irregularly spaced throughout the trench. Since this is the most recent floor assemblage in the trench and was not systematically built over as in earlier occupation levels, I do not believe that the gypsum floor slabs extended throughout the trench. It appears more likely that the floor surface consisted of both flooring slabs and packed earth when it was constructed. The compacted earthen floor is nearly identical to floors excavated in previous years, very compacted and full of gravel. The ceramic assemblage included Attic Black Glaze, semi-fine pottery, storage vessels, and a sizeable assemblage of cooking wares. A small bronze coin (FS 5108_1001) was also found in situ on the floor surface in the southeast corner of the trench. The floor covers the rectangular feature in the southwest (5109_f1) and the wall in the north (5109_f2), suggesting that the construction of this floor surface consisted of a northern extension and was not brought about by a violent destruction (see comments below in Section 5).

- 5109: Subfloor Packing Beneath Floor 5108 (Sandy Clay Loam, fine-grained soft): The subfloor packing beneath the latest floor (5108) had a modest number of pebble inclusions (20%) and contained two ceramic bags, bone, and shell. The unit represents a leveling surface for 5108. The unit also included pockets of red mudbrick. The sediment extends across the trench and is loose, containing gravel to pebble sized stones. After a light pass two features were identified, one rectangular shaped stone arrangement (5109_f1) in the southwest corner of the trench that abuts the main north/south running wall and an east/west running wall (5109_f2) that joins 5104_f1. Both features lay immediately beneath the earlier floor, but since 5109_f1 abuts the main wall (5104_f1) and 5109_f2 joins 5104_f1, it is clear that the second feature predates the first and the first is contemporary with wall 5104_f1. The ceramic assemblage included a casserole rim fragment, Attic Black Glaze, cooking ware, storage vessels, and basket handles.
- 5110: Gypsum Slab and Compacted Earthen Floor (Clay Loam, coarse compact): The floor surface consisted of gypsum flooring slabs found immediately below stones associated with 5109_f1, examples of which were found in situ in the southwest corner of the trench, and compacted earth. The unit had a small proportion of gravel to pebble sized stones, approximately 10%, and the unit yielded few artifacts. The limestone flooring is similar to examples found in EUs 2 and 8 in previous years and was irregularly spaced throughout the trench. The floor was constructed directly on top of the bedrock on the east side of the trench. Although it did not contain as much pottery as later levels, the assemblages are very similar with semi-fine, cooking, storage wares being the most common types.
- 5111: Subfloor Packing beneath Floor 5110 and parts of 5112 and 5113 (Sandy Clay, fine-grained firm): The SU represents mostly the subfloor packing beneath floor 5110, but because the unit was over excavated in the southwest corner, it also included material from floor 5112 and subfloor fill 5113. The oversight was completely my fault, as I assumed that since we reached bedrock on the eastern side of the trench, the remaining deposit on the west side represented subfloor fill above bedrock. After about 20 centimeters of excavation in an approximately .50X.20 meter area in the southeast corner of the trench, it was clear that we had excavated through a floor surface, which was constructed 10 centimeters below the highest level of bedrock in the trench. Once the floor was identified, the unit was closed and the floor was excavated as SU5112. Artifact densities remained low, some pottery, shell, and an iron blade. It is entirely possible that the iron blade came from floor 5112. Ceramic remains included an Attic Black Glazed sherd and a painted Iron Age sherd.
- 5112: Compacted Earthen Floor (Loamy Sand, coarse compact): Unit represents the earliest packed earth floor identified in EU 14. Inclusions included modest quantities of gravel-pebble sized stones (20%) with very little pottery, 3 sherds, shell, and lenses of ash. The floor surface is interesting, as it shows that the earliest occupational phase at Vigla utilized the bedrock as a surface, in this case as some sort of 10-centimeter elevated area. In previous years in EUs 1 and 8, the earliest floors were identified directly above

bedrock and the lower layer consisted of subfloor leveling. The identification of 5112 10 centimeters below the highest point of bedrock at least suggests that there may have been earlier floor surfaces in EUs 1 and 8. Having excavated EU 1 to bedrock personally, however, I do remember the earliest subfloor deposit being very homogeneous, loose fill mixed with pebble to cobble sized stones. The excavation of SU 5112 adds an interesting component to the earliest phase of occupation at Vigla.

- 5113: Subfloor Packing beneath Floor 5112 (Loamy Sand, coarse loose): Unit consists of leveling debris for floor 5112. Inclusions included pebble sized stones (30%), some pottery and shell, and lenses of ash. The nature of the fill and its inclusions are similar to later fill layers in the trench. The unit is situated between floor 5112 and bedrock. Of the 8 collected sherds, one was an Attic Black Glazed body sherd.
- Bedrock

Harris Matrix for EU 14



Section 5. Features

There were three features identified in Vigla EU 14, two of which were walls and the other an unidentified rectangular stone arrangement. None of the walls appear to have made use of mortar, and all are constructed in random uncoursed style with coursing only evident in stones sitting on bedrock. As with most of the walls excavated in 2008 and 2009, all walls in EU 14 sit

directly on bedrock with a small layer of soil set on bedrock to create an even surface. Bedrock is generally flat except in the western and southern areas of the trench, where the bedrock dips significantly. This did not cause a problem for the builders who simply constructed their wall on bedrock and added additional filling material to establish the level for the mortar floors. The top of the highest preserved wall (5104_f1) was located 37 centimeters below the surface, which is much farther down than walls identified in previous excavations seasons to the south.

- The North/South Oriented Wall. 5104_f1:

The construction style of the wall, like previous examples found in EUs 1 and 8, is random coursed, with cobble ranging in size typically between .10-.20 m, although some stones had dimensions up to 0.50 m. The largest stones are in the lowest courses and are ca. 0.40- 0.50 m long and rest directly on relatively flat bedrock. We found no evidence that the wall had any type of facing, but there may have been plaster or mudbrick that collapsed from the walls after abandonment. The wall is preserved 9 courses high (approximately 1 meter in height) and at least 4 stones wide, though the exact width of the wall cannot be known, as the orientation of the trench prevented the identification of its western face. The wall bonds with 5109_f2 in the north and 5109_f1 abuts it in the south. 5104_f1 was constructed during the earliest phase of occupation and was built contemporaneously with 5109_f2.

- The East/West Oriented Wall. 5109_f2:

The construction style of the wall, like Wall 5104_f1 and previous examples found in EUs 1 and 8, is random coursed, with cobble ranging in size typically between .10-.20 m, although some stones had dimensions up to 0.50 m. The largest stones are in the lowest courses and are ca. 0.40- 0.50 m long and rest directly on relatively flat bedrock. We found no evidence that the wall had any type of facing, but there may have been plaster or mudbrick that collapsed from the walls after abandonment. The wall is preserved 2 courses high (approximately .35 meters in height) and at least 2 stones wide, though the exact width of the wall cannot be known, as the orientation of the trench prevented the identification of its northern face. The wall bonds with 5104_f1 demonstrating that both walls were built at the same time. During the construction of the latest gypsum slab/earthen floor surface (5108), the wall was partially dismantled and sealed by the floor surface. The north/south oriented wall (5104_f1) continued to be used and showed no signs of a later building phase.

- The Rectangular Feature. 5109_f1:

The feature consists of a rectangular shaped stone arrangement in the southwest corner of the trench measuring 1 meter (east/west) by .75 meters (north/south). The stones, when compared to the stones used in the construction of the two walls, were relatively larger averaging .30 X .30 meters. I am not sure of the feature's function, but it rested on top of the second phase floor (5110) and was sealed, like 5109_f2, by the latest phase floor

(5108). The feature is a construction undertaken during the second phase of occupation and therefore, postdates both walls (5104_f1 and 5109_f2).

Section 6. Finds

Most of the artifacts excavated in EU 14 consisted of ceramics of primarily late Classical to early Hellenistic date, though a few scant Iron Age pieces were identified. The pottery categories include cooking wares, utilitarian and storage vessels (amphoras), and fine wares bowls, dishes, and cups. There was also a sizeable assemblage of bone, stone, and shell remains; there was also some gypsum and plaster flooring. The assemblage again points to domestic artifacts and the three significant Findspot artifacts found in EU 14 include the following:

- **FS 5106_1001:** Bronze coin found in the mudbrick destruction debris.

N: 3871473.267

E: 564468.445

Z: 55.011

- **FS 5106_1002:** Shell bead found in the mudbrick destruction debris.

N: 3871473.17

E: 564468.99

Z: 55.02

- **FS 5108_1001:** Small bronze coin found on a floor surface (5108)

N: 3871472.462

E: 564468.349

Z: 54.879

Section 7. Interpretive Conclusions

This EU revealed an interior room of a domestic habitation dating to the late Classical to early Hellenistic period. Because the 2X3 meter trench was situated over a corner of the room, the dimensions of the space could not be readily determined. Below the surface, plow zone, and natural fill layers, three successive occupational phases were recorded through the identification of three construction/occupation sequences. What follows is a description and interpretation of the three occupational phases (in stratigraphic order, from latest to earliest), as well as a note on the significance of the trench with respect to the project's overarching research agenda.

Phase 3: The entire sequence included a mudbrick destruction level (5104, 5105, and 5106), occupational level (5107), a floor consisting of irregularly spaced gypsum flooring slabs and compacted earth (5108), and a subfloor construction level (5109), all of which were sealed stratigraphically by a natural fill. It is apparent from the architectural remains that the construction of Phase 3 equated to an expansion of the domestic quarters and was not initiated by

a violent destruction. The lack of ash in this phase appears to substantiate such a theory. Although constructed contemporaneously during Phase 1, only wall 5104_f1 was utilized in Phase 3, while its northern counterpart (5109_f2) was likely deconstructed, leaving only the bottom two courses in place, which were then sealed by the floor. I propose that 5109_f2 was deconstructed, as opposed to 5104_f1 being extended vertically, because there is no evidence of a second construction phase for 5104_f1. Wall 5109_f2 was most likely deconstructed and covered by a floor surface to extend the size of the room to the north. Ceramic remains from the occupational level (5107) included a wide array of cooking wares, imported Attic vessels, two lamps (1 Attic), and utility wares. The diagnostic pieces provide a date range beginning in the late 4th century and ending by the middle of the 3rd century BC. With the presence of similar shapes, such as lamps and vessels used for consuming food, in both locally (local in the sense of Cyprus and possibly the greater Levantine coastal littoral) procured fabrics and imported Attic wares, it is clear that although Attic imports do not dominate the assemblage, the inhabitants of Phase 3 actively sought out imported Attic vessels.

Phase 2: The entire sequence included a floor surface (5110) directly below the subfloor fill (5107) used in the construction of the Phase 3 floor (5108) and a subfloor fill (5111). The construction of the Phase 3 floor certainly disrupted and most likely obliterated the occupational level associated with the Phase 2 floor (5110). Still a decent assemblage of pottery and an in situ coin was found on the floor surface. The potsherds are more abraded than those found in the Phase 3 levels, but the assemblage looks very similar to material found in the later phase, lots of cooking and semi-fine wares. It is clear that both walls were in use during Phase 2, as the mixed gypsum slabs and earthen floor abuts both walls, demonstrating that wall 5109_f2 was the northern boundary of the room. It is also clear that the rectangular feature (5109_f1) was constructed immediately after the construction of the floor because in situ pieces of gypsum flooring were found directly beneath the feature. The floor surface was laid directly on top of bedrock in most of the eastern half of the trench.

Phase 1: The entire sequence consists of an earthen floor (5112) and a subfloor fill (5113), both of which included lenses of ash. As the earliest phase of occupation in EU 14, this phase is interesting. The bedrock slopes downward considerably from east to west. Assuming that the lowest floor surface was that found in Phase 2, we were surprised to find another floor surface in the west half of the trench approximately 10 centimeters below the highest point in the bedrock to the east. Artifact densities were very low in both the floor and subfloor units, but a piece of Attic Black Glaze was found in the subfloor fill. The floor was of the packed earth variety and abutted both walls.

Final Thoughts: EU 14 is significant for three reasons. First, it confirms the hypothesis reached in 2008 that the site of Vigla was domestic rather than cultic or ceremonial in function. There is no evidence of monumental buildings, but rather domestic facilities of the late Classical/ early Hellenistic periods. There appears to be no evidence of later artifacts (e.g., Roman or later) in this EU and we can conclude that the excavated material suggests three occupational phases in the late Classical/ early Hellenistic period. Second, the homogeneous nature of the ceramic remains, architectural styles, and similarities in floor surface construction all suggest that although there

were three successive phase of occupation, we can tentatively propose that the entire lifecycle of the room excavated in EU 14 corresponded to a period of less than a century. Further study of the pottery and provenienced coins will shed more light on the chronology. The appearance of an architectural expansion in the third phase argues against a violent destruction of the second phase, but the abundance of ash in the first phase could represent a more violent disruptive event. Finally, we can cautiously explore the identity of the people living at Vigla in this period. The conscious choice to bring in Attic imports and prepare food in the ancient Greek tradition in casseroles alludes to a population with interest in, if not adherence to, Greek cultural traditions. The presence of a vast array of militaria, in the form of lead sling bullets inscribed with Greek characters, bronze catapult bolts, iron blades, and bronze arrowheads in nearly all EUs excavated at Vigla in three years of target excavation, as well as the fact that the site was fortified in this very period, alludes to a military presence at the site. With the turbulent political climate characterizing the late 4th and early 3rd centuries BC in Cyprus, the Levant, Anatolia, Egypt, and Greece, it is certainly possible that the inhabitants of Vigla were a contingent of “Greek” mercenaries employed either by the fading local Phoenician king at Kition or by foreign Hellenistic monarchs.

Section 8. Appendices

- **8.1. Appendix: Drawing Inventory**

- 5101_d1: bottom of SU 5101/top of SU 5102
- 5102_d1: bottom of SU 5102/top of SU 5103
- 5103_d1: bottom of SU 5103/top of SU 5104
- 5104_d1: bottom of SU 5104/top of SU 5105
- 5113_d1: northern baulk profile
- 5113_d2: southern baulk profile
- 5113_d3: eastern baulk profile
- 5113_d4: western baulk profile, NOT DRAWN because unit consisted of just the major north/south oriented wall (5104_f1) and fill deposits above.

- **8.2. Appendix: Photograph Inventory**

- 5101_p1-p3 (top)
- 5101_p4-p5 (bottom of SU 5101/top of SU 5102)
- 5102_p1 (bottom of SU 5102/top of SU 5103)
- 5103_p1-p2 (bottom of SU 5103/top of SU 5104)
- 5104_p1-p2 (working)
- 5104_p3-p33 (Agisoft)
- 5104_p34-p45 (bottom of SU 5104/top of SUs 5105 and 5106)
- 5105_p1-p2 (working SU 5105 and 5106)
- 5105_p3-p6 (bottom of SUs 5105 and 5106/top of SU 5107)
- 5107_p1-p5 (bottom of SU 5107/top of SU 5108)
- 5108_p1-p3 (bottom of SU 5108/top of SU 5109)
- 5109_p1-p7 (bottom of SU 5109/top of SU 5110)
- 5111_p1-p5 (bottom of SU 5111/top of SU 5112)
- 5112_p1-p4 (bottom of SU 5112/top of SU 5113)
- 5113_p1-p2 (working)

5113_p4-p13 (bottom / bedrock)

- **8.3. Appendix: Agisoft Models for EU 14**
 - Bottom of 5105 and 5106/top of 5107
 - Bottom of 5107/top of 5108
 - Bottom of 5110/top of 5111
 - Bottom of 5113/top of bedrock

- **8.4. Appendix: Video Inventory for EU 14**
 - 5102_v1-v2 (working)
 - 5104_v1-v2 (working)
 - 5105_v1 (working SU 5105 & 5106)
 - 5105_v2 (bottom SU 5105 & 5106)
 - 5109_v1 (working)
 - 5113_v1-v2 (working)