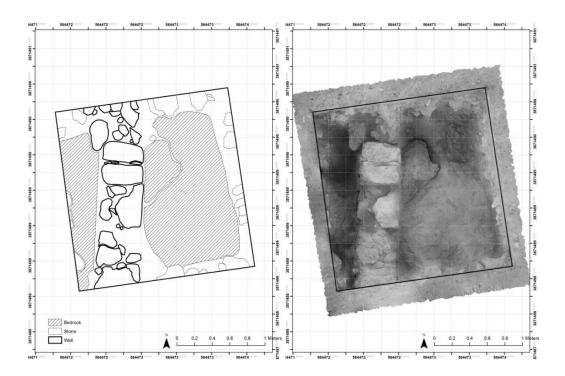
### **Vigla: Excavation Unit 15**

Trench Supervisor: Aaron L. Barth

#### **Final Plan**



#### **Section 1. Introduction**

Vigla EU 15 was excavated from May 21-June 9, 2012 under the supervision of Aaron L. Barth. The unit measured 2 meters by 2 meters in length and width, and reached a bedrock depth of 1.82 meters. Numerous artifacts were collected, labeled and bagged during the excavation, and this includes a sling bullet (*in situ*, **SU 5305**), metal arrows and bolts, a bronze pin (*in situ*), an iron spit, several coins (two *in situ*), several kilos of pottery and clay sherds, clumps of mud brick, and a few worked pieces of stone. The defining feature of this unit was a south-north (approximately) running partition wall in the western half of the EU. In addition to this, two surface floors were identified during the excavation of EU 15. According to a June 5, 2012 conversation with David Pettegrew, EU 15 produced more unique small finds in a 2x2 meter area than any previous Vigla excavation unit within the history of PKAP fieldwork. The weaponry produced by EU 15 suggests that military garrisons occupied this area.

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

Vigla EU 15 is located in the north-central part of the Vigla plateau, with the following coordinates in the WGS 1984 UTM Zone 36N: North: 3871490.65 N, South: 3871488.90 N, West: 564472.09 E, East: 564474.09 E. It lies to the northeast of EU 14 (Brandon Olson's trench), to the east-southeast of EU 16

(Dallas DeForest's trench), and to the northeast of EU 17 (Jon Crowley's trench). The unit is not oriented to magnetic north.

Broader research questions were answered with the excavation of EU 15, and this ultimately produced a variety of new questions. EU 15 provided a type of ground-truthing to the geophysical work carried out during previous field seasons. As noted by Caraher, *et al.*, pedestrian surveys and geophysical work carried out at the top of *Vigla* revealed surface and subsurface fortification walls that enclosed an area dense with subsurface architecture, this in addition to the wide surface scatter of pottery sherds along the southern edge of the plateau. The 2012 field team positioned EU 15 to intersect one of the interior subsurface architectural walls. The excavation unit measured 2x2 meters, and the goals of EU 15 were to determine the function, extent, and chronology of occupation phases at *Vigla*. Comparisons between EUs during this field season inadvertently demonstrated that architectural walls (eg, EU 16) are below the ground surface of *Vigla*. EU 15 produced a militaristic artifact assemblage that compliments the domestic assemblage from earlier excavations (circa 2009) at the eastern half of the plateau. The goals were met in that the subsurface wall was ground-truthed, and greater insights into the occupation phases at *Vigla* were produced.

#### **Section 3. Methods of Excavation**

The archaeological methods of excavation employed in EU 15 mirrored those outlined in the 2012 PKAP excavation manual, and they were quite similar if not the same to professional archaeological methods, standards and practices in North America. PKAP staff members defined the EUs with a total station (compliments of Boston University) and geophysical maps. Initial problems with zeroing the total station coupled with the time restraints intrinsic to any field season shaped the orientation of EU 15. Nonetheless, EU 15 was situated above a subsurface architectural feature. The corners of the excavation unit were straightened and squared up with tape measures, and marked with pins and nylon string. An elevation datum (55.69 meters) was established in the southeast corner of EU 15, and all elevations were taken with this datum throughout the entire excavation.

Stratigraphic excavation methods outlined in the 2012 PKAP excavation manual were used at EU 15, and they follow a line of professional standards established at archaeological sites in Cyprus, Greece, Tunisia, Jordan, Israel, Syria, Turkey, the United States, and Great Britain. After an initial surface scraping and dry screening, excavation commenced with pick axes and trowels, and cultural stratums were followed. The EU 15 field team produced a total of 17 stratigraphic units, although this does not necessarily mean there were a total of 17 strata. In some cases, stratigraphic changes were missed but nonetheless preserved and reflected in the scarp walls. In one other case, the excavation team defined Stratigraphic Units not to miss the subtleties intrinsic to foundation trenches; these SUs ultimately did not correspond to real stratigraphic breaks.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Caraher, et al., "Pyla-Koutsopetria Archaeological Project" (2012), 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Olson, Brandon, "Vigla: Excavation Unit 8" (PKAP unpublished manuscript, 2009), 1-2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Caraher, et al., "The Pyla-Koutsopetria Archaeological Project Manual of Excavation" (PKAP unpublished manuscript, 2012). For a representative North American manual, see "Archeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeological Documentation [As Amended and Annotated]" (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 2012). Link accessed on June 6, 2012: http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch stnds 7.htm#guide.

All material, with the exception of scarp wall cleanings, was sieved to the east of EU 15 through dry screens with .5 cm<sup>2</sup> wide mesh. This compares with standard North American dry screening practices, at least on the northern Great Plains where dry sieves are often outfitted with ½" wire mesh.

Dates of excavation were between May 21-June 9, 2012, with Aaron L. Barth as EU 15's acting trench supervisor. The excavation crew consisted of Carrie Bisciotti, David Crout and Danielle King. Throughout the excavation, conversations were maintained with EU trench supervisors Jon Crowley, Dallas DeForest and Brandon Olson. Principal investigators William Caraher and David Pettegrew regularly made visitation rounds to all of the EUs, directly participating in excavation and dry sieving, and providing interpretive analysis where needed. By June 5, 2012, 50% of the 2012 field season EUs had been closed, and this induced a restructuring of the labor force. EU 15's excavation crew was altered, and Jimmie Nelson and Megan Piette replaced Bisciotti, Crout, and King on June 5, 2012. Nelson, Piette and Barth hit bedrock the morning of June 5, 2012.

## Section 4. Stratigraphy and Harris Matrix

Vigla EU 15 consisted of 17 separate stratigraphic units (5301-5317). In most cases, the subdivision of strata took place after observing changes in the soil or cultural units (for example, when loose fill gave way to hardened clays or layers of cobble, this suggestive of a floor, subfloor, or destruction layers). The following discussion is interpretive, and based on the paper and digital (iPad) SU forms.

- **A.** Within the 17 stratigraphic units, two floors were observed. The following is a description of the Stratigraphic Units in chronological order.
  - SU 5301 Surface scraping. The top vegetation was scraped with trowels and cleared. Excavated down approximately 2 cm. One small piece of glass was noticed and lost.
  - SU 5302 Hardened modern plow zone. This stratum is a plow zone created in recent times. Switched from trowels to picks due to the hardened sediments, and several bags of ceramics were produced. Loose fill encountered at 55.62 m, and Brandon Olson said he thought it was the same modern plow zone since the sun had been allowed to bake the bottom of SU 5301 for 3-4 days. Further discussions brought it back to potentially being a new plow zone, 55.50 m at the deepest. SU 5302 has sandy clay soils that are coarse grain and loose. The dominant clast size is gravel, with 10% stoniness. The Munsell soil color came in at 10YR 5/4.
  - SU 5303 Soils in SU 5303 are sandy clay, loose and coarse. First militaristic artifact from EU 15 recovered from this SU, a metal arrowhead. Brandon Olson's field diagnosis placed it as a Scythian arrowhead dating from approximately the 5<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. Several bags of ceramics also collected from the dry sieve.
  - SU 5304 Soils in SU 5304 are sandy clay with loose, coarse grains. When depths of 55.22 m were reached, SU increased in gravel and cobbles, and soils started turning more yellowish than rust-red in color. One idea was that this was some type of floor, but it appears now to be a layer of destruction. Because of the change in soil color and increased compactness, SU 5304 was closed and a new strata was opened.
  - SU 5305 Soils in SU 5305 are sandy clay, compact and coarse grain. The dominant clast size is cobble with 30% stoniness. The Munsell produced 10YR 6/6. Dr. Pettegrew came down on a metal sling bullet, *in situ*, at 55.12 m (26 cm from the east wall and 68 cm from the south wall) in SU 5305. Larger stone blocks (some gypsum) were encountered in this SU

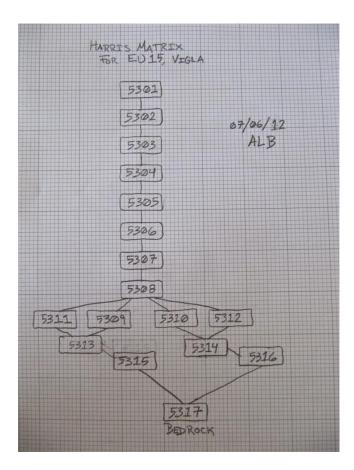
- and plotted on the top plan. These larger blocks in the southeastern part of the SU might represent the top part of destruction that reaches down to a depth of approximately 54.70m.
- SU 5306 Soils in SU 5306 are sandy clay, compacted consolidation, and the dominant clast size is cobble with 90% stoniness. The Munsell soil color is 7.5YR 4/6. The second militaristic artifact came out of SU 5306, a catapult bolt (FS 5306\_1001) found *in situ*, with find spot quadrants of N = 3871489.147; E = 564472.167; and Z = 55.098. Soils where catapult bolt came loose are reddish, brown and grey in color. Clumps of mud brick encountered throughout SU, and these clumps have specks of red along with visible fibers (perhaps animal hair) that serve to bond the mud into brick.<sup>4</sup> Along with this, there are increased amounts of cobble, and a few cantaloupe-sized stones. This was thought to be tumble. Along with this, increased amounts of mudbrick clumps caused us to close out this SU and begin another.
- SU 5307 Soils in SU 5307 are clay loam, weakly cemented with cobble as the dominant clast size and 40% stoniness. The Munsell soil color is 7.5YR 4/6. A bronze pin, *in situ*, came out of what appeared to be mud brick. Another piece of metal (FS5307\_1002) came from this SU, as did several pottery sherds (they were also ascribed with findspots). When the mudbrick started to disappear, we decided to close out this SU and begin another. The linear wall continued emerging out of the floor, ceramics increased, and the soils started taking on more yellowish and grey colors.
- SU 5308 Soils in SU 5308 are clay, with compact consolidation. The dominant clast size is cobble with 20% stoniness. The Munsell color is 7.5YR 5/6. Soils contain increased amounts of rust-reddish color and pottery sherds. Fewer cobbles noticed in this SU, suggesting that SU 5307 above was a layer of tumble or destruction. One of the first floors may be within the bottom of SU 5307 and the top of SU 5308. Charcoal also bagged in SU 5308, and a findspot was produced as well. The bottom of this SU was digitally photographed and uploaded into Agisoft. Soils at the bottom of SU 5308 are grayish, or even ash in color. This in addition to the charcoal also suggests that this may be some kind of burn layer. Foundation wall continues emerging from the floor.
- SU 5309 Soils in this trench on the western elevation of the north-south running wall are sandy clay loam with loose consolidation. The dominant clast size is cobble with 20% stoniness. The Munsell color was 7.5YR 5/4. Dr. Pettegrew uncovered a coin, *in situ*, in the southwest corner of SU 5309. The coin is FS5309\_1003, and it is at an elevation of 54.63 m; 10 cm from the western scarp; and 27 cm from the southern scarp. The coin was in a little more compact soil than the sandy clay loam. Two additional findspots were recorded within this SU. FS5309\_1001 was a piece of black ceramic, and FS5309\_1002 was another ceramic sherd. This SU was taken down to 54.45 m, and another SU was started.
- SU 5310 Soils in this trench on the eastern elevation of the north-south running wall are sandy clay loam with loose consolidation. They were noted as being light-brown with bits of rust-reddish mud brick. The soils have cobble as the dominant clast size with 20% stoniness.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> In a June 1, 2012 social media exchange between Robert Kurtz and Aaron Barth, Kurtz said that animal hair was often used to bond mud brick together in pre-industrial times. Kurtz also said he worked with contemporary construction practices in Colorado, where horsehair was still dumped into modern concrete prior to the pours (this instead of fiberglass). Kurtz is a graduate student with North Dakota State University, and his masters thesis concerns earth homes on the northern Great Plains.

The Munsell returned with a 10YR 5/4. This SU produced ceramics, and the SU was closed due to how deep it was getting. Brandon Olson and Aaron Barth took total station coordinates on June 6, 2012, and they are with Olson's total station field notes. The numbers 1-10 are also assigned to the plan map.

- SU 5311 Soils in SU 5311, a "foundation trench," are sandy clay with loose consolidation. The dominant clast size is cobble with 30% stoniness. The Munsell is 7.5YR 5/4. The irregular soil consistencies of brown mixed with lighter ash, this along with rust-colored pockets and mud-brick strongly suggest that this is a destruction layer. A metal arrowhead came out of the dry screen from this SU. Dr. Pettegrew said the foundation trench was still visible, and because of this it was separated out into its own SU.
- SU 5312 Soils in SU 5312 are sandy clay with loose consolidation. The dominant clast size is cobble with 20% stoniness. The Munsell is 7.5YR 5/4. This SU produced pottery sherds and the soils remained loose, definitely not as chunky and irregular as the soils in the western SUs. Large pottery sherds encountered, and this was the reason to begin another SU. Brandon Olson's trench began producing large chunks of pottery shortly before he encountered bedrock.
- SU 5313 Soils in SU 5313, a robber trench along the western elevation of the emerging partition wall, are sandy clay, coarse and loose. The dominant clast size is sand with 10% stoniness. The Munsell is 7.5YR 6/6. This SU is narrow, with a bottom elevation of 54.13. Because of the depth, it became increasingly difficult to effectively maneuver and excavate. For this reason the SU was closed out and another was started.
- SU 5314 Soils in SU 5314 are sandy clay, coarse and loose. The dominant clast size is sand with 10% stoniness. The Munsell is 7.5YR 6/6. A coin, *in situ*, and iron spit came out of this SU. The coin is FS5314\_1002, with an elevation of 54.3 m; 75 cm from the north wall and 93 cm from the east wall. The elevation of the iron spit was 54.34 m, and was resting parallel to the eastern elevation in the center of the partition wall. This likely is a floor, as the hard clay like soil is packed, and it comes up in chunks approximately 2-5cm in thickness. The clay floor is brownish with tinges of olive green. A layer of cobbles encountered beneath this, so this SU was closed out and another was started.
- SU 5315 Soils in SU 5315 are sandy clay, coarse and loose. The dominant clast size is pebble, with 10% stoniness. The Munsell is 7.5YR 6/6. This SU brought down to the depth of SU 5313, the trench wall. A new SU was started.
- SU 5316 Soils in SU 5316 are sandy clay, coarse and compact. The dominant clast size is cobbles, and stoniness is 80%. The Munsell is 7.5YR 6/6. This cobble stone subfloor gave way to bedrock, and the subfloor layer to the north contained much finer soil with smaller rocks. This is likely fill, as the bedrock sloped to the north. The northern portion also contained a mix of plaster and cobble.
- SU 5317 Soils in SU 5317 are loamy clay, fined-grained and firm. The dominant clast size is pebble with 10% stoniness. The Munsell is 7.5YR 5/6. One coin and a linear metal object were pulled from the dry sieve. A small bit of bone was also pulled from the dry sieve. Just above the northern part of the bedrock in this SU cobbles were found, and this is similar to the northern part of SU 5316.



Harris Matrix for Vigla EU 15, 2012.

#### **Section 5. Features**

The defining feature in this unit was the linear partition wall that ran south-north in the western half of EU 15. The wall was built with cut blocks and rough cut and natural stone. The courses are irregular. The wall started emerging as early as the bottom of SU 5306. It continued down to bedrock, or SU 5317. The wall was built on top of bedrock. The floor, SU 5314, runs directly up to and meets the edge of the partition wall. Since there is no foundation trench with SU 5314, the partition wall is thought to be the earliest piece of construction within EU 15. The next phase of construction is the clay floor, SU 5314, and the third and much later phase of construction is SU 5310\_f1, this thought to be from a much later occupation. Because the lowest floor runs up to the edge of the partition wall, the partition wall is thought to reflect the earliest phase of construction within EU 15.

- 5317\_f1: The North-South Running Partition Wall. This wall runs north-south through the
  western section of EU 15. The wall is approximately 50 cm at its widest point. It is built
  directly on top of bedrock. It is made of cut ashlar blocks and stone, and the construction
  style is irregular.
- 5316\_f1: Cobble Stone Subfloor. This is a cobble stone subfloor, thought to be used to level out the bedrock valleys and provide a more even surface for 5314\_f1, the Hard Clay Floor. In addition to the cobbles, 5316\_f1 had clumps of either mortar or plaster mixed in with the cobble, perhaps to fill in deeper pockets in the bedrock.

- 5314\_f1: Hard Clay Floor. This is a hard clay floor, approximately 2-5 cm in thickness, and brownish in color with tinges of olive green. Two artifacts were collected *in situ* from this hard clay floor. The first was FS5314\_1001, a large ceramic sherd (elevation 54.39m; 49cm from east wall; 21cm from north wall), and FS5314\_1002, a coin (elevation 54.30m; 75cm from the north wall; 93cm from the east wall).
- SU 5310\_f1: Plaster Floor. This plaster floor fell within SU 5310, and it only became apparent after Brandon Olson noted it in the scarp wall. This floor is most apparent in the north scarp wall, and it becomes less visible and even disappears in the southeastern portion of the scarp walls.

#### Section 6. Finds

- **FS5305\_1001**: Portion of a ceramic figurine piece, possibly located in the linear stone feature. Elevation and coordinates on bag.
- **FS5305\_1002**: Material culture that came loose from linear stone feature put into this artifact bag. Elevation and coordinates on bag.
- **FS5305\_1003**: Sling bullet, inscriptions on both sides (according to Brandon Olson). Recovered on 26/05/12. Elevation 55.12m; 26cm from east wall; and 68cm from south wall.
- **FS5306\_1001**: Catapult bolt. Elevation, 55.098; Northing, 3871489.147; Easting, 564472.167. Soils where catapult bolt recovered were rust-colored, brown and grey.
- **FS5307\_1001**: Bronze pin. Elevation 54.99m; 58cm from east wall; 65cm from south wall. Bronze pin was imbedded in mud brick. Speculation on site was that it appeared to be a pin for a tunic, or something comparable.
- **FS5307\_1002**: Piece of metal. Elevation 54.87m; 35cm from west wall; 47cm from south wall.
- **FS5307\_1003**: Pottery sherd next to wall. Found potentially in what is a partition wall trenching ditch. Elevation 54.95m; 25cm from the west wall; 20cm from the south wall.
- **FS5307\_1004**: Pottery sherd next to partition wall. Elevation 54.83m; 38cm from west wall; 81cm from south wall.
- **FS5307\_1005**: Charcoal sample. Suggestive of a burn layer, which in turn can suggest destruction. Elevation 54.87m; 84cm from east wall; 84cm from the north wall.
- FS5308\_1001: Charcoal sample. Again, suggestive of a burn and potential destruction layer. Elevation 54.69m; 10cm from the north wall; 33cm from the west wall. Also in subjective field notes commented on how collecting charcoal in North America reflect Native American/First Nation campsites (either nomadic or sedentary). In the American context, charcoal often figures into arguments over whether a site is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- **FS5308\_1002**: Charcoal sample. Elevation 54.55m; 48cm from north wall; 34cm from east wall. Another piece of material culture that reflects the destruction layer.
- FS5309\_1001: Black ceramic. Elevation 54.66m; 36cm from west wall; 84cm from north wall
- **FS5309\_1002**: Ceramic near wall. Elevation, 54.66; 61cm from north wall; 45cm from west wall.

- **FS5309\_1003**: Coin on the western side of the partition wall. Elevation 54.63m; 10cm from west wall; 27cm from south wall.
- **FS5314\_1001**: Ceramic sherd. Resting on the hard clay floor surface (5314\_f1). Elevation 54.39m; 49cm from the east wall; 21cm from the north wall.
- **FS5314\_1002**: Coin. Resting on the hard clay floor surface (5314\_f1). Elevation, 54.30; 75cm from north wall; 93cm from east wall.
- **FS5314\_1003**: Iron spit. Found on hard clay floor (5314\_f1), elevation similar to FS5314\_1002. Iron spit is mid-way on the eastern side of the partition wall.

#### **Section 7. Interpretive Conclusions**

The earliest phase of occupation dates to the construction of the linear partition wall. After this wall was built, the clay floor in the eastern half of EU 15 was constructed. A coin and a piece of pottery, both *in situ*, were recovered from this floor. On the other side of the linear partition wall, at least one military artifact was recovered, this in addition to another coin found *in situ* by Dr. David Pettegrew.

At some point it is thought that destruction happened to this earliest occupation construction, and this is evident due to bits of ash and charcoal within the fill layers between the clay floor and the plaster floor above it. According to a June 5, 2012 conversation with David Pettegrew, EU 15 produced more unique small finds in a 2x2 meter area than any previous Vigla excavation unit within the history of PKAP fieldwork.

The weaponry produced by EU 15 is significant, and it suggests that military garrisons occupied this area. Further comparisons with artifacts produced during previous PKAP excavations will certainly broaden our understanding of Hellenistic temporal and spatial relationships, both militaristic and domestic, at the *Vigla* site on Cyprus.

#### Drawings

```
5301 d1 (bottom of 5301, top of 5302)
5302 d1 (bottom of 5302)
5303_d1 (top of 5303)
5303 d2 (bottom of 5303, top of 5304)
5304_d1 (bottom of 5304, top of 5305)
5305_d1 (bottom of 5305, top of 5306)
5306 d1 (bottom of 5306, top of 5307)
5307 d1 (bottom of 5307, top of 5308)
5309_d1 (bottom of 5309)
5310 d1 (bottom of 5310)
5311 d1 (top of 5311)
5311 d2 (bottom of 5311)
5312_d1 (top of 5312)
5312_d2 (bottom of 5312)
5316_d1 (bottom of SU / bedrock)
5317 d1 (bottom of SU / bedrock)
Profile, East Face of Partition Wall
Profile, South scarp
Profile, East scarp
Profile, West Scarp
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## Profile, North Scarp

### Photographs

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5301_p1-p2 (top)
5301_p3-p5 (working)
5301_p6-p7 (bottom)
5302_p1 (top)
5302_p2 (bottom)
5303 p1 (top)
5303 p2 (Danielle King holding artifact)
5303_p3 (metal arrowhead)
5303_p4-p5 (working)
5303_p6 (bottom)
5304_p1-p3 (top)
5304_p4-p5 (working)
5305_p1-p3 (sling bullet)
5305_p4 (Brandon Olson and sling bullet)
5305_p5-p8 (bottom)
5306 p1-p3 (artifact)
5306_p4-p7 (bottom)
5307_p1 (top)
5307_p2-p5 (working)
5307_p6-p16 (metal pin in situ)
5307_p17-p28 (working)
5307_p29-p32 (bottom)
5308 p1 (top)
5308_p2-p5 (working)
5308_p6-p10 (bottom)
5309_p1 (top)
5309_p2-p3 (bottom)
5310_p1 (top)
5310_p2-p3 (working)
5310_p4-p8 (bottom)
5311_p1 (top)
5311_p2-p4 (bottom)
5312_p1 (top)
5312_p2 (working)
5312_p3-p7 (bottom)
5313 p1-p2 (top)
5313 p3-p5 (bottom)
5314_p1-p2 (top)
5314 p3-p6 (bottom)
5315_p1 (top)
5315_p2 (working)
5316_p1 (top)
5316_p2 (working)
5317_p1-p9 (bottom)
```

### • Agisoft Models:

<sup>\*</sup>This may be an incomplete list

Bottom of 5306 Bottom of 5307 Bottom of 5308 Bottom of 5311-5312 Bedrock

## Video

5302\_v1 (working) 5304\_v1-v3 (working) 5306\_v1 (working) 5307\_v1-v6 (working) 5308\_v1-v2 (working) 5311-5312\_v1 (working) 5315\_v1 (working / bedrock) 5316\_v1-v2 (working / bedrock)

## **Section 8. Total Station Bottom Elevations**

The following are the bottom bedrock elevations taken by Brandon Olson with the total station on the final day of excavation, June 7, 2012.

Top of elevation pin at beginning of excavation:

SE Corner Pin: 55.69m

Bottom of bedrock at end of excavation:

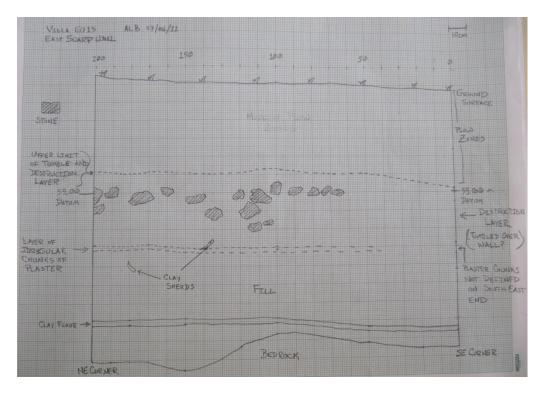
NE Corner: 54.985m

SE Corner: 55.197m

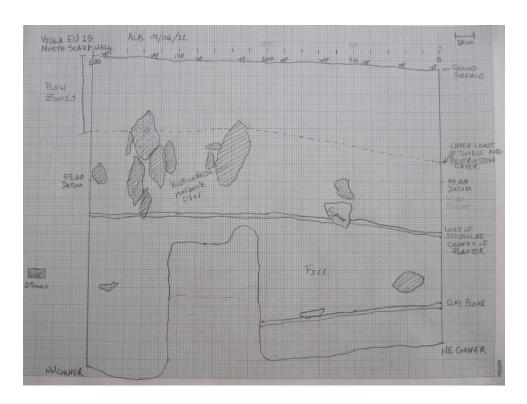
NW Corner: 54.751m

SW Corner: 55.008m

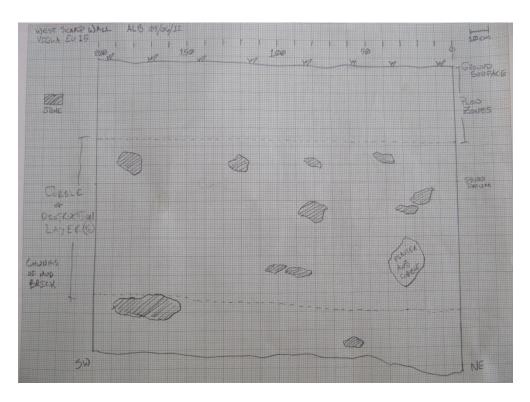
# **Section 9. Scarp Wall Drawings**



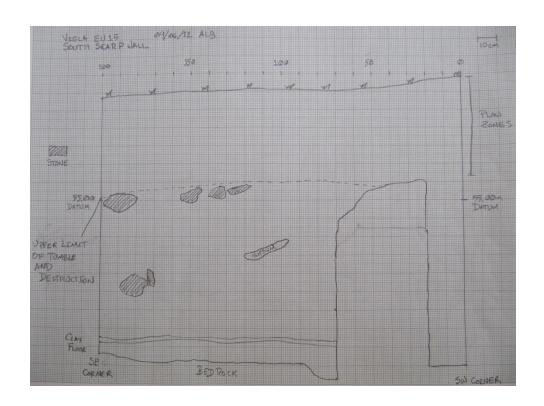
East Scarp Wall

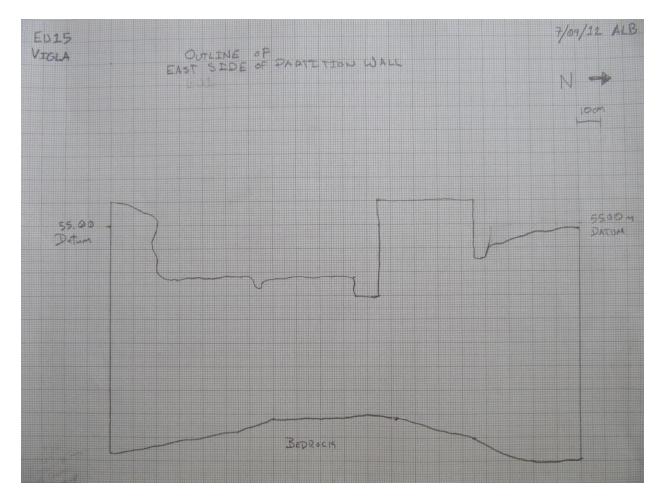


North Scarp Wall



West Scarp Wall





East Wall Partition Outline

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Link: <a href="http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch">http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch</a> stnds 7.htm#guide.