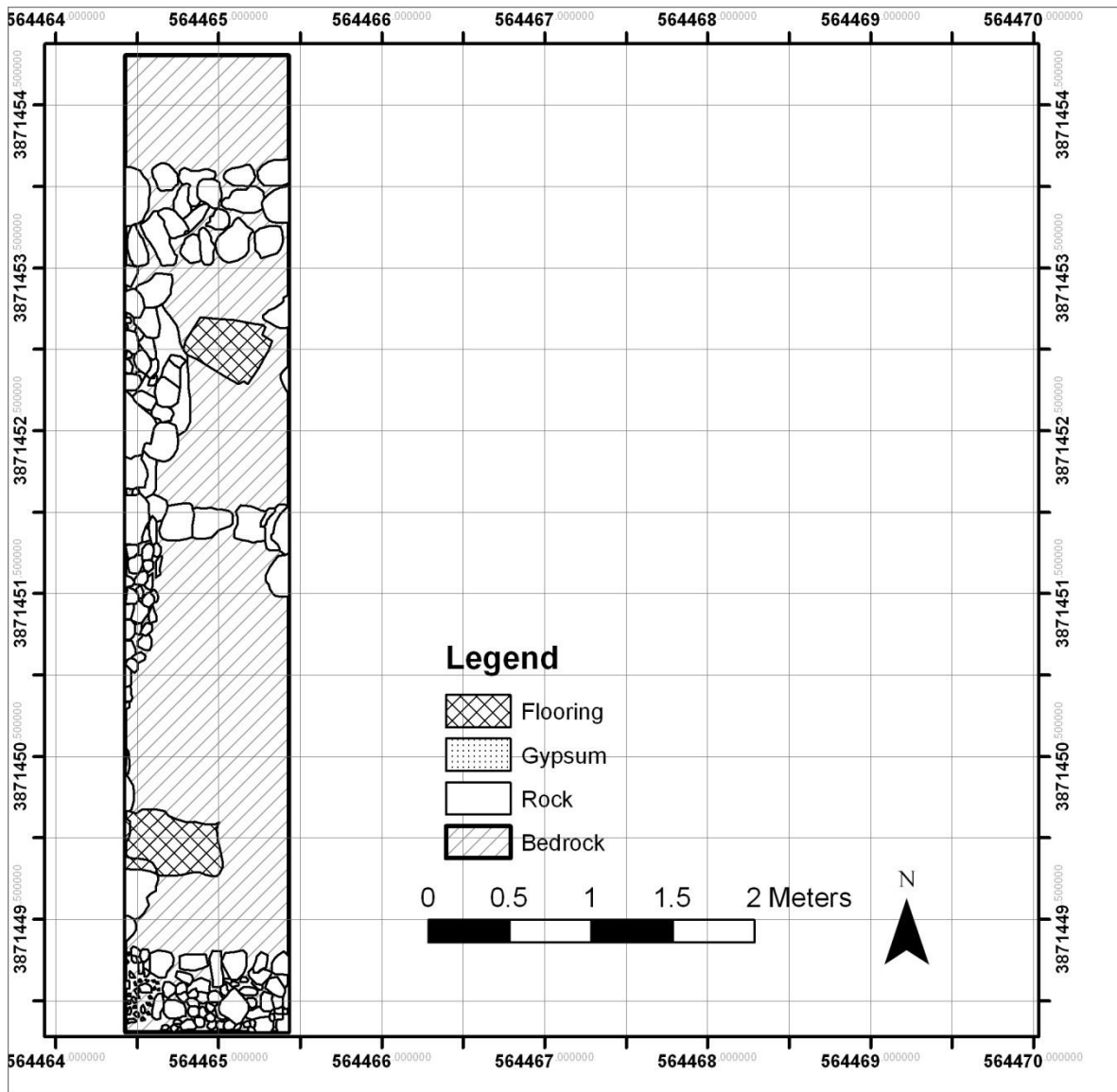


Vigla: Excavation Unit 8

Trench Supervisor: Brandon Olson and David Pettegrew



Final Plan

Section 1. Introduction

Vigla EU 8 was excavated from May 25-June 3, 2009 under the supervision of Brandon Olson and continued by David Pettegrew from June 4-June 17, 2009. The unit produced the most complete and well-preserved assemblage of artifacts recovered in our two seasons of excavation at Vigla: varied ceramic, metal tools and weapons, animal bone, mortar and plaster, a coin, and stone implements. The features in the trench include four walls that cross to divide the entire excavated space into two interior rooms of a building and a space outside of the building. The interior rooms were apparently of domestic nature as evident by the utilitarian objects found on mortar, packed earth, and

slab flooring. The features and artifacts together suggest two phases of floor construction and occupation dating between the Classical and Hellenistic periods. The high-quality preservation of the objects on the floors of the interior space indicate relatively rapid burial by mudbrick collapse and suggest that the inhabitants were unable to return to the site to reclaim lost objects. Altogether, this excavation unit refines the chronology and architecture of the Vigla settlement and indicates that the architecture during the CL and HE periods was domestic rather than monumental in nature.

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

Vigla EU 8 is a trench situated on the southern end of the Vigla plateau west to northwest of the lookout shed in the southeast corner, between 3871448.81 N and 3871454.81 N, and 564464.43 E and 564465.43 E. In relation to the other EUs excavated in 2008, it lies midway between EU 1 (Brandon's trench) to the east, and EU 2 (Kate's trench) and EU 5 (Maria's trench) to the west; in respect to the other 2009 trenches, EU 8 lies south/southeast of EU 9 (Dimitri's trench).

The purpose of Vigla EU 8 was to ground truth the resistivity work conducted during the 2007 field season and to refine our understanding of architecture defined through excavation in the 2008 season. From the maps displaying the geophysical data, we recognized two long parallel walls running east/west and about 5 meters apart running parallel to the southern edge of the Vigla plateau. Vigla EU 8 was positioned to intersect both of these walls. Consequently, the trench was 1 m wide (E-W) and 6 meters long (N-S). The goals of the trench were to identify the walls, determine the relationship between these walls and those found in EUs 1, 2, and 5 during 2008, and rule out the possibility that they represented monumental architecture. 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.

Section 3. Methods of Excavation

The methods employed in Vigla EU 8 mirror those dictated in the PKAP excavation manual. Staff members defined the excavation unit by utilizing the geophysical maps and a Trimble R8 GPS. The corners of the 1 X 6 meter trench were marked with rebar and given UTM coordinates with the R8. An elevation datum was placed on the northwest corner of the trench and assigned an elevation (55.80 m), from which all elevations were taken during excavation.

The excavation strategy included stratigraphic excavation with a 20-centimeter arbitrary stop when needed. 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 5718 was, in part, an effort to define the complex soil changes occurring in the northern interior room; even this SU, however, preserves the soil immediately above the floor and is consequently a meaningful unit. As Appendix 8.4 (Notes on Profile Drawings) suggests, while excavating we did miss some subtle stratigraphic changes visible later in the scarp walls. See section 4 below for further discussion.

All the soil from SUs in EU 8 was sifted through .5 cm² wide mesh, with the exceptions of SU 5701 (a surface scraping that was not sifted) and certain sensitive

contexts where a sample of soil was sifted through a fine mesh (1.5 mm²) and the remainder sifted through coarse mesh (.5 cm²). These sensitive contexts include SUs 5707 (unknown % sifted through fine mesh), 5719 (100% fine mesh), 5720 (33% fine mesh), 5721 (100% fine mesh), and 5722 (1 bucket fine mesh). The use of the finer mesh did allow us to find smaller bits of bone that would have passed unnoticed through the coarse mesh.

The dates of excavation were May 25-June 17. Between May 25 and June 3, Brandon Olson supervised the trench, and Rachel Skotnicki, Justin Rodgers, and Jon Crowley assisted as excavators. From June 4-June 12, David Pettegrew supervised the trench and Rachel Skotnicki and Justin Rodgers were regular excavators; Bill Caraher, Alex Lovelace III, and Ian Ragsdale helped for a couple of days. The final days of work (June 14-17) were spent cleaning scarps and drawing profiles; Justin Rodgers helped David Pettegrew with this.

Section 4. Stratigraphy and Harris Matrix

Vigla EU 8 consists of 22 separate SUs (5701-5722) which belong to several cohesive strata. In general, we subdivided our strata regularly but these subdivisions probably do not represent meaningful cultural units. 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 (as discussed in the Appendix 8.4 below).

A. There are three strata that were found across the entire trench corresponding to the first 20 cm below surface and the most recent strata at the site:

- **Ground Surface:** SU 5701, visible across the entire trench. No earth removed because SU simply represented weeding and removal of artifacts visible on surface.
- **Modern Plow Zone.** SU 5702 = Profile Stratum A (App. 8.4). This stratum is the narrow plow zone (5-10 cm thick) created by shallow plowing in recent times. The sediments of this SU spread evenly throughout the trench. SU 5702 contained gravel to pebble sized clast and produced four bags of pottery, a stone bag, metal, and shells. Excavation began in SU 5702 with plow furrows oriented east/west and 5702 concluded when a different set of plow furrows running north/south were encountered. (Note that the 2008 excavation at Vigla EU 1 and 2 demonstrated the same depositional pattern).
- **Yellowish Brown, Compact Clay / Clay Loam.** SUs 5703-5706 = Profile Stratum B. Narrow band of compact / firm clayey soil, described as “sandy clay loam” or “sandy clay”, illustrated in both east and west scarps as Stratum B. This layer is a consistently narrow stratum (ca. 10 cm) of clay, yellowish-brown in color (10 YR 4/3, 4/4, and 5/4), which includes substantial amounts (30-50%) of gravel, pottery, and artifacts; Brandon notes that artifact densities appeared to increase the further down in the stratum. The SU descriptions suggest that occasional

pockets of reddish mudbrick appear in this level, but these presumably were found at the bottom of the SUs and may suggest that excavators dug slightly into the next SUs. Since this stratum spreads across the entire trench and overlies all ancient walls (including 5702_f1), it is clearly a more recent stratigraphic deposit; since there are no plowmarks, it may represent post-abandonment natural accumulation of sediment.

B. The following strata were found north of Wall 5702_f1 and represent exterior space in the latest phase of the building but apparently interior space in an earlier phase. In the latest phase, these strata appear to have been *outside* of the building and must be discussed separately than the strata covering the interior rooms. We annotate these strata from most recent to oldest.

- Wall Collapse. SU 5707 = Profile Strata N & T. This soil was a compact soil, light yellowish brown (10 YR 6/4), with moderate gravel inclusions (20%), numerous artifacts, tumble from northern wall, and many white mortar bits. This layer represents wall collapse north of 5702_f1 and includes mudbrick, which, according to the notebook, was found “about 15 cm down.” (EU 8 NB, p. 16).
- Foundation Trench associated with 5702_f1. Visible as Profile Strata O & U, and excavated as SUs 5710, 5712, 5713. This narrow foundation trench goes down to bedrock but went mainly undetected during excavation (except for SU 5713). The soil visible in the scarp is very fine and flakey with tiny inclusions. Cf. notes discussing the Foundation Trench in feature section below.
- Floor of Older Occupation. SU 5709 = Profile Stratum P. Floor in space north of Wall 5702_f1, clearly visible as a hard mortar layer that dips down in the illustration of the east scarp. This interpretation is confirmed by excavation of SU 5709, which removed the stratum and then encountered much softer red soil (which effected a new SU 5710). Moreover, excavation revealed a bronze projectile, which, although found in the screen, was still given FS # (5709_1001) because it was possible to record an approximate elevation for the projectile: 55.17 m. This elevation is consistent with the level of the floor surface visible in the scarp, which drops from 55.25 to 55.15 m. Since bronze projectile points at Vigla have thus far been consistently associated with floors, we can surmise that this too is a floor. Brandon notes, however, that this floor was very thin (< 2 cm thick) and inconsistent throughout SU 5709; consequently, the excavators did not identify the floor and dug through it into the soft red soil below (5710). Moreover, as the scarp profile drawing shows, this floor clearly did not go all the way to wall 5702_f1, indicating that the foundation trench cuts the floor and must therefore be more recent.
- Subfloor packing beneath floor of older occupation. Profile Strata Q, R, V, & W = SUs 5710 & 5712. This packing, which is also cut by the foundation trench, should be the oldest material in all of EU 8 (contra the note in Vigla NB, p. 26) since it predates the construction of the mortar floor, which predates the

construction of Wall 5702_f1 (and consequently, the entire building to the south). This stratum consists of SUs 5710 and 5712 and consists of loose, gravely (20-25%) yellowish brown (10 YR 5/4) sandy loam with numerous pottery inclusions. This appears to be subfloor packing laid on bedrock. The strata (V & W vs. Q & R) suggests that there may have been two episodes of deposition.

- Bedrock

C. The following strata correspond to the northern and southern interior rooms found between the southern wall (5704_f1) and northern wall (5702_f1), east of wall 5708_f1, and subdivided by the central wall (5717_f1). These strata were *inside* of the building. We annotate these strata from most recent to oldest.

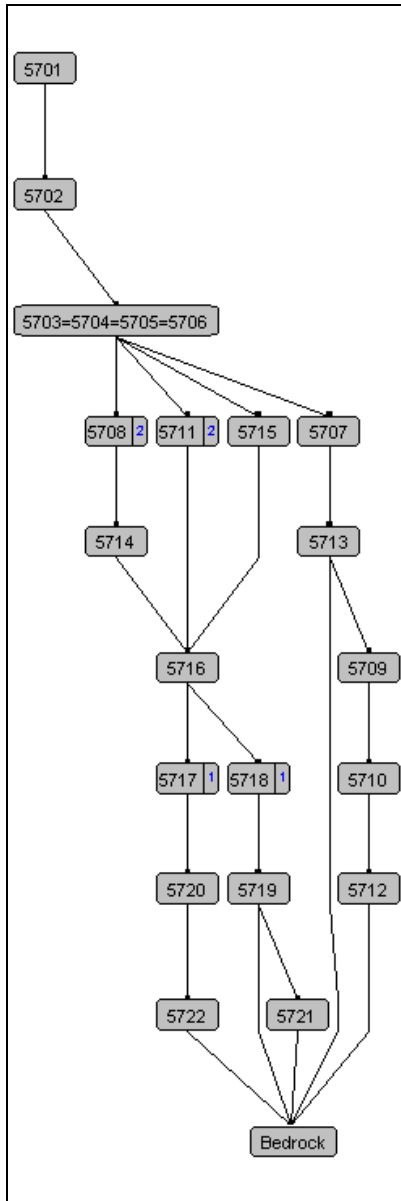
- Building Collapse immediately below compact yellowish clayey soils. Profile Strata D, F, G, H, I, & S, excavated as SUs 5708, 5711, 5714, 5715, & 5716. These SUs are all very similar, ranging in color from yellowish brown (10 YR 5/4) to brown (7.5 YR 4/3) to yellowish red (5 YR 5/6) depending on the quantity, substance, and color of the mudbrick inclusions that are found consistently in pockets throughout the SUs. The soils are clay based (typically silty clay or silty clay loam), soft, with 20-25% stoniness, although there are pockets of higher density cobble; the SUs commonly have white mortar bits. These SUs represent the collapse of the building's walls that entailed the displacement of artifacts (from window niches, walls, or second floor), mudbrick walls caving in, and stone cobble from the lower socle. Artifact density is variable, but generally ubiquitous and artifacts are often well-preserved. This is especially the case with the slightly deeper deposit (SU 5715 & 5716) where we gave findspot numbers to numerous large artifacts like stone bowls, amphoras, shallow dishes, and cooking pots. We see no evidence to differentiate different strata of collapse; all of these SUs appear to represent the collapse of the building with no solid evidence for later reoccupation.
- Abandonment Debris on Floors in Southern and Northern Room. Profile Strata G & the lowest parts of H & I, excavated as SUs 5717 & 5718. SUs 5717 and 5718 removed the narrow band of soil immediately above floor in the southern and northern interior rooms, respectively. The soil for both SUs is similar: loose, yellowish brown (10 YR 5/4) silty clay soil, with 10% gravel inclusions. The artifacts are very well preserved and are suggestive of the types of finds that would be associated with floors: a coin, long iron spit, large bones, shallow bowls, large slabs, dark red mudbrick / packed earth.
- Mortar Floor in Southern Room, excavated as SU 5720. Firm brown (10 YR 5/3) sandy clay, with 40% gravel inclusions. Cf. notes below in features section on "Mortar Floor of most recent occupation".
- Subfloor Fill in Southern and Northern Room. Profile Strata L & M, excavated as SUs 5719, 5721, and 5722. Sub-floor fill in both rooms. The soil for the SUs is

loose, yellowish brown (10 YR 5/4) silty clay / sandy clay, with 10-20% gravel inclusions. These SUs represent efforts to create even surface over the highly irregular bedrock to allow for a level floor.

- Bedrock

The Harris Matrix for the SUs in EU 8 can be found on the following page.

Harris Matrix for EU 8



Section 5. Features

There were several features identified in Vigla EU 8, some of which turned out to be tumble and others of which were later defined as walls. 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, all walls in EU 8 sit directly on bedrock or on a small layer of soil set on bedrock to create an even surface. Bedrock is generally flat except in the southern part of the trench, in the area enclosed by the southern (5704_f1), western (5708_f1) and central (5717_f1) walls, 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 floor. The tops of all the walls were located only 15-20 cm below surface.

Wall 5702_f1 divides the trench into an interior and exterior space, while the central wall (5717_f1) further divides the interior space into a southern and northern room. The interior rooms are of different sizes and make use of different kinds of floors (packed earth vs. mortar), which altogether suggest different functions. The smaller, narrower northern room, with an amphora lying on the earth floor, suggests a pantry or storage room in the inside of the building, although the large slab in addition to several other flat stones (including gypsum—which reminds us of material in EU 2) in the northern room, could suggest an effort to create a floor over packed earth; the lowest level in N room (SU 5719 & 5721 looks gray and ashy) The larger southern room with its mortar floor indicates a more usable living space. Mudbrick is frequent in all spaces below SUs 5701-5706, obvious as rich red and brown (colors vary) flakey pockets of porous soil, often with small white mortar inclusions; this mudbrick stops ca. 5 cm above the floors throughout.

- 5702_f1: The Northern Wall. This wall runs east-west (87 degrees East of North) across the northern end of trench, is 0.45 m wide and stands to 0.84 m. It was first identified in SU 5702 and continues to bedrock. The construction style 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 (see comment on 5708_f1 below). This northern wall joins with the western wall (5708_f1), with the rocks of both walls interlaced into the other, indicating their contemporaneity. To the north of 5702_f1, we recorded a foundation trench during the excavation (SU 5713) which was better defined when we drew the scarp wall. See comments in this section below.
- 5702_f2: Tumble. This group of stones was initially presumed to be a wall and was even labeled initially (in SUs 5702, 5704) as the “south wall” but, after further excavation (SU 5704), was redefined as a circular feature, “perhaps a hearth for a watch or signal fire” (see EU 8 notebook, p. 8), and then, finally, as simply “collapse” from the true south wall 5704_f1 (EU 8 NB, p. 10). Probably that is what 5702_f2 is, simply collapse. There is not enough evidence, in any case, to suggest a more specific function for this pile of stones that had a roughly circular shape and even the photos (see 5704_p1 & p2) do not suggest the regularity of a hearth.
- 5704_f1: The Southern Wall. This wall runs east-west (91 degrees East of North) across the southern end of trench, is at least 0.50 m wide, and stands to 0.84 m. The construction style is random uncoursed, although the rocks immediately on bedrock approximate coursing; cobble ranges in size typically between .10-.30 m although some stones have dimensions up to 0.50 m. The largest stones are in the

two lowest “courses” and are ca. 0.30- 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 (see comment on 5708_f1 below). The southern end of this wall runs into the scarp wall so its width may be slightly greater than 0.50 m). This northern wall presumably joins with the western wall (5708_f1), although it is difficult to ascertain with certainty since the latter angles southwestward and cannot be measured in its southern projection.

- 5708_f1: The Western Wall. This wall runs approximately north-south (4 degrees east of north) along the western scarp of trench, beginning at the southern face of 5702_f1, joining 5717_f1, and continuing southward to (presumably) the northern face of 5704_f1. The wall runs into the western scarp and angles slightly more to the southwest (ca 5-6 degrees east of north) from its join with 5717_f1, with the result that it is impossible to ascertain wall thickness or determine the wall’s southern terminus with absolute certainty. The wall stands to 0.60-0.96 m, depending on the slope of the bedrock, which is highly irregular. Like the southern (5704_f1) and northern walls (5702_f1), the construction style can best be described as random uncoursed with cobble size (0.10-0.30 m) except for the half meter above bedrock where slightly larger stones (0.20-0.50) are laid in lines that suggest rough coursing. This western wall joins with the northern wall (5702_f1) and central wall (5717_f1), with the rocks of walls interlaced into the other, indicating contemporaneity. There is no evidence for a face to this wall but the earth touching the stones was very soft and rich suggesting perhaps mudbrick or packed mud on the interior face of the wall. The large quantities of mudbrick inside the house suggests perhaps mudbrick above a limestone sockle and could point to mudbrick facing on the limestone wall. *Note that a stone artifact rim (FS #5708_1003) was found in the western scarp (chinking material built into the wall) and can provide a *terminus post quem* for the date of this wall.
- 5717_f1: Central Wall. This wall runs east-west in middle of trench, is oriented approximately east-west, bisecting (and clearly joining) wall 5708_f1, which effectively divides the interior space of this building into a southern room (between 5704_f1 & 5717_f1) and northern room (between 5717_f1 and 5702_f1). The wall is poorly preserved, standing only to 0.44 m above bedrock; it is 0.50 m in thickness. Its poor preservation meant that we were unable to define it as a wall until relatively late in the excavation although it appeared as a wall-like feature as early as SU 5708 (cf. 5708_d1). Two large stones, illustrated in 5708_d1 and also visible in photographs of 5708, were thought to be “floaters” and were subsequently removed; however, additional excavation confirmed that these were in fact the upper parts of the wall, indicating in turn that the wall survived to 0.68 m above bedrock even if we failed to notice its upper courses in SU 5708. The loose fill (App. 8.4, Layer E) illustrated in the eastern scarp was caused by the removal of these large stones. Like the other walls, 5717_f1 is constructed in random uncoursed style with cobble size stone (0.20-0.30 m) although some stones (cf. 5708_d1) are boulder sized (0.40-0.60 m). The stones

were placed immediately on bedrock. Two artifacts (FS 5708_1002 & 5716_1010) were used as chinking in the construction of this wall and will provide a *terminus post quem* for the construction of the wall. Because wall 5717_f1 is interlaced with 5708_f1 (which is in turn interlaced with 5702_f1), the dates of those objects should provide a *terminus post quem* for the construction of all the walls.

- Mortar Floor of most recent occupation. White mortar bed, representing either sub-flooring for a packed earth floor or the floor itself, between southern wall (5704_f1) and central wall (5717_f1). This mortar packing was excavated as its own SU 5720, which indicated significant amounts of gravel inclusions. The floor was consistently about 5 cm thick and found between elevations 54.98 and 54.86 m. The soil immediately above the floor (SU 5717) can offer a *terminus ante quem* for this floor while the subfloor packing level (SU 5722) should provide a *terminus post quem*. The former was a thin layer of dark soil mixed with white flecks and suggests either a packed earth floor or collapsed mudbrick on the floor. That the white mortar bed *did* have some earth accumulation is suggested by bones (55.02 m) and a coin (55.00 m) lying *in situ* 2-4 cm above the top of the mortar floor. This mortar floor abuts and joins (but does not go inside) walls 5704_f1, 5708_f1, and 5717_f1, indicating that the floor postdates the walls (since it occurs in respect to the walls) even if it is part of the same construction episode (as it likely is).
- Foundation Trench for wall 5702_f1, found on the wall's exterior northern side, i.e., outside the building. We initially recorded the foundation trench during the excavation of SU 5713, but in fact, after better cleaning of the northernmost scarps at the end of the season, we realized that SU 5713 is only a very small part of a larger foundation trench created during the construction of the wall. The shape of the foundation trench is visible as strata O & U in, respectively, the Eastern and Western profiles (cf. Appendix 8.4). This foundation trench is 0.10-0.20 m wide and cuts through cultural levels of previous occupation phases (Profile Drawings: Strata Q, R, V, & W, excavated as SUs 5710 & 5712) before hitting bedrock. Note that because we did not notice the full shape of this foundation trench while excavating, we ended up digging the foundation trench *along with* the earlier context that it cuts into; nonetheless, the latest objects in SUs 5710, 5712, or 5713 will provide another *terminus post quem* for the construction of the walls. During the latest phase of occupation, then, ground level was ca. 0.40 m above bedrock, and those reoccupying the site dug down nearly half a meter to place stones directly on the bedrock.
- Floor of Older Occupation. Cf. discussion in Section 4 above.

Section 6. Finds

Most of the artifacts excavated in EU 8 consisted of ceramics of primarily Classical-Hellenistic date. The pottery categories include cooking wares, utilitarian and

storage vessels (amphoras), and fine wares bowls, dishes, and cups. There was a sizeable assemblage of bone, stone, and shell remains; there was also some gypsum and plaster flooring/walling. The assemblage again points to domestic artifacts. The significant Findspot artifacts include the following:

- **FS 5704_1001:** Large body sherd from feature 5702_f1. The artifact, however, was stolen before it could be removed. Consequently, this FS # has been voided.
- **FS 5707_1001:** Approximately 50% of a one-handled jug. It is a closed vessel with rim, neck, both handle joins, and the handle recovered. Check plan view for coordinates & elevation.
- **FS 5708_1001:** Small open vessel, complete. See description for approximate location.
- **FS 5708_1002:** Large circular stone fragment. Possibly a base or grinding stone. 1451.60 N, 4465.25 E, 55.31 m. Found under top course of 5717_f1.
- **FS 5708_1003:** Stone artifact rim found in west scarp (see 5722_d2). 1450.81 N – 1450.96 N, 4464.43 E / 55.47-55.42 m.
- **FS 5709_1001:** A bronze projectile found in sieve. Approximate elevation: 55.17 m.
- **FS 5712_1001:** Half of a small shallow bowl. Very similar in form to FS 5708_1001. Presumably, information about the coordinates and elevation are available on the plan view.
- **FS 5715_1001:** Fragment of stone bowl / dish. 1449.45 N, 4465.29 E, 55.42 m.
- **FS 5715_1002:** Thick rim of coarse shallow dish. 1450.71 N, 4465.09 E, 55.43 m.
- **FS 5716_1001:** Potspread in southeast corner of trench. 1449.51-1449.81 N, 4465.30 E, 55.28 m.
- **FS 5716_1002:** Stone vessel in southern part of trench. 1449.76 N, 4464.95 E, 55.28 m.
- **FS 5716_1003:** Cooking pot in center of trench. 1450.76 N, 4464.84 E, 55.17 m.
- **FS 5716_1004:** Basket handle in center of trench. 1451.04 N, 4464.78 E, 55.22 m.
- **FS 5716_1005:** Amphora, nearly complete profile preserved albeit fragmented, in north-central part of trench. 1452.05-1452.50 N, 4464.94 E, 55.27 m (top of lip), 55.25 m (top of body), 54.93 (bottom). Sits almost immediately on bedrock—on top of 1-2 cm lens of soil resting on bedrock.
- **FS 5716_1006:** Potspread in northeast corner of trench. 1453.46-1453.56 N, 4465.24 E, 55.20 m.
- **FS # 5716_1007** was mistakenly skipped and is consequently void.
- **FS 5716_1008:** Vessel fragment. 1452.12-1452.17 N, 4464.65 E, 55.15 m.
- **FS 5716_1009:** Stone vessel. 1449.95-1450.37 N, 4464.76 E, 55.17 (north), 55.09 (south), 55.04 (bottom)
- **FS 5716_1010:** Basket handle found at junction of walls 5708_f1 & 5717_f1, apparently embedded in the latter wall. 1451.96 N, 4464.63 E, 55.14 m.
- **FS 5717_1001:** Well-preserved open bowl found near W scarp wall. 1450.79-1450.93 N, 4464.55-4464.60 E, 55.05 m.

- **FS 5717_1002:** Tibia bone along wall 5704_f1. 1449.61-1449.77 N, 4464.86 E, 55.02 m.
- **FS 5717_1003:** Bone south of stone slab in southern room. 1449.43 N, 4464.73 E-4464.92 E, 55.02 m.
- **FS 5717_1004:** Coin. 1449.49 N, 4465.03 E, 55.00 m
- **FS 5718_1001:** Iron spit preserved in floor. 1452.53-1453.06 N, 4464.74 E, 55.05 m.
- **FS 5718_1002:** Flat stone artifact (grinding stone?). 1452.61-1452.71 N, 4464.86-4465.04 E, 55.03 m.
- **FS 5718_1003:** Small open bowl in eastern scarp, 15 cm north of amphora (5716_1005). 1452.61-1452.71 N, 4465.30 E, 54.97 m (top), 54.94 m (bottom)

Although there were other interesting artifacts discovered in this EU, we were able to record the largest and most unique artifacts within the most sensitive contexts *in situ*. Although mudbrick was found early in the excavation process, there were exceptionally well preserved pieces preserved on the mortar floor. One good piece of **mudbrick** was noted at 1450.26 N, 4464.84 E, 55.08 m.

Section 7. Interpretive Conclusions

This EU revealed two interior rooms of a domestic habitation of the Classical / Hellenistic period and a northern area of exterior space (at least in its latest phase). The rooms are of different sizes and make use of different kinds of floors (packed earth vs. mortar), which altogether suggest different functions. The smaller, narrower northern room, with an amphora lying on the earth floor, suggests a pantry or storage room in the inside of the building; the larger southern room with its mortar floor indicates a more usable living space. The stratigraphy proves one definite major phase of refurbishment that signalled a new phase of occupation of the entire interior space, but there is also reason to think there may be additional earlier phases: 1) the numerous potsherds in the packed earth below the mortar floor suggests an earlier occupation at the site; 2) earlier plaster bits found occasionally (e.g., embedded in wall 5717_f1) also suggests earlier construction phases; and 3) the later building cuts into and through earlier occupation levels at the northern end of the trench. In this sense, the walls, floors, and debris associated with this EU are comparable to those discovered in EU 2 and 5, especially, but also EU 1. Altogether, the artifacts suggest a 2-3 phases of refurbishment and reoccupation over a period of a century; the analysis of the pottery in 2009, however, will help us refine this reconstruction.

EU 8 is significant for two 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 Classical/ Hellenistic periods. There appears to be no evidence of later artifacts (e.g., Roman or later) in this EU, and we await the reading of pottery in 2010 to determine whether the artifacts in the fill below the floor point to pre-Classical material. Currently, we can conclude that the EU suggests a major occupation in the late CL / early HE period. Second, the assemblage is so well preserved that it indicates the nature of the

abandonment of the site: the artifacts, including bronze and ceramics, were left in place, suggesting a rapid abandonment and/or rapid burial by mudbrick. While evidence for conflagration or violent destruction is absent, the inhabitants of the area appear to have left the site rapidly and did not come return to reclaim their possessions.

Section 8.1. Appendix: Drawing Inventory

5701_d1: bottom of SU 5701
5702_d1: bottom of SU 5702
5703_d1: bottom of SU 5703
5704_d1: bottom of SU 5704
5705_d1: bottom of SU 5705
5706_d1: bottom of SU 5706
5707_d1: bottom of SU 5707
5708_d1: bottom of SU 5708
5709_d1: bottom of SU 5709
5710_d1: bottom of SU 5710
5711_d1: bottom of SU 5711
5712_d1: bottom of SU 5712
5713_d1: bottom of SU 5713
5714_d1: bottom of SU 5714
5715_d1: bottom of SU 5715
5716_d1: bottom of SU 5716
5717_d1: bottom of SU 5717
5718_d1: bottom of SU 5718
5719_d1: bottom of SU 5719
5720_d1: bottom of SU 5720
5721_d1: bottom of SU 5721
5722_d1: bottom of SU 5722 and Final Plan
5722_d2: Profile Drawing of West Scarp and Wall 5708_f1
5722_d3: Profile Drawing of East Scarp
5722_d4: Profile Drawing of North Face of Wall 5704_f1

8.2. Appendix: Photograph Inventory

5701_p1, p2: top of SU, facing north
5701_p3: bottom of SU after cleaning, facing north
5702_p1: bottom of SU, facing north
5703_p1: bottom of SU, facing west
5704_p1, p2: bottom of SU, facing west
5705_p1, p2: bottom of SU, facing east
5706_p1: bottom of SU, facing west
5707_p1: FS 5707_1001, facing west
5707_p2: FS 5707_1001, facing east

5707_p3: bottom of SU, facing west
5708_p1: bottom of SU, facing west
5708_p2-p3: FS 5708_1001, facing west
5708_p4: stones at bottom of 5708, facing down
5708_p5-p6: bottom of SU, facing down
5709_p1: bottom of SU, facing west
5710_p1: bottom of SU, facing west
5711_p1: bottom of SU, facing west
5712_p1: bottom of SU, facing west
5713_p1: “foundation trench”, facing down
5713_p2: “foundation trench”, facing east
5714_p1: bottom of SU, facing west
5714_p2-p4: bottom of SU, facing down
5715_p1-p2: bottom of SU 5715 (and 5714), facing north
5716_p1: bottom of SU, facing north
5716_p2-p14: FS 5716_1001, facing all directions
5716_p15-p25: FS 5716_1009, facing all directions
5716_p26-p31: wall 5717_1001, facing all directions
5716_p32-p35: general trench shots
5717_p1: bottom of SU 5717 (and 5718), facing north
5717_p2-p5: FS 5717_1001-1005, facing north
5718_p1: FS 5718_1001 (and FS 5717_1001), facing north
5718_p2-p5: bottom of SU, facing north
5718_p6-p7: FS 5718_1003
5718_p8-p10: FS 5718_1001
5718_p11: wall 5717_f1
5718_p12-p17: wall 5717_f1; FS 5718_1003; and FS 5716_1005
5719_p1-p5: bottom of SU, facing north
5720_p1: bottom of SU, facing north
5721_p1: bottom of SU, facing north
5722_p1: bottom of SU, facing north; final photo

8.3. Appendix: GPS Point Locations – Final Day

The following are descriptions for GPS points taken with the Trimble on June 15, the final excavation day. Consult Bill Caraher for shape files and elevations.

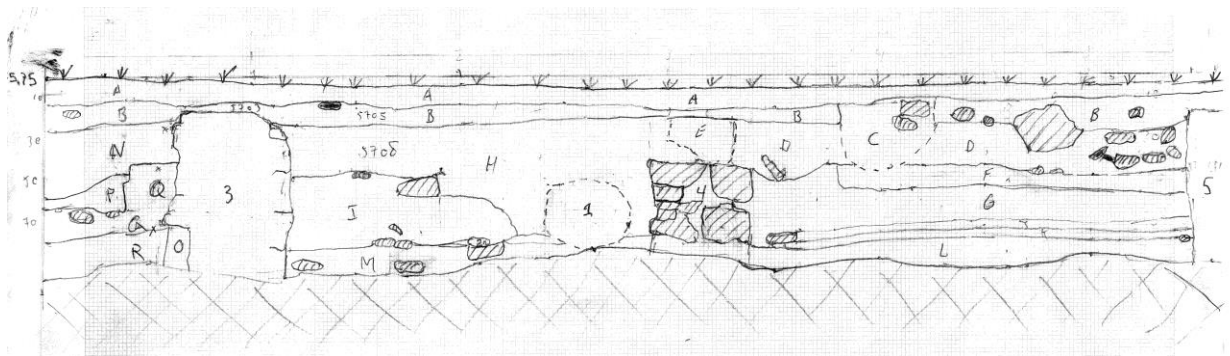
1. Bedrock, south of southern slab
2. Bedrock, north of southern slab, low point
3. Bedrock, north of southern slab, high point
4. Bedrock, south of northern slab
5. Bedrock, north of northern slab
6. Bedrock, north of north wall 5702_f1
7. Top of phase 1 floor [consult notes; the phasing has changed]
8. Top of phase 2 floor, north
9. Top of phase 2 floor, center
10. Top of phase 2 floor, south

11. Top of southern slab, center
12. Top of northern slab, center
13. Bottom of amphora profile (5716_2006), center
14. Top of amphora profile (5716_2006), center
15. Wall 5702_f1, southeast corner
16. Wall 5702_f1, northeast corner
17. Wall 5702_f1, northwest corner
18. Wall 5702_f1, southwest corner
19. Wall 5704_f1, southeast corner
20. Wall 5704_f1, northeast corner
21. Wall 5704_f1, northwest corner
22. Wall 5704_f1, southwest corner
23. Wall 5708_f1, eastern line of wall 5708_f1, northernmost point
24. Wall 5708_f1, eastern line of wall
25. Wall 5708_f1, eastern line of wall
26. Wall 5708_f1, eastern line of wall, northwest juncture with wall 5717_f1
27. Wall 5708_f1, eastern line of wall, southwest juncture with wall 5717_f1
28. Wall 5708_f1, eastern line of wall
29. Wall 5708_f1, eastern line of wall
30. Wall 5708_f1, eastern line of wall, southernmost point?
31. Wall 5717_f1, southwest corner
32. Wall 5717_f1, northwest corner
33. Wall 5717_f1, northeast corner
34. Wall 5717_f1, southeast corner

8.4. Appendix: Notes on Profile Drawings of West (5722_d2) & East (5722_d3) Scarp Wall

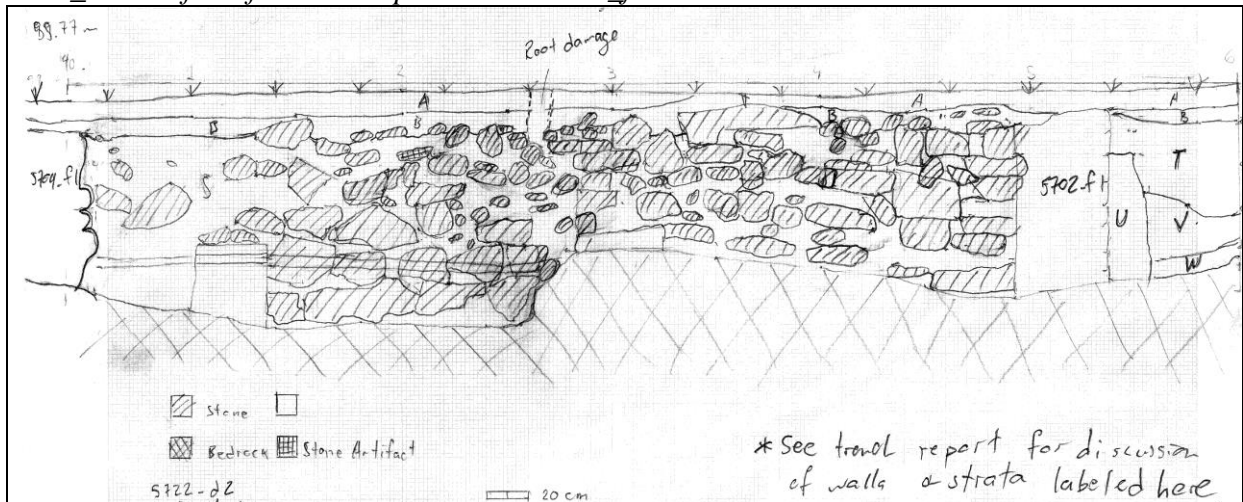
**The following descriptions correspond to the profile drawings 5722_d2 and d3 of the west and east scarp walls, respectively, which we have scanned and include here for easy reference. On those profile drawings, we have labeled the various strata visible in the scarp walls by a series of letters, A-W. Here we copy out the notes made at the time of drawing and include additional discussion relevant to the stratigraphy of the trench.

5722_d3: Profile of East Scarp



Note that because wall 5708_f1 runs along the line of west scarp, the strata visible in the east scarp (cf. 5722_d3) are generally *not* visible in the west scarp (5722_d2).

5722_d2: Profile of West Scarp and Wall 5708_f1



The strata that are certainly visible in both walls include:

Layer A (top soil / plow zone) in 5722_d2 = Layer A in 5722_d3

Layer B (compact clayey soil) in 5722_d2 = Layer B in 5722_d3

Moreover, north of wall 5702_f1:

Layer T in 5722_d2 corresponds to Layer N in 5722_d3

Layer V in 5722_d2 = Layer Q in 5722_d3

Layer W in 5722_d2 = Layer R in 5722_d3

Layer U in 5722_d2 = Layer O in 5722_d3

Description of Strata in Profiles

A = Top Soil / Plow Zone, corresponds to SU 5702. Visible in East and West Scarp profile.

B = Narrow band of compact clayey soil, visible in both East and West Scarps, corresponding to excavated SUs 5703, 5704, 5705, and 5706. Although this layer includes substantial amounts of pottery and artifacts, it is clearly a relatively recent stratigraphic deposit in so far as it overlies all ancient walls. As a consistently narrow stratum (ca. 10 cm), it could represent an older (pre-late 20th century) plowzone.

C = Very loose soil caused by the movement of roots, visible in East Scarp. As this disturbance breaks up Layers B (the clayey soil) and D (mudbrick layer), it consequently must be more recent than both layers. Only the surface and plowzone (5701 & 5702) are more recent. This stratum was not detected during excavation but was removed as part of SUs 5705 (Layer B) and 5708 (Layer D). Because this stratum represents natural (not

cultural) activity, our data from those SUs should not greatly be affected. There is only one possibility of contamination: the loosening of the soils may have contributed to processes of bioturbation where artifacts from layer B (SU 5705) were displaced vertically into D (5708). However, we do not know how wide this layer was—it does not appear to continue on the other scarp wall.

D = Layer of flakey soil, some red, with mortar inclusions, corresponding to excavated SUs 5708, 5711, and 5714, visible in East Scarp. Almost certainly mudbrick.

E = Loose fill caused by the removal of block (during excavation) from Wall 5717_f1, visible in East Scarp. Although we sensed at an early point that there might be some loose soil in this area, we did not define Wall 5717_f1 until relatively late in the season because it was so poorly preserved. This stratum, which was soil from the wall 5717_f1, was excavated as part of SU 5708. Visible in East Scarp.

F = Thin layer of soil, fewer inclusions, south of wall 5717_f1, corresponding to SUs 5714 and 5716. May represent another mudbrick layer. Visible in East Scarp.

G = Layer of flakey soil, often dark, with numerous mortar inclusions, located in the southern room (i.e., between walls 5704_f1 and 5717_f1), excavated as part of SU 5716 (which extended well north of this layer). This layer almost certainly represents mudbrick deposits as mudbrick was abundant throughout layer. Probably is the same as Layer H. Visible in East Scarp.

H = Layer of flakey soil, with numerous mortar inclusions, located in the northern room (between walls 5717_f1 and 5702_f1), excavated with SUs 5708, 5714, and 5716. Certainly represents thick mudbrick layer. Suggests that 5708, 5714, and 5716 are generally equivalent. Visible in East Scarp.

I = Very flakey mudbrick and rocks south of Wall 5702_f1. Visible in East Scarp.

J = Earthen floor in south room (between 5704_f1 & 5717_f1), immediately above mortar, excavated as SU 5717. Visible in East Scarp.

K = Mortar floor in south room (between 5704_f1 & 5717_f1), excavated as SU 5720. Visible in East Scarp.

L = Subfloor packing in south room (between 5704_f1 & 5717_f1), excavated as SU 5722. Visible in East Scarp.

M = Subfloor packing in north room (between 5704_f1 & 5717_f1) that lies on bedrock. Excavated as SU 5719 & 5721 (*5719 was a cleaning SU). Very similar to R. Visible in East Scarp.

N = Compact soil with white inclusions, north of wall 5702_f1, excavated as SU 5707, probably mudbrick and the same as Layer T in the west scarp. Visible in East Scarp north of wall 5702_f1

O = Foundation trench for Wall 5702_f1 that goes down to bedrock. Very fine soil with very small inclusions, very flakey. Visible in East Scarp. Same as Layer U, visible in West Scarp.

P = Possible floor in space north of Wall 5702_f1. Visible in East Scarp. SU 5709.

Q = Layer of subfloor fill in space north of Wall 5702_f1, visible in East Scarp. Probably the same as Layer V visible in West Scarp. Excavated as SU 5710.

R = Second layer of reddish, subfloor fill with gravel, in space north of Wall 5702_f1, visible in East Scarp. Lies on bedrock. Probably the same as Layer W visible in West Scarp. Excavated as SUs 5712 and 5713. Note that SU 5713...is only a tiny part of real foundation trench.

S = Mudbrick deposits visible in West Scarp.

T = Mudbrick deposits with numerous white mortar inclusions, north of Wall 5702_f1, visible in West Scarp. Probably the same as Layer N in the East Scarp.

U = Foundation Trench for Wall 5702_f1 that goes down to bedrock. Very fine whitish soil with very small inclusions, very flakey. Visible in West Scarp. Same as Layer O visible in East Scarp.

V = Layer of subfloor fill in space north of Wall 5702_f1, visible in West Scarp. Probably the same as Layer Q visible in East Scarp. Excavated as SU 5710.

W = Second layer of reddish, subfloor fill with gravel, in space north of Wall 5702_f1, visible in West Scarp. Lies on bedrock. Probably the same as Layer R visible in East Scarp. Excavated as SUs 5712 and 5713. Note that SU 5713...is only a tiny part of real foundation trench.

The following lists these strata according to the SUs that they fall under. Note that some strata cover multiple SUs.

5701 = Surface

5702 = Level A

5703 = Level B

5704 = Level B

5705 = Level B

5706 = Level B

5707 = Level N & T

5708 = Level C, D, H

5709 = Level P
5710 = Level Q
5711 = Level D
5712 = Level R
5713 = Level R
5714 = Mixed Levels D, F, G, & H
5715 = Levels C & D
5716 = Levels F, G, H, I
5717 = Level J
5718 = No correspondence
5719 = Level M
5720 = Level K
5721 = Level M
5722 = Level L