

# Locus Card

DOR 2004

L 04G0-013    *Area* G    *Sq:* AJ- /33-    *Loc. type:* removing F04G-004  
High at Low at    *written by:* AVS    created 15/07/2004  
Open 15/07/2004 12.60 nw 12.44 sw    *checked by:*    updated: 30/07/2004  
Close 26/07/2004 12.40 ne 12.19 se    **Floor** 12.47 n 12.25 se  
Length 1.30 width: 1.15 volume:    Floor type (old)  
Removed:    Drawn? No

c

Integrity:

p

*unit:* --    *phase:* 9/10??    *stage:* vii    *stratum:*    *PoM:*  
*summary:*

**Opened:** We have reached the phytoliths layer (F04G-004) and wanted to remove it

**Limits (N)** W9211

(S) baulk

(E) W9140

(W) baulk

**Closed:** we have reached the level of F04G-013, the stones pavement, the locus was closed officialy at the end of the season.

**Matrix:** mixed layers of white phytoliths and gray/brown sediments. there was a higher area of the phytoliths just between this locus and L04G-015 to the west and between L04G-016 to the south, and it seems like harder material (mudbrick material?) comes from this area. In the southern part we could see for sure few fallen bricks right where the higher area of F04G-004 was.

**Relations:** Equivalent to L04G-015 and L04G-016

when we started to remove the highest phytoliths layer we found out, what we have already thought, that there are more than one layer. We found an accomulation of about 25 cm of phytoliths layers and between brown and gray soil layers. the upper two phytoliths layers were the most thickend and the rest of them (4-5?) are very thin (a few mm). we didn't find too many shards beside in one corner. in the NW corner of the locus, very near wall W9211, we found a concentration of shards and even a complete bowl upside down (see pictures). next to this bowl there was a large base fragment of a jar. The bowl was right below the upper phytoliths layer, and mixed with the second one. If the phytoliths layers are indeed a roof colupse, then we need to figure out what are the sediment layers between them and how this bowl get to there. we took a block to micromorphology analysis to WIS.

At the bottom of these loci we have reached F04G-013. this floor is built of medium-large flat stones with one very large and one rounded which may be a culumn base (actually below L04G-016).

F04G-013 does not cover the entire area of the phytoliths layers, about 70 cm short to the north and to the south. In the NE corner of L04G-013 we found very unusual flint stone (board flint) about 10x40 cm going north from the border line of the pavement (see sketch).

In the section we could see that the phytoliths layers are higher next to the walls and in the middle of the locus they are sunkened. In the begining we thought that this is the way they made the floors (like a pannel) but these layers were not floors. the most reasonable explanation for this phenomena is that the material below it sunk down and next to the wall it was harder. This is true especially when we are dealing with organic materials. Another thing that one needs to remember is that the phytoliths themself are representing only 5% of the volume of the original material. One of the soprises were that at least one phytoliths layer goes below the stone pavement F04G-013. We could see it when we removed two stones for check. The same layer could be trace almost at the stones level and then it goes down below the stones (either the surface was not leveled horizontally or that the weight of it compress the phytoliths afterwards. This complicates the understanding even more. Its certainly rouled

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out the possibility of roof colupse with organic material on top of it ( This may be the case with the top barley phytoliths, see L04G-004). unless one asuume that there were at least 6 roofs coloupses and that in between people used to cover the area with soil or stones. (one should consider the question whether the phytoliths can penetrate below stones when they are going through degregation). So, we have left with the barn for animals option. which means that there were large amount of different kinds of grasses thrown to the animals on a daily basis and remains are mixed with their dung. May be once a year (or a few years) they raised the surface with soil covering the dirt (in spring time?), or even stones pavement. With this explanation there is no good explanation for the fallen bricks and the complete bowl found below the upper most layer. But we can argue that the last layer represent different event (roof colopse together with walls?) . Another thing which one needs to consider is the very impressive concentration of beads that were found in this area, both above and below the phytoliths layers. about 50 beads made of blue stones (3-5 mm) that were founf above the phytoliths and more than 25 very small metallic beads below it. How this is going with the explanation of anaimanls? may be we should consider a living surface of people covered with wild grass, even for sleeping.

**Importance:** sealed high value locus, importent for the undestanding of the phytoliths white layers.

Images	L 04G0-013	Related loci:	Features
p04G0-0053	is_below	04G0-004	
p04G0-0029	sealed_by	04G0-004	
p04G0-0030			
p04G0-0055			
p06Z3-2013			
p06Z3-2014			
p06Z3-2020			
d04G0-0046			
p09Z3-6083			
p09Z3-6081			
d09Z3-2018			
p08Z3-0125			
d03Z3-2642			