

Locus Card

DOR 2004

L 04G0-016 *Area* G *Sq:* AJ- /33- *Loc. type:* Removing phytoliths floor
High at Low at *written by:* AVS created 21/07/2004
Open 21/07/2004 12.52 ne 12.29 sw *checked by:* updated: 30/07/2004
Close 04/07/2026 12.20 n 12.13 s **Floor** 12.27 12.16 n
Length 2.30 width: 1.70 volume: Floor type (old)
Removed: Drawn? Yes

c

Integrity:

p

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

Opened: To remove phytoliths layers and to understand better their accumulation process

Limits (N) L04G-013 and L04G-015

(S) Bulk below W9066

(E) W9140

(W) Bulk

Closed: we have reached F04G-013

Matrix: White phytoliths layers in different thickness and in between soils (gray, brown reddish brown), some stones in various sizes and pottery fragments. Very close to the border with L04G-013 we found a few fallen mudbricks in different colors what probably caused the small ramp in the phytoliths surface. these bricks were between the highest phytoliths layer and the second one.

Relations: from stratigraphical point of view this locus is equivalent to L04G-013 and L04G-015 below L04G-004 and sealed by F04G-004 which is actually the phytoliths layer. The most interesting thing regarding these three loci is the way by which these phytoliths layers were accumulated and what happened in between. According to WIS people (Steve Weiner) this amount of phytoliths can not be found as a result of natural causes (abundant area with wild grass) his most reasonable guess is that it has something to do with animals and probably sheep or goats (because cows leave spherulites together with the phytoliths which they didn't find). The process of feeding the animals over a long time in one place can produce this amount of phytoliths. There are some ethnographical evidence for it. What is not really clear yet is what are the layers between the phytoliths (some sand, stones, shards, fallen bricks and other sediments) and in what circumstances they were accumulated? Another thing which we should take into account is the degeneration that this material going through over time, what has an important impact on the level of it (regarding the question of to which wall do they relate to. 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 accumulation 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 collapse, 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 column 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

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the locus they are sunkened. In the beginning 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 themselves are representing only 5% of the volume of the original material. One of the surprises 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. This complicates the understanding even more. Its certainly rouled 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 impresive 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 metalic 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.

In the west of this locus, next to the baulk, we found a weird instolation. What we saw was one or two bricks in the section, below what looks like a sand brick and below that bricks material which creates a very nice round shape in the ground (not in the baulk). The phytolitha layer goes below this mudbrick material and creates a dipration in the ground. Our best explanation for that is that someone created a dipration in the ground before the accomulation of the upper phytoliths layer (could be a jar

Importance: High value

Images	L 04G0-016	Related loci:	Features
p04G0-0054	is_below	04G0-004	
p04G0-0056	sealed_by	04G0-004	
p06Z3-2012			
p06Z3-2015			
d04G0-0048			
p09Z3-6096			
d09Z3-2017			

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d03Z3-2646 which was embeded to the ground and taken out). Then this dipration was covered with mudbricks
material, and just above it someone dug a small square hole and later on it was filled up with sand.
d03Z3-2648 The bricks above it could be fallen bricks. The photos (p04G-0054,56) showes bricks below F04G-
004 and above F04G-013.