

WK-08: EXCAVATIONS IN STRUCTURE N14-12 AND IN THE VICINITY OF STELA 3

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Introduction

The temple complex at El Peru-Waka' is situated in the southeastern corner of a portion of the site mapped by Ian Graham some three decades ago. Two large pyramids and a small triadic group atop a natural plateau form the nexus of this ritual space. Structure N14-12 and Stela 3 are located on this plateau, and were the foci of Operation WK-08 during Proyecto Arqueológico Waka's inaugural field season. Because work on Operation WK-08 commenced late in the season (21 March 03), initiating excavations on either of the large pyramids was impractical. Thus, time restrictions helped to determine the specific research design this year.

Objectives

Several objectives were outlined for this season's work in WK-08:

1. Define the architectural characteristics of structure N14-12, particularly in regard to the anomalous trench running directly toward the stela on the north face of the structure.
2. Gather data regarding the structure's construction sequence and possible function.
3. Investigate the relationship between Stela 3 and its surroundings.
4. Determine what type of deposit remained in front of the stela, despite the presence of a looter's pit.
5. Evaluate the information from this excavation concerning the clues it might provide regarding ceramics, construction

techniques, time period, etc...of associated pyramids O14-02 and O14-04.

Description of the Investigation Area: Structure N14-12 and Stela 3

The unimposing structure designated N14-12 sits on a plateau with Stela 3 and at least two other structures: N14-13 and O14-07 (Fig. 1). Graham's El Peru map indicates N14-12 is approximately 10m N/S x 11m E/W. The southern face of the structure sits very close to the edge of the plateau. N14-13 and O14-07 are both longer, north-south running range-style structures flanking N14-12 on the east and west sides. Based again on Graham's map, these structures are approximately 20m on the N/S axis. They, too, are positioned directly along the edges of the plateau.

The symmetry of this small triadic group may be interrupted by a possible fourth structure, N14-11. This structure is recorded on Graham's map, but is not visible on the topographic map constructed this year by Lia Tsesmeli (Fig. 1). This amalgamation of rocks and matrix is no more than 50cm in height, and is located north of the northwest corner of N14-12. David Freidel (pers. comm. 2003) does not construe it as a structure. A possible explanation for this concentration of rocks is that the uniformly flat surface of the plateau was cobbled in antiquity, and the cobble is being pulled to the surface in this location due to root disturbance. There is a large tree on the northwestern corner of this feature, but as yet

there is no evidence the plateau surface was actually cobbled. Further investigation is required to test this hypothesis.

As previously mentioned, N14-12 is a small structure, only 2.16m in height (Tsesmeli, pers. comm. 2003). The natural plateau on which it sits establishes its prominence on the landscape, as well as that of the flanking structures. Based on the difference between the Central Datum elevation in Plaza 2 and the elevation taken at a survey point slightly to the north of Stela 3, the plateau is approximately 45m higher than the datum in Plaza 2 (ibid.). The height of the natural plateau creates the illusion that structure N14-12 is on par with the two associated pyramids (O14-04 and O14-02). This deceptive technique is also used at Pyramid O14-02, which is positioned on a steep escarpment. Together, the pyramids and the structures on the plateau are sometimes referred to as the El Mirador Complex.

Terraces can be discerned when climbing the plateau on which N14-12 sits from the west and southwest. I suggest there are two major terraces, if not entirely circling the plateau, then at the very least on its western flank – congruent with structure N14-13. Cut stone has also been observed on the western slope of the plateau, below N14-13. This may simply be tumble from N14-13 itself, as it is located directly on the perimeter of the plateau. While these terraces were not explored this season, test pitting may be incorporated into the future workplan.

A total of three looter's trenches were documented on the western, southern and eastern faces of Structure N14-12. They are roughly oriented to cardinal directions. The

western looter's trench is slightly undercut, with large trees present on both the north and south sides. Tree roots are intertwined with large rocks throughout the walls of this trench. The walls appear secure at this point in time, but any work here may result in destabilization. The primary feature visible in the profiles of this looter's trench is construction fill.

The looter's trench on the south side of the building, however, contains stacked alignments of large cut stone in both the east and west profiles. Larger fill is also visible in this trench, in contrast to the east and west trenches. Based on the orientation of the three structures atop the plateau, this southern trench is invasive into the backside of N14-12, and the presence of cut stone indicates the looter's trench penetrates the rear wall of the structure. One of the goals for the 2004 season is to excavate in the area around this trench.

The looter's trench on the east side of the building runs E/W. Like the western trench, it provides no immediately informative data about the structure. Unfortunately, this trench is severely undercut. The looters must have attempted to tunnel into the center of the building after digging the trench. A large pile of debris in the tunneled area indicates a cave-in, which can be viewed when laying in the tunnel opening. After investigation, Juan Carlos Perez (pers. comm. 2003) stated this trench is in no immediate danger of collapse, but will have to be dealt with in the future.

There is a fourth trench on the north face of the structure. This trench was immediately noted to be qualitatively different than the other three – wider and shallower, with a humus layer accumulation and no vertical

trench walls with visible construction fill or cut stone. Knowing the trench did not possess the same characteristics as the others, and that it ran up the front center of the structure in line with Stela 3, it was a focus of this season's investigation.

Stela 3 was originally documented by Graham, along with most of the rest of the stelae at El Peru. This stela appears uncarved, although it seems impossible to know whether or not it is simply terribly eroded. It is roughly 130cm wide and 26cm thick where the stone is not cleaving, which is happening in quite a few places along the face of the stela. It is fractured at the top, and at its highest point the stela measures approximately 210cm, with 105cm of that below the present ground surface. There is no way to know how tall the stela originally was without the upper fragments, and they do not appear to be in the vicinity. There is additional looting activity adjacent to the stela. It is a circular pit restricted to the space directly in front of the monument, extending to a depth nearly corresponding to that of the stela base. Finally, there is another very shallow loot pit approximately 1m further west of the pit in front of the stela.

Notes Regarding Excavation Strategy and Description of Units

All of the units excavated this year in WK-08 are within suboperation A; no other suboperations were designated. The units are oriented with the stela, which runs W 292° to E 112°, according to handheld compass readings. Structure N14-12 is oriented very similarly. The shallow trench running up the north face of the

structure runs 20° to 200°, 2° different than the N/S axis of the stela. Units 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9 are all 2m x 2m units forming a 6m (E/W) x 4m (N/S) grid over the north face of the structure (Fig 2.). When "north" is used in relation to the excavations in this operation, bear in mind that because the units are oriented with the stela and the building, I do not mean *cardinal* north.

Generally, the excavation strategy employed was to remove matrix until either a cultural feature was encountered (e.g. a floor or rock alignment) or a level of tumble was exposed. In the case of the latter, the lot was closed after the rock was exposed. The rock and subsequent matrix was considered to belong to the next lot, resulting in lots of varying depths.

During excavation, all elevations, except those of Unit 7, were taken using WK-08 Datum 1 (46.37m higher than the Central Datum in Plaza 2). WK-08 Datum 2 (46.30m higher than the Central Datum) was established specifically for measuring Unit 7. Vandals stole *both* of the datum strings in WK-08 prior to our final workplan of the season. The nails were left in place, but the strings had to be retied. Elevation discrepancies of 1-2cm have been noted on measurements taken before and after the incident, particularly with Datum 1. This, however, is no greater than the normal variation observed when using this type of measuring device.

Until the artifacts from the units are properly weighed, artifact densities will not be compared. Likewise, any statements offered in this report regarding the frequency of artifacts are based solely on educated observations, but do not replace a full analysis. Until more

thorough laboratory analyses are performed, very few statements will be made in regard to dating the lots based on the artifacts recovered. For informational purposes, a spreadsheet with artifact counts is included (Fig. 3).

This report will treat the excavation units in a logical grouping, not review them in numeric order (see Fig. 2 for unit location). Consequently, the surface collections are examined first; then excavation in the looter's pit in front of Stela 3; followed by units 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9 directly on the front center of the structure. Unit 7 is considered in this section, as it is also located on the structure, but is not part of the grid. Lastly, Unit 6, which forms a "bridge" between Unit 1 and Units 2 and 4 is assessed, as well as Unit 10, which extends Unit 6 to capture an *in situ* broken vessel.

Surface Collections

WK-08A-0

Surface collections were made at several different times during the season. Initially, while clearing the brush from the top of the plateau and cleaning the looter's trenches, we made six locationally-discrete collections, comprising Lots 1-6. These were generally associated with the looter's trenches and pits, of which there are five total (Fig. 1). Later, foot traffic exposed additional sherds in several locations. Lots 22, 57, 58 and 67 represent these collections. Ceramic sherds were the only artifact type recovered in surface collections.

Surface sherds were abundant to the west of Stela 3, particularly in the area between the looter's pit in front of the stela and the small looter's pit to the west. This very shallow pit

appears to have been aborted in the early stages of plundering. I suspect the plethora of sherds so close to the surface in this location is a result of the looting activity, with undesirable vessels, or parts thereof, from both pits discarded on the nearby ground surface.

Excavation of the Looter's Trench in Front of Stela 3

WK-08A-1

Unit 1 is a 1.25m x 1.25m excavation located north, or in front, of Stela 3. It encompasses the eastern half of the looter's pit in front of the stela, and extends out approximately 60cm beyond the stela's northeastern corner. The unit size was deliberately selected to provide a small sample of artifacts from the unlooted area adjacent to the looter's pit. The ragged profile of the loot pit showed indications of several floors and a concentration of sherds above what appeared to be the first floor. The data from this small test excavation allowed us to better understand these features, and will contribute to forming an excavation strategy for the 2004 season. Also, a mid-sized sapotillo tree is 85cm east of the stela. A larger excavation unit may have wreaked excessive havoc on this tree's root system.

Because this unit encompasses the eastern half of the loot pit, during most of the work in Unit 1 we were actually only excavating the area around this preexisting pit. This generally consisted of the northern 40cm and eastern 60cm of the unit, with variations caused by the changing arc of the circular looter's pit at each layer. Only after we brought the undisturbed region of the unit down to level with

the bottom of the looter's pit were we actually excavating a 1.25m x 1.25m unit. A profile of each of the unit walls is included for reference during the following overview (Figs. 4-7).

Lot 7 is the first lot of Unit 1. A thin layer of dark grayish brown friable humus (10YR 4/2) is above a light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) matrix, and below this is a layer of thin rock. Beneath these rocks is another layer of dark grayish brown matrix that again looks like humus (Lot 8). A large slabstone and a smattering of smaller rocks were uncovered in Lot 8, which was closed upon exposing a concentration of ceramic material in the northwest corner of the lot. Lot 8 contained a single obsidian fragment. Moderate amounts of pottery sherds, a few chert fragments and beads were recovered from both of Lots 7 and 8.

Six separate beads or bead fragments were collected, however, two of them were halves of the same circular bead, for a total of five small beads. The beads were made on different raw materials: two on a dark green and black mottled stone with slight red veins running through it, one a tan-sage green and another "seafoam" green. There are three fragments of the seafoam green bead, comprising approximately one-quarter to one-third of a small disk-shaped bead with a hole punched through the center. The dark green and black mottled beads were differently shaped – one is circular (14mm diameter), and the other long (15mm) and thin (7mm wide). (All measurements were taken expediently in the field, at the largest point.) The tan-sage green bead is more or less triangular, yet is uniquely shaped because it is widened at one end. It is 13mm in length and 12mm at it's widest. All of these stone beads

are polished. The fifth and final bead is ceramic, exhibiting remnants of a high gloss black slip. It is somewhat square, and 16mm long by 14 mm wide.

Unit 1 was divided on an E/W axis for the excavation of the next two lots: 9 and 11. Lot 9 is the southeastern corner of the unit, and extends 62.5cm north from the south unit wall. The western wall of the lot is formed by the edge of the looter's pit, which arcs toward the west as you follow it north. Consequently, the south border of Lot 9 was 60cm wide, and the north was approximately 80cm wide. The thickness of Lot 9 ranged from 15-21cm. Lot 11 comprises the remainder of the unit, and it ranges from 8-18cm thick. There is no qualitative difference between these lots; the division was merely a tool to retain more spatial control during the excavation to the first floor surface identified in front of the stela.

Both of these lots were comprised of a grayish brown matrix (2.5Y 5/2) dispersed between a concentration of densely packed ceramic sherds. The sherds have not yet been weighed, but the counts are quite high – Lots 9 and 11 contained 320 and 470 sherds respectively. Considering the dimensions and thickness of each lot, it is apparent this deposit of ceramic material is quite dense, frequently with the sherds oriented horizontally and stacked at random on top of each other. The nature of this deposit is as yet undetermined, but later excavations suggest the deposit was localized in the area in front of the stela. The only other artifacts recovered from Lot 9 were one chert fragment. Lot 11 contained two chert fragments and two obsidian fragments. As in Lot 8, a large

slabstone was removed from Lot 11, which had been lying directly on top of the floor.

An E/W oriented alignment of two rectangular cut stones (Lot 75) was noted in the south unit wall, generally flush with the stela face. These two stones were above, but not directly on top of, the floor (Lot 12) beneath the ceramic concentration in Lots 9 and 11. This floor was the first of six excavated in this unit, and is referred to as Floor 1. It was relatively level, but the plaster was patchily preserved. Ranging from 8-10cm thick, with a small amount of ballast underneath, this floor is directly above Floor 2 (Lot 16). Only 23 sherds were collected from Lot 12. Floor 2 contained no artifacts of any kind, and was 5-7.5cm thick with almost no ballast. Fairly well preserved, it was stratigraphically above the less well-preserved Floor 3 (Lot 17).

The southwestern corner of the unit was designated Lot 15. This southwestern corner had an accretion of matrix banked up against the stela and part of the profile of the looter's pit. The matrix sloped downward from east to west, forming a bowl in front of the stela. This was apparently due to matrix sliding from the wall of the looter's pit and also humus and small root accumulation. One of the goals of this lot was to clean the looter's pit wall in order to provide a better profile of the area we were excavating. The floors we had encountered thus far were directly on top of each other, and it seemed reasonable to utilize the evidence available in the wall of the looter's pit to assess what might be encountered as excavation continued. We also gained some information about how much deeper the stela base was below the bottom of the looter's pit – after excavating 8cm in the

southwestern corner of the lot (also the southwestern corner of the unit) and 30cm in the southeastern corner, the bottom of the stela was identified, as was another floor, upon which the stela was sitting. This floor would eventually be labelled Floor 5 (Lot 50). Lot 15 is a mixed context, as it is basically comprised of slump from the eroding wall of the looter's pit. It contained 32 sherds, and a small circular polished stone artifact. The color of the raw material is a dark smoky gray/black mottled with white. It is incised with a circle, but has no perforations. The function of the item is unknown.

Floor 3 was different than the thick plaster with almost no ballast that characterized both Floors 1 and 2. It was hard plaster on the surface, but typical fill beneath – loose, light brownish gray matrix (10YR 6/2) containing some fist sized rocks, smaller rocks and 62 sherds. The thickness of this floor and fill was 12.5-17cm. Also, apparently a small animal burrowed from the edge of the looters trench into this floor, moving toward the east. Since this occurred in the floor fill, and the burrow did not even extend to the east unit wall, no real damage was incurred. Two chert fragments were also collected in this lot, which was closed at the next floor.

Floor 4 (Lot 48) is composed of thick plaster with little ballast, as exhibited previously in Floors 1 and 2. Sherds were visible in the floor surface, and were part of a vessel set into the floor itself. The 32 sherds collected appear to belong to a portion of a single small orange-slipped vessel. It is located approximately 40cm east of the west unit wall and 20-27cm south of the north wall. Not many diagnostic fragments

are present (I noted two small rim sherds). Besides two shell fragments, the sherds of the partial vessel inset into the floor constitute the only artifacts from this lot. The lot was closed when Floor 5 (Lot 50) was encountered directly beneath Floor 4.

The stela base sits above Floor 5, which is another floor with a layer of small fill positioned directly on top of yet another floor (Floor 6 – Lot 52). Again, few artifacts were recovered in Lot 50: 26 sherds and four shell fragments, some of which may not come from the floor itself, but the base of the looter's pit.

Floor 6 is the final plaster floor surface identified in Unit 1. It appears the looters dug underneath a portion of Floor 5, removing a segment of Floor 6 under the intact floors above. This resulted in an extension of the looted area underneath the perimeters of the north and west unit wall, creating an overhang in the western (unexcavated) side of the looter's pit, and a crevasse extending approximately 35cm beyond the north wall of the unit (Fig. 7). This may be an indication the looters intended to tunnel toward the north, or encountered archaeological remains requiring additional digging, beyond the previous boundary of the looter's pit, to facilitate their illicit removal. These are merely speculations and the reason for this feature will likely never be understood.

The portion of Floor 6 directly in front of the stela was not destroyed by looters (beneath Lot 15), and looked very much like it was actually a patch. Of course, this area was abutting the looter's pit, so this possible patch feature was actually partially destroyed. When excavated, nothing of note was beneath this area, just the same type of fill noted below the

rest of Floor 6, which the looters did not remove. This left a balk of fill extending approximately 20cm north of the stela. Neither the patch nor the rest of Floor 6 are visible in the south profile of the unit.

Ninety-two sherds, three shell fragments, a miscellaneous piece of worked stone and a small greenstone fragment were recovered in Lot 52. The greenstone fragment is only worked on one side, where it has been ground flat and smooth. Across this smooth surface is a narrow scar, indicating a portion of this piece was broken off. It is possible this was some kind of small platform that was discarded when the completed piece was removed from it.

Underneath Floor 6 was a thin layer of matrix not visible in any of the profiles, and small fill interspersed between large fill rocks in this unlooted portion of the unit. The looter's pit was composed of a finely textured very dark grayish brown matrix (10YR 3/2). The brown matrix was excavated as Lot 60, and the fill as Lot 63. Lot 60 was the point at which we began to encounter the base of the looter's pit. The previously mentioned 20cm balk of fill formed the south border of Lot 60, and to the north of that, the brown matrix transitioned to grayish brown (2.5Y 5/2). I sectioned off the gray matrix to be excavated separately, as Lot 62. This lot was closed when the matrix showed signs of transitioning to fine beige colored matrix (10YR 7/3 – very pale brown) often found above bedrock. The gray matrix does not show well in the profile, and appears to represent an ephemeral shift to the beige matrix which is more easily identified in profile view.

Lot 60 and 62 contained 27 and 13 sherds respectively. Three of the sherds in Lot

60 were large and potentially diagnostic. Beneath those sherds, the brown matrix in this lot also transitioned to the beige matrix identified in Lot 62, ultimately signifying the termination of the looter's pit. At this point, the lot was closed.

The large and small fill underneath Floor 6 was removed as Lot 63. Only two sherds were collected higher up in this lot, which was closed when we uncovered several large rocks that appeared to be bedrock, surrounded by the same beige matrix identified in Lots 60 and 62. Within this lot, in the northeast corner of the unit, a dark, ashy lens, approximately 20cm thick, was identified in the north wall profile (Fig. 6). Extending west from this, a gray plaster-like area was visible in the profile. This is at the same depth as the large and small fill of Lot 63, and appears very much to be a cultural feature, but no data were recovered helping to further explain this feature. We discovered it was positioned directly above a hard bedrock formation.

In order to verify the beige matrix present across the unit was indeed sterile matrix between hard bedrock protrusions, Lot 64 was excavated. This lot spans the entire unit, and as the depth increased, the beige matrix became increasingly more compact. No artifacts were collected or cultural features noted in this lot, which was closed at depths varying from 307-352cmbd1, due to the craggy rock formations.

Discussion

Excavations in Unit 1 were worthwhile insofar as gathering data upon which to base specific hypotheses regarding the activity in front of Stela 3. Some of these will require further

testing next season. The original ground surface ranged from 139-167cm below Datum 1, and closing elevations after encountering sterile soil and bedrock formations were 309-379cmbd1.

We established that the base of the looter's trench is only approximately 8-30cm above the base of the stela, as you move from the center toward the outer edge of the face of the monument. Since this matrix is mostly comprised of slump from the looter pit walls and humus accumulation, it seems reasonable to assume the looters actually did expose the entire monument. They did not appear to dig more than an additional 20cm below the base of the monument, before leaving the balk of fill in place discussed earlier, during the review of Lot 52's Floor 6. The looters then mined another 50cm in front of the balk, with the looter pit appearing to taper off after another 25cm of digging toward the northerly portion of the unit.

This extensive intrusion has caused irrevocable damage to the context in front of the stela and whatever deposit it may have contained. Along this line of reasoning, I suspect the matrix comprising the majority of Lot 8, which was in the unlooted portion of the unit and contained most of the beads recovered, is actually matrix from lower in the adjacent looter's pit. This is supported by the color and texture of the matrix (10YR 6/2) in this lot, which is identical to the matrix in the fill below Floor 3. This same matrix is extensively visible in the south unit wall profile, where, surprisingly, no traces of Floors 4, 5 or 6 are perceptible. The floors are also not discernable in the southern extremity of the eastern wall profile. These are important observations in regard to stela placement, and suggest that the earlier Floors 4,

5 and 6 may have been removed in order to erect the stela (Figs. 4 and 5). No cuñas were identified underneath the stela, although it is my understanding that these are not a mandatory feature of stela erection – sometimes they are present, and other times they are not (Hector Escobedo, pers. comm. 2003).

It is unknown at this time whether the multiple floors are cosmetic replastering events localized in front of the stela, or whether they extend out beyond this area. This is something to be tested next year, through an excavation program incorporating more vertical excavations.

The nature of the dense ceramic concentration sitting on top of Floor 1 is also presently unspecified, and requires further investigation. Excavations this season indicate it is found only in front of the stela, however, the west and north unit profiles imply this feature extends into unexcavated areas in these directions (Figs. 6 and 7). Additionally, data from Units 1 and 6 indicate it is possible the Lot 75 alignment is a portion of a small, single-course retaining wall.

Another point of note is that the Unit 1 profiles do not indicate a cobbled surface on the plateau – at least not here in front of the stela. This space, nevertheless, may not be representative of the entire plateau. A cobbled surface was mentioned earlier in this report as a possible explanation for the general uniformity across the plateau surface, but it could also be the case that the plateau was leveled but never finished in such a formal fashion. This would not be particularly visible archaeologically, and would, furthermore, suggest N14-11 is an actual structure.

Supplementary units to be excavated in 2004 will test these various hypotheses, providing additional data potentially clarifying some of these matters. For example, a larger unit, or series of units, encompassing the other half of the looters trench but extending well beyond the western edge of the stela, or a unit to the north of Unit 1, would provide data relevant to all of these issues. In both of these areas there are no trees blocking the establishment of larger trenches, which is one of the reasons the test unit was established toward the east.

Excavations in Structure N14-12

WK-08A-2

The units excavated on the structure itself were 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 7. All of the units except 7 were integrated into a grid laid out on the northern face of the structure, and excavations resulted in horizontal exposure of architectural features and the terminal layer of architectural modifications (Fig. 8).

Unit 2 is located at the base of the north side of the structure, along the centerline, corresponding to the location of the anomalous trench running toward the stela. Initially, a very thin layer of friable surface humus was removed, along with a slightly finer textured matrix below the humus (Lot 10). A great deal of rubble was exposed, as well as some cut stone and worked slab stone. Rubble appeared to be concentrated in the southern portion of the unit, but no walls or alignments were apparent. In Lot 13, the final lot of Unit 2 for this season, we exposed several irregular east-west running alignments that continued in Units 4 and 8. The matrix at the

base of the lot was light brownish gray (10YR 6/2).

WK-08A-3

Unit 3 extends Unit 2 to the south, further toward the center of the building, up the anomalous trench. The removal of surface humus (Lot 14) revealed slab stone, cut stone and rubble. In fact, so much stone was present it was difficult to take proper closing elevations in the corners and center of this lot. There was a paucity of artifacts in Lot 14 (five sherds and one lithic fragment). This was a prelude to Lot 18, from which only three sherds were recovered. The base of Lot 18 was brown in color (10YR 5/3), and finer in texture than humus sediment. We removed some of the rubble, and excavated further until I decided it was necessary to establish units in N14-12 either to the east or west of this anomalous trench. The purpose of this was to increase horizontal exposure and gain a more comprehensive understanding of the north face of the structure. Until these additional units provided us with more data, excavation in Unit 3 came to a halt.

Following a 27-day hiatus, work resumed in Unit 3 with Lot 61. Excavations in Unit 9 identifying a pier (Pier 1) helped to clarify our understanding of N14-12, and Lot 61 represented a clearing of rubble and cut stone from this unit. Excavation in the southeastern corner of the unit (Lot 65), behind the southwestern corner of the pier, was intended to bring this area down to the same general level as the rest of the unit. Stacked slab stones were encountered, however, and without opening another pit to the south we were unable to

properly excavate these stones. They were left in place, and excavation in Unit 3 stopped for the season.

Lot 77 appears to be an alignment of cut stone with a N/S orientation situated adjacent to the eastern wall of Pier 1. Because of the proximity of the stones to the pier, it is logical to interpret this alignment as the unintentional result of stones having fallen from the pier to this location. Lot 77 does not seem to be related to any other architectural feature, nor does it have a symmetrical counterpart flanking Pier 2.

Cut stones were noted in Lot 18, adjacent to what was subsequently identified as the northern corner of the west wall of Pier 2. These four stones were oriented N/S, and rested on each other like a line of fallen dominos, giving the appearance of having tumbled off the pier together in a single event. As of this season, the original height of these piers is unknown, and the elevation of the base has yet to be confirmed.

WK-08A-4

Unit 4 was pivotal in beginning to firmly identify some of the architectural modifications on structure N14-12. It is located to the east of Unit 2, and was established at the hiatus referred to in the Unit 3 description, after Lot 18 was excavated. We worked very carefully to leave as many rocks *in situ* as possible, in order to more clearly define the alignments hinted at in Unit 2. The first lot (Lot 19) constituted the removal of humus. Cut stone, rubble and eroded stone were revealed, but no slab stone. The soil at the base of the lot was finer grained than the humus and was a dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2). Prior to further excavation here, the

humus was removed from Unit 5 (Lot 20), located south of Unit 4, to extend horizontal exposure. This lot in Unit 5 did not provide useful data regarding the structure; consequently, a different approach was then pursued. This consisted of dividing Unit 4 on the 1m E/W axis, and focusing on excavating in the northern meter (Lots 23, 24) until we exposed a feature to follow back toward the south.

This approach proved successful in Lot 24, in which three rocks running N/S were identified (Lot 26). The northernmost rock was a cornerstone, associated with two more rocks following an E/W orientation (Lot 28). These stones are roughly shaped, and comprise the eastern corner of a single-course platform (Platform 1) extending from the front of N14-12. The area east of the N/S running alignment was devoid of rocks. Lot 24 was closed just below the surface of the rocks in the alignment.

Subsequently, Unit 4 was divided again, on a N/S axis in accordance with the eastern edge of the N/S running alignment. This division occurred almost exactly along the 1m mark. The 1m x 1m Lot 25 was located outside of the platform in the northeastern corner of Unit 4. The northwestern corner, containing the platform, was designated Lot 27. In this lot, the matrix between the platform fill was excavated, but the stones themselves left in place. No plaster was detected on the surface. In Lot 25, a possible floor (Lot 32) sloping downward to the north was uncovered at the base of the lot. It measured 179cmbd1 in the south, and followed to 185-187.5cmbd1 in the north. This floor is higher than Floor 1 in Unit 1 (which ranged from 196-200cmbd1), and the slope is not dramatic enough to allow these two floors to be one in the

same. It was difficult to determine whether the floor was of a poor-quality plaster or a very hard packed matrix. The matrix at the base of the lot, on top of the subsequent floor, was light yellowish brown (2.5Y 6/3). This floor appears to be the continuation of Floor 0 (Lot 45), identified in Unit 6, and will be discussed later.

The alignment referred to as Lot 26 continues into the southern meter of Unit 4, excavated as Lot 29. In addition to this same platform feature, a second platform feature was uncovered. This smaller platform (Platform 2) is stacked on top of the first, with another platform alignment oriented N/S (Lot 30) demarcating the eastern edge. Plaster patches were noted on this platform's surface, with small ballast eroding out as well.

Excavation continued in the southeastern 1m x 1m area of Unit 4 (Lot 31), and two more stones affiliated with the Lot 26 alignment were exposed. The light gray matrix (10YR 7/2) in this lot was slightly harder than in previous lots, and possessed a finer, more powdery texture. The hard packed matrix of Lot 32 identified in the northeastern portion of the unit continued here, and eventually came to a halt at the southern border of the unit where it lipped up onto a wall of thin, vertical cut stones, this one running E/W (Lot 38). This appears to be a containment wall for the bench or small platform discovered in the northern meter of Unit 5.

The last lot of Unit 4 constitutes the removal of the possible floor (Lot 32) located beneath Lots 25 and 31 in the eastern portion of the unit. Below it is a second floor (Floor 0 - identified as Lot 45 in Unit 6). This floor was either originally of a higher quality material, or

was protected from erosional forces by Lot 32 above it, as it is in much better shape. The possible floor in Lot 32 may represent a mediocre replastering event. At present we know both of these floors lip up onto the Lot 38 wall, indicating some of these architectural modifications were made prior to the laying of Floor 0. The possible presence of other floors identified in Unit 1 and their association to these and earlier architectural features of N14-12 needs to be investigated.

WK-08A-5

This unit is south of Unit 4 and east of Unit 3. It was situated on top of a hummock, which was mirrored on the western side of the shallow anomalous trench, the location of Unit 9. Removal of the humus layer (Lot 20) uncovered cut stone, eroded stone, rubble and several small pieces of slab stone. A metate fragment (not particularly worn) was noted. It was upside-down on the surface, in the center of the unit. As with Lot 19, Unit 4, the matrix at the base of the lot is a dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2). It is important to note a large root, more than 1m in length, snakes through this unit on a gentle SE/NW path. Undoubtedly, this has caused considerable damage to architectural features herein.

Lot 21 represents the removal of the rubble exposed in Lot 20, and the brown matrix below (10YR 5/3). At the base of the lot there is more rubble, with no visible patterning. It was at this point that we focused our efforts on Unit 4, Lot 23, and did not resume work in this unit until 14 days later, when we targeted the northern meter of the unit for excavation (Lots 34, 35).

The purpose of these lots was to further define the architectural features discovered in Unit 4. Continuing south from wall 38 in Lot 34 we uncovered more rubble, and not quite 1m back from the north edge of the unit we discovered an actual masonry wall (Lot 36). Further excavation illustrated that the western two-thirds of the wall is four courses high, but the eastern third is only two courses. This may indicate modification at some point in time, although the basal rocks on both the two-course *and* four-course portions of the wall jut out to form a congruent basal molding. The four-course portion of the wall is assumed to originally be the northern wall of Pier 2. The matrix in Lot 34 was light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) or pale brown (10YR 6/3).

In Lot 35 we reached a poorly preserved plaster surface. Patchy plaster was visible, as well as ballast. This surface represents some kind of bench or small platform, contained by Unit 4's Lot 38 and has an elevation ranging from 143-140cmbd1 at its southern end, adjacent to the wall called Lot 36. The northeastern corner is approximately 154-157cmbd1. The northwestern corner curves to the north, conjoining with Platform 1's eastern perimeter (Lot 2), suggesting they were part of the same construction episode. We recovered a polished stone celt in Lot 35 at 140cmbd1, several centimeters north of the Lot 36 wall. The celt measured 7.5cm in length, 2cm at its thickest, and 5cm wide at the chiseled end, narrowing toward the opposite end. *In situ*, the chiseled edge faced north-northwest. It is worth noting this artifact was positioned in front of the wall at the stone marking the transition between the four-course and two-course portion of the wall.

The bench/platform is flush with the fourth (western portion) and second course (eastern portion) of stone identified in the wall. Because of the relationship of the bench/platform to Platform 1, it would be worthwhile to excavate into the bench at the wall, to determine if the wall continues behind the bench. There is another small stone alignment (Lot 37) running N/S along the eastern edge of the unit, on top of the bench/platform. It consists of three squarish slab stones. Based on examination of notes and photographs, it does not appear that this small alignment continued further north into Unit 4.

Lot 39 is the excavation of the southern meter of Unit 5. The matrix was fine grained and brown (10YR 5/3). We revealed a small bit of the south-facing side of the Lot 36 wall, and discovered another line of stones running directly behind the western portion of it (Lot 76). The validity of this alignment is uncertain. Approximately 90-100cm south of the northern face of the Lot 36 wall, another stone alignment (Lot 54) is visible in plan view. As it turns out, this is the south wall of Pier 2, although this pier is less well defined than Pier 1 in Unit 9.

Finally, Lot 66 is the continuation of Lot 61 from Unit 3. The removal of matrix and rubble uncovered additional slab stones related to those discussed in the assessment of Lot 61. In this particular lot, two of the slab stones were removed prior to halting excavation. Only an additional unit to the south will help to determine what, if anything, these slab stones represent.

WK-08A-8

Lot 47 is the surface humus of Unit 8, positioned directly to the west of Unit 2. The lot was closed after the first layer of stone was revealed, comprised of the now familiar combination of rubble, cut stone and slab stone. Additional rubble and matrix was removed in Lot 49 and a N/S oriented stone alignment (Lot 56) was located. It runs parallel to the aforementioned alignment called Lot 26 (Unit 4), and comprises the western perimeter of Platform 1. Lot 56 is connected at a right angle to the Lot 28 alignment forming the north edge of the larger platform. Lot 26 is constructed of thicker and more block-like stones, whereas Lot 56 is comprised of a single layer of thinner, larger slab stones slightly elevated on a dirt matrix. Together these three lots – 26, 28 and 56 – comprise the boundaries of the lower Platform 1. As with the other units, the matrix around the platform fill was excavated, leaving the stones in place. The matrix midway through the lot was brown (10YR 5/3), but at the bottom of the lot it changed to a light gray (10YR 7/2).

The E/W oriented northern perimeter of Platform 2 was also identified in this unit, and is called Lot 55. It extends through Units 8 and 2, and ends in 4. The eastern portion of the north platform perimeter appears to have slid forward (north) slightly and is less well defined. Lot 30 (Units 4 and 5) represents the eastern boundary of Platform 2, but no western perimeter was discovered. Curiously, Lot 55 appears to extend further west beyond the boundary of Unit 8.

A floor was exposed in the northwestern corner of the unit. While several centimeters higher in elevation, I suspect it is the same as

the hard-packed matrix/possible poorly preserved plaster floor in Unit 4 (Lot 32).

WK-08A-9

Unit 9 is the final unit of the contiguous grid on the north side of the structure. It was critical to understanding a fundamental architectural component of N14-12. As we excavated the humus layer (Lot 53), alignments corresponding to Lots 36 and 54 (Unit 5), as well as a large cornerstone, were becoming visible. Following the removal of a significant amount of tumble and some additional matrix, a rectangular pier was identified in Lot 59. The pier is fairly well preserved on the south (Lot 71) and west (Lot 70) faces: the corners are well defined and the cut stone faces are reasonably uniformly aligned.

The east (Lot 72) and north (Lot 69) faces are not so well preserved. The north face is poorly aligned and the stones are of unequal sizes and misshapen. This face does not yet display the basal molding identified on Pier 2's north wall (Lot 36). I suspect this may be revealed with additional excavation, as the area in front of Pier 1 is still 30cm higher (112cmbd1) than in front of Pier 2 (143cmbd1). The eastern face seems to be missing both the north and south cornerstones. Lot 59 was closed when further excavation was prohibited due to the presence of rocks to the east, west and north of the pier, and the matrix south of the pier turned a whitish color. Because of the proximity to the end of the season, further work was not completed in this unit – I did not want to expose additional floors or architectural features until next year.

A possible alignment (Lot 78) oriented on an E/W axis, sits north of the north pier wall. These cut stones are reminiscent of Lot 77 in Unit 3, and I propose the same explanation for these stones – the unintentional formation of what appears to be an alignment caused by rocks from the nearby pier wall tumbling down.

A broken metate was noted in the rubble of Lot 59, and sherds with ceiba spikes were collected from both Lot 53 and 59. Likewise, during reconnaissance in May 2001, ceiba-spiked sherds were noted on the surface of this plateau. Ceramicist Keith Eppich (pers. comm. 2003) reports ceiba spikes are a design element first appearing in the Late Preclassic and continuing up to and for some time after the Spanish Conquest. However, they appear as a somewhat common design element on Late/Terminal Classic large unslipped bowls across the Lowlands, though they increase in frequency in the Terminal Classic. Because other Terminal Classic elements have been noted in the N14-12 assemblage, it seems logical to identify the ceiba-spiked sherds to this time period, but until the N14-12 ceramics are properly analyzed, this is merely a tentative assessment.

WK-08A-7

The intention of Unit 7 was to locate the northeast corner of N14-12. The unit is located 2m to the east of the eastern borders of Units 4 and 5, and the northern perimeter of Unit 7 is approximately 45cm north of the boundary between those same units. The 1.5m x 1.5m unit was positioned to catch any continuation of the Lot 38 alignment and the Lot 36 wall. At the

time the unit was established I erroneously anticipated either one of those features might extend east, forming the corner of the structure. The looters trench on the eastern side of the building was also examined, for any clues it may have provided in regard to the position of the corner. Due to extenuating circumstances created by the forest fires in the Laguna del Tigre National Park, Unit 7 never was the focus of as much investigation as intended. Unfortunately, with the small amount of work accomplished in the unit, we did not locate the northeastern corner this season.

The removal of the humus layer was Lot 42. It contained some cut stone but no patterning was visible. The matrix was a dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2). Lot 43 contains a wall (Lot 73) interpreted as a continuation of Lot 36. Subsequently, however, Lot 36 was understood to be, at least in part, the north face of Pier 2. This could suggest Lot 73 may be a separate wall, although there are previously discussed indications Pier 2 was modified (e.g. four courses of stone versus two courses) to extend to the east. The implications of this for Lot 73 are uncertain as yet.

At the base of Lot 43 we discovered a floor in the eastern portion of the unit, with elevations ranging from 173.5-174cmbd2 in the southern portion of the unit to 178-180cmbd2 in the northern area. Remembering Datum 2 is 46.30m higher than the survey team's Central Datum in Plaza 2, and Datum 1 is 46.37m higher than the Central Datum, this demonstrates Datum 2 is 7cm lower than Datum 1. Any elevations used to compare Unit 7 to the other units in WK-08 must, therefore, have 7cm added. This puts the floor at 180.5-181cmbd1 in

the south and 185-187cmbd1 in the north, allowing for comparison with Floor 0.

In the western portion of the unit, we detected another raised area – potentially a platform of some sort. An isolated area of badly eroded plaster is present, but it is possible this is simply rotting limestone. The elevation of this surface ranges from 155-161.5cmbd2, or 162-168.5cmbd1. These numbers put the surface of this feature lower than both Platform 1 and the bench/platform in Unit 5. At this point, I am unable to determine the nature of this feature.

There is an E/W oriented alignment of slab stone (Lot 74) at the northern edge of the lot. This may be another architectural modification, similar to the many others revealed on the north face of the structure. Again, its elevations are not particularly indicative that it is linked to any of the aforementioned alignments, although it is positioned similarly to the north wall of Platform 2.

Discussion

The discovery of the piers clarified quite a few of the details about N14-12. The anomalous centerline trench corresponding to the location of Units 2 and 3 appears to be a central doorway, flanked by the piers. It is thought two additional doorways exist, on the opposite side of each of the piers. The piers themselves created the symmetrical hummocks noted on each side of the trench.

The pier in Unit 9 (Pier 1) is the better defined of the two. It measures approximately 180cm on the central E/W axis, and varies from around 110-120cm on the N/S axis. It is a pen of cut stone, filled with smaller rock and matrix.

As mentioned earlier, the eastern wall may be missing both corners. This is hypothesized because several stones that should (theoretically) be stacked at the corners are not present, and the forces of erosion do not seem to provide a plausible explanation for their absence. An alternate explanation is that the corners are not missing, but that extra stone was vertically stacked in the front center of the eastern pier wall, thus creating the illusion of missing cornerstones. The layer of visible fill, however, does not support this particular explanation.

The walls of the eastern pier (Pier 2) were not so unambiguous. The N/S axis is narrower here than on the other pier, generally measuring only 100cm across. The length of the E/W axis is more difficult to determine, as the eastern pier wall remains unidentified. Interestingly, the point at which the number of courses on the north-facing wall changes from four to two is approximately 180cm east of the western pier wall. This supports the hypothesis that this wall has been extended, but what it does not explain is why the eastern wall of Pier 2 has not been located. It is possible it was removed at some point in time, or irrevocably damaged due to root disturbance, which is heavy in this portion of the unit.

Much of the cut stone in these units is postulated to be tumble from both of the piers. As mentioned, Unit 3, Lot 18 contained the northwestern corner of Pier 2 with a line of directly associated fallen cut stone. This westward-oriented line of stone suggests the pier was originally, at minimum, four courses higher than what is presently standing. Additionally, the northern 40cm of Unit 9 and the

western 40cm of Unit 3 exhibit ephemeral alignments surrounding Pier 1. I have assigned these alignments lot numbers (Lots 77 and 78), but am confident they represent tumble from the north and east walls of the pier.

The lack of uniformity in the platform features may indicate an impromptu nature for these architectural modifications. This diversity occurs between the two platforms and also within a single platform. Platform 1, for instance, is well centered on the structure, but the stones used vary from thicker, square shaped stones on the eastern wall (Lot 26) to the thin slab stones comprising the eastern alignment (Lot 56). On the other hand, Platform 2 is comprised almost exclusively of slab stone. No western alignment was discovered, and it appears the north edge of the platform continues into the unexcavated area west of Unit 8.

More data regarding the earlier phases of the building are required. At this juncture, no temporal range can be postulated for N14-12, as the excavation units this season focused on horizontal exposure, and on only one face of the structure. The nature of the architectural modifications coupled with field observations of diagnostic Terminal Classic bolstered rim ceramics, however, suggests these are late alterations to this temple-style structure. This statement is tentative, and will be revisited when further excavation and analyses have been completed.

Despite the early stage of artifact analysis, one pattern is apparent in the obsidian distribution in Units 8, 4 and 6 (discussed below). More obsidian was collected in each of these units than any of the others combined.

- Unit 8: n=22

- Unit 4: n=48
- Unit 6: n=16
- All other units combined: n=13

All three units are similar in that they are partially or fully comprised of floor in front of the structure. Unit 4 provides an illustrative case study. After the eastern perimeter of Platform 1 (Lot 26) was discovered and the unit was divided along this N/S axis, a greater absolute number of obsidian fragments was recovered outside the platform in Lot 25 (n=10) than from Lot 27 (n=3), which is directly on top and within the matrix of the platform. In the lot immediately above both of those lots (Lot 24), a total of 18 obsidian fragments were collected. Additionally, Lot 31 – located on the floor, east of Platform 2 – contained 12 pieces of obsidian. Overall, this suggests obsidian was scattered on the surface of the structure, but the smaller amount of obsidian in Unit 2 (n=4) indicates the focus of the scatter may have been the platform corners and the plaza floor. No fragments were recovered from Unit 3. It is possible the lithic artifacts would exhibit the same patterning, considering their general compositional similarity to obsidian. For instance, is it possible the light weight of most obsidian and lithic artifacts was causing them to be washed down the slope of the building? The lithics, however do not exhibit a distribution similar to the obsidian (Fig. 3). Ultimately, before more can be said about this, the fragments themselves require analyzing, to determine, for instance, if they are blade fragments or debitage. cursory examination indicates the obsidian sample is primarily blade fragments.

Excavation Connecting Stela 3 and N14-12

WK-08A-6

Unit 6 connects the unit in front of the Stela 3 with the excavations on Structure N14-12 (Fig. 2). It abuts both Units 4 and 2 on the south end, and Unit 1 on the north end. The western unit wall is adjacent to the eastern side of Stela 3. The trench measures 1.5m on the N/S axis by 60cm wide. The 60cm E/W axis was determined by the presence of a sapotillo tree 85cm east of the stela's eastern edge.

After the humus and a small amount of accretion below it were removed (Lot 33), rock was noted only in the northern two-thirds of the small trench. On top of the eastern portion of these rocks, approximately 40cm south of the northern unit boundary, a small ceramic concentration (Lot 40) was revealed. It is an *in situ* broken vessel, and a fair portion of it lies outside the unit to the east. This concentration was drawn and removed.

Lot 41 brings this unit down to the level identified as Floor 0 (Lot 45), not to the possible hard packed matrix floor previous to it (Lot 32), which we may have breached here without noticing it due to unspectacular preservation. We followed Floor 0 around the base of the lower platform at the northern edge of Units 4 and 2, verifying its continuity throughout these three units. It is stratigraphically above Floor 1 in Unit 1; therefore we refer to it as Floor 0.

At the northern end of Unit 6 there is a conglomeration of rocks sitting on top of the floor, all at the same general elevation, and oriented on an E/W axis (Lot 44). The horizontal exposure is not broad enough to determine the

nature of this alignment, but four stones sit directly behind, and at the same elevation as, the two cut stones visible in the southern profile of Unit 1 (Lot 75). They are not cut stone blocks like Lot 75, but thin, small slab stones.

These rocks were removed, and Floor 0 excavated (Lot 45). The plaster was thicker at the southern end of Unit 6, and with the two rocks comprising Lot 75 sitting atop it, this particular floor was very difficult to see in the south profile of Unit 1. Root disturbance also occurred in this vicinity, and was directly visible in the Unit 1 south wall, resulting in a complex profile at the juncture of the Lot 75 alignment, Floor 0 and Floor 1. Floor 0 did not appear to extend north of the stela, and was not actually visible in the profile of the east, west and north walls, or when excavating Unit 1. It appears to end underneath the cut stones of Lot 75. The floor beneath it (Floor 1 - Lot 12) was the first floor easily identified in Unit 1, and had the significant concentration of ceramics lying on it. In Unit 6 we discovered a thin layer of sediment layered on top of Floor 1, but absolutely no indication of a massive ceramic deposit similar to the one found north of the small cut stone alignment (Lot 75).

WK-08A-10

The small buttresses of the sapotillo tree 85cm to the east of Stela 3 frame tiny Unit 10. At the request of ceramicist Eppich, who saw the *in situ* concentration (Lot 40) in Unit 6, this unit was excavated in order to capture the remainder of the vessel. The plan-mapped sherds were bagged as Lot 46, with the sherds lying beneath collected as Lot 51. A total of 111 sherds were

collected from this 40cm x 50cm unit that was approximately 10cm thick. Thirty-seven of them were plan mapped, and 58 unmapped sherds were bagged separately. The remainder of the sherds were collected from within the humus. These sherds have yet to be analyzed, but more than one vessel is represented within this concentration.

Discussion

On this plateau, sherd concentrations in the humus layer are noted to be frequently in close proximity to looter's pits. The *in situ* broken vessel excavated from both Units 6 and 10 is thought to represent an unwanted vessel discarded by looters as they toiled in front of Stela 3. The loss of context is troublesome, particularly in this instance, as presently there is little to use to help date Stela 3 below the level of Floor 1 (Lot 12).

There is no concentrated ceramic deposit south of alignments called Lot 75 and 44 that corresponds to the material recovered primarily in Lots 9 and 11 in Unit 1. The two-stone alignment (Lot 75) identified in the south profile of Unit 1 and in plan view in Unit 6, therefore, constitutes a boundary of sorts. It is possible it is part of a small retaining wall, designed for the purpose of creating a pen for the ceramics laid down in front of Stela 3.

Conclusions

In regard to the Operation WK-08 objectives outlined earlier in this research summary, we collected data addressing some of those goals, while generating new questions. We determined the anomalous trench on the

north face of N14-12 was produced by the presence of a central doorway located between two piers. Pier 2 looks to be modified to extend beyond its original dimensions. The architectural form of the structure suggests there is a central room or configuration of rooms, and a vaulted roof. Additionally, the copious amount of slab stone visible, particularly on the surface of the building, supports the hypothesis that this was once a vaulted structure. This will be tested next season, and along with data collected in select vertical excavations, more information will be available to address the structure's construction sequence and function.

Preliminary data were successfully collected regarding the relationship between Stela 3 and its surroundings, as well as more clearly identifying what remained unlooted in close proximity to the stela. Due to the extent of the looting directly in front of the stela, it is impossible to know what type of deposit may have existed there, and how that might have helped us to understand how this monument and the associated buildings on the plateau were integrated into the pyramid complex, and the site as a whole. That is, however, a great deal to ask of one deposit, and we still have the benefit of the information that might be gleaned from further investigation of the multiple floors that were identified, the substantial ceramic deposit on top of the latest floor in front of the stela and the relationship of those features to the associated architecture.

Until laboratory analysis of the artifacts collected in WK-08 is undertaken, and because the work completed this year was generally horizontal (versus vertical) excavation, it is presently unwise to use this information to create

hypotheses about the characteristics of associated pyramids O14-04 and O14-02. Also, the triadic arrangement of N14-12, N14-13 and O14-07 faces north and slightly east, in the general direction of a large bajo. The bajo itself requires examination insofar as how it is integrated into the overall site plan. This northward facing orientation of the structures on the plateau is not in harmony with the direction of O14-04 and O14-02, which both face toward the site center, to the northwest. Additionally, both of these pyramids are more similar to each other than either is to the triadic group. These incongruities suggest a cautious approach should be taken when using data from the triadic group to generate hypotheses regarding the other two buildings in the El Mirador Group, prior to their investigation.

Acknowledgements

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Index of Figures

Figure 1: Topographic map of structures N14-12, N14-13, O14-07 and possible N14-11 with rectified buildings overlaid and looters trenches and pits labelled (Tsesmeli, Graham, Rich).

Figure 2: Topographic map of structures N14-12, N14-13, O14-07 and possible N14-11 with rectified buildings overlaid and excavation units labelled (Tsesmeli, Graham, Rich).

Figure 3: Spreadsheet of artifact types and counts by unit, lot and level.

Figure 4: South wall profile - Unit 1 (Rich, Acuña).

Figure 5: East wall profile - Unit 1 (Rich).

Figure 6: North wall profile - Unit 1 (Rich, Acuña).

Figure 7: West wall profile - Unit 1 (Rich).

Figure 8: Final plan drawing of Units 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9 (Rich, Obando and Ché Paaú).

Fig. 1
WK08A
Structure N14-12, N14-13, O14-07 and N14-11 showing looter's trenches and pits
Drawing by Michelle Rich, Evangelia Tsesmeli and Ian Graham (original survey)

El Perú-*Waka'* Archaeological Project
May 2003

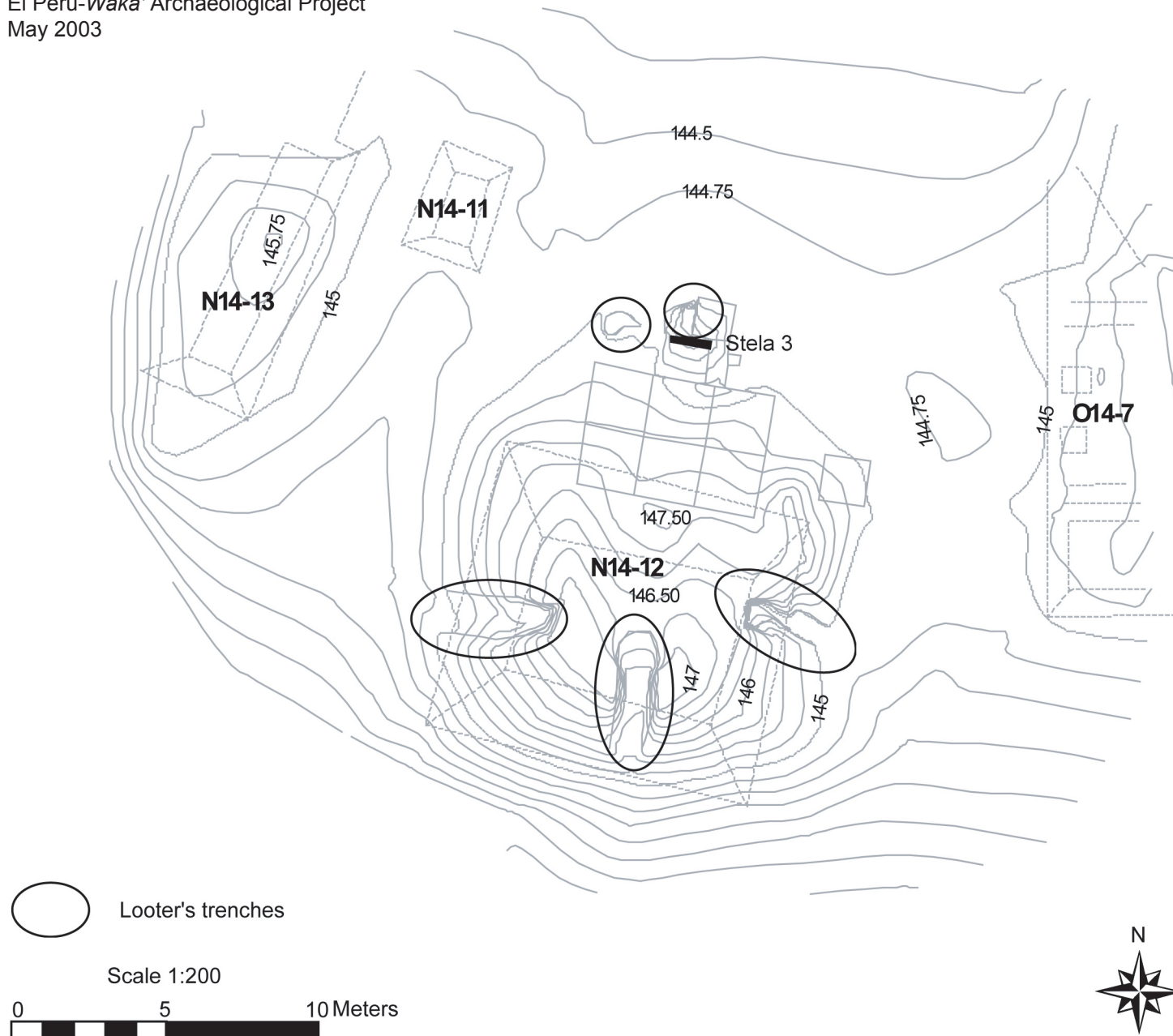


Fig. 2
WK08A
Structure N14-12, N14-13, O14-07 and N14-11 detailing excavation units
Drawing by Michelle Rich, Evangelia Tsesmeli and Ian Graham (original survey)

El Perú-*Waka'* Archaeological Project
May 2003

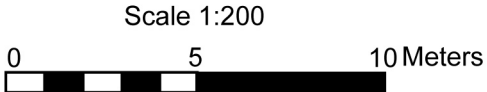
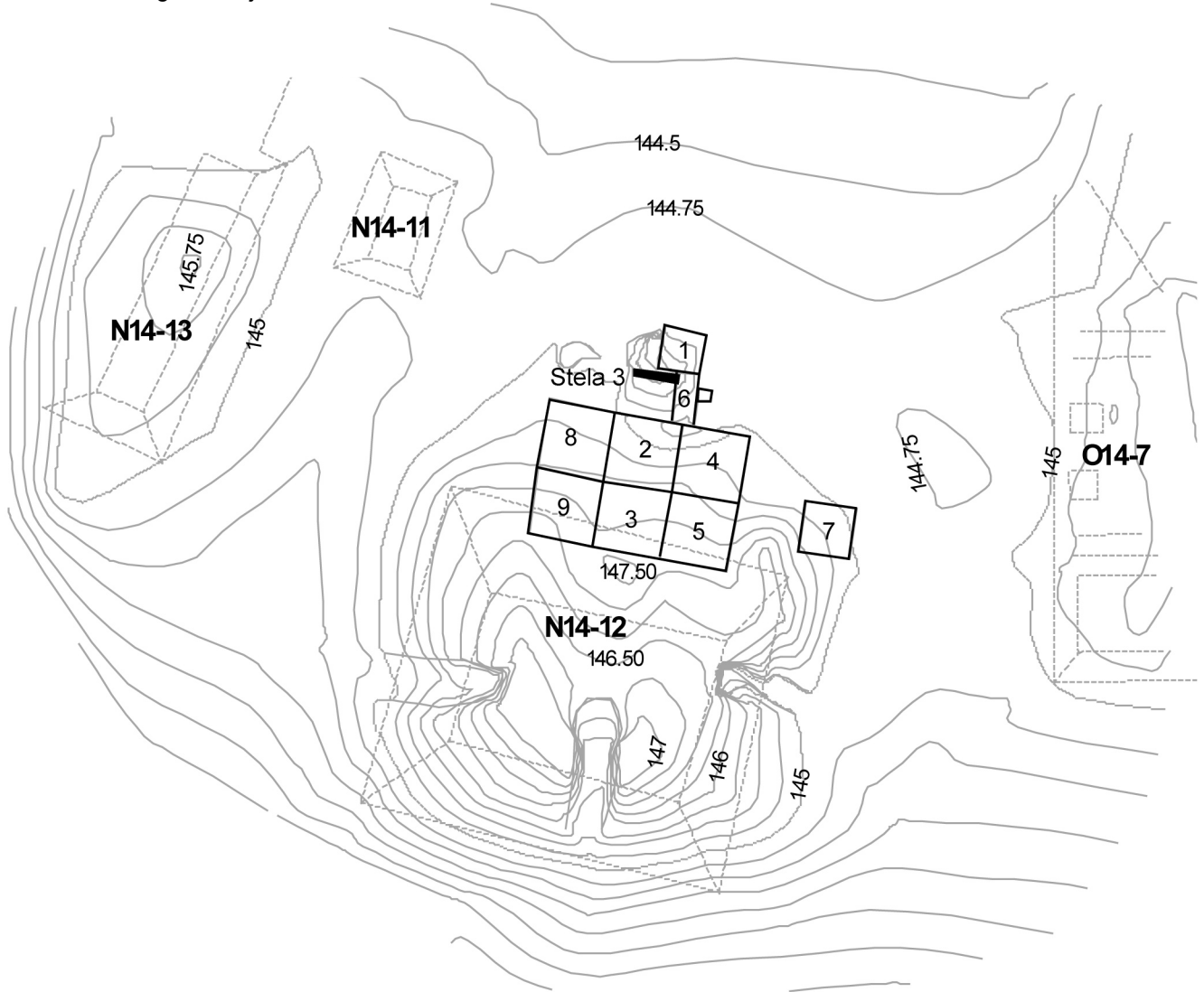


Fig. 3 WK08A Artifact Types and Counts

Unit	Level	Lot	Lot Description	Ceramics	Lithics	Shell	Daub	Obsidian	Worked Stone	Special Finds	Others
0	0	1	Surface collection	75							
0	0	2	Surface collection	4							
0	0	3	Surface collection	10							
0	0	4	Surface collection	2							
0	0	5	Surface collection	3							
0	0	6	Surface collection	6							
0	0	22	Surface collection	40							
0	0	57	Surface collection	8							
0	0	58	Surface collection	2							
0	0	67	Surface collection	41							
Subtotal				191	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	7	Humus	156	2					4	
1	1	8	Matrix/rocks	262	1			1		2	
1	1	9	Sherds and matrix	320	1						
1	1	11	Sherds and matrix	470	2			2			
1	2	12	Floor 1	23							
1	11	15	Disturbed matrix	32						1	
1	3	16	Floor 2								
1	4	17	Floor 3	62	2						
1	5	48	Floor 4	38		2					
1	6	50	Floor 5	26		4					
1	7	52	Floor 6	92		3			1	1	
1	8	60	Matrix	27							
1	8	62	Matrix	13							
1	9	63	Matrix/rocks	2							
1	10	64	Bedrock								
1	1	75	Alignment - E/W orientation								
Subtotal				1523	8	9	0	3	1	8	0
2	1	10	Humus	154	1			2			
2	1	13	Matrix/rubble	63	3			2	2		
Subtotal				217	4	0	0	4	2	0	0
3	1	14	Humus	5	1						
3	1	18	Matrix/rubble	3							
3	1	61	Matrix/rubble	4							
3	1	65	Matrix/rubble	10							
3	1	68	Wall - West pier wall (Pier 2)								
3	1	77	Alignment (possible) - N/S orientation								
Subtotal				22	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	1	19	Humus	20							
4	1	23	Matrix/rubble	73	2			2			
4	1	24	Matrix/rubble	125	2			18		1	
4	1	25	Matrix above possible floor (Lot 32)	46	2	1		10			
4	1	26	Alignment - N/S orientation, Platform 1 - eastern perimeter								
4	1	27	Matrix between platform fill	13	1			3			
4	1	28	Alignment - E/W orientation, Platform 1 - northern perimeter								
4	1	29	Matrix/rubble	28			1				1
4	1	30	Alignment - N/S orientation, Platform 2 - eastern perimeter								
4	1	31	Matrix above possible floor (Lot 32)	127				12		1	
4	2	32	Matrix - Hard packed matrix, possible floor?	19				3			
4	1	38	Wall - E/W orientation								
Subtotal				451	7	1	1	48	0	0	3
5	1	20	Humus	81							
5	1	21	Matrix/rubble	9				1			
5	1	34	Matrix/rubble	30				1			
5	1	35	Matrix/rubble	23						1	
5	1	36	Wall - E/W orientation, North pier wall (Pier 2)								
5	1	37	Alignment - N/S orientation								
5	1	39	Matrix/rubble	13							
5	1	54	Alignment or Wall - E/W orientation, South pier wall (Pier 2)								
5	1	66	Matrix/rubble	4							
5		76	Alignment - E/W orientation, directly behind Lot 36								
Subtotal				160	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
7	1	42	Humus								
7	1	43	Matrix/rubble	49	2	3		3			
7	1	73	Wall - E/W orientation								
7	1	74	Alignment - E/W orientation								
Subtotal				49	2	3	0	3	0	0	0
8	1	47	Humus	30							
8	1	49	Matrix/rubble	155		3		22			
8	1	55	Alignment - E/W orientation, Platform 2 - northern perimeter								
8	1	56	Alignment - N/S orientation, Platform 1 - western perimeter								
Subtotal				185	0	3	0	22	0	0	0
9	1	53	Humus	10	3						
9	1	59	Matrix/rubble	46				1			
9	1	69	Wall - North pier wall (Pier 1)								
9	1	70	Wall - West pier wall (Pier 1)								
9	1	71	Wall - South pier wall (Pier 1)								
9	1	72	Wall - East pier wall (Pier 1)								
9	1	78	Alignment or fall - E/W orientation								
Subtotal				56	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
6	1	33	Humus	145				5			
6	1	40	Sherd concentration	20							
6	1	41	Matrix	67	1			10			
6	1	44	Alignment - E/W orientation, directly behind Lot 75	8							
6	2	45	Floor 0	45				1			
Subtotal				285	1	0	0	16	0	0	0
10	1	46	Humus and sherd concentration (mapped sherds)	53							
10	1	51	Sherd concentration (unmapped sherds)	58							
Subtotal				111	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL				3250	26	16	1	99	3	9	3

Figs. 4, 5, 6 and 7
WK08A Unit 1
Profiles of excavation unit adjacent to north face of Stela 3
Drawings by Michelle Rich and Mary Jane Acuña

El Perú-Waka' Archaeological Project
May 2003

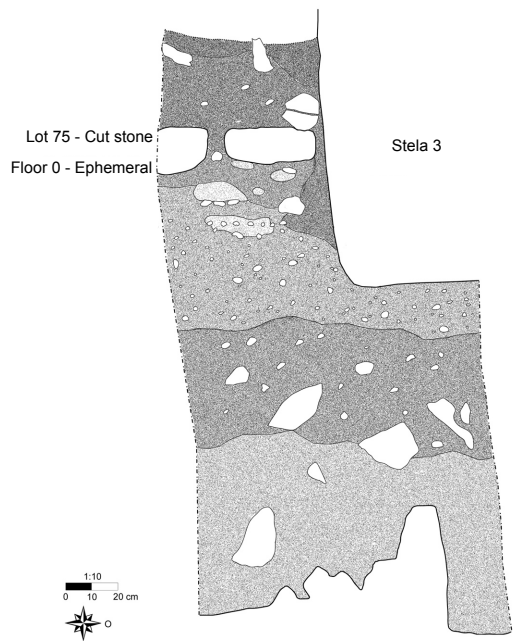


Figure 4, South Profile

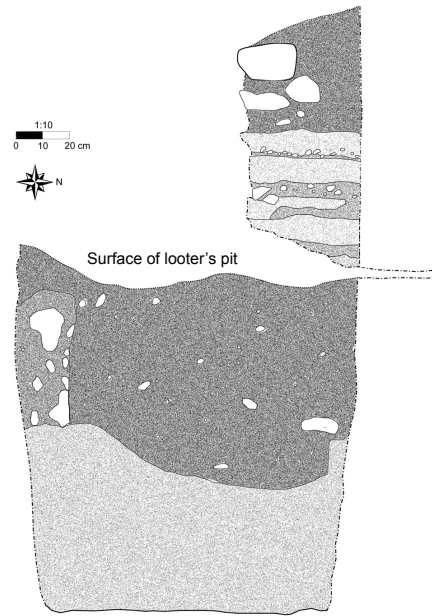


Figure 7, West Profile



Figure 6, North Profile

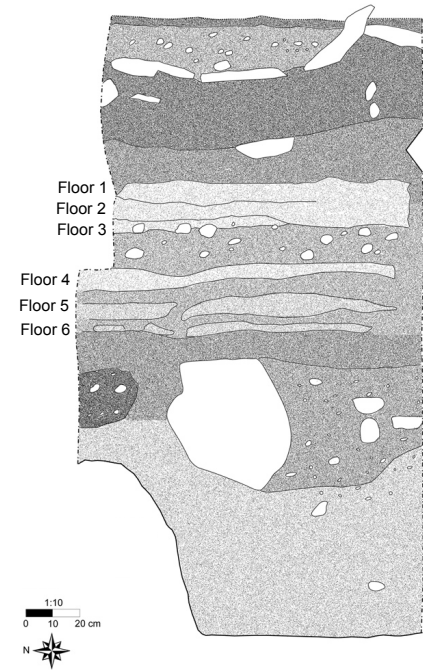


Figure 5, East Profile

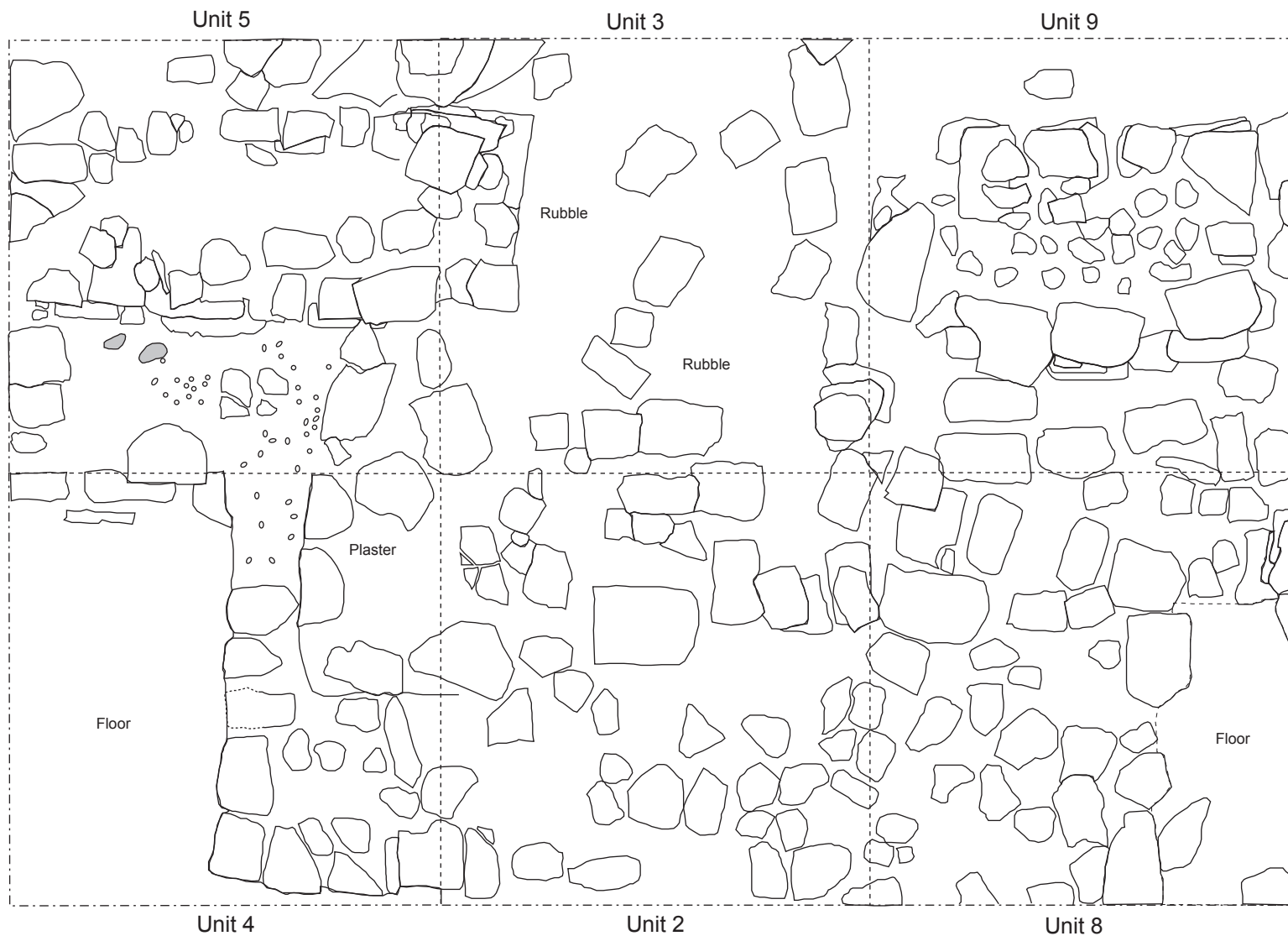


Fig. 8
 WK08A
 Structure N14-12: Plan drawing of Units 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9
 Drawing by M. Rich, A. Obando, H. Che Paau and J. Seebach

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