

# Hippus (Sussita) Excavations 2005 – 6th Season Daily Log + Drawing

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 7 July \_\_\_\_\_ Area: \_\_NEC\_\_\_\_\_ Manager: \_\_Schuler\_\_\_\_\_

Squares	B4		D0	E0	
Loci	L503	L557	W540	L505	
Baskets	1972	1973	1971	1973	
Walls	W510, W512, W540, W555, W552				
Floors	F549, F556				

- Continued work in Square B4
  - Starting elevation = 131.82
  - Ending elevation = 131.38
  - Soil is Horizon A/B
  - W512 shows plastering on the west side. W510 shows plastering on the south side. Building stones, some of significant size, as well as heavy destruction debris continue to be removed from the square.
  
- Continued work in Square D0
  - Starting elevation = 130.42
  - Ending elevation = 130.42
  - Soil is Horizon C
  - The collapse of W555 was cleared revealing the rectangular opening (43-46x106) of a bell-shaped cistern. The top framing is of finely hewn ashlar. Multiple layers of plaster are visible on the walls. The form of the cistern is similar to those of the iron age (?). The cistern is approx 3m deep.
  - It is less likely that a corner of a previous building sits on the east side of the cistern entrance. But the later construction of W555 over the cistern entrance is confusing.
  
- Continued work in Square E4
  - Starting elevation = 131.47
  - Ending elevation = 131.48
  - Soil is Horizon A
  - W552 continues to the south

- A column drum is emerging south of the Corinthian capital, suggesting that the capital fell in its current location. Also such a column and capital suggests a significant public space immediately south of the church.

#### Observations

- The two bell-shaped cisterns are in unusual locations were they constructed for the church. It is highly likely that the cisterns preceded the church. Their proximity would suggest that the area may have been in domestic use prior to the building of the church. It is even more unclear then why the masonry tomb with a coffin would be located in a domestic area, if the tomb preceded the church (as has been hypothesized).
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Daily Drawing

