

## Objects

The most significant of the objects recovered from the 2009 excavations, at both the upper and lower site, are summarized below.

### *Travertine vessels*

Work at the lower site yielded fragments of several heavily broken travertine vessels, the breakage occurring long in the past, to judge by the weathered state of the broken edges. Three groups of fragments can be reconstructed into identifiable vessel shapes:

39363 + 39398 + 39405 + 39417 + 39454 (i), (ii): Ribbed bowl

Dimensions of largest piece, 39454 (i), (ii): l = 3.8 cm h = 3.2 cm th = 0.42–0.62cm

Provenance: 39363: U102 (12612) 39398: U102 (12623) 39405: U102 (12620)  
39417: U102 (12620) 39454: V104 (12689)

Six fragments of a straight-sided bowl with circular diameter and at least three projecting ridges running horizontally around the outer surface, the uppermost running directly around the rim. All, apart perhaps from 36363, originate from the rim. The bowl may have been footed (*cf.* Holden in Freed *et al* 1999: 264, cat. 211), but nothing survives of the base. Only 39454 (i) and (ii) join directly, but there is little doubt that the pieces are from the one vessel.

39415 + 39442 + 39453: Fish-shaped dish

Dimensions of largest piece, 39415: l = 5.2 cm w = 1.8 cm th = 0.8 cm

Provenance: 39415: U102 (12620) 39442: U102/T102 (12668)

39453: (12883) (cleaning of U102–4 and V102–4 for final photography)

Three fragments of the flattened rim of a dish with tapering horizontal projections and parallel engraved lines on the upper surface, probably being the fins from a shallow bowl carved in the shape of a fish (*cf.* obj. 31/94 from the North Suburb: COA II: 74, Pl. XLVI.5). 39442 and 39453 join directly.

39421 + 39443: Shallow oval dish?

Dimensions of largest piece, 39421: l = 3.5 cm w = 2.5 cm th = 0.4 cm

Provenance 39421: V102 (12640)

39443: T102/U102 (12668)

Two joining rim fragments of a vessel, the curvature being in keeping with a shallow oval dish. At one end parallel lines have been scored in the stone at right angles to the rim: three lines on the inner surface and two on the outer face. The stone is slightly translucent, and smoothly finished.

*Glazed steatite amulets*

Both upper and lower site yielded glazed steatite amulets. All have worn surfaces, suggesting that they saw considerable use before being interred.

39418           Oval bead or bezel with cartouche of Amenhotep III

Dimensions    l = 1.6 cm       w = 1.1 cm       th = 0.4 cm

Provenance    V102 (12629). From the disturbed burial of Ind. 82, an adult male (?), lying loose in the western end of the interment.

Flat oval bead with traces of a greenish blue glaze. One side shows a cartouche reading *Neb-maat-re* surrounded by four uraei and surmounted by a winged sun disk. The other wide shows a falcon with a uraeus and a palm frond on one side and a further uraeus on the other, wearing a crown and horns. It is moderately well carved, but of much poorer quality than 39449 and 39419.

39419           Oval bead or bezel with figure of a striding king

Provenance    H53 (12760). Found in the disturbed burial of Ind. 85, an adult female (?), lying loose in the interment.

Dimensions    l = 1.7 cm       w = 1.2 cm       th = 0.3 cm

Flat oval bead with very faint traces of a greenish blue glaze. One side shows the figure of a striding king wearing the red crown and carrying a flail, an adze and a *hes*-vase shown alongside him. On the reverse is a baboon and a *nefer*-sign at the top with two *ankhs* at the bottom, a floral device separating the two *ankhs* and the upper and lower halves. The carving is extremely fine.

39423           Scarab bead or bezel with hieroglyphic inscription

Dimensions    l = 1.2 cm       w = 0.9 cm       th = 0.7 cm

Provenance    U102 (12637). Found in disturbed material originating from the burial of Ind. 74, an adult female, and Ind. 77, a juvenile.

Small greenish-blue glazed scarab, the underside bearing some roughly carved hieroglyphs, including a *nefer*-sign and two *neb*-signs, but having no clear meaning.

39428           Scarab bead or bezel inscribed for Amun-Re

Dimensions l = 1.2 cm w = 0.9 cm th = 0.5 cm

Provenance V102 (12654). From the disturbed burial of Ind. 75, an adult female, lying loose in the western end of the interment.

Scarab with traces of a greenish glaze. The top is badly worn and weathered with much of the design erased. The underside is less worn, and bears an inscription reading, 'Amun-Re, *neb*', with a lotus bud curving over the top of the hieroglyphs.

39449 Cowroid bead or bezel

Dimensions: l = 1.5 cm w = 1.4 cm th = 0.5 cm

Provenance: I53 (12848). Found in the undisturbed burial of Ind. 114, an adult female lying prone. The bead lay in the palm of the hand, over the middle finger.

Oval bead or bezel with traces of a greenish glaze. The curved upper surface shows geometric engravings in imitation of the markings on a cowrie shell. The base is flat and bears a well-carved stylized *wedjat*-eye.

#### *Faience amulets*

39367 Blue-green faience bead or amulet

Dimension: l = 1.36 cm w = 0.71 cm th = 0.44 cm

Provenance: K53 (12703), a surface deposit of sand.

A rounded trapeze-shaped bead with a flat base in which the *maat*-feather symbol is recessed. The bead is pierced through its length with a small hole, which appears to be filled with the remains of thread. All surfaces are worn.

#### *Ear or hair rings*

39414 Travertine ear or hair ring

Dimension: w = 0.75 cm th = 0.68 cm dia = 2.52 cm

Provenance: L53 (12761), a deposit of sand and gravel in the south-west corner of the square, below which was Skull 119.

Travertine ear or hair ring in the form of a ring with a narrow gap at one point. The travertine is white but discoloured in places by a brownish deposit. The surfaces are worn.

39420 Stone ear or hair ring

Dimensions w = 0.37 cm th = 0.32 cm th = 1.58 cm

Provenance U102 (12637), part of the sand fill of pit <12640>, the grave for an adult (Ind. 74) and perhaps a juvenile burial (Ind. 77).

Pale brown to very pale orange stone (?) ring with a small gap of *c.* 2.2 mm at one point. The ends are bevelled. Encrusted with a brown, possibly organic residue in some places. Linear striations within the material follow the curve of the ring, indicating that it has perhaps been made from a circular fossil shell.

### *Stelae*

Up to seven stelae were found during the 2009 excavations. The five from the lower site are summarized in the Lower Site report, pp. 9–12. An additional photograph of 39448 is included in this file, in which the fragments of mortar that attached the stela to boulders have been put back in place.

The upper site yielded only one possible example, represented by two non-joining fragments of carved limestone, of similar depth (obj. 39395 and 39397), that might be fragments from the edge of a single stela. Both were found in unit (12701) in square G53. Another stela was found lying face-up on the surface of the cemetery to the south of the upper site, and is notable for being the only example from the cemetery to date to preserve any substantial trace of decoration:

39426 Stela carved with a seated figure

Dimensions: h = 38 cm w = 28.5 cm max. th = 6 cm

Provenance: F36 (12766)

Limestone stela broken into three pieces and heavily weathered, but complete. Around halfway up, the sides of the stela curve smoothly inwards before flattening out very slightly towards the top to meet in a point, offset a little from the vertical axis. The immediate impression is of a pointed stela, but the curving upper edges also recall those of round-topped stelae. The lower-right third of the front face is hard and grey from weathering, which has gouged away most of the original surface. The left half, however, retains traces of incised decoration that can be resolved into a seated figure wearing a perfume cone, shoulder-length wig and a probable lotus flower, which projects from beneath the cone. The nose and chin can be discerned, along with the figure's lower back/buttocks, and probably lap. The high back of the chair and one of its back legs are clear, along with part of the line of the seat. An angled ridge along the waist is possibly a sash, which would suggest that the figure is a male wearing a kilt. A horizontal line just above 'ground level' is in the correct place for a footstool. Two grooves in front of the figure can almost be seen as the line of the arms, one being extended and the other raised: perhaps reaching towards an offering table once carved in the lower-right corner. A thin carved line running approximately parallel to the side of the stela formed a border to the scene, probably with a rounded-top. On the top of the stela are the beginnings of two parallel horizontal lines approximately 7.5 cm from the tip, with an attached angled line that may also be part of a border, or a hieroglyphic inscription.

### *Gold-alloy finger ring*

39447 Finger ring with ibex-like animal

Dimensions: l = 1.4 cm w = 1.3 cm internal diam = *c.* 1 cm

Provenance: V103 (12854). From the undisturbed burial of Ind. 98, an infant, sitting between the plant-stem coffin and the textile body-wrapping, over the mid-part of the chest.

Intact gold-alloy ring, the small internal diameter of which suggests that it was made for a child. The bezel has a flat slightly raised oval surface on which is shown a running animal, probably an ibex or similar, in sunk relief (the design recalls Petrie 1894: Pl. XVI.185, 187–94). To the left of the animal is a curving palm frond and to the right a spiky floral motif. The animal might have a branch of this plant in its mouth. The ring was probably formed by the lost-wax method.

### *Imported sherds*

Four sherds from pottery vessels were amongst the objects found, all from the lower site. Objects 39400 and 39401 are from the same Mycenaean vessel; 39410 and 39456 are also probably from the same juglet, of 'Cypriote' type.

39401            Mycenaean sherd

Dimensions:    l = 7.77 cm      w = 4.35 cm      th = 0.42 cm

Provenance:    U102 (12608), the surface layer of gravelly sand. From the same vessel as 39400, found in U102 (12616), the sandy fill of a grave pit that contained Ind. 71 and Skull 98.

The sherd comes from a Mycenaean juglet, having a smooth, cream-coloured body with stripes of reddish-brown paint in parallel lines. Joins 39400.

### *Mirror and spatula*

39460            Mirror

Dimensions    h = 13.8 cm (including tang)    w = 13.8 cm    th = 0.22 cm

Provenance:    I53 (12911). From the undisturbed burial of Ind. 120, an adult female, lying over the wrapped torso.

Copper-alloy mirror in the shape of a flattened circle, intact apart from its handle. Patches of textile adhere to both faces, extending over the tang, showing both that the mirror was wrapped separately from the body, and that the handle may never have been included. The tang has a small regular circular hole in its centre, presumably for a dowel. There is no sign of decoration. The mirror was probably hammered to shape, which would account for the fact that it is slightly asymmetrical.

39461            Spatula

Dimensions:    l = 19.4 cm      diameter = 0.41–0.95 cm

Provenance:    I53 (12911). From the undisturbed burial of Ind. 120, lying underneath mirror 39460.

Long, thin wooden spatula, seemingly intact. At the tip, a small notch 0.8 cm long has been taken out of the wood to form a gently angled scoop. Small patches of textile adhere to the wood on multiple faces, suggesting it was wrapped separately.

### *Beads*

39458            Bead group from armlet or bracelet

Provenance:    U104 (12862), from the left forearm of Ind. 100.

The group was found together, mostly under the radius/ulna. They come from a double-stranded armlet or bracelet, or two separate but similar ones. A few beads were still in their original sequence: 1 x A – 1 x B – 5 x E; but most had slumped, leaving the original arrangement unclear. Apart from a few organic brown patches in some of the bead apertures, the string does not survive.

The beads can be grouped as follows:

A. 6 carnelian beads in the shape of a cylinder with tapering ends (the tapering beginning at the mid-point). All range from 1.0–1.35 cm in length, apart from one which measures 1.55 cm. Average maximum width is 0.45 cm. One is chipped, another broken in two. They vary from solid, deep orange to orange with white patches. All are regular and well made. They were strung parallel to the string.

B. 13 mid blue glass beads in the shape of a flattened sphere. Some variation in aperture size, but all on average 0.35 cm in outer diameter with a maximum thickness of *c.* 0.3 cm. A few have a slightly metallic surface finish. One has a bead of group E wedged tightly in the aperture, a fit so tight that it might be deliberate. The colour is that of lapis lazuli.

C. 5 opaque pale blue beads in the shape of a flattened sphere, very close to the shape of ring beads. The outer diameter is 0.27–0.33 cm; the depth 0.11–0.16 cm. The largest has a group E bead wedged into its aperture, projecting slightly beyond the aperture rim. This bead also has a dark blue blotch covering most of one end; similar patches appear also on two others. These blotches are either part of the body material, or sit on the bead in an extremely fine layer. The surface is lustrous. The initial impression is that the material is glass, which the bulbous profile would suit, although no bubbles or trails are visible. But the material might be turquoise.

D. 9 cylindrical metal beads or bead spacers. The average length is 0.23 cm; av. outer diameter 0.29 cm; wall < 1 mm thick. They have been formed from short strips of metal wrapped around a circular rod so that the (blunt) ends either meet flush or overlap *c.* 1–2 mm. The metal has not corroded and in colour is both silvery purple and orange. Presumably it is partly copper, alloyed with silver or electrum? There are no gold undertones. The beads retain their lustre.

E. In addition to those noted earlier, are 96 very small metal cylinder/ring beads. The average length is 1.0 mm; av. diameter (outer) 0.16 cm; wall < 1 mm thick. Formed as group D, but because of their small size the joins are less obvious. Composition as per group D.

F. 3 metal beads that fall between groups D and E in size. They have definite curved ends, and so tend towards a sphere far more than the straight cylinders of group D. Outer diameter averages 0.21 cm; thickness av. 0.18 cm. They have been made by wrapping around a cylindrical rod. The composition is as per groups D and E.

G. 1 tapering cylinder metal bead, 0.27 cm long and 0.15 cm max. diameter. A miniature version of group A beads. It has been made by wrapping around a cylindrical rod, to give a very smooth join. Flat ends. Composition as per groups D–F.

H. 1 ring/short cylinder metal bead, in between groups E and F. Same composition and probably method of manufacture. Imperfect: in that a thin sheet of metal is attached to or projects from the cylinder for *c.* 40% of the perimeter. Outer diameter is 0.25 cm; depth 0.1 cm.

References:

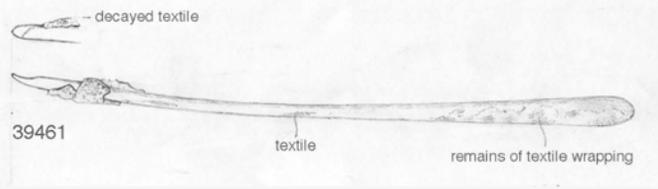
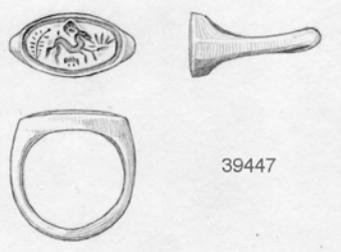
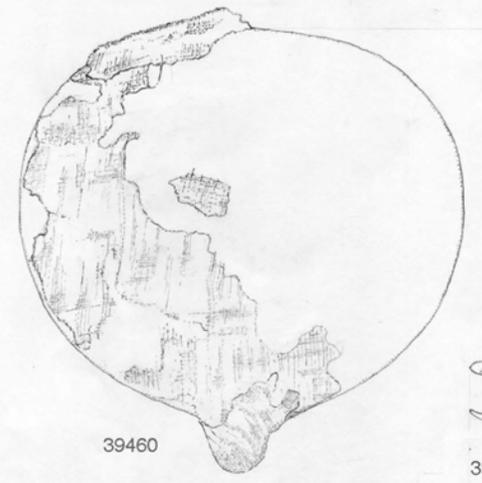
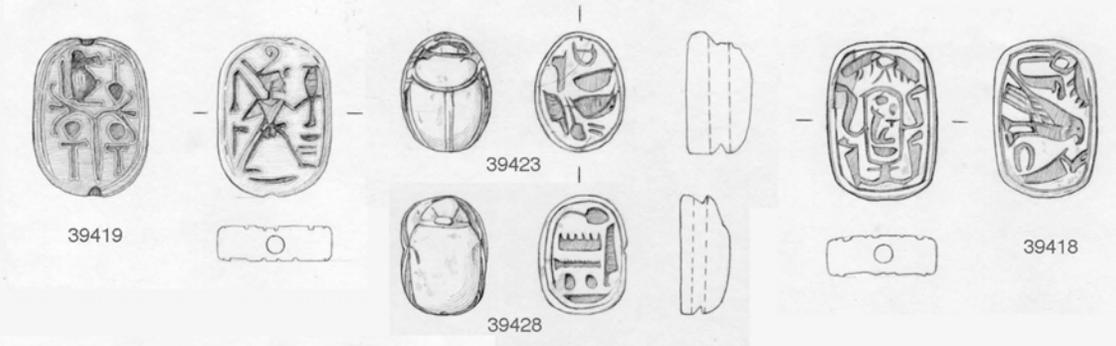
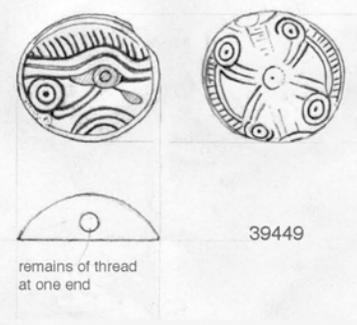
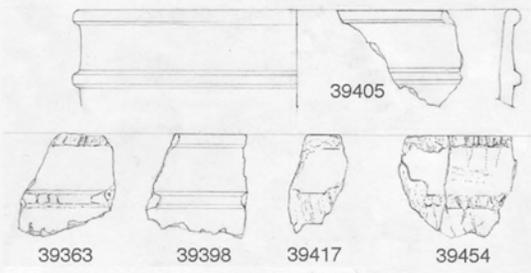
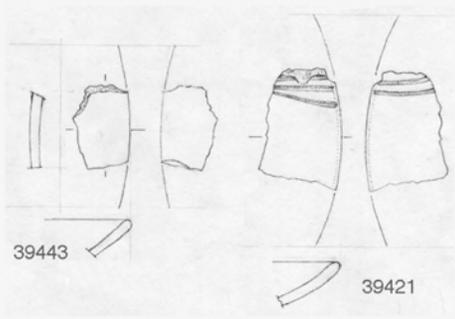
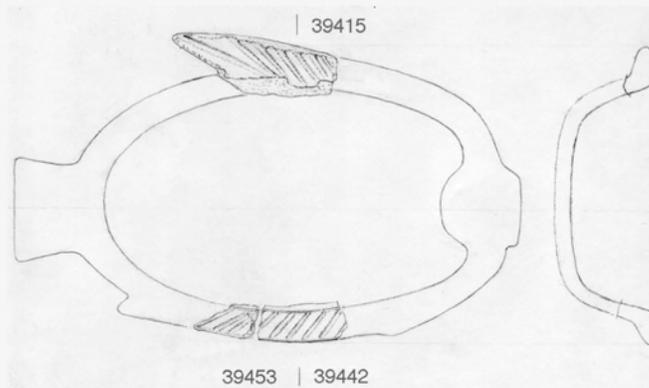
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**There follow six pages of illustrations.**

1. Selection of objects from both the upper and lower sites, 2009 season. Jewellery at 1:1; other objects at 1:3. Drawings by M. Shepperson and B. Kemp.
2. Photographs of small objects.
3. Photographs of objects (by G. Owen), and of beads *in situ* (by J. Lewis).
4. Photographs of bead group 39458.
5. Limestone stela 39426. Drawing prepared by B. Kemp.
6. Photograph of stela 39448.





Object 39367



Object 39418



Object 39419



Object 39414



Object 39423



Object 39420



Object 39428



Object 39447



Object 39449



Object 39461



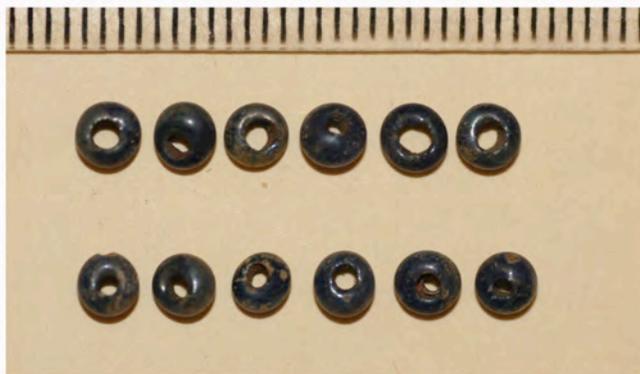
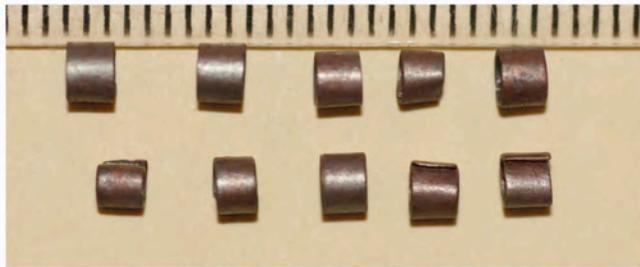
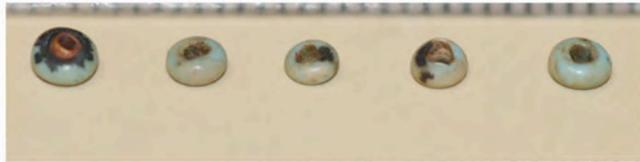
Object 39401



Some of bead group 39458, as found on arm



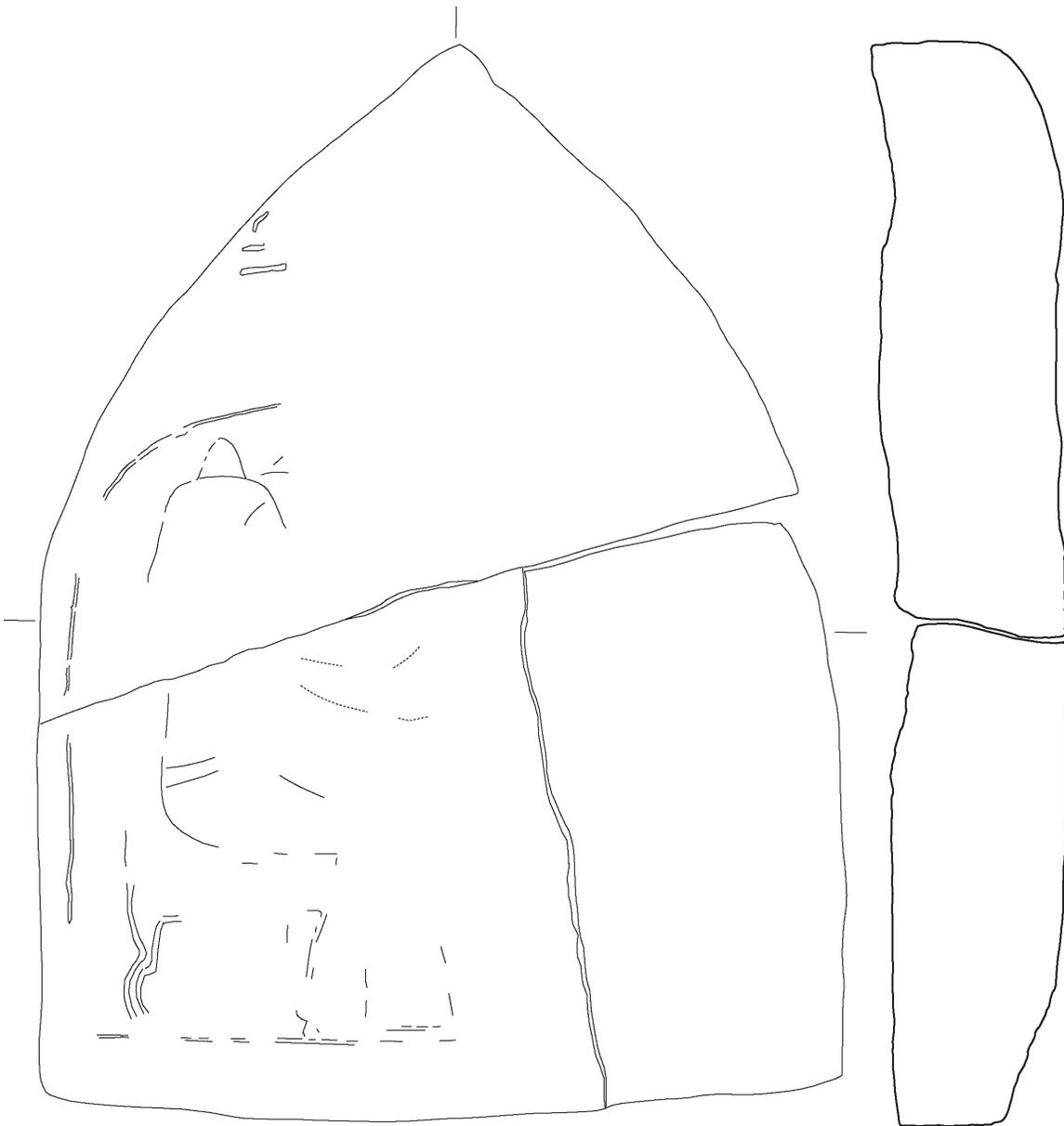
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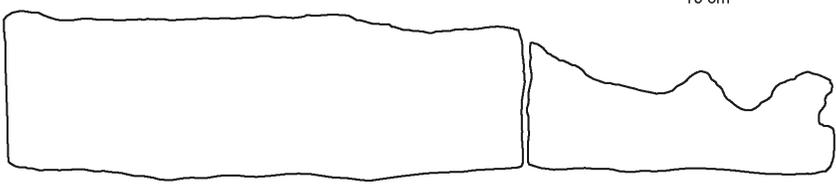
Object group 39458



Beads from group 39458,  
strung in the order found  
on the owner's arm



10 cm



39426



Stela 39448, showing plaster used to fix it in place amongst the cover of stones over the grave.