

GORHAYK, A NEW PALEOLITHIC SITE
IN SYUNIK MARZ (PROVINCE) IN
SOUTHERN ARMENIA: USING
REGOLITH EVOLUTION TO
DETERMINE SITE FORMATION
PROCESS

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HERITAGE



Gorhyak 12

The Syunik Province



Gorhayk survey



C. Bell

Gorhayk survey



C. Bell

View of Gorhayk before 2012 excavation



The 2012 excavation overview



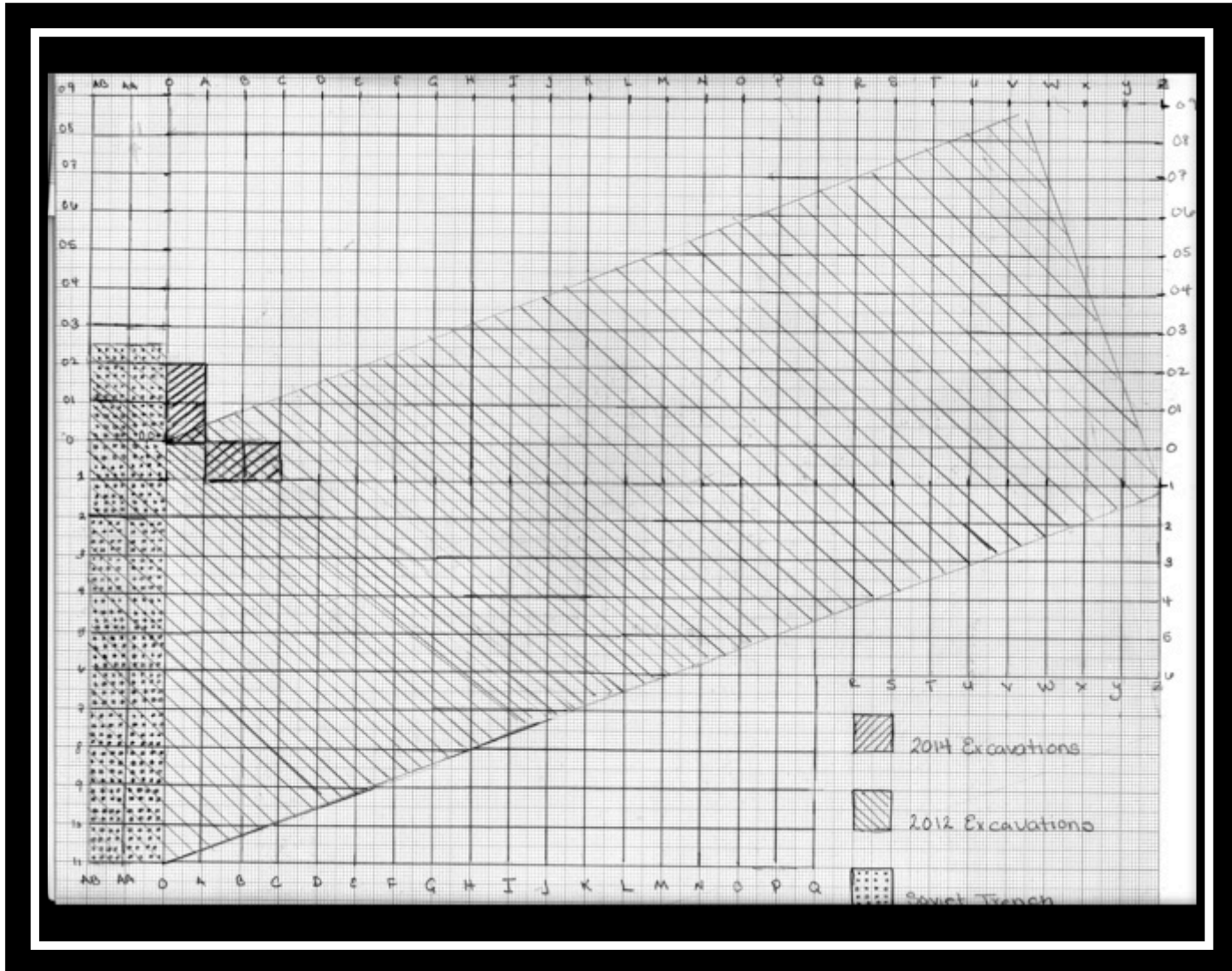
Large biface *in situ* 2012



Handaxe Gorhayk 2012



Map of Gorhayk excavations



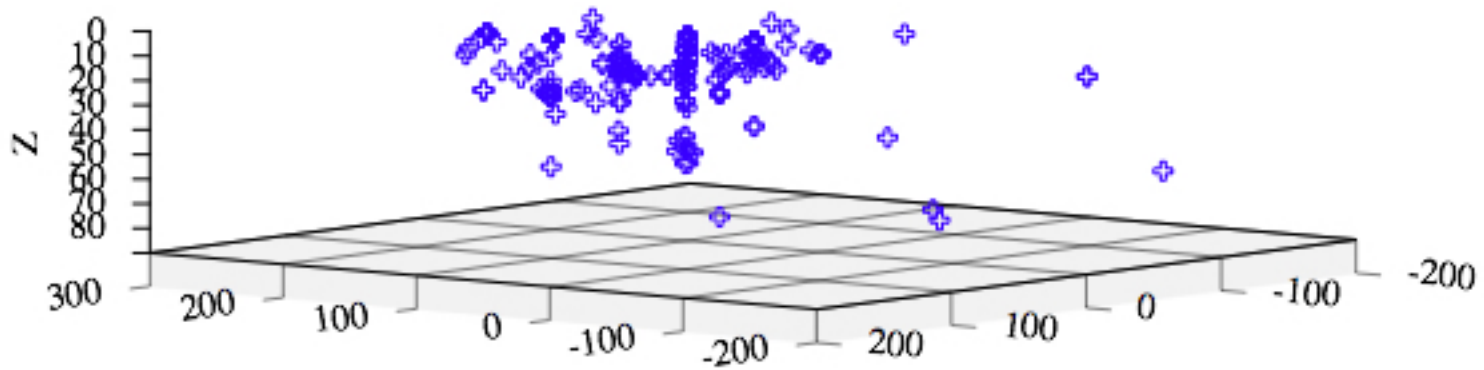








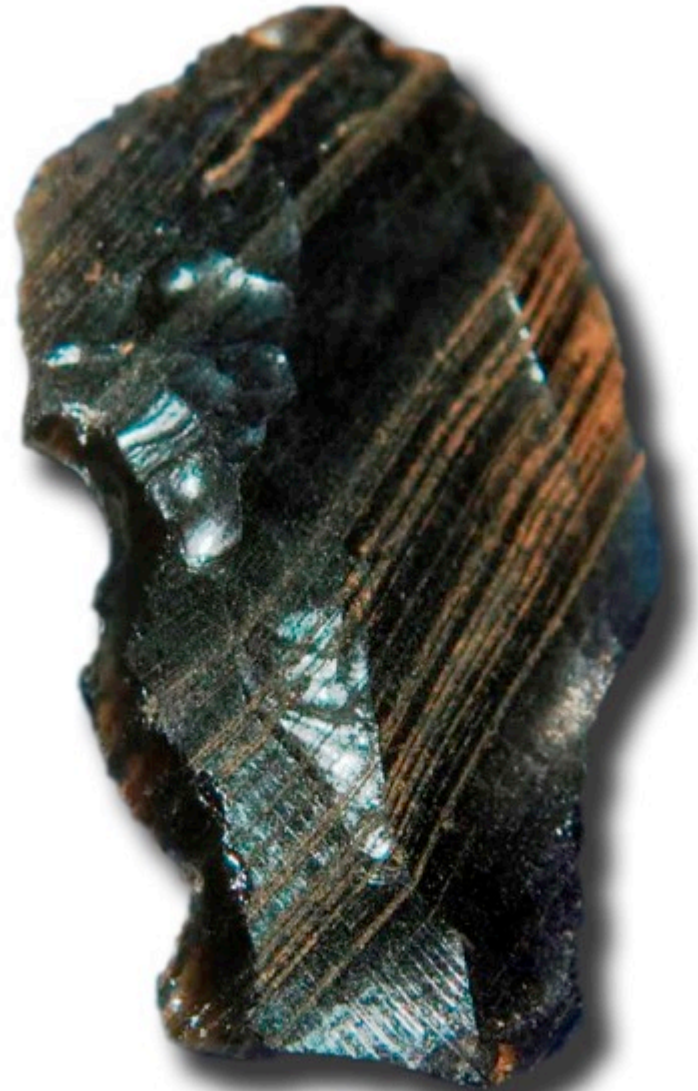
The spatial temporal distribution of lithics



Carinated core



Notch/Denticulate on flake



Point

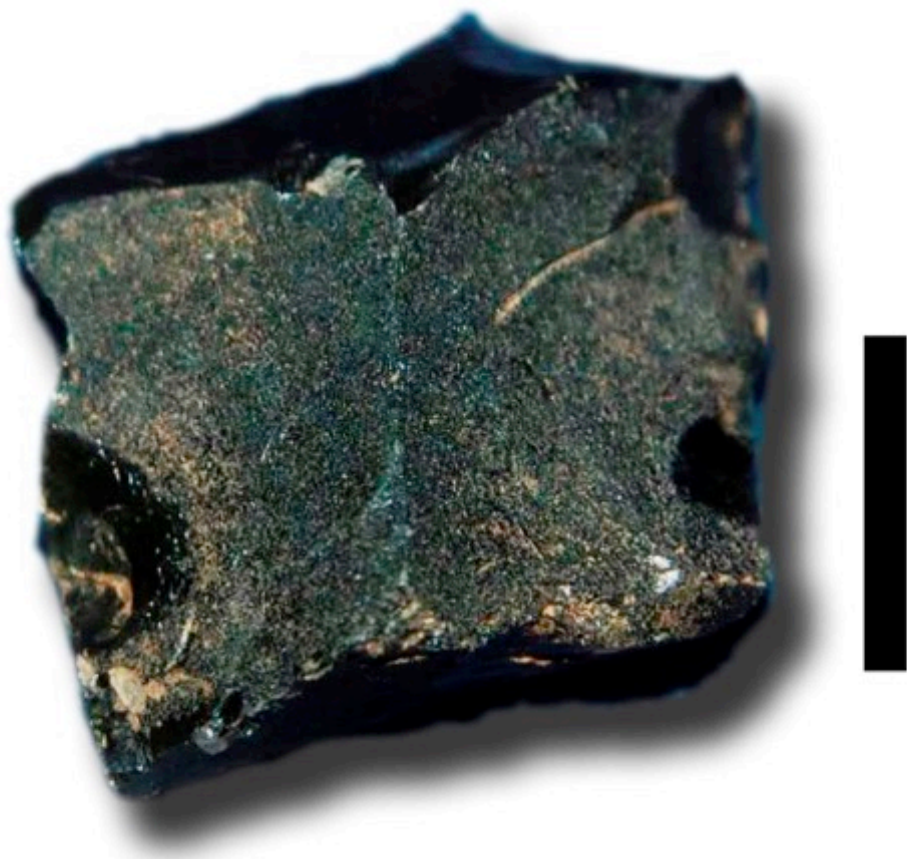


Bladelet

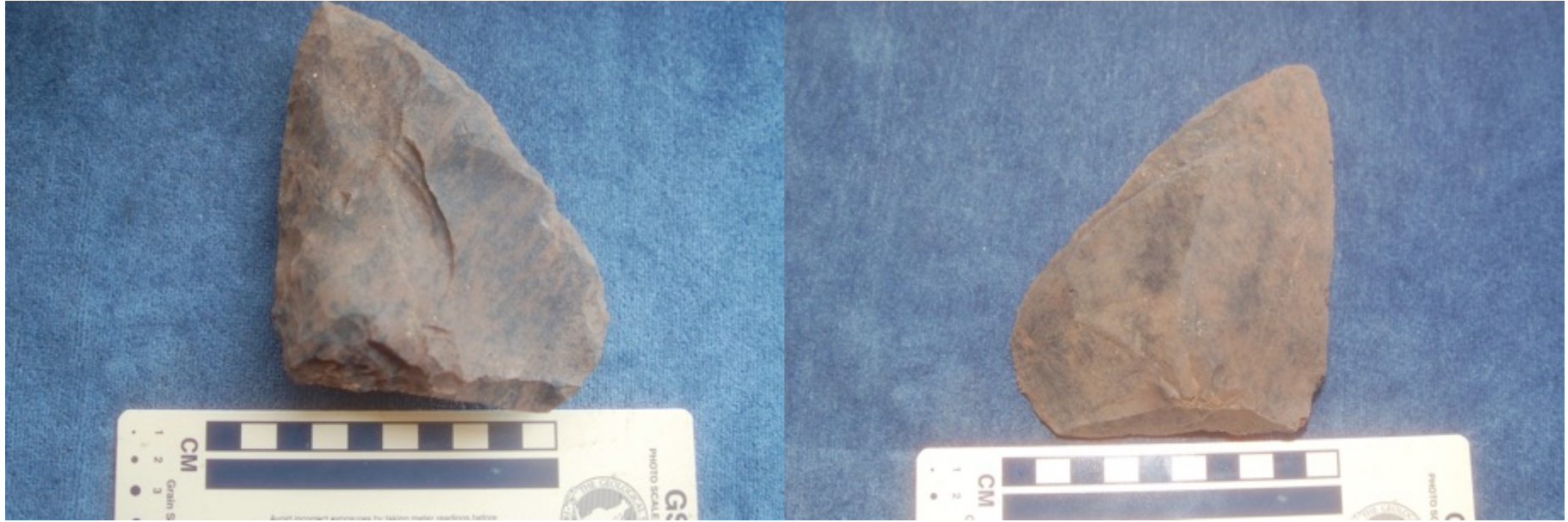


Blade (Backed)





Side scraper

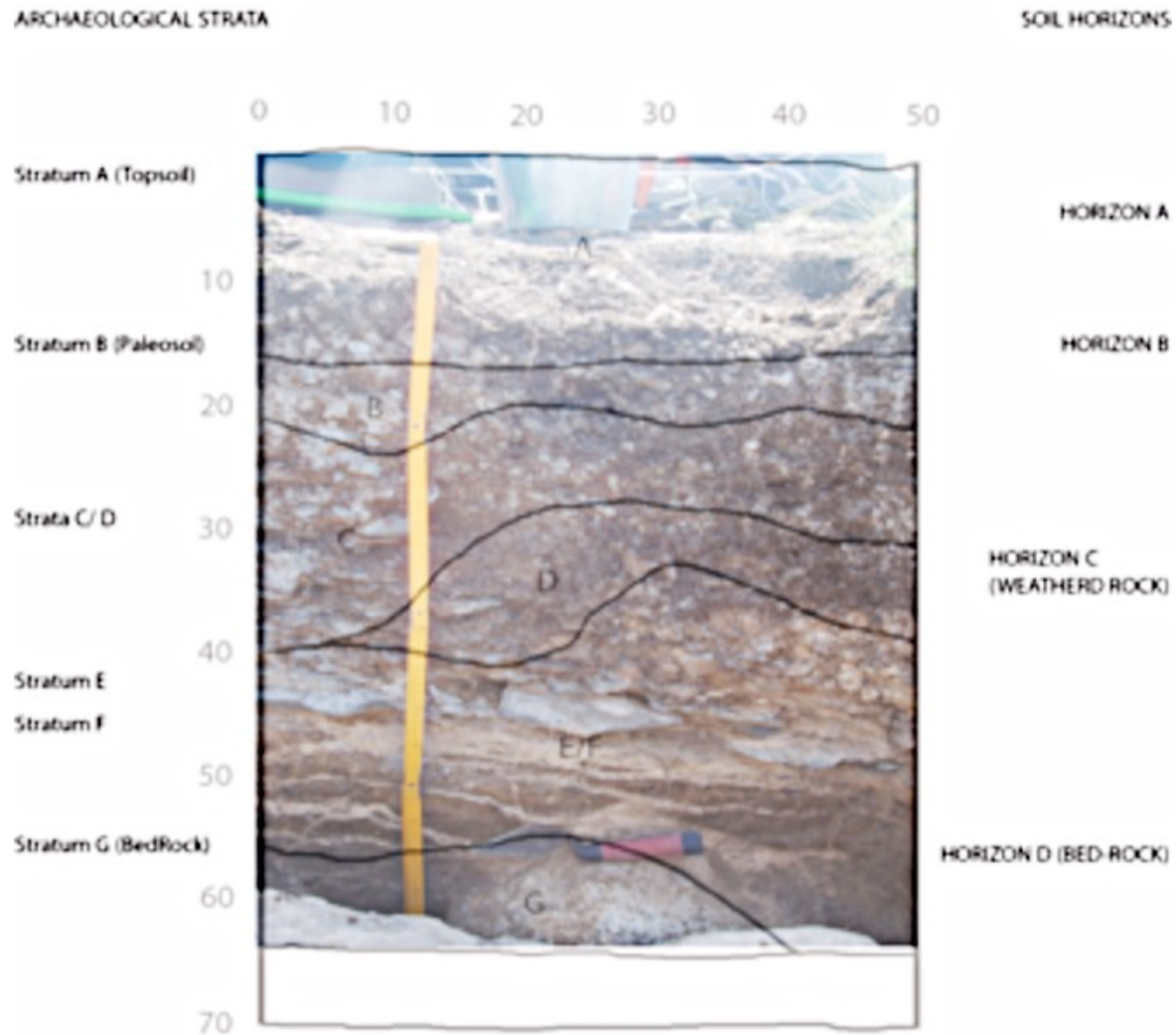


Bladelet core on biface





Geological and archaeological horizons



Stratigraphical profile of Gorhayk 12

Archaeological strata	Depth	Archaeological strata	Soil Horizons
A	10 cm	Top soil	Horizon A
B	15 cm	Brown loam/paleosol which included EUP lithics	Horizon B
C	35 cm	White hard weathered basalt eroded into gray clay with a strike of up to 45 degrees north.	Horizon C
D	45 cm	Weathered basalt mixed with brown loam	
E	5 cm	Grey basalt fraegments, Dip 45 degrees North	
F	20 cm	Brown and Yellow sandy loam with basalt grains	
G	10 cm (visible)	Basalt Base Rock	Bedrock





HOW TO EXPLAIN GORHAYK?

- Evidence suggest that despite the strange assemblage it is an UP *in situ* assemblage
- The question then becomes how to explain the inclusion of large bifaces in an upper Paleolithic assemblage.
 - Different site function
 - Reuse of LP tools by UP population
 - Deposited by previous occupant of the region (low density)

Conclusions

- Gorhayk presents a new occupation of modern humans in Southern Armenia
- This adds to the corpus of lithic assemblages from the Middle – Upper Paleolithic transition in the Caucasus.