

Digger

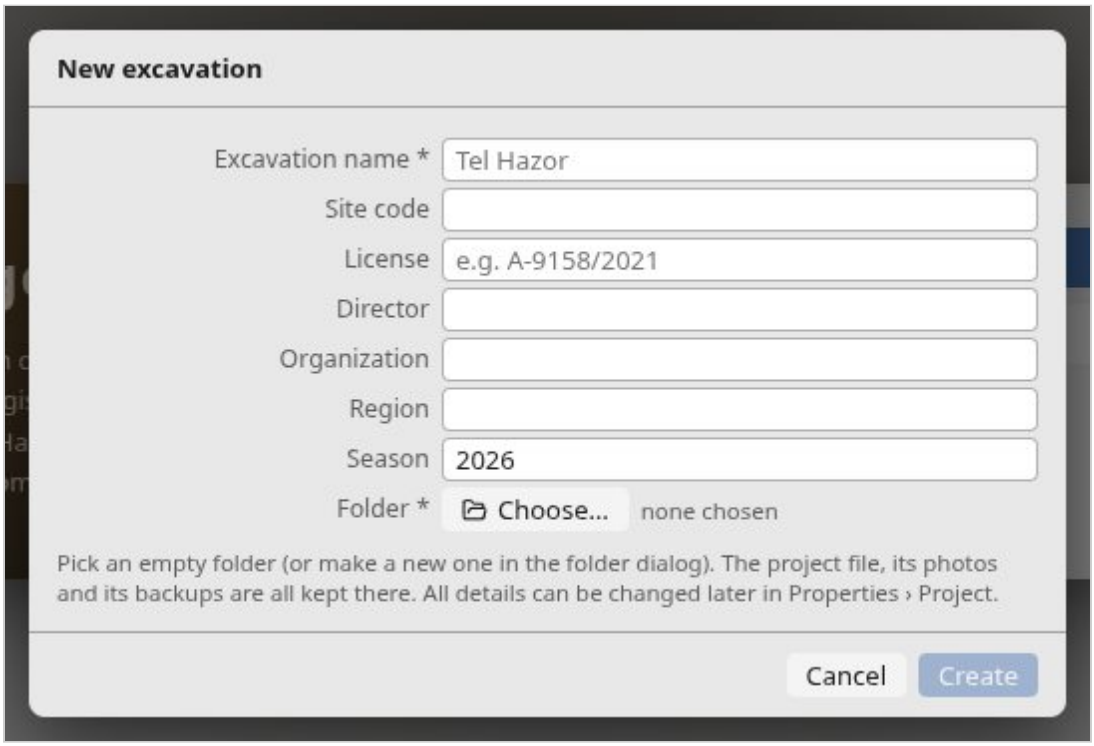
Tutorial · 0.1.0

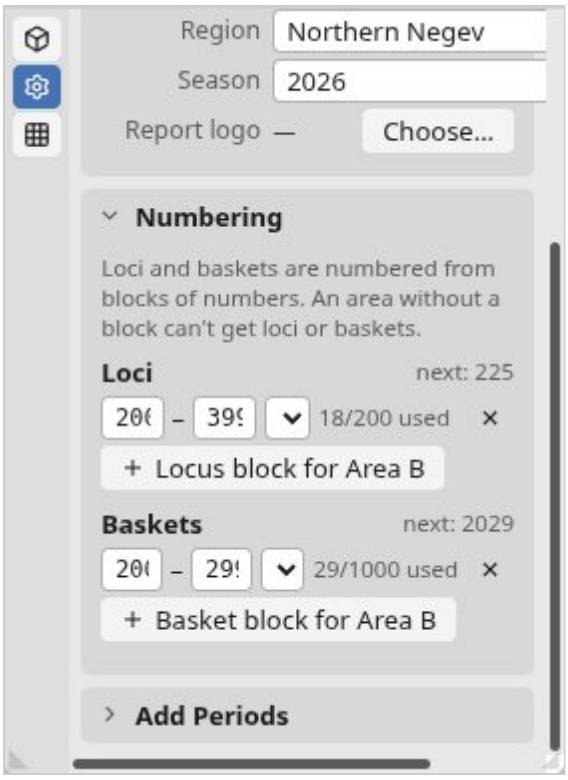
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1. Start a project

Digger keeps each excavation in one project file, with its photos and backups in folders beside it.

1. Choose **File › New Project…**, fill in the details, and pick an empty folder.
2. Give the first area a code when asked. Every locus, basket and photo belongs to an area.
3. Set the number blocks: open the gear tab in **Properties**, then **Numbering**. Add one block for loci and one for baskets, for example 100–199 and 1000–1999. Digger can't number new records until the area has a block.
4. Set up the squares with **Edit › Site grid (squares)…**



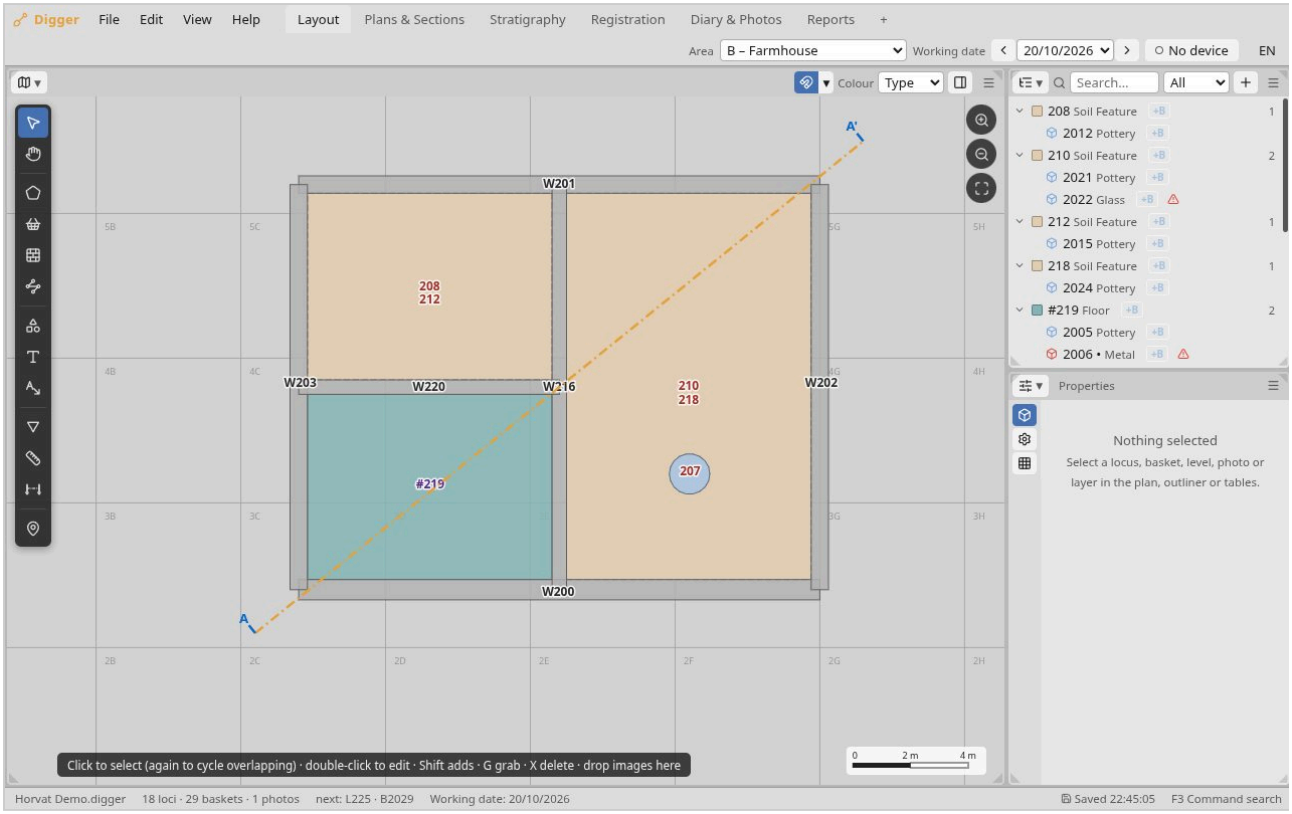


2. Find your way around

The tabs along the top are ready-made workspaces: **Layout**, **Plans & Sections**, **Stratigraphy**, **Registration**, **Diary & Photos** and **Reports**. You can resize panels by dragging their edges, and each panel's top-left menu changes what it shows.

- **Outliner:** the loci of the working area, with the baskets of the working day under them.
- **Properties:** everything about what you have selected.
- **Working date:** new records get this date, and the plan shows the loci open on it.

Press F3 to search all commands. **Help › Keyboard shortcuts** lists the shortcuts.

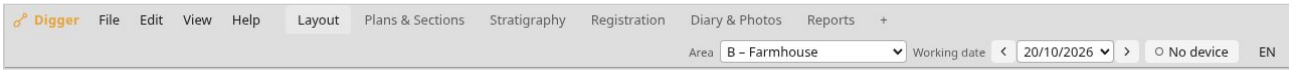


3. Work through the days

Each day of digging is an excavation day.

1. To start a new day, open the date list in the top bar and choose **+ Add day...** at the top. Pick the date on the calendar, or type it and press Enter.
2. Move between days with the arrows beside the list, or Alt+← and Alt+→.

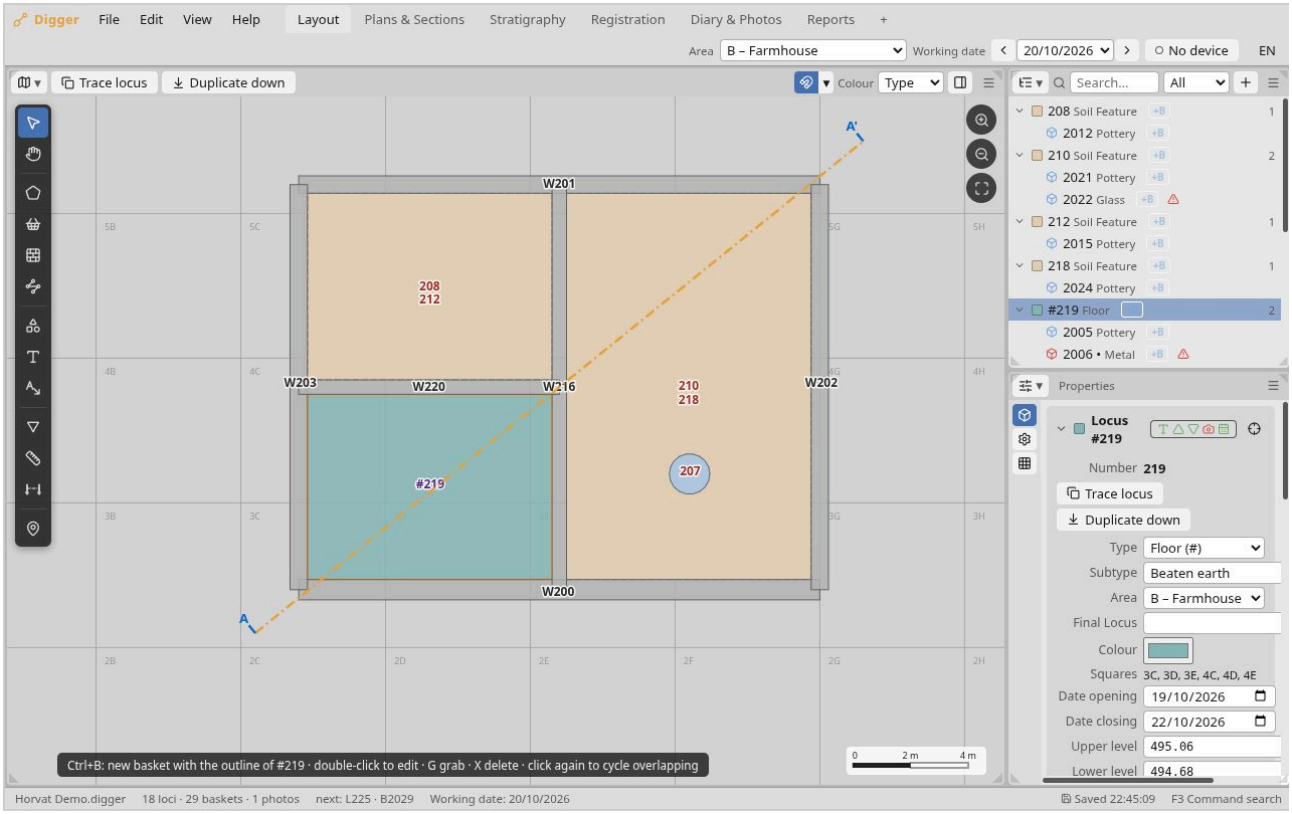
A closed locus leaves the plan after its closing date. To keep one that is still in the ground, such as a wall or floor, press **Always show** in its properties.



4. Record a locus

1. On the plan, press D (or choose the locus tool) and click around the locus. Press Enter to finish.
2. In **Properties**, set its **Type**, **Date opening**, **Upper level** and **Description**.
3. Press W to draw a wall along its centre-line instead. Press E to adjust the corners of a selected shape afterwards.
4. Use **Duplicate down** to start the next locus below this one with the same outline.
5. When it is finished, set its **Lower level** and **Date closing**. **Auto close** can fill in the closing date from its last basket.

The small icons beside each locus in the **Registration** sheet show what its record still lacks. Once complete, it can be protected with **Lock**.

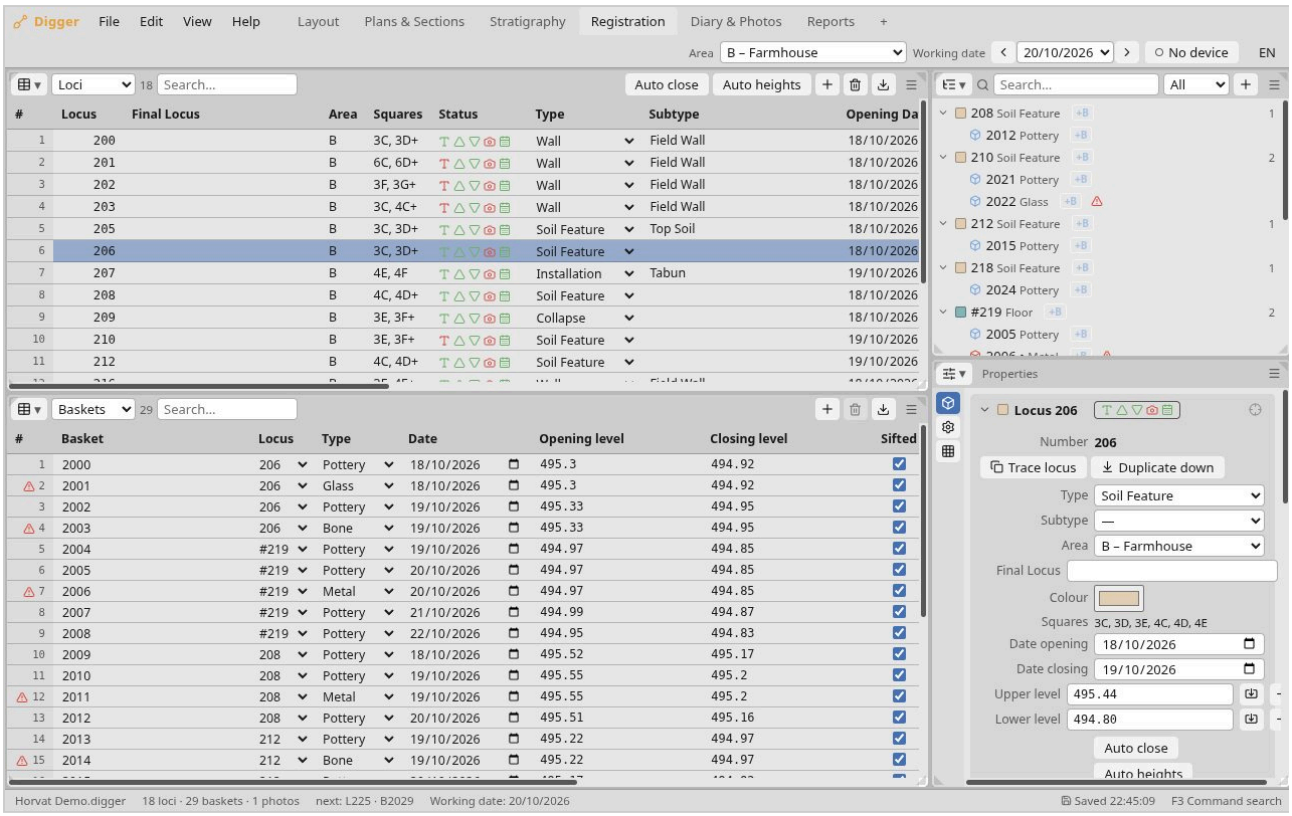


5. Record baskets

Select a locus, then use any of these:

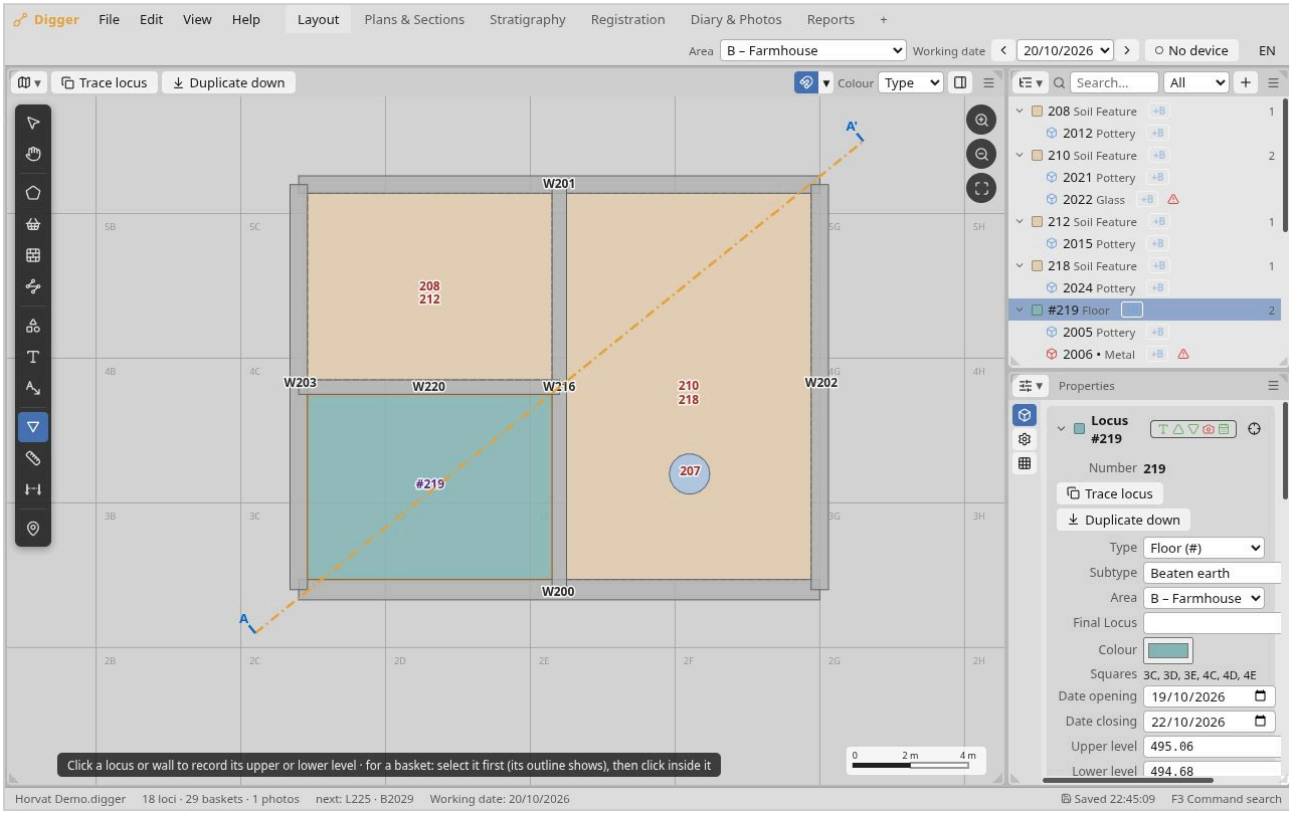
- Press Ctrl+B for a basket with the locus's outline.
- Press **+B** beside the locus in the **Outliner**.
- Press B and draw the basket's own outline on the plan.

Then fill in its type, **Opening level** and **Closing level**, and tick **Sifted** and **Registered** as the work goes on. To see all the baskets of a locus, select it and open the **Baskets** panel in **Properties**.



6. Record heights

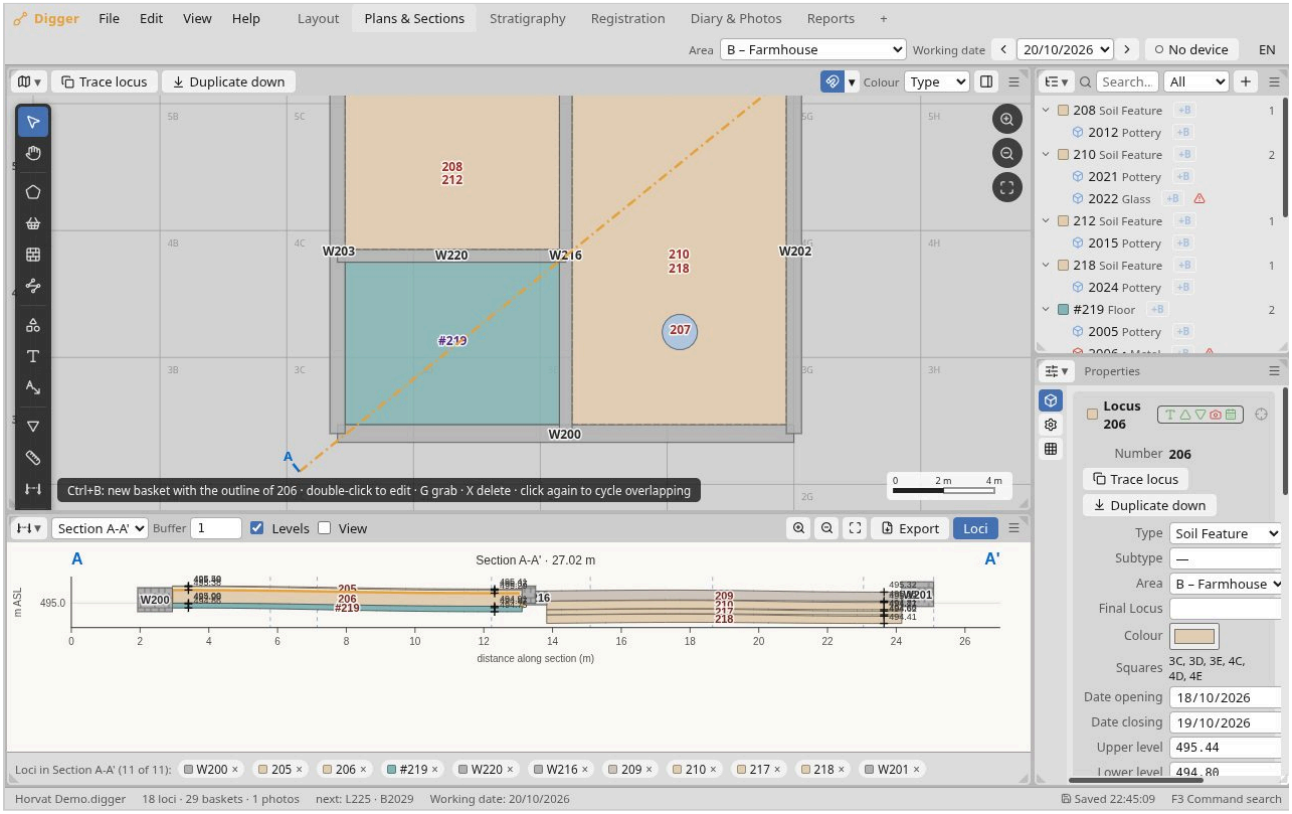
Press H and click a locus or wall to record its upper or lower level on the plan. For a basket, select it first so its outline shows, then click inside it. The buttons beside the level fields in **Properties** do the same job from the record.



7. Draw a section

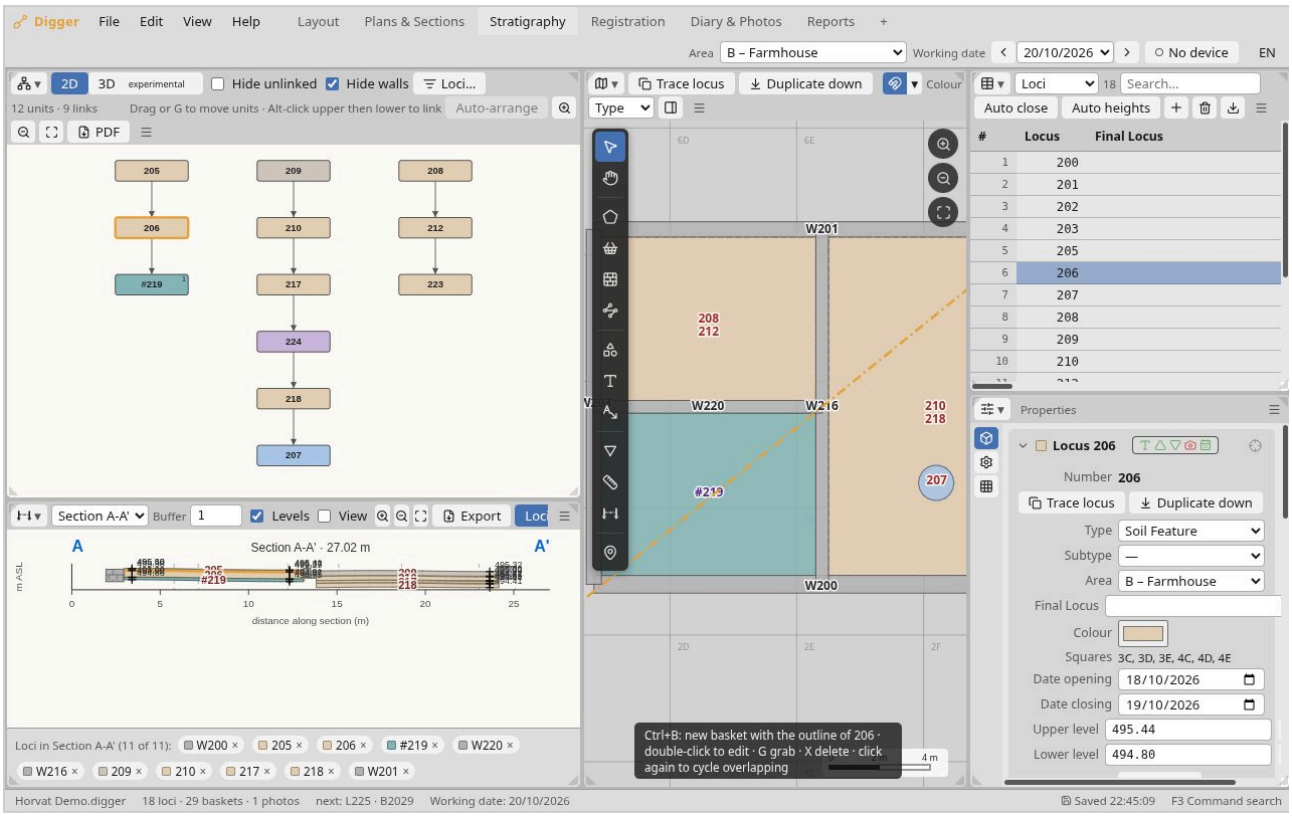
1. Press S and click the two ends of the line on the plan, in any direction.
2. To turn it, select the line and drag its round handle (hold Shift for 15° steps), or use **Bearing (°)** and **Rotate 90°** in **Properties**.
3. The section appears in its own panel in **Plans & Sections**.

Tick **View** to see the section as it stood on the working date, with loci beyond the line drawn paler, in the direction you are looking. The list under the section shows the loci drawn: × removes one from the drawing and + brings it back. **Export** saves it as an image or PDF.



8. Build the Harris matrix

Open **Stratigraphy**. Add relations in the **Stratigraphy** panel of a locus's **Properties**, or Alt-click the upper unit and then the lower one in the matrix. Drag units to arrange them; **Hide walls** leaves walls and their relations out.



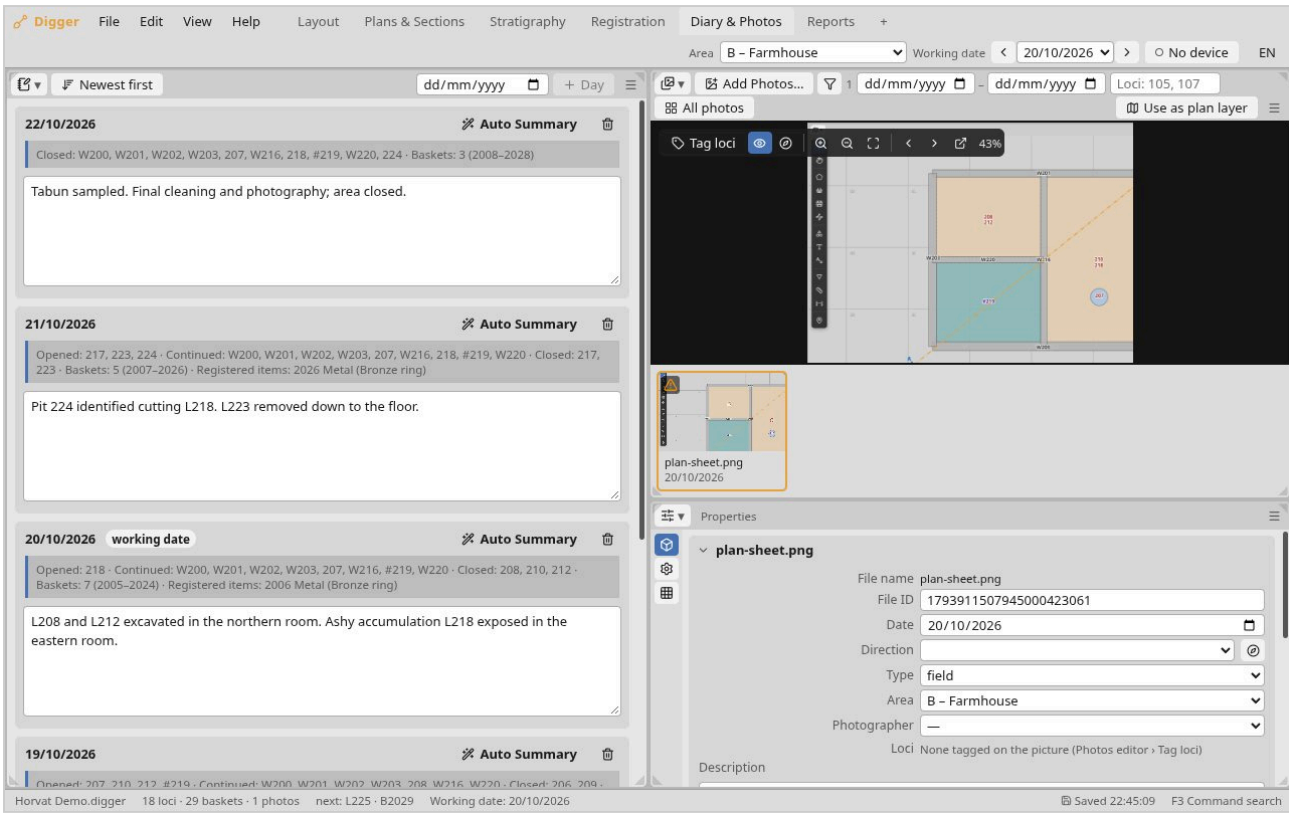
9. Merge loci with a final locus

When loci turn out to be one, enter the number they belong to as their **Final Locus**. For example, give 127 and 128 the final locus 126. Then:

- The matrix draws them as one box, with all their relations.
- Locus 126 shows their relations and baskets in **Properties** and on its card.
- Searching **L126** in the baskets sheet finds exactly its baskets and theirs.

10. Photos and the diary

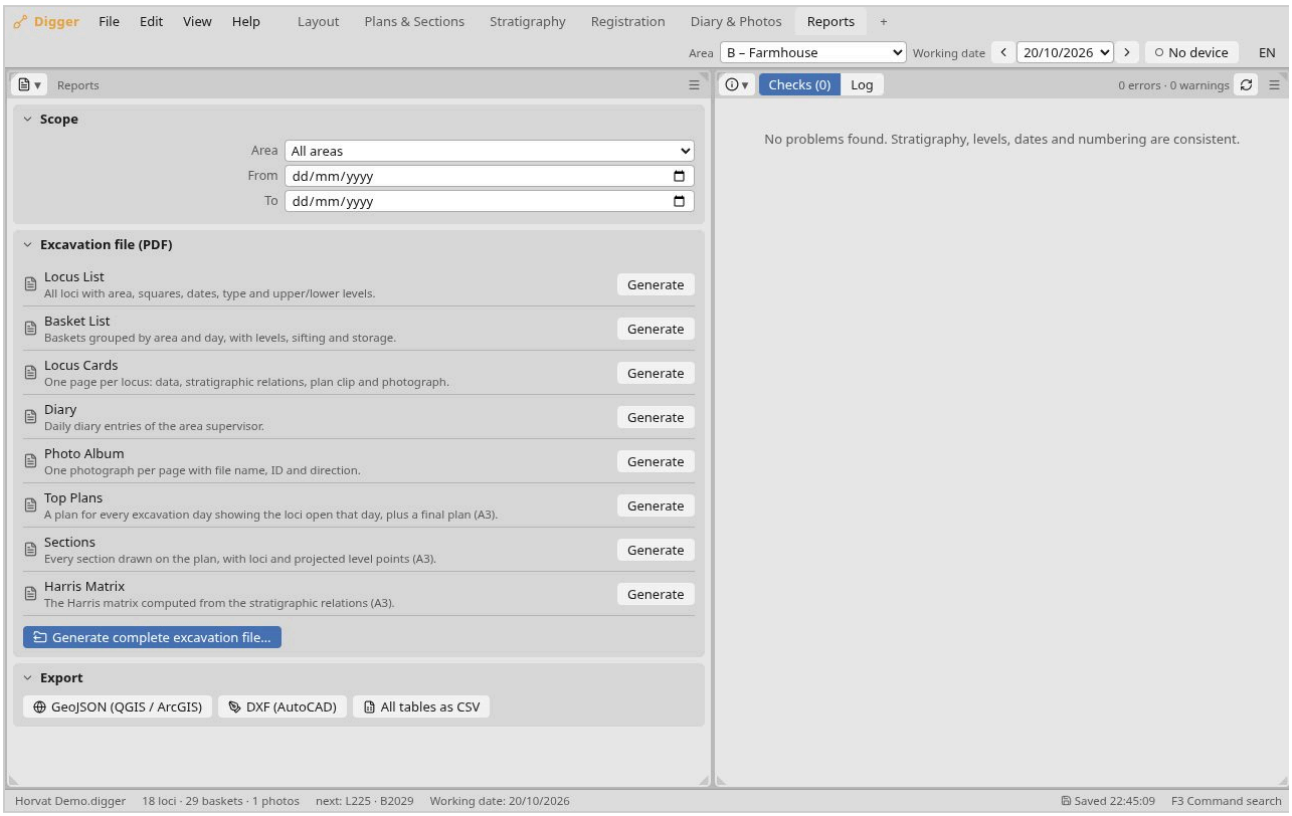
Add pictures with **File › Import › Photos…**, then link them to loci and baskets in **Diary & Photos**. A PDF becomes one photo for each page. The **Diary** holds one entry for each day and can draft one from the day's records.



11. Reports and exports

Every report is in **File › Reports** and in the **Reports** workspace: lists, **Locus Cards**, **Top Plans**, sections, the matrix and **Complete excavation file... File › Export** also gives GeoJSON, DXF and CSV.

Digger saves as you work, and Ctrl+Z undoes your last step. Backups go into the project's Backups folder.


Digger
File
Edit
View
Help
Layout
Plans & Sections
Stratigraphy
Registration
Diary & Photos
Reports
+
Area
B – Farmhouse
Working date
20/10/2026
No device
EN
Reports
Scope
Area
All areas
From
dd/mm/yyyy
To
dd/mm/yyyy
Excavation file (PDF)
Locus List
All loci with area, squares, dates, type and upper/lower levels.
Generate
Basket List
Baskets grouped by area and day, with levels, sifting and storage.
Generate
Locus Cards
One page per locus: data, stratigraphic relations, plan clip and photograph.
Generate
Diary
Daily diary entries of the area supervisor.
Generate
Photo Album
One photograph per page with file name, ID and direction.
Generate
Top Plans
A plan for every excavation day showing the loci open that day, plus a final plan (A3).
Generate
Sections
Every section drawn on the plan, with loci and projected level points (A3).
Generate
Harris Matrix
The Harris matrix computed from the stratigraphic relations (A3).
Generate
Generate complete excavation file...
Export
GeoJSON (QGIS / ArcGIS)
DXF (AutoCAD)
All tables as CSV
Checks (0)
Log
0 errors · 0 warnings
No problems found. Stratigraphy, levels, dates and numbering are consistent.
Horvat Demo.digger
18 loci · 29 baskets · 1 photos
next: L225 · B2029
Working date: 20/10/2026
Saved 22:45:09
F3 Command search