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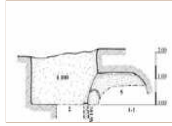
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Azor*

Amit Romano

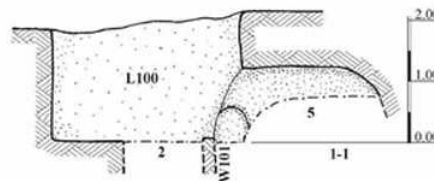
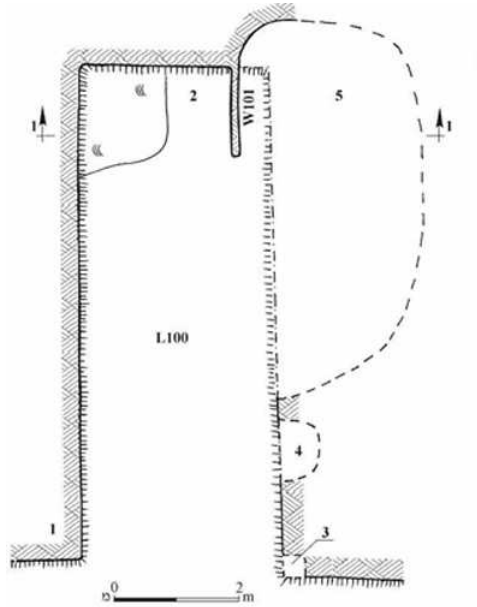
9/6/2004



1. Plan and section.

A salvage excavation was conducted in December 1999 in the industrial area of Azor (B-141/99*; map ref. NIG 1815/6589; OIG 1315/1589) after several tombs were damaged while the main road was widened. The excavation, on behalf of the Zinman Institute of Archaeology of the University of Haifa, was directed by A. Romano.

A pit excavated in the *kurkar* bedrock (L100; 3.2 × 7.9 m, max. depth 2.2 m) contained burial remains. At the bottom of the pit's western side were three hewn burial cavities (Fig. 1:3-5). In the eastern wall of the pit, which had no signs of quarrying or construction, a skeleton was discovered, *in situ*, at a depth of 0.3 m below surface (Fig. 1:1). Remains of a rock-cut partition (W101) were exposed in the southern section, at a depth of c. 2 m below surface; east of W101 a skull in a layer of brown soil, *in situ*, was found. To the south, along the continuation of the partition-wall line, the end of a vaulted niche that could be part of a rock-cut, vaulted burial chamber was uncovered. The burial cavities and the niche were covered over with sand and not excavated. Non-diagnostic potsherds and a lamp fragment, dating to the Byzantine period, were recovered from the excavation.



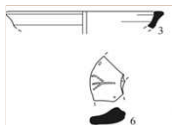
1. Plan and section.

Bashshit*

Tzach Kanias

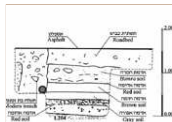
31/5/2004

A trial excavation was conducted in October 1999 at the site of Bashshit in Moshav 'Aseret (A-3126*; map ref. NIG 17626-46/63677-90; OIG 12626-46/13677-90), after ancient remains were damaged during work preceding the installation of a sewage pipe. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by T. Kanias, with the assistance of A. Hajian (surveying), R. Graff (drafting) and M. Saltzberger (photography).



1. Pottery: krater (1); bowls (2-4); jar (5); lid (6), and box leg (7).

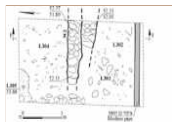
Five squares were excavated along the sewer line, revealing building remains and ceramic finds from the Early Islamic period and the 12th-13th centuries CE.



2. Square B, plan and sections

Square A. A floor segment (length c. 1 m, thickness c. 0.2 m) that consisted of various-sized *kurkar* stones was discovered at a depth of c. 0.9 m below surface, as well as several pottery fragments from the Early Islamic period (Fig. 1:1) and a few animal bones.

Square B was located c. 50 m east of Sq A. Two construction levels were exposed (Fig. 2). Wall remains (W1; length 0.5 m, width c. 0.3 m), c. 0.5 m below surface, were attributed to the upper level. The wall was built of different-sized dressed *kurkar* blocks and preserved a single course high. The continuation of the wall was visible in the eastern section of the square. The lower level comprised an ash layer (L203, thickness 0.2 m) that was detected below the base of W1; it contained non-diagnostic pottery fragments. Below the ash layer was a plaster floor (L204) founded on a bed of small stones. Judging by the ceramic finds it appears that the two construction levels should be dated to the Early Islamic period.

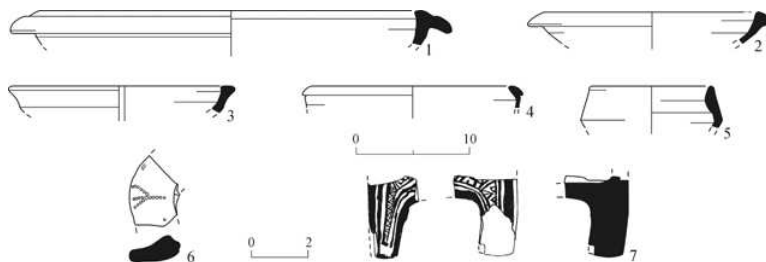


3. Square C, plan and section.

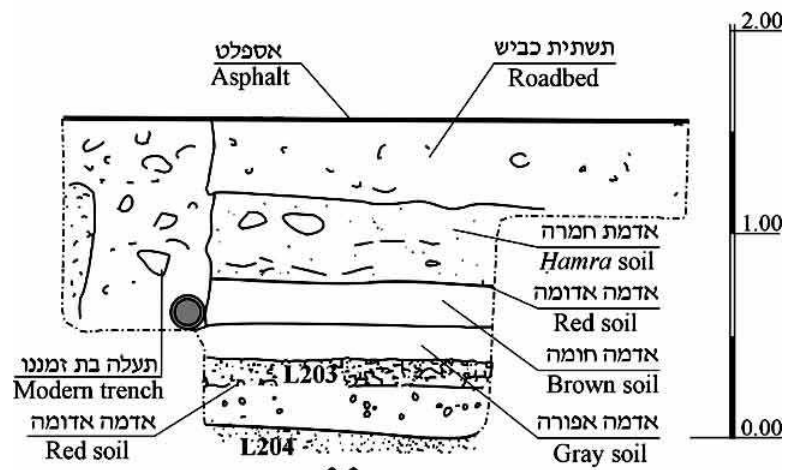
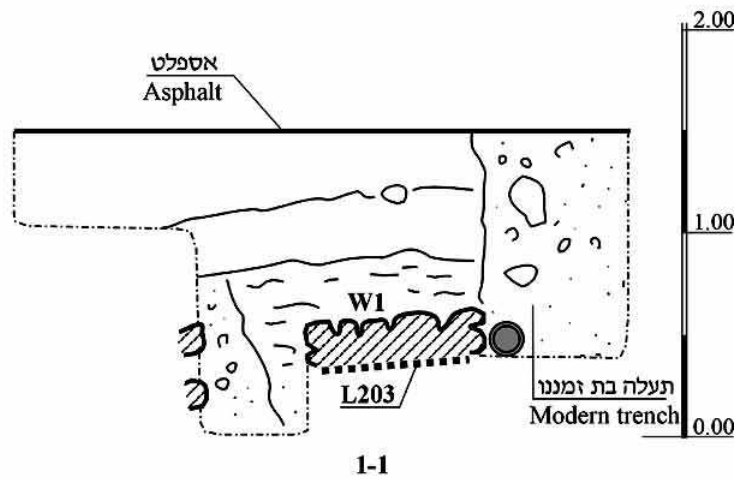
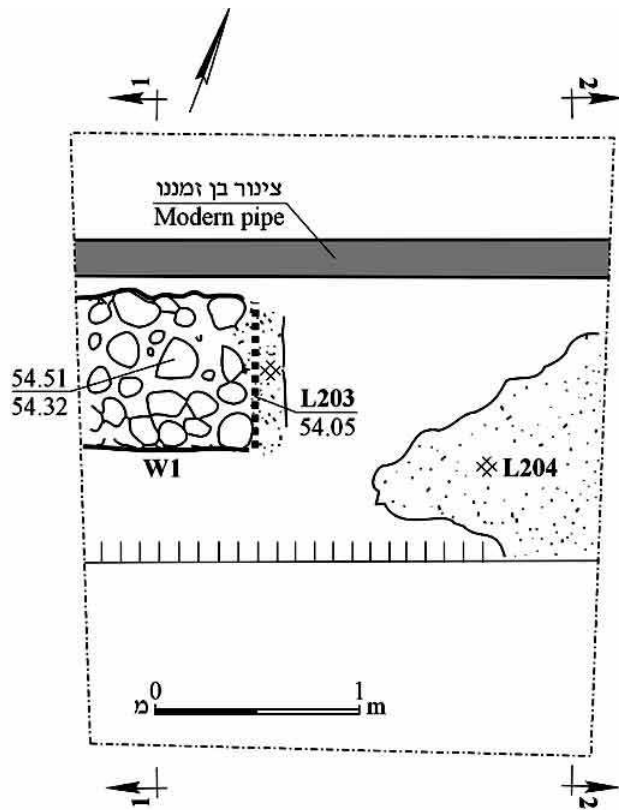
Square C was located c. 20 m east of Sq B. Wall remains (W2; length 1.35 m; Fig. 3) that were constructed from two rows of rectangular, dressed *kurkar* blocks, with a core of small fieldstones, were uncovered; it was preserved to a maximum of two courses high. The continuation of the wall was visible in the eastern section of the square. An ash layer mixed with pottery fragments (L302), which may have been an occupation level, was discovered south of the wall. It overlaid different-sized stones (L303) that were probably the remains of a non-preserved floor bed. Loci 302 and 303 included numerous potsherds (Fig. 1:2-7), dating to the 12th-13th centuries CE, such as the foot of a clay box lined with chalk and decorated with a geometric pattern (Fig. 1:7). A similar find was revealed at Giv'at Dani in the Ayyalon Valley ('Atiqot 38:133*, Fig. 6:17). An occupation level (L304) to the north of W2, which was similar to L302, superposed the remains of a plaster floor (L305) and stone collapse in the northern and western sections of the square.

Square D was located c. 100 m southeast of Sq C. Remains of a plaster floor (thickness 0.1 m) were found atop a bedding of *kurkar* fieldstones. The floor was poorly preserved due to damage caused by mechanical equipment.

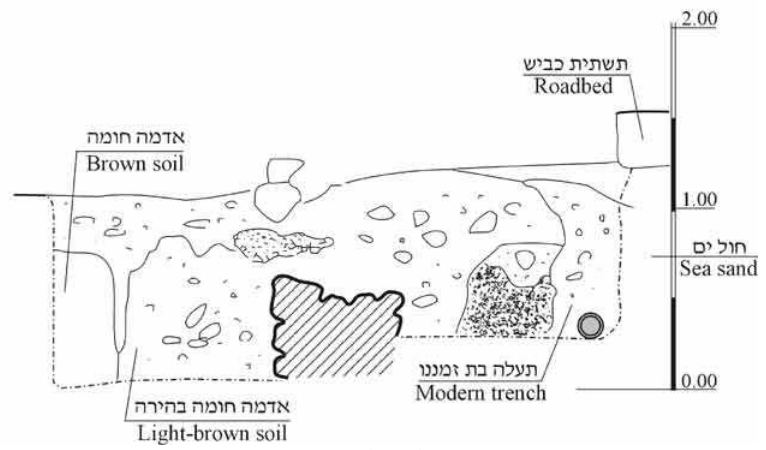
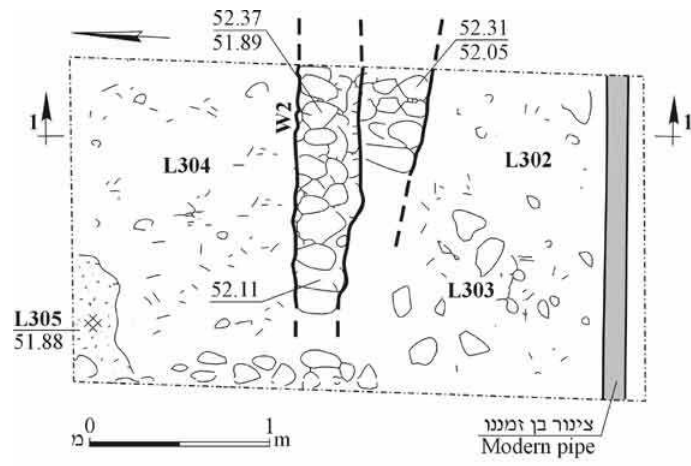
Square E was located c. 8 m south of Sq D. A meager wall, survived by two medium-sized, coarsely dressed *kurkar* blocks, was exposed in the western section of the square.



1. Pottery: krater (1); bowls (2-4); jar (5); lid (6), and box leg (7).



2. Square B, plan and sections



3. Square C, plan and section.

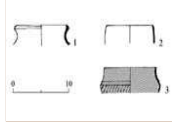
Beit 'Ur et-Tahta

Yuval Peleg

9/6/2004



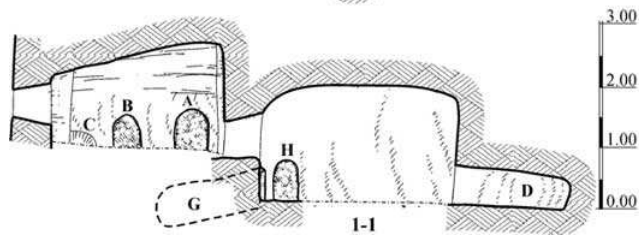
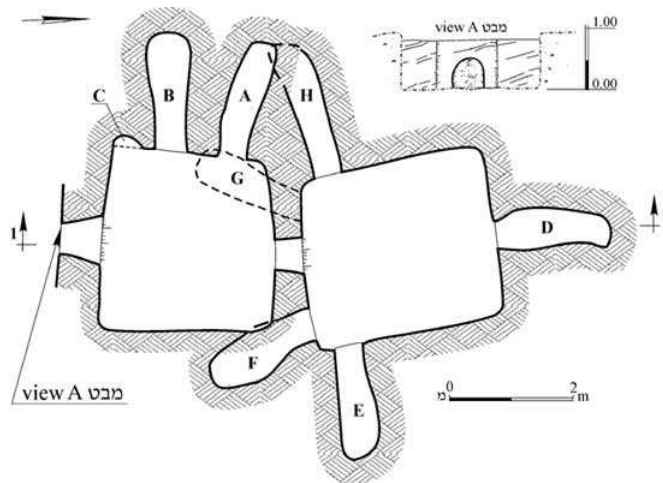
1. Burial cave, plan and sections



2. Pottery: cooking pot (1); goblet (2) and a bowl (3)

A burial cave was documented in January 2001 along the southern fringes of Beit 'Ur et-Tahta (map ref. NIG 20803/64447; OIG 15803/14447) after it was breached by grave robbers. The documentation, on behalf of the Archaeological Staff Officer of Judea and Samaria, was conducted by Y. Peleg, assisted by P. Portnov (surveying and drafting) and M. Manukian (drawing).

The burial cave was hewn toward the top of the dome's southern slope, over which the village is situated (Fig. 1). It consisted of two chambers that were oriented north-south and whose walls were coated with a light-colored plaster. An arched entrance (0.5 × 0.5 m) in the cave's facade was flanked by a dressed square frame (0.81 × 0.98 m) that was meant to accommodate the blocking stone, which was discarded in front of it. One step (height 0.25 m) descended from the entrance to the fore burial chamber (2.81 × 2.93 m, height 1.06–1.84 m). Two arched *loculi* (A, B—0.55–0.75 × 1.90 m, depth 0.55–0.65 m) were hewn in the chamber's western wall; the initial quarrying of another burial niche (C) was noted. The chamber's ceiling was flat and sloped southward. A square entrance (0.5 × 0.6 m) was hewn in the middle of the chamber's northern wall, leading to the rear burial chamber (2.81 × 3.17 m, height 1.89 m), which was at a lower level than the fore chamber. Five *loculi* (D–H; 0.48–0.66 × 1.82–2.21 m, depth 0.55–0.65 m) were cut into the walls of the rear chamber, whose ceiling was slightly arched. *Loculi* F and G were partially cut beneath the fore burial chamber and each was accessed via a step (0.12 m, height 0.14 m) that led down from the level of the rear chamber. The southwestern corner of *Loculus* H connected with the corner of *Loculus* A in the fore burial chamber. The accumulations inside the cave included a few pottery fragments, dating to the end of the Second Temple period (1st century BCE–1st century CE; Fig. 2).



1. Burial cave, plan and sections



2. Pottery: cooking pot (1); goblet (2) and a bowl (3)

Survey of Bet Guvrin*

Daniel Varga and Yeshayahu Lender

31/5/2004

During October–November 2000 a development survey was conducted at Bet Guvrin (G-22/01*; map ref. NIG 1894-7/6123-6; OIG 1394-7/1123-6). The survey, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority and financed by Qibbutz Bet Guvrin, was carried out by Y. Lender and D. Varga.

The survey area (c. 200 dunam) extended across a gentle, elongated hill, c. 300 m southwest of the ancient city of Bet Guvrin (Eleutheropolis), south of Highway 35. The hill's bedrock is soft *kirton* that is easily quarried and covered with a layer of hard *nari* (thickness 1–2 m). Fruit trees are planted on the hill; buildings stood on it prior to 1948, three of them survived to date.

The survey recorded 112 locations with antiquities that included hewn caves and bell-shaped water cisterns, rock cuttings and several installations. Other underground cavities may exist in the area, though they could not be documented because they were either concealed by vegetation or their openings were blocked with alluvium. No building remains, other than terrace walls, were noted in the survey. It seems the hill was used for agriculture, as well as for quarrying caves, cisterns and installations. The ceramic finds were meager and non-diagnostic. The principal surveyed sites are described below.

(1) Map ref. NIG 18970/61265; OIG 13970/11265. A rock-cut cave, oval shaped (3.5 × 5.0; max. height 2.2 m). The entrance (1.0 × 1.9 m) had doorjambs and an arched lintel built of dressed stones; the preserved iron hinges indicated that the entrance was probably built sometime during the past 150 years. Elongated niches (0.4 × 2.0 m; 0.3 × 1.6 m) were hewn in the cave's southern and western walls; a hewn partition (height 0.10–0.15 m) separated them from the chamber of the cave. It is unclear what purpose the niches served.

(2) Map ref. NIG 18975/61263; OIG 13975/11263. Two bell-shaped water cistern complexes (height 5 m), whose ceiling collapsed. Two bell-shaped cisterns were observed in the northern complex. Oval-shaped building remains (diam. c. 4 m) that probably belonged to a lime pit were located on the northern edge of the cisterns.

(3) Map ref. NIG 18962/61250; OIG 13962/ 11250. An oval-shaped cave (diam. c. 5 m, height c. 2 m), whose ceiling had partially collapsed. In the modern era, dressed stone doorjambs and a small arch above them were installed in the cave's entrance (0.8 × 1.7 m).

(4) Map ref. NIG 18968/61255; OIG 13968/ 11255. Elliptical openings (diam. c. 3 m) of two bell-shaped cisterns, which were not measured.

(5) Map ref. NIG 18970/61244; OIG 13970/ 11244. A square-shaped cave (c. 6 × 6 m, height c. 2 m), whose ceiling was mostly collapsed. The cave was accessed via a hewn corridor (length c. 6 m, width 1.1 m) at the inner end of which was an entrance (1.1 × 1.7 m). Rock-cut steps probably existed in the corridor that descended into the cave.

(6) Map ref. NIG 18965/61232; OIG 13965/11232. A hewn conduit (length c. 2 m, width 0.10–0.13 m) that extended from an oval-shaped rock cutting (diam. c. 2.5 m, depth c. 0.5 m). A rock cutting with a straight wall (length c. 3 m) was discerned to its north. South of the rock cuttings was a hewn oval-shaped opening (1.0 × 1.3 m, depth c. 1 m; map ref. NIG 18966/ 61232; OIG 13966/11232) that probably belonged to a collapsed water cistern (diam. c. 10 m) observed nearby, to the south.

(7) Map ref. NIG 18949/61235; OIG 13949/11235. A rock-cut installation (c. 6 × 6 m) of unclear function. Some 5 m southwest of it a depression in the ground was noted, possibly indicative of an opening to an underground cavern. Five meters south of the depression was an oval-shaped rock cutting (1 × 2 m) that may be an opening to an underground cavern.

(8) Map ref. NIG 18945/61240; OIG 13945/11240. A hewn oval-shaped cave (c. 5 × 10 m, height c. 1.5 m) with two entrances. One entrance was hewn (c. 0.8 × 1.5 m) and next to it was a hewn cupmark (diam. c. 0.5 m). The other entrance was irregular and may have been breached at a later point in time.

(9) Map ref. NIG 18943/61239; OIG 13943/ 11239. A rock-cut installation, probably a winepress that consisted of a treading surface of unclear dimensions and an adjacent rectangular vat (c. 1 × 2 m). It seems the vat was subsequently used to descend into an underground cavern.

Bet She'an

Danny Syon

12/5/2004



2. Areas C, D, J. The Byzantine-period road, looking south; on the right side below, the entrance to the shops.



3. Area C, Greek inscription in the mosaic: "to the victory of Tyche of the Blues".



4. Area E, remains of a well-constructed building, looking east.



5. Area F, building remains and collapses from the Byzantine period.

During March–July 1998 a trial excavation was conducted southeast of the ancient city's center (A-2829; map ref. NIG 2475-7/7113-5; OIG 1975-7/2113-5) prior to the construction of a commercial center and pedestrian mall. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by D. Syon, with the assistance of L. Porat, A. Sa'ad, H. Abu 'Uqsa and W. Da'ud (area supervision), H. Smithline and A. Nagorski (assistant area supervisors), Y. Ya'agobi (administration), V. Essman, I. Vatkin, R. Graff, V. Shorr and M. Konin (surveying), Z. Nagar, Y. Ivanovski (mosaic conservation), E. Altmark (metallurgical laboratory) and A. Berman (numismatics). Special thanks are due to B. Arubas and B. Rinot for their help.

South of the *Saraya*, nine excavation areas were opened (Fig. 1); forty squares that flanked the old road, leading south from Bet She'an, were excavated. Areas C, D and J were excavated as a single unit and will be described below in the same order. The excavation areas were located in a residential zone from the Ottoman period, which was partially destroyed by the British army, though some buildings remained standing following the War of Independence in 1948. The Bet She'an marketplace was located in this area until the 1960s, as well as defensive trenches that were dug with a bulldozer in 1967.

Area A. Six squares were excavated, revealing the remains of buildings from the Ottoman period; the wall foundations superposed the wall remains from the Mamluk period. The buildings from the Mamluk period were founded on travertine bedrock and probably had their beginnings in the Early Islamic period. A well and two refuse pits from the Mamluk period were examined as well. Remains of a low curved plastered wall (length c. 20 m) were discovered in the lowest level; other sections of this wall were exposed elsewhere with a backhoe. It was probably an oval-shaped installation (min. diam. 35 m), dating to the Mamluk period.

Area A yielded an amazing quantity of complete and intact pottery vessels from the Mamluk period. The vessels were handmade and burnished; some were decorated with brown geometric patterns. Two intact kraters and a large number of platters, bowls and jugs that were discarded in what seems to have been a refuse pit were recovered from the buildings. This pit also contained complete glass vessels. Finds predating the Mamluk period were not detected in the area, except for flint implements above bedrock that were probably swept over there.

Area B. Six squares were excavated, exposing residential dwellings and a courtyard, wherein two construction phases were discerned. The early phase included well-constructed buildings that were erected on virgin soil. They were built of dressed stones arranged in straight courses, with stone chips between them; the walls were preserved c. 1.5 m high. In the late phase, poorly built walls and partitions were added to the structures. Three pits that could be wells or cesspits, as well as a covered water conduit and remains of installations that included *tabuns* and a donkey mill fragment, were also uncovered. Judging by the finds in the early phase, it was dated to the Early Islamic period (8th–11th centuries CE), whereas the late phase was dated to the Mamluk period (13th–15th centuries CE). A few pottery fragments from the Byzantine and Hellenistic periods were collected close to virgin soil.

Area C (Fig. 2). Part of a well-preserved paved road (width 3.5 m) was exposed in the four excavated squares. It paralleled the old road that traversed the excavation and was located 1–2 m to its west. The road was paved with rectangular basalt stones, arranged symmetrically on either side of a covered drainage channel that ran along its center. In the middle of the area most of the paving stones were plundered and the drainage channel remained open after its covering stones were removed. An extensive repair to the road in the southern part of the area was noted. The paving stones were apparently lifted and reset haphazardly at a level c. 0.2 m higher than the original elevation; architectural elements in secondary use were incorporated within the repositioned pavement stones. Numerous folles from the 6th century CE were retrieved from below the refurbished section of the road, indicating the time of the repair. A raised stylobate that consisted of meticulously dressed basalt stones was built along the western side of the road; it bore a row of columns, some of which were revealed in the area, in secondary use. A mosaic-paved sidewalk (width c. 2.5 m) and the facade of a row of shops nearby were discovered west of the stylobate. The mosaic sidewalk in front of the entrance to one of the shops had a carefully executed Greek inscription (Fig. 3) incorporated into it, which read "to the victory of Tyche of the Blues". The inscription wished victory for the blue faction, known from the Byzantine period as one of the two circus factions (the blues and the greens). The workmanship of the mosaic around the inscription was not as fine as that of the inscription itself; the original inscription was probably preserved when repairs were made to the road.

Walls from the Umayyad period superposed the level of the road; apparently, most of the road did not function during this period and the shops were enlarged, encroaching on its area. One of the stoa columns in the road was found standing on its base, *in situ*, while other columns were joined, in secondary use, into buildings from the Umayyad period. In this period, the mosaic sidewalk was probably not visible anymore and a complete water jar was placed above it and recorded, *in situ*. Very close above the road level numerous coins from the Umayyad period were gathered.

About half a meter above the Umayyad-period remains, scant remains of walls and a hearth from the Abbasid period, postdating the earthquake of 749 CE, were unearthed. They were probably built on the collapsed ruins of the stoa and shops. A gold coin from this period, dating to 776/7 CE (IAA 96651), was recovered.

In the middle of the area, near where the paving stones were plundered from the road, a vault that was partially built on the paving stones and partially severed them, was uncovered. The vault yielded modern finds and therefore, it was probably a septic tank from the Ottoman period.

Area D. Eight squares were excavated, revealing the southern extension of the road from the Byzantine period. All the stone paving from the road was robbed in this area and only a wide plaster roadbed, the drainage channel that ran along its center and another channel that drained into it from the west, had survived. Within the plaster roadbed c. 30 tiny coins turned up; based on a preliminary identification, they were dated to the end of the 4th–5th centuries CE—the time of the road's construction. The stylobate was not preserved in this area. Yet, a long section of the mosaic sidewalk (length c. 22 m) decorated with various geometric patterns was traced. On the western side of the sidewalk the foundations of the shops' facades were discovered; the foundation of one of the partitions between the shops included two capitals, as well as a column drum, in secondary use. The shops' foundations severed a ceramic pipe and parts of plastered conduits that were probably preserved from an agricultural area that existed there prior to the construction of the road.

Area J. Better-preserved remains of the road from the Byzantine period (length c. 70 m) were noted in this area, though its course had slight bends. In the middle of the area the road intersected with another road, which continued to the west and may have led to the remains of a bathhouse from the Late Roman period that had been excavated in the past, c. 100 m west of here (HA 31–32:8). The sidewalk section at the intersection was paved with large limestone slabs and the passage leading past the row of stores was paved with especially large basalt slabs. Almost the entire stylobate was exposed, including two column bases, *in situ*. Here too the remains of the original shops, which were enlarged into the area of the road in the Umayyad period, were recovered. A column drum in one of the shops had been placed horizontally as a partition, and in the corner of a nearby shop was a large ceramic krater that contained two small intact jars. A *tabun* was in another shop and close by were several complete buff-ware flasks that probably originated in a workshop, whose debris was excavated in Area F (below). A few of the shops contained several square, red sandstone pavers that were not *in situ*, and may have constituted the remains of the shops' original floor. All segments of the road in Areas C, D and J seem to have been built according

to a single plan and contemporaneously, probably in the 5th century, or at the latest, the beginning of the 6th century CE.

Area E. Four squares were excavated; three comprised large accumulations of potsherds, dating to the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods, particularly the Umayyad period. The fourth square had a similar dump of pottery fragments, though below it were the remains of a well-constructed building (Fig. 4). A square room with thick walls and broad doorways in three of its walls were preserved from the building. The walls were built of fieldstones, except for the doorjambs, doorways and corners that consisted of dressed stones. The southern wall was built entirely of fieldstones and was possibly a later renovation of the original wall. Some 1.8 m north of the room was another wall, similar in its construction to the walls of the room; it had a broad doorway, facing the one in the room's northern wall. A corridor between the two walls had pillars at its two ends that constricted the passage and probably supported arches. Approximately 1.8 m west of the room was the corner of another room, wherein a column base was incorporated. A small space, which may have been a courtyard, paved with small fieldstones mixed in mortar bedding, was discovered to the east of the room. In the northern part of the space was a wall, whose bottom course was built of limestone ashlar and the other courses—of fieldstones. Two column drums, a fragment of an Ionic capital and the bottom stone of a basalt donkey mill were found in this space. Remains of a water conduit were detected south of the building. Large concentrations of pebbles, snail shells and worn potsherds that were swept here and stratified probably after the building was abandoned were recorded in several places in the area.

It seems that the building remains were those of a large farmhouse. Its beginning may date to the Roman period, to which the ashlar-built limestone wall, column drums and capital are attributed. A preliminary examination of the ceramic finds indicated that most of the building remains apparently dated to the Byzantine period. In the Umayyad period most of the doorways in the square room and in the wall to its north were sealed off with a pebble and fieldstone fill and the room's southern wall was probably rebuilt. Judging by the pottery fragments and coins on the floor of the space to the east of the building, the final use of the room should probably be dated to the Umayyad period as well.

Area F. Four squares (A–D) were excavated, revealing wall remains that did not join up to form a coherent building plan. The upper stratum in each of the squares contained fragments of pottery vessels from the Mamluk period, yet no connection was established between them and the wall remains. A floor section, without walls, clearly dating to the Mamluk period, was exposed only in Sq C. In Sq A was a rock-cut, plastered installation, probably a water reservoir, which subsequently had a water cistern hewn in its bottom. A vertical ceramic pipe was incorporated into the reservoir's western wall; it drained into another water cistern that was not excavated. A large quantity of ceramic finds from the Abbasid period, including complete vessels, was retrieved from the installation; however, it seems that the installation dated to the Umayyad period. Another wall in this square, probably dating to the Abbasid period, was flanked by a thick layer of ash, overlaid with large clusters of potsherds, some of them deformed, which mainly belonged to undecorated buff-ware-type flasks. These clusters were apparently the debris of a pottery workshop that produced flasks. The stratigraphy in Sq A indicated that the upper parts of the walls in the rest of the squares should be dated to the Abbasid period; it seems they constituted a repair or reuse of earlier walls from the Byzantine period.

The remains of a building that probably dated to the Byzantine period (Fig. 5) were uncovered at a considerable depth below the layers of the Early Islamic period. The walls of buildings in Sqs B and C descended to a depth of 4 m below surface, where a plaster floor was noted on bedrock. These squares also contained large amounts of limestone ashlar collapse and a very large quantity of small black and white tesserae, as well as a carbonized wooden beam that may have fallen from the second story. Close to the building's plaster floor were fragments of several pottery vessels, among them fragments of Cypriot Red Slip Ware, suggesting the building dated to the end of the Byzantine period. The top of the Byzantine-period building was lower than the strata from the Early Islamic period and it therefore seems that the builders from the later period were completely unaware of that structure's presence there. The floor in the Byzantine-period building was c. 2 m lower than the road from this period in Areas C, D and J; hence, it can be assumed that the surface in antiquity was uneven or the floor in Area F belonged to a cellar that was almost entirely bedrock hewn.

Area G. Three squares were excavated; building remains from the Mamluk period and two modern refuse pits that penetrated into the building remains were revealed. The excavation in this area, which yielded pottery fragments from the Mamluk and Ottoman periods, was suspended due to technical reasons.

Area H. Three squares that consisted of a complex of walls and floors that probably belonged to a residential building were excavated; the remains were founded on bedrock and comprised several rooms, a courtyard and cisterns, wherein two construction phases were discerned. A number of rooms that had two beaten earthen floors, one atop the other, were attributed to the early phase (c. 2 m thick), which was dated to the Early Islamic period. A pit, probably a water cistern, was cut into the floor of one of the rooms. Most of the rooms continued in use during the late phase, which also possessed two beaten-earth floors, c. 0.1 m one above the other. A courtyard with a stone floor that was lower than the two earthen floors of the late phase was noted as well. A stone-lined drainage pit equipped with a built conduit that led to the southeast was found below the stone pavement in the courtyard. The late phase dated to the Crusader/Mamluk period. The building remains yielded ceramic finds that included some complete vessels, dating to the Early Islamic and Crusader/Mamluk periods.

A long section of the Byzantine-period road was revealed, but no other building remains survived next to it. It seems, therefore that most of the area surrounding the road was undeveloped, probably farmland. In the salvage excavation conducted by Y. Alexandre in 1995 on Ha-'Arba'a Boulevard in Bet She'an, c. 100 m south of the road segment, the foundation remains of a circular wall from the Byzantine period were discovered. This foundation was similar in its dimensions to the circular towers that were recorded in several places in the city walls of Bet She'an; it seems that this was the tower's base of the city's southern gate. If this assumption is valid, then this must be the gate referred to in the Rehov inscription as the *Pilei de-campon*, which is the gate to the Roman camp that was situated on Tel Shalem, south of the city. In this case, the road section was built after Bet She'an was enclosed with a city wall in the 4th or 5th century CE. It was constructed, however, in an area of land reserves that was intended for future development. The excavation showed that these reserve tracts were not fully utilized and the region remained semi rural until the Ottoman period, when it became densely built up, as evidenced in aerial photographs from the beginning of the 20th century. It should be noted that the close proximity of the road from the time of the British Mandate to the road from the Byzantine period attests to the preservation of the ancient route, along which the Crusader citadel and the *Saraya* were also built. It is assumed that the road led north to the center of town, where it may have connected with Silvanus Street. One of the questions that remains unanswered concerns the location of the city's eastern wall. The road was undoubtedly located inside the city wall and the line of the wall probably passed slightly to the east of the excavation, below Highway 90.

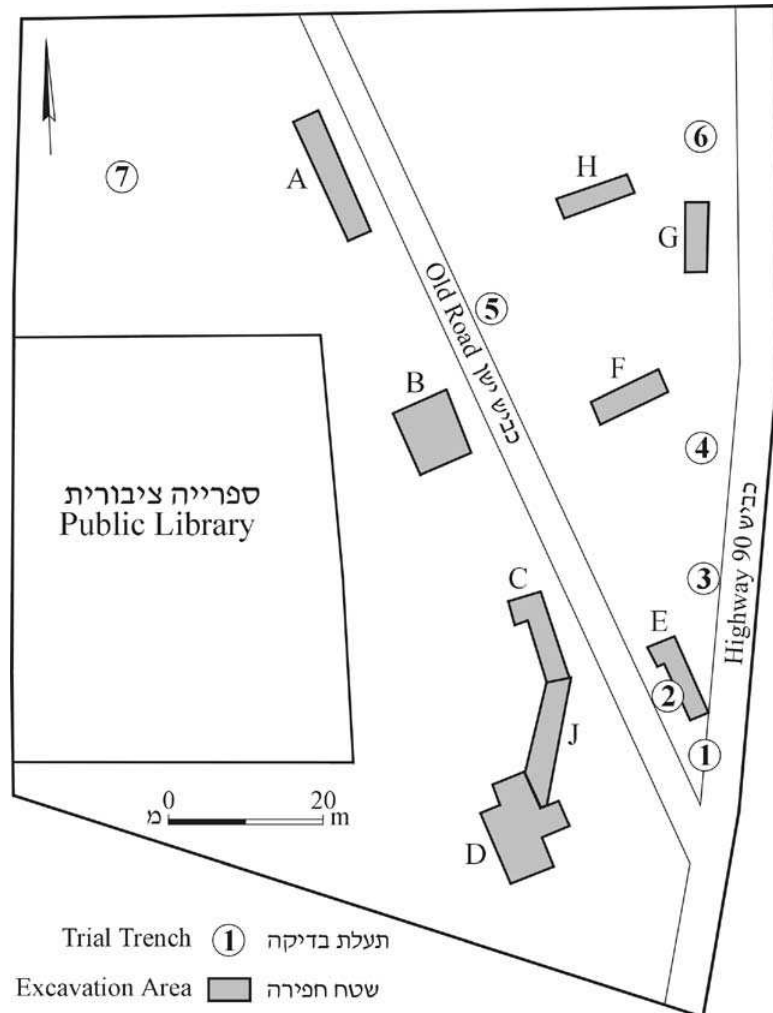
The excavation also elaborated on the extent of the settlement in this part of Bet She'an during the different periods. The Byzantine-period road in the southern excavation areas (C, D, E, J) continued to be used in the Umayyad period and the beginning of the Abbasid period. The center areas (B, F) witnessed a meager stratum from the Mamluk period close to surface and a thick layer from the Umayyad/Abbasid periods below it. A few remains from the Byzantine period were discovered in Area F. A thick dense layer from the Mamluk period was in the northern excavation areas (A, G, H), with no evidence from the Byzantine period, other than random pottery fragments. It should be noted that the Mamluk-period stratum contained numerous fragments of vessels associated with the sugar industry that was widespread in the Bet She'an Valley, mainly during the Crusader

period, but also later on. It should also be stressed that only a few finds from the Crusader period were recovered from the excavation, although it was conducted only c. 200 m south of the Crusader citadel.

The excavation yielded 1,042 coins. Some 36% of them were partially identified, or at least their general periods were noted; only c. 20% of the coins were fully identified. The dates of the coins from the different excavation areas (Table 1) usually corroborated the chronological conclusions drawn from the ceramic finds.

Table 1. Numismatic finds

Area	Area A	Area B	Areas C, D, J	Area E	Area F	Area G	Area H
Period (CE)							
Total	91	69	600	168	46	23	45
Early Roman (1st and 2nd centuries)		2	2	2			1
Early Byzantine 4th century	3	2	23	1	3	1	
5th century			1				1
Late Byzantine (6th–7th centuries)		1	25	2	6		2
Arab-Byzantine and imitations (7th century)	1	1	13				
Umayyad (7th–8th centuries)	3	3	43		2		
Abbasid (8th–9th centuries)	2	2	6		1		2
Zandjīd-Ayyubid (12th century)	9	4	3	1	3	4	2
Mamluk (13th–15th centuries)	8	2		2	1	1	4
Ottoman (18th–19th centuries)	3	1					2
Modern (20th century)			3	1			



1. Map of the excavation areas.



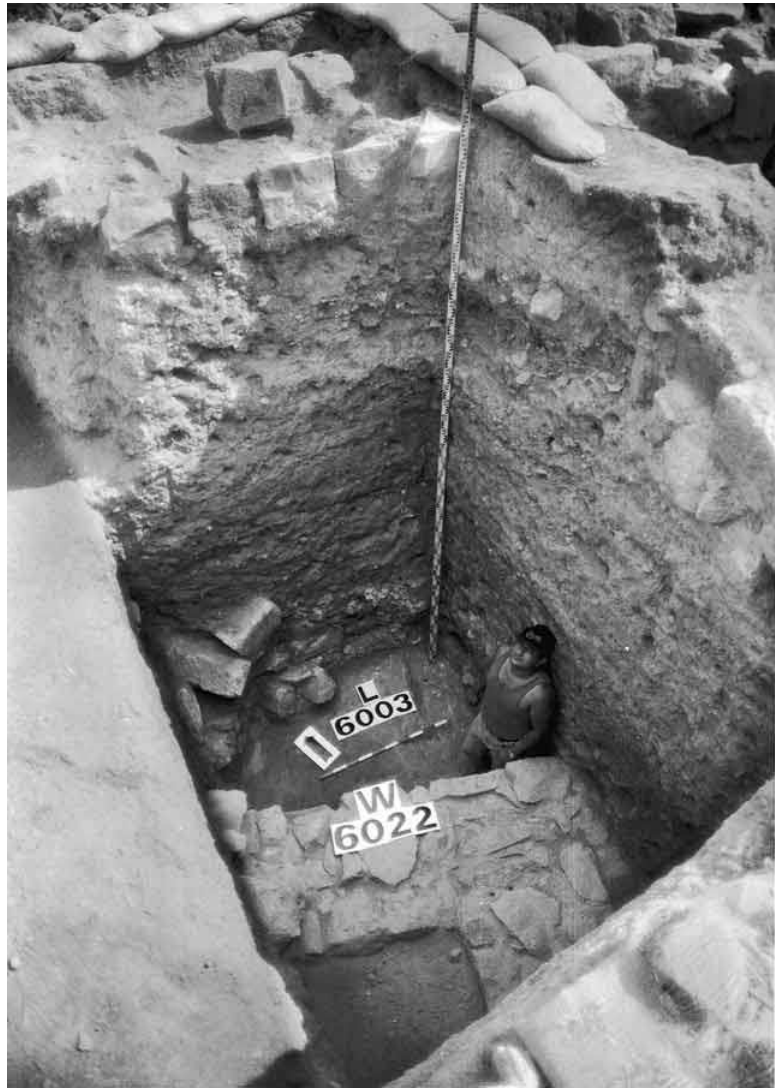
2. Areas C, D, J. The Byzantine-period road, looking south; on the right side below, the entrance to the shops.



3. Area C, Greek inscription in the mosaic: "to the victory of Tyche of the Blues".



4. Area E, remains of a well-constructed building, looking east.



5. Area F, building remains and collapses from the Byzantine period.

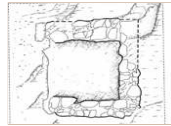
Betar 'Illit (West)

Yuval Peleg and Yaron Feller

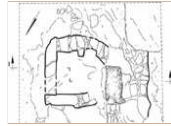
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During June–July 1998 a salvage excavation was conducted west of Betar 'Illit (L-809; map ref. NIG 211/623; OIG 161/123), prior to expanding the settlement. The excavation, on behalf of the Archaeological Staff Officer of Judea and Samaria, was directed by Y. Feller, assisted by M. Kahan (surveying and drafting) and S. Ammami (photography).

Thirteen field towers located on a north–south ridge were excavated in an area of c. 30 dunam (Table 1). Ceramic finds dating to Iron Age II and the Early Roman period were discovered in the towers and it seems that the agricultural areas in the vicinity of the towers were cultivated intensively during these periods. Pottery fragments from Iron Age II and the Hellenistic and Early Roman periods were collected in a preliminary survey conducted in the area prior to the excavation.



1. Betar 'Illit (West). Tower 1, plan and section.



2. Betar 'Illit (West). Tower 2, plan and section.



3. Betar 'Illit (West). Tower 3, plan and sections.



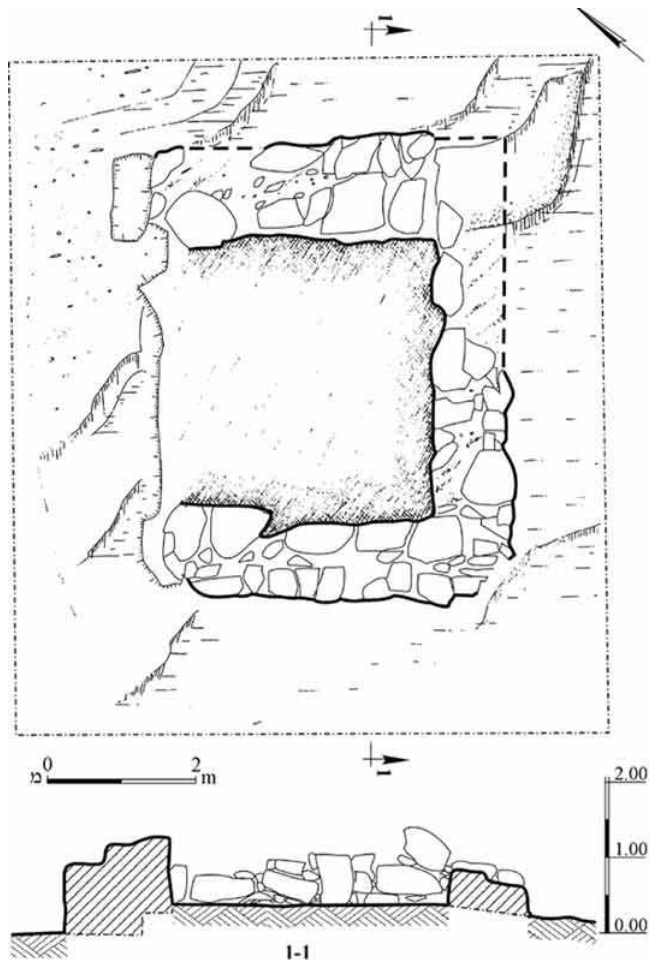
4. Betar 'Illit (West). Tower 4, plan and section.



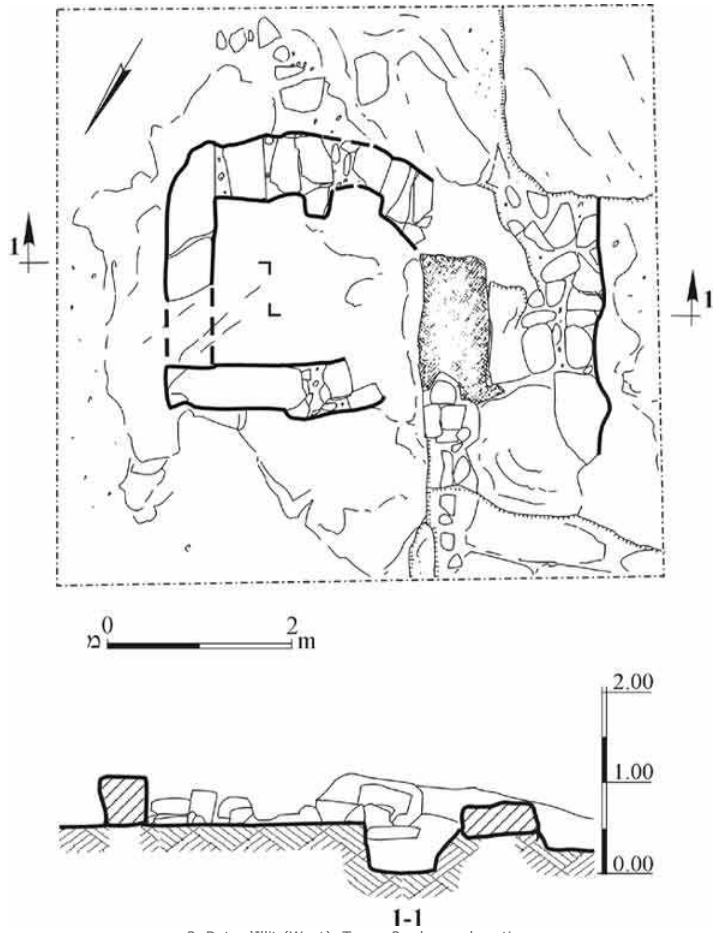
5. Betar 'Illit (West). Tower 5, plan.

Tower No.	Map Ref. (NIG; OIG)	Dimensions	Construction	Floor	Finds	Remarks
1 (Fig. 1)	21030/62320; 16030/12320	4.7 × 6.2 m, preserved height 1.4 m (4 courses)	Large roughly hewn fieldstones; northwestern wall was not preserved	Plaster remains on bedrock	Pottery fragments from the end of the Hellenistic and Early Roman periods (1st century BCE)	
2 (Fig. 2)	21028/62320; 16028/12320	3.05 × 4.80 m, preserved height 0.5 m (1 course)	Roughly hewn medium and large fieldstones	Bedrock surface; hewn pit on its western side (0.7 × 1.6 m, depth 0.73 m)	Base of a stone measuring cup from the Early Roman period	Located c. 20 m west of Tower 1
3 (Fig. 3)	21020/62370; 16120/12370	Diam. 3.7 m, preserved height 1.12 m (2 courses)	Roughly hewn medium and large fieldstones	Bedrock surface	Pottery fragments from Iron Age II	
4 (Fig. 4)	21020/62368; 16120/12368	6.3 × 7.8 m, preserved height 1.2 m (up to 4 courses)	Roughly hewn medium and large fieldstones	Plaster remains noted on bedrock		Tower has two rooms; it is located c. 20 m south of Tower 3
5 (Fig. 5)	21120/62375; 16120/12375	2.5 × 2.5 m, preserved height 1.3 m (3 courses)	Roughly hewn medium and large fieldstones	Beaten earth deposited on bedrock	Pottery fragments from Iron Age II	Animal pen built of small and medium-sized fieldstones and preserved 5 courses high (1.1 m) was adjacent to the northern side of tower; a wall (length 8.6 m) of roughly hewn fieldstones, preserved 1 course high (0.4 m) abutted the tower's southern corner.
6 (Fig. 6)	21130/62371; 16130/12371	3.15 × 3.90 m, preserved height 1.2 m (3 courses)	Roughly hewn medium and large fieldstones; the entrance was probably in the northeastern wall. Three narrow windows (0.3–0.6 × 0.4 m) were in the southwestern wall.	Beaten earth deposited on bedrock	Pottery fragments from Iron Age II and the Early Roman period	A rock-cut winepress southeast of the tower. It was partially enclosed with stone walls and consisted of a square treading surface (3.1 × 3.2 m) with plaster remains, an oval settling pit (0.4 × 0.8 m, depth 0.36 m) and a collecting vat (diam. 1.2 m, depth 1.4 m) to the south; two fieldstone walls that may have been part of an animal pen, which did not survive abutted the northern side

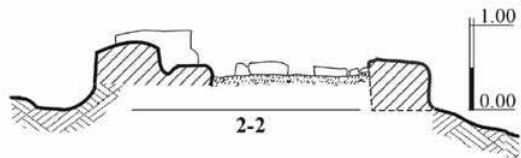
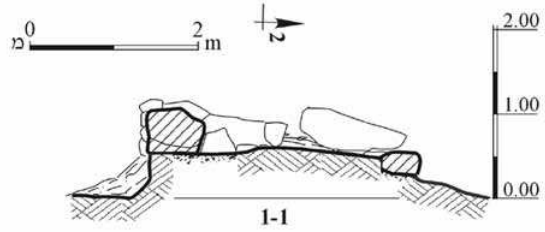
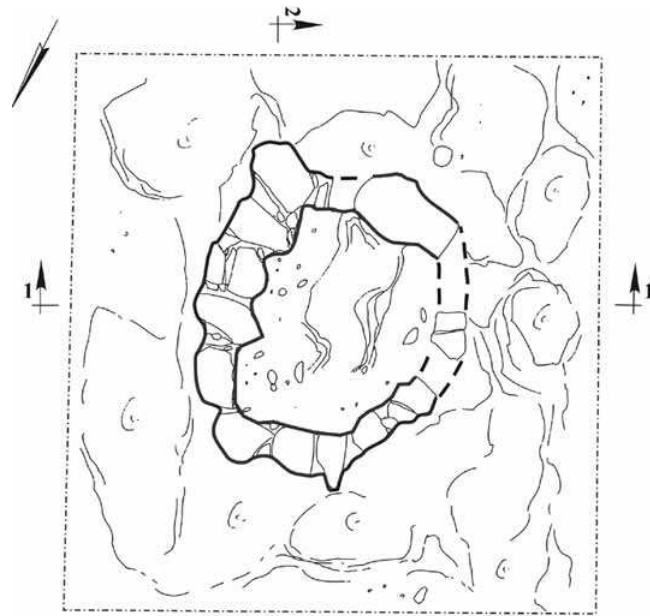
						of the tower.
7 (Fig. 7)	21100/62340; 16100/12340	3.05 × 3.20 m, preserved height 1.35 m (4 courses)	Roughly hewn medium and large fieldstones; a narrow window (0.4 × 0.5 m) in the eastern wall	Beaten earth deposited on bedrock	Pottery fragments from Iron Age II and the Early Roman period	A rock-cut winepress to the east of the tower. It consisted of a square treading surface (2.5 × 3.1 m), mostly enclosed with stone walls and a collecting vat (diam. 1.4 m, depth 1.26 m) enclosed on the west with a stone wall
8 (Fig. 8)	21140/62360; 16140/12360	3.3 × 3.6 m, preserved height 1.5 m (5 courses)	Roughly hewn medium and large fieldstones	Beaten earth deposited on bedrock	Pottery fragments from Iron Age II and the Early Roman period	A courtyard (2.15 × 3.80 m) was adjacent to western side of tower; it was enclosed with a wall of small and medium-sized fieldstones and preserved 3 courses high (0.55 m); an entrance was in its southern side
9 (Fig. 9)	21135/62358; 16135/12358	1.9 × 3.4 m, preserved height 1.1 m (3 courses)	Roughly hewn medium and large fieldstones; only the western part was preserved	Beaten earth deposited on bedrock	Pottery fragments from Iron Age II and the Early Roman period	A rock-cut winepress was adjacent to the south of the tower; it consisted of a square plastered treading surface (3.0 × 3.2 m) mostly enclosed with stone walls and 2 collecting vats (0.8 × 1.2 m, depth 1.4 m; diam. 1.4 m, depth 1.3 m) surrounded by stone walls; a channel led from the treading surface to the southern collecting vat
10 (Fig. 10)	21100/62345; 16100/12345	Diam. 3.8 m, preserved height 1.65 m (4 courses)	Large roughly hewn fieldstones	Bedrock surface	Pottery fragments from Iron Age II	
11	21160/62365; 16160/12365	3.3 × 5.5 m, preserved height 0.8 m (3 courses)	Roughly hewn medium-sized fieldstones; only the eastern and western walls were preserved	Bedrock surface	Pottery fragments from Iron Age II and the Early Roman period	
12	21173/62374; 16173/12374	Diam. 3.6 m, preserved height 0.6 m (2 courses)	Small and medium fieldstones; tower only partially preserved	Bedrock surface	Pottery fragments from Iron Age II	
13	21155/62380; 16155/12380	3.55 × 6.75 m, preserved height 0.75 m (2 courses)	Small and medium fieldstones	Bedrock surface	Fragments of pottery vessels from Iron Age II	Only eastern part of tower, which probably had two rooms, was excavated



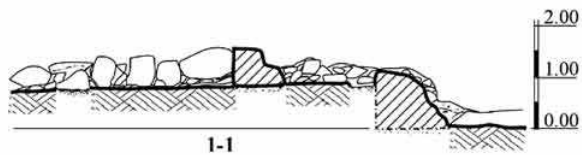
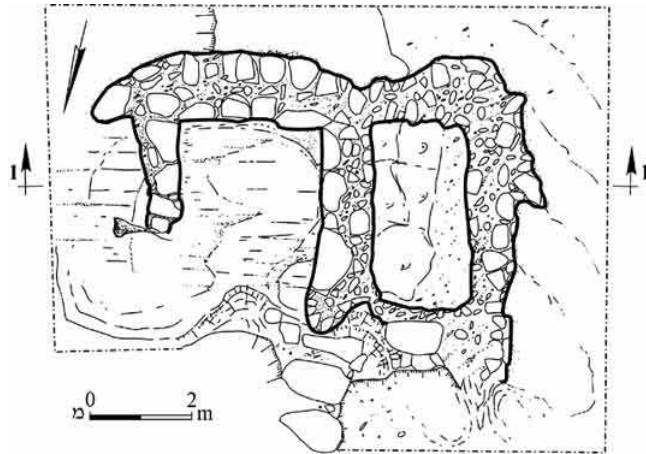
1. Betar 'Illit (West). Tower 1, plan and section.



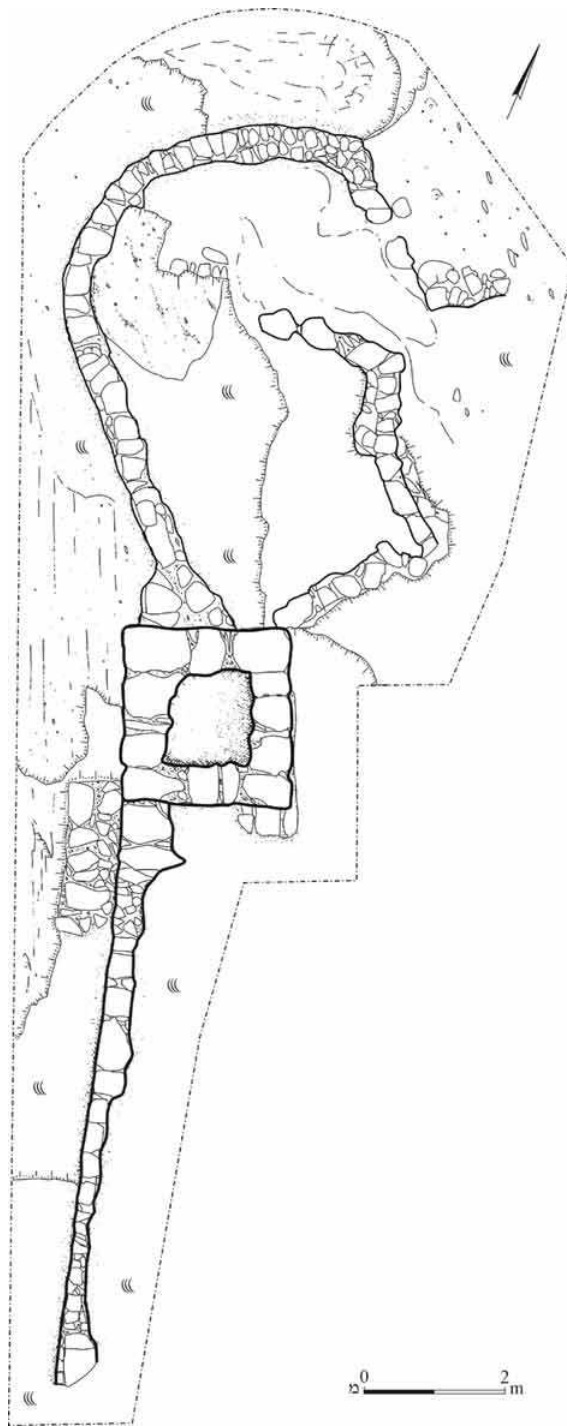
2. Betar 'Illit (West). Tower 2, plan and section.



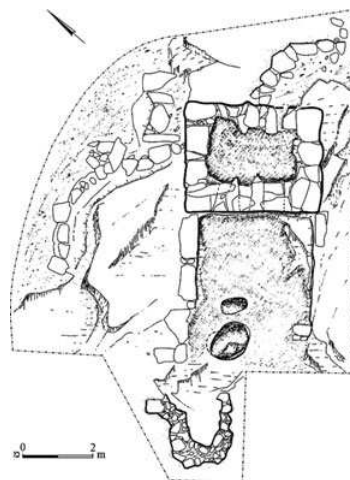
3. Betar 'Illit (West). Tower 3, plan and sections.



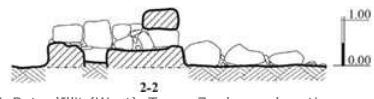
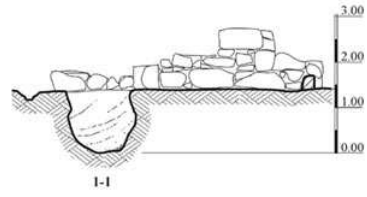
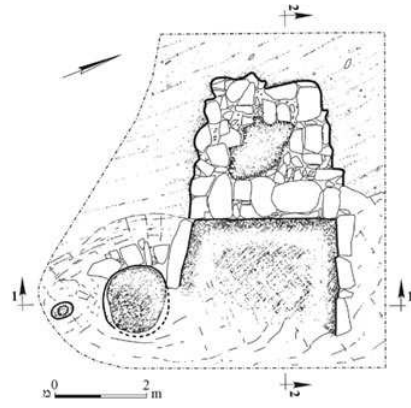
4. Betar 'Illit (West). Tower 4, plan and section.



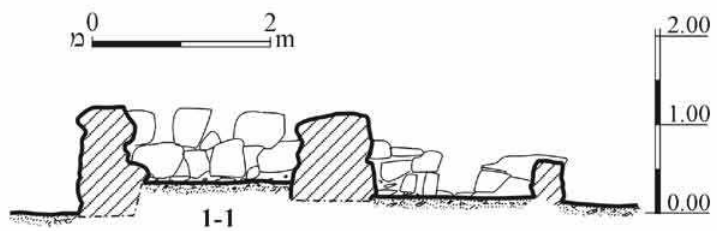
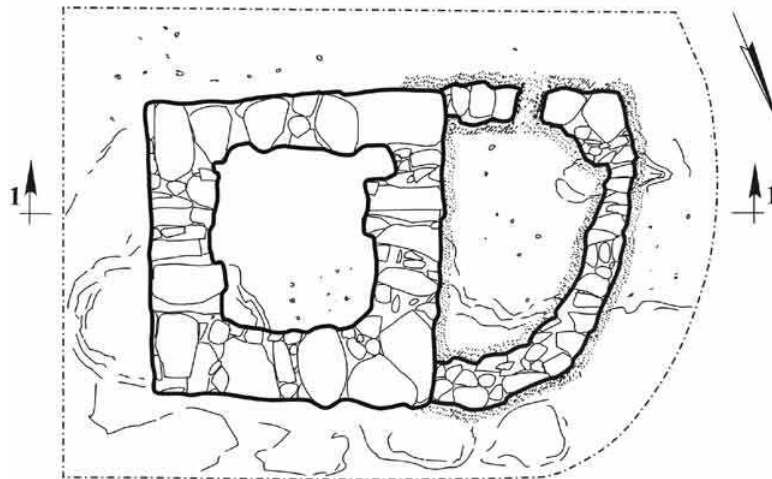
5. Betar 'Illit (West). Tower 5, plan.



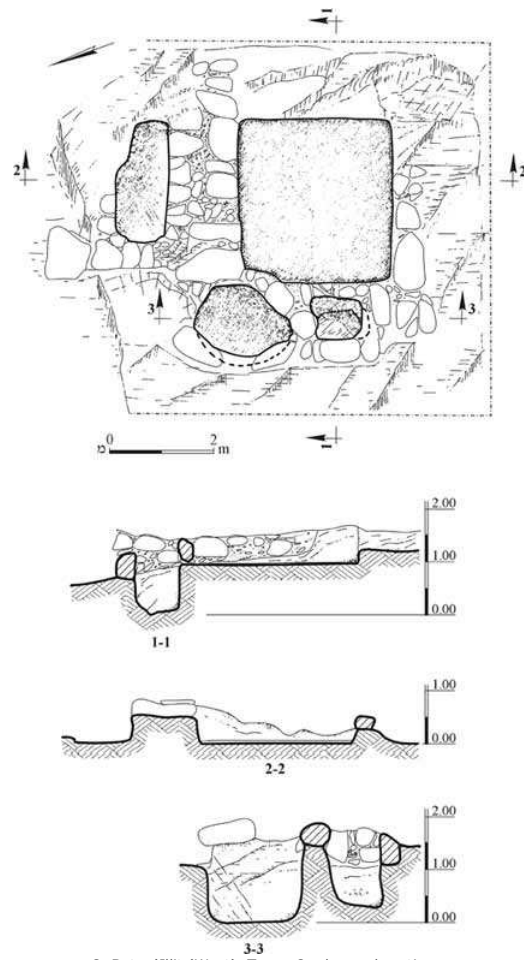
6. Betar 'Illit (West). Tower 6, plan.



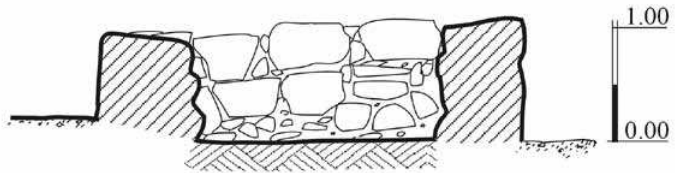
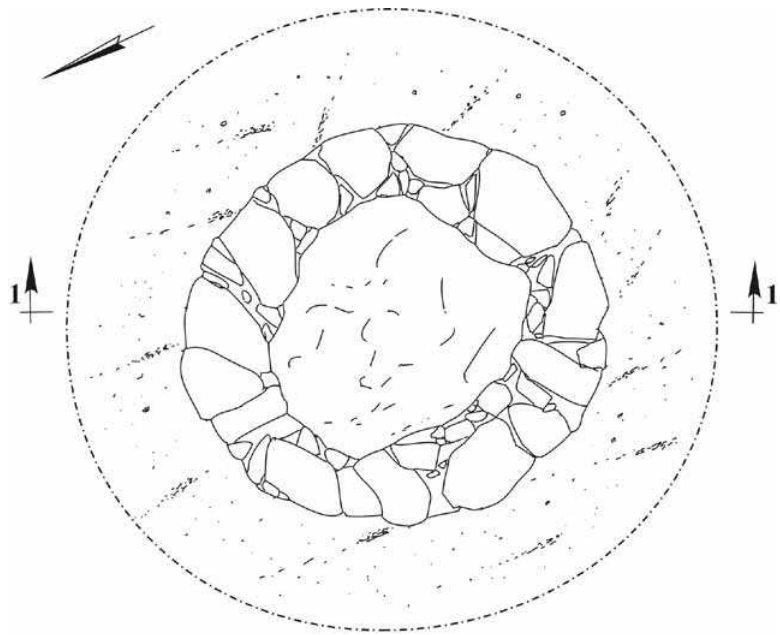
7. Betar 'Illit (West). Tower 7, plan and sections.



8. Betar 'Illit (West). Tower 8, plan and section.



9. Betar 'Illit (West). Tower 9, plan and sections.



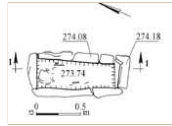
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10. Betar 'Illit (West). Tower 10, plan and section.

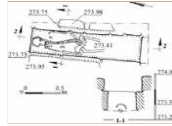
Be'er Sheva^{1*}

Vlada Nikolsky

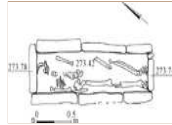
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2. Grave 107, plan and section.



3. Grave 103, plan and sections.



4. Grave 104, plan.



5. Grave 102A, copper earrings and parts of a chain.



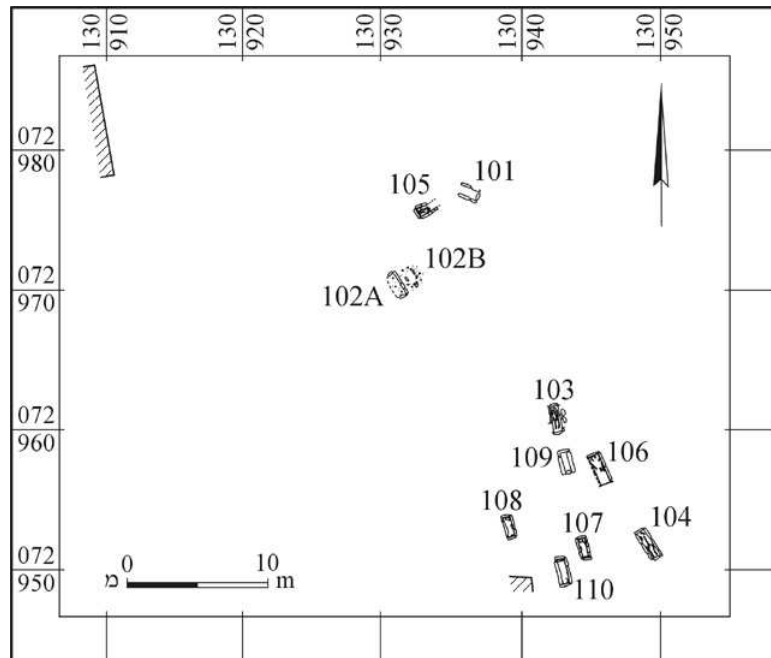
6. Grave 104, one plate of copper cymbals.

During February–March 2000 a salvage excavation was conducted in Be'er Sheva¹ (A-3205^{*}; map ref. NIG 18085/57295; OIG 13085/07295) after tombs were exposed while overseeing construction work. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority and financed by Migdal Qeren Ltd., was directed by V. Nikolsky, with the assistance of V. Essman and V. Pirsky (surveying), N. Zak (drafting), Y. Baumgarten (photography), E. Altmark (metallurgical laboratory), Y. Nagar (physical anthropology), and also F. Sonntag, D. Varga, Y. Lender, N. Paran, A. Zelin, G. Seriy, A. Israelov, V. Hochman and A. Alajem.

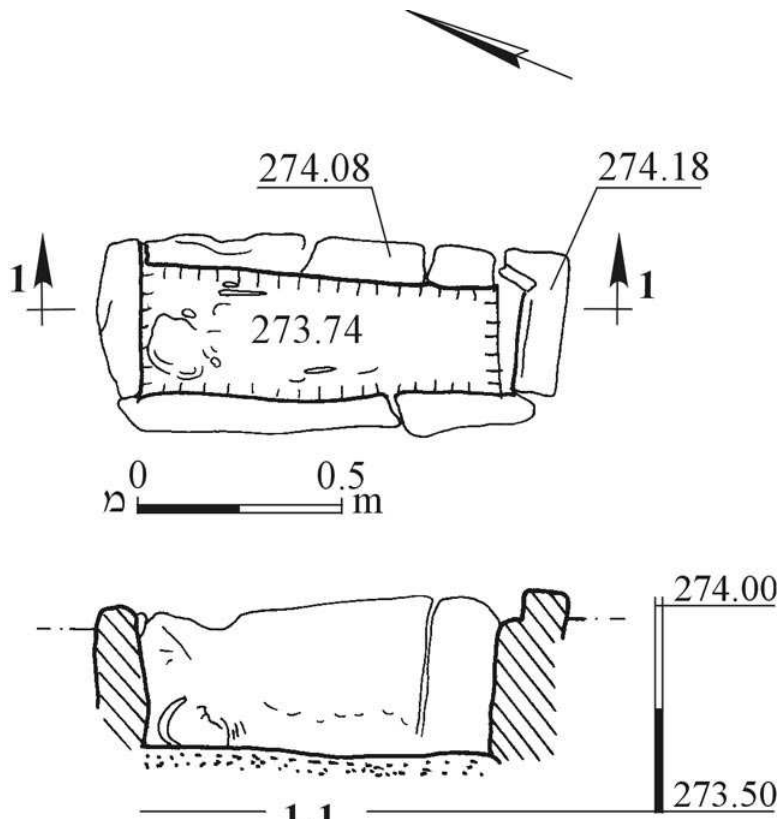
Thirteen cist graves were discovered, including one that was destroyed and another that was not examined, due to its location beyond the limits of the excavation (Fig. 1); some of the graves were damaged by the construction work. The graves yielded no datable finds, though judging by comparison to similar graves excavated in the vicinity (*ESI* 19:90^{*}–91^{*}; *HA-ESI* 113:129^{*}), it seems they were part of a cemetery, dating to the Late Roman and Byzantine periods.

Nine of the graves (102A, 102B, 103, 104, 106–110) were generally aligned north–south and two others (101, 105) were oriented east–west. The graves were lined and covered with dressed limestone slabs. One grave was short (102B—0.33 × 0.50 m, depth 0.2 m), four were of average length (102A, 106–108—0.48–0.54 × 1.07–1.33 m, depth 0.37–0.41 m; Fig. 2), four were long (103, 104, 109, 110—0.48–0.70 × 1.60–1.83 m, depth 0.58 m; Figs. 3, 4) and two graves were not preserved to their full length (101—0.37 × 0.95 m, depth 0.33 m; 105—0.62 × 0.95 m). Each of the graves contained a single individual in a supine position; in the north–south graves the head of the deceased was to the north and in the other graves, it was to the west. Altogether, 11 individuals were identified in the graves, including infants, children and adults of both sexes that attest to a civilian population.

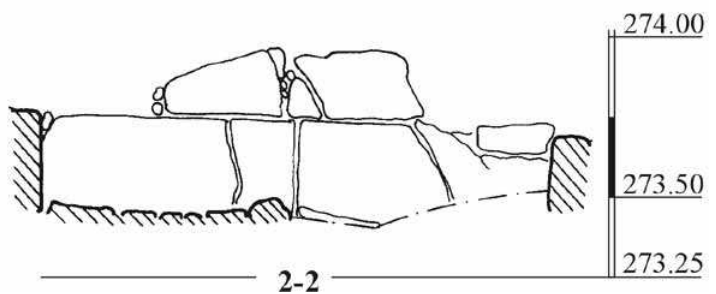
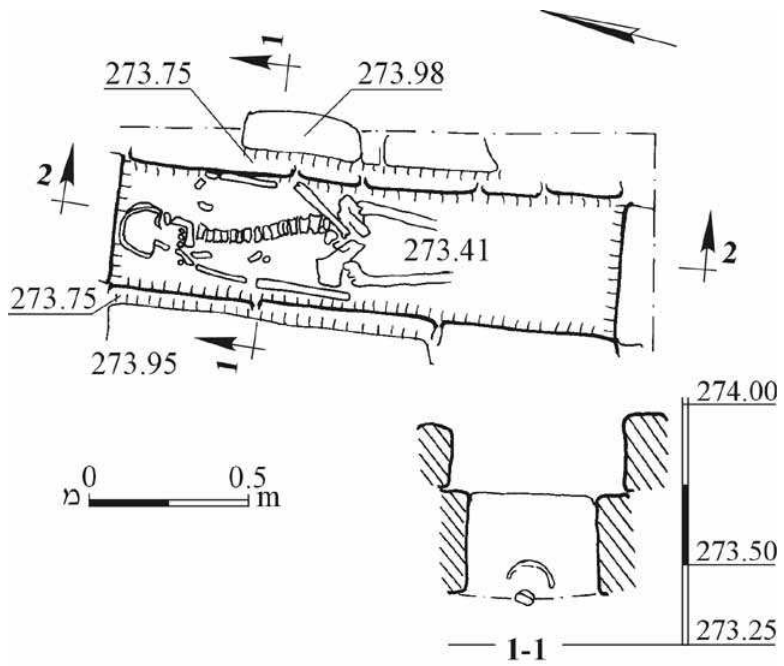
Near the skull in Grave 102A were two copper earrings, parts of a glass-bead chain, copper wire and various colored-glass beads (Fig. 5). Grave 104 contained organic matter that has not yet been analyzed and several iron nails. One plate of copper cymbals was recovered from the destroyed grave (111; Fig. 6).



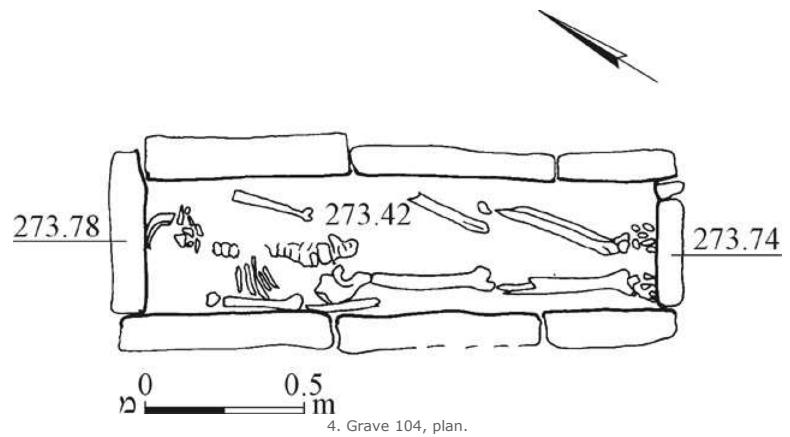
1. Location map of the graves.



2. Grave 107, plan and section.



3. Grave 103, plan and sections.



4. Grave 104, plan.



5. Grave 102A, copper earrings and parts of a chain.



6. Grave 104, one plate of copper cymbals.

Be'er Sheva^{1*}

Ya'aqov Baumgarten

9/6/2004

A salvage excavation was conducted in September 1999 between Rambam and Ha-'Azma'ut Streets in Be'er Sheva¹ (A-3178*; map ref. NIG 1793-4/5727-9; OIG 1293-4/0727-9). The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority and financed by the Economic Development Corporation of Be'er Sheva¹ Ltd., was directed by Y. Baumgarten, with the assistance of F. Sonntag, G. Seriy, D. Varga, A. Israelov, V. Nikolsky, Y. Haimi, M. Berman and also V. Essman (surveying) and Y. Nagar (physical anthropology).

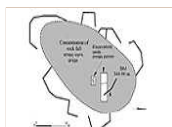
Five cist graves (Loci 101-105) that belonged to a cemetery from the Byzantine period were exposed. This cemetery was part of a ring of cemeteries that encircled the city in this period. The graves were dug in loess soil along a general east-west axis (depth 1.2-1.5 m) and were lined with limestone slabs. Covering slabs were discovered on all the graves. The western side of the graves was paved with stone slabs, upon which the heads of the deceased were placed. The deceased in four of the graves (102-105) were laid in a supine position, their heads facing west.

A child was interred in Grave 101 (length 0.85 m). Grave 102 (outer dimensions 0.9 × 1.7 m) contained an individual of undetermined gender, 11-12 years of age, as well as four bronze beads and a ring. A groove was fashioned along the edges of the covering stones to fit better over the walls of the grave. A woman, 40-60 years of age, was interred in Grave 103 (inner dimensions 0.50 × 1.45 m), together with wooden remains (coffin?) and an iron toggle pin. A male less than 50 years of age was uncovered in Grave 104 (outer dimensions 0.45 × 1.90 m) and a woman, 50-60 years of age, was buried in Grave 105 (0.55 × 1.65-1.70 m).

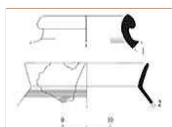
Be'erotayim

Benjamin Adam Saidel and Tali Erickson-Gini

9/6/2004



1. Plan of Rogem Be'erotayim



2. Pottery: Egyptian storage jar (EB IB; 1); EB IV/MB I storage jar (2).

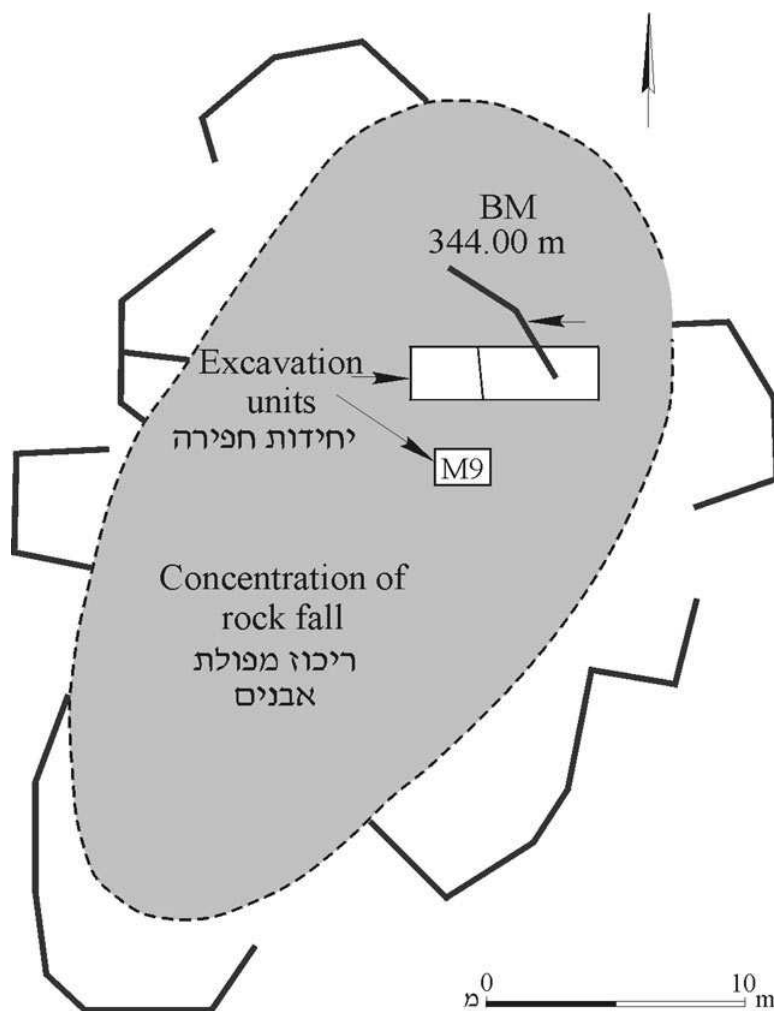
Trial excavations were carried out at Be'erotayim (G-12/00; map ref. NIG 148260/522035; OIG 098260/022035) during the winter of 2000. The excavation, on behalf of the Department of Anthropology at Harvard University and funded by a grant from the American School for Prehistoric Research at Harvard University, was directed by B.A. Saidel and T. Erickson-Gini, assisted by L. Mazov and N. Shimshon Paran, as well as J. Rosenberg (surveying and drafting), Y. Vardi and S. Rosen (lithics), E. Maher (faunal remains) and H. Greenfield (cut marks).

Rogem Be'erotayim was identified by T. Erickson-Gini in the course of her archaeological survey of Nahal Be'erotayim (Israel Survey Map 156). This stone construction, with associated animal pens, is located on the top of a hill, overlooking a tributary of Nahal Be'erotayim (Fig. 1). Rogem Be'erotayim is oval shaped and its long axis is oriented northeast-southwest. The main portion of the site, excluding the animal pens measures c. 18 × 35 m; the basic excavation unit was a 2 × 2 m square.

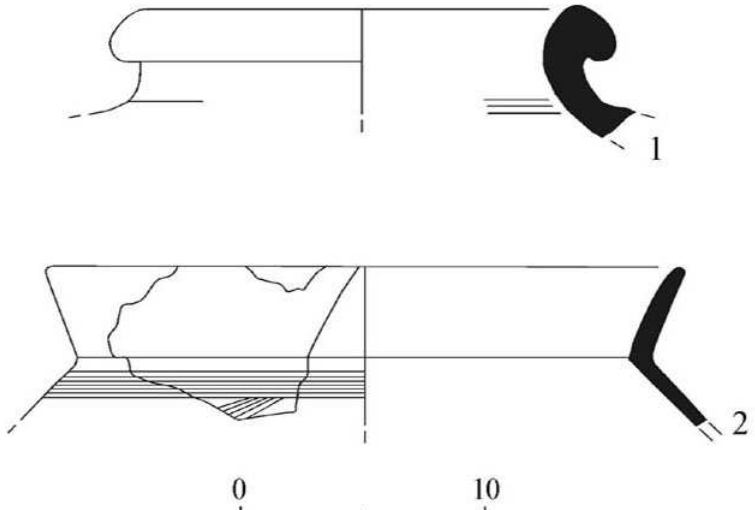
The general stratigraphy is composed of three layers. The surface layer consists of reworked loess, superposing a layer of stone fall, which rests above a layer that comprised silty, ashy sediments on top of bedrock. All sediments from this ash layer were sieved through a 2–3 mm mesh.

A preliminary analysis of the fieldwork demonstrates that no artifacts were found in either the surface layer, or the layer of stone collapse underneath it. The finds in the ashy sediments were in secondary contexts. They included faunal remains, lithic artifacts, such as microlithic drills, and diagnostic pottery from Early Bronze Ib (Fig. 2:1) and Early Bronze IV/Middle Bronze I (Fig. 2:2) periods. In the Negev highlands, similar microlithic drills were revealed in Early Bronze Age contexts at the Camel Site and at Rekhes Nafha 396.

In conclusion, the artifacts evidence an occupation from EB IB and EB IV/MB I periods; the working hypothesis is that the architecture dates to the EB IV/ MB I period. However, further fieldwork is required to clarify the settlement history of the site.



1. Plan of Rogem Be'erotayim



2. Pottery: Egyptian storage jar (EB IB; 1); EB IV/MB I storage jar (2).

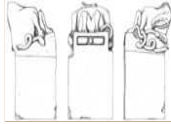
Caesarea

Yosef Porath

31/5/2004



1. Carved stone incorporated in the Crusader-period city wall, looking northwest.



2. Carved stone with the image of a demon (drawing).

Two carved stones were discovered in January 2003, while conservation work was carried out on the city wall from the Crusader period in Caesarea. The stones were examined by Y. Porath, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, with the assistance of N. Davidov (photography) and A. Levit (drafting).

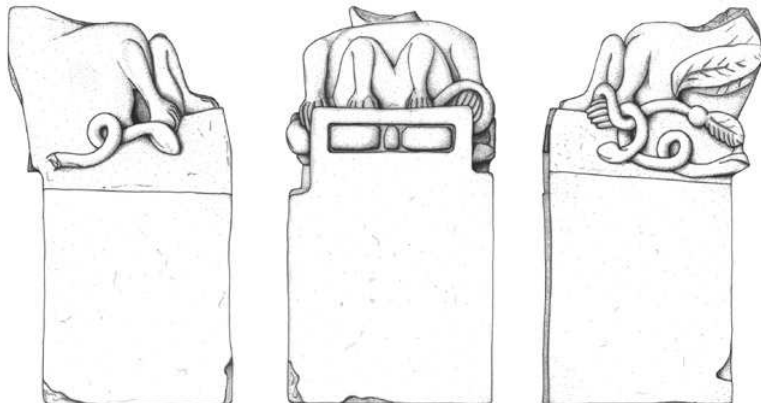
During conservation work in the northeastern corner of the Crusader city wall that was constructed during the crusade of Louis IX, king of France (1251 CE), two carved stones were discerned in the side of the wall that faced north (Fig. 1). The stones were set on two marble capitals, which were exposed, *in situ*, during the excavations conducted by L.I. Levine and E. Netzer in 1975–1976. The capitals were placed on top of gray granite columns, situated along the line of the northern wall of a large building that predated the city wall. Levine and Netzer suggested that these columns were the remains of a monumental gate, erected on one of the main streets of Caesarea during the Byzantine period; subsequently, it was incorporated into the city wall from the time of the Early Islamic period (*Qadmoniot* 11:73).

While cleaning the capitals and the stones atop them it became apparent that the side of the two stones facing north was incorporated into the city wall from the Crusader period. This side was also decorated with a carved demon, which was characteristic of Romanesque art that prevailed from the end of the 10th century until the second half of the 12th century CE (Figs. 2, 3). The demons adorned the northern facade of a magnificent building from the Crusader period, prior to the construction of the city wall during the reign of Louis IX. It is impossible to ascertain the exact date of the building without conducting an excavation; however, it is clear that it predated the city wall. The northeastern corner of the city wall was attached to the northern and eastern walls of the earlier building and the stones that protruded from the walls of that structure were combined into the city wall.

Our examination had established that (1) the building was not from the Byzantine period as previously suggested; rather, it dated to the Crusader period, sometime before the middle of the 13th century CE; (2) The northern wall of the earlier building was freestanding and the demons carved in the stone protruded out from it; (3) The city wall from the Crusader period that was contemporary with the building was located north of the city wall, which was constructed during the reign of Louis IX; (4) During the construction of the city wall from the time of Louis IX, the walls of the building stood to a minimum height of 4 m; the building was filled with earth and it is reasonable to assume that its floor and wall decorations were relatively well-preserved.



1. Carved stone incorporated in the Crusader-period city wall, looking northwest.



2. Carved stone with the image of a demon (drawing).



3. Carved stone with the image of a demon (photo).

Dhahr el-Khirba*

Daniel Weinberger

31/5/2004



1. Winepress, plan and sections.



2. Column fragment of a chancel screen, decorated with a chiseled pattern of lotus flowers (height c. 0.31 m).



3. Pottery (1-24) and bone (25) finds.

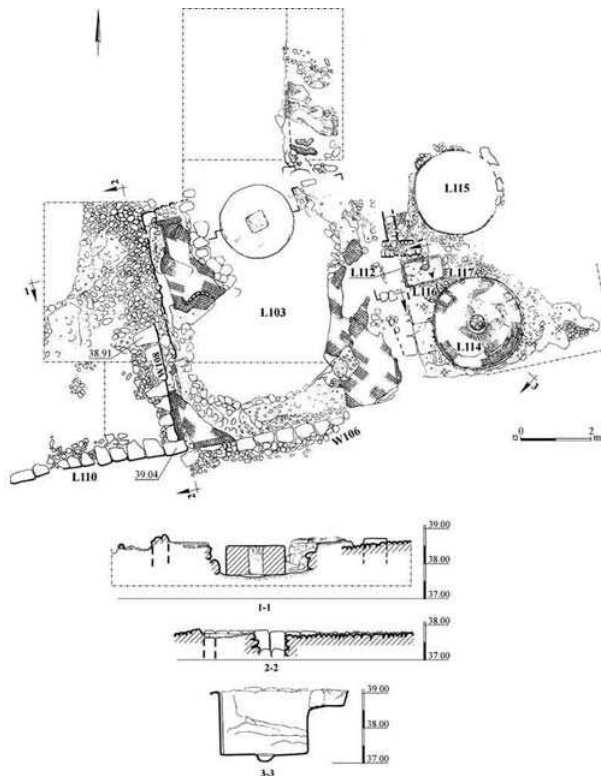
Five squares were excavated, revealing a large industrial winepress, dating to the Late Byzantine and Early Islamic periods (Fig. 1).

The winepress consisted of a square treading surface (L103), a rectangular settling vat (L112) and two circular collecting vats (Locs 114, 115). The treading surface (7 × 7 m) was founded on soil that was leveled with large fieldstones (0.5 × 0.5 m). Overlying it was a layer of small and medium-sized fieldstones, bonded with grayish material that contained clay, pottery fragments and crushed chalk. It was superposed with a mosaic floor, composed of large tesserae, which were arranged diagonally, except for the three rows along the perimeter of the floor, where they were placed parallel to the walls, creating a frame. The massive construction of the treading surface was meant to stabilize and reinforce it because of the constant pressure exerted on it over time. Ashlar-stone walls surrounded the surface; sections of the southern (W106) and western (W108) walls were preserved. A circular crushing stone from an oil press, in secondary use, was placed in the northern part of the treading surface. A square hole in its center was intended for anchoring a wooden screw press; a wooden pin that was inserted horizontally beneath the stone affixed the bottom of the screw.

The must flowed from the treading surface via a built conduit that was mostly destroyed to a settling vat (0.8 × 1.2 m, depth 0.43 m). The bedrock-hewn vat was coated with two layers of plaster. Potsherds were visible in the outer plaster layer, where repairs were made. From the settling vat the must flowed in ceramic pipes (diam. 7 cm, length 0.4 m) to two rock-cut collecting vats, the southern of which was only excavated (diam. 2.3 m, depth 1.8 m). It was lined with reddish-brown plaster and its floor was paved with small tesserae. Two protrusions in the vat's northern wall served as steps; one consisted of a column fragment with a square base from a marble chancel screen that was decorated with a chiseled pattern of lotus flowers (Fig. 2). A circular settling pit (diam. 0.2 m, depth c. 0.3 m) was hewn in the center of the collecting vat.

Segments of a stone wall (W109) and of a floor that was composed of small and medium-sized fieldstones were discovered to the west of the winepress; it was intended for placing the grapes before they were trod on.

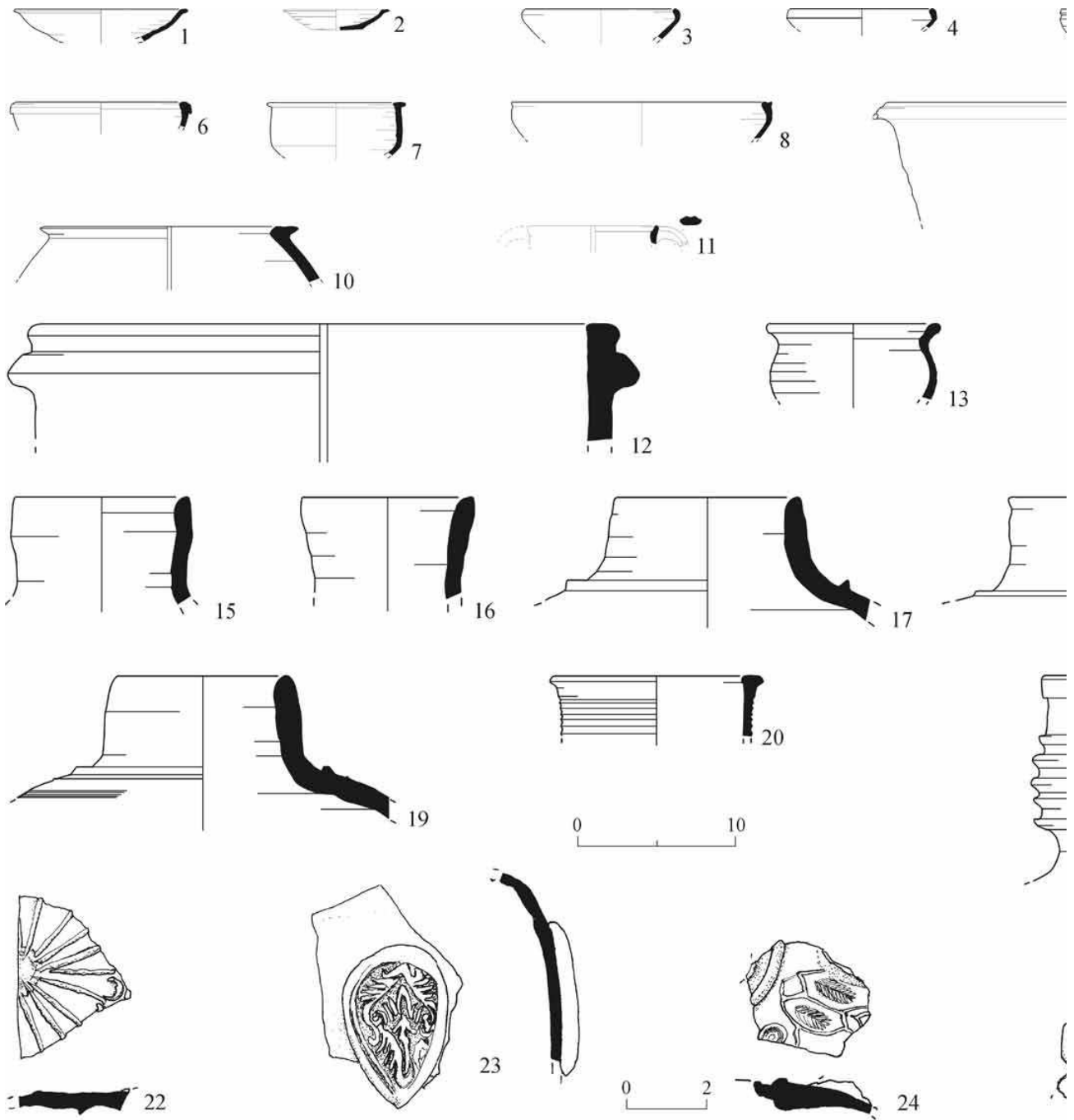
Some of the ceramic finds in the winepress dated to the Byzantine period; most were from the Early Islamic period (8th–10th centuries CE). The buff-ware vessels that stood out among the finds included bowls (Fig. 3:1–5), a jar (Fig. 3:11), jugs (Fig. 3:15–19, 22, 23) and a lamp (Fig. 3:24). Other pottery vessels consisted of bowls (Fig. 3:6–9), jars (Fig. 3:10, 12), a goblet (Fig. 3:13), jugs (Fig. 3:14, 20), several fragments of greenish glazed pottery vessels and an incised bone (Fig. 3:25).



1. Winepress, plan and sections.



2. Column fragment of a chancel screen, decorated with a chiseled pattern of lotus flowers (height c. 0.31 m).



3. Pottery (1-24) and bone (25) finds.

El-Kabri

Howard Smithline

4/5/2004



1. Cancelled oil press, integrated into floor; adjacent tabun in background; in lower right-hand corner, intrusive staircase, looking west.

During May–June 2000 a salvage excavation was conducted 1 km east of the Kabri junction (A-3217; map ref. NIG 214–5/768–9; OIG 164–5/268–9), prior to completing its expansion. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority and financed by the Public Works Department, was directed and photographed by H. Smithline, with the assistance of L. Porat, E.J. Stern and D. Syon (area supervision and numismatics), Y. Ya'qobi (administration), V. Essman, T. Kornfeld, A. Hajian and V. Pirskey (surveying), L. Porat (pottery restoration), H. Tahan (pottery drawing), A. Sasson (limekiln technology) and M. Aviam, who provided technical assistance.

The site had previously been surveyed by R. Frankel and was tentatively identified with Talmudic Kabrita. The excavation area was a long and narrow strip (5 × 120 m), along the southern margin of the road and on the periphery of the higher site to the north.

The Hellenistic Period. Remains from this period appeared in a number of loci upon bedrock, as well as in a large amount of fill material that was used during the Byzantine-period construction. The lower courses of two walls (width 0.6 m, height 1.0 m) that were erected on bedrock could be assigned to this period.

The Roman Period. A small amount of pottery fragments in the fill material represented the Early Roman period. A single wall segment and a few floor layers were dated to the Late Roman period. A large quantity of ceramic finds, mostly fragments of amphorae that probably originated along the Phoenician coast, were dated to the 3rd and 4th centuries CE, and likewise derived from the fill material. At least 10 Late Roman pottery fragments with cursive Greek writing in red ink were detected in the fill.

The Byzantine Period. The site appears to have flourished during the Byzantine period, with remains discovered throughout the excavated area. A large building from the 5th–6th centuries CE was revealed in the eastern end of the excavation area; its southern wall was exposed over a length of 14.5 m. An oil press occupied its westernmost part. The press went out of use in the 7th century, when the press bed was integrated into a floor and a tabun was placed adjacent to it (Fig. 1). A staircase built nearby, which would have interfered with the operation of the press, was further evidence for its cancellation. The press's large screw weight was incorporated into the base of a wall, while the weight pit was sealed below a thick plaster floor; the core building was divided into at least 5 parallel rooms. Another large, well-built Byzantine structure was uncovered c. 5 m west of the oil press and was separated from it by an open, plastered area. A large structure with a courtyard was uncovered c. 65 m to the west, dating to the 6th–7th centuries CE. The courtyard was paved with well-cut ashlar blocks, which were laid on the purposely-cleared bedrock. An accumulation of plaster floors (thickness 0.8–1.0 m) was associated with this building, which superseded an earlier ashlar building that dated to the 5th–6th centuries CE.

The westernmost square revealed portions of two treading floors that belonged to Byzantine winepresses; each was at least 3.5 m long and consisted of a coarse white mosaic pavement.

Fragments of architectural elements, including a chancel screen, a Corinthian capital and numerous pieces of worked marble that could be indicative of a church, were found in the collapse debris in the center of the excavation area.

The Early Islamic Period. The Byzantine-period structure that was located west of the oil press was partially rebuilt and reorganized in a more haphazard manner during the Abbasid and Fatimid periods. Work installations, as well as glass and iron slag in this area indicate that it served as a craft-producing center. A stone and brick-built oven functioned as a cooking stove, yet more significantly, was probably an installation for sugar production in the 11th century CE, attested to by the unique sugar pots found in close proximity. This is probably the earliest evidence for sugar production in Israel yet uncovered. Other prominent finds were fragments of incised black-burnished vessels, buff ware, and glazed ware of the 10th–11th centuries CE.

The Crusader Period. The northern wall of a Crusader-period sugar refinery from the 12th century CE was revealed. It was constructed on bedrock and preserved to over 2 m high. A 25 m long ditch, with a boulder retaining/support wall, was located parallel to the refinery and destroyed the continuity of the site's Byzantine plan. The western half of the ditch was filled with fine ash that contained a large amount of sugar pots. A passageway through the boulder wall into the ditch led to two staircases that were built against the refinery wall and which descended down to bedrock.

The Mamluk and Ottoman Periods. The Mamluk remains were rather poor, mainly represented by a fragmentary building directly above the Byzantine structure in the east and a thin plaster floor that was not associated with any structure and was 100 m to the west. Ottoman-period remains were scattered throughout the excavated area, being very prominent in the east, where a paved street and adjoining structures were revealed. Immediately to the west were the remains of a large structure paved with large slabs. The area directly outside the entrance to the building and extending the width of the threshold was paved with large slabs as well. Similarly paved areas were excavated c. 70 m further west.

A large kiln, probably a limekiln (diam. 3.5–4.0 m; height 1.5–2.0 m) destroyed the Byzantine ashlar courtyard, referred to previously. An eastern entrance led into and out of the kiln at its base. Ottoman-period construction superimposed part of the kiln's western wall. A substantial portion of the area was utilized for the production of charcoal, probably beginning in the Ottoman period.

The excavated area was first occupied in the Hellenistic period, extending through to the 20th century. Its location on the edge of the settlement that is situated slightly to the north defined its function as an industrial zone. It produced oil and wine in the Byzantine period, sugar and crafts in the Early Islamic period; it served for sugar refining in the Crusader period and for lime and charcoal production in the Ottoman period. The very near proximity to water sources was instrumental in determining the location of the industrial facilities to the south of the settlement.



1. Cancelled oil press, integrated into floor; adjacent tabun in background; in lower right-hand corner, intrusive staircase, looking west.

Elqosh*
Archive Report

Eliot Braun

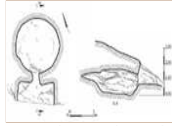
9/6/2004

During an inspection of the area that was slated for development in the moshav (A-1149*; map ref. NIG 2305-6/7709-10; OIG 1805-6/2709-10), no ancient remains or finds were discovered, when the ruins of the Arab village (located there until 1948) were removed by mechanical equipment. In part of the area ruins were cleared down to bedrock. This is apparently not an antiquities site.

En-Nabi Yaqin

Ibrahim Srukh and Yuval Peleg

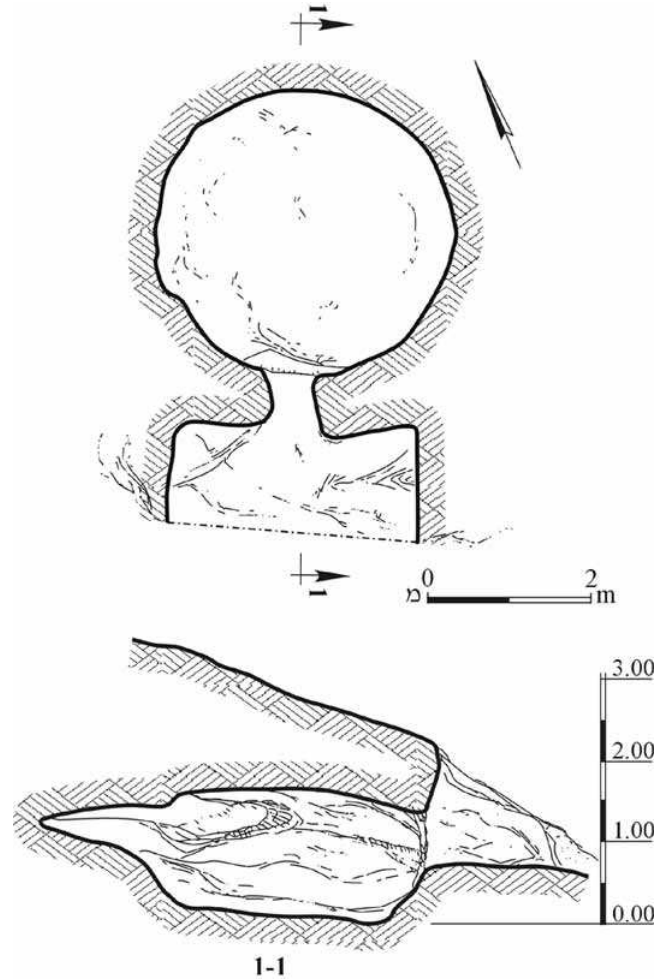
9/7/2004



1. Burial cave, plan and section.

During November 1998 a salvage excavation was conducted in a hewn burial cave south of En-Nabi Yaqin (L-830; map ref. NIG 2148/6007; OIG 1648/1007; The Survey in Judea, Site 163, In: *Judaea, Samaria and the Golan – Archaeological Survey 1967-1968, 1972*), prior to paving a road. The excavation, on behalf of the Archaeological Staff Officer of Judea and Samaria, was directed by Y. Peleg and I. Srukh, assisted by M. Kahan (surveying and drafting).

The cave (Fig. 1) consisted of a small antechamber (1.45 × 3.05 m) with an entrance (0.65 × 0.70 m) in its northern wall that accessed a circular burial chamber (diam. 3.5 m, height 1.55 m), which had a flat ceiling and floor. Cooking pot fragments from the Byzantine period were the sole find in the cave, which was probably related to the large settlement at Khirbat Bani Dar, located c. 300 m to the southwest. This site yielded finds from the Iron Age, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods, as well as the Middle Ages (The Survey in Judea, Site 162, In: *Judaea, Samaria and the Golan – Archaeological Survey 1967-1968, 1972*). The cave may have been hewn in the Iron Age and reused during the Byzantine period.



1-1
1. Burial cave, plan and section.

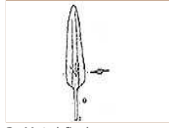
Enot Shuni

Amir Gorzalczany

12/5/2004



1. Plan and section.



2. Metal finds.

Toward the end of August and beginning of September 2001 a trial excavation was conducted within the 'Stone and Lime Quarry-Binyamina' located at the site of 'Enot Shuni (A-3488; map ref. NIG 19485/71531; OIG 14485/21531). The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by A. Gorzalczany, with the assistance of S. Ya'akov-Jam (administration), A. Hajian (surveying), N. Zak (drafting), C. Amit (field photography), T. Sagiv (studio photography), H. Khalaily (flint tools), E. Altmark (metallurgical laboratory), M. Ben-Gal (pottery restoration), M. Shuiskaya-Arnov (drawing), H.K. Miens (archaeomolluscology), and also E. Yannai, T. Horowitz and S. Golan. The 'Stone and Lime' Company rendered considerable assistance.

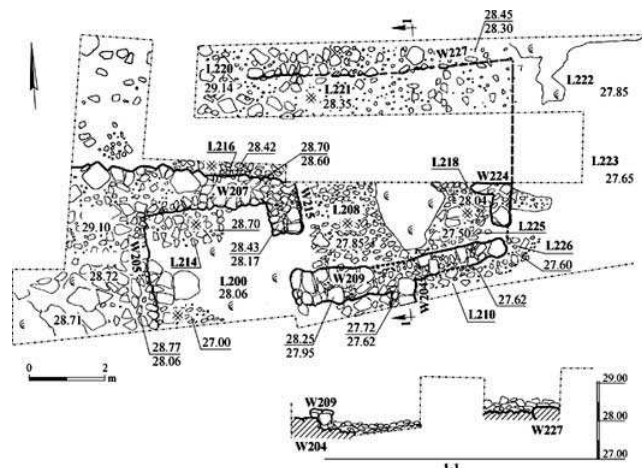
The site was discovered in a survey conducted by M. Peilstöcker in July 2001 inside the quarry, due to damage caused to ancient tombs during the course of mining. Several dozens of Middle Bronze Age shaft tombs, as well as installations from the Byzantine period, were recorded in the survey. The site is located on the southern boundary of the quarry, c. 30 m above sea level. The indigenous rock is gray dolomite from the upper element of the Deir Hana Formation. Building remains from the Middle Bronze IIA period that were founded on bedrock terraces, descending to the east, were excavated.

Two MB IIA architectural phases, which were located below strata that yielded mixed ceramic finds, mostly from the Byzantine period and some from the Persian period, as well as tesserae, were discerned. Two rooms (Loci 200, 208; Fig. 1) were ascribed to the later building phase. The walls of Room 200 (W205, W207; average width 0.7 m) were built of two rows of coarsely dressed, medium-sized dolomite stones and were preserved two–three courses high. Two floors abutted W207, one from the south (L214) and the other from the north (L216). Both floors consisted of flat stones and various-sized river pebbles, placed on a soil fill (thickness 0.2–0.3 m) that was deposited atop the smoothed bedrock. A well-preserved bronze needle (Fig. 2:2) was found on Floor 214. Floor 216 yielded a basalt pestle, flint industrial remains and the body fragments of jars from MB IIA. The walls of Room 208 (W209, W215, W224) were constructed from two rows of coarsely dressed stones and were preserved one–two courses high. A doorway (width 1.1 m) was installed in W215. Stones were removed from Walls 209 and 224 in antiquity, probably for secondary use. A floor (L218) was detected in Room 208, similar to Floor 214 in Room 200. Domestic pottery vessels, *in situ*, were on Floor 218; some were restorable, including jars, cooking pots and bowls, dating from the beginning of MB IIA (2000–1900 BCE; the beginning of the XII Egyptian dynasty). The importance of the finds lies in the fact that they were recovered from an occupation level, unlike the more frequent mortuary contexts in other contemporary sites. Around and within Room 208 were flint implements, mainly retouched blades and flakes, a knife and chisel, and also flint-tool industrial remains that included blade cores, flakes and debris. It is quite possible that some of the production debris from the small flint implements originated from a nearby prehistoric site that has not yet been located. Several shells (*Glycymeris violascens*) that were perforated in their upper part by man or as a result of natural wear were lying on the floor of the building's later phase. They were probably used as pendants or other ornaments, as was the case in numerous sites from the Middle Bronze Age in the country, such as nearby Tel Mevorakh.

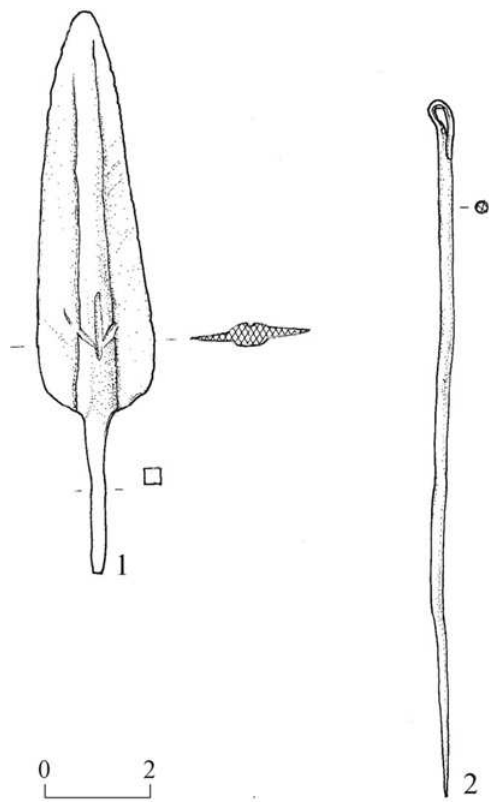
South of W209 and at a lower level was another wall (W204) that was ascribed to the early phase of the building. Wall 204 was built of coarsely dressed stones. A beaten-earth floor (L210) with a few flat wadi pebbles abutted W204 on the east. An oil lamp and a bronze spearhead (Fig. 2:1) that were excellently preserved overlaid Floor 210. In the southwestern part of Room 200, another floor, similar to Floor 210, was discerned at a lower level than the stone floor from the later period. Wall 204 and the floor that was associated with it seem to have belonged to a building that was mostly located outside the boundaries of the excavation. The finds above Floor 210 dated to MB IIA and therefore, it seems that an extremely short period of time had elapsed between the two building phases at the site.

A probe dug in the north of the excavation area revealed the continuation of the floor (L221) that was attributed to the later phase of the building. A jar, most likely intended for storage, was recessed into the floor and upon it were numerous pounding implements, including basalt pestles and grinding stones. A wall (W227) enclosed the floor to the north. Rock-cuttings (Loci 222, 223) of unclear function were observed on bedrock, east of Floor 221.

The remains uncovered in the excavation seem to be part of a habitation site from the beginning of MB IIA. The domestic nature of the finds on the floors of the building, including a storage vessel, grinding tools and a sewing implement, reinforce this assumption. It is quite possible that the site exposed here was part of the agricultural hinterland that served the large settlements in the region, Tel Burga and Tel Mevorakh. It is close to Nahal Tanninim and 'Enot Shuni, which were perennial sources of water. An understanding of the site and its finds may contribute to the study of the population and settlement patterns at the beginning of the Middle Bronze Age.



1. Plan and section.



2. Metal finds.

Es-Sarafand*
Archive Report

Eliran Oren

9/7/2004

A trial excavation (A-3310*; map ref. NIG 1944/7286; OIG 1444/2286) conducted after an underground cave was breached by mechanical equipment established that the cave was natural and contained no ancient remains. An accumulation of soil in the section that was created above the cave yielded mixed pottery fragments, dating to the Late Roman period and mainly to the Byzantine period. The ceramic finds were either swept here or have derived from a fill that was spilled here during a former excavation close by, or while paving the nearby road.

Gesher 2003

Susan L. Cohen

12/5/2004

The 2003 season at Gesher (G-29/03; map ref. NIG 252/723; OIG 202/223) was carried out during June–July 2003. The excavation, on behalf of Montana State University, with the cooperation of the Israel Exploration Society, was directed by Susan L. Cohen, assisted by J. Rosenberg (surveying), as well as J.L. Baker, W. Wieckowski, D. Phelps, E. Steinbach, T. Estrup, M. Gauginin, L. Anderson and E. Christensen.

Four burials (Fig. 1) and their associated grave goods were uncovered, including a total of 17 complete or partial vessels, and two bronze spearheads, all of which are typologically consistent with the ceramic repertoire of early MB IIA phases.

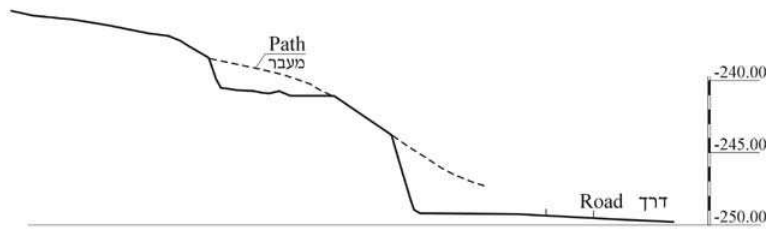
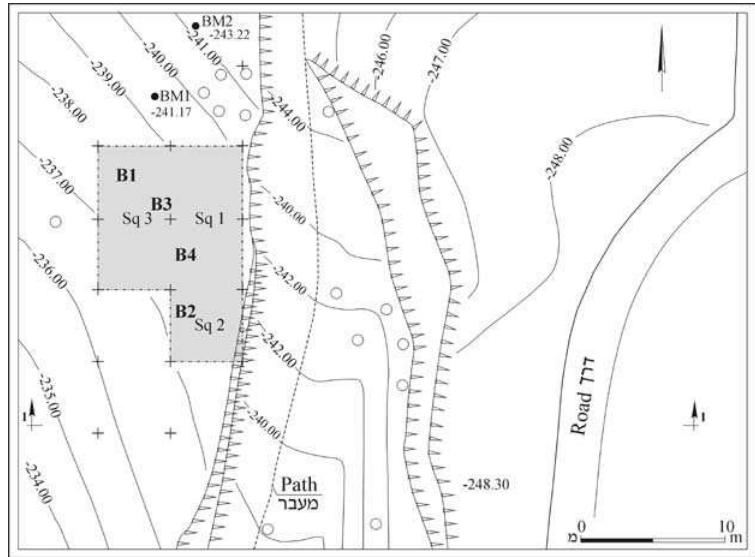
Burial 1 was located in Sq 3; its discovery followed the removal of topsoil and the fill layer beneath. This burial was very poorly preserved and most probably was in a secondary deposition, because of movement down the hill due to erosion. Fragments of the cranium and several of the long bones were present; some bones were articulated, but the skeleton was incomplete. A large one-handled jar with a trefoil mouth was uncovered at least 10 cm above this burial and is presumed to be associated with it. A small carinated bowl to the east of the cranium remains and a small handleless store jar with a triangular rim, which was at the same level as the cranium pieces and long bones, were also attributed to this burial. The store jar was revealed only after the majority of the skeletal material was excavated.

Burial 2 was located in the northwestern corner of Sq 2. Two large fieldstones oriented east–west were on the north of the burial and may have marked the initial tomb; no pit or shaft lines were discerned in the fill matrix. A broken juglet was located in the erosion to the north of the burial, which contained a female interment in a flexed position, with the head to the southeast, facing east. A large store jar was near the feet, though at a higher level than the skeleton. Remains of a second jar were also detected in this area at a higher level than the skeleton itself; the storage jars' association with the burial is not entirely certain. The arms of the interred were flexed in front of the body, over the chest and an intact carinated bowl was in front of them. The cranium was mostly intact, although badly preserved. A large platter bowl was turned on one side near the head of the interred. The bowl was broken and its fragments were close to one another, yet at different levels and often as far as 10–15 cm apart in location and in depth. Several fragments of red-painted pottery were excavated in association with Burial 2.

Burial 3 was set against the eastern balk of Sq 3. Like the former two, it was poorly preserved and traces of a pit or shaft were not discerned in the surrounding fill. The individual was flexed, with the head to the southeast and the face turning east. At the feet of the individual were two vessels, a store jar and a one-handled jug with painted decoration. Relative elevations and the placement of this burial indicate that a spearhead, found earlier during the excavation in Sq 1 on the south side of the stones, should be associated with this burial. It seems clear that the spearhead was originally located to the northeast of the cranium and should be considered part of the overall burial assemblage. A large, broken but whole, platter bowl was to the north of the stones, but no other ceramics or skeletal remains were found with it.

Burial 4 was located against the middle of the western balk in Sq 1. The interred was in a flexed position, with the head to the southeast, facing east. The skeletal remains in this burial were somewhat better preserved than in the other three; almost all of the cranium was still extant, including the facial bones, the maxilla and mandible, and most of the teeth. As with the other burials, however, the smaller bones of the hands and feet were missing, as well as most of the joints; only one patella survived. Due to the location of the individual against the western balk and its flexed position, parts of the spine and the lower limbs were in the balk and thus, unrecoverable. Four ceramic vessels and a second spearhead were associated with this burial. A large two-handled storage jar with a slightly everted and rounded rim was in front of the legs; the spearhead was near the base of the storage jar. A small bowl with a low carination angle was discovered c. 15 cm to the east of the jar and spearhead, also near the legs of the individual, next to a large, unworked basalt stone. A large platter bowl was lying near the chin of the interred, in front of the arms that were folded against the chest. This bowl yielded some very small fragments of animal bones, though no complete food offerings. The fourth vessel—a small hemispherical bowl—was placed to the east of the cranium's top.

The skeletal remains from these burials, as well as the pottery assemblage add to the available data from this period and confirm the dating of this cemetery to the early phases of the MB IIA period.

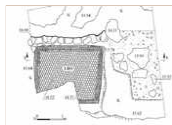


I-I
1. Plan and section.

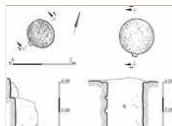
Haifa, The Muslim Cemetery*

Eiad 'Awawdy

2/6/2004



1. Installation, plan and section.



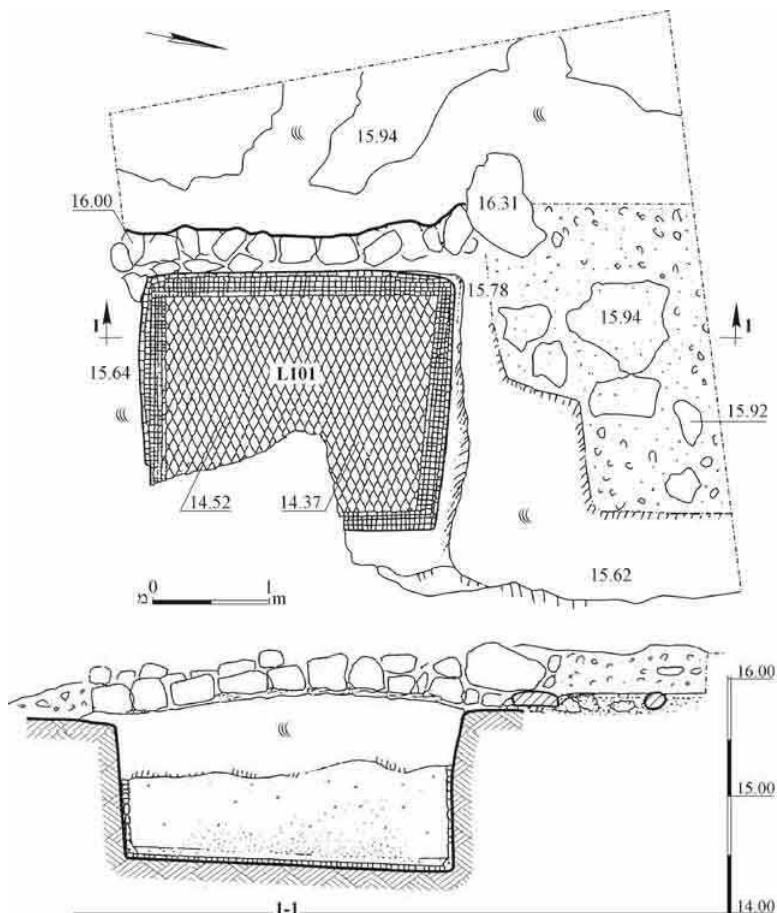
2. Two rock-cut shafts, plan and sections.

During November 1999 a trial excavation was conducted within the confines of the Muslim cemetery in Haifa (A- 3148*; map ref. NIG 20058-9/74638-43; OIG 15058-9/24638-43; *Map of Haifa - East [23]*, Site 4), following the discovery of ancient remains during development work. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority and funded by the Infrastructure Development Company, was directed by E. 'Awawdy, assisted by A. Hajjan (surveying), R. Graff (drafting) and S. Ya'akov-Jam (administration).

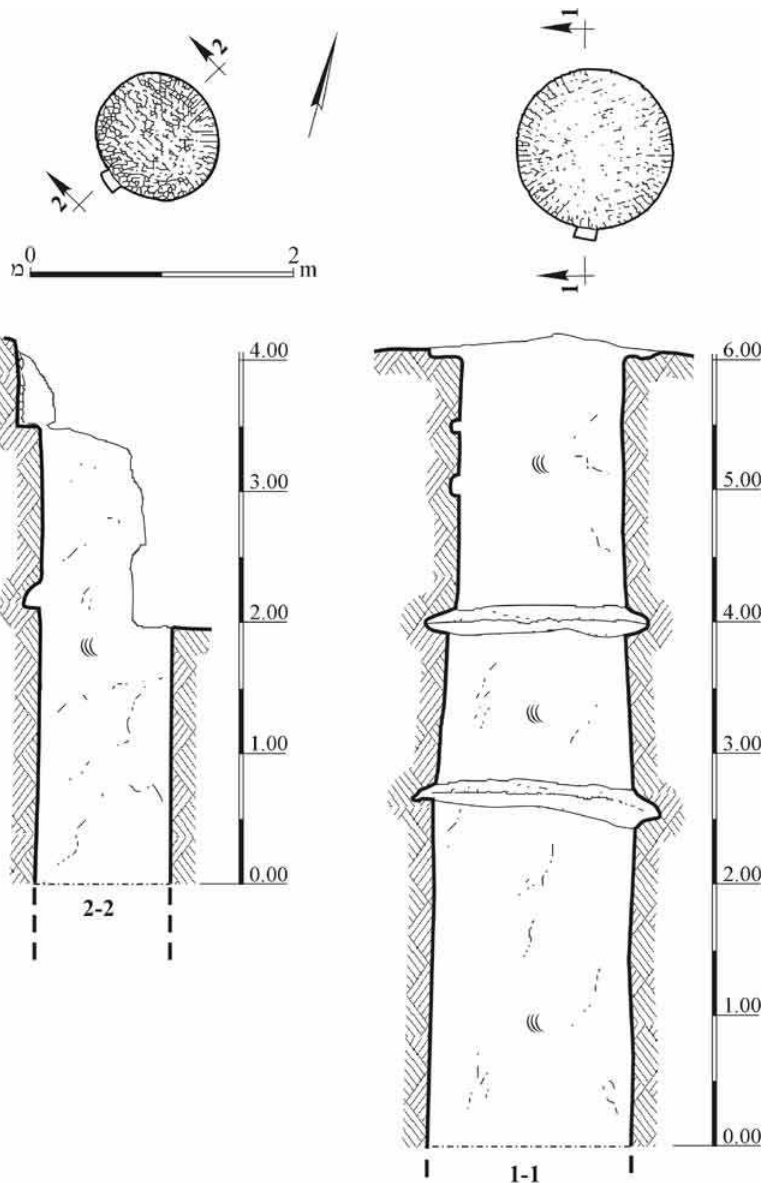
The excavation was carried out along the southern fringes of the cemetery. Part of a rock-cut installation, dating to the Byzantine period, and two circular and vertical bedrock-hewn shafts, 70 m to its east were exposed. These remains may be part of an industrial or agricultural area, whose boundaries have not yet been defined.

The installation (Fig. 1) was 0.1 m below surface. It consisted of a vat (L101; 2.2 × 2.6 m, depth c. 1.4 m), whose walls were lined with plaster mixed with pottery fragments from the Byzantine period; its floor, which sloped northward, was paved with an industrial mosaic. Several ribbed jar fragments from the Byzantine period were discovered in the installation, which was probably used for collecting liquids. Its eastern part was damaged in the past and modern building remains were located to its north.

The two shafts were c. 5 m apart (Fig. 2). They were only partially excavated out of fear they might collapse. The southern shaft (diam. c. 1.2 m, exposed depth c. 6 m) slightly widened toward the bottom. Several hewn recesses in its wall served as footholds for climbing in and out. The northern shaft was much narrower (diam. 0.9 m, exposed depth 3.5 m) and had a single hewn foothold in its wall. Modern finds were recovered from the shafts, which were probably entrances to water cisterns.



1. Installation, plan and section.



2. Two rock-cut shafts, plan and sections.

Haifa, The Muslim Cemetery*

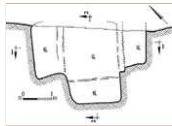
Abdallah Masarwa

7/6/2004

During July 2000 a trial excavation was conducted in the Muslim cemetery in Haifa (A-3247*; map ref. NIG 20054-6/74641-4; OIG 15054-6/24641-4), following damage to antiquities caused by digging a sewage trench. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by A. Masarwa, assisted by V. Pirsky (surveying), E. Belashov (drafting) and Y. Nagar (physical anthropology).



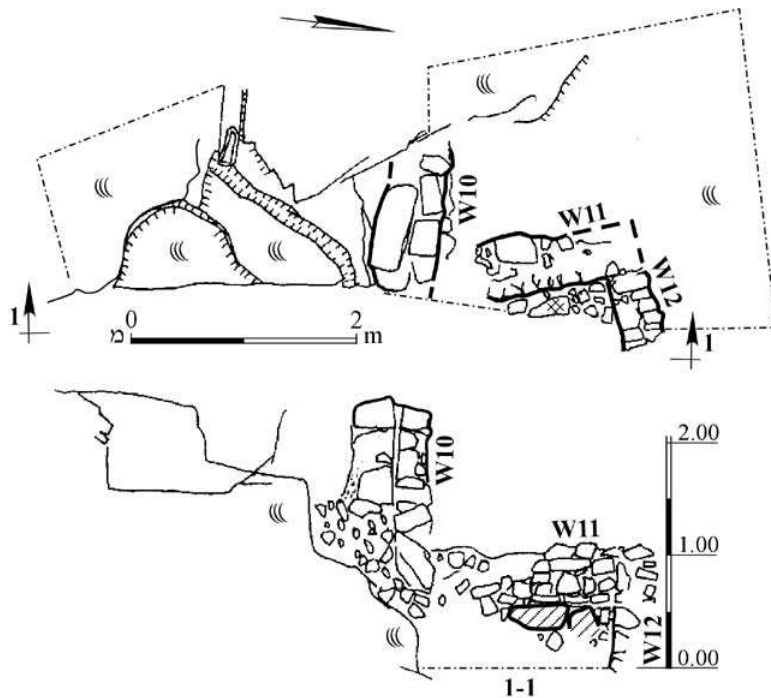
1. Area A, plan and section.



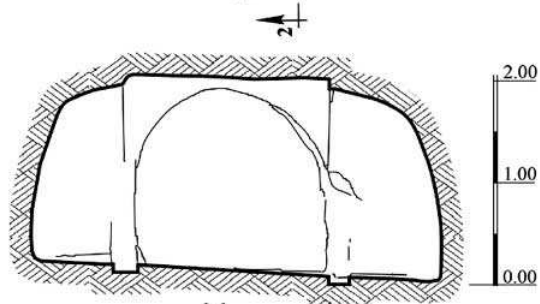
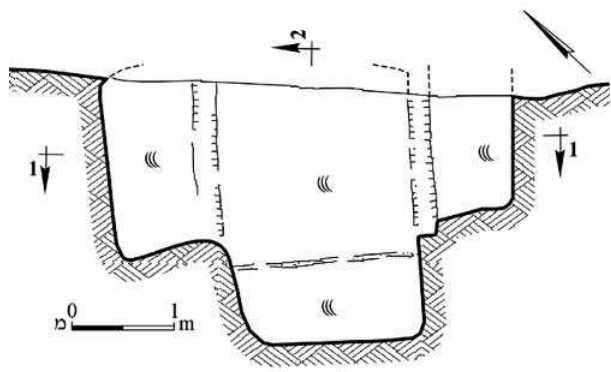
2. Area B, plan.

Two areas, 2.5 m apart, were excavated. Area A (3 × 5 m; Fig. 1) consisted of two perpendicular walls (W11, W12) built of fieldstones and bonding material, which belonged to a cist grave that was destroyed by the trench digging. A building wall (W10) was exposed to the south of Walls 11 and 12, and further to the south was a modern sewage installation. The excavation reached bedrock, revealing only faunal remains.

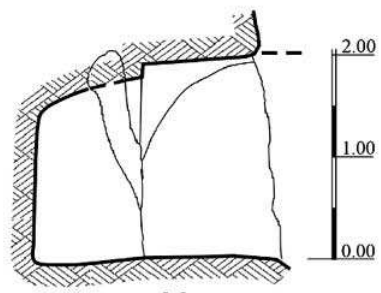
A burial cave discovered in Area B (Fig. 2), south of Area A, was severely damaged by the trench digging. The cave had three burial benches and yielded scant finds, including body fragments of Byzantine, Mamluk and modern pottery vessels, as well as animal bones and modern debris. It seems the cave was plundered in antiquity.



1. Area A, plan and section.



1-1



2-2

2. Area B, plan.

Har Gillo (West)

Yuval Peleg and Yaron Feller

9/6/2004



1. Building 1 and a winepress, plan and sections.

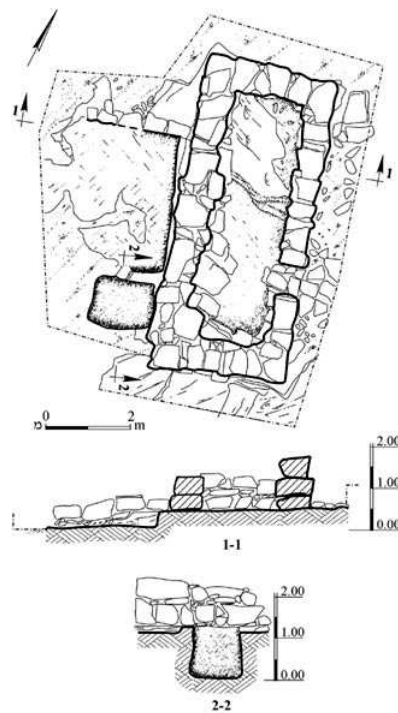
A salvage excavation was conducted in May 1998 west of Har Gillo (L-802*; map ref. NIG 21575/62575; OIG 16575/12575), prior to the settlement's expansion. The excavation, on behalf of the Archaeological Staff Officer of Judea and Samaria, was directed by Y. Peleg, assisted by Y. Feller and A. Al-'Aza, M. Kahan and P. Portnov (surveying and drafting) and S. Ammami (photography).

The remains of two buildings (1, 2), one of which was next to a rock-cut winepress, were exposed on a gentle spur that descended westward. Meager ceramic finds from Iron Age III were discovered in the excavation, implying that the buildings and winepress should apparently be dated to this period. Several pottery fragments from the Early Islamic period were found as well, indicating activity at the site during this time.

Building 1 (Fig. 1). A rectangular building (3.3 × 7.6 m) that consisted of a single room, whose entrance (width 0.8 m) was in the eastern wall. The walls (width 0.7 m) were founded on bedrock and were built of medium-sized fieldstones; they were preserved to a maximum of three courses high (1.35 m). The bedrock served as the floor in the northwestern part of the room, whereas elsewhere in the room the floor was composed of small fieldstones, covered with beaten earth.

The winepress was hewn just to the west of the building. It consisted of a square treading surface (2.70 × 3.38 m, depth 0.17 m) and a rectangular collecting vat (1.16 × 1.45 m, depth 1.21 m) to the south. The treading surface was enclosed with a wall (width 0.5 m) on the northwest, which was built of medium-sized fieldstones and preserved three courses high (0.74 m).

Building 2 was c. 50 m north of Building 1 and poorly preserved. The northern wall and small sections of the building's eastern and southern walls had survived (2.2 × 3.2 m). The walls were constructed from medium-sized fieldstones and preserved two courses high (0.75 m). The floor partially utilized bedrock and in part, was composed of fieldstones, overlain with beaten earth.



1. Building 1 and a winepress, plan and sections.

Horbat Harish*
Archive Report

Galit Birman

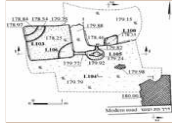
9/6/2004

During a trial excavation (A-3325*; map ref. NIG 1972-4/6724-7; OIG 1472-4/1724-7) on the Horshim by-pass road (Highway 5233), a U-shaped quarry (1.80 × 2.35 m, depth 0.8 m) was exposed in the *nari* bedrock, void of ceramic or other ancient finds.

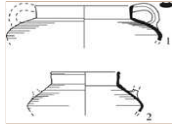
Horbat Kosit*

Abdallah Masarwa

7/6/2004



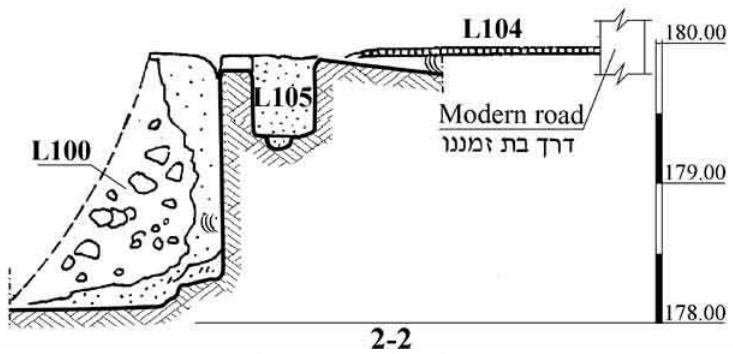
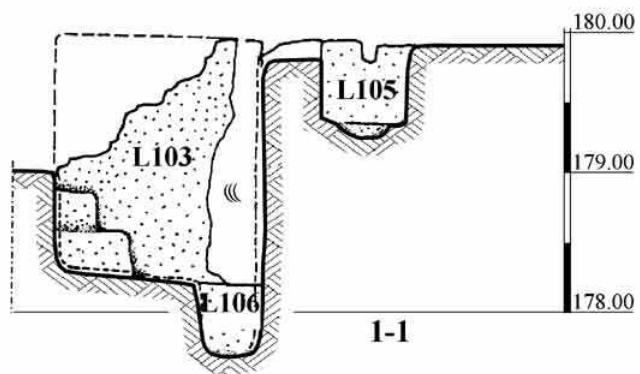
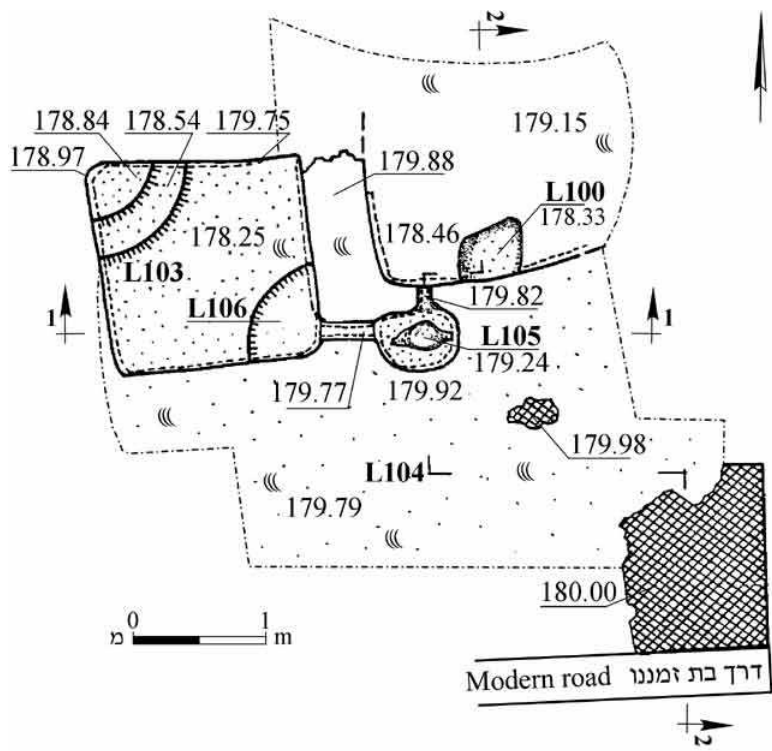
1. Rock-cut winepress, plan and sections.



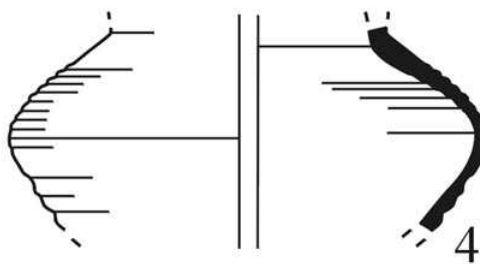
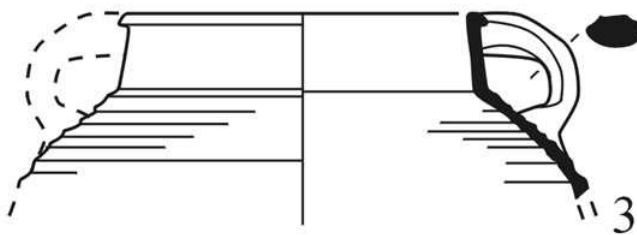
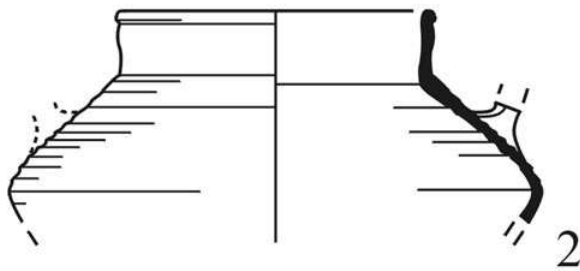
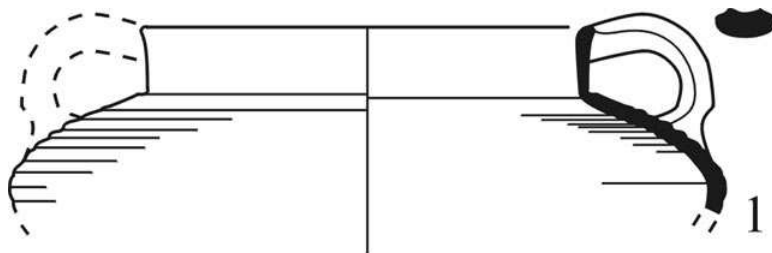
2. Pottery.

A winepress from the Byzantine period, hewn in the soft chalk bedrock (Fig. 1), was exposed. The winepress consisted of a treading surface (L104) that had a circular settling pit (L105) in its northern end. Two channels, which enclosed ceramic pipes, led from the settling pit to two collecting vats (L100, L103). The treading surface (2.5 × 4.0 m) was paved with industrial mosaic that was partially preserved; in most of the area only the bedding for the mosaic floor had survived. The surface extended southward, below a modern dirt road and beyond the limits of the excavation. The settling pit (diam. 0.6 m, depth 0.65 m) served to drain off the must that flowed to the two collecting vats. The eastern collecting vat (L100; depth 1.8 m) was severely damaged when the pit for the electric pole was dug and only its southern wall was preserved; it was coated with plaster mixed with Byzantine potsherds. The western collecting vat (L103; 1.5 × 1.6 m, depth 1.8 m) was only slightly damaged by the pit; its walls were coated with plaster similar to the one in Vat 100. A settling pit (L106; diam. 0.48 m, depth 0.5 m) was cut into its southeastern corner and two circular steps were hewn in its northwestern corner.

A meager amount of ceramics was recovered from the winepress, including body sherds of jars and fragments of cooking pots (Fig. 2:1–4) from the Byzantine period (the 4th century CE), as well as non-diagnostic body fragments of glass vessels and animal bones.



1. Rock-cut winepress, plan and sections.



0 10
2. Pottery.

Horbat Ma'on

Gregory Seriy and Pirhiya Nahshoni

31/5/2004

From October 1998 to February 1999 an excavation was conducted at Horbat Ma'on (A-2953, A-2993; map ref. NIG 14307-26/51886-98; OIG 09307-26/08186-98) as part of a project to provide work for the unemployed. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by P. Nahshoni and G. Seriy, with the assistance of H. Lavi (administration), A. Hajian (surveying), S. Lavi (pottery restoration), A. Dodin (drawing of finds), R. Vinitzky (metallurgical laboratory) and S. Tallis (data processing).

The excavation area was c. 700 m west of the ancient synagogue remains at Horbat Ma'on. Three excavation areas (A-C) were opened, consisting of 26 squares in Area A, 8 squares in Area B and 4 squares in Area C. Building remains from the Byzantine, Early Islamic, Middle Ages and Mamluk periods were discovered. Remains of a refuse pit from the Persian period were found in Area C. Each area was disturbed by the burrowing of porcupines and other small rodents.

Area A

The Early Byzantine Period (4th-5th centuries CE). Segments of a mud-brick wall (width 0.8 m) and earthen floors that were overlaid with pottery fragments were exposed; these may have been the remains of a private building.

The Late Byzantine Period (6th-7th centuries CE). A well-planned complex of large mud-brick buildings (wall width 0.8-1.0 m), which appear to have been public buildings, was unearthed. Dressed stones were incorporated in the construction of the complex, in several places, mainly in the pillars and as a facade for the mud-brick walls. The complex consisted of at least two buildings that flanked a street, as well as other architectural remains. Seven large rooms were uncovered in the eastern building. One of the rooms had a massive mud-brick built cell that was filled with mud-brick fragments. On the floors of another room were fragments of glass and pottery vessels, among them Coptic vessels, and a goblet decorated with a stamped pattern of herringbone impressions. In still another room was part of the lower part of an installation (preserved size 1.0 × 1.8 m), built of small stones and coated with white plaster; its function is unclear. The western building, which was devastated by a mighty conflagration, consisted of five large rooms. Gaza jars stood upside down along a wall, on the floor of one of the rooms. Next to them were plaster stoppers, bearing the molded relief of a lion and a cross. The street passing between the two buildings contained very large quantities of potsherds, probably refuse discarded from the buildings. A water cistern was located south of the western building. A ceramic bread stamp, bearing a cross, and a Greek inscription that was found hidden inside a grind stone in secondary use, overlaid the floor of a room in the western part of the complex.

The Early Islamic Period. A lamp dating to the 8th century CE was discovered above remains of a stone floor. A plastered water cistern built of ashlar stones was excavated, as well as stone-building remains and plaster atop a wall from the Byzantine period.

The Middle Ages and Mamluk Period. The scant remains of five stone buildings were detected, including beaten earth and stone floors. Some of the walls were built of two rows of stones with a core of mud and rubble, whereas the others consisted of a single row of stones; they may have been used as animal pens. Many *tabun* remains and ash were uncovered in the buildings, as well as large refuse pits; a dog was buried in one of the pits. Fragments of pottery vessels and animal bones overlaid the floors and were found in the refuse pits. The earlier building remains were reused in these periods, as was the water cistern from the Late Byzantine period. In a later phase the refuse pits were filled in, and buildings were constructed above them.

Area B

The Byzantine Period. Part of a building, whose walls were built of mud bricks, was exposed. Mud was applied to the walls (width 0.6 m) as a base for pottery fragments that covered them. The walls were preserved 0.2-0.5 m high. Prior to the construction of the building, the area was leveled down with pottery-workshop debris that was used to fill in the depressions in the ground. Two phases, consisting of raising floor levels and adding walls, were discerned in the building, wherein two rooms and part of a third were excavated. Numerous pottery fragments overlaid the floors of the rooms. One of the rooms contained many intact Gaza jars that had fallen on the floor. Two floors, one above the other, were recorded in another room; the upper floor was c. 0.3 m higher than the lower one. Remains of a wall that was abutted by a floor, which negated the use of an earlier floor were detected in the western side of the building.

The Mamluk Period. Refuse pits that were dug into the building from the Byzantine period were revealed.

Area C

The Persian Period (5th century BCE). Meager remains of a refuse pit and ceramic finds were recorded.

The Byzantine Period. A mud-brick wall oriented north-south was exposed. Judging by the similarity of its orientation to that of the buildings from the same period in Area A it probably dated to the 6th-7th centuries CE. A massive stone wall that was preserved to the height of its foundation courses severed the mud-brick wall; the impressions of ashlar stones were noted on the mortar of the upper course. A surface stone floor abutted the stone wall. Later building remains were traced on the floor. This floor resembled that of the church at Magen, c. 4 km southeast of Ma'on (BASOR 258:1-16); a church was probably built here as well in a later phase of the Byzantine period. Robber trenches intended for locating ashlar stones contained an abundance of marble fragments, roof tiles and colored tesserae.

The Early Islamic Period. Parts of the building from the Byzantine period were reused in this period, based on the metal objects and lamps that were retrieved from pits in the western part of the building.

The Mamluk Period. A refuse pit existed in the eastern part of the area.

Horbat Massah

Danny Syon

12/5/2004



1. Plan.



2. The large crushing basin of an oil press in Room 103, looking north.



3. Room 306, looking north.



4. Limestone columnette decorated with a cross.

During June–July 1997 a salvage excavation was conducted at Horbat Massah, next to the Kefar Tabor cemetery (A-2682; Khirbat Mas-ha; map ref. NIG 2403/7326; OIG 1903/2326), after antiquities were damaged when the Meqorot Water Company installed a water pipe. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by D. Syon, with the assistance of Y. Alexandre (field supervision), Y. Ya'aqobi (administration), V. Pirsky (surveying and drafting), L. Porat (pottery restoration), H. Tahan (drawing), E. Altmark (metallurgical laboratory), H. Smithline (small finds photography), N. Getzov (reading Chalcolithic pottery and identifying flint implements) and E.J. Stern (reading Medieval pottery).

Part of a large, well-constructed building (Fig. 1) that consisted of at least seven rooms (Loci 103, 104, 110–113, 306, 307) and two smaller rooms (Loci 307, 315) that adjoined it on the east, which may have served as auxiliary or storerooms, was exposed below a heavy layer of alluvium. The building was erected during the Byzantine period and appears to have been modified in the Crusader or Mamluk periods. A large amount of ceramic finds, dating to the Early Islamic period was discovered in the excavation. Finds from the Chalcolithic period were recovered from the lowest strata.

The building's floors, wall foundations and some of the entrances were preserved. The walls, in as far as it was possible to reconstruct them, were built of basalt foundation courses, while the upper structure was of limestone. The floors in some of the rooms were paved with limestone slabs and in others, with basalt slabs; both kinds of pavement were in Room 306. The building was extremely well constructed, especially the corners and doorjamb, which consisted mainly of ashlar masonry. Judging by the short pillars that were positioned next to some of the building's walls (Loci 103, 112, 113, 306) and the large number of fallen voussoirs in Room 104, it seems that arches were used to partition some of the rooms into smaller spaces. An olive press equipped with a large crushing basin (Fig. 2) was discerned in the western Room 103; it lacked other elements that are usually associated with olive presses. The floor of the olive press was primarily beaten earth; it was some 0.45 m lower than the stone floors in the other rooms. In the northeastern corner of Room 103 was a small segment of a stone pavement (L117), delineated by a low stone wall. This space was probably used for storing the olives before they were crushed. The threshold of the entrance that connected Rooms 103 and 104, to its east, was as much as 0.75 m higher than the floor of the olive press. Poor partitions, using a single stone course that was set atop the slab paving, were uncovered in Room 104. An installation in Room 112 was composed of three standing stones arranged in a U-shape. A stone-circled hearth (Fig. 3) in Room 306 was placed on the stone pavement. The partitions, installation and hearth were attributed to the building's later phase.

A small trial pit (L311; Fig. 3) was excavated below the stone pavement in the center of Room 306, revealing two plaster floors, c. 0.1 m above each other. The floors were only partially preserved and it was impossible to separate the finds above and below them. Owing to time constraints no similar probes were conducted in the other rooms.

Rooms 307 and 315, next to the eastern side of the structure, were built of fieldstones and had beaten-earth floors; their entrances were not traced. They contained many large tesserae that were apparently swept away from the floor of an industrial installation. While removing the excavation debris to the east of the excavated area, a mosaic floor that comprised similar tesserae was uncovered by chance, at an elevation that was some 2 m higher than the floor of the building.

Few potsherds were discovered in the excavation and most of them could not be clearly attributed to phases when the building was in use. The deeper levels of Room 307 and the trial pit (L311) revealed fragments of pottery vessels and several flint implements from the Chalcolithic period, along with a large quantity of flint cores and flakes that probably attest to the production of implements during this period. A few pottery fragments dating to the Byzantine, Crusader and Mamluk periods and many others dating to the Early Islamic period were retrieved from the surface down to the elevation of the floors, inside the rooms and east of the building (L305). Two complete vessels from the excavation were a carinated bowl from the 12th century CE that was found in the olive press, at the bottom level of the crushing basin, and a buff-ware type juglet from the Abbasid period (750 CE and onward) that came from the northern entrance of Room 306. Pottery fragments, mainly from the Early Islamic period (until the 10th century) were found in the trial pit (L311).

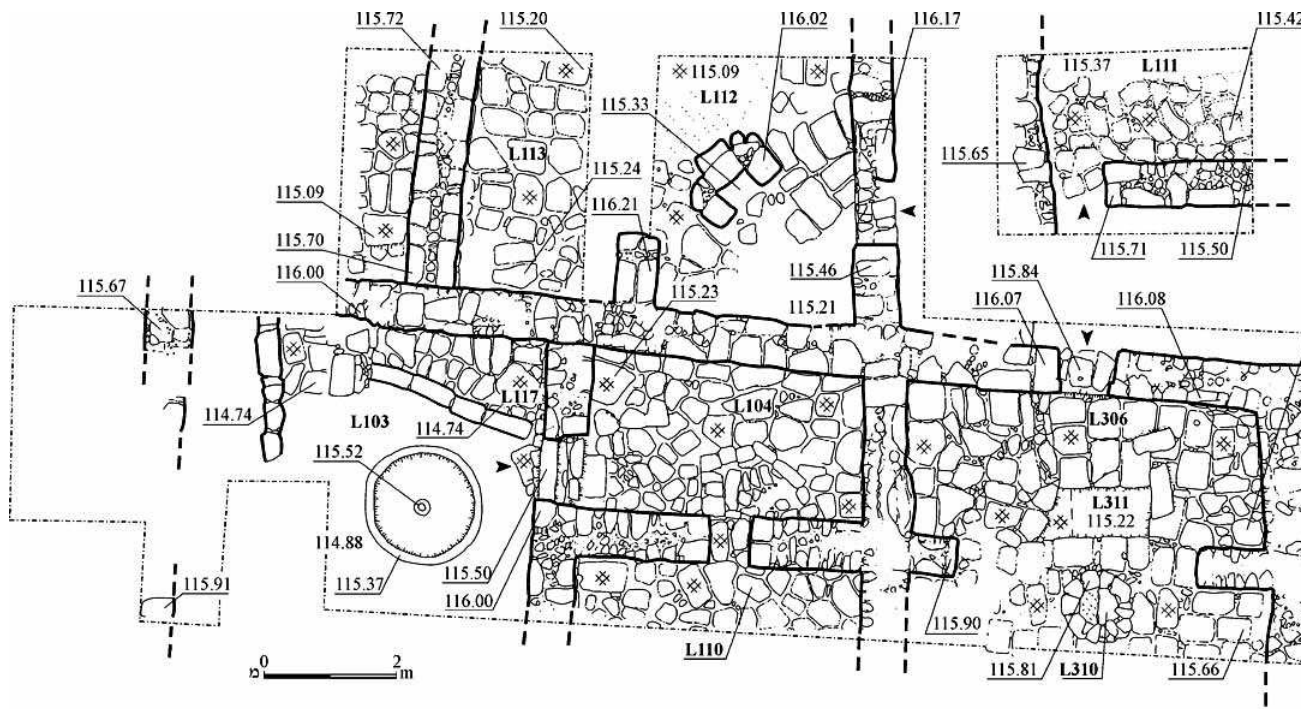
Fragments of glass vessels from the excavation included several fragments from the Byzantine period, among them wineglass stems, as well as lamp stems, several of which are dated to the Early Islamic period.

Four coins were discovered in the excavation, three of which were identified; the first the reign of Ptolemy II (275–246 BCE; IAA 102520), the second from the reign of Constans II (655 CE; IAA 102521) and the third from the time of Salah al-Din (1174–1193 CE; IAA 102522). The Ptolemaic coin was probably swept into the excavation area from elsewhere.

Other small finds included a limestone colonnette fragment with a carved relief of a cross (Fig. 4), a marble slab fragment adorned with the remains of a decorative relief, a small bronze clasp for a box, engraved with a cross and an iron drill.

The artifacts from the Chalcolithic period indicate that the site was first occupied in this period. After a prolonged hiatus, the settlement was renewed in the Byzantine period. The colonnette and box clasp decorated with crosses and possibly the marble slab may imply that the building was first established as a monastery in the Byzantine period. The plan of the structure, including a row of well-built rooms, some of which have arches, and the olive press, are often indicative of monasteries. The glass lamp and cup stems are also rather frequent in assemblages of this kind. No assemblage dating unequivocally to the Byzantine period was exposed in the building, probably due to later activity.

The finds recovered from the excavation were mostly mixed and the sole chronological anchor that can be used to determine the phases during which the building was in use is the trial pit (L311) that was excavated below the stone pavement in Room 306. The latest find from this pit was a glazed bowl from the 9th–10th century CE. No Early Islamic building remains were detected, except perhaps for the plaster floors in the trial pit, but the many pottery fragments from this period are evidence for activity that took place at that time. The complete bowl from the olive press that is dated to the 12th century CE indicates that the phase of the major modifications to the building, including the laying of stone floors in the rooms and the raising of the threshold at the entrance between the olive press and Room 104, should be dated to the Crusader period. The scant ceramic finds from the Mamluk period may suggest that the building's last phase of use occurred at this time, to which the poor partitions in Room 104, the hearth in Room 306 and the installation in Room 112, are ascribed.



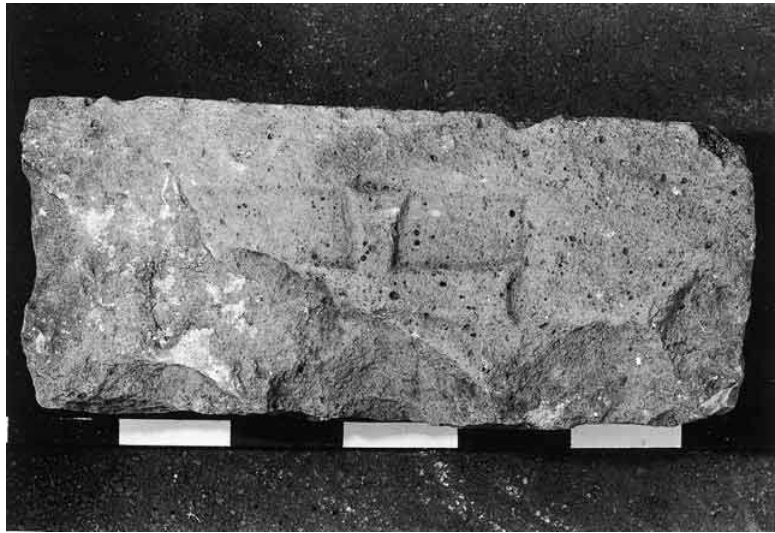
1. Plan.



2. The large crushing basin of an oil press in Room 103, looking north.



3. Room 306, looking north.



4. Limestone columnette decorated with a cross.

Horbat Menorim

Karen Covello-Paran

6/5/2004



1. General view of the excavation, looking southeast.

During April–May 2001 an excavation was conducted at Horbat Menorim (A-3400; map ref. NIG 2512/7401; OIG 2012/2401), prior to the placement of electrical lines. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority and financed by the Cellcom corporation, was directed by K. Covello-Paran, with the participation of Y. Ya'aqobi (administration), V. Essman and A. Hajian (surveying), H. Smithline (photography) and H. Tahan (drawing of finds).

Three excavation squares were opened, revealing three strata of architectural remains, dating to the Iron Age (St. I–II) and Early Bronze Age Ib (St. III). The Intermediate Bronze Age and Middle Bronze Age II were represented solely by pottery finds. Bedrock was reached in all of the excavated area.

Stratum III. This stratum was poorly preserved due to the building activities of St. II. A series of circular pillar bases and an accumulation directly above bedrock were associated with this stratum. The pottery finds were dated to EB IB and included 'grainwash' storage jars and rail-rim pithoi.

Stratum II. This was the best-preserved architectural stratum that consisted of a number of well-built architectural elements, stone collapse and accumulations (Fig. 1). Walls that were partly preserved to 1.1 m high and constructed directly above bedrock enclosed the northern room. In the eastern part of this room was an oval-shaped installation that had an internal partition; iron-blade fragments were found directly above bedrock inside the installation. The southern room had a smoothed stone floor, which served to level out the varying bedrock heights in this area.

Pottery finds were dated to Iron II and included ridged neck and short neck storage jars, triangular-rim cooking pots and Black on Red ware, as well as stone finds, such as basalt upper grinding-stone fragments.

Stratum I. Three walls, constructed from large local unworked basalt stones, were attributed to this stratum. These walls protruded above the modern surface and were, most likely, contemporary with additional standing walls all over the site; no associated floors were discovered with the walls. Considering that no post-Iron Age habitation has been found on the site, St. I was apparently a later phase within this period.



1. General view of the excavation, looking southeast.

Horbat Nashe*

Astrid Mettens

31/5/2004



2. Complex A, the early building, W24.



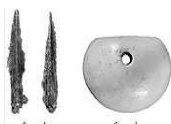
5. Complex A. The late building, W13; in right corner the vault and parallel walls of Unit C.



7. Stone vases and metal artifacts.



8. Unit C, general view, looking east.



10. Unit D. Bronze daggers and a limestone pommel.

During 1997 salvage excavations were conducted at Horbat Nashe (A-2667*; map ref. NIG 2002/6808; OIG 1502/1808) following severe damage to antiquities caused by the construction work along the Green Line. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by T. Keisar and A. Mettens, with the assistance of A. Hajian and V. Pirsky (surveying and drafting), T. Sagiv and S. Mendrea (photography), C. Amit (photography of coins), E. Altmark (metallurgical laboratory), M. Rappaport (find drawing), R. Kool (numismatics), R. Jackson-Tal (glass finds), and E. Yannai (pottery reading). E. Ayalon was the mentor and adviser during the fieldwork and beyond.

Horbat Nashe is located on the western foothills of Samaria, to the southeast of Kokhav Ya'ir. E. Ayalon surveyed the site in 1991, suggesting it extended over at least 40 dunams. Several other sites, mostly agricultural-industrial settlements, are known in the vicinity, such as Horbat Hanut, Khirbat Yaubak and Horbat Ra'ash; they all have a chronological span from the Iron Age to the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods.

The excavation was concentrated on the north-western side of the site; the western slope was cut by a bulldozer that created a 1.5 m difference in elevations. Part of a monumental building and sections of others, as well as additional architectural features were revealed (Fig. 1); yet, no complete building plan emerged due to the restricted excavated area.

Complex A (Late Roman and Byzantine periods)

The complex included two buildings, partially superimposed.

The Early Building. Two parallel walls, running east-west (W24, W27), belonged to this structure. The walls were founded on bedrock and consisted of smooth ashlars; some had marginal dressing. The walls were 0.76 m apart and were exposed to c. 1.75–1.80 m, creating a narrow corridor. The western side of both walls formed straight doorjambs over the upper courses; the lowest course continued westward at a height of 0.24 m above the plaster floor (L555), and served as a threshold for room entrances. Wall 24 comprised four courses of well-dressed stones, preserved 1.80 m high; only the upper two courses had marginal dressing and just one header survived in the upper course. The upper side of the stretcher below it had been partly cut out to better accommodate the stones (Fig. 2). Wall 27 had two ashlar courses without marginal dressing, preserved 1.10 m high. A similar building technique was recorded at the nearby sites of Zur Natan (2nd–4th centuries CE) and En Nabi Yamin (2nd century CE). The corridor was enclosed with W25 on the east, built of roughly dressed stones and coated with a gray plaster layer, which lined the lower courses of Walls 24 and 27 and the natural bedrock as well. The fill above the plaster floor (L555) contained mixed finds from the Late Roman–Byzantine and the Early Islamic periods (Figs. 3:8, 9, 13, 14; 4:6), which did not provide a sound date for the early building. Although a small section of the early structure was excavated, its elaborate construction indicates it may have been a monumental building.

The Late Building. Four massive walls (W13, W17, W18, W19; average width 1.65 m) formed a long and narrow room, whose entrance was not traced. The walls were partly built on bedrock and partly superposed the early building walls. They were constructed from large stones, dressed on their outer faces. The southern wall (W13; length 8 m; Fig. 5) was preserved to a maximum of 3 m high; its lower courses were reached only at the western end. Three of them were set into the hewn bedrock and consisted of rough ashlars with small stone fillings; the higher courses comprised well-cut flat ashlars. The northern wall (W18) was exposed in two segments, separated by an unexcavated balk (width 2 m). Only the lower courses of the western section (c. 3 m long) were preserved 1 m high and built into bedrock of large, roughly dressed stones of uneven size, and smaller stones in the gaps. The eastern side (c. 1.50 m long) was partially built above W24 (Fig. 1, section 4-4). The western wall (W17; exposed length c. 5.75 m; Fig. 1, section 3-3) continued northward, beyond the excavation limits. Its lower courses were set into bedrock and built of roughly hewn uneven stones, with small stones filling the spaces, and preserved 1 m high. Wall 19 in the east partly overlaid Walls 24, 25, and 27 and continued northward, beyond its corner with W18 and outside the excavation limits; its base was not detected. A plaster floor (L533; width 1.80 m) was discovered in the southwestern side of the building, above a 0.70 m high fill that was composed of large, various-sized boulders (L544; Fig. 6). The floor and fill yielded pottery fragments from the Late Roman and Byzantine periods (Fig. 3:3, 6, 7), as well as a basalt grinding bowl (Fig. 7:1). If the later building is assigned to the Byzantine period, the early building should be dated to the Late Roman period.

To the east of the building, beyond W19, part of a floor and small segments of two walls were revealed, extending eastward, beyond the excavation boundaries. Wall 21 (length c. 1.80 m) was one stone wide and two courses high. It was erected above a grayish-plastered floor (L539) that abutted W19 at its second course and could be dated to the Byzantine period. Wall 26 was one stone wide and three courses high; it had cut through the floor (L539) into the fill below it (L549), which contained pottery from Iron II and the Persian and Roman periods (Fig. 3:5, 10). The fill above Floor L539 yielded pottery from the Byzantine period together with a small number of Early Islamic potsherds. The proximity of these architectural features to the eastern limits of the excavation precluded any consideration of their association with Complex A.

Complex B (southern Byzantine building)

The northwestern part of another building was found c. 2 m south of complex A. The floors and bases of its walls, save Wall 11, were not reached. The building had two rooms; one (L504, L523; 3 × 3 m) contained stone collapse and debris, whereas the northwestern corner of the other (L505) was preserved. The northern wall (W11) continued eastward beyond the excavation limits and on the west, it formed a corner with W20, running south. Wall 11 stood four courses high; its base was detected at the outer face, which was founded on bedrock and consisted of smooth ashlars on its exterior; stones were left rough on its interior and small stones filled the spaces between the ashlars. The eastern wall (W10; length 3.5 m, width c. 0.6 m) that separated the two rooms was built of smaller stones than W11; its western face was uneven, its eastern face—smooth. Wall 10 formed a corner with the southern wall (W14; length 2.75 m; Fig. 1, section 2-2), which probably continued eastward.

The upper layer in Room L504 contained mixed finds (Byzantine and Early Islamic periods). A large number of Byzantine storage jar fragments were discovered in L523 (cf. Fig. 3:6–9), as well as a glass bowl fragment from the 3rd–4th centuries CE (Fig. 4:1) and a coin of the Byzantine emperor Justin I (Kool, below, No 4). Glass fragments were also recorded in Room L505 (Fig. 4:4, 5).

To the south of this building a fragmentary wall was exposed, but not excavated.

Unit C

The area between Complexes A and B included several features (Fig. 8):

1. A *tabun* (L531) was built against W11 and contained jar fragments from the Byzantine period.
2. Two parallel walls (W22, W23), running north–south, were c. 0.18 m apart; W23 was c. 0.5 m higher than W22. Both walls (width c. 0.8 m, length c. 2.0–2.2 m) were preserved two courses high (c. 0.75 m). They abutted W11 to the south and W13 to the north.
3. A stone-lined pit (L542; diam. c. 0.7 m) was excavated to the east and partially below W23. It was cut into bedrock and lined with stones; it was not plastered and contained no diagnostic finds, other than a small number of mixed potsherds (Iron Age, Persian and Roman-Byzantine periods; Fig. 3:1).

4. Two parallel long and flat stones, set on their narrow sides, were c. 0.45 m. higher than Pit 542 and to its northeast. They were probably segments of a drainage channel that originally may have connected to the pit, which would then be a drainage pit.

5. The southern wall of a vault and part of its ceiling were exposed at the eastern fringes of Unit C (L550; height 0.75 m, length 1.7 m). The vault was built against a wall or stone fill between itself and W13 to the north. It was filled to the top and only a probe was cut inside, bearing a few Byzantine-period potsherds. The vault was probably used for drainage through an opening in the ceiling that could be discerned in its eastern, unexcavated part. As the space between the vault and either the pit (L542) or W13 was filled with stones, it is assumed that the pit and vault were posterior to the northern Byzantine building (W13), and could probably be dated to the Early Islamic period.

6. To the south of the vault was a floor segment, yielding mixed pottery from Iron II, and the Roman and Early Islamic periods (Figs. 3:2, 4, 11, 15; 9:2-5).

Unit D

This unit was at the western, lower part of the excavation area and was badly damaged by the construction work. Most of the recovered pottery belonged to the Middle Bronze Age, Iron Age and Persian period, though no architectural elements relating to these periods were revealed. The scanty remains included a layer of small to medium-sized stones (L530) that superposed the soft chalk bedrock (L527) or a brown earth fill (L537) at some places. The fill contained mixed pottery fragments from the Middle Bronze Age, Iron Age and Persian period (Fig. 9:1, 6, 7). At the northern end of the area, inside a small rock-cut cavity, two bronze daggers and two stone pommels that usually appear in MB II tombs were found (Fig. 10). No other evidence for the existence of a tomb was noted, yet the daggers indicate that perhaps the remains attest to a collapsed burial cave that eventually was filled up with stones. Another architectural feature was the base of a wall (W15) that was built into bedrock and preserved three courses high (0.85 m). The fill to the east of the wall consisted of mixed pottery mainly from Iron Age II and the Persian period, as well as a few potsherds from the Byzantine period. The date of the wall is uncertain; it could have been constructed during the Byzantine period, cutting through earlier fills and strata.

Several stone implements and metal artifacts were recovered from the excavation, including a limestone bowl or cup with a hole (Fig. 7:2), a stone spindle whorl (Fig. 7:3), two kohl sticks, the broken one having double pellets at the top (Fig. 7:4, 5), a ring and a broken bracelet (Fig. 7:6, 7), as well as two different pieces from a chain, possibly for the suspension of lamps, or some other hanging device (Fig. 7:8, 9).

The earliest remains at the site date to MB II; the bronze daggers may attest to the presence of tombs or burial caves. The amount of utilitarian pottery from Iron Age II may imply that the site was inhabited during this period, although no architectural remains were related to the pottery. During the Roman and Byzantine periods Horbat Nashé seems to have expanded considerably, judging by the quantity of finds and the size and opulence of the buildings, in particular those in Complex A. The site was probably still inhabited during the Early Islamic period, though presumably on a smaller scale.

The Glass Finds

Ruth Jackson-Tal

The excavation at Horbat Nashe yielded fragmentary glass vessels that consisted of tableware, bowls, bottles, jugs, lamps, beakers and wineglasses from various periods. The vessels were free blown; some had applied and fused trails, as well as tonged decoration. About three-quarters of the glass fragments (total 800) were unidentifiable; c. 140 fragments were identified. The fragments listed below (Table 1) were retrieved from fills and one (No. 3) from a foundation trench.

Bowl 1, which is a very common shape in Israel and its environs, is considered one of the most dominant bowl types during the Late Roman period and the Byzantine period as well. Numerous variations of the type were found in the factory dump at Jalame (second half of the 4th century CE), as well as in later contexts. Bowl 2, characterized by applied fused-in trails, is dated to the Late Roman-Byzantine periods at the Jalame factory dump. Bowl 3 has comparable shapes at Jalame; its form, decoration and fabric strongly suggest a Late Roman-Byzantine date. Bowl 4, with a multiple trail-wound base, has analogies at Jalame, as well as at other sites that are dated to the Late Roman-Early Byzantine periods. Base 5 is a common base type that usually belongs to bowls. It is also dated to the Late Roman-Byzantine periods. No. 6, the wineglass fragment, belongs to a popular type of the Byzantine period.

The vessels described above can be attributed to the Late Roman-Late Byzantine periods (4th-7th centuries CE). Additional diagnostic fragments included a candlestick bottle rim (end of 1st-3rd centuries CE), solid bases of Late Roman beakers (4th century CE types) and bowl fragments with tonged decoration, as well as bottle necks with wavy trails (7th-8th centuries CE) that may suggest a longer duration for the site.

Table 1: Glass Finds

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Fragment	Diam. (cm)	Description
1	Bowl	5069	523	Rim and beginning of wall	Rim: 12.6	Light greenish. Severe pitting. Thick lime deposits. Iridescence. Flaring, folded-out rim, tapering wall.
2	Bowl	5065	519	Rim and wall fragment	Rim: 12	Light greenish. Horizontal turquoise trails below rim. Thick lime deposits. Silver weathering and iridescence. Flaring rounded rim, tapering wall.
3	Bowl	5194	552	Rim and beginning of wall	Rim: 15	Colorless. Greenish tinge. Horizontal blue trails on rim and wall. Silver weathering, iridescence, lime deposits and pitting. Splayed-out, rounded rim, tapering wall.
4	Bowl	5026	505	Base and beginning of wall	Base: 6	Greenish. Severe pitting, silver weathering, iridescence, lime deposits. Splayed-out, multiple trail-wound base, flaring wall.
5	Bowl	5021	505	Base and wall	Base: 6.5	Greenish. Thick lime deposits, silver weathering, iridescence, pitting. Pushed-in tubular base, splayed-out hollow ring, flaring wall.
6	Wine-glass	5214	555	Base and part of stem	Base: 4	Bluish green. Severe pitting, lime deposits and silver weathering. Uneven, splayed-out base, concave in center (pontil mark 0.5 cm). Narrow solid stem.

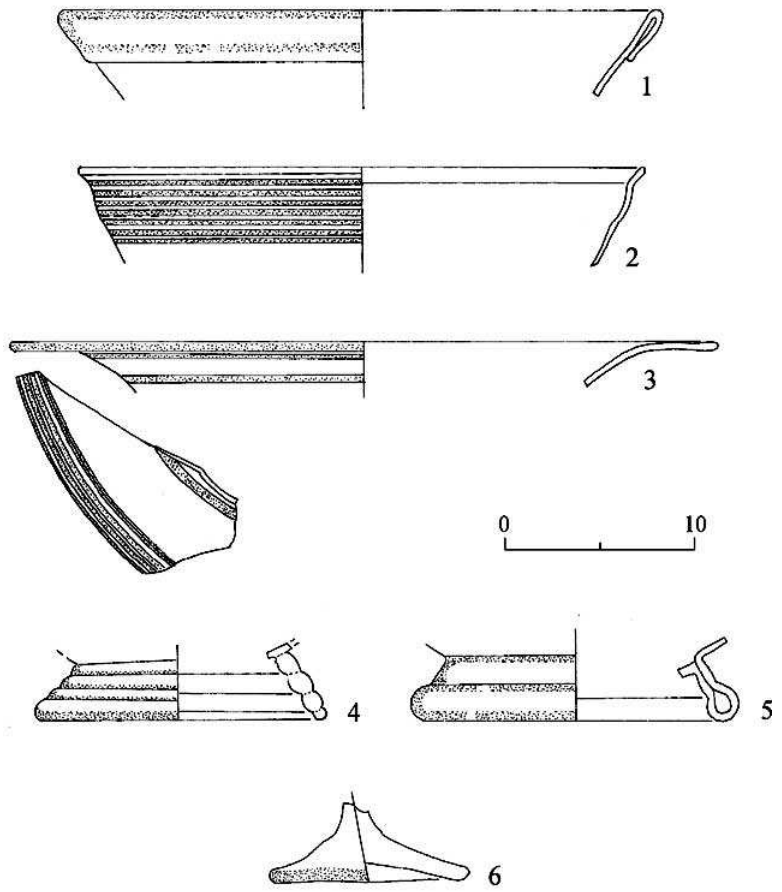
The Coins
Robert Kool

Fifteen copper coins were found during the excavation; eleven were identified (Table 2; Fig. 11). Two of the coins were minted around the Islamic conquest of the area in 630 CE. They are Arab-Byzantine *folles* (Nos. 6, 7) with irregular 'cut' flans. No. 6 carries an unknown Byzantine-period 'half follis' countermark ('K'). Coin finds at the nearby site of Horbat Hanut were likewise mainly from the Early Byzantine until the Early Islamic period. The coins were apparently typical of the money circulating in agricultural settlements of this area during the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods.

Table 2: Coins

No.	Ruler	Mint	Date (CE)	IAA No.	Fig.
1	Constans I		341-346	75369	
2			400-402	75365	
3			4th-5th centuries	75363	
4	Justin I	Antioch (?)	518-527	75366	11:1
5	Justin II	Antioch	571/572	75367	11:2
6	Constans II or Arab-Byzantine		641-697	75370	11:3
7	Arab-Byzantine		611-696	75372	11:4
8	Umayyad (post reform)	Ramla	697-750	75373	11:5
9	Umayyad (post reform)		697-750	75371	11:6
10	Umayyad (post reform)		697-750	75364	
11	Anonymous Abbasid	Ramla	832 (=217 AH)	75368	





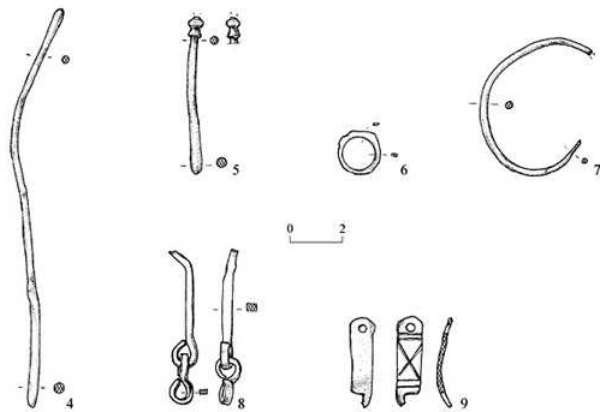
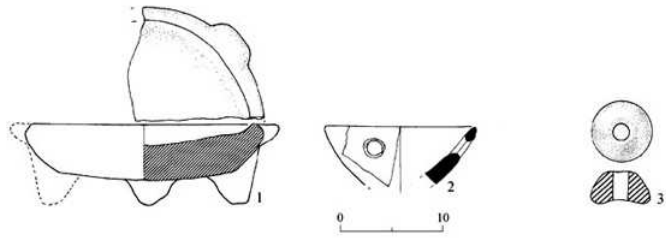
4. Glass vessels.



5. Complex A. The late building, W13; in right corner the vault and parallel walls of Unit C.



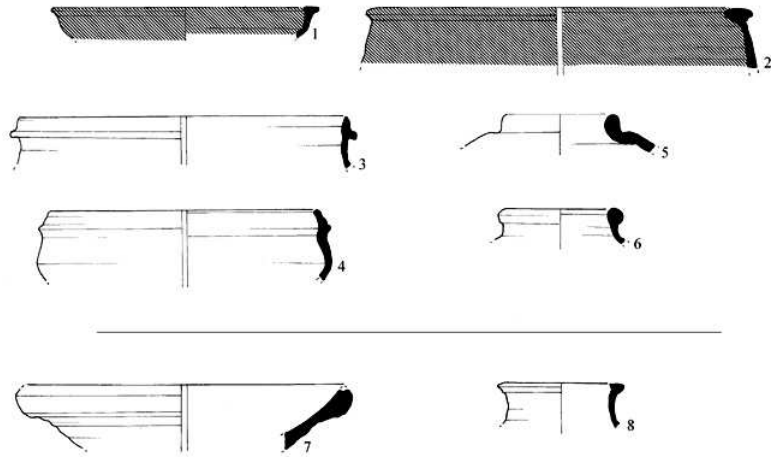
6. Complex A. Floor L533 overlaying the large boulder fill (L544).



7. Stone vases and metal artifacts.

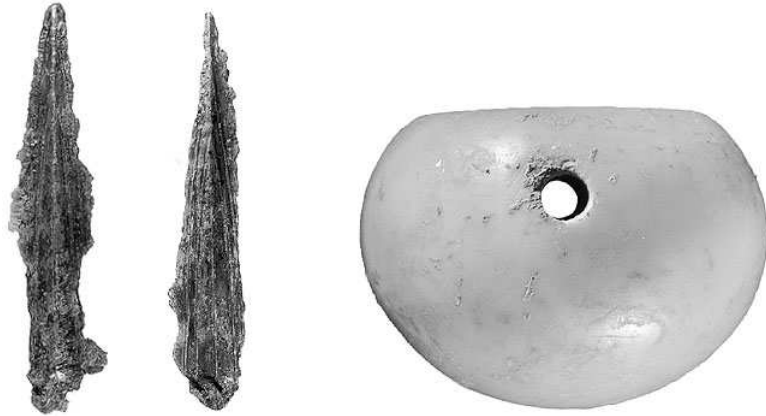


8. Unit C, general view, looking east.



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9. Iron II pottery: bowl (1); krater (2); cooking pots (3, 4); jars (5, 6). Persian pottery: mortarium (7); jar (8).



0 4

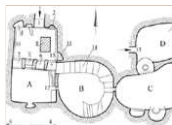
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10. Unit D. Bronze daggers and a limestone pommel.

Horbat Qayit*

Yigal Tepper and Shlomo Gudovitch

31/5/2004



1. Underground complex, schematic plan.

During June 1988 a survey and a trial excavation were conducted at Horbat Qayit, c. 5 km east of Qibbutz Bet Guvrin (A-1547*; map ref. NIG 1959/6147; OIG 1459/1147), in the wake of arson that laid the surface bare. The survey and excavation were conducted on behalf of the Antiquities Authority (the Department of Antiquities and Museums in 1988), under the direction of S. Gudovitch and Y. Tepper.

Settlement remains across two gentle hills had previously been exposed at the site (c. 20 dunam; Kh. Umm el Qutn; SWP III:356). The survey identified settlement remains to the north and east of the 19th–20th century khan, which is located on the northern of the two hills. The remains included the tops of walls, cairns and rock cuttings, as well as numerous robber pits. At the northern part of the site c. 30 entrances to hewn caves, c. 10 plastered bell-shaped water cisterns, burial caves with *loculi*, a columbarium cave, two large caves with hewn silo installations (base diam. c. 1.6 m, depth c.1.8 m) and a stable were discerned. Pottery fragments dating to the Hellenistic period (few), the Roman and Byzantine periods (many) and the Middle Ages (few) were recovered from the site.

The excavation was undertaken in a hewn under-ground complex (Fig. 1; the plan was prepared according to a drawing of the excavators in the field and may therefore contain inaccuracies). It consisted of a stable (A) that was connected to a bell-shaped water cistern (B) and caves, containing silo installations (C, D, E), which were only surveyed, not excavated. The partitions that separated the underground cavities were subsequently breached and the cavities were converted into a refuge complex, which yielded mixed finds that ranged in date from the Hellenistic period until the end of the Byzantine period.

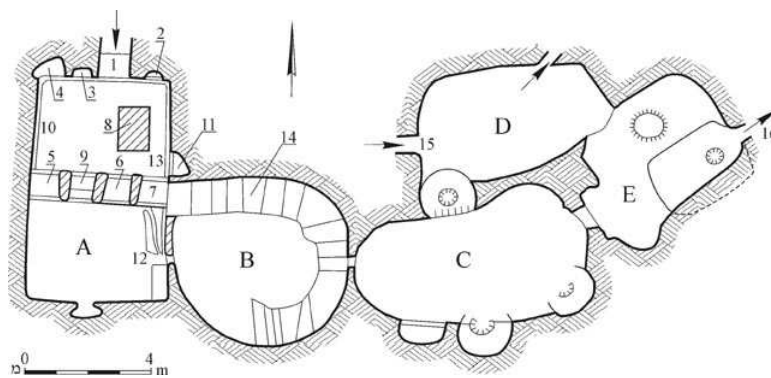
The Stable was hewn in the form of a rectangular hall (A; 4.2 × 7.2 m, height c. 2 m) that was entered from the north via a staircase (1; width 1.1 m). Construction and earthen debris subsequently blocked the entrance, though the stable can be accessed today by way of a breach in the western wall. A hewn wall (width c.1 m) that consisted of three mangers (5–7; 0.5 × 0.9 m, depth 0.2–0.4 m, height of the walls above floor level 1.2 m) with arched ceilings, which were cut across the wall, divided the hall in two. An entrance (9; width 0.85 m) in the wall had hewn recesses in its doorjamb, indicating it could be sealed with wooden bars. The floor in the northern side of the hall slanted from the manger wall northward. Two channels (10, 13) hewn along the walls of the northern hall's side drained it out via a passage (12) to the bell-shaped cistern (B). Two mangers (2, 3) flanked the original entrance to the stables and other rock-cut mangers were in the northwestern and southeastern corners of the northern hall (4, 11). Several holes were bored in the stable's walls for tying up the horses (diam. 7–10 cm; 1.2–1.4 m above floor level in hall); one was located near each manger in the corners, and two were on the manger wall, near each crib. A rectangular cavity (8; 0.9 × 1.4 m, depth c. 0.3 m) was hewn into the floor of the northern hall and was probably used for preparing the horses' fodder.

Two steps descended from the entrance in the manger wall to the southern side of the hall. The floor of the southern hall sloped down toward the passage (12) that drained it out into the bell-shaped cistern (B). The floor in the southern hall, near the manger wall, was covered with tamped *kirton* (max. thickness 0.18 m) that was deposited on bedrock and was probably intended to protect the horses' hooves.

The Bell-Shaped Cistern (B; diam. c. 5.5 m) was not fully excavated. A staircase (14) leading to the cistern extended along its wall. The top of the staircase was in a passage covered with stone slabs that continued above the manger wall in the stable. The cistern's original opening is blocked today and therefore, its outline and dimensions are unclear. The cistern was probably used for collecting the urine and run-off from the stable that was utilized in processing skins and may even have been employed for fertilizing fields.

The last phase of the underground complex's existence evidenced the entrances to the stable (1), the cistern and the cave with the silos (15) sealed off. Passages were breached between Chambers B, C, D and E and the hiding complex was accessed by way of a vertical shaft (16) at its eastern end that had a narrow tunnel, leading into the cave.

An assortment of potsherds from the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods were found in the underground complex. The finds were insufficient for dating the complex and its different quarrying phases; generally, they reflected the chronological range of its use. Two operating phases were discerned in the complex. The first dated from the 1st century BCE until the middle of the 2nd century CE and the second dated to the Byzantine period.



1. Underground complex, schematic plan.

Horbat Qerumit, Survey

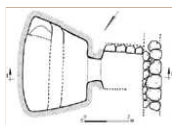
Boaz Zissu and Zvi Greenhut

31/5/2004

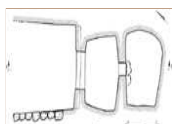
During October and November 2000 a development survey was conducted at Horbat Qerumit (Kh. Qurma; G-99/00; map ref. NIG 19766-826/61627-88; OIG 14766-826/11627-88), prior to preparing the ground for tree planting. The survey, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority and financed by the Jewish National Fund, was carried out by B. Zissu and Z. Greenhut, assisted by M. Haiman (GPS system).



1. Location map.



2. *Miqwe*, plan and section.



3. Burial cave 10, plan and section.



4. Round buildings, looking northwest.



5. Circular watchman's hut, looking northeast.

An area (c. 320 dunam; Fig. 1) was surveyed in the heart of the Judean Shephelah; a hill in its center is covered with a natural grove and delineated on the east by the wadi bed in the upper reaches of Nahal Shua' and on the west by Nahal Shillo. The ruins of Horbat Qerumit (c. 20 dunams) are located on the hill. Building remains, water cisterns, hewn installations, ritual baths, burial caves, rock-cuttings and a refuge cave were documented within the area of the survey.

Building remains and a stone fence (28) were recorded in the area of the ruin (23). Two hewn water cisterns (27, 29) were located next to the ruins, at the top of the hill's southern slope.

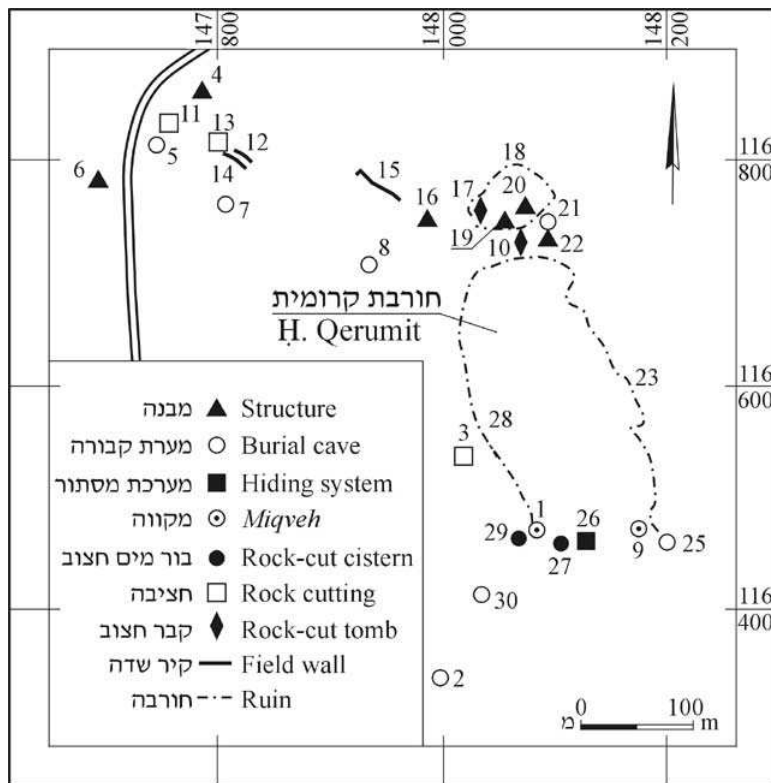
On the southwestern slope of the hill a hewn and plastered ritual bath (*miqwe*, 1; Fig. 2) was surveyed. East of the *miqwe* was a leveled stone surface that served as a courtyard or alley. It seems that rainwater was drained from the stone surface into the *miqwe*, which had an L-shaped entrance that was mostly covered with soil. The entrance was enclosed on the south with the stone fence (28). In the eastern wall of the entrance was a doorway, leading to a trapezoid-shaped immersion vat. At the bottom of the immersion vat were two hewn steps that spanned its full width and a smaller step in the corner. Two layers of plaster were discerned on the walls, the base layer was white and the upper—gray.

Another *miqwe* (?; 9) was located on the hill's southeastern slope. A rock-cut corridor led to the *miqwe*'s entrance, which was flanked by hewn doorjambs. The immersion vat was oval-shaped and two layers of plaster containing small gravel inclusions coated its walls. The floors of the corridor and the immersion vat were covered with large accumulations of soil. A channel that originated further up the slope probably fed this installation. A later wall blocked the end of the channel.

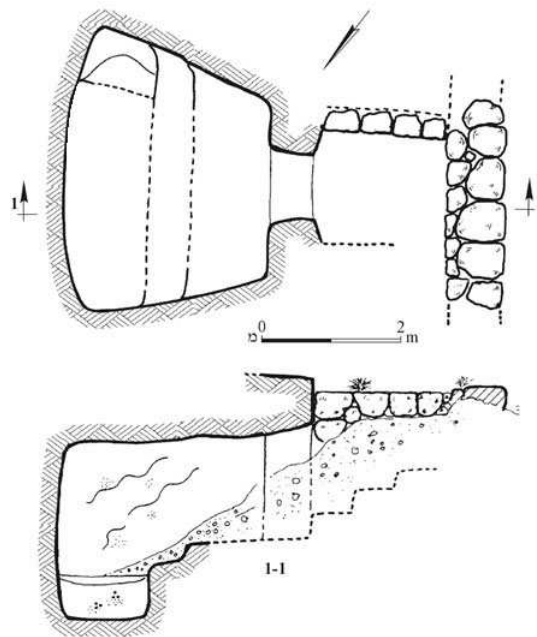
Several burial caves (2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 17, 21, 25, 30) were investigated along the slopes of the hill. Cave 7 was square and had a standing pit surrounded by shelves; based on its plan it should probably be dated to the Hasmonean period. Caves 10, 17, 21 and 25 had a unique plan. They consisted of a rectangular courtyard, accessed via an arched entrance, and an oval-shaped burial chamber without *loculi* (Fig. 3); the courtyard, entrance and burial chamber were lined on the same axis. The eastern wall of the courtyard in Cave 10 was hewn and its western wall was built of ashlar stones to a height of three–four courses. The eastern, western and northern walls of the anteroom were hewn in the *qirton* bedrock, whereas the southern wall was cut in bedrock that contained a block of flint. Consequently, its rock-cutting quality was inferior and the joints to the eastern and western walls were curved. The interface between the *qirton* and flint bedrock was visible in the eastern wall as a diagonal line, running from the ceiling of the chamber to its floor; traces of white plaster that was meant to cover up this line were noted. A small square entrance with a rock-cut step led down from the anteroom to the burial chamber. It was unclear whether shelves were hewn in the burial chamber. Subsequently, the cave was converted into a water reservoir; the eastern part of the entrance was widened and a conduit for conveying water into the inner chamber was hewn at its base. It is doubtful whether shelves existed in the rest of the caves, since their bottoms were covered with alluvium. Fragments of ossuaries were discovered in two caves. After the survey was concluded another burial cave was revealed during an inspection conducted by A. Ben Nun. Scattered outside its entrance were ossuary fragments. The distinct plan of the burial chambers without *loculi* may suggest a local tradition that incorporated burial chambers with no burial installations—shelves or *loculi*—with courtyards and anterooms. The ossuary fragments in the caves indicate that they dated from the end of the 1st century BCE until the beginning of the 2nd century CE.

On the hill's northern slope, in the area of the burial caves, several circular fieldstone buildings (16, 19, 20, 22; Fig. 4) were explored. These structures appeared to have been modern and it is possible that their inhabitants converted Cave 10 from a burial cave into a water reservoir.

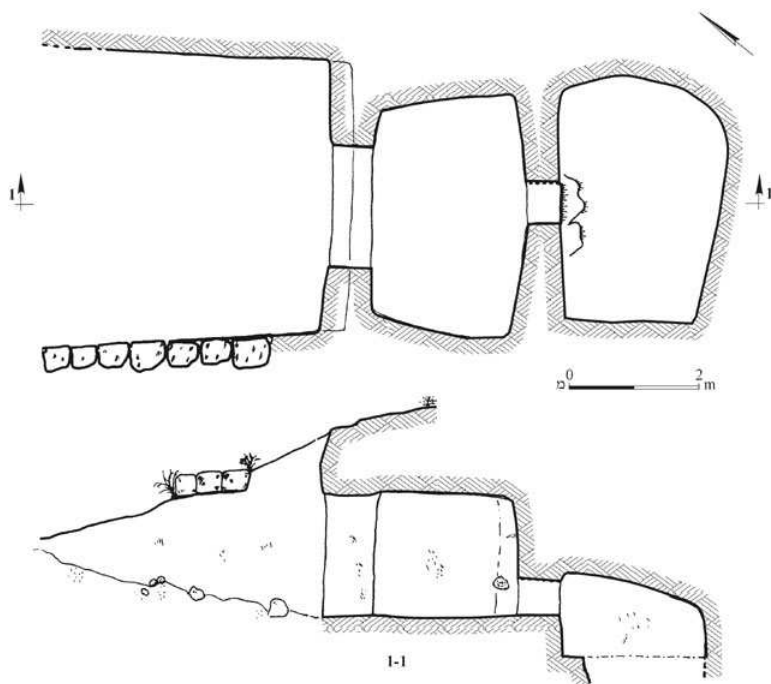
Several other features were documented in the surveyed area, including a circular watchman's hut (4; Fig. 5), quarries and rock-cuttings (3, 11, 13), a circular, ashlar-built structure (6) and to its west, a well and field walls (12, 14, 15), running perpendicular to the slope, perhaps the remains of ancient roads. The entrance to a refuge cave (26), which had previously been described by Y. Tepper and Z. Safrai (The Refuge Cave in Qerumit, In: A. Kloner and Y. Tepper (eds.) *Refuge Caves in the Judean Shephelah*, 1987, pp. 204–208), was recorded as well.



1. Location map.



2. *Miqwe*, plan and section.



3. Burial cave 10, plan and section.



4. Round buildings, looking northwest.



5. Circular watchman's hut, looking northeast.

Horbat Rozez*

Raz Kletter

12/5/2004



1. General view of the excavation, looking east.



2. Pottery: Persian period (1-3); Hellenistic period (4); Roman period (5, 6); Byzantine period (7); Roman-Byzantine periods (8-9).

During August 2000 a trial excavation was conducted along the fringes of Horbat Rozez (A-3281*; map ref. NIG 19712/71664; OIG 14712/21664) prior to the installation of an electric pole. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by R. Kletter, with the assistance of H. Tsion-Cinamon (GPS system), M. Rappaport-Arnov (drawing) and E. Yannai (data regarding previous excavations at the site and pottery reading).

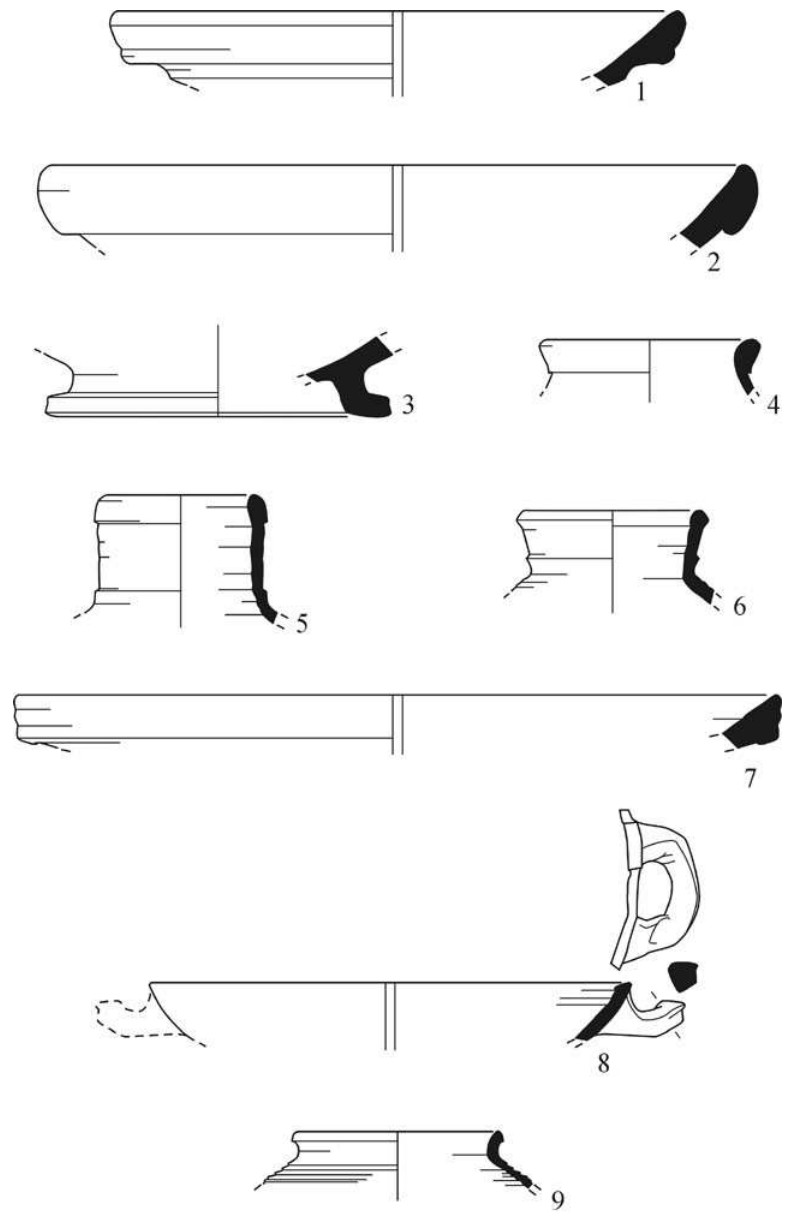
Horbat Rozez (c. 20 dunam) is located on a hill c. 2 km southwest of Shuni. An excavation (Permit No. 2156) was conducted at the site by E. Yannai and A. Beck in 1994 close to the top of the tell, revealing strata from Iron Age II and the Persian, Hellenistic and Byzantine periods. A single square (3 × 6 m; Fig. 1) was opened in the current excavation, along the eastern edge of the tell and close to an ancient well. The excavation exposed collapsed stones, a roadbed and stone concentrations, as well as fragments of pottery vessels from the Persian, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods.

Stone collapse and the stone bed of a dirt road that traversed the area was discovered in the western part of the square. Along the eastern side was a concentration of stones, including dressed stones that were disturbed by plowing; this concentration may be the remains of a wall or agricultural terrace. South of the stone concentration was an earthen fill that extended down to bedrock (c. 2 m below surface). A modern channel for a water pipe (width 0.8 m, depth c. 1 m) had cut through the center of the square and was later cut by a shallow ditch (depth 0.4 m) that probably drained the runoff from the dirt road.

The excavation square and mainly the fill in the south yielded numerous fragments of pottery vessels. Some of the fragments dated to the Persian (mainly mortaria; Fig. 2:1-3) and Hellenistic periods (Fig. 2:4); most of the potsherds were from the Roman and Byzantine periods (Fig. 2:5-9). The ceramic finds coincided with the results of the previous excavation at the site, except for the finds from the Roman period, which were lacking in the former excavation.



1. General view of the excavation, looking east.



0 10

2. Pottery: Persian period (1-3); Hellenistic period (4); Roman period (5, 6); Byzantine period (7); Roman-Byzantine periods (8-9).

Horbat Zefat 'Adi

Howard Smithline and Edna J. Stern

12/5/2004



1. Stone bearing an amphora in relief.



2. A room with a tabun, looking north.

During August–October 1996 and October 1999 two seasons of a salvage excavation were conducted at Horbat Zefat 'Adi (A-2518, A-3122; map ref. NIG 2154–6/7476–8; OIG 1654–6/2476–8) prior to widening the road that crosses the site. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority and financed by the Department of Public Works, was directed by E.J. Stern (1996 season) and H. Smithline (1999 season). Assisting in the excavation were N. Bashkin, D. Goren and I. Shaked (area supervision in 1996), H. Smithline (area supervision and photography in 1996), D. Syon (area supervision and photography in 1996; numismatics), L. Porath (area supervision in 1999; pottery restoration) and also I. Agmor and Y. Ya'aqobi (administration), I. Vatkin, V. Essman, I. Stark and T. Kornfeld (surveying) and Y. Gorin-Rosen (glass finds).

Horbat Zefat 'Adi extends across a large area along a hill on the eastern fringes of the 'Akko Valley, between Shefar'am and 'Ibillin. A well is located on the eastern edge of the site. The site was damaged when a road that traversed it was paved during the time of the British Mandate, as well as by intensive cultivation of the fields in most of its area. The site was further damaged by the massive theft of stones. The excavation was conducted along a strip (c 15 × 70 m) south of the road. The same areas were excavated during both seasons.

A rural agricultural settlement existed at the site throughout numerous periods, during some of which earlier buildings were reused. The finds were dated to the following periods: Early Bronze Age I, II, Intermediate Bronze Age, the Persian, Hellenistic, Early Roman, Byzantine, Umayyad, Abbasid, Fatimid, Crusader, Mamluk and Ottoman periods. Evidence of Ottoman-period charcoal production was visible on surface.

The Early and Intermediate Bronze Ages. In the northeastern part of the excavation area, ceramic finds dating from the Early Bronze Age I, II and the Intermediate Bronze Age were discovered outside of any stratigraphic context and with no architectural affiliations. These finds were usually on bedrock or close to it.

The Persian and Hellenistic Periods. Numerous pottery fragments and a few building remains, including floors and wall stumps, were uncovered. A wealth of finds from the Hellenistic period was in the fill of the buildings from the Byzantine period.

The Early Roman Period. A pit (diam. 0.80–1.05 m), which contained numerous pottery fragments mostly dating to the Early Roman period, was excavated. Most outstanding were fragments of Terra Sigillata ware.

The Byzantine Period. Remains from this period were revealed throughout the excavation area, representing the main architectural phase at the site. Walls that were related to each other and aligned in the same direction were exposed; they were built of fieldstones and often founded on bedrock. Stone pavements, mosaic floors and beaten-earth floors were found as well. It seems that the walls were part of a single large building complex, possibly a monastery. Two phases were ascribed to the Byzantine period, discerned in both the building remains and the ceramic finds.

A rectangular room (preserved dimensions 2.0 × 4.5 m) in the eastern part of the area was paved with a mosaic, decorated with black and red geometric patterns; on the floor, opposite the entrance, was a cross design. Half the room was destroyed due to a later robber trench that had cut through it. It seems this room was a small chapel that belonged to the monastery. When the room was later reused, probably during the Umayyad and Abbasid periods, its northern wall was renovated. Its rebuilding had incorporated a stone in secondary use with a relief of a cross and an amphora that was probably part of an imposing lintel used in the chapel or nearby during the Byzantine period. North of the rectangular room, segments of a colored mosaic floor were detected in the collapse, suggesting the existence of a second story. In the southwestern part of the area another segment of a colored mosaic decorated with a pattern of flower buds was located; it had been destroyed when a telephone cable was laid in place. Several architectural elements were retrieved from the excavation area, including capitals adorned with crosses in relief and a stone decorated with a meticulously fashioned amphora in relief (Fig. 1). These elements probably originated in a building from the Byzantine period and were incorporated in secondary use in walls that postdated this period.

Finds that evidenced the agricultural nature of the monastery were also recovered. In the center of the area was a carefully built winepress that had a collecting vat paved and lined with a white mosaic (preserved height in excess of 2 m). A simple basalt oil press (*bodedda*) and a fragment of a basalt lower millstone that was part of a donkey mill were found on a courtyard's floor. Two hewn bell-shaped water cisterns were discovered as well.

The Umayyad Period and the Beginning of the Abbasid Period. It appears that following a short hiatus when the site was abandoned, part of the area was resettled. The reoccupation was undertaken in some of the buildings from the Byzantine period, mainly in the eastern part of the site. Sometimes, new stone floors were added to the earlier buildings and at other times, existing floors were reused. In the rectangular room (chapel?) for example, the earlier floor was reused and on it in the corner of the room basalt grinding stones were found. Fragments of pottery vessels from the Umayyad and Abbasid periods were also extant on this floor. Based on the ceramic and numismatic finds it appears that the settlement was abandoned at the end of the 8th century CE.

The Fatimid Period. Following a hiatus of about two hundred years, the main part of the site was resettled. Again, the new settlement utilized earlier buildings, while adding walls onto them and raising floor levels. Two building complexes from this period that were dated by the ceramic finds were uncovered. They were abandoned at the end of the Fatimid period and never reoccupied.

The Crusader Period. Scant building remains were revealed. A well constructed wall (exposed length 20 m, width 0.9 m), founded on bedrock, had two outer faces of well-dressed stones with a core of rubble fill and mortar. At least three entries were installed in the wall; they had doorjamb and stone thresholds of finely smoothed ashlar stones that had delicate diagonal drafting. It seems that the construction of this wall was never completed because no sign of wear was detected on the doorjamb and thresholds, there were no hinge sockets in the thresholds and the entire length of the top of the wall was leveled. The ceramic finds in the fill that covered the wall and the entries dated the wall to the 12th century, or the beginning of the 13th century CE. Further confirmation of this date was the wall's foundation trench that had cut through floors dating to the Fatimid period. Near the surface was a section of a crushed chalk floor that was probably part of a residential dwelling, whose walls were dismantled. Pottery fragments on the floor are dated to the 13th century CE. remains of a building (7 × 10 m) that was constructed in the style of the Crusader period were exposed in the northeastern corner of the excavated area.

The Mamluk Period and the Beginning of the Ottoman Period. Settlement remains from these periods were exposed throughout most of the excavation areas. They were mainly inside the Byzantine-period building complex that may have been used as a monastery and included the reuse of the walls and floors. New walls and agricultural terraces were also constructed. In the center of the area was a square room (c. 2.5 × 2.5 m), whose walls were built of roughly hewn stones founded on bedrock; inside it was a large *tabun* (Fig. 2). The areas adjacent to this room were covered with large amounts of ash.

It is presumed that the settlement from the Early and Intermediate Bronze Ages, and the Persian and Roman periods was situated in the eastern part of the site, near the well; therefore, the finds

from these periods are relatively meager in the excavation area. Judging by the ceramic material from the Hellenistic period in the fill, it seems that the settlement from this period extended over a large area along the edge of the 'Akko Valley and was closely associated with the city of 'Akko (Ptolemais). During the Byzantine period a monastery of an agricultural nature was apparently located at the site. It was destroyed at the beginning of the 7th century CE, probably within the destruction of Christian population centers along the northern coast of the country. The site was resettled and abandoned several times during the Early Islamic period. It is suggested that a Frankish settlement was situated here, based on the ceramic finds from the Crusader period. Historical sources from the 13th century indicate that this settlement belonged to the Teutonic Order and that German dwellers lived there. The Crusader-period settlement seems to have extended along the hilltop and somewhat around it, in the area located mostly beyond the limits of the excavation. Since the Crusader-period remains were very close to surface they were poorly preserved. The settlement from the Mamluk period and the beginning of the Ottoman period was an open one, probably occupied by clans. Animal pens and terrace walls were recorded around the houses. It seems the settlement from this period existed from the 14th until the 16th centuries CE. During the Ottoman period the settlement at the site was abandoned and only the remains of thick ash layers were discerned, attesting to the operation of a charcoal kiln on the site.



1. Stone bearing an amphora in relief.

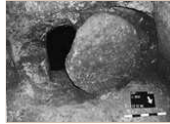


2. A room with a tabun, looking north.

Jatt*

Marwan Masarwa

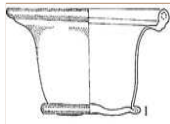
31/5/2004



2. The entrance to the cave, looking south.



3. The burial chamber, looking north.



4. Glass finds.



5. The inscription above Loculus 508 (photo).



6. The inscription above Loculus 508 (drawing).

A salvage excavation was conducted in December 1996 in a burial cave at Jatt (A-2583*; map ref. NIG 20415/70095; OIG 15415/20095) that was exposed while preparing an area for the construction of a residential house. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority and financed by the property owner Mr. S. Shalbi, was directed by M. Masarwa, with the assistance of I. Vatkin (surveying), T. Sagiv (photography), O. Shorr (glass restoration), M. Miles (glass drawings), R.A. Jackson-Tal (glass finds), V. Tzaferis (inscription readings) and also O. Shmueli, K. Sari, O. Masarwa, R. Badhi, I. Jabour, H. Tawil and D. Danino.

The cave was hewn in soft *kirtan* bedrock on the northwestern slope of the hill where the village of Jatt is situated. It is part of the ancient cemetery of Jatt (*'Atiqot* 37) and dated to the 1st–4th centuries CE. Three engraved inscriptions were discovered in the cave. Some 50 m to the west of the cave was another burial cave that had been plundered in the past and was not excavated. Its plan and dimensions were similar to those of the cave that was examined.

The Cave

The cave consisted of an anteroom and a burial chamber, which contained 15 rock-cut *loculi* (Fig. 1). The anteroom was rectangular (L500; 2.4 × 3.3 m, height 2.6 m) with a vaulted ceiling. In the northern wall was a single, poorly preserved course of ashlar stones (average size 0.3 × 0.5 m). The floor of the anteroom sloped southward and was covered with a layer of soil (thickness 0.4 m) that yielded body fragments of ribbed storage jars and cooking pots and was overlain with stone collapse and alluvium (max. thickness 1 m). A rectangular entrance (0.70 × 0.85 m) was hewn in the southern wall of the anteroom, leading to the burial chamber. The entrance was sealed with a roll stone (diam. 1.1 m) that was uncovered, *in situ*, inside a recess hewn to match its shape; the stone was moved aside in antiquity by grave robbers, who breached the tomb (Fig. 2). Three steps led down from the entrance to the burial chamber (Fig. 3) that had a rectangular standing pit (L516; 0.7 × 4.5 m, depth 0.3 m) in its center. The pit was filled with gray alluvium, containing body fragments of pottery and glass vessels (below). The 15 *loculi* (Loc 502–515, 517; 0.5–0.7 × 1.2–1.9 m, height 0.55–0.75 m) were carefully hewn, but their lines were not even. Signs of curved rock cuttings that were probably made with an adze were discerned on the walls of cave. Dressed stones that sealed the *loculi* were scattered on the floor of the burial chamber; they were dislodged in the past by the grave robbers. The floor was overlain with alluvium, which contained body fragments of cooking pots, jars and a circular lamp, dating to the 2nd–3rd centuries CE. Inside the *loculi* and on the floor of the chamber several poorly preserved human long bones, skulls and teeth were found.

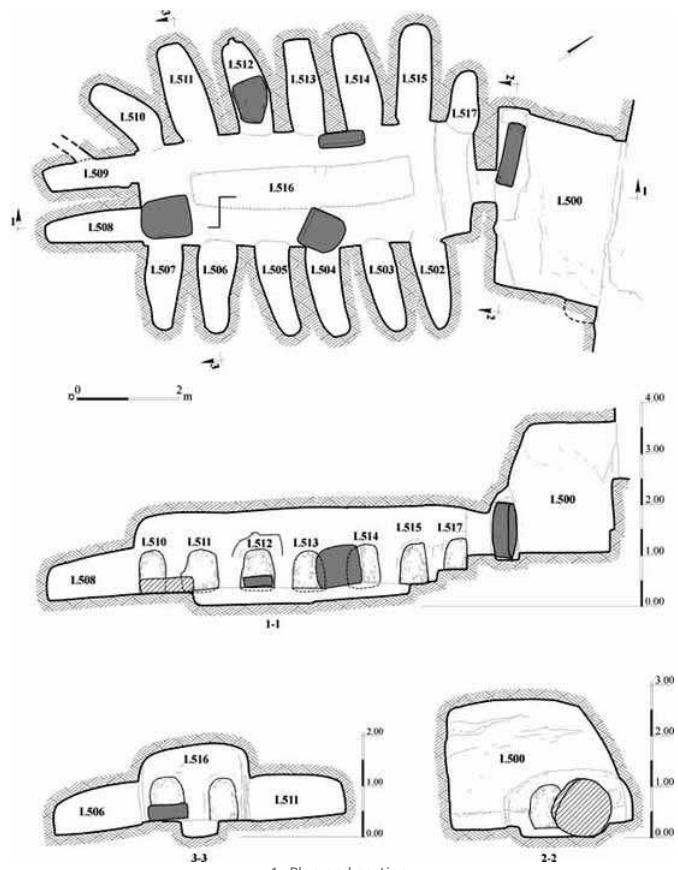
The glass finds in the cave consisted of 27 items, including one intact bowl (Fig. 4:1), six diagnostic vessel fragments, among them two cups (Fig. 4:2, 3) and two bowls (Fig. 4:4, 5), as well as one bead (Fig. 4:6). All of the vessels are blown and occur in various shades of green; the bead is drawn and has a blue tint to it. The items are covered with silvery, iridescent weathering and lime incrustations. The assemblage of vessels include common, everyday ware. The dates of the finds are not homogeneous: Vessels 1–4 date to the Early Roman period (1st–2nd centuries CE), whereas Vessel 5 and Bead 6 date to the Late Roman period (3rd–4th centuries CE).

The Inscriptions

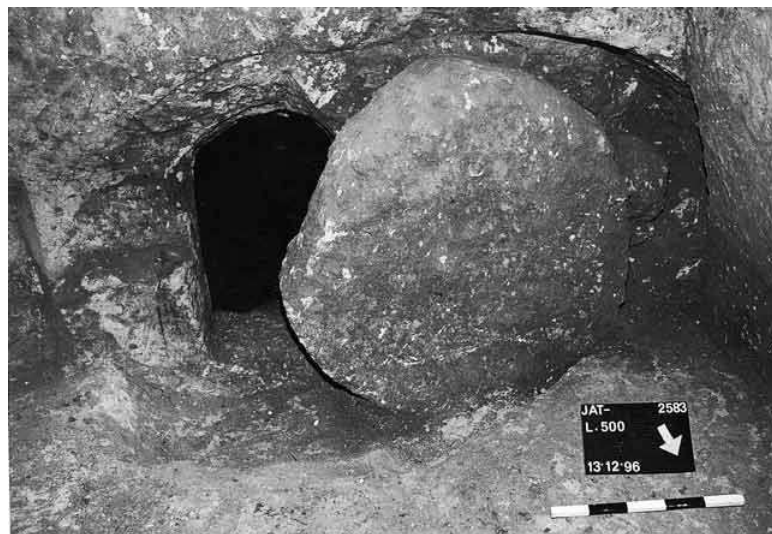
Three inscriptions were engraved above the openings to *Loculi* 508, 511 and 512. The inscription above *Loculus* 511 is illegible and may not even be one. The two other inscriptions are written in Greek, designating Hebrew and Greek names, probably of those interred in the *loculi*. The letters are large and some are unclear; they appear to have been engraved, using a simple instrument. The letters and the quality of writing are quite similar to the inscriptions that were engraved on the stone ossuaries in the Jewish burial caves at the end of the Second Temple period (M. Schwabe and B. Lipshitz 1974, *Beth She'arim II. The Greek Inscriptions*). Based on the mixture of Hebrew and Greek names, the cave may have been used by a Samaritan family.

The inscription above Loculus 508 (Figs. 5–7) consists of five lines, engraved on a smooth, recessed surface; the fifth line is illegible. A name is written in each line. The three first names are of women and they are written in the genitive case. Line 4 has the name of a man, also in the genitive case. It is reasonable to assume that the name in Line 5 is also that of a man. Two of the names—Sarah and Miriam—are Hebrew names, the other two are Greek names.

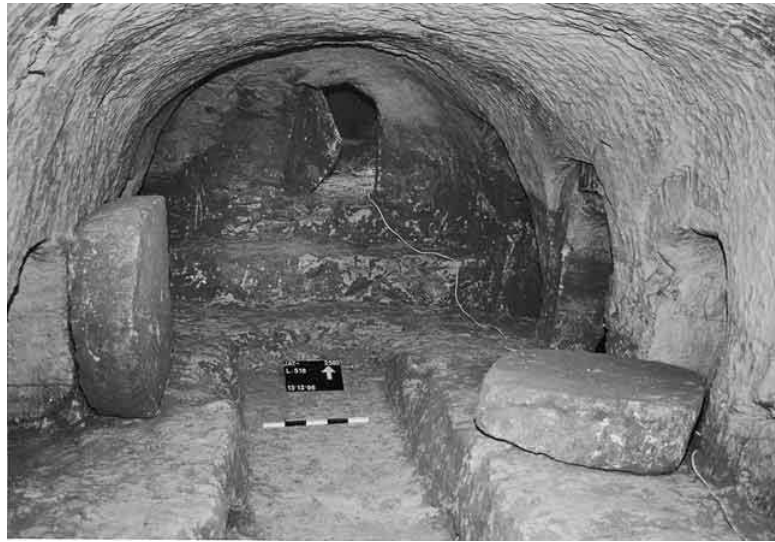
The inscription above Loculus 512 (Figs. 8, 9) comprises a single line, bearing the Hebrew name Amos, which is not in the genitive case.



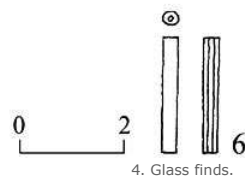
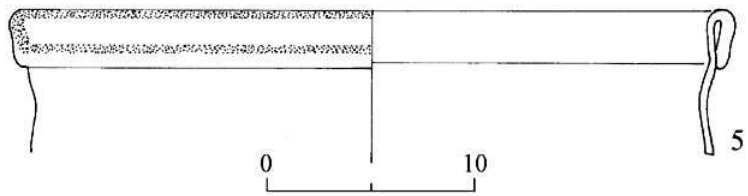
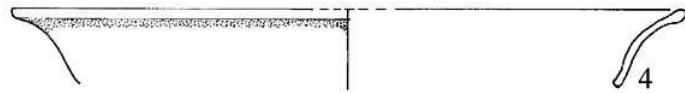
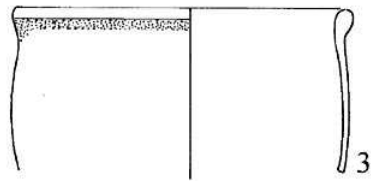
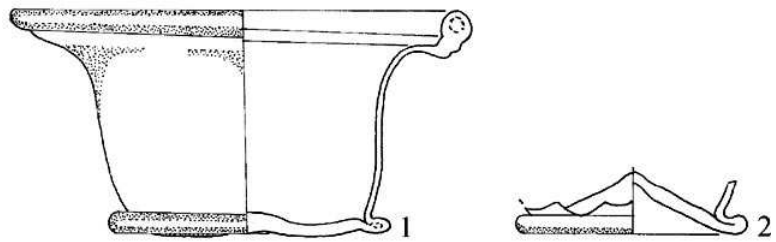
1. Plan and section.



2. The entrance to the cave, looking south.



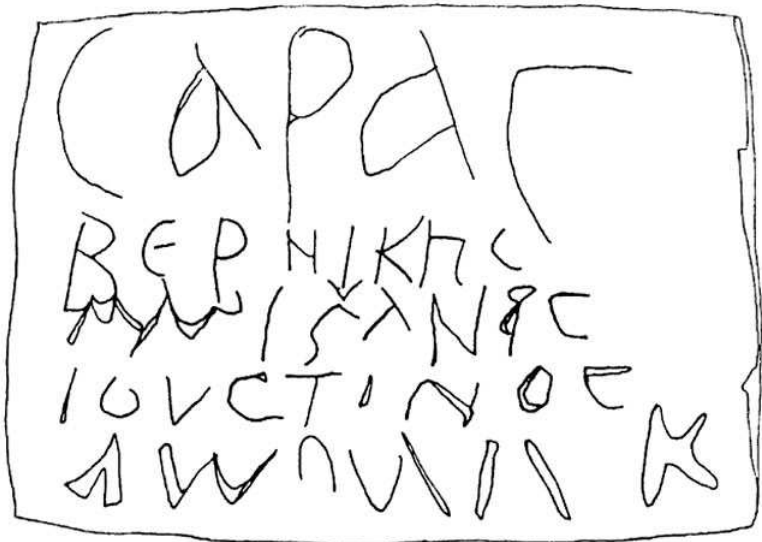
3. The burial chamber, looking north.



4. Glass finds.



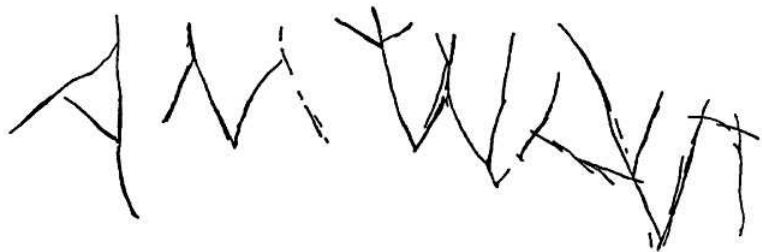
5. The inscription above Loculus 508 (photo).



6. The inscription above Loculus 508 (drawing).

CAPAC	של שרה	of Sarah
BEPENIKHC	של ברניקי	of Beriniki
MAPIMHC	מריאמי (של מרים)	of Miriam
IOVCTINOC	יוסטינוס (של יוסטינוס)	of Justinus

7. The inscription above Loculus 508 (text).



8. The inscription above Loculus 512 (drawing).

AMOC עמוס Amos

9. The inscription above Loculus 512 (text).

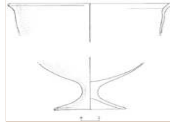
Jatt*

Kareem Sa'id

31/5/2004



1. Pottery vessels and a stone find.



2. Glass goblet.



3. Lump of raw glass.

A trial excavation was conducted in August 1999 at Jatt (A-3099*; map ref. NIG 20444-52/70045-51; OIG 15444-52/20045-51), after ancient remains were damaged during the course of development work prior to construction. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by K. Sa'id, with the assistance of V. Essman (surveying), R. Graff (drafting), T. Sagiv (photography), M. Rappaport (pottery drawings), Y. Gorin-Rosen (glass vessels) and A. Pikovsky (glass drawings).

The excavation area (5.0 × 5.5 m) was located on the northeastern slope of Tel Gat. The remains of a wall (preserved length 3 m), built of medium-sized fieldstones (0.4 × 0.6 × 0.6 m) and founded on bedrock, were exposed. It may have been an agricultural terrace, which was preserved one–three courses high. South of the wall and at a slightly higher elevation, was a layer of soil (thickness 1 m) that contained several fragments of pottery vessels from the Byzantine period. A collapse layer (thickness 0.85 m) to the north of the wall consisted of fieldstones and numerous fragments of pottery and glass vessels dating to the Byzantine period; the fieldstones seem to have been part of a building that was destroyed. A layer of soil (thickness 1.75 m) was discovered below the collapse layer, yielding numerous potsherds and fragments of glass vessels from the Byzantine period. The ceramic finds included fragments from cooking pots (Fig. 1:1), jars (Fig. 1:2), stoppers (Fig. 1:3, 4) and five Late Samarian lamps, adorned with geometric decorations (Fig. 1:5–9), as well as the lower part of a stone mold for lamps (Fig. 1:10). The excavation remains were probably part of the settlement remains from the Byzantine period at Tel Gat.

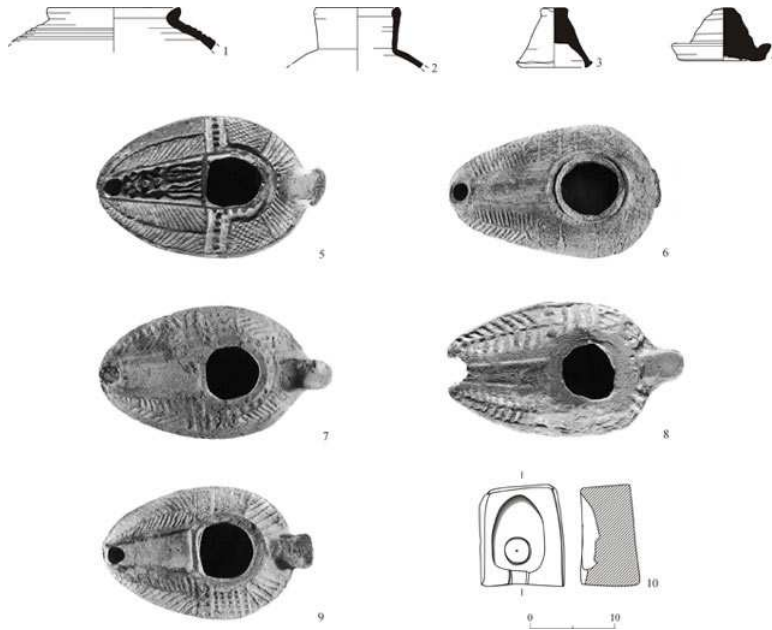
The Glass Finds

Yael Gorin-Rosen

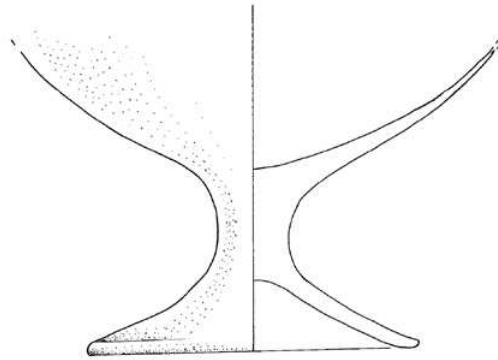
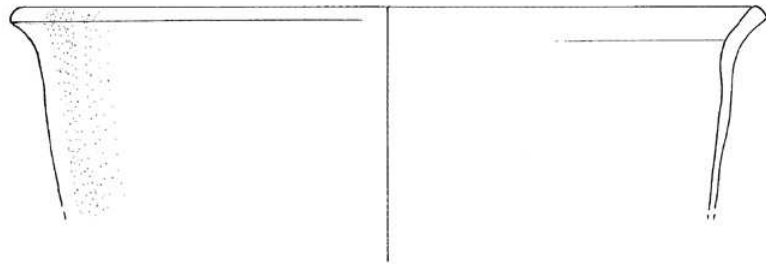
Numerous fragments (c. 218) of glass vessels were recovered from the excavation, 134 of them were body fragments. The glass assemblage is well known in the country throughout the Byzantine period and includes bowls with outfolded, hollow rims and hollow base-rings, bottles with rounded rims and incurved rims, including one bottle decorated with a single trail below the rim, low concave amphoriskos bases, a jar with incurved flattened rim, a wine goblet with a hollow base-ring, a kohl double bottle and three fragments of different mold-blown vessels. Furthermore, a rare glass goblet (Fig. 2) was found, having a complete base and several rim and body fragments. This is a large goblet with a tall stem that is made of olive-green glass covered with black pitting. The rim is thickened and flared and the stem is fashioned irregularly and has tooling marks. The goblet is unique within the assemblage of glass vessels at the excavation and differs in its fabric and weathering.

In addition to the glass vessel fragments, glass industrial remains were uncovered. The most important item is a large lump of greenish-blue raw glass (length 0.22 m; Fig. 3); its upper part is flat and the lower section was broken naturally. This is a raw glass 'bolus' that was probably brought to the site for fusing in a kiln, to produce glass vessels. The flat and smooth upper part of the raw lump indicates it was probably placed at the top of a glass kiln. Other than the large glass lump, several small lumps and a fragment that was deformed by the heat were recorded.

Based on the amount of glass artifacts in the excavation and compared with finds elsewhere, it seems apparent that a glass workshop existed at the site.



1. Pottery vessels and a stone find.



0 2
2. Glass goblet.

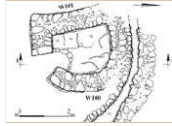


3. Lump of raw glass.

Jerusalem, Holyland

Yehiel Zelinger

31/5/2004



1. Area A, plan and section.



2. Area B, plan and section.



3. Area E, plan and section.

A salvage excavation was conducted in September 2000 on the southern slope of the hill where the Holyland Hotel is located in Jerusalem (A-3294; map ref. NIG 21785/62905; OIG 16785/12905), prior to paving a road. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority and financed by the 'Ehud Tayyar' Company, was directed by Y. Zelinger, with the assistance of V. Essman and V. Pirsky (surveying), I. Berin (drafting) and T. Sagiv (photography).

The remains exposed in the excavation included a watchman's hut (Area A), a water reservoir (Area B) and winepresses (Areas B, E) that dated to the Ottoman period—the time of the Arab village, Manahat (El-Maliha), which was located there until 1948. Hewn burial caves with vertical entry shafts were recorded as well and were dated to the Intermediate Bronze Age (EB IV; Areas C, D), judging by their small finds.

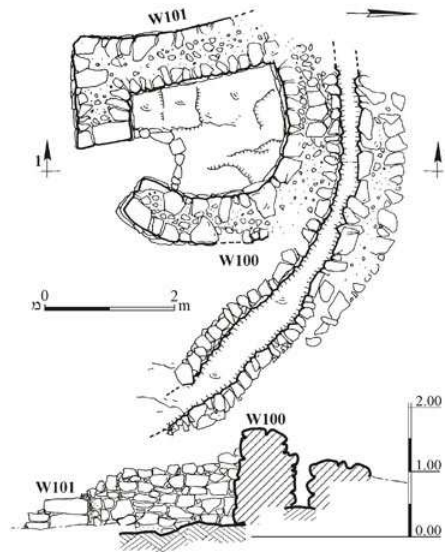
Area A (Fig. 1) was at the western end of the excavation. Remains of a square watchman's hut (3.5 × 4.0 m), built of medium-sized fieldstones that were set on bedrock, were discovered. The northern side (W100) was preserved 1.5 m high and the southern side (W101) was preserved 0.5 m high. The watchman's hut contained ceramic finds that mainly dated to the Ottoman period, with several sherds from the Mamluk period. A segment of a shallow channel (length 7 m) built of flat fieldstones was discerned next to the northern side of the hut; it drained the rain runoff that flowed down the slope.

Area B (Fig. 2) was 40 m east of Area A. A hewn, rectangular pool (L302; 4.2 × 5.5 m, depth 1.5–4.0 m) for storing runoff was found. The pool served the residents of the Arab village, but it is possible that its use began in an earlier period. No datable finds were retrieved from the pool. Next to the northern corner of the pool was a hewn winepress that comprised a treading surface, which made use of a large inclined stone (L305; 2.0 × 2.5 m) and a collecting vat (L303; diam. 0.7 m, depth 0.8 m). The southern corner of the collecting vat was destroyed when the pool was quarried; therefore, the winepress probably predated the pool.

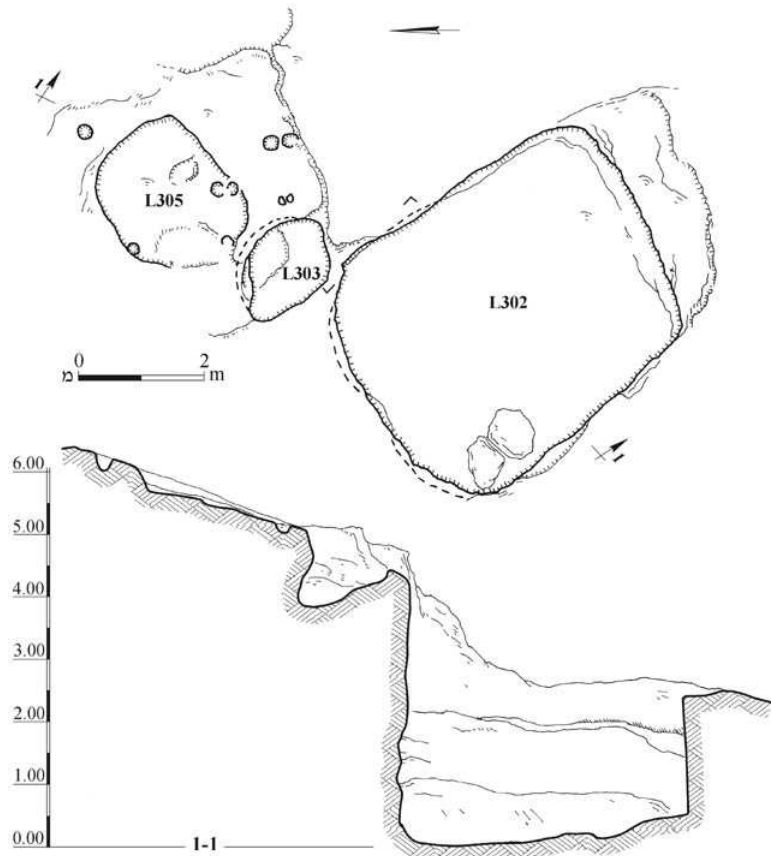
Area C was 50 m east of Area B. A rock-cut burial tomb with a vertical entry shaft (diam. 1.0–1.2 m, depth 0.9–1.9 m) that descended to an entrance (diam. 0.5–0.6 m), leading to a burial chamber (diam. 2 m, height 0.9–1.2 m), was uncovered. The cave, which was plundered in the past, contained a few non-diagnostic potsherds, bones that belonged to at least one individual 14–16 years of age, and hundreds of beads, mostly of white faience and a few of different-colored carnelian, which dated the cave to the Intermediate Bronze Age. Several square nails that probably belonged to bronze daggers from the Intermediate Bronze Age were recovered from the cave as well. Two hewn shafts (diam. 1.2 m, depth 0.5 m) were noted 2 m east of the burial cave; they belonged to burial caves that were probably part of the same cemetery.

Area D was c. 20 m northwest of Area C. On a bedrock terrace, higher than Area C, four burial caves with remains of vertical entry shafts were detected. They were probably part of the same cemetery from the Intermediate Bronze Age. It seems that the residents of the Arab village knew about the ancient caves and adapted them through quarrying to be reused for storage and shelter.

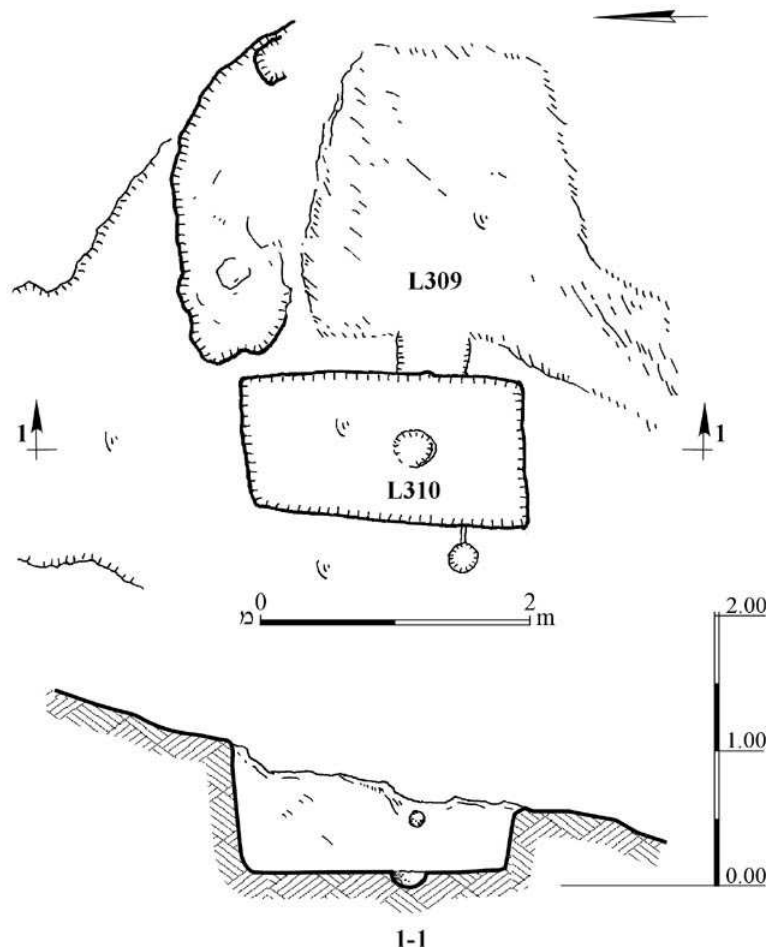
Area E (Fig. 3) was 15 m east of Area B and included a winepress hewn on a leveled bedrock surface. It consisted of a rectangular treading surface (L309; 2.0 × 2.5 m, depth 5 cm) that was cut haphazardly and a collecting vat to its west (L310; 1.2 × 1.5 m, depth 0.6 m). Modern potsherds in the collecting vat indicate it was probably used as a refuse pit in recent times.



1. Area A, plan and section.



2. Area B, plan and section.



3. Area E, plan and section.

Jerusalem, Nahal Refa'im

Lilly Gershuny and Shlomit Weksler-Bdolah

31/5/2004



1. Two Intermediate Bronze Age complete jars and fragments of four others within the secondary burial pit in the cave.



2. A ceramic bull-shaped rhyton.

During October 2002 a salvage excavation was conducted in a burial cave at Nahal Refa'im (A-3707; map ref. NIG 21635/62785; OIG 16635/12785) that was damaged when work on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem railroad track was undertaken. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by S. Weksler-Bdolah and L. Gershuny (pottery and small finds), with the assistance of T. Kornfeld (surveying and drafting), Y. Nagar (physical anthropology), R. Abu Khalaf (administration), and also K. Ben-Or, A. Eirikh-Rose, D. Dag, T. Da'adlah, Z. Adawy, G. Solimany, Z. Greenhut and J. Seligman.

The burial cave was hewn into the northern bank of Nahal Refa'im, c. 20 m above the wadi bed. Two phases of use were discerned in the cave. The early phase dated to the Intermediate Bronze Age and the late phase to Middle Bronze Age II. It seems that the burials in the cave were associated with settlements of these periods, whose remains had previously been excavated nearby (ESI 9:150-156; 12:67-71).

The Intermediate Bronze Age. The cave, which is roughly oval in shape (max. diam. c. 4 m), was hewn in the marl bedrock of the Moza formation. The entrance shaft collapsed in the past and was blocked, but its upper opening was still discernable. A roll stone of hard dolomite was discovered in the entrance to the cave. A layer of marl (average thickness 0.15 m), devoid of finds, overlaid the cave's floor and was sealed with a beaten marl floor. On the floor were three four-spouted type lamps, one intact and two broken, as well as several fragments of other pottery vessels from the Intermediate Bronze Age. Animal bones, mainly sheep and goat, were also retrieved from the cave.

An oval pit (max. dimensions 1.1 × 1.8 m) was dug into the floor, close to the entrance of the cave. Six identical jars from the Intermediate Bronze Age were found inside the pit. The jars were arranged very close to each other; two of them were intact—one stood on its base and the other was positioned on its neck—and four were broken (Fig. 1). Fragments of another jar were located nearby; the jars were empty. In addition to the pottery jars, several fragments of human bones that belonged to a single individual, and animal bones, mainly sheep and goat, were recovered from the pit. The pit was covered with *terra rosa* soil and was sealed up with medium and large stones. The pit seems to have been used for the secondary burial of a single individual, to whom the funerary offerings in the pit belonged. Similar phenomena are known from other tombs of the Intermediate Bronze Age, e.g., Tomb 12 at Efrata, which is delineated by a row of stones (IAA Reports 12:24). A fill, consisting of clean marl and bedrock blocks that collapsed from the cave's ceiling, sealed up the finds of the Intermediate Bronze Age.

The Middle Bronze Age II. The center of the cave was cleaned in this period and the large stone blocks were pushed aside. Burial remains from this period, including human bones, animal bones and numerous vessels were uncovered in the middle and along the edges of the cavern, attesting to the continuous and protracted use of the cave. An oval surface of medium-sized stones (1.2 × 1.8 m), whose upper side was flat, was in the center of the cave. Ten vessels, mainly piriform juglets and carinated and globular bowls, together with a few human and animal bones between and above the stones were exposed. Similar stone surfaces were found in the Middle Bronze Age burial caves at Efrata (Caves 5, 7, 11; IAA Reports 12:49, 54, 67); it is usually assumed that they served as a platform for the bones of the deceased. Surrounding the stone surface were numerous fragments of human bones that belonged to c. 12 individuals and many animal bones, mainly sheep and goat, as well as intact and broken pottery vessels, including piriform juglets, a Tell el-Yahudiyah juglet, carinated and globular bowls, a Canaanite scarab, a bronze toggle pin, a grinding stone and a limestone pommel.

Along the margins of the cave, the bones of seven individuals and animal bones, mainly sheep and goat were unearthed, together with many intact and broken pottery vessels, among them rare vessels such as an intact black-burnished bull-shaped rhyton with a strainer on its back (body diam. 5.7-6.2 cm, length 37.2 cm; Fig. 2), a Tell el-Yahudiyah type juglet with an unusual decoration and a tubular flask, as well as jars, jugs, open, carinated and globular bowls, and piriform juglets. The metal artifacts in the cave included two bronze daggers, three toggle pins and a bronze ring and earring.



1. Two Intermediate Bronze Age complete jars and fragments of four others within the secondary burial pit in the cave.

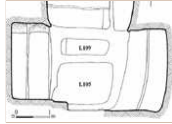


2. A ceramic bull-shaped rhyton.

Jerusalem, Giv'at Gonen Neighborhood

Gideon Solimany

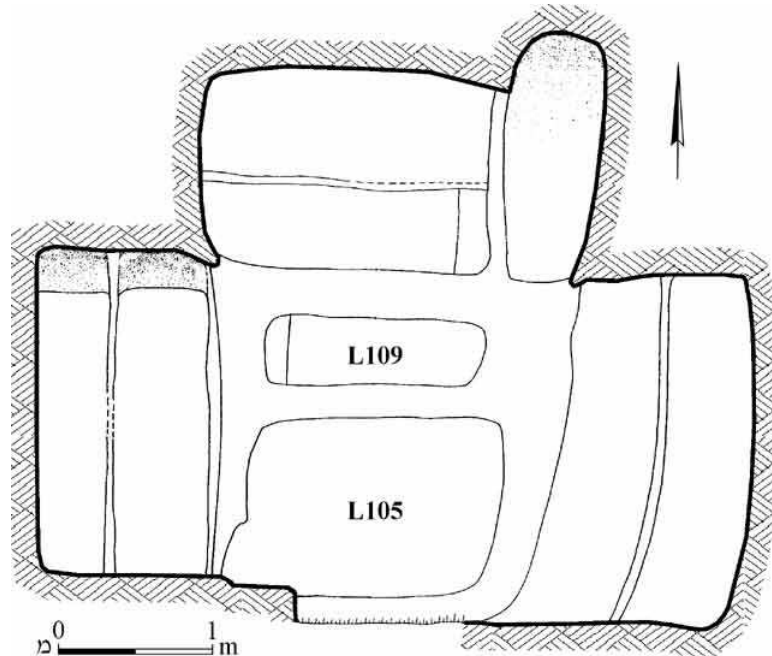
9/6/2004



1. Burial cave, plan.

During June 1995 a hewn burial cave was excavated in Giv'at Gonen, Jerusalem (A-2314; map ref. NIG 21851/62907; OIG 16851/12907), after being exposed while enlarging the government school located there. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by G. Solimany, assisted by J. Seligman, H. Abu Ta'ah, S. Krapiwko (surveying and drafting), R. Greenberg (pottery drawings) and M. Miles (drawing of glass vessels)

The burial cave (overall dimensions 3.5 × 4.5 m; Fig. 1) consisted of a single burial chamber (2.1 × 2.2 m) that had an entrance in its southern side, damaged during earthworks. Shelves of uneven widths surrounded a standing pit (L105) and a single burial bench (L109), hewn in the floor of the chamber. Three *arcosolia* with burial benches were cut in the walls of the chamber. Ceramic lamps and fragments of glass vessels, dating to the Byzantine period (5th–6th centuries CE), as well as beads, were retrieved from the cave.



1. Burial cave, plan.

Jerusalem, Ramot Neighborhood*
Archive Report

Danny Weiss

9/6/2004

In a tributary of Nahal Soreq at the upper section of the Ramot neighborhood (A-3234*; map ref. NIG 218/629; OIG 168/129), two half squares were excavated, using a backhoe, and were void of ancient remains.

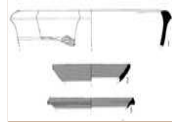
Kafr Kama*

Abdalla Mokary

7/6/2004



1. Plan and section.

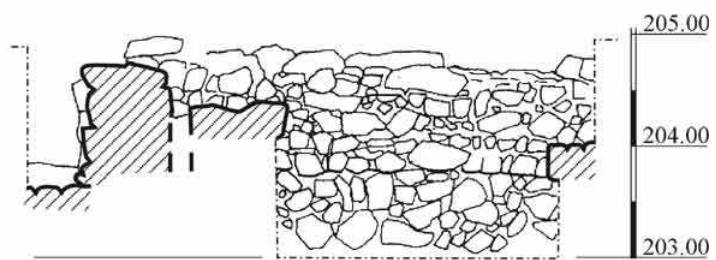
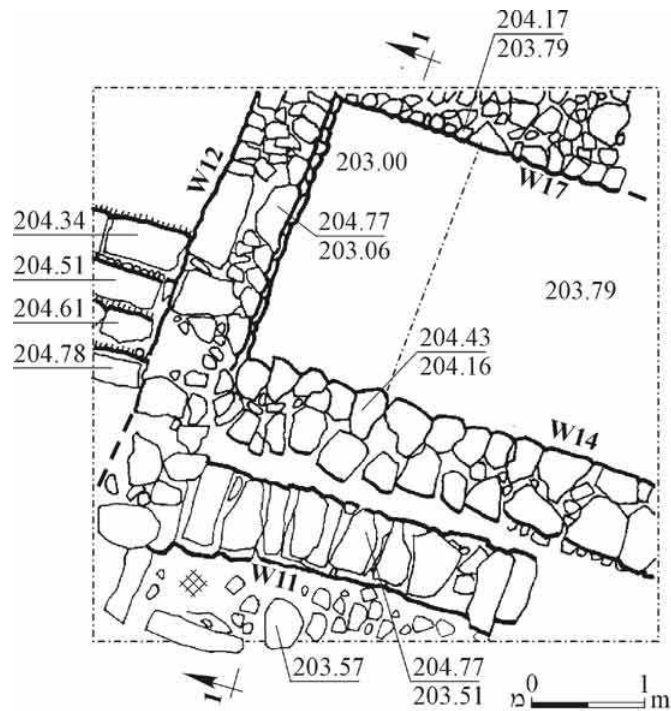


2. Pottery.

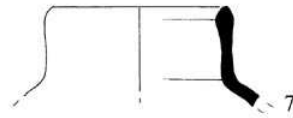
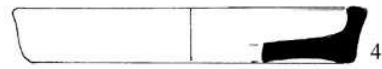
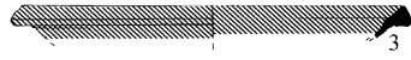
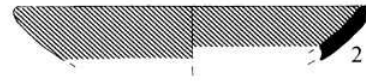
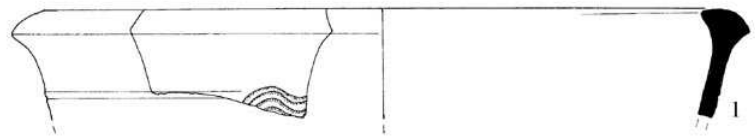
A salvage excavation was conducted in August 1998 at Kafr Kama (A-2909*; map ref. NIG 24120-1/73680-1; OIG 19120-1/23680-1), after ancient remains were discovered in backhoe trenching, prior to construction. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by A. Mokary, assisted by I. Vatkin (surveying), V. Shorr (drafting), and H. Tahan (drawing).

One excavation square (Fig. 1) was opened on the southeastern slope of the hill, where the village core is located. Three walls (W11, W12, W17) of a building, constructed from fieldstones and semi-hewn stones, were exposed; the walls were preserved 1.2 m high. The building's floor was beaten earth. A staircase that probably led to a second story was adjacent to the western side of W12, which severed another wall (W14), whose top was below the floor and therefore, it predated the building.

The finds retrieved from the floor of the building included two bowl rims with a red slip on the exterior (Fig. 2:2, 3), dating to the 4th-5th centuries CE, three jar rims from the 6th-7th centuries CE (Fig. 2:5-7), a thick, black-painted krater rim from the 8th-9th centuries CE (Fig. 2:1) and the fragment of a handmade, coarse material platter (Fig. 2:4). Judging by the ceramic finds the building is dated to the Early Islamic period.



1. Plan and section.



0 10
2. Pottery.

Karmé Zur

Ibrahim Srukh , Yuval Peleg and Yaron Feller

31/5/2004



1. The buildings, plan.



2. Winepress 1, plan and section.

A salvage excavation was conducted in March 1997 at Karmé Zur (L-760; map ref. NIG 2097/6129; OIG 1597/1129) prior to the settlement's expansion. The excavation, on behalf of the Archaeological Staff Officer of Judea and Samaria, was directed by Y. Feller and I. Srukh, assisted by M. Kahan and A. Offokin (surveying and drafting), S. Ammami (photography), M. Manokian (drawing) and G. Bijovsky (numismatics).

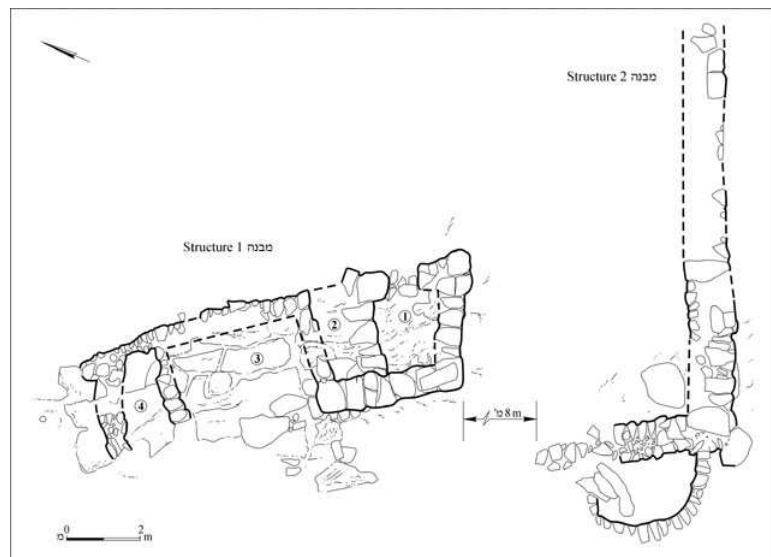
Two buildings (1, 2) were excavated on a spur, descending southward, in the southern part of the settlement; two built winepresses (1, 2) were uncovered on the eastern slope of the hill where the settlement is located. The buildings and the winepresses are dated to the 1st century BCE and may be associated with the settlement from this period at Khirbet el-Qatt, c. 200 m to the east of here (Survey in the Land of Judea, Site 79, in: *Judea, Samaria and the Golan; Archaeological Survey 1967–1968, 1972*).

The Buildings (Fig. 1). Building 1 (3.4 × 10.8 m) consisted of four rooms (1–4) aligned in a row. Its walls (width 0.75 m) were built of different-sized, roughly hewn fieldstones set on bedrock and were preserved to a maximum of three courses high (1.6 m). Two entrances were installed in the eastern side of the building, one in Room 1 and the other in Room 3. Rooms 1 and 3 were larger than the other two rooms and had beaten-earth floors. Rooms 2 and 4 were narrow and may have been used for storage. Remains of a stone pen (not included in the plan) that may have enclosed a courtyard were discovered south of the building. North of the building was a cupmark (diam. 0.3 m, depth 0.1 m) hewn in bedrock. The building contained fragments of pottery vessels from the 1st century BCE.

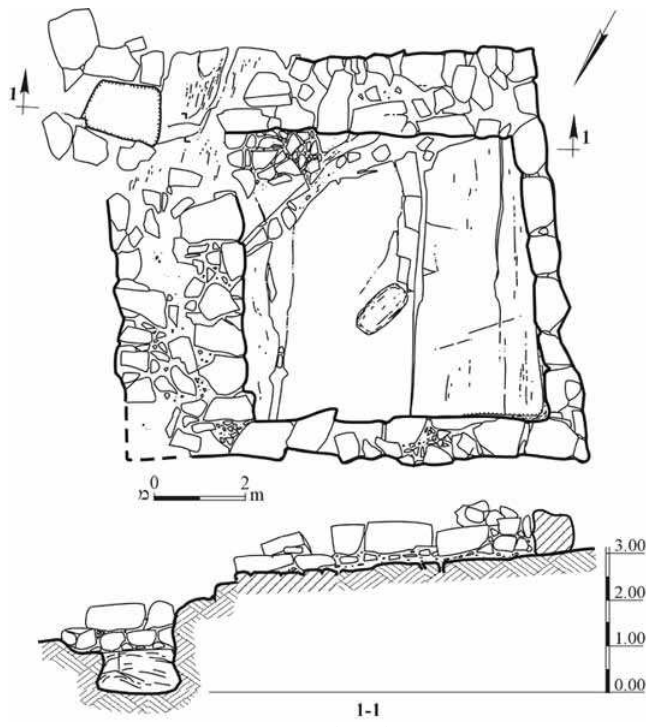
Building 2 was located c. 12 m southeast of Building 1. It was not excavated in its entirety and only a probe was dug the length of it, revealing two walls that formed the southwestern corner of the building. The walls (widths 1.05 m, 1.25 m respectively) were constructed from two rows of various-sized fieldstones, with a core of earthen fill and stones and preserved four–five courses high (1.05–1.30 m). The bedrock served as the floor of the building and cracks in the rock were filled with stones and beaten earth. A circular wall that was built at a later stage to the southwest of the building yielded potsherds dating to the 1st century BCE.

The Winepresses. Winepress 1 (6.15 × 6.55 m; Fig. 2) was built on bedrock and consisted of a square treading surface and an adjacent collecting vat located to the east. The treading surface was enclosed with walls that comprised large fieldstones and were preserved three courses high. Two of the walls were one row of stones (width 0.86 m) and two were built of two rows of stones (widths 1.8 m, 2.7 m). The treading surface, upon which traces of plaster were observed, sloped to the northeast. Bedrock was lower in the eastern corner of the treading surface and a fill of small stones and soil was deposited to level it. A short plastered conduit led from the eastern corner of the treading surface to the collecting vat (1.2 × 1.4 m, depth 0.95 m) that was coated with plaster and surrounded with a single course high wall. An elongated crushing stone (0.6 × 1.25 m) was lying in the middle of the treading surface. Fragments of pottery vessels from the 1st century BCE were recovered from the winepress.

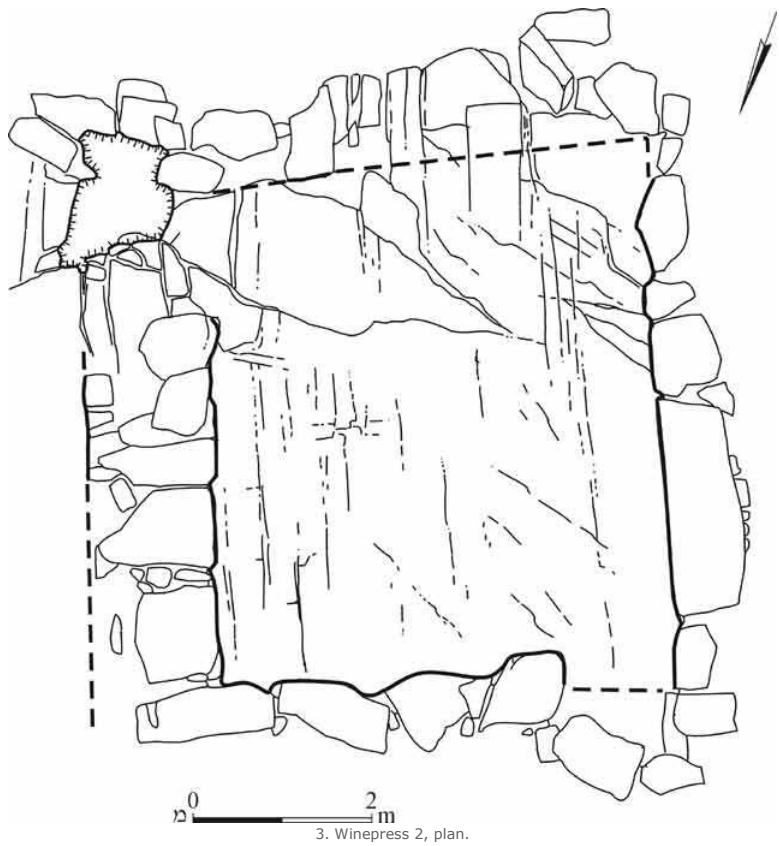
Winepress 2 (4.95 × 5.65 m; Fig. 3) was located c. 30 m south of Winepress 1 and its plan was similar to that of the latter. It was built on bedrock and consisted of a treading surface and a nearby collecting vat, located to the east. The treading surface was enclosed with walls (width 0.5–1.5 m) that consisted of large fieldstones and were preserved three courses high (0.8 m). Natural fissures that were visible on the treading surface may have served as conduits, leading to the collecting vat, which was hewn and plastered (1.2 × 1.3 m, depth 1.8 m). Several potsherds from the 1st century BCE were found in the winepress, as well as a coin identified as a *pruta*, from the time of Alexander Jannaeus (104–76 BCE; K27743).



1. The buildings, plan.



2. Winepress 1, plan and section.



3. Winepress 2, plan.

Karmé Zur

Ibrahim Srukh , Yuval Peleg and Yaron Feller

31/5/2004



1. The buildings, plan.



2. Winepress 1, plan and section.

A salvage excavation was conducted in March 1997 at Karmé Zur (L-760; map ref. NIG 2097/6129; OIG 1597/1129) prior to the settlement's expansion. The excavation, on behalf of the Archaeological Staff Officer of Judea and Samaria, was directed by Y. Feller and I. Srukh, assisted by M. Kahan and A. Offokin (surveying and drafting), S. Ammami (photography), M. Manokian (drawing) and G. Bijovsky (numismatics).

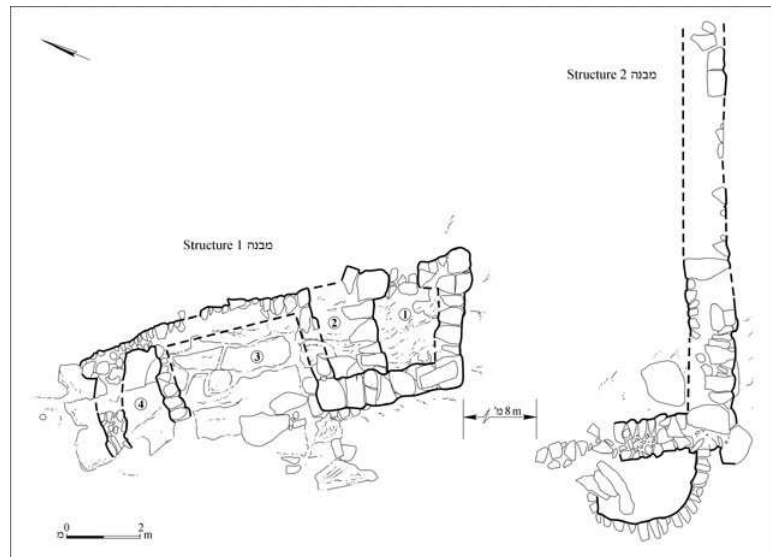
Two buildings (1, 2) were excavated on a spur, descending southward, in the southern part of the settlement; two built winepresses (1, 2) were uncovered on the eastern slope of the hill where the settlement is located. The buildings and the winepresses are dated to the 1st century BCE and may be associated with the settlement from this period at Khirbet el-Qatt, c. 200 m to the east of here (Survey in the Land of Judea, Site 79, in: *Judea, Samaria and the Golan; Archaeological Survey 1967–1968, 1972*).

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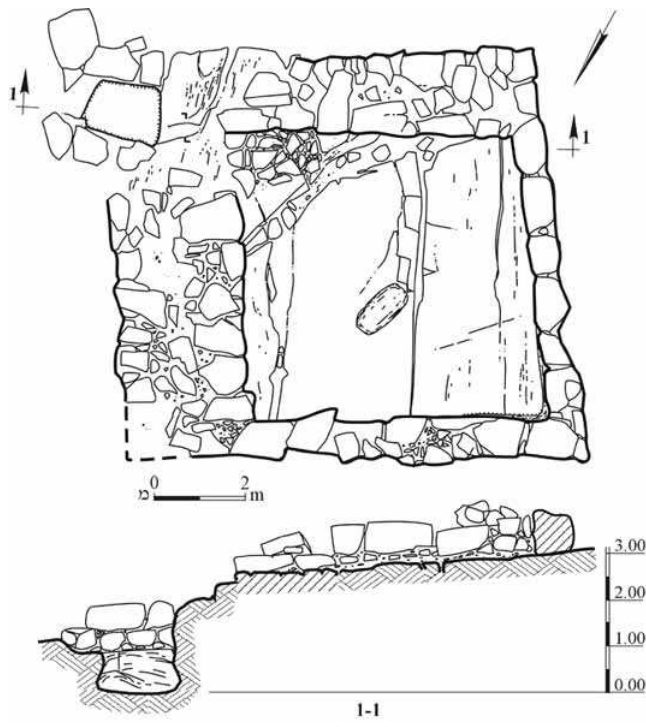
Building 2 was located c. 12 m southeast of Building 1. It was not excavated in its entirety and only a probe was dug the length of it, revealing two walls that formed the southwestern corner of the building. The walls (widths 1.05 m, 1.25 m respectively) were constructed from two rows of various-sized fieldstones, with a core of earthen fill and stones and preserved four–five courses high (1.05–1.30 m). The bedrock served as the floor of the building and cracks in the rock were filled with stones and beaten earth. A circular wall that was built at a later stage to the southwest of the building yielded potsherds dating to the 1st century BCE.

The Winepresses. Winepress 1 (6.15 × 6.55 m; Fig. 2) was built on bedrock and consisted of a square treading surface and an adjacent collecting vat located to the east. The treading surface was enclosed with walls that comprised large fieldstones and were preserved three courses high. Two of the walls were one row of stones (width 0.86 m) and two were built of two rows of stones (widths 1.8 m, 2.7 m). The treading surface, upon which traces of plaster were observed, sloped to the northeast. Bedrock was lower in the eastern corner of the treading surface and a fill of small stones and soil was deposited to level it. A short plastered conduit led from the eastern corner of the treading surface to the collecting vat (1.2 × 1.4 m, depth 0.95 m) that was coated with plaster and surrounded with a single course high wall. An elongated crushing stone (0.6 × 1.25 m) was lying in the middle of the treading surface. Fragments of pottery vessels from the 1st century BCE were recovered from the winepress.

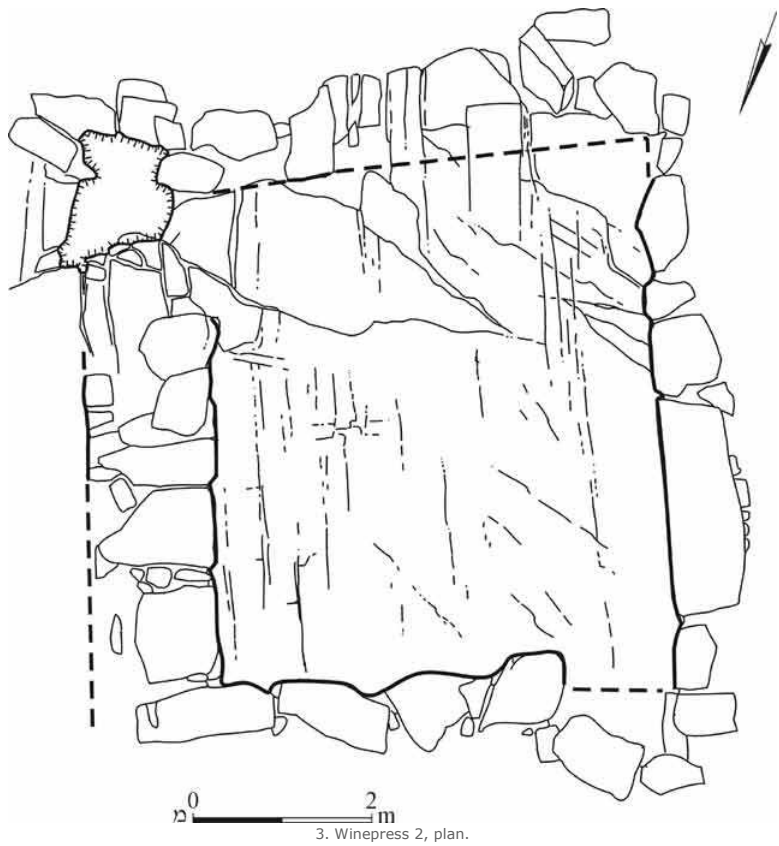
Winepress 2 (4.95 × 5.65 m; Fig. 3) was located c. 30 m south of Winepress 1 and its plan was similar to that of the latter. It was built on bedrock and consisted of a treading surface and a nearby collecting vat, located to the east. The treading surface was enclosed with walls (width 0.5–1.5 m) that consisted of large fieldstones and were preserved three courses high (0.8 m). Natural fissures that were visible on the treading surface may have served as conduits, leading to the collecting vat, which was hewn and plastered (1.2 × 1.3 m, depth 1.8 m). Several potsherds from the 1st century BCE were found in the winepress, as well as a coin identified as a *pruta*, from the time of Alexander Jannaeus (104–76 BCE; K27743).



1. The buildings, plan.



2. Winepress 1, plan and section.

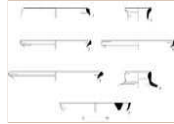


3. Winepress 2, plan.

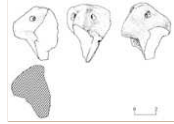
Khirbat Beit Kufa*

Mohammed Abu Fana

31/5/2004



2. Pottery.



3. Stone figurine.

A salvage excavation was conducted in July 2000 at Khirbat Beit Kufa, c. 0.5 km east of Moshav Bet Nehemya (A-3256*; map ref. NIG 19615-30/65307-15; OIG 14615-30/15307-15), prior to paving the Cross Israel Highway. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by M. Abu Fana, with the assistance of N. Habib Allah (area supervision), A. Hajian (surveying), R. Graff (drafting), T. Sagiv (photography), M. Arnov (drawing), G. Bijovsky (numismatics), H. Tsion-Cinamon (GPS system) and E. Yannai.

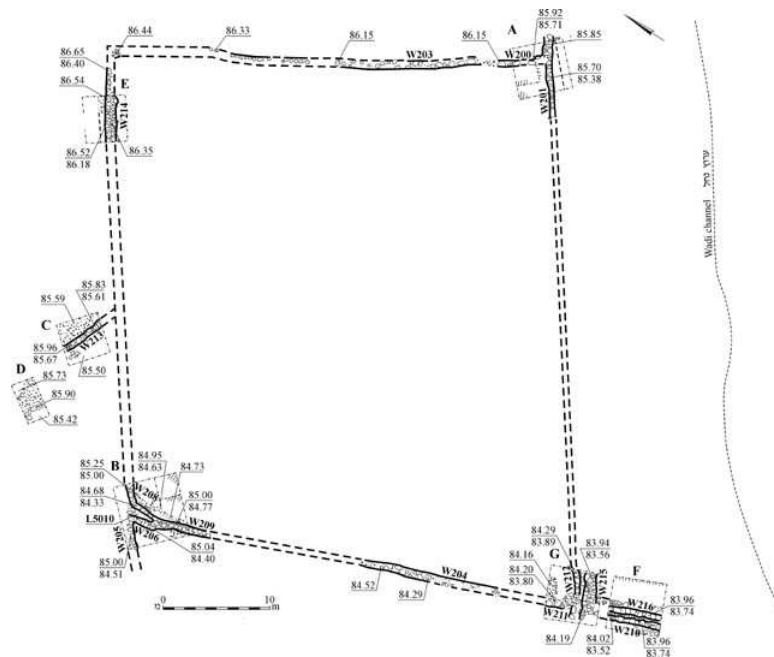
Seven excavation areas (A-G; Fig. 1) were opened on alluvium-covered ground that slightly sloped southward and was surrounded on all sides by low rocky hills; the Bet Nehemya wadi channel passed to the south. The excavation areas were located in places where walls were discerned on surface. Terrace walls connected to each other and dating to the Byzantine period were exposed. In the past, Y. Yekutieli, on behalf of Ben-Gurion University conducted excavations c. 200 m north of the site that revealed settlement remains from the Middle Bronze Age I and the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods (*ESI* 20:134*).

Two perpendicular walls (W200, W201) were uncovered in Area A. Four walls (W205, W206, W208, W209) were excavated in Area B. Walls 205 and 206 were at right angles to each other and built on top of W209. A single wall (W213) was discovered in Areas C and D; it was erected in the area of a terrace built of medium-sized fieldstones (c. 0.10 × 0.10 × 0.15 m). Area E had one wall (W214) and in Area F, c. 10 m north of the Bet Nehemya wadi channel, two walls (W210, W216) were found next to each other, possibly indicating two building phases. Of the three walls (W211, W212, W215) in Area G, two (W212, W215) were built next to each other.

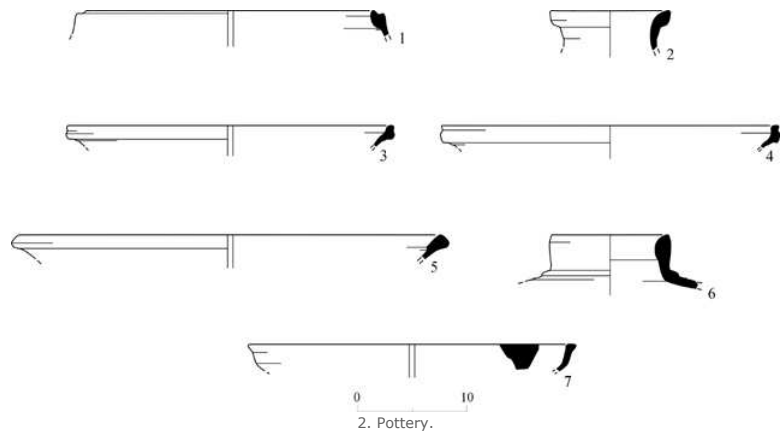
All the terrace walls were built of a single row of large fieldstones (0.4 × 0.6 m) and were preserved a single course high, except for Walls 210 and 216 in Area F and W205 in Area B, which were preserved two courses high. Several dressed and ashlar stones in secondary use were incorporated in the construction of the walls, which had no traces of bonding material or plaster. Most of the walls were founded on soil, other than Walls 210, 211 and 215 in Areas F and G that were set on a foundation of small fieldstones, which leveled the area. It seems that most of the walls belonged to the same construction phase, beside the walls in Area B that were built atop each other and the walls in Areas F and G that were built next to each other and probably attested to two building phases.

The alluvium soil next to the walls contained a few fragments of pottery vessels and three coins. The ceramic finds included an Iron Age II cooking pot rim (Fig. 2:1), a rim fragment of a jar from the Hellenistic period (Fig. 2:2), three Late Roman C ware sherds (Fig. 2:3-5), a fragment of an enormous jar from the Byzantine period (Fig. 2:6) and a rim of a glazed bowl from the Crusader period (Fig. 2:7). The body fragments of most pottery vessels dated to the Byzantine period and the rest were from the Hellenistic and Roman periods. The numismatic finds included a coin from the reign of Antiochus IV (175-164 BCE; IAA 88615) minted in 'Akko-Ptolemais and two illegible coins. The head of a stone figurine (height 5.5 cm, width 4.0 cm, thickness 3.5 cm; Fig. 3) that was probably an animal was recovered from Area B; its eyes are rendered as two holes and it has an eagle-like nose and even ears. A semicircular depression on the rear of the figurine may have been used to attach it to a wooden object.

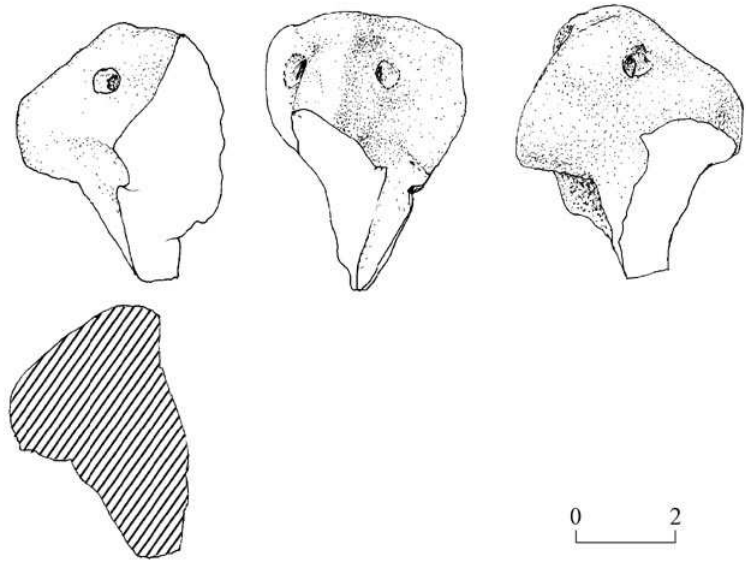
The exposed terrace walls may have belonged to a farm. Their alignment is such that when connected, they form a square compound (c. 50 × 50 m): Walls 200 and 203 in the east, Walls 204, 206, 210 and 211 in the west, Walls 205 and 214 and in the north and Walls 201 and 212 in the south. The walls extended beyond the excavation areas and appear to have been part of a larger terrace wall system. Most of the ceramic finds dated to the Byzantine period and the terrace walls were apparently built at this time as well. It is assumed that the pottery fragments from other periods were simply swept into the excavation area. The terrace walls may have been part of the settlement remains from the Byzantine period (Site 77) that were previously excavated c. 200 m north of here (*ESI* 20:134*). Settlement remains from the Iron Age and Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods were also explored in the past at Tel Hadid, located c. 2 km south of the site (*ESI* 19:44*-46*).



1. Plan.



2. Pottery.

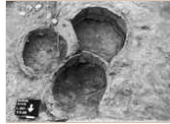


3. Stone figurine.

Khirbat Burin (A)

Raz Kletter

31/5/2004



1. Stratum I, three tabuns, looking south.



2. Stratum II, courtyard of the Mamluk-period building, enclosed with a wall that had a doorway (a later wall belonging to Stratum I was built above this wall) and to its left, the opening of



3. Squares P-R, remains of the Mamluk-period building (Strata I-II), looking southwest.



4. Square G, stone pavement (above) and a wall foundation built of small stones (below) from the Early Islamic period, looking north.

Khirbat Burin is located alongside a road junction in the Sharon; it is mentioned in historical sources from the Crusader and Mamluk periods as a settlement within the domain of Caesarea. Baybars I conquered the region in 1265 CE and turned over the settlement's lands to two of his Amirs. Twenty-four squares laid out in a strip (width 4 m) were opened c. 20 m north of the previous excavation (HA-ESI 112).

1999 Season

Six squares (1–5, 10) were opened in the vicinity of the Mamluk-period building that was exposed during the last season (1998). Three construction phases, two from the Mamluk period (I, II) and one from the Byzantine–Early Islamic periods (III), were discerned.

Stratum I (The Mamluk Period). Scant remains of irregular and carelessly constructed limestone walls were discovered close to surface. The walls were preserved one–two courses high and did not constitute an obvious plan. Sections of small and medium-sized stone floors abutted the walls. Numerous *tabuns* were uncovered; in one square there were five of them, three dug directly into the other two (Fig. 1). The ceramic finds dated to the Mamluk period and included, among others, two vessels that could be restored, a jar and a large basin with handles and a flat base that was sunk into the top of a St. II wall. Several bronze coins from the Mamluk period were collected on surface and from St. I.

Stratum II (The Mamluk Period). This was the primary layer at the site, which had two phases. The remains of a large, well-planned building were attributed to the early phase. It was constructed from limestone blocks (wall thickness 0.6–0.7 m) and included an entry foyer, a large room and a courtyard (width c. 7 m). A water cistern with a rectangular opening that was filled with debris (Fig. 2) was located in the courtyard; it was not excavated due to danger of collapse. Doorways in the walls of the building were equipped with well-dressed stone thresholds, sockets for door hinges and recesses for bolts. Parts of an iron lock were found near one of the doorways. The floors were mainly of whitish plaster. Carbonized wood remains rested on the floor of the large room, indicating the structure had been devastated by fire. The building contained Mamluk-period finds, including fragments of pottery vessels, such as jugs, cooking bowls and cooking pots, a deformed glass goblet and many iron nails. Noteworthy was a large iron tool with a burnt wooden handle that was probably used in farming.

The building continued to exist in the late phase and underwent alterations, including a stone wall that partitioned the large room into two, the blocking of entrances and the raising of floors, which in this phase were partly of stone and plaster. A small circular installation was attributed to this phase; it yielded a broken jug that contained a lump of rusted iron, which was composed of nails, a ring and a horseshoe. The use of the courtyard and the water cistern continued in this phase without any changes.

Stratum III (The Byzantine and Early Islamic Periods). Probes conducted below the floors of St. II revealed a very thick layer of hard, dark brown soil fill that contained a few fragments of mixed pottery from the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods. At one location a small pebble floor segment was noted, overlaid with a soil fill that consisted of numerous potsherds and several bronze coins from the 3rd–4th centuries CE.

2000 Season

Eighteen squares (A–R) were excavated and are described below from east to west; most of them located west of the Mamluk-period building.

Squares M–R were in the vicinity of the Mamluk-period building and their stratigraphy corresponded to the one from the previous seasons. *Tabuns* and meager remains of walls, which had partly irregular lines and were close to surface, were attributed to St. I, as well as a long broad wall (exposed length c. 20 m) and small-stone paved floors that abutted the walls. Most of the ceramic finds dated to the Mamluk period and the rest—to the Ottoman period. The walls in St. I directly superposed the walls of St. II and occasionally, the St. II walls were reused. The orientation of the walls was similar in both strata and it seems that only a short hiatus separated St. I from II.

Remains of a room (width c. 7 m) that belonged to the large, well-planned building from the Mamluk period, excavated in previous seasons (Fig. 3), were ascribed to St. II. A large square column base was discerned in the middle of the room, as well as the remains of an arch that supported the ceiling. When the arch collapsed the voussoirs fell in a straight line between the column base and one of the walls. Restorable potsherds were not detected in this layer throughout this season and it was difficult to discern any secondary phases in the structure. The finds in this stratum dated to the Mamluk period.

The excavation reached St. III only in several of the probes that were dug below the large Mamluk-period building. A deep layer of soil fill, without any building remains, was noted. The fill contained mixed ceramic finds from the Early Islamic and Mamluk periods.

Squares M–N were adjacent to the west of the large Mamluk-period building. The major find was a circular limekiln filled with crumbling and partially burnt stones, as well as a few pottery fragments from the Mamluk period. The kiln probably postdated St. II and may have been used to burn stones from the large building of this stratum.

Squares A–L extended west of Sqs M and N and had no remains from the Mamluk period (Strata I–II). At a depth of 0.5 m below surface the meager remains of walls, sections of floors and *tabuns* that were damaged by plowing and the theft of stones, were unearthed. The best state of preservation was discerned in Sqs F–H, wherein sections of a stone pavement and wall remains were standing two–three courses high (Fig. 4). A single building phase was noted in Sqs A–D, whereas in Sqs F–H, and particularly in Sqs K–L, two construction phases were recorded. In each of the squares the remains were in a dark layer of alluvium that was overlaying a fill of *hamra* soil, devoid of finds. Most of the ceramic finds dated to the Early Islamic period (9th–10th centuries CE). Several bronze coins that mostly dated to the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods were recovered from loci, whose stratigraphic affiliation was unclear.

The excavation at the site revealed a well-planned and extensively built-up area from the Mamluk period (Stratum II). Scant building remains and ceramic finds from the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods were located to its west. Potsherd clusters from the Byzantine period were traced in a region east of the excavation areas that was not excavated, but was nevertheless damaged in several places. It therefore seems that the extent of the settlement at Khirbat Burin was larger than originally thought.



1. Stratum I, three tabuns, looking south.



2. Stratum II, courtyard of the Mamluk-period building, enclosed with a wall that had a doorway (a later wall belonging to Stratum I was built above this wall) and to its left, the opening of



3. Squares P-R, remains of the Mamluk-period building (Strata I-II), looking southwest.

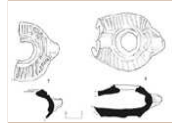


4. Square G, stone pavement (above) and a wall foundation built of small stones (below) from the Early Islamic period, looking north.

Khirbat Burin (B)*

Raz Kletter

31/5/2004



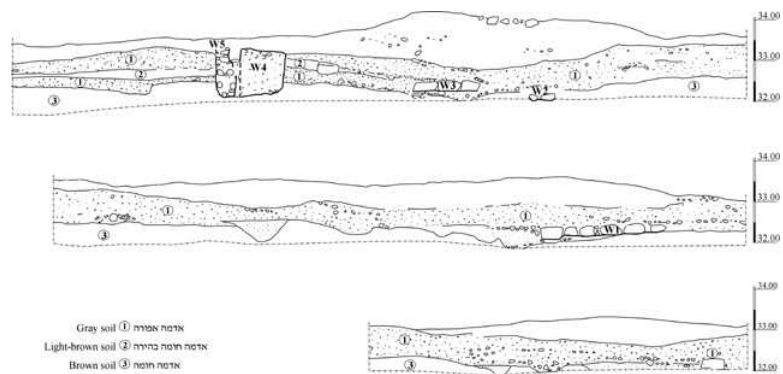
2. Pottery.

An excavation was conducted in August 2000 at Khirbat Burin (A-3297*; map ref. NIG 1986/6909; OIG 1486/1909; HA-ESI 112) prior to depositing fill on an old road to repave it. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by R. Kletter, with the assistance of S. Ya'akov-Jam (administration), V. Essman and V. Pirsky (surveying and drafting) and M. Rappaport-Arnov (drawing).

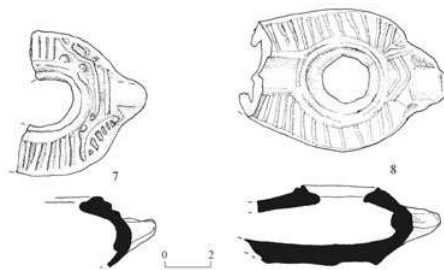
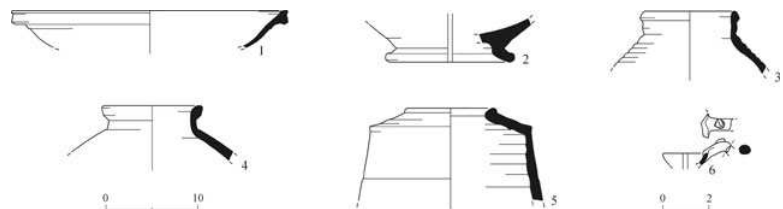
A section (c. 100 m long, max. height 1.5 m; Fig. 1) was cleaned on the eastern slope of the hill where the site is situated, along the western side of the road. Walls and layers of pottery fragments were discerned in the section. Excavations conducted by the author at the site in 1998–2000 exposed building remains dating mainly to the Mamluk period, as well as to the Byzantine–Early Islamic periods, and potsherds from the Persian, Hellenistic and Ottoman periods.

Walls and layers of pottery fragments were detected from the northern end of the section to its center, opposite the center of the site. Walls were not noted in the southern part of the section, which is lower than the northern part. Several layers in the section did not extend through its entire length. Two walls (W4, W5) were traced in the center of the section, creating the corner of a building from the Ottoman period that was damaged by mechanical equipment. The remains of another building from the Ottoman period were visible in the area of the nursery nearby; a piece of marble in secondary use was incorporated in the building's northern wall. Three other walls (W1–W3) were examined to the north of the building's corner. Below W3 was a layer of potsherds from the Byzantine period, among them a bowl (Fig. 2:1). Byzantine-period potsherds were uncovered below W1, including a jar (Fig. 2:3). Between W3 and W4 was a sloping fill of soil that yielded numerous pottery fragments from the Byzantine period, e.g., a lamp (Fig. 2:7).

Cleaning the section revealed fragments of pottery vessels dating to the Persian, Hellenistic, Byzantine, Early Islamic and Mamluk periods, including a mortarium (Fig. 2:2) and a bag-shaped jar (Fig. 2:5) from the Persian period, a jar from the Persian or Hellenistic period (Fig. 2:4), a lamp from the Byzantine period (Fig. 2:8), a jug's handle from the Early Islamic period (Fig. 2:6) and fragments of glazed pottery vessels from the Mamluk period.



1. Section, looking west.



2. Pottery.

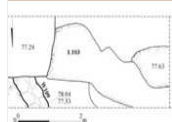
Khirbat et-Tira*

Amit Romano

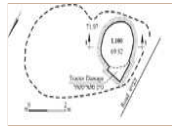
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During March–May 2000 a salvage excavation was conducted at Khirbat et-Tira in Moshav Bareqet (B-203/00*; map ref. NIG 19463–89/65823–45; OIG 14463–89/15823–45), after antiquities were destroyed while laying a water pipeline. The excavation, on behalf of the Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies of the University of Haifa and funded by the Meqorot Water Company, was directed by A. Romano.

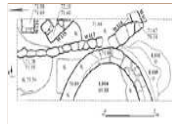
Two excavation areas (A, B) were opened, revealing water cisterns, a burial cave, a limekiln and building remains that were probably associated with the industrial area along the fringes of the ancient settlement at the site. The ceramic finds recovered from the excavation were dated from the Persian period to the modern era.



1. Area A, plan.



2. Area B, plan and section of water cistern.

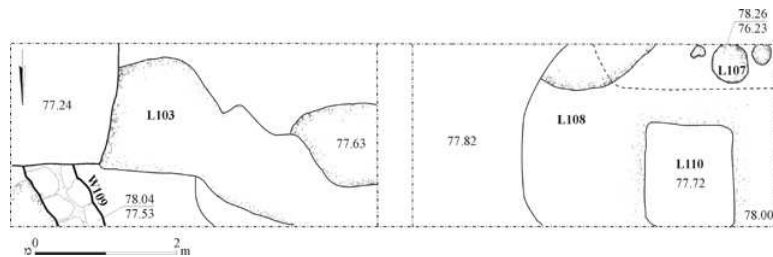


3. Area B, plan and section of the two southern half squares.

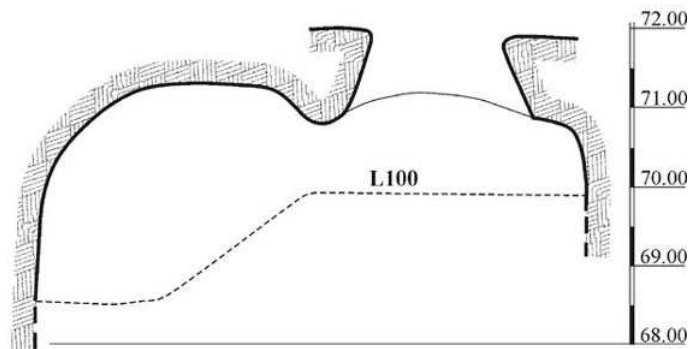
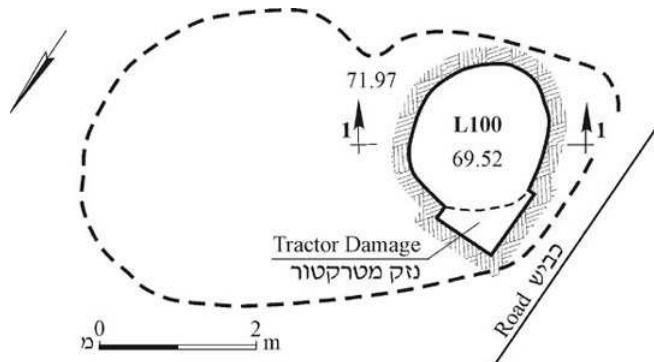
Area A (Fig. 1). Two half squares were excavated. A large rock-cut water cistern (L107) with a circular opening (diam. 0.5 m) and an irregular outline was discovered in the western half square. It was excavated to a depth of only 2 m. The cistern's northern wall was vertical, whereas the southern part widened to a distance of 6.2 m from the opening. The cistern was coated with a thick layer of plaster, applied to pottery fragments from the Byzantine period. The fill in the cistern contained ceramic finds from the Byzantine period until the Ottoman period. Thus, it seems that the cistern was not hewn prior to the Byzantine period and was no longer in use, at the latest, in the Ottoman period. The rock-hewn anteroom of a tomb (L110; 1.2 × 1.5 m) was exposed 0.5 m north of the water cistern. The tomb was not excavated. The tomb's facade was coated with fine plaster and its entrance, which was sealed with fieldstones, was discerned south of the anteroom. Two *loculi* were observed inside the tomb. A fieldstone-built wall (W109) founded on a thin layer of soil fill that rested on bedrock was uncovered in the eastern half square. The soil fill in both half squares (Loc 103, 108) was disturbed. The ceramic finds in the area dated from the Byzantine period until the Ottoman period.

Area B. Three half squares, aligned north–south, were opened. A large hewn water cistern (L100; Fig. 2) with a circular opening (diam. 2 m) was detected in the northern half square, which was enlarged to a full square. The cistern extended 3.5 m from its mouth to the northeast, where it reached a maximum depth of 3 m. It was coated with a thick layer of plaster and contained ceramic finds dating from the Byzantine period until the Ottoman period.

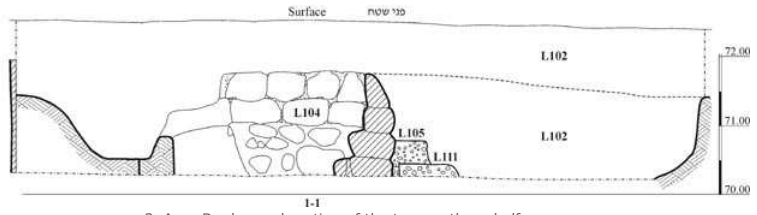
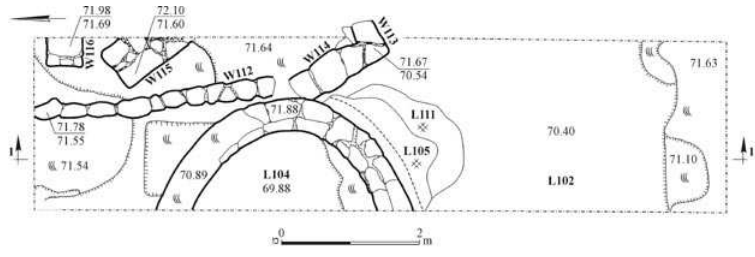
The two southern half squares (Fig. 3) comprised a thick layer of alluvium (L102) that consisted of stones and an abundance of potsherds, ranging in date from the Persian period until the modern era. Half of a circular limekiln (L104) was found beneath the alluvium layer. One foundation course set on bedrock and above it two courses of stone construction were preserved; the northern part of the limekiln was bedrock hewn and plastered. South of the limekiln were two plaster floors, the upper was 0.3 m higher than the lower one. The upper floor (L105) abutted the bottom course of the limekiln and was dated to the Early Islamic period, based on the latest ceramic finds. The lower floor (L111) was severed by the limekiln's foundation trench and its date was unclear. The limekiln continued further to the south, below the road. East of the limekiln was a corner formed by two walls (W113, W114) that was part of a building, which had been destroyed when the limekiln was constructed. To its north were sections of two walls (W115, W116); the direction of W115 indicates it was probably connected to Walls 113 and 114. A retaining wall (W112), consisting of a single stone course founded on bedrock, was noted nearby; it was probably meant to retain the soil used in leveling the area to its east.



1. Area A, plan.



2. Area B, plan and section of water cistern.

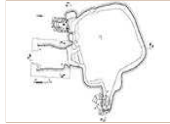


3. Area B, plan and section of the two southern half squares.

Khirbat Harsis

Zvi Greenhut

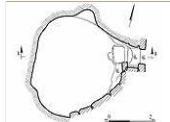
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1. Cave A, plan and sections.



2. The hewn corridor, leading to the burial chamber, looking south.



3. Cave B, plan and section.

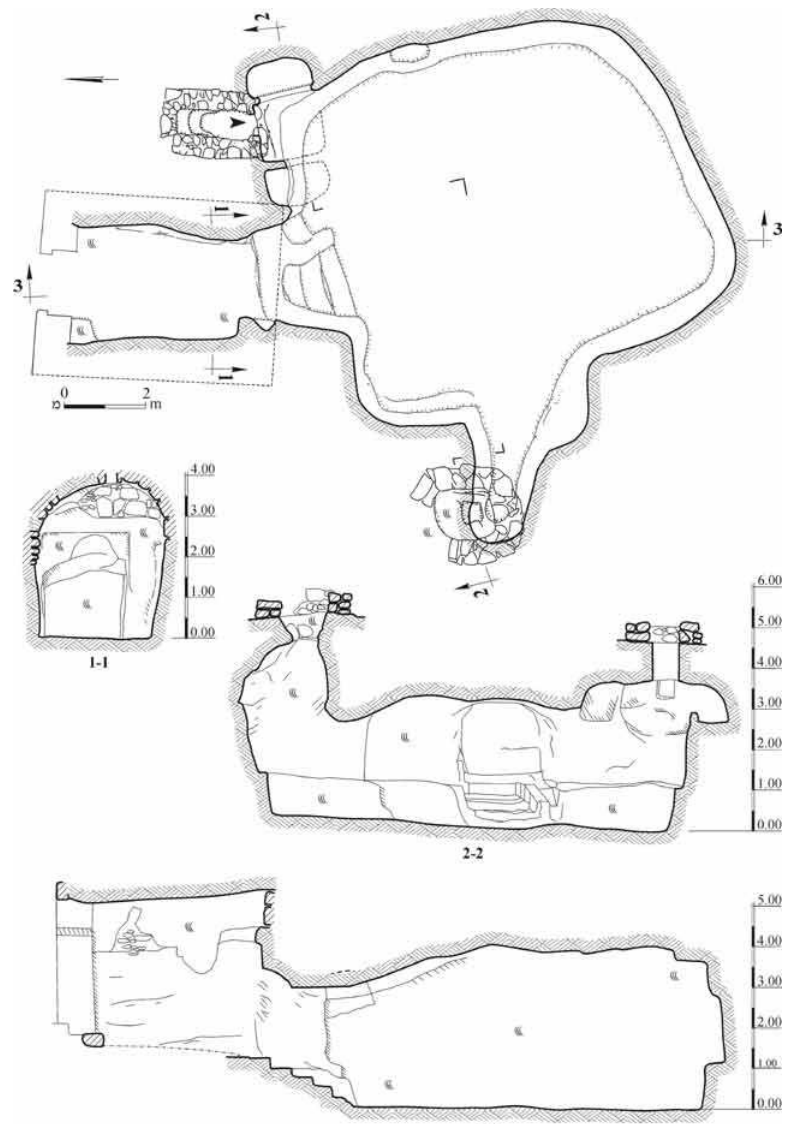
During January 2001 two rock-cut burial caves were recorded at Khirbat Harsis (G-17/00; Sha'ar Ha-Gây Khan; map ref. NIG 20234-5/63576-8; OIG 15234-5/13576-8), prior to destroying their ceilings in the process of developing the khan. The documentation was conducted by Z. Greenhut, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, assisted by V. Essman and V. Pirsky (surveying and drafting), within the framework of the Map of Sha'ar Ha-Gây survey [100].

The two caves appear to have been used for storage as part of the khan complex from the Ottoman period, which was founded in 1869 midway along the road from Jaffa to Jerusalem.

Cave A (Fig. 1). Inside the hewn entrance to the cave, probably in modern times, a stone lintel with an arch above it was built; it is now closed with bars. A corridor (length 4.5 m, height at the lower part c. 2 m) covered with a plastered vault led from the entrance to the chamber of the cave, via another doorway at its end. Around the doorway was a square chiseled frame with a panel cut above it. A recess at the left side of the panel is of unclear purpose. The doorway was subsequently widened and a double staircase was quarried, separated by a bedrock partition. The eastern staircase consisted of three steps (width 0.7 m) and the western staircase had four steps that became wider toward the bottom (width 1.0–1.8 m). The cave's chamber (7.5 × 8.0 m, height 3.8 m) was oval shaped. A shallow niche was hewn on the southwestern wall, near the corridor. A stone bench was cut along the entire circumference of the cave. On the eastern side, above the bench, was a hewn niche in bedrock. On the southwestern side was a shallow niche cut into the cave's wall.

The cave was quarried above a bell-shaped water cistern and earlier rock-cut burial caves, negating their use. The water cistern was located on the western side of the cave and a hewn corridor (length c. 2 m) from inside the cave was leading into it. The cistern's opening was square (0.3 × 0.3 m) and enclosed with a stone wall that was built in modern times. The burial cave was located at the northeastern side of the cave's ceiling. A corridor (length 2 m) with three steps led from surface to the burial cave; the corridor's entrance was surrounded by a modern wall that was meant to prevent one from falling inside (Fig. 2). At the inner end of the corridor was a small square entry (0.4 × 0.5 m) that led to the burial chamber, which consisted of two *arcosolia*. The southwestern part of the burial cave was destroyed when the later storage cave was hewn. The plan of the burial cave implied a date in the Late Roman–Byzantine periods.

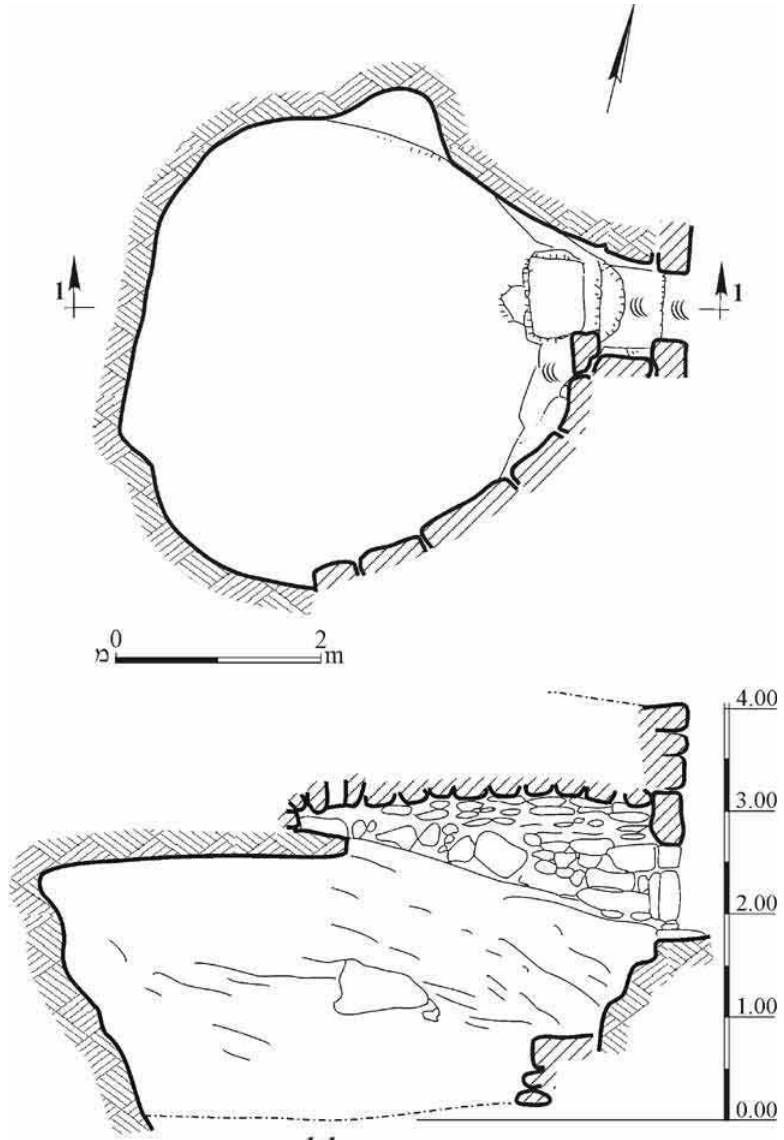
Cave B (Fig. 3). A stone wall, in which a rectangular entrance was installed, was built in front of the cave. Four rock-cut steps led down from the entrance to a circular chamber (average diam. 4.2 m). The northeastern part of the cave's ceiling was absent and it was repaired with stone and cement construction. The cave's northeastern wall was also completed with the aid of a stone wall. A small vaulted niche was inserted into this stone wall, 1.1 m above the floor of the cave. On the opposite side, in the western bedrock wall, was another hewn niche, 0.6 m above the floor.



1. Cave A, plan and sections.



2. The hewn corridor, leading to the burial chamber, looking south.



3. Cave B, plan and section.

Khirbat Jarrar*

Iskander Jabour

12/5/2004



1. Area A, general view, looking east.



4. Area A, ceramic figurine.



7. Area C, general view, looking east.



8. Glass finds.

During October 1994–January 1995 a salvage excavation was conducted at Khirbat Jarrar, west of Umm el-Fahm (A- 2201*; map ref. NIG 2136–9/7129–31; OIG 1636–9/2129–31), after ancient remains were discovered during the installation of a sewer pipe. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by I. Jabour, with the assistance of R. Hourri (area supervision), V. Essman and V. Pirsky (surveying and drafting), T. Sagiv (photography), M. Rappaport (drawing), O. Shorr (glass restoration), M. Miles (drawing glass vessels), Y. Gorin-Rosen (processing glass finds), D.T. Ariel (numismatics) and V. Eshed (physical anthropology).

Four excavation areas (A–D) were opened on the hillside, revealing building remains (2nd–5th centuries CE) and a tomb (3rd–4th centuries CE).

Area A (Figs. 1, 2). Two and one-half squares that consisted of two construction strata (1, 2) were excavated. The remains in St. 1 comprised part of a structure, whose fieldstone-built walls (W7, W8, W10) were preserved c. 1 m high; to its north and parallel to W7, was part of a fieldstone-built wall (W5) preserved 0.3 m high. The pottery finds (Fig. 3:1–8) in this stratum were from the 2nd–3rd centuries CE and dated the walls to the 3rd century CE. A fragment of a mold-made ceramic figurine (Fig. 4) of a woman with hair cascading onto her shoulders was retrieved from the building, next to W8.

The walls (W1–4, W6, W9) of a structure that was attributed to St. 2 were built of two rows of fieldstones with a *debesb* fill core. It seems the building had two construction phases. Walls 3 and 4 belonged to the first phase; Wall 3 cancelled W5 from St. 1. In the second phase a layer of beaten soil fill was applied to bedrock (thickness 1.7 m) and the rest of the walls were constructed above it. The ceramic finds in the stratum (Fig. 3:9–11) were from the 3rd–5th centuries CE and dated the building to the 5th century CE.

Area B (Fig. 5). Two and one-half excavation squares were opened, exposing wall remains (W30–32, W34, W36). Wall 30 and its western extension W32, as well as W34 were built of fieldstones with a *debesb* fill core and were set directly on bedrock. They may have been the remains of a building, or terrace walls. Wall 31 was destroyed and W36, built on bedrock, was preserved to a maximum of two foundation courses. The ceramic finds in the area were scant and non-diagnostic. A coin dating to the reign of Constantius II (351–361 CE; IAA 77740) was uncovered in the area between Walls 30 and 34 (L304).

Area C (Figs. 6, 7). Two excavation squares comprised two construction strata (1, 2). The remains of St. 1 consisted of two structure walls (W61, W62) built of two rows of finely dressed ashlar stones and preserved 0.5 m high. A flat-stone pavement (L601) abutted the walls. The building was founded on a fieldstone fill (thickness 0.5 m) that was intended to level the area. The ceramic finds from St. 1 were scant, yet it seems to date to the 2nd–3rd centuries CE.

Two walls (W60, W63) at the same elevation were built of semi-hewn stones and ascribed to St. 2. Wall 60 was founded atop a soil fill (thickness 0.1 m) that was deposited on the remains of St. 1. The ceramic finds from St. 2 were meager and non-diagnostic.

Area D. A bedrock-hewn cist grave (0.65 × 2.60 m, depth 0.5–0.6 m) oriented east–west was revealed. The grave had been plundered and disturbed when found. It contained the bones of five individuals, three adults and two children, as well as other finds, including glass vessels dating to the 3rd–4th centuries CE (below), a bronze bell and a lead weight.

The Glass Finds

Yael Gorin-Rosen

Approximately 150 fragments of glass vessels, half of them diagnostic, were recovered from all the excavation areas. Numerous fragments of industrial glass debris were collected on surface, including glass drops, lumps of raw glass, overblows, glass pontil remnants, and others. The glass finds and industrial glass debris were dated to the Late Roman period and the beginning of the Byzantine period.

The glass finds were mostly dated to the 4th–5th centuries CE, except for three earlier vessels, which included a rim fragment of a cast bowl decorated with horizontal grooves (L304, Area B), dating to the end of the Hellenistic period, and two bowl fragments (Loci 105, 117, Area A) that have a hollow folded rim decorated with crimped trails on the rim's edge, dating to the end of the 1st and the beginning of the 2nd centuries CE.

The cist grave (Area D) yielded the most important group of glass vessels; it included an intact jar and two intact bracelets, as well as other glass fragments. The jar (Fig. 8:1) was made of pale olive-green glass, initially mold blown, which created a pattern of vertical ribbing on the shoulder and base. The middle of the body was not decorated because the pattern blurred when the glass was subsequently reblown outside of the mold. The bracelets (Fig. 8:5, 6) were made of dark opaque glass; one was decorated with a pattern of diagonal ribbing around its circumference and the other was plain. The other glass finds consisted of bowl rim fragments adorned with a delicate trail below the rim, three different bases that probably belonged to bottles, a bottle rim, a body fragment of a bottle decorated with delicate ribbing on the shoulder and body, a jar rim made of colorless glass and another fragment of a plain bracelet. The grave is dated to the Late Roman period (the end of the 3rd–4th centuries CE).

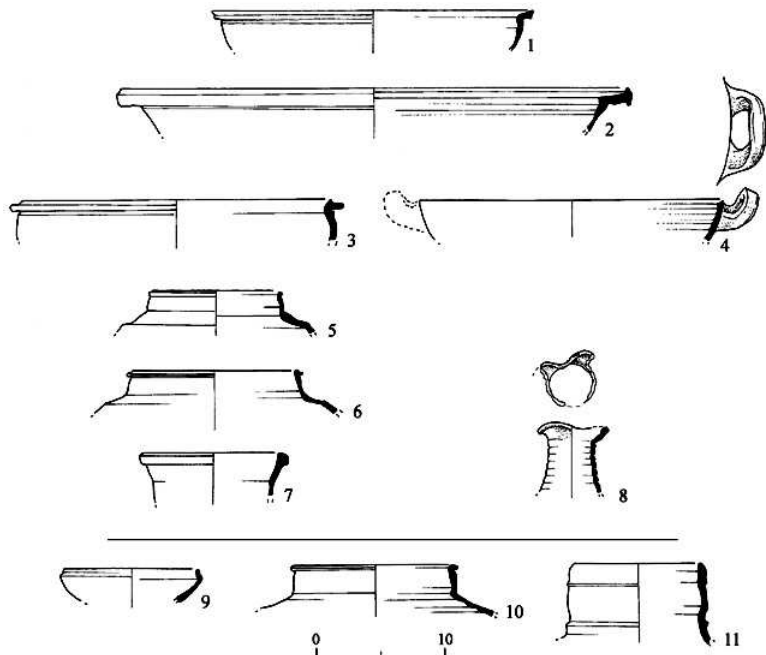
Glass remains were discovered in other loci in the excavation. Locus 102 in Area A included a pressed tooled-out base of greenish blue glass (Fig. 8:3); Locus 103 in Area A contained a jar base similar to that in the grave and made in the same technique (Fig. 8:2), a high and hollowed base-ring of greenish blue glass (Fig. 8:4), a fragment of a plain bracelet similar to that found in the grave and rim fragments of bowls and cups. More fragments of bowls, cups and bottles from the Late Roman and Byzantine periods came from L304 in Area B.



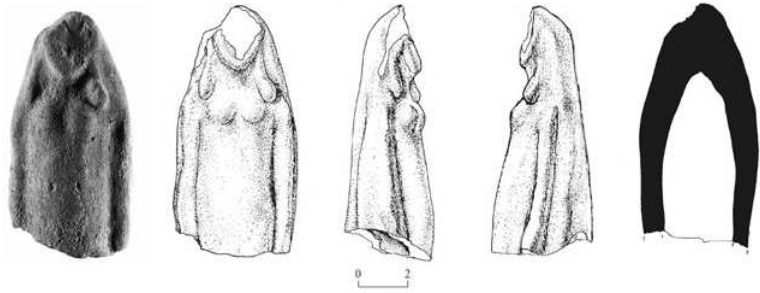
1. Area A, general view, looking east.



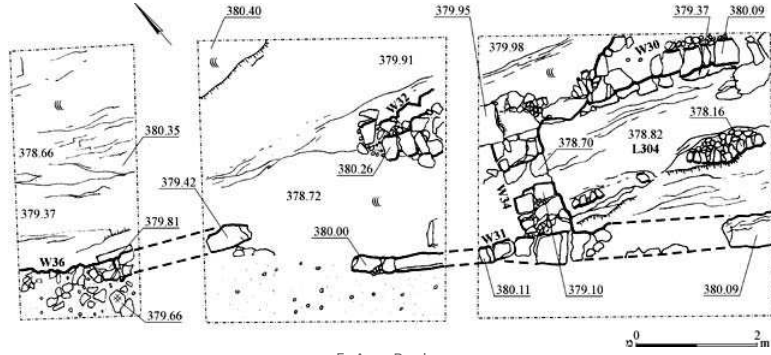
2. Area A, plan.



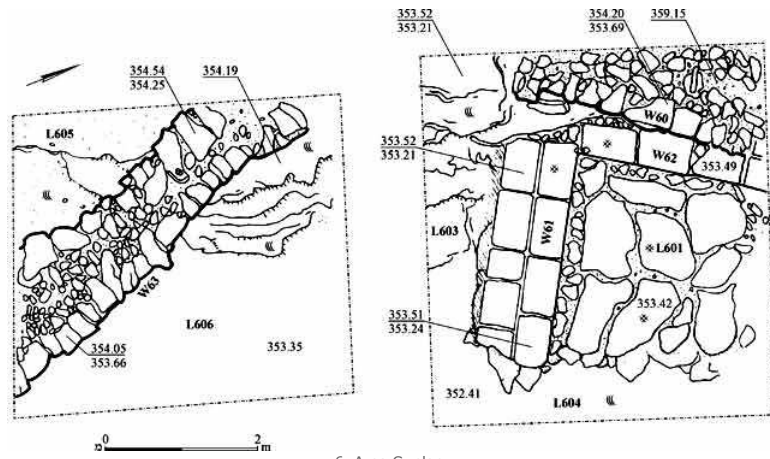
3. Area A, pottery: bowls (1, 2, 9); cooking vessels (3-6, 10); jars (7, 11) and a juglet (8).



4. Area A, ceramic figurine.



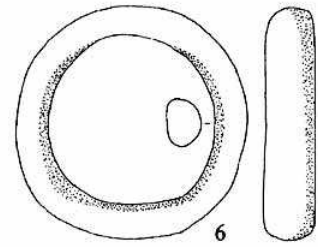
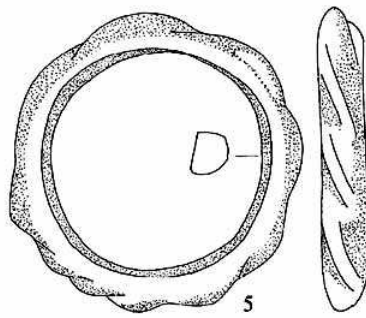
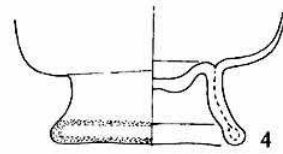
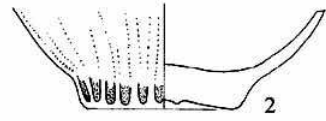
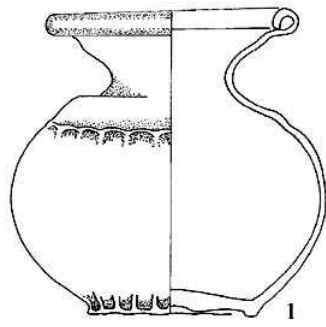
5. Area B, plan.



6. Area C, plan.



7. Area C, general view, looking east.

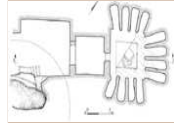


0 10
8. Glass finds.

Khirbat Kharuf

Shahar Batz

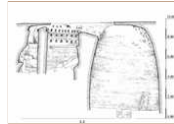
31/5/2004



1. Burial cave, plan and section.



2. Decorated ossuary fragments (1, 2) and plaster (3).



3. Columbarium and water cistern, plan and section.

A burial cave, columbarium and water cistern that were breached during an antiquities robbery were recorded in January 2001 at Khirbat Kharuf (map ref. NIG 1979/6128; OIG 1479/1128). The documentation, on behalf of the Archaeological Staff Officer of Judea and Samaria, was conducted by S. Batz, assisted by P. Portnov and P. Gertopsky (surveying and drafting) and Y. Bar-Ashi (find drawing).

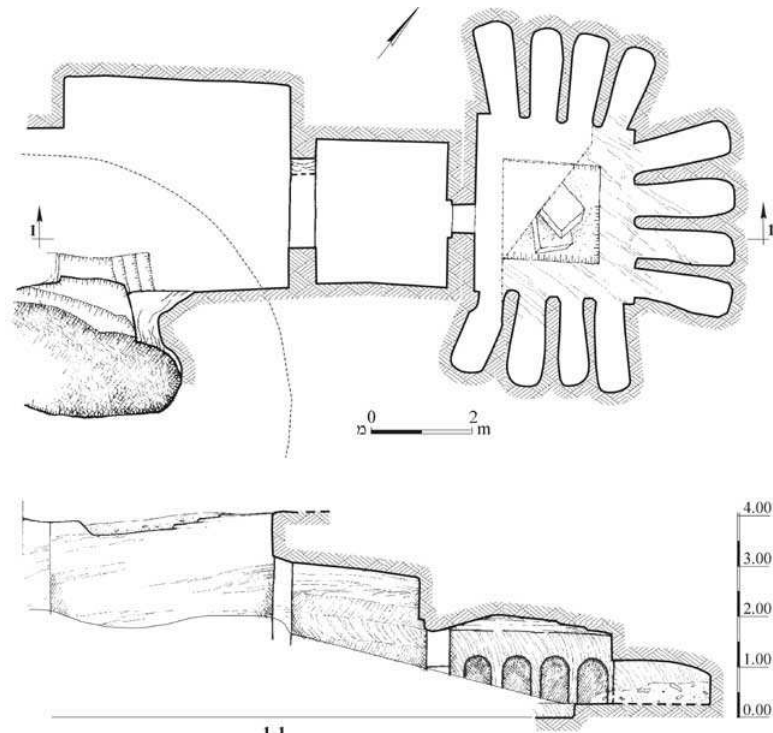
The burial cave, columbarium and water cistern were hewn in a dome on the southern fringes of Khirbat Kharuf. The columbarium and water cistern were adjacent to each other and c. 50 m from the burial cave, which is dated to the Early Roman period. The Survey of Western Palestine documented the following antiquities at the ruin: burial caves, columbarium caves, a hiding refuge from the time of Bar-Kokhba, remains of ashlar buildings and a church, ossuaries fragments and marble elements, including a fragment of a sigma table that belonged to the church. Ceramic finds from the Hellenistic until the Mamluk periods were collected as well (SWP III:356).

The Burial Cave (Fig. 1) was carefully hewn into the soft chalk bedrock. It consisted of a covered courtyard, square anteroom and burial chamber that were aligned southwest-northeast, one behind the other. A rock-cut water cistern with a staircase was discovered in the southern side of the courtyard (4.2 × 4.6 m). The cistern postdated the courtyard and it seems to have been connected to the cave. An entrance (0.5 × 0.6 m) was cut in the anteroom (2.7 × 2.8 m), enclosed with a recessed dressed frame (width 0.1 m). A step (height 0.3 m) descended from the entrance to the burial chamber (3.3 × 3.6 m, height 1.8 m), which had a square standing pit (2 × 2 m) carved in its center. Twelve *arcosolia* (0.55–0.70 × 1.80–1.90 m, depth 0.85–1.00 m) were hewn in three of the chamber's walls, four in each wall.

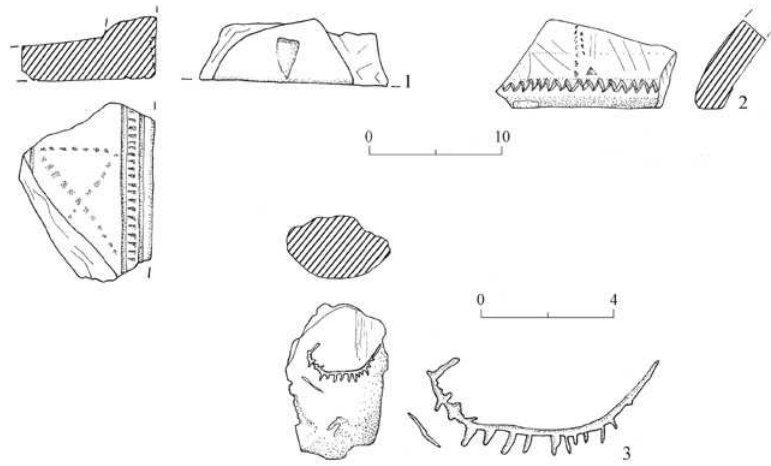
The accumulations inside the cave contained a few potsherds and some fragments of ossuaries decorated with geometric patterns (Fig. 2:1, 2) that dated to the 1st century BCE–1st century CE. A fragment of plaster, bearing a schematic etching of a rowboat (Fig. 2:3) was also recovered from the cave. Etchings of sailing vessels are known in other burial caves, such as Jason's Cave in Jerusalem (see *'Atiqot* 4[HS]:8–10). The cave is dated to the Early Roman period. Numerous sites with similar burial caves from this period are familiar in the Judean Shephelah (*HA-ESI* 110:78*–79*).

The Columbarium and the Water Cistern (Fig. 3). The columbarium was bell-shaped and mostly collapsed (diam. 8 m, presumed height 6 m). During its quarrying a square pillar (1 × 1 m) was left in the center to support the ceiling. A row of cells was located on each side of the pillar's upper part. Similar pillars were revealed in other columbaria complexes in the Judean Shephelah (*HA-ESI* 110:78*–79*). The columbarium's southern wall was well preserved and four rows of cells, c. 5.5 m above the presumed floor level, were observed in its upper part. Two decorative strips were chiseled into bedrock, one below the rows of cells and the other above the second row of cells. Decoration of red-painted dots was discerned around the openings of several cells.

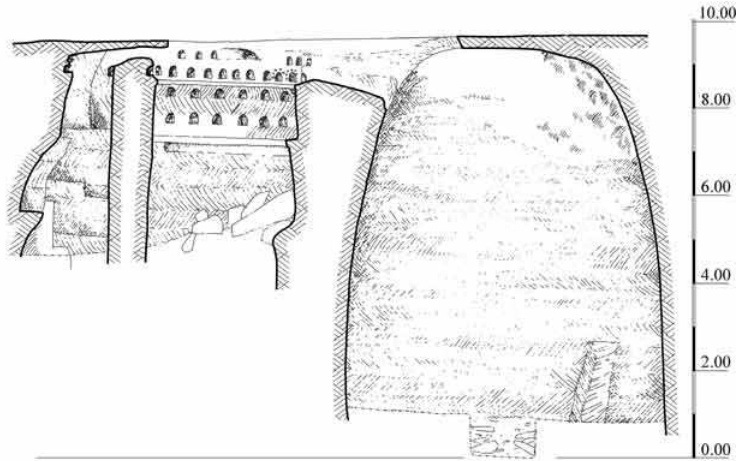
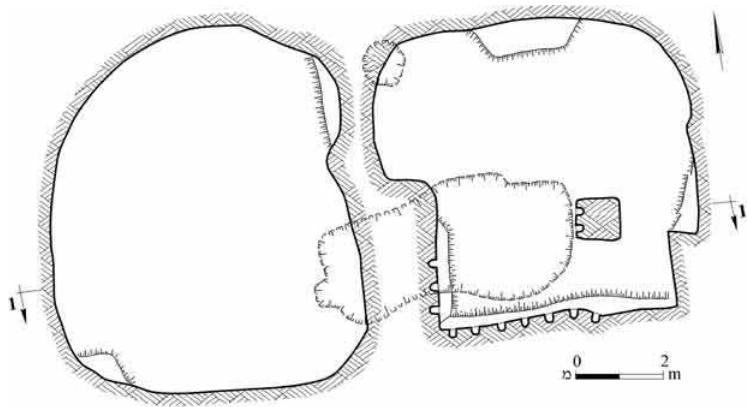
The water cistern was hewn just to the west of the columbarium. It was bell-shaped (max. width c. 7 m, depth c. 10 m), with an upper opening (length 2 m). Notches caused by the friction of ropes while drawing water from the cistern were discerned around the walls of the opening.



1-1
1. Burial cave, plan and section.



2. Decorated ossuary fragments (1, 2) and plaster (3).



1-1
3. Columbarium and water cistern, plan and section.

Khirbat Lasan*
Archive Report

Pirhiya Nahshoni

9/6/2004

A salvage excavation (2 × 2 m) was conducted at Khirbat Lasan (A-3441*;map ref. NIG 16107/60150; OIG 11107/10150), following the exposure of stones inside a drainage channel at the Alon-Gevim gas station. Two concentrations of *kurkar* stones, 0.8 m apart and devoid of any ancient remains, were discovered.

Khirbat Sha'ira (South)*

Rina Avner

31/5/2004



1. Plan and sections.

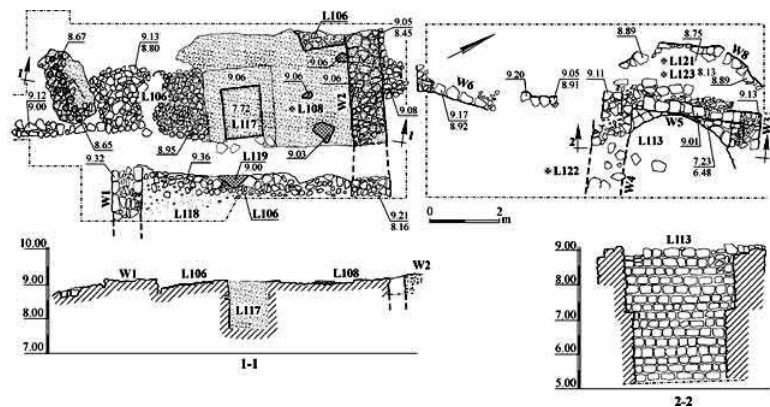
During November–December 2000 a trial excavation was conducted south of Khirbat Sha'ira (A-3336*; map ref. NIG 19103-5/66381-5; OIG 14103-5/16381-5), prior to widening Highway 40. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by R. Avner, assisted by A. Hajian (surveying) and N. Zak (drafting).

Five squares in a row were excavated and two layers of building remains were exposed (Fig. 1). The upper layer dated to the Ottoman period, based on the ceramic finds beneath its floors; the lower layer dated to the Byzantine period, judging by body fragments of jars that came from unsealed loci and above the floors. No ceramic finds were found below the floors of the lower layer. A well, whose date is unknown, was examined as well. Two trenches for telephone and water lines that were cut through the squares in a north–south direction damaged the remains.

The Byzantine Period. Three walls (W3–5) were discovered in the northern part of the excavation. The walls (width 0.85 m) were built of two rows of ashlar stones, with earth and small stones between the ashlars, and were preserved eight courses high. A stone floor (L122) abutted the southern side of W4 and a stone-slab floor (L123) abutted W5 on the west. An architectural area enclosed on the north and south with walls (W1, W2) was uncovered in the southern part of the excavation. Walls 1 and 2 were built in the same manner as W3–5, of two rows of medium-sized stones and several large stones, with soil and small fieldstones in between the stones; they were preserved a single course high. The northern face of W1 was coated with a layer of mud and fragments of pottery vessels (thickness 5 cm), over which a layer of gray plaster was applied (thickness 1.5 cm). The area was paved with a white mosaic, survived by two segments, one in the northern part of the area (0.6 × 0.6 m), next to W2, and the other in the southern side of the area (L119; 0.4 × 1.0 m). The mosaic floor overlaid a layer of gray plaster (L108) that was mostly preserved in the northern part of the area and abutted the southern side of W2. A pebble bedding (L106) was below the gray plaster layer and preserved in several sections. The section in the northern part of the area abutted W2. A plastered vat (L117; 1.1 × 3.1 m, depth 1.27 m) was detected in the center of the area, which may have been part of a winepress, wherein the mosaic floor was the treading surface and the plastered vat was the collecting vat.

The Ottoman Period. Walls 3–5 were reused. Stone courses (width 0.4 m), narrower than the lower courses, were added to them; only a single course of the later ones was preserved. A curved wall (W8) built of fieldstones and preserved one course high was revealed west of W5. A plaster floor (L121) abutted the top courses of W4, W5 and W8. To the south of these building remains were two fieldstone-built walls (W6, W7) that may have served as fences or as terrace walls. A plaster floor (L118) that overlaid a fill of fieldstones and was deposited on the mosaic floor (L119) from the Byzantine period abutted W1, which continued to be used in this layer.

The Well (L113; diam. in excess of 5 m) was in the northern part of the area, below W3–5. It seems that these walls were part of the square well. The western part of the well was excavated to a depth of 6 m, when work had to be suspended due to safety concerns. The finds in the well included pottery fragments from the Byzantine and Ottoman periods, as well as the modern era.



1. Plan and sections.

Khirbat Umm Kalkha

Angelina Dagot

31/5/2004

A trial excavation was conducted in July 2000 at Khirbat Umm Kalkha, c. 200 m east of Moshav Yesodot (A-3260; map ref. NIG 18708-13/63533-5; OIG 13708-13/13533-5) following the discovery of ancient remains while overseeing the installation of a pipe. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority and financed by the Cellcom Corporation, was directed by A. Dagot, with the assistance of M. Peilstöcker, V. Pirsky (surveying), T. Sagiv (photography), M. Ben-Gal (pottery restoration) and M. Arnov (pottery drawing).

Three excavation squares were opened along an east-west axis (1-3), adjacent to the southern edge of Highway 3's drainage ditch and north of a citrus grove. Building remains, dating to the end of Middle Bronze Age IIA, were exposed at a depth of c. 0.3 m below surface.

Square 1. A wall segment (exposed length 10.6 m, width 0.65 m) oriented east-west, which was built of different-sized fieldstones and medium-sized wadi pebbles, was excavated; it was preserved two courses high (0.36 m). Floors that consisted of small wadi pebbles, overlaying a bed of packed earth, abutted the wall on the north and south. A large quantity of ceramic finds from the end of MB IIA was discovered on the floors. Remains of a *tabun* were found on the floor in the northeastern corner of the square.

Square 2. A beaten earth floor or the bed of a floor was detected in the southwestern corner of the square, overlain with fragments of pottery vessels from MB IIA and a bead. The wall in Sq 1 extended into this square; a floor on its southern side was superposed with numerous fragments of pottery vessels from MB IIA. A level of small stones was uncovered north of the wall and below it were the remains of an oval-shaped kiln (1.3 x 2.0 m, preserved height 0.97 m) lined with clay-brick material. Inside and around the kiln were large quantities of potsherds dating to MB IIA, as well as ceramic industrial debris.

Square 3. Part of a surface, composed of large fieldstones and medium-sized river pebbles (1.7 x 2.0 m), was unearthed in the northern part of the square. Large numbers of MB IIA potsherds were revealed southwest of the surface.

Based on the stratigraphy and the ceramic finds, two MB IIA construction phases could be discerned. The kiln in Sq 2 probably belonged to the early phase and the wall and floors associated with it were part of the later phase.

Lod*

Yoav Arbel

31/5/2004

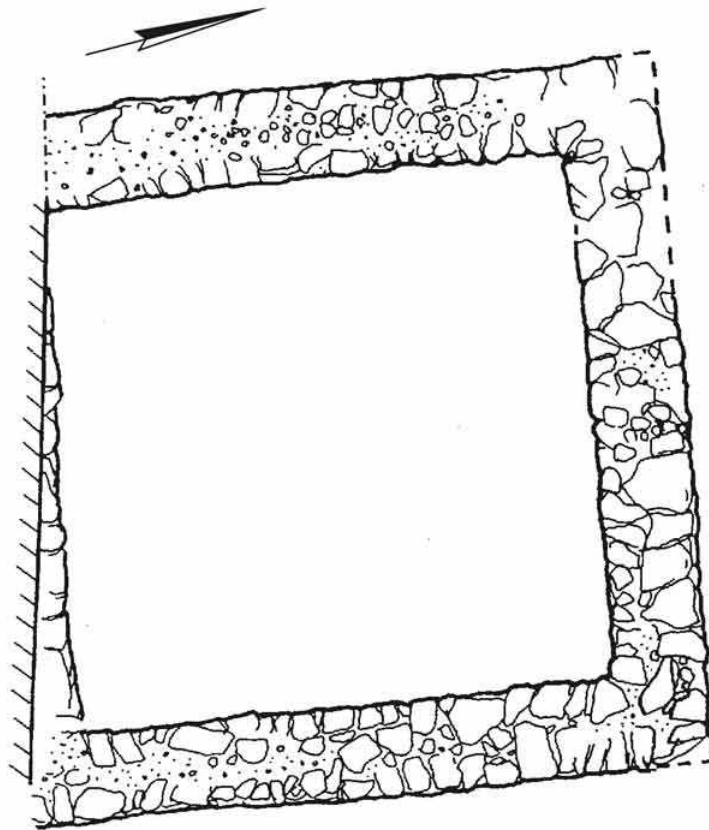
During September 2000 an excavation was conducted in the northern industrial zone of Lod (A-3299*; map ref. NIG 19055/65227; OIG 14055/15227), prior to construction. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by Y. Arbel, with the assistance of I. Rahamim (administration), V. Essman and V. Pirskey (surveying and drafting) and T. Sagiv (photography).

Prior to the excavation, trenches dug by mechanical equipment exposed building remains and ceramic finds. Most of the finds dated to the Byzantine and Early Arab periods; the rest—to Middle Bronze Age II and Iron Age. Four squares (1–4) were opened in the excavation, revealing the remains of a hearth and a stone building, as well as mostly worn potsherds that were difficult to date and probably originated in the soil fills that were brought to the site from elsewhere.

Squares 1 and 2, located in the northern part of the site, contained mixed concentrations of worn potsherds from the Iron Age, Hellenistic, Byzantine and Early Islamic periods, at a depth of 1.5–1.8 m below surface.

Square 3, c. 15 m east of Sqs 1 and 2, consisted of a thin layer of ash and a circular hearth in its center, built of small stones (diam. 0.3 m) c. 1.8 m below surface. The ash around the hearth was denser and deeper than that at the edges of the layer. The ceramic finds associated with the hearth included a jar fragment and fragments of other pottery vessels from the MB II. It should be noted that M. Peilstöcker excavated MB II tombs nearby, in 1998 (Permit A-2834).

Remains of a nearly square building (5.0 × 5.2 m; Fig. 1) were exposed in Sq 4, located c. 15 m south of Sqs 1 and 2. It was built of soft chalk blocks that were either roughly hewn or unworked. The walls (width 0.6 m) were preserved a maximum of three courses high (max. height 0.7 m). The inner face of the walls was coated with gray plaster. Since entrances, floors or installations were not discovered in the building it seems that the remains represent its foundations. The building's southern wall was subsequently used as a foundation for a modern concrete structure. The ceramic finds were meager and mostly worn; a few potsherds were dated to the Byzantine, Early Islamic and Mamluk periods. The stratigraphic association of the finds is unclear and they cannot be used to date the building with certainty. The reuse of the building's southern wall indicates that the remains protruded above surface until the middle of the 20th century, and may imply a relatively late date for the building. The absence of modern finds from the building's foundation level precludes dating it to the modern era; it should probably be dated to the Mamluk or Ottoman periods.



0 2 m

1. Square 4, plan.

Maghar*
Archive Report

Eliot Braun

9/6/2004

A trial excavation (A-740*; map ref. NIG 238/755; OIG 188/255) inside a small niche in the vicinity of the spring near the settlement revealed no ancient remains.

Malkiyya (East)

Yosef Stepansky

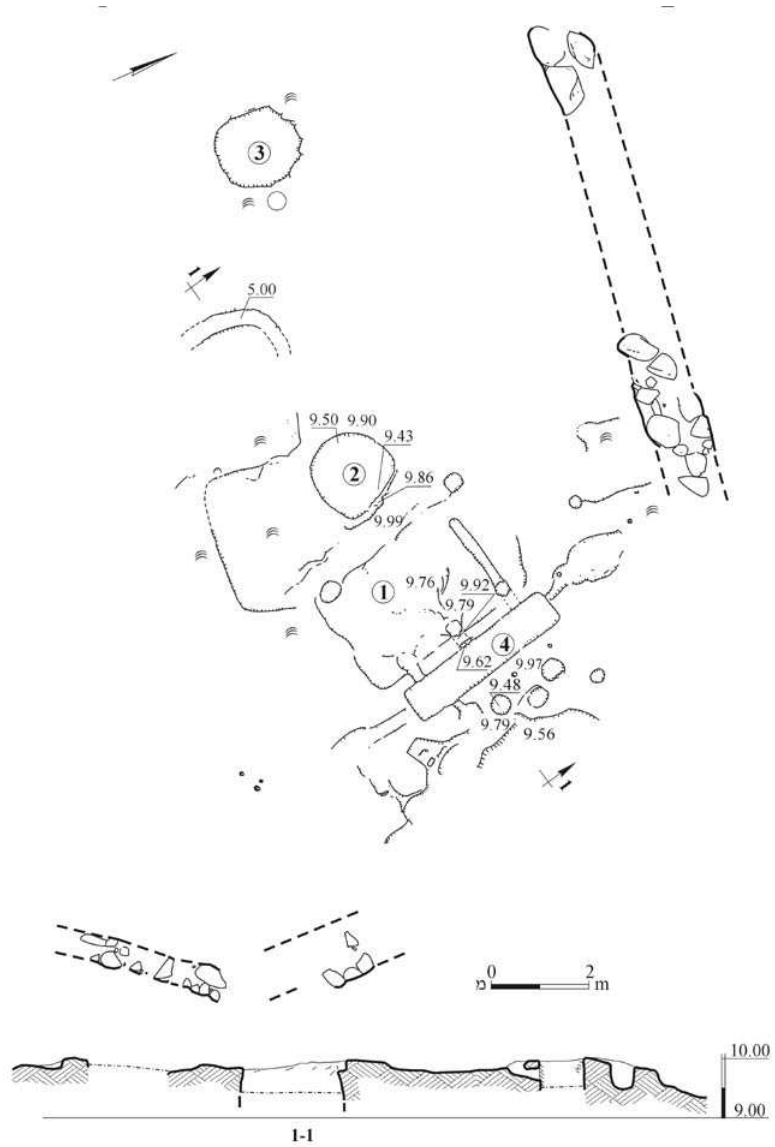
2/6/2004



1. Rock-cut winepress, plan and section.

During January 2001, a bedrock-hewn winepress to the east of Qibbutz Malkiyya (map ref. NIG 24860/77903; OIG 19860/27903) was examined, prior to paving a bypass road around the Qibbutz. M. Galili, of the Nature and National Parks Authority, notified the Antiquities Authority of its existence. The winepress' examination, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority and funded by the Jewish National Fund, was conducted by Y. Stepansky, assisted by V. Essman, and V. Pirsky (surveying and drafting). The course of the road was altered to avoid damaging the winepress.

The winepress (at least 10×15 m; Fig. 1) consisted of a treading surface (1; 2.5×4.0 m), two circular collecting vats (2, 3; each 1.5 m in diam.) and a rectangular collecting vat (4; 0.75×3.50 m). The latter was joined to the treading surface via three channels. Part of the winepress was covered with soil. Cupmarks and rock-cuttings were discovered around the winepress and in its vicinity. The remains of a wall built of chalk fieldstones were discerned to the north, east and south of the winepress. It was preserved a single course high and it probably separated the winepress from the surrounding area.



1. Rock-cut winepress, plan and section.

Modi'in

Yehudah Rapuano

31/5/2004

During October–November 2000 an excavation was conducted at 'Mitham Buchman' in Modi'in (A-3328; map ref. NIG 2000-10/6435-42; OIG 15000-10/1435-42), in preparation for a new neighborhood. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by A. Onn, assisted by Y. Rapuano, A. Hajian (surveying) and R. Abu Halaf and S. Jan (administration).

The site is located on the northern, western and southern slopes of a hill, to the northeast of the Latrun–Modi'in highway, near the western entrance to Modi'in; it is c. 250 dunams in size. The archaeological remains investigated at 198 surveyed points consisted of structures, agricultural installations, industrial installations, cairns, stone platforms and burial caves.

Structures. These consisted of a two-room dwelling, perhaps a farmhouse, wherein the walls were preserved c. 1 m high; a long enclosure; a courtyard or animal pen; another courtyard, which could have been a chamber, and a bedrock area that was enclosed with cupmarks.

Agricultural installations. Winepresses, cisterns, agri-cultural terraces, stone fences, basins and cupmarks are gathered under this heading.

The winepresses belonged to two main groups; the first had an oval treading floor and an oval vat, and the second group consisted of a usually rectangular treading floor and a rectangular vat, save one instance where it was oval. Fourteen winepresses, including two unfinished installations, were explored.

Several cisterns in the area (three were excavated) had their tops hewn into bedrock and were associated with at least a single stone trough or a cupmark.

A number of basins (seven were investigated) were sometimes enclosed within a frame, possibly to accommodate a cover.

Industrial installations. Several small quarries (two were carefully inspected) probably served to extract masonry stones for the different built features around the site. Two limekilns were discovered, partially hewn into bedrock.

Cairns and stone platforms. Cairns built of fieldstone boulders were recorded, sometimes grouped in two, three and more. They could be classified into three types: The first was rectangular, the second was circular, having often a central stone that was positioned horizontally, and the third was oval; one or more *mazzevot* were combined in its wall and occasionally, it had a stone slab propped up like a 'table'.

Bedrock platforms existed in varying sizes; basins, cupmarks and pressing installations were hewn into them and small fieldstone enclosures were installed above them.

Burial Installations. A rock-hewn vat in a winepress was converted into a subterranean tomb, accessed via a stairwell; it contained several troughs and was closed with a blocking stone. Tombs were also cut underground at courtyard corners; in one case, the doorway into the tomb was furnished with a double-recessed frame.

Modi'in, Highway 20

Elena Kogan-Zehavi and Yehiel Zelinger

31/5/2004



1. Site 67, plan.

During January–March 1998 a salvage excavation was conducted along the route of Highway 20, in Modi'in (A-2803; map ref. NIG 1977–2003/6470–5; OIG 1477–503/1470–5; HA-ESI 115). The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority and funded by the Ministry of Construction and Housing, was directed by E. Kogan-Zehavi and Y. Zelinger, with the assistance of U. Avner (area supervision), S. Ya'akov-Jam (administration), A. Hajian and V. Pirskey (surveying and drafting), T. Sagiv (photography), A. Pikovskiy (drawing), G. Bijovsky (numismatics) and E. Barzilay (geomorphology).

Terrace walls, walls that protected cultivated areas from flooding, stone clearance heaps, a quarry and hewn installations were discovered.

Walls

Site 67 (Fig. 1). Two wall complexes, early and late, whose absolute dates are unclear, were excavated in the middle of a wadi channel. The early complex included terrace walls that were built perpendicular or diagonal to the channel course. Four phases were discerned. Phase 1 consisted of a wall (W207) built of a single row of large fieldstones and preserved a single course high that enclosed a stone clearance heap (5 × 6 m, height 1.2 m) from the east, which contained several potsherds dating to the Hellenistic and Byzantine periods. The wall (W218) attributed to Phase 2 was built at right angles to the channel, in a northwest–southeast direction. The wall consisted of coarsely hewn stones and fieldstones (exposed length 4 m, max. width 1.8 m, height 0.5 m). The ceramic finds included many pottery fragments from the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods, as well as a few sherds from the Roman period and five coins, one of which was identified, dating to the first half of the 4th century CE. Three walls (W216, W217, W302) belonged to Phase 3. Wall 216 was a single row of coarsely dressed stones built atop W218 and preserved a single course high (exposed length 7 m). Wall 217 to its north consisted of large fieldstones (average dimensions 0.7 × 1.0 m), haphazardly placed. Its eastern end was well preserved, whereas the western end had collapsed. Large boulders were used for W302 in the southern part of the excavation area; it crossed the wadi channel in an east–west direction. The finds from the walls included flint flakes and pottery fragments, dating mostly to the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods. Wall 203 (width 1.8–2.8 m) was ascribed to Phase 4; it was composed of large roughly hewn stones (average dimensions 1.0 × 1.4 m) and preserved c. 0.9 m high. The wall was exposed to a length of some 40 m, but its western end was not detected. The wall's eastern part was constructed from two rows of large stones with a core of small and medium-sized stones; the western part was badly preserved and survived by the large stones that were used in building it. The southern side of the wall, facing the channel, was more carefully constructed. The finds included four identified coins that were dated to the first half of the 4th century CE; one of them was uncovered among the stones in the wall, as well as flint flakes and pottery fragments from the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods.

The late wall complex consisted of three walls (W200–W202), two of them visible on surface, extending for a distance of c. 700 m. The walls were built along the wadi channel to regularize the flow of floodwaters and to protect the cultivated areas. Two phases (5, 6) were discerned; Phase 5 included two subphases. Initially, W202, which severed W203 from the early wall complex, was erected. It was built of two rows of large fieldstones with a core of small and medium-sized stones and was preserved two courses high (width 1.8–2.4 m, height 0.8 m). The wall apparently stood alone for a period of time and the water in the channel flowed to its west. Later, W201 was built to the west and parallel to W202. Wall 201 was built of a single row of fieldstones (width 0.5 m); it was carelessly constructed and its northern part was not preserved. The wall was meant to restrict the flow of water in the channel to the area between it and W202. The finds included pottery fragments from the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods, as well as the modern era. Wall 200, which was attributed to Phase 6, was built parallel and to the west of W201. It was built of two rows of stones with a core of small and medium stones (width 1.4–1.8 m), similar to W202, and was preserved only a single course high. The construction of the wall indicates that the channel's flow was diverted to the west. The finds included pottery fragments from the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods, and modern finds as well.

Sites 68–70. Four fieldstone-built terrace walls oriented north–south; a hewn vat (diam. 0.3 m, depth 0.2 m) was uncovered next to Wall 69.

Site 64. A terrace wall, aligned north–south, was built of five large stones (length of stones 1.0–1.2 m) with gaps between them and preserved a single course high. The wall was founded on a thin layer of soil (thickness 0.1 m) deposited on bedrock, which contained several body fragments of pottery vessels from the Roman and Byzantine periods.

Stone Clearance Heaps

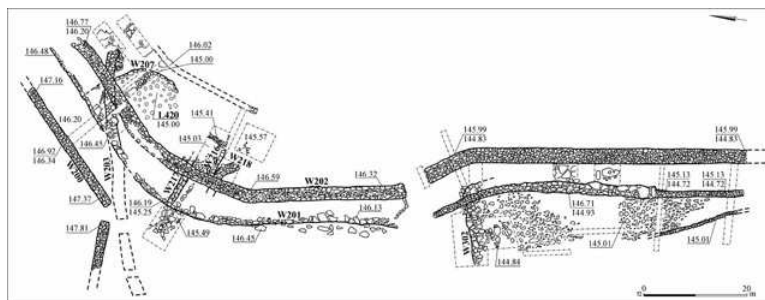
Site 66. A stone clearance heap (diam. c. 9 m) north of Site 67 was founded on bedrock. A trial section (1.5 × 4.0 m) excavated both with the aid of mechanical equipment and manually ascertained that the upper part of the heap comprised fieldstones (length of stones 0.1–0.3 m) and was devoid of any finds. The bottom part of the heap consisted of reddish soil mixed with stones and body fragments of pottery vessels from the Roman or Byzantine periods.

Site 28. Two stone clearance heaps (diam. c. 8 m each) next to each other were in the northern part of the excavation. Trial sections cut through the heaps had shown that they were devoid of ancient finds. The large size of the stones indicates that they were probably piled up recently by mechanical equipment.
Quarry

Site 63. A quarry was discerned (3 × 4 m) north of Site 28. The quarrying occurred only in the upper bedrock layer that was suitable for hewing stones.

Rock-cut Installations

Site 65. Four vats and a cupmark (diam. 0.2 m, depth 0.2 m) were east and west of Site 64. Three of the vats were circular (diam. c. 0.8 m, depth c. 0.3 m) and the fourth was square (0.2 × 0.2 m, depth 0.2 m). The alluvium soil in the vats contained a few small non-diagnostic potsherds.



1. Site 67, plan.

Modi'in*

Yehiel Zelinger

9/6/2004

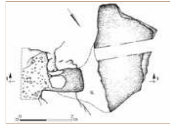
An excavation was conducted in October 1999 on Hill 'B' in Modi'in (A-3128*; map ref. NIG 20155/64500; OIG 15155/14500; *ESI* 20) prior to construction. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority and financed by the Modi'in Local Council, was directed by Y. Zelinger, with the assistance of A. Abu Garbiya (administration), A. Hajian (surveying), E. Belashov (drafting), T. Sagiv (photography) and I. Carmi and E. Buarto (¹⁴C analysis).



1. Charcoal kiln within a hewn cave, plan and section.

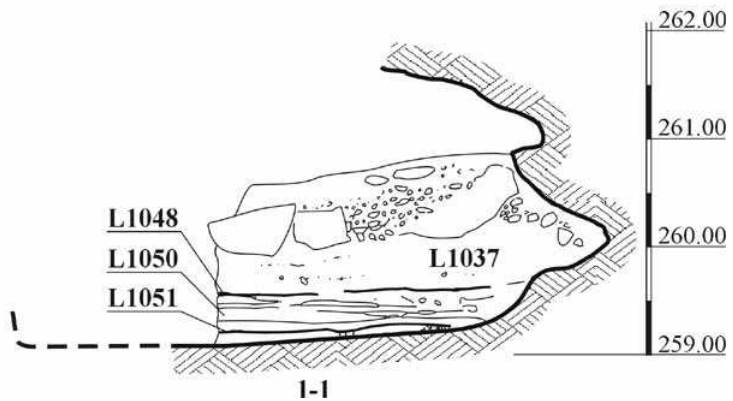
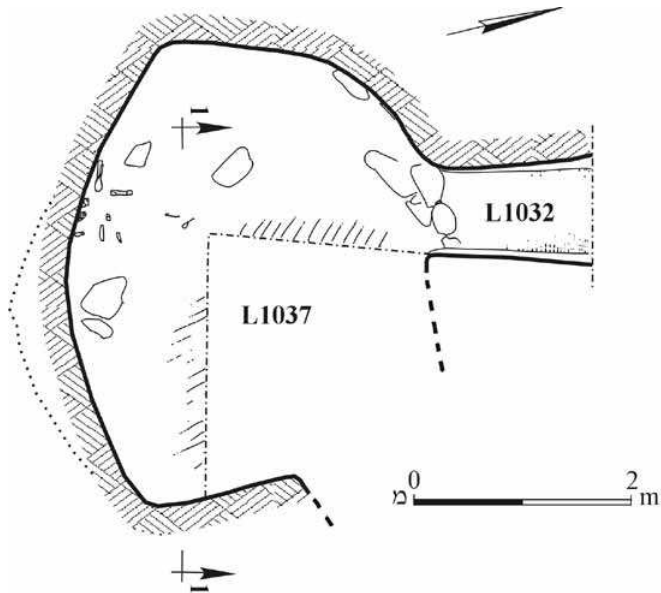


2. Rock-cut installation, plan and section.

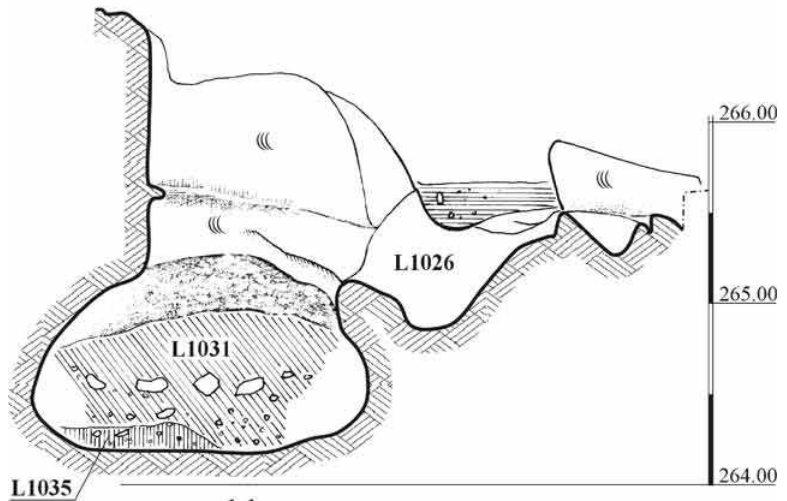
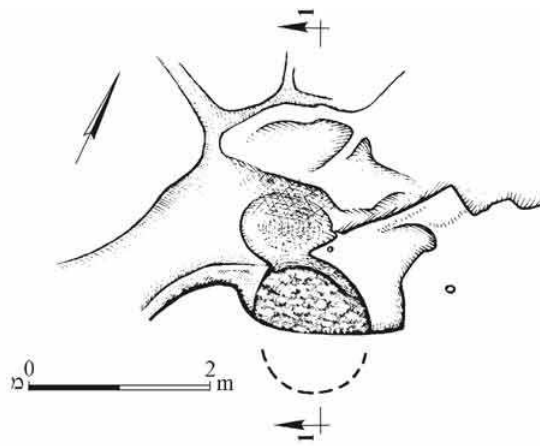


3. Cave dwelling, plan and section.

Four sites (32, 34, 36A, 53B) were excavated; some of them had previously been investigated in 1998 (Permit No. A-2510). A charcoal kiln was exposed in Site 32, within a cave that was cut in the northern slope of the hill (Fig. 1). The cave was a single, irregular-shaped cavity (L1037; length 4.6 m, height 2.6 m), accessed via a hewn corridor (L1032; length 3 m, width 0.9 m). Two charcoal layers (L1048—thickness 0.15 m; L1051—thickness 0.1 m) separated by a layer of friable rock (L1050) were revealed below the stone collapse and soil (thickness 1 m). Analysis of charcoal samples from the two layers had shown that the charcoal kiln was used for c. 300 years, from the second half of the 17th century until the middle of the 20th century. Site 34 contained a circular hewn installation (diam. 0.9 m, depth 1.4 m; Fig. 2) that was probably used for collecting run-off from bedrock surface. A hewn shaft (diam. 1.2–1.6 m, depth 2.4 m) was found in Site 36A; it yielded scant, non-diagnostic ceramic finds. A cave dwelling (Fig. 3) was explored in Site 53B, on the eastern slope of the hill. The cave's ceiling was removed by mechanical equipment, owing to the danger of collapse. The cave consisted of an anteroom (1.15 × 1.70 m) and an irregular-shaped cavity (2.7 × 4.8 m). Judging by ceramic finds it was probably used in the Byzantine period.



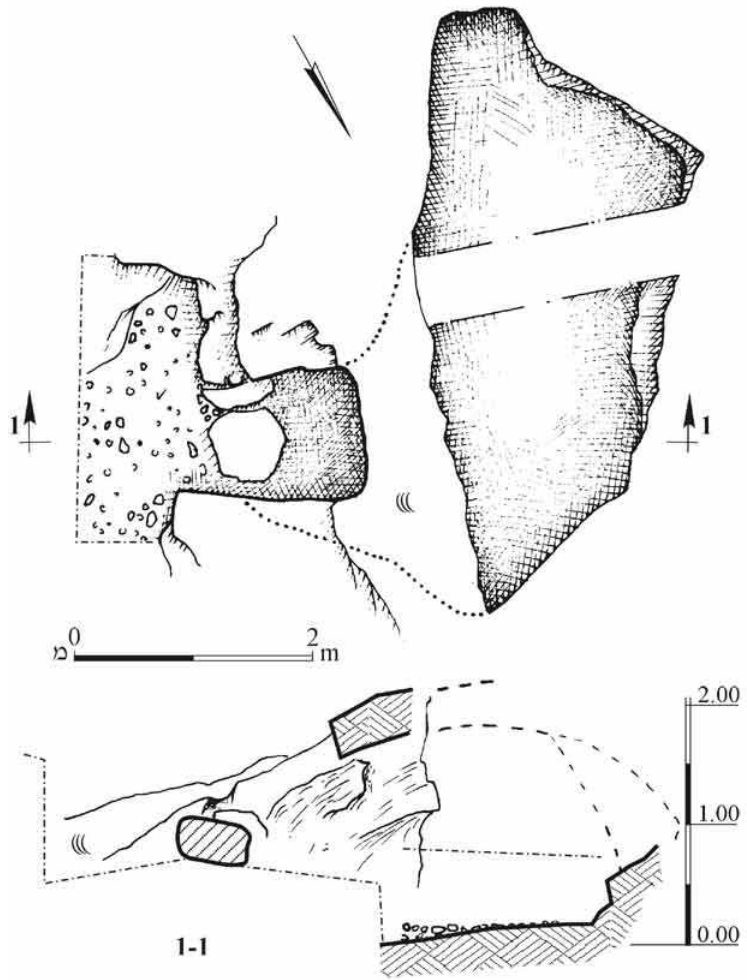
1. Charcoal kiln within a hewn cave, plan and section.



1-1

- | | | |
|-----------------|--|---------------|
| Dark-brown soil | | אדמה חומה כהה |
| Brown soil | | אדמה חומה |
| Light soil | | אדמה בהירה |

2. Rock-cut installation, plan and section.



3. Cave dwelling, plan and section.

Nahal Barqai 1998–2000

Shmuel Givon

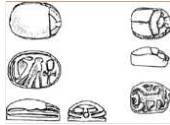
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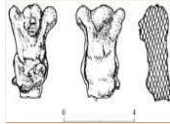
1. Ceramic figurine of a pregnant woman.



2. Jar handle, bearing the seal impression.



3. Late Bronze Age scarabs.



4. Bronze figurine of the god Bes.

During July 1998, July 1999 and July 2000 the ninth, tenth and eleventh excavation seasons were conducted at Nahal Barqai (G-28/98, G-63/99, G-10/00; map ref. NIG 1838/6279; OIG 1338/1279; HA-ESI 110), on behalf of Bar Ilan University and sponsored by the Yo'av Regional Council, Bar Ilan University, Claremont University and McGill University. Qibbuz Kefar Menahem provided accommodations for the expedition. S. Givon directed the excavation, with the assistance of T. Schneider and W. Kriger (area supervision 1998), M. Goldman, D. Inbar and R. Byrne (area supervision 1999–2000), K. Maeyama and J. Du-Toit (registration), A. Feldstein (surveying and drafting), D. Inbar (sections drawing), E. Karon (pottery restoration), M. Rappaport (pottery and special finds drawing). Students from Claremont University in California, headed by T. Schneider, participated in the 1998 season; students from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, headed by B. Levy, participated in the 1999–2000 seasons.

The excavation during the three seasons was conducted in Area H, on the northwestern side of the tell. In 1998, eight squares were excavated at the bottom of the slope in the northern part of the area and in the 1999 and 2000 seasons, eight more squares were opened at the top of the slope in the southern section of the area. Two habitation layers, one from the Persian period (Stratum III) and the other from Iron Age II (Stratum IV), were discovered. Finds from the Late Bronze Age were recovered from the fill below Stratum III.

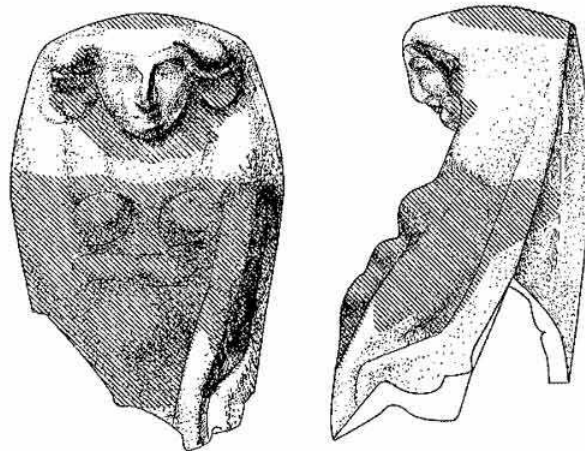
Stratum III. A settlement layer from the Persian period was revealed below surface. Fragmentary building and installation remains were damaged owing to their close proximity to surface. Numerous fragments of pottery vessels, a red-painted ceramic figurine of a pregnant woman (Fig. 1) and a jar handle, bearing the seal impression "יהודי הונוך פחא" (Fig. 2) were found.

A fill layer was detected in several places below the Persian-period layer; it included finds from the Late Bronze Age, such as three steatite scarabs (Fig. 3) that clearly date to this period. The fill seems to have been taken from the settlement remains of this period that were on the bottom terraces of the tell for the purpose of construction in the Persian period.

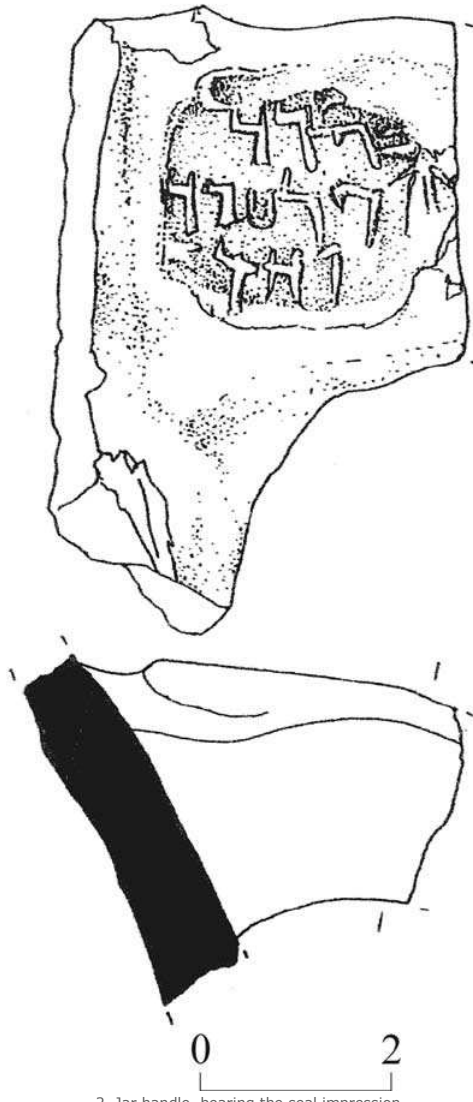
Stratum IV. An Iron Age II settlement layer was exposed below the remains of Stratum III. Midway up the slope of the tell a rectangular casemate wall (width of the walls 1.5 m) was unearthed. Part of this wall was already uncovered during the 1997 season in Area G and it appears to have encircled the tell. The casemate rooms (room width 4.5 m) had a plaster floor, overlain with mud-brick collapse, the remains of carbonized wooden beams and numerous potsherds from the 9th century BCE. The calibrated age determined by the ¹⁴C analysis of the samples from the wooden beam remains is 900–810 BCE. At the eastern end of the city wall was a pit that destroyed this section of the wall and the casemate room.

North of the casemate wall and beyond the settlement perimeter were several installations. A large stone-built silo (diam. 2 m) coated with a thick plaster layer and next to it, the remains of two ovens with large amounts of ash in and around them, indicating their prolonged use. The installations belonged to this stratum, judging by the ceramic finds they contained.

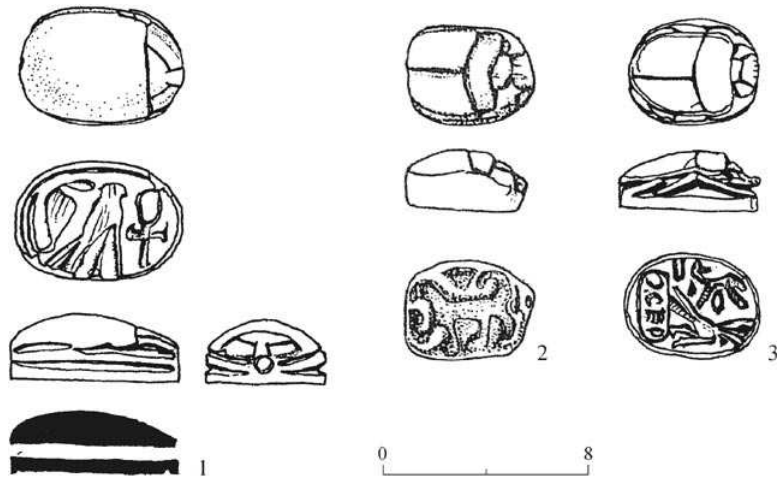
A rectangular installation (more than 3 m long, width 2.5 m) that was not entirely excavated was located to the south of the casemate wall. The installation consisted of a thick plaster floor, surrounded with narrow mud-brick walls that were preserved to a maximum of 0.20–0.25 m high. A small ceramic pipe extended out from the northeastern corner of the installation, which may have been the treading surface of a winepress. Close by the installation a small bronze figurine of the god Bes (Fig. 4) was found and near it was a long bronze knife or sword (length c. 0.25 m).



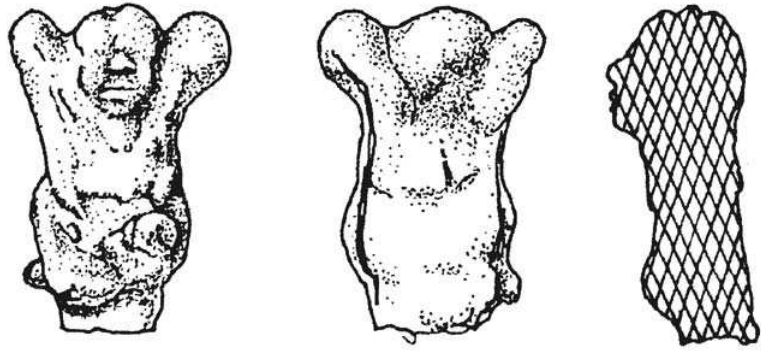
1. Ceramic figurine of a pregnant woman.



2. Jar handle, bearing the seal impression.



3. Late Bronze Age scarabs.



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4. Bronze figurine of the god Bes.

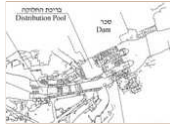
Nahal Tanninim Dam

'Abed a-Salam Sa'id and Uzi 'Ad

12/5/2004



1. A building with an apse, looking south.



2. Area of the regulating installation and the flour mills, plan.



4. The fill below the stone floor in the distribution pool, looking west.



5. The northern part of the 'Lower Aqueduct', upon which a road was built, looking east.



6. The point where the 'Lower Aqueduct' and the 'Low-Level Aqueduct to Caesarea' diverged, looking south.

Five more seasons of excavation were conducted at the dam (HA-ESI 114, Fig. 52) in areas that were opened during the first seasons and were expanded, as well as in new areas that were opened in the upper part of the dam and on its northern and western sides. It was ascertained during these excavation seasons that the dam was constructed at the end of the Roman–beginning of the Byzantine periods.

The Dam. Five squares were excavated in the upper part of the dam, its center and the southern part of the footpath (Area A1). It was confirmed that apart from the outer walls, hardly any remains survived of the original footpath and the upper part of the dam's original core. The finds discovered to a depth of 0.7–1.5 m below the level of the dam's footpath in all of the squares dated to the Ottoman period. Below the footpath and the Ottoman-period fill was the original core of the dam, consisting of various-sized fieldstones and ashlar, some in secondary use, as well as gray mortar and dark earth. Most of the original mortar that bonded the stones was not preserved, probably because of water that penetrated into the core.

A half square was excavated next to the eastern face of the dam; it joined the other six half squares that were opened there during the first seasons. It was positioned south of the southernmost square (B7). The square was positioned at a point that from it and to its north the eastern face of the dam inclined eastward. The construction of the foundation, including the pouring of the mortar and the use of wooden frames, was similar to those from the previous seasons. Moreover, it was established that the hydraulic plaster on the eastern face of the dam was preserved in its entirety at the point from which the dam slanted eastward; therefore, it is assumed that this inclination already existed in the Byzantine period. To expose as much of the original face of the dam as possible a section was cut to a depth of 1.5 m along the entire eastern face of the dam and part of the Ottoman-period walls that were constructed next to the dam were removed. Pinkish hydraulic plaster from the Byzantine period was revealed in several spots along the dam's eastern face.

Six half squares were opened along the western face of the dam (Area D). The dam's foundation was uncovered at a depth of c. 1 m below sea level. It was built of a cast gray lime mortar mixed with small stones; above it were one or two steps of medium and large semi-hewn *kurkar* fieldstones, bonded together with the same lime mortar. The construction of the foundation resembled that on the eastern face of the dam; however, no remains of wooden frames were noted here. The southern trial square, located west of the dam's southwestern corner, exposed the dam's foundation where it was built directly upon the *kurkar* bedrock, which was leveled in the southern part of the square. In the northern part of the square, bedrock was chiseled in the shape of a step, imitating the stone steps. Bedrock was not encountered in the rest of the squares; in the square south of Nahal 'Ada the bottom of the foundation was not reached, despite excavating it to a depth of 2.25 m below sea level.

At the northern end, four squares were excavated on both sides of the dam (Area F). At the point where the dam connected with the *kurkar* ridge only three courses of the original stone of the dam's eastern face were preserved; these were founded on bedrock and were coated with hydraulic plaster. Courses of small stones that were characteristic of the dam's constructions in the Ottoman period were built above them. To create a solid connection between the dam and the *kurkar* ridge to its north, a niche that served as a foundation trench was hewn in the ridge. South of the connection with the ridge only one or two original courses that were built on a cast within wooden frames were preserved; here too, courses of small stones surmounted them. On the western face of the dam, between the northern flour mill (M16) and the *kurkar* ridge, the foundation of the dam was discovered; above it were several construction phases of retaining walls, each erected in a different manner, which probably dated to the Ottoman period. These retaining walls were probably intended to support the core of the dam that was left bare in this section.

Some 30 m west of the northern end of the dam part of a large building (12.5 × 17.5 m) was unearthed; its bottom part was hewn in bedrock and the upper part was built of stone and preserved two courses high. The building consisted of three rooms and in the northern wall of the middle room was an apse that protruded about 2.5 m to the north (Fig. 1).

The Diversion Sluice. The entire length of the diversion sluice was cleaned completely down to bedrock (Area A1; Fig. 2). Hewn in the bottom of the sluice, c. 4 m east of the regulating installation, was a square vat (3.5 × 3.5 m depth 0.4 m); it may have functioned as a settling vat before conveying the water to the regulating installation.

The Regulating Installation (Area A3; Figs. 2, 3). On the eastern and western sides of the installation were wooden sluice gates, used in the dam's original phase for controlling the amount of water that passed through the three sluices. At a later phase the sluice gates served as frames for poured mortar that blocked the bottom part of the sluices to raise the level of the water flowing through them. In the southern sluice a stone was left standing to mid height, from where the sluice was originally quarried; the passage below it was difficult. The bottom portion of this sluice was blocked with a built wall rather than a mortar cast, as was the case in the other two sluices. The blockage in the upper part of the middle sluice, which was built in the Ottoman period with the intention to increase the flow in the southern sluice that conveyed water to Flour Mill M13, was dismantled this season.

The Distribution Pool. A distribution pool (5 × 7 m; Area A3; Fig. 2) existed on the western side of the regulating installation. It was enclosed on the south with a massive wall (in excess of 5 m wide) that was built of medium and large ashlar stones, as well as marble columns, in secondary use. During its original phase, bedrock served as the floor of the pool. In a later phase, probably in the 5th or 6th century CE, the bottom of the pool was covered with stone collapse, millstones and light-colored soil (Fig. 4), upon which a stone floor was laid. The water from the pool was conveyed to the 'Low-Level Aqueduct to Caesarea', to the flour mills or back to the ravine. Initially, the water flowed from the pool through a rectangular opening (0.4 × 1.2 m) that was cut in the western end of the wall that enclosed the pool on the south. This opening was sealed in a later phase and superseding it was a larger opening (0.4–0.7 × 2.1 m) hewn slightly to the east of the former one and at a lower level, corresponding to the level of the stone floor in the pool. The water flowed from the opening into Channel C1, which conveyed the water south to the 'Low-Level Aqueduct to Caesarea', or west to the flour mills and back to the ravine.

The 'Lower Aqueduct'. The northernmost remains of the aqueduct were located at a height of 1.5 m above sea level in two squares that were excavated between Nahal Tanninim and Nahal 'Ada. The excavation area (Area E1) was enlarged south of Nahal 'Ada, revealing 40 m of the aqueduct's stone foundation. Some 3 m west of the foundation was an enclosure wall that delineated a road, partially built over the foundation in this section. The eastern part of the road's drainage ditches was built in the space between the aqueduct's pillars and they continued westward until the enclosure wall of the road (Fig. 5). The entire aqueduct was laid bare for a distance of 390 m south of the excavation area. The aqueduct was cut into bedrock as a narrow, deep channel (width at the

bottom 0.45–0.50 m, depth 0.6–2.5 m); its bottom was hewn at a level of 3.3–3.5 m above sea level. Rock cuttings were observed on top of the aqueduct's walls where covering stones were placed over the aqueduct. At the area of the 'southern quarrying', the 'Lower Aqueduct' converged with the 'Low-Level Aqueduct to Caesarea'. The latter rode piggyback on it for a distance of 145 m. At the spot where the two aqueducts separated, a wall was built inside the 'Lower Aqueduct' to block it, so that its water would be diverted to the 'Low-Level Aqueduct to Caesarea' (Fig. 6). The subsequent excavation of the 'Lower Aqueduct', close to where the divergence was, determined that the quarrying was not completed and therefore, it seems the 'Lower Aqueduct' has never functioned.

The 'Low-Level Aqueduct to Caesarea'. The exposure of the aqueduct (average width 1.8 m) was completed from its outlet in the distribution pool, for a distance of 130 m southwest of the point where the two aqueducts diverged (length 320 m). The level of the aqueduct's bottom was lower in the northern part (4.25 m above sea level) than the southern part (4.75 m above sea level); the reason for this reverse gradient is still unclear. The upper part of the aqueduct was stone built and roofed with a cylindrical vault that was partially preserved south of the 'southern quarrying'. South of where the aqueduct exited the 'southern quarrying' a channel that conveyed the excess water back to the ravine was hewn in the aqueduct's northern wall. Recesses existed on both sides of the excess water channel, wherein sluice gates were inserted that controlled the passage of water.

The Quarries. The quarry located to the southwest of the regulating installation was completely cleaned (c. 450 sq m; Area A2). Based on the severance channels, it seems that the average size of the quarried stones (0.20 × 0.30 × 0.65 m) was significantly smaller than the stones utilized in the construction of the dam. The deepest part of the quarry was filled with rock-cutting debris (crushed *kurkar*), semi-hewn stones that the stonemasons were unsuccessful in dressing and a few pottery fragments from the 3rd–4th centuries CE. The 'Low-Level Aqueduct to Caesarea' passed along the quarry's eastern border. A large two-story building constructed in the Ottoman period was in the eastern part of the quarry. Three of its long north–south walls and the remains of two east–west walls were found. The building continued in use during the British Mandate; when the Kabara marshes were being dried up a kiln for firing ceramic pipes was built in its center, on the northern side of the 'Lower Aqueduct'.

Southeast of this quarry was another quarry, referred to as the 'southern quarrying' (Area E2). The rock cutters exploited the hewn course of the 'Lower and Low-Level Aqueducts' that were no longer in use and widened them to the south. The enlarged area was not sequential because the bedrock in several spots was fractured and unsuitable for quarrying. A stone pavement at the eastern end of the 'southern quarrying' was detected. Flanking the pavement and the quarry's walls were hewn recesses, where sluice gates may have been inserted to regulate the water that flowed through the 'southern quarrying', after the outlet of the 'Low-Level Aqueduct to Caesarea' was blocked and the course of its flow was altered.

The Hewn Flour Mills. The excavating of five out of six mills from the Byzantine period (M1–4, M6), including their feeder channels, was completed (Area A3). Circular abrasions were discerned on the walls of the feeder channels in three of the mills; judging by the marks, the diameter of the vertical waterwheel that operated the mill could be reconstructed (diam. 1.9–2.3 m). The fill that blocked the feeder channels contained finds that indicated they were blocked up in the Ottoman period, probably to facilitate access to Mill M13.

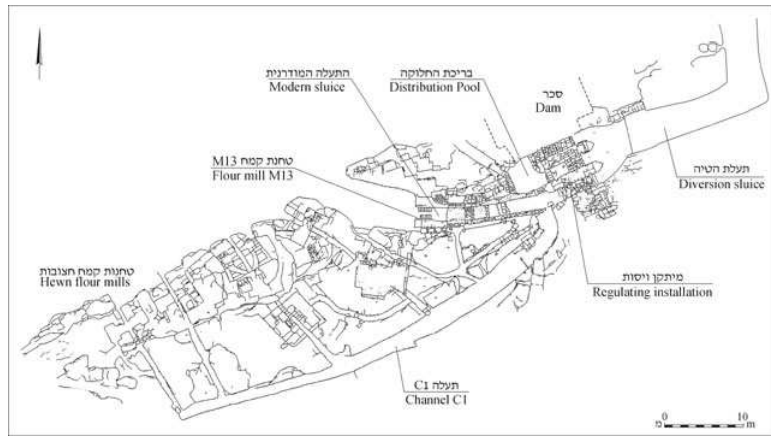
The Built Flour Mills. Seven mills (M10–16; Area D) that operated 13 milling stations were investigated. Two of the mills (M14, M15) had four milling stations each. A long built and plastered chimney (diam. 1.3 m) was uncovered at the bottom of these mills. A small built opening in the chimney gave access to the water that operated a horizontal waterwheel. During the Ottoman period, the water that turned the horizontal waterwheel flowed through a chute that was built in the chimney. No chimneys were discerned in the other mills and the water that operated their waterwheel flowed via a chute. Two construction phases were noted in these mills, both apparently dating to the Ottoman period. The fill in the operating level of each of the mills included finds dating from the Ottoman period until modern times, such as Marseilles roof tiles, as well as pieces of wood and metal that were part of the mills' operating mechanism.

The Diversion Wall. Along the southern bank of Nahal Tannim, c. 10 m east of the dam was a wall, oriented north-northeast–south-southwest (preserved length 11 m, average width 1.6 m; Area B2). The wall was irregular and its northern part somewhat slanted eastward. The wall was built of fieldstones, cemented with a light-colored bonding material; two of its upper courses and three foundation courses were preserved. The wall originally continued eastward along the ravine bank. The finds recovered from beneath the wall's foundations imply that it was built in the 19th century CE, probably to divert the flow of the ravine's water toward Mill M14.

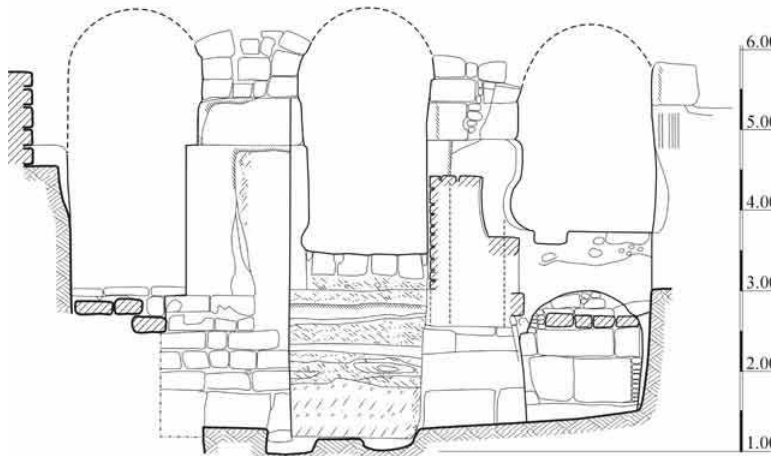
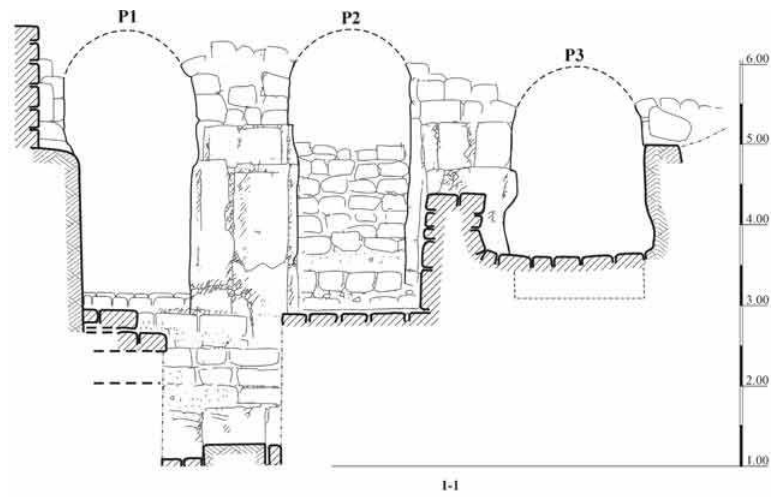
Burial Caves. Two burial caves (Caves T10, T11; Area F) on the *kurkar* ridge north of the dam were cleaned and documented to date. Eight or nine *loculi* were hewn in each of the caves, which were characteristic of the Roman period. Another burial cave (T12) at the northern end of the dam's foundation was sealed off when the dam was constructed. The cave was partially plundered and contained three soft limestone Samarian-type sarcophagi, common to the 2nd–3rd centuries CE.



1. A building with an apse, looking south.



2. Area of the regulating installation and the flour mills, plan.



3. Section of the regulating installation, looking east.



4. The fill below the stone floor in the distribution pool, looking west.



5. The northern part of the 'Lower Aqueduct', upon which a road was built, looking east.



6. The point where the 'Lower Aqueduct' and the 'Low-Level Aqueduct to Caesarea' diverged, looking south.

Ono*

Sigal Golan

31/5/2004

A salvage excavation was conducted in March 2000 at the Ono site in Or Yehuda (A-3222*; Kafr 'Ana; map ref. NIG 18737-48/65914-24; OIG 13737-48/15914-24; HA-ESI 114), after antiquities were discovered during construction work. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by S. Golan, with the assistance of R. Graff (drafting), T. Sagiv (photography), Y. Nagar (physical anthropology), M. Ajami and E. Ayash.

Prior to the excavation two trial trenches were dug at the building site; at a depth of 1 m below surface bones and fragments of pottery vessels were encountered. In the wake of these finds a small excavation area (5 sq m) was opened, revealing remains of several pit graves and a single cist grave, which severed one of the pit graves and therefore postdated it.

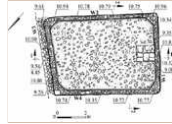
The Pit Graves. Two parallel clay-brick walls were exposed along a north-south axis, enclosing a burial of a single adult, who was laid out in articulation (L1). Another adult, 40-50 years of age, was also lying along a north-south direction in articulation to the east of the eastern brick wall. A third adult in a similar position and orientation was below the brick walls. The lower grave was probably destroyed when the upper one was dug. Several ceramic finds dating to the Early Islamic period were found in L1. The remains of another individual (L3) were detected nearby; the grave was completely destroyed when the cist grave was built. Bone fragments of another interred individual were discerned in one of the trial trenches' sections (L4). An excavation that had previously been conducted by the author in Ramla (HA-ESI 114:68*) uncovered similar pit graves that had no particular order, one atop the other and were devoid of funerary offerings.

The Cist Grave (L2) was built on top of the grave in L3. It was dug into *hamra* soil, oriented southeast-northwest and was lined with 1-3 courses of dressed limestone (stone dimensions 0.20-0.30 × 0.20-0.35 m); the stone lining on the narrow southwestern side was not preserved. It seems that some of the stone lining was in secondary use, including a circular stone removed from an installation. A rectangular stone (0.18 × 0.33 m) was placed next to the head of the deceased. The grave contained the bones of a woman, 18-25 years of age, laid in articulation with her head facing north; the burial was disturbed at a later date. Similar cist graves, without funerary offerings, were previously excavated in Lod by O. Shmueli (HA-ESI 112:66*-67*).

Or 'Aqiva (North) (A)*

Mohammed Hussein

7/6/2004

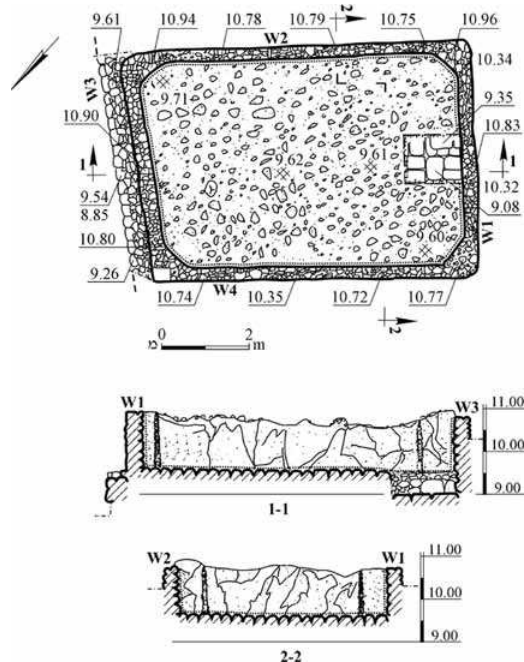


1. Built installation, plan and sections.

During September 2000 a salvage excavation was conducted in Or 'Aqiva (north; A-3298*; map ref. NIG 1924/7136; OIG 1424/2136), following the discovery of ancient remains, while trenching an area slated for construction. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority and financed by the El-Ha-Ram Company Ltd., was directed by M. Hussein, assisted by A. Hajian (surveying and drafting).

A built installation that was probably a reservoir, dating to the Roman and Byzantine periods, was exposed. Excavations conducted at the site in the past revealed quarries, a limekiln, an ancient road, tombs, sarcophagi, buildings and a threshing floor, mostly dating to the Roman and Byzantine periods (*ESI* 15:52-54; 20:37*; *HA-ESI* 110:35*).

The installation was rectangular (5.5 × 7.8 m, depth 1.36 m; Fig. 1) and its walls (width 0.3 m) were built of small fieldstones bonded with cement and preserved 1.14-1.36 m high. The installation's eastern wall was made thicker with additional construction on the outside. The walls were coated with plaster on their interior, applied to a base of ribbed potsherds. The installation's floor consisted of a white mosaic that was mostly not preserved. A probe cut beneath the floor, near the western wall, demonstrated that the mosaic was founded on a plaster bedding, applied to a layer of small and medium-sized fieldstones (thickness 0.1 m). The fieldstone layer overlaid a thin *hamra* layer (thickness 3-4 cm), which superposed two courses of ashlar stones (thickness 0.4 m). It seems the installation was used as a water reservoir; it contained meager ceramic finds that included ribbed body sherds, similar to those found within the plaster base of the walls. The ceramic finds indicated that the installation should be dated to the Roman and Byzantine periods.



1. Built installation, plan and sections.

Or 'Aqiva (North) (B)*
Archive Report

Mohammed Hussein

9/6/2004

A salvage excavation (A-3346*; map ref. NIG 19275/71391; OIG 14275/21391), which was conducted following the exposure of ashlar stones while installing a sewage line along Highway 7, revealed a wall segment (length 7.5 m, width 0.75–0.95 m) oriented northwest–southeast. The wall was built of various-sized dressed and roughly hewn stones, in secondary use, with no bonding material, and was preserved to a maximum of 1 m high. The wall seems to have been part of a fence that separated agricultural plots. Several pottery fragments dating to the Byzantine period were retrieved from the excavation.

Ramat Razi'el*

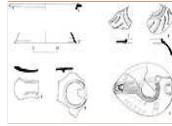
Zvi Greenhut and Boaz Zissu

9/6/2004

A salvage excavation was conducted in November 2000 in a hewn burial cave at Ramat Razi'el (A-3331*; map ref. NIG 20640-50/63148-50; OIG 15640-50/13148-50) after the cave was breached by mechanical equipment. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by Z. Greenhut and B. Zissu, with the assistance of A. Ben-Nun, I. Lidski (pottery drawing) and Y. Nagar (physical anthropology).



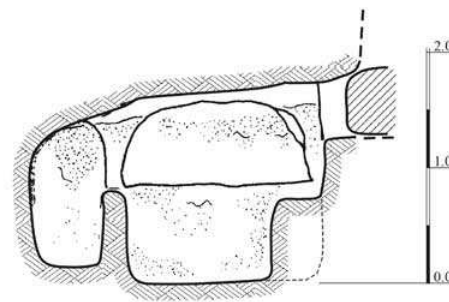
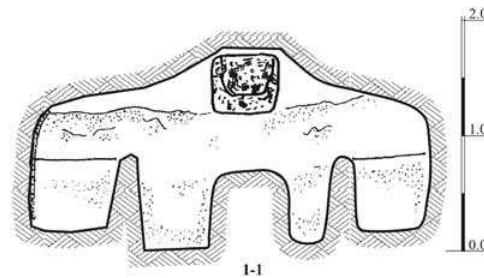
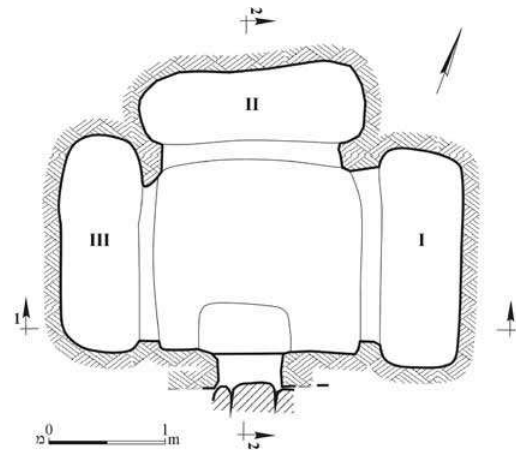
1. Burial cave, plan and sections.



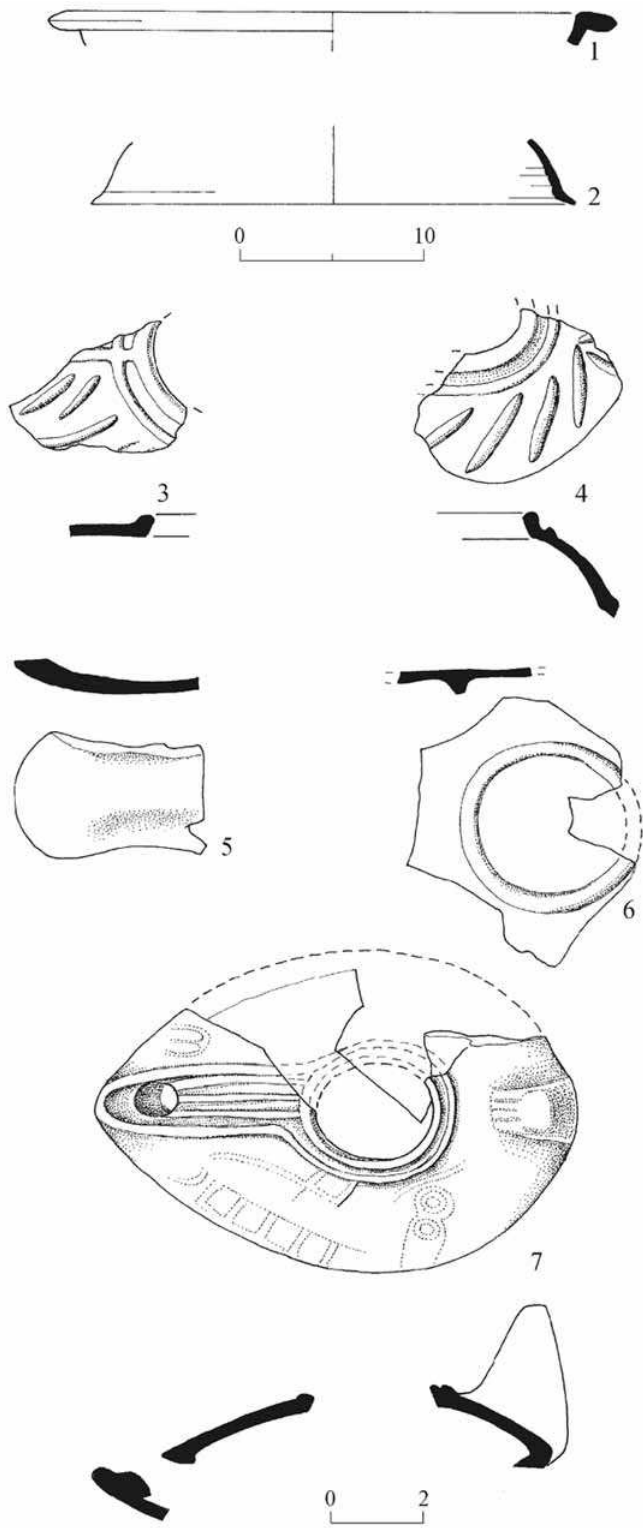
2. Pottery.

A hewn square entrance (0.5 × 0.5 m) in the southern wall of the cave (Fig. 1) was discovered blocked with a large stone; a high plastered step descended from the entrance to a burial chamber (1.6 × 1.7 m). A niche and a burial trough were hewn in three of the chamber's walls. The burial chamber was plastered to the top of the niches, as well as inside them and the troughs. The plaster was orange colored and contained ground potsherds. Poorly preserved bones, not articulated, of at least eight individuals were revealed in the troughs. Trough I contained at least two individuals, among them a man and a woman, one of whom was 17-19 years of age. At least five individuals were placed in Trough II, within the ages of 6-8 years, 12-16 years, 40-50 years and another adult individual who was older than 20 years of age; among the adult individuals a man and a woman were identified. At least one individual, 20-30 years of age, was in Trough III. The articulated remains of another individual, 50-60 years of age, were uncovered in the middle of the burial chamber and were apparently intentionally covered with fieldstones.

The burial chamber yielded ceramic finds, including a large bowl (Fig. 2:1), a lid for a cooking krater (Fig. 2:2) and lamps (Fig. 2:3-5), characteristic of the Late Byzantine period, as well as a small fragment of a bronze bracelet. The base of a lamp (Fig. 2:6) and another lamp (Fig. 2:7), dating to the Early Islamic period, were recovered from Trough III. Based on the plan and the ceramic finds the cave should be dated to the end of the Byzantine period and the Early Islamic period.



1. Burial cave, plan and sections.



2. Pottery.

Ramat Razi'el*

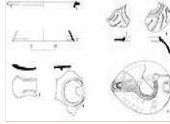
Zvi Greenhut and Boaz Zissu

9/6/2004

A salvage excavation was conducted in November 2000 in a hewn burial cave at Ramat Razi'el (A-3331*; map ref. NIG 20640-50/63148-50; OIG 15640-50/13148-50) after the cave was breached by mechanical equipment. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by Z. Greenhut and B. Zissu, with the assistance of A. Ben-Nun, I. Lidski (pottery drawing) and Y. Nagar (physical anthropology).



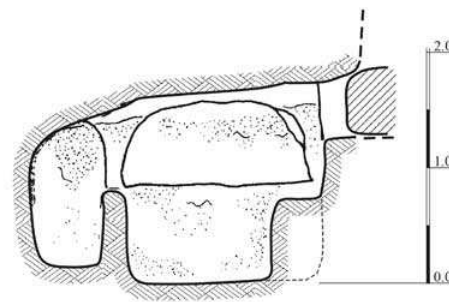
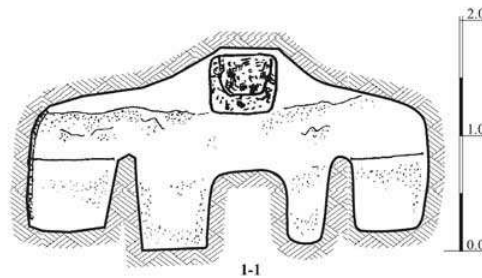
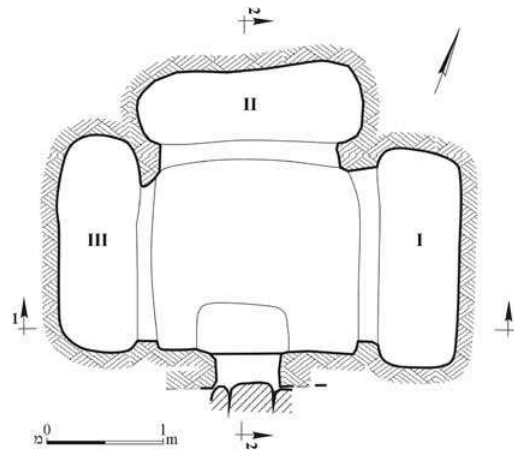
1. Burial cave, plan and sections.



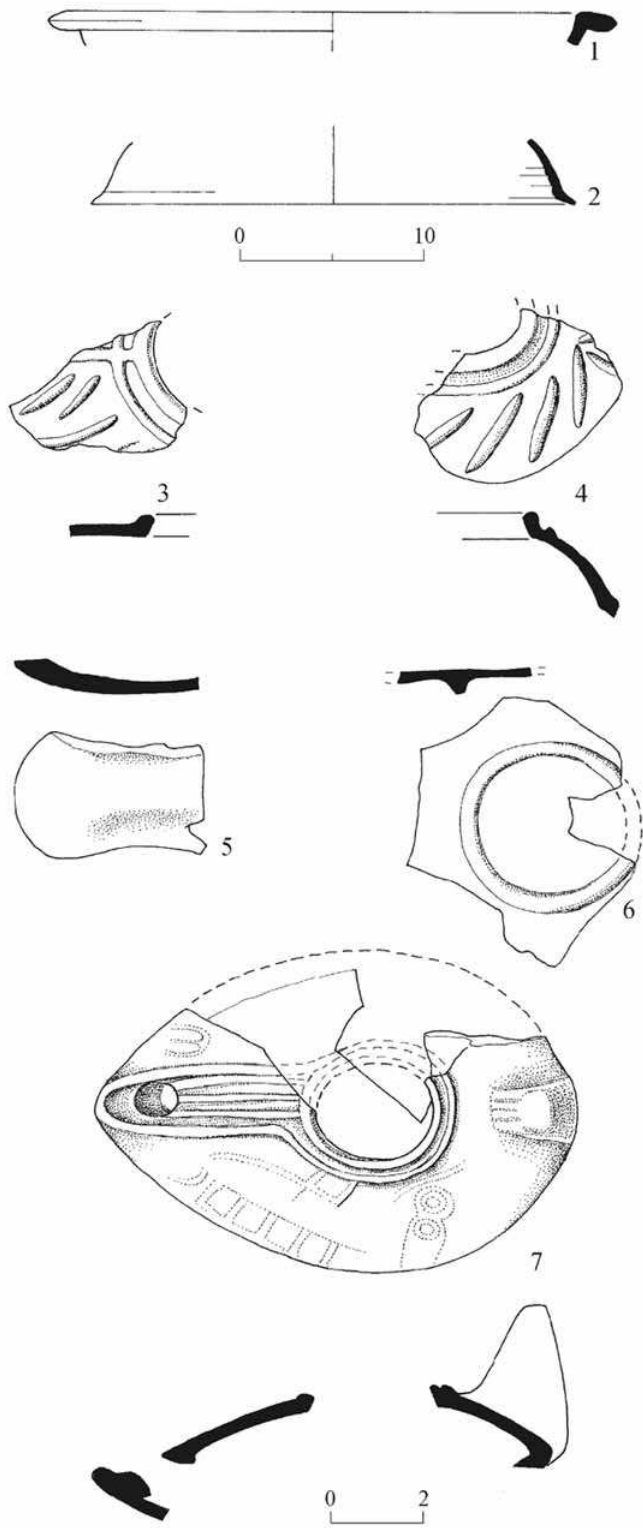
2. Pottery.

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1. Burial cave, plan and sections.



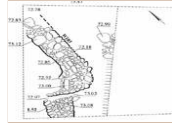
2. Pottery.

Ramla (A)*

Shlomo Gudovitch

31/5/2004

A salvage excavation was conducted in August 2000 at a nursery school in Ramla (A-3273*; map ref. NIG 18822-32/64915-25; OIG 13822-32/14915-25). The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by S. Gudovitch, assisted by H. Lavi (administration), V. Essman (surveying) and R. Graff (drafting).



1. Plan.



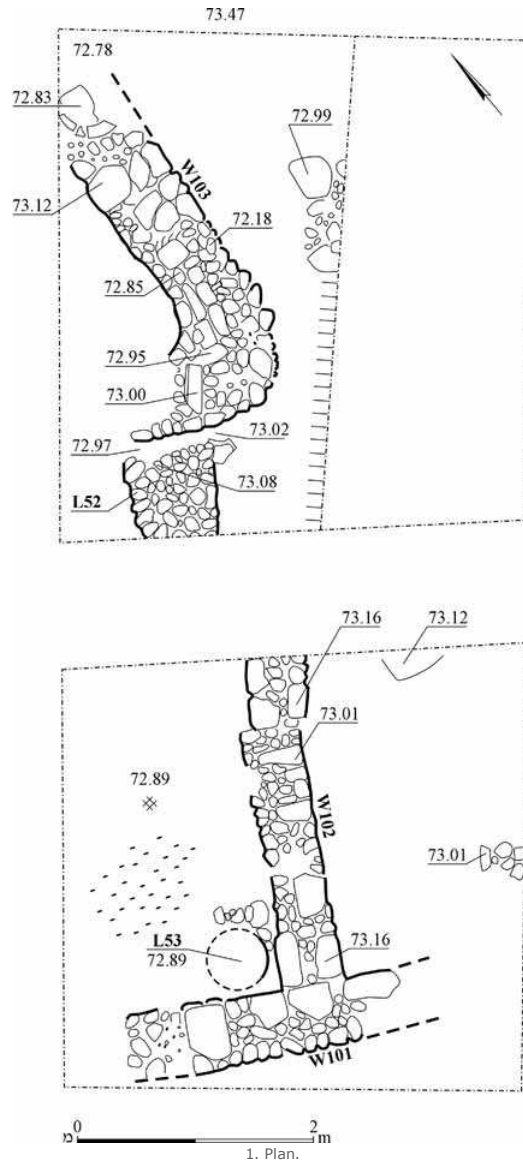
2. Stone channel fed by a ceramic pipe, looking north.

Two adjacent excavation squares were opened, revealing building remains (Fig. 1) from the Early Islamic period.

The Southern Square. A section of a wall (W101) was exposed; its northern side was built of dressed stones, with a core of fieldstones, and its southern side was built of small fieldstones. The wall was preserved a single course high. Traces of lime mortar were discerned between the stones. Next to the northern side of the wall was a pillar (0.5 × 0.5 m) built of dressed stones. A similar pillar was opposite it, next to the northern section of the square. Between the two pillars was the foundation of a wall (W102) built of fieldstones and preserved a single course high. A beaten earth floor was uncovered in the western part of the square. A *tabun* built of small stones bonded with soil (L53) was in the inner corner of Walls 101 and 102.

The Northern Square. A well-preserved pebble floor (L52) atop a bed of lime mortar was in the southwestern part of the square. North of the floor was a section of a channel (W103; Fig. 2) built of medium-sized fieldstones and covered with large jar potsherds and overlying fieldstones. The channel was paved with large body sherds of jars to prevent the accumulation of alluvium at its base. A ceramic pipe (diam. 9 cm) reached the channel from the southwest. The northern part of the channel had collapsed and north of the collapse, it was severed. The pipe and the channel appear to have conveyed rainwater from the roof of a building or courtyard to a water cistern located to the north. A large jar fragment, identical to those used to cover and pave the channel, was found below Floor 52, indicating that the floor and the channel were contemporaneous. The remains of a wall were discovered east of the channel; its orientation is unclear.

Fragments of pottery vessels dating to the Early Islamic period were retrieved from the excavation, including mainly buff-color ware, jars, a few bowls and small glazed bowls.





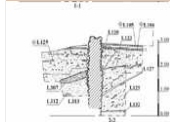
2. Stone channel fed by a ceramic pipe, looking north.

Ramla*

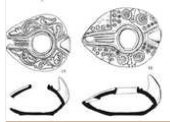
Elena Kogan-Zehavi

31/5/2004

A salvage excavation was conducted in October 1999 between Balfour and the Jewish Brigade Streets in Ramla (A-3118*; map ref. NIG 18800-15/64840-65; OIG 13800-15/14840-65). The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by E. Kogan-Zehavi, with the assistance of A. Hajian (surveying), N. Zak (drafting), T. Sagiv (photography), A. Pikovsky (drawing of finds) and M. Avissar (pottery reading).



1. Plan and sections.



2. Pottery (1-17) and a stone basin (18) from Strata 1 and 2.



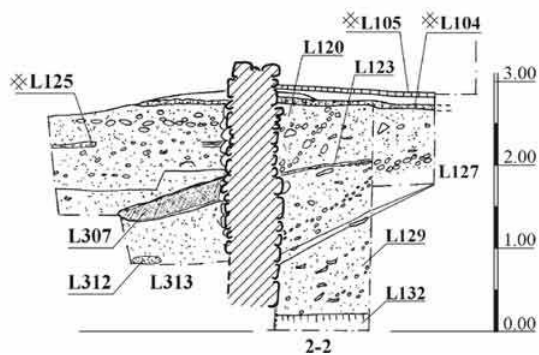
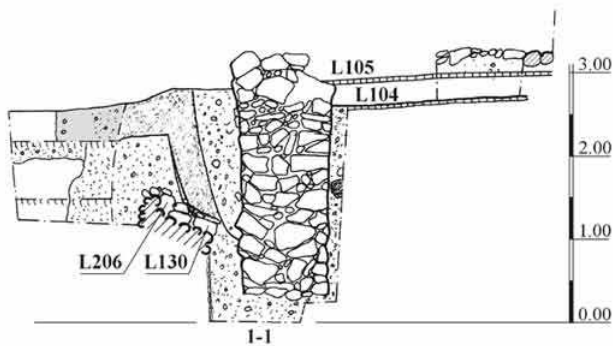
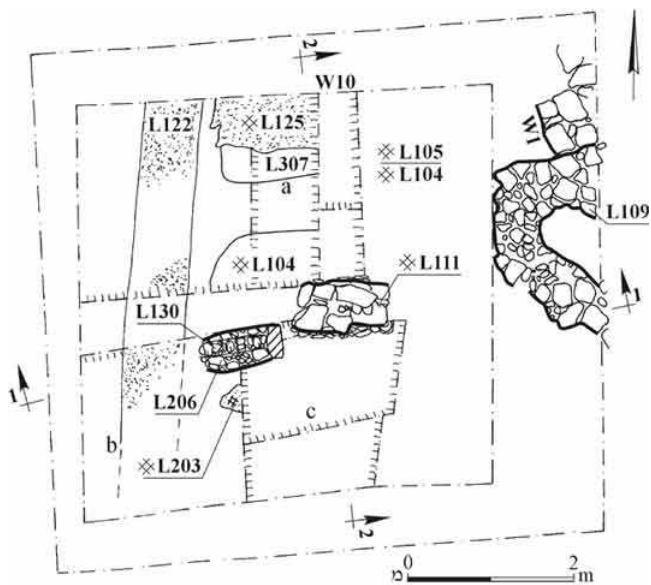
3. Pottery (1-14) and a stone basin (15) from Stratum 3.

The excavation took place in the area of a nursery school. After removing debris and the remains of a modern building (depth 1.6 m), a single excavation square (5 × 6 m; Fig. 1) was opened. A stone-built column (L111) was discovered in the middle of the square, along with several floors and walls. The remains belonged to three strata, some of which had subphases. Stratum 1 was the earliest and it predated the construction of the column; Stratum 2 dated to the time of the column's construction and Stratum 3 was dated to the time when repairs to the column were carried out. Three sections (a-c) were excavated in the square, to date the remains. The finds from Strata 1 and 2 dated to the 8th–9th centuries CE and those from Stratum 3—to the 9th–12th centuries CE.

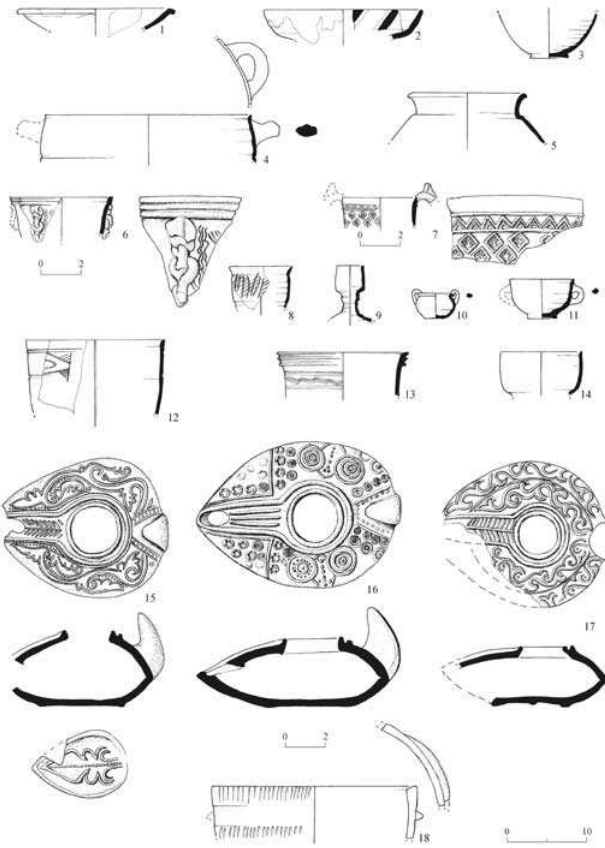
Stratum 1 included a small segment of a crushed-limestone floor (L312), which was preserved north of the column and was damaged during its construction. Below the floor were ceramic finds, dating to the second half of the 8th century and the beginning of the 9th century CE (Fig. 2:14). A conduit built of dressed stones and covered with stone slabs (Loci 130, 206; 0.5 × 1.0 m) was exposed in the west of the square; only a small section of it was preserved, as it too was damaged when the column was constructed. The conduit yielded two lamps (Fig. 2:15, 16) and fragments of pottery vessels from the end of the 8th and beginning of the 9th centuries CE. Below the column (Loci 127, 207) was a gray soil fill and numerous fragments of pottery vessels, dating from the end of the 8th and beginning of the 9th centuries CE (Fig. 2: 1, 2, 5, 13).

Stratum 2. The column was built of dry construction (0.7 × 1.0 m, height 3 m), using elongated stones; some of them were partially dressed. A gray-plaster floor (L307; thickness 0.3 m), some 0.5 m higher than Floor 312, abutted the column on the south. Ceramic finds upon Floor 307 dated from the end of the 8th century and the first half of the 9th century CE (Fig. 2:8, 9, 12), including a complete lamp (Fig. 2:17) and a basalt basin (Fig. 2:18). The ceramic finds below the floor were contemporary with those on the floor. Another light-gray plaster floor (L125) that contained white gravel (thickness c. 5 cm) was attributed to this stratum; segments of it were uncovered in the northern and southern parts of the square. It was 0.8 m above Floor 307 and abutted the southern side of the column. A low stone wall (W10; width 0.4 m, height 0.3 m) coated with the same plaster delineated the eastern side of the floor. The robber trench of a wall (L122) marked the western margin of the floor, which together with the two walls may have been part of a plastered installation. Ceramic finds below Floor 125 were dated to the first half of the 9th century CE (Fig. 2:3, 10, 11). Potsherds of similar dates were recovered from below the robber trench (Fig. 2:4, 6, 7).

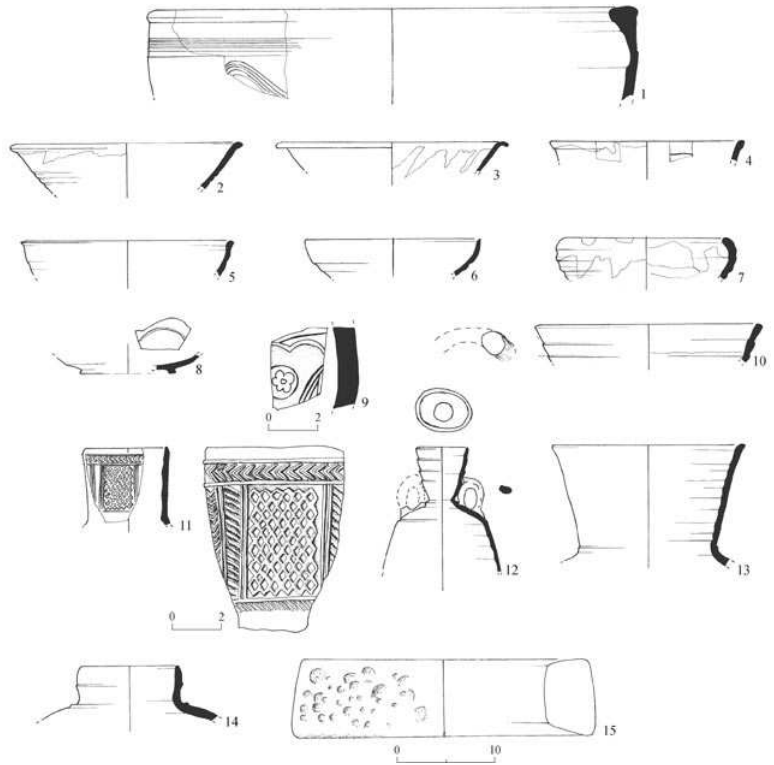
Stratum 3 shows repairs that were performed on the column and the two floors that abutted it (Loci 104, 105). The top of the column was widened and raised with the construction of large fieldstones that were reinforced with gray cement and small stones. This activity was apparently carried out so that the column could be used as a foundation for the building constructed above it. Floor 104, which abutted the column on all sides, was a gray-plastered floor that overlaid a bed of wadi pebbles and fieldstones. Potsherds (Fig. 3:1–3, 6, 7, 10–14) dating to the second half of the 9th century and the 10th century CE were found above and below the floor, as well as a stone vessel (Fig. 3:15) above the floor. The gray-plastered Floor 105 abutted the column on the south; a section of it was also traced on the eastern side. It superposed Floor 104, negating it. Above Floor 105 were ceramic finds that dated to the 11th–12th centuries CE (Fig. 3:5, 9). A circular surface constructed from medium-sized fieldstones (L109) was built above Floor 105 in the eastern part of the square; it may have been part of a sewage pit. Above the surface were fragments of pottery vessels, the latest among them dated to the 11th and 12th centuries CE (Fig. 3:4, 8). The foundation of a wall (W1; width 0.5 m) built of dressed stones and preserved a single course high adjoined the stone surface on the north.



1. Plan and sections.



2. Pottery (1-17) and a stone basin (18) from Strata 1 and 2.

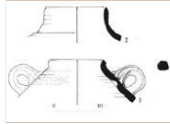


3. Pottery (1-14) and a stone basin (15) from Stratum 3.

Ramla (B)*

Shlomo Gudovitch

9/6/2004



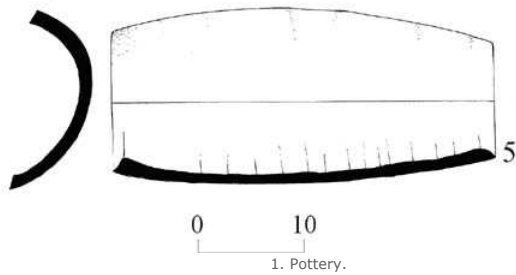
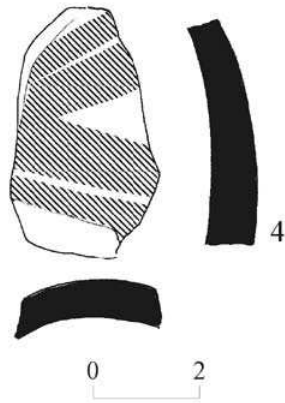
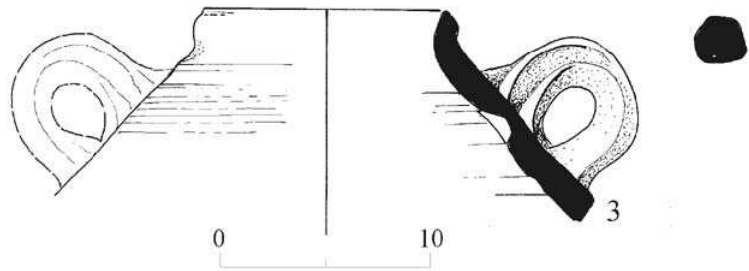
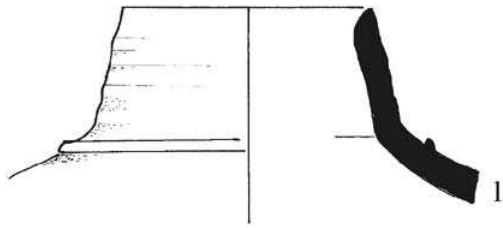
1. Pottery.

A three-day salvage excavation was conducted in February 1999 on Betar Street in Ramla (A-3012*; map ref. NIG 18810-25/64835-45; OIG 13810-25/14835-45). The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by S. Gudovitch, assisted by R. Abu Khalaf (administration), R. Gat (pottery restoration) and C. Hersch (pottery drawing).

A single excavation square was opened, revealing building remains and ceramic finds from the Early Islamic period. In the upper part of the square fieldstone collapse and plaster were exposed above a thin layer of alluvium, overlying a plaster floor (thickness 2 cm) that was applied to a bedding of *hamra* (thickness 5-7 cm). Two pillars were found above the plaster floor, one on the northern side (0.6 x 0.6 m, height 0.56 m) and the other, which was mostly destroyed by a backhoe, on the southern side. A curved wall (exposed length 1 m, width 0.56 m) was discovered in the northwestern part of the square; it was built of dry, fieldstone construction and preserved a single course high; it severed the plaster floor. At a depth of c. 0.1 m below the plaster floor, another beaten-*kurkar* floor (thickness 2-3 cm) was detected, superposing a layer of reddish-brown soil (thickness c. 0.1 m) that was deposited on sand.

An aqueduct constructed below the floor had severed it. In the aqueduct was a pipe that consisted of different-sized ceramic sections, having a U-shaped cross-section (0.27 m, length of two sections 0.35 m; Fig. 1:5). The sections were placed one inside the other on a bed of mortar and above them similar pipe sections were set, facing downward; together, they formed a closed ceramic pipe.

The ceramic finds were meager. Pottery fragments that dated to the Mamluk period and modern times were collected from surface, whereas in the excavation, a small number of potsherds from the Early Islamic period, among them jars (Fig. 1:1-3) and a jug (Fig. 1:4), were recovered mainly from below the beaten-*kurkar* floor.



1. Pottery.

Ramla*

Ofer Sion

9/6/2004

A salvage excavation was conducted in July 2000 on Ben-Zvi Street in Ramla (A-3262*; map ref. NIG 18694/64826; OIG 13694/14826) after ancient remains were discovered during an antiquities inspection performed by Y. Elisha and the digging of a probe by a backhoe. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by O. Sion, assisted by R. Shnita (surveying) and E. Belashov (drafting).

The site is located on the western edge of Old Ramla and one excavation square (2.5 × 6.0 m) was opened. In the northern part of the square was a wall (exposed length 1.6 m) built of medium-sized dressed stones and oriented east-west. It was preserved a single course high, save its eastern end where two courses were preserved, the top one was partially plastered. A plaster floor abutted the base of the upper course; it was exposed in the northern section of the square as well. The floor overlaid a bed of small stones. About 1 m west of the wall, a bag-shaped jar, whose bottom was trimmed off, was uncovered, *in situ*, buried in the ground. The rim of the jar was level with the plaster floor. A stone heap (diam. 1.1 m) that was probably a sewage pit was 1.4 m west of the jar; its top was level with the plaster floor.

Segments of three plaster floors, one atop the other, were discerned in the northern section of the square. The two lower floors may have been part of a single sloping floor, of the kind noted in the southern section of the square.

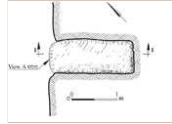
The ceramic finds recovered from the excavation dated to the Early Islamic period (8th–10th centuries CE) and included fragments of bowls, kraters, cooking pots, jars and jugs, as well as several fragments of glass and animal bones. The remains investigated in the excavation probably belonged to a building that was located on the outskirts of Ramla during the Abbasid period.

Rosh Zurim

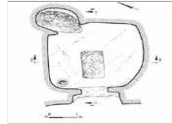
Yuval Peleg and Yaron Feller

31/5/2004

During July 1998 and January 1999 two salvage excavations were conducted at Rosh Zurim, in Gush 'Ezion (L-813, L-836; map ref. NIG 21150/61975; OIG 16150/11975), prior to enlarging the settlement. The excavations, on behalf of the Archaeological Staff Officer of Judea and Samaria, were directed by Y. Feller, assisted by P. Portnov (surveying and drafting), S. Ammami (photography), Y. Bar-Rashi (drawing) and V. Eshed (physical anthropology).



1. Tomb 1, plan and section.



2. Cave 2, plan and sections.



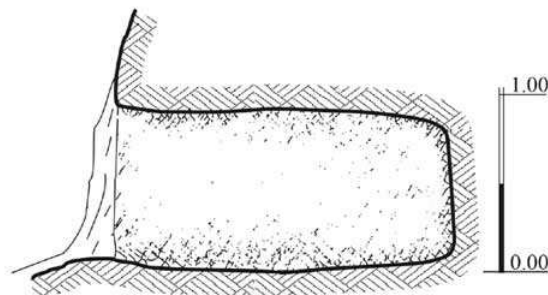
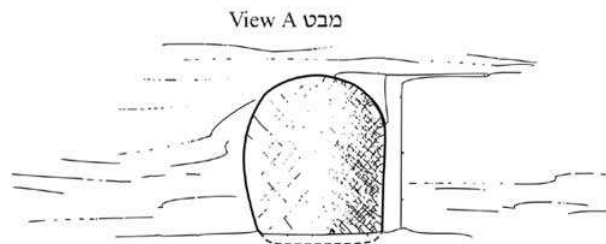
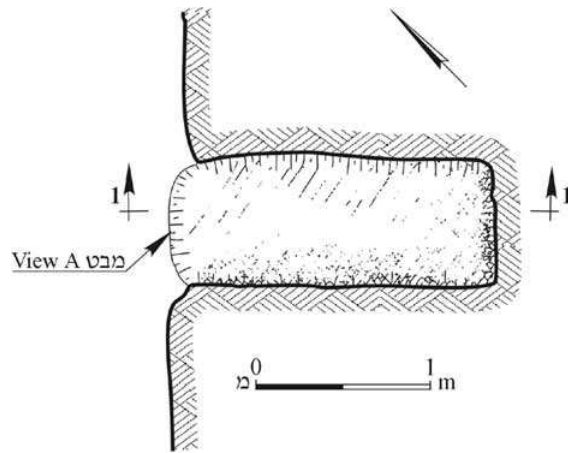
3. Cave 3, plan and section.

Three rock-cut burial caves, dating to the 1st century BCE, were excavated on the hill where the settlement is situated. They are part of the cemetery at Khirbat Beit Sakariya, located c. 0.6 km to the south (The Survey in Judea, Site 50, In: *Judea, Samaria and the Golan – Archaeological Survey 1967-1968, 1972*).

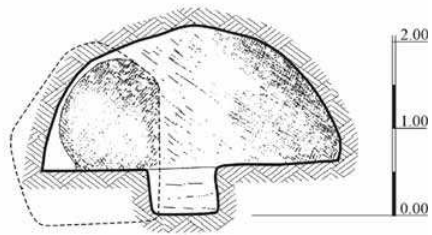
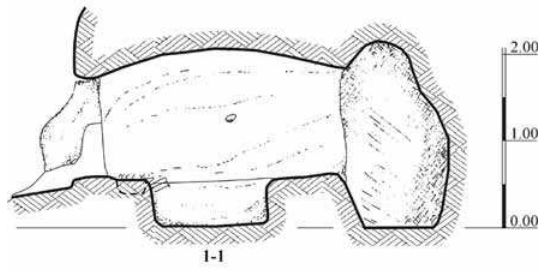
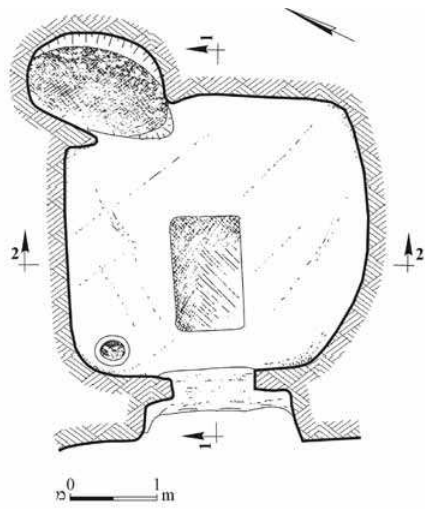
Cave 1. A single rectangular niche in the bedrock (0.9×2.0 m, height 0.9 m; Fig. 1) was examined on the western slope of the hill. Signs of rock cutting for a square frame that was intended for a blocking stone were discerned in the tomb's entrance. The tomb was devoid of finds.

Cave 2. On the western slope of the hill, c. 40 m north of Cave 1, a burial cave that consisted of a single chamber was excavated (Fig. 2). A short corridor (length 0.56 m, width 1.68 m) led to the burial chamber (3.15 \times 3.45 m, height 1.2–1.5 m) that had an arched ceiling. A hewn standing pit (0.80 \times 1.35 m, depth 0.5 m) was in the middle of the chamber and three benches (average width 1.3 m) surrounded it. An oval-shaped repository (1.12 \times 1.61 m, height 2.15 m) was cut in the chamber's northeastern corner and in the northwestern corner was a circular rock-cut recess (diam. 0.35 m, depth 0.12 m). Fragments of two fusiform juglets, dating to the 1st century BCE, were recovered from the cave. The repository and standing pit contained human bones that belonged to ten individuals, including eight adults, two of whom were identified as women and one as a man, and two children, 4 and 7–8 years of age.

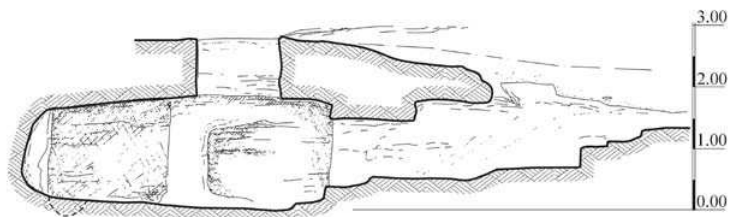
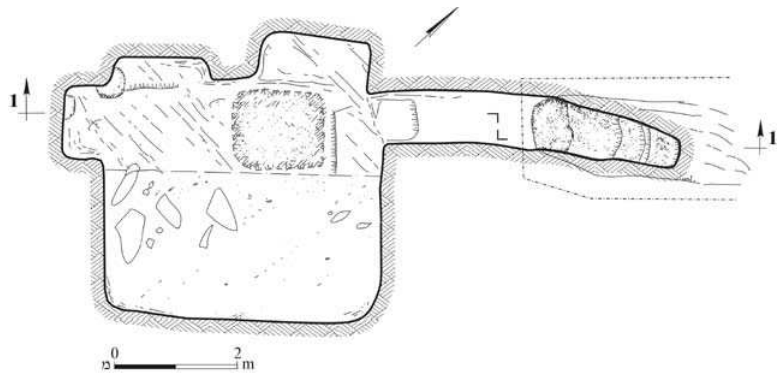
Cave 3. On the northeastern slope of the hill was the third burial cave that also had a single burial chamber (Fig. 3). A long narrow corridor (length 5.12 m, width 0.83 m) with six steps led to the burial chamber; only its southwestern part near the chamber was roofed (height 0.90–1.25 m). The burial chamber (3.9 \times 4.6 m, height 1.7 m) was rectangular and had a flat ceiling and floor. Three *loculi* were hewn in its walls, two in the northwestern wall and one in the southwestern wall; it seems that the quarrying of the *loculi* was never completed. A circular recess (diam. 0.5 m, depth 0.3 m) was cut in the western corner of the burial chamber. An opening (0.50 \times 1.35 m) was quarried in the northeastern side of the chamber's ceiling, when the cave was no longer used for interments; it probably happened during the Mamluk period when the cave may have served for dwelling. A few pottery fragments from the 1st century BCE and the Mamluk period (12th–14th centuries CE) were discovered in the cave.



1-1
1. Tomb 1, plan and section.



2-2
2. Cave 2, plan and sections.



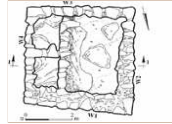
1-1
3. Cave 3, plan and section.

Sansanna

Yuval Peleg and Yaron Feller

31/5/2004

A salvage excavation was conducted in December 1998 north of Sansanna (L-829; map ref. NIG 19075/58565; OIG 14075/08565) prior to enlarging the settlement. The excavation, on behalf of the Archaeological Staff Officer of Judea and Samaria, was directed by Y. Feller, assisted by P. Portnov (surveying and drafting) and S. Ammami (photography).



1. Building, plan and section.



2. Winepress 1, plan and section.



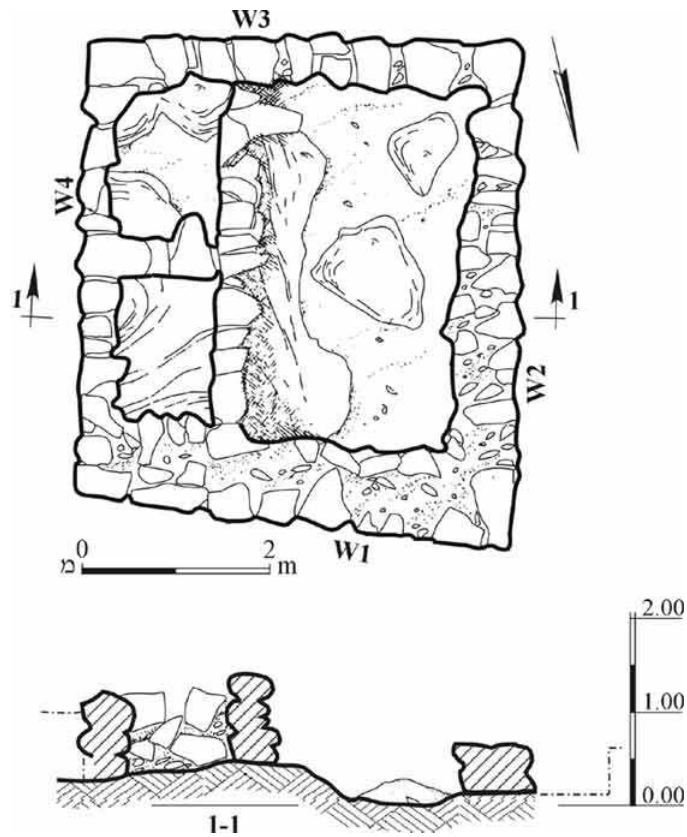
3. Winepress 2, plan and section.

A building dating to Iron Age III and two rock-cut winepresses (1, 2) from the Byzantine period were excavated on a spur that descended westward. They may be connected to the settlement at Khirbat Sansanna, located c. 1 km to the south.

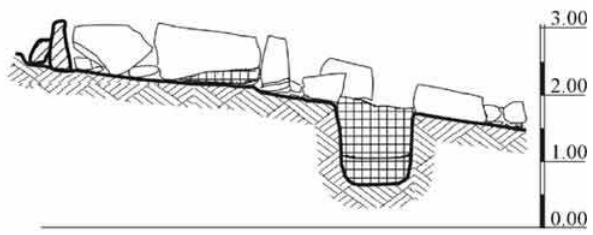
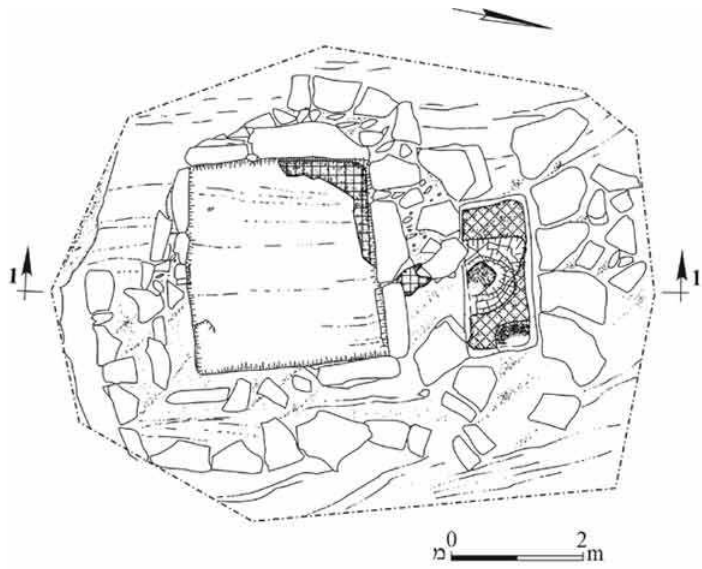
The Building (4.9 × 5.6 m; Fig. 1) was located on a concealed dome along the spur. It was built of different-sized fieldstones and was preserved to a maximum of four courses high. A beaten-earth floor mixed with small stones was deposited atop bedrock. The building's northern (W1; width 0.9 m) and western walls (W2; width 0.6–0.8 m) were constructed from two rows of stones, whereas the southern (W3) and eastern (W4) walls were built of a single row of stones (max. width 0.5 m). It is unclear where the entrance to the building was located. Two interior walls (W5, W6) partitioned the building into three rooms, a large room in the west (2 × 4 m) and two smaller rooms in the east (1.05 × 1.46 m, 1.1 × 1.5 m). Several fragments of pottery vessels from Iron Age III were discovered in the building.

The Winepresses. Winepress 1 (Fig. 2) was c. 100 m southwest of the building, on the northern slope of the spur. It consisted of a square treading surface (2.84 × 3.18 m) and a rectangular collecting vat (1.1 × 2.4 m, depth 1.15 m) to its north, which had traces of plaster and a rock-cut step (0.35 × 0.55 m, height 0.4 m) in its northeastern corner. Walls built of large fieldstones (max. length 1.3 m) and preserved a single course high were constructed above the hewn walls of the treading surface. A few pottery fragments from the Byzantine period were recovered from the winepress.

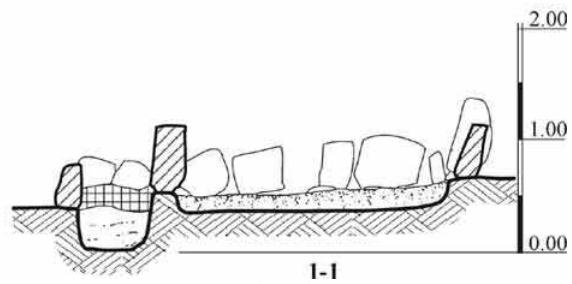
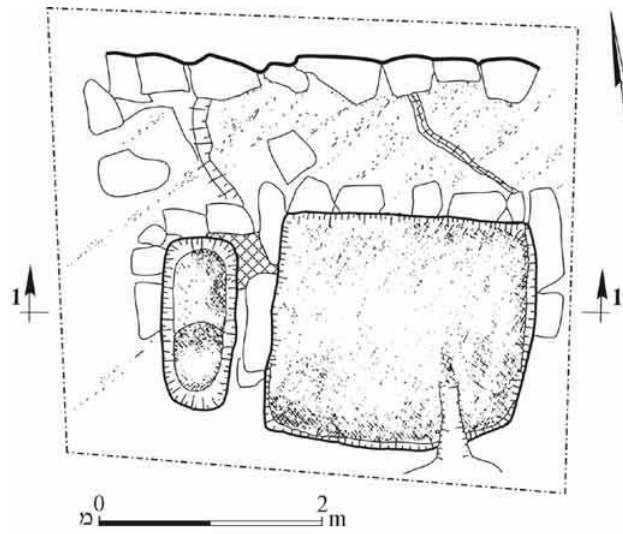
Winepress 2 (Fig. 3) was located c. 50 m northwest of the building. It consisted of a square treading surface (2.15 × 2.35 m, depth 0.2 m) and a rectangular collecting vat (0.7 × 1.6 m, depth 0.48 m) to its west. Walls built of medium-sized fieldstones (max. length 0.5 m) that were preserved to a maximum of two courses high (0.7 m) superposed the northern, western and eastern walls of the treading surface. The winepress yielded several pottery fragments from the Byzantine period. A wall (length 3.9 m) was exposed c. 1.2 m north of the winepress; it was built of medium-sized fieldstones, oriented east–west and preserved to a maximum of two courses high (0.65 m). Fragments of pottery vessels dating to the Mamluk period were found near the wall.



1. Building, plan and section.



2. Winepress 1, plan and section. **1-1**



3. Winepress 2, plan and section. **1-1**

Senir*

Yosef Stepansky

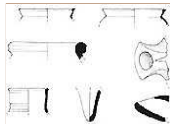
4/5/2004



1. Area A, plan and section.



2. Area A, stone structure that probably served for burial, looking north.



3. Pottery, Area A: Hellenistic (1–4); Roman (5–21). Area B: Roman (22, 23).

A salvage excavation was conducted in March–April 2000 north of Qibbutz Senir (A-3214*; map ref. NIG 26352/79452; OIG 21352/29452), prior to the construction of a new neighborhood. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority and financed by the Upper Galilee Regional Council, was directed by Y. Stepansky, with the assistance of A. Hajian (surveying), R. Graff (drafting), H. Tahan (drawing), D. Syon (numismatics), E. Altmark (metallurgical laboratory), M. Hartal, I. Shaked and H. Abu 'Uqsa (ceramic reading) and Z. Nitzan (metal detection).

Two excavation areas (A and B) were opened on a low terrace after building remains were exposed, while backhoe diggings were carried out. Area A was located at the northern side of the terrace and consisted of four squares, wherein the remains of a building compound that was probably used for burial and dated to the Roman period, were revealed. Potsherds dating to the Hellenistic, Early Islamic and Crusader-Ayyubid periods were collected as well. Area B was located at the southern end of the terrace, 35 m south of Area A. A single square was excavated, including building remains from the Roman period.

Area A (Fig. 1). A stone structure (3.8 × 4.0 m; Fig. 2) in the center of what remained from a built compound was uncovered. The structure consisted of two rectangular cells (Loci 10, 14) that were probably used for burial. The lower part of the structure was hewn in bedrock (min. height 0.85 m) and the upper part was built of four courses of travertine blocks that were finely dressed along their inner face (average dimensions 0.3 × 0.4 × 0.4 m). The western wall of Cell 10 slightly inclined outward, perhaps a result of ground shifting after its construction. Three small niches that served as steps were installed in the western wall of Cell 14. Burial remains were not discovered in the cells and it seems that these are still buried in the soil below the level that was excavated.

To the east and north of the structure segments of two walls (W500, W501) were exposed. They were built of two rows of roughly hewn travertine blocks, with a core of soil fills and small stones (average width 0.8 m). The walls were set on a foundation of small fieldstones that was placed on bedrock. Thirteen meters of W500 were revealed and it was preserved 0.3–0.7 m high. The entire length of the wall was damaged, probably due to agricultural work. Stones were arranged as headers and stretchers in several sections of the wall. The wall continued to the east, beyond the intersection with W501; therefore, another burial structure may existed to the east of W501, which has not yet been detected. Ten meters of W501 were cleared and it was preserved a single course high (0.3 m). The western face of W501 was smoother than the eastern one. The manner in which the walls intersected indicated that they were probably constructed at the same time.

A few of the ceramic finds in the area dated to the Late Hellenistic period (2nd–1st centuries BCE; Fig. 3:1–4). Most of the pottery fragments dated to the Roman period (1st–4th centuries CE; Fig. 3:5–21) and there were several pottery fragments from the Early Islamic and Crusader-Ayyubid periods as well. The finds from the Hellenistic period included fragments of mortaria (Fig. 3:1), jars (Fig. 3:2, 3) and the base of a bowl decorated with stamped leaf impressions (Fig. 3:4). The Roman-period finds included fragments of deep bowls, similar to the Shihin-type kraters from the 2nd century CE (Fig. 3:5, 6), bowls that were commonly found in Banias in the 2nd–4th centuries CE (Fig. 3:7–10), a Kefar Hananya bowl (Type 1A: 1st–3rd centuries CE; Fig. 3:11), Kefar Hananya cooking pots (Type 3A: 1st century BCE–2nd century CE; Fig. 3:12; Type 4C: 2nd–4th centuries CE; Fig. 3:13, 14), an amphora (Fig. 3:15), jars (Fig. 3:16–20), such as an eastern Terra Sigillata jar from the Early Roman period (Fig. 3:16) and Iturean jars from the Late Roman period (Fig. 3:17, 18, 20), as well as a knife-pared lamp (Fig. 3:21).

Four bronze coins (Table 1) were retrieved from the excavation area; two were from the Early Roman period and the other two, from the Mamluk period, were surface finds.

Table 1. Area A: Numismatic finds

Ruler	Mint	Date	Type	IAA No.
Aretus IV		9 BCE–40 CE	Double cornucopia	88493
Augustus Festus Procurator	Jerusalem	59 CE	Palm branch	88492
Barquq (first reign)	Damascus	1382–1389 CE	Star of David	88495
Barquq (second reign)	Tripolis	1390–1399 CE	Inscription	88496

The finds from the excavation were mixed; no sealed loci were discerned and therefore, it was impossible to ascertain the time when the structure was built. It is however, reasonable to assume that the structure was built during the 1st–4th centuries CE, since most of the finds in the area were ascribed to this time, and probably at the beginning of the period as implied by the coins from the Early Roman period. Possibly later, in the Late Roman period, the site continued to serve for burial or for cultic rituals that were associated with the process. The scant ceramic finds from the Hellenistic period may indicate a possible agricultural activity that preceded the construction at the site.

In the past, M. Hartal found a similar burial compound in Banias, c. 1 km northeast of the site. There were seven parallel, rectangular burial cells aligned north–south; the cells were plundered and contained a few finds dating to the 3rd–4th centuries CE (ESI 16:5–7). The two compounds demonstrate a tradition of magnificent funerary structures that existed in the region during the Roman period. It should be noted that numerous burial caves and hewn cist graves that belonged to the large, Roman-period cemetery of Banias had previously been discovered on the slope of the hill, to the west of the excavation area.

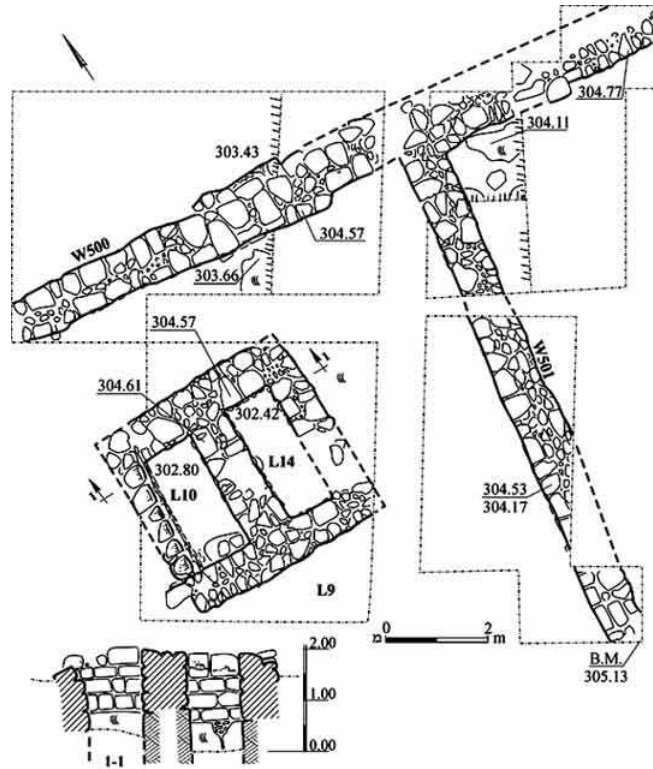
Some 70 m north of Area A, several architectural elements, including the fragment of a decorated monumental pediment and column drums were recovered from a stone clearance heap that was piled up in the 1970s. These elements join others that were collected in the vicinity in the past, and since it was an extensive burial ground it seems these elements belonged to a mausoleum that has yet to be located.

Area B (Fig. 4). Remains of a wall (W600) and several floors that had at least two construction phases were unearthed. The wall (exposed length 5 m, width 0.6 m) was built of dressed travertine blocks and preserved a single course high (0.3 m). In the early phase the wall was built of a single row of stones (W600A). To this phase two pebble floors were also ascribed; one floor (L55) was c. 5 cm lower than the other (Loci 54, 56) and apparently earlier as well. The upper floor was probably a repair of the lower one. The remains of the early phase seem to belong to a pool that may have been used for storing water. In the later phase the wall was made thicker by adding another row of stones (W600B), which damaged the pebble floors. A floor of soil and small stones traced in several places above the upper pebble floor, and a square stone that was probably used as a column base were attributed to the late phase. It seems that in this phase another building, whose function remains unclear, was constructed in this spot.

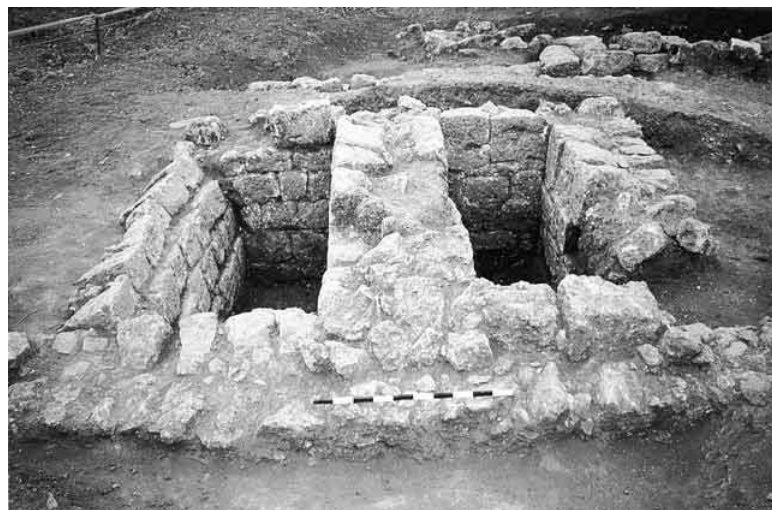
No ceramic finds were found on the floors. The soil fill that covered the building remains contained a few fragments of pottery vessels from the Hellenistic period and many from the 1st–2nd centuries CE, including a bowl (Fig. 3:22) and a cooking pot (Fig. 3:23), as well as three bronze coins (Table 2), one from the 1st century CE, the second from the 2nd century CE and the third was illegible. Judging by the finds it seems that both phases of the building dated to the 1st–2nd centuries CE.

Table 2. Area B: Numismatic finds

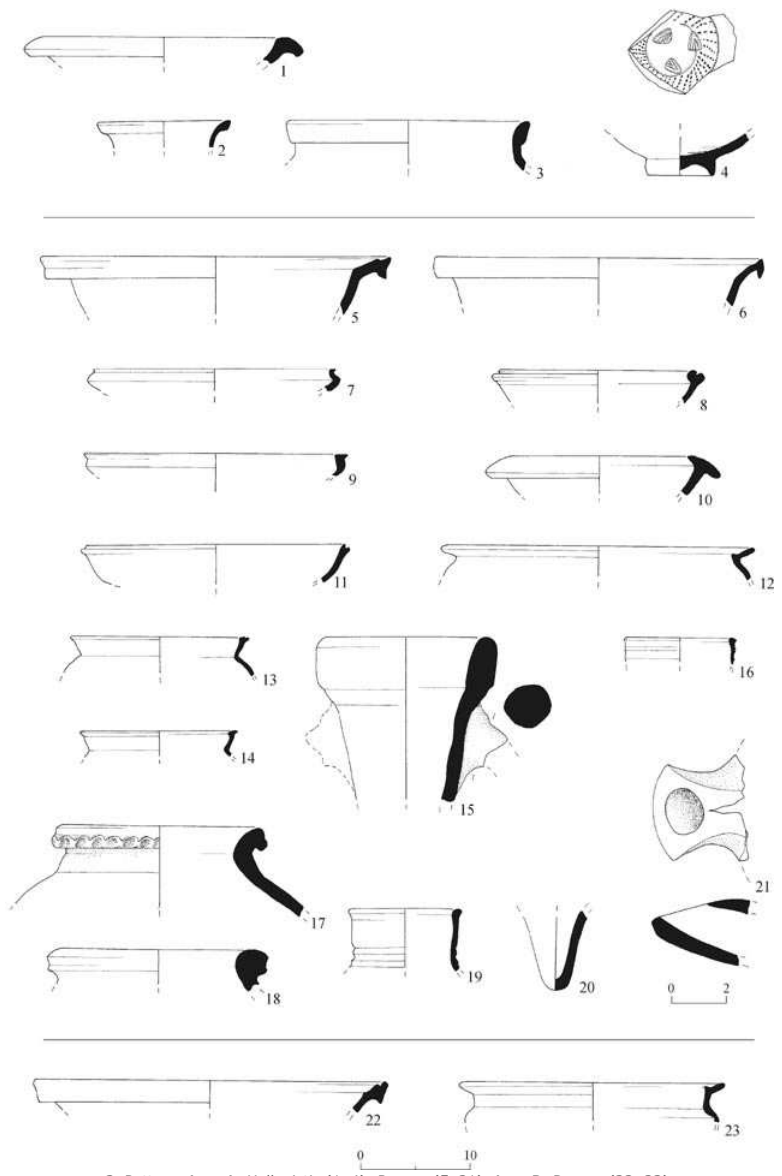
Ruler	Mint	Date	Type	IAA No.
Autonomous	Paneas	169 (?) CE	Syrinx Pipes of Pan	88494
Autonomous	Sidon	1st century CE	War galley	88497



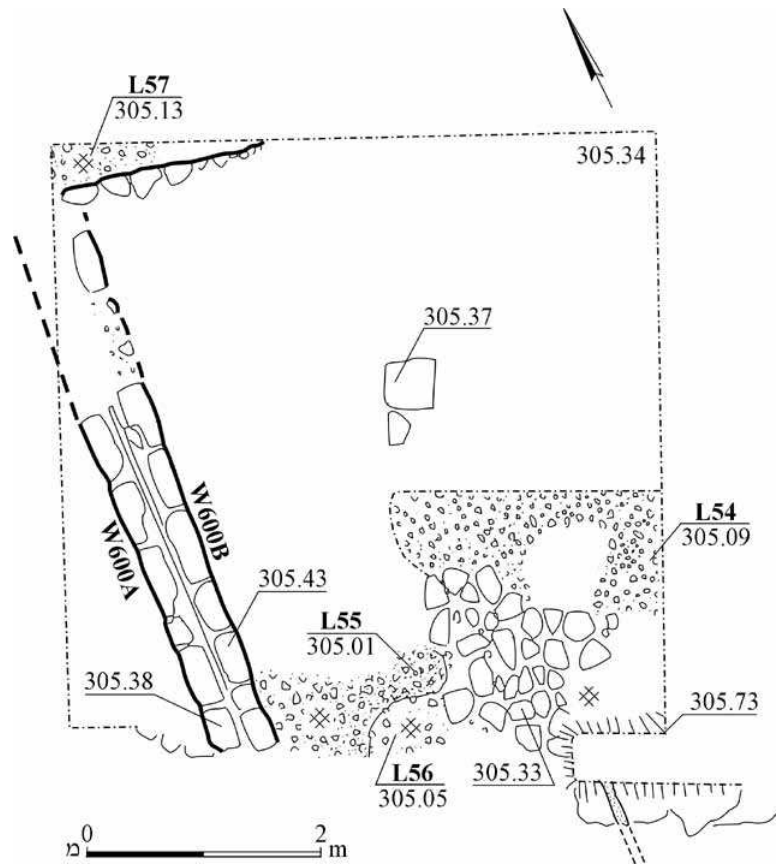
1. Area A, plan and section.



2. Area A, stone structure that probably served for burial, looking north.



3. Pottery, Area A: Hellenistic (1-4); Roman (5-21). Area B: Roman (22, 23).

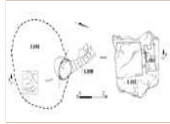


4. Area B, plan.

Sheqef–Negohot Road

Yuval Peleg and Yaron Feller

9/6/2004

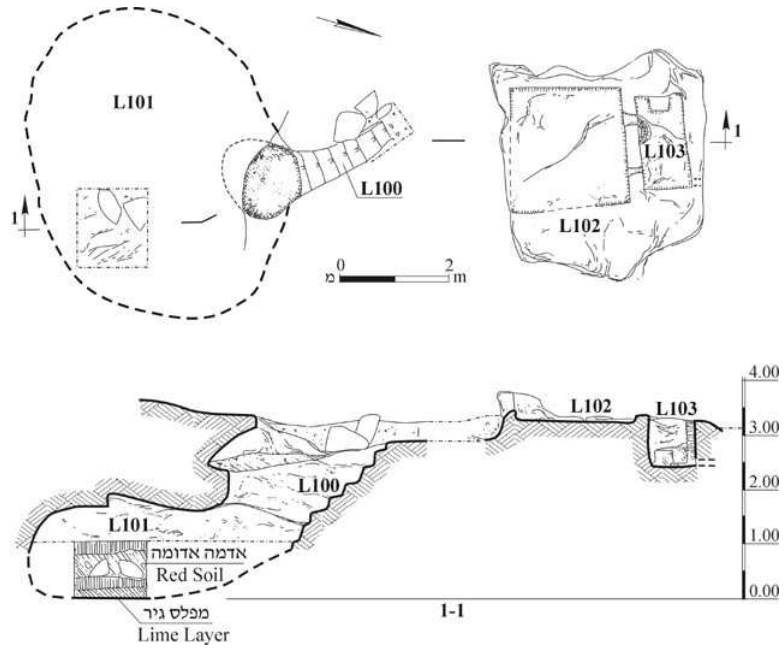


1. Plan and section.

A salvage excavation was conducted in December 1998 west of the Sheqef–Negohot road, in the western Judean Mountains (L-828; map ref. NIG 19475/60075; OIG 14475/10075), prior to paving. The excavation, on behalf of the Archaeological Staff Officer of Judea and Samaria, was directed by Y. Feller, assisted by P. Portnov (surveying and drafting) and S. Ammami (photography).

A hewn cave and a winepress to its north (Fig. 1) were exposed on the northern slope of a spur, descending to the west. The cave included a narrow corridor (L100; length 1.9 m, width 0.6 m) with eight steps, descending into an oval chamber (L101; 4.85 × 5.90 m, max. height 1.92 m). A trial square (1.2 × 1.5 m) excavated inside the cave revealed several layers of alluvium and stones (thickness 0.86 m), overlying a layer of chalk (average thickness 0.2 m) that covered the bedrock floor of the cave. Several body fragments of jars, dating to the Byzantine period, were discovered in the cave.

The winepress was located c. 1.5 m north of the cave. It consisted of a square treading surface (L102; 2.20 × 2.25 m, depth 0.14 m) from which two conduits (width c. 0.15 m) led to a rectangular collecting vat (L103; 0.95 × 1.74 m, depth 0.9 m). Plaster remains were traced in the collecting vat and a step (0.30 × 0.35 m, height 0.21 m) was hewn in its western side.



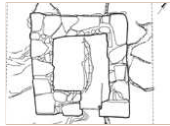
1. Plan and section.

Shim'a (South)

Yuval Peleg and Yaron Feller

31/5/2004

A salvage excavation was conducted in January–February 1998 south of Shim'a (L-800; map ref. NIG 20185/58820; OIG 15185/08820) prior to expanding the settlement. The excavation, on behalf of the Archaeological Staff Officer of Judea and Samaria, was directed by Y. Feller, assisted by M. Kahan and P. Portnov (surveying and drafting) and S. Ammami (photography).



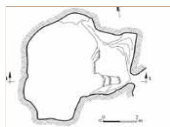
1. Field tower, plan.



2. Winepress, plan.



3. Cave 1, plan and section.



4. Cave 2, plan and section.

A field tower from the Byzantine period, a winepress and two cave dwellings (1, 2), dating to the end of the Byzantine period–the Early Islamic period and the Mamluk period respectively, were excavated on a hill. A water cistern was recorded on the southern slope of the hill.

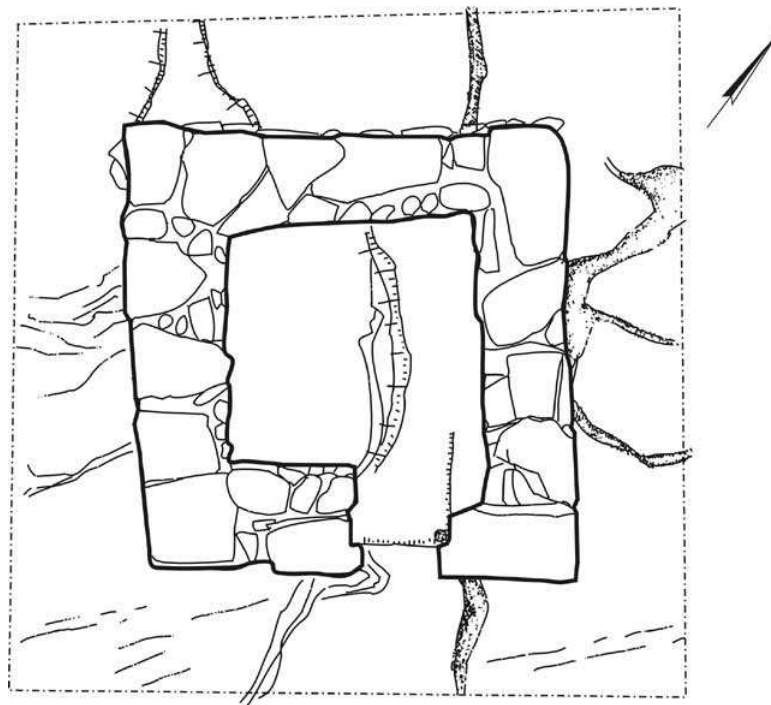
Field Tower (Fig. 1). At the top of the hill was a square field tower (3.4 × 3.5 m) founded on bedrock. Its walls (width 0.75 m) had two faces; the outer row was built of large roughly hewn stones and the inner row—of small fieldstones. They were preserved four courses high (1.2 m). The bedrock served as the floor. The entrance (width 0.55 m) was set in the southeastern wall and included a rock-cut threshold, a door socket in its eastern side and doorjamb, *in situ*, flanking the entrance. Some pottery fragments from the Byzantine period were discovered in the tower.

Winepress (Fig. 2). A small rock-cut winepress was exposed on bedrock surface, c. 25 m south of the field tower. It consisted of a treading surface (1.19 × 1.38 m, depth 6 cm) and a short channel (length 8 cm) that led to an oval-shaped collecting vat (0.58 × 0.76 m, depth 0.36 m).

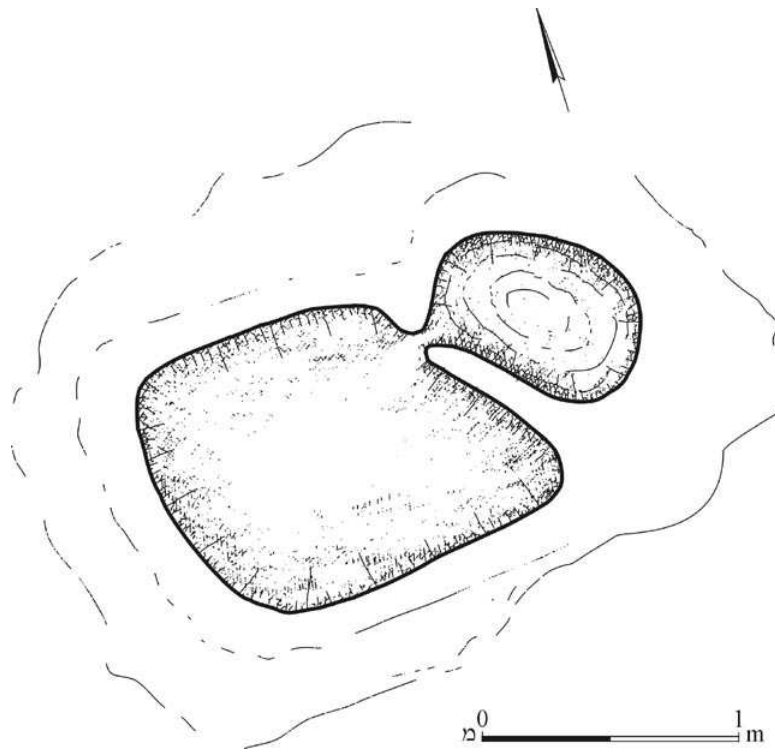
Cave 1 (Fig. 3). On the eastern slope of the hill, c. 60 m southeast of the field tower, a natural cave (max. dimensions 9.9 × 11.2 m, height 2.2 m) was revealed. It consisted of a large central chamber (5.1 × 9.9 m), with several narrow cells branching off of it. The entrance to the cave (width 5.45 m, height 6.30 m) faced east. Another small entrance (0.25 × 0.55 m) was in the western part of the cave's ceiling and a circular stone trough (diam. 0.54 m) was in the southern part of the cave. A few pottery fragments from the end of the Byzantine period—the Early Islamic period (7th–8th centuries CE) and the Mamluk period (12th–14th centuries CE), as well as a grinding stone were found in the cave, which was probably used for dwelling in these periods.

Three bedrock-hewn cupmarks were uncovered in the vicinity of the cave; one was to its west (diam. 0.7 m, depth 0.6 m) and the other two—south of the cave's entrance (diam. 0.3 m, depth 0.21 m).

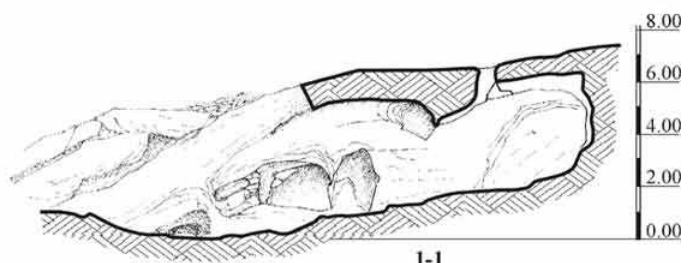
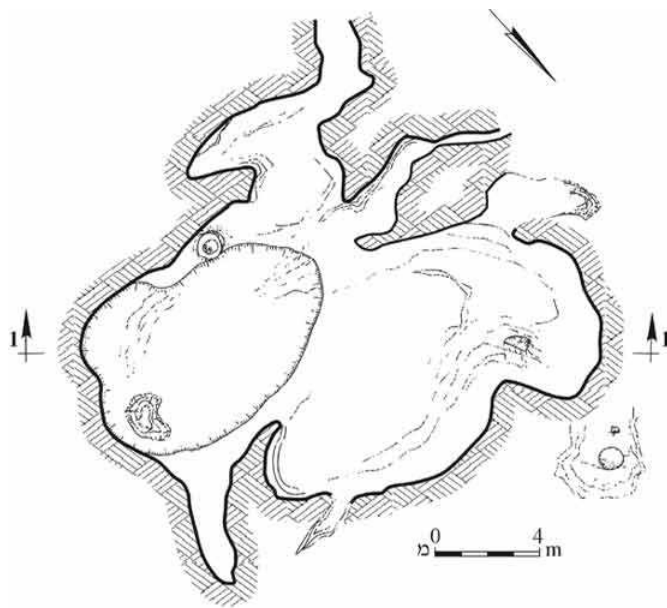
Cave 2 (Fig. 4). Toward the bottom of the hill, c. 45 m east of Cave 1, was a natural cave (3.15 × 3.65 m, height 1.2 m), wherein signs of rock cuttings were visible. The entrance to the cave (0.55 × 1.62 m) faced east; its northern part was blocked with a wall, built of large fieldstones. Three narrow steps led down from the entrance to the cave's chamber. The cave was void of datable finds and it seems to have been used for dwelling as well.



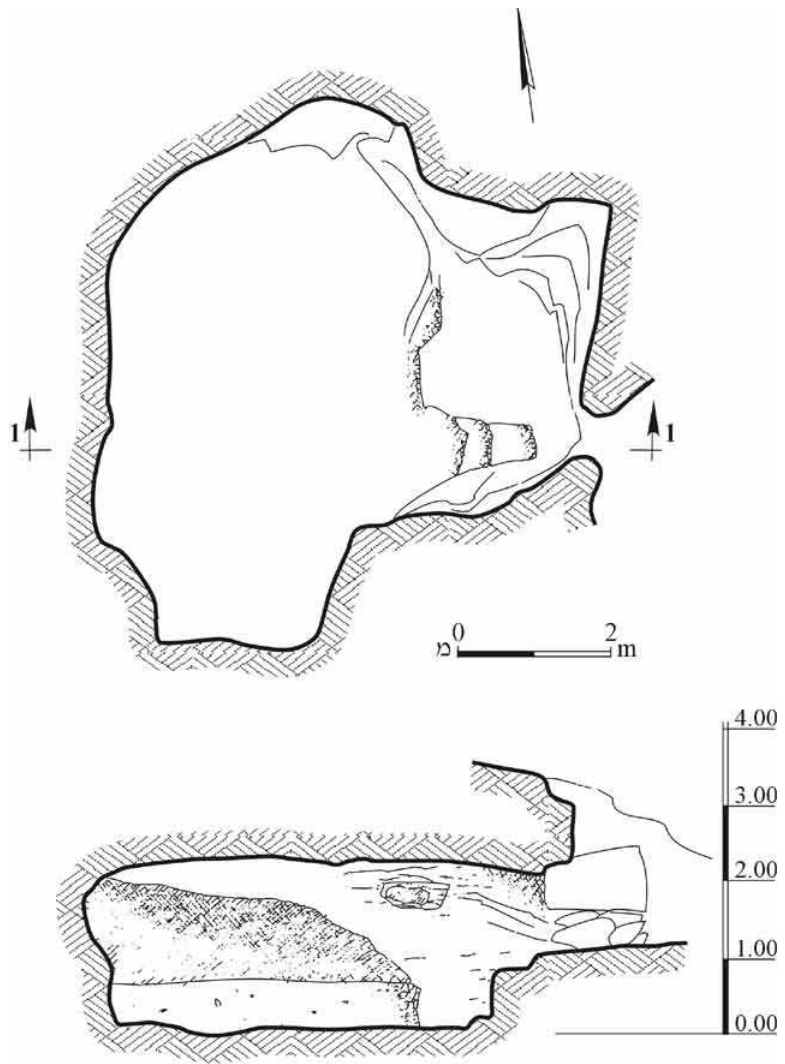
0 2 m
1. Field tower, plan.



2. Winepress, plan.



3. Cave 1, plan and section.



1-1
4. Cave 2, plan and section.

Shim'a, Industrial Zone

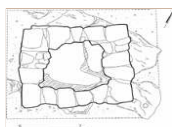
Yuval Peleg and Yaron Feller

31/5/2004

During February–April 1998 a salvage excavation was conducted south of Shim'a (L-789; map ref. NIG 2005/5865; OIG 1505/0865) prior to the establishment of an industrial zone. The excavation, on behalf of the Archaeological Staff Officer of Judea and Samaria, was directed by Y. Feller, assisted by P. Portnov and M. Kahan (surveying and drafting) and S. Ammami (photography).



1. Tower 1, plan and section.



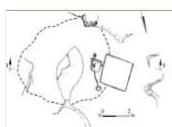
2. Tower 4, plan.



3. Animal pen, plan.



4. Winepress 1, plan.



5. Winepress 2 and cave, plan and section.

In an area of c. 6 dunams, four field towers (1–4) from the Byzantine period, an animal pen, two rock-cut winepresses (1, 2) and a natural cave that was probably used for dwelling and contained finds from Iron Age III and the Mamluk period, were excavated. The remains attest to the agricultural nature of the region; it appears that they were connected to the settlement at Khirbat Zanuta, located c. 1 km to the southwest (The Survey in the Land of Judea, Site 245, in: *Judea, Samaria and the Golan; Archaeological Survey 1967–1968*, 1972).

The Field Towers were built on a ridge, 100–300 m apart (Table 1; Figs. 1–2). They consisted of a single square room; only the northern half of Tower 3 was preserved. Outside Tower 4 and next to its eastern corner was a hewn cupmark (diam. 0.3 m, depth 0.17 m).

The Animal Pen (Fig. 3) was located in the center of the area, c. 50 m southwest of Tower 3. A wall built of large fieldstones and preserved a single course high (0.5 m) enclosed an oval area (7 × 9 m). In the center of the animal pen was a bedrock surface, where an opening to a cave that was not excavated, was found.

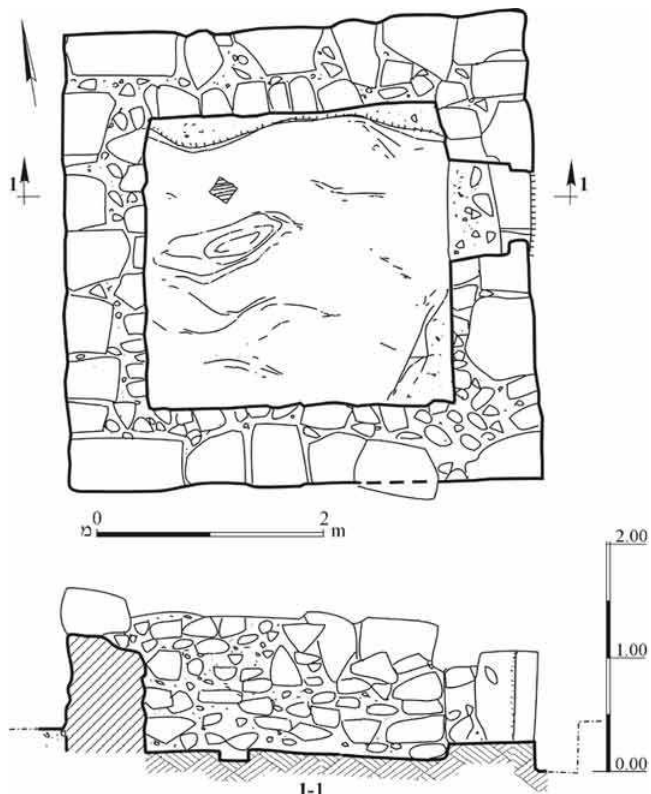
The Winepresses. Winepress 1 (Fig. 4) was 19 m east of Tower 4. It consisted of a square treading surface (2.5 × 2.5 m, depth 0.3 m), from which a hewn channel (length 0.3 m, width 0.1 m, depth 5 cm) led to a rectangular collecting vat (0.8 × 1.4 m, depth 0.75 m).

Winepress 2 (Fig. 5) was located in the south of the area, c. 50 m southeast of Tower 2. It consisted of a square treading surface (2.10 × 2.15 m, depth 8 cm) and a short channel (length 0.15 m, width 0.1 m) that led to a rectangular collecting vat (0.65 × 0.90 m, depth 0.45 m). A circular depression (diam. 0.15 m depth 0.1 m) was hewn in the eastern part of the collecting vat. Around the winepress eight cupmarks (diam. 0.4–0.8 m) were cut, two of them were connected to the collecting vat by way of rock-cut channels.

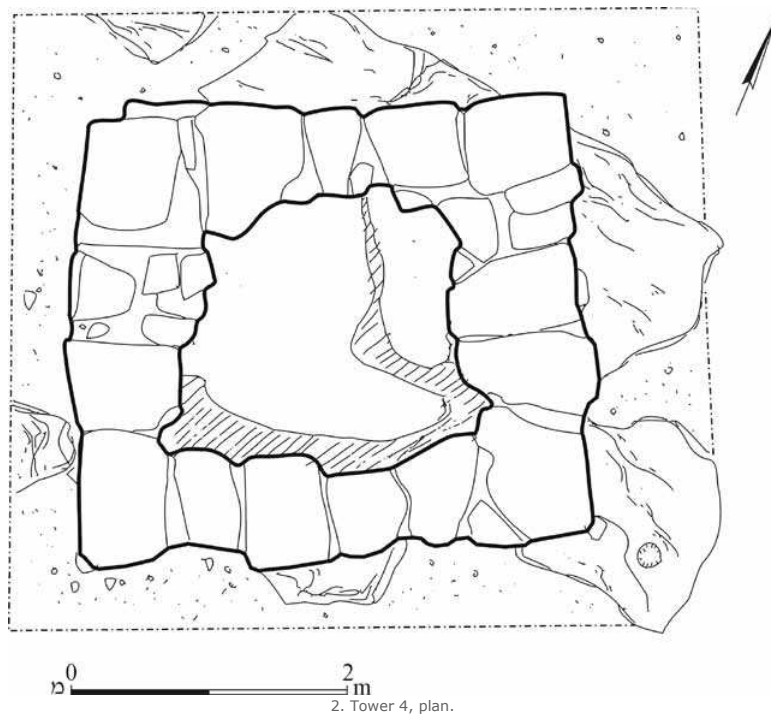
The Cave (Fig. 5) was c. 1 m east of Winepress 2. It consisted of a single round chamber (diam. 6.5 m), wherein several signs of rock cuttings were discerned. The cave had two entrances, a rectangular one in the southern side (0.7 × 1.1 m) and an oval-shaped one (1.9 × 3.9 m) in the ceiling. Several Iron Age III pottery fragments were discovered in the cave, as well as a grinding stone, a silver ring or earring and fragments of a glass bracelet from the Mamluk period. It seems the cave was used as a dwelling and later, as a shelter for local shepherds.

Table 1. Field Towers

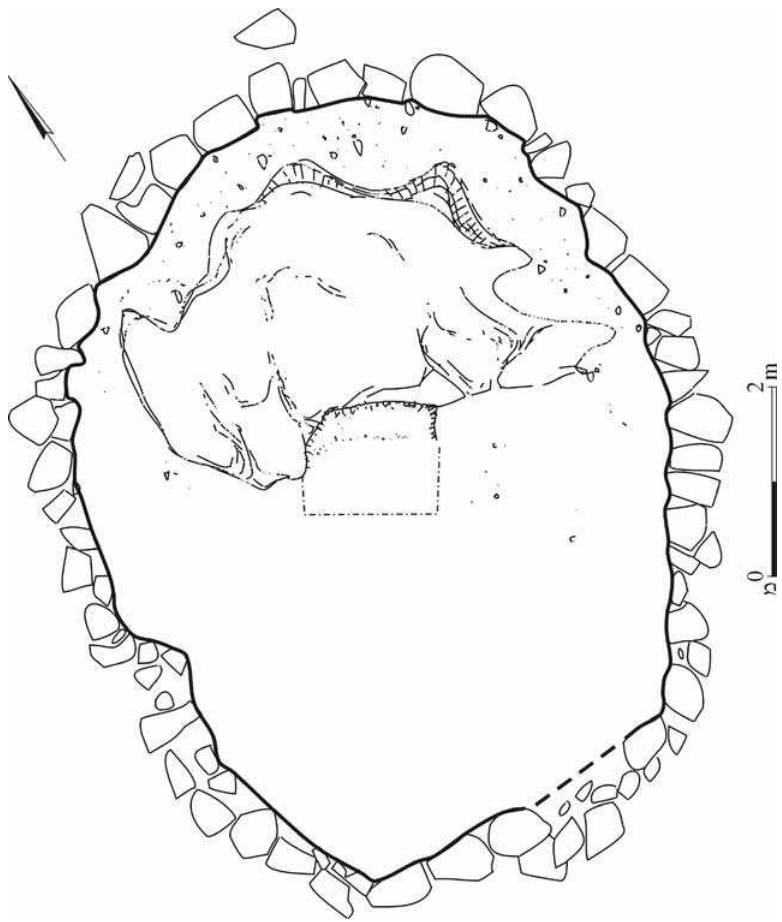
	Tower 1	Tower 2	Tower 3	Tower 4
<i>General dimensions (m)</i>	4.0 × 4.2	4.1 × 5.0	4.1 preserved length, 6.1 width	3.2 × 3.5
<i>Wall width (m)</i>	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.9
<i>Wall construction</i>	Outer face: large roughly hewn fieldstones. Inner face: small fieldstones	Same as Tower 1	Same as Tower 1	Single row of large roughly hewn fieldstones
<i>Preserved height</i>	2–4 courses	2–4 courses	2–4 courses	4 courses
<i>Alignment with cardinal points</i>	Walls	Walls	Walls	Corners of building
<i>Entrance wall</i>	Eastern	Eastern	-	Southwestern
<i>Entrance width (m)</i>	0.6–0.7	0.6–0.7	-	0.8
<i>Floor</i>	Beaten earth overlying bedrock	Beaten earth overlying fieldstones	Bedrock	Bedrock
<i>Other features</i>	Square rock-cutting in floor of northwestern corner (0.18 × 0.29 m, depth 0.06 m)	-	-	-
<i>Thresholds and doorjambs</i>	Flat stone thresholds, dressed doorjambs with holes for bolt	Same as Tower 1	-	?
<i>Finds</i>	Byzantine-period pottery; glass fragments; worn coin (Staff Officer No. 29545)	Byzantine-period pottery	Byzantine-period pottery	Byzantine-period pottery



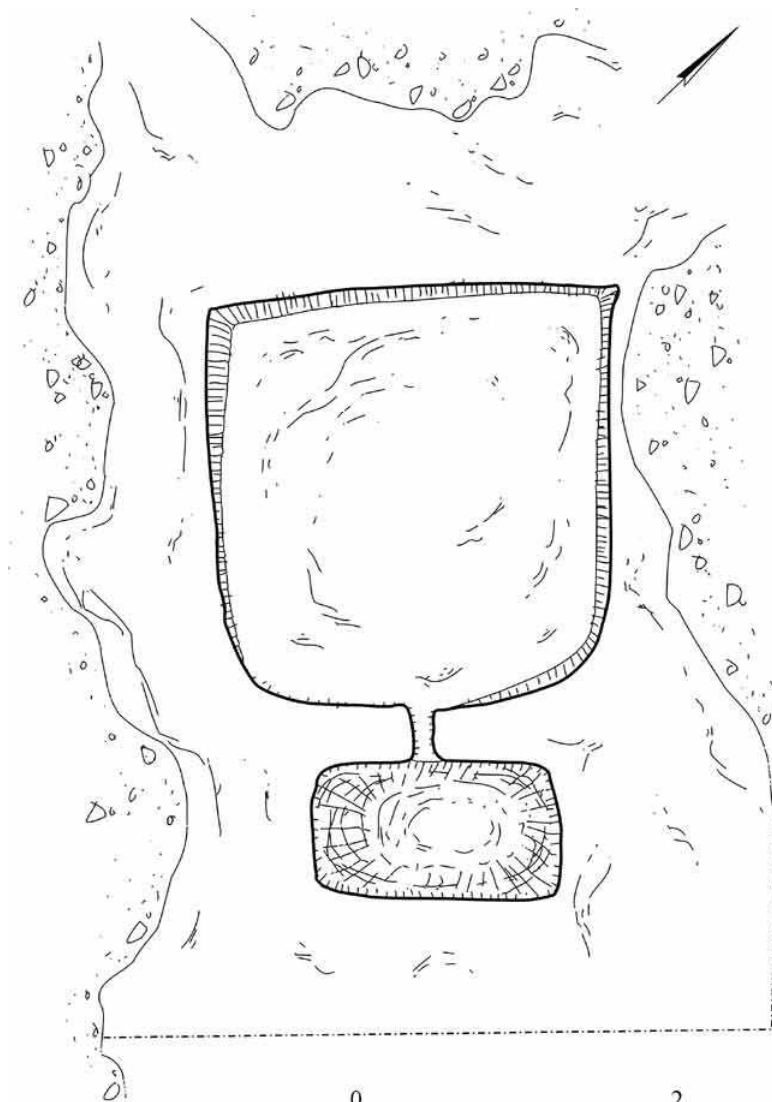
1. Tower 1, plan and section.



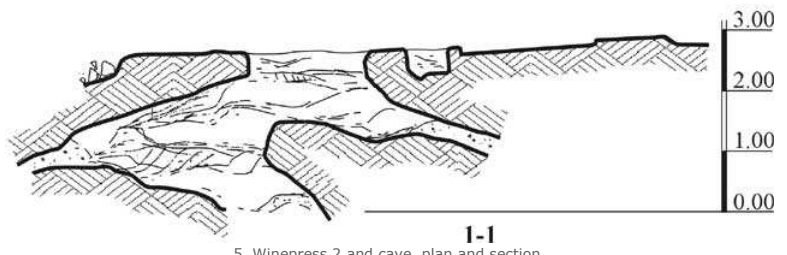
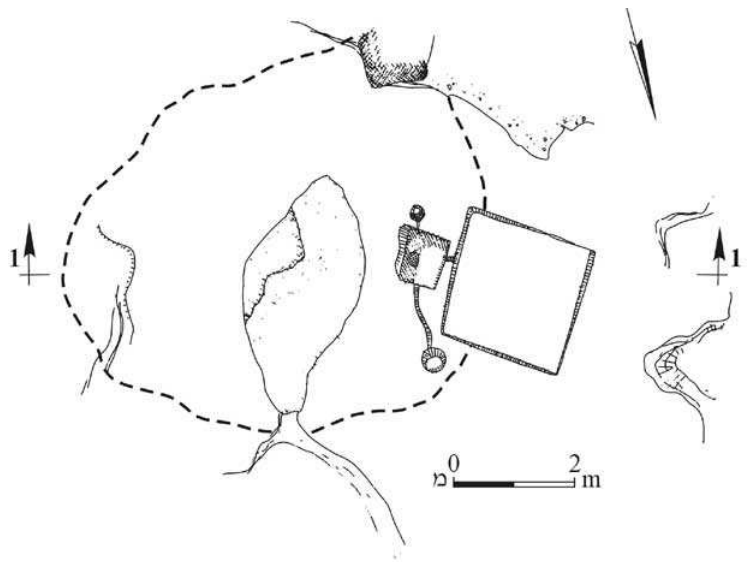
2. Tower 4, plan.



3. Animal pen, plan.



0 2 m
4. Winepress 1, plan.



5. Winepress 2 and cave, plan and section.

Talmé Bilu*

Alexey Zelin

9/6/2004



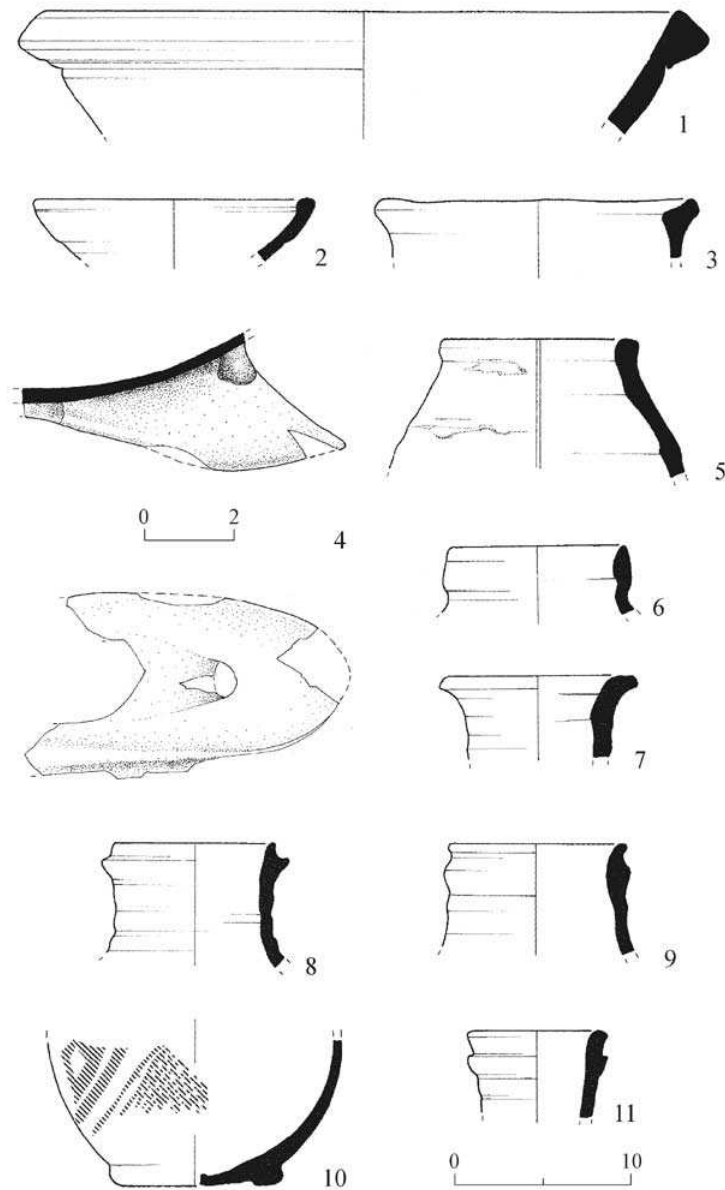
1. Pottery.

A salvage excavation was conducted in January 2001 at the Talmé Bilu Junction (A-3369*; map ref. NIG 16562/59468; OIG 11562/09468), following damage to antiquities due to laying a cable line. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by A. Zelin, assisted by V. Essman and V. Pirsky (surveying) and A. Dudin (drawing).

A single square that was damaged by a modern refuse pit in its western part was opened. A stone wall was discovered in the eastern part of the square and to its north was part of a circular pit dug into the ground. Ceramic finds, dating to the Byzantine and Mamluk periods, were recovered from the square.

The wall (preserved length 1.32 m, width 0.67 m) was oriented east-west and built of two rows of undressed *kurkar* blocks and wadi pebbles, with a core of small pieces of *kurkar* mixed with mud; it was preserved a single course high. Below the wall was a thin layer of mud that overlaid virgin soil. Next to the wall the bones of a small ruminant, as well as what may be those of a pig, were discovered, together with fragments of pottery vessels from the Mamluk period, such as a krater (Fig. 1:1), a red-slipped bowl outside and in (Fig. 1:2), a handmade cooking jug (Fig. 1:3), jars (Fig. 1:7-9) and a jug with a geometric decoration (Fig. 1:10).

The pit (1.3 × 3.0 m, depth 0.36 m) had a somewhat sloping wall that curved toward the bottom, upon which was a thin layer of crushed chalk (thickness 1 cm) that was apparently the floor. Burnt spots, the bones of a small ruminant and perhaps those of a pig were found on the floor, as well as fragments of a Gaza jar (Fig. 1:5) and a bag-shaped jar (Fig. 1:6) from the Byzantine period and a cooking pot handle (Fig. 1:4) and a jug rim (Fig. 1:11) from the Mamluk period. This may have been a small refuse pit. One meter to the west of the pit was another pit (3.45 × 3.45 m, depth 2.5 m) that was excavated for an electric pole and was devoid of ancient finds.



1. Pottery.

Tel Aviv, Ramat Ha-Hayyal*

Kareem Sa'id

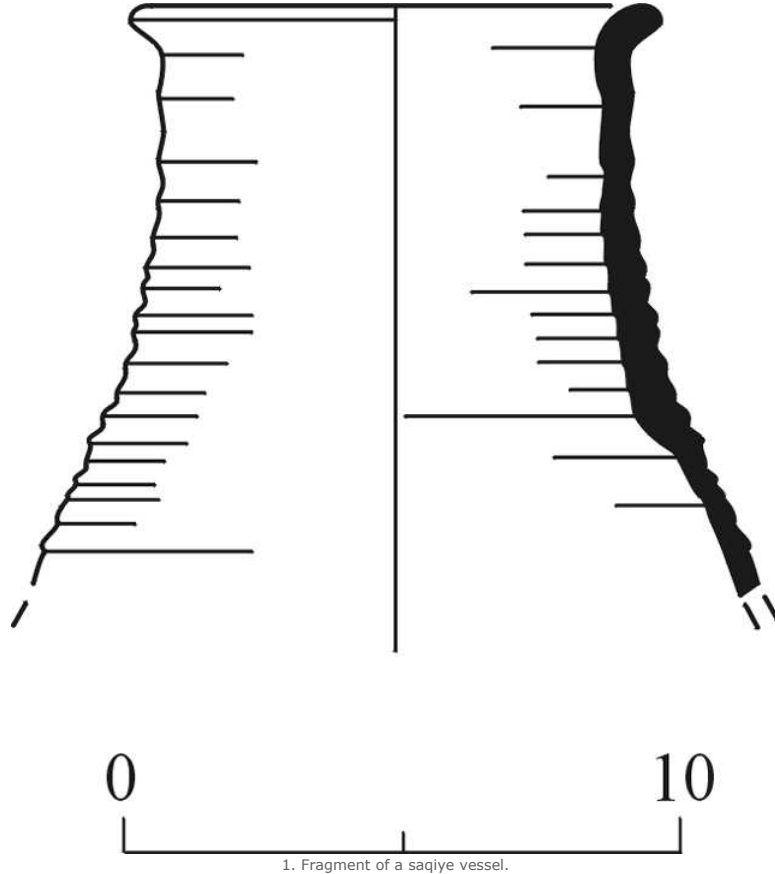
7/6/2004



1. Fragment of a saqiye vessel.

In March 2000 a trial excavation was conducted in the northern part of Raoul Walenberg Street, in Ramat Ha-Hayyal (A-3220*; map ref. NIG 18446/66826; OIG 13446/16826) after damage was caused to antiquities while digging a trench for the placement of cables. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority and financed by the Tevel Company, was directed by K. Sa'id, assisted by M. Ajami and M. Shuiskaya-Arnov (drawing).

The excavation area (3.5 × 6.0 m) revealed scant remains of two walls, which were built of *kurkar* ashlar (0.15 × 0.20 × 0.40 m) and were preserved a single course high. The first wall was oriented east-west, whereas the second was aligned north-south. Several fragments of pottery vessels, dating to the Byzantine period, were discovered south of the first wall, including a *saqiye* vessel (Fig. 1). The wall remains were probably part of a larger architectural complex that extended beyond the excavation limits.

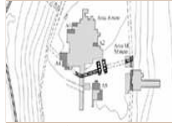


1. Fragment of a saqiye vessel.

Tel Hazor – 2003

Amnon Ben-Tor

5/5/2004



1. Map of excavation areas.

During June–July 2003 the 14th season of excavations of the ‘Selz Foundation Excavations at Hazor in Memory of Yigael Yadin’ was conducted at Hazor under the direction of A. Ben-Tor (G-1/03; HA 115; Fig. 5). The excavation was undertaken on behalf of the Philip and Muriel Berman Center for Biblical Archaeology of the Hebrew University, under the auspices of the Israel Exploration Society and with the assistance of the Antiqua Foundation (Switzerland). About 50 volunteers from abroad participated in the excavation, including a group of theology students from Romania and individual volunteers from Europe, the United States and Australia, as well as students from the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, within the framework of a ‘study excavation’ and several laborers provided by the Employment Bureau. Assisting in the excavation were D. Ben-Ami (supervision Area A4), aided by E. Crowford and B. Coltraine, D. Sandhouse (supervision Area A2), aided by A. Pisetzki, D. Zigler (supervision Area A5), aided by V. Avrutis and N. Ortal, R. Bonfil (surveying and drafting), aided by I. Strand, O. Cohen (conservation and restoration), S. Kisilevitz (registration), H. Shafir (photography) and S. Yadid and M. Atiya (administration).

Area A2 was excavated this year on a limited scale. The Late Bronze Age pavement that extended across a large area north of the palace was removed in order to connect this area with that of the ‘Southern Temple’ and the paved street, which continued eastward in the direction of the palace and encircled the temple from the north. It was ascertained that the pavement was placed on a fill that contained pottery fragments from Middle Bronze Age II. Below this fill was a wall segment and ceramic finds from Middle Bronze Age I (EB IV). These finds can now be added to those MB I remains in Areas A2 and A4 that had been uncovered in previous years, and in Area A5 this season.

Area A4 was substantially expanded this season toward the west, south and east, for the purpose of establishing the plan and chronology of the large Bronze Age building, the exposure of which had begun in previous years. The expansion to the west, which is the highest point of Area A4, revealed the northern part of a building from the Mamluk period, which was mostly located beyond the excavation area. This building joined another of a similar construction that had been unearthed in previous seasons several dozen meters to the west of here. It appears that the southern part of the tell was densely occupied during the Mamluk period. The remains of Iron Age buildings (9th–8th centuries BCE) were right below the Mamluk structure; several strata were discerned in these buildings and were mostly excavated this season; the earlier strata will be excavated next season.

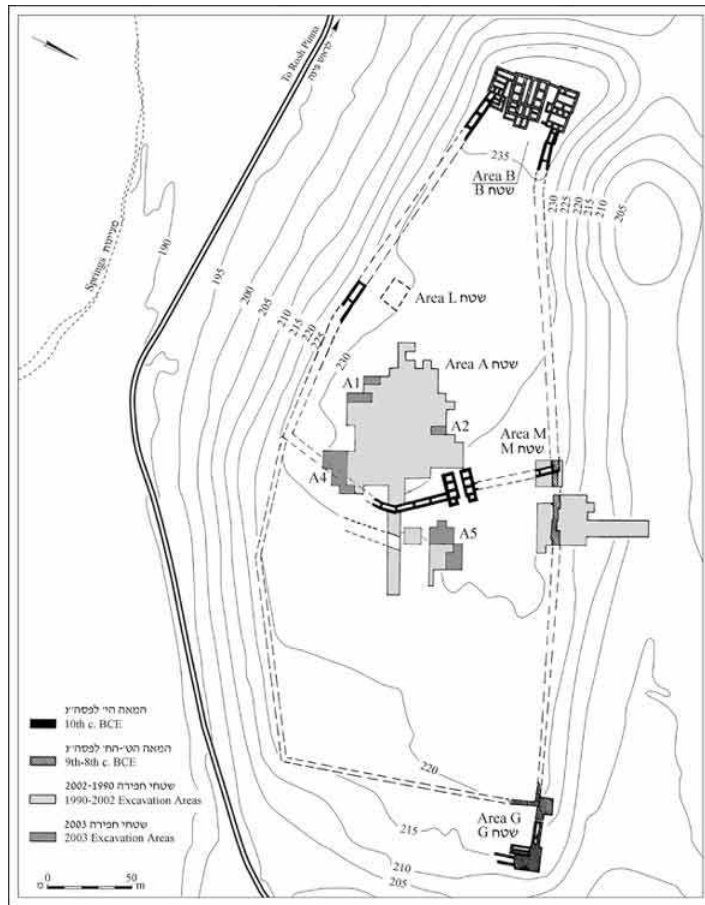
The expanded area to the south, in the lowest part of Area A4, consisted of a section of the Iron Age IIA casemate wall. Slightly to the west and at a lower level, a section of a wide wall that was part of the eastern end of the large Bronze Age building, was discovered; the wall was mostly plundered, as were most of the building’s walls. Another building that was dated with certainty to MB IIB, on account of the ceramic finds on its floor, abutted the outer face of this wall. The chronology of the other structure enables us to successfully date the large building to MB IIB for the first time. The massive construction of the large building undoubtedly implies a public building, probably a palace that predated the Late Bronze Age palace in the middle of Area A, whose excavation was completed. This season, a ground penetrating radar examination was conducted in the eastern part of the Late Bronze Age palace’s courtyard, in order to verify if below it were the walls of the large MB IIB building, as indicated by the building remains in the area. The results of the examination have not yet been cleared.

The area expanded to the east witnessed the continued study of the standing *mazzevot* field that was exposed in the previous season. The area east of the standing *mazzevot* was covered with a thick layer of ash and bones, attesting to cultic activity that was undertaken there over a long period of time. Three small metal figurines found here also indicate the cultic nature of the place.

Area A5 was substantially expanded toward the west and north, with the aim of exposing the massive building remains from the Bronze Age that were located deep below the Iron Age settlement remains. This season, remains of residential dwellings from the Iron Age were also uncovered, including *tabuns* and installations. These buildings were built of fieldstones and frequently, ashlar were incorporated in their walls, especially in the doorjamb. Square columns of soft limestone were also recorded in these buildings. This style of construction was characteristic of Iron Age buildings from the 9th–8th centuries BCE at Hazor. Area A5 was located east of the casemate wall from Iron Age IIA (10th century BCE) and it therefore seems that the ancient remains in this area date to the 9th century BCE. The early phase of the residential dwellings was founded directly above the massive Bronze Age mud-brick wall, the top of which was reached during the excavation throughout the entire area. Next season, the excavation will continue in the residential dwellings to ascertain their plans and exact chronology.

At the western end of the area, the excavation connected with the Late Bronze Age stair system, excavated in the 1950s by the Yadin expedition. The fragment of the lioness orthostat was recovered near the stairs at that time. A fill below the Late Bronze Age stone pavement, connecting to the stairs, overlaid the corners of a building’s walls that dated to MB I (EB IV), based on the ceramic finds retrieved from its floor. The walls of the building and its floor, wherein two column bases were incorporated, were coated with white plaster. These building remains and others from this period that were excavated in Areas A2 and A4 clearly indicate that during MB I a rather extensive settlement existed on the tell, or at least in its center.

Conservation and Reconstruction. The construction of a roof (1300 sq m) over the palace in the middle of Area A has begun at the end of the last excavation season, to protect it from weather hazards. This work continued at the end of the current excavation season and will be completed before the rainy season. During the excavation season, the tops of mud-brick walls were covered with a protective layer of mud and straw and the wooden beams between the tops of orthostats and the mud-brick superstructures were partially reconstructed.



1. Map of excavation areas.

Tel Yavne

Raz Kletter

31/5/2004



1. A Cypriot BR I juglet from the Late Bronze Age grave.

During September–November 2000 and April 2001 trial and salvage excavations were conducted along the northern fringes of Tel Yavne (A-3286, A-3396; map ref. NIG 1761/6418; OIG 1261/1418), prior to the construction of a residential neighborhood. The excavations, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, were directed by R. Kletter, with the assistance of L. Zak, D. Barkan, A. Gorzalczany, A. Bushnino, H. Eliaz and M. Ajami (area supervision), Y. Rahamim and E. Lavi (administration), T. Sagiv (photography), H. Tsion-Cinamon (GPS system), A. Hajian V. Essman and V. Pirsky (surveying) and Y. Nagar (physical anthropology). Special thanks are due to Y. Levy, E. Ayash and the Israel Police (Yavne and Rehovot stations) for their assistance.

The excavation areas were located close to the northern edge of Tel Yavne, along a plain that ascended gently westward and southward. A single grave from the Late Bronze Age, cist graves and plain burials that may have been simple pits, probably dating to Iron Age II, were discovered. The fringes of the tell were presumably uninhabited in these periods and used for burials. Refuse pits and meager construction from the Byzantine period and a hearth and scant building remains from the Ottoman period were exposed as well. A few pottery fragments from unclear contexts, dating to the Chalcolithic period or the Early Bronze Age (one sherd), the Persian and Early Islamic periods (9th–10th centuries CE) and the Middle Ages, were found. The excavation was frequently disrupted due to the intervention of Ultra-Orthodox religious factions; the human remains from the excavation were handed over to representatives of the Ministry of Religious Affairs for reburial.

Tombs. A single burial from the Late Bronze Age was oriented north–south. Owing to the disturbances provoked by the Ultra-Orthodox extremists the tomb was poorly documented and the gender and age of the interred individual was not determined. The burial contained a jar, a bowl, a knife-shaped juglet and Base Ring I type juglets (Fig. 1), dating to the 14th century BCE.

The cist graves (average outer dimensions 0.8 × 2.0 m) were built of dressed *kurkar* blocks above the *kurkar* bedrock and were aligned east–west. Eighteen densely concentrated graves were revealed. Cover stones were preserved only over six of the graves. Each contained a single interment that was laid in a supine position. The head of the interred was in the east and faced west in most of the graves, except for Tomb 217 where the deceased was placed in the opposite direction. All of the deceased were adults, who may have been interred according to age classification in different parts of this cemetery. Most of the graves contained no ceramic finds, other than several pottery fragments that may have fallen into them. A bag-shaped jar dating to the end of the Iron Age–Persian period was uncovered between the covering stones of one of the graves. Three graves had poorly preserved iron rings that were probably originally worn on the fingers of the deceased. One of the tombs contained a triangular fibula, dating from the 8th century BCE until the Persian period. It is uncertain whether the fibula was originally put in the tomb because it was detected near the feet of the deceased and not on his chest as would be expected; the covering stones on this particular tomb were not preserved.

The plain graves were located alongside the cist graves and contained ten interments, some of which had poorly survived. The deceased were laid to rest in a general east–west direction, at an elevation similar to that of the cist graves. Most of the interments could not be dated because the ceramic finds near them were mixed and probably swept over into the graves. A few complete pottery vessels from Iron Age II were discovered near several of the graves. One grave contained a plain bronze earring at the head of the deceased, of the type commonly known in the country during the second and first millennia BCE. Another burial included a bronze earring at the head of the deceased, as well as the remains of a bronze fibula and a handle made of an animal bone.

It seems that the cist graves and the plain burials were part of the same cemetery and were contemporary because they were located alongside each other, aligned in the same direction and did not damage each other. The cemetery should probably be dated to Iron Age II, based on the small number of complete pottery vessels near several of the plain graves and the bag-shaped jar, which was recovered from the covering stones of one of the cist graves and is dated from the end of the Iron Age until the Persian period.

Other Finds. Three large refuse pits dating to the Byzantine period were exposed. They contained numerous ceramic finds, animal bones, lumps of plaster, industrial tesserae and bronze coins. The ceramic finds were mostly Gaza jars, ribbed bag-shaped jars that have a short upright neck, as well as cooking pots and other vessels. A few meager walls that may date to the Byzantine period or later were unearthed and numerous stone fragments, possibly debris from the production of tesserae were collected.

A small hearth from the Ottoman period was examined. A burnt layer at its bottom was overlain with a fill of Gaza potsherds and the remains of scant walls that probably belonged to a building. Floor beds containing Gaza ware, a glass bracelet and fragments of Marseilles roof tiles may have been the remains from the Arab village that was located in Yavne from the end of the Ottoman period.



1. A Cypriot BR I juglet from the Late Bronze Age grave.

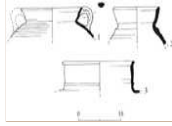
Tel Yizhaqi*

Aviram Oshri

7/6/2004



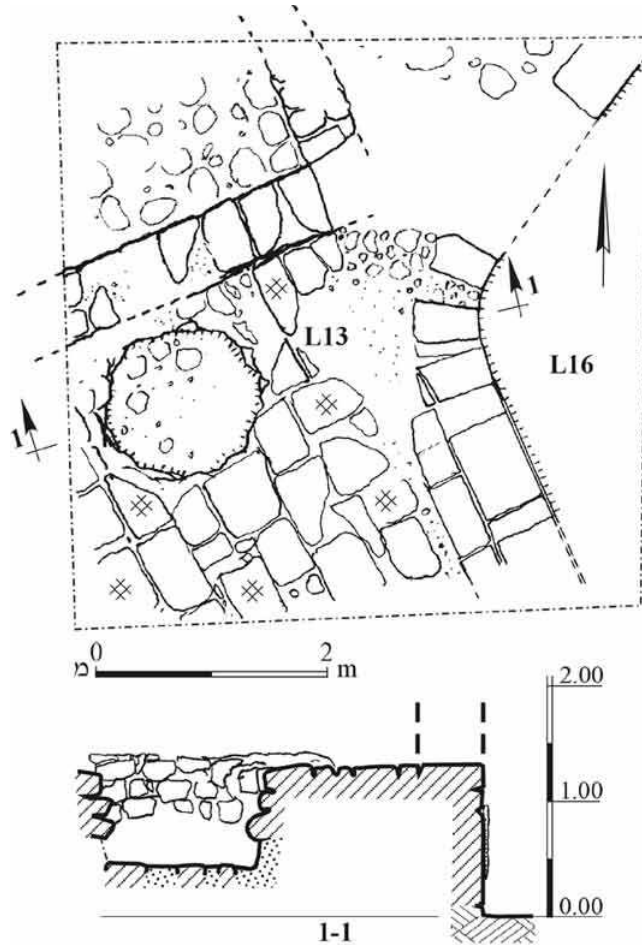
1. Plan and section.



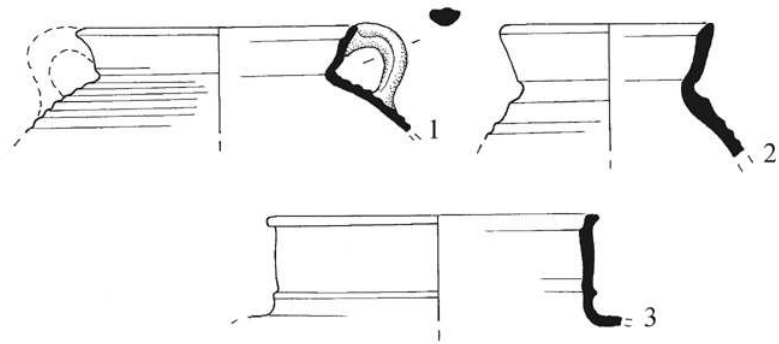
2. Pottery.

A salvage excavation was conducted in November 1999 at Tel Yizhaqi (A-3133*; map ref. NIG 2121/7325; OIG 1621/2325; HA-ESI 111). The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by A. Oshri and Z. Gal, with the assistance of A. Mokary, V. Essman (surveying and drafting), L. Porat (pottery restoration), H. Tahan (drawing) and D. Syon (numismatics).

The excavation took place near the spring located at the western foot of the tell. One square was opened (Fig. 1), revealing a limestone-slab paved floor (L13) and nearby, the corner of a pool lined with finely dressed ashlar stones (L16). The pool's corner was rounded and therefore, it was assumed that it was elliptical. The pool was probably part of the system that supplied water to the settlement on the tell; it was fed by the spring. Fragments of pottery vessels, dating to the 2nd century CE, were on the floor and in the pool. They included a cooking pot (Fig. 2:1) and jars (Fig. 2:2, 3), as well as a worn coin from the city of Tyre (Fig. 3), dating to the second half of the 2nd century CE.



1. Plan and section.



2. Pottery.

סל 108, לוקוס 15, רי"ע 102516.
אוטונומי, צור, המחצית השנייה של המאה הבי' לסה"נ.
פנים: כתובת שחוקה, ראש מלקרת ימין.
גב: [KOINOY] ΦO [NIKHC] מקדש אוקטסטילי. למטה [AKT].
Æ, ↑, 7.53 גר', 25 מ"מ, שחוק מאוד.

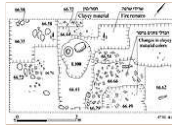
B108, L15, IAA No. 102516
Autonomous, Tyre, Second half of the 2nd century CE.
Obv: worn inscription, Head of Melqart r.
Rev: [KOINOY] ΦO [NIKHC] Octastyle temple.
Bottom [AKT].
Æ, ↑, 7.53 gm, 25 mm, very worn.

3. Coin details.

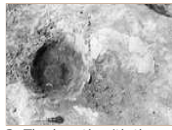
Tell et-Turmus*

Alexey Zelin

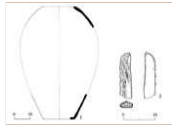
9/6/2004



1. Plan and section.



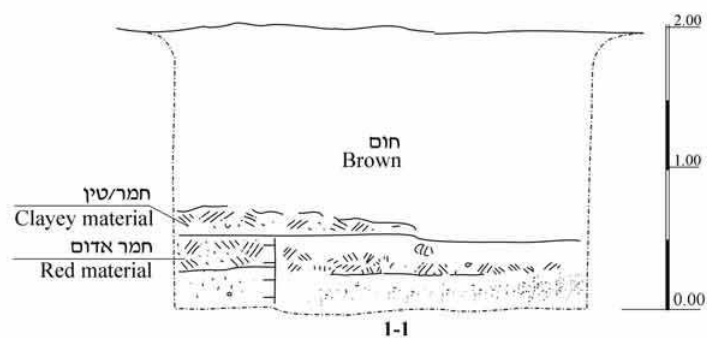
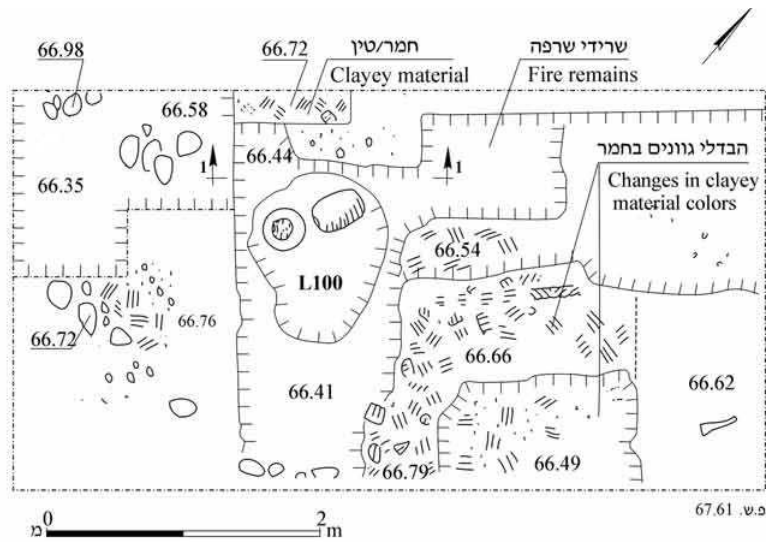
2. The hearth with the pottery vessels, looking west.



3. Pottery and a bone implement.

A salvage excavation was conducted in April 2000 at Tell et-Turmus, in the fields of Moshav 'Arugot (A-3228*; map ref. NIG 1784/6261; OIG 1284/1261), following the discovery of ancient remains during an antiquities inspection, prior to the installation of a water pipe. The excavation, on behalf of Antiquities Authority, was directed by A. Zelin, assisted by V. Essman and R. Graff (surveying and drafting), S. Lavi (pottery restoration) and A. Dodin (drawing).

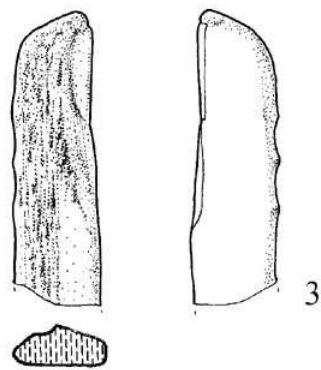
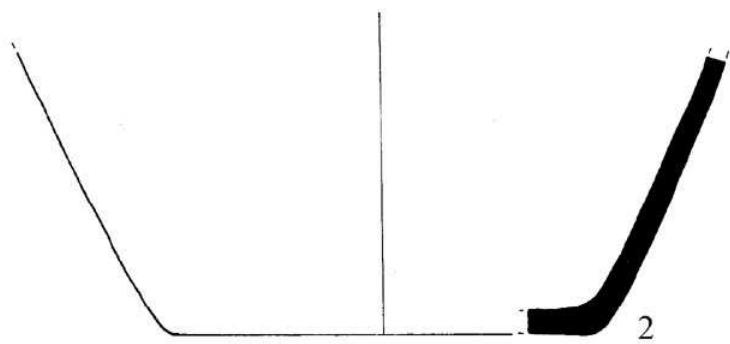
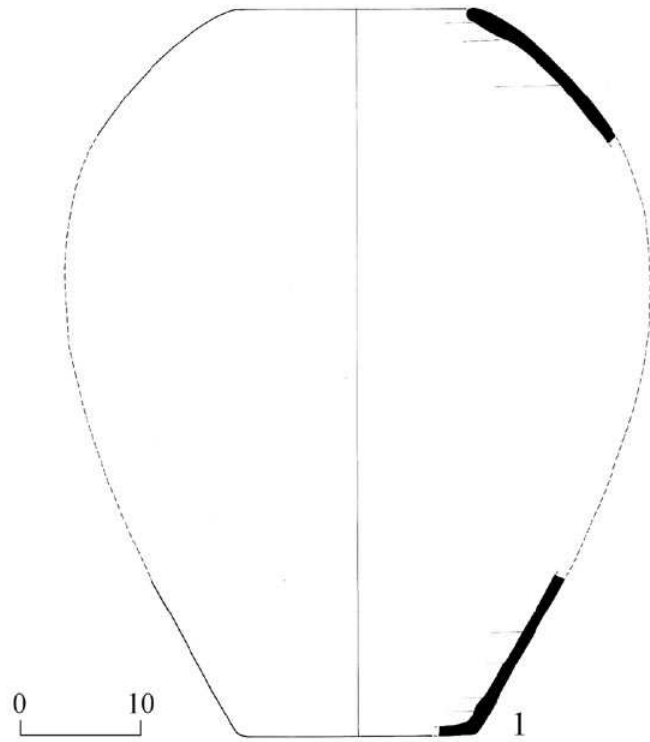
The excavation area (3 × 8 m; Fig. 1) was located on the western fringes of the tell; it was covered with refuse heaps from the Arab village that existed there until 1948. The remains of a pear-shaped hearth (L100; 0.6 × 1.1 m) were uncovered. Surrounding the hearth were pieces of burnt clay that contained straw; they probably used to line the hearth. Inside the hearth were two pottery vessels (Fig. 2), *in situ*, a holemouth jar (Fig. 3:1) that rested on its side and the base of a storage vessel (jar or holemouth jar; Fig. 3:2). The vessels contained several burnt animal bones and organic material. A bone implement embedded with stone blades (Fig. 3:3) was also retrieved from the hearth; it was probably used as a sickle. Judging by the finds, it seems the hearth served for cooking, and should probably be dated to the Chalcolithic period or the Early Bronze Age.



1. Plan and section.



2. The hearth with the pottery vessels, looking west.



3. Pottery and a bone implement.

Tell Qasile*

Etan Ayalon and Semadar Harpazi Ofer

7/6/2004

A salvage excavation was conducted in November 1999 at the foot of Tell Qasile's western slope (A-3174*; map ref. NIG 18065/66720; OIG 13065/16720) after ancient remains were exposed when development work was carried out. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by E. Ayalon and S. Harpazi Ofer, with the assistance of E. Ayash, U. Zevulun (pottery reading), L. Padrul Kwitkowski (photography), A. Shefer (pottery restoration) and I. Kapelyan (pottery drawing).



1. Pottery vessels, in situ, inside a hewn cavity in the kurkar bedrock, looking west.

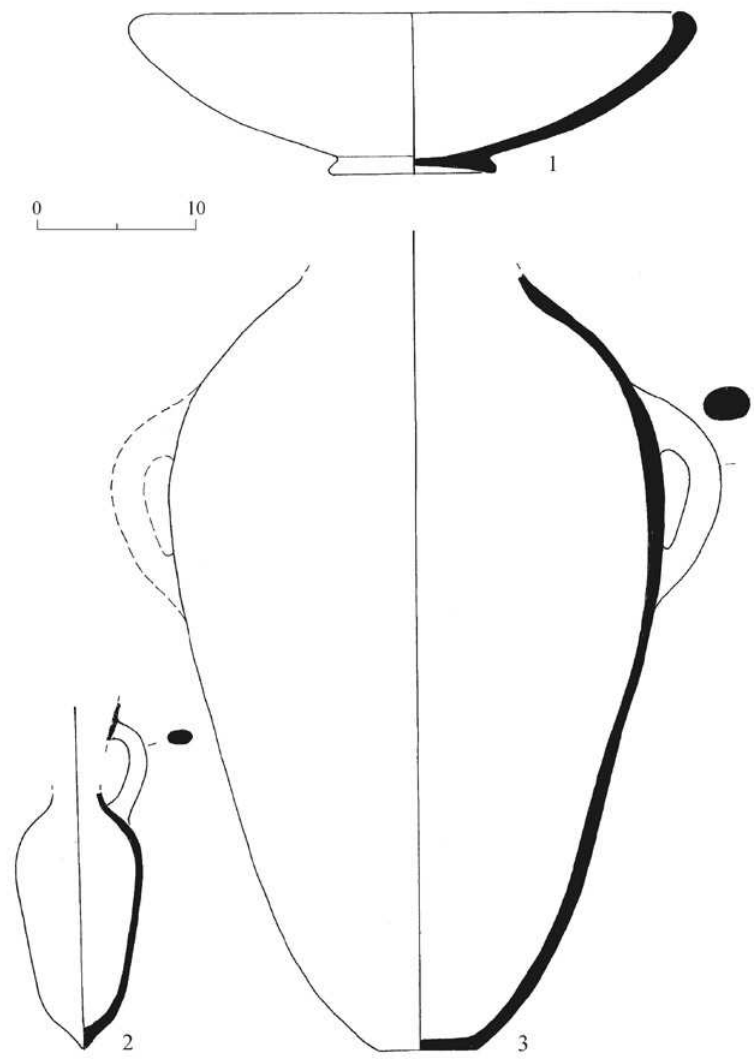


2. Pottery: bowl (1); dipper juglet (2) and jar (3).

At a depth of c. 2 m below surface, a cavity was hewn into the *kurkar* bedrock, filled with earth and accumulated pieces of broken *kurkar*. A jar, containing a dipper juglet, was found standing, *in situ*, inside a niche cut at the bottom of the cavity. A bowl and fragments of another jar (Figs. 1, 2) were recorded nearby; the pottery vessels date to Middle Bronze Age II. Behind the jar was a vertical bedrock partition that protruded from the *kurkar* bedrock and may have delineated the cavity. Above the jar was a horizontal bedrock ledge that protruded from the *kurkar* bedrock and may have been used as a cover for the cavity in which the vessels were placed. Previously, burial caves dating to Middle Bronze Age IIA had been discovered in the vicinity of the tell (*HA-ESI* 111) and it seems that the hewn cavity is the end of a burial cave.



1. Pottery vessels, in situ, inside a hewn cavity in the kurkar bedrock, looking west.

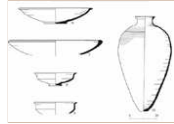


2. Pottery: bowl (1); dipper juglet (2) and jar (3).

Yehud*

Eli Yannai

31/5/2004



1. Pottery. Early Bronze Age IV (1-5); Middle Bronze Age II (6-10); Byzantine period (11).

During April 1998 a salvage excavation was conducted in Yehud (A-2846*; map ref. NIG 18972/65965; OIG 13972/15965) after ancient remains were damaged during development work. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by E. Yannai, with the assistance of E. van den Brink, M. Ben-Gal (pottery restoration) and M. Rappaport (drawing).

Two excavation areas were opened, revealing pebble surfaces and ceramic finds dating to the Byzantine period, as well as ceramic assemblages associated with tombs from Early Bronze Age IV and Middle Bronze Age II.

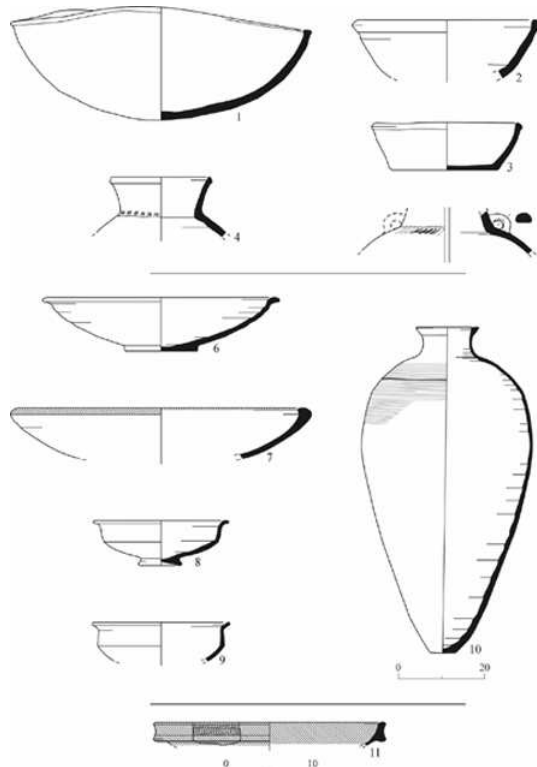
Area A (2.6 × 2.8 m) was excavated to a depth of 1.95 m below surface. Debris mixed with finds from the time of the British Mandate was discovered from surface to a depth of 0.68 m and removed by mechanical equipment. A layer of brown soil, yielding an abundance of potsherds from the Byzantine period (5th-6th centuries CE) and a large quantity of roof tiles, extended from a depth of 0.7 m until the bottom of the excavation. The ceramic finds included three fragments of lamps and several sherds of Cypriot imports (Cypriot Red Slip Ware), vessels from North Africa (African Red Slip Ware) and Late Roman C ware (Fig. 1:11). A surface of large pebbles that derived from the Lower Cenomanian epoch was uncovered at the bottom of the excavation; the pebbles were set in place in one course. This may have been a working surface or perhaps it was used for storage by a workshop that produced ceramic roof tiles in the Byzantine period.

Area B (2.8 × 5.0 m) was 10 m east of Area A; it was excavated to a depth of 1.96 m below surface. The trenching performed prior to the excavation exposed several complete pottery vessels that dated to Middle Bronze Age II (c. 1800 BCE). Debris that consisted of stones and fragments of pottery and glass vessels from the time of the British Mandate was in the upper level of the area, to a depth of 0.56 m. A layer of dark-brown clay soil extended from this elevation down to a depth of 0.88 m. A pebble surface from the Byzantine period (5th-6th centuries CE) similar to that in Area A was detected at the bottom of this level and it seems that both pebble layers had the same function.

Red sandy *hamra* that contained a wealth of vessels and pottery fragments from Early Bronze Age IV (Fig. 1:1-5) existed below the pebble-surface level. The position of the vessels and their state of preservation indicate they probably belonged to tombs. The vessels were similar to tomb assemblages that were discovered in the Yarqon Basin and in the south of the country ('*Atiqot* 21:1*-8*). In the western part of the excavation area, a complete jar was found, *in situ*, alongside fragments of jars and bowls from Middle Bronze Age IIA-B (1800 BCE; Fig. 1:6-10) that also belonged to tombs. Similar vessels were discovered in a cemetery west of Tell Qasile, excavated by R. Kletter (*HA-ESI* 111:35*-37*) and in Stratum AXIII at Tel Afek, where they were dated to the Post-Palace phase in Area A, i.e., the transition from the early to late phase in Middle Bronze Age II. No human bones were discerned.

It seems that pit graves existed in the excavation area during Early Bronze Age IV and Middle Bronze Age IIA-B. The condition of the vessels implies that the Middle Bronze Age tombs destroyed the Early Bronze Age tombs and the latter's vessels were discarded off to the side. Due to the conditions of the excavation it was impossible to reconstruct the plans of the tombs.

The excavation contributes geologic and topographic information about the region in the Middle Bronze Age and the Byzantine period. The pebble surface in Area B was considerably higher than its counterpart in Area A; therefore, it seems that the area sloped to the west in the Byzantine period and was not level as it is today. It was also deduced from the finds in Area B that until the Byzantine period the *hamra* was not covered with alluvium and the tomb remains were bare on surface. From the 6th century CE until the present time the area was overlaid with a thick layer of alluvium. According to the contents of the alluvium it seems to have originated in the Yarqon River and its tributaries, located c. 100 m south of the excavation area, and not in a local marsh. It can thus be concluded that at the time of the Early and Middle Bronze Ages interments the Yarqon River channel flowed at a lower level and did not inundate the vicinity of the tombs. During the Byzantine period the level of the river was apparently considerably higher and it flooded the area frequently, causing the deposition of a thick alluvium layer.

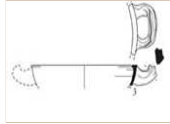


1. Pottery. Early Bronze Age IV (1-5); Middle Bronze Age II (6-10); Byzantine period (11).

Yavne*

Noy Velednizki

31/5/2004



1. Pottery.



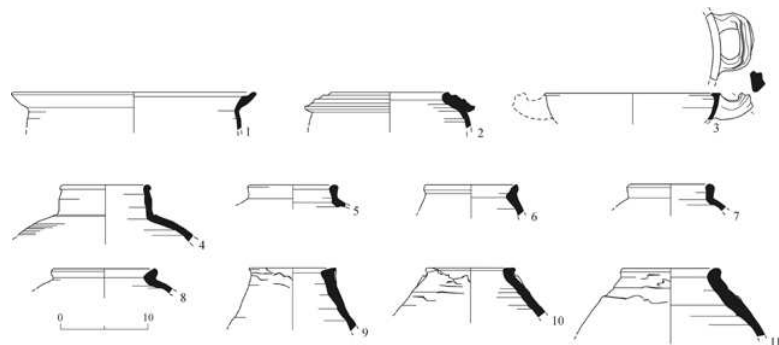
2. Pottery kiln, plan and section

A salvage excavation was conducted in March 2000 at the intersection of Mivza' Dani and Mivza' 'Uvda streets in Yavne (A- 3213*; map ref. NIG 1756/6411; OIG 1256/1411), prior to construction. The excavation, on behalf of the Antiquities Authority, was directed by N. Velednizki, assisted by R. Graff (surveying and drafting), T. Sagiv (photography) and M. Rappaport (drawing).

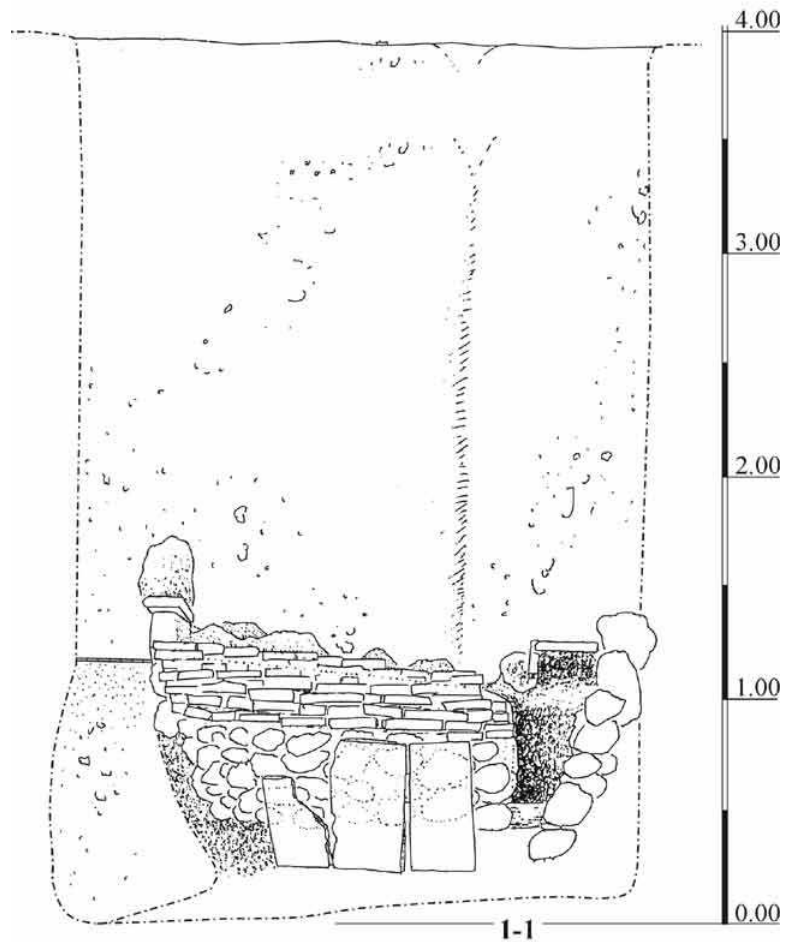
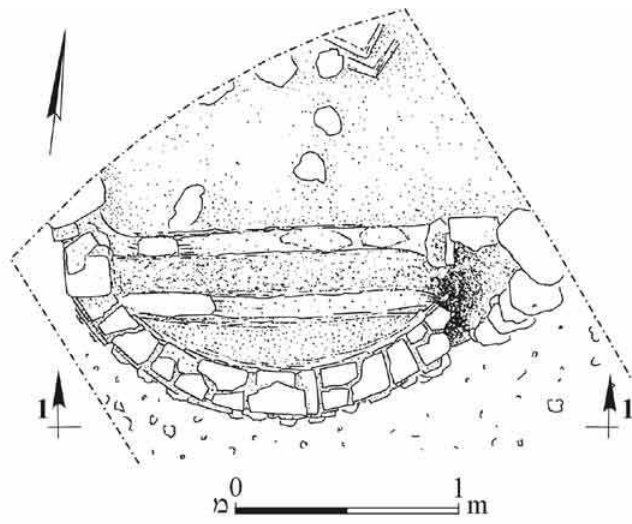
Two half squares were excavated 5 m apart, c. 100 m northeast of Tel Yavne. A refuse pit and a pottery kiln from the Byzantine period were discovered. The location of the kiln with regard to the tell was intended to prevent the exposure of the residents to an ecological hazard, indicating a considerate and planned construction.

The refuse pit (depth 0.4 m) was c. 0.8 m below surface in the eastern square. It contained a large quantity of potsherds from the Byzantine period, including mostly bag-shaped jars (Fig. 1:4) and Gaza jars (Fig. 1:9), as well as numerous fragments of animal bones. Sterile soil, devoid of finds, was below the pit. A burnt layer (thickness 0.2 m) was discerned in the square's southeastern balk, c. 0.8 m below surface.

The continuation of the refuse pit was detected in the western square. Below it, c. 2 m below surface was the bottom part of a pottery kiln (1.7 × 2.3 m; Fig. 2). The southern part of the kiln was excavated (depth c. 0.9 m), but the bottom of the kiln was not exposed owing to lack of time. The kiln's inner wall was constructed from small and medium-sized fieldstones, superposed with five courses of flat mud bricks (thickness 0.15 m). The kiln's outer wall was built of large mud bricks (0.5 × 0.7 m). Inside the kiln were two parallel partitions built of a mud-brick row; they were meant to support the floor that separated the bottom combustion chamber from the top chamber that contained the vessels. The floor was built of mud bricks and a small portion of it was preserved in the eastern part of the kiln. In the preserved portion was an opening, apparently one of several that intended to circulate the hot air upward. An ash concentration and burnt traces were observed in the western part of the kiln, indicating that this was the spot where the fuel was inserted into the combustion chamber. Ceramic finds recovered from inside and around the kiln included jars (Fig. 1:5, 6, 10, 11) and a cooking vessel (Fig. 1:3), dating to the Byzantine period; they predated the vessels from the refuse pit. The soil into which the pottery kiln was inserted contained mixed potsherds from the Iron Age, Persian, Hellenistic (kraters; Fig. 1:1, 2) and Byzantine periods (jars; Fig. 1:7, 8).



1. Pottery.



2. Pottery kiln, plan and section