

# KHIRBAT ABU ḤAMID (SHOHAM NORTH): AN EARLY BRONZE AGE IB VILLAGE ON THE EVE OF URBANIZATION IN THE LOD VALLEY

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## INTRODUCTION

Khirbat Abu Ḥamid is located within the city of Shoham, in the Lod Valley (Fig. 1). It was recognized as an archaeological site in the

1960s during the archaeological survey of the map of Lod (Gophna and Beit-Arieh 1997: Site No. 56). The site, situated on a hill, is estimated to be two hectares in area. It yielded pottery sherds belonging to the following periods:

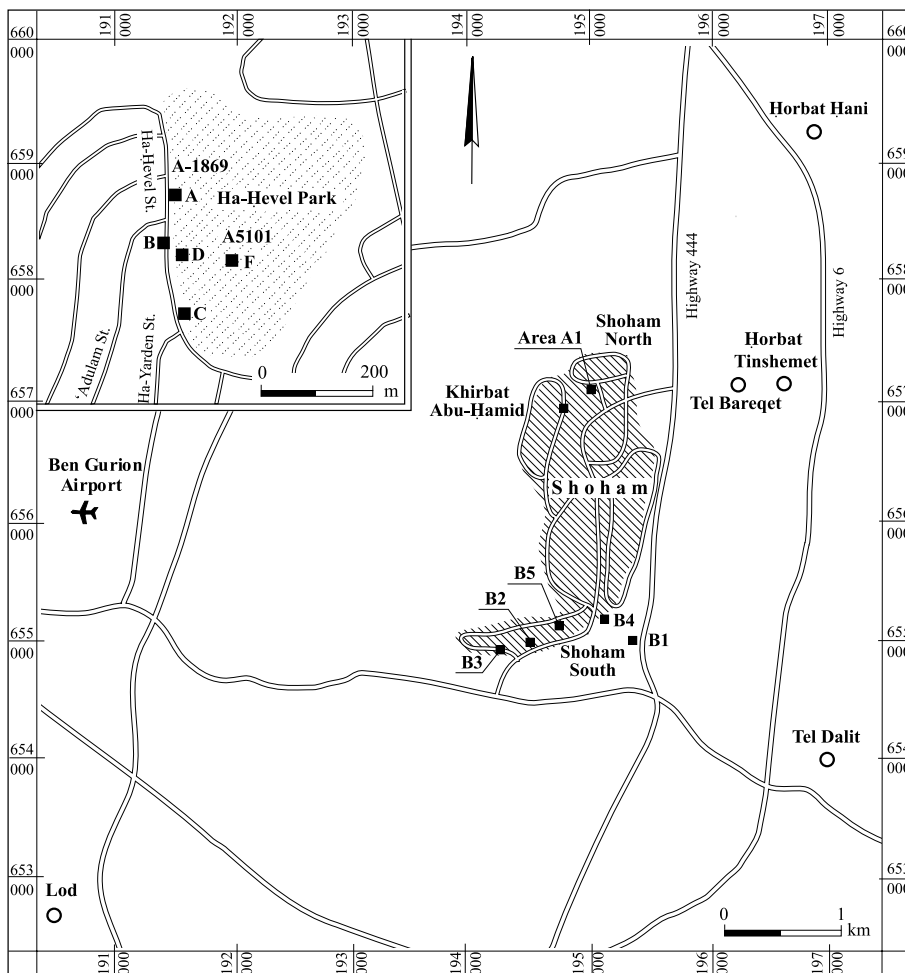


Fig. 1. Location map of Shoham and relevant excavations in its vicinity;  
inset: site map showing excavated areas.

Chalcolithic, Early Bronze Age I–II, Iron Age, Persian and Early Islamic (Gophna and Beit-Arieh 1997:36).

### *History of Excavations*

In 1992, a rescue excavation was carried out on the southwestern side of the hill (Fig. 1) under the direction of Yonatan Nadelman (1995). Of the four excavation areas opened, three contained Early Bronze Age pottery (Areas A, B and D), but only two yielded types that could be dated specifically to EB IB (Areas B and D). Area B contained finds from the Pre-Pottery Neolithic B, Chalcolithic, EB I–II, late Iron Age, Persian and Early Roman periods, including architectural remains from several phases of settlement dated to EB IB (Plan 1). In Area D, located some 50 m east of Area B, two strata were revealed, dating from EB IB and the Persian period. The Persian period remains include seven dog burials that were dug into the EB IB remains. Area D contained Chalcolithic and EB IB pottery, but the mixed nature of the loci does not enable establishment of any further stratigraphic sequence in this area. Since the EB IB pottery found in Area D is similar to the types presented from Area B, the finds from Area D are not further discussed in this article.

During 1994–1995, an excavation located c. 250 m northeast of Kh. Abu Ḥamid revealed a complex of late Chalcolithic burial caves (Shoham North, Area A1; see Fig. 1) that were reused for dwelling already in the Chalcolithic period, as well as during EB IB (van den Brink and Gophna 2005). Between 1994 and 1996, five other dwelling caves were excavated south of the deserted Arab village of Deir Tarif (Shoham South) on a spur that slopes east–west (Fig. 1, Areas B1–B5; Gophna and Feldstein 1998). They are dated to the late Chalcolithic period and were reused during EB I and later, in the Islamic periods.

In 2007, a rescue excavation conducted by Orit Segal in Gan Ha-Hevel (Ha-Hevel Park), on the summit of Kh. Abu Ḥamid (Area F;

Fig. 1, Plan 2) revealed EB IB architectural remains.

### *Scope of this Study*

This article presents the results from Nadelman's 1992 excavations in Area B and Segal's 2007 excavations in Area F, with special focus on the EB IB unfortified settlement at Kh. Abu Ḥamid that existed at the end of the fourth millennium BCE. Under the *Stratigraphy* and *Pottery* sections, architectural and ceramic parallels will be discussed and utilized as evidence for dating the site.

In the *Discussion* section, settlement patterns that characterize the EB IB–EB II transition in the Lod Valley will be examined in view of other excavations in this region (Fig. 2): Tel Lod (Yannai and Marder 2000), Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996) and Tel Bareqet (unpublished). Of particular interest is a comparison of the stratigraphy and the pottery assemblage of Kh. Abu Ḥamid with that of the nearby hilltop site of Tel Bareqet (Khirbat Burnat), located approximately 1 km to the east.<sup>1</sup> It will hence be suggested that the EB II urban settlement of Tel Bareqet was the direct successor of the late EB IB Kh. Abu Ḥamid village that was abandoned by the end of the fourth millennium BCE. The issue of a possible overlap between the earliest (unfortified?) settlement phase at Tel Bareqet and the latest phase at Kh. Abu Ḥamid will also be addressed.

Lastly, brief mention will be made of the nature of the EB II settlements in the Lod Valley, as opposed to those on the coast (Fig. 2).

### THE 1992 EXCAVATION IN AREA B

Area B (map ref. 194725/657000) is located c. 120 m to the west of the crest of the settlement that was excavated in 2007 by Segal (Area F, see below) and c. 250 m southwest of the area where Chalcolithic-period burial caves were found (van den Brink and Gophna 2005). The area was badly disturbed by modern activities, and the proximity of archaeological remains to

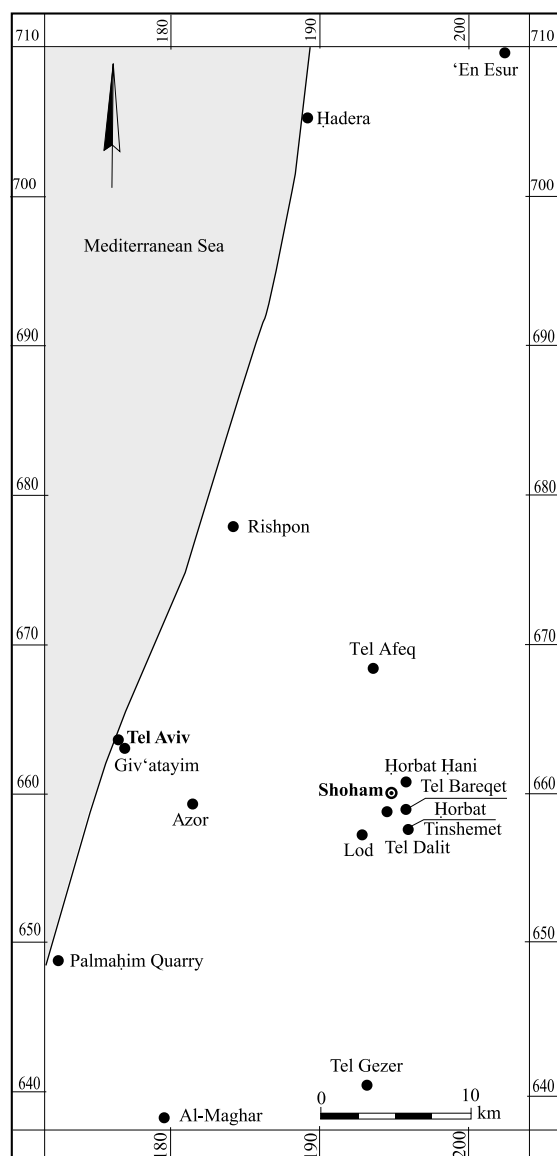


Fig. 2. Location map showing Shoham in relation to other Early Bronze Age sites within central Israel that are mentioned in this article.

the surface resulted in a very fragmentary state of preservation of the early remains.

The excavated area extended over 21 squares ( $5 \times 5$  m each) oriented east–west (Plan 1). It should be noted that, although merely 30 m apart, the bedrock levels differ greatly between the eastern and western edges of the excavated

area, the eastern side being about two meters higher. For example, bedrock level in Sq F/3 was 84.95, while in Sq F/7 the bedrock level is 86.02 m. The well-preserved remains in Sq F/4 stand in contrast with the poorly-preserved remains in Sq F/7; it seems that the architecture that was located on higher bedrock levels was eroded away.

This article discusses the stratigraphy and finds from Area B, which yielded a large volume of material from the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze periods. The unstratified finds testifying to later periods are not discussed or illustrated. Altogether, a sequence of four occupation levels was uncovered at Kh. Abu Ḥamid, and these will be described from the earliest to the latest: Stratum IV—pottery, lithics and bones that were found directly on bedrock, sometimes ‘pockets’ that contained both Chalcolithic and EB IB material remains; Stratum III—scanty remains of floors and wall fragments dating to EB IB; and Stratum II—an architectural phase which included two rounded buildings, remnants of additional structures, installations and floors dating to late EB IB; and Stratum I—the latest architectural phase, including rectangular buildings and floors dating to late EB IB–early EB II.

It should be noted that Chalcolithic pottery was found mixed with EB I pottery in several loci, but save one case (L600 in Stratum IV), no secure contexts can be attributed to the period. The existence of Chalcolithic pottery may testify to a pre-Early Bronze Age occupation at the site.

### *Stratigraphy and Architecture (Plan 1)*

#### *Stratum IV*

The scanty remains of Stratum IV were only located on bedrock surfaces and within shallow or deep pockets of earth. The few architectural remains of this occupation phase include a 2.25 m long segment of a poorly built east–west wall (W614) in Sq G/2; it is made of medium-sized stones (c.  $0.4 \times 0.4$  m on average), and its width cannot be determined. North of W614, a very



small, fragmentary north–south wall (W614a) should be related to Stratum IV, as well. The stratigraphic relationships may be discerned by the superimposed floor of L515 (Stratum III, 85.35 m asl, see below). The construction date of Walls 614 and 614a cannot be established with certainty; nonetheless, on the basis of the majority of the pottery found in their immediate vicinity, they should most likely be assigned to EB IB.

In Sqs F–G/3, Loci 595, 596 and 597 overlie bedrock at levels 84.93–84.65 m asl, and seem to be covered by Stratum III floors (L514, L541). In L597, a completely restorable holemouth jar was found (Fig. 12:2). Although its location below the Stratum III floor may hint that this was a later jar burial (such interments under floors being common in EB I contexts; e.g., Ilan 2002:94), it seems more plausible to assign the vessel to Stratum IV, as there were no human remains to indicate a mortuary context.

In Sqs F–G/5, Loci 608 and 610 reached bedrock at 85.26 m asl; these loci contained mixed EB IB and Chalcolithic pottery. Locus 545 in Sq H/6 was also excavated to bedrock and contained mostly Chalcolithic sherds.

### *Stratum III*

In Sqs F–G/2–3, a large expanse of plaster floor (L514, L515, L541) was found at an elevation of 85.35–85.28 m asl; the maximum size of the preserved segment was c. 3.5 × 7.0 m. No walls can be assigned to this floor. Its stratigraphic designation was determined by the fact that it covered W614 of Stratum IV and seems to predate the main architectural phase excavated in the area, as it is at least 0.4 m lower than the lowermost levels of the walls of Stratum II. The pottery on the floors of Stratum III dates to EB IB (Figs. 13, 14).

A floor in Sq H/3 (L553) may also belong to Stratum III, since it lies about 15 cm below (and therefore predates) the base of W207 of Stratum II. The pottery from Floor 553 contained EB IB sherds, including Proto-Metallic Ware (Fig. 13:25, see discussion below).

In Sq F/5, beneath a Stratum II floor or pavement between Structures 591 and 559 (L533, see below), was a 36 cm thick layer overlying bedrock (L574; 86.02–85.66 m asl), containing EB IB pottery. Likewise, L600 in Sq G/5, which was excavated below the wall levels of Structure 591 of Stratum II, also contained EB IB pottery and some Chalcolithic sherds (Fig. 14). Both may reflect an occupation level that predated the erection of Stratum II buildings, thus dating to Stratum III.

In Sqs H/4–5, remains of Stratum III (L580, L598, both yielding EB IB pottery) were found under the architecture of Strata II–I. It is possible that the latter disturbed most of the architectural remains of Stratum III in this spot. In Sq H/4, a round (limestone?) installation (L580A; diam. 0.3 m) was found; its nature is unknown, but presumably it belongs to Stratum III.

### *Stratum II*

Stratum II, the most extensive architectural phase, was detected throughout the excavated area. While very fragmentarily preserved, it reflects a variety of architectural traditions and material culture characteristics. The main architectural elements of this stratum are two identical round structures.

*Structure 559* (Sq F/4; Figs. 3, 4).— This is a round building, 5 m in diameter, of which only the lower stone courses of its wall (W204) remain; the (mud-brick?) superstructure is completely lacking. Wall 204, preserved to a maximum height of 0.3 m, was built of medium- to large-sized stones (up to 0.5 × 0.4 m each) on the outer and inner faces, with a rubble fill in-between. The width of the wall is not uniform, ranging between 0.75 and 1 m. It is apparent that W204 was constructed on a rubble fill that served as a type of revetment, also filling deep bedrock ‘pockets’ below it. Locus 582, west of Structure 599 in Sq F/3–4, reflects this phenomenon; it contained rubble, dark soil and very small pottery sherds that were situated on



Fig. 3. Area B, Structure 559, looking west.

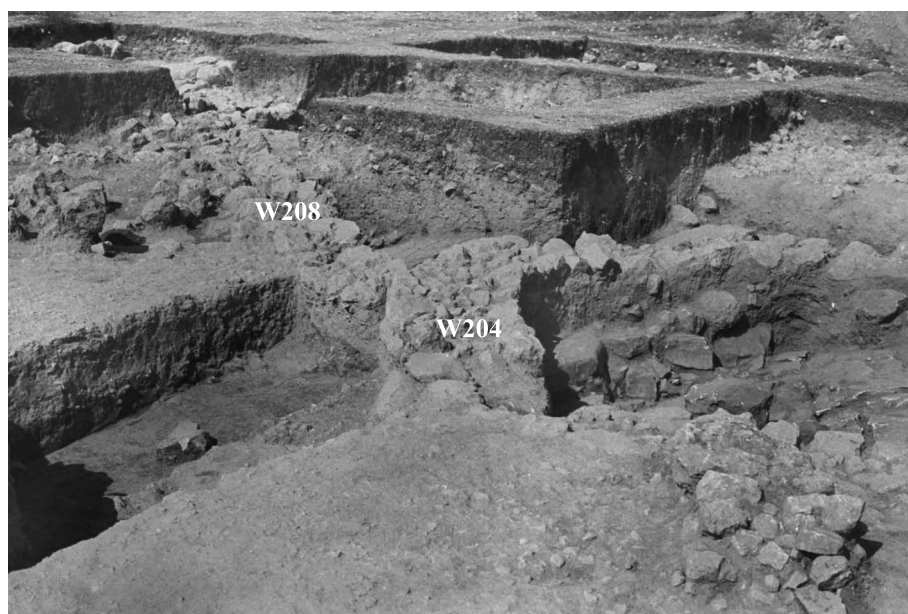


Fig. 4. Area B, Structure 559 and W208, looking southwest.

the bedrock. The interior of Structure 559 is a room, 3.5 m in diameter, with a surface area of about 10 sq m (Fig. 3). Within this room, a

possible floor was discerned at 85.38 m asl, and on it a complete amphoriskos was found (Fig. 15:12).

Structure 559 may have been part of a larger complex with two construction phases. In the initial phase, Structure 559 seems to have stood alone. In the second phase, additional, smaller walls were attached to it: W212 (width 0.6 m; Fig. 3), from northeast, of which only a one-meter-long segment was preserved, and W208 (width 0.8 m; Fig. 4), oriented southwest–northeast, abutting the southern curve of W204. Wall 208 was built similarly to W204, but it was better preserved, surviving to a length of 7 m. Its southern end was connected to east–west oriented W213, which seems to have been added somewhat later, creating an angle of 135 degrees with W208. The small fragment preserved of W213 (c.  $1 \times 1$  m) indicates that it was massive, made of stones that reached a length of 0.6 m. Four meters south of W213, a parallel wall fragment (W207), preserved to a length of 1.5 m, was constructed in the same manner as W208 and was of similar width (0.75 m). West and southwest of Structure 559 were L570 and L605. While no floor was detected in relation to W208, the pottery found

in those loci relating to the larger complex was purely EB IB. Likewise, south of W213, L606 contained EB IB sherds and may be associated with a space on the southern side of the whole complex.

In short, all the above features provide possible evidence of a large complex that comprised the round Structure 559 and an open area, defined on the east by W208, with perhaps a rectangular room between W213 and W207. Yet, the fragmentary state of preservation of most features preclude confirmation of this assumption. The rich ceramic assemblage from all these architectural units is securely dated to the late EB IB (Fig. 15; see discussion below).

*Structure 591* (Sq G/5; Fig. 5).— Located just 1.75 m southeast of Structure 559, the partially destroyed Structure 591 was built in exactly the same way, and though its outer diameter (4.75 m) is slightly smaller than that of Structure 559, the inner space is the same (diam. 3.5 m). Its delimiting wall (W205) was preserved to a height of 0.3 m. The inner space of Structure



Fig. 5. Area B, Structure 591, looking northwest.





Fig. 6. Area B, pebble floor (L533) north of Structure 591, looking south.

591 was excavated to bedrock with no clear floor discernible; it is possible, however, that L577, overlying L591, is a floor fragment related to this room. Both loci contained similar pottery that can be securely dated to EB IB (Fig. 16). Beneath L591, the lowermost layer, L600 (elevation 85.60 m), rests on bedrock and presumably belongs to Stratum III (see above).

*Alleyway 569, and Other Open Spaces.*— Between Structures 559 and 591 a possible alleyway or street existed (L569; Sqs F–G/5). Locus 569 was a pebble floor that reached both Structure 591 and W208, and thus should be considered contemporaneous. The minimum width of this surface was 1.75 m between the two round structures, while its maximum preserved width at its southern end was 3.5 m.

A trial trench, 1 m wide, was excavated between Structures 559 and 591 in order to determine the relation between them (L599, Sq F/5). The EB IB pottery that was collected from this locus was quite similar to that found on the floors of both buildings (see Fig. 17).

North of Structure 591 was an open space with a pebble floor (L533; Fig. 6). Another,

extensive open space (L564), north of Structure 559, contained EB IB pottery. It is possible that the area northwest of W212 (L546 and possibly L529 and L555) was an enclosed space.

Just northeast of Structure 591 (Sq F/6), an open space was excavated down to bedrock (L584). A stone installation, 0.5 m in diameter, perhaps a door socket, was found at 86.30 m asl. Its relation to the structure is unclear. The pottery from L584 was purely EB IB, including Proto-Metallic Ware (see discussion below). The adjacent square, F7, was excavated to bedrock; L556 and L587 contained typical EB IB pottery forms.

*Structure 505* (Sqs G–H/4–5).— The last architectural element of Stratum II was very badly damaged by the overlying Stratum I remains. Structure 505 was originally a rectangular building of unknown dimensions, of which only a corner composed of two perpendicular wall fragments (W214, W215) and an adjacent pebble floor (L505) remain. Both walls are 0.65 m wide and constructed of two rows of medium-sized stones (0.3 m long in average). North–south W214 is preserved to



a length of 1.75 m and east–west W215, to a length of 1 m. Locus 505, a  $1.2 \times 1.5$  m patch of pebble floor that was detected at 86.12 m asl, is undoubtedly connected to Walls 214 and 215, thus forming one structure. The pottery on the floor was purely EB IB (Fig. 18).

The poor state of preservation of this structure precludes any attempt to reconstruct its exact dimensions or its exact relation to Structures 559 and 591. It is suggested, however, based upon the stratigraphy and the pottery, that all three structures belong to the same EB IB stratum.

### *Stratum I*

The remains of Stratum I were very fragmentary, yet they clearly reflect a major change in architectural tradition: rectangular structures replace the earlier rounded ones and it seems that the basic enclosed units, or rooms, were much larger than in earlier Stratum II.

*Structure 502* (Sqs G–I/4–7).— The best preserved architectural unit of Stratum I was a fairly large building that comprised at least two rooms or inner spaces defined by four wall segments (Walls 200–203). Wall 201/203, oriented northeast–southwest, was partly preserved to a length of 8 m and a height of 0.27 m. Its width varied between 0.65 and 0.75 m, and it was built of two rows of medium-sized to large stones with a rubble fill in-between. The outer face was made of somewhat larger stones, some reaching 0.5 m in length. The southern part of the wall incorporated the bedrock, a phenomenon that is well-known at Early Bronze Age sites, such as nearby Tel Bareqet (Y. Paz and S. Paz 2007:85). Wall 200, oriented northwest–southeast, is perpendicular to W201, possibly forming a right-angled corner with it. This wall was fully uncovered to a length of 4.5 m, preserved to a height of 0.26 m and was 0.75 m wide, built of two faces of medium-large stones and a rubble fill in-between. Close examination shows that the southern face of the wall was made with larger stones than its northern face. The large area confined by

W200 and W201/W203 (L502, L526) may be a courtyard or an open space. The associated pottery is dated to late EB IB.

In Sq I/5, a 3.5 m long wall fragment (W202; width 0.75 m), located 4 m south of W200, has an east–west orientation that differs in relation to the above-described walls. This said, the similar levels of both walls and the similarity of the pottery associated with them indicate that they may be contemporaneous. The pottery that was collected from loci adjacent to the wall (L511, L550, L551) contained mainly a mixture of Chalcolithic and EB IB sherds (Fig. 21). A  $1.5 \times 1.0$  m patch of pebble floor in Sq I/4 (L510; 1.5 sq m) may be part of the pavement of the open courtyard/space. The loci with pottery that may be directly connected to this floor and the open space are L502, L526, L511, L551 (see Figs. 20, 21), located north of W202.

*Additional Wall Fragments and Other Features.*— A 1.5 m long fragment of a wall (W211), found in Sq G/7, may also have been connected to Structure 502. Its width (0.75 m) is similar, and its northeast–southwest orientation fits well with the orientation of Structure 502. A floor (L518) was found southeast of the wall; its rather high elevation (87.18 m asl) may indicate that these are the remains of a different structure of the same period. The pottery (not illustrated) that was found in L518 and in L612, north of W211, contained mainly Chalcolithic and EB IB forms, and very few possible EB II sherds.

In L513 (Sq F/7), northeast of Structure 502, an oval stone element (diam. c. 0.4 m), perhaps a door socket, was found between levels 86.87–86.64 m asl. The related pottery (not illustrated) is similar to that found in relation to Structure 502.

An interesting feature in Sq G/5 is a built stone channel (W209) that may have been part of a drainage system (most likely with the abutting W210). This installation is composed of a paved segment, 1.5 m long and 0.3 m wide, made of small stones and covered with flat slabs,

oriented northeast–southwest; it was probably embedded in a floor that was connected to the large building. The other fragmentary stone elements that were found in the square may be connected to this drainage, such as L609, which damaged Stratum II W205. The pottery that was found in the related Loci 549, 571 and 573 is similarly dated to late EB IB, as was the case for Structure 502 (Fig. 22).

*Discussion: The Architectural Characteristics of Strata II–I*

The most prominent architectural features in the main building phase of the late EB IB (Stratum II) were the round Structures 559 and 591. There is growing evidence from recent excavations, as well as from examination of material from earlier excavations, of numerous sites where similar buildings existed during EB IB.

These EB IB structures all share the complete round shape, but they vary in the width of the walls and the diameter of the inner space, leading to differences in the interpretation of their function. Thus, at Qiryat Ata and Tel Megadim, structures that were no more than 2 m in diameter were considered storage facilities for grain (Wolff 2000; Golani 2003:64, Plan 2.22), whereas at Bet Yerah (S. Paz and Y. Paz 2006:476–477) and Tell esh-Shunah North (Baird and Philip 1994), structures with a diameter of 4.0–5.5 m—containing floors, entrances and possible pillar bases, in addition to clear domestic pottery—were clearly houses. It seems that the rounded structures that were found at Palmaḥim Quarry may belong to both categories, as one is 2 m and the other 4 m in diameter. Although, curiously, the smaller structure was furnished with a doorway, a door socket and a pillar base (Braun 1991), one may assume, nonetheless, that 2 m diameter structures were not adequate for living and thus were used for storage of grains or pottery vessels.

In the case of Kh. Abu Ḥamid, since the two structures were 3.5 m in diameter, they could

have been used for either activity. While no entrances or doorways were detected, the pottery that was collected from inside the structures was purely domestic in nature, including open and close forms, cooking and serving vessels (small amphoriskoi and large kraters). It would seem, therefore, that storage could not have been the only purpose of the structures.

In terms of geographical proximity, the nearest equivalent to the Kh. Abu Ḥamid structures is found at Tel Dalit, located some 3 km to the southeast, where a segment of a rounded building (possibly also 3.5 m in diameter) was found in the ‘pre-town’ Stratum V (see Gophna 1996: Fig. 29, W702).

Similar to Stratum II at Kh. Abu Ḥamid, the combination of straight walls with both rectangular and rounded structures, forming an amorphous complex, is also known from the Palmaḥim Quarry (Braun 1991). Strata 2–1 of that site, also dated to EB IB, contained an agglomeration of rooms and spaces, mostly rectangular, but at least six of them round. While four of them are obviously too narrow to serve purposes other than storage and were located close to the edges of the site, two structures larger in diameter and containing pillar bases and doorways, were located right in the middle of the settlement. They were adjacent to each other in a way that resembles the layout at Kh. Abu Ḥamid. Unfortunately, the poor state of preservation of the latter denies any possibility of determining the exact relation between the two structures and the surrounding area. The presence of rectangular Structure 505 southeast of the two round structures may perhaps hint at a similar agglomeration that combined both rectangular and round structures into one living quarter (including also W207 and W213 in Sqs G–H/3).

Another close parallel was reported from Ashqelon-Barne‘a (Golani 2007). Rounded structures, some interpreted as silos and others as houses, were found alongside rectangular structures, and dated by the excavator to EB IB.

The change in architecture that characterizes Stratum I at Kh. Abu Ḥamid suggests the establishment of clearly defined compounds, made of rectangular units. While rectangular structures are known from all Early Bronze Age stages throughout Israel, analysis of the stratigraphy and material culture of Stratum I at Kh. Abu Ḥamid indicates a very late EB IB or early EB II date for the architectural remains of that layer. This picture fits well within the regional settlement pattern that is reflected at nearby settlements such as Tel Dalit and Tel Bareqet. At Tel Dalit, the rounded structure of Stratum V was overlaid by the fortification wall that encircled the EB II town: Strata IV–II were defined there by a series of rectangular buildings that were arranged in a variety of shapes (Gophna 1996:23ff). At Tel Bareqet, the earliest town was fortified during early EB II and well-planned residential quarters were constructed, with the rectangular broadhouse being their basic architectural unit (Y. Paz and S. Paz 2007).

#### THE 2007 EXCAVATION IN AREA F

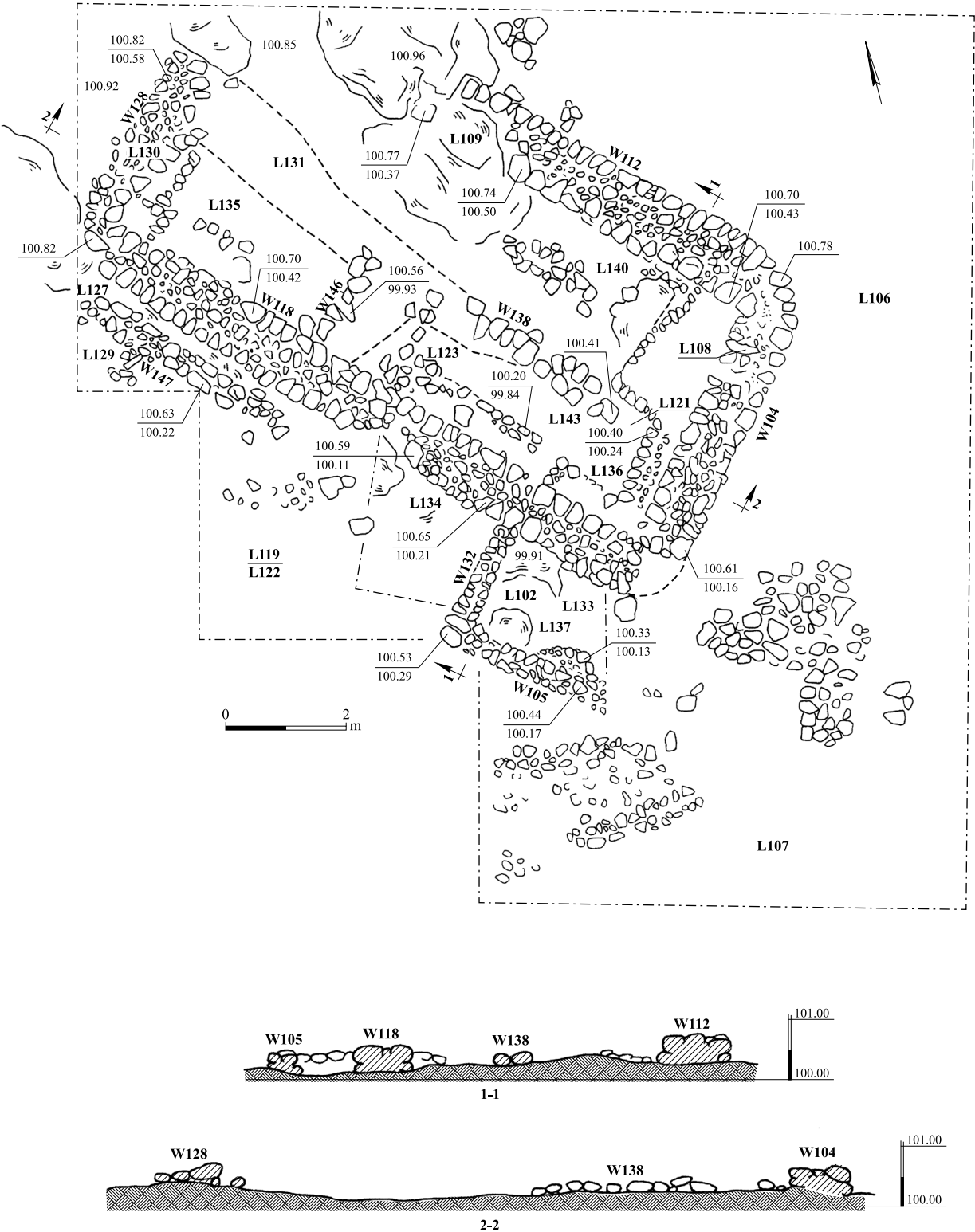
The 2007 excavation of Area F (map ref. 194735–5069/656843–7161) took place in Gan Ha-Ḥevel, on the summit of the Kh. Abu Ḥamid site. Five squares were excavated to bedrock, exposing a single stratum of occupation with remains of a residential building (Plan 2; Figs. 7–11). The structure can be dated by the pottery on its floors and in its immediate vicinity to EB IB (see Figs. 25–27). This phase should probably be correlated to Area B, Stratum I. Among the sherds that were found on the site's surface, a few are EB II types, possibly reflecting a continued occupation of the settlement.

#### *Stratigraphy and Architecture*

The Area F building comprised two units: a large broad-room structure and a small room that was attached to its southeastern corner (Plan 2; Figs. 7, 8).

The larger unit ( $12 \times 5$  m) is characterized by rounded corners on the outer faces of the walls, while the inner faces of the walls create straight angles. The walls of the building (W104, W112, W128 and W118) survived to a height of two or three courses and were faced with medium-to large-sized fieldstones, with a rubble fill in-between. They were constructed of local limestone and founded directly on bedrock, which was leveled in certain spots. The eastern and southern walls, W104 and W118 (0.9–1.0 m wide), are preserved to a height of 0.5 m (two courses). Wall 112, the northern enclosing wall (1.0–1.1 m wide), survived to a height of 0.2–0.3 m; its western part was not fully preserved (Fig. 9). Likewise, W128 (width 0.5–0.6 m), on the west, was preserved only to a length of 3.5 m. Nothing has survived of the northwestern corner of the building, where these two walls would have met, perhaps because the bedrock is higher at that spot. It may well be that the entrance to the building was located in W112, where the elevated bedrock could have been utilized as a threshold (Figs. 8, 9). It seems that the inner space of the building was lower than street level, and accessed by descending a staircase that was located on the inward sloping bedrock. A depression that was detected in the entrance area (0.4 m deep) may have been used as a door socket (Fig. 9).

Inside the building, benches were constructed along the southern and eastern wall; their height varied between 0.2 and 0.4 m and their width, between 0.5 and 0.6 m (Fig. 10). An elevated working platform, constructed on bedrock, was found attached to the northeastern corner of the structure (L108). The floor of the interior of the building was on two levels, in accordance with the bedrock surface: in the northeastern corner, a gravel floor (L140) was found on bedrock, while in the southeastern part of the building the floor (L143) was higher and reached the bench that was attached to the wall. The inner space of the main structure was divided into several units by thin partition walls (W138, W146); two clear units are evident in the eastern part



Plan 2. Area F, the 2007 excavation, plan and sections.



Fig. 7. Area F, general view, looking southeast.



Fig. 8. Area F, general view, looking northwest.



Fig. 9. Area F, W112, the entrance area, looking northwest; note the depression, possibly a door socket, on the upper left of the photograph.



Fig. 10. Area F, benches along the southern end of W118 and along W104, looking southwest.

(L140 and L143), which was badly disturbed by later activities.

Attached to the southeastern corner of the main structure was a small room (L133, L137;

exterior dimensions  $2 \times 3$  m), its entrance from the east (Fig. 11). It seems to have been an annex to the main structure, being more flimsily built, or possibly part of another structure that

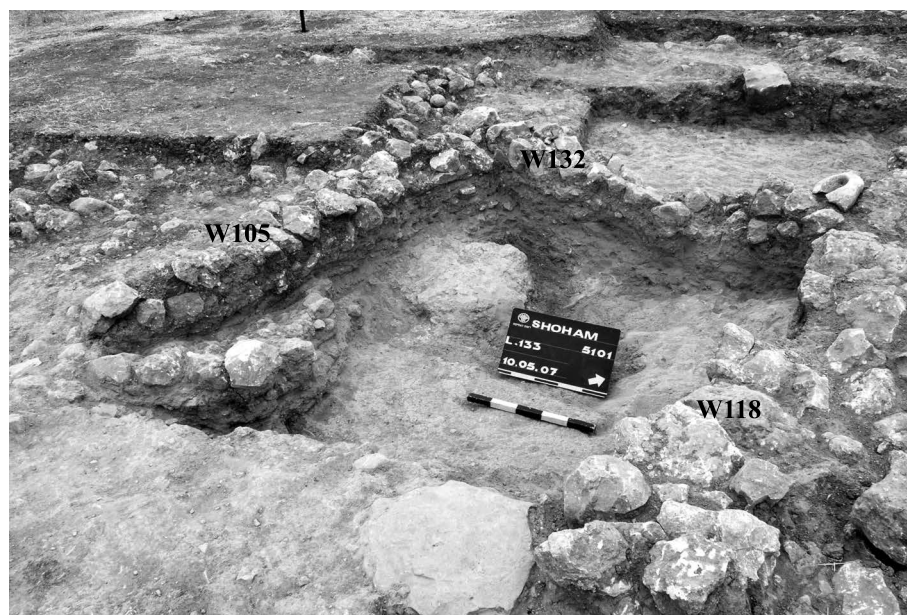


Fig. 11. Area F, a small room or annex (L133), looking west.

was not excavated. The southern wall (W105; 0.35 m wide) was preserved to a height of two courses (0.2 m) and built of two rows of small stones. The western wall (W132; 0.3 m wide) was similarly built. In the southeastern corner of the room a semicircular installation (1.0 × 0.4 m) was preserved to a height of 0.1 m.

A 4 m long wall fragment (W147) of unknown function runs parallel to, but does not touch, the exterior of the western portion of W118.

### *Discussion*

The excavation of Area F revealed a domestic structure that can be dated by associated pottery to EB IB. The building was part of a large unfortified settlement, whose occupants incorporated bedrock as an integral component in its architecture—as a floor, a foundation, and even integrated into the walls. The same usage of bedrock continued when the inhabitants abandoned the unwallled settlement and established the fortified town at Tel Bareqet, in

the beginning of the third millennium BCE (Y. Paz and S. Paz 2007, and see below).

The rectangular building with rounded corners is well-known in both EB IB and EB II contexts from the Southern Levant. According to Golani, it may be considered a common component of an urban plan that was prevalent in EB II, but whose predecessors had already appeared by the late EB IB (Golani 1999:124, 130–131).

### THE POTTERY FROM AREAS B AND F

#### *Introduction*

The excavations of Area B in 1992 and Area F in 2007 yielded large amounts of pottery dating mostly to the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze periods. In Area B, pottery dated to the Persian, Roman and Byzantine periods was also found; in Area F, no pottery from later periods came to light. This report will discuss only the early pottery, primarily that of the Early Bronze Age, this being the material culture associated with



the architectural remains of the proto-historic settlement at Kh. Abu Ḥamid. Included in this category are pottery types that have their origins in the Chalcolithic period, but are known to carry over into the beginning of the Early Bronze Age.

It is important to note that the shallow accumulation of ancient remains above bedrock resulted in mixed assemblages in many loci. Most problematic in this sense were the loci in Area B, Stratum I, whose c. 0.3 m accumulation, while being associated with Stratum I walls (see above), yielded both Chalcolithic and EB I pottery. A similar mixture also occurs in most of the Stratum III loci; however, there it is more understandable, as Stratum III reached bedrock in many places and may well have disturbed Chalcolithic contexts.

The EB IB pottery from Strata IV–III cannot be differentiated typologically from that of Stratum II. In fact, the vast majority of the pottery from Area B, Strata IV–I and from Area F is similar and reflects the same types. The following typological discussion will relate almost entirely to the pottery vessels that were found in Strata III–I, with special focus on the Stratum II pottery from the principal architectural units in Area B. In addition, vessels from other strata that have typological significance will be discussed, as well as some vessels with Egyptian affinities (see below) that were absent from the Area B assemblage, but found in Area F on the crest of the site.

Note that while the pottery is organized and discussed according to ceramic type, the material illustrated in the plates is presented by context. This method was chosen in order to highlight the distribution of pottery according to activity zones within the built units and between them (see discussion below).

### *Late Chalcolithic–Early EB I*

As mentioned above, Chalcolithic pottery was abundant at the site, and undoubtedly reflects an early settlement. Loci associated with Area B, Stratum III (see above), contained sherds that may date to this pre-EB IB occupation. Of

special note is L600, which yielded a group of sherds representing forms that date to the late Chalcolithic, but may also continue into the early EB I (EB IA). Two diagnostic types are presented below.

*Ridged Holemouth* (Fig. 14:1).— This Chalcolithic form continues to appear in both EB IA and EB IB contexts, although more frequently in EB IA, as at 'En Esur.

*Pithos with 'Pie Crust' Rim* (Fig. 14:2).— This vessel type is known from both late Chalcolithic and early EB I contexts (in the Chalcolithic burial ground at Shoham North, and in the EB IA settlement at Azor), and thus the sherd cannot be accurately dated.

### *Early Bronze Age IB*

#### *Bowls*

*Deep Rounded Plain-Rim Bowls* (Figs. 13:1; 17:1; 19:2).— Few bowls of this type were found. They have a rounded, almost globular shape, very thin walls and are well-fired. Figure 13:1 has small lug handles, while Fig. 19:2 is decorated in a red net pattern on its exterior. Parallels come from the burial cave at Ḥorbat Ḥani.

*Hemispheric Plain-Rim Bowls* (Figs. 16:1; 25:1).— Plain hemispheric bowls are one of the most common Early Bronze Age types in Israel. They are found in EB IB contexts at regional sites such as Tel Dalit and Lod.

*Shallow Plain-Rim Bowls* (Figs. 19:1; 20:1; 26:1).— This type of bowl has a sharp, plain rim. The bowls were generally made of orange clay and were red-slipped.

*Deep Rounded Beveled-Rim Bowls* (Figs. 17:2; 19:3).— Two sherds may be related to this type. While the rim of the first specimen (Fig. 17:2) was only slightly beveled, the rim of the second (Fig. 19:3) was probably shaped in a way that created an inner ridge or ledge.

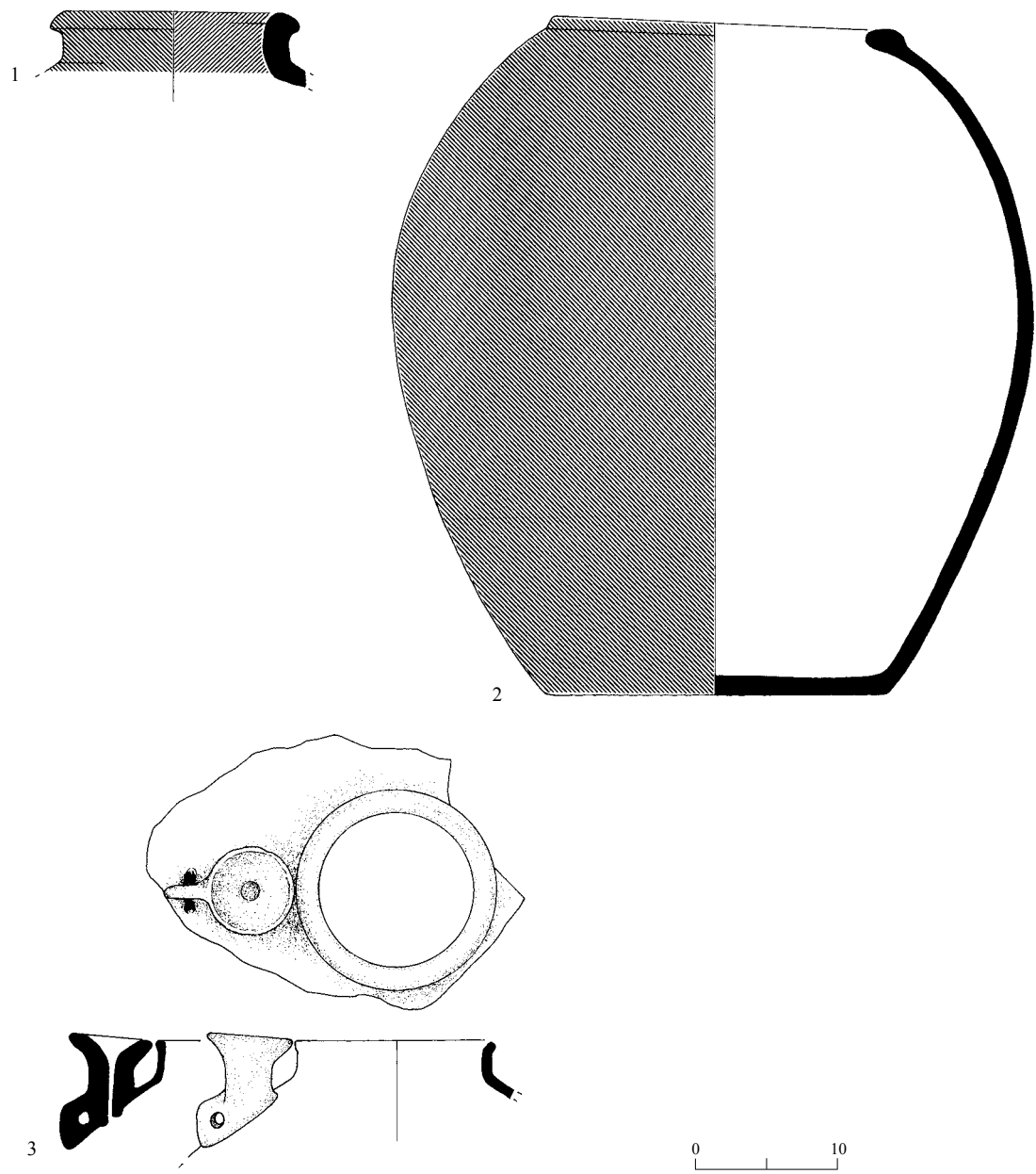


Fig . 12. Pottery from Area B, Stratum IV.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Reg. No (IAA No.)	Description	Parallels
1	Pithos	596	2468/4	Buff clay, gray core, red wash	Afeq (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.4:25) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 40:13) Tel Lod (van den Brink 2002: Fig. 19.8:21)
2	Holemouth	597	2456/1 (IAA 99-252)	Buff clay, red slip	Gezer (Dever et al. 1974: Pl. 5:8)
3	Pedestal jar	597	2456/2 (IAA 98-231)	Pink clay, dark and light grits	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 55:1)

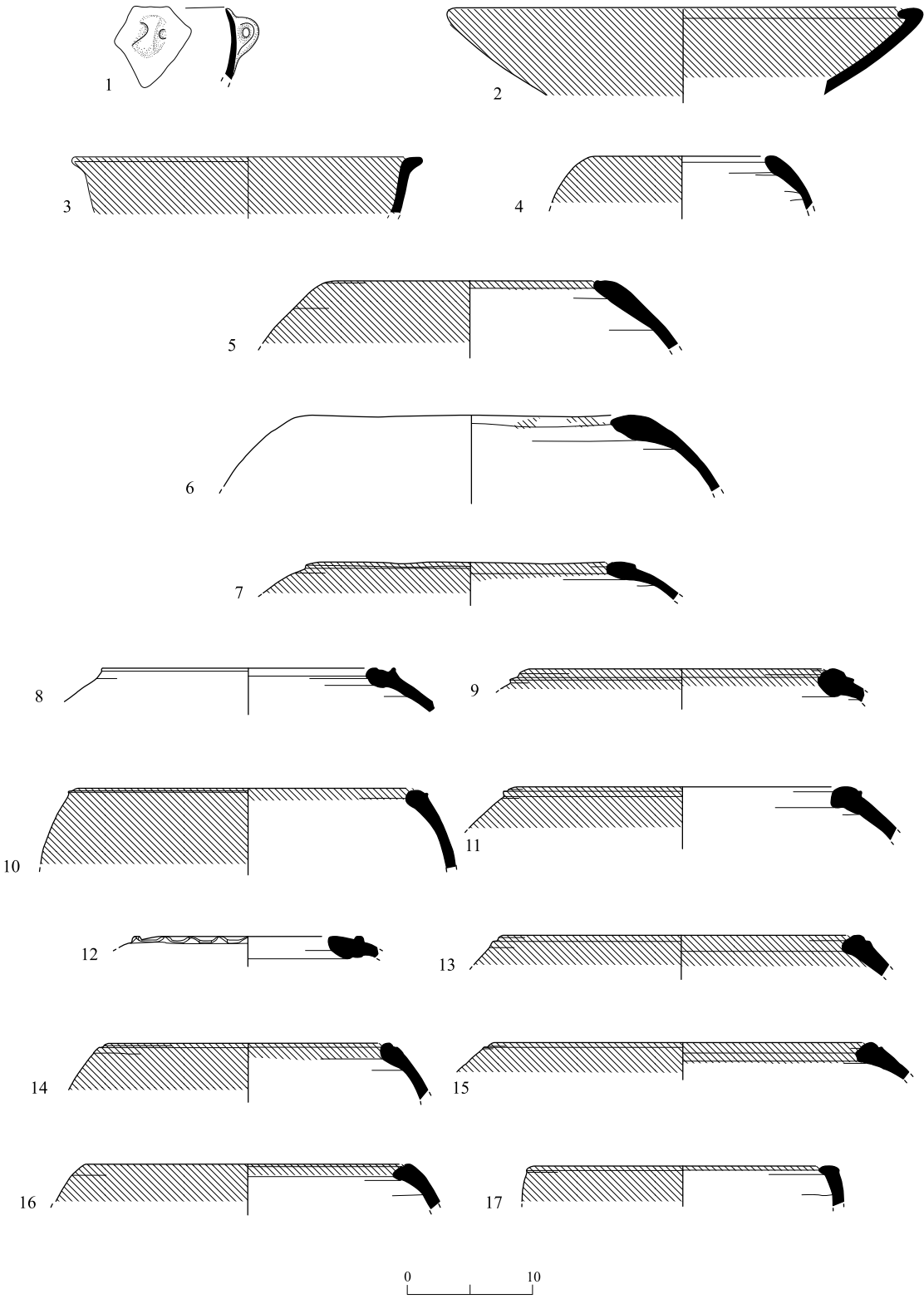


Fig. 13. Pottery from Area B, Stratum III.

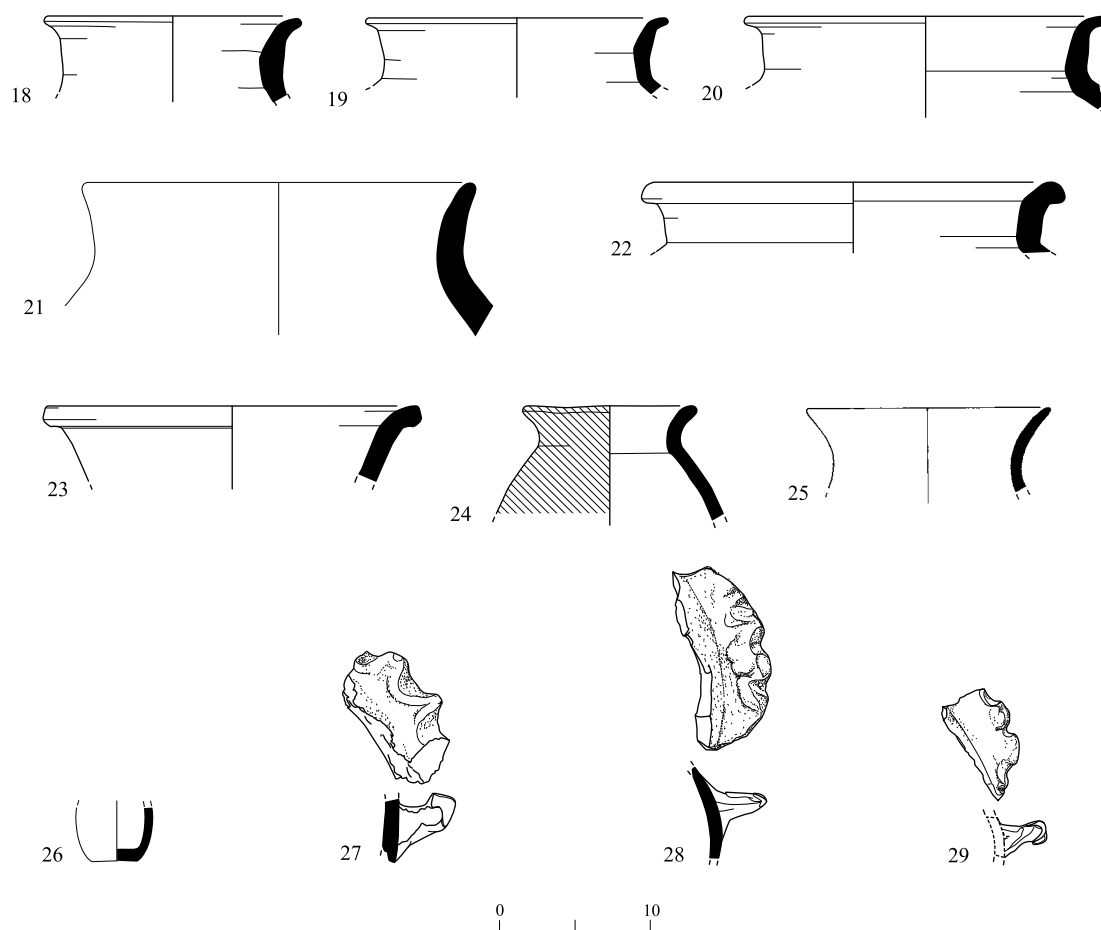


Fig. 13. (cont.)

No.	Vessel	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	515	2174/1	Orange clay, red slip	H. Hani (Lass 2003: Fig. 20:19, 26, 33)
2	Bowl	514	2084/1	Brown clay, well-fired, small white grits, red slip	Afeq (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.1: 4) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 23:5, 10) Gezer (Dever et al. 1974: Pl. 4:13)
3	Bowl	514	2087/1	Buff clay, red slip	'En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.75:9–12) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 39:12) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 23:5–7)
4	Holemouth	514	2297/1	Buff clay, red wash	Afeq (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.5:23, 24) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 41:10) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 24:10) 'Ai (Callaway 1980: Fig. 63:9) Yarmut (de Miroschedji 1988: Pl. 22:7) 'Arad (Amiran et al. 1978: Pl. 21:16, 23)
5	Holemouth	514	2069/1	Orange clay, red wash	See No. 4
6	Holemouth	541	2233/1	Brownish clay, coarse, gray core	See No. 4

Fig. 13. (cont.)

No.	Vessel	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels
7	Holemouth	515	2114/1	Light brown clay, red wash	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Figs. 41:3; 43:6) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 25) Gezer (Dever et al. 1974: Pl. 4: 8)
8	Holemouth	515	2179/1	Buff clay	See No. 7
9	Holemouth	541	2234/3	Buff clay, large white grits, red wash	See No. 7
10	Holemouth	541	2318/1	Orange clay, coarse, red wash	See No. 7
11	Holemouth	541	2318/3	Buff clay, gray core, white grits, red wash	See No. 7
12	Holemouth	541	2245/3	Grayish clay, gray core, plastic decoration	See No. 7
13	Holemouth	515	2161/2	Brown clay, red wash	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 41:6, 7)
14	Holemouth	541	2330/2	Buff clay, red-brown wash	See No. 13
15	Holemouth	541	2304/1	Orange clay, gray core, red wash	See No. 13
16	Holemouth	514	2081/1	Buff clay, red wash	‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.56:13) Tel Lod (Paz Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 24:12)
17	Holemouth	541	2234/5	Buff clay, red wash	See No. 16
18	Storage jar	515	2178/1	Buff clay	‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.58:1–3) H. Tinsmet (van den Brink and Grosinger 2004: Fig. 2:18) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 40:6) Lod (van den Brink 2002: Fig. 19.8:19) Gezer (Dever et al. 1974: Pl. 5:3)
19	Pithos	514	2209/2	Pink clay, large gray grits	Tel Lod (Paz Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 26:12) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 40:12)
20	Pithos	514	2079/1	Buff clay, large grits	See No. 19
21	Pithos	515	2183/1	Buff clay, large gray grits, very badly fired	See No. 19
22	Pithos	541	2234/2	Buff clay, very coarse	Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 26:20) Al-Maghar (Gophna, Paz and Taxel 2010: Fig. 9:16)
23	Pithos	541	2234/2	Buff clay	See No. 22
24	Jar	541	2323/2	Brown clay, gray core, small white grits, coarse, red slip	‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.74:15) Al-Maghar (Gophna, Paz and Taxel 2010: Fig. 9:20)
25	Storage jar	553	2346/1	Orange clay, gray core, well fired, PMW	Rishpon-4, Giv‘atayim cemetery and Tel Afeq (Paz, Shoval and Zlatkin 2009; Gophna and Paz 2017: Fig. 16.8:12)
26	Miniature vessel	514	2084/3	Orange clay	‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.73:5) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 27:2)
27	Handle	514	2069/3	Buff clay	
28	Handle	514	2079/2	Pink-buff clay	
29	Handle	541	2234/1	Buff clay	

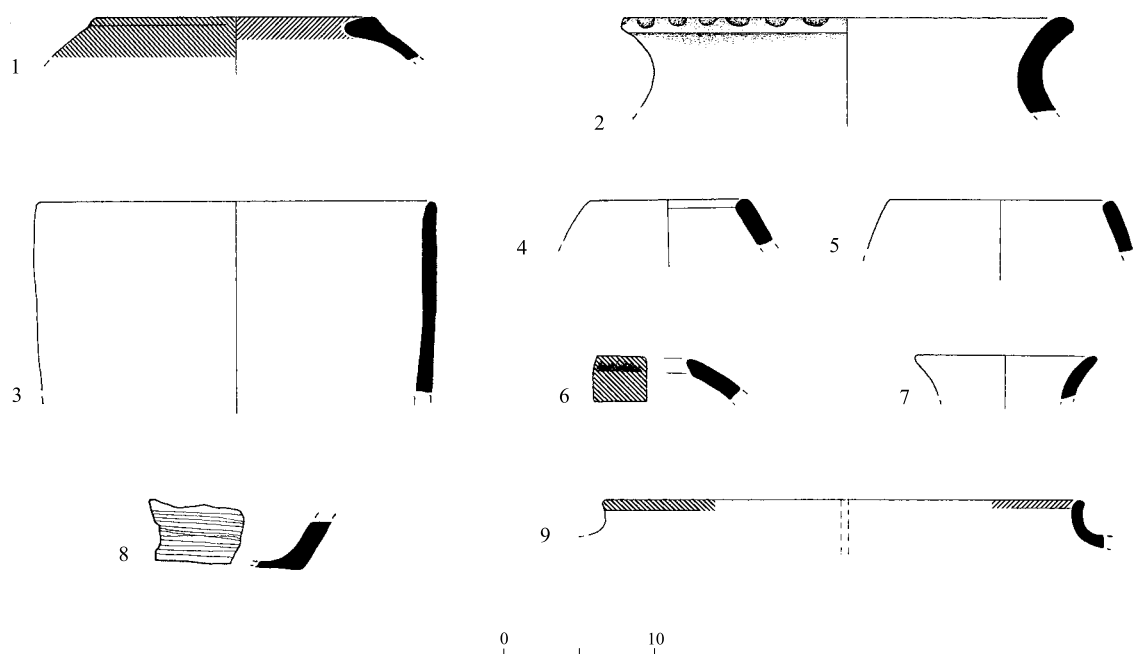


Fig. 14. Pottery from Area B, Stratum III, L600.

No.	Vessel	Reg. No. (IAA No.)	Description	Parallels
1	Holemouth	2466/3	Buff clay, red slip	'En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.44:14)
2	Pithos	2469/1 (IAA 99-227)	Buff clay, large grits, thumbbed rim	Azor (Golani and van den Brink 1999: Fig. 5:5–7) Shoham (North) (Commence 2005: Fig. 6.26)
3	Bowl	2476/1	Buff, large grits	'En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.20:11)
4	Holemouth	2476/8	Buff clay	Afeq (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.1:25) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 24:6)
5	Holemouth	2476/4	Buff clay, small grits	See No. 4
6	Holemouth	2466/2	Buff clay, red wash	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 41:2) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 24:4)
7	Jar	2476/5	Buff clay	'En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.58:1–3) H. Tinsmet (van den Brink and Grosinger 2004: Fig. 2:18) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 40:6) Tel Lod (van den Brink 2002: Fig. 19.8: 19) Gezer (Dever et al. 1974: Pl. 5:3)
8	Jar	2476		
9	Pithos	2466/7		'En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.58: 2)

*Deep Bowls with Upright Plain Rim* (Fig. 17:3).— This type, characterized by thin walls, is not common at Kh. Abu Ḥamid. It is well-fired and red-slipped. Parallels come from settlements (Al-Maghar, Tel Dalit and Tell Abu al-Kharaz), as well as the burial cave at Ḥorbat Ḥani.

*Sinuuous-Sided Bowls* (Figs. 16:2; 23:1).— This type of bowl is characterized by thin walls; the clay is generally well-fired and the surface red-slipped. One complete vessel was found at Kh. Abu Ḥamid. It is red-slipped and its diameter is 12.5 cm. Such bowls of various diameters and depths, have been found in

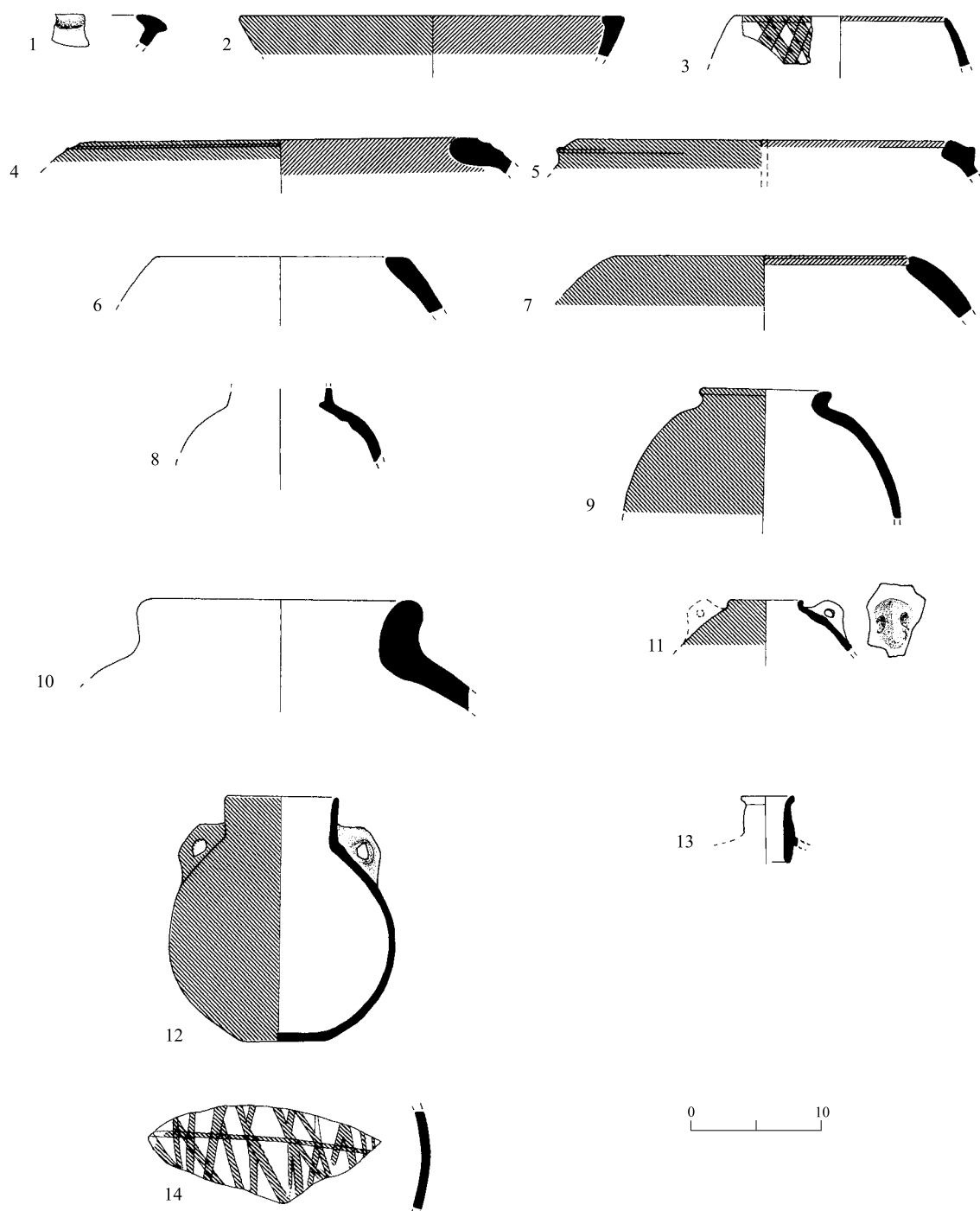


Fig. 15. Pottery from Area B, Stratum II, Structure 559.



◀ Fig. 15

No.	Vessel	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	559	2329/2	Gray clay, red slip, burnished	‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.75:9–12) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 39: 12) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 23:5–7)
2	Bowl	563	2379/3	Buff clay, red slip	See No. 1
3	Holemouth	559	2372/8	Buff-pink clay, red painted net pattern	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 41:2) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 24:4)
4	Holemouth	559	2333/2	Orange clay, gray core, red slip	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Figs. 41:3; 43:6) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 25) Gezer (Dever et al. 1974: Pl. 4:8)
5	Holemouth	559	2328/1	Buff clay, red slip	See No. 4
6	Holemouth	559	2362/1	Brown clay, white grits	Afeq (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.1:25) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 24:6)
7	Holemouth	517	2124	Buff clay, red wash	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Figs. 41:7, 13; 45:8) H. Tinsmet (van den Brink and Grosinger 2004: Fig. 2:16)
8	Jar	559	2333/4	Buff clay	
9	Jar	559	2340/1	Brown-gray clay, gray core, red slip, soot on rim	‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.76:2)
10	Pithos	559	2340/9	Buff clay, badly fired, large white grits	Afeq (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.4:25) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 40:13) Tel Lod (van den Brink 2002: Fig. 19.8:21)
11	Amphoriskos	559	2372/5	Brownish clay, red slip	H. Tinsmet (van den Brink and Grosinger 2004: Fig. 3:8) H. Ḥani (Lass 2003: Fig. 21:5)
12	Amphoriskos	559	2372/1	Pale brown clay, dark and white grits, red slip	Tell Abu al-Kharaz (Fischer 2008: Fig. 107:1, 2)
13	Amphoriskos	559	2340/4	Buff clay	H. Ḥani (Lass 2003: Fig. 21:4)
14	Sherd	559	2372/7	Red-brown clay, red burnished pattern	

both settlements (as Tell Abu al-Kharaz, Tel Afeq and Tel Dalit) and mortuary contexts (as Ḥorbat Ḥani).

*Rounded In-Turned Rim Bowls* (Figs. 13:2; 27:1).— These bowls have rather thick walls, either shallow or deep, and are well-fired and red-slipped.

*Rounded Bowls with Rectangular Rim* (Figs. 20:2; 25:2; 26:2).— This bowl type is common at Kh. Abu Ḥamid. The bowls are generally medium in size and have flat rectangular-shaped rims.

*Rounded Bowls with Hammer/Ledge Rim* (Figs. 13:3; 15:1, 2; 17:4; 23:2; 24:1).— This type is quite common at Kh. Abu Ḥamid. Two main subtypes can be discerned: bowls with everted hammer rims (Fig. 13:3) and, more common, bowls with in-turned hammer rims (Figs. 15:1, 2; 17:4; 23:2; 24:1).

*Deep Splayed Rim Bowls* (Figs. 16:3; 20:3).— The specimens presented here show a variety of rim profiles that share the ‘splayed’ shape. It should be noted that Fig. 16:3, characterized by a plastic decoration, also has EB IA parallels, as at ‘En Esur.

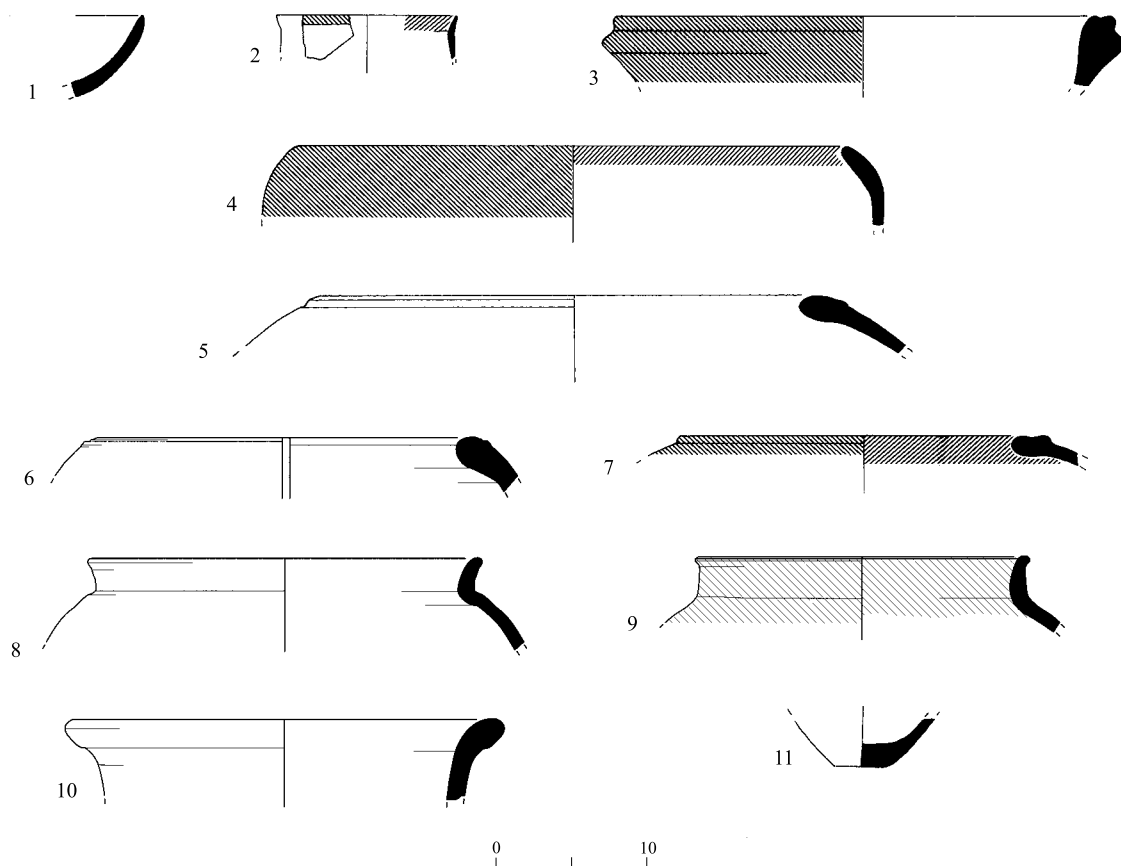


Fig. 16. Pottery from Area B, Stratum II, Structure 591.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	591	2458/5	Buff clay, traces of red slip, soot marks on rim	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 39:1)
2	Bowl	591	2456/10	Buff clay, red band	Tell Abu al-Kharaz (Fischer 2000: Fig. 12.1:4) Afeq (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.3:1) H. Hani (Lass 2003: Fig. 20:9) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 39:5)
3	Bowl	591	2458/14	Buff clay, coarse, red slip	'En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.36:4, 13, 15)
4	Holemouth	591	-		H. Tinsmet (van den Brink and Grosinger 2004: Fig. 2:3)
5	Holemouth	591	2474/2	Orange-brown clay, large light gray grits	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Figs. 41:3; 43:6) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 25) Gezer (Dever et al. 1974: Pl. 4:8)
6	Holemouth	577	2407/1	Buff clay, large grits, coarse, red wash	See No. 5
7	Holemouth	591	2474/1	Buff clay, gray core, red slip	See No. 5
8	Pithos	577	2384/2	Orange clay, gray core	Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 26:12) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 40:12)
9	Pithos	577	2384/3	Buff clay, red slip	See No. 8
10	Pithos	577	2384/1	Pink clay, very coarse, large grits, white lime wash	Afeq (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.4:25) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 40:13) Tel Lod (van den Brink 2002: Fig. 19.8:21)
11	Jug?	591	2474/3	Buff clay	

*Carinated Bowls* (Figs. 22:1; 25:3).— Only two fragments of small carinated bowls were found at the site, one in Area B, Stratum I, and the other in Area F. Notably, this type, known also as the ‘Aphék family’ (Beck 1985), begins its appearance during the late EB IB and is the most popular open vessel at EB II Tel Bareqet.

*Deep Bowls with Straight Walls* (Figs. 14:3; 26:3).— Two examples are presented here. Figure 14:3 has straight walls and a plain rim; it measures 27.5 cm in diameter and is at least 15 cm deep. While this form is also reported from Chalcolithic contexts at ‘En Esur, its location at Kh. Abu Ḥamid may point to an (early?) EB I date.

The other specimen, shown in Fig. 26:3, has a slightly everted rim and straight walls, made of orange clay and covered with white lime wash.

*Straight-Sided Bowl* (Fig. 27:2).— One example of this type is presented here. It is a small bowl, made of buff clay and decorated with red slip.

### *Holemouths*

Holemouths are the most common pottery form during this period, and the variability of EB IB rim shapes is high.

*Plain-Rim Holemouths* (Figs. 15:3; 16:4; 18:1; 20:4, 5; 21:1; 24:2; 26:4–6).— This category is so called because the upper part of the rims are neither ridged nor ribbed. They may have sharpened, cut or profiled rims, generally not thickened; most examples are red-washed. Many parallels come from Tel Dalit and Lod. Figure 15:3 has thin walls and a sharpened rim; the body is decorated with a net-pattern in red paint. Figure 24:2 has a knob applied below its rim. Another variant of this type (Fig. 16:4) is red-slipped and has an in-turned, more open, plain rim. This form may also be defined as a vat or even as a bowl (van den Brink and Grosinger 2004: Fig. 2:3).

*Holemouth Vessel with Thickened, ‘Shark-Nose’ Rim* (Figs. 13:4–6; 20:6, 7; 22:2–4; 25:12; 26:7).— The triangular shape of the rim, with its inner vertex thumbbed during the preparation of the vessel, is very common in EB II contexts; at ‘Arad, in particular, this is the most frequent holemouth rim shape. It is, however, also found in EB IB contexts, such as at Tel Dalit and Lod.

*Holemouth with Ridged or Ribbed Rim* (Figs. 12:2; 13:7–12; 15:4, 5; 16:5–7; 17:5–9; 18:2, 3; 20:8; 25:4, 5).— This type is one of the hallmarks of the EB IB pottery tradition in many regions of Israel and it is also most common at Kh. Abu Ḥamid (60% of holemouths, see below). The main features include the thickened rim and the flat ridges under it (or a combination of flat or rounded ridge and a sharpened higher ridge). The vessels are characterized by red or brown wash or a variant of a ‘grain wash’. The complete holemouth that was found at Kh. Abu Ḥamid (Fig. 12:2), possibly in a mortuary context, had a thickened ridged rim and was red-washed. It seems that this type was most at home in central and southern Israel during EB IB, at sites such as Tel Dalit, Lod and Rishpon-4 (Gophna and Paz 2017). It is also found in northern Israel, for instance at ‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Figs. 4.74:10; 4.76:6) and Bet Yerah (Eisenberg and Greenberg 2006: Fig. 8.73:13), as well as in the Jordan Valley, in the region of Bet She’an (e.g., Tell Abu al-Kharaz, Tel Bet She’an and Tel Shalem).

*Furrow-Rim Holemouths* (Figs. 13:13–15; 21:2).— This type of vessel is less common at Kh. Abu Ḥamid than the ridged-rim holemouths; all examples are red washed. Parallels come from Tel Dalit Stratum V (EB IB), again, with red wash. Interestingly, this type is almost the only pottery type that continues to appear in the very early EB II levels at Tel Bareqet (unpublished information). Yet, furrow rim holemouths from Tel Bareqet are never red-

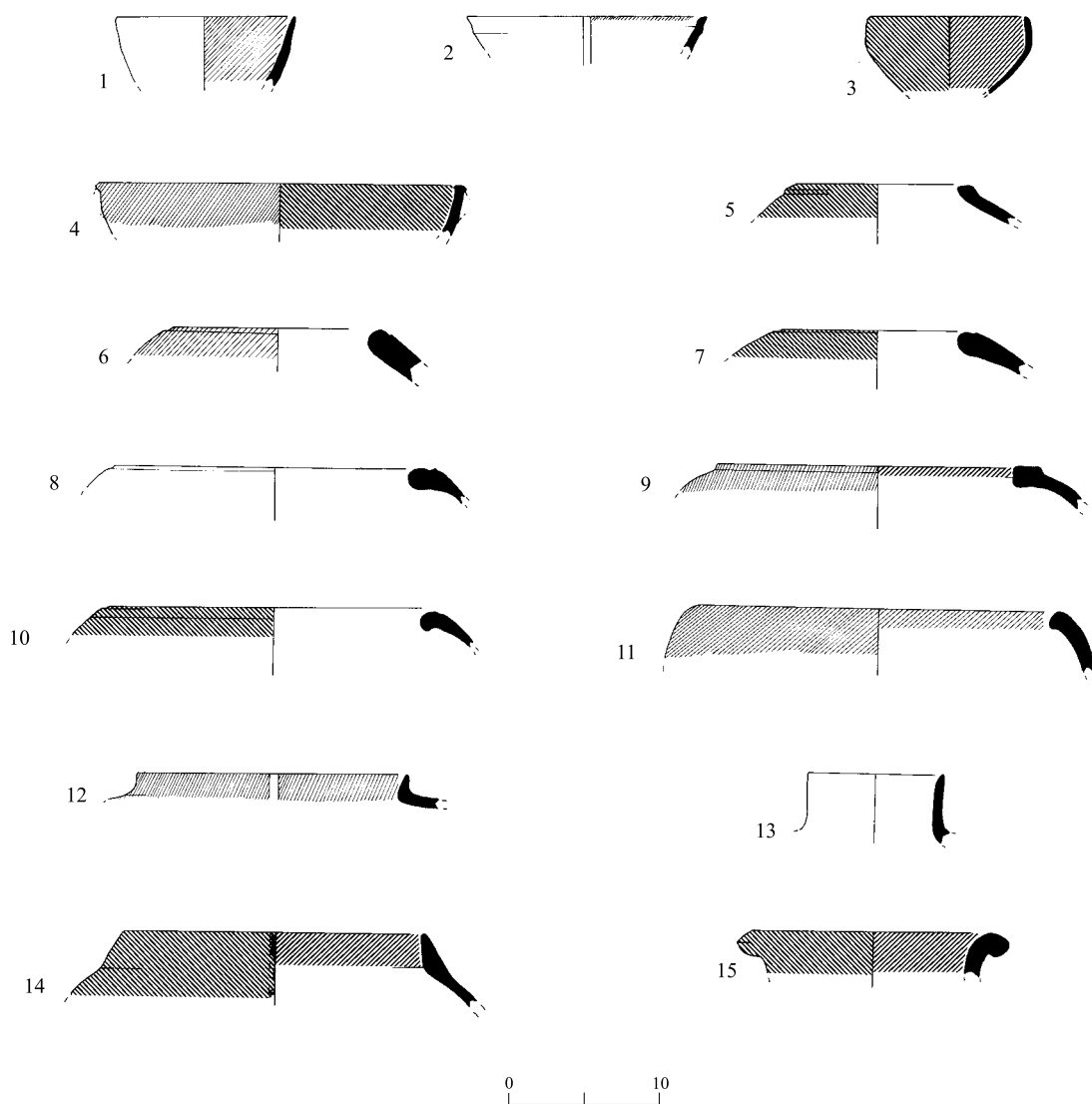


Fig. 17. Pottery from Area B, trial trench between Structures 591 and 559.

washed and thus reflect a divergence from earlier tradition that is represented at Kh. Abu Ḥamid.

*Holemouths with Profiled Rim* (Figs. 14:4–6; 15:6).— The term ‘profiled rim’ reflects the absence of a better term to define a variety of rims that are generally rectangular, trapezoidal or triangular in shape.

*Holemouths with Splayed Rim* (Figs. 15:7; 21:3; 22:5; 26:8, 9).— This variant is also common at Kh. Abu Ḥamid. The shape of the rims is either plain, thickened or profiled, all splayed in a slight or a more pronounced way.

*Holemouths with In-Turned Rim* (Figs. 13:16, 17; 17:10, 11; 20:9; 25:6, 7; 27:7, 8).— Another common type of holemouth at Kh.

◀ Fig. 17

No.	Vessel	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	2479/7	Buff clay, red slip	H. Hani (Lass 2003: Fig. 20:19, 26, 33)
2	Bowl	2483/2	Buff clay	Afeq (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.1:5) H. Tinsmet (van den Brink and Grosinger 2004: Fig. 2:4)
3	Bowl	2469/7	Red clay, red slip, well-fired	Tell Abu al-Kharaz (Fischer 2000: Fig. 12.1:2) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 39:14) H. Hani (Lass 2003: Fig. 20:11, 17) Al-Maghar (Gophna, Paz and Taxel 2010: Fig. 8:10)
4	Bowl	2479/4	Buff clay, red slip	‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.75:9–12) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 39:12) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 23:5–7)
5	Holemouth	2472/5	Gray clay, red slip	Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 25:2)
6	Holemouth	2464/1	Buff clay, red wash	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 41:6, 7)
7	Holemouth	2472/3	Buff clay, red wash	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Figs. 41:3; 43:6) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 25) Gezer (Dever et al. 1974: Pl. 4:8)
8	Holemouth	2473/3	Brownish clay, gray core, gray shiny grits	See No. 7
9	Holemouth	2467/1	Buff clay, gray core, red slip	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Figs. 41:3; 43:6) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 25) Gezer (Dever et al. 1974: Pl. 4:8)
10	Holemouth	2465/3	Buff clay, red slip	‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.56:13) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 24:12)
11	Holemouth	2465/1	Buff clay, red slip	See No. 10
12	Jar/pithos	2469/2	Buff clay, red slip	‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.57:6)
13	Jar	2485/3	Buff clay	‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.58:4)
14	Pithos	2473/1	Buff clay, red wash	Bet Yerah (Paz S. and Paz Y. 2006: Fig. 7.22:8)
15	Pithos	2467/3	Pink clay, red slip	Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 26:20) Al-Maghar (Gophna, Paz and Taxel 2010: Fig. 9:16)

Abu Ḥamid has a slightly thickened in-turned rim.

*Holemouth with Plastic ‘Rope’ Decoration* (not illustrated).— This type, probably used for storage during the Early Bronze Age (Amiran et al. 1978: Pl. 20, 47, 51), was common during both EB IB and EB II. The difference between the earlier and the later type was first defined by Gophna, who noted that the EB IB rope application is often “interrupted” (Gophna 1995:25).

Rope decoration is very rare at Kh. Abu Ḥamid. Among the hundreds of holemouth rims, only two sherds exhibited this feature, in

both cases, of the “uninterrupted” variety. The complete and un-interrupted variety is more at home in EB II, as was also found at Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 51:7). One of the rope-decorated sherds was found in Stratum III, but was probably intrusive in that EB IB context. The rarity of this type further illustrates the meager evidence for EB II remains at Kh. Abu Ḥamid (see discussion, below).

#### *Jars*

*Plain Everted-Rim Storage Jars* (Figs. 13:18; 14:7; 15:8, 9; 18:4; 20:10–12; 23:3; 27:9).— The most common type of storage jar at Kh. Abu Ḥamid is a medium-sized vessel that has

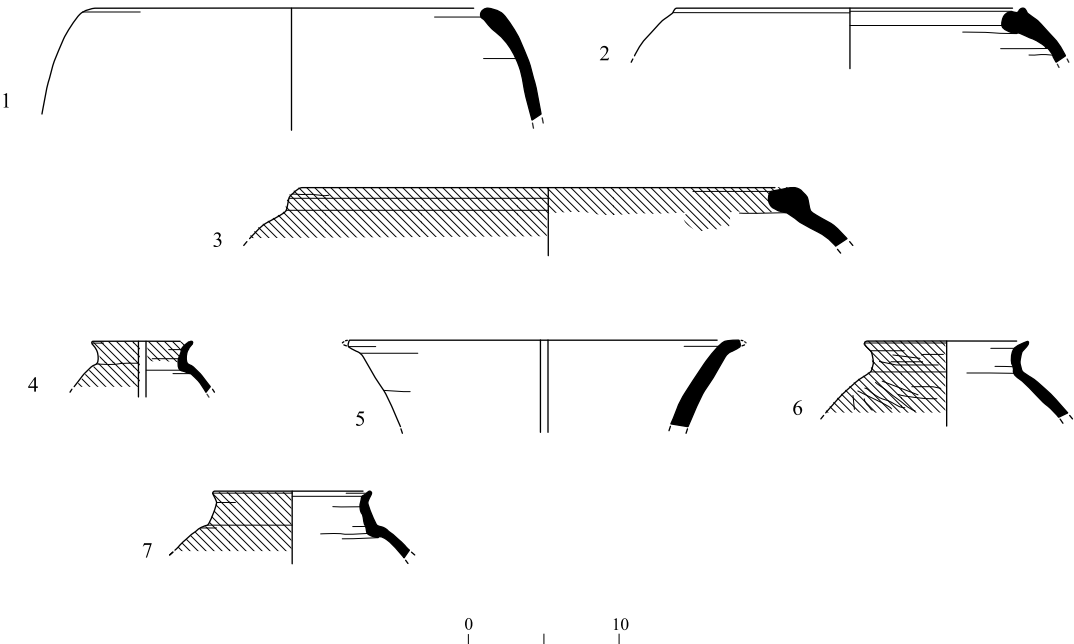


Fig. 18. Pottery from Area B, Stratum II, L505.

No	Vessel	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels
1	Holemouth	2027/1	Gray clay	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 41:2) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 24:4)
2	Holemouth	2034/1	Brown clay	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Figs. 41:3; 43:6) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 25) Tel Lod (van den Brink 2002: Fig. 19.8:19) H. Tinsmet (van den Brink and Grosinger 2004: Fig. 2:18) Gezer (Dever et al. 1974: Pl. 4:8)
3	Holemouth	2020/3	Buff clay, large grits, red slip	See No. 2
4	Jar	2381/2	Gray clay, red slip	‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.58:1–3) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 40:6) Gezer (Dever et al. 1974: Pl. 5:3)
5	Pithos	2027	Pink clay, white grits	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 40:12) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 26:12)
6	Jar	2386/1	Pink clay, red slip, PMW	Giv‘atayim cemetery and Tel Afeq (Paz 2010; Paz, Shoval and Zlatkin 2009; Gophna and Paz 2017: Fig. 16.8:15)
7	Jar	2491/1	Pink clay, red slip, PMW	See No. 6

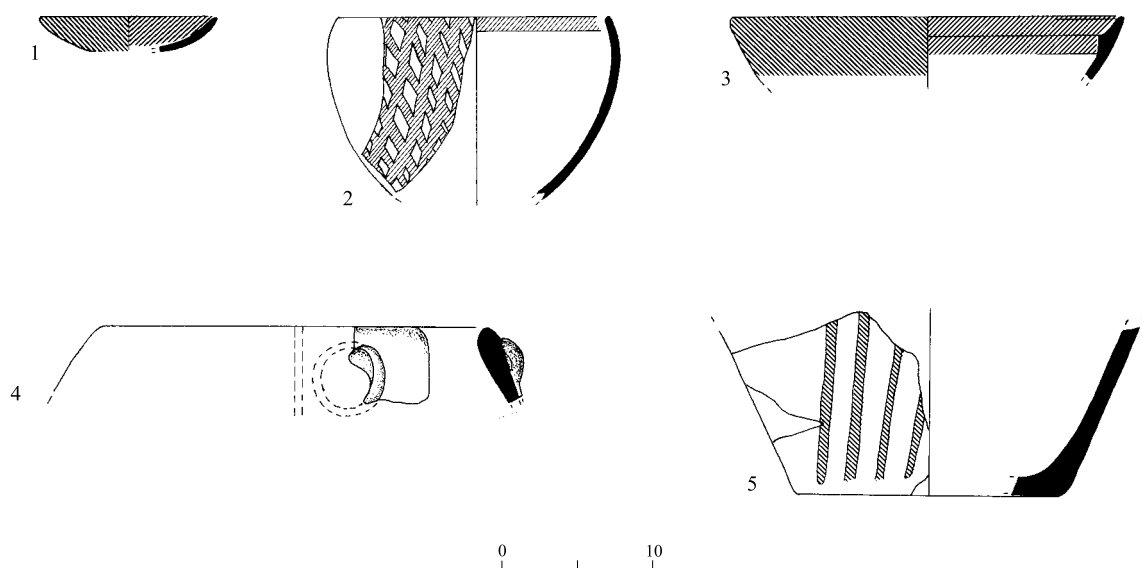


Fig. 19. Pottery from Area B, Stratum II, various loci.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	578	2388	Orange clay, red slip	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 39:1)
2	Bowl	588	2242/2	Orange clay, red decoration	H. Ḥani (Lass 2003: Fig. 20:19, 26, 33)
3	Bowl	542	2334/2	Buff clay, red slip	Afeq (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.1:5) H. Tinsmet (van den Brink and Grosinger 2004: Fig. 2:4)
4	Vat	555	2308/8	Buff clay, badly fired	Tel Bareqet (e.g. Paz and Paz 2007:87) Tell Abu al-Kharaz (Fischer 2000: Fig. 12.4:9)
5	Pithos	568	2356/4	Pink clay, gray core, red wash, red pattern	

a short neck and sharpened everted rim; many examples are red-washed. Figure 15:8, although missing its rim, probably belongs to this group. The jar in Fig. 18:4 is especially small with a rim that does not exceed 8 cm in diameter; it probably contained a different commodity than the larger, medium-sized jars.

A possible variant of this type has a very short and slightly everted rim (Fig. 17:12).

*Upright, Plain-Rim Jar* (Fig. 17:13).— One example has a long upright neck and plain, sharpened rim, which is not common in central Israel during EB IB.

*Pedestal Jar* (Fig. 12:3).— A complete rim of a pedestal jar was found in Stratum III. While this type is common in EB I–II contexts, the specimen from Kh. Abu Ḥamid is quite rare: its pedestal was convex and thus, apparently a spout that could have served for pouring and also for holding a dipper juglet. A small lug handle was attached between the spout and the shoulder of the jar.

#### *Pithoi*

*Plain, Upright Rim Pithoi* (Figs. 14:9; 17:14).— This type of pithos is characterized by a wide opening, rather thin walls and red wash. The



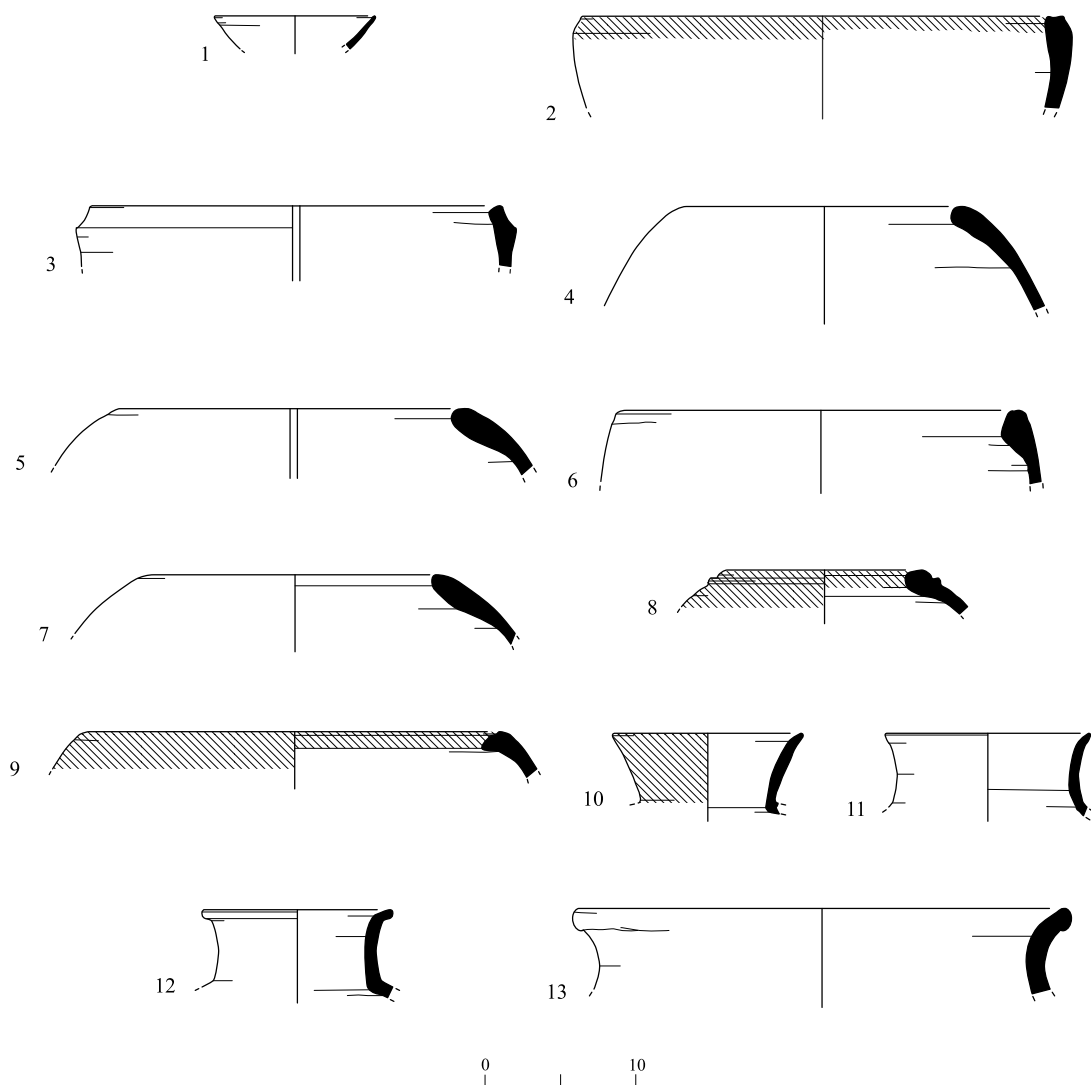


Fig. 20. Pottery from Area B, Stratum I, L502 and L526.

type is known in various regions, including the coastal plain and the Jordan Valley.

*Plain, Everted-Rim Pithoi* (Figs. 13:19–21; 16:8, 9; 18:5; 21:4, 5; 27:10).— These pithoi are large crude vessels, generally badly fired; their surface treatment often included white lime or red wash. Two main variants can be discerned, one with a short rim (Figs. 16:8, 9; 21:4) and the other with a long rim (Figs. 13:19–21; 18:5; 21:5; 27:10).

It seems that the short-rim pithoi had very wide bodies while the long-rim variants were characterized by a slender and thinner body, as can be seen in more complete examples from Tel Abu al-Kharaz (Fischer 2008: Fig. 199:1, 7)

*Thickened-Rim Pithoi* (Figs. 12:1; 15:10; 16:10; 21:6).— These large storage vessels are crudely made and have short thickened rims, either straight edged or bulbous in shape.

◀ Fig. 20

No.	Vessel	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	526	2186/2	Pink clay	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 39:1)
2	Bowl	502	2013/1	Pink clay, red band	Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 23:2) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 39:8)
3	Bowl	502	2013/2	Pink clay, gray core	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 39:10)
4	Holemouth	502	2014/1	Buff-pink clay, large grits	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 41:2) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 24:4)
5	Holemouth	526	2163/1	Buff-Orange clay, large grits	
6	Holemouth	502	2025/2	Buff-pink clay, white wash	Afeq (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.5:23, 24) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 41:10) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 24:10) ‘Ai (Callaway 1980: Fig. 63:9) Yarmut (de Miroschedji 1988: Pl. 22:7) ‘Arad (Amiran et al. 1978: Pl. 21:16, 23)
7	Holemouth	502	2008/1	Buff-pink clay	See No. 6
8	Holemouth	502	2031/2	Buff-pink clay, red slip	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Figs. 41:3; 43:6) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 25) Gezer (Dever et al. 1974: Pl. 4:8)
9	Holemouth	502	2051	Brown clay, gray-black core, red slip	‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.56:13) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 24:12)
10	Storage jar	502	2023/5	Orange clay, red slip	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 40:6) Gezer (Dever et al. 1974: Pl. 5:3) ‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.58:1–3) Tel Lod (van den Brink 2002: Fig. 19.8:19) H. Tinsmet (van den Brink and Grosinger 2004: Fig. 2:18)
11	Storage jar	502	2023/1	Buff clay	See No. 10
12	Storage jar	502	2014/2	Buff clay	See No. 10
13	Pithos	526	2186/1	Buff clay	Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 26:20) Al-Maghar (Gophna, Paz and Taxel 2010: Fig. 9:16)

*Thickened Folded Rims of Jars or Pithoi* (Figs. 13:22, 23; 17:15; 20:13; 21:7, 8; 23:4; 25:8; 27:11).— These were probably large vessels, with long everted rims, folded at their ends, in a variety of shapes. Folded-rim pithoi are more common during EB II–III, yet appear already in EB IB at Lod and Al-Maghar.

#### *Vats* (Fig. 19:4; 27:6)

The vat is a large vessel common throughout EB I–II, yet, rare at Kh. Abu Ḥamid. These

have a holemouth shape and are often furnished with a spout near the rim (Fig. 19:4). Vats are usually made of the same clay that was used for storage jars and pithoi, often coated with white lime slip, and carry a plastic ‘rope’ decoration. They were probably used for storage (maybe associated with olive oil industry; Genz 2003).

#### *Amphoriskoi*

*Everted-Rim Jarlet or Amphoriskos* (Fig. 13:24).— This is a globular(?) red-slipped

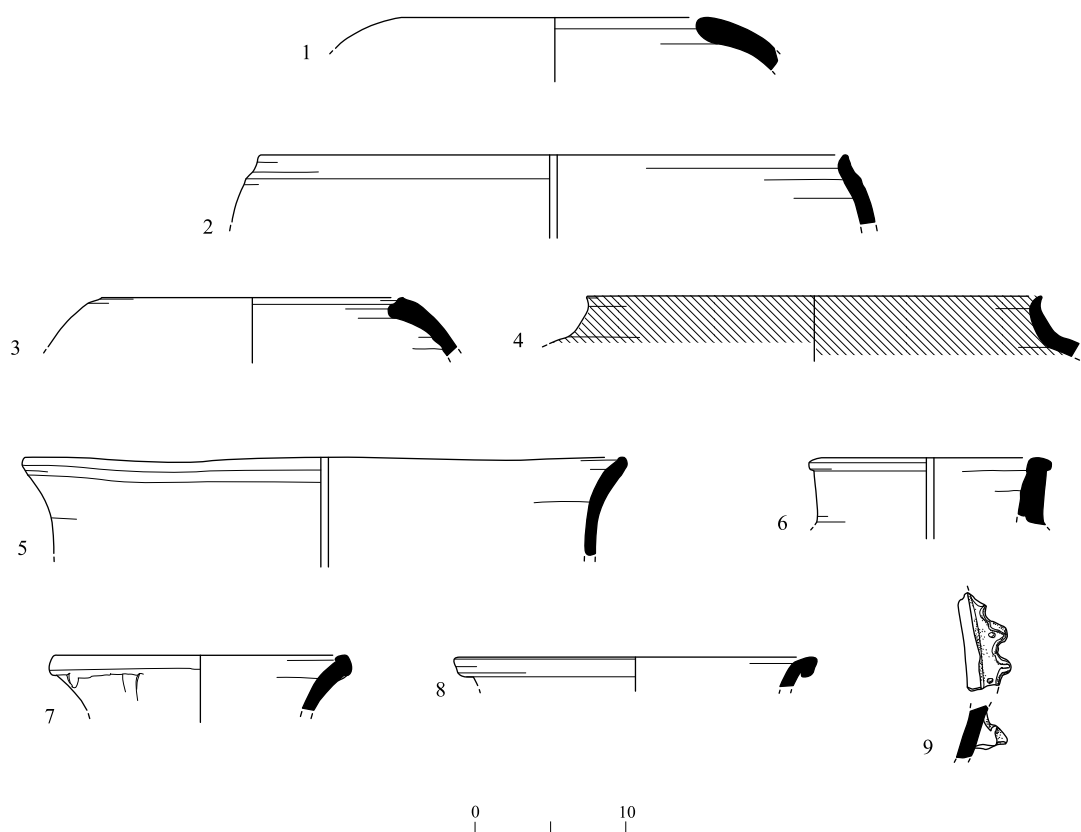


Fig. 21. Pottery from Area B, Stratum I, L510 and L511.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels
1	Holemouth	510	2045/1	Buff-pink clay	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 41:2) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 24:4)
2	Holemouth	511	2130/1	Buff-pink clay, large grits	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 41:6, 7)
3	Holemouth	511	2134/1	Buff clay	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Figs. 41:7, 13; 45:8) H. Tinsmet (van den Brink and Grosinger 2004: Fig. 2:16)
4	Pithos	511	2384/2	Buff-pink clay, red slip	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 40:12) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 26:12)
5	Pithos	511	2056/1	Buff-pink clay, large and small grits, white wash	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 40:12) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 26:12)
6	Pithos	510	2048	Buff-pink clay, gray core, large grits	'En Esur (Yanna 2006: Fig. 4.59:7)
7	Pithos	510	2018/2	Buff clay	Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 26:15–17)
8	Pithos	511	2051	Pink clay, brown-pink core	Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 26:20) Al-Maghar (Gophna, Paz and Taxel 2010: Fig. 9:16)
9	Handle	510	2048/3	Buff clay	

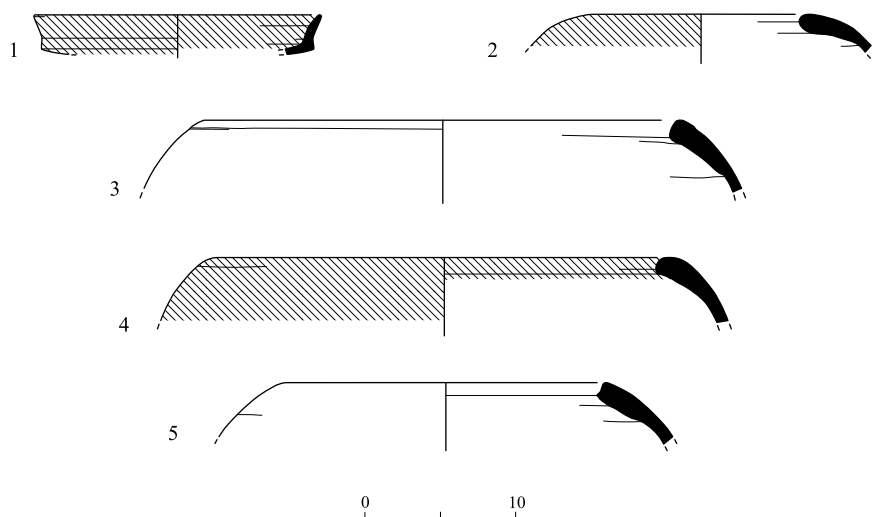


Fig. 22. Pottery from Area B, Stratum I, L549.

No.	Vessel	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	2289/3	Buff-pink clay, red slip	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996:82, 122) Shoham (North) (Gophna and van den Brink 2005:101, Fig. 7.2:5)
2	Holemouth	2805/2	Buff-pink clay, red wash	Afeq (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.5:23, 24) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 41:10) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 24:10) 'Ai (Callaway 1980: Fig. 63:9) Yarmut (de Miroschedji 1988: Pl. 22:7) 'Arad (Amiran et. al. 1978: Pl. 21:16, 23)
3	Holemouth	2289/1	Buff clay, large grits	See No. 2
4	Holemouth	2370/1	Brown-orange clay, gray core, red slip	See No. 2
5	Holemouth	2310/1	Buff clay, large grits	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Figs. 41:7, 13, 45:8) Ḥ. Tinshemet (van den Brink and Grosinger 2004: Fig. 2:16)

vessel with no handles, which can be defined as either a jarlet or an amphoriskos.

*Short-Necked Amphoriskoi* (Figs. 15:11; 24:3).— These have a very short neck, a plain rim, two lug handles and are often red-slipped. Note that close parallels come from mortuary contexts at Ḥorbat Tinshemet and Ḥorbat Ḥani, both burial caves adjacent to the Kh. Abu Ḥamid settlement.

*Upright/Everted, Plain-Rim Amphoriskoi* (Figs. 15:12, 13; 26:11).— According to parallels, this type of amphoriskos has a globular body and a flat base. Similar vessels have the same neck with vertical handles located either on the shoulder or between the neck and the shoulder.

#### *Varia*

*Spout* (Fig. 24:4).— One straight spout presented here may have belonged to a teapot-type vessel,

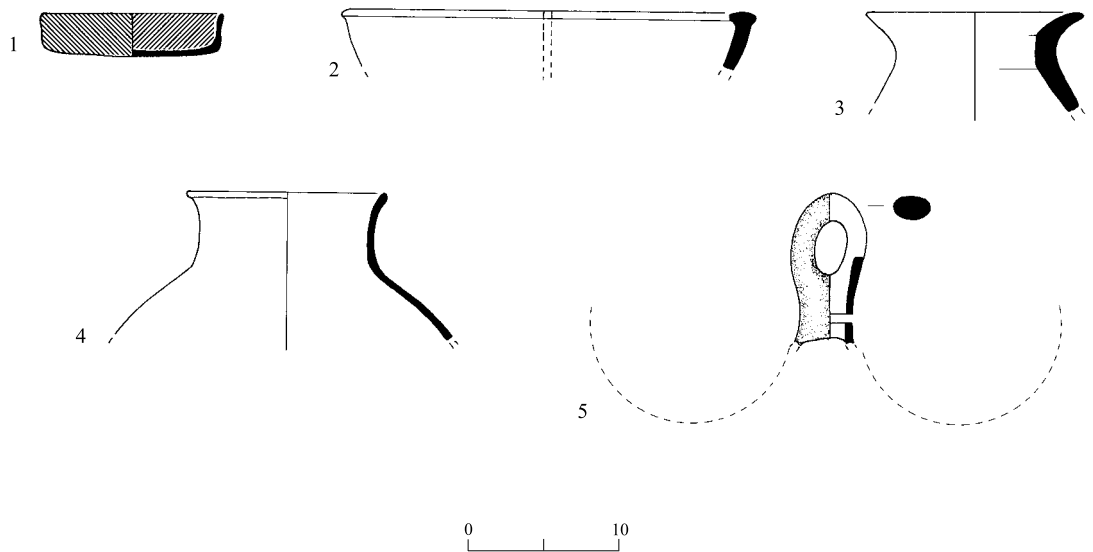


Fig. 23. Pottery from Area B, Stratum I.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Reg. No. (IAA No.)	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	571	2403/1	Orange clay, well-fired, red slip	Afeq (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.3:1) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 39:5) H. Hani (Lass 2003: Fig. 20:9) Tell Abu al-Kharaz (Fischer 2000: Fig. 12.1:4)
2	Bowl	573	2369/1	Pink clay	‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.75:9–12) Tel Dalit (Fig. 39:12) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 23:5–7)
3	Storage jar	573	2369/9	-	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 40:6) Tel Lod (van den Brink 2002: Fig. 19.8:19) ‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.58:13) H. Tinsmet (van den Brink and Grosinger 2004: Fig. 2:18) Gezer (Dever et al. 1974: Pl. 5:3)
4	Pithos	523	2366/1	Orange-buff clay	‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.58:9)
5	Twin vessel	573	2369/6 (IAA 99-235)	Orange-pink clay, red slip	Jericho (Amiran 1971: Pl. 13:13) Bet Yerah (Eisenberg and Greenberg 2006: Fig. 8.82:1)

common in mortuary contexts during EB IB. Spouts, as opposed to complete teapots, are occasionally found in settlements as well (e.g., at Tel Lod, van den Brink 2002: Fig. 19.9:9).

*Twin Vessel* (Fig. 23:5).— A fragment of the handle that connected the two parts of a twin vessel was found in L573, adjacent to W200 of Stratum I. While not numerous, twin vessels

are known from both EB I (see Amiran 1969: Pl. 13:13) and EB II contexts (as at Jericho and Bet Yerah).

*Miniature Vessels* (Figs. 13:25; 24:5).— One complete miniature vessel, 5 cm high (Fig. 24:5), and a lower part of another one, were found at Kh. Abu Ḥamid. These vessels were rather crude and badly fired.

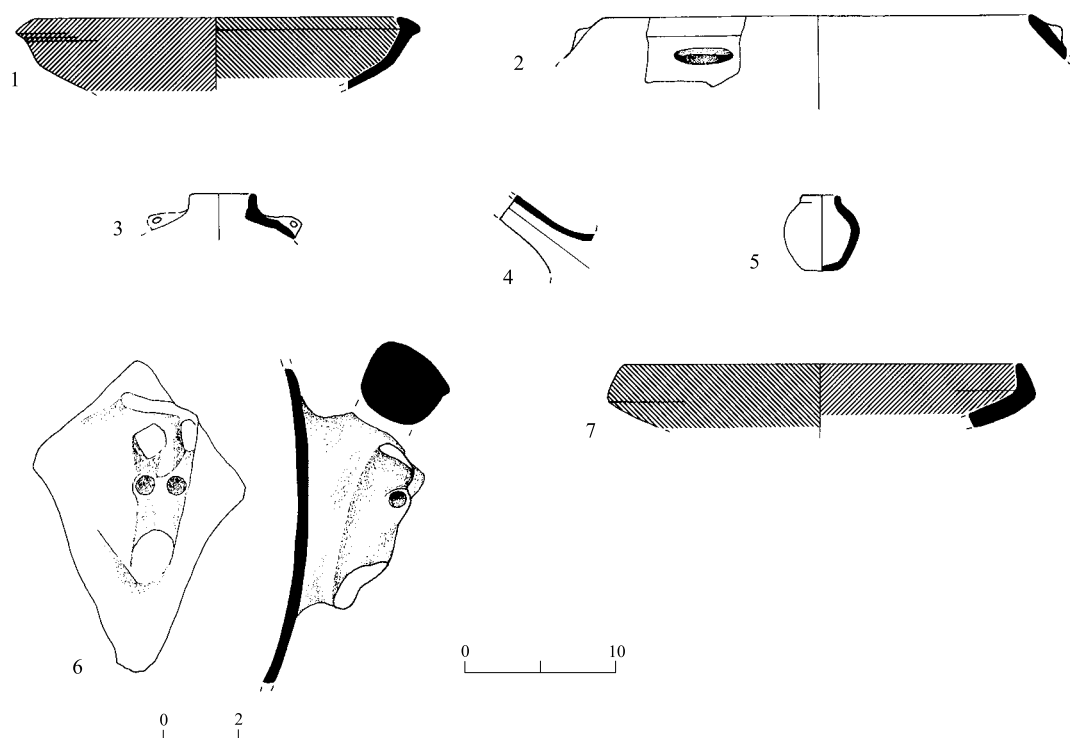


Fig. 24. Pottery from Area B, unstratified and surface loci.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	565	2345/2	Brown clay, red slip, burnished	'En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.75:9–12) Tel Dalit (Fig. 39:12) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 23:5–7)
2	Holemouth	543	2260/3	Orange clay, well-fired, knob	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 45:7) Tel Lod (van den Brink 2002: Fig. 19.8:15)
3	Amphoriskos	601	2470/2	-	H. Tinsmet (van den Brink and Grosinger 2004: Fig. 3:8) H. Hani (Lass 2003: Fig. 21:5)
4	Spout	535	2218/4	Buff clay	Tel Lod (van den Brink 2002: Fig. 19.9:9)
5	Miniature amphoriskos	506	2095/3	Light brown clay	'En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.73:5) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 27:2)
6	Zoomorphic handle	604	2487/2	Reddish-buff clay	Tell Abu al-Kharaz (Fischer 2000: Fig. 12.10:1)
7	Platter	540	2232/1	Orange clay, well-fired, metallic ware	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 50: 6)

*Zoomorphic Handle* (Fig. 24:6).— A curious sherd, probably a decorative handle that was attached to a jar, comes from an unsecure context. It bears the shape of a horned animal or a donkey. The head of the animal seems to be bent down a little, two eyes are apparent,

while the upper parts of the ears (or horns) are missing, as well as the mouth.

*Handles*.— The most common type of handle at Kh. Abu Ḥamid was the ledge handle, similarly to other EB I sites in central and

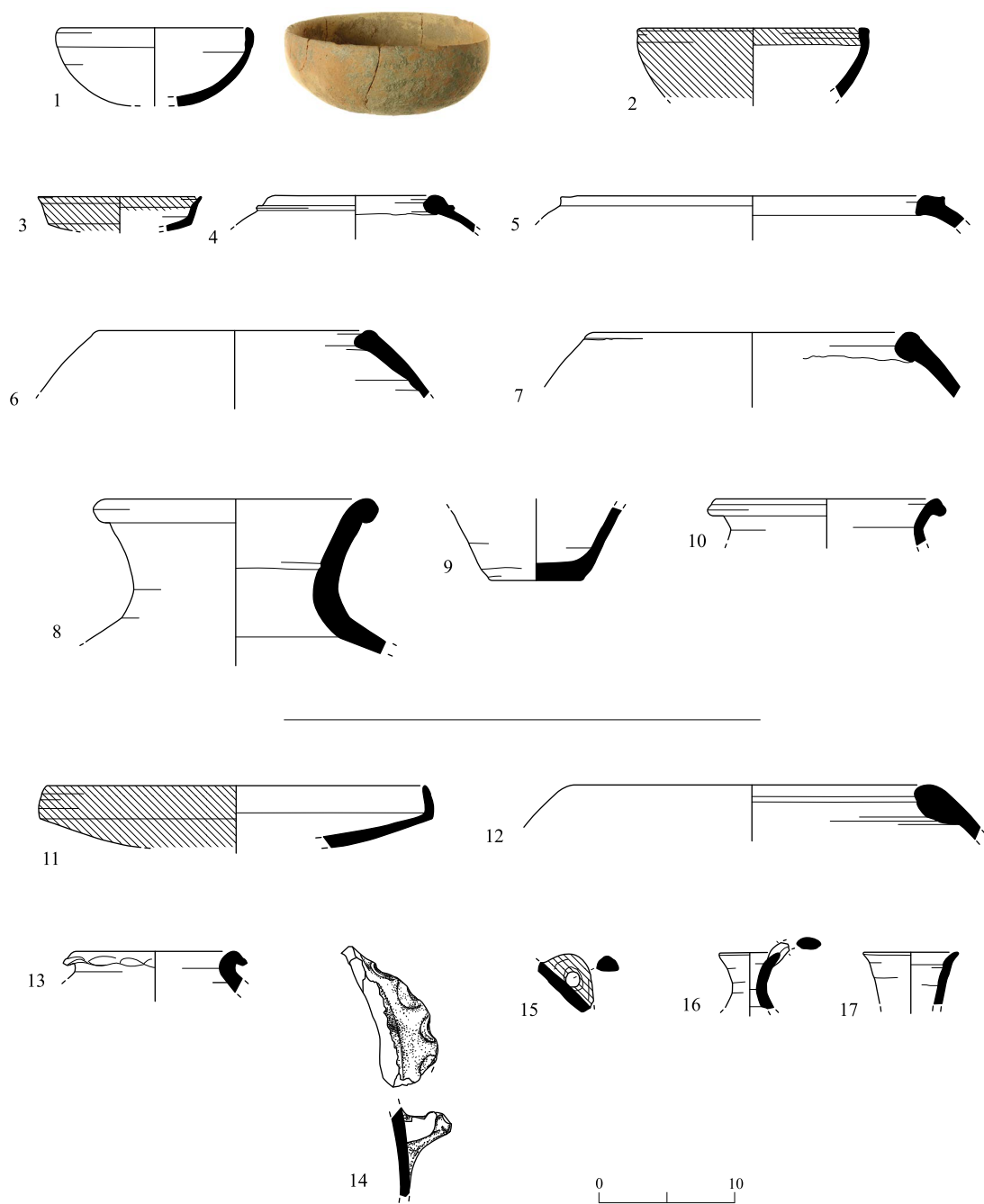


Fig. 25. Pottery from Area F, the rectangular building (1–10) and L133 of the small annex (11–17).

◀ Fig. 25

No.	Vessel	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	143	1077	Buff-pink clay, gray core	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 39:2) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 23:1)
2	Bowl	136	1059	Buff clay, red slip	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 39:10)
3	Bowl	123	1038/1	Light brown clay, red slip	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 43:1–3)
4	Holemouth	136	1063/2	Buff-pink clay	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Figs. 41:3, 43:6) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 25) Gezer (Dever et al. 1974: Pl. 4:8)
5	Holemouth	136	1063/4	Pink clay, light gray core	Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 25)
6	Holemouth	143	1077/1	Brown-gray clay	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Figs. 41:3, 43:6) Lod (Paz Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 25) Gezer (Dever et al. 1974: Pl. 4:8)
7	Holemouth	123	1045	Orange clay, light brown core, small white grits	‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.56:13) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 24:12)
8	Pithos	131	1071	Light brown clay, light gray core, small white, gray and shiny grits, white wash	Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 26:20) Al-Maghar (Gophna, Paz and Taxel 2010: Fig. 9:16)
9	Jar	143	1077/2	Brownish clay, light gray core, small white grits	
10	Jar	136	1063/3	Buff-orange clay, gray core	Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 28:5–7) ‘En Besor (Gophna 1995: Fig. 9:9–11)
11	Platter	143	1074	Orange-brown clay, red core, red slip, burnish, metallic ware (PMW?)	‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.56:13) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 24:12)
12	Holemouth	133	1051/7	Brownish clay, white and gray core	Afeq (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.5:23, 24) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 41:10) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 24:10) ‘Ai (Callaway 1980: Fig. 63:9) Yarmut (de Miroschedji 1988: Pl. 22:7) ‘Arad (Amiran et al. 1978: Pl. 21:16, 23)
13	Jar	133	1055/1	Buff clay, gray core	See No. 10
14	Handle	133	1051/8	Buff-pink clay, pink-yellow core, large light and gray grits	
15	Handle	133	1051/3	Buff clay, red slip	
16	Jug	133	1055/6	Brown-orange clay; metallic ware	Shoham (North) (Gophna and van den Brink 2005: Fig. 7.6:4)
17	Amphoriskos	133	1051/2	Buff clay, white wash, brown core, metallic ware	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 40:2)



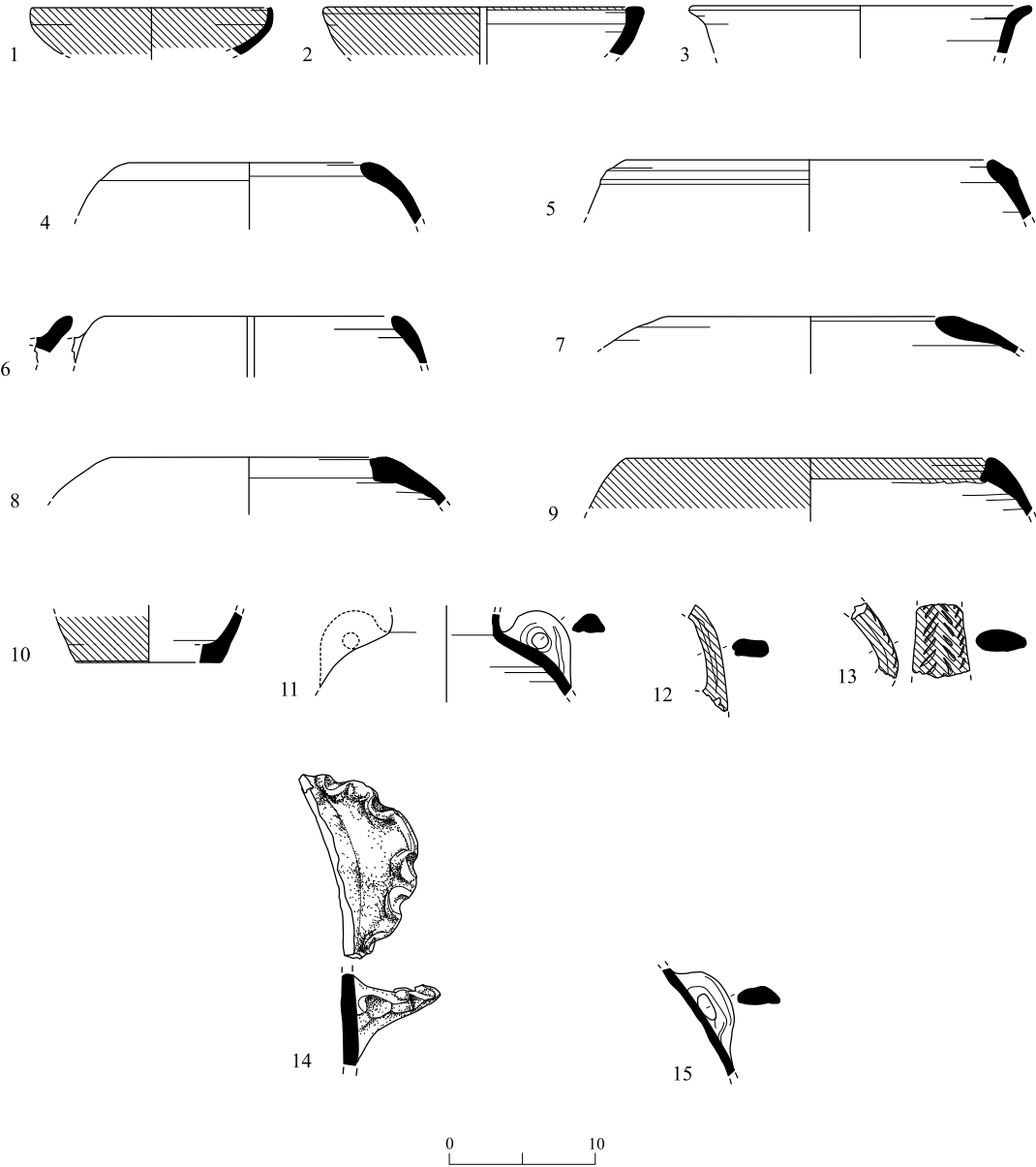


Fig. 26. Pottery from Area F, west of the rectangular building.

◀ Fig. 26

No.	Vessel	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	134	1056/2	Orange clay, red slip and burnished	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 39:1)
2	Bowl	134	1058/1	Buff clay, red slip	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 39:10)
3	Bowl	122	1037/2	Orange clay, pink-brown core, white wash	‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.20:1, 2)
4	Holemouth	134	1056/2	Brown-gray clay	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 41:2) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 24:4)
5	Holemouth	122	1037/13	Light brown clay, brown-yellow core, white grits	See No. 4
6	Holemouth	122	1037/7	Pink clay, brown core, white grits	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 41:2) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 24:4)
7	Holemouth	134	1051/4	Gray clay, gray core	Afeq (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.5:23, 24) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 41:10) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 24:100) ‘Ai (Callaway 1980: Fig. 63:9) Yarmut (de Miroschedji 1988: Pl. 22:7) ‘Arad (Amiran et al. 1978: Pl. 21:16, 23)
8	Holemouth	134	1038/3	Brown clay, gray and shiny grits	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Figs. 41:7, 13, 45:8) H. Tinsmet dwelling cave (van den Brink and Grosinger 2004: Fig. 2:16)
9	Holemouth	134	1056/4	Brown clay, shiny gray grits, red wash	See No. 8
10	Jug	122		Orange-pink clay, gray core small white grits, red slip	
11	Amphoriskos	122	1037/14	Light brown-pink clay, gray core, small white grits, white wash	Tell Abu al-Kharaz (Fischer 2008: Fig. 107:1, 2)
12	Handle	122	1037/16	Brown-pink clay, gray core, red slip, burnish	
13	Handle	119	1023/1	Pink clay, white, gray and shiny grits, red slip	
14	Handle	122	1037/18	Brown-pink clay, brown core, gray and brown grits, white wash	
15	Handle	122	1037/17	Pink clay, brown core, white wash	

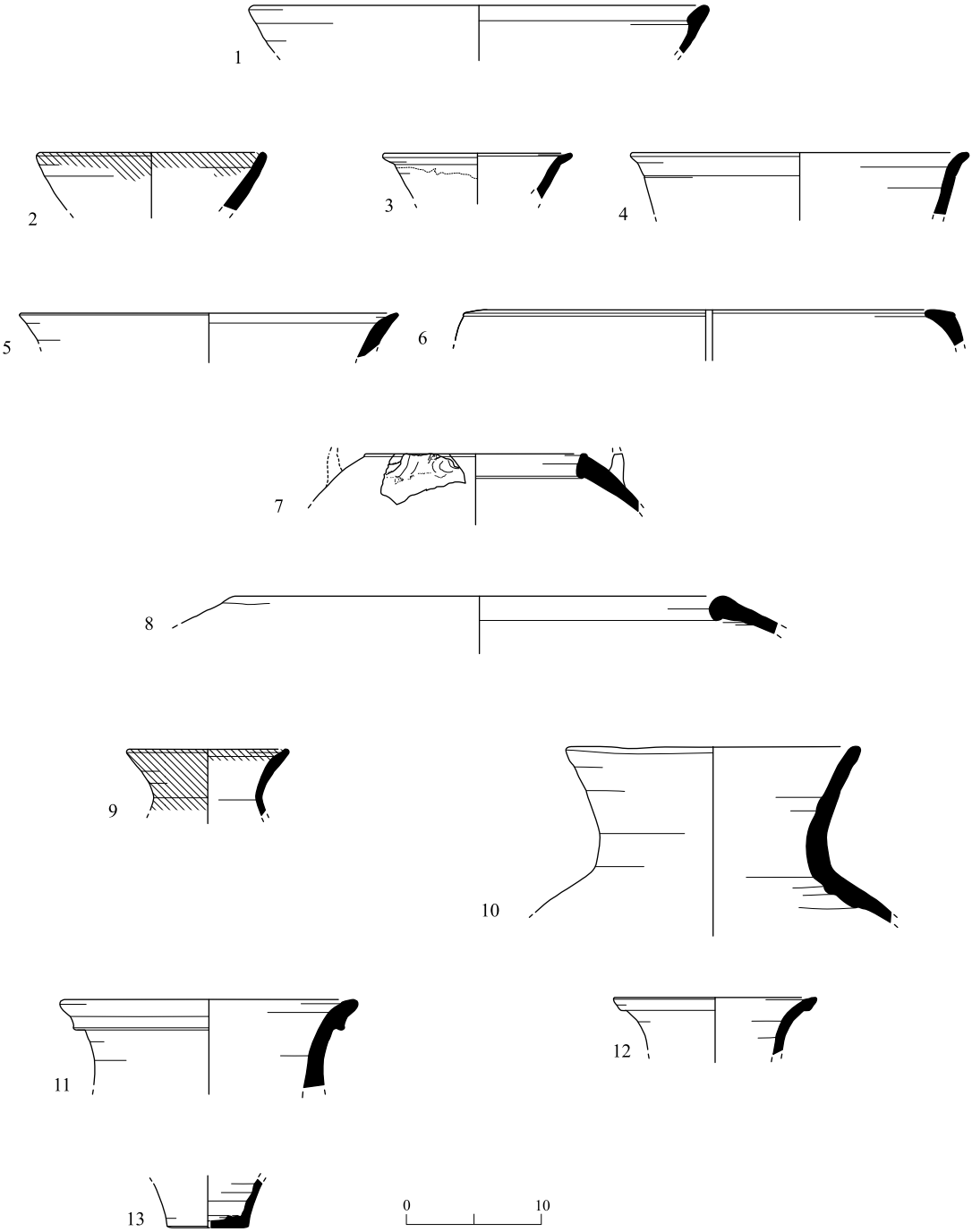


Fig. 27. Pottery from Area F.

◀ Fig. 27

No.	Vessel	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	142	1068/3	Pink clay	Afeq (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.1:4) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 23:5, 10) Gezer (Dever et al. 1974: Pl. 4:13)
2	Bowl	113	1027/4	Pink clay, red paint decoration	Afeq (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.1:1)
3	Bowl	107	1021/1	Pink clay, white wash	‘En Besor (Gophna 1995: Fig. 5)
4	Bowl	108	1014/6	Pink-orange clay, white wash	See No. 3
5	Bowl	109	1010	Pink-orange clay, brown-pink core, white wash	See No. 3
6	Vat	115	1042/3	Buff clay	Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 23:9)
7	Holemouth	106	1007/4	Buff clay, gray and shiny grits	
8	Holemouth	113	1027/2	Brown-red clay, gray and shiny grits	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Figs. 41:3, 43:6) Lod (Paz Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 25) Gezer (Dever et al. 1974: Pl. 4:8)
9	Storage jar	102	1002/1	Pink clay, yellow-brown core, small white and gray grits, red slip	‘En Esur (Yannai 2006: Fig. 4.58:1–3) Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 40:6) Tel Lod (van den Brink 2002: Fig. 19.8:19) H. Tinsmet (van den Brink and Grosinger 2004: Fig. 2:18) Gezer (Dever et al. 1974: Pl. 5:3)
10	Pithos	130	1081	Light brown clay, brown-gray core, small white, gray and shiny grits	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 40:12) Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 26:12)
11	Pithos	102	1002/3	Pink-orange clay, brown-pink core, small white and gray grits, white wash	Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Fig. 26:20) Al-Maghar (Gophna, Paz and Taxel 2010: Fig. 9:16)
12	Storage jar	130	1053/1	Dark brown clay, gray core, white grits, metallic ware	Bet Yerah (Eisenberg and Greenberg 2006: Fig. 8.63:4)
13	Jug	108	1009/1	Brown clay, brown core, small grits, burnished, metallic ware	Bet Yerah (Eisenberg and Greenberg 2006, Fig. 8.84:5)

southern Israel. All examples were thumb-indented and some (not illustrated) were also slipped (Figs. 13:26–28; 21:9; 25:14; 26:14). Other handle types, less frequent, include lug handles (Figs. 12:3; 13:1; 24:3) and loop handles (Fig. 26:12, 13), one decorated with an incised herringbone design (Fig. 26:13). Vertical handles were also found (Figs. 25:15; 26:15).

*Pithos, Jar and Jug Bases* (Figs. 14:8; 16:11, 19:5; 25:9; 26:10).—Several flat pithos and jar bases are illustrated. Smaller bases (Fig. 16:11) may belong to jugs.

*Decorated Sherd* (Fig. 15:14).—A large sherd of a large jug or a jar is decorated in a red net pattern.

#### *Vessels with Egyptian Affinities*

*Egyptianized Bowls* (Figs. 27:3–5).—A group of four bowls with straight walls and everted rims are very similar to Egyptian bowls that were found at 'En Besor, and therefore, may reflect Egyptian influence. Three of the bowls (Fig. 27:3–5), along with the two Egyptianized jars (see below), were found in Area F.

*Egyptianized Jars* (Fig. 25:10, 13).—Two fragments of jars with everted rims, found inside the Area F building, may also reflect Egyptian inspiration or influence. The shape of the rims, one (Fig. 25:13) with thumb decoration, tapering and slightly concave, closely resembles small Egyptian jars that were found at 'En Besor (Gophna 1995:83, Fig. 8:3–7) and Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005:1). The Kh. Abu Hamid examples were made of clay that is visibly different from that of other vessels from the site, but no petrographic analysis has been carried out to determine their origin.

*Egyptian Cylindrical Vessel* (not illustrated).—One very small base fragment of a cylindrical vessel was found at Kh. Abu Hamid. The form is Egyptian and petrographic analysis confirmed that it was made of Nile clay (Shoval and Zlatkin,

pers. comm.). Similar vessels come from Tel Lod (van den Brink 2002: Fig. 19.13:15) and further west, from Al-Maghar (Gophna, Paz and Taxel 2010: Fig. 9:29)—both sites that have yielded evidence of Egyptian presence during the late fourth millennium BCE.

*Proto-Metallic Ware* (Figs. 12:4; 18:6, 7; 25:11) Kh. Abu Hamid can be counted among a growing number of sites in central Israel that have yielded 'metallic' ware as early as the late EB IB. These vessels were made of lower cretaceous clay, which is alien to the Lod Valley. This clay is rich in quartz silt, and, when fired at a high temperature, produces a fine 'metallic' fabric/ring. The Proto-Metallic Ware examples at Kh. Abu Hamid consist mainly of small body fragments, as well as some jug and jar rims; two were found in Stratum II, L505 (Fig. 18:6, 7).

Five sherds (two jugs, two jars and one body sherd) were analyzed by petrography and shown to have indeed been made of lower cretaceous clay. Vessels of the same clay have been detected at various sites along the Yarqon–Ayyalon basin, such as Rishpon-4, Giva'atayim cemetery and Tel Afeq (for detailed discussions see Paz 2010; Paz, Shoval and Zlatkin 2009).

One platter with an elongated rim (Fig. 25:11) seems, typologically, to be more at home in EB II contexts (possibly of the North Canaanite Metallic Ware). However, as it was found on an EB IB floor within the Area F building, it probably reflects an example of an advanced Proto-Metallic Ware vessel. A parallel may be sought at Bet Yerah in a transitional EB IB–EB II phase (Eisenberg and Greenberg 2006:347).

#### *Early Bronze Age II*

Several sherds that may be dated to EB II were identified at Kh. Abu Hamid. A platter from Area B (Fig. 24:7) and an amphoriskos and a jug (Fig. 25:16, 17) from Area F were very well-fired, and seem to have North Canaanite Metallic Ware characteristics (as defined by Greenberg and Porat 1996). Although they were

found together with typically EB IB pottery, the morphology of the vessels may suggest an EB II date, with possible parallels from Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 54:8).

Three sherds from the topsoil layer in Area F are probably of North Canaanite Metallic Ware. Of the two illustrated, one is a storage jar (Fig. 27:12) of a very common type during EB II, with abundant parallels at various sites, such as Bet Yerah (Eisenberg and Greenberg 2006: Fig. 8.63: 4). The other, a jug base (Fig. 27:13), is also of a type well-known at Bet Yerah (Eisenberg and Greenberg 2006: Fig. 8.84:5).

### *Summary and Discussion of The Pottery Assemblage*

The study of the pottery of the settlement at Kh. Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North, Areas B and F) has yielded the following picture: the Stratum IV assemblage contained mixed Chalcolithic and EB IB pottery; the pottery assemblages from Strata III–II were similar and contained almost solely EB IB types; and the Stratum I assemblage shows a mixture of Chalcolithic (residual) and EB IB sherds.

### *Dating the Assemblage*

Several observations should be noted regarding the dating of the assemblage:

1. The almost complete absence of carinated bowls of the “Aphek Family” as defined by Beck (1985) is a phenomenon that extends to other EB IB sites in the Lod Valley region. The paucity of the type in Stratum V at Tel Dalit, in the Early Bronze Age dwelling phase of the Shoham North caves (van den Brink and Gophna 2005), and the burial caves at Ḥorbat Tinsmet (van den Brink and Grosinger 2004) and Ḥorbat Ḥani (Lass 2003) stands in sharp contrast to the vast numbers of carinated bowls in EB II strata at Tel Dalit (Strata IV–II) and Tel Bareqet. This situation accords well with the early observation made by Beck regarding the small-scale emergence of carinated bowls in EB IB and their apogee during EB II (Beck 1985).

2. The scarcity of plastic rope decoration on holmouths from Kh. Abu Ḥamid, in contrast to their popularity at Tel Bareqet and Tel Dalit during EB II, again confirms an EB IB date for the Kh. Abu Ḥamid settlement.

3. Most importantly, the majority of the pottery that was found at Kh. Abu Ḥamid, amongst which the red-washed, ridged/ribbed rim holmouth type was predominant, gives a clear EB IB date for the settlement.

4. The Proto-Metallic Ware sherds found at Kh. Abu Ḥamid have parallels in EB IB contexts at other sites, e.g., Rishpon-4 and Tel Afeq (Paz, Shoval and Zlatkin 2009), an additional confirmation of the EB IB date of the settlement.

5. Finally, the rarity of North Canaanite Metallic Ware at Kh. Abu Ḥamid should be taken into account when attempting to date Stratum I. This ware reached the Lod Valley during EB II (as reported from Tel Dalit, Tel Bareqet, Tel Gimzo and Tel Lod, where this ware appears mainly in the form of platters; see, e.g., Gophna 1996:123). Considering that the vast majority of the pottery associated with Stratum I falls within the EB IB horizon, we have tentatively dated this final phase at Kh. Abu Ḥamid to the late EB IB–early EB II transition

### MISCELLANEOUS FINDS

*Stoppers* (Fig. 28:1–3).— Two reworked potsherds have a diameter of about 5 cm (Fig. 28:1, 2). Their size indicates that they were used as stoppers for medium-sized vessels, such as jugs or amphoriskoi. Figure 28:3 is a similarly sized worked stone object, possibly also a stopper.

*Loomweight* (Fig. 28:4).— A perforated object, made of basalt, 5 cm in diameter, probably served as a loomweight. Such basalt objects have been found in the vicinity of

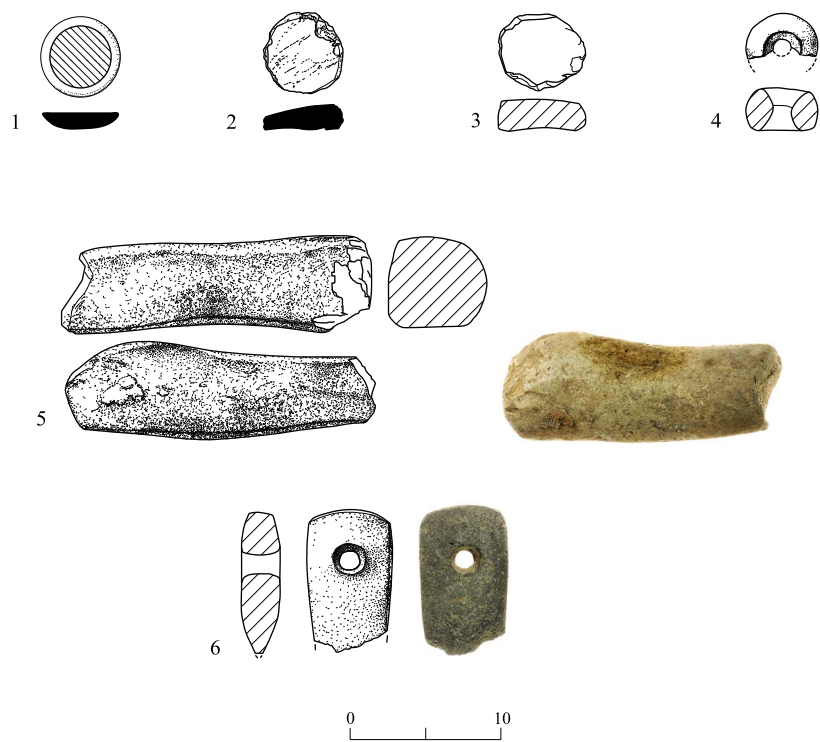


Fig. 28. Miscellaneous finds from Area B Stratum III (1) and Area F (2–6).

No.	Object	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels
1	Stopper	580	2399/5	Orange-buff clay, coarse, red slip	
2	Stopper	108	1020/1	Clay	
3	Stopper	122	1037/6	Stone	
4	Loomweight	106	1003/3	Stone	Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 70:4)
5	Hammerstone	143	1082	Stone	
6	Adze	133	1055	Stone	

Shoham, for example at Tel Dalit (Gophna 1996: Fig. 70:4).

*Hammerstone(?)* (Fig. 28:5).— A large heavy object, its length c. 20 cm and width 7 cm, was made of limestone. It could have been used as a hammerstone.

*Adze* (Fig. 28:6).— A fragment of a well-shaped object made of gray stone (length 10 cm, width 5.5 cm) is perforated at one end for the insertion of a perpendicular shaft handle. The angle of the handle allows us to identify this object as an adze. No exact parallels were found.

## THE CHIPPED STONE ASSEMBLAGE

Ofer Marder

The flint assemblage is small ( $n = 62$ ) and includes a relatively high frequency of tools and cores (Tables 1–3). Most of the cores are of the single-platform type used for the production of flakes and bladelets (Fig. 29:1), but a discoidal core was also retrieved (Fig. 29:2; Table 2). Flake tools are made on regular brown to gray flint. Bladelet cores are made of semi-translucent chalcedony; retouched bladelets were produced from this type of raw material. Canaanian blades are made of Eocene raw material, some of them dark brown, and others, light brown-gray in color. Among the debitage are medially broken Canaanian blades.

Among the diagnostic tools in the assemblage (Table 3) is a broken rounded tabular scraper (Fig. 29:3). Most of the others are typical Early Bronze Age Canaanian sickle blades (Fig.

30:1–4) (Rosen 1997). Two are plain blades displaying dull sheen on one edge (Fig. 30:1, 2). A third is broken, truncated at the distal end (Fig. 30:3), its back fashioned by semi-abrupt retouch, and its working edge modified by fine standard denticulation. The last Canaanian sickle blade is a burnt fragment, exhibiting fine denticulation on its ventral surface (Fig. 30:4). An additional Canaanian sickle blade had been recycled into a burin (Fig. 30:5; see Marder 2005: Fig. 10.4:4). The assemblage also included some ad hoc tools: a micro-endscraper (Fig. 30:6; see Gilead and Marder 1992: Fig. 14:1), a retouched flake and a broken awl.

In sum, the chipped stone assemblage of Kh. Abu Ḥamid is small and homogenous. It is characterized by typical Early Bronze Age tools, such as Canaanian blades and tabular scrapers. No intrusive elements were identified. It presents characteristics similar to other contemporary assemblages in the vicinity (e.g., Shoham; see Marder 2005).

**Table 1. Flint Item Frequencies**

Type	N	%
<i>Debitage</i>		
Primary elements	3	8.6
Flakes	25	71.4
Canaanian blades	3	8.6
Core tablets	1	2.9
CTEs	3	8.6
<i>Total debitage</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<i>Debris</i>		
Chips	3	23.1
Chunks	10	76.9
<i>Total debris</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<i>General</i>		
Debitage	35	56.5
Debris	13	21.0
Cores	5	8.1
Tools	9	14.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>100.0</i>

**Table 2. Core Frequencies**

Core	N
Single striking platform—flake	1
Single striking platform—bladelets	2
Core fragment	1
Discoidal—flake	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>5</i>

**Table 3. Tool Frequencies**

Tool	N
Canaanian sickle blades	4
Sickle blade—recycled	1
Tabular scraper	1
Micro-endscraper	1
Retouched flake	1
Awl	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>9</i>



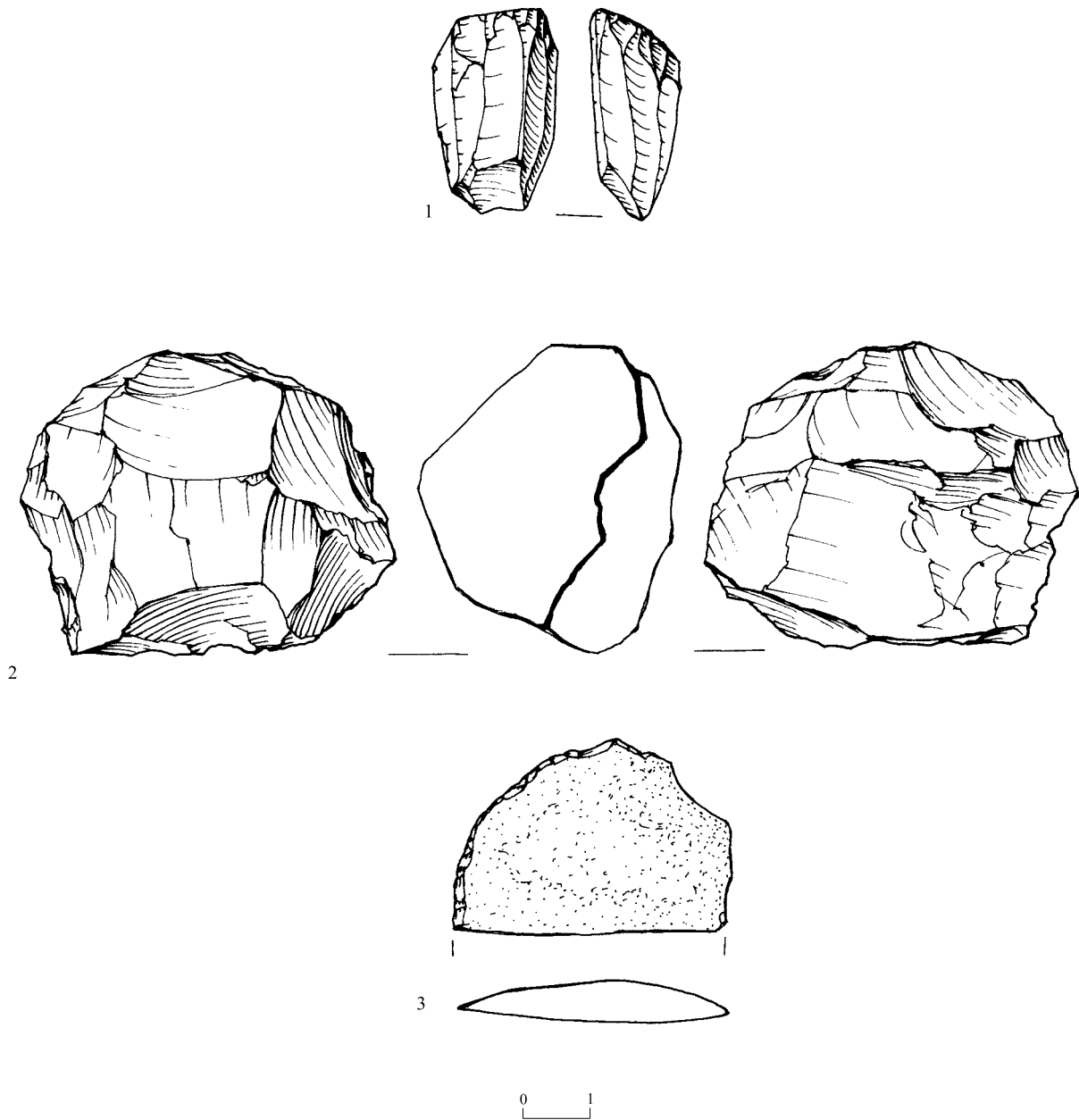


Fig. 29. Flint cores (1, 2) and a scraper (3).

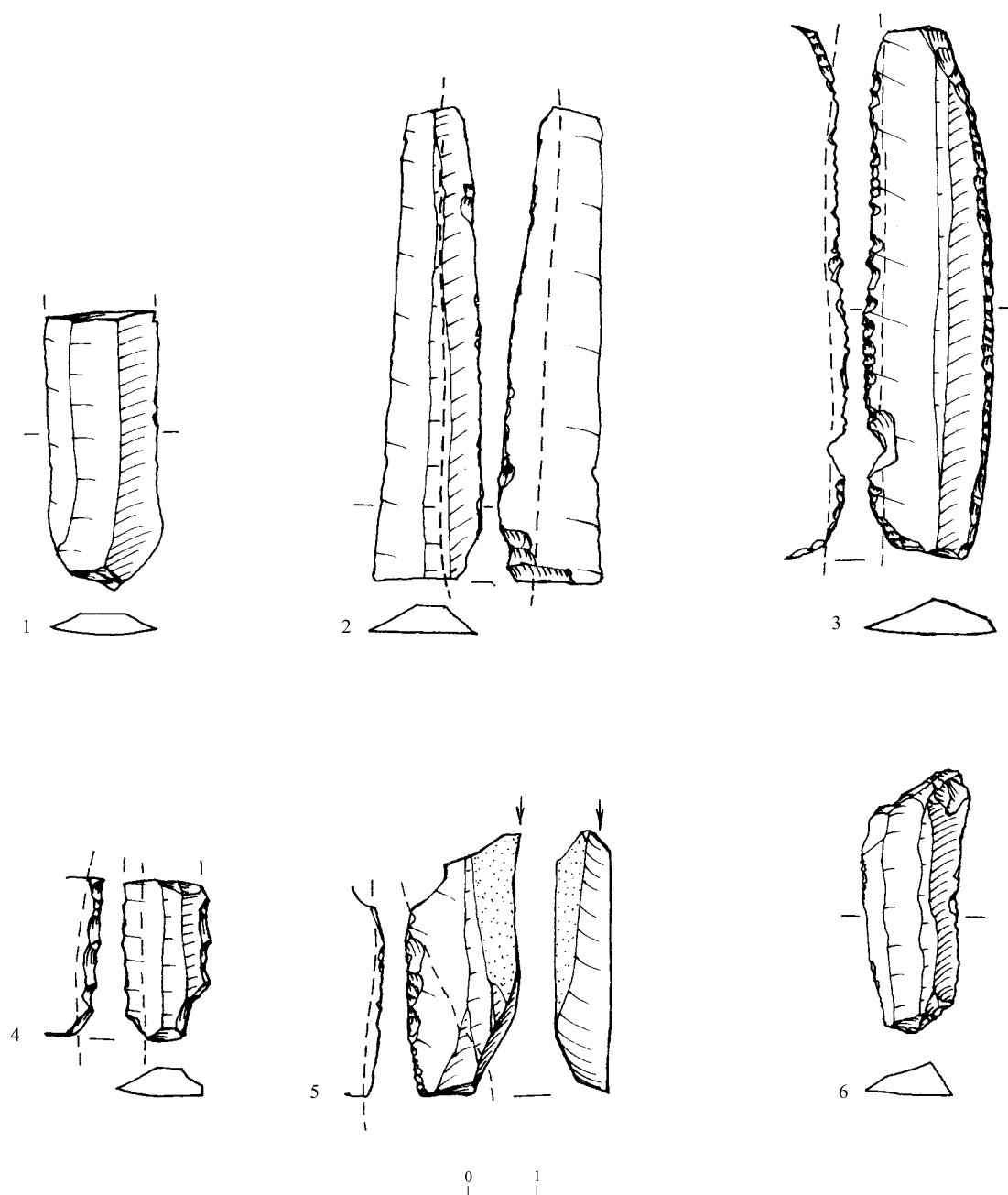


Fig. 30. Flint tools: Cannanean sickle blades (1–4), a burin (5) and a micro-endscraper (6).

THE ARCHAEOZOOLOGICAL FINDS

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

Moshe Sade

The material originated in 11 loci, which included 14 baskets. A total number of 55 animal bones were identified, belonging to sheep/goat (*ovis aries/capra hircus*) and cattle (*bos taurus*) (Table 4). The analysis of the bones utilized the identification and measuring methods of van den Driesch (1976) and Schmid (1972).

Among the very few metapod bones, four could be identified: three of sheep/goat—a humerus distal left, a metacarpus proximal right and metatarsus proximal right, and one of cattle—an astragalus left. It seems that the bone assemblage represents one individual of each species. Due to the very small sample the results do not add much information regarding the nature of the EB IB settlement.

**Table 4. Distribution of Sheep/Goat and Cattle Bones**

<div><div>Species</div><div>Bones</div></div>	Sheep/Goat (MNI 1)	Cattle (MNI 1)	Total
Orbit		1	1
Mandibula	4	3	7
Molar	5	7	12
Premolar	5	1	6
Scapula	1		1
Humerus	1		1
Metacarpus	1		1
Astragalus		1	1
Metatarsus	1		1
Metapod	7	2	9
Phalanx I	1	1	2
Vertebra		2	2
Vertebra lumbar		2	2
Costa	5	4	9
Total	31	24	55
%	56.36	43.64	100.00

*Summary of the Excavation Results*

The two excavations conducted at Kh. Abu Ḥamid in 1992 and 2007, supplemented by excavations at nearby Tel Bareqet, yielded important results that shed new light on the settlement process at the end of the fourth millennium BCE (see discussion below). The exposed areas, albeit restricted in size, reflect a rather large village that extended from the crest of the hill westward and may have reached an estimated size of two hectares.

Four strata dating to EB IB were discerned, but only the two uppermost strata (II and I) in Area B yielded substantial architectural remains. Stratum II features two rounded structures that, combined with several straight walls connected to them, probably belonged to domestic compounds. The remains of Stratum I in Area B, though very badly preserved, hint at the existence of a rectangular structure, perhaps contemporary with the far better preserved building that was uncovered in Area F.

All the architectural remains described above fall within the scope of the late fourth millennium BCE, with Area B Stratum I, and probably the Area F structure, apparently representing the very last settlement at the site. A close examination of the pottery from this horizon, especially in relation to the pottery of Tel Bareqet, indicates that this latest phase at Kh. Abu Ḥamid, while dated still to EB IB, may well show evidence of a transitional EB IB–EB II horizon. The settlement was then abandoned, and its inhabitants (or some of them) may have established the fortified town at Tel Bareqet. A score of EB II sherds found at Kh. Abu Ḥamid may reflect a possible last gasp of the site after it was deserted.

Analysis of the pottery of Strata II–I provides two important results. First, the sherds of Proto-Metallic Ware found in Stratum II confirm our notion about the appearance of this highly fired pottery as early as the late EB IB (Paz 2010; Paz, Shoval and Zlatkin

2009). Secondly, the material culture of Stratum I indicates the possible existence of a transitional EB IB–EB II ceramic horizon, resembling the earliest occupation levels at Tel Bareqet, but devoid of common EB II pottery types. This phase at Kh. Abu Ḥamid seems to be the direct predecessor of the earliest occupation at Tel Bareqet, though a certain overlap may be considered between the two.

*Various Patterns of the Transition Period between EB I and EB II in Settlements in the Lod Valley*

In the eastern Ayyalon Basin/Lod Valley, the transformation from the EB IB unfortified settlements of the late fourth millennium BCE to the more nucleated fortified urban centers that flourished during the third millennium BCE was brought about in various ways (see, e.g., Gophna 1974; 1996; Getzov, Paz and Gophna 2001:26). This process can be illustrated in four test cases, based on results from stratified excavations at Lod, Tel Dalit, Kh. Abu Ḥamid/Shoham (North) and Tel Bareqet. These sites reflect three different trajectories that characterize the settlement pattern of the region.

At Lod, a large and extensive EB IB occupation appears to have covered the entire area of the ancient mound (keeping in mind that the exact size and contour of Tel Lod cannot be traced). The settlement on the tell was established along the tributaries of the Ayyalon Basin, and thus has an irregular shape. The results from Lod include clear evidence for an Egyptian proto-dynastic presence, most likely a colony (Yannai and Marder 2000; van den Brink 2002; Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005), probably established sometime during EB IB, as reflected in Stratum IVa in van den Brink's excavation (van den Brink 2002:285) and Stratum VI in Paz's excavation (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005:138). Judging from the stratigraphic sequence at Lod, this Egyptian presence seems to have been somewhat short-lived, in comparison with sites in southern Israel, such as 'En Besor or Tel

Ma'āḥaz (see, e.g., Gophna 1995:247–254). Moreover, Stratum III in the excavation at Tel Lod reflects a post-Egyptian phase, still within EB IB (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005:139). Neither excavation shows any trace of an EB II occupation. A different situation was detected in the large-scale excavation conducted at Lod by Yannai and Marder (2000). There, the EB IB settlement was followed by an EB II settlement that was characterized by several building phases. It seems clear that the EB II settlement was much smaller than the EB IB one and, unfortunately, its exact nature is still vaguely understood. Since no fortification system was found, we have no knowledge as to whether it reflects an urban phase, such as is known from Tel Dalit and Tel Bareqet.

Habitation at Tel Dalit was established on an elevated limestone hill as early as the fourth millennium BCE. Two very disturbed occupation levels (Stratum V of the EB IB and Stratum 'pre-V' of the EB IA) are remnants of unfortified settlements that may have covered the entire four hectares of the hill. Subsequent layers (Strata IV–II) reflect the urban phases of the site, with a fortified town that is clearly dated to EB II (Gophna 1996:76–79). In Area A, the fortifications are superimposed on an EB I structure (Gophna 1996: Fig. 29), possibly hinting at a reduction in the size of the settlement during EB II.

In contrast to the superimposed occupations at Tel Dalit (and Lod?), the settlement process that connects Kh. Abu Ḥamid and Tel Bareqet reflects a more complicated, 'horizontal stratigraphy,' i.e., an actual shift of location. The large area that is now occupied by the town of Shoham was a flourishing human landscape during the fourth millennium BCE. Chalcolithic occupation levels that reflect both residential and mortuary activities were found at various locations in Shoham (see, e.g., Gophna and Feldstein 1998; van den Brink and Gophna 2005), including Kh. Abu Ḥamid, where there is evidence of a Chalcolithic settlement that was abandoned by the mid-fourth millennium BCE. The site was not resettled until the late

fourth millennium BCE (as indicated by the lack of clear EB IA remains), at which time, an extensive EB IB settlement flourished on the crest of the hill as well as on its slopes. Although the badly preserved remains from Area B are not sufficient to afford a full understanding of the nature of this habitation, the remains of Strata IV–II seem to reflect a continuous occupation and the coexistence of a variety of architectural traditions. The rectilinear architecture of Area B Stratum I, was contemporaneous to the rectangular building with rounded corners in Area F at the crest of the hill. Thus, these buildings may represent the very latest phase of EB IB, after which the site was abandoned.

Unlike the vertical stratigraphic sequence between EB IB and EB II at Tel Dalit, the inhabitants of Kh. Abu Ḥamid may have deserted their settlement in favor of a more topographically elevated point, the hill of Tel Bareqet. A possible ‘scout’ phase, detected on bedrock at Tel Bareqet, was followed by a full-blown fortified and highly planned urban center that encompassed both the western higher mound and the eastern lower area, featuring two gates, well-defined streets and residential quarters. The large amounts of pottery vessels, metal artifacts and jewelry found there date the remains to EB II, i.e., the beginning of the third millennium BCE (Y. Paz and S. Paz 2007). While the fact that the western and eastern components of Tel Bareqet were fortified separately sheds doubts on their contemporaneity, both settlements were clearly EB II and existed during the early third millennium BCE.

The chronological relation between Kh. Abu Ḥamid and Tel Bareqet is well-attested in the ceramic assemblages of both sites, as has been shown above. Several specific ceramic types found at Kh. Abu Ḥamid, such as red-washed, furrow-rimmed (Figs. 13:13–15; 17:6; 21:2) and ridged (as Fig. 14:1) holmouths, continue to appear during EB II at Tel Bareqet as well. The occurrence of Proto-Metallic Ware at Kh. Abu Ḥamid during EB IB may indicate a northern connection, probably to a

settlement system and a ceramic production center located in the Samaria region (see Paz 2010; Paz, Shoval and Zlatkin 2009). This type of pottery was replaced during the subsequent period at Tel Bareqet by the well-known, fully developed North Canaanite Metallic Ware, which originated in the vicinity of Mt. Hermon, thus reflecting new commercial relations between newly established EB II urban centers (e.g., Greenberg and Porat 1996). The almost complete absence of carinated bowls of the ‘Aphek Family’ (Beck 1985) at Kh. Abu Ḥamid versus their extreme popularity at EB II Tel Bareqet may reflect the same change. We seem to be witnessing the establishment of a new order that includes most of the material culture aspects.

Hence, the microcosm of the Lod Valley in the third millennium BCE reveals a considerable shift from a rural and open settlement toward a full-fledged urban landscape, in which at least three fortified towns existed: Tel Dalit, Tel Bareqet and Gimzo (the last surveyed by Gophna [1996] and again by Paz and Gophna, and dated to EB II; see Gophna and Paz 2014). This settlement pattern was already recognized by Gophna (1996:158–162) and Getzov, Paz and Gophna (2001), who discussed the Lod Valley in the scope of larger transactions that characterized Southern Levant urbanization (Getzov, Paz and Gophna 2001:24–29). This said, the exact nature of the shift from rural to urban in the Lod region could only recently be reconstructed, as a result of the excavations at Kh. Abu Ḥamid, Lod and Tel Bareqet. One can see that, while similar in overview, shifts between open settlements to urban fortified centers differ even in the same region, within an area that does not exceed  $7 \times 6$  km (Gophna 1996: Fig. 74).

All in all, the settlement system that prevailed during the late fourth and especially during the third millennium BCE in the eastern (lower) Yarqon–Ayyalon Basin, stands in sharp contrast to that of the western flank of this basin, namely the vicinity of Tel Aviv. While not within the scope of the current study, it should be stressed

here that not one EB II site within the western Yarqon–Ayyalon Basin seems to have ever reached the size or the character of an urban center. For instance, at the Exhibition Grounds, Ha-Bashan Street and perhaps also in Jaffa (where a few EB I–II sherds were collected

during the 1999 season)—all examined by Ram Gophna and the author (Y.P.)—and at Tel Gerisa (where pottery was collected on bedrock outcrops), the EB II is represented by small, open settlements, very badly preserved, and definitely non-urban in character (see Gophna and Paz 2011; 2014).

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Tel Bareqet was excavated in 2004 (a rescue excavation), and in 2006 and 2008 (a community archaeology project); see Y. Paz and S. Paz 2007.

<sup>2</sup> The excavation was directed by Yonatan Nadelman, on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority (Permit No. A-1869). Additional participants were Don Glick and Flavia Sonntag (area supervisors), Avraham Hajian, Vadim Essman, Nisim Kolele, Rachel Graff, Y. Zuckerman, Natalia Zak and Silvia Krapiwko (surveyors and draftspersons), Stela Flit (pottery restoration), Alba lungman and S. Sevilla (drawings), Mariana Salzberger (photography consultant), Sara Aurant and Ianir Milevski (computer programming

consultants); field photography was by Yonatan Nadelman.

<sup>3</sup> The excavation (Permit No. A-5101) was directed on behalf of the IAA by Orit Segal, assisted by Eliezer Bachar (administration), Tsila Sagiv (field photography), Dov Porotsky (surveying and drafting), Marina Shuiskaya-Arnov (pottery drawing), Ofer Marder (flint processing), Elizabeth Belashov (drafting), Michael Smilanski (flint drawing), Moshe Sade (archaeozoology), Elisheva Kamaisky (pottery restoration) and Clara Amit (artifact photography). The pottery was studied by Yitzhak Paz. The article was edited by David Ben-Shlomo and Aviva Schwarzfeld.

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