'Atiqot 102, 2021

El-Munṭar el-Abyad: A Middle Bronze Age IIB Village and a Persian- and Roman-Period Cemetery near Bet She'an

Walid Atrash and Amir Golani

Introduction

In 2003, two seasons of salvage excavations were conducted at el-Munṭar el-Abyad (map ref. 246437–49/710785–831; Fig. 1) prior to the construction of a new neighborhood at the southwestern edge of modern Bet She'an.[1] The excavations uncovered approximately one dunam of a rural occupation dating from the Middle Bronze Age IIB. This settlement included the remains of several buildings, some of them complete. In some locales, two architectural phases were discerned. The excavations also revealed a burial ground dated to the Persian period (fifth century BCE) and several looted and severely damaged stone sarcophagi from the Roman period (third century CE).

The Environment

The site is situated in the central part of the Bet She'an Valley (Fig. 1), with soils characterized by alluvial deposits of recent travertine and Lisan Formation sediments formed during the Upper Pleistocene period (Picard 1956; Amiran et al. 1970). The local soil cover is the typical alluvial rendzina, enabling dry farming; hydromorphic soils, found

[1] For a preliminary report, see Atrash and Golani 2016. The first excavation season, undertaken in July–August 2003 as a limited pilot project, was directed by Walid Atrash on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority. The second excavation season was a large-scale project carried out in October–November of the same year before the construction of an access road to the new neighborhood within modern Bet She'an. This latter excavation, undertaken on behalf of the IAA and financed by the Ministry of Housing and Construction, was directed by Walid Atrash and Amir Golani (Permit No. A-3958), with the assistance of Jeanette Abbas (area supervisor), Dror Avshalom (administration), Yossi Nagar (physical anthropology), Dror Barshad, Aviram Oshri and Butrus Hana (archaeologists, Northern District), Howard Smithline (field photography), Vadim Essman, Viatcheslav Pirsky and Tatiana Meltsen (field surveying), Tatiana Meltsen, Natalia Zak and Irina Berin (drafting), Elena Ilana Delerzon (location maps), Hadas Seri and Yosef Bukengolts (pottery restoration), Lena Kupershmidt (metal conservation), Avshalom Karasik and Argita Gyrman-Levanon (digital artifact drawing), Irena Lidsky-Reznikov and Leonid Zeiger (artifact drawing), and Clara Amit (object photography). We thank the anonymous reader and the editor, Viviana Moskovitch, for her work.

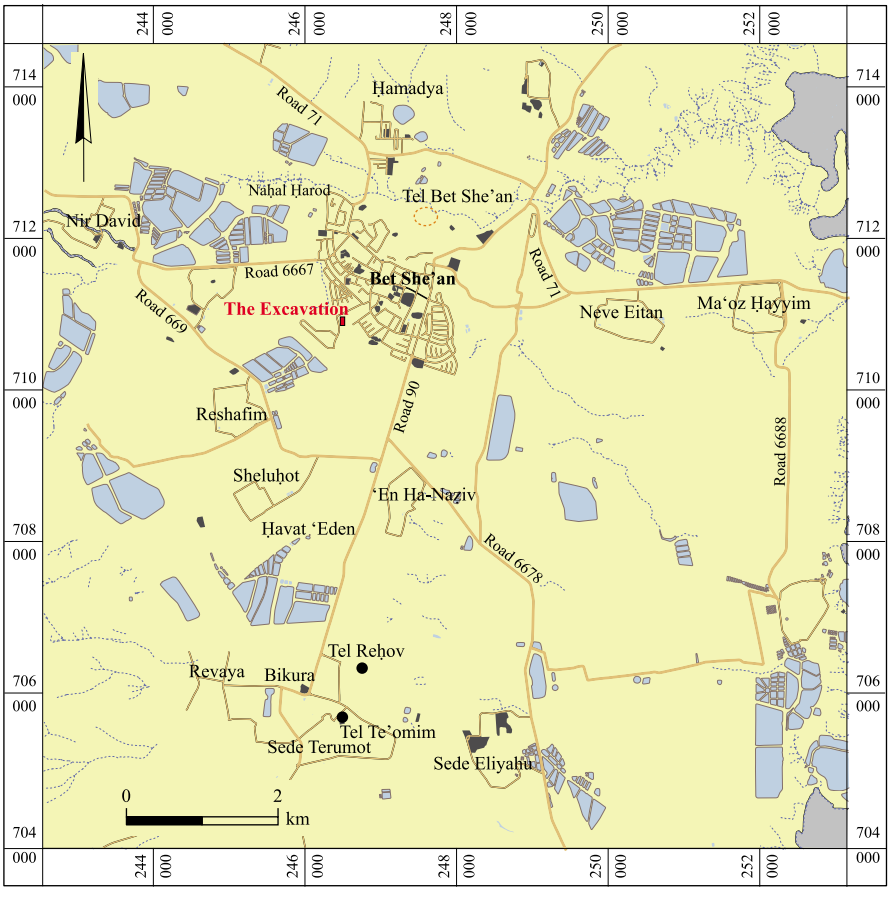

Fig. 1. Location map of the site.

in the immediate region of the site, are remnants of swamps that once existed in this region (Nir 1989:66–69).[2] The Bet She'an Valley is located within the semi-arid Irano–Turanian phytogeographic zone, with a 300–400 mm annual precipitation and a climate varying from hot in the summer to moderate in winter (Amiran et al. 1970). These conditions, which appear to have lasted throughout the Holocene period (Horowitz 1979), caused a precarious agroecological balance. A drop in rainfall over the years rendered the region too arid for sedentary agricultural settlement (Nir 1989), unless irrigation from springs or rivers was

[2] Although rendzina soils cover over half of the Bet She'an Valley (Nir 1989:68), the proximity to the Lisan Formation coupled with the low precipitation and high evaporation in the region render the soils highly salinated. Such soils are not very fertile and provide only limited options for cultivation (Maeir 1997:17). Historical records from the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries describe this region as infested by swamps. Recurring incursions of nomadic elements led much of the sedentary population to abandon the region and the consequent degradation of manmade drainage systems (Maeir 1997:47–50).

practiced, as suggested by Maeir (1997:26, cf. pp. 29–34 for a discussion of the agricultural potential of this region and its exploitation in antiquity). A series of springs located about 4 km west of the site, at the foot of the Gilboʻa mountain range, may have provided plentiful water supply; however, if not properly drained, this same source could have caused the formation of swamplands. The perennial Naḥal Ḥarod, found only 2 km north of the site, would have also provided a stable water supply.

Previous Research and Finds

The site is located on a low rise, c. 116 m below sea level. The name, el-Munṭar el-Abyad (in Arabic: the white viewpoint), first appears in the maps of the Survey of Western Palestine (Conder and Kitchener 1882) and later, in the more detailed maps compiled during the British Mandate period (Map of Beisan-Bet She'an 19–21). The name seems to refer to a broad area to the southwest of the abandoned Arab village of Beisan; it is not recorded as an archaeological site on either map. The presence of archaeological remains in this location was first established by Zori (1962:191, Site 150), who noted a small site (25 × 50 m) upon a low hill with scattered building stones, loaf-shaped grinding stones and typical MB IIB potsherds on the ground. Roman sarcophagi, as well as burials and a Byzantine-period mausoleum were also noted in the immediate region (Zori 1962:187, 191).[3] Zori also noted another site on a low hill slightly to the north of our excavation (1962:187 [140, Site 236, Housing Block 6]), with some stone coffins, basalt bowls, grinding stones, flint axes, sickle blades, scrapers and ceramic remains which may be ascribed to the Chalcolithic period.[4] This occupation, which, according to Zori, spreads out over a large area, may have covered part of the site under discussion. The region is also included in the surveys carried out by Thompson (1979: Sites 1921.32–33) and Maeir (1997: Site 91), who conducted extensive research on the MB II in the Central Jordan Valley.[5] Previous excavations in the immediate region (Fig. 2) exposed the remains a Roman roadway, a mausoleum, and a quarry (Permit No. A-4832; Atrash 2010); a Roman farmstead and a Samaritan synagogue (Permit No. A-5984; Walid Atrash, unpublished); a Byzantine quarry and a limekiln (Permit No. A-5773; Atrash 2017); and a Roman-Byzantine network of hewn channels and diverting walls (Permit Nos. A-6687, A-7277; Walid Atrash, unpublished). After completion of the present excavation and submission of the final report, another excavation was undertaken on behalf of the IAA immediately to the west and northwest of the site (Shalev in prep.).[6]

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[3] However, in the map published by Zori, the site appears to be located slightly southwest of its actual position.

[4] See also Zori 1962: Pl. 26:1 for a depiction of a very large pithos with bands of rope decoration that appears to be of Chalcolithic date.

[5] Thomson's survey also recorded possible EB II–III ceramic evidence, but the specific, original location of these finds remains unclear and the attribution of the sherds to this time span is dubious. Maeir did not survey the site and relied on previously published data.

[6] The authors would like to thank Yiftah Shalev for providing information concerning this as yet unpublished excavation.

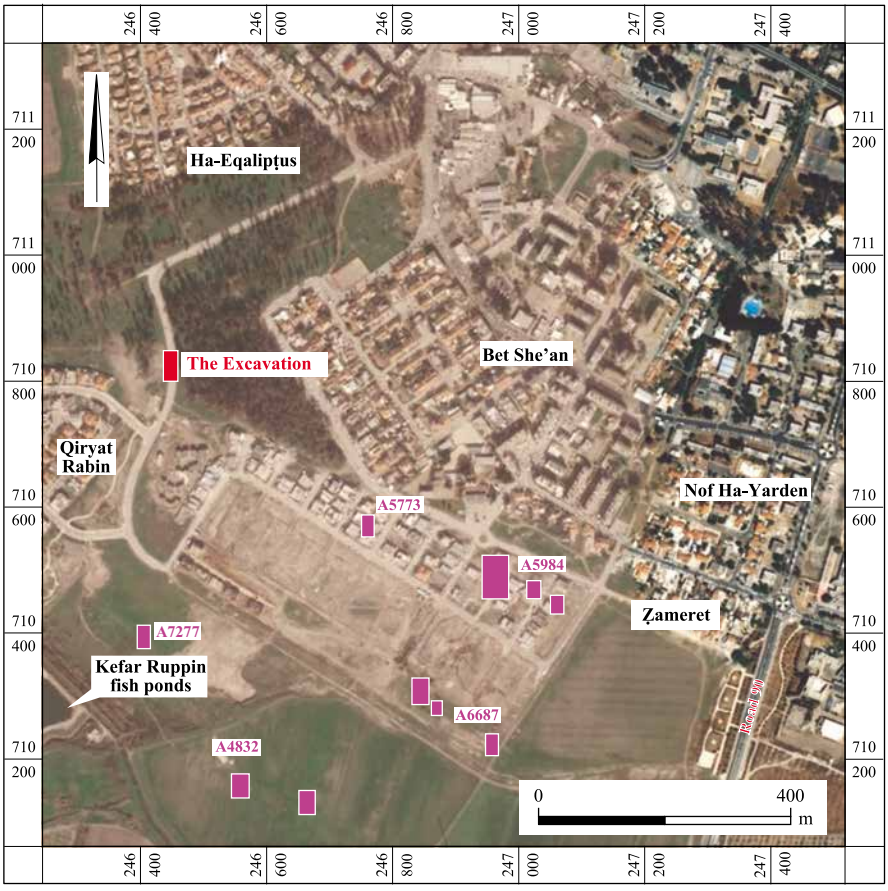


Fig. 2. Location map of the site in relation to other nearby excavations.

Building Materials and Construction Techniques

The inhabitants of the site did not venture far to obtain building materials, and no limestone, dolomite, or basalt was used in the construction of the walls, which outcrop in the vicinity of the Jordan Valley. The primary building material for all the stone foundation walls was the local travertine stone or *tufa*, which may appear as chunks of rock, or even large slabs, exposed by erosion in the nearby hills. This stone is formed from lime found in high percentages in the local springs, which slowly deposits over time.[7] Mud bricks were probably used for the construction of wall superstructures, while branches and clay may have made up the roofing. No mud bricks were found *in situ* upon the stone foundations of

[7] At Tel Bet She'an, *tufa* stone was very often used as building material during the Middle and Late Bronze Ages, and the Iron Age (Maeir 1997:16).

the walls, yet decayed brown mud-brick fragments were common in most excavated loci, usually upon the surfaces next to walls. The wall foundations were often made of one to two rows of stones, some of them of large stone slabs set upright on their side. These latter walls may have functioned as a kind of fence. Other walls consisted of a single line of medium-sized stones, an arrangement that may have functioned as a structural 'spine' around or upon which a mud brick or *terre pisée* superstructure could have been erected. Many walls were only sketchily represented, consisting of two parallel yet often disjointed rows of medium to small-sized stones that appear to delineate a wall line; other walls were conjectured, their stones or any mud-brick construction having been robbed or deteriorated to the point that they were not identifiable during excavation.

The Excavation

At the start of the excavations, the area was covered by an extensive grove of eucalyptus trees, making the identification of any archaeological remains difficult; no building remains, or ceramics, were observed on the ground surface. The roots of these trees caused extensive damage to the remains, which were usually found less than 0.5 m below ground. The excavation was carried out in the projected path of the roadway on a north–south wide strip, c. 70 m long and 15–20 m wide, cutting through much of the site.

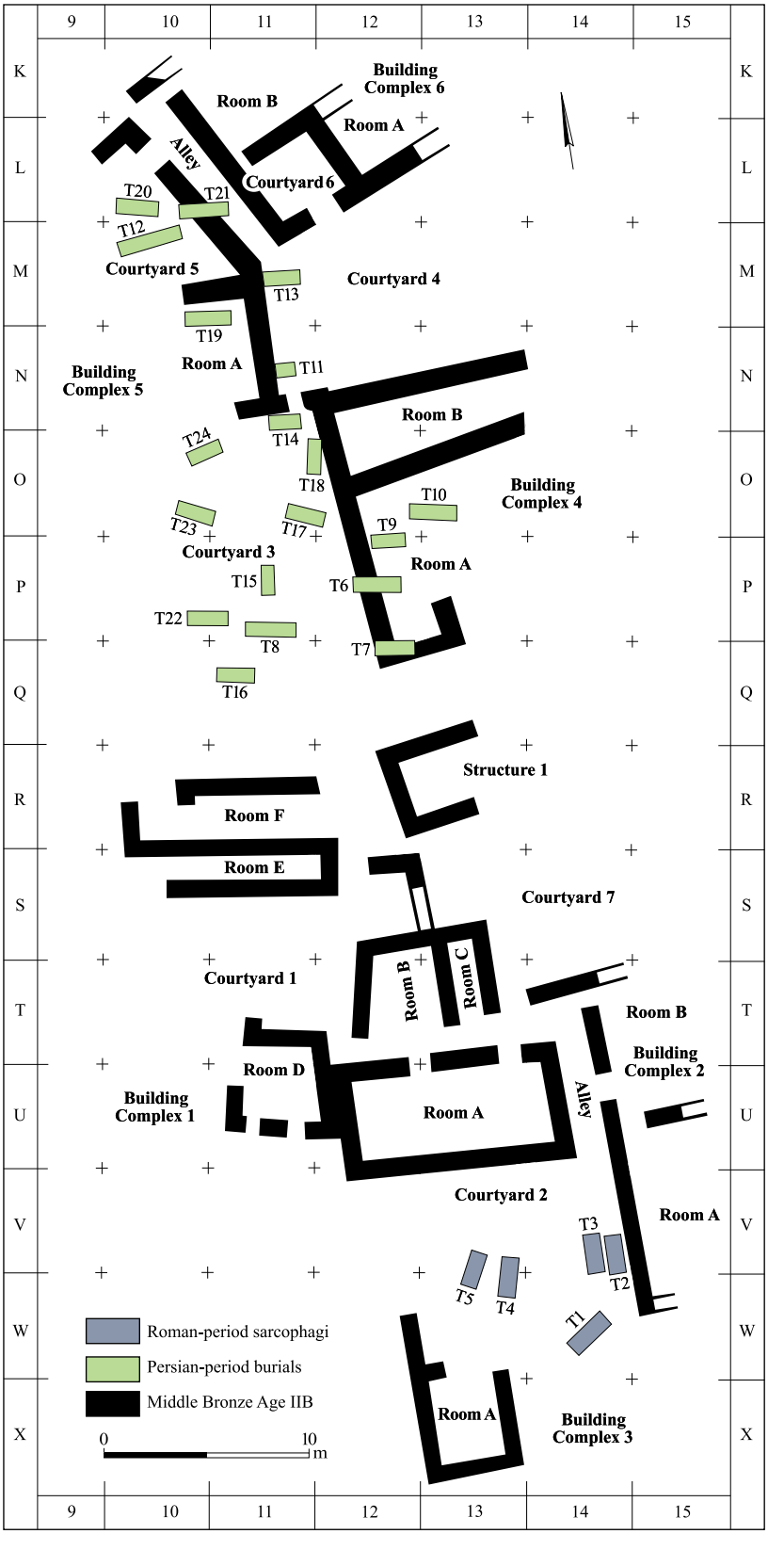
Three periods were identified in the excavations (Plan 1), described here from earliest to latest. The earliest occupation (Stratum III), revealed 0.8–1.1 m below the modern surface, was an MB IIB rural village founded upon sterile alluvial soils or travertine deposits. One primary stratigraphic phase of the Stratum III settlement was identified (Phase IIIB). This village was apparently short-lived as only limited architectural modifications were identified in two locales, and two superimposed surfaces (representing Phases IIIB and IIIA) were often found throughout the site (Plan 4). The village was abandoned during the MB IIB, and the site remained deserted until the Persian period (Stratum II), when it was used as a cemetery. Activity was renewed in the Roman period (Stratum I), when the site was again used as a cemetery, with the burials being carried out in limestone sarcophagi.

Stratum III: Middle Bronze Age IIB

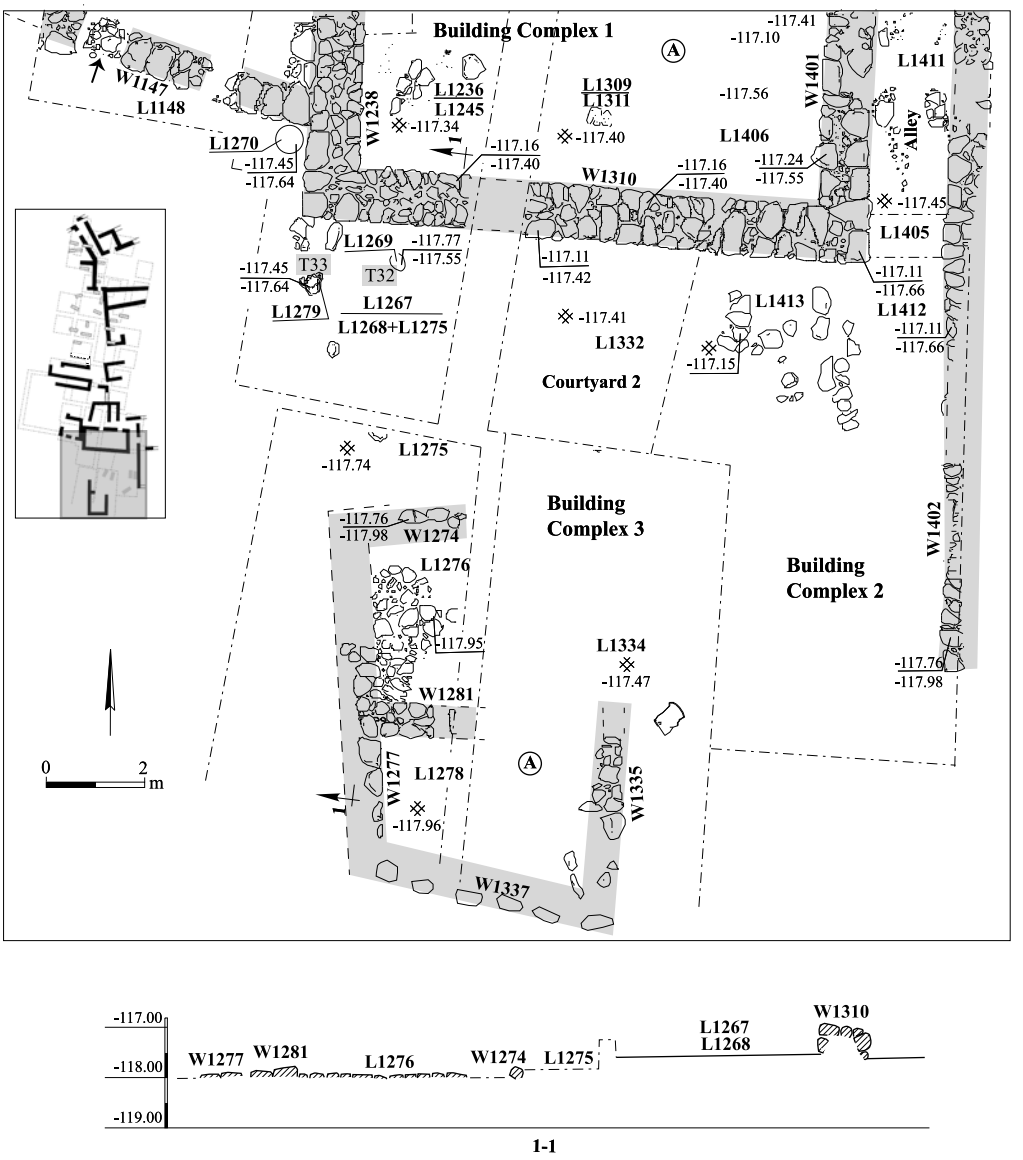
At least six building complexes and one structure of the rural Stratum III settlement may be reconstructed. The Stratum III remains are presented from south to north (Plans 2–6).

Building Complex 3 (Plan 2: Section 1–1; Fig. 3)

Some limited architectural remains were identified in the southernmost part of the excavated area. These had been badly damaged by later Stratum I disturbances and, being revealed near the end of the excavation, were only partially excavated (Fig. 3). Nevertheless, the extant remains seem to point to a structure (Building Complex 3) that appears to have included one



Plan 1. Composite plan of Strata III–I.



Plan 2. Building Complex 3 (Stratum III), plan and section.

room (A) and a partially enclosed area to its north. All the remains were positioned directly upon a pre-occupation packed orange-brown and sterile earth layer.

Room A. This room (c. 4 × 3 m, c. 12 sq m) was delineated by W1337 on the south, W1277 on the west, W1281 on the north and W1335 on the east. Except for a small segment of W1281, built of two parallel rows of medium-sized fieldstones with smaller chinking stones in between, all the other walls were not fully excavated, and their lines are largely conjectured based on partially exposed remains. In the western part of the room, a small

Fig. 3. The scanty remains of Building Complex 3, looking north.

portion of a beaten-earth floor was revealed (L1278) between W1277 and W1281 and associated with their base.

North of this room, an area partially paved with small- to medium-sized stones (L1276) may have served as a workspace. This area was bounded on the south by W1281, on the west by a few stones that may have delineated the continuation of W1277, and on the north by a short line of stones (W1274) that seems to have functioned as a kind of fence.

Courtyard 2. This courtyard, located north of the partially paved area, separated Building Complex 3 from Building Complex 1. A beaten-earth surface (L1275, L1268) in the western part of this area was found overlaid by debris (L1267). The removal of this surface in L1268 revealed that it was founded on sterile packed earth. The remnants of two burial storage jars

Fig. 4. Storage-jar burial T33 (L1279) south of W1238, looking northwest.

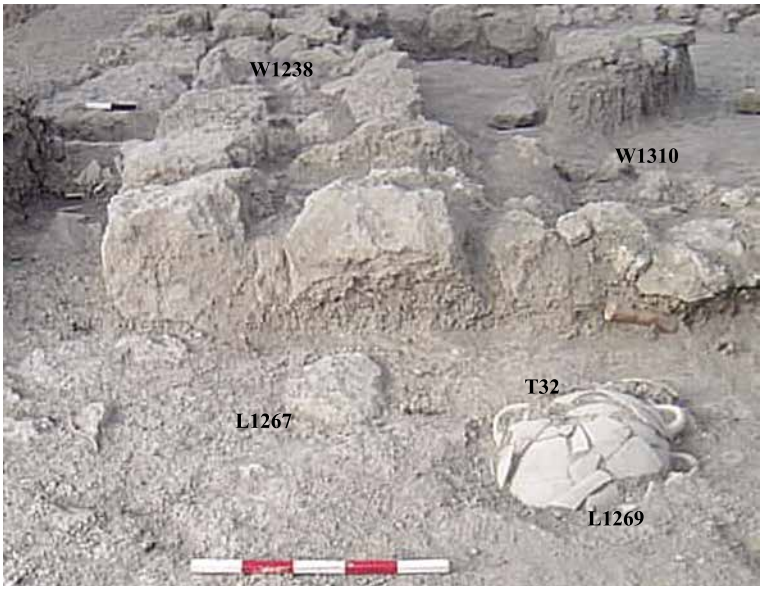


Fig. 5. Storage-jar burial T32 (L1269) to the south of Building Complex 1, looking north.

(T32, T33) were found within the surface's makeup layer. Burial jar T33 (L1279; Fig. 4), found immediately south of the corner of W1238 and W1310, had its upper part removed; it rested on its side and was oriented south–north. No infant bones were found in this jar, yet its position and the fact that its upper portion was removed suggests that it may have once held, or was intended for, an infant burial. Immediately to its east was another ceramic concentration (T32, L1269), uncovered while removing the surface's makeup (Fig. 5).

Fig. 6. Storage-jar burial T32 (L1269), looking west.

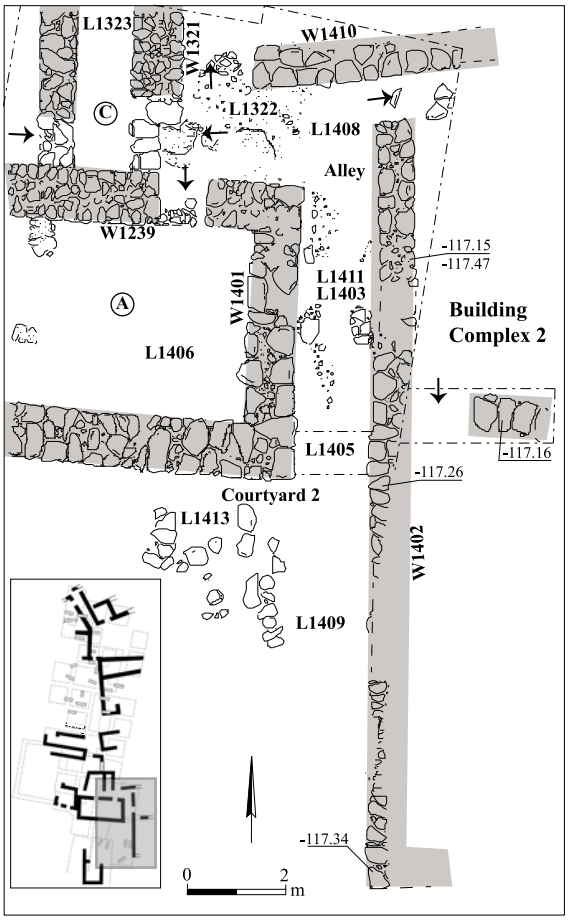
Fig. 7. Juglet within storage-jar burial T32 (L1269) after removal of the upper portion of the storage jar, looking north.

Further excavations revealed a storage-jar burial (T32) oriented north–south, consisting of a large jug missing its base (Fig. 85:1) inserted into a large storage jar with its top cut off (Fig. 6). Removal of the upper side of the storage jar (Fig. 7) revealed a few crumbling bones and a juglet (Fig. 85:2) that served as a funerary offering.

To the north of Building Complex 3 and east of the storage-jar burials was another beaten-earth surface (L1332), and to its east, a concentration of several flat-topped stones (L1412, L1413).

Building Complex 2 (Plan 3; Figs. 8, 9)

To the northeast of Building Complex 3, at the southeastern edge of the excavated area, part of another building complex was revealed (Building Complex 2). This building comprised a long north–south wall (W1402) exposed for a length of 15.4 m, founded upon a packed and sterile earth layer (L1405). It should probablybe associated with the first building phase at the site. The bulk of the building complex was further east and remains unexcavated. Building Complex 2 was separated from Building Complex 1 by a well-built alley (1.5 m wide; Fig. 8). At its southern end, the alley opened onto Courtyard 2, bounded by Building Complex 3 on the southwest, Building Complex 2 on the east and Building Complex 1 on



Plan 3. Building Complex 2 (Stratum III).

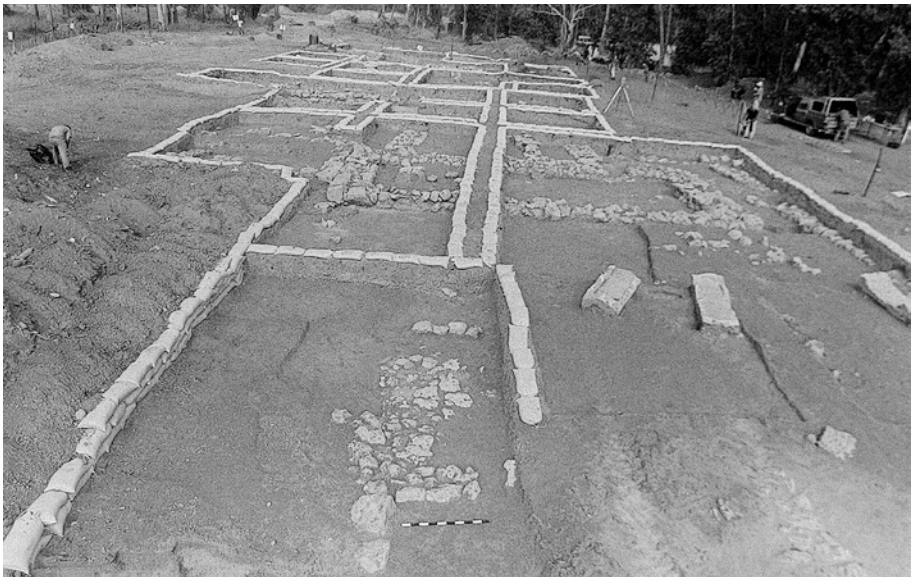


Fig. 8. The northern part of the alley, looking west; note W1410 on left.

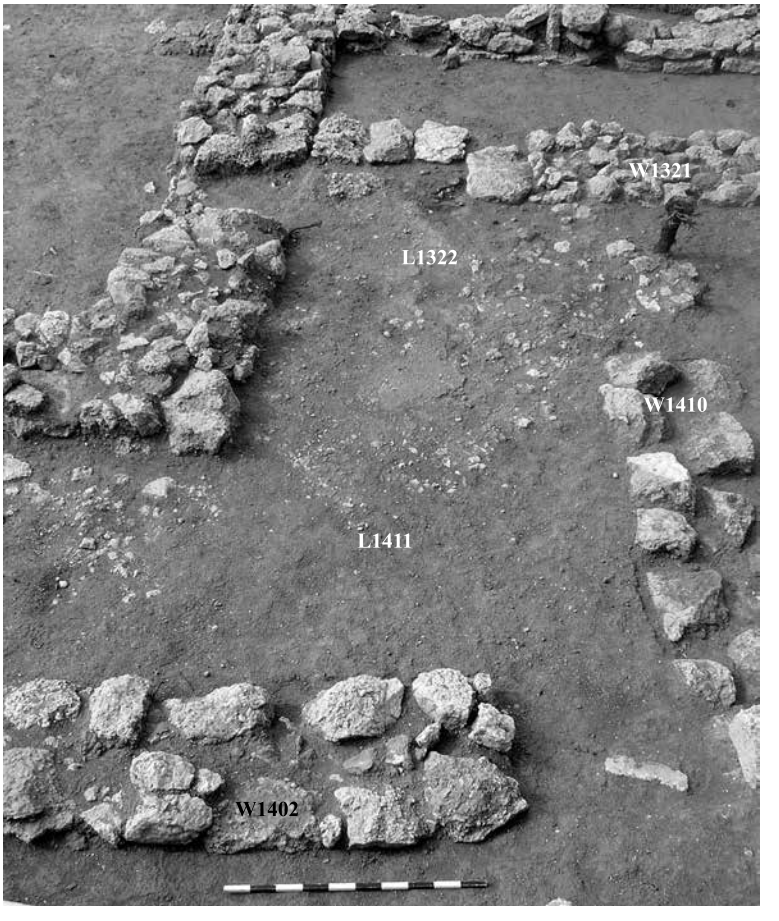
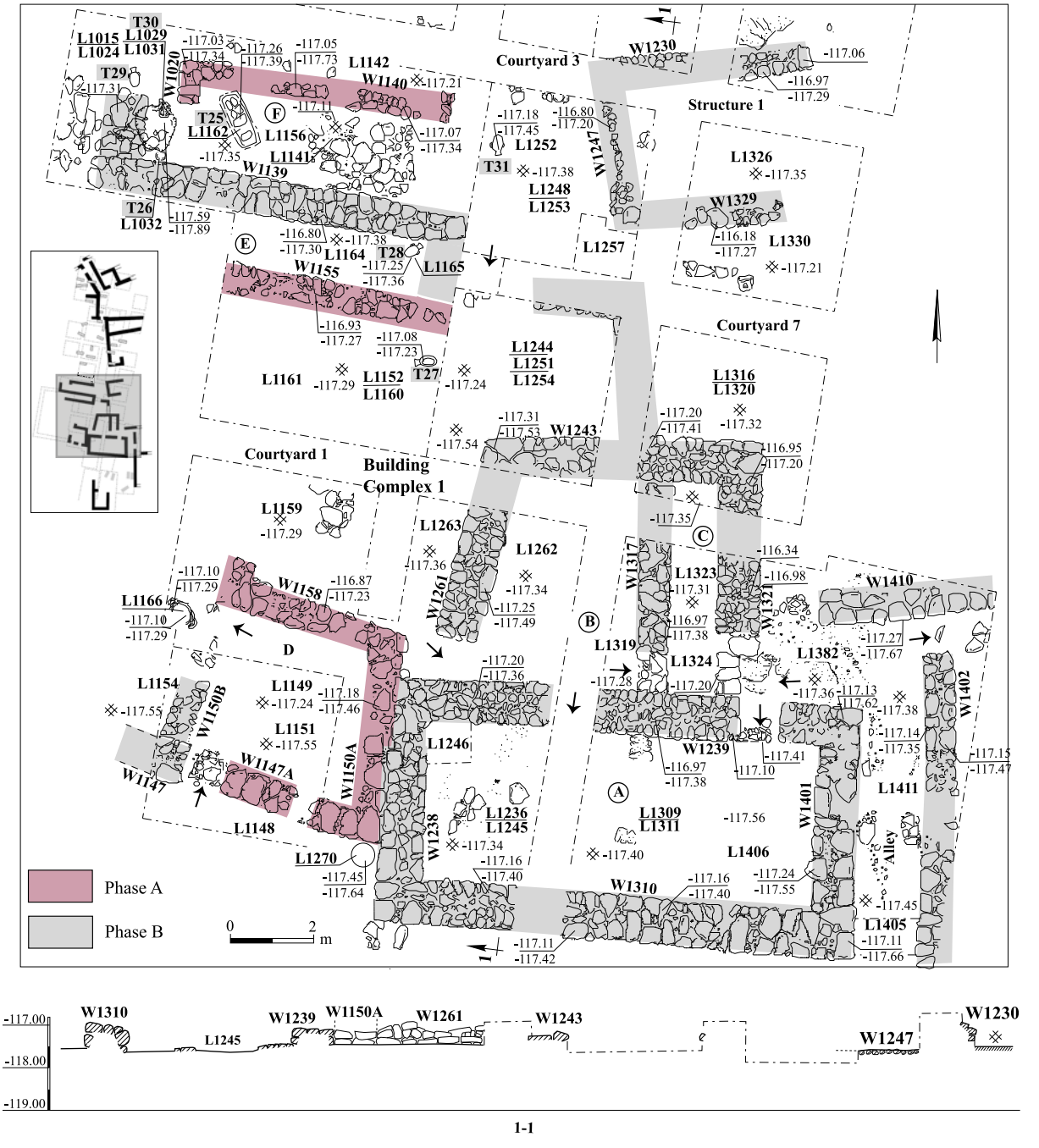


Fig. 9. The northern part of the alley and Surface 1322, looking west.

the north. At its northern end, a 0.8 m wide entrance between the northern end of W1402 and W1410 led east from the alley into Building Complex 2 (Fig. 8). Opposite this entrance, the alley turned west, leading to Rooms A (south) and C (west) of Building Complex 1 (see below). Another entranceway (1.4 m wide) was found to the north, between W1410 and W1321 of Building Complex 1. The surface of the alley (L1408, L1411, L1322) was made of white lime plaster laid upon a bedding of small pebbles (Fig. 9).

Building Complex 1 (Plan 4: Section 1–1; Figs. 10–25)

In its initial Phase B, this building complex was composed of three rooms (A, B, C) and an adjacent Courtyard 1 to the northwest (Fig. 10). This phase was constructed directly on a sterile orange–brown packed earthen matrix.



Plan 4. Building Complex 1 and Structure 1 (Stratum III), plan and section.

Fig. 10. Building Complex 1, looking north.

In its later Phase A, all three rooms continued in use, but more rooms (D–F) were added within the area of Courtyard 1 and immediately to its north. Remains of this phase included some architectural additions, and in some cases, the raising of floors and surfaces.

Phase B

Room A. This room (9.1 × 3.7 m, 33.7 sq m), located in the southern part of Building Complex 1, was the largest in this building. The room was delineated by W1401 on the east, W1310 on the south, W1238 on the west and W1239 on the north (Fig. 11), all preserved to a height of 0.2–0.5 m and built of two parallel rows of large- to medium-sized fieldstones with a fill of smaller stones in between. In northern W1239, two 0.9 m wide entranceways were identified: The western entrance led to Room B, while the eastern one led to the alley separating Building Complex 1 from Building Complex 2 to its east (L1411; see above). The threshold of the latter entranceway was 0.2 m lower than the level of the alley to its north.

Room A had a gray beaten-earth floor with numerous decayed mud-brick fragments (L1245, L1311, L1406). A small probe in the northwestern corner of the room (L1246) revealed that the floor had been laid upon a sterile layer of packed orange earth. In the center of the room, the floor included patches of crushed lime, while in its western part was a concentration of paving stones (Fig. 11). Near and above these stones was a large fragment of a basalt quern (see Rosenberg and Tzin, this volume: Fig. 1:1) and two basalt bowls that

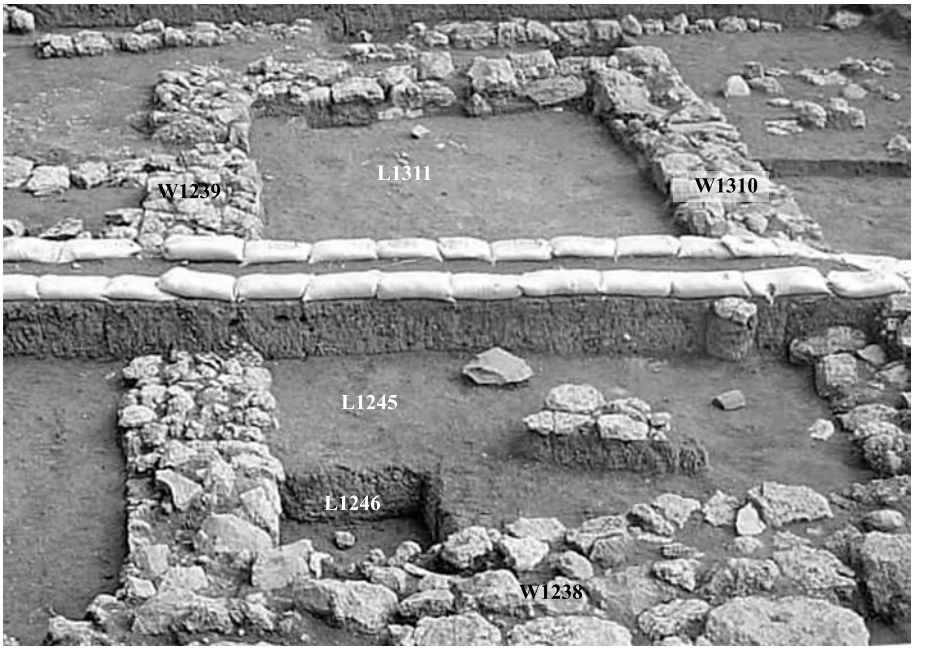


Fig. 11. Building Complex 1, Room A, looking east.

were recovered during topsoil clearance. Several other ground stone vessels, including a basalt pestle (see Rosenberg and Tzin, this volume: Fig. 4:2), another basalt quern and a mortar, as well as numerous MB IIB potsherds, were found on the floor.

Room B. Located north of Room A, trapezoidal Room B (c. 17.5 sq m) was delineated by W1239 on the south, W1261 on the west, W1243 on the north and W1317 on the east (Fig. 12). The walls were preserved to a height of 0.2–0.5 m and were built of two parallel rows of large- to medium-sized fieldstones with a fill of smaller stones in between. The eastern wall (W1317) was not as well-built, and was constructed of one to two rows of stones; apparently it had served as a partition wall between Rooms B and C (see below). A one-meter-wide entranceway in the southwestern corner of the room connected Room B and Courtyard 1 to its northwest, while another one-meter-wide entrance in its southern wall (W1239) connected the room with Room A. A third entranceway, located in the southeastern corner of Room B (0.9 m wide) and including a stone-paved threshold, connected this room with Room C (see below). Room B had a gray beaten-earth floor (L1262, L1319), which was mixed with numerous decayed mud-brick fragments, MB IIB ceramic sherds, and a fragment of a basalt upper grinding stone (not illustrated).

Room C. This rectangular room (c. 5 sq m), located to the east of Room B and north of Room A, was delineated by W1239 on the south, W1317 on the west, W1243 on the north

Fig. 12. Building Complex 1, Rooms B and C, looking east; Room A is on right.

and W1321 on the east (Fig. 12). The outer walls of this room were preserved 0.2–0.5 m in height and were built of two parallel rows of large- to medium-sized fieldstones with a fill of smaller stones in between. A passageway connected Rooms C and B, while another entranceway (1.5 m wide), paved with a stone threshold, provided an exit from Room C eastward into the alley separating Building Complexes 1 and 2. The stone-paved threshold was 0.13 m above the floor of the room. Within Room C was a gray beaten-earth floor (L1323, L1324) that included numerous decayed mud-brick fragments and ceramic sherds dated to the MB IIB.

Courtyard 1. A large courtyard (c. 9.0 × 12.5 m, c. 112.5 sq m), not fully revealed, was found adjacent and northwest of Rooms A–C. This courtyard was bounded on the east by Rooms A and B, on the south by W1147 and on the north by W1139. The western closing wall, which lies outside the excavated area, was conjectured based on the squared-off western end of W1139. Passage into Courtyard 1 was apparently enabled through two broad entranceways. The southern entrance (5 m wide) spanned W1238 of Room A on the east to the eastern squared-off end of W1147 on the west. In a later building phase (Phase A), W1147A continued the line of W1147 and two smaller entranceways were installed in this wall to provide access into Room D (see below).

Wall 1139 was traced along 9 m. Its eastern end, along with the northwestern corner of Room B, is presumed to have delineated another 4.5 m wide entranceway into Courtyard 1 from the north. An entrance in the southwestern corner of Room B connected it with Courtyard 1.

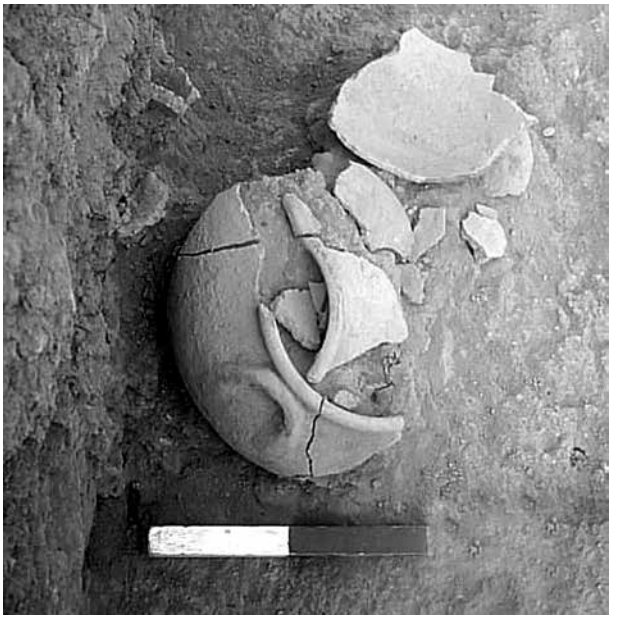


Fig. 13. A complete ceramic vessel found upon Courtyard 1 Surface 1254, adjacent to the western balk of Sq S12.

Within Courtyard 1, the Phase B habitation level was identified only in a few locales and was composed of a gray beaten-earth surface with decayed mud bricks, overlaid by debris (L1251 and L1254 on the north, and L1151 and L1154 on the southwest). A complete cooking pot was found on Surface 1254 (Figs. 13; 77:14), and an intact juglet (Fig. 83:5) was discovered on Surface 1151, next to W1147, while excavating below Phase A Room D (L1149; see below).

Phase A

In a slightly later architectural phase, several additions were made to the western part of Building Complex 1. These included the addition of Rooms D, E and F within and outside Courtyard 1 and several resurfacings, all relating directly to the existing remains of Phase B. In general, the architectural additions of this later phase, not as well-constructed as those of the earlier Phase B to which they were added, are typified by sketchy walls made of large- to medium-sized fieldstones arranged in one or two rows.

Room D. This squarish room (3.5 × 4.0 m, 14 sq m) was built in the southern part of Courtyard 1 and adjacent to W1238, the western wall of Room A. The room was bounded by W1147A on the south, W1150B on the west, W1158 on the north and W1150A on the east (Fig. 14), which abutted W1238 of earlier Phase B. In W1147A, two 0.6–0.8 m wide entranceways enabled access to Room D from the south. The western entranceway was partially paved with a stone threshold.

Fig. 14. Room D at the end of the excavation, looking east.

Within Room D was a gray beaten-earth surface (L1149) with numerous decayed mud-brick fragments related to the base of the Phase A walls. A large ceramic bowl was found on this surface (Fig. 67:9). Below L1149, an intact juglet (Fig. 83:5) was found on the earlier Phase B Surface 1151 of Courtyard 1 (see above), next to W1147 of the same phase, that continued in use in Phase A.

Immediately to the south of W1147A, a beaten earth surface (L1148) was revealed; on the eastern end of this surface, at the corner of W1147A and W1238 (Courtyard 2), an upright storage jar (L1270; Fig. 80:6) was found. The presence of several large cooking-pot fragments in the immediate vicinity (Figs. 76:2; 77:7) suggests this jar was in secondary use and served as a cooking installation.

Another entranceway, at the northern end of W1150B, led out from Room D into Courtyard 1. Just outside this entrance, in Courtyard 1, were found the remains of a *ṭabun* (L1166; Figs. 14, 15) composed of the lower part of a large upright storage jar in secondary use. To the north of Room D, in Courtyard 1, some patches of a habitation level apparently related to Phase A (L1152, L1152/L1160, L1159, L1244, L1263) were exposed. The surface in L1159 included a small patch of a flagstone pavement. A complete storage jar (T27), lying on its side with its opening facing east (Figs. 16; 78:1), was found within the L1152/L1160 surface; its findspot indicates that it was found on the surface and not within its makeup. Although presumed to be a burial, no bones were found in the jar.

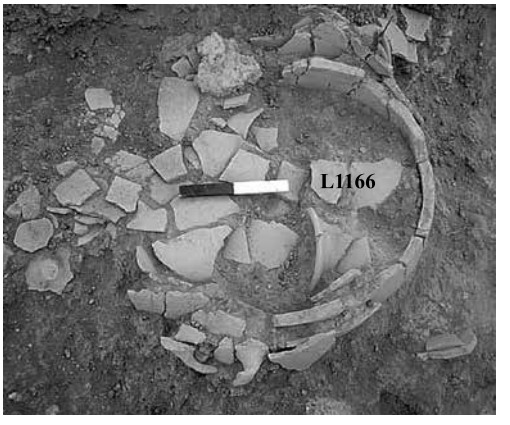


Fig. 15. *Ṭabun* in L1166, looking northwest.

Fig. 16. Storage-jar burial T27 upon the surface of Courtyard 1, looking north.

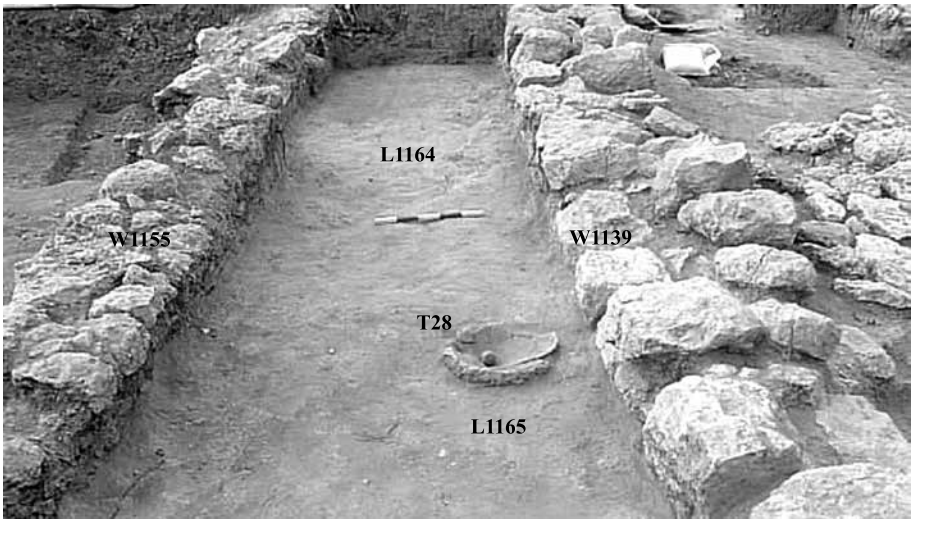


Fig. 17. Room E at the end of the excavation, looking west; note the remains of storage-jar burial T28 (L1165).

Room E. This rectangular room (c. 8.0 × 1.3 m, c. 10.4 sq m; Fig. 17) was only sketchily defined during excavation. It was located in the northeastern corner of Courtyard 1 and was defined in the north by W1139, continuing from Phase B, and in the south, by W1155 of Phase A. The western wall of the room is conjectured, and no clear remains of an eastern wall were found. Within the room was a gray beaten-earth surface (L1164) with numerous

decayed mud-brick fragments. On the surface were two basalt ground-stone fragments and ceramics dating from MB IIB. Removal of this surface exposed the top of a storage jar (T28, L1165) lying on its side and oriented north–south. The jar's upper part had been purposefully broken off to enlarge the opening. Inside were found the remains of a deteriorated small dipper juglet (Fig. 17), but no bone remains were retrieved; these may have disintegrated to dust over time.

Opposite Room E to the east, a few stones were identified in the balk within the northern and eastern part of the square. These may represent the remains of an L-shaped wall that may have reached W1243 of Building Complex 1 on the south and enclosed an entrance into Courtyard 1 on the north. Lack of time prevented the excavation of the balks and therefore, this was not verified.

Room F. This room (6 × 2 m, c. 12 sq m), located to the north of Room E, was constructed outside Courtyard 1. Room F was outlined by Phase B W1139 in the south, Phase A W1020 in the west and Phase A W1140 in the north (Fig. 18). Short W1020 appears to have delineated a 1.4 m wide entrance into Room F from the west. The room seems to have remained open to the east.

In the eastern area of the room part of a stone pavement associated with both W1139 and W1140 (Figs. 18, 19) was revealed. The debris upon this stone pavement and its

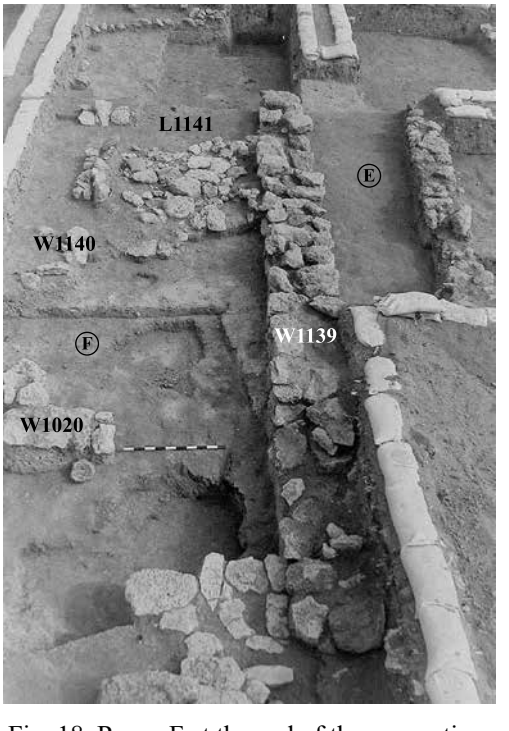


Fig. 18. Room F at the end of the excavation, looking east.

Fig. 19. Stone Pavement 1141, looking south; W1139 is at the top and W1140, at the bottom.

immediate surroundings (L1141/L1156) included two fragments of basalt grinding stones (see Rosenberg and Tzin, this volume: Fig. 1:2) and a ceramic bowl (Fig. 67:11). In the western part of the room, excavation of the surface makeup (L1156) revealed a few small paving stones that proved to be the covering of a tomb (T25, L1162). Removal of these stones revealed an irregularly-shaped pit cut down into the earlier Phase B level, which was not exposed in this area. Within the pit were partially preserved articulated cranial and postcranial remains of an adult aged 20–30 years. The remains were oriented north–south, with the head on the south (see Nagar, this volume).

To the west and south of W1020, more paving stones were revealed (L1024), overlaid by debris (L1015), which included a complete basalt pestle with remains of red ochre (see Rosenberg and Tzin, this volume: Fig. 4:1). Removal of a few paving stones exposed two intact burial storage jars (T29, T30; Fig. 20), both containing non-diagnostic poorly preserved bone crumbs. One of the jars (T30, L1031) contained an offering of a juglet (Fig. 84:4). Next to the jars were a deep carinated bowl (Fig. 84:3) and a spouted jug (Figs. 21; 84:5). Another burial pit (T26, L1032; diam. 1 m) was revealed upon removal of the Phase A surface to the south of storage-jar burials T29 and T30. Within the pit, which was partially hewn into the travertine rock, were remains of an articulated primary adult burial, 30–40 years of age, in a flexed position, placed on its left side and oriented southeast–northwest with the head in the southeast (Figs. 22, 23; see Nagar, this volume). No burial offerings were found in the pit, though the large adjacent jar T30 (Fig. 21) could have been related to both this and the two nearby infant storage-jar burials (T26, T29).

To the east of Room F, in Courtyard 3, was a beaten earth surface overlaid by debris (L1248/L1253). Below this surface, a possible storage-jar infant burial (T31, L1252) was revealed, oriented to the north, with the top of the jar cut off (Fig. 24). Removal of the upper

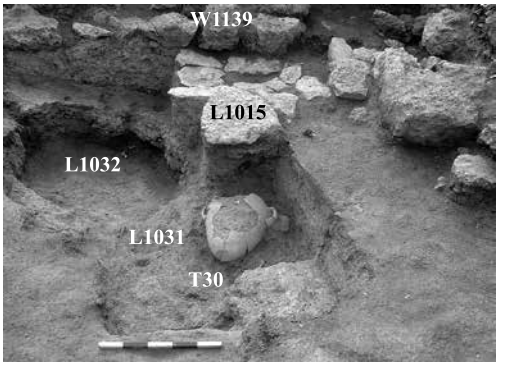


Fig. 20. Storage-jar burial T30 in L1031, looking south; note the paving stones of Phase A and W1139 at the back, and the pit of L1032 (T26) after removal of the burial on left.

Fig. 21. An intact jug found next to the L1031 burials, looking south.

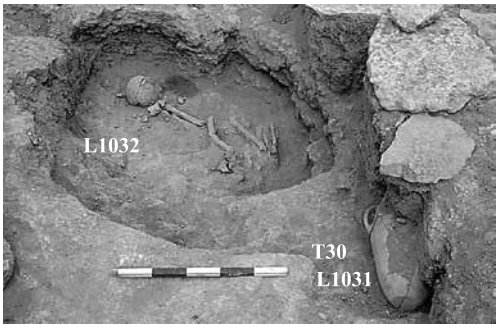


Fig. 22. Adult burial T26 (L1032), looking south; storage-jar burial T30 (L1031) is at lower right.

Fig. 24. Storage-jar burial T31 (L1252), looking north.

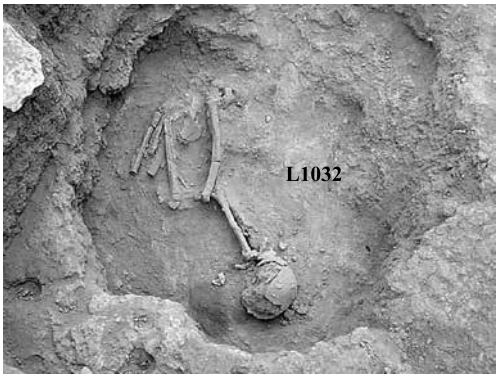


Fig. 23. Adult burial T26 (L1032), looking north.

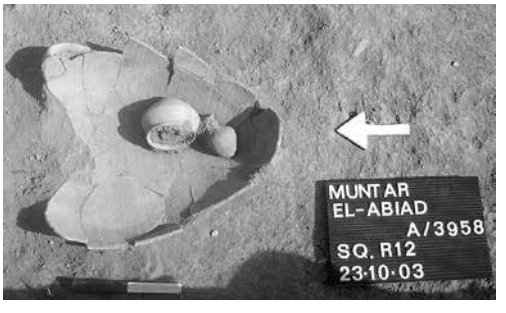


Fig. 25. Storage-jar burial T31 (L1252) after opening, looking east.

portion of this storage jar revealed a few bone crumbs and two ceramic grave offerings (Fig. 25): a small deep carinated bowl (Fig. 84:1) and a juglet (Fig. 84:2). A small probe in the southeastern corner of Courtyard 3 (L1257) revealed that the L1248/L1253 surface had been founded upon a sterile alluvial layer.

Structure 1 (Plan 4; Fig. 26)

East of Room F and Courtyard 3, and to the northeast of Building Complex 1, the remains of three walls that appear to have delineated part of a small structure (Structure 1) were uncovered: W1329 on the south, W1247 on the west and W1230 on the north. All three were poorly built of medium- to small-sized stones and were very similar to the walls associated with the later Phase A of Stratum III throughout the site. No remains of an eastern, closing wall were uncovered. Between these walls was a beaten-earth floor (L1326) associated with

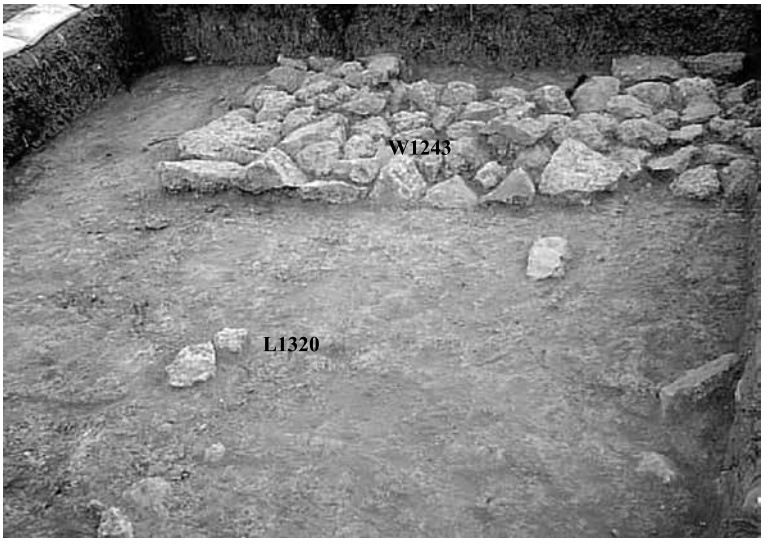


Fig. 26. Surface 1320 between Building Complex 1 and Structure 1, looking south.

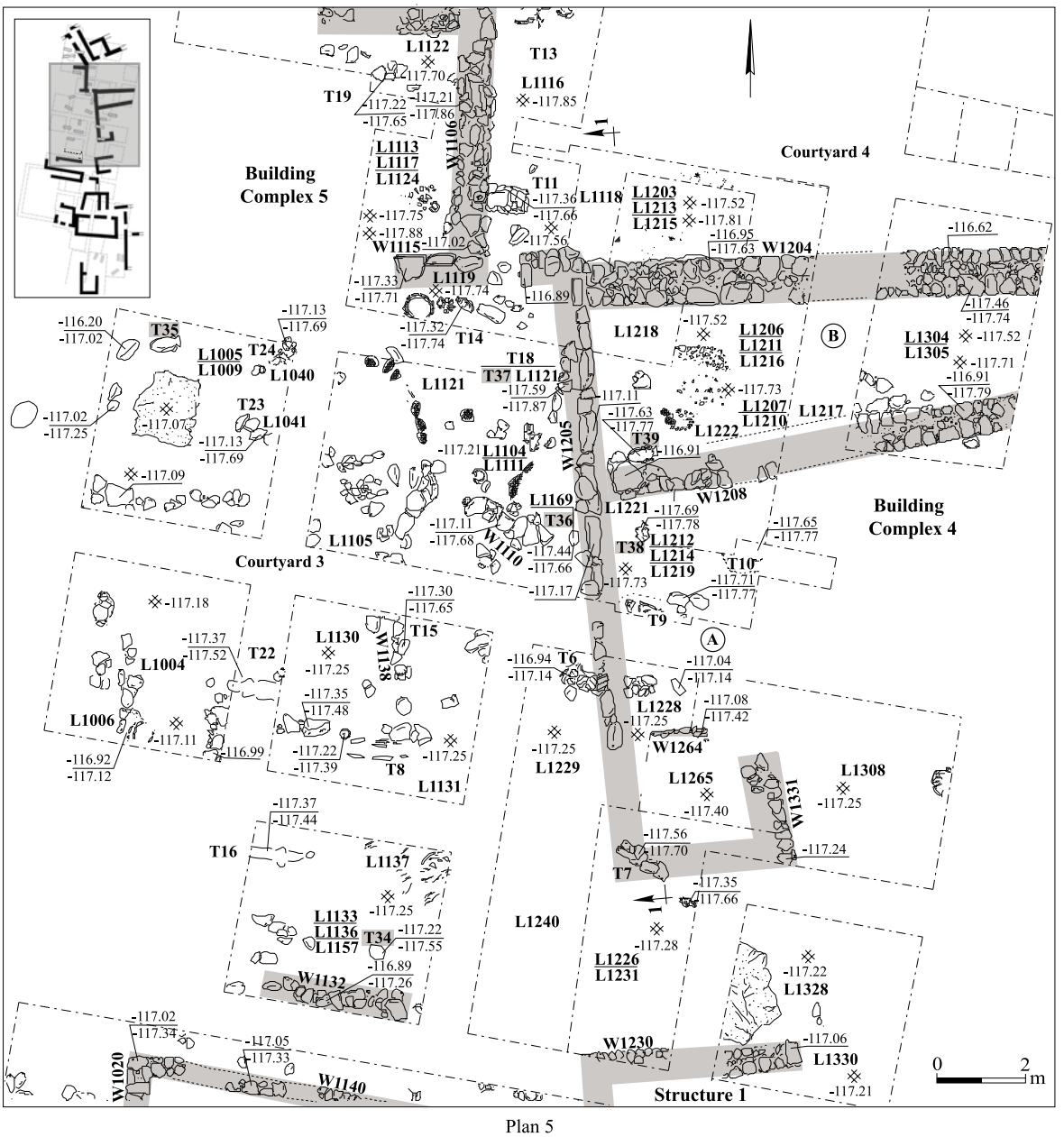
their base. The near equivalence in heights between the surfaces associated with Structure 1 and the surrounding surfaces suggests that this structure may have been associated with Phase A, though no earlier remains were identified in this area.

To the south of W1329 was Courtyard 7, an open area that separated Structure 1 from Building Complexes 1 and 2 to its south. Within this area was a beaten-earth surface (L1320 and L1330; Fig. 26), gently sloping down to the south.

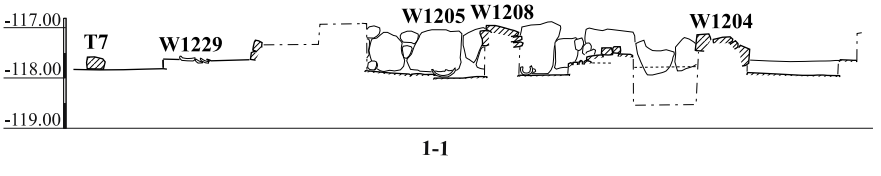
Building Complex 4 (Plan 5; Figs. 27–36))

Parts of a large structure were exposed to the east of Courtyard 3. It consisted of one or possibly two large rooms (A and B); the eastern part of the complex, located beyond the excavation area, was not revealed. The excavated remains were severely damaged by the Stratum II Persian-period burials (see below), which removed much of the architectural remains and were often found dug down to the Stratum III floor levels.

Courtyard 3 (Plan 5: Section 1–1). Large Courtyard 3 was located to the north and west of Structure 1, separating the latter and Building Complex 1 from Building Complexes 4 and 5, found in the center–north part of the excavated area. Within Courtyard 3 were several surfaces and very few walls of unclear plan and association. Much of this area had been heavily damaged by numerous Persian-period burials (Stratum II, see below).



Plan 5



Plan 5. Building Complex 4 and Courtyard 3 (Stratum III), plan and section.

Fig. 27. Plaster Surface 1328 adjoining the base of W1230, looking south.

A large portion of a plaster floor (L1328) abutted the base of W1230 of Structure 1 from the north (Fig. 27). The same habitation level was traced as a beaten-earth surface overlaid by debris to the west (L1226/L1231, L1240), and another beaten-earth surface to the north (L1229). This level was associated with W1264, which appears to have formed part of a built installation associated with floor L1265, found slightly below the surrounding surfaces. The level was also associated with both faces of western W1205 and W1331 of Building Complex 4.

Further west, the continuation of the L1240 surface was excavated as L1133/L1136, including numerous remains of broken ceramic vessels (L1137; Fig. 28) upon the surface. Removal of a portion of the L1136 surface makeup revealed a probable infant storage-jar burial (T34, L1157), the jar lying on its side with its opening facing east (Fig. 29), though no bone remains or any grave goods were found within. In the southern area of Courtyard 3, an uneven row of stones (W1132) may represent part of a wall or a low fence, roughly parallel to W1140 to its south.

To the north and northwest of the L1133/L1136 surface, more surfaces of Courtyard 3 were identified (L1130, L1131, L1004, L1006). Surface 1006 included a concentration of several flat-topped stones in the western part of the square.

To the north, further remains of Courtyard 3 were revealed west of Building Complex 4. In the northwestern part of the courtyard, a large (c. 1.5 × 1.5 m) patch of a plastered surface was overlaid by debris (L1005/L1009). Excavation to its west revealed a storage jar

Fig. 28. Debris (L1333) on Surface 1136, looking west.

Fig. 29. Storage-jar burial T34 unearthed while removing Surface 1136, looking north.

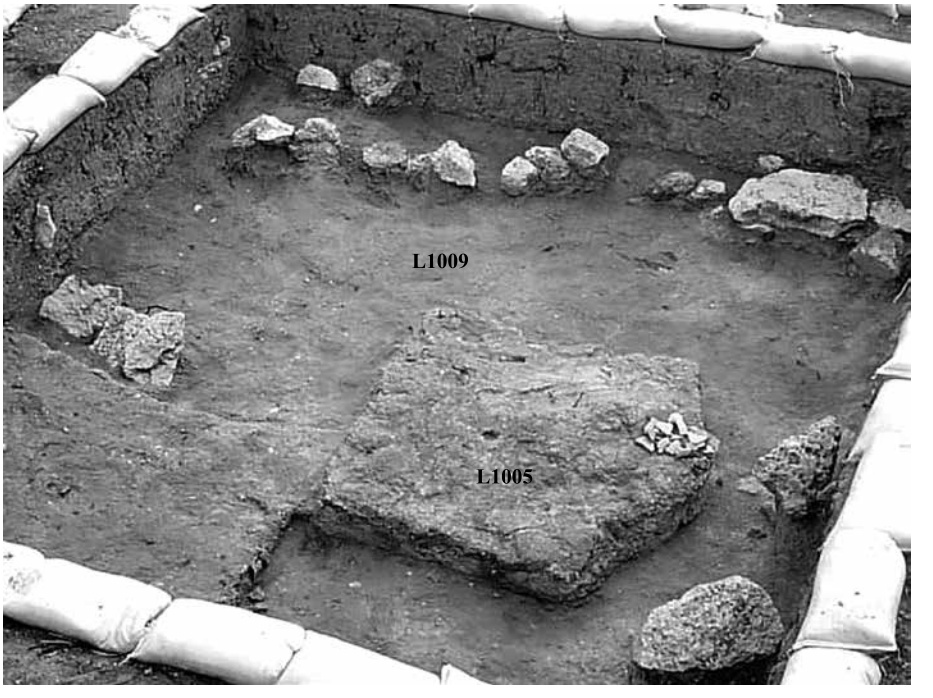


Fig. 30. Plaster surface and paving stones in Sq O10, looking southeast.

underneath the surface, lying on its side with its opening facing east; no remains of an infant burial were found within (T35). Several large- to medium-sized paving stones were revealed to the south in this area (Fig. 30). To the east, in the adjoining area, the same surface, along with numerous mud-brick fragments, continued in L1105, in L1111, adjacent to W1205 of Building Complex 4 (see below), and in L1119, adjacent to W1115. Dismantling of the surface revealed a storage-jar infant burial (L1169; T36—osteological remains not available for study) adjacent to the western face of W1205, containing a complete juglet (Fig. 84:4). To its north, excavation in L1121 revealed another storage-jar infant burial (T37) underneath a Persian burial (T18, see below).

Room A. This room, not as well-preserved as Room B to its north, is partially outlined by W1208 in the north and W1205 in the west; no remains of a southern wall were found, probably being dismantled by the later Stratum II intrusions (T9 and T10, see below). The room included two superimposed surfaces associated with W1205 and W1208. The earlier beaten-earth Phase B surface (L1219) was overlaid by another, similar, Phase A surface (L1212/L1214). Removal of the later surface (L1214) revealed a storage-jar infant burial (T38, L1221; see Nagar this volume) facing north, its top cut off (Figs. 31, 32).

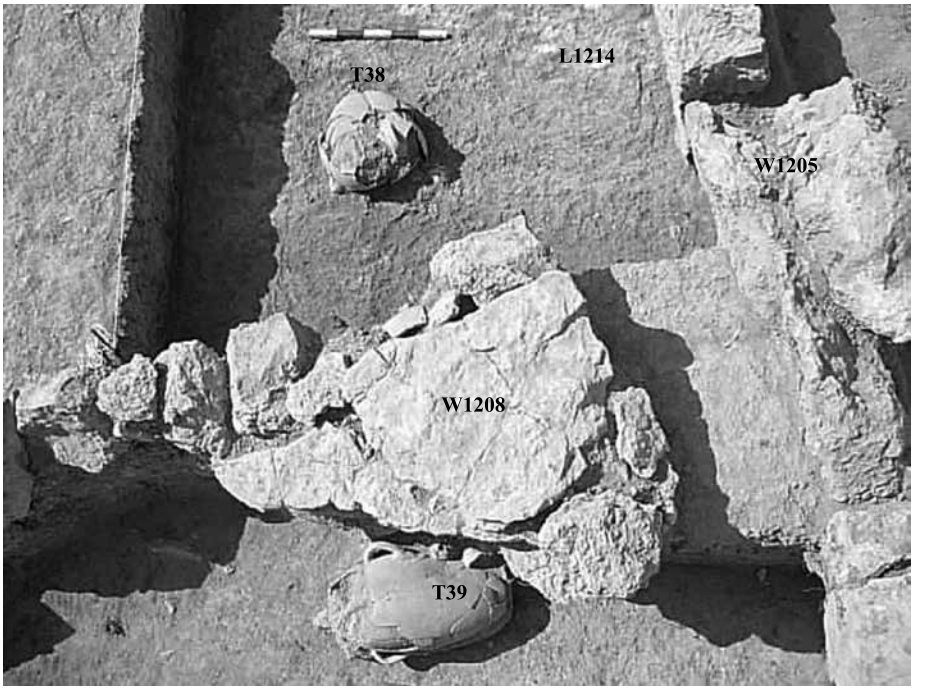


Fig. 31. Infant storage-jar burial T39 (L1222) and storage-jar burial T38 (L1221), looking south.

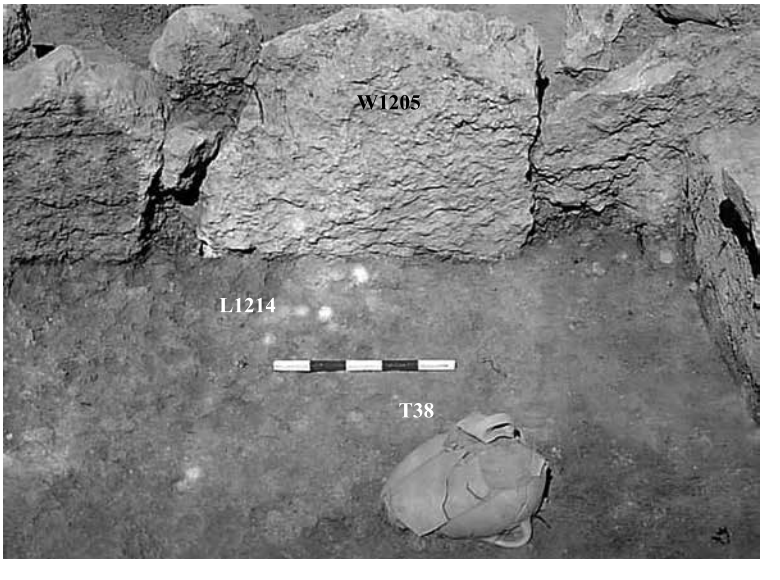


Fig. 32. Infant storage-jar burial T38 (L1221) next to W1205, looking west.

Fig. 33. Building Complex 4, Room B, looking east.

Room B. This large room was bounded by W1204 on the north, W1205 on the west and W1208 on the south (Fig. 33). The eastern wall of the room was not found and is probably located outside the excavated area. Both its northern and southern walls (W1204, W1208) were built of two parallel rows of large- to medium-sized stones with smaller stones in between, while the western wall (W1205) was built of one row of large and mainly flat stones positioned upright on their narrow side (Figs. 33, 34).

As in Room A, two superimposed floors were found within Room B, both apparently associated with the three walls of the room. The earlier beaten-earth floor (L1211/L1216, L1304/L1305) may have been associated with the earlier Phase B. The floor contained some concentrations of pebbles, cobbles and deteriorated mud bricks (Fig. 34) and was founded upon sterile earth exposed in a probe (L1218).

Surface 1206/1211 was probably associated with Phase A. Within the makeup of this surface, in the southwestern corner of the room and adjacent to W1208, was a storage-jar child burial (T39, L1222). The jar had been laid on its side, with its top facing east (Fig. 31). A small fragment of a child's skull (<5; see Nagar, this volume) was found within the jar, and two deteriorated dipper juglets, apparently representing burial offerings, were revealed next to and below it (Fig. 35).

Fig. 34. The western part of Room B, looking west.

Fig. 35. Two dipper juglets next to infant storage-jar burial T39 (L1222), looking south.

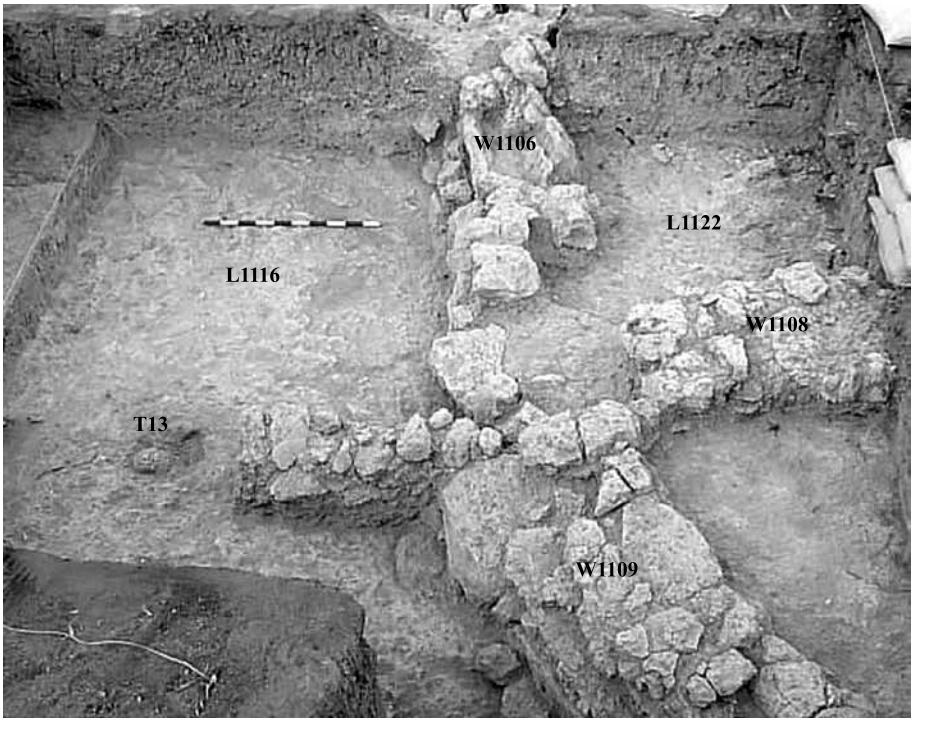
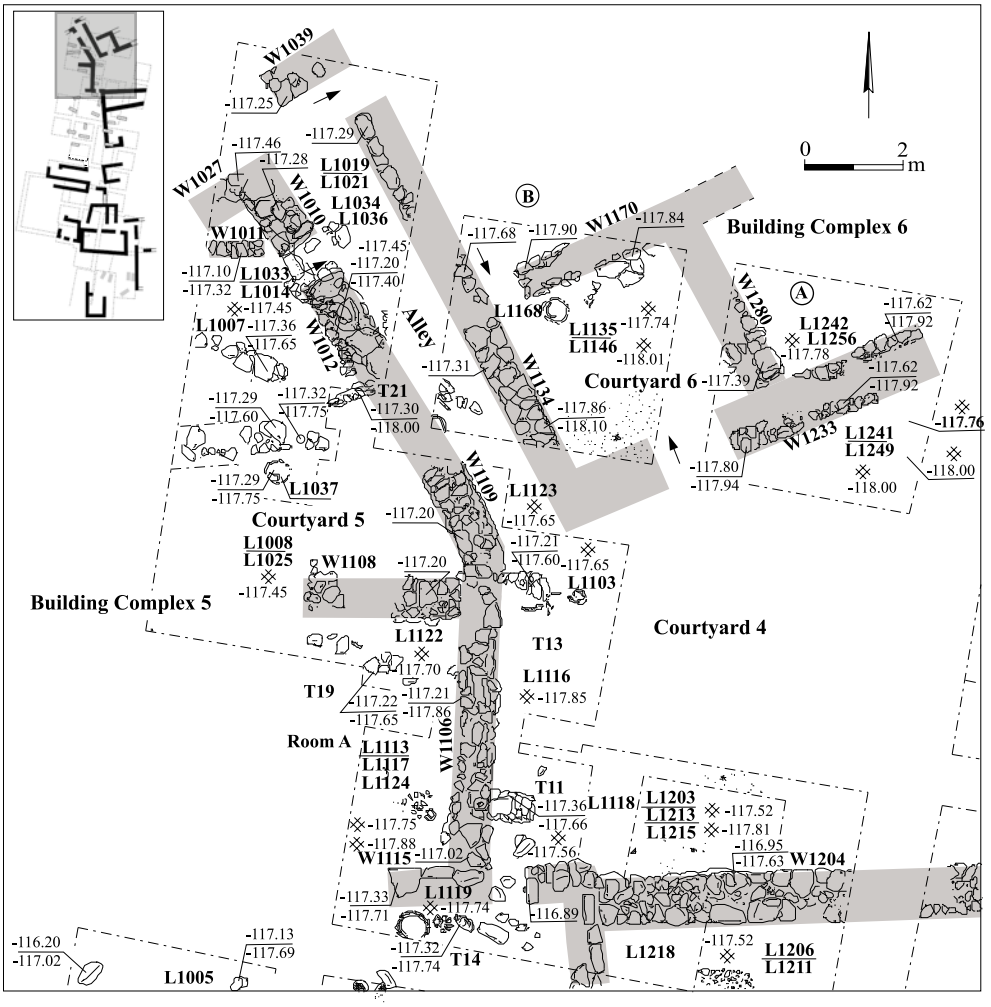


Fig. 36. Part of the alley between Building Complexes 5 and 6, looking south; earlier Phase B surfacing of the alley (L1116) is on left; W1106, W1108 and W1109 of Building Complex 5 are on right.

Courtyard 4 (Plans 5, 6). Courtyard 4 was located between Building Complex 4 on the south, Building Complex 6 on the northeast and Building Complex 5 on the west. Immediately to the north of Room B and adjacent to W1204, two superimposed surfaces were discovered, also associated with this wall. The earlier surface (L1213/L1215) was founded upon packed sterile earth and was made of beaten earth with some patches of plaster. The later surface (L1203/L1213) was also made of beaten earth. To the south of the southern W1233 of Building Complex 6 and abutting it, was a beaten-earth floor (L1241) associated with Phase A. Excavation beneath this floor revealed another surface (L1249, L1103, L1116; Fig. 36) that was associated with the base of this wall and may belong to Phase B.

Building Complex 5 and Adjacent Alley (Plan 6; Figs. 37–39)

Building Complex 5 was identified in the northwestern part of the excavated area; its western part lay beyond the excavated area. The eastern edge of this complex was defined by a long and curving wall recognized in four sections, from south to north: W1106, W1109, W1012, W1010. The latter three walls, together with parallel W1134 of Building Complex 6 (see below), formed a narrow alley (1.2–1.7 m wide), which separated the two building



Plan 6. Building Complexes 5 and 6, and Courtyard 4 (Stratum III).

complexes and led to Courtyard 4 in the south. Within this alley were also found two superimposed surfaces: Surface 1123 of the earlier Phase B, between W1109 and W1134, and Surface 1019/L1021, whose remains could be uncovered only further north at a higher level, and may be assigned to the later Phase A.

The extant remains of Building Complex 5 appear to represent a large building consisting of Courtyard 5, partially delineated by the long and curving wall. The northeastern wall of Courtyard 5 (W1027), built of two parallel rows of medium-sized stones with smaller stones in between, demarcated the courtyard's borders together with the adjacent alley (W1010, W1012, W1109). Between W1010 and W1012 was a 0.7 m wide entranceway with a stone threshold that opened into the alley (Fig. 37). In the inner corner of W1010 and W1027 was a low row of medium- to small-sized stones (W1011), apparently representing an installation.

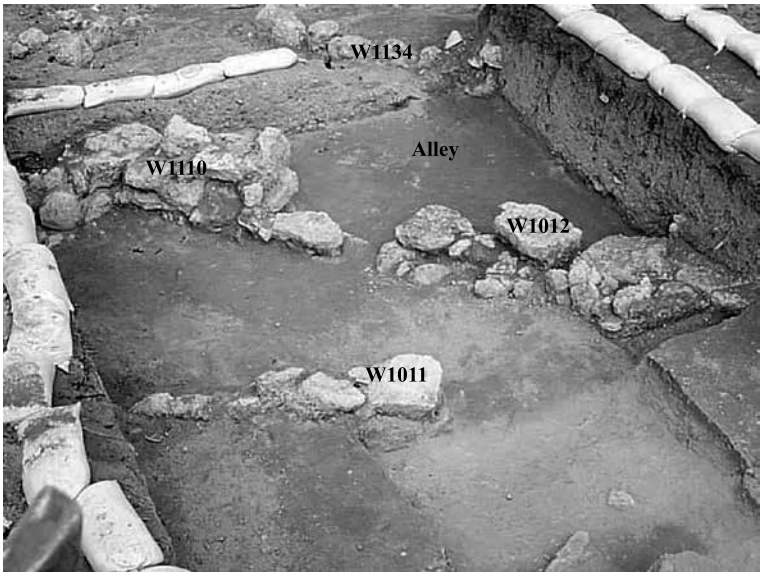


Fig. 37. The entranceway between W1010 and W1012, looking northeast; the upper remains of T20 are on lower left.

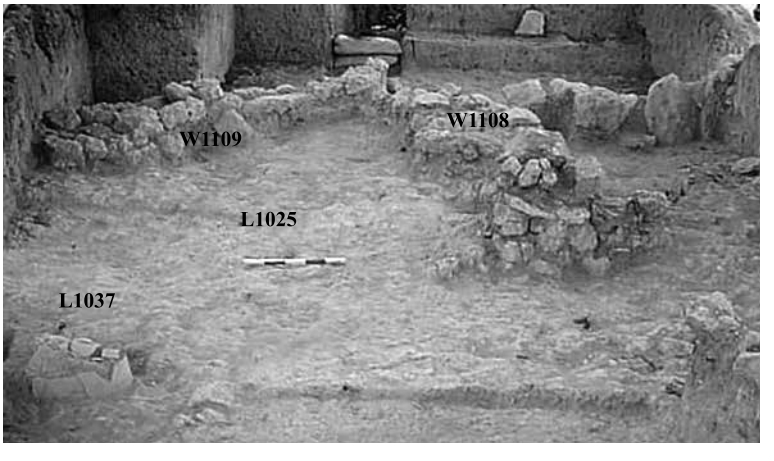


Fig. 38. The inner corner of Courtyard 5, looking east; the L1037 *ṭabun* is on lower left.

In the northern part of Courtyard 5 was a beaten-earth surface (L1014) possibly related to Phase A. The center of Courtyard 5 was badly damaged by Stratum II burials T20, T21 and T12 (see below). Further south, the same beaten-earth surface was identified (L1008/ L1025). This area also included a partial storage jar embedded upside-down within the surface (L1037; Fig. 38), pointing to an installation, perhaps a *ṭabun*.

Fig. 39. The remains of W1108, looking east; note the western squared-off end of this wall.

Room A. The southern part of Courtyard 5 was closed off by W1108, which appears to have been squared off at its western end (Fig. 39), suggesting another entranceway of unknown width in this area. Room A was delineated by W1108 on the north, W1106 on the east and W1115 on the south. The latter was built differently than the other two, constructed of large stones standing upright on their narrow ends; this construction technique was also applied to W1205 of Building Complex 4 (see above). In the area defined by these three walls were found two superimposed floors. The earlier Phase B floor (L1124), limited in its exposure, was made of a beaten-earth surface with mud-brick fragments; it was associated with the base of both W1115 and W1108. The second, slightly later floor (L1122, L1113/L1117) was found above Floor 1124 and may be associated with Phase A.

Building Complex 6 (Plan 6; Figs. 40–42)

In the northeastern corner of the excavation were a few wall remnants that may have delineated another building complex. In its general plan and orientation, Building Complex 6 was identical to Structure 1 (see above), yet slightly larger and with apparently wider walls. The building's remains consist of the sketchy outlines of two possible rooms (A, B) and what may have been a courtyard (Courtyard 6).

Room A. This room was delineated by W1233 on the south, W1280 on the west and the probable continuation of W1170 in the north. The eastern wall of this room lay beyond the excavated area. Wall 1233 (c. 1 m wide) was built of two parallel rows of medium-sized fieldstones with a fill of packed yellowish mud-brick material in between. Between W1280 and W1233 was a possible beaten-earth floor (L1242) associated with their base. The relative height of the L1242 surface appears to associate it with Phase A; no earlier surface was found below.

Room B. To the northwest of Room A was a possible indication for another room, revealed by the outlines of W1170 in the south, W1134 in the west and a short wall segment (W1039) in the north. Wall 1039 was only partially revealed and appears to have defined, with W1134, a one-meter-wide entranceway, seemingly leading from the alley into Building Complex 6.

Courtyard 6. To the west of Room A and south of Room B was a small area that appears to have functioned as a partially enclosed open area (Courtyard 6). This possible courtyard was bounded by W1170 on the north, W1280 on the east, a short wall segment of W1233 on the south and W1134 on the west. A 0.6 m gap between the western end of W1170 and W1134 may indicate an entrance to the courtyard from the north, while a 3 m wide gap between W1134 and the western end of W1233 may indicate a larger entrance into the courtyard from the south.

Within the northwestern corner of Courtyard 6 and adjacent to the entranceway was a beaten-earth surface (L1135), possibly related to Phase A, associated with W1134 and W1170 (Fig. 40). Excavation below this surface revealed an earlier surface, possibly of Phase B (L1146), covered with broken sherds and burned debris, and a basalt grinding quern (see Rosenberg and Tzin, this volume: Fig. 3:1) next to W1134 (Fig. 41). Near the northern entrance to Courtyard 6 was an overturned storage jar (L1168) sunken into the floor, whose lower part had been cut off (Fig. 42). This vessel appears to have functioned in secondary use as a *ṭabun*.

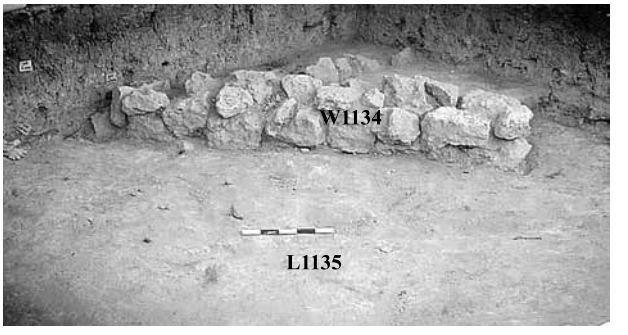


Fig. 40. Wall 1134 and Phase A Surface 1135, looking southwest.

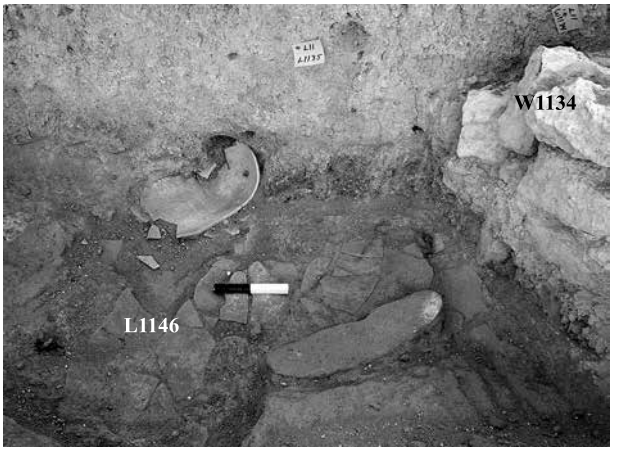


Fig. 41. Surface 1146 covered by burned debris, looking south.

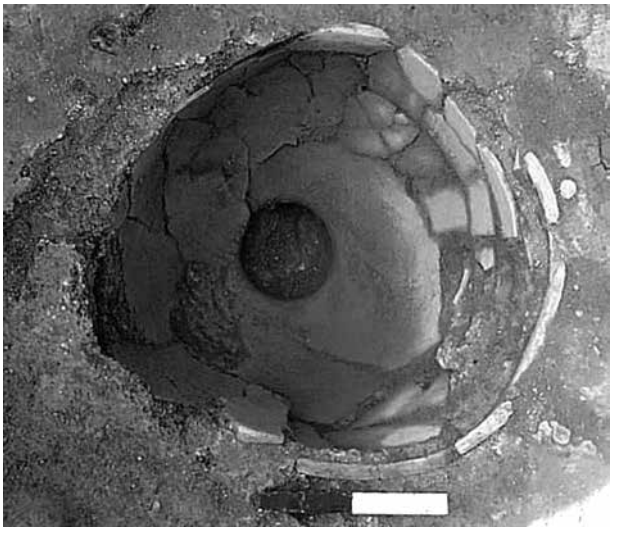


Fig. 42. Overturned storage jar L1168 in secondary use as a *ṭabun*.

Stratum II: A Persian-Period Cemetery (Plan 7)

After an extended period of abandonment, the area was used as a cemetery during the Persian period. Nineteen burials were identified, all located in the central part of the excavated area. These were all primary burials of single individuals. The majority were oriented east–west, while two (T15, T18) were laid roughly north–south (see Nagar, this volume: Table 1). The burials were dug into the ground at a depth of 0.5–1.0 m from the ground surface. In most cases, a coarsely built row of fieldstones was laid upon the interment or slightly to its north.

Some tombs included burial offerings, such as torpedo-type jars, jugs and juglets, placed at the foot, the head, or alongside the deceased (Figs. 87–90). Some of these vessels were not recovered next to the tomb; they may have been displaced or may indicate the presence of an unidentified tomb. Other burial offerings included a copper alloy bracelet, found with remains of adhering cloth, and an iron knife. Following is a description of each tomb.

T6 (W1227, L1234). The burial of an adult, over 15 years of age and of unclear sex, was found in partial articulation and oriented east–west with the head on the east. The burial was overlaid by several fieldstones partially laid upon W1205 of Stratum III and cut into Stratum III surfaces L1228 and L1229 (Fig. 43). A juglet was recoverd within the excavation of L1228, in the topsoil removal of the adjacent square to the east (Fig. 87:1) that is assumed to have been associated with the burial.

T7 (L1260). The burial was oriented southeast–northwest. It contained poorly preserved bones and two small-sized river pebbles. The burial was overlaid by a row of fieldstones next to which was a Persian-period torpedo jar (Figs. 44; 87:2). This tomb partially cut into the MB II habitation level (L1226/L1231).

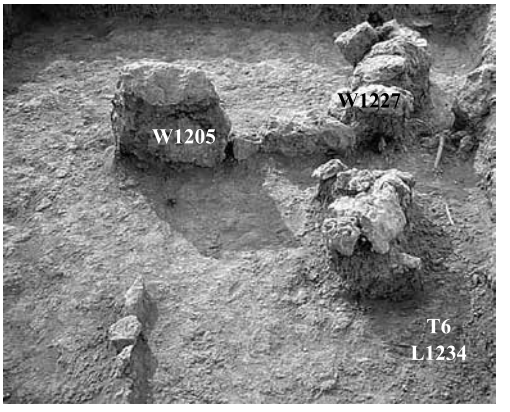


Fig. 43. Burial T6, looking west; note how the stones of the tomb override and cut through W1205.

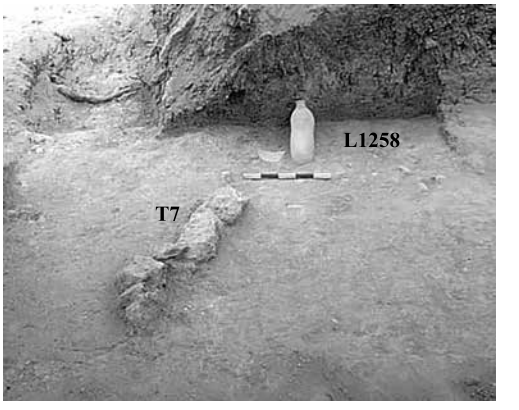
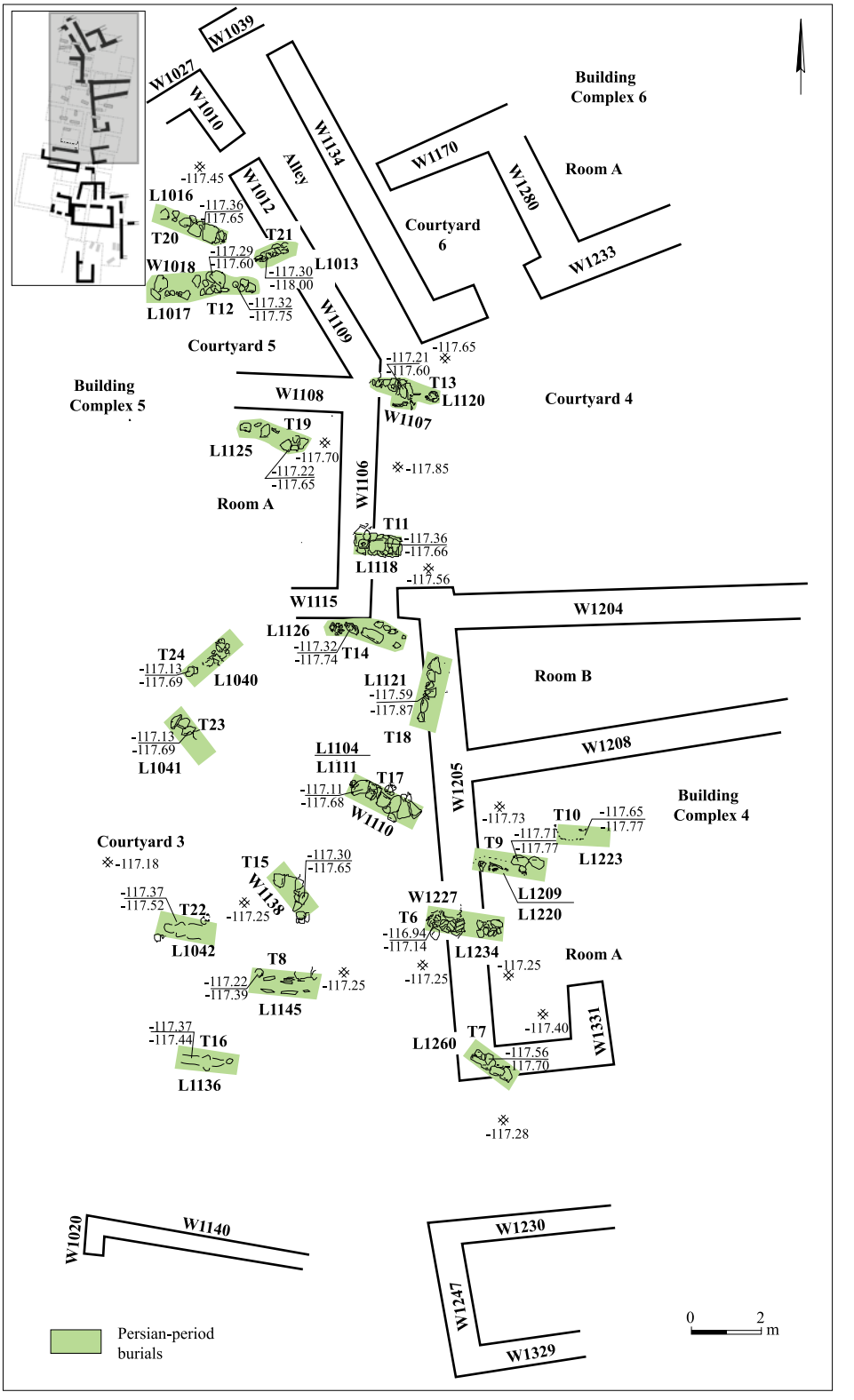


Fig. 44. Burial T7, looking east; an upright torpedo jar at the tomb's head.



Plan 7. Persian-period burials (Stratum II).

T8 (L1145). The burial was oriented east–west with the head on the west. It was partially covered on the north by a line of medium- to large-sized fieldstones, found parallel to a skeleton of unclear sex and age, whose remains consisted of a few cranial elements and lower limb bones (Fig. 45). Near the head, in the west, was a complete jug (Fig. 87:3), excavated in disturbed MB II L1130.

T9 (L1220). This burial was partially covered on its northeast by a few large fieldstones, cutting through two Stratum III floors (Surface L1212/L1214). The burial was oriented east–west with the head in the west and included a few teeth and postcranial elements of a 20–30 years old adult of unclear sex (Fig. 46). An iron knife blade (Fig. 88:1) was found broken into several pieces on the interred's chest.

T10 (L1223). The partial remains of this burial cut through Surface 1212 of Stratum III. The burial was oriented east–west with the head in the east, and no marking stones or burial goods were found associated with it. Only a few cranial elements of a 40–50 years old adult of undetermined sex were uncovered.

T11 (L1118). Remains of the stone capping of a probable tomb oriented east–west, consisting of several large- to medium-sized stones arranged in a rectangle (1.4 × 0.7 m), were found adjacent and partially cutting into W1106 of Stratum III (Fig. 47). The tomb was not excavated.

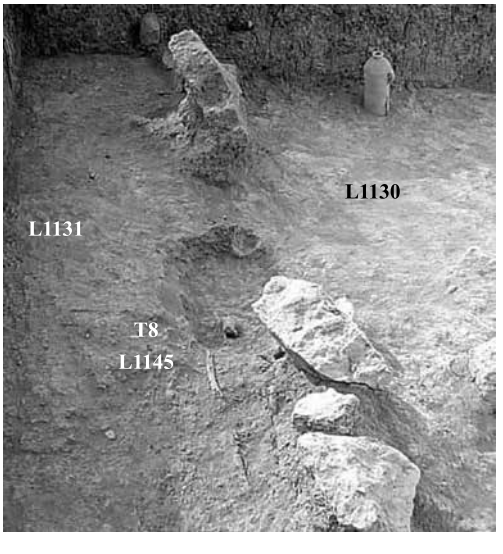


Fig. 45. Burial T8, looking west; the remains of a Persian-period ceramic jug are in the center; upright Persian torpedo jar on upper right is probably associated with burial T22.

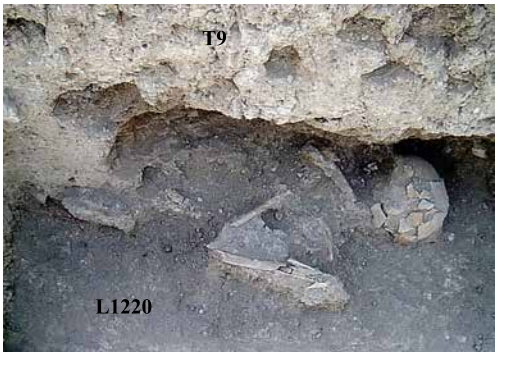


Fig. 46. Burial T9, looking south.

Fig. 47. Burial T11, looking northeast.

T12 (L1017). The remains of this tomb, capped by large- to medium-sized fieldstones, cut into the Stratum III habitation level. Removal of these stones revealed a nearly complete burial with cranial bones, teeth and postcranial elements of an adult oriented east–west with the head in the west (Figs. 48, 49). A complete upright torpedo jar was found at its feet (Figs. 50; 88:2).

T13 (L1120). Remains of this tomb, capped by several large- to medium-sized fieldstones, partially cut into Stratum III W1106 (Fig. 51). Removal of the stones revealed a burial lying on its back and oriented east–west with the head in the east. The bones included cranial remains, teeth and postcranial elements of a 40–50 years old adult of undetermined sex, with the hands crossed over the pelvis.

T14 (L1126). The remains of this tomb were partially covered on the east by several large- to medium-sized stones. The tomb cut through Stratum III L1119 and included a burial oriented east–west, lying on its back with the head in the west and the arms at the sides. The remains consisted of cranial, teeth and postcranial elements of a 40–50 years old adult of undetermined sex; near the head was a complete torpedo jar (Figs. 52; 88:3).

Fig. 48. Burial T12, looking west.

Fig. 49. Close-up of skull in burial T12, looking west.

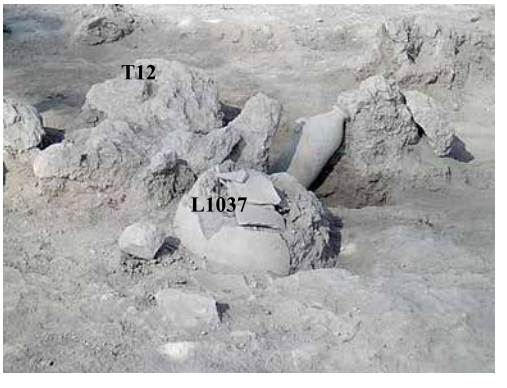


Fig. 50. Burial T12 before its exposure, looking northeast; torpedo jar on right; remains of Stratum III *ṭabun* in foreground.

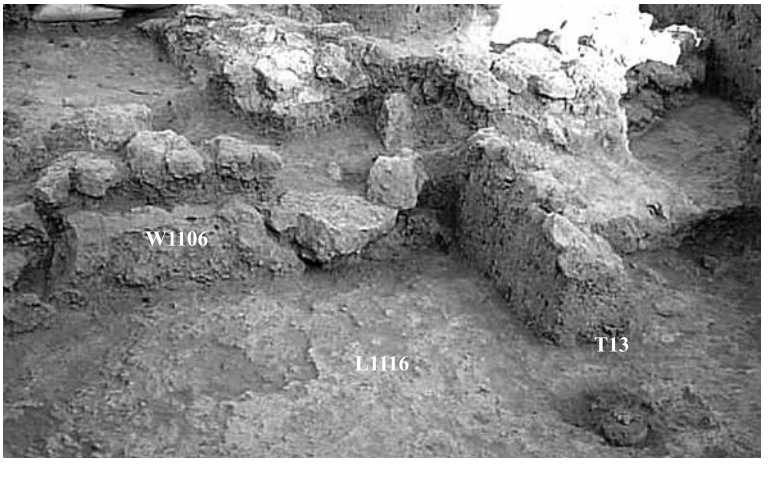


Fig. 51. Burial T13 cutting into W1109/W1106, looking northwest.

Fig. 52. Burial T14 in lower center, looking southwest; note Persian-period torpedo jar cutting through Stratum III buildup, seen in upper center.

Fig. 53. Burial T15, looking east.

T15 (W1138). This tomb comprised a row of fieldstones, oriented north–south, which included one large basalt stone (Fig. 53). The bones of this burial were very deteriorated.

T16 (L1136). Remains of this burial were discovered during the excavation of the Stratum III L1136 surface makeup. The burial, oriented east–west with the head in the east, consisted of cranial remains, teeth and postcranial elements of a 20–30 years old adult of undetermined sex. A copper-alloy bracelet with traces of adhering cloth was found near the left wrist (Figs. 54; 88:4).

T17 (W1110). The remains of this tomb were located to the west of Stratum III W1205 of Building Complex 4. The burial was covered by a row of large- to medium-sized stones (Fig. 55). Removal of the stones exposed only limited remains of deteriorated long bones. Immediately south of the stones were a torpedo jar (Fig. 89:1) and a juglet (Fig. 89:2) revealed in the northern part of the square; they may have been moved from their original deposition. These two vessels could have also originated in a tomb not yet located in this area, as remains of dispersed bones, possibly the remains of another Persian burial, were revealed in L1111, which was excavated down to the Stratum III surface level.

T18 (L1121). Remains of this tomb, comprising a row of large- to medium-sized stones oriented north–south, were found immediately to the west of W1205 (Figs. 55, 56). Removal of the stones exposed limited cranial remains in the north. The tomb was dug into the MB II levels and partially penetrated Stratum III Surface 1111, whose excavation revealed the partial remains of two Stratum III infant jar burials (T36, T37, see above; Fig. 56).

Fig. 54. Burial T16, looking north; remains of the cranium are seen on the right, and a complete bracelet is in the center.

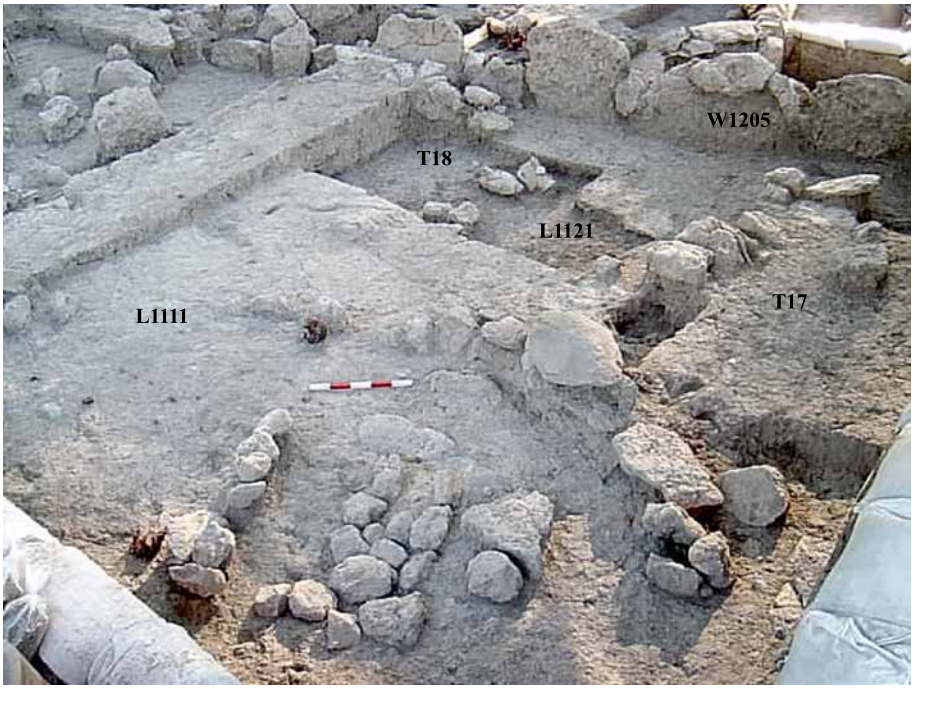


Fig. 55. Burial T17, looking northeast; Burial T18 and W1205 are at back.

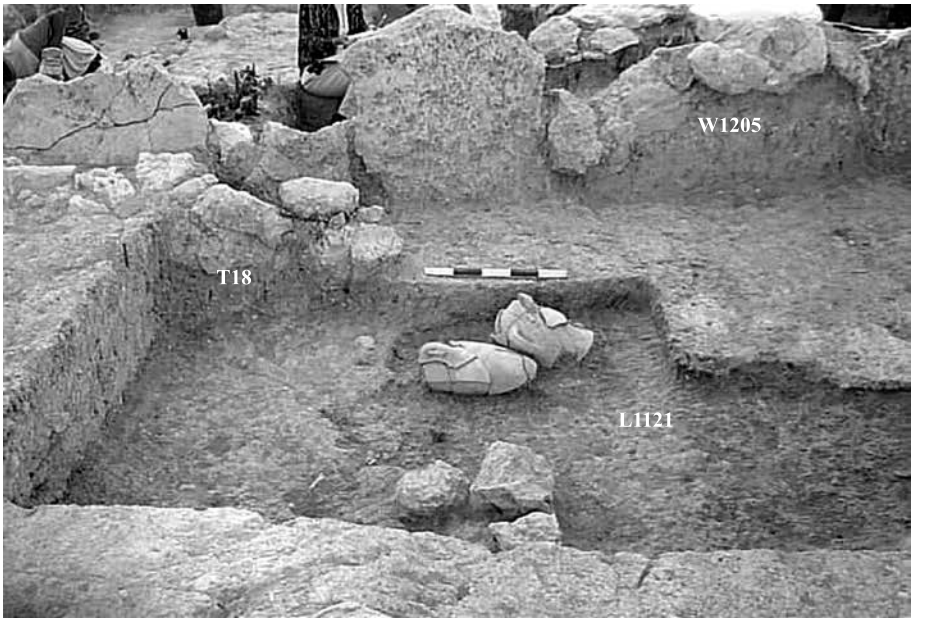


Fig. 56. Burial T18, cutting into Stratum III remains, looking east; two infant storage-jar burials of L1121 are in the center, and W1205 is at back.

T19 (L1125). The remains of this tomb were composed of an uneven line of large- to medium-sized stones oriented east–west. Removal of the stones revealed deteriorated remains of an individual of undetermined sex, 15–20 years of age, with the head in the east.

T20 (L1016). The remains of this east–west tomb, marked by a row of medium-sized fieldstones, cut into Stratum III L1014. Immediately south of the tomb were deteriorated bones in articulation (Fig. 57).

T21 (L1167). Found in proximity to T20 and T12, this tomb was composed of a short row of medium- and small-sized stones (W1013) oriented southeast–northwest and partially positioned upon earlier Stratum III W1012 (Fig. 58). Removal of the stones revealed the fragmented remains of a burial located slightly to their south. The burial remains consisted of cranial remains, teeth and postcranial elements of a male >18 years of age with the head in the southeast.

T22 (L1042). This east–west burial had the head in the west. It included articulated cranial bones, teeth and postcranial elements of an adult resting on its back (Fig. 59). A torpedo jar in an upright position was recovered near the foot of the burial (L1130; Figs. 60; 89:3).

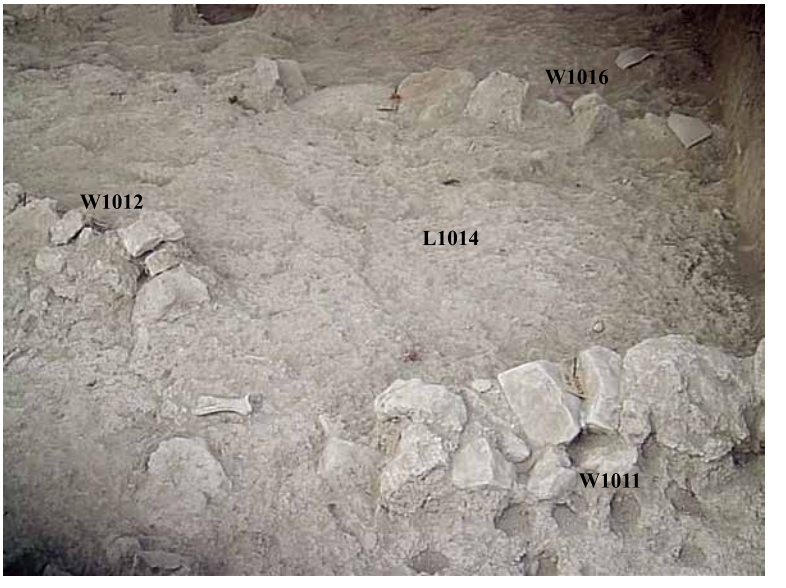


Fig. 57. Skeleton in burial T20, looking west.

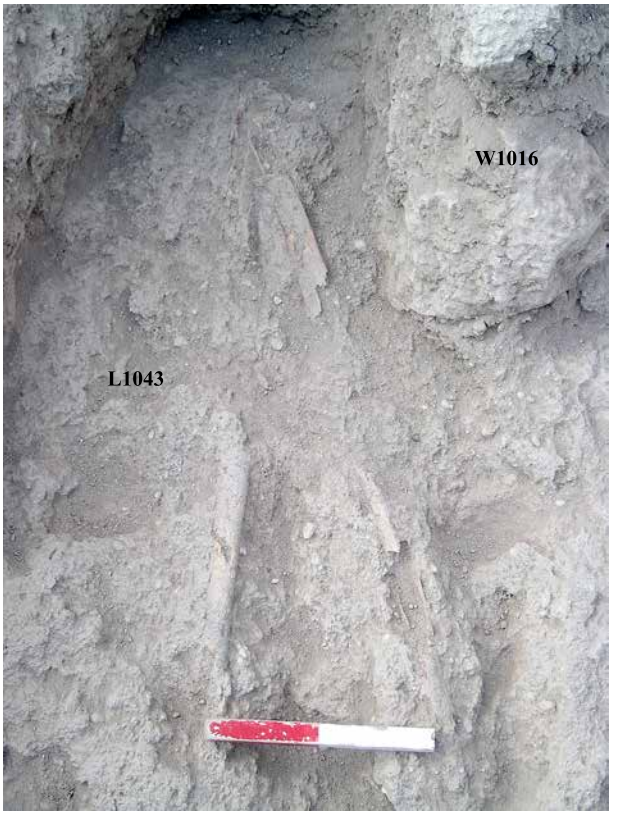


Fig. 58. Burial T21, looking south.

Fig. 59. Burial T22, looking west.

Fig. 60. An upright Persian-period torpedo jar found at the foot of burial T22, looking northwest.

T23 (L1041). This tomb was discovered post-excavation (Fig. 61). The east–west tomb consisted of a row of medium-sized stones. Removal of the stones revealed a burial of an adult of undetermined sex lying on its back. The remains, found slightly south of the stones, consisted of cranial, teeth and postcranial elements with the head in the east.

T24 (L1040). This tomb, also discovered post-excavation, is located immediately to the north of T23. No marking stones were identified, yet skeletal material of the lower limbs was recovered, and next to them, a juglet (Figs. 62; 90:1). The head appears to have been in the east. Two additional jugs (Fig. 90:2, 3) were revealed within the MB II L1009 surface makeup and tentatively attributed to this tomb.

Fig. 61. Burial T23, looking southwest.

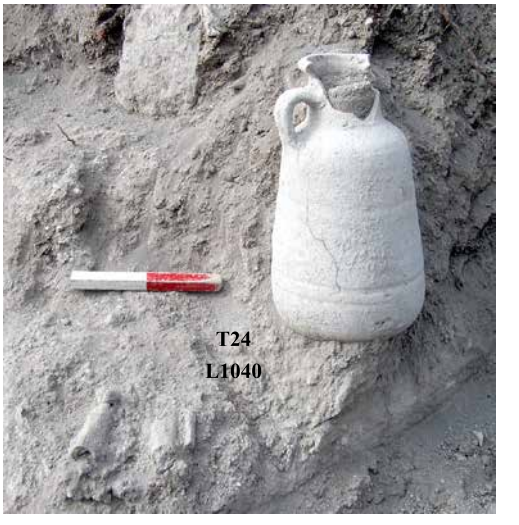
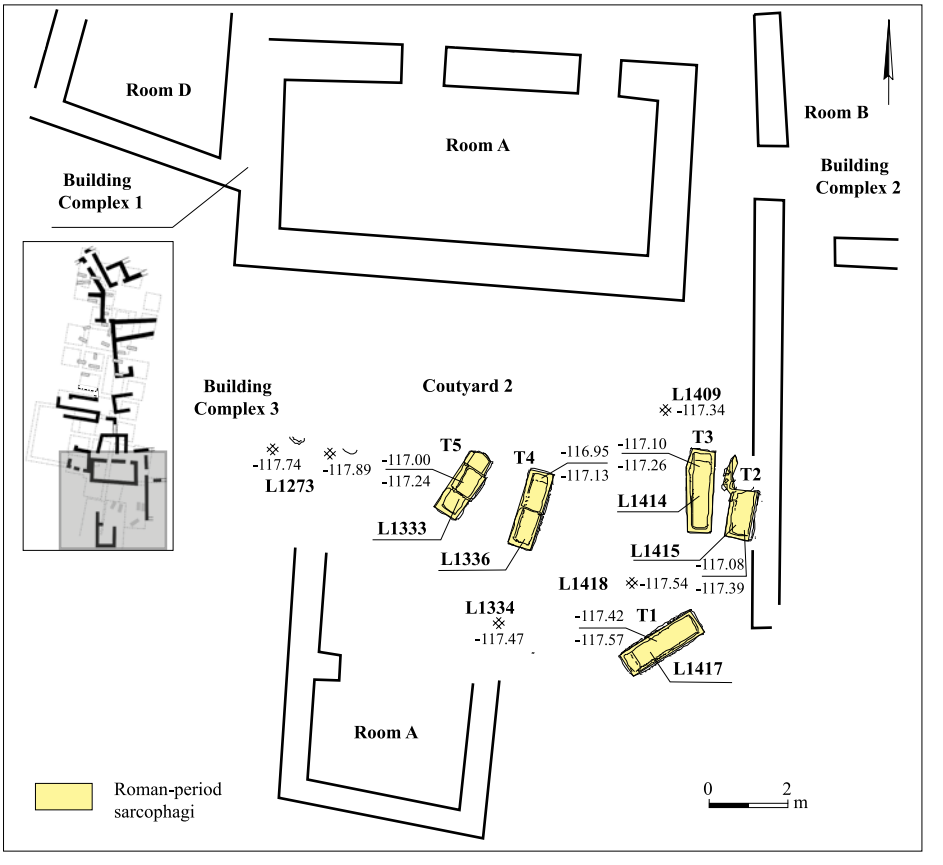


Fig. 62. Persian-period juglet associated with burial T24, looking west; note *in situ* skeletal remains on lower left.

Stratum I: A Roman-Period Cemetery (Plan 8)

After a long hiatus of nearly 800 years, the region reverted to a cemetery during the Late Roman period (third century CE). In the southern part of the excavated area the bases of five limestone sarcophagi (T1–T5) were discovered; all had been badly damaged by looting and plowing, leaving only their lower part intact (Fig. 63). At the bottom of the sarcophagi were revealed small amounts of ceramics, beads, metal objects, teeth and deteriorated bones, some of them burned. Next to the sarcophagi, remains of scattered bones and smashed ceramic vessels, apparently representing looted remains from the burials, were found.

T1 (L1417). This stone sarcophagus (2.20 × 0.75 m, walls 0.1 m thick) was preserved only a few centimeters high. At its southwestern end was a small step (0.25 m wide, 0.1 m high)



Plan 8. Roman-period cemetery (Stratum I).

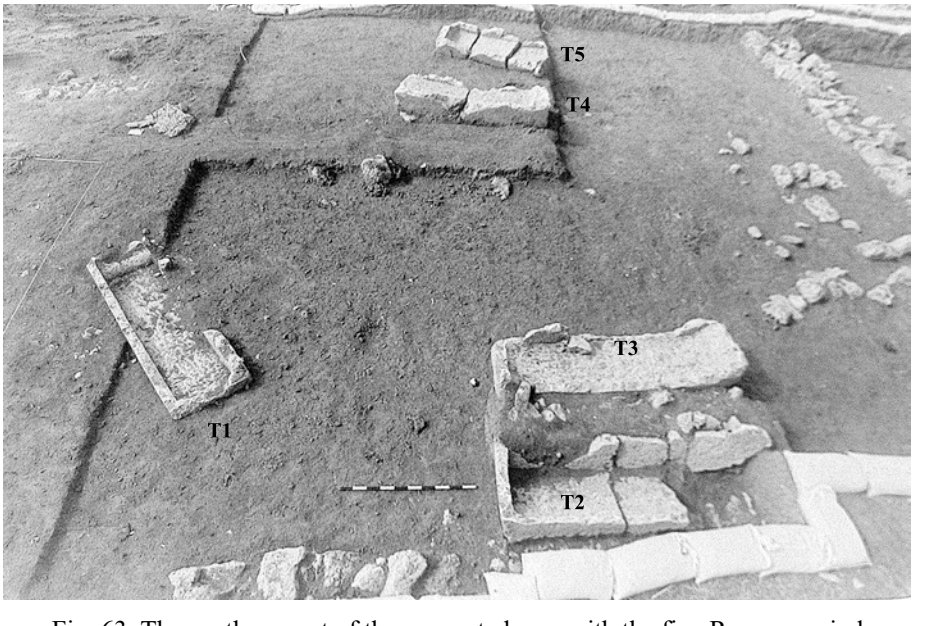


Fig. 63. The southern part of the excavated area with the five Roman-period sarcophagi, looking west.

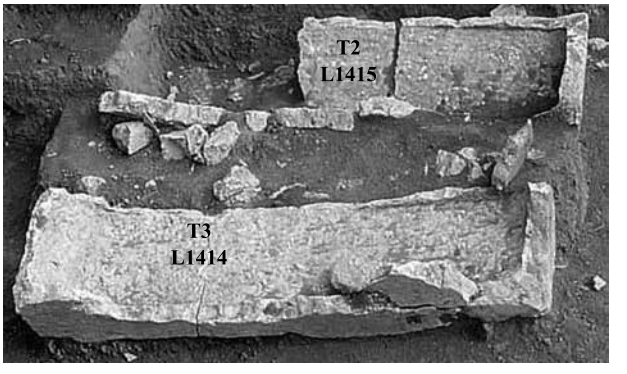


Fig. 64. The sarcophagi of burials T2 (L1415) and T3 (L1414), looking east.

for the head of the deceased. The burial debris within the sarcophagus (L1417) included a few pottery sherds and a long bone exhibiting signs of burning, representing an individual of undetermined age and sex.

T2 (L1415). This stone sarcophagus (2.10 × 0.75 m) was found broken in two (Fig. 64). The 0.1 m thick stone walls were preserved to a height of only a few centimeters. The burial debris within the sarcophagus (L1415) consisted of a few pottery sherds, a copper alloy finger-ring with a blank bezel (Fig. 91:5), and scattered burned bones that included a cranial fragment, a tooth and postcranial fragments of a 30–40 years old adult of undetermined sex.

T3 (L1414). This stone sarcophagus (2.10 × 0.75 m, 0.1 m thick walls) was preserved to a height of only a few centimeters (Fig. 64). At its southern end was a small step (0.2 m wide, 0.14 m high) for the head of the deceased. The burial debris within the sarcophagus (L1414) included eight plain disc beads made of light brown faience or deteriorated glass, a metal nail, and a few burned postcranial bones and a tooth of an adult, 30–40 years of age and of undetermined sex.

T4 (L1336). This stone sarcophagus (2.00 × 0.75 m, 0.1 m thick walls), preserved to a height of only a few centimeters, was broken in two (Fig. 65). At its northern end was a small step (0.2 m wide, 0.16 m high) for the head of the deceased. The burial debris within the sarcophagus (L1336) included a few pottery sherds, yet no skeletal remains were recovered.

T5 (L1333). This stone sarcophagus (1.80 × 0.75 m) was broken into three pieces (Fig. 65). The 0.1 m thick walls were preserved to a height of only a few centimeters. The burial debris within the sarcophagus (L1333) included cranial and postcranial remains, with signs of burning. The bones represent at least two individuals of undetermined sex and age.

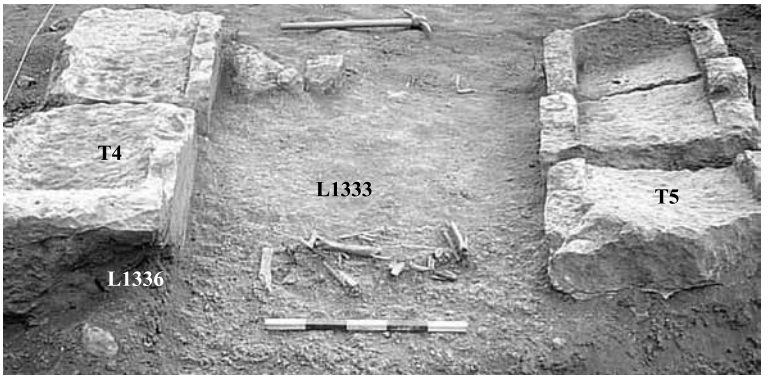


Fig. 65. Burials T5 (L1333) and T4 (L1336), looking south; note the piled bone remains between the two sarcophagi.

Fig. 66. Remains of Roman-period ceramic vessels on Surface 1418, looking southwest.

Uncovered between T1, T2, and T3 were the remains of a habitation level (L1418), apparently of Stratum I, upon which were the scattered remains of the looted burials including restorable ceramic vessels (Figs. 66; 91:2–4). The same level was also revealed north of T2 and T3 (L1409), and between and south of T4 and T5 (L1334; Fig. 65). West of T5, the scattered skeletal remains (L1273) of an adult 30–50 years of age and of undetermined sex were recovered, apparently looted from T5.

The Finds

The following section presents and discusses the ceramic material associated with the MB II settlement (Stratum III), followed by that of the Persian-period tombs (Stratum II) and the Late Roman-period burials (Stratum I). For a presentation and discussion of the flints, see Matskevich, this volume; for a presentation of the very limited faunal remains recovered from the excavations, see Sade, this volume; for the anthropological remains recovered from the burials identified in all three strata, see Nagar, this volume; and for the ground stone assemblage of the MB II period (Stratum III), see Rosenberg and Tsin, this volume. The limited amount of metal finds, such as the iron knife and copper alloy bracelet, both associated with the Persian-period burials, and the copper alloy finger-ring with a blank bezel associated to the Roman burials, are presented below.

Pottery

Stratum III: Middle Bronze Age IIB

The MB II settlement at el-Munṭar el-Abyad was short-lived, with no preceding or subsequent occupations within this period. This scenario, present at many sites, enables the characterization of the ceramic development at one site and in one region over an extended time span. In contrast, the restricted time span of the present assemblage highlights its importance as a 'snapshot' in time characterizing the MB IIB in the Bet She'an region.

This section is designed to be a basic and by no means exhaustive presentation of the MB II ceramic assemblage from el-Munṭar el-Abyad. This study was necessarily reliant on the large MB II ceramic assemblage unearthed in the excavations at Tel Bet She'an, the largest and most immediate site bearing a contemporaneous occupation (Maeir 2007). With few revisions, the present study has adopted Maeir's basic typology. Figures 67–83 of this report present all the basic forms recovered from secure loci associated with Stratum III, while Figs. 84, 85 present a selection of vessels originating from some of the numerous infant and three adult burials associated with this stratum.

The MB II pottery exhibits an advanced technological level of production. The majority appears to have been wheel-made from well-levigated clays mixed with small- to medium-sized white and dark gray inclusions and generally well-fired. Though a comprehensive petrographic study was not carried out, the presence of dark gray (basalt) grits in nearly all the wares strongly suggests a local manufacture. The cooking pots are primarily handmade with larger inclusions, also comprising basalt grits, and are generally not as well-fired. Decoration is generally rare. Red slip or wash, and burnishing, are uncommon and are found sporadically on some juglets and a few bowls. Plastic decoration, usually found in the form of applied impressed coils imitating a rope pattern on straight-sided cooking pots, is generally not found beyond this vessel type.

Bowls

Rounded and Straight-Sided Bowls.— The majority of these forms found in el-Munṭar el-Abyad are prevalent in MB II assemblages of the Southern Levant. In the ceramic assemblage from Tel Bet She'an, Maeir (2007:247–250) divided the rounded and straight-sided bowls into four primary types according to rim morphology: plain (BL21), everted (BL22), internally developed and inverted (BL23), and externally thickened or beveled (BL24).

Type BL21 (Fig. 67:1–10) includes bowls with rounded, tapered, or slightly flattened rims. The end of the rim is often slightly inturned. Type BL22 (Fig. 67:11) includes bowls with a slightly everted rim. These are not common in the present assemblage or the MB II levels at Tel Bet She'an. Type BL23 (Fig. 68:1–6) includes bowls with an internally developed and inverted rim that is common to the very end of MB II at Tel Bet She'an and other sites (Maeir 2007:248). Type BL24 (Fig. 68:7–15), with a slightly externally thickened rim, is also common throughout the MB II levels at Tel Bet She'an (Maeir 2007:248–249).

Carinated Bowls.— Several studies have addressed the development of carination in the ceramic repertoire of MB II and its imitation of metal vessel forms (Albright 1932: Sections 20, 30–34; 1933: Sections 15–17). Carinated bowls are common at el-Munṭar el-Abyad, as well as at Tel Bet She'an and the entire northern region of the country (Maeir 2007:249–253), but scarce in the central hill region. Maeir divides these bowls into two primary types: open carinated bowls with a rounded tapered, or everted rim (BL25), and closed carinated bowls (BL26) that probably functioned as drinking cups or goblets. Of these two types, several variants were identified at Tel Bet She'an.

Type BL25 (Fig. 69:1–5) is the most common carinated bowl-type at Tel Bet She'an (Maeir 2007:250), though less so at el-Munṭar el-Abyad. These bowls begin to appear in the north during MB IIA and become very common throughout this region during MB IIB, declining in MB IIC (see Cole 1984:56–58 for an expanded discussion). The distinctive thin, 'eggshell' ware is absent from el-Munṭar el-Abyad, and 'white ware' (Fig. 69:3) is generally uncommon.

Type BL26 is common at el-Munṭar el-Abyad and, according to Maeir, several subtypes may be noted in the Tel Bet She'an assemblage. Type BL26a, with angular carination and a plain rim, is common throughout MB II (Amiran 1969: Pl. 27:1, 6), yet at Tel Bet She'an it does not appear in the final stages of MB II, suggesting its primary association with the early- to mid-stages of the period (Maeir 2007:251–252). Two such complete examples were found at el-Munṭar el-Abyad, associated with an infant burial and an adult burial, respectively (Fig. 84:1, 3). Type BL26c, with a cyma profile (Fig. 69:6–10), is common in the north throughout MB II, though forms with a more angular profiled upper body are well-known, mainly in the southern region of the country, such as at Tell Beit Mirsim (Albright 1933: Pl. 8:1–9). Type BL26d, with a low neck and a gutter rim (Fig. 69:11, 12), is found primarily in the earlier strata at Tel Bet She'an (Strata R-4 and R-5) and appears to have been characteristic of the earlier stages of MB IIB, as also noted by Amiran (1969:94). Type

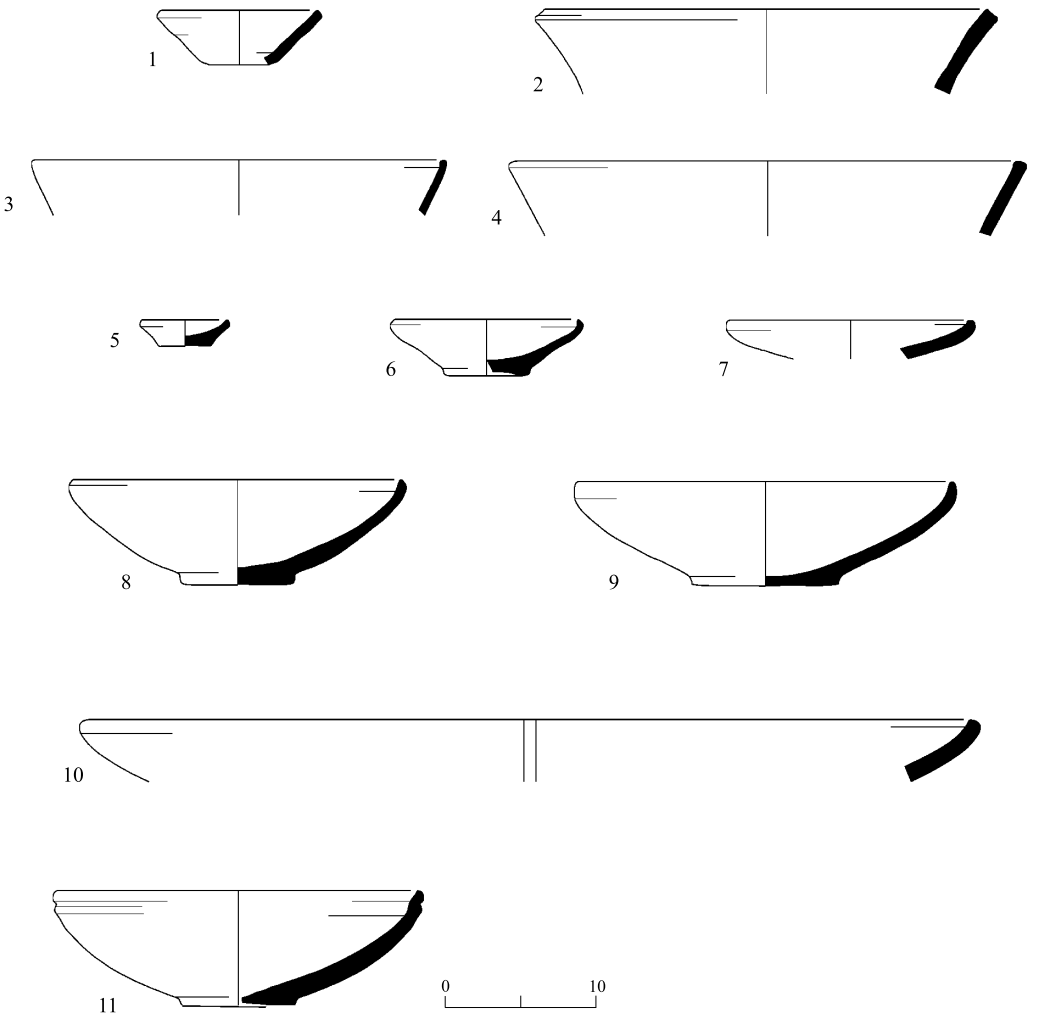


Fig. 67. Middle Bronze Age IIB pottery (Stratum III): Bowl Types BL21, BL22.

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description
1	BL21	1005	10020/1	Light brown clay, light brown core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
3	BL21	1253	12126	Light brown clay, light brown core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
2	BL21	1103	11005/9	Light brown clay, light brown core, small white grits, well-fired
4	BL21	1403	14003	Light brown clay, light gray core, small white grits, well-fired
5	BL21	1267	12157	Light brown-orange clay, light brown-orange core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
6	BL21	1146	11174/1	Light brown-orange clay, light brown-orange core, small white grits, well-fired
7	BL21	1303	13020	Light brown clay, light gray core, small white grits, well-fired
8	BL21	1004	10017/50	Light brown clay, light brown-buff core, small to medium white grits, well-fired
9	BL21	1149	11131	Light brown clay, light brown core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
10	BL21	1303	13016	Light brown clay, light gray core, small to medium white grits, well-fired
11	BL22	1141	11129	Light cream brown clay, light cream brown core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired

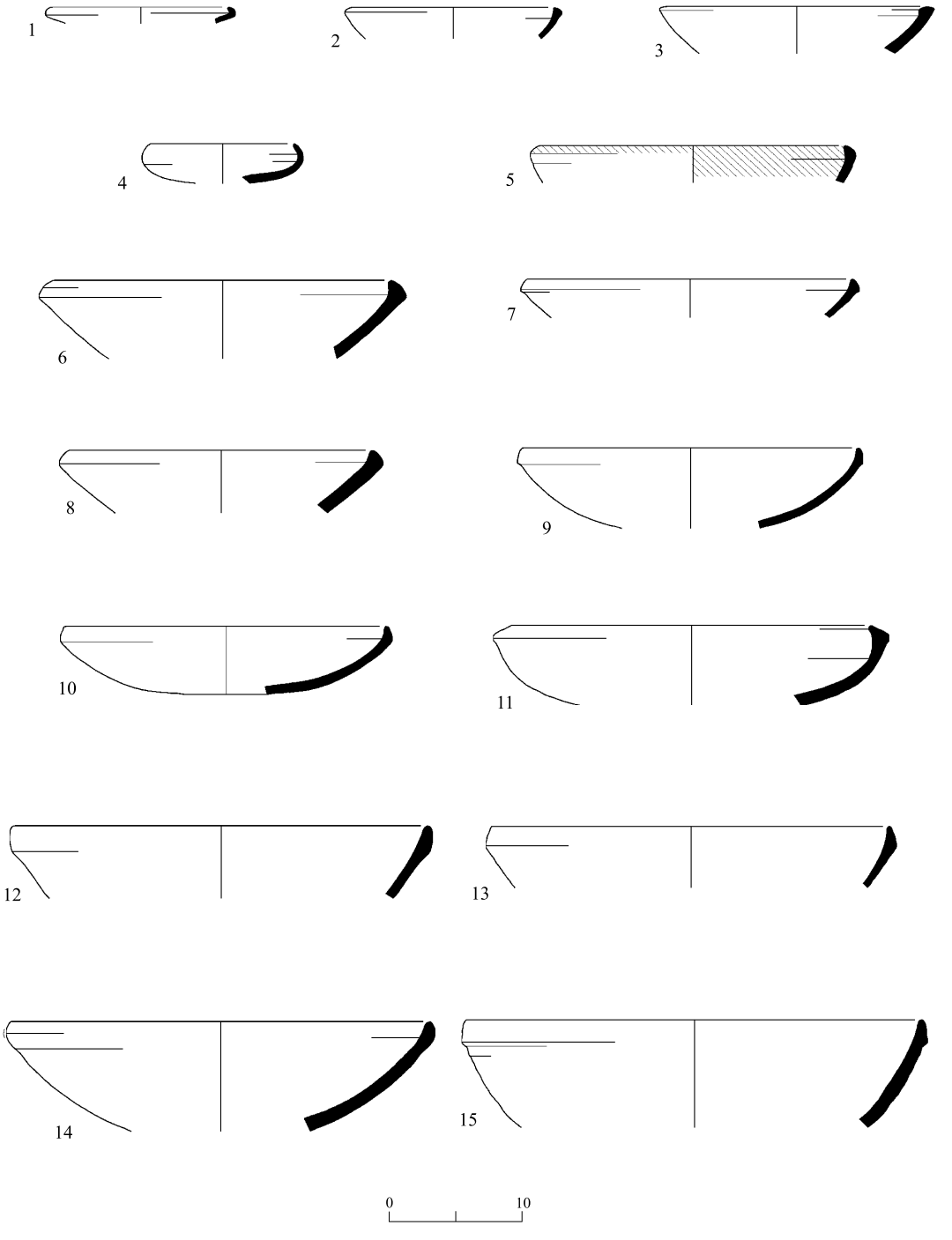


Fig. 68. Middle Bronze Age IIB pottery (Stratum III): Bowl Types BL23, BL24.

◂ **Fig. 68**

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description
1	BL23	1207	12007	Light brown clay, light brown core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
2	BL23	1244	12108	Light brown clay, light brown core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
3	BL23	1031	10069	Light brown clay, light gray core, small white grits, well-fired
4	BL23	1203	14014	Light brown clay, light gray core, small white grits, well-fired
5	BL23	1133	11151	Light brown-orange clay, light brown-buff core, small white and dark gray grits, red wash on int., well-fired
6	BL23	1009	10039	Light brown clay, light brown core, small white grits, well-fired
7	BL24	1005	10008	Light brown clay, light gray core, small white grits, well-fired
8	BL24	1019	10046	Light brown clay, light gray core, small white gray grits, well-fired
9	BL24	1127	11101	Light brown clay, brown core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
10	BL24	1251	12127/1	Light brown-orange clay, light brown core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, cream slip on ext., well-fired
11	BL24	1326	13078	Light brown clay, brown core, small to medium white grits, well-fired
12	BL24	1245	12109	Light brown clay, light gray-brown core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
13	BL24	1319	13072	Light brown clay, light gray-brown core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
14	BL24	1251	12127/2	Light brown clay, light brown-orange core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
15	BL24	1026	10057	Light brown clay, light gray-brown core, small white grits, well-fired

BL26e, with a high neck (Fig. 69:13–15), is well-known in mid- to late MB II contexts at sites such as Shillo (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993:88), and is quite similar in form to a chalice, though no complete profiles of chalices were recovered at el-Munṭar el-Abyad.

Another type of bowl, with a globular body, a simple tapering rim, and a small ring base (Fig. 69:16), resembles a small holemouth. Such bowls are absent at Tel Bet She'an, yet are known in the Sharon coastal plain, where they are associated with MB IIA–B (Gophna and Beck 1981: Figs. 3:1; 5:1; 10:1).

Kraters

As noted by Maeir, the precise definition of a krater is somewhat problematic, as these are open vessels that can also be essentially large and very deep bowls or even pithoi (Maeir 2007:255–256). His definition of kraters as open and closed vessels with a diameter over 25–30 cm is thus extremely generalized, as some of the same forms also appear in smaller diameters. As with the cooking pots, the kraters are also broadly divided into two groups: open (KR22, KR23) and closed (KR24) forms. However, Maeir's Type 24a is considered, in this report, to be more open than closed. In the assemblage from el-Munṭar el-Abyad (Figs. 70–72), all forms generally lack plastic or painted decorations.

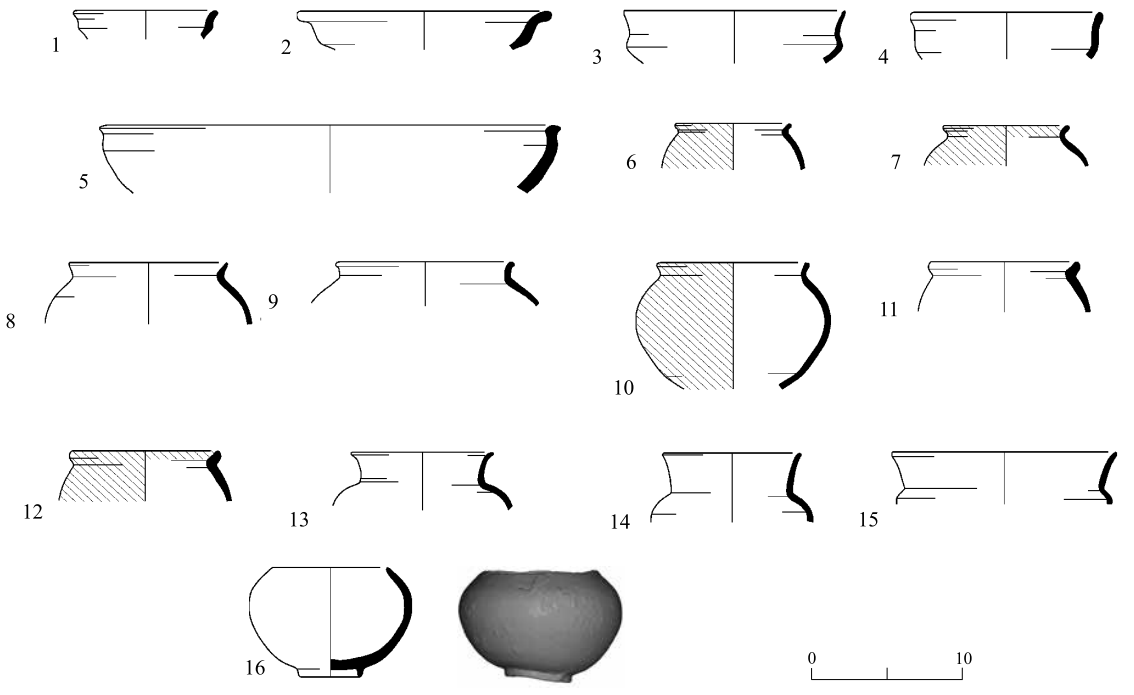


Fig. 69. Middle Bronze Age IIB pottery (Stratum III): carinated Bowl Types BL25, BL26.

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description
1	BL25	1322	13066	Light brown-gray clay, light brown-gray core, small white grits, well-fired
2	BL25	1157	11158	Light brown-gray clay, light brown-gray core, small dark gray grits, well-fired
3	BL25	1267	12157/1	Light brown-buff clay, light brown-buff core, small white and dark gray grits, red wash on ext., well-fired
4	BL25	1164	11177	Light brown clay, light brown core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
5	BL25	1006	10018	Gray-brown clay, gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, medium fired
6	BL26c	1133	11099/2	Light brown clay, light brown core, small white and dark gray grits, red wash and burnish on ext., well-fired
7	BL26c	1311	13058	Light brown clay, light brown core, small white and dark gray grits, red wash on ext., well-fired
8	BL26c	1303	13016/1	Light brown clay, light brown-gray core, small white grits, well-fired
9	BL26c	1005	10016/1	Light brown-buff clay, light brown-buff core, small white grits, well-fired
10	BL26c	1005	10016/50	Light brown clay, light brown-buff core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, red wash on ext., well-fired
11	BL26d	1116	11052	Light brown-buff clay, light brown-buff core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
12	BL26d	1009	10031/1	Light brown-buff clay, light brown-buff core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
13	BL26e	1021	10051/1	Light pale brown clay, light pale brown core, small white grits, well-fired
14	BL26e	1026	10079	Light brown clay, light brown core, small white grits, well-fired
15	BL26e	1103	11005/1	Light brown clay, light brown core, small white grits, well-fired
16		1206	12018	Light brown clay, light brown-buff core, small white grits, medium fired

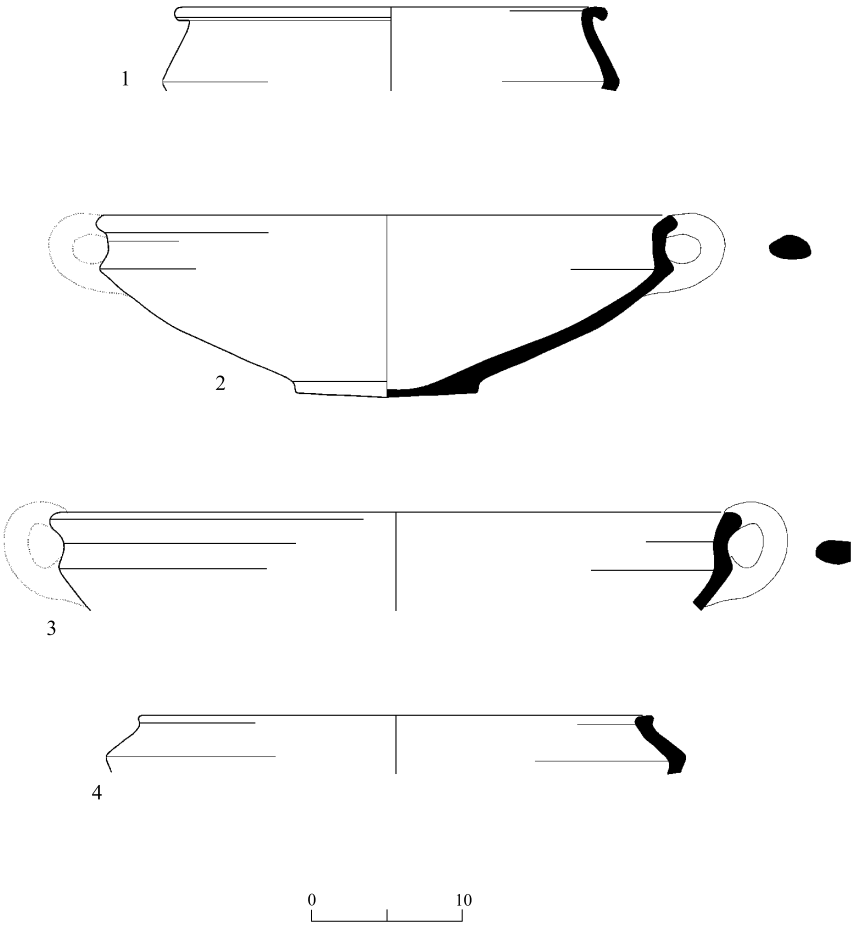


Fig. 70. Middle Bronze Age IIB pottery (Stratum III): Krater Type KR24a.

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	1235	12093	Light brown-orange clay, light gray core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
2	1137	11118	Light brown clay, light brown-gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
3	1103	11017/2	Light brown-buff clay, light brown-buff core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
4	1323	13067	Light brown-buff clay, light brown-buff core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired

Open Forms.— The open forms are morphologically similar to open carinated bowls. Type KR24a (Fig. 70), a large, deep carinated bowl with an everted rim (Maeir 2007:257), is found in Strata R-4 and R-3 at Tel Bet She'an. Generally common in MB II (Cole 1984:49, Pls. 11; 12:a), it often has two loop handles extending from the rim to the carination and is prevalent primarily in the north. These forms often bear an incised and (or) a rope decoration.

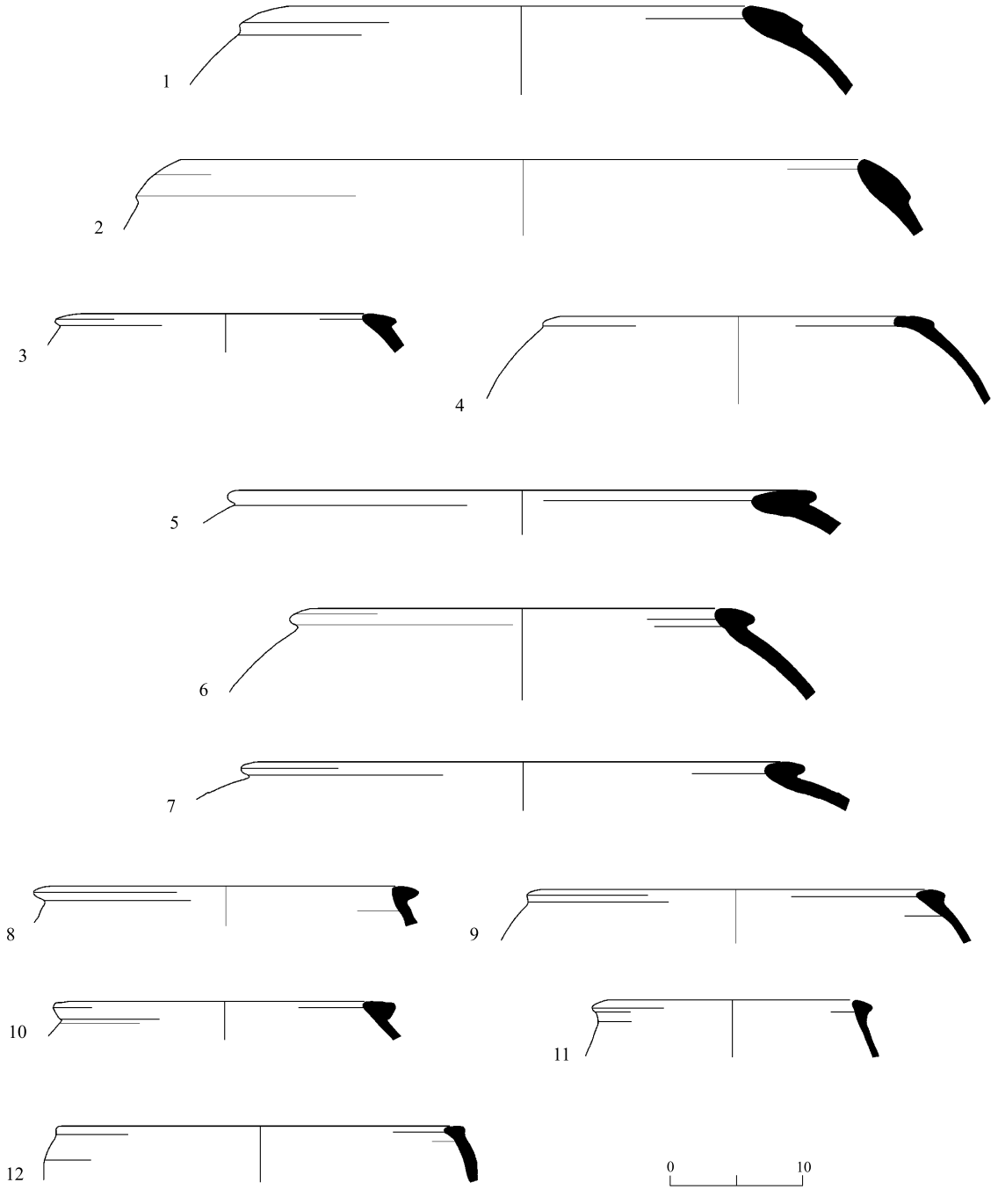


Fig. 71. Middle Bronze Age IIB pottery (Stratum III): Holemouth/Krater Type KR24c.

Closed Forms.— The closed forms (Figs. 71, 72), with an outwardly thickened 'swept-back' rim of triangular profile (Maeir's Type KR24c), were found at Tel Bet She'an Strata R-5–R-3 (Maeir 2007:257) and in Shekhem Strata XX–XVIII (Cole 1984: Pl. 10: a–g).

◂ Fig. 71

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	1249	12124/1	Light brown clay, light brown core, small white grits, well-fired
2	1249	12125	Light brown-orange clay, light brown-gray core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
3	1014	10043/2	Light brown clay, light brown-gray core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
4	1322	13066/1	Light brown clay, light brown core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
5	1157	11158/1	Light brown clay, light brown-gray core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
6	1303	13012/1	Light brown clay, light brown core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
7	1014	10043	Light brown-gray clay, light brown-gray core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
8	1160	11162	Brown-gray clay, brown-gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
9	1303	13020/1	Light brown-orange clay, light brown-orange core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
10	1268	12149	Light brown-gray clay, light brown-gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
11	1149	11147/1	Light brown clay, light gray-brown core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
12	110	11005/10	Light brown clay, brown core, small to medium white grits, well-fired

Fig. 72 ▸

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	1105	11032	Light brown-orange clay, light brown-gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, well-fired
2	1320	13062	Light brown-gray clay, light brown-gray core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
3	1133	11151/51	Light cream-gray clay, light cream-gray core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
4	1105	11038	Light brown-gray clay, light gray core, small to medium white grits, well-fired

Cooking Pots

Both open and closed cooking pots were present in the assemblage (Figs. 73–77), and, in contrast to most other vessel types, both forms appear to have been handmade. The open flat-bottomed cooking pots (Figs. 73–76) have thick straight walls and plastic rope decoration below the simple tapering rim; the closed pots are globular, with no neck, and have a thickened, folded-over rounded rim (Fig. 77). Both forms have characteristic thick walls made of coarse dark brown-red ware with numerous inclusions and are not as well-fired as other ceramic types in the assemblage.

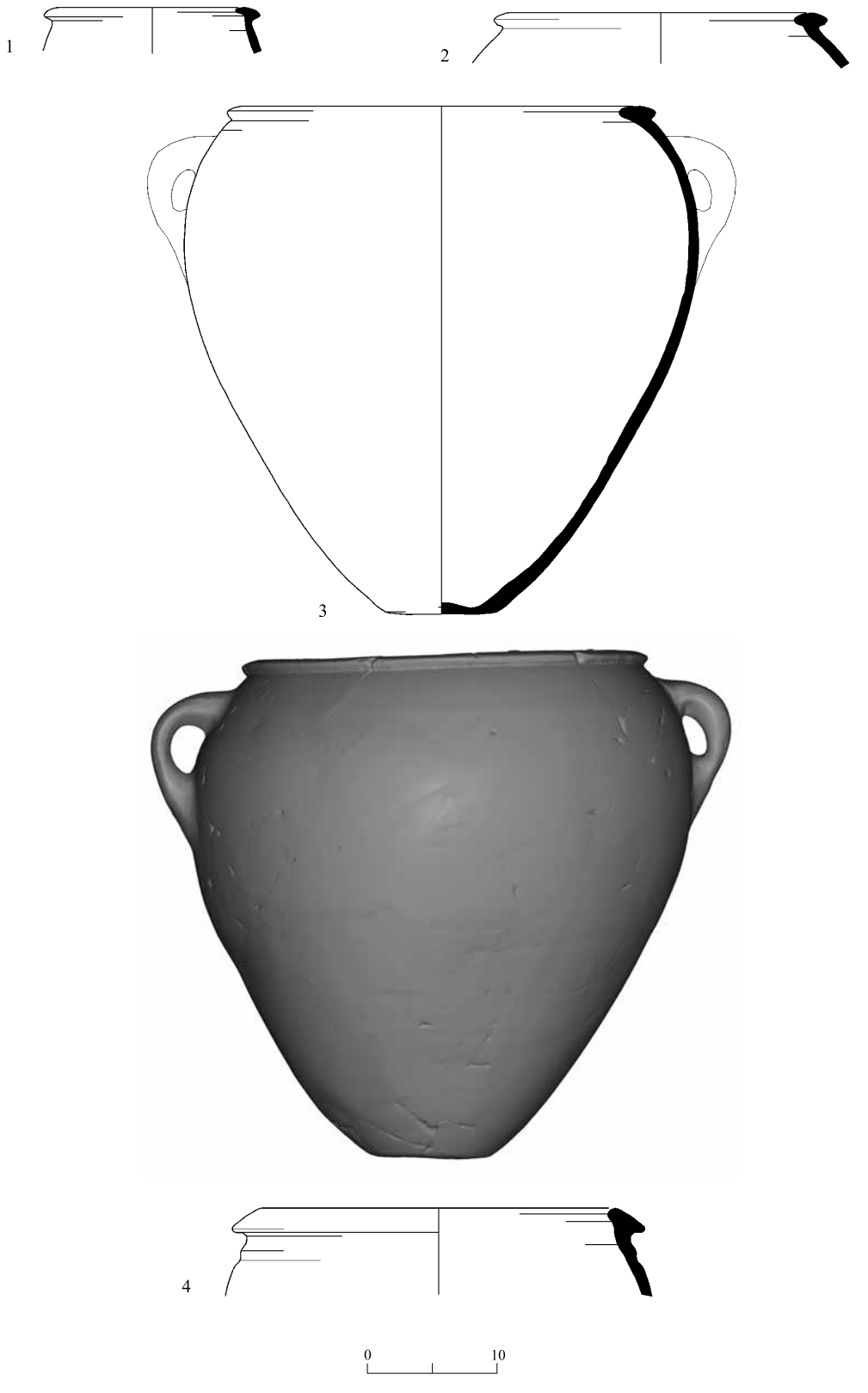


Fig. 72. Middle Bronze Age IIB pottery (Stratum III): Holemouth/Krater Type KR24c (cont.).

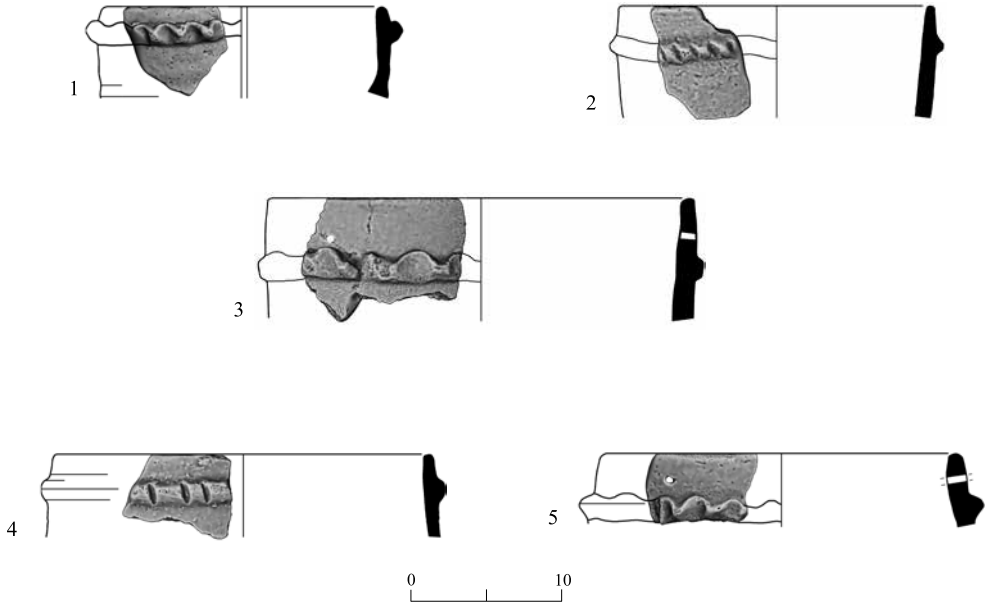


Fig. 73. Middle Bronze Age IIB pottery (Stratum III): small-sized Cooking Pot Type CP21.

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	1159	11160	Brown clay, gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, medium fired
2	1311	13035	Light brown clay, brown-gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
3	1326	13078/1	Light brown-gray clay, dark gray core, small to medium dark gray grits, poorly fired
4	1124	11075	Brow clay, brown-gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, medium fired
5	1212	12022	Brown-gray clay, gray core, small to large white and dark gray grits, medium fired

Straight-sided open cooking pots are conspicuous in the MB II ceramic repertoire. They are generally not common, for they are prone to fracture due to recurring thermal shock that can affect the angular connection between the base and the walls (cf. Maeir 2007:260 for an expanded discussion). In contrast, cooking pots with rounded bases, absent from the present assemblage and appearing as early as EB II, are more durable and provide a more even distribution of heat.

Open Vessels.— These flat-bottomed cooking pots (Maeir 2007: Types CP21, CP22b) appear in a range of sizes, from 19–29 cm in diameter for the small-sized examples (Fig. 73) to over 70 cm in diameter for the larger ones (Figs. 74, 75). The walls of these pots are vertical, either slightly in-sloping near the rim or slightly everted. The simple rim may be tapering or slightly squared. A few centimeters below the rim is an applied clay ridge, often

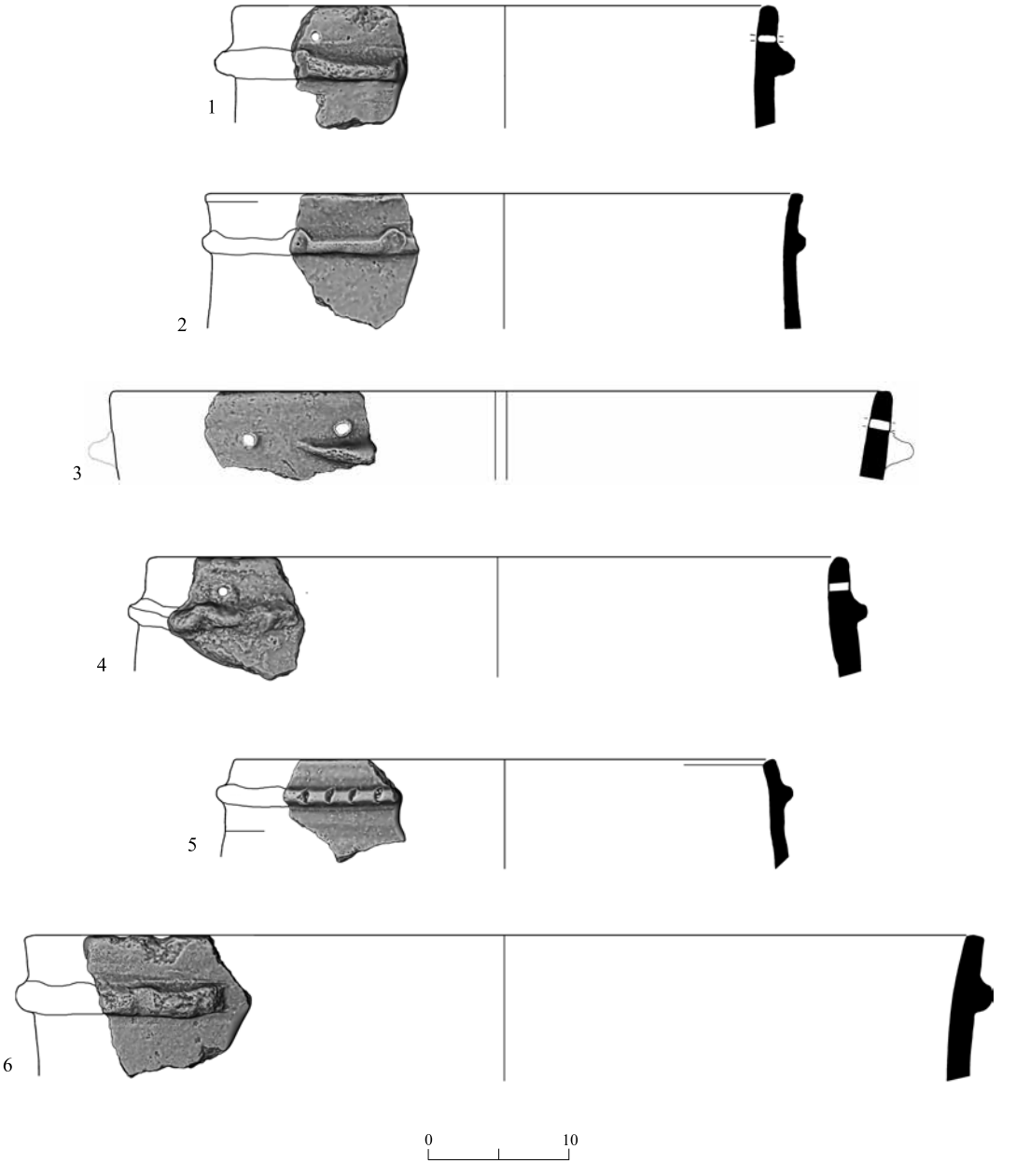


Fig. 74. Middle Bronze Age IIB pottery (Stratum III): Cooking Pot Type CP22b.

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	1156	11152	Brown-red clay, brown-red core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, poorly fired
2	1265	12171	Brown-red clay, dark-gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, poorly fired
3	1231	12076	Brown-gray clay, gray core, small to large white and dark gray grits, poorly fired
4	1152	11174	Brown-red clay, gray core, small to large white and dark gray grits, well-fired
5	1037	10087	Brown-orange clay, brown-gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
6	1105	11027	Brown-red clay, brown-gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, medium fired

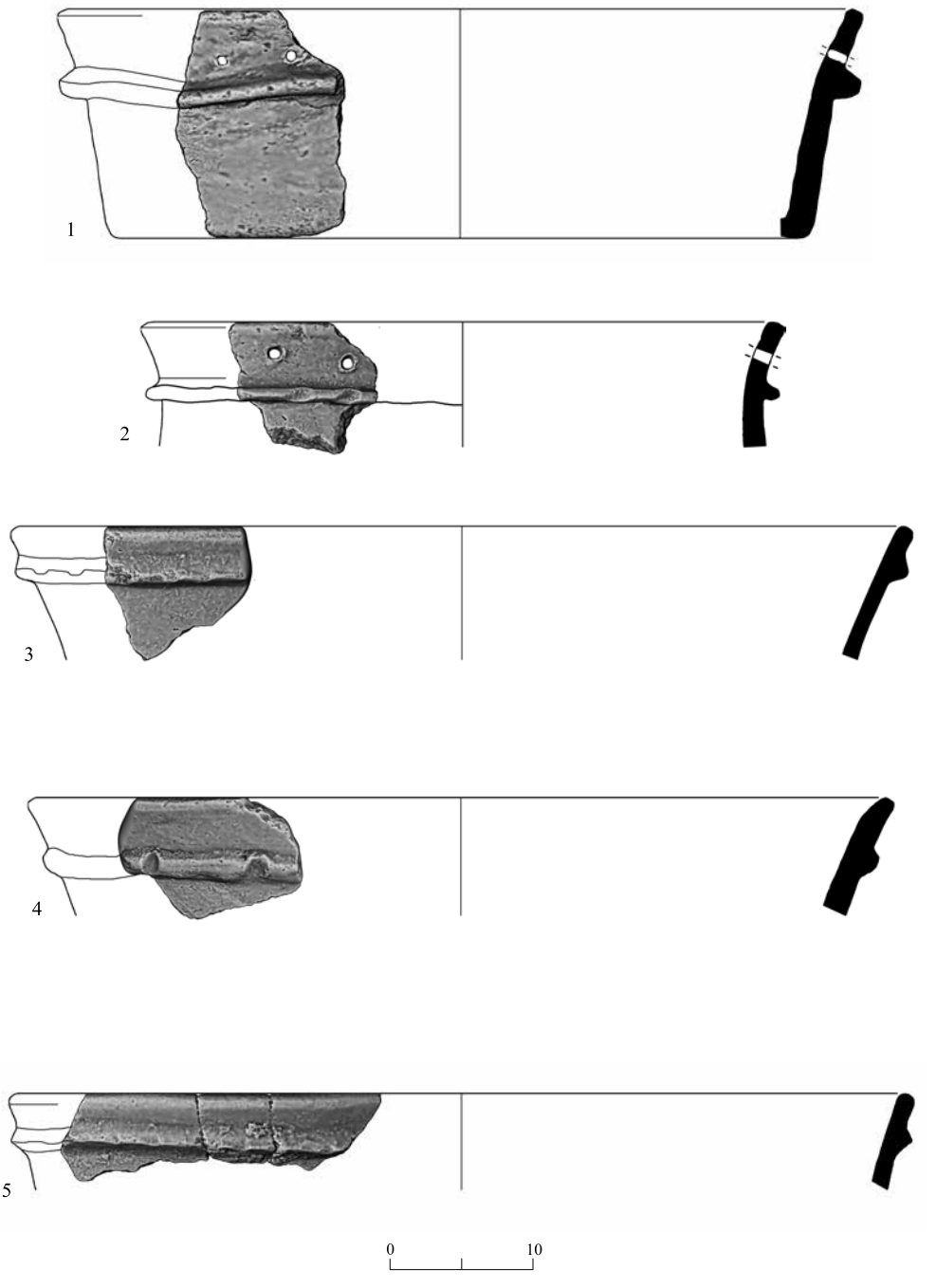


Fig. 75. Middle Bronze Age IIB pottery (Stratum III): Cooking Pot Type CP22b (cont.).

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	1235	12099/1	Brown-gray clay, dark gray core, small to large white and dark gray grits, well-fired
2	1156	11161	Brown-gray clay, gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, poorly fired
3	1005	10020	Brown-red clay, gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, medium fired
4	1009	10031	Brown-red clay, brown-gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, poorly fired
5	1009	10034/50	Brown-red clay, gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, medium fired

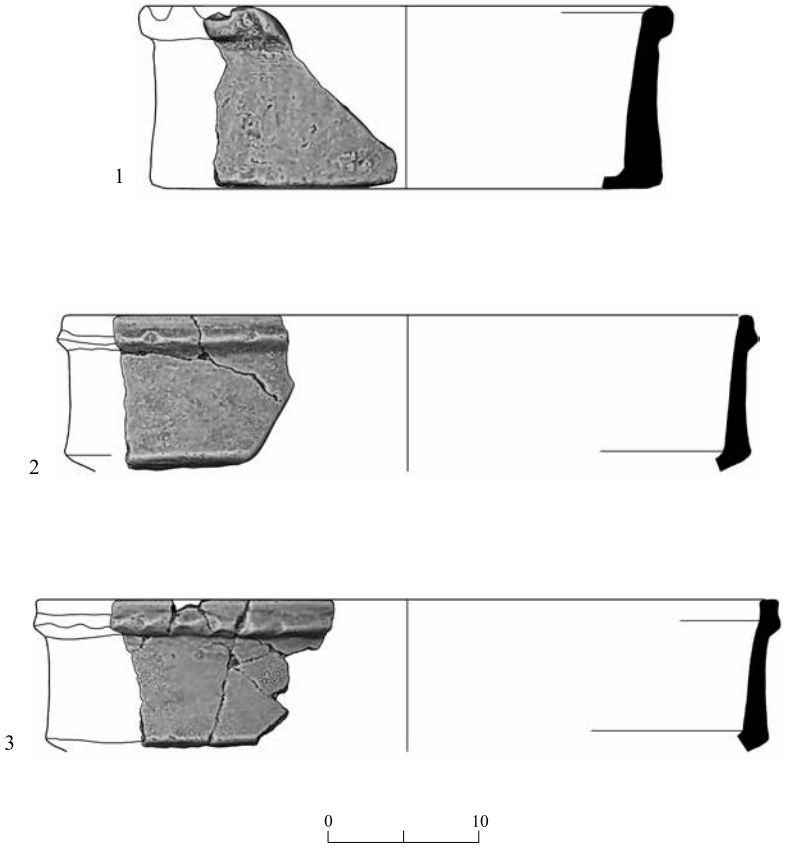


Fig. 76. Middle Bronze Age IIB pottery (Stratum III): Cooking Pot Type CP22a.

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	1024	10065	Brown-red clay, gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, medium fired
2	1270	12154/1	Brown-red clay, brown-gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, poorly fired
3	1004	10017	Brown-red clay, dark gray core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired

indented to resemble a rope. Above this ridge, pierced holes are occasionally found. This form was also found in Shekhem Strata XX–XVIII, dated to early MB IIB (Cole 1984: Pls. 23; 24:a, b). Another very similar form (Maeir 2007: Type CP22a) features vertical sides ending in a squared-off rim thickened on its exterior and decorated with a rope pattern (Fig. 76). This form appears to have been less common than the previous two (CP21 and CP22b), a situation also reflected in the Tel Bet She'an strata dated to late MB II (Maeir 2007:260–261). At Shekhem, this form appears in Strata XX–XVIII (Cole 1984: Pls. 24: c–f; 25; 26:a, b), reinforcing an association with early MB IIB for the cooking pots from el-Munṭar el-Abyad.

Closed Vessels.— The majority of these cooking pots (Fig. 77), also termed "holemouth cookpot" (Cole 1984), are of a globular shape, with no neck, and with a thickened, rolled back and rounded rim (Maeir 2007:262, Type CP26). This form has a distinct regional distribution, from the northern coastal plain and the Jezreel/Bet She'an Valleys, down through the Jordan Valley to Jericho, being rare south of Shillo and Shekhem and scarce south of the central coastal plain (Maeir 2007:262). More common in the earlier MB II Strata R-5 and R-4 in Tel Bet She'an (both associated with the seventeenth century BCE, or MB IIB), it became more rare in the succeeding Stratum R-3 (seventeenth–sixteenth centuries BCE, MB IIB) when it was gradually replaced by another cooking pot form (CP24 and CP25) with a sharply everted and angular rim (Cole 1984: Fig. 18; Maeir 2007:261). This later form continues to develop at the end of MB II and into the Late Bronze Age, when it becomes standard (Amiran 1969:135–137), yet is not found in the ceramic assemblage of el-Munṭar el-Abyad.

Fig. 77 ▸

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	1235	12093/1	Light gray-brown clay, light gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, medium fired
2	1311	13045/3	Light brown clay, light gray core, small to medium white grits, well-fired
3	1212	12022/1	Light brown clay, light gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
4	1123	11074	Brown clay, gray core, small to medium white grits, medium fired
5	1217	12050	Gray-brown clay, gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, medium fired
6	1130	11095	Light brown clay, light gray-brown core, small to medium dark gray grits, poorly fired
7	1270	12154	Gray-brown clay, gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, medium fired
8	1304	13014	Gray-brown clay, gray core, small to medium dark gray grits, medium fired
9	1305	13022	Light brown-orange clay, light brown core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
10	1304	10077	Gray-brown clay, gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, medium fired
11	1326	13086/50	Gray-brown clay, gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, medium fired
12	1133	11150	Brown-orange clay, light gray core, small to medium dark gray grits, medium fired
13	1119	11084	Gray-brown clay, gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, medium fired
14	1254	12135	Brown-gray clay, gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, medium fired

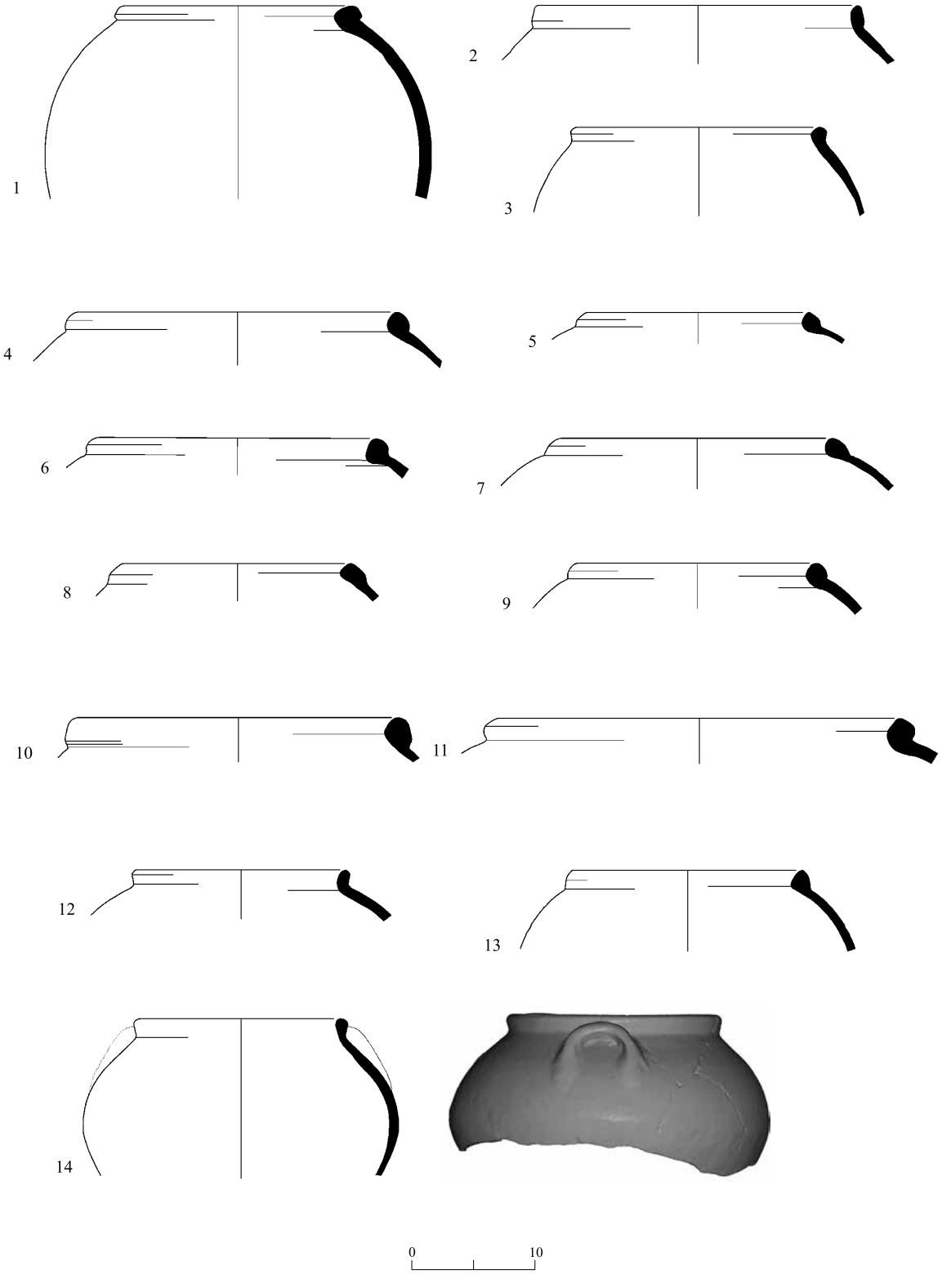


Fig. 77. Middle Bronze Age IIB pottery (Stratum III): Cooking Pot Type CP26 with rolled rim.

Storage Jars

Maeir (2007:264–266) defines three primary types of storage jars based on rim shape: SJ21, with an everted rim; SJ22, with an everted and thickened rim; and SJ23, with a molded rim. The distinctions, however, between these three categories are not always clear. Types SJ21 and SJ22 often bear another feature not noted by Maeir: a distinct concavity of the inner portion of the rim caused by its outer end being turned inward. This feature is found in small amounts in Tel Bet She'an Strata R-4a and R-3 (Maeir 2007: Pls. 5:32; 8:18) and at el-Munṭar el-Abyad, in varying degrees, in all three types. It is also present, in small amounts, at Shekhem, associated with the earlier MB IIB levels (Strata XVIII–XIX; Cole 1984: Pls. 41:f; 42:i, m).

Following Maier's typology (2007:264–266), the storage jars in the present assemblage are defined as Storage Jar Type SJ21 (Figs. 78; 79:1), Storage Jar/Large Jug Type SJ22 (Fig. 79:2–19), Storage Jar/Large Jug Type SJ23 (Fig. 80) and Pithos Type PT23 (Figs. 81, 82). According to Maeir (2007:264), the difference between Types SJ21 and SJ22 cannot be based on rim morphology alone. Therefore, the storage jars/large jugs are considered here as a category whose rims are generally thinner and smaller in diameter than those of the storage jars/pithoi. Storage jars (SJ21) and pithoi (PT23) make up the bulk of the jar types in the assemblage (Figs. 78; 79:1; 81; 82). The distinction between the two is based on size, with pithoi having a rim diameter of 15 cm or larger and being over 75 cm in height (Maeir 2007:267). Both types are generally egg-shaped, with four, two, or no handles just below the shoulder. However, the general lack of complete vessel profiles makes the distinction between storage jars and pithoi difficult, and many were identified primarily by their rim forms, which were often very similar.

The various infant burials found at the site were all interred within storage jars. Removal of the vessels' necks and rims for this purpose left an unclear complete profile of these, thus precluding an exact typological definition and ceramic restoration.

Storage jar Type SJ21 (Figs. 78; 79:1) is not common at el-Munṭar el-Abyad. It bears a simple everted and thickened, often elongated and folded-over rim, frequently with a slight

Fig. 78 ▸

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	1149	11154	Light brown clay, light gray-brown core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
2	1009	10039/1	Light brown clay, light gray-brown core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, medium fired
3	1168	11190	Light brown clay, light gray-brown core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
4	1270	12154/3	Light brown clay, light gray core, small to medium white, red and dark gray grits, well-fired
5	1207	12009	Light brown clay, light gray-brown core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired

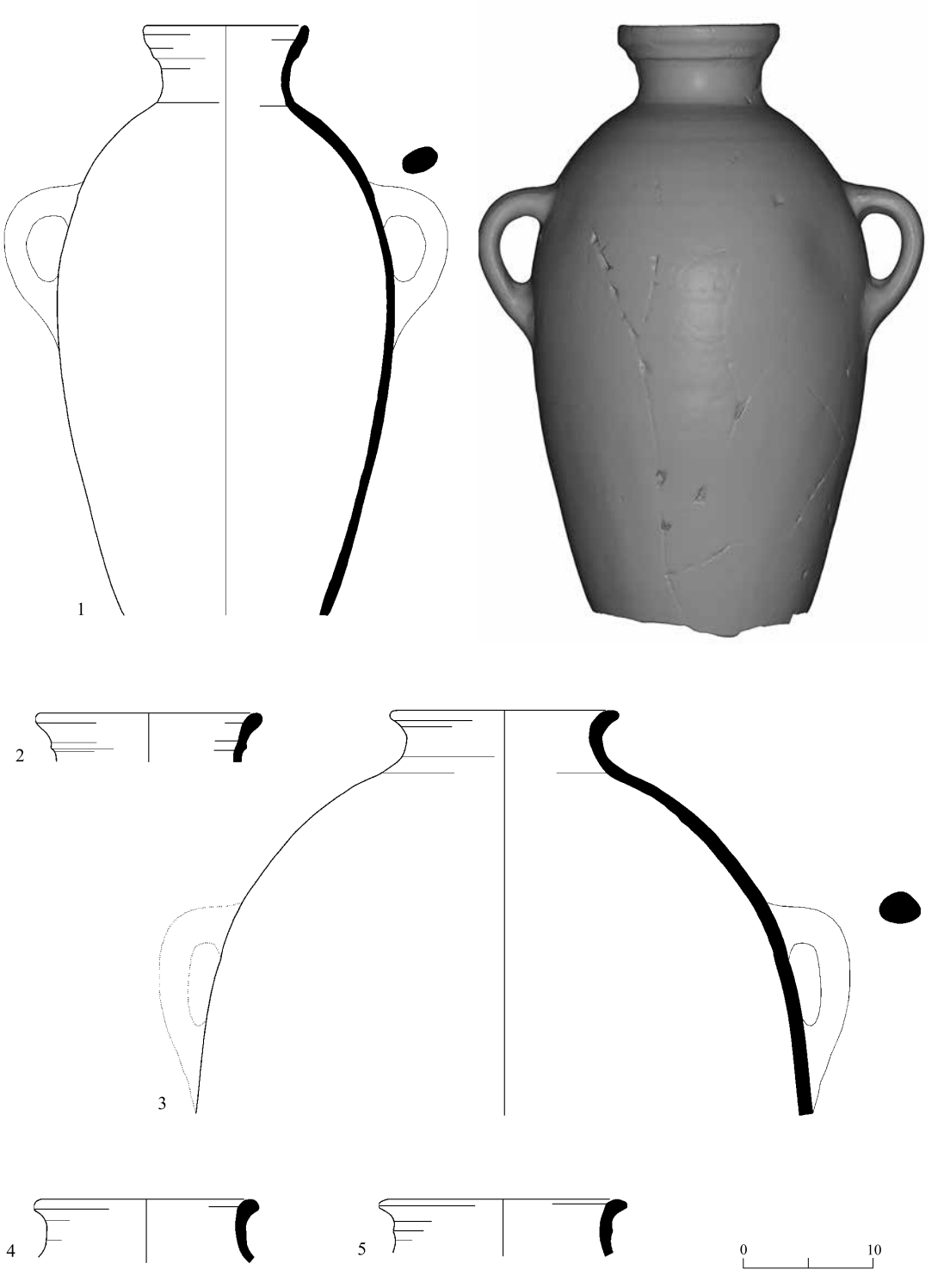


Fig. 78. Middle Bronze Age IIB pottery (Stratum III): Storage Jar Type SJ21.

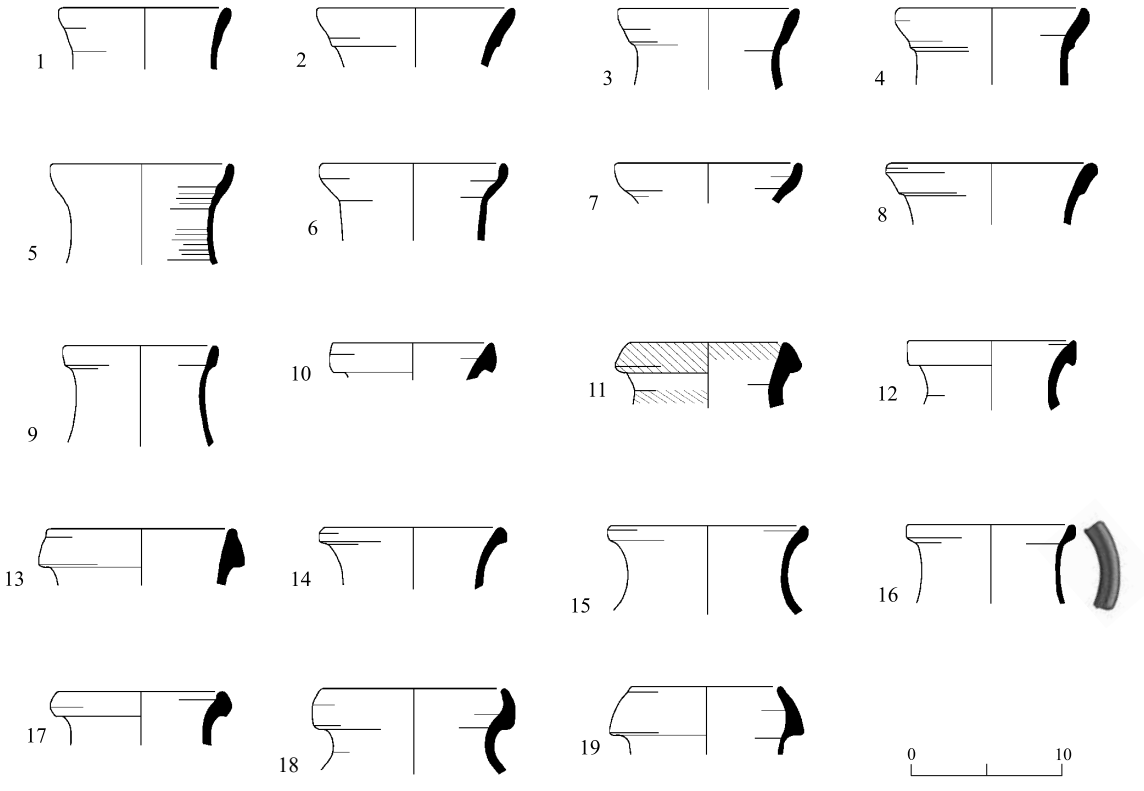


Fig. 79. Middle Bronze Age IIB pottery (Stratum III): Storage Jar Type SJ21 and Large Jug Type SJ22.

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description
1	SJ21	1009	10033/1	Light brown-orange clay, light brown-buff core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
2	SJ22	1319	13055	Light brown clay, light gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
3	SJ22	1117	11185	Light brown clay, light gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
4	SJ22	1235	12099/2	Light brown-orange clay, light brown-buff core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
5	SJ22	1228	12084	Light brown clay, light brown-buff core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
6	SJ22	1267	12163	Light brown clay, light brown-buff core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
7	SJ22	1265	12143	Light brown clay, light brown core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
8	SJ22	1209	12011	Light brown clay, light gray core, small to medium white, red and dark gray grits, well-fired
9	SJ22	1213	12019	Light brown clay, light gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, medium fired
10	SJ22	1231	12076/2	Light brown clay, light brown-buff core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
11	SJ22	1015	10045	Light brown-orange clay, light brown-buff core, small white and dark gray grits, red wash on ext., well-fired
12	SJ22	1245	12145	Light brown clay, light brown core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
13	SJ22	1203	12007	Light brown clay, light brown-buff core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
14	SJ22	1146	11173	Gray-brown clay, gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
15	SJ22	1009	10021/1	Light brown-orange clay, light brown-orange core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
16	SJ22	1311	13045	Light brown clay, light brown core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
17	SJ22	1326	13086/1	Light brown clay, light gray-brown core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
18	SJ22	1301	13015	Light brown clay, light gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
19	SJ22	1263	12141	Light brown clay, light gray core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired

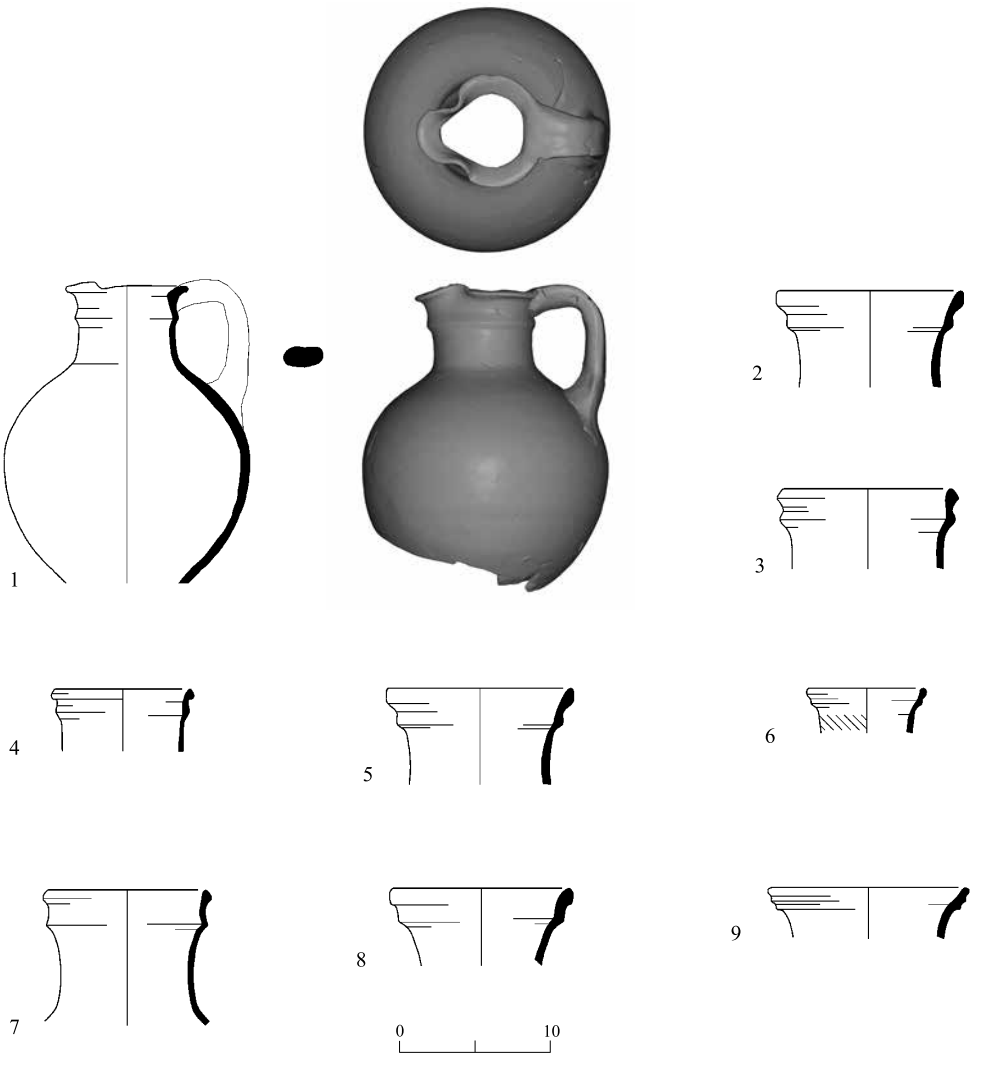


Fig. 80. Middle Bronze Age IIB pottery (Stratum III): Storage Jar/Large Jar Type SJ23.

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	1209	12016	Brown clay, brown core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, remains of cream slip on ext., well-fired
2	1123	11064	Light brown-buff clay, light brown-buff core, small white grits, well-fired
3	1021	10051	Light brown-buff clay, light brown-buff core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
4	1251	12120	Light brown-buff clay, light brown-buff core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
5	1014	10036	Light brown-buff clay, light brown-buff core, small white grits, well-fired
6	1304	13021	Light brown-buff clay, light brown-buff core, small white and dark gray grits, traces of red paint on ext., well-fired
7	1235	12093/2	Light brown clay, light brown-buff core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
8	1141	11164	Light brown-orange clay, light brown-orange core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, cream wash on ext., well-fired
9	1241	12101	Light brown-buff clay, light brown-buff core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired

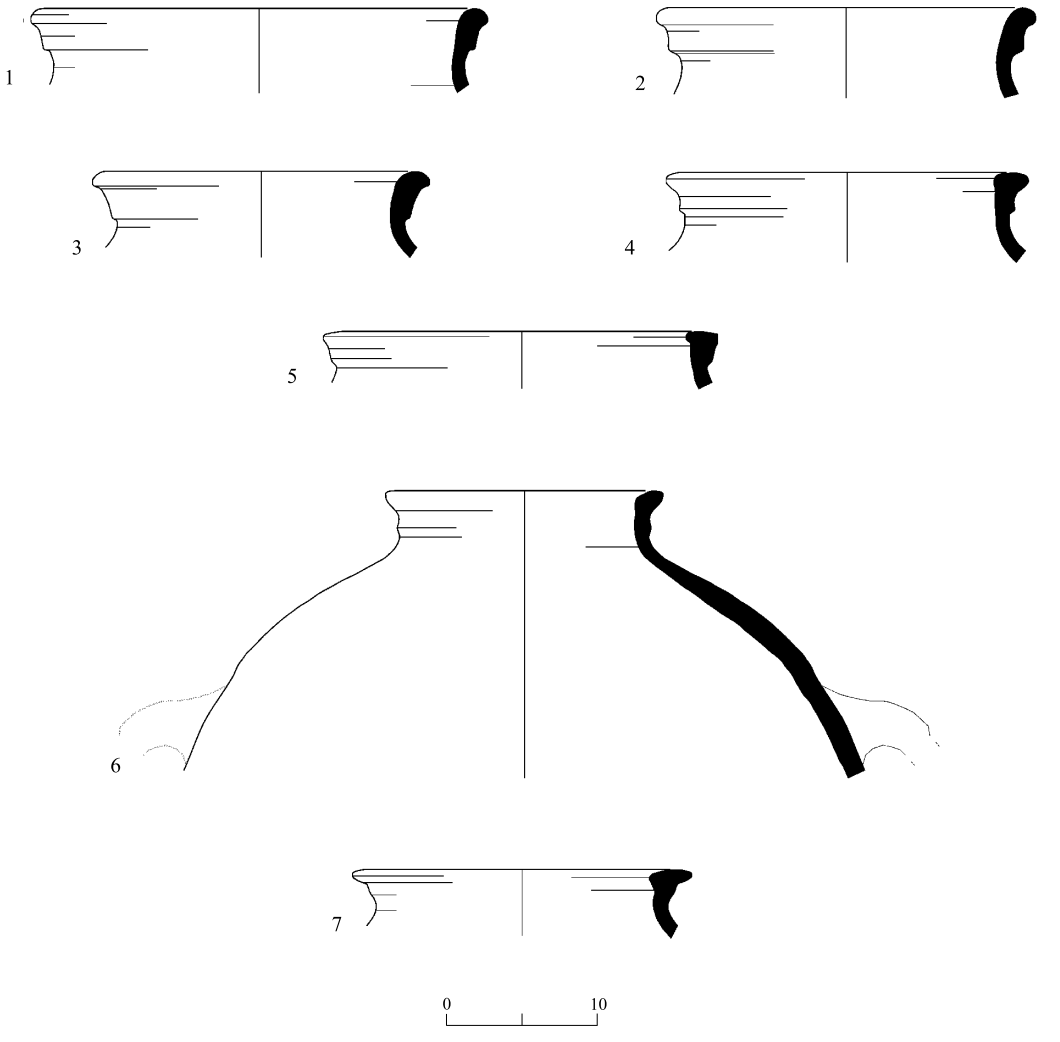


Fig. 81. Middle Bronze Age IIB pottery (Stratum III): Storage Jar/Large Jug Type PT23.

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	1332	13089	Light brown clay, light gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
2	1303	13016/2	Light brown clay, light gray core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
3	1231	12080/1	Light brown clay, light gray-brown core, small to medium white grits, well-fired
4	1130	11100	Light brown clay, light gray-brown core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
5	1146	11136	Light brown-orange clay, light gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
6	1270	12154/4	Light brown clay, light brown core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
7	1133	11150/1	Light brown clay, light gray-brown core, small white grits, well-fired

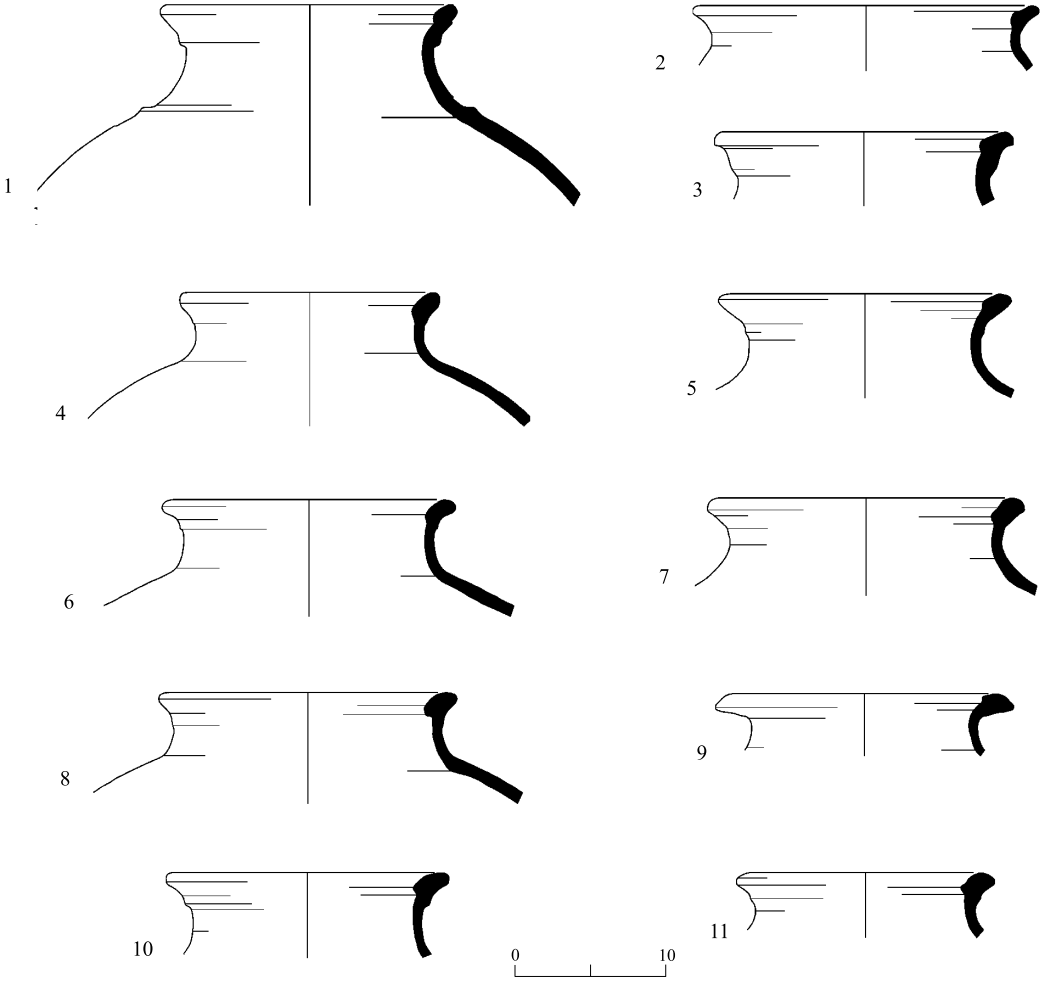


Fig. 82. Middle Bronze Age IIB pottery (Stratum III): Storage Jar/Large Jug Type PT23 (cont.).

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	1034	10073	Light brown clay, light gray core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
2	1135	11113	Gray-brown clay, gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, medium fired
3	1133	11151/2	Light brown clay, light gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
4	1408	14014/50	Light brown-orange clay, light gray-brown core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
5	1166	11178	Light brown clay, light gray-brown core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
6	1103	11009	Light brown clay, light gray core, small to medium dark gray grits, well-fired
7	1118	11084	Light brown-gray clay, light gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, medium fired
8	1301	13015/1	Light brown clay, brown core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
9	1332	13093/1	Light brown clay, light brown-gray core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
10	1215	12031	Light gray-brown clay, light gray core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, well-fired
11	1265	12147	Light brown-gray clay, light brown-gray core, small to medium white grits, well-fired

ridge at its base. The specific distinction between these and some other vessels is often blurred as this type is similar to Type SJ22 (below). This form is considered distinctive of MB IIA (Cohen 2002:117). At Tel Bet She'an, these were found primarily in MB IIB levels, such as Stratum R-4 (Maeir 2007: Pl. 26:2). A nearly complete vessel of this type (Fig. 78:1) was found in Building Complex 1 on the floor of Room D. Another, nearly complete example (Fig. 78:3) was found in secondary use, serving as an installation of unclear function within an open area, suggesting that it was already obsolete at the time of its last use. Though typical of MB IIA, this form continues in limited amounts into MB IIB and appears to retain an earlier tradition. Maeir notes that this type, not very common in the early MB II levels at Tel Bet She'an, becomes more prevalent toward late MB II at the site.

Storage jar/large jug Types SJ22–23 (Figs. 79:2–19; 80) are usually somewhat smaller than storage jar Type SJ21 and bear only one handle. Type SJ22, with an everted and thickened rim, is well-represented in the present assemblage (Fig. 79:2–19) and appears to have two subtypes: one (Fig. 79:2–9) with a slightly thickened rim, often elongated and with a ridge at its base, represents an earlier and common MB IIA tradition; the other (Fig. 79:10–19) has an everted, thickened rim with a more triangular-shaped profile.

Type SJ23, with a molded rim, is also common (Fig. 80:1–9). All three types appear to be associated both with storage jars and large jugs.

The third, much more common type of storage vessel at el-Munṭar el-Abyad, probably to be seen as a pithos (Maeir's Type PT23; Figs. 81, 82), bears a developed or molded rim. This type is generally held to be typical of late MB II (Cole 1984:74–75; Maeir 2007:267) and is analogous to Bonfil's Types III–VI, which are predominant in ceramic assemblages of MB IIB (Bonfil 1992). More elaborate examples of this rim form, such as those from Shekhem Strata XX–XVIII (Cole 1984: Fig. 22, Pls. 32:g–n; 33–36) and associated with the very end of MB II (MB IIC), are missing in the present assemblage, again reinforcing an early date in MB IIB for the el-Munṭar el-Abyad assemblage.

Dipper Juglets

Fragments of dipper juglets were common in the excavations, although these were extremely fragmentary and only two examples could be drawn, both representing a large vessel (Type JD21; Maeir 2007:275). The first (Fig. 83:1) is typical of MB IIB (Cole 1984:67–69, Pl. 27:a–i) and is common in tomb assemblages. The second (Fig. 83:2) was found near a Persian burial (T6), on a disturbed surface within Room A of Building Complex 4, and is apparently to be associated with MB II. The vessel is unusual due to the presence of a small ring base at its bottom, a feature not common in MB II dipper juglets, which usually have pointed or rounded bases. This feature may be paralleled in a juglet from a tomb at Ginosar, generally dated to MB IIA (Epstein 1974: Fig. 6:7), though the Ginosar vessel is associated with a late burial phase within that tomb, seemingly related to the MB IIA–B transition.

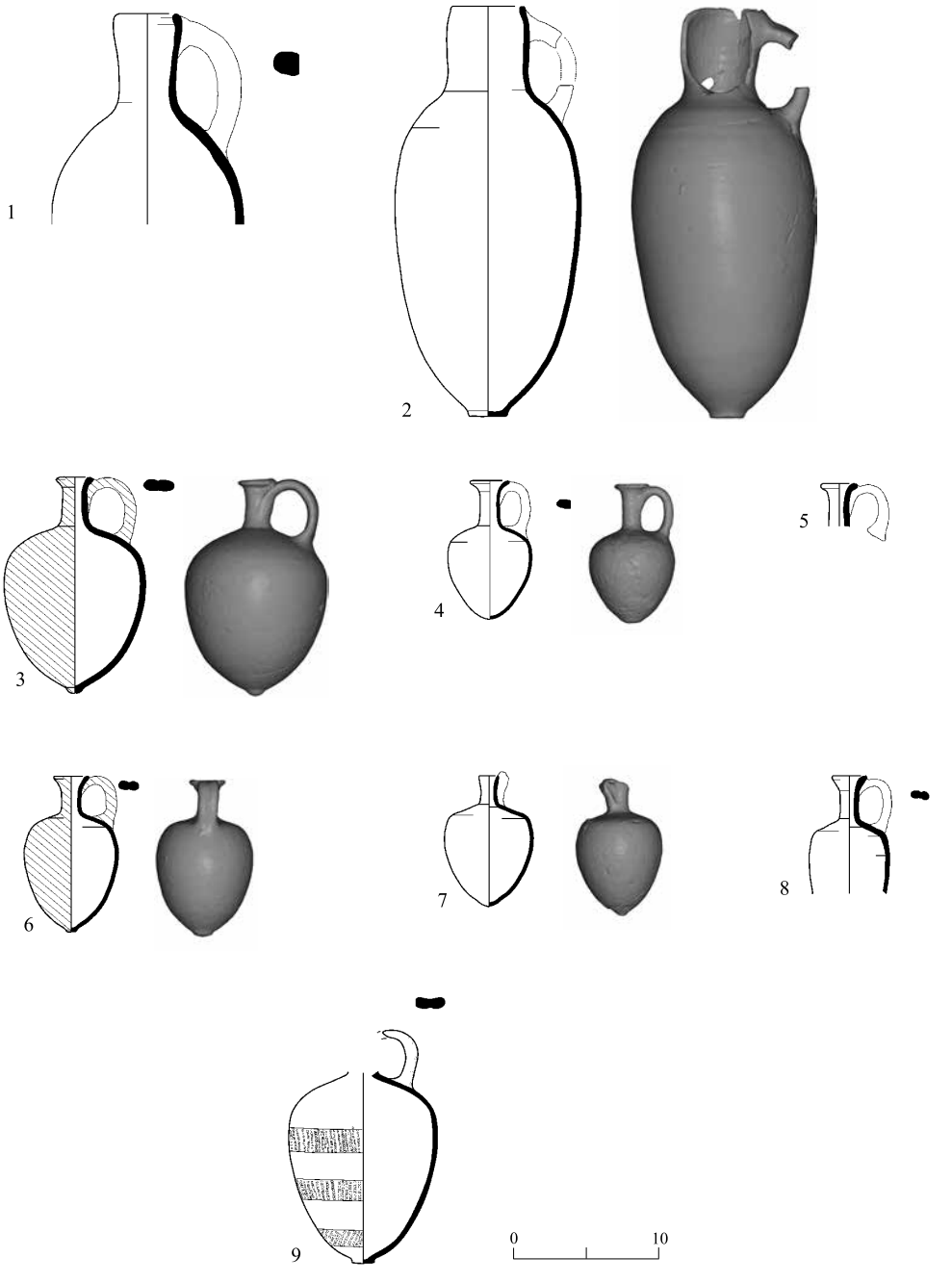


Fig. 83. Middle Bronze Age IIB pottery (Stratum III): dipper Juglet Type JD21 and Juglet Type JT21.

◂ **Fig. 83**

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description
1	JD21	1314	13048	Light brown clay, light brown-buff core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
2	JD21	1228	12086	Light buff clay, light brown core, small white grits, well-fired
3	JT21	1269	12153	Light brown clay, light brown-buff core, small white, red and dark gray grits, red wash and burnish, well-fired
4	JT21	1252	12123	Gray clay, gray core, small gray grits, well-fired
5	JT21	1005	10041	Light brown-orange clay, light brown core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
6	JT21	1169	11191	Light brown clay, light brown-buff core, small white grits, red wash and burnish, well-fired
7	JT21	1151	11138	Brown-gray clay, brown-gray core, small dark gray grits, well-fired
8	JT21	1031	10084	Brown-gray clay, gray core, small white grits, medium fired
9	JT21	1231	12081	Tell el-Yahudiyeh juglet. Brown-gray clay, gray core, small white grits, well-fired

Juglets

A substantial number of juglets were identified during the excavation. Most were associated with various infant burials and one adult pit burial of MB II (Figs. 84, 85). Juglets not found associated directly with a burial (e.g., Fig. 83:9) may have originated in one that was dispersed or not accurately identified during excavation. In most cases, juglets found in infant burials were too fragmentary for restoration or presentation. Some of the juglets appear to have been decorated with a red slip or wash (Fig. 83:3, 6); most have a piriform or cylindrical-shaped body (Fig. 83:3, 4, 6, 7), a button-like base (Fig. 83:3, 6, 7, 9) and a plain outflaring rim to which was attached a small handle, often double-stranded (Fig. 83:3, 6, 8). Such forms are also the most common juglet type in the late MB II levels at Tel Bet She'an (Maeir 2007:276, Type JT21), and in Megiddo (Loud 1948: Pl. 40:7–21), where they appear in a variety of forms at both sites. The lack of juglets with a stepped rim, considered by Epstein (1974) as characteristic of MB IIA and the MB IIA–B transition, also suggests a later association within MB II, though Ilan (1991) has questioned the validity of this dating.

One nearly complete juglet (Fig. 83:9), a classic form of Tell el-Yahudiyeh ware, was found in L1231, a surface makeup in an open area that included an infant burial to which this juglet may have belonged. This example is rare in the assemblage of el-Munṭar el-Abyad, and is not common at Tel Bet She'an either, where only a small amount of distinctive examples were found (Maier and Mullins 2011). Tell el-Yahudiyeh ware appears primarily from late MB IIA to mid-MB IIB (Kaplan 1980; Bietak 1989), becoming less common during late MB II. The present example finds an identical parallel in a complete juglet of this type dated to MB IIB and found in a potter's refuse pit at 'Afula (Zevulun 1990: Figs. 2, 12–14).

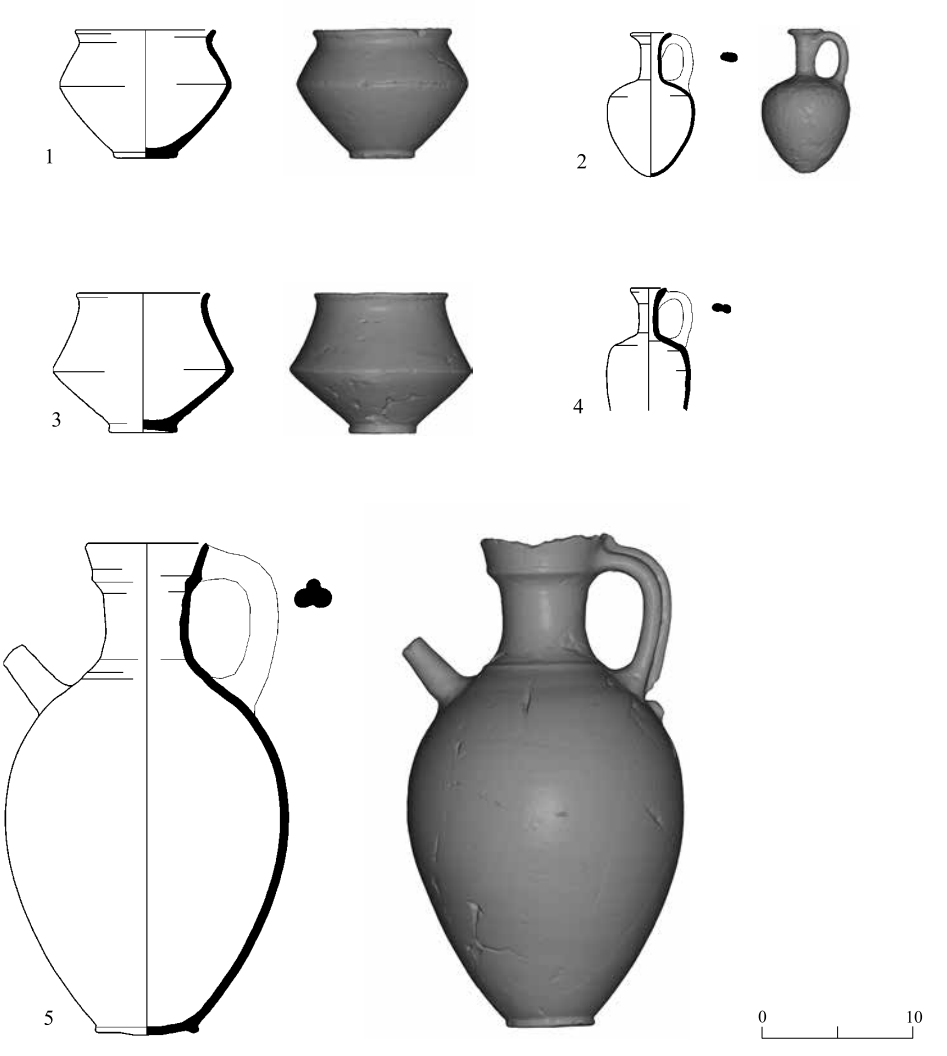


Fig. 84. Middle Bronze Age IIB pottery (Stratum III) from T31 (L1252) and T26 (L1031).

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Carinated bowl	1252	12122	Light brown clay, light brown-buff core, small white and dark gray grits, medium fired
2	Juglet	1252	12123	Gray clay, gray core, small gray grits, well-fired
3	Carinated bowl	1031	10082	Light brown clay, light brown-orange core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired
4	Juglet	1031	10084	Brown-gray clay, gray core, small white grits, medium fired
5	Spouted jug	1031	10076	Light brown clay, light brown-buff core, cream slip, small white, well-fired

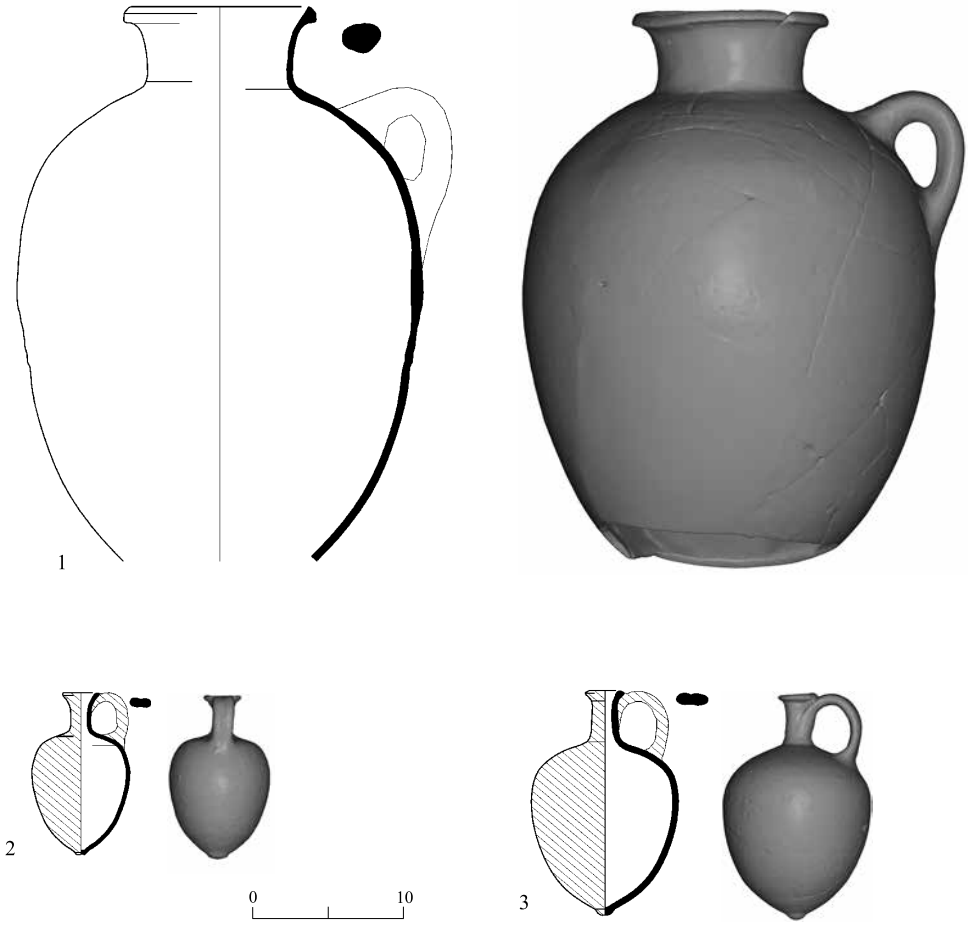


Fig. 85. Middle Bronze Age IIB pottery (Stratum III) from T32 (L1269) and T36 (L1169).

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Large jug	1269	12152/2	Light brown clay, light brown-buff core, small white grits, well-fired
2	Juglet	1269	12153	Light brown clay, light brown-buff core, small white, red and dark gray grits, red wash and burnish, well-fired
3	Juglet	1169	11191	Light brown clay, light brown-buff core, small white grits, red wash and burnish, well-fired

Varia (Fig. 86)

A few ceramic examples were separated from the larger ceramic assemblage due to their peculiar form, technology or period.

The ceramic fragment depicted in Fig. 86:1 appears to represent a stand whose upper end was seemingly reworked or otherwise abraded through use. Its large diameter suggests that it may have originally been the neck and rim of a pithos in secondary use.

A store jar with an outflaring rim (Fig. 86:2) stands out among the ceramic finds. Very different from the Chalcolithic- and Persian-period ceramics, this sherd is notable for its

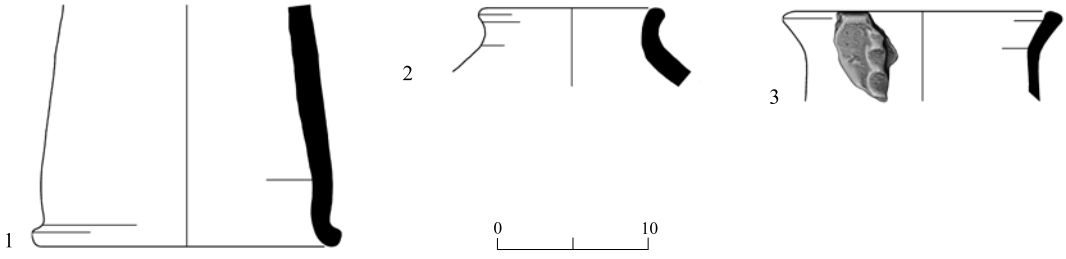


Fig. 86. Varia from the MB II (Nos. 1–2) and the Chalcolithic period (No. 3).

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Stand	1268	12164	Light brown-buff clay, light brown-buff core, small white and dark gray grits, well-fired, upper end appears to have been abraded
2	Storage Jar	1231	12089	Brown-red clay, brown-red core, small to medium white and dark gray grits, whitish light greenish vitrification on int. and ext., well-fired
3	Storage jar	1244	12114	Light brown clay, light gray-brown core, small-medium white and dark gray grits, plastic rope decoration on ext., medium fired

whitish light-green exterior and interior, and is probably to be dated to MB II. The sherd's surface and the fresh break were examined under a binocular microscope at magnifications of ×20 to ×40. The observation revealed the presence of surface and internal vitrification, which occurs when the clay is mixed with seawater, and the dry vessel is dipped in a salty solution before firing. Such treatment leads to tiny vitrified bubbles originating within the body of the sherd, and to the vitrification of 0.1–0.7 mm of the surface, thus also improving the impermeability of the vessel (for a discussion and the results of the technological experiment, see Shapiro 2012:104–105, 125).

The non-plastic inclusions observed within the sherd make up c. 15% of its volume and comprise badly sorted (0.05–4.00 mm) sub-rounded to rounded grains of basalt, tuff (or some other fine-grained volcanic rock), rare fragments of calcareous material and fossils. The granulometry of the inclusions allows proposing that these represent running-water sediment, and the saltwater used for preparing the clay dough indicates that the pottery workshop was located on the seashore. Since no basalt outcrop is to be found on the seashores of Israel, the jar must have been brought to the site from some distant venue. The petrographic examination will probably help pinpoint its provenance.[8]

A small amount of *ex situ* Chalcolithic ceramics were revealed, such as a storage jar made of coarse light brown ware with a plastic rope decoration on the neck (Fig. 86:3). The finding of Chalcolithic pottery concurs with the recovery of diagnostic flints of this period at the site (see Matskevich, this volume). No apparent Chalcolithic occupation was present in the excavated area, suggesting that all these finds probably originated nearby (Zori 1962:187 [140, Site 236, housing block 6], Pl. 26:1).

[8] The authors would like to thank Ron Be'eri and Anastasia Shapiro of the IAA for sharing their knowledge concerning this sherd.

Stratum II: The Persian Period

Samuel R. Wolff

A small but diagnostic collection of pottery vessels was found in and near the Stratum II Persian tombs described above. The vessels can be classified into four types: storage jars, jugs, juglets and a decanter-like vessel. The following typological discussion of the assemblage is accompanied by Figs. 87–90, presenting the vessels found in each tomb, thus enabling the reader to observe the contents of each tomb at a glance.

Storage Jars[9]

Five torpedo-shaped storage jars with pointed bases, all with only one handle, were found; three were complete (Figs. 87:2; 88:2, 3) and two lacked rims (Fig. 89:1, 3). They are all very similar in shape and fabric, differing only in height (ranging from 47 to 60 cm). Three vessels (Figs. 88:3; 89:1, 3) have a carination at the upper joining point of the handle, while the remaining two vessels lack a carination (Figs. 87:2; 88:2). The handle's upper attachment is located below the shoulder or at the carination point, and not on the shoulder like some variants of this type.[10]

Two detailed analyses of this type of storage jar were conducted, the first by A. Sagona in 1982, and the second by G. Lehman in 1996. Sagona divided the one-handled torpedo-shaped jars (his Type 12) into several subtypes and listed all the parallels known at the time. The vessels from the present assemblage fall into two of his subtypes: A, with high shoulders; and B, with rounded shoulders. Lehmann divided this main jar type (his No. 418) into six subtypes. The vessels with rounded shoulders presented here belong to his Type 418/1, while those with a noticeable carination near the upper handle attachment are closer to his Types 418/4–6.

The closest parallel for the vessels from el-Munṭar el-Abyad was found at Tel Dor (Stern 1995: Fig. 2.9:1), and similar vessels were discovered in Cyprus (cf. Gjerstad 1948: Figs. LXII:4; LXVII:4).

Petrographic analysis has determined two sources for the el-Munṭar el-Abyad jars, one in the region of Wadi Far'ah (south of Bet She'an), and the other undetermined, but probably in central Israel, definitely not Cypriot or coastal.[11] For a vessel type whose primary distribution area is the Carmel Coast (Israel) and Cyprus, and whose periphery reaches as far east as Mesopotamia, this is indeed a startling observation.[12]

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[9] Although morphologically these vessels could be defined as amphoras, functionally they served as storage jars.

[10] For example, at Ḥaẓor (Bonfil and Greenberg 1997:158, Fig. II.60:14; 61, Photograph II:64), Shekhem (Stern 1980:95, Fig. 6:9) and Ḥorbat Tittora (Permit No. A-2299; unpublished).

[11] I am grateful to Anastasia Shapiro for this information. Shapiro and Yiftah Shalev are currently preparing a comprehensive publication of vessels of this type, including a petrographic analysis.

[12] Fourrier (2012:135) considers vessels of this type to be Levantine products.

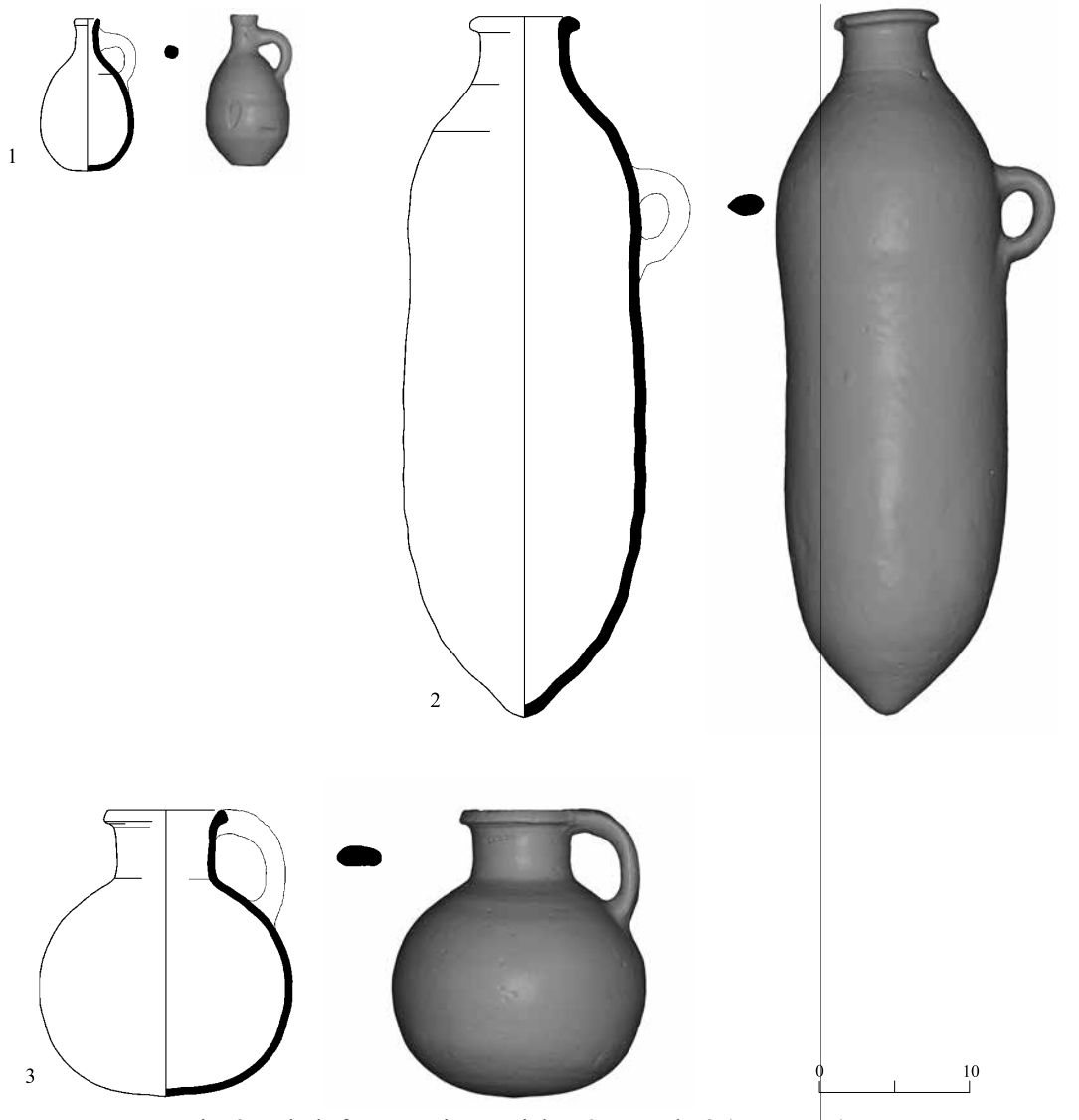

Fig. 87. Finds from Persian Burials T6, T7 and T8 (Stratum II).

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Juglet	1234	12082	T6; light buff clay, gray core, small white grits, well-fired
2	Torpedo jar	1258	12138	T7; buff clay, gray core, small to medium-sized white, red and gray grits, well-fired
3	Jug	1130	11109	T8; buff clay, gray-brown core, small to medium-sized white grits, well-fired

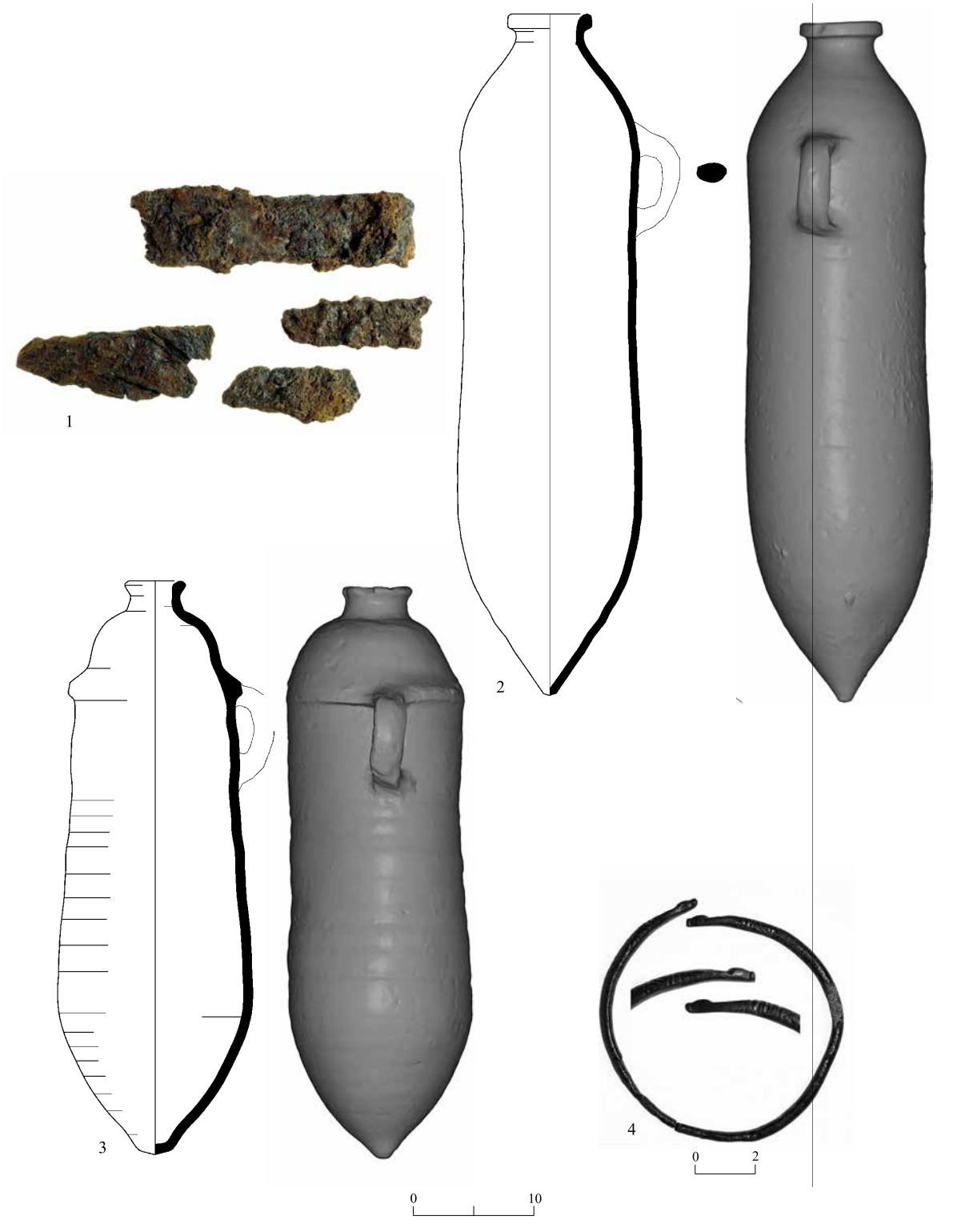

Fig. 88. Finds from Persian Burials T9, T12, T14, T16 (Stratum II).

◂ Fig. 88

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Knife blade	1220	12054	T9; corroded iron blade
2	Torpedo jar	1017	10037	T12; light buff clay, light gray core, small to medium-sized white grits, well-fired
3	Torpedo jar	1112	11082	T14; light buff clay, light gray core, small to medium-sized white, red and gray grits, well-fired
4	Bracelet	1136	11111	T16; copper alloy(?) with snake-head terminals

Fig. 89 ▸

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Torpedo jar	1104	11025	T17; brown-orange clay, gray core, small to large-sized white grits, well-fired
2	Juglet	1104	11012	T17; light cream brown clay, brown orange core, small gray grits, well-fired
3	Torpedo jar	1260, 1130	11119	T22; light buff clay, light gray core, small to medium-sized white and gray grits, well-fired

Further study, including a petrographic analysis of all known examples of this type, is being undertaken by Shapiro and Shalev (see n. 11) to understand its distribution pattern. A detailed typological analysis needs to be undertaken, however, to understand this vessel-type relationship to similar vessels with either two or no handles. Also intriguing is the usage of these vessels, the context of almost all known examples being decidedly funerary.[13]

There is no mention of any known examples having contained human skeletal remains or, for that matter, any particular product. Thus, it seems to be a Persian-period funerary custom to bury a storage jar, presumably filled with a product that has not survived, in or near a tomb, whether that storage jar be torpedo-shaped, as at el-Munṭar el-Abyad, Ḥaẓor, Shekhem, Ḥorbat Tittora and elsewhere, or straight-shouldered as, for example, in Ashqelon and Palmaḥim (Golani 1996: Figs. 1; 4:1; Singer-Avitz and Levy 1994:5*, Fig. 4:6, 7). Storage jars are often accompanied by perfume juglets (see below) at all the sites mentioned above.

[13] Except for a storage jar from Qadum, from a cistern, and a complete example from Dor, from a building complex in Area A0, Locus 32.

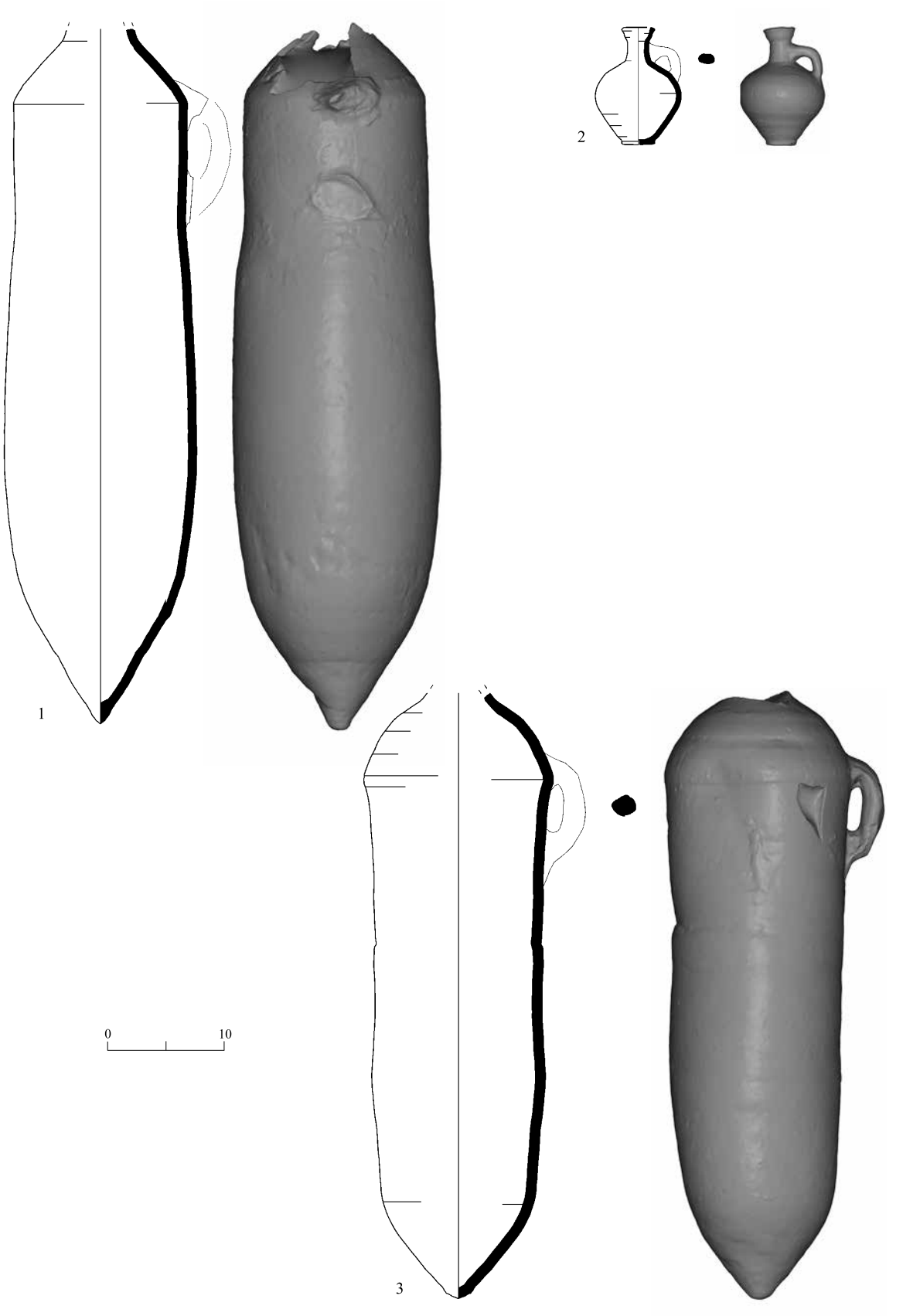

Fig. 89. Finds from Persian Burials T17 and T22 (Stratum II).

Jugs
Two jugs were found (Figs. 87:3; 90:2), both identical in size (height 16.7 cm) and shape: one with a rounded base (Fig. 87:3) and the other (Fig. 90:2), with an omphalos base. The jug with a rounded base is common at Tel Megadim (5 complete vessels), Qadum, Tel Mikhal, Tel Yoqne‘am, Tel Mevorakh, ‘Atlit, Tel Gezer and elsewhere (Stern 1982:117, Type H; for Yoqne‘am, see Cimadevilla 2005:420, Fig. IV.17:1). The vessel with an omphalos base found in the present assemblage is, however, unique.

Jug/Decanter-Like Vessel
One complete jug/decanter-like vessel was found (Fig. 90:3), representing a rare ceramic type. Close parallels have been found at Samaria, Qadum, Tel Mevorakh, Wadi ed-Daliyeh, and Tel Gezer (Stern 1982:117: Type G).

Perfume Juglets
The three juglets found in the assemblage (Figs. 87:1; 89:2; 90:1) fall under the general rubric of perfume juglets. The example from T6 (Fig. 87:1) has a piriform-like body with a flat base (for parallels, see Stern 1982: Type 3, and several more from Miẓpe Yamim—Berlin and Frankel 2012: Fig. 19). The vessel from T17 (Fig. 89:2) has a more rounded body and a disk base (cf. Berlin and Frankel 2012: Fig. 27:4), while the juglet from T24 (Fig. 90:1) has an ovoid body and a disk base (cf. Berlin and Frankel 2012: Fig. 26:1). It is worth noting that perfume juglets are ubiquitous in Persian tombs, certainly testifying to the presence of perfume or an unguent accompanying the deceased in the afterworld.

On the one hand, all the vessels discussed here are characteristic of the Samaria region. All the types appear, for example, in the pottery assemblage from Qadum, located 9 km west of Shekhem (Stern and Magen 1984), and the jug/decanter has an exact parallel at Samaria. On the other hand, many of these vessel types also appear at sites situated on the Carmel Coast (one-handled torpedo jars, jugs, juglets) and in Cyprus (torpedo jars). Petrographic analysis may help determine whether their presence in these disparate regions is due to the presence of Persian administrators, Phoenician traders, or some other factor. That more than one factor is operative may be reflected in the fact that so many of these ceramic types (especially the jug/decanter) are not found in coastal (Phoenician) sites, except for Tel Mevorakh, while others (one-handled torpedo jars) can be found at some coastal sites, e.g., Dor and ‘Atlit, but not at others, e.g., Tel Mikhal and Tel Megadim.

Stratum I: The Roman Period

A limited amount of ceramic remains were recovered in the southern part of the excavated area next to the five Roman-period sarcophagi. Fragments of three vessels—a cooking pot (Fig. 91:2) and two storage jars (Fig. 91:3, 4)—were found on living surfaces of this

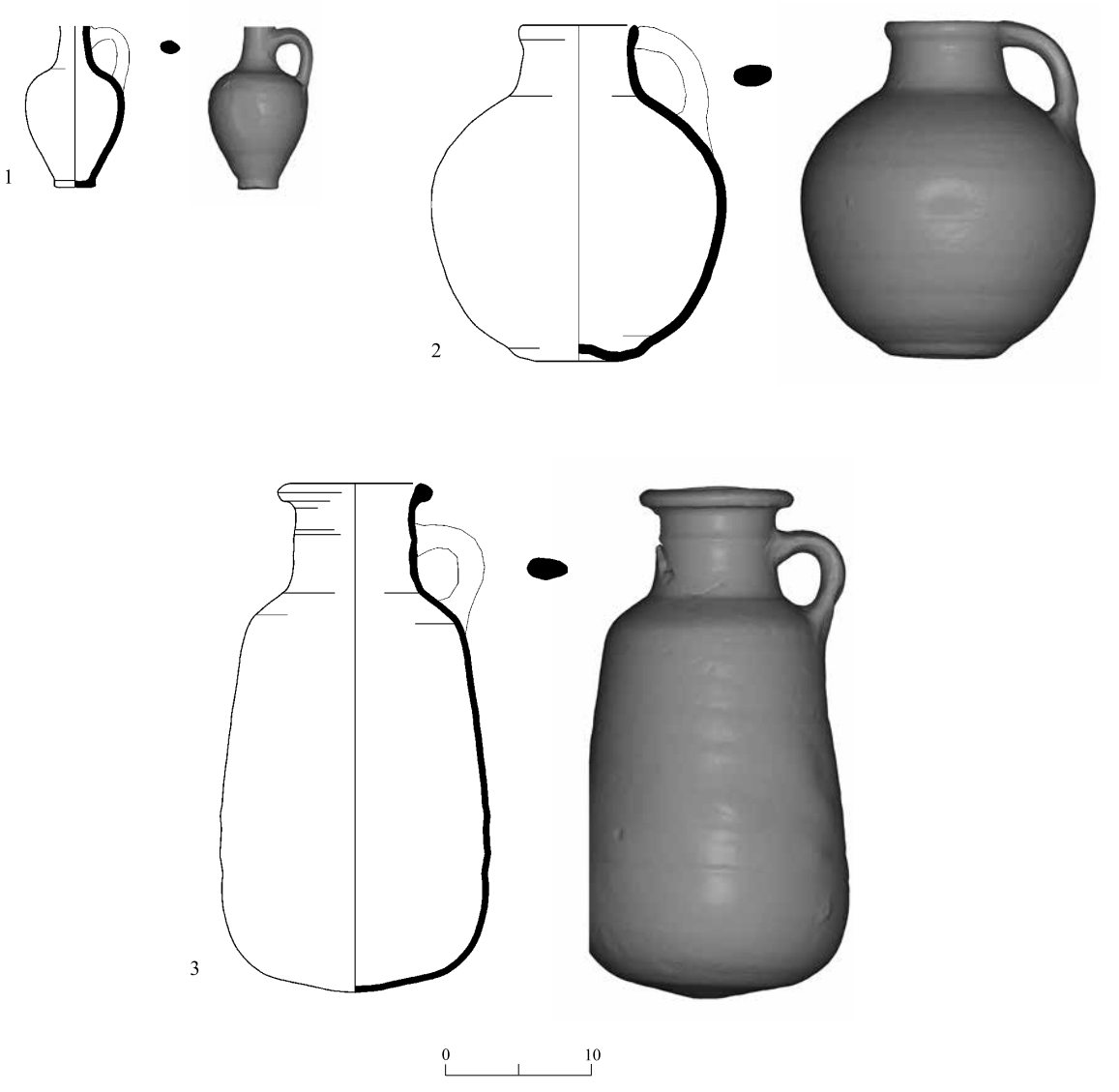

Fig. 90. Finds from Persian Burial T24 (Stratum II).

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Juglet	1009	10028	Brown-orange clay, brown orange core, small white grits, well-fired
2	Jug	1009	10035	Brown-orange clay, brown gray core, small white and gray grits, well-fired
3	Jug/ decanter	1040	10088	Brown buff clay, brown-gray core, small to medium-sized white and red grits, well-fired

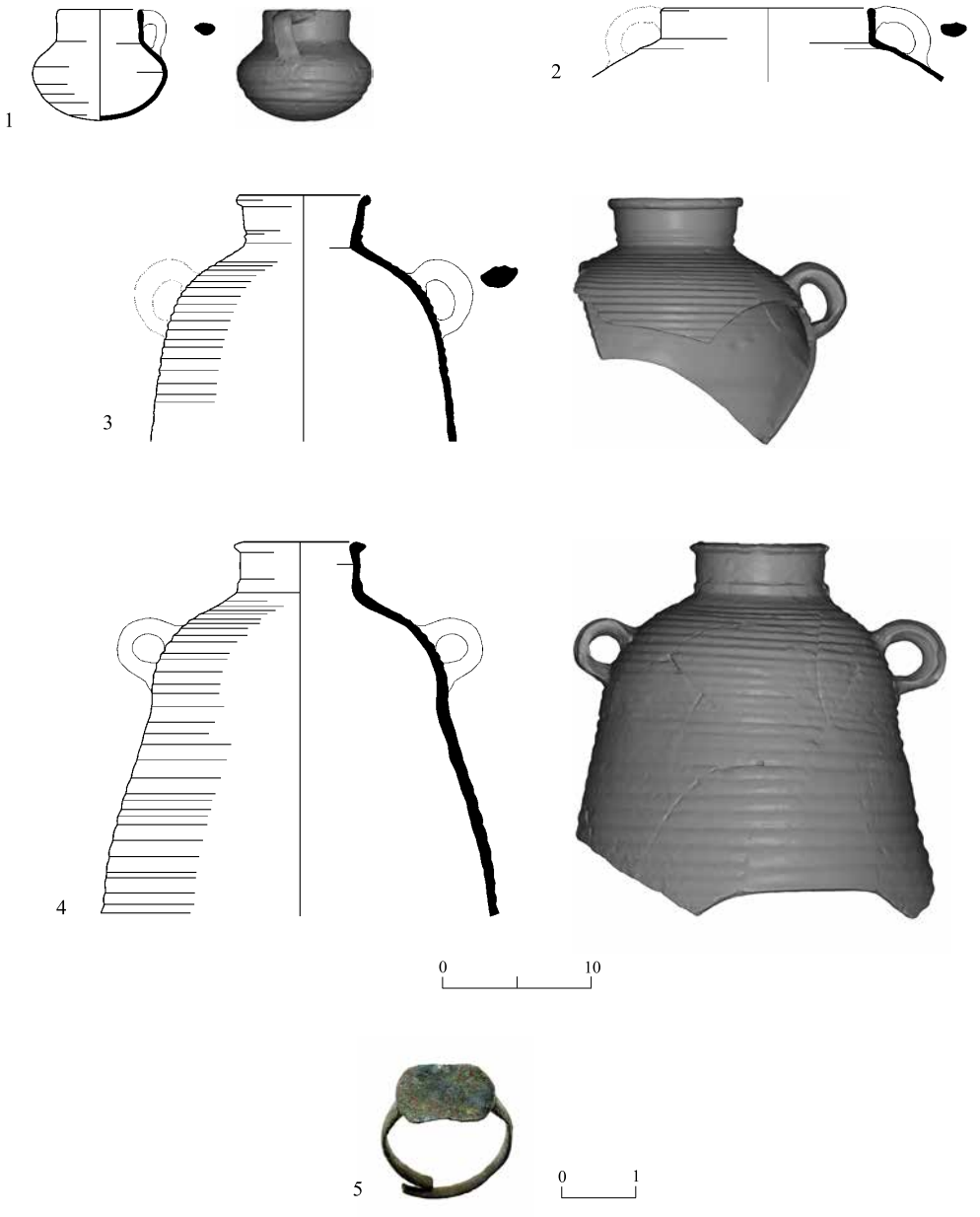

Fig. 91. Finds from Roman Burials T1–T5 (Stratum I).

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Cooking pot	1311	13042	Brown-orange clay, brown-orange core, small to medium-sized white grits, well-fired
2	Cooking pot	1418	14040	Brown-orange clay, brown-orange core, small to medium-sized white grits, well-fired
3	Storage jar	1404	14013	Brown-orange clay, brown-orange core, small to medium-sized white grits, well-fired
4	Storage jar	1409	14026	Brown-orange clay, brown-orange core, small to medium-sized white grits, well-fired
5	Finger ring	1415	14035	Copper alloy ring with blank bezel

period and the topsoil debris (L1409), while a small yet complete cooking pot (Fig. 91:1), apparently intrusive, was recovered from within the debris on a floor of one of the MB II buildings. All the vessels presumably originated from or were directly associated with the sarcophagi, perhaps representing burial offerings thrown out of the sarcophagi during their looting.

The complete globular closed cooking pot (Fig. 91:1) has a triangular rim, a high bulging neck and lentoid strip handles extending from rim to shoulder. It is uncommon in Galilee, perhaps a local production, with vessels of similar shape known from Ẓippori and dated to the Middle Roman period (Balouka 2013:2, Pl. 15:1–4). At Jalameh, these are called "Nabatean vessels" and are dated, based on parallels, to no later than the second century CE (Johnson 1988: Fig. 7-4:60, 65). Another cooking pot (Fig. 91:2), classified as Kefar Ḥananya Type 4C, may be dated to the end of the third century CE (Adan-Bayewitz 1993:128–130).

Storage jars with a triangular rim, a ridge at the base of the neck, and a ribbed body (Fig. 91:3, 4) first appeared during the Herodian period. They flourished during the second half of the first century CE in the region of Herodium and Jericho and were produced up to the period between the Jewish revolts (70–135 CE; Bar-Nathan 1981: Pl. 2:4). In Galilee, they are dated from the second half of the first to the first half of the second century CE and classified as Type T1.2 (Díez Fernández 1983:134, No. 10). Some vessels were also found in Bet She'an Stage 2A (Sandhaus 2007: Fig. 6.2:6, 7).

Discussion and Conclusions

The Middle Bronze Age II Settlement

Numerous MB II sites have been found in the Bet She'an Valley and east of the Jordan River, a period when the entire region appears to have enjoyed a settlement floruit (Maeir 1997), also attested throughout the Southern Levant. Aside from the MB II levels at Tel Bet She'an, located only 2 km to the northeast of el-Munṭar el-Abyad, two other MB II rural sites have been excavated to date in the site's immediate vicinity: Ḥamadiya (Maeir 2000) and a site found in the fish ponds of Kefar Rupin (Gophna 1979). Sites dating to MB IIB were excavated at nearby Tel Kitan (Eisenberg 1993b) and Tel Reḥov (a cemetery; Yogev 1985), and east of the Jordan are Pella (Bourke, Sparks and Schroder 2006) and Tell el-Ḥayyat (Falconer and Magness-Gardiner 1983; 1984).

The vast number of rural sites founded throughout the country during this period, many of them in MB IIB but not continuing into the succeeding Late Bronze Age, has aroused much interest. Typologies were created to aid in their classification, and their relationship with the 'urbanized centers' of the more conspicuous MB IIB tells was also explored (Gophna and Beck 1981:75–77; Maeir 2003; Faust 2005; Cohen 2009). The prominent role of the rural settlements of this period has been strongly emphasized, at times even downplaying or even negating the existence of urban centers, positing the latter as village-based, self-sufficient entities (Falconer 1987) since they were often not larger than many of the villages. Citing

the relative and contextual perspectives between rural settlements and urban centers, Maeir (2003) noted that urban sites are not to be determined as such based on their size but rather by their more varied functionality, as opposed to rural settlements. Faust (2005) showed that the difference between urban and rural sites should be viewed as a measure for social complexity and stratification, which are to be recognized not only by site size but also from the perspective of population and building density, and the presence of monumental building projects, such as fortifications.

The site of el-Munṭar el-Abyad may be considered a rural settlement, possibly a satellite village or an environ of the Tel Bet She'an urban and cultic center, where a contemporary settlement with a temple was in existence (Mazar and Mullins 2007). This model assumes the occurrence of small rural settlements in the region controlled by larger urban centers bearing administrative and cultic functions. The Egyptian execration texts (twentieth–eighteenth centuries BCE) mention Bet She'an, Reḥov and Peḥel (Pella?), all in the region of el-Munṭar el-Abyad, along with other urban centers (Aharoni 1967:131–135), indicating that these sites were apparently among the region's major towns at the time.

Thus, the rural MB IIB site of el-Munṭar el-Abyad should be viewed within the context of a regional network of one-period settlements. In the immediate region of Tel Bet She'an, this network also included Hamadiya-North, a rural MB II site only 3 km to the northeast of el-Munṭar el-Abyad and presenting an identical ceramic repertoire precisely dated to mid-MB IIB (Maeir 2000). Other sites in the immediate vicinity, such as Kefar Rupin (Gophna 1979), also appear to represent rural settlements identical in nature to el-Munṭar el-Abyad.

The MB IIB ceramic assemblage from el-Munṭar el-Abyad may also be seen as representing a rural settlement and may be contrasted with that of the contemporary urban or 'cosmopolitan' assemblage recovered at nearby Tel Bet She'an. While the lack of Cypriot imports at el-Munṭar el-Abyad is in line with the situation in Tel Bet She'an (Maeir 2007:291), the lack of cultic vessels and closed carinated bowls with high trumpet bases at el-Munṭar el-Abyad is further indication of the settlement's rural nature and the probable pre-eminence of Tel Bet She'an as the region's cultic and religious center at the time. The lack of luxury imports and metal weapons further attests to the rural, non-cosmopolitan nature of the site.

The size of MB II el-Munṭar el-Abyad is difficult to appraise. Approximately 1.8 dunams of occupation were exposed and, as architectural remains were not evident on the ground surface prior to excavation, a conservative estimate would suggest a settlement size of at least ten dunams; Zori's surface surveys, however, allude to a far more extensive occupation. Shalev's excavations (Shalev, in prep.), carried out immediately to the west and northwest of the present excavations revealed additional architectural remains, a few infant and adult burials, rounded plastered and stone-paved installations, and a ceramic firing kiln. However, these were observed to thin out and disappear, indicating that the present excavation area was apparently positioned near the site's center (Shalev, pers. comm.).

Middle Bronze Age II rural architecture is typified by great diversity and is characterized by large and multi-roomed structures that may spread out over a large area, as seen at Naḥal Refa'im (Eisenberg 1993a), or by agglomerations of buildings, many of them sharing common walls, such as at Kefar Rupin (Gophna 1979). Part of this diversity stems from differences in the topographical settings of the sites. Some, such as Naḥal Refa'im, were built on slopes, necessitating revetment and terracing walls to adapt the buildings to the terrain, while others, such as el-Munṭar el-Abyad and the nearby site of Kefar Rupin, were built on level terrain. Previous studies of MB II settlement patterns in the coastal plain noted no particular topographical preference for the foundation of rural sites (Gophna and Beck 1981:75), nearly always composed of rooms arranged adjacent to or around a central courtyard, with the houses clustered together in rows alongside narrow alleys. El-Munṭar el-Abyad presents the same configuration.

The excavation revealed the remains of several building complexes, usually including one multi-roomed building and an adjacent area with an open, partially enclosed courtyard. None of the structures nor any of the portable finds appear to suggest either cultic or administrative activity. The *ṭabun*s in open areas, the infant burials below the floors, and the ceramic and groundstone assemblages, all serve to emphasize the domestic and rural nature of the settlement, which is also underscored by lack of luxury or prestige items such as imports (see below).

No remains of a public building or related finds suggesting the existence of a temple were identified, though this does not necessarily mean that a temple or shrine did not exist, as many MB II rural settlements have produced remains probably associated with cultic activities (Faust 2005:112). Still, Building Complex 1, the largest and most fully exposed architectural unit in this excavation, appears to have been an extensive and exceptionally well-built architectural unit. Faust's (2005:114–115) social categorization of MB II villages distinguishes between 'autonomous/collective' villages and 'owned/private' villages. In the first type, equal status was determined by collective or individual ownership of the land, resulting in a higher and more egalitarian standard of living. In the second, 'owned/private' villages type administered by a landlord, the general standard of living except for the dwelling of a wealthy family or an institution that dominated and administered the settlement. Based on the limited results of the present excavation, the site of el-Munṭar el-Abyad is suggested to be of the second type, with Building Complex 1 possibly representing the dwelling of the owners/administrators.

The MB II storage-jar burials, 13 in total, were all found within or underneath habitation surfaces. Many jars were modified to some degree, apparently for inserting the body of an infant (T27–T39). Most burial jars had their necks removed to enlarge the opening, while one (T32) consisted of parts of two vessels put together. The jars differed in orientation, and only one (T38) contained skeletal remains of an infant, while in others (T29, T30, T32) only a few bone crumbs remained. In T39 the cranial remains of a small child were found (see Nagar, this volume). The remaining jars were devoid of skeletal remains; these may have disintegrated, or the jars may have been intended as offerings. Six jars (T28,

T30–T32, T36, T39) contained the remains of one or more ceramic vessels, usually small juglets; T31 comprised a juglet and a carinated bowl, and T39, bearing the remains of a small child, was found associated with two small dipper juglets. Two additional jar burials, placed underneath surfaces, were revealed during Shalev's excavations—both were devoid of skeletal remains, but one comprised a small red-painted juglet (Shalev, in prep.).

In the present excavation, both adult burials (T25, T26) were primary. Burial T25 was covered with a few paving stones and was laid in an irregularly-shaped pit and oriented north–south, with the head to the south. Burial T26, found in a rounded pit, contained a body in a flexed position and oriented southeast–northwest, with the head in the southeast. This pit lacked burial offerings, yet its proximity to T29 and T30, both of which contained bone crumbs and were, presumably, infant burials, suggests the three may have been connected. A spouted jug (Figs. 21; 84:5) and a deep carinated bowl (Fig. 84:3) were associated with the adult burial in T26. Shalev's excavation also revealed one adult burial, apparently interred with one jug as a burial offering (Shalev, in prep.).

Most MB II burials were distributed in the central part of the excavated area, roughly the same area where all the Persian burials (see below) were found. This distribution pattern may represent the site's central area. The MB II burials were primarily found in what appear to have been open areas, outside roofed spaces. Since the burials found inside roofed areas, such as T25 and T26, were located in rooms that opened onto public spaces that had been open areas in the earlier Phase B occupation, these burials should probably be associated with this earlier occupation stage.

Chronology of the Stratum III Pottery Assemblage

As a whole, the ceramic assemblage is very homogenous, indicating that the site was settled for a limited time period that probably did not exceed a few decades.

The MB II ceramic assemblage from el-Munṭar el-Abyad can be dated with certainty to MB IIB (mid-seventeenth century BCE). Although a few ceramic forms may have originated in MB IIA, they are known to have continued into early MB IIB. The assemblage lacks examples of Levantine Painted Ware or Red, White and Blue Ware, considered characteristic of MB IIA (Bagh 2002), and is generally not an assemblage typical of MB IIA as defined by Cohen (2002). Ceramics typical of the very end of MB II are also lacking, such as Chocolate on White wares diagnostic of MB IIC and continuing into LB I (sixteenth–fifteenth centuries BCE). The cooking pots, one of the more sensitive indicators of technological/chronological change within a ceramic assemblage, appear to be analogous with those from Strata R-4 and R-5 at Tel Bet She'an, also indicating a date well within MB IIB (seventeenth century BCE). The ceramic assemblage as a whole is best paralleled with Tel Bet She'an Strata R-4 and R-5 (Maeir 2007), Shekhem Strata XVII–XVIII (Cole 1984), Tel Qashish Strata IXa–c (Bonfil 2003), and Ḥaẓor Stratum XVII (Upper City) and Stratum 4 (Lower City) (Yadin et al. 1961; 1989).

The Persian-Period Tombs

Samuel R. Wolff and Amir Golani

Evidence of settlement at Bet She'an during the Persian period is sporadic. While isolated finds have been uncovered on the tell and its vicinity (Zori 1977), no habitation stratum has been discerned by the various excavators. The discovery of 19 burials belonging to this period at el-Munṭar el-Abyad does not resolve the question of the location of the Persian settlement in the area, but it does reinforce the claim that such a settlement existed, presumably not far from the present excavation.

The 19 pit burials found in the central portion of the excavated area comprise a large cemetery, with more remains possibly to be found to the east and west of the excavated area. Shalev's excavations to the west and northwest also revealed at least five primary pit adult burials, all with the same orientation, one including a copper-alloy bowl and a dagger, another including a jug, and a third with a 'torpedo' type jug (Shalev, in prep.). The two latter vessels appear to be primarily associated with burials, though the reason for this remains, as yet, unclear (see below). Simple pit burials or unwalled cist burials are typical of the Persian period, with well-known examples from sites such as Tel Mikhal (Herzog, Rapp and Negbi 1989). Furthermore, the east–west orientation of most of these tombs corresponds with Persian-period burial customs (cf. Wolff 2002).

The vessels recovered from the Persian tombs discussed here are characteristic of the region of Samaria; however, many of these vessel types also appear at sites situated on the Carmel coast (one-handled torpedo jars, jugs, juglets) and in Cyprus (torpedo jars). Petrographic analyses may help determine whether their presence in these disparate regions is due to the presence of Persian administrators, Phoenician traders, or some other factor.

The Roman-Period Cemetery

The remains of five sarcophagi discovered in the excavation add to the growing number of burial remains discovered along the Roman road connecting the southern part of Bet She'an with the region of Samaria. A section of that road was revealed near the site along with the remains of a mausoleum (Atrash 2010). A second mausoleum was discovered c. 500 m west of the Nysa Scythopolis (Bet She'an) city wall (Atrash 2009); these sarcophagi and mausolea were apparently part of a cemetery located on both sides of Naḥal Ḥarod and west of Nysa Scythopolis.

Appendix: List of Loci and Walls

Locus/ Wall	Square	Stratum	Phase	Complex/ Tomb	Unit	Upper Elevation	Lower Elevation	Locus Above	Locus Below	Description
1000	L10					-116.83	-117.23		1007	Topsoil removal
1001	P10				Open Area	-116.66	-116.96		1004, 1006	Topsoil removal
1002	M10					-116.68	-117.18		1008	Topsoil removal
1003	O10					-116.70	-116.91		1005	Topsoil removal
1004	P10	III	A		Open Area	-116.96	-117.18	1001		Debris upon surface with *ṭabun* and paving stones
1005	O10	III	A		Open Area	-116.91	-117.02	1003	1009	Debris upon plaster surface
1006	P10	III	A		Open Area	-116.96	-117.25	1001		Debris upon surface, equals L1004
1007	L10			Building Complex 5	Courtyard	-117.23	-117.41	1000	1014	Debris below topsoil
1008	M10	III	A	Building Complex 5	Courtyard	-117.18	-117.45	1002	1017, 1025	Debris upon surface
1009	O10	III	A	T35	Open Area	-117.02	-117.37	1005		Plaster surface makeup
1010	L10	III	B	Building Complex 5	Courtyard	-117.28		1007		Eastern wall of Building Complex 5; continuation of W1109
1011	L10	III	A	Building Complex 5	Courtyard?	-117.10	-117.32	1007	1033	Wall west of W1100
1012	L10	III	A	Building Complex 5	Courtyard	-117.20	-117.40	1007	1033	Wall built partly on W1010
1013	L10	II		T21		-117.30	-117.40	1007	1033	Persian tomb
1014	L10	III	A	Building Complex 5	Courtyard	-117.41	-117.45	1007	1023	Debris upon surface
1015	R10	III	A		Open Area	-116.61	-117.13		1024	Topsoil removal; exposure of Pavement L1024
1016	L10	II		T20		-117.36	-117.65	1014		Persian tomb
1017	M10	II		T12		-117.32	-117.94	1008		Persian tomb
1018	M10	II		T12		-117.29	-117.60	1008	1017	Stones upon Persian T12
1019	L10	III	A		Alley	-117.41	-117.58	1007	1021	Debris upon surface of alley between Building Complexes 5 and 6

Appendix (cont.)

Locus/ Wall	Square	Stratum	Phase	Complex/ Tomb	Unit	Upper Elevation	Lower Elevation	Locus Above	Locus Below	Description
1020	R10	III	A	Building Complex 1	Room F	-117.02	-117.19	1015		Western wall of Room F
1021	L10	III	A		Alley	-117.58	-117.64	1019	1034	Surface makeup in alley between Building Complexes 5 and 6
1022	L10	III	A	Building Complex 5	Courtyard	-117.45	-117.53	1014	1026	Surface makeup, combined into L1023
1023	L10	III	A	Building Complex 5	Courtyard	-117.45	-117.53	1014	1026	Surface makeup west of W1010
1024	R10	III	A–B		Open Area	-117.13	-117.43	1015	1031	Surface makeup and removal of paving stones; debris upon surface
1025	M10	III	A	Building Complex 5	Courtyard	-117.45	-117.55	1008		Surface makeup
1026	L10	III	A	Building Complex 5	Courtyard	-117.53	-117.83	1022		Surface makeup, combined into L1023
1027	K10	III	B	Building Complex 5	Courtyard	-117.46		1022		Northern wall of Building Complex 5?
1028	R10/11					-116.61	-117.13		1029	Topsoil; balk removal
1029	R10	III	A–B		Open Area	-117.13	-117.27	1028	1031	Surface makeup, combined into L1024
1030	R10	III	A	Building Complex 1	Room F	-117.03	-117.19	1028		Wall combined into W1140
1031	R10	III	B	T29, T30	Open Area	-117.43	-117.59	1024	1032	Surface makeup
1032	R10	III	B	T26		-117.59	-117.89	1031		Burial pit; adult burial in pit
1033	L10	III	A	Building Complex 5	Courtyard	-117.10	-117.40	1007	1014	Dismantlement of W1011, W1012, W1013
1034	L10	III	A		Alley	-117.64	-117.88	1021		Surface makeup, combined into L1021
1035	P10									Canceled
1036	L10				Alley	-117.45	-117.78			Debris around stones

Appendix (cont.)

Locus/ Wall	Square	Stratum	Phase	Complex/ Tomb	Unit	Upper Elevation	Lower Elevation	Locus Above	Locus Below	Description
1037	L10	III	A	Building Complex 5	Courtyard	-117.29	-117.75	1008		Storage jar in use as installation
1038	L10	III	B	Building Complex 6	Alley	-117.44				Wall combined into W1134
1039	L10	III	B	Building Complex 6	Alley	-117.46				Possible northern wall of Building Complex 6
1040	O10	II		T24		-117.09	-117.44			Persian tomb
1041	O10	II		T23		-117.13	-117.69			Persian tomb
1042	P10	II		T22		-117.37	-117.52			Persian tomb
1100	M11					-116.86	-117.32		1103	Topsoil removal
1101	N11					-116.96	-117.45		1112, 1113	Topsoil removal
1102	O11					-116.65	-117.26		1104, 1105	Topsoil removal
1103	M11	III	A		Alley	-117.32	-117.65	1100	1116	Debris upon surface associated to W1106, equals L1118 and L1123; cut by T13
1104	O11	II–III		T17	Courtyard	-117.26	-117.68	1102	1111	Debris west of W1205; exposure of T17 and associated vessels
1105	O11	III			Open Area	-117.26	-117.41	1102		Debris upon surface, equals L1111
1106	M11, N11	III	B	Building Complex 5		-117.21		1100		Eastern wall of Building Complex 5
1107	M11	II		T13		-117.21	-117.60	1100	1120	Stones covering Persian tomb T13
1108	M11,10	III	B	Building Complex 5	Room B	-116.82		1100		Northern wall of Room B
1109	M11	III	B	Building Complex 5	Courtyard	-117.20		1100		Eastern wall of Building Complex 5
1110	O11	II		T17		-117.11	-117.68	1102		Stones covering Persian tomb T17

Appendix (cont.)

Locus/ Wall	Square	Stratum	Phase	Complex/ Tomb	Unit	Upper Elevation	Lower Elevation	Locus Above	Locus Below	Description
1111	O11	II–III				-117.29	-117.73	1104		Mixed debris upon surface with remains of a scattered Persian burial
1112	N11	III?			Alley	-117.36	-117.66	1101	1119	Debris east of W1106; uncovering stones of T11
1113	N11	III	A	Building Complex 5	Open Area	-117.45	-117.55	1101	1117	Debris upon surface, west of W1106
1114	M11					-117.15	-117.66		1123	Topsoil removal
1115	N11	III	B	Building Complex 5	Open Area	-117.42	-117.71	1113		Southern wall of Building Complex 5
1116	M11	III	A–B		Alley	-117.65	-117.86	1103	1120	Surface and surface makeup, east of W1106
1117	N11	III	A–B	Building Complex	Open Area	-117.55	-117.82	1113	1124	Surface makeup, west of W1106
1118	N11	II–III	A	T11	Open area	-117.36	-117.56	1101	1119	Stone debris upon surface, east of W1106; remains of Persian T11
1119	N11	III	A		Courtyard	-117.56	-117.74	1118	1126	Debris upon surface, east of W1205 and cut by Persian T14
1120	M11	II		T13		-117.86	-118.10	1116		Persian tomb
1121	O11	II–III		T18, T37		-117.59	-117.87	1111		Persian tomb T18 and MB II infant storage-jar burial T37
1122	M11	III	A	Building Complex 5	Room B	-117.32	-117.70	1100		Debris upon floor west of W1106
1123	M11	III	A		Alley	-117.66	-117.93	1114		Debris upon surface, east of W1109; equals L1103
1124	N11	III	B	Building Complex 5	Open Area	-117.82	-117.88	1117		Debris upon floor, west of W1106

Appendix (cont.)

Locus/ Wall	Square	Stratum	Phase	Complex/ Tomb	Unit	Upper Elevation	Lower Elevation	Locus Above	Locus Below	Description
1125	M11	II		T19		-117.22	-117.65	1100		Persian tomb
1126	N11	II		T14		-117.63	-117.74	1119		Persian tomb
1127	L11					-116.83	-117.50		1135	Topsoil removal
1128	P11					-116.66	-116.89		1130, 1131	Topsoil removal
1129	Q11					-116.84	-117.01		1133	Topsoil removal
1130	P11	III	A		Open Area	-116.89	-117.43	1128	1138	Debris upon surface, cut by Persian T15, T8 and T22
1131	P11	III	A		Open Area	-116.89	-117.35	1128	1138	Debris upon surface; equals L1130
1132	Q11	III	A	Building Complex 1	Room G	-116.83	-117.20	1129		Northern wall(?) of Room G
1133	Q11	III	A		Open Area	-117.01	-117.37	1129	1136	Debris upon surface, north of W1132
1134	L11	III	A–B	Building Complex 6	Courtyard	-117.30	-118.10	1127		Southwestern wall of Building Complex 6
1135	L11	III	A	Building Complex 6	Courtyard	-117.50	-117.74	1127	1146	Debris upon floor and floor makeup, east of W1134
1136	Q11	II–III		T16		-117.22	-117.55	1133		Surface makeup; exposure of Stratum II burial
1137	R11	III	A?			-116.71	-117.03		1141	Topsoil removal; exposure of ceramic concentration
1138	P11	II		T15		-117.30	-117.65	1131		Persian tomb
1139	R11	III	A–B	Building Complex 1	Rooms E, F	-116.83	-117.29	1137		Wall originally functioning as the perimeter wall of the courtyard, later dividing Rooms F and G
1140	R11	III	A	Building Complex 1	Rooms F, G	-116.90	-117.17	1137		Badly preserved wall between Rooms F and G
1141	R11	III	A	Building Complex 1	Room F	-116.94	-117.25	1137		Debris upon stone pavement

Appendix (cont.)

Locus/ Wall	Square	Stratum	Phase	Complex/ Tomb	Unit	Upper Elevation	Lower Elevation	Locus Above	Locus Below	Description
1142	R11	III	A	Building Complex 1	Room G	-116.94	-117.21	1137		Debris on floor, north of W1140
1143	U11					-116.99	-117.22		1149	Topsoil removal
1144										Unused locus number
1145	P11	II		T8		-117.35	-117.48	1131		Persian tomb
1146	L11	III	B	Building Complex 6	Courtyard	-117.74	-118.10	1135		Debris upon floor, east of W1134; equals L1249
1147	U11	III	A–B	Building Complex 1	Room D	-117.17	-117.55	1143		Southern wall of Room D with two possible entrances
1147A	U11	III	A	Building Complex 1	Room D	-117.17	-117.55	1143		Southern wall of Room D with two possible entrances
1148	U11	III	A	Building Complex 1	Room D	-117.23	-117.37	1143		Debris upon surface, south of W1147
1149	U11	III	A	Building Complex 1	Room D	-117.23	-117.37	1143	1151	Debris upon floor and floor makeup
1150A	U11	III	A	Building Complex 1	Room D	-117.21		1143		Eastern wall of Room D, on W1238
1150B	U11	III	A	Building Complex 1	Room D	-117.21		1143		Western wall of Room D, on W1238
1151	U11	III	B	Building Complex 1	Room D	-117.37	-117.55	1149		Debris upon surface, below L1149
1152	S11	III	A	Building Complex 1	Courtyard	-116.88	-117.29		1160	Debris upon surface, south of W1155
1153	T11					-116.92	-117.10		1159	Topsoil removal
1154	U11	III	B	Building Complex 1	Courtyard	-117.23	-117.51	1148		Debris upon surface, west of W1150B
1155	S11	III	A	Building Complex 1	Room E	-116.94	-117.24	1152		Possible southern wall of Room E

Appendix (cont.)

Locus/ Wall	Square	Stratum	Phase	Complex/ Tomb	Unit	Upper Elevation	Lower Elevation	Locus Above	Locus Below	Description
1156	R11	III	A–B	Building Complex 1	Room F	-117.25	-117.45	1141		Plaster floor makeup and debris upon floor; exposure of earlier Phase B plaster floor and L1162 burial
1157	Q11	III	A	T34	Open Area	-117.21	-117.47	1133		Storage-jar infant burial, found within excavation of L1336
1158	T11	III	A	Building Complex 1	Room D	-117.03	-117.39	1153		Northern wall of Room D
1159	T11	III	A	Building Complex 1	Courtyard	-117.10	-117.39	1153		Debris upon surface with paving stones, north of W1158
1160	S11	III	A–B	Building Complex 1; T27	Courtyard	-117.29	-117.47	1152	1161	Surface makeup and surface(?), south of W1155; includes T27
1161	S11	III	B	Building Complex 1	Courtyard	-117.47	-117.79	1160		Surface makeup, combined into L1160
1162	R11	III	A	Building Complex 1; T25		-117.45	-117.60	1156		Tomb of an adult cutting into Stratum III
1163	S11					-116.79	-117.05		1164	Topsoil removal
1164	S11	III	A	Building Complex 1	Room E	-117.05	-117.36	1163	1165	Debris upon floor, between W1155 and W1139
1165	S11	III	A	Building Complex 1; T28	Room E	-117.25	-117.36	1164		Storage-jar infant burial
1166	T11	III	A	Building Complex 1	Courtyard	-117.10	-117.29	1153		*Ṭabun* adjacent to entrance of Room D
1167	L10	II		T21		-117.50	-117.96	1127		Surface makeup; exposure of earlier surface and Persian T21
1168	L11	III	B	Building Complex 6	Courtyard	-118.03	-118.40	1146		*Ṭabun* adjacent to W1170

Appendix (cont.)

Locus/ Wall	Square	Stratum	Phase	Complex/ Tomb	Unit	Upper Elevation	Lower Elevation	Locus Above	Locus Below	Description
1169	O11	III	A	T36	Courtyard	-117.48	-117.66	1111		Storage-jar infant burial below Surface 1111 and next to W1205
1170	L11	III	A	Building Complex 6	Room B? Courtyard?			1146		Southern wall of Room B?
1201	N12					-116.85	-117.40		1203, 1206	Topsoil removal
1202	O12					-116.85	-117.11		1209	Topsoil removal
1203	N12	III	A	Building Complex 6	Open Area	-117.40	-117.58	1201	1213	Debris upon surface, north of W1204
1204	N12	III	A	Building Complex 4	Room B	-117.05	-117.63	1201		Wall, connects to W1205
1205	N-O12	III	B	Building Complex 4	Rooms A, B	-116.62	-117.74	1201, 1202		Wall, connects to W1204
1206	N12	III	A	Building Complex 4	Room B	-117.40	-117.52	1201	1211	Debris upon floor, within Room B; equals L1304
1207	O12	III	A	Building Complex 4	Room B	-117.11	-117.52	1202	1210	Debris upon floor, combined into L1206
1208	O12	III	A	Building Complex 4	Room B	-116.91	-117.79	1202		Wall, does not connect to W1205
1209	O12	III	A	Building Complex 4	Room A	-117.11	-117.36	1202	1212	Debris above floor, east of W1205, cut by Persian T9
1210	O12	III	A	Building Complex 4	Room B	-117.20	-117.65	1202	1217	Debris upon floor, combined into L1206
1211	N12	III	A–B	Building Complex 4	Room B	-117.52	-117.67	1206	1216	Floor makeup and debris upon floor within Room B; equals L1305
1212	O12	III	A	Building Complex 4	Room A	-117.36	-117.65	1209	1214	Debris upon floor, between W1205 and W1208, cut by Persian T9, T10

Appendix (cont.)

Locus/ Wall	Square	Stratum	Phase	Complex/ Tomb	Unit	Upper Elevation	Lower Elevation	Locus Above	Locus Below	Description
1213	N12	III	A–B	Building Complex 6	Open Area	-117.58	-117.67	1203	1215	Surface makeup and debris upon surface, north of W1204
1214	O12	III	A–B	Building Complex 4	Room A	-117.65	-117.78	1212		Floor makeup and debris upon floor; earlier floor associated with base of W1205, cut by Persian T9
1215	N12	III	B	Building Complex 6	Open Area	-117.67	-117.81	1213		Surface makeup, north of W1204
1216	N12	III	B	Building Complex 4	Room B	-117.67	-117.77	1211	1218	Floor makeup, within Room B
1217	O12	III	A	Building Complex 4	Room B	-117.44	-117.77	1210		Floor makeup, combined into L1216
1218	N12	Pre-III		Building Complex 4	Room B	-117.77	-118.44	1216		Probe into sterile earth
1219	O12	III	B	Building Complex 4	Room A	-117.65	-117.78	1214		Floor makeup, south of W1208
1220	O12	II		T9		-117.71	-117.77	1214		Persian tomb
1221	O12	III	A	Building Complex 4; T38	Room A	-117.69	-117.78	1214		Storage-jar infant burial, exposed in excavation of L1214
1222	O12	III	A	Building Complex 4; T39	Room B	-117.63	-117.77	1217		Storage-jar infant burial, exposed in excavation of L1217
1223	O12	II		T10		-117.65	-117.77	1212		Persian tomb
1224	L12					-116.80	-117.57		1232	Topsoil
1225	P12					-116.62	-116.94		1228, 1229	Topsoil
1226	Q12	III?	A		Open Area	-116.72	-117.08		1231	Topsoil and debris, exposure of surface
1227	P12	II		T6		-116.94	-117.14	1225	1234	Stones covering Persian T6

Appendix (cont.)

Locus/ Wall	Square	Stratum	Phase	Complex/ Tomb	Unit	Upper Elevation	Lower Elevation	Locus Above	Locus Below	Description
1228	P12	III	A	Building Complex 4	Room A	-116.94	-117.22	1225	1265	Debris upon floor, east of southern end of W1205, disturbed by Persian T6
1229	P12	III	A		Open Area	-116.94	-117.27	1225		Debris upon surface, west of W120; equals L1228
1230	Q12	III	A	Structure 1		-119.94	-117.29	1226		Northern wall of Structure 1
1231	Q12	III	A		Open Area	-117.08	-117.50	1226		Surface and surface makeup, partially disturbed by Persian T7; equals L1229
1232	L12			Building Complex 6		-117.57	-117.72	1224	1241	Debris below topsoil
1233	L12	III	A	Building Complex 6	Rooms A, B	-117.62	-117.92	1232		Southern wall of Room A
1234	P12	II		T6		-117.14	-117.20	W1227		Persian tomb
1235	R12					-116.76	-117.22		1248	Topsoil removal
1236	U12	III?				-116.94	-117.21		1245	Topsoil upon floor
1237	S12					-116.83	-117.14		1244	Topsoil removal
1238	U12	III	B	Building Complex 1	Room A	-117.01	-117.53	1236		Western building wall of Room A
1239	U–T12–14	III	B	Building Complex 1	Room A	-117.01	-117.53	1236		Northern building wall of Room A
1240	Q12	III?	A		Open Area	-116.72	-117.25		1231	Topsoil and debris on surface; equals L1226
1241	L12	III	A	Building Complex 6	Open Area	-117.72	-117.84	1232	1249	Debris upon surface, south of W1233
1242	L12	III	A	Building Complex 6	Room A	-117.72	-117.86	1232	1256	Debris upon floor(?), east of W1280
1243	S12–13	III	B	Building Complex 1	Rooms B, C	-117.11	-117.32	1237		Outer northern wall of Rooms B, C

Appendix (cont.)

Locus/ Wall	Square	Stratum	Phase	Complex/ Tomb	Unit	Upper Elevation	Lower Elevation	Locus Above	Locus Below	Description
1244	S12	III	A	Building Complex 1	Courtyard	-117.14	-117.23	1237	1251	Debris upon surface, in open area north of W1243; equals L1320
1245	U12	III	A–B	Building Complex 1	Room A	-117.21	-117.41	1236	1246	Debris upon floor, in western portion of Room A; equals L1311
1246	U12	Pre-III	B	Building Complex 1	Room A	-117.41	-117.75	1245		Probe below floor, sterile earth
1247	R12	III	A	Structure 1		-116.80	-117.20	1235, 1250		Western wall(?) of Structure 1
1248	R12	III	A	Structure 1		-117.22	-117.45	1235	1253	Debris upon surface, west of W1247
1249	L12	III	B	Building Complex 6	Open Area	-117.84	-118.00	1241		Surface makeup and debris upon surface, south of W1233; equals L1146
1250	R12	III?	A	Structure 1		-116.91	-117.14	1235	W1247	Debris east of stones of W1247
1251	S12	III	A–B	Building Complex 1	Courtyard	-117.23	-117.35	1244	1254	Surface make up and debris upon surface
1252	R12	III	A	Structure 1; T31		-117.18	-117.45	1235	1253	Storage-jar infant burial, within L1248 surface
1253	R12	III	A–B	Structure 1	Room F	-117.45	-117.57	1252, 1248	1257	Surface makeup, west of W1247
1254	S12	III	B		Courtyard	-117.35	-117.54	1251		Surface makeup
1255	T12					-116.98	-117.18		1259	Topsoil removal
1256	L12	III	A	Building Complex 6	Room A	-117.86	-118.03	1242		Debris, combined into L1242
1257	R12	Pre-III			Open Area	-117.57	-117.79	1253		Probe into sterile layer
1258	Q12	II		T7		-117.36	-117.56	1231	1260	Uncovering stones of Persian T7
1259	T12					-117.18	-117.25	1255	1263,1262	Topsoil, combined into L1255

Appendix (cont.)

Locus/ Wall	Square	Stratum	Phase	Complex/ Tomb	Unit	Upper Elevation	Lower Elevation	Locus Above	Locus Below	Description
1260	Q12	II		T7		-117.56	-117.70	1258		Persian tomb
1261	T12	III	B	Building Complex 1	Room B	-117.22		1259		Outer western wall of Room B
1262	T12	III	A–B	Building Complex 1	Room B	-117.25	-117.34	1259		Debris upon floor, within Room B; equals L1319
1263	T12	III	A–B	Building Complex 1	Courtyard	-117.25	-117.36	1259		Debris upon surface, west of Room B
1264	P12	III	A	Building Complex 4	Room A	-117.08	-117.42	1228		Wall(?) of installation, east of W1205
1265	P12	III	A		Open Area?	-117.22	-117.41	1228		Debris upon floor, south of W1264
1266	V12					-117.18	-117.39		1267	Topsoil removal
1267	V12	III			Open Area	-117.39	-117.43	1266	1268	Debris upon surface, south and adjacent to W1310
1268	V12	III			Open Area	-117.43	-117.55	1267		Surface makeup; exposure of storage-jar infant burials L1279, L1269
1269	V12	III		T32	Open Area	-117.37	-117.55	1267		Storage-jar infant burial
1270	V12	III	A		Open Area	-117.25	-117.43	1266	1267	Large upright storage jar, in outer corner of W1147 and W1238
1271	W12					-117.60	-117.79		1276	Topsoil removal
1272	L12	III	A	Building Complex 6	Rooms A, B	-117.79		1256		Wall, combined into W1233
1273	W12	I				-117.60	-117.74		1271	Skeletal remains on habitation level, west of Roman T5
1274	W12	III	B		Open Area	-117.76	-117.95	1271		Short screening wall

Appendix (cont.)

Locus/ Wall	Square	Stratum	Phase	Complex/ Tomb	Unit	Upper Elevation	Lower Elevation	Locus Above	Locus Below	Description
1275	W12	III	B	Building Complex 3	Courtyard	-117.74	-117.89	1271		Debris upon surface; surface makeup, north of W1274
1276	X12	III	B	Building Complex 3	Courtyard	-117.79	-117.95	1271		Debris upon stone pavement, north of W1281
1277	YX12	III	B	Building Complex 3	Room A	-117.85				Western wall of Building Complex 3
1278	Y12	III	B	Building Complex 3	Courtyard	-117.85	-117.96			Debris upon floor, east of W1277
1279	V12	III		T33	Open Area	-117.45	-117.64	1267		Storage-jar infant burial
1280	L12	III	A	Building Complex 6	Room A	-117.39		1242		Eastern wall of Room A
1281	W12	III	B	Building Complex 3	Room A	-117.83		1278		Northern wall of Room A
1300	M13					-117.03	-117.57		1303	Topsoil removal
1301	P13					-116.64	-117.21		1308	Topsoil removal, includes Persian juglet, probably from T6
1302	N13					-116.83	-117.36		1304	Topsoil removal
1303	M13	III	A–B		Open Area	-117.47	-117.77	1300	1306	Debris in probe
1304	N13	III	A–B	Building Complex 4	Room B	-117.36	-117.50	1302	1305	Debris upon floor, between W1204 and W1208, equals L1206
1305	N13	III	A–B	Building Complex 4	Room B	-117.50	-117.71	1304		Floor makeup, equals L1216
1306	M13	III	A–B		Open Area	-117.77	-118.54	1303		Debris in probe
1307	N13					-116.94	-117.37		W1208	Topsoil removal, combined into L1302
1308	P13	III	A		Open Area	-117.21	-117.44	1301	W1331	Debris on surface and surface makeup east of W1331
1309	U13	III?				-116.94	-117.30		1311, W1310	Topsoil removal, upon floor

Appendix (cont.)

Locus/ Wall	Square	Stratum	Phase	Complex/ Tomb	Unit	Upper Elevation	Lower Elevation	Locus Above	Locus Below	Description
1310	V12–14	III	B	Building Complex 1	Room A	-117.02	-117.59	1309		Southern building wall of Room A
1311	U13	III	A–B	Building Complex 1	Room A	-117.30	-117.59	1309		Debris upon floor in Room A, equals L1406, L1245
1312	S13					-116.85	-117.06		1316	Topsoil removal
1313	T13					-116.95	-117.17		1319, 1318	Topsoil removal
1314	R13					-116.63	-117.02		1326, 1330	Topsoil removal
1315	Q13					-116.69	-116.91		1325	Topsoil removal
1316	S13	III?	A	Building Complex 1	Courtyard	-117.06	-117.17	1312	1320	Debris above surface in open area north of W1243, combined into L1320
1317	S/T13	III	B	Building Complex 1	Rooms C, B	-116.97		1313		Inner dividing wall between Rooms B, C
1318	T13			Building Complex 1	Room C	-117.17	-117.25	1313	1323, 1322	Topsoil and debris, combined into L1313
1319	T13	III	A–B	Building Complex 1	Room B	-117.17	-117.31	1313		Debris upon floor within Room B, equals L1262
1320	S13	III	A	Building Complex 1	Courtyard	-117.17	-117.32	1316		Debris upon surface in open area north of W1243, equals L1330
1321	S/T13	III	B	Building Complex 1	Room C	-117.19		1318		Wall. outer eastern wall of Room C
1322	T14	III	A–B		Alleyway between Building Complexes 1 and 2	-117.25	-117.36	1318		Debris upon surface, equals L1411, L1408
1323	T13	III	A–B	Building Complex 1	Room C	-117.25	-117.38	1318		Debris upon floor, within Room C

Appendix (cont.)

Locus/ Wall	Square	Stratum	Phase	Complex/ Tomb	Unit	Upper Elevation	Lower Elevation	Locus Above	Locus Below	Description
1324	S13	III	A–B	Building Complex 1	Room C	-117.17	-117.31	1316		Debris upon floor, combined into L1323
1325	Q13					-116.91	-117.13	1315	1328	Topsoil and debris, combined into L1315
1326	R13	III	A	Structure 1		-117.02	-117.25	1314		Debris upon floor north of W1329
1327	V13					-117.11	-117.45		1332	Topsoil removal
1328	Q13	III	A		Open Area	-117.13	-117.25	1325		Debris upon plaster surface
1329	R13	III	A	Structure 1		-116.88	-117.27	1314		Southern wall of Structure 1
1330	R13	III	A	Structure 1	Open Area	-117.02	-117.27	1314		Debris upon surface south of Structure 1, equals L1320
1331	P13	III	B	Building Complex 4	Room A	-117.21		1308		Eastern wall of Room A
1332	V13	III	A–B		Courtyard	-117.45	-117.61	1327		Debris upon surface, south of W1310, surface includes some paving stones
1333	W13	I		T5		-117.00	-117.24			Burial debris at bottom of Roman sarcophagus
1334	X13	I				-117.12	-117.47			Habitation level south of Roman T4 and T5
1335	Y13	III	B	Building Complex 3	Room A	-117.46				Eastern wall of Room A
1336	W13	I		T4						Burial debris at bottom of Roman sarcophagus
1337	Y13	III	B	Building Complex 3	Room A					Southern wall of Room A
1400	U14					-116.94	-117.30		1403, 1406	Topsoil removal
1401	U14	III	B	Building Complex 1	Room A	-117.02	-117.45	1400		Eastern wall of Room A

Appendix (cont.)

Locus/ Wall	Square	Stratum	Phase	Complex/ Tomb	Unit	Upper Elevation	Lower Elevation	Locus Above	Locus Below	Description
1402	U/V14	III	B	Building Complex 2		-117.12	-117.49	1400		Western wall of Building Complex 2
1403	T/U14	III	A–B		Alleyway between Building Complexes 1 and 2	-117.30	-117.45	1400	1405	Debris upon surface, combined into L1411
1404	T14					-116.93	-117.19		1408	Topsoil removal
1405	U14	Pre-III			Alleyway between Building Complexes 1 and 2	-117.45	-118.15	1403		Probe below alley surface, sterile earth
1406	U14	III	A–B	Building Complex 1	Room A	-117.30	-117.56	1400		Debris upon floor in eastern portion of room, equals L1311
1407	V/W14					-116.99	-117.11		1409, 1414	Topsoil removal
1408	T14	III	A–B		Alley	-117.19	-117.30	1404	1411	Debris upon surface, combined into L1322
1409	V14	I				-117.11	-117.34	1407	1413	Habitation level, north of Roman T2 and T3
1410	T14	III	B	Building Complex 2?		-117.07		1408		Possible northern wall of Building Complex 2
1411	T/U14	III	A–B		Alleyway between Building Complexes 1 and 2	-117.30	-117.38	1408		Debris upon surface, equals L1403, L1322
1412	V14	III?	B	Open area		-117.30		1409		Disturbed debris upon Stratum III surface with flat-topped stones north of T3
1413	V14	III?	A–B	Open area		-117.34	-117.49	1407		Disturbed debris upon Stratum III surface with flat-topped stones, combined into L1412

APPENDIX (cont.)

Locus/ Wall	Square	Stratum	Phase	Complex/ Tomb	Unit	Upper Elevation	Lower Elevation	Locus Above	Locus Below	Description
1414	W14	I		T3		-117.10	-117.26	1407		Burial debris at bottom of Roman sarcophagus
1415	W14	I		T2		-117.08	-117.39	1407		Burial debris at bottom of Roman sarcophagus
1416	X14					-117.30	-117.42		1418	Topsoil removal
1417	X14	I		T1		-117.42	-117.57	1416		Burial debris at bottom of Roman sarcophagus
1418	X14	I				-117.42	-117.54	1416		Roman habitation level, living surface between T1, T2 and T3
3000	M12									Cleanup after tractor clearance
3001	N11									Cleanup after tractor clearance
3002	M11									Cleanup after tractor clearance

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