

RESCUE EXCAVATIONS AT THE EARLY BRONZE AGE SITE OF
QIRYAT ATA—AREA N

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Qiryat Ata is situated on the coastal plain, on the southeastern fringe of the Zevulun Valley, close to perennial Nahal Qishon, just 4 km to the southeast (for an overview of the site and its surroundings, see Golani 2003:1–7, Fig. 1.1). Numerous excavations were undertaken between 1990 and 2012 within the Early Bronze Age site of Qiryat Ata, all of them rescue projects that preceded housing and infrastructure development within the area of the ancient settlement (see Fantalkin 2000; Golani 2003; 2006; 2012; 2013; this volume; Baruch, Inbar and Uziel 2007; Faust and Golani 2008; Abu-Hamid 2010; Tabar 2010). The cumulative knowledge from years of work at Qiryat Ata has revealed the history of the site to be divided into three major strata spanning the transition from the fourth to the third millennia BCE, with a possible occupation in the Pottery Neolithic period (fifth millennium; Fantalkin 2000). Two general strata are assigned to EB IB (Strata III–II) and another, to EB II (Stratum I). In most of the excavated areas,

several local stratigraphic-architectural phases were identified within each of the general site strata. As the excavation areas were not physically connected, the correlation and dating in Table 1 is based on analysis of the architecture and the associated ceramics.¹ All these excavation areas have been labeled in sequential order, from A to U (Table 1; Fig. 1). The present excavation² was located in the southeastern peripheral zone of the site (NIG 21058/74496; OIG 16048/24491), to the east of Areas O and G and to the south of Areas T and U, that were most recently excavated.

STRATIGRAPHY AND ARCHITECTURE

The excavations in Area N were conducted as a series of three separate subareas to probe the depth and nature of the archaeological remains along the projected route of Ha-Te'enim Street (Sq A, Sqs E–G and Sq T; Fig. 1). In total, an area of approximately 125 sq m was investigated in Area N. Square A (5×7 m) was

Table 1. Qiryat Ata General Stratigraphic Correlation of Phasing, Areas A–U

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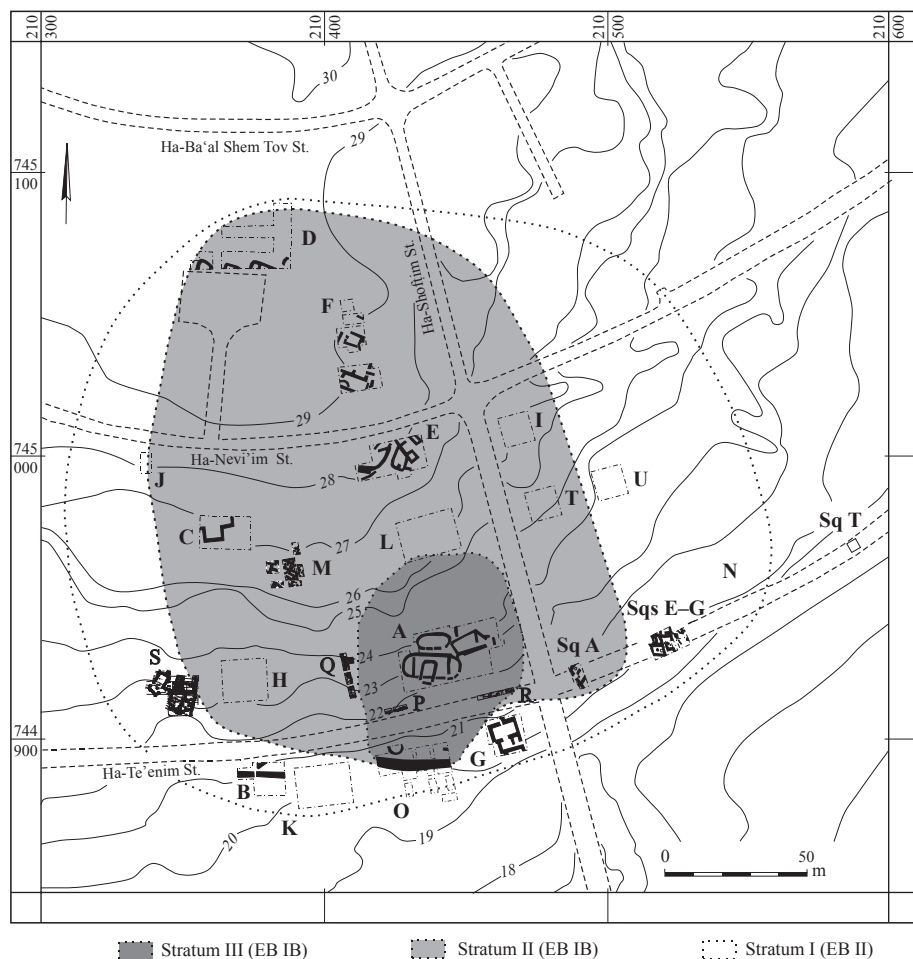


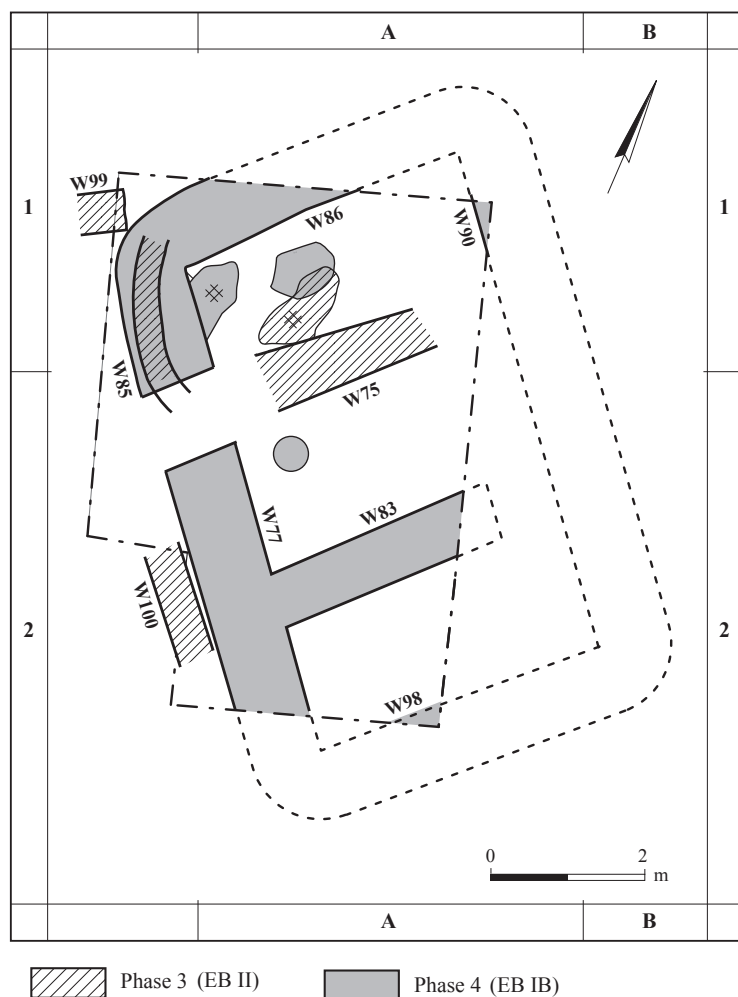
Fig. 1. Location map of all excavation areas within the Early Bronze Age site and an updated assessment of the site boundaries in the various periods.

situated just east of the junction of Ha-Te'enim and Ha-Shofim Streets (Plans 1–3; Fig. 1). Squares E–G are located 25 m east of Sq A, and constitute a continuously excavated area measuring 15×7 m (Plans 4–6). Excavations here revealed a dense concentration of building remains that underwent intensive architectural modifications. Square T is located outside the area of the site (see Fig. 1), 60 m east of Sqs E–G, and lacked any stratified finds. The following report presents the results of the excavations in Sqs A and E–G, from the earliest to the latest strata (see Appendix 1).

Phase 4 (General Stratum II)

Square A (Plans 1, 2; Fig. 2)

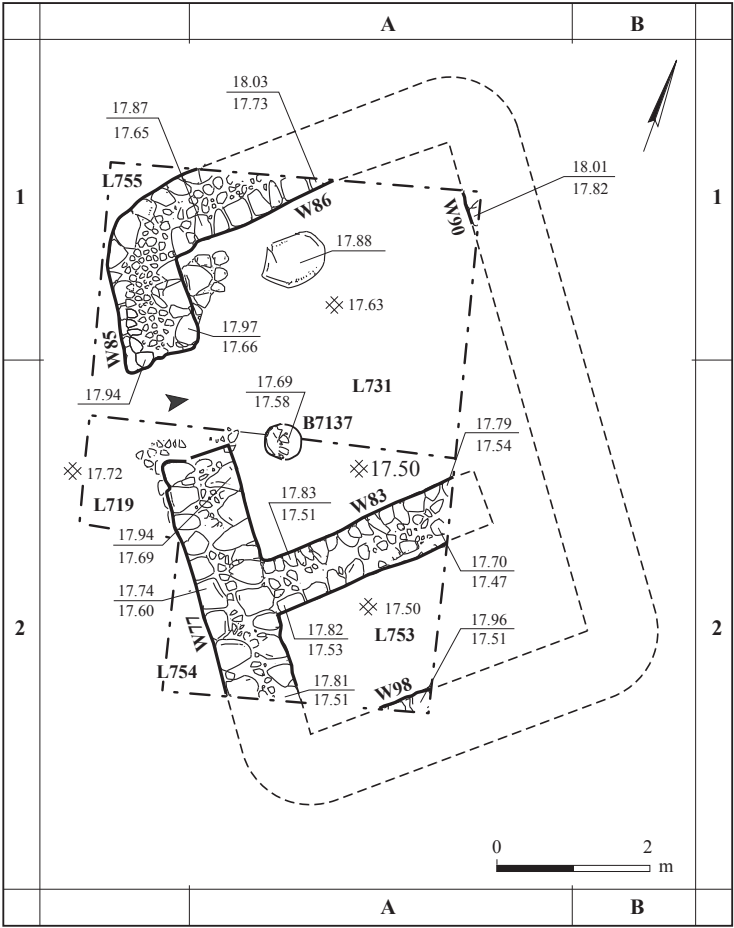
The earliest remains in Area N were identified in Sq A and consist of one structure (Building 1) that may be reconstructed as a two-room building with rounded outer corners. The building and its associated floors were founded upon a thick layer of dark brown earth containing numerous small stones and EB IB ceramics, which appears to have been laid down as a constructional fill. The northern room of Building 1, delineated by W77 and W85 in the



Plan 1. Square A, Phases 3–4 (General Strata I–II).

west, W86 in the north, W90 in the east and W83 in the south, had an entrance from the west, between the squared-off ends of W77 and W85 (Fig. 2). These two walls were preserved one course high and built of two parallel rows of large fieldstones with smaller chinking stones in between. A beaten-earth floor (L719; Plan 2), with cobble-sized stones embedded in its make-up, was revealed outside this entrance, and small segments of this same floor (L754, L755; Plan 2) were revealed nearby. Within the room, a beaten-earth floor with numerous mud-brick fragments upon it (L731) was detected

at a level slightly lower than the base of the surrounding walls. A large portion of a crushed holemouth jar (Fig. 12:10) was found scattered in pieces upon Floor 731. The northern wall of this room, W86, only partially exposed, forms a rounded corner with W85 and is of similar construction and preservation. Within the corner was an installation composed of a large flat stone surrounded by several medium-sized stones, possibly a stand for a vessel, or a work platform. A flat-topped boulder embedded in the floor nearby may have had a similar function (Fig. 2). Two large stones set one atop the other,



Plan 2. Square A, Phase 4 (General Stratum II), Building 1.

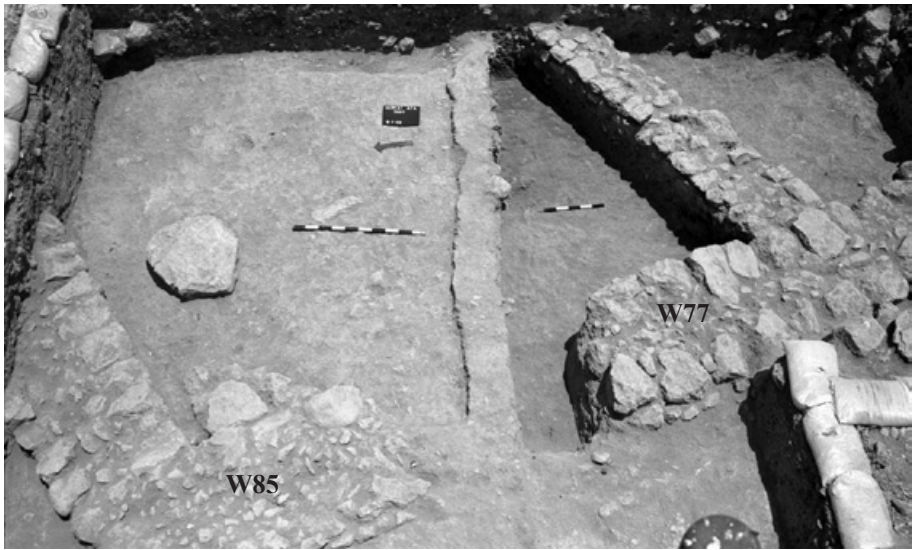
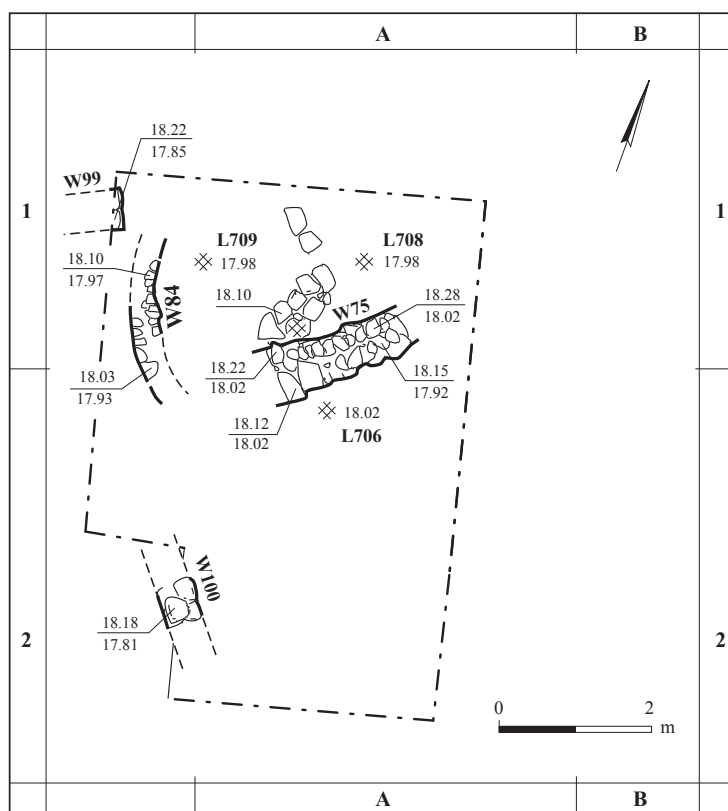


Fig. 2. Square A, Building 1: the northern room, looking east through the entranceway.



Plan 3. Square A, Phase 3 (General Stratum I).

uncovered in the balk in the northeastern corner of the square, may indicate the existence of the eastern closing wall of the structure (W90). The southern wall of this room (W83), abutting W77, is of different construction, slightly narrower and built of two parallel rows of medium-sized stones with smaller chinking stones in between. It was preserved two courses high, and may have functioned as a partition wall between the northern and southern rooms. The passage between them was possibly to the east, outside the area of excavation.

The southern room was delineated by W83 in the north and the continuation of W77 in the west. In the southeastern corner of the square, several large stones arranged in a line, one atop the other for a maximum of two courses, may

indicate the location of the southern, outer wall of the structure (W98). This wall may have joined the proposed line of W90 in the east and the continuation of W77 in the west. Within this reconstructed room, a beaten-earth floor (L753) was exposed a few centimeters below the base of the walls.

Phases 3–1 (General Stratum I)

Square A (Plans 1, 3)

Only one stratigraphic phase was identified directly above the walls of Phase 4 in Sq A. The remains of Phase 3 in this square consist of several walls and associated floors that do not reveal an ordered plan. Wall 75, preserved two courses high, was found squared off at both

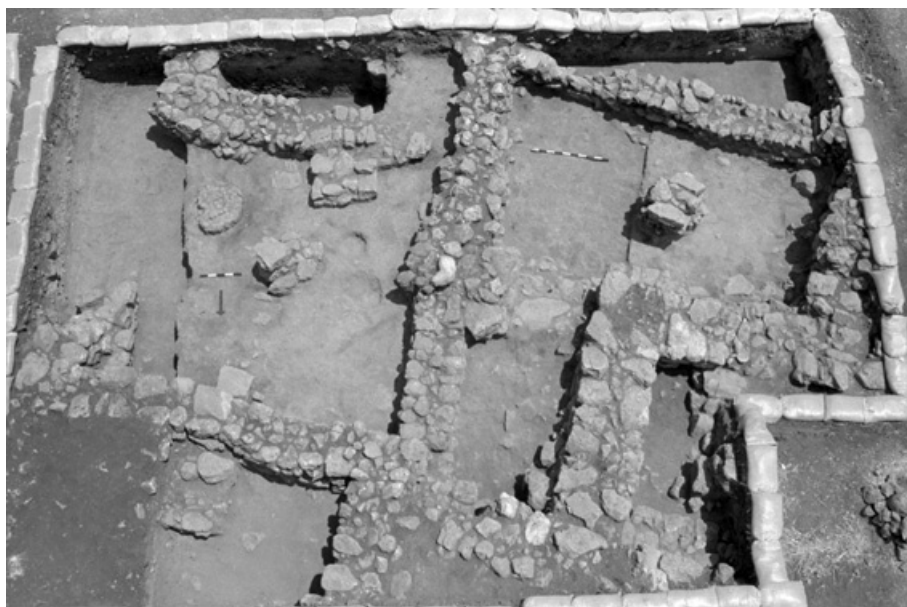


Fig. 3. Squares E and F, general view to the south.

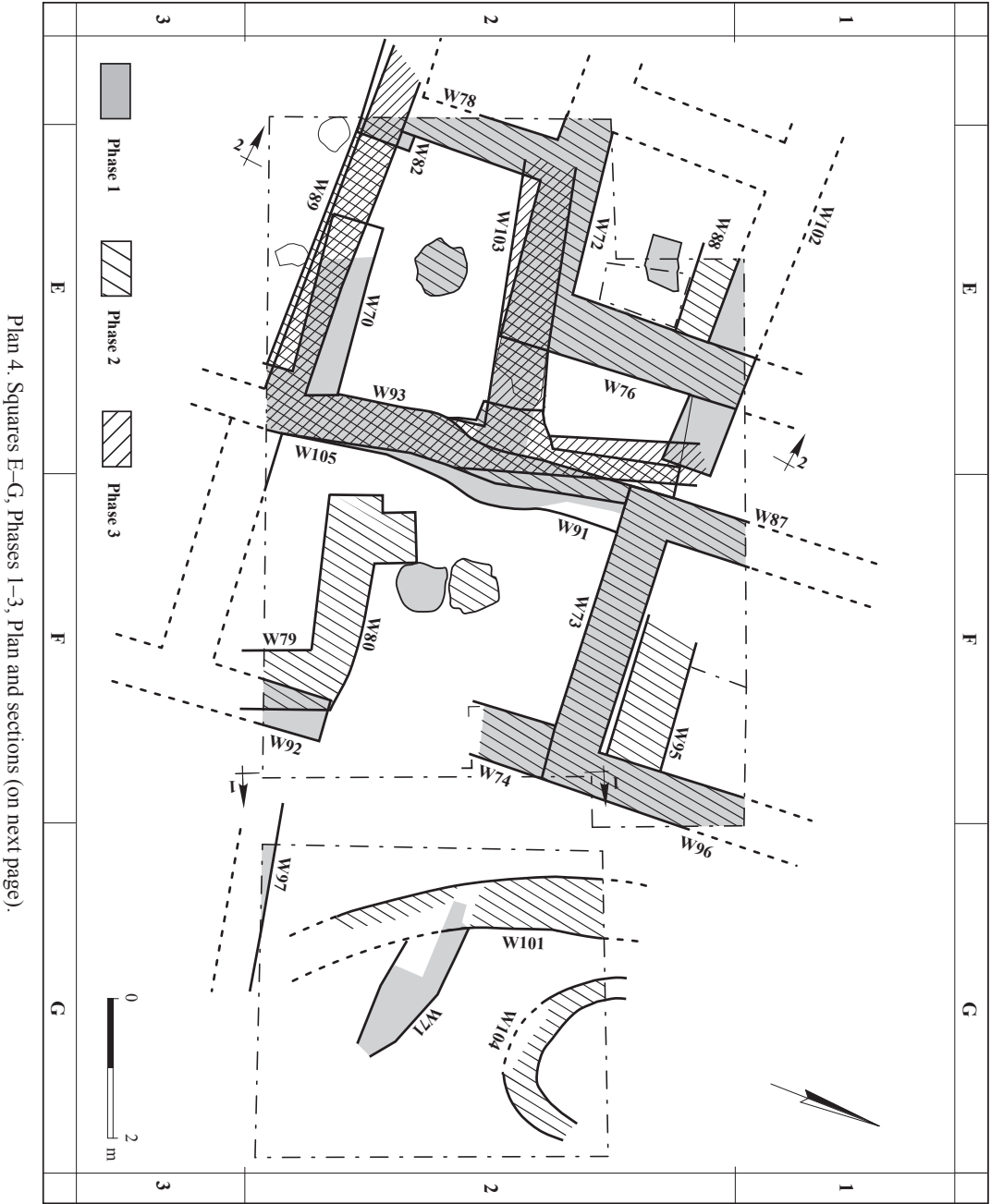
ends. A beaten-earth floor (L708/L709), with some embedded paving stones, was associated with this wall on the north, and another beaten-earth floor (L706) was detected to the south of it. To the west of W75, a slightly curving, wall-like feature (W84) was identified upon Floor 709. The function of this constructional element, preserved to a maximum of two courses, is unclear. In the western balk of the square, the squared-off end of another wall (W99) was observed, which appears to continue to the west, outside the excavated area. A group of stones, preserved two courses high in the southern portion of the square (W100), may delineate yet another wall running northwest-southeast.

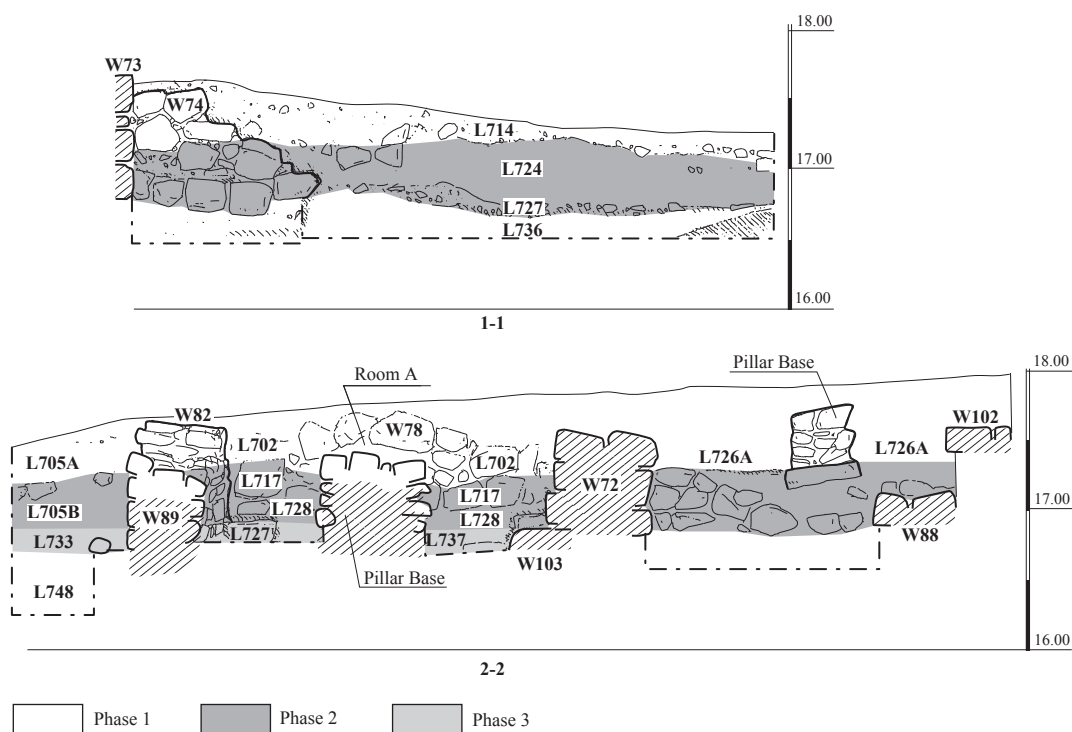
The remains in Sq A are attributed to Phase 3 on the basis of their relative position directly above the walls of Phase 4, and because of their associated ceramic finds, which clearly date to EB II (General Stratum I, see below).

Squares E–G (Plans 4–7; Figs. 3–11)

In Sqs E–G to the east, three stratigraphic-architectural phases were assigned to General Stratum I (Plan 4), although it is unclear to which of these phases the finds in Sq A should be associated. The remains uncovered in Sqs E–G represent a dense agglomeration of walls, floors and architectural modifications that built up during the course of Stratum I (Plan 4; Fig. 3). As only three, slightly enlarged squares were possible, the excavation is essentially a mere ‘peep-hole’ onto a small portion of the existing remains. Though other reconstructions are possible, the following discussion presents the author’s interpretation of the available evidence.

The earliest architectural elements in Sqs E–G were laid upon a layer of debris/fill 0.3–0.4 m thick that appears to have leveled the area prior to construction. This pre-constructional layer, which may be termed ‘pre-Phase 3’,

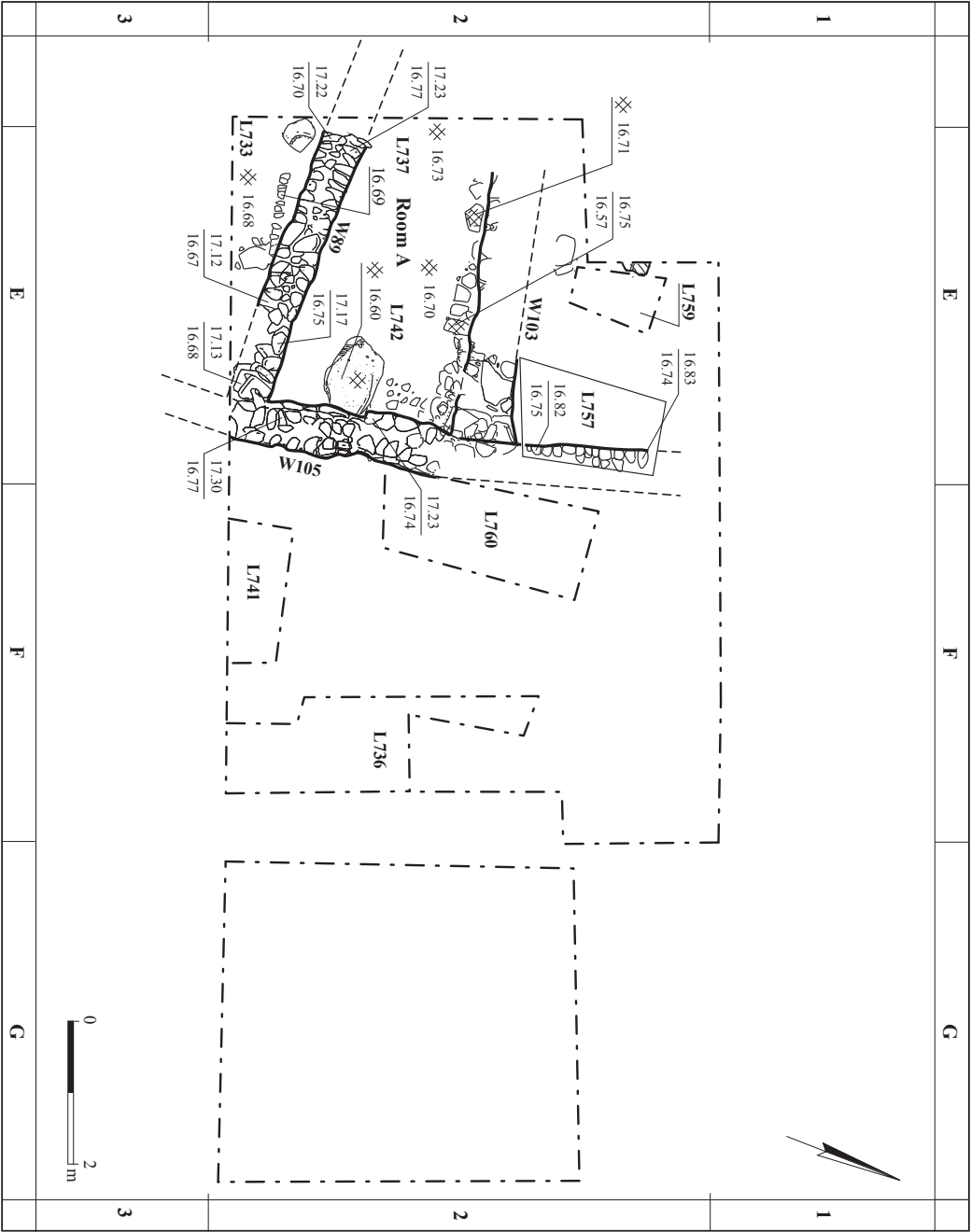




contained limited amounts of EB II ceramic material and may thus be associated to General Stratum I (L748; Plan 4: Section 2–2). Below this layer, a deep probe in the southern portion of Sq F revealed a dark brown, marly alluvium layer, which contained a limited number of very worn, EB I–EB II sherds, and is interpreted as the basal level upon which the archaeological stratum in these squares was founded.

Phase 3 (Plan 5).— The earliest occupational phase, only partially exposed, is composed of at least one room. Room A is a rectilinear room bounded by W89 in the south, W105 in the east and W103 in the north; the western

wall is located outside the excavated area, as is the entrance. Wall 103 was built of medium-to large-sized stones; it was uncovered beneath W72 of Phase 2. Wall 72 partially dismantled W103 and lay directly upon, yet slightly incongruent to it. The southern face of W103 protruded from the base of W72 (Plan 4: Section 2–2). Wall 103 appears to have abutted W105, exposed as one course of medium-sized stones directly below W93 of Phase 2. Wall 105 was also abutted by W89, built of small-to medium-sized stones and preserved three courses. Between these three walls, a beaten-earth floor (L737/L742) with several embedded flagstones was exposed adjacent to W103.



Plan 5. Squares E–G, Phase 3 (General Stratum I).

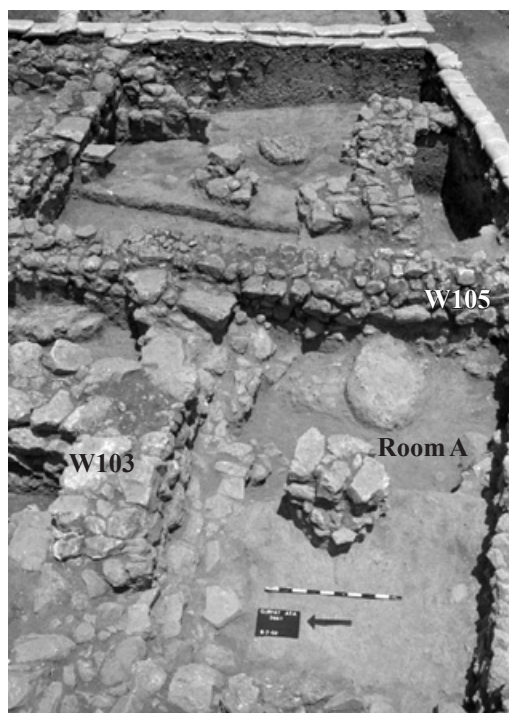


Fig. 4. Squares E and F, general view to the east; note W105, with a rounded patch of plaster and an adjacent mud-brick floor, and W103 and the adjacent paving stones, just below the base of W72 of Phases 2–1.

Alongside W105, the floor was revealed as a large patch of plaster and mud brick that sloped up to the base of this wall (Fig. 4).

To the south of Room A, another beaten-earth floor (L733) was associated with the base of W89. A line of small stones exposed in proximity to this wall is of unclear function. Excavation below these stones did not reveal an earlier wall.

North of Room A, another room may have existed, as W105 continued northward underneath, yet slightly to the west of W93 of Phase 2 (Fig. 5). Though no clear floors or other architectural elements were observed in this area, L757 and L759 represent debris loci that may be associated with Phase 3 on the basis of their relative height and position below Phase 2 surfaces. In a similar manner, excavation below the Phase 2 floors and walls to the east, in Sq F, exposed debris loci (L736, L741, L760) that may possibly be associated with Phase 3 as well.

Phase 2 (Plan 6).— This phase exhibits a clearer architectural plan than that of Phase 3. The

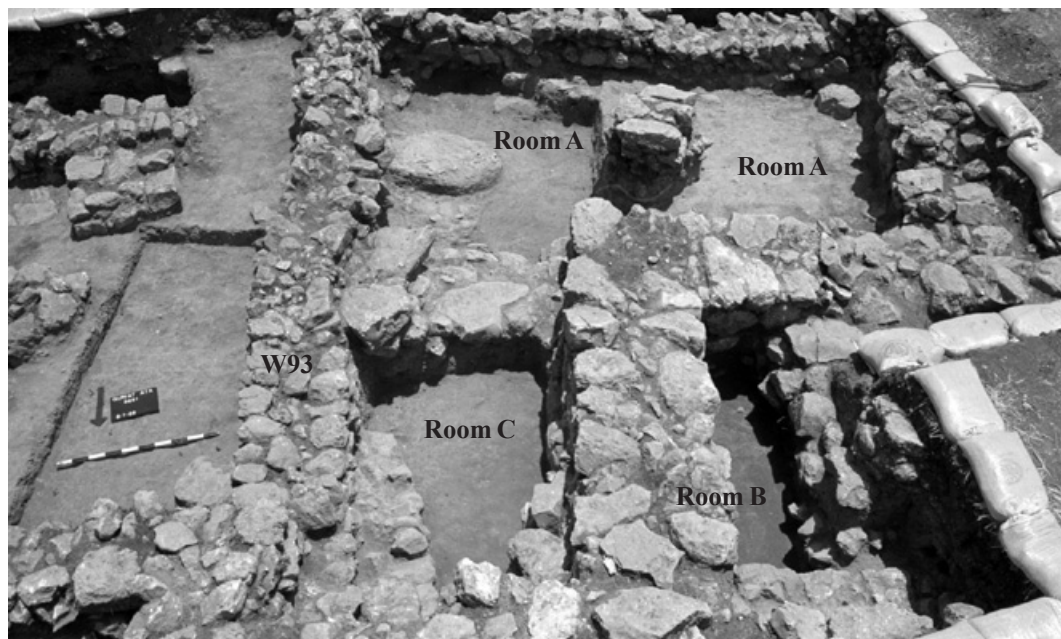
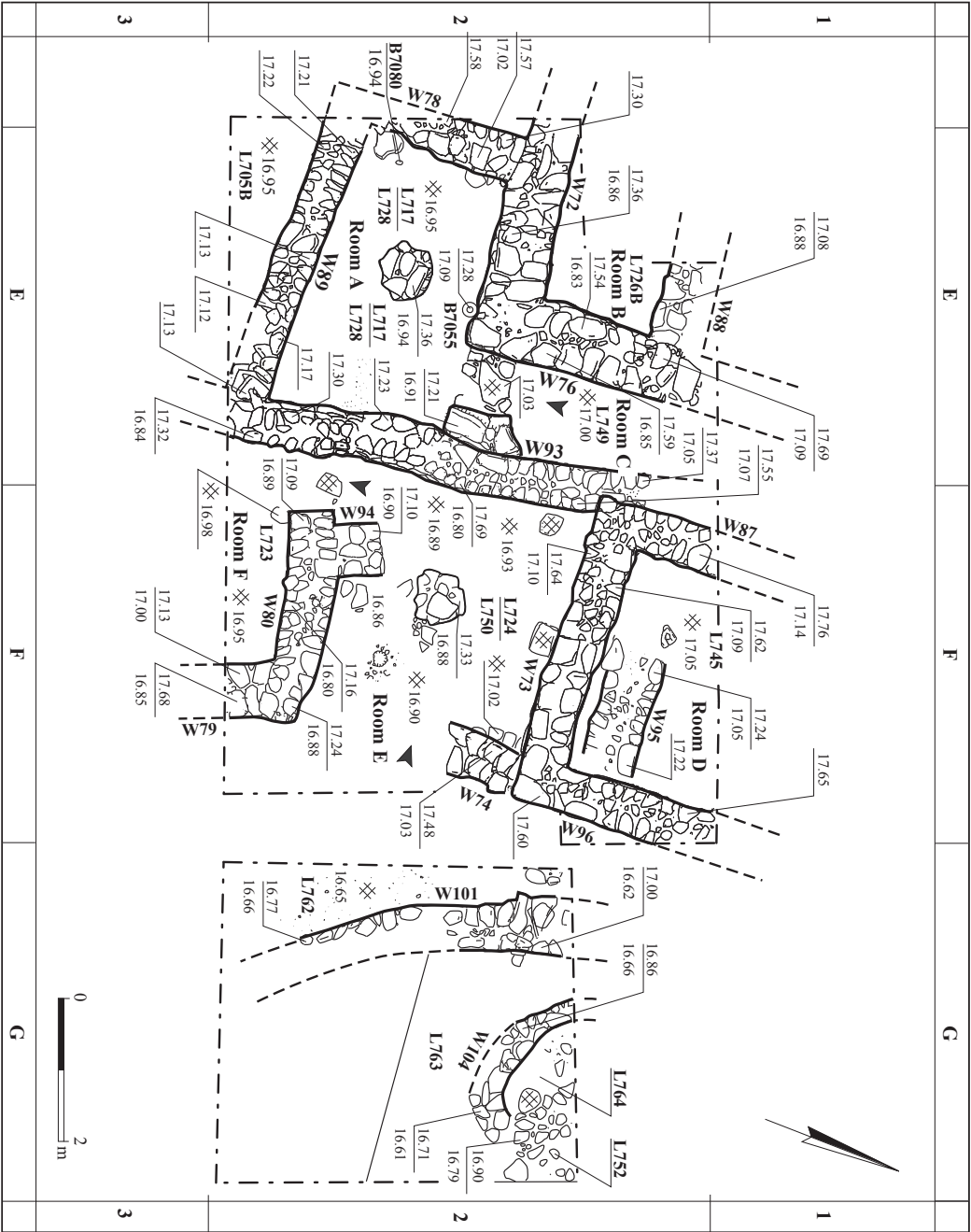


Fig. 5. Phase 2, the entranceway into Room A, looking south; the threshold connecting Room A and Room C is seen at center; W105 of Phase 3 is seen below W93 of Phase 2 at lower center.



Plan 6. Squares E–G, Phase 2 (General Stratum I).



Fig. 6. A large fragment of a cooking pot within Room A, next to W72.

Phase 2 builders made partial use of Phase 3 walls, and several new walls were constructed.

The basic plan of Room A continued, yet it became more restricted in size with the construction of new walls (Fig. 4). Wall 89, the southern wall of the room, continued in use, while to the east, W105 was supplanted by W93, which was built upon it. Wall 93 constitutes two additional courses of small- to medium-sized stones built upon, but slightly incongruent with, W105. Wall 78, built of medium-sized stones and preserved to a maximum of three courses, abutted W72 in the north and closed off the western side of the room. To the north, W103 of Phase 3 was partially dismantled and a new wall (W72) of medium- to large-sized stones preserved to a maximum of three courses, was built upon it, at a slightly different angle. Entrance was from the northeast, with the top of W103 functioning as a threshold. On its eastern side, the entrance was slightly restricted by the construction of a doorjamb upon W103, abutting W93 (Fig. 5).

Within the room, a beaten-earth floor (L728) was overlaid by debris (L717). In the center of the room was a rounded pillar base constructed of medium- to large-sized stones to a maximum of four courses (Fig. 4). A cooking pot (Fig. 15:2) was revealed adjacent to W72 (Fig. 6), while a small, complete, Abydos-type juglet (Fig. 14:8) was recovered on the floor in the southwestern corner of the room.

To the south of Room A was a beaten-earth floor (L705B), adjacent to W89.

To the north of Room A, a new room was constructed (Fig. 5). Only partially revealed, Room B is delineated by W72 in the south, W76 in the east and W88 in the north. W76 was bonded to W72 and built of medium- to large-sized stones preserved four courses high. Wall 88, only partially revealed, was constructed of medium- to large-sized stones preserved one course high. This wall also bonded with W76, but was largely dismantled during Phase 1 when this room was enlarged (see below). No clear floor was identified between these walls, and the debris associated with them was excavated as L726B.

To the east of Room B, Room C was formed by W76 in the west and W93 to the east (Fig. 5). The northern part of the room during Phase 2 was not investigated, as W102 of Phase 1 (see below) was not dismantled. The southern boundary is delineated by the doorjamb abutting W93, and the top of W103 of Phase 3 was incorporated as a threshold. Within the confines of Room C was a beaten-earth floor (L749). This room may have functioned as a corridor leading to Room A.

To the northeast of Room C, Room D was partially revealed, bounded by W87 in the west, W73 in the south and W96 in the east (Fig. 7). Wall 87, built of medium- to large-sized stones preserved three courses high,

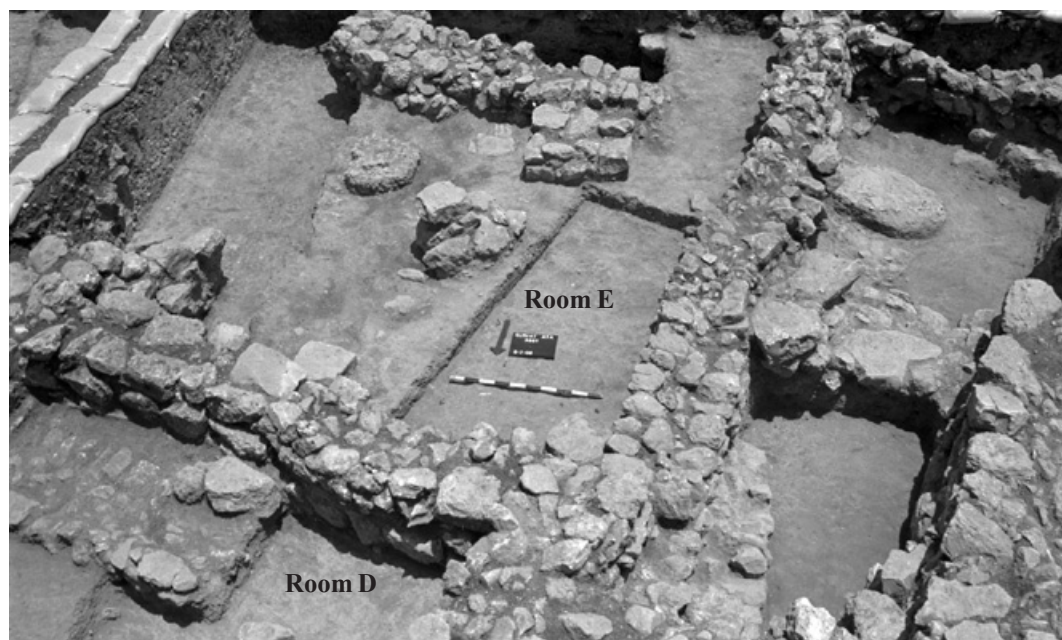


Fig. 7. Room E, general view to the south.

bonded with W73, of similar construction and preservation. Wall 73 in turn bonds with W96, also constructed of medium- to large-sized stones exposed two courses high, although the base of this wall was not reached. The corner of W87 and W73 cut into W93. Though this latter wall is constructionally earlier than the walls of Room D, all are associated with one architectural phase based on their homogenous plan and the relative equivalence of their floor heights. As W93 was built upon W105 of Phase 3 and could not have functioned in this earlier phase, the present situation is interpreted as a localized rebuild that incorporated W87 into and upon W93. The walls of Room D continued into Phase 1 (see below), when W91 was built directly upon W93 and abutted W87 (see Plan 7). A beaten-earth floor (L745) with a small socketed stone in its center, was revealed at the base of W73 and W87. In the southeastern portion of the room, a wall of unclear function (W95), built of medium- to large-sized stones and preserved to a maximum height of two courses, was erected upon the Phase 2 floor. Though it appears to have been

cut by the construction of W96, its foundations do not go below the Phase 2 floor level and its stratigraphic position is above the uppermost levels of Phase 3. For these reasons, W95 is more likely to be associated with Phase 2 and may have functioned as some kind of bench or platform adjacent to W73 and W96.

To the south of Room D, Room E is a large room bounded by W73 in the north, W93 in the west, W80 in the south and W74 in the east (Fig. 7). What may have been the main entrance into the room is located in the east, between W74 and W80 (Fig. 8). Wall 74 was built of medium- to large-sized stones preserved three courses high. A foundation course of flat-topped medium-sized stones found jutting out from the base of the western face of this wall appears to have been a constructional feature of the floor. In the southern portion of the room was W80, built of small- to medium-sized stones and preserved two courses high. This wall was squared-off at its western end, forming an entranceway with W93 that led into Room F. Wall 94 is a short wall segment of medium-sized stones, preserved two courses high. It abuts W80 and is squared off at

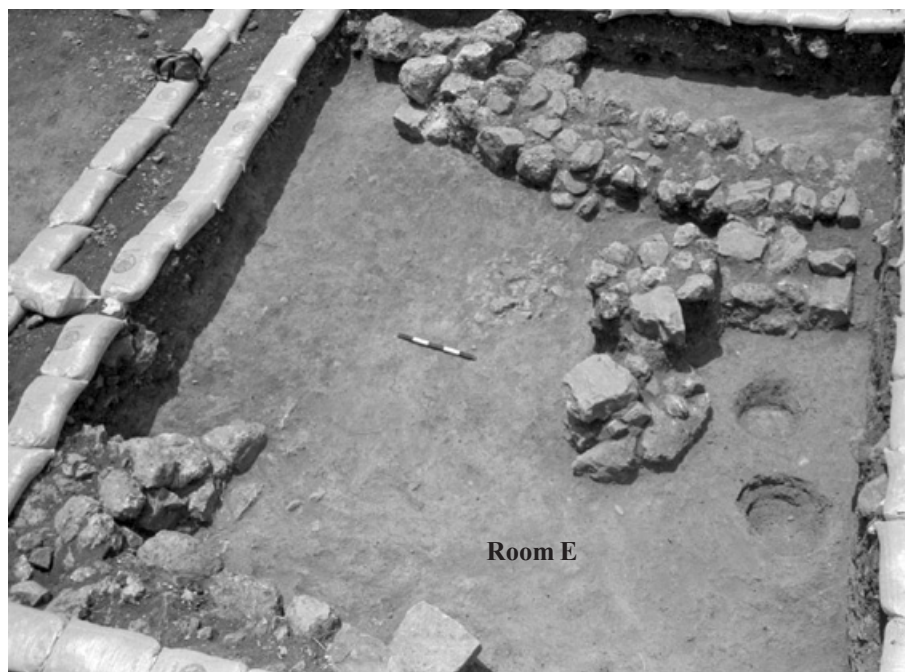


Fig. 8. Room E, looking south; the wide entrance into the room is at left, the plastered installation and the pillar base are at center and lower right, and the intrusion of two large, Phase 1 pithoi is seen at lower right.

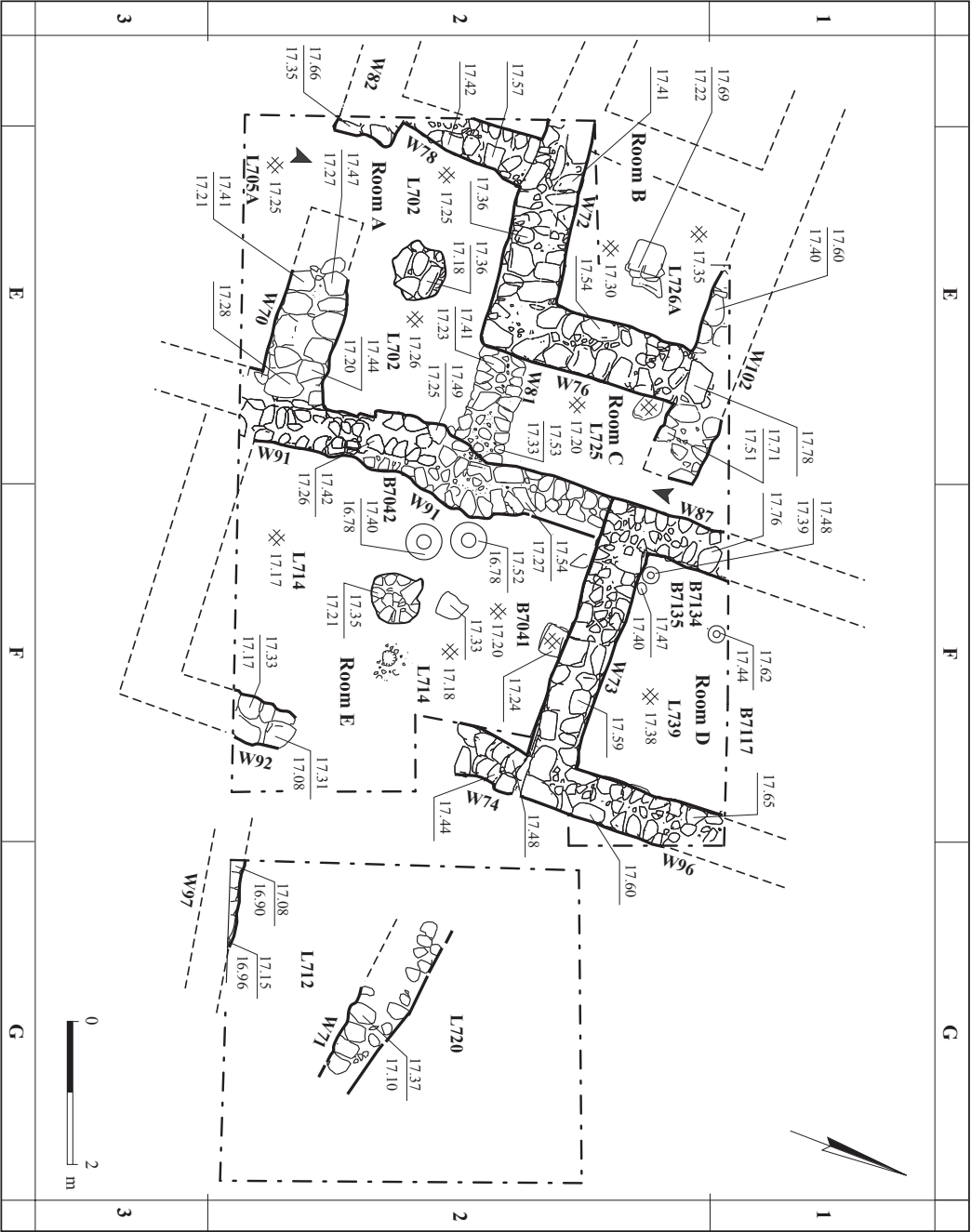
its northern end, emphasizing the entranceway and creating a short corridor connecting Room E to Room F. In the center of Room E, a roughly built pillar base was capped by a flat-topped stone. To the southeast of this feature, a small cup-like plaster installation, 0.2 m wide and 0.1 m deep, was embedded in the floor (Fig. 8). Though the function of this feature is unclear, similar installations were found in Areas C and M at Qiryat Ata (Golani 2003: Fig. 2.18; Amani Abu-Hamid, pers. comm.). Within the confines of Room E, a beaten-earth floor (L750 [727]) was overlaid by debris (L724). Exiting the room through the main entranceway to the east, this floor was observed to slope slightly down toward the east (L724; see Plan 4: Section 1–1) and was identified in the adjacent square to the east (Sq G; L762).

Directly to the south of Room E were found the partial remains of Room F, delineated by W80 and W79, the latter built of large stones preserved one course high. Between these walls was a beaten-earth floor (L723).

In the adjacent square to the east (Sq G), the beaten-earth floor in L762 related to a line of small- to medium-sized stones. These are interpreted as the base of a slightly curving wall (W101) that was largely dismantled or eroded away; the continuation of this wall was better preserved in its northern portion, where it was built of medium- to large-sized stones and preserved two courses high.

In the northeastern portion of the square, a narrow curving wall (W104), built of small- to medium-sized stones, was preserved two courses high. Within the curve of the wall, a layer of debris was excavated (L764). Though no floors were found associated with this wall, it may be assigned to Phase 2 based on its relative height. Overlying this feature was debris that included numerous small- to medium-sized stones (L752).

Phase 1 (Plan 7).— The latest architectural phase identified in Sqs E–G was found within a dark brown alluvial matrix. The basic plan



Plan 7. Squares E-G, Phase I (General Stratum I).

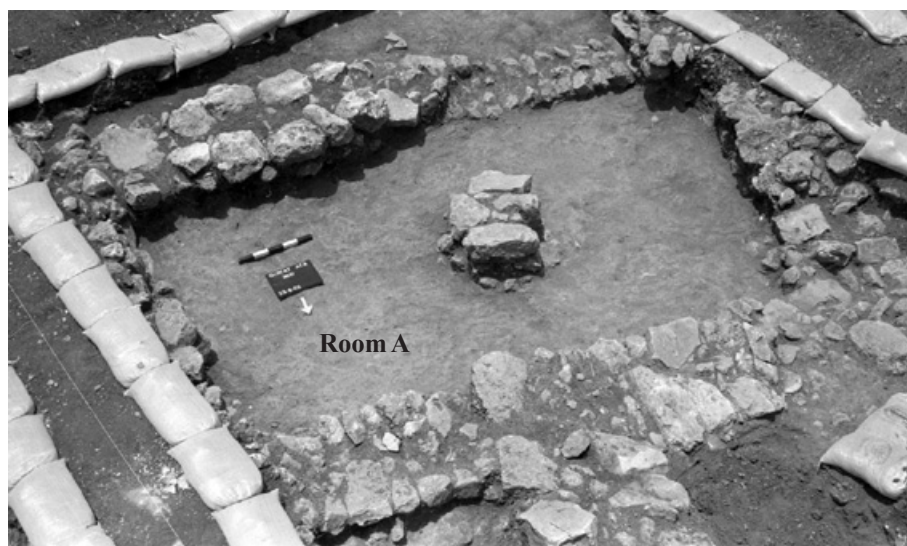


Fig. 9. Phase 1, Room A, looking south; W70, at upper left, is built over the remains of W89 (at upper right) of Phases 2–3, which now functioned as a threshold.

laid down in Phase 2 continued in use, but the addition of several new walls and the relocation of a number of entrances changed the configuration of some of the structures.

Room A retained its original size, yet the Phase 2 entrance in the northeast was blocked by the construction of W81, built of small- to medium-sized stones and preserved two courses high. The entrance into Room A was relocated to its southwestern corner through W70. Wall 70, a wide wall built of large boulders and preserved one course high, was built directly over W89, as was W82, of similar construction and preservation, which was squared off at its eastern end (Fig. 9; Plan 4: Section 2–2). While the western end of W70 was not found squared off, several large stones immediately to its west were moved by a mechanical intrusion and may have served as its western continuation. On its eastern side, W93 of Phase 2 was overlaid by another course of small- to medium-sized stones, W91. It was abutted by W81 and W70. Portions of W91 appear to have shifted from their original position, possibly due to its proximity to the modern ground surface.

Within the room, the pillar base founded in Phase 2 continued in use (Fig. 9); however, the Phase 1 beaten-earth floor (L702) was revealed c. 0.3 m above the Phase 2 floor level (see Plan 4: Section 2–2). Outside and to the south of Room A, another beaten-earth floor (L705A) was associated with W70.

The area between W72 and W76 appears to have been closed off as another room, Room B, with the addition of W102 to the north, built of medium- to large-sized stones preserved one course high. Wall 102 may have partially dismantled part of W88 of Phase 2 in order to enlarge the room to the north. A pillar base, built of three courses of medium-sized stones set on a large flat stone (see Plan 4: Section 2–2), positioned between these three walls, may indicate the center of the room, from which the position of the western closing wall may be extrapolated. Between the walls, a beaten-earth floor (L726A) was identified, relating to the lower portion of the pillar base and slightly below the base of W102. No indication for the entrance to this room was observed within the excavated area.



Fig. 10. Room E Phase 1, and Floor 714 within it, looking north; W73 is at top, the rounded pillar base is at lower left, with two sunken metallic-ware pithoi next to it, and above this feature is the top of the Phase 2 pillar base.

With the construction of W81 and the blockage of the northern Phase 2 entrance into Room A, the Phase 2 corridor now became a very small room, Room C, bounded by W76, W81, W91 and the eastern extension of W102. A narrow entrance into this room was probably located in the north, between W102 and W87. Within this space, a beaten-earth floor (L725) is related to W76, W81 and W91, but is below the base of W102.

With only a few alterations, the plan of Room D also continued into Phase 1. A beaten-earth floor (L739) was laid over the Phase 2 remains, covering W95 of Phase 2. Within Room D, a nearly complete Abydos-type juglet (Fig. 14:7) was found adjacent to the corner of W73 and W87, together with a cooking pot, and to the north of them, a holemouth jar (Fig. 14:1).

The relatively large area of Room E appears to have been further enlarged during Phase 1. The floor (L714) was laid down at a higher level (see Plan 4: Section 1–1), covering W80 of Phase 2. Wall 74 and a new wall, W92, built of large stones and preserved one course high, set partially upon W79 of Phase 2, continued the plan and position of the wide entranceway

found in the previous phase. While the southern portion of the room is outside the excavated area, its position can be extrapolated based on a rounded and well-built pillar base that appears to have been situated in the center of the room in Phase 1. With the cancellation of W80 and the enlargement of the room to the south, this feature replaced the previous pillar base of Phase 2, the top of which was still in use during Phase 1 as a paving stone (Figs. 10, 11). To the west of the pillar base, two crushed, yet complete, metallic-ware storage jars (Figs. 15:6; 16:1) were revealed standing upright and sunken 0.4 m into the floor.

The wide entrance into Room E may indicate the eastern face of a large building. To the east of this structure, in Sq G, a few disjointed and unclear architectural remains, all found within the dark brown matrix characteristic of Phase 1, may possibly be attributable to this phase. Several medium-sized stones arranged in a line (W71) and preserved one course high, suggest the remains of a northwest–southeast wall. To the south and parallel to W71, another line of stones preserved one course high (W97) represents the remains of another wall.



Fig. 11. Two sunken metallic-ware pithoi in Room E.

Square T

This square, 2×2 m, was located 60 m east of Sq G (Fig. 1). It was opened after mechanical trenching revealed pottery sherds and fieldstones at a depth of 1.2 m below the modern surface. As a result, a small probe was manually excavated adjacent and to the north of the trench. The excavations revealed non-stratified, medium- to large-sized fieldstones within a very packed, dark brown matrix of alluvial soil, along with a small amount of mixed and very worn ceramics dating to EB IB and EB II. These remains are interpreted as alluvial deposits laid down outside the Early Bronze Age site and contemporary with it. As a result, the excavation in Sq T served to establish the southeastern boundary of the Early Bronze Age occupation as somewhere between Sq G and Sq T. Confirmation of this conclusion was obtained in the excavation of several trial squares to the east and southeast of Sq T that were sterile.³

THE FINDS

Pottery

The two pottery assemblages recovered in Area N and presented in Figs. 12–16 originated in secure loci that can be associated with

certainly to one of the four phases discussed above. They are identical to the pottery recovered from other excavated areas at the site, which have so far produced two large and homogenous assemblages dating to EB IB (General Strata III–II) and EB II (General Stratum I; see Golani 2003; 2013; this volume). On the basis of the architecture and the ceramic finds from the stratigraphic phases in Area N, Phases 3–1 can be firmly attributed to General Stratum I of EB II, while Phase 4 is dated to General Stratum II of EB IB. As the ceramic assemblages of EB IB and EB II at Qiryat Ata have already been presented in an inclusive typology and comprehensively researched (Golani 2003), only a representative selection of pottery from each area is presented here and new typological forms, not encountered in previous excavations at the site, are noted.

A statistical analysis of the ceramic type frequencies and technological characteristics of all four phases (Tables 2–5) was carried out according to the same criteria employed in previous ceramic analyses (Golani 2003; 2013; this volume).

Phase 4 (Fig. 12)

The Phase 4 assemblage is typical of EB IB in northern Israel, and is closely paralleled by similar assemblages from sites such as Rosh

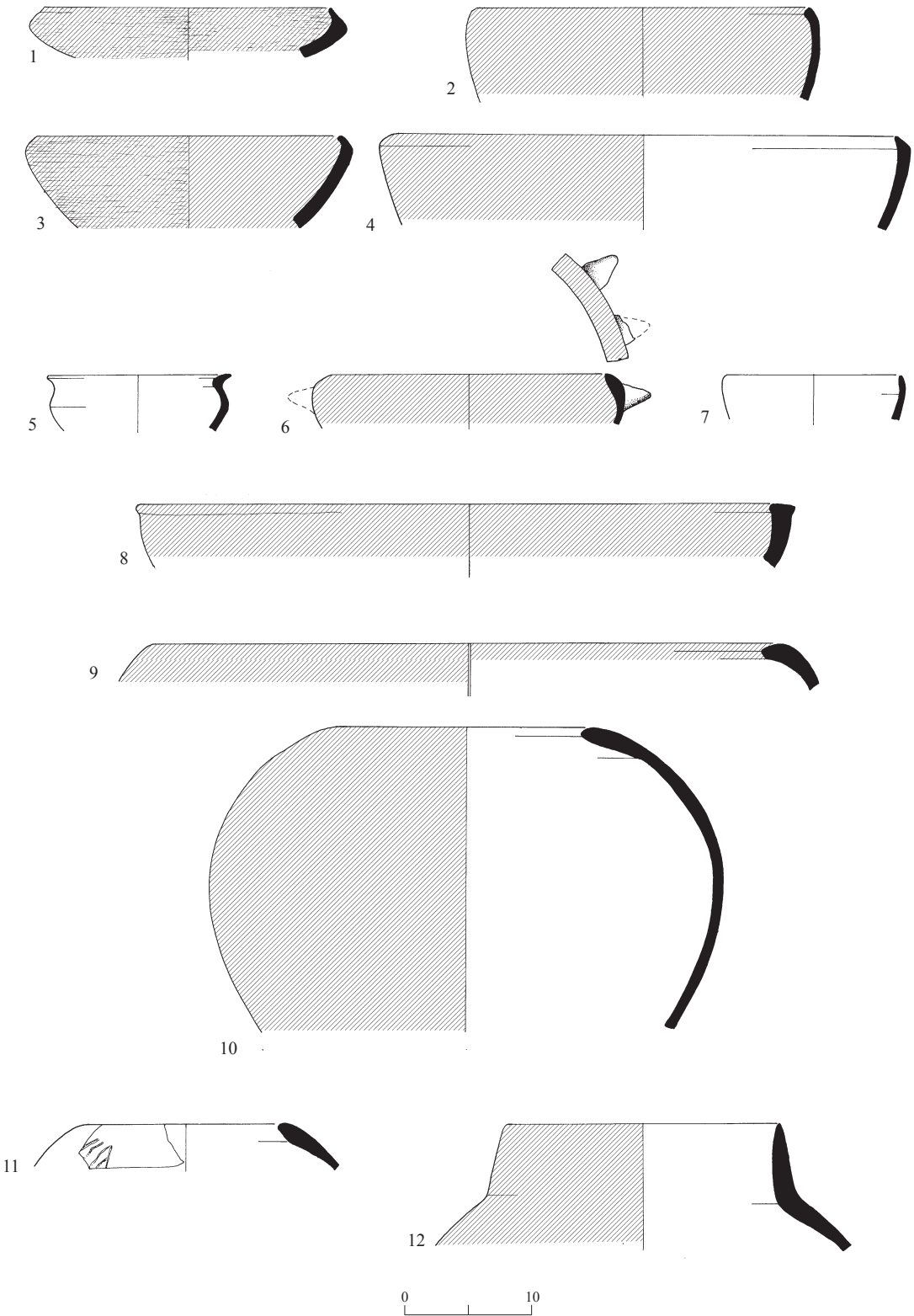


Fig. 12. Early Bronze Age IB ceramics from Phase 4.

◀ Fig. 12

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Locus	Description
1	Bowl B I	7120-1	731	Pale orange-pink clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, red slip and burnish, well-fired
2	Bowl B IIa	7168-1	755	Pale orange-pink clay, light brown core, small white and gray grits, red slip, well-fired
3	Bowl B IIc	7122-1	731	Pale orange-pink clay, light brown core, small white and gray grits, red slip and burnish, well-fired
4	Bowl B IIc	7122-2	731	Light orange-brown clay, gray-orange core, small white grits, red wash on ext., well-fired
5	Bowl B IIc	7192-1	751	Light gray clay, gray core, small white grits, burnish on ext., well-fired
6	Bowl B IIId	7138-1	743	Light gray clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, conoid projections below rim, burnt red wash on ext., well-fired
7	Bowl B IVa	7192-2	751	Pale orange-pink clay, gray core, small white grits, well-fired
8	Bowl B Vb	7166-1	754	Light brown clay, small to medium white and gray grits, red wash on ext., well-fired
9	Krater K IIa	7089-1	731	Light brown-gray clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, burnt red wash on ext., well-fired
10	Holemouth H Ia	7137-1	731	Light brown clay, light brown core, small white and gray grits, red wash on ext., medium fired
11	Holemouth H IIa	7165-1	753	Light brown clay, light brown core, small white and gray grits, red wash on ext., diagonal incisions on shoulder, medium fired
12	Store jar SJ IIa	7092-1	732	Pale orange-pink clay, light gray-orange core, small white and gray grits, red wash on ext., well-fired

Table 2. Area N, Phase 4 (General Stratum II): Ceramic-Type Frequencies and Characteristics
(Loci 719, 731, 732, 743, 751, 753, 754, 755, 758)

Type	Bowls							Kraters		Holemouth Jars				Amphoriskoi	Store Jars	
	Ia	IIc	IIId	IVa	Va	Vb		IIa	IIb	Ia	Ib	IIa	IIb		IIa	IIb
Plain										3	1					1
RB	1													1		
RS	1	1			1	1	2	7	5	8	3	10	3		3	
GB			2													
GBI			1	1												
<i>Total (56)</i>	<i>11 (19.6%)</i>							<i>12 (21.4%)</i>		<i>28 (50%)</i>				<i>1 (1.8%)</i>	<i>4 (7.1%)</i>	

RB = red-burnished; RS = red-slipped or painted; GB = gray burnished; GBI = gray burnished imitation

Ha-Niqra Stratum II (Tadmor and Prausnitz 1959:79–81), Kabri Stratum 9 (Kempinski and Niemeier 1991), Me'ona Stratum II (Braun 1996:18–22, Figs. 11, 12), Bet Ha-'Emeq Stratum III (Givon 1993), Tel Qashish Strata XV–XIII (Zuckerman 2003), Tel 'En Shadud Strata I–II (Braun 1985), Megiddo Strata XX–XIX, Stages VII–IV (Engberg and Shipton

1934), Tel Shalem Strata III–I (Eisenberg 1996:2–8, Figs. 13–17), Tel Kitan Stratum VII (Eisenberg 1993), Tel Megadim (Samuel Wolff, pers. comm.) and 'En Esur (Assawir) Stratum II (Yannai 2006: Figs. 4.53–4.61, 4.72–4.76).

The quantitative analysis (Table 2) indicates no appreciable differences between the EB IB ceramic assemblage of Area N and those from

Fig. 13 ▶

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Locus	Phase	Description
1	Bowl B I	7049-2	717	2	Brown-red clay, brown-red core, small white grits, horizontal burnish on int., very well-fired
2	Bowl B I	7086-1	702	1	Brown-red clay, brown-gray core, small white grits, red paint on int. and ext. of rim, painted net pattern on int., very well-fired
3	Bowl B III	7054-1	724	2	Pale brown-red clay, brown-red core, small white grits, horizontal burnish on ext., very well-fired
4	Bowl B IV	7108-1	737	3	Pale brown clay, gray core, small white grits, very well-fired, soot marks on rim
5	Bowl B IV	7046-1	717	2	Pale brown clay, gray core, small white grits, horizontal burnish on ext., very well-fired
6	Bowl B IV	7061-1	717	2	Pale brown-red clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, red wash, medium fired
7	Bowl B Va	7159-1	750	2	Brown-orange clay, gray core, small white grits, very well-fired
8	Bowl B Va	7021-2	702	1	Pale brown-orange clay, gray core, small white grits, very well-fired
9	Bowl B XI	7008-1	702	1	Brown-orange clay, gray core, small white grits, applied flattened knob on ext., very well-fired
10	Bowl B XII	7088-1	727	2	Pale brown-orange clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, burnish, very well-fired
11	Platter PL Ia	7068-1	705b	2	Pale brown clay, pale brown core, small white and gray grits, red wash on int., very well-fired
12	Platter PL Ia	7069-1	717	2	Pale brown clay, pale brown core, small white and gray grits, diagonal and radial burnish on int., very well-fired, drilled hole
13	Platter PL Ib	7049-1	717	2	Pale red-orange clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, burnish, very well-fired
14	Platter PL Id	7021-1	702	1	Pale brown clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, well-fired
15	Platter PL Iia	7072-1	724	2	Pale brown-yellow clay, gray-yellow core, small white grits, burnish, very well-fired
16	Platter PL Iib	7014-1	702	1	Pale brown clay, pale brown core, small white and gray grits, red wash on int. and ext. of rim, well-fired
17	Platter PL IIIa	7145-1	746	2	Pale red-orange clay, gray-yellow core, small white and gray grits, burnish, very well-fired
18	Platter PL IIIa	7097-1	727	2	Pale brown-orange clay, gray core, small white grits, spout cut through side just below the rim, very well-fired
19	Platter PL Vb	7200-1	762	2	Pale brown-orange clay, gray core, small white grits, very well-fired

other excavated areas at the site, where stratified phases of this period have been revealed. Red wash or red slip is predominant on all pottery forms (80.4%), with a very low percentage of red-burnished decoration (3.8%). Gray Burnished Ware (GB) and bowls imitating this distinctive ware's form and technology (GBI), each comprise 3.8% of the EB IB assemblage;

in total, this amount is similar to that found in the analysis of the EB IB pottery assemblages from Areas A–G (Golani 2003:148–149).

Phases 3–1 (Figs. 13–16)

The pottery repertoire from Phases 3–1 is typical of EB II in northern Israel, and is closely paralleled by similar assemblages

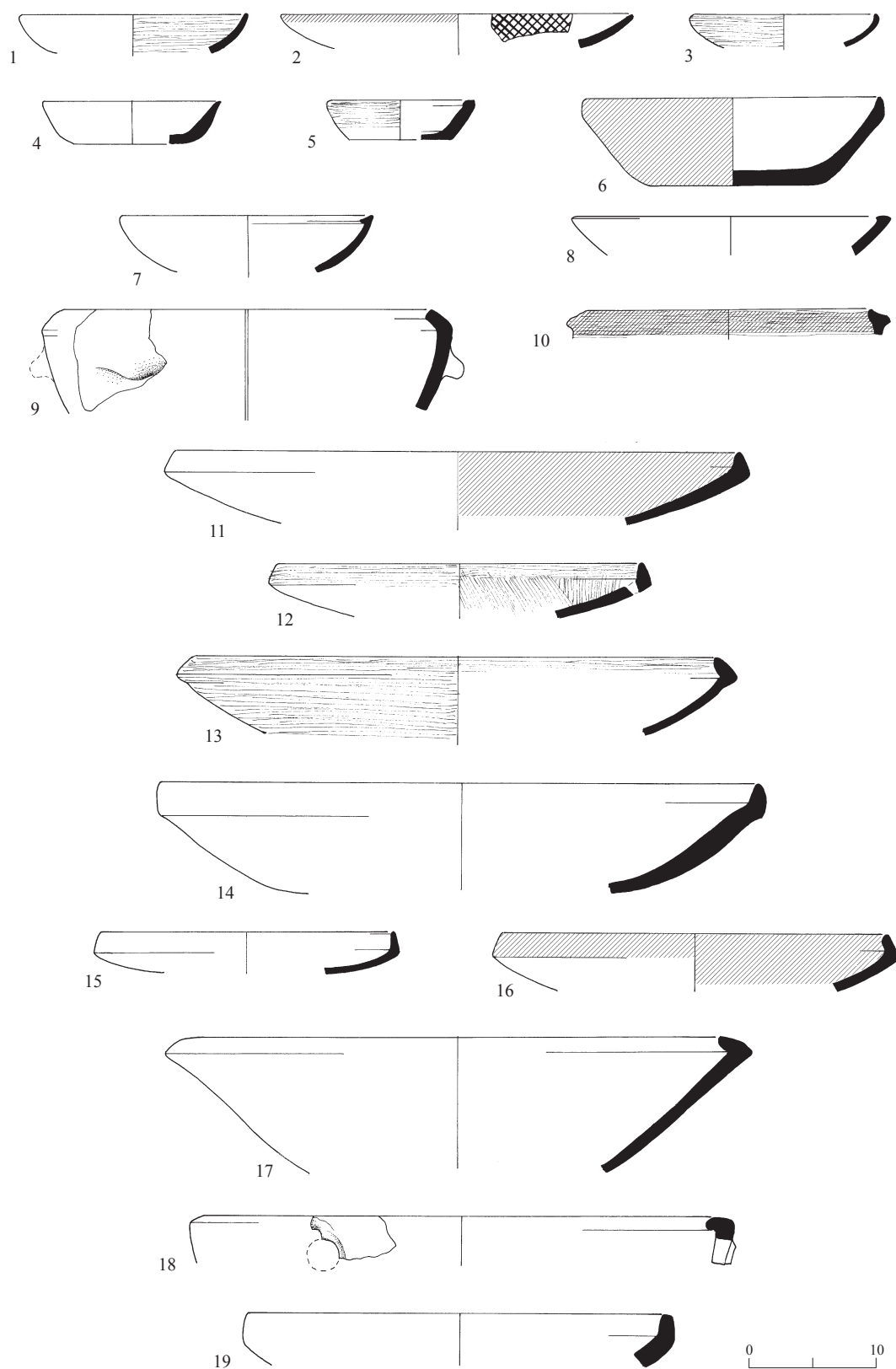


Fig. 13. Early Bronze Age II ceramics from Phases 3–1: bowls and platters.

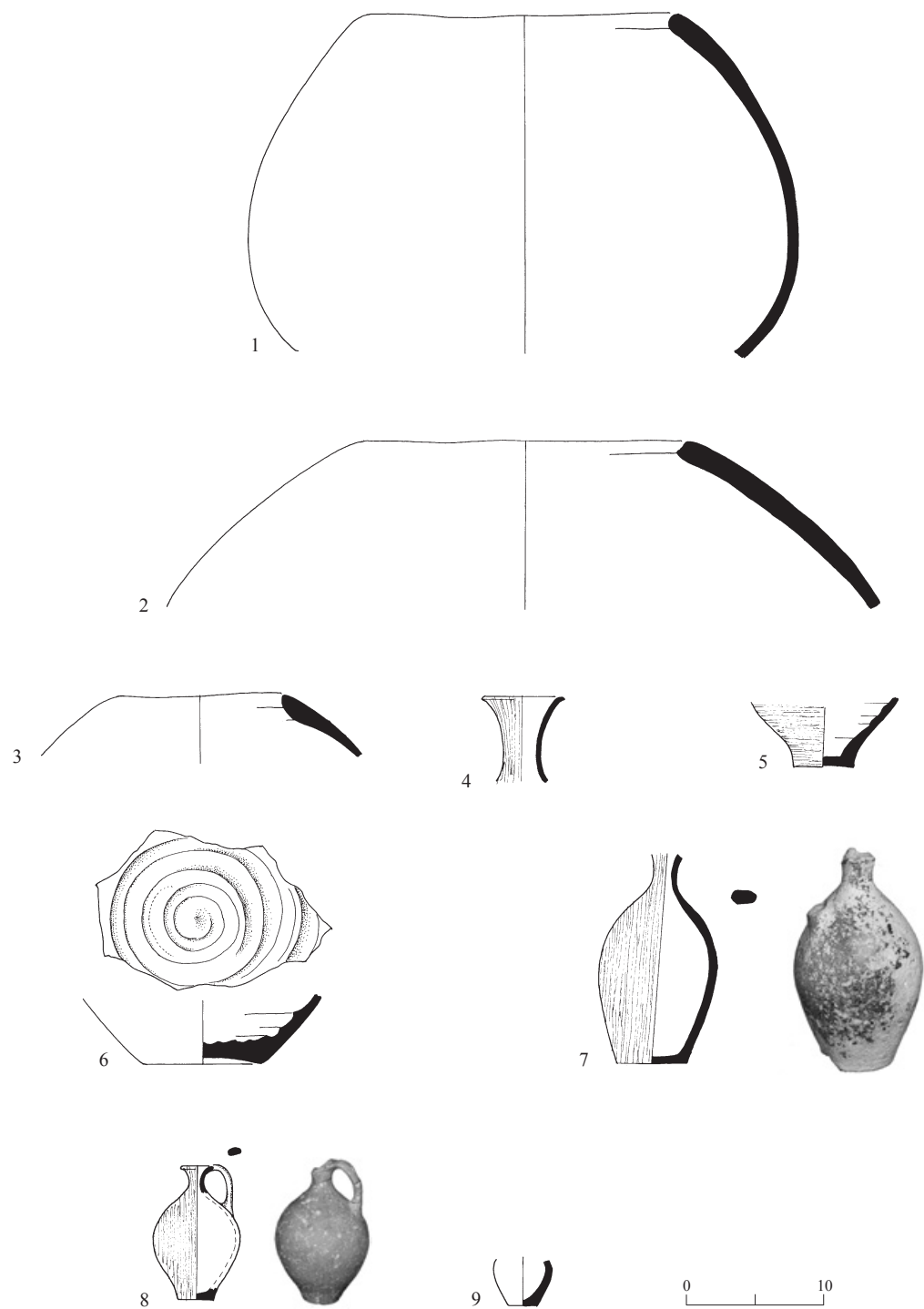


Fig. 14. Early Bronze Age II ceramics from Phases 3–1: holemouth jars, jugs and juglets.

◀ Fig. 14

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Locus	Phase	Description
1	Holemouth H I	7117-1	739	1	Brown-red clay, brown gray core, small white and gray grits, medium fired
2	Holemouth H II	7042-1	714	1	Brown-red clay, brown gray core, small white and gray grits, medium fired
3	Holemouth H III	7035-1	702	1	Brown-red clay, brown gray core, small white and gray grits, medium fired
4	Jug J	7008-2	705a	1	Brown-gray clay, dark brown core, small white grits, burnish on ext., very well-fired
5	Jug base J	7036-1	714	1	Pale brown-yellow clay, brown-yellow core, small white grits, burnish on ext., very well-fired
6	Jug base J	7094-1	733	3	Pale brown-orange clay, brown-orange core, small white grits, burnish on ext., very well-fired
7	Juglet JT	7135-1	739	1	Pale brown-orange clay, brown-orange core, small white grits, burnish on ext., very well-fired
8	Juglet JT	7080-1	728	2	Red-orange clay, red-orange core, small white grits, burnish on ext., very well-fired
9	Juglet JT	7169-1	749	2	Pale yellow-brown clay, pale orange core, small white and gray grits, burnish on ext., very well-fired

Fig. 15 ▶

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Locus	Phase	Description
1	Store jar SJ Ib1	7130-1	739	1	Pale brown clay, gray core, small to medium white grits, medium fired
2	Store jar SJ Ib1	7055-1	717	2	Pale red-brown clay, gray core, small to medium white grits, medium fired
3	Store jar SJ Ib3	7200-2	762	2	Pale-brown clay, gray core, small to medium white grits, medium fired
4	Store jar SJ IIa	7069-2	717	2	Brown-orange clay, brown-orange core, small white and gray grits, very well-fired
5	Store jar SJ IIa	7014-2	702	1	Pale-brown clay, pale-brown core, small white and gray grits, very well-fired
6	Store jar SJ IIa	7041-1	714	1	Pale brown-orange clay, pale brown-orange core, small white grits, vertical combed decoration on ext., very well-fired
7	Store jar SJ IIb	7072-2	724	2	Brown-orange clay, pale brown-orange core, small white grits, very well-fired
8	Store jar SJ IId	7182-1	749	2	Brown-red clay, pale brown-gray core, small white and gray grits, very well-fired
9	Store jar SJ IIIf	7200-3	762	2	Pale brown-red clay, gray core, small to medium white grits, very well-fired

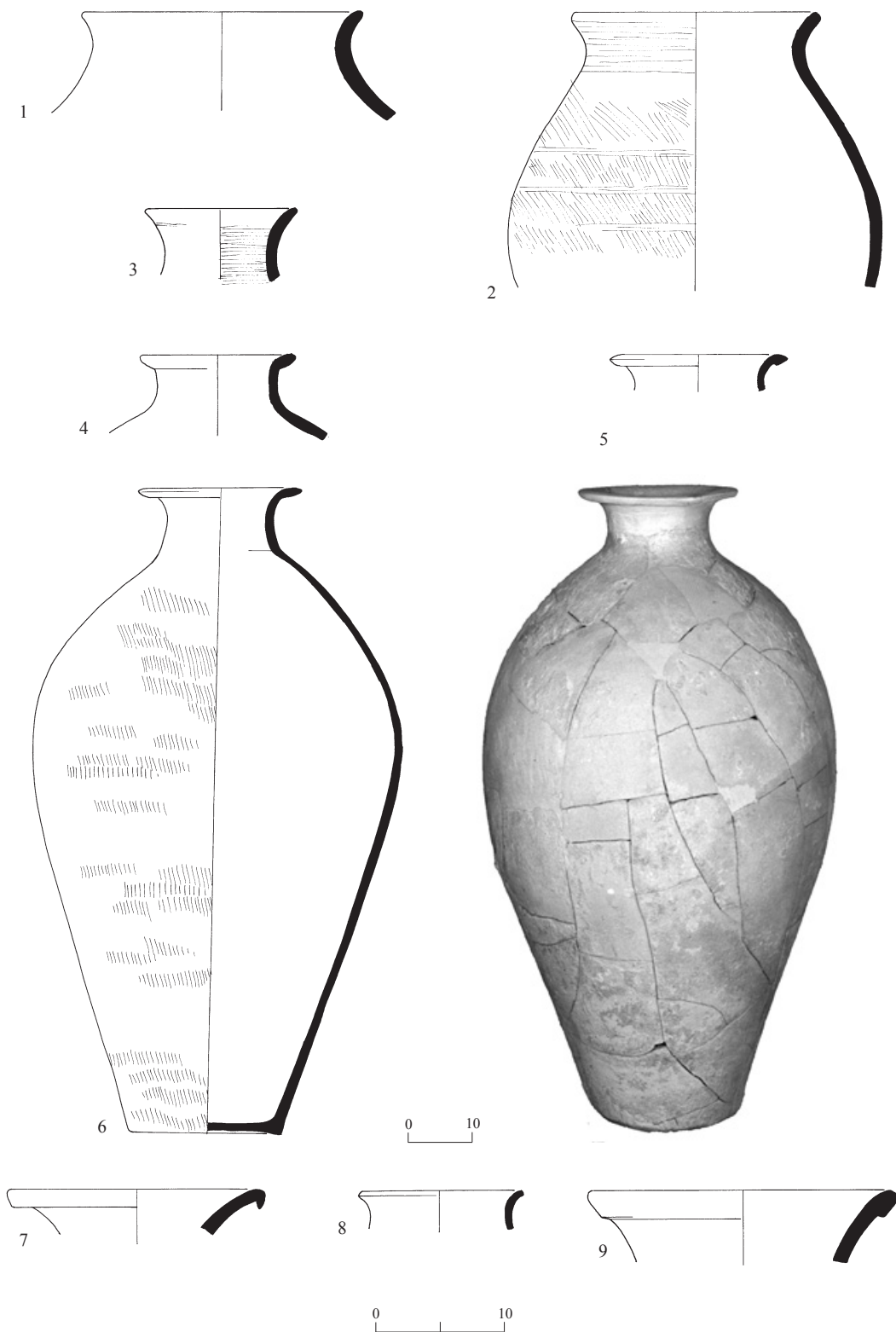


Fig. 15. Early Bronze Age II ceramics from Phases 3–1: store jars.

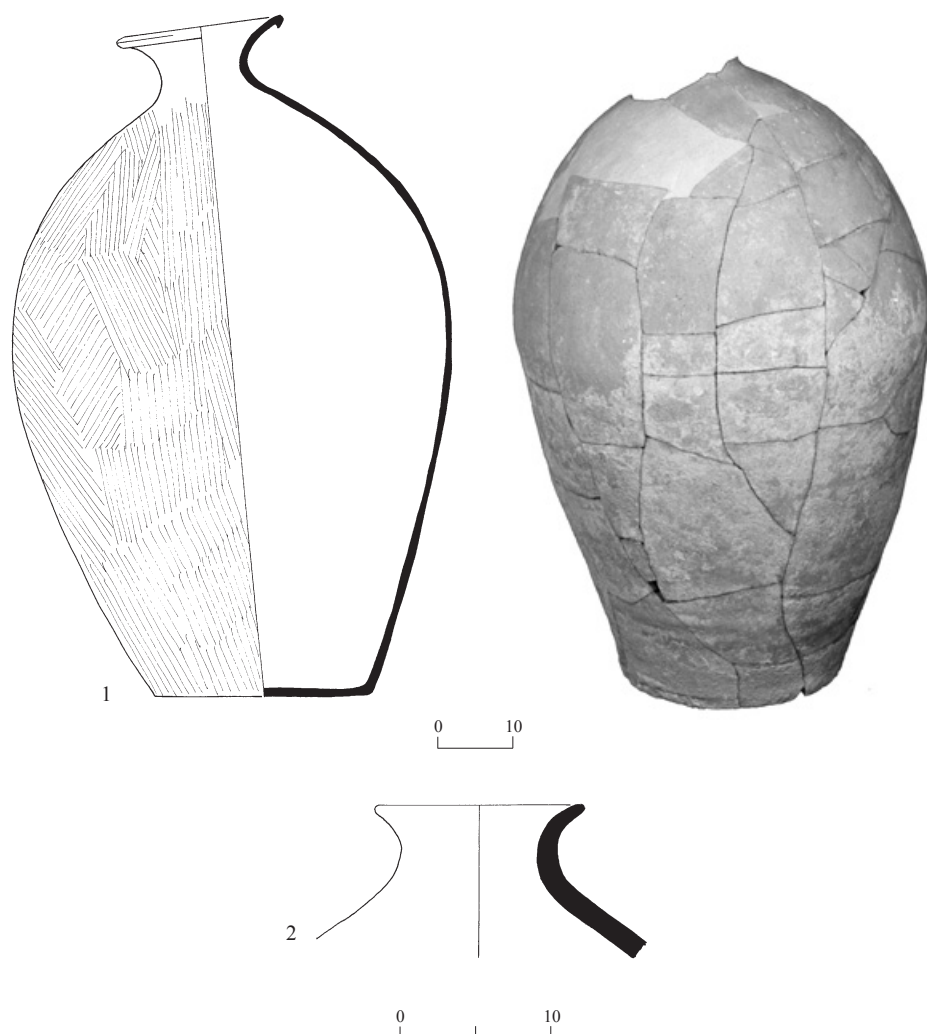


Fig. 16. EB II ceramics from Phases 3–1: store jars.

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Locus	Phase	Description
1	Store jar SJ IIb	7042-1	714	1	Brown-red clay, pale brown-gray core, small white and gray grits, combed decoration on ext., very well-fired
2	Store jar SJ IIIb	7204-1	737	3	Pale brown-red clay, gray core, small to medium white grits, medium fired

from sites such as Rosh Ha-Niqra Stratum I (Tadmor and Prausnitz 1959), Tel Kabri Strata 7–8 (Kempinski and Niemeier 1991), Tel Dan Stratum XV (Greenberg 1996), Bet Ha-‘Emeq Stratum II (Givon 1993), Me‘ona Stratum I (Braun 1996) and Tel Qashish Stratum XII B–C (Zuckerman 2003), all dated to EB II.

The quantitative analyses of the EB II phases (Tables 3–5) indicate no significant differences between them, all exhibiting the same morphology of types and the same technological characteristics. New ceramic forms not identified in previous excavations include deep bowls with a squared-off,

Table 3. Area N, Phase 3 (General Stratum I): Ceramic-Type Frequencies and Characteristics
(Loci 733, 737, 742)

Type	Bowls		Kraters		Platters		Holemouths		Jug		Store Jars		
	I	III	IV	Ia	Ib	IIIa	Vb	I			Ib1	IIa	IIIb
Plain			1	1				2			9		
M			1									1	
M, B						2	1	2					
RS						1			1	(4.3%)			1
Total (23)			2 (8.6%)	1 (4.3%)	6 (26%)			2 (8.6%)	1 (4.3%)	11 (47.8%)			

M = 'metallic' firing; B = burnished; RS = red-slipped or painted

Table 4. Area N, Phase 2 (General Stratum I): Ceramic-Type Frequencies and Characteristics
(Loci 705B, 717, 723, 724, 727, 728, 745, 746, 749, 750, 762)

Type	Bowls				Platters							Holemouths			Juglet	Jug	Store Jars						
	I	III	IV	Va	Vc	XII	Ia	Ib	IIa	IIb	IIIa	Vb	I	II			III	Ib1	Ib3	IIa	IIb	IIc	IIId
Plain			2										3	4	3		30	2					
M			3	1							1	1				1			4	1	1	1	1
M, B	2	1	1	1			5	2	6	1	1	2				4							
M, RB			1		1		1		3						1	1							
M, RS			1				1																
B			1			1																	
RS			3																				
RB		1					1																
Total (108)	20 (18.5%)				25 (23%)							10 (9.2%)			7 (6.5%)	6 (5.6%)	40 (37%)						

M = 'metallic' firing; B = burnished; RB = red-burnished; RS = red-slipped or painted

Table 5. Area N, Phase 1 (General Stratum I): Ceramic-Type Frequencies and Characteristics
(Loci 702, 705A, 711, 713, 714, 725, 726a, 739, 761)

Type	Bowls				Platters				Holemouths			JT	J	Store Jars	
	I	Va	Vc	VIIIb1	XI	Ia	Id	IIa	IIb	IIIa	I	II	III	Ib1	IIa
Plain							2				11	8	2	14	
M	2	1			1										6
M, B				1		3	1		1						
M, RB						3	1	2		1					
M, RS						1									
RS							1								
RB							1	1							
RS, PB	1								1						
Total (73)	6 (8.2%)					19 (26%)					21 (28%)			22 (30.1%)	
												2 (2.7%)	3 (4.1%)		

B = burnished; GB = gray burnished; GBI = gray burnished imitations; M = 'metallic' firing; PB = pattern burnish; RB = red-burnished; RS = red-slipped or painted

ware (30.4%, 55.3% and 41.1% from Phases 3, 2 and 1 respectively, though the amount of diagnostic ceramics from Phase 3 is small and may not necessarily be representative) and conversely, a drastic reduction in the use of red slip or wash decoration (8.7%, 4.9% and 4.1% from Phases 3, 2 and 1 respectively). The massive appearance of metallic ware (see Greenberg and Porat 1996) is one of the distinguishing features of EB II in this region.

Various Small Finds (Fig. 17)

Basalt Bowl (Fig. 17:1)

A basalt bowl with a tapering rim, made of well-worked, non-vesicular basalt, was recovered from a fill/debris immediately below a Phase 4 floor. Bowls with tapering rims belong to open, flared vessels with straight profiles (Rowan 1998; 2003:192, Type R2a), typical of the Chalcolithic period. This form apparently continued well into EB I at the least.

Small Limestone Bowl (Fig. 17:2)

A small, roughly worked limestone bowl or mortar was found in Phase 3, in a locus attributed to the debris upon a floor and the floor make-up (L742).

Grinding Slabs/Querns (Fig. 17:3, 4)

These ubiquitous items are the lower, immobile stones against which smaller stones were rubbed. The present examples are made of non-vesicular basalt, though most examples are made of vesicular basalt. The quern in Fig. 17:3 was uncovered in Phase 2, in a locus defined as the debris upon a floor and the floor make-up (L749). The ground-down working surface is slightly concave, and the edges of the stone are broken off on all sides. It may have originally been round in shape, and the grinding was carried out in a circular motion. The quern in Fig. 17:4 originated in debris upon a floor associated with Phase 1. The stone was originally oval or egg-shaped, and worked on all sides; the working surface is smooth from wear.

incurving rim (Bowl Type BXI; see Fig. 13:9) and wide bowls with a folded-over, triangular rim (Bowl Type BXII; see Fig. 13:10). Technologically, the EB II pottery repertoire demonstrates similar characteristics to those defined in previous excavations at the site, such as the prominence of metallic

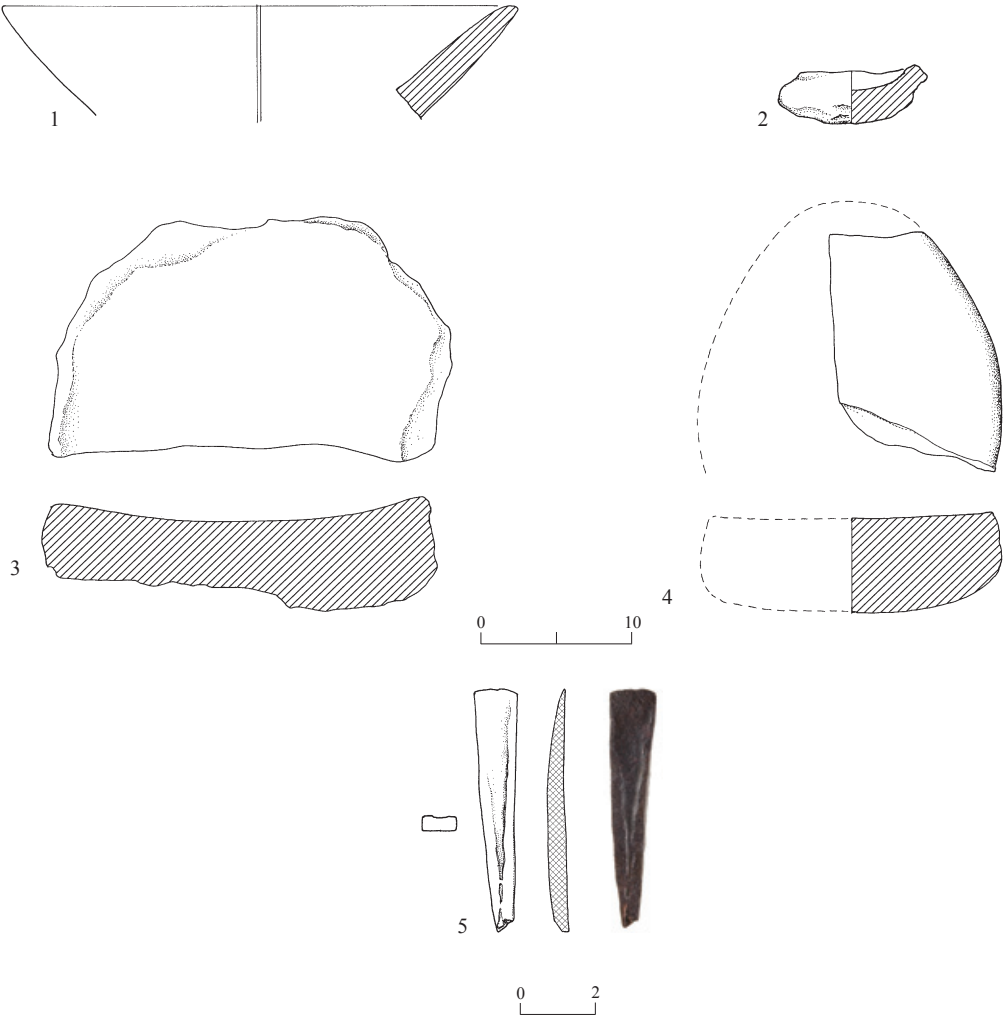


Fig. 17. Various small finds from Phases 4–1.

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Locus	Phase	Description
1	Basalt bowl	7154	751	Pre-4	Dense non-vesicular basalt
2	Limestone bowl/ mortar	7155	742	3	Roughly worked
3	Grinding quern	7182	749	2	Dense non-vesicular basalt, ground down and smoothed surface
4	Grinding quern	7116	725	1	Dense non-vesicular basalt, worked on all sides, ground down and smoothed surface
5	Copper-alloy chisel	7101	733	3	

A Metal Chisel (Fig. 17:5)

A small copper-alloy chisel was recovered in L733, an accumulation of debris upon a floor south of W89, associated with Phase 3.

The chisel is of elongated, trapezoidal shape, measuring 6.3 cm in length. One end tapers to a square section, while the other end is flattened with a cutting edge 1.2 cm wide. After cleaning,

the tool weighed 17.77 g. A shallow crease or flattened lip is evident along the thicker length on two of the flat sides of this tool, suggesting that after casting as a flat strip, it was folded over using cold or hot forging to produce the present shape.

Cylinder Seal Impressions

Two cylinder seal impressions were recovered during the present excavations, both of which have been previously published (Greenberg 2013: Fig. 11:1, 4). One of the impressions appears on a sherd of an EB I store jar originating in L754, debris next to and west of W77 that is associated with Phase 4 (EB IB). The impression shows a schematic rendition of quadrupeds in a *tête-bêche* arrangement, which is typical of EB IB in the western Jezreel Valley.

The other impression appears on a shoulder fragment of an EB II pithos belonging to the family of North Canaanite Metallic Ware (NCMW). Though it was recovered during section cleaning, it is probably to be associated with one of the EB II phases identified in the excavation. The impression depicts the crescent horns of a cow, *en face*, and part of its long neck.

Bone Tools

During the sorting of the faunal assemblage, four bones were discerned that appear to have been used as tools. One is the right horn of a male gazelle showing signs of abrasion and polish on its proximal end; it may have been used as a handle (see Agha, this volume). It originated in L718, of unclear stratigraphic attribution. Another bone is a small worked point of an undeterminable taxon from L720, possibly associated with Phase 1. The third object is a scapula fragment of a medium-sized mammal of undeterminable taxon, which appears to have been worn down and polished on the blade ends. The possible uses of this object are unclear. It was recovered in L706, associated with Phase 1. The fourth bone object, from L724 associated with Phase 2, consists of a proximal gazelle ulna (right side)

bearing wear and polish. One end of the bone is broken and may have been used as a pointed, awl-like tool.

The Flint Assemblage

The flint assemblage from Area N was processed together with that from Area O (Khalaily 2013), located approximately 60 m to its west. These two assemblages produced a total of 698 flint artifacts, all of which originated in Early Bronze Age strata, representing a relatively 'clean' assemblage. A few Neolithic tools were also identified as sporadic finds, probably originating from a nearby Neolithic occupation in the immediate vicinity (Fantalkin 2000; Khalaily 2003). The Early Bronze Age assemblage is characterized by a high frequency of Canaanite retouched blades and sickle blades produced by the Canaanite prismatic flint-knapping technology that is a hallmark of the Early Bronze Age.

GENERAL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The attribution of the Phase 4 remains in Sq A of Area N to General Stratum II is based on the existence of identical structures with rounded outer corners in Area A, located immediately to the west, and in Areas D, E and L to the northwest (see Fig. 1; Fantalkin 2000; Golani 2003). These structures are characteristic of EB IB, and into the early part of EB II in the southern Levant, possibly expressing architectural adaptation of building styles in response to the urbanization process (Golani 1999). The ceramic repertoire associated with these buildings at Qiryat Ata is characteristic of EB IB (see below). The lack of any stratified remains of EB IB in Sqs E–G of Area N indicates that the boundary of the Stratum II settlement is to be found between these squares and Sq A, and is a further indication of the site's growth in the transition from Stratum II to I.

These complex architectural remains from Phases 3–1, as revealed in Sqs E–G, may represent evidence of social organization at a time when the site was apparently a fully

urbanized settlement (see also Faust and Golani 2008). The gradual crowding of architecture, the creation of smaller and more compact spaces, and the ongoing renovations in the buildings, from their foundation in Phase 3 to their abandonment in Phase 1, testify to a very intensive occupation during Stratum I of EB II. This process was possibly accelerated by the construction of a fortification wall, revealed in Area O (Golani 2013), which limited the available space within the settlement.

The ceramic repertoires from Area N fit in well with the growing corpus of EB IB and EB II pottery known from Qiryat Ata, enlarging the empirical database of the ceramic assemblages at Qiryat Ata, and enabling a more accurate definition of the nature of

EB IB and EB II assemblages in northern Israel. The flint assemblage represents a typical repertoire from the Early Bronze Age. The faunal assemblage (see Agha, this volume) complements previous zooarchaeological research at the site and contributes to the overall picture of the animal economy in EB IB and EB II in the region, which exhibits primary reliance on domesticated species. Although relatively small and inconclusive, this faunal assemblage also highlights the diversity and variability of faunal assemblages recovered from different excavation areas at the same site. The malacological evidence also enlarges the present database concerning the various uses of shells during the Early Bronze Age at Qiryat Ata.

APPENDIX 1. LOCUS LIST

Locus	Sq	Description	Phase
700	A	Topsoil removal	—
701	A	Combined into L700	—
702	E	Debris upon floor and floor make-up	1
703	F	Topsoil removal	—
704	G	Topsoil removal	—
705A	E	Debris upon floor and floor make-up south of W70	1
705B	E	Debris upon floor and floor make-up south of W89	2
706	A	Below L701; debris upon floor and floor make-up south of W75	I
707	A	Below L701; debris above W77	1–4
708	A	Below L701, equals L709; debris upon floor and floor make-up north of W75	I
709	A	Below L700, equals L708; debris upon floor and floor make-up east of W84	I
710	O	Test probe into alluvial deposits	—
711	F	Below L703; debris above floor	1
712	G	Below L704; debris south of W71	1?
713	F	Below L703; combined into L711	1
714	F	Below L711; debris upon floor and ceramic vessels sunken into floor	1
715	E	Combined into L725	1
716	O	Test probe into alluvial deposits	—
717	E	Debris upon floor	2
718	A	Below L709, equals L721; fill below L709 floor and upon W85 and W86	1–4
719	A	Below L707; debris upon floor and floor make-up west of W77	4
720	G	Below L704; debris north of W71	1?
721	A	Below L709; combined into L718	1–4
722	A	Below L706; debris below floor make-up	1–4

APPENDIX 1. (cont.)

Locus	Sq	Description	Phase
723	F	Below L714; debris upon floor and floor make-up between W80 and W79	2
724	F	Below L714; debris upon floor	2
725	E	Below L702; debris upon floor	1
726A	E	Debris upon floor	1
726B	E	Below 726A; debris west of W76	2?
727	F	Below L724; combined into L750	2
728	E	Below L717; floor and floor make-up	2
729	G	Below L720; debris	1–2?
730	F	Topsoil removal	–
731	A	Below L708; debris upon floor	4
732	A	Below L722; combined into L731	4
733	E	Below L705B; debris upon floor south of W89	3
734	–	Unused locus number	–
735	G	Combined into L729	1–2?
736	F	Below L727; fill/debris below floor make-up; equals L741	3?
737	E	Below L728; debris upon floor and floor make-up	3
738	E/F	Topsoil removal	–
739	F	Below L730; debris upon floor and floor make-up between W87, W73 and W101	1
740	G	Below L712; combined into L729	1–2?
741	F	Below L723; fill below base of W80 and W79, equals L736	3?
742	E	Combined into L737	3
743	A	Below L732; floor make-up in probe between W77 and W83	4
744	A	Below L700 in southern portion of square, equals L722; debris above W83 and W77	1–3?
745	F	Below L739; debris upon floor and floor make-up	2
746	F	Combined into L724	2
747	F	Below L741; dark brown packed alluvial deposits	Pre-3
748	E	Below L733; debris below base of W89	Pre-3?
749	E	Below L725; debris upon floor and floor make-up	2
750	F	Below L724; floor and floor make-up	2
751	A	Below L743, equals L758; debris below floor	Pre-4
752	G	Below L735; debris upon W104	2?
753	A	Below L744; debris upon floor and floor make-up	4
754	A	Below L744; debris just west of W77	4
755	A	Below L721; debris just north of W86	4
756	E	Below L726B; debris between and below W88, W76 and W72	2–3?
757	E	Below L749; debris between W76 and W101	3?
758	A	Below L753, equals L751; debris below floor	Pre-4
759	E	Below L756; debris below W88, W76 and W72	3?
760	F	Below L750; debris below W73 and W93	3?
761	F	Below L730; combined into L739	1
762	G	Below L740; debris upon floor and floor make-up	2
763	G	Below L752; debris south of W104	2?
764	G	Below L752; debris north of W104	2?

NOTES

¹ A full publication of Areas A–G is found in Golani 2003. Area H was excavated by Eyal Baruch, Shmuel Givon and David Inbar, on behalf of the University of Bar Ilan (Baruch, Inbar and Uziel 2007); Area I was excavated by Shlomo Surkis, on behalf of the University of Haifa; Area J was excavated by Yoav Lehrer, on behalf of the IAA; and Area K was excavated by Yohanan Gottlieb, on behalf of the University of Haifa. These latter excavations (Areas I–K) await publication. Area L was excavated by Alexander Fantalkin, on behalf of Tel Aviv University (Fantalkin 2000); Area M was excavated by Amani Abu-Hamid, on behalf of the IAA and also awaits full publication; Area O was excavated by the author (Golani 2013); Area P, by Amani Abu-Hamid (2010); and Areas Q and R by Murad Taber, also of the IAA (Taber 2010); Area S was excavated by the author (see Golani, this volume); and Areas T and U were recently excavated by Orit Segal of the IAA and await publication.

² The excavation, carried out during June–July 2002 on behalf of the IAA and at the request of the Qiryat Ata municipality, was directed by the author (Permit No. A-3661) prior to the extension eastward of Ha-Te'enim Street. The excavations were assisted by Shireen Mahajne (registration), Ya'aqov Shlomo-Jam (administration), Vadim Essman and Viatcheslav Pirskey (surveying), Roni Gat (pottery restoration), Lena Kupersmidt (metal conservation), Leonid Zeiger and Irena Lidsky-Reznikov (artifact drawing), Clara Amit (artifact photography), Irina Berin (draughtsmanship) and Rohi Liphshitz (local antiquities trustee). The alphabetical square designations were given in preparation of an inclusive grid prior to excavation of the entire eastern area of Ha-Te'enim Street (see Fig. 1).

³ This trial excavation, directed by the author on behalf of the IAA and financed by the Qiryat Ata municipality, was undertaken during May 2003 (Permit No. A-3827).

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