'Atiqot 94, 2019

Ḥorbat Nevallaṭ: A Chalcolithic Habitation Site and Agricultural Installations in the Shephelah Foothills

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Introduction

The archaeological site of Ḥorbat Nevallaṭ was discovered during construction work on Section 113 of the Cross-Israel Highway (Highway 6; map ref. 196583/654078; Fig. 1).[1] It comprises an agglomerate of features and deposits dating to different periods, straddling opposite sides of a wadi formed by a tributary of Naḥal Nevallaṭ, which cuts through the western Shephelah foothills of the southern Samaria anticline (Mountains of Efrayim).

The site was discovered when the Israel Antiquities Authority carried out an initial investigation along a 120 m wide tract of land using mechanical equipment, under the direction of Joseph Elisha, who identified 20 potential archaeological features (Fig. 1: inset). The purpose of the excavations was to examine the nature of these features (Table 1).

The excavations revealed remains of a Chalcolithic broadroom building and adjacent activity areas for processing and storing agricultural produce; two karstic caves used intermittently during the Chalcolithic period and Early Bronze Age I for domestic and burial purposes; a single shaft tomb dating from the Intermediate Bronze Age; a burial ground of unspecified date; and three limekilns and various other rock-cut installations.

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[1] The excavations were carried out by the authors between April 18th and July 8th 1999 (Permit No. A-3041) on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority, with the participation of Avraham Hajian (surveyor), Abu Khalef (administrator), Michal Ben-Gal (on-site and post-excavation pottery restoration), Marina Shuiskaya (pottery and ground stone drawings), Leonid Zeiger (flint drawing), Eldad Barzilay (geology), Anat Cohen-Weinberger (petrography), Yossi Nagar and Deborah A. Sklar-Parnes (physical anthropology), Liora K. Horwitz (archaeozoology), Tsila Sagiv (field photography) Clara Amit (studio photography), Hamoudi Khalaily (flints), Nili Liphschitz (paleobotany), Gabriela Bijovsky (numismatics), Yorke M. Rowan (ground stone assemblage) and George Bonani (AMS). The work was financed by the Department of Public Works. Thanks are due to the former director of the Israel Antiquities Authority, the late Amir Drori, Yossi Levy (former Central Region Archaeologist) and Eli Yannai, for their encouragement during the fieldwork. The authors also benefited from the remarks of the anonymous reader. Special thanks are due to the editors, Conn Harriot and Aviva Schwartzfeld, for their critical and constructive reading, scrutinizing and editing of this report. The report was submitted in 2004, with minor bibliographic updates in 2018.

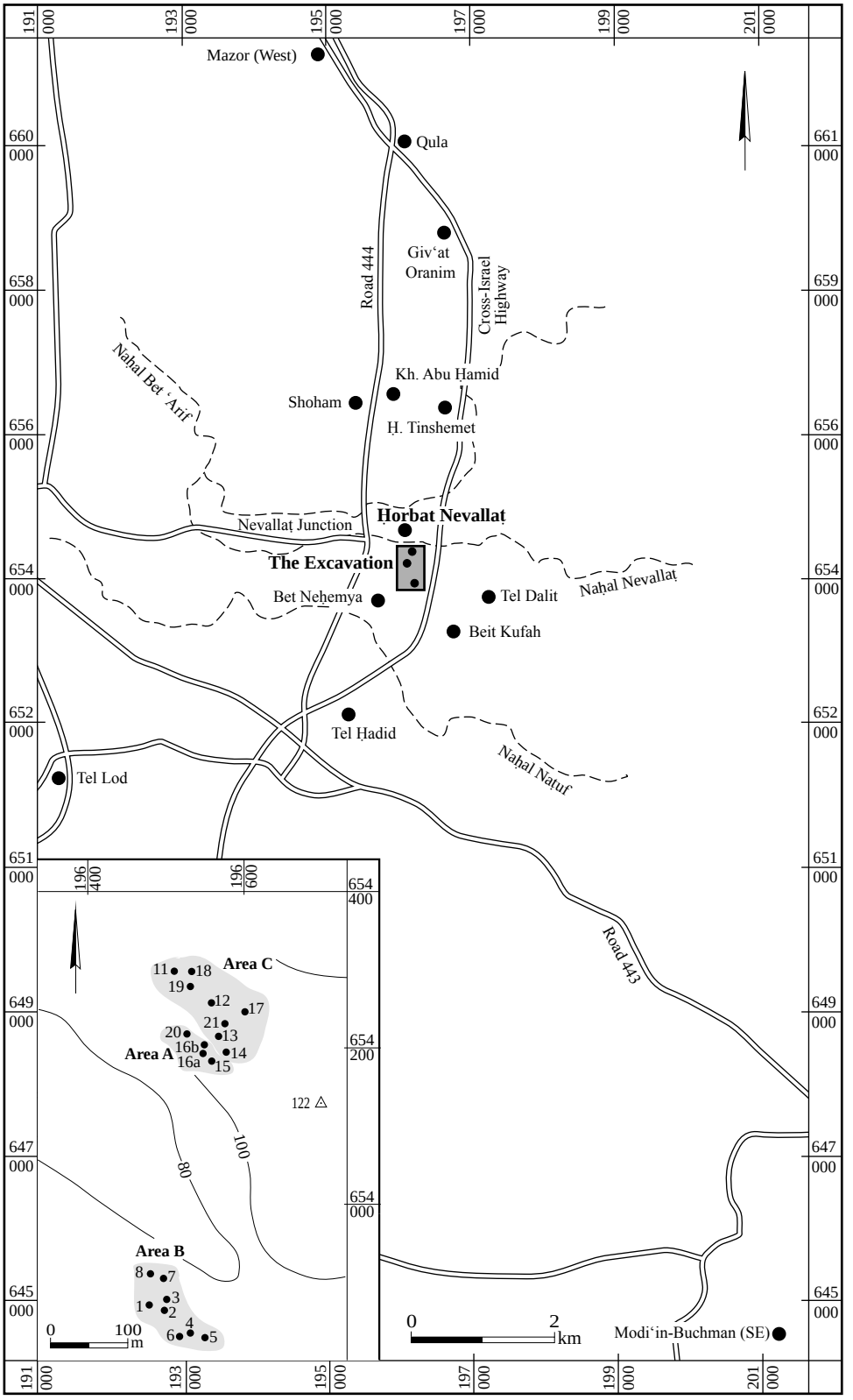


Fig. 1. Location map of Ḥorbat Nevallaṭ and its surroundings, showing the location of Areas A–C; inset shows 20 potential features identified prior to the excavation (see Table 1).

Table 1. Feature Descriptions (see Fig. 1: inset)

Feature[i]	Area	Description	Period	Plan/Figure
1	B	Water cistern (L100)		Plan 9
2	B	Circular cupmark in F3 karstic cave's roof		
3	B	Winepress (L302, L303), collecting vat and karstic cave	Chalcolithic, late EB I, Byzantine	Plan 6; Figs. 27, 45, 46
4	B	Winepress installation (L302, 303)	Byzantine	Plan 6; Figs. 27, 45, 46
5	B	Limekiln (L500)		Plan 11; Fig. 48
6	B	Shaft tomb (L600–603)	Intermediate Bronze Age	Plan 8; Figs. 31–33
7	B	Terrace wall (L337)	Byzantine	Plan 10; Fig. 47
8	B	Natural, shallow cavity		
11	C	Cupmark Group F	Chalcolithic	Plan 4
12	C	Cupmark Group D	Chalcolithic	Plan 4; Fig. 15
13	C	Cupmark Group A	Chalcolithic	Plan 4
14	C	Cupmark Group E	Chalcolithic	Plan 4
15	A	Rock-cut pit (L134)	Chalcolithic	Plan 3; Fig. 14
16a	A	Limekiln (L125)		Plan 1; Fig. 12
16b	A	Limekiln (L126)		Plan 1; Fig. 44
17	C	Cupmark Groups G and H	Chalcolithic	Plan 4; Fig. 19
18	C	Cupmark Group C	Chalcolithic	Plan 4
19	C	Cupmark Group B	Chalcolithic	Plan 4; Figs. 18, 20
20	A	Collapsed karstic cave	Chalcolithic, Byzantine	Plan 4; Figs. 35–37
21	C	Cupmark Group I	Chalcolithic	Plan 5; Figs. 21–23, 25, 26

[i] Feature Nos. 9 and 10 were cancelled.

Finds recovered from the surface and in unassociated contexts point to sporadic occupation at this site from other periods, from the Iron Age through the Ottoman periods (van den Brink and Lazar 2005).

Geographical Setting

The site (Areas A–C) is located in the Shephelah foothills, some 100 m above sea level (asl), 300 m northeast of Moshav Bet Neḥemya and 2 km southeast of Shoham (Fig. 1). As mentioned, the site encompasses opposite slopes of a wadi created by a tributary of Naḥal Nevallaṭ, itself a small ephemeral stream located between two main watercourses, Naḥal Bet ʻArif and Naḥal Naṭuf, which run through this area from the hills in the east to the coastal plain in the west (see Gophna and Beit-Arieh 1997).

Areas A (Fig. 1:15, 16, 20) and C (Fig. 1:11–14, 17–19, 21) are located on the southern slope of a hill crowned by Triangulation Point 122 (map ref. 196483–634/654154–302), while Area B (Fig. 1:1–8) is located a short distance across the wadi on a north-facing slope (map ref. 203805–924/646456–558).

The course of Naḥal Nevallaṭ joins that of Naḥal Bet ʻArif to the east of the excavation site. Geologically, the vicinity is characterized by limestone and dolomite outcrops, with concentrations of *terra rossa* and rendzina soils on the lower slopes and in the valleys, enabling limited zones of agricultural activity (see Barzilay, this volume).

This locale enjoys a typical Mediterranean climate. The mean annual precipitation is 500–550 mm (513 mm at Lod airport and 543 mm at Bene ʻAtarot [*Meteorological Notes* 1967]). The mean temperature of the region varies between 7–17°C in January and 22–31°C in August. The local vegetation in ancient times consisted of Mediterranean bush land including Tabor oak and olive trees; however, the original flora has disappeared from this area (see Liphschitz, this volume).

Past Research in the Area

For a general overview of archaeological research carried out in this locale between 1941 and 2001, see van den Brink and Grosinger 2004:81, Table 1. For an overview of past archaeological research in the area with a focus on the Chalcolithic period, see van den Brink and Gophna 2005:2–4, Fig. 1.3.

Of direct interest here are a number of recently excavated Chalcolithic burial caves and settlement sites in the near-vicinity of Ḥorbat Nevallaṭ. These include several burial caves excavated at Shoham (North) (van den Brink and Gophna 2005), Qula (Milevski 2001; 2002) and Mazor (Milevski 2007), and extensive settlement remains uncovered at Givʻat Oranim (Scheftelowitz and Oren 2004) and Modiʻin-Buchman (Southeast) (van den Brink 2005; 2007a; 2007b; 2013).

The findings from the current excavation date to the Chalcolithic period (Areas A, C), the late Early Bronze Age I (Areas A, B), the Intermediate Bronze Age (Area B) and the Byzantine period (Areas A, B), and will be presented below. Although this report is arranged chronologically, the main focus is on the various upslope activity areas and the artifacts derived from them (mainly ceramics, ground stone artifacts and flint tools), in relation to the Chalcolithic dwelling remains uncovered slightly lower down the hillside. This study will acquaint the reader with some previously unknown aspects of local Chalcolithic subsistence patterns.

THE CHALCOLITHIC PERIOD

The Chalcolithic structural remains are presented below according to area, starting with those on the northern side of the wadi, Areas A and C, followed by Area B on the southern side.

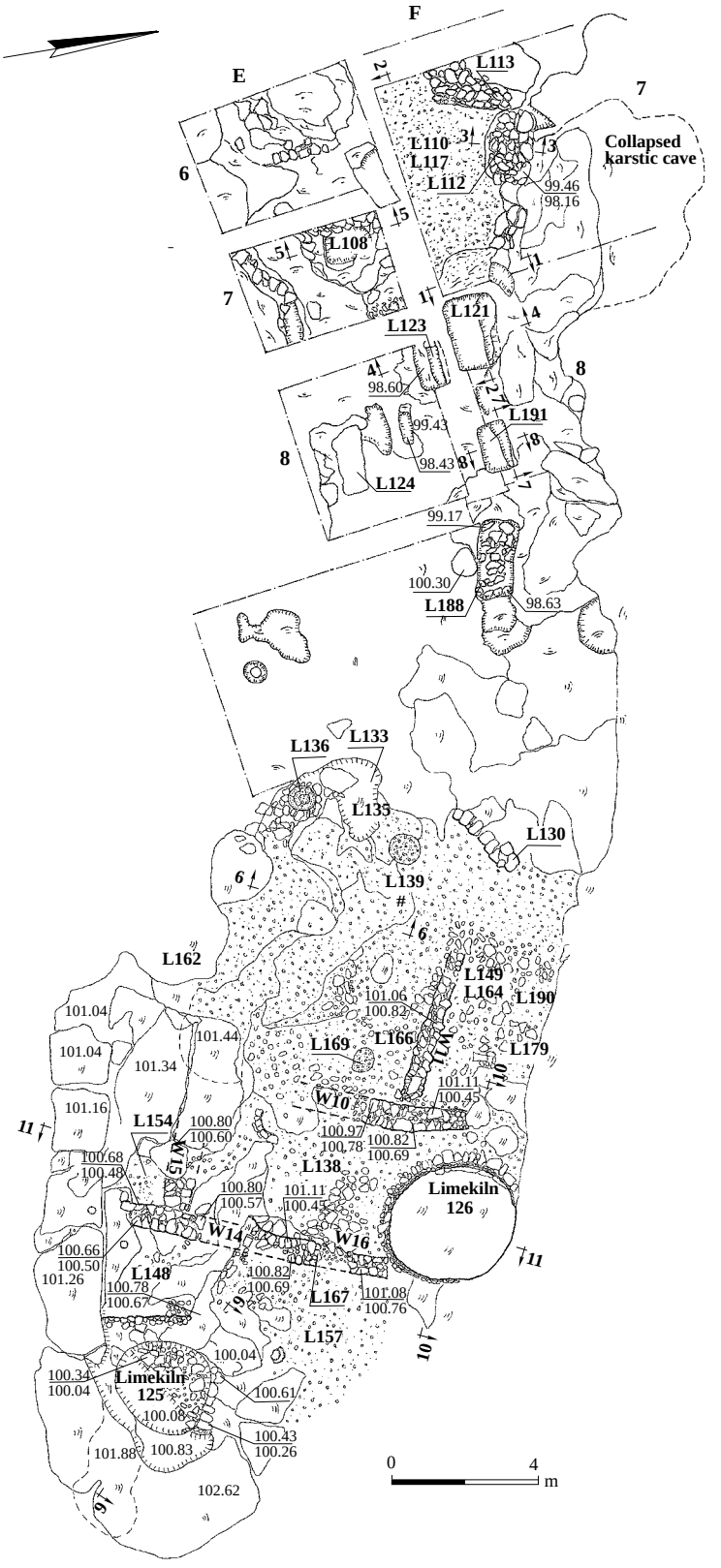
AREA A: THE TERRACE

Most of the archaeological remains in Area A were located on a terrace or flat rocky ledge overlooking the valley to the south (Fig. 2). This ledge (c. 28 × 14 m) is bounded on its eastern and southern sides by a drop of 2–3 m. The northern side features large depressions and elements formed by karstic activity and subsequent rock collapses (see Barzilay, this volume). The western side of the terrace is bounded by a sharp rise of 1.5 m. The archaeological remains suggest at least two phases of Chalcolithic occupation.

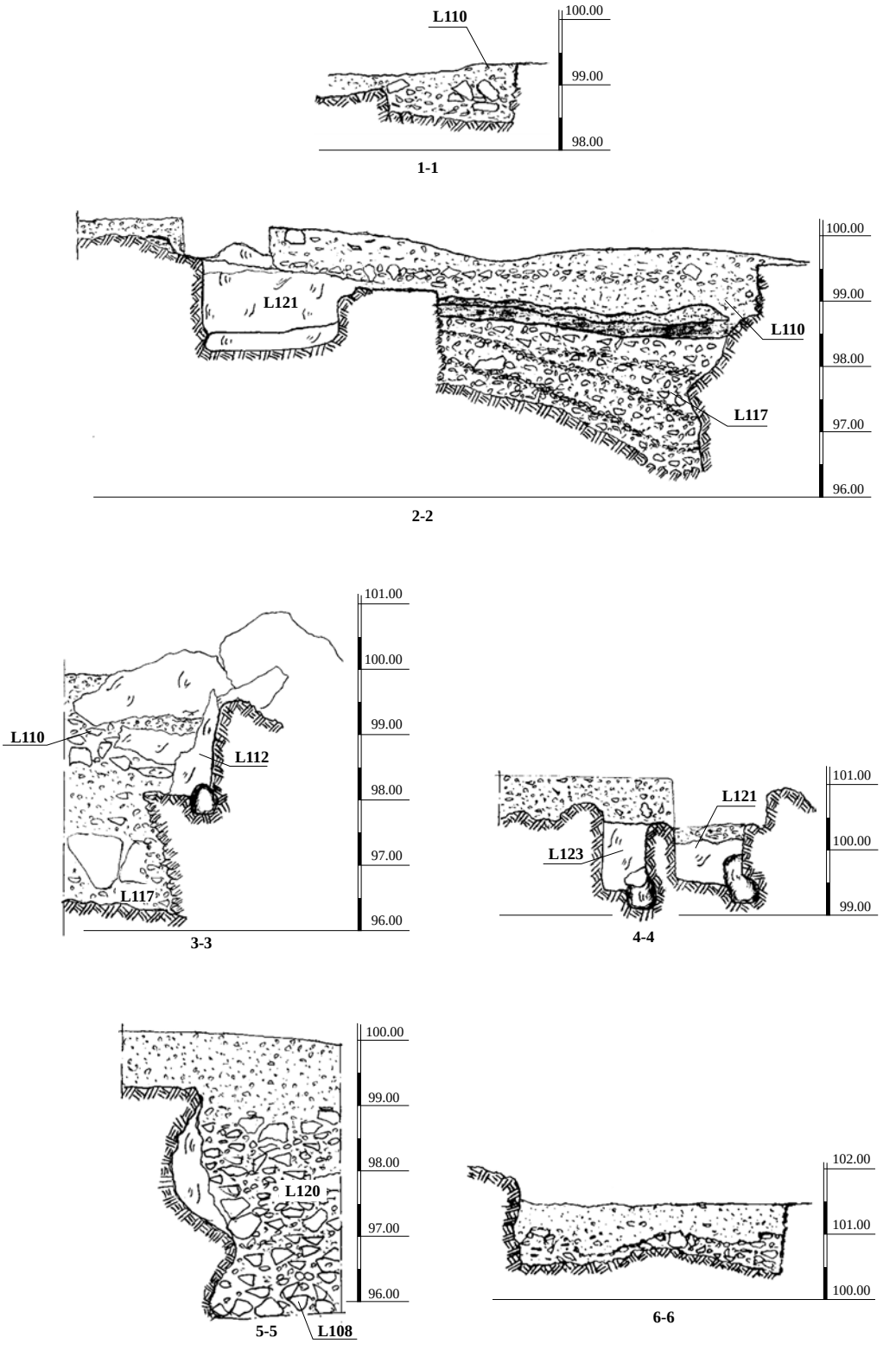
Phase 1

Plastered Surface, Cache, Pit.— The evidence of Chalcolithic activity on the terrace prior to the construction of the habitation structure of Phase 2 is concentrated in natural bedrock depressions and cavities. Locus 167 lies about 20 cm beneath W16 (Plan 1) and features an elevated area of plastered bedrock. A gradually deepening fissure had formed in the bedrock here. The sides of this crack were plastered and the remaining space filled with small fist-sized stones and reddish brown earth, before being covered with the level plaster layer found throughout the area. The finds from this locus include ceramic sherds, flint, clay weights and—of particular interest—a significant concentration of uncultivated olive pits.

Fig. 2. Area A, general view of the eastern half of the excavation area, looking east; note Limekiln 126 on upper left side.



Plan 1. Area A, plan and sections.


L110
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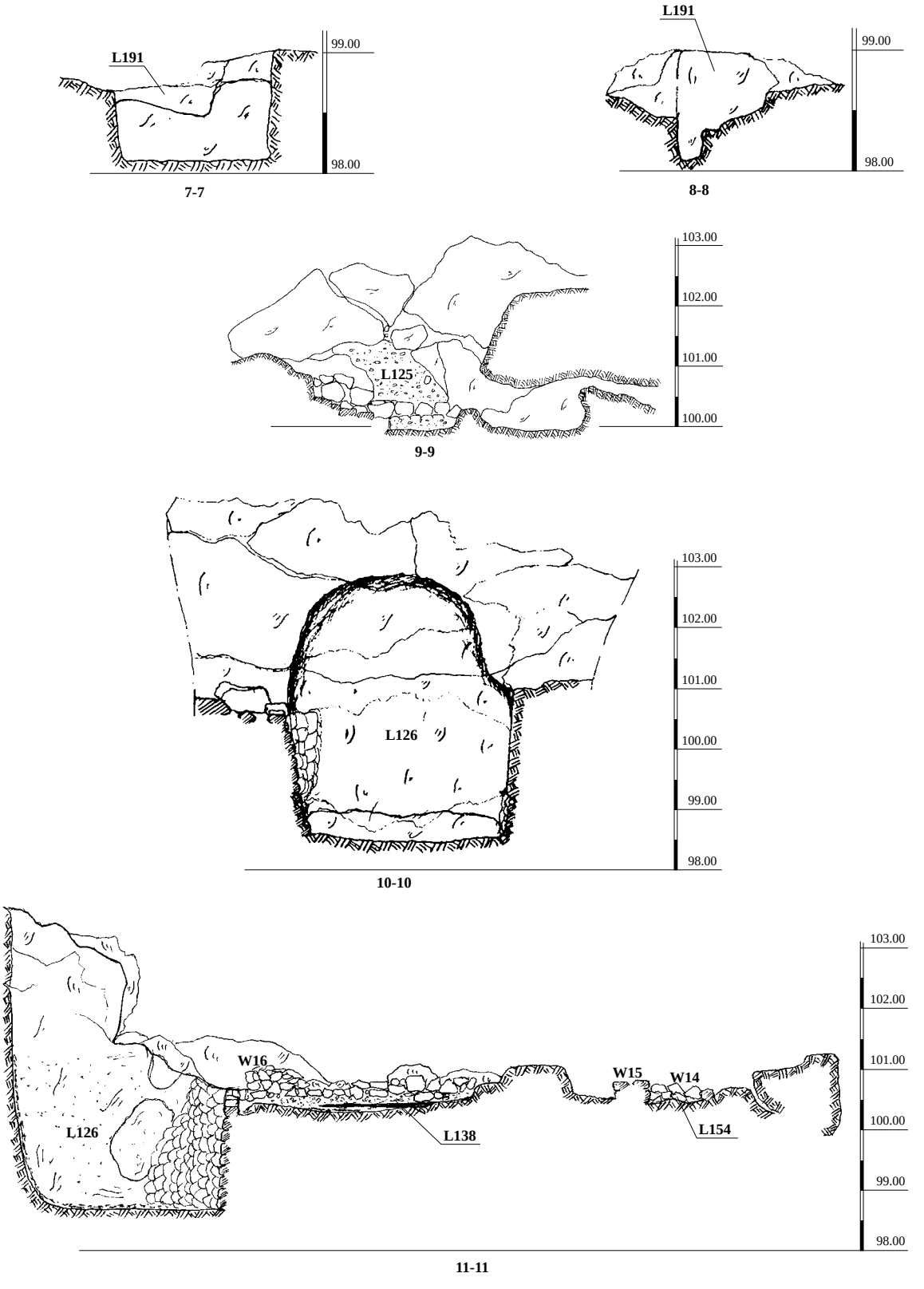
Plan 1. (cont.)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W16
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11-11

Plan 1. (cont.)

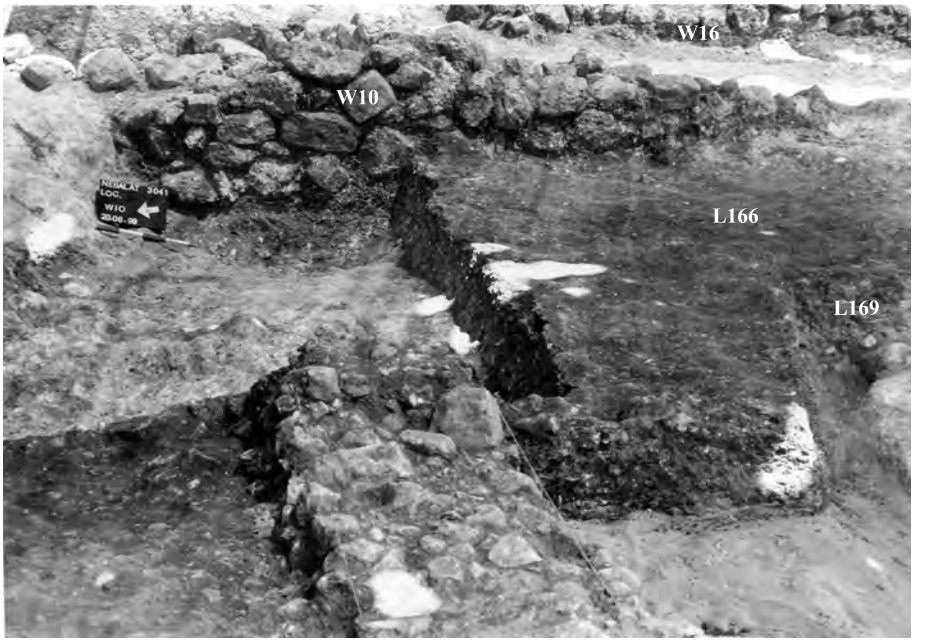
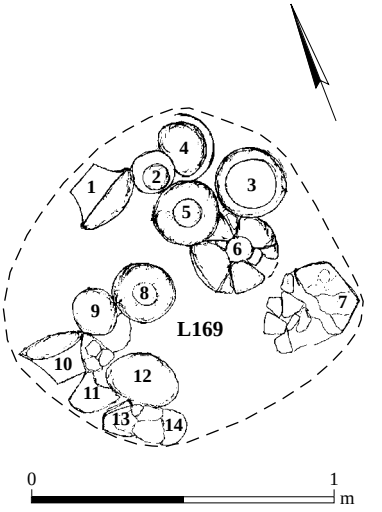


Fig. 3. Area A, partly exposed western face of W10, looking east; also visible are W16 (upper right corner), Surface 166 and Pit 169.

A shallow recess (L169) was found about 30 cm below the lowest of four paved surfaces (L166) adjoining W11 and extending eastward below W10 (Plan 1; see below). A clear layer of dark brown earth separated L166 from L169 (Fig. 3). Cached within L169 were 16 whole ceramic vessels found *in situ* in a small pit dug into a matrix of earth and small stones (Fig. 4; Plan 2). Some of the bowls were found stacked inside one another, and others were originally placed inside two pedestalled bowls (Plan 2:2, 3). These pedestalled bowls were placed with their bases on a lower level than that of the other bowls, such that the tops of all the vessels were aligned to approximately the same height, and none were exposed above the top of the pit. Traces of burnt material were discernable in both pedestalled bowls. Various interpretations of this cache of vessels have been proposed; it may have been a foundation offering prior to the construction of the habitation structure (see below), or a *favissa* for ritual vessels.

Another notable rock surface feature is L162, a deep depression that had been filled with medium-sized stones similar to those placed around the installation in L136 (Plan 1). Only a few Chalcolithic finds were recovered from this depression. However, it did contain a second concentration of uncultivated olive pits. Together with the olive pits from L167, these enabled the dating of this part of the site to cal. 4002–3929 BCE, toward the end of the Late Chalcolithic period (see below; van den Brink et al. 2001:43).

Fig. 4. Area A, pottery cache in Pit 169, W10 is in background.



Plan 2. Area A, pottery cache in Pit 169 (see Figs. 64–66).

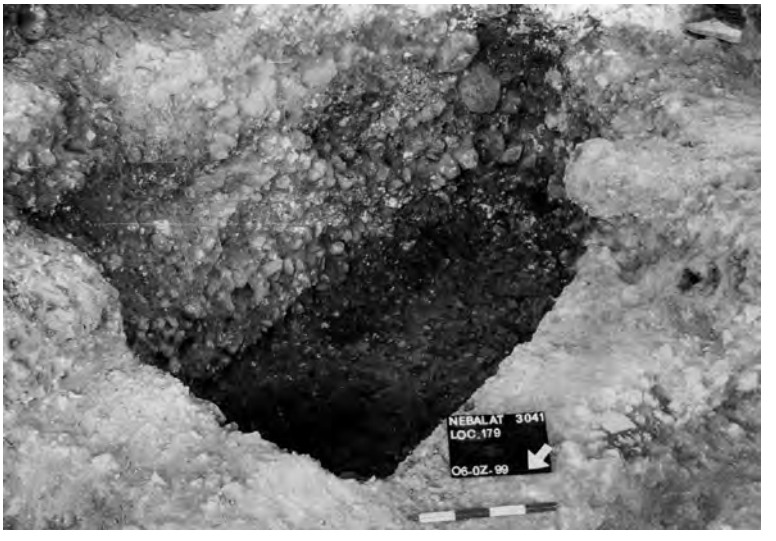


Fig. 5. Area A, L179, deep pit underneath broadroom building, filled with stones mixed with Chalcolithic pottery.

Collapsed Karstic Cave Structure (Fig. 1:20).— Evidence of what seems to have been intense Chalcolithic activity was discovered in a large, natural (karstic), and now collapsed cave on the northern side of the terrace. The cave (12 × 8 × 3 m; Plan 1) was completely filled with soil, mixed with Chalcolithic artifacts. It consisted of two chambers (actually natural shafts; see Barzilay, this volume): one large and broad (L110, L117; Plan 1: Sections 2–2, 3–3), and the other narrower and very deep (L108; Plan 1: Section 5–5). The latter (a sinkhole) was not excavated to its full depth. The smaller, narrower chamber or sinkhole contained medium to large rocks of very hard *nari* limestone (see Barzilay, this volume: Fig. 1), together with large amounts of Chalcolithic finds, but only relatively small amounts of soil that had sifted down into the chamber. This suggests that the chamber was filled during a single brief event. Sloping layers could be discerned in the fill of the larger chamber (see Plan 1: Section 2–2; see Barzilay, this volume: Fig. 2), denoting the manner in which this material was deposited in the cave. The fill was largely homogeneous, including small fist-sized pebbles and large amounts of Chalcolithic material (Figs. 67–69; 70:12, 13; 71:7; 72:6; 73:2; 74:1; cf. Table 3: L117).

Geological analysis has suggested that the nature of the stone fills within the cave would characterize natural cave deposits, were it not for the large amounts of Chalcolithic material present (see below). This implies the emptying and transferring of fills—along with the associated Chalcolithic material—from the natural rocky crevices and depressions at the site, as well as continuing exploitation of the area. A similar phenomenon on a smaller scale was observed in the deep pit underneath the Chalcolithic habitation structure in the southern part of the terrace (Loci 169, 179, 190 [the latter two loci are not marked on Plan 1, as these are separate fills within L169]; Fig. 5). Here, the fill was so packed and aggregated that it was difficult to differentiate between it and the surrounding rock. One explanation for this

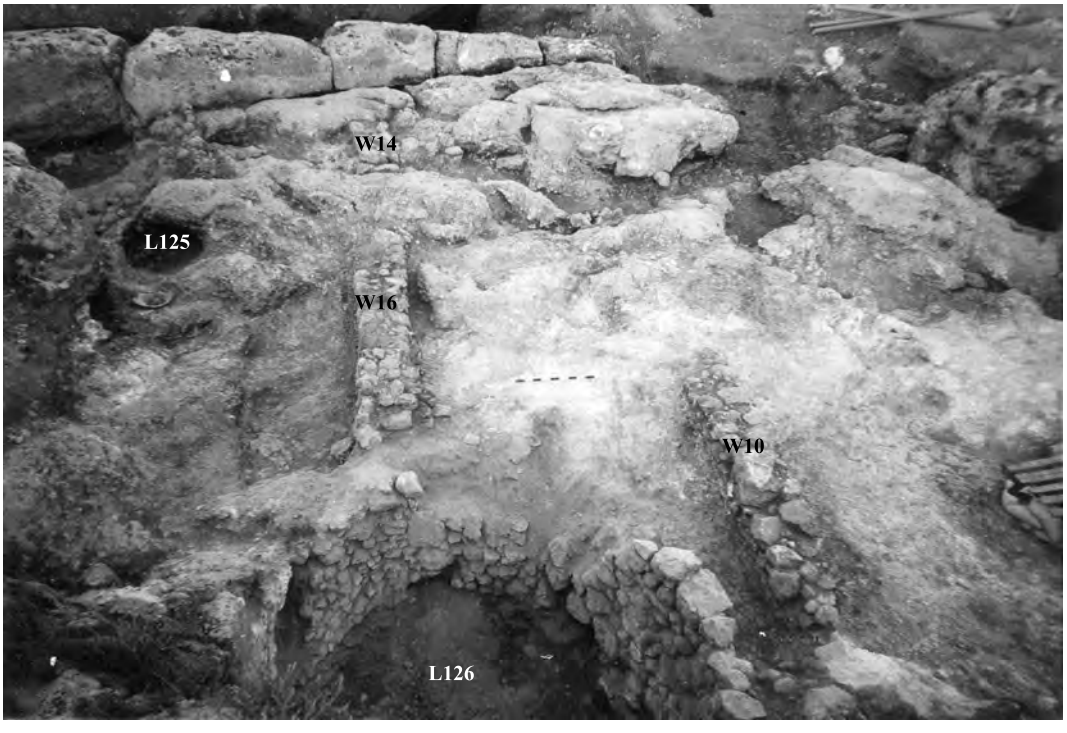


Fig. 6. Area A, W14/16 and W10 belonging to the broadroom building, looking south; W14/16 is cut by Limekiln 126; in upper left is part of a collapsed cave later used as Limekiln 125.

could be that the material was deposited here to level the surface prior to the building's construction. It may be suggested that the collapsed cave structures on the northern side of the terrace were filled to provide similar conditions for building in this part of the site. If so, the subsequent use of this area for burials (Loci 112, 121, 123, 124, 188; see Plan 1) must have removed all signs of such activity.

Phase 2

The Chalcolithic Broadroom Dwelling.— Unworked limestone wall foundations (some 50–60 cm wide) were found at a depth of 10–20 cm below the surface on the southern side of the rocky step. These walls delineated the outline of a broadroom structure measuring some 10 × 5 m, oriented along a north–south axis (Loci 138, 154; see Plan 1; Fig. 6). Walls 14 and 16 appear to constitute the southern wall of the structure. Wall 10 runs parallel to these on the north (Fig. 6). This was probably the front of the structure, with access to the building from the north, due to the considerable height difference between the structure's floor level and the rock surface to the south. The rocky rise to the west may have formed the wall of the structure on this side, but the building most likely extended further east, limited only by the 2–3 m fall at the edge of the step. The later construction of a limekiln (L126) destroyed the eastern side of the building (Fig. 6; see Plan 1: Sections 10–10, 11–11).

Fig. 7. Area A, disturbed top course of W16, looking east.

Fig. 8. Area A, southern face of W10, in close proximity to stone lining of Limekiln 126, looking northwest.

This area appears to have been used as a source of building materials in later periods, with substantial robbing of stones for construction or for use in Limekilns 125 and 126 (Figs. 1:16a, 16b; 4; see also Plan 1: Sections 9–9, 10–10, 11–11). This activity is evident in L138 (Plan 1), where parts of the paved floor are missing, and in W16, where—despite reasonable preservation along most of its length—several stones in the upper construction layer appear to have been disturbed (Fig. 7), and pits were found extending down to the base of the wall. Wall 10 consisted of several layers of fieldstones preserved to a height of 0.8 m (Figs. 3, 8); its western end was founded in earlier Chalcolithic remains (L179, L190), while its eastern end was laid directly on bedrock.

Fig. 9. Area A, L129, last in series of superimposed pavements associated with the Chalcolithic building, looking southwest.

Functional Areas Within and Around the Dwelling.— Inside the dwelling, W15 served to separate about one quarter of the structure's floor space at the western end. A stone-paved area abutting W16 indicates the structure's initial floor level (L164 at 100.85 m asl; see Plan 1). It is difficult to assess whether the paving was restricted to this section of the structure, or whether it originally had covered the whole floor, now missing due to the extent of paving-stone removal. No *in situ* ceramic vessels were found on the floor; the dating of the structure to the Chalcolithic period is based on sherds found between the paving stones. We uncovered two areas of Chalcolithic activity, which most likely were associated with the habitation structure: one in front of the building to the north, and the other to its south.

An uneven and rocky area in front of the building was paved. Traces of at least four phases were uncovered (Pavements 129, 149, 164 and 166). The paving comprised small fieldstones laid rather unevenly, the spaces in-between packed with earth (Fig. 9). This area appears to have been used seasonally or reconstructed at need, with the accumulated refuse—including ceramic sherds (Figs. 70:3, 14; 71:9), flint (see Hamoudi, this volume: Figs. 2:3, 6; 4:2; 5:1, 4) and stone vessel fragments (see Rowan, this volume: Figs. 2:8; 4:4, 14; 6:2; 7:1; 10:7 and Tables 2:22, 23; 3:11)—thrown in with the fill of each phase. This waste could be seen piled up against W10. In one of the phases (L164), another wall was distinguishable (W11), of which only a single layer of stones was found. This wall appears to have demarcated an area backing onto the eastern edge of the terrace (Plan 1). This area may have been used as an animal pen or even as an additional habitation area. However, none of the finds in this area indicated a specific function.

Aside from this feature, a number of installations were uncovered in the paved area or courtyard in front of the habitation structure. Two fireplaces (hearths?) were found, one (L139) some 6 m north of the habitation structure, and the second, just west of L139, among

Fig. 10. Area A, L136, natural crevice in bedrock with large *in situ* storage jar supported by stones, looking northwest.

a cluster of installations excavated as L133 and L136 (Plan 1). These installations were set within a deep natural crevice in the rock (L136; Fig. 10), most likely formed naturally by karstic activity. This fissure extended from west to east, with its western end running underground for a short distance, but opening to the surface along most of its length to the east. Access to the installations in the crevice was from the exposed rock surface above. These features included a storage installation consisting of a large, thin-walled pithos-type ceramic vessel measuring 1 m in diameter (L136, poorly fired and impossible to restore), which was held in place using smaller stones (Fig. 10; see Plan 1). To the east of this storage installation was found a round depression (L133); one side of it was partially carved into the side of the crevice, while the other was demarcated by three large unworked stones, forming a kind of round basin. These installations most likely served a domestic function, possibly the storage and preparation of food in addition to the fireplaces. The association of these installations with the Chalcolithic building phase is unclear as there is

Fig. 11. Area A, stone alignment covering and marking L130 burial pit, looking north.

no definite architectural or stratigraphic connection between them. However, it was noted that the fireplaces and the installations were found at approximately the same level as the paved surfaces in the courtyard, and the installations were not sealed off but rather accessed directly from the rock surface. These observations allow for their association with the later Chalcolithic phase (i.e., Phase 2).

Further to the west, a pit burial covered by a row of stones (L130; Fig. 11) was found, containing the poorly preserved, articulated skeletal remains of a child (not older than 5 years; see Nagar, this volume). Additional paved surfaces constructed using small stones—i.e., similar to the paved surfaces adjacent to W10—were uncovered on the southern side of the row of stones. However, these were absent on the northern side. It is therefore unclear whether the burial is contemporary with or post-dates the Chalcolithic building phase. No datable finds were recovered from the L130 burial.

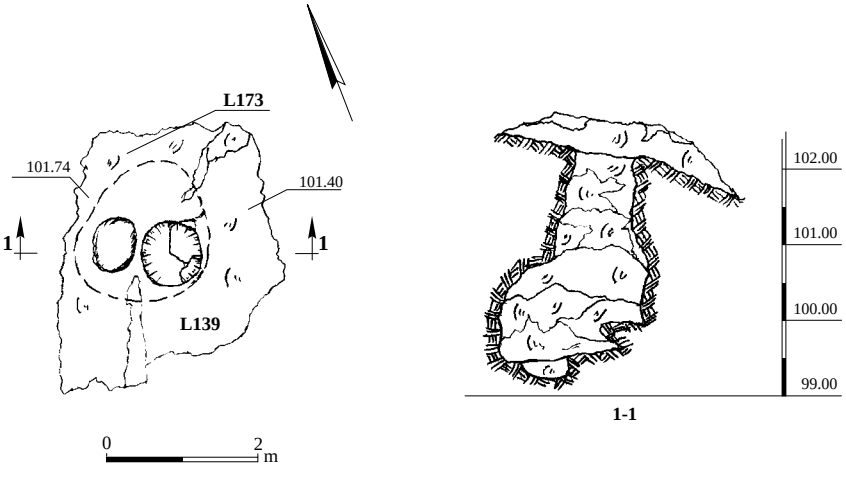
The southern part of the terrace (L157) southeast of W14 and W16 seems to have served as a small courtyard for the habitation structure. This area featured a rock shelter or small cave, which appears to have been contemporaneous with the Chalcolithic structure, and seems to have been used by its residents for storage. Most of this formation was damaged by the much later construction of a limekiln (L125; Fig. 1:16a). However, the outline of the shelter remained, as well as some of the fill, which yielded Chalcolithic artifacts (Fig. 12). Many Chalcolithic potsherds were found scattered across the surface of this area, most likely indicating the emptying of the rock shelter by the later builders of the limekiln. A large complete lotus-shaped Chalcolithic ceramic bowl (Fig. 52:15) was found resting with its base on the bedrock surface of L157 (Fig. 13). The rim of the bowl was slightly above the base of W14 and W16, which may reflect the surface level, when the courtyard was in use.

Fig. 12. Area A, L125, remains of a limekiln cutting Chalcolithic deposits inside the collapsed rock shelter or small cave, looking east.

Fig. 13. Area A, L157, large bowl found in southern courtyard, between the broadroom building and the rock shelter, looking northeast.

The Rock-Cut Pit (L134; Fig. 1:15).— This round shaft (diam. c. 1 m) was found some 10 m southeast of Courtyard 157 of the dwelling (Fig. 14). The pit is hewn into the bedrock to a depth of 1.2 m and opens into an underground chamber measuring about 2 m across, the floor of which continues in a mild, westward descent via a rock-cut step (Plan 3). At the lowest point of this chamber a shallow depression was cut, reaching a total depth of about 3 m (Plan 3: Section 1–1). The fill inside this pit contained brown crumbly earth, and yielded

Fig. 14. Area A, L134, circular shaft leading into rock-hewn pit, looking southeast.



Plan 3. Area A, Pit 134 plan and section.

large amounts of Chalcolithic domestic material including ceramics, flints, stone bowls (see Rowan, this volume: Figs. 6:1; 7:5, Table 2:19, 20, 36) and weights. The function of the pit remains unknown. The porous limestone is not suitable for water storage. It is possible that the pit may have been used as a rather inconveniently shaped and out-of-the-way storage facility. This pit may also be the remains of an attempt at creating a larger underground structure, similar to those uncovered at nearby and contemporaneous Giv‘at Oranim (Oren and Scheftelowitz 1999)—an endeavor which was abandoned upon finding that the rock at this lower level was too difficult to quarry.

AREA C: ROCK-CUT FEATURES

Area C is a large exposure of rock to the northwest of and a short distance up the hill from Area A (Fig. 1:11–14, 17–19, 21). This exposure slopes only very mildly and features small groups of cupmarks carved in the rock (Figs. 15–17; Plans 4, 5; Table 2). As this is near the top of the ridge, most of the bedrock in this area is bare, such that most of these groups of cupmarks were identified in the survey conducted prior to the excavation; the cleaning of the cupmarks did not yield datable material. One bedrock surface, however, bearing cupmarks (Group I) was located in the course of soundings and was excavated (Fig. 1:21; Plan 5). This surface yielded *in situ* ceramic (Fig. 67) and ground stone artifacts (see Rowan, this volume: Table 1, Area C; Figs. 1:1, 3, 4, 6; 2:1–7, 9–11; 3:1–6; 4:1, 6, 17; 5:2, 3; 6:10, 11; 7:7; 8:4), enabling the dating of these rock-cut features (Loci 201–225) to the Chalcolithic period (see below).

Fig. 15. Area C, cupmark Group D, shallow basins, looking east; note the basin with the central hollow in the center of the photograph, possibly re-used as a mortar.

Fig. 16. Area C, cupmark Group B, shallow basins and few circular cupmarks (mortars), looking south.

Table 2. Area C. Stationary Grinding and Pounding Facilities according to Groups

Cupmark Group (Feature)	Plan Number	Oblong, Shallow Grooves	Circular, Deep Cupmarks[i]	Rock Surface Features				Area of Exposed Rock Surface (m)
				Elevation Difference	Slope	Cracks	Uniformity of Surface	
A (F13)	4	7	1	+	Moderate	-	+	7 × 9
B (F19)	4	42	13	-	Moderate	-	+	15 × 8
C (F18)	4	7		+	Varying	-	-	6 × 6
D (F12)	4	14	3 (1)	-	Moderate	-	+	8 × 8
E (F14)	4	4	3 (1)	+	Moderate	-	-	5 × 5
F (F11)	4	4		+	Moderate	+	-	4.5 × 5.0
G (F17)	4	7	1	-	Moderate	-	+	7 × 8
H (F17)	4	2	4	+	Level	-	+	5 × 8
I (F21)	5	12	6 (5)	+	Level	+	-	10 × 15
Total		*100*	*31 (7)*					

[i] Figure in parentheses marks a circular cup within an earlier oblong groove (counted twice).

The Rock Exposures

The areas of exposed rock where the cupmarks were hewn exhibit identical characteristics of size, slope, continuity of surface and height along the hillside. What was observed, however, is that certain areas were used more intensively, enabling the possible identification of the more preferred or convenient conditions. These areas were relatively large, smooth and exhibited moderately sloped or level bedrock exposures (Table 2).

Fig. 17. Area C, cupmark Group B, shallow basins and circular cupmarks (mortars), looking northeast.

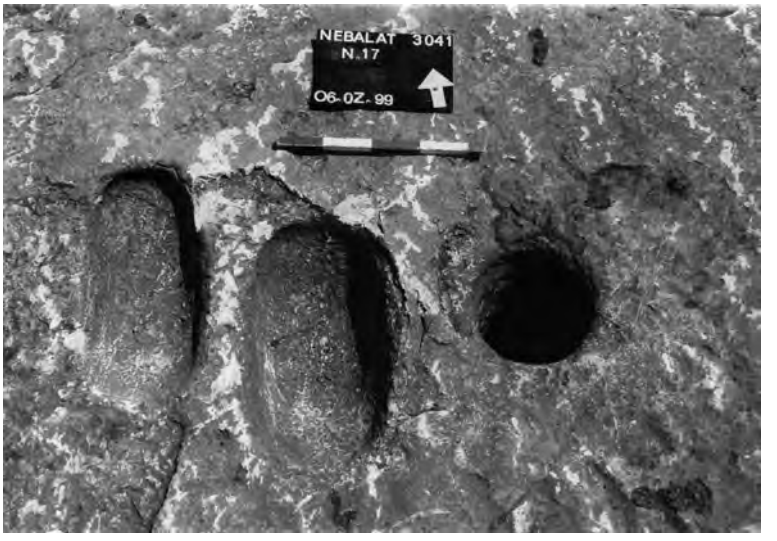
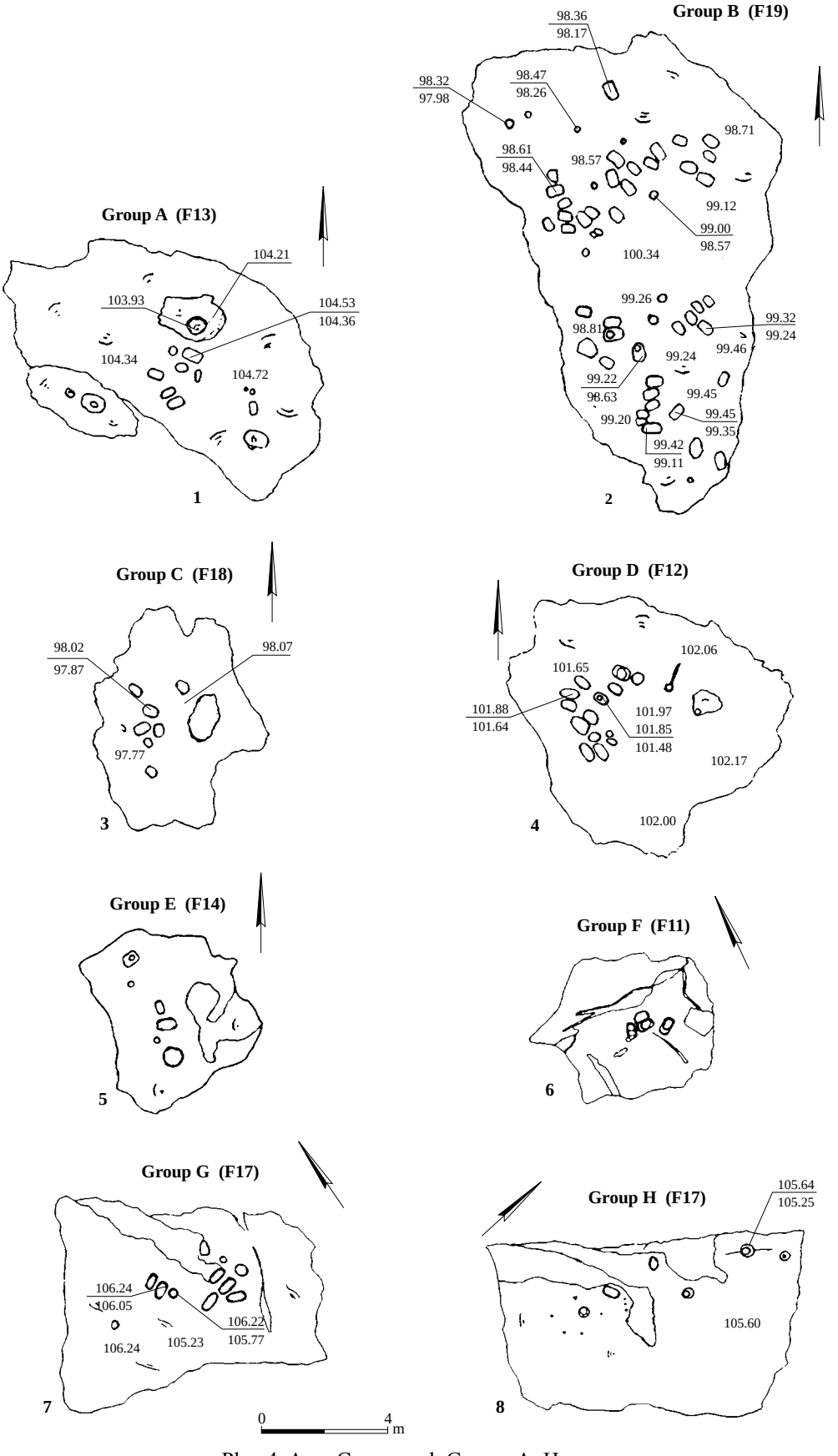


Fig. 18. Area C, cupmark Group G, two shallow basins and circular cupmark, looking northeast.

The Cupmarks (Groups A–I; Plans 4, 5)

The cupmarks may be divided into two main types: (1) shallow and rectangular/oblong, with rounded corners and measuring 49 × 30 × 20 cm on average (Figs. 15, 20, 21, 23; see Rowan, this volume: Table 5; identified as stationary grinding facilities in van den Brink 2008); (2) deep and rounded, measuring on average 15–20 cm in diameter (Figs. 17–19; identified as stationary pounding facilities in van den Brink 2008). Each of the two types was clearly created for, or by, a different function. The creation of the oblong grooves



Plan 4. Area C, cupmark Groups A–H.

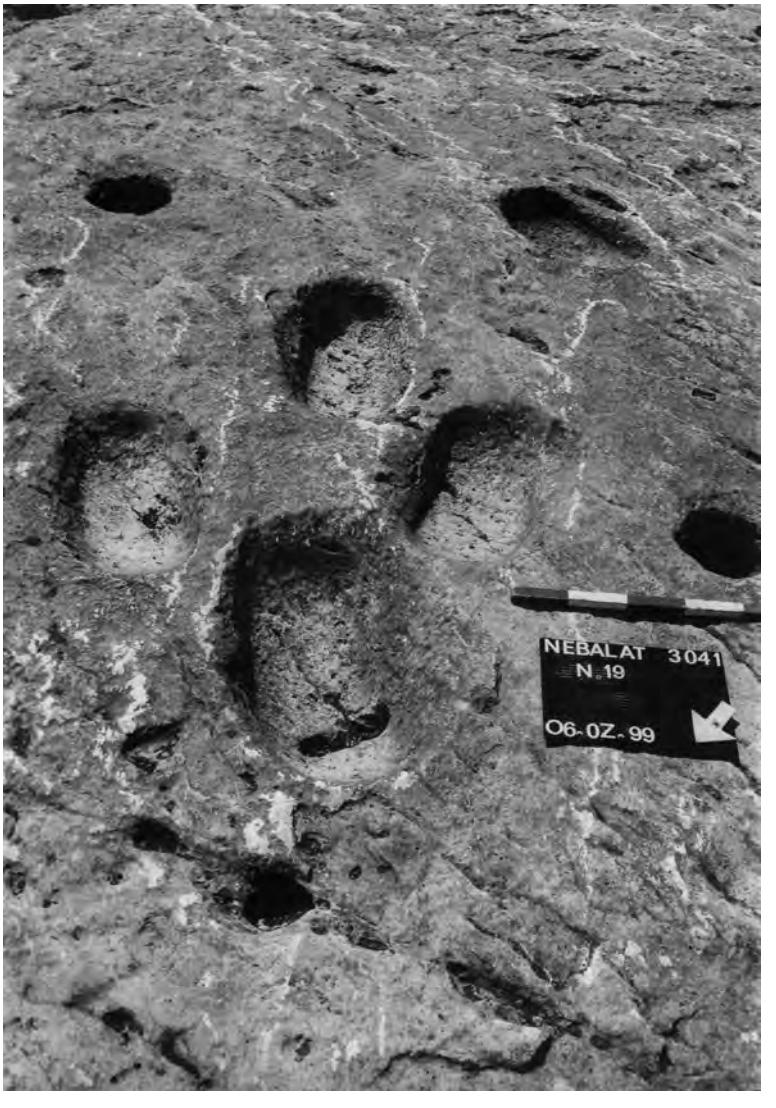


Fig. 19. Area C, cupmark Group B, five shallow basins and two circular cupmarks (mortars), looking southeast.

seems to be the result of repetitive horizontal motions such as that of a grinding stone, used in the preparation of dry materials (e.g., grain, wheat, pulses). This is particularly evident in those oblong grooves that have not been overly exposed to the erosive effects of water, which tends to dissolve the soft limestone (Figs. 20, 21 [left]). The deep circular cupmarks seem to be the result of a pounding motion, using what may have been a grinding pestle or pounding staff, and perhaps are to be interpreted as mortars (e.g., Figs. 18 [right] and 19 [upper left and center right]; cf. Eitam 1993: Fig. 3a). Some of the circular cupmarks were created within (disused?) rectangular ones (Figs. 15 and 21 [right]; e.g., Plan 5), possibly to

Fig. 20. Area C, cupmark Group B, five shallow basins, looking southeast.

Fig. 21. Area C, cupmark Group B, two shallow basins, the right-hand one possibly re-used as a mortar, looking southeast.

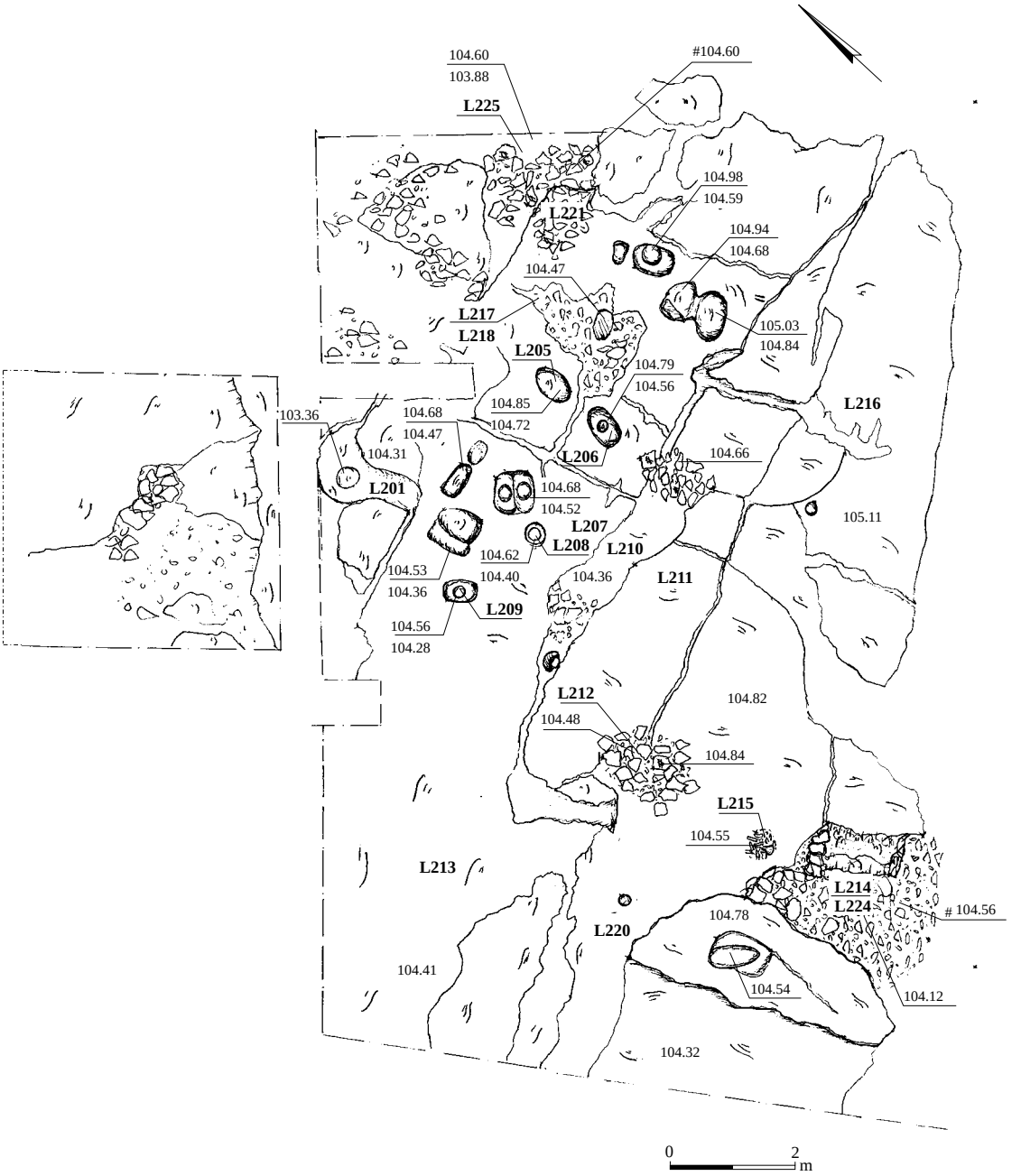
prevent the dispersal of whatever substance was being worked there, perhaps functioning as a collection cup used during the production of liquid materials.

The number of oblong grooves and round cupmarks in each grouping varies, but it may be noted that the distribution of the deep circular cupmarks was much thinner throughout the whole area, making up just one-third of the number of shallow oblong grooves.

Group I: Stationary Grinding and Pounding Facilities (Plan 5).— Group I is the only cluster that could be confidently dated to the Chalcolithic period, based on the ceramic and ground stone artifacts associated with it (see below); it is therefore discussed here in greater detail.

This cluster of grooves and cupmarks was situated on a rock surface measuring 15 × 10 m, covered by 20–30 cm of sediment. Our excavation uncovered an area marked by cracks and depressions, and it is evident that the Chalcolithic inhabitants had made considerable efforts to level the surfacing fills of stones and earth. These created what may be regarded as paved areas (Loci 214, 218 and 221; Figs. 22, 23). In one such case (L218), for example, hard limestone slabs were laid over a depression. By creating these paved areas, they were integrated into the grinding activities taking place here.

Chalcolithic potsherds were found in the cracks, depressions and paved areas of the rock surface, as were numerous limestone grinding slabs (Fig. 23; see Rowan, this volume: Fig. 1:1), grinding stones and ground stone vessels (Figs. 24, 25; see Rowan, this volume: Figs. 2:4, 11; 4:6). In size and form, the grinding stones (or *manos*) exactly suited the rectangular cupmarks, providing a direct connection between the 'industrial area' and the Chalcolithic finds and tools used there. Grinding stones were found both on the limestone surfaces and integrated into the paved surfaces. Six circular cupmarks and twelve oblong



Plan 5. Area C, cupmark Group I.

grooves were carved or ground into the smooth rock surfaces between the paved areas, and in this group particularly, many of the circular cupmarks (five out of six) were made within the rectangular grooves.

According to the artifact findspots, the activity in the area of Group I took place in the higher reaches of the exposed rock surface. Further west, no finds were recovered even

Fig. 22. Area C, cupmark Group I, stone paving L214, looking southwest.

Fig. 23. Area C, cupmark Group I, L217, two shallow basins and bedrock depression, with lower part of grinding stone, looking southeast.

though the conditions of the rocky features were optimal, similar to the area of Group B (Plan 4). Eastward, however, where the conditions were equally favorable higher above the site, stationary grinding and pounding facilities were uncovered (Groups G and H; Plan 4).

Two of the clusters with oblong grooves and circular cupmarks, Groups A (Plan 4) and I (L201; Plan 5), were found at the bottom of a natural depression, on a ledge below a large

Fig. 24. Area C, cupmark Group I, L210, crevice in bedrock with ground limestone mortar still *in situ* (see also Rowan, this volume: Fig. 5:2), looking south.

Fig. 25. Area C, cupmark Group I, L208, circular cupmark (mortar) filled and covered with Chalcolithic ground-stone fragments and pottery sherds, looking north.

exposed rock surface. These consisted of circular cupmarks (diam. 40–50 cm, 30 cm deep), which seem to be located so as to gather materials processed above, which slid downslope (Fig. 26). Group B has the largest concentration of cupmarks (n = 55). A study of their distribution (Plan 4) reveals subgroups which differ in orientation. This clustering gives the

Fig. 26. Area C, cupmark Group I, L201, natural depression in bedrock with rock-hewn basin at its base, looking southeast; note the presence of the basin located higher up on the bedrock surface.

impression that individuals adopted set areas in which to work, thus creating the cupmarks individually according to the direction they faced while working.

Burial

A burial (L215; Fig. 27; Plan 5) was discovered among these areas of exposed bedrock, near one of the paved areas (L214; Fig. 28). The state of preservation of the human remains was poor; only a few long bone fragments were found. The archaeological context of this burial is not clear; there are no direct indicators regarding its association with the Chalcolithic activity.

Fig. 27. Area C, cupmark Group I, L215, human burial, looking southwest.

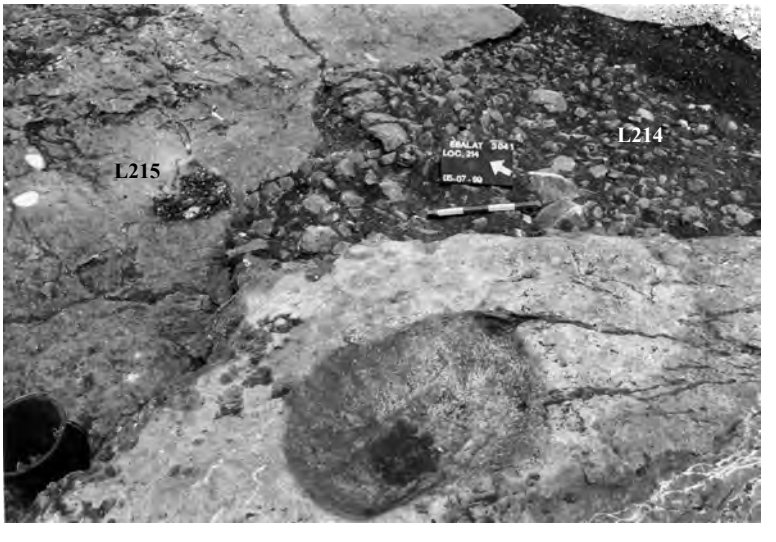
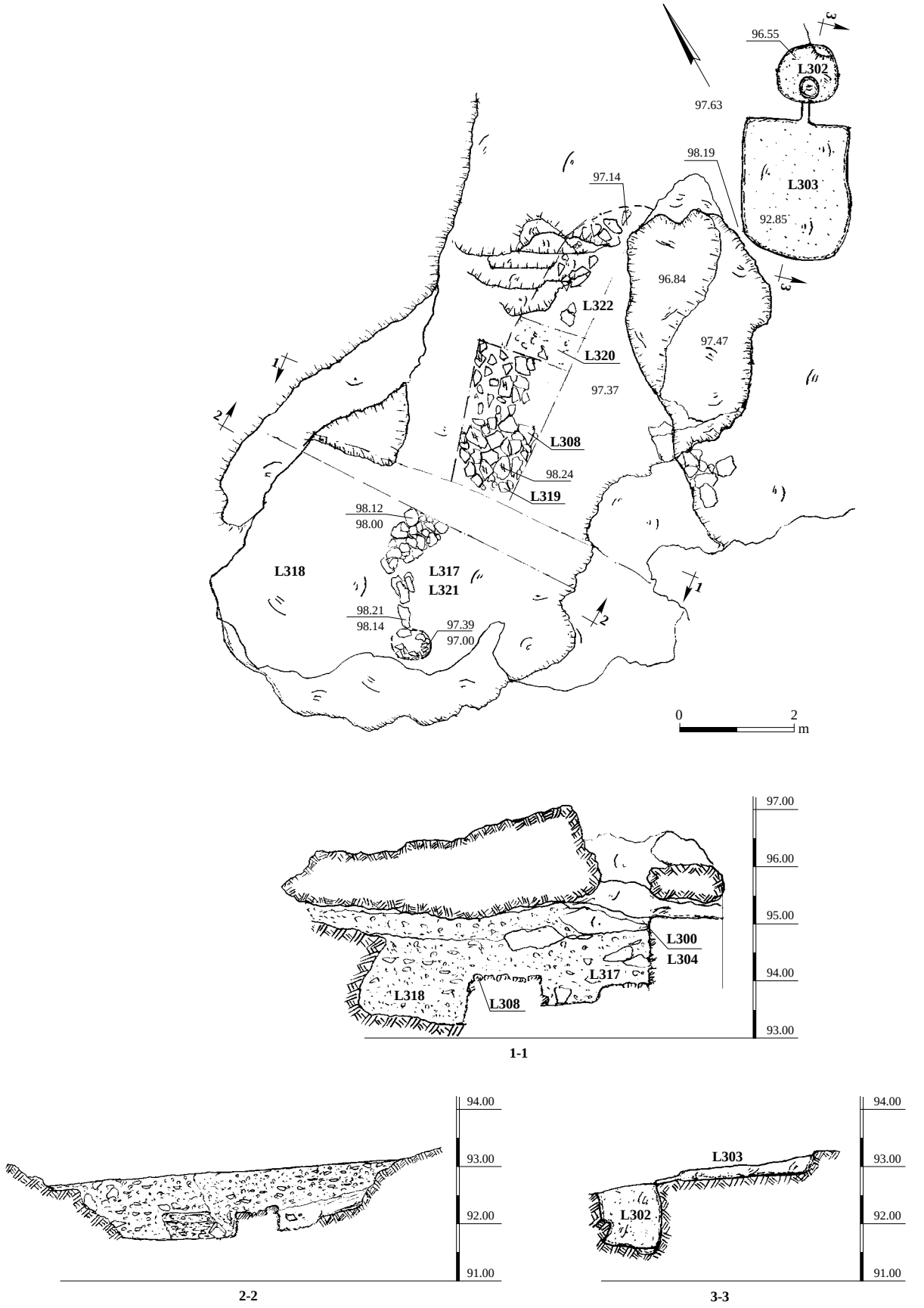


Fig. 28. Area C, cupmark Group I, L214, stone paving over natural bedrock depression, looking northeast.

AREA B

Chalcolithic Use of a Karstic Cave.— Area B is located on a northeast-facing slope, on the southern side of Naḥal Nevallaṭ (Fig. 1), at roughly the same elevation as Areas A and C. One of the points (Fig. 1:3) excavated on this steep slope is a rather large karstic cave, measuring about 14 × 9 m (Fig. 29; Plan 6; see Barzilay, this volume). Evidence was found for use of the cave during the Chalcolithic, late EB I and Byzantine periods. The ceiling of



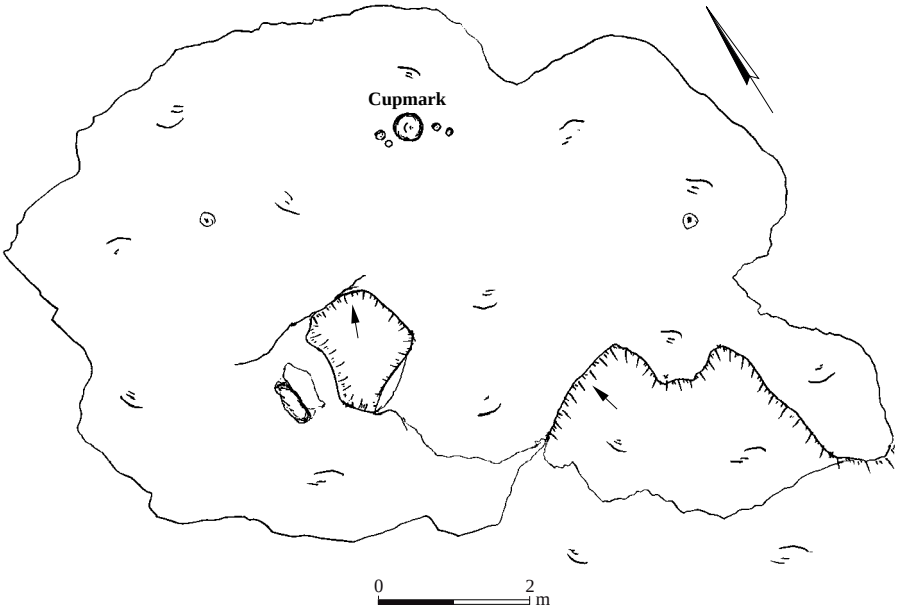
Plan 6. Area B, karstic cave and winepress, plan and sections.

Fig. 29. Area B, karstic cave with roof still intact and opening in upper center, looking northeast.

Fig. 30. Area B, karstic cave, L301, section created by bulldozer, exposing cave fill of fine brown earth mixed with fieldstones, looking northwest.

the cave consists of a layer of hard limestone (*nari*). The floor slopes in the same direction as the surrounding hillside, such that in places the space between the cave floor and ceiling is a mere crack, while in the direction of the slope the height difference increases to about 2 m (Fig. 30; Plan 6: Section 1–1). It was in these more spacious areas that use was made of the cave.

Fig. 31. Area B, two natural apertures in the karstic cave, looking southeast.



Plan 7. Area B, cupmarks above the cave's roof and two naturally formed entrances into the cave from the west.

There are four openings into the cave: two naturally formed apertures from the west (Fig. 31), leading into the lower areas of the cave (probably used by local fauna); one opening in the ceiling of the cave and another, to the southwest, led to the areas of the cave evincing human activity (Plan 7). A further access point into the cave lies on the northeastern side, although this seems to have been the result of a later collapse of a ceiling section.

Undisturbed Chalcolithic layers were found only in the innermost areas of the cave—Loci 317, 318 and 321. The Chalcolithic remains include discontinuous habitation layers

and areas of fill, consisting of light brown earth and crushed stones, along with a plastered layer (L322) and a concentration of ash and lime traces (L317). Many pottery sherds were recovered from this level, including bowls, storage jars and pithoi (see below), along with small amounts of (animal?) bones in the fill.

EARLY BRONZE AGE I

Early Bronze Age I remains were found in Areas A (rock shelter) and B (burial cave), but not in Area C.

AREA A: REMAINS IN THE ROCK SHELTER

A small quantity of ceramic sherds dating to EB I was found surrounding a later-period limekiln (L125; see Plan 1: Section 9–9). These sherds most probably came from the rock shelter, which was also in use during the Chalcolithic period and was apparently emptied of its contents during construction of the limekiln (see above).

AREA B: RE-USE OF THE KARSTIC CAVE (Fig. 1:3)

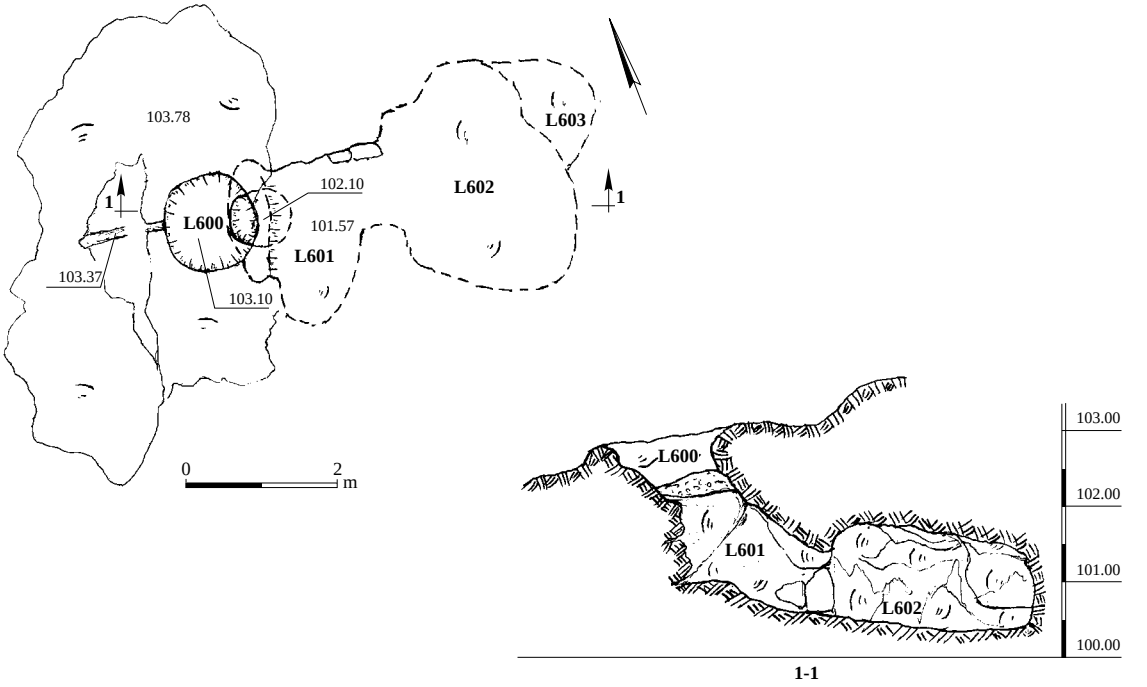
The EB I remains (L300, L304) within the karstic cave were located above the Chalcolithic material (see above; Plan 6: Section 1–1) and beneath the paved surface of the Byzantine period (see below). Three whole vessels, a bowl and two amphoriskoi (Fig. 69:1–3) dating to late EB I, were found adjacent to the eastern wall of the cave, near its mouth (Fig. 32). These vessel types are generally associated with EB I burials, and although no articulated human remains were uncovered, bone fragments were found scattered throughout the eastern part of the cave.

Fig. 32. Area B, the karstic cave, two EB I amphoriskoi in a section within the cave's fill, looking northwest.

INTERMEDIATE BRONZE AGE

AREA B: SHAFT TOMB

The cave is carved into bedrock (Fig. 1:6; Plan 8: Section 1–1) and has three distinctive components (from north to south): a shallow, oblique shaft (L600; diam. 1 m, 0.5 m deep); an entrance chamber (L601); and a burial chamber (L602, L603). The cave (Fig. 33) is accessed via a shallow shaft, at the bottom of which was found a narrow round opening, leading eastward and descending 1 m into a small entrance room covering an area of 1 sq m (Fig. 34). On the floor of the entrance room two complete Intermediate Bronze Age jars (Fig. 70:1) lay with their rims pointing toward the opening of the burial chamber. The entrance to the burial chamber was sealed with medium-sized stones (30–40 cm; Fig. 34). The burial chamber is oval-shaped. It appears that the original excavators of the chamber intentionally chose this shape because they lined the holes and crevices in the chamber walls with stones (Fig. 35) to create a continuous contour. The skeletons of two individuals found in the cave were poorly preserved (see Nagar and Sklar-Parnes, below). One of the skeletons was laid on its side with the legs in flexed position; a jug (Fig. 70:2) was laid next to its knee as an offering (Fig. 36). The skeleton was positioned with the legs in the east, and a copper toggle pin was found further west, most likely indicating the location of the head or upper body of the individual, which were not preserved. Bone fragments of another individual were found, but its articulation was not preserved.



Plan 8. Area B, Intermediate Bronze Age burial cave, plan and section.

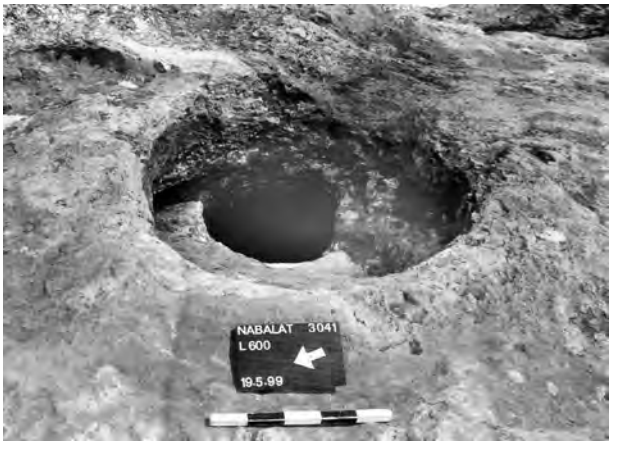


Fig. 33. Area B, entrance (L600) into the Intermediate Bronze Age burial cave, looking east.

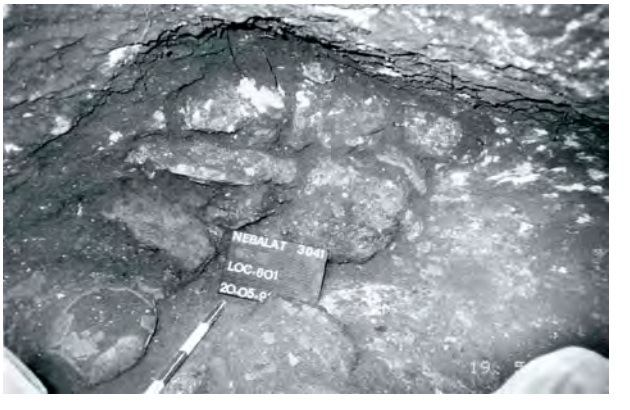


Fig. 34. Area B, the Intermediate Bronze Age burial cave, entrance chamber (L601) leading to sealed burial chamber (L602), looking west.

Fig. 35. Area B, the Intermediate Bronze Age burial cave, rear wall of burial chamber, looking east.

Fig. 36. Area B, the Intermediate Bronze Age burial cave, L602, jar in burial chamber, looking southeast.

LATER REMAINS

Archaeological remains of later activity were found in Areas A and B and on the surrounding slopes. The features include installations and burials reflecting agricultural, industrial and funerary activity carried out extramurally or on the peripheries of nearby contemporary sites, such as Ḥorbat Nevallaṭ, which dates to the Ottoman period (Gophna and Beit-Arieh 1997:53*, Site 127); Ḥorbat Nevallaṭ (Southeast), at which were found the remains of a large structure, possibly a late Byzantine monastery or Early Islamic-period structure (Gophna and Beit-Arieh 1997:55*, Site 135); Ḥorbat Nevallaṭ (East) which incorporates stone foundations and installations from the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman periods (Gophna and Beit-Arieh 1997:54*, Site 131); and Beit Kufah, which yielded remains from the Byzantine, Early Islamic and Ottoman periods (Gophna and Beit-Arieh 1997:57*, Site 145). Following is a description of findings from these later periods in the current excavation, with the proviso that not all the contexts contained datable material.

AREA A

Burials in the Collapsed Karstic Cave (Fig. 1:20).— Six pit burials hewn into the bedrock (Loci 112, 121, 123, 124, 188, 191) were excavated in the northern part of the Area A terrace (Plan 1: Sections 3–3, 4–4, 7–7, 8–8). All the graves are oriented along an east–west axis and are rectangular in plan, incorporating a recess or *loculus* dug out at the bottom of the eastern side of the pit, into which the body/skeleton was laid (Figs. 37, 38). In each case, this recess was closed off with rocks (Fig. 39) and the rest of the pit was filled with

Fig. 37. Area A, Pit Graves 121 and 123 after excavation, looking east.

Fig. 38. Area A, Pit Grave 181 after excavation, looking east.

Fig. 39. Area A, Pit Grave 123, its sealing still intact, looking east.

Fig. 40. Area A, Pit Grave 122, looking south.

Fig. 41. Area A, Pit Grave 124, fill of stones and earth sealing the burial pit, looking west.

Fig. 42. Area A, Pit Grave 188, fill of stones and earth sealing the burial pit, looking east.

earth and stones (Figs. 40–42). However, burials differed in their depth, size and states of preservation. The graves ranged from 1.4 m to 1.7 m in length, and 0.8 m to 1.4 m in width, perhaps indicating that some of the burials were intended for children rather than adults.

Fig. 43. Area A, Pit Grave 112, single, primary burial, looking east.

Only one of the graves (L112; Fig. 43; Plan 1: Section 3–3) contained an intact skeleton in extended, supine position. This was the best preserved of all the burials and was cut into the eastern side of the collapsed karstic cave structure that had previously been used in the Chalcolithic period (Figs. 44, 45; see Barzilay, this volume). The dimensions of the grave were 1.8 × 0.8 m and it was cut down to a depth of about 1.5 m (Fig. 46). The partition on the western side of this rock-hewn grave—which would have been intended to divide the burial off from the rest of the cave—was missing and appears to have collapsed during the construction of the burial pit. A layer of stones, each measuring between 20 and 30 cm, was found at the bottom of the burial pit and its removal exposed a small niche on the eastern side of the grave, in which the skeleton was laid with the skull toward the south (Fig. 43). No burial offerings were found with the human remains.

An interesting feature of the cave was a stone construction at its northern end (L113; Figs. 44, 45; see Plan 1). During excavation, this was thought to be a possible partition

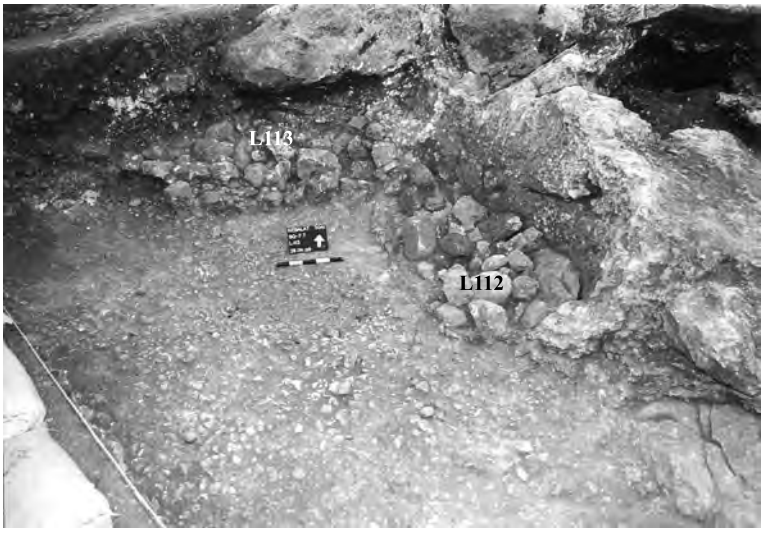


Fig. 44. Area A, Pit Grave 112; in foreground, gravelly fill of the large natural shaft (L110 and L117), looking north.

Fig. 45. Area A, Pit Grave 112; stones at the bottom of the partly collapsed burial shaft, sealing the burial, looking northeast.

within the cave, perhaps leading to another burial. As it turned out, the original makers of the grave seem to have seen the need to stabilize the wall of the cave and thus constructed what appears to have been a support wall here.

A common feature of all the interments was the absence of associated burial offerings—or even datable artifacts in the grave fills—that may have helped date them. The only find

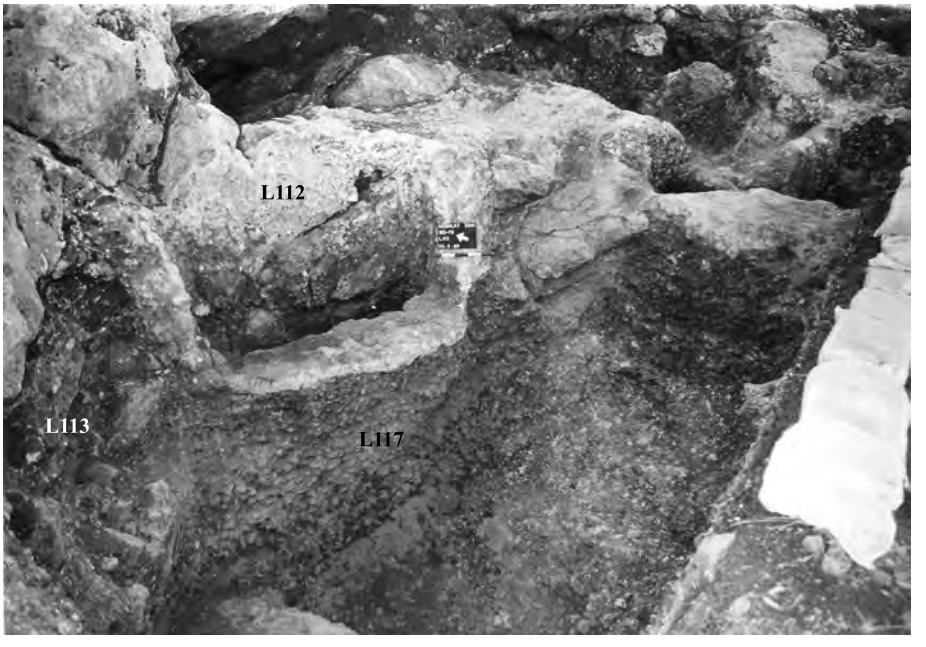


Fig. 46. Area A, Pit Grave 112 after excavation; in foreground, the exposed bottom of the large natural shaft (L110 and 117), looking northeast.

was a single intrusive Chalcolithic bowl sherd, which became mixed with the grave fill due to the close proximity of Chalcolithic contexts. Some Byzantine sherds (Fig. 71:8) and a few coins (see Bijovsky, below: Cat. Nos. 1, 2, 4) were recovered from the surface layers of the various excavation squares. However, there is no definite means of dating the burials.

Two Limekilns (Fig. 1:16a, 16b).— The best preserved kiln was built at the eastern edge of the terrace (L126; Fig. 47; see Plan 1). The observable remains consist of the firing chamber (diam. 3 m) carved into bedrock (Plan 1: Sections 10–10, 11–11). The eastern side of the kiln was hewn from bedrock and it was possible to discern the beginnings of its domed roof at a height of 4.5–5.0 m above the base of the firing chamber. Other remains included a lining of large fieldstones. The fill inside the installation consisted of a layer of ash (c. 40 cm thick), above which was a thin layer of lime plaster. The superstructure seemed to have caved in; many stones, some measuring up to 40–50 cm, were found above these layers, reaching up to the opening of the pit. The air and fuel inlet for the kiln was not found in its entirety; however, remains of a carved channel toward the south indicate its position. No ceramic finds were found securely associated with the kiln. The raw material used to produce the lime was drawn from the stones around the site, including the Chalcolithic building stones and the stones from Limekiln 125, which was found disassembled.

Fig. 47. Area A, top view of Byzantine Limekiln 126 interior, looking west.

Limekiln 125 was situated just southwest of Limekiln 126 (see Plan 1). All that remains of this installation is the bottom of the firing chamber (Plan 1: Section 9–9). The kiln was constructed utilizing the contours of the rock shelter (previously in use during the Chalcolithic and EB I periods). However, the bedrock was not continuous, necessitating the construction of parts of the upright superstructure (Fig. 12). It appears that this kiln was smaller than Limekiln 126, having a diameter of about 2.5 m. The firing chamber was carved into bedrock and the remains found within included medium-sized stones with lime plaster remains between them. There were traces of burned material in the earth around the edges of the pit. No air inlet or datable ceramic material was found directly associated with Limekiln 125, but it appears to have been in use prior to Limekiln 126, as it was found disassembled, most likely the result of the building of Limekiln 126.

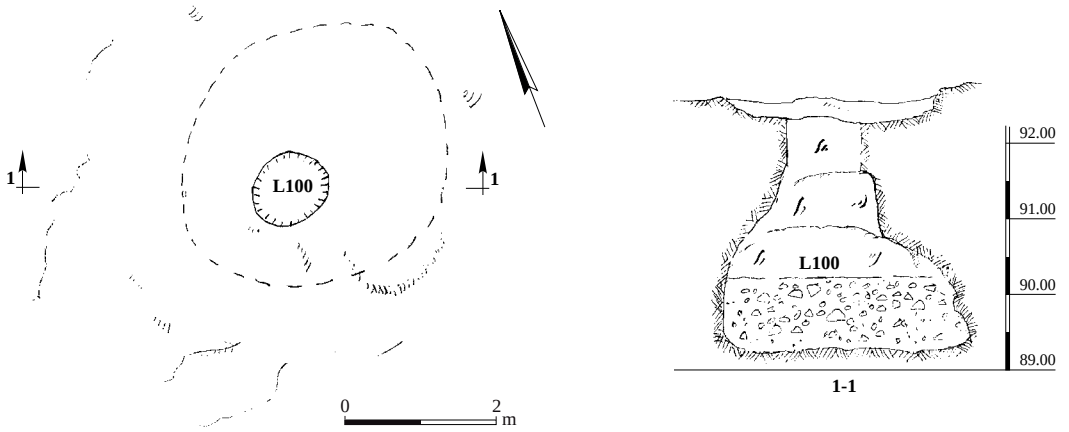
AREA B

Winepress (Fig. 1:4) *and Storage Cave* (Fig. 1:3).— Byzantine-period agricultural activity is evident around the Area B cave (see above, for the Chalcolithic and EB I remains in this cave). A simple winepress installation was found a short distance northeast of the cave (L302, L303; Fig. 48; Plan 6), comprising a rectangular treading floor and a collecting vat carved into the rock surface (see Plan 6: Section 3–3). A depression in the treading floor was repaired using lime plaster, in order to maintain a flat surface. A channel was used to direct the flow of liquids eastward to the collecting vat, which also featured a carved, rounded step and a cupmark, facilitating access to the vat and its contents.

Once collected, the liquids were most probably stored in the nearby cave. A series of steps carved into the rock of the hillside lead from the winepress installation up to the opening in the ceiling of the cave (Fig. 48). About 1.2 m below this opening a 5 × 4 m area in the eastern part of the cave was leveled and roughly paved (L308; Fig. 49; Plan 6); Byzantine

Fig. 48. Area B, rock-hewn winepress installation (L602) immediately east of the karstic cave, including a treading floor and a collecting vat, looking northeast; note series of rock-cut steps leading from the winepress up to the roof of the karstic cave.

Fig. 49. Area B, Byzantine stone paving (L308) inside the eastern part of the karstic cave, looking northeast.



Plan 9. Area B, cistern, plan and section.

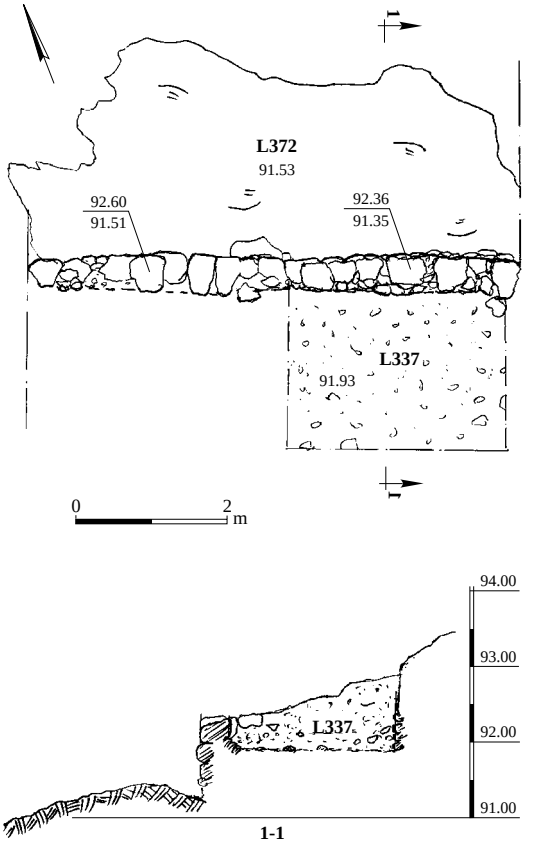
sherds were found within the paving, indicating a date for this feature, and most likely for the winepress as well. The only possible access to the paved area during this period was the roof opening (Fig. 29), as the southeastern opening is too low. It is apparent that the Byzantine users of the cave did not bother to empty the cave of its earlier accumulation, although there is evidence of some attempt to dig pits in the middle and the western side of the cave, from the level of the paved area down to the cave floor.

Cistern(?) (Fig. 1:1).— A roughly hewn underground chamber (diam. 3–4 m) with a 1 m diameter opening (Plan 9) is similar in form to a water cistern, but the inner surfaces of the installation are not lined with plaster. During excavation, a fault or crack was observed in the rock on one side of the chamber and it is suggested that perhaps the construction of the cistern was interrupted upon realization that the chamber could not serve for water storage. As mentioned, the chamber is very roughly hewn and irregular in shape, and the fill included small stones and pottery sherds dating to the Byzantine period.

Terrace (Fig. 1:7).— A single stone-built terrace wall was found on the hillside (Fig. 50; Plan 10) at an elevation of 92.60 m asl. It continued for a number of kilometers. This terrace wall was constructed of fieldstones to a height of 1.2 m, facing the wadi, and supported a fill of small stones and ceramics dating to the Byzantine period. This feature is likely to have been a path or roadway running along the valley.

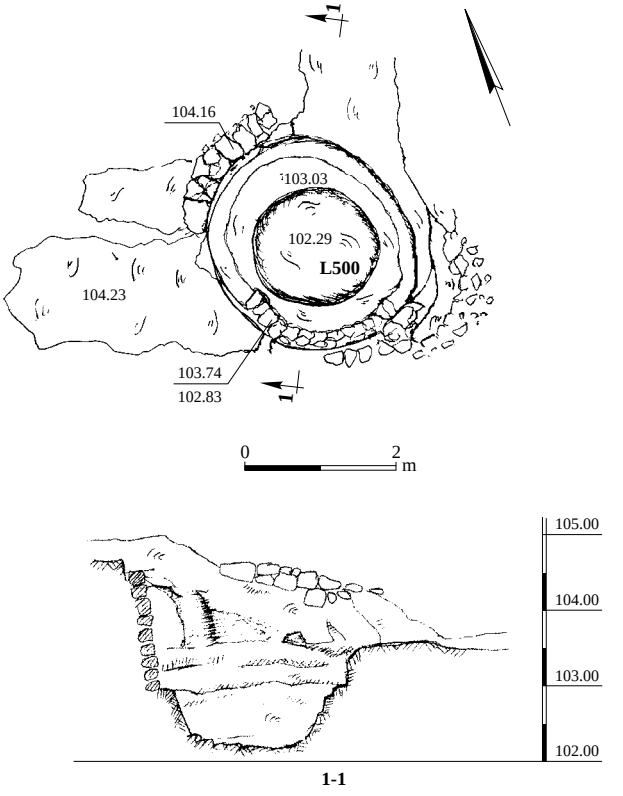
Limekiln (Fig. 1:5).— The remains of a limekiln (diam. 3 m) were found to the south of Area B (Fig. 51; Plan 11); its firing chamber was preserved to a depth of about 2 m. Most of the installation is carved into bedrock and only a section on the western side was constructed and lined with medium-sized stones. The fill of the kiln included small stones and a pale-colored earth, with large amounts of ash beneath. The firing chamber was poorly preserved. The ceramic finds from the kiln fill date to the Byzantine period.

Fig. 50. Area B, terrace wall (L700), looking southwest.



Plan 10. Area B, terrace wall, plan and section.

Fig. 51. Area B, limekiln (L500), looking west.



Plan 11. Area B, limekiln, plan and section.

THE POTTERY FINDS

CHALCOLITHIC PERIOD

Area A

Given the homogeneity of the Chalcolithic ceramic assemblage throughout the entire occupation sequence in Area A (both Phases 1 and 2), as well as the dearth of *in situ* finds, this discussion will focus on four groups of loci.

No *in situ* ceramic material was encountered on floors or pavements associated with the Phase 2 occupation (e.g., Loci 133, 149 and 166). This is due to the fact that the Phase 2 layers are near or at the present surface level, and as such, were affected by natural surface deflation, as well as by later industrial activities, such as limekilns. All of the ceramic finds deriving from loci other than fills (e.g., floors, pavements) are associated with the Phase 1 occupation on or near natural bedrock, in particular a pavement and living surface (L167; Figs. 52–55) and a pit containing a pottery cache (L169; Figs. 64–66). In addition, a Phase 1 shaft fill (L117)—some 10 m away from Loci 167 and 169—which had been sealed by the subsequent collapse of the karstic cave, has been singled out for presentation (Figs. 56–58). In order to maintain a representative sample of the site's ceramic repertoire as a whole, a fourth group has been included in this discussion (Figs. 59–63). This comprises pottery finds from various loci in Phase 2: L110 (the top fill of the collapsed cave, above L117), L120 (the fill of a smaller sinkhole, L108, in the collapsed cave) and L133, L149 and L166 (various pavements associated with the broadroom building), as well as Phase 1 fills and minor loci—in particular L179, the fill of a pit below the Phase 2 broadroom building.

No significant differences were noted between the Chalcolithic ceramic assemblages deriving from fills associated with Phase 2 and those from fills and floors associated with Phase 1 occupations, with the possible exception of the L169 pottery cache (see below). Therefore, the material from L167, L117 and the assorted loci will be presented together typologically, whereas L169 will be treated separately. It should furthermore be noted that most retrieved pottery sherds are covered with a calcareous patina, which in most cases made it impossible to make out the original surface treatment details, in particular the application of red paint.

Pottery from L167, L117 and Other Selected Loci (Figs. 52–63)

Bowls.— These small wheel-shaped bowls have plain rims and straight walls (so-called V-shaped bowls; Figs. 52:1–3; 59:4, 5; they are absent from L117). The negative imprints of the turning device which supported the small bowls—discussed and illustrated by Commenge-Pellerin (1990:12, *butée circulaire* and Pl. II)—are visible on the bottom of some of the small bowl bases deriving from Area B (e.g., Fig. 68:1, 2). String-cut base marks could not be observed; for the *chaîn opératoire* of such bowls, see Roux, van den Brink and Shalev 2013:72–73.

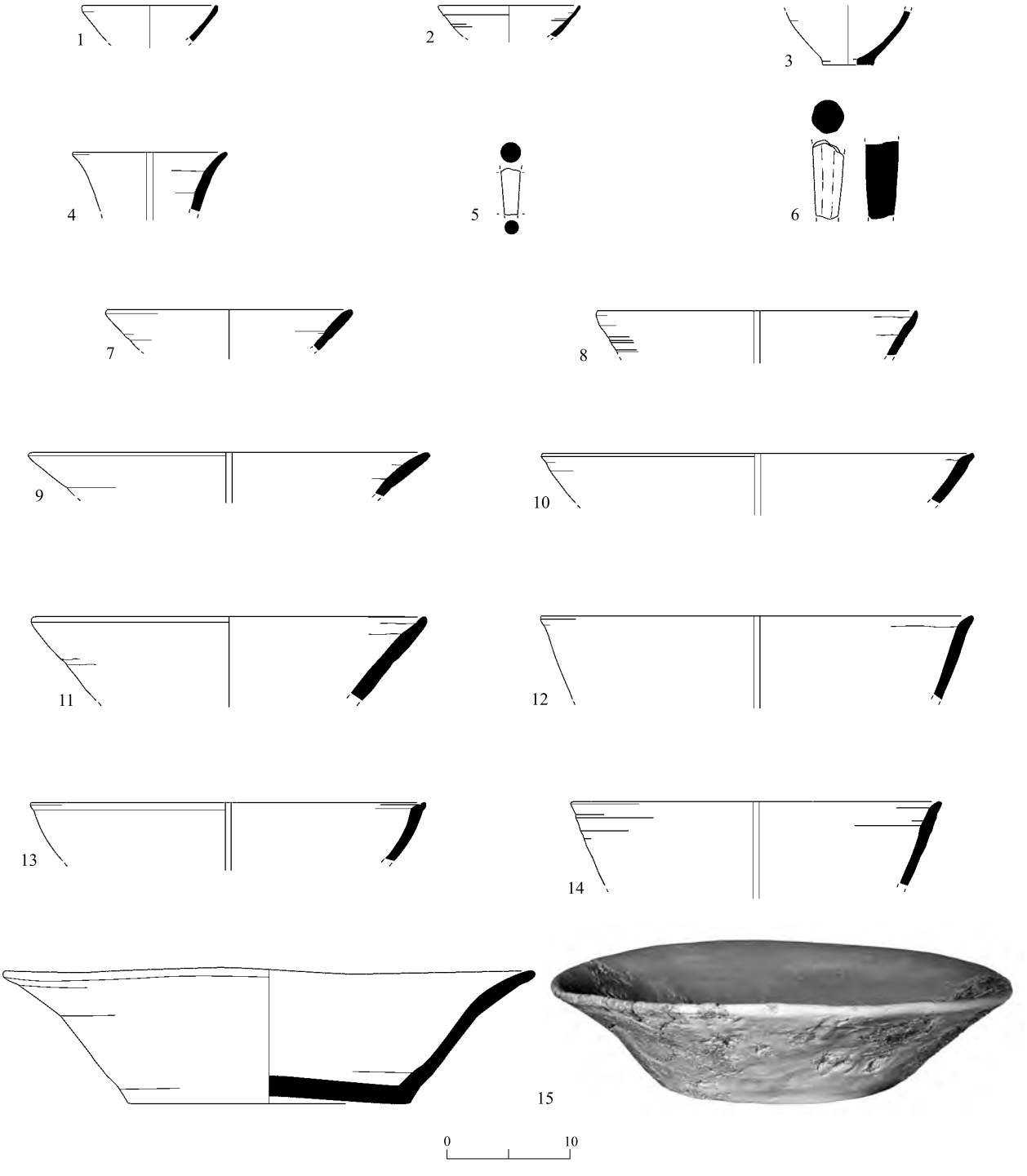


Fig. 52. Area A, Chalcolithic Phase 1 pottery finds from L167 (1–14) and L157 (15).

◂ Fig. 52

No.	Vessel	Basket
1	Bowl	4272/1
2	Bowl	4272/2
3	Bowl	4299
4	Cornet	4286/1
5	Cornet	4279/1
6	Cornet	4303
7	Bowl	4271/1
8	Bowl	4286/2

No.	Vessel	Basket
9	Bowl	4276
10	Bowl	4271/2
11	Bowl	4279/4
12	Bowl	4271/3
13	Bowl	4279/2
14	Bowl	4279/3
15	Bowl	

Fig. 53 ▸

No.	Vessel	Basket	Description
1	Basin	4272/3	Many black and some white grits
2	Bowl[i]	4279/4	
3	Holemouth jar	4272/4	
4	Holemouth jar	4310/1	Two drill holes applied after firing
5	Holemouth cooking pot	4272/5	Soot on ext.
6	Holemouth jar	4286/3	Rim slightly pinched
7	Holemouth jar	4310/2	
8	Holemouth cooking pot	4310/3	Soot on ext.
9	Basket handle	4310/4	cf. Goren and Faber 2002:24–25, Fig. 4.2:2, 4, 5

[i] For petrographic analysis, see Cohen-Weinberger, this volume.

Also among the bowls are medium-to-large and very large wheel-finished types with plain rims and straight or slightly convex walls (Figs. 52:7–15; 56:1, 2, 5; 59:1–3, 9–12). In only two cases could the application of red-painted bands be ascertained (Fig. 59:2, 3; for a continuous, pre-firing incised decoration on the interior rims of two bowls, see below, L169). Tool/production marks (see Commenge-Pellerin 1990:12 and Pl. II) are visible on the bottom of several bowl bases (Fig. 55:5). One base reveals where the first coil was attached to the base of the vessel (Fig. 61:11; see also Commenge-Pellerin 1990: Pl. V, 2, *base raclée au couteau*).

Large bowls with straight walls and thumb-impressed rims were recovered (Fig. 56:3, 4), as well as large deep bowls or basins with and without exterior decoration (Figs. 53:1, 2; 57:1; 59:13, 14; 60:1–4).

A single bowl rim sherd with an internal ledge handle was recovered (Fig. 59:11).

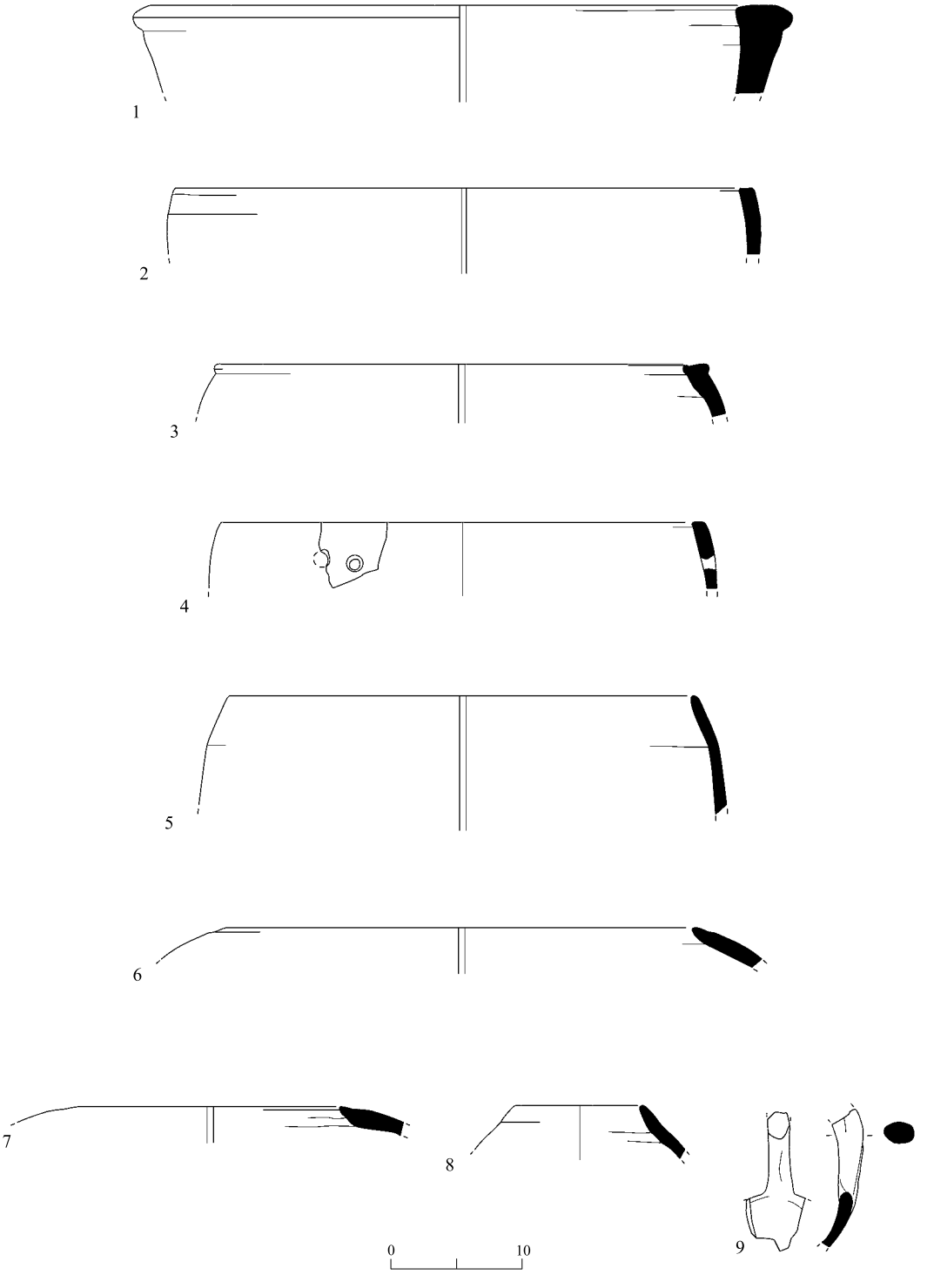


Fig. 53. Area A, Chalcolithic Phase 1 pottery finds from L167.

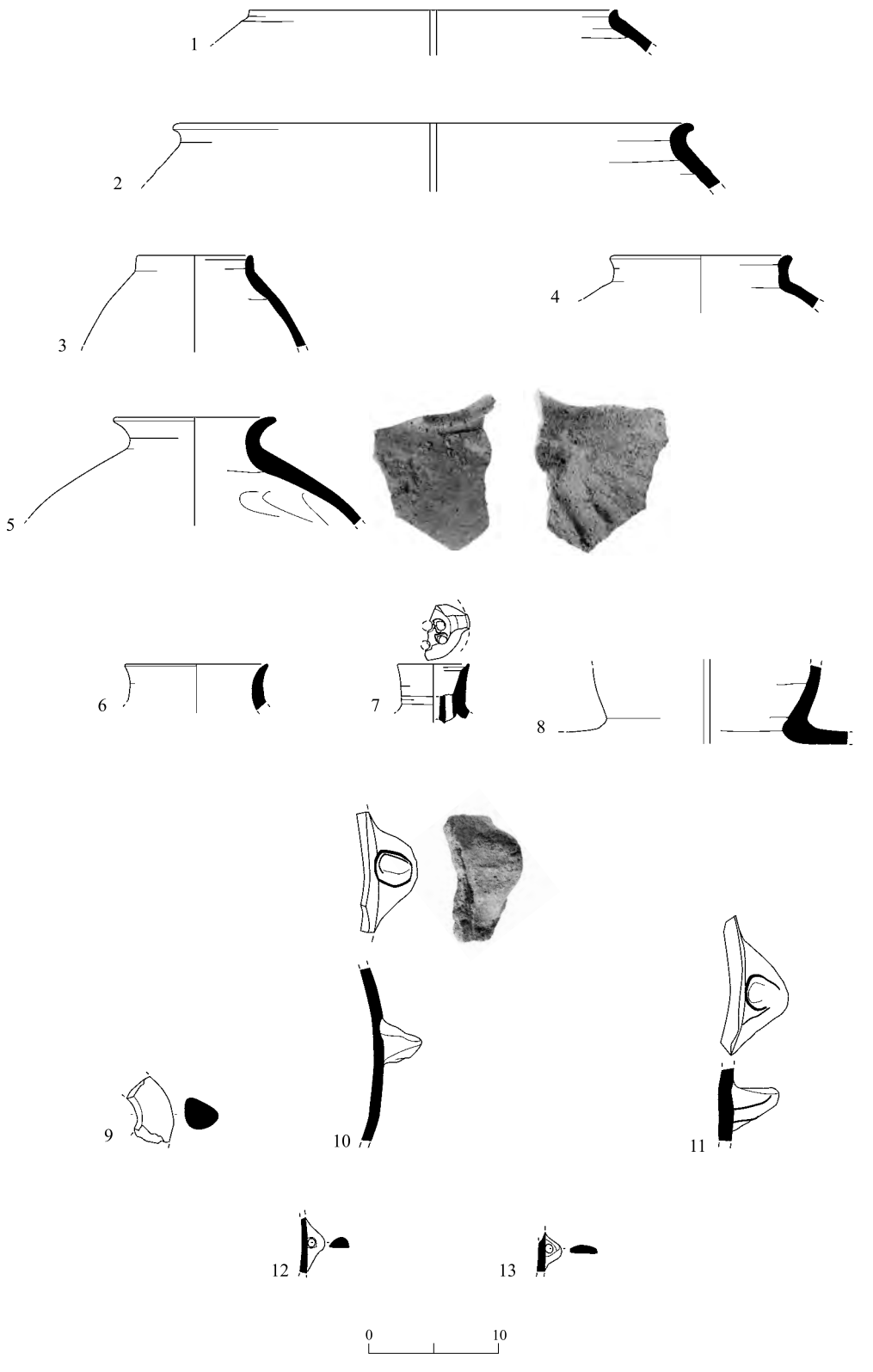


Fig. 54. Area A, Chalcolithic Phase 1 pottery finds from L167 (cont.).

◂ **Fig. 54**

No.	Vessel	Basket	Description
1	Jar	4276/1	
2	Jar	4272/6	
3	Jar		
4	Jar	4282	
5	Jar	4271/4	Fingermarks visible on int.
6	Jar	4271/5	
7	Jar/churn	4276/2	Incorporates strainer
8	Churn(?)	4271/6	Neck fragment
9	Churn	4303/1	Handle fragment
10	Jar	4313/2	Ledge handle, thumb/finger pinched (not perforated)
11	Jar	4313/1	Ledge handle, thumb-impressed (not perforated); handle attachment to wall of jar visible in photo
12	Jar	4303/2	Lug handle, horizontally pierced
13	Jar	4299	Lug handle, horizontally pierced

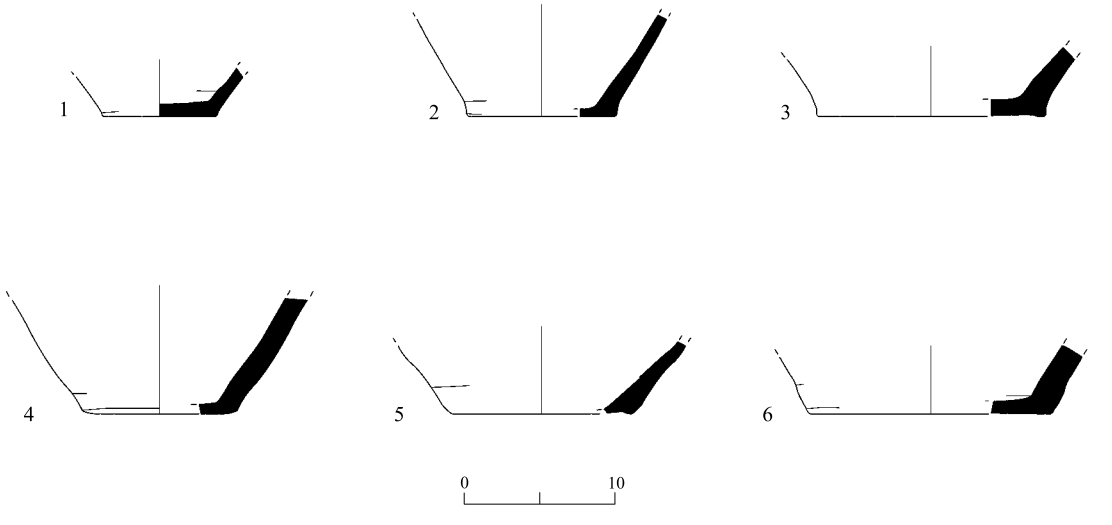


Fig. 55. Area A, Chalcolithic Phase 1 pottery finds from L167 (cont.).

No.	Vessel	Basket	Description
1	Jar	4278	
2	Jar/bowl	4271/6	
3	Jar/bowl	4313/3	Many black grits
4	Jar	4272/7	
5	Bowl	4271/6	Tool marks visible on base
6	Jar/bowl	4313/4	

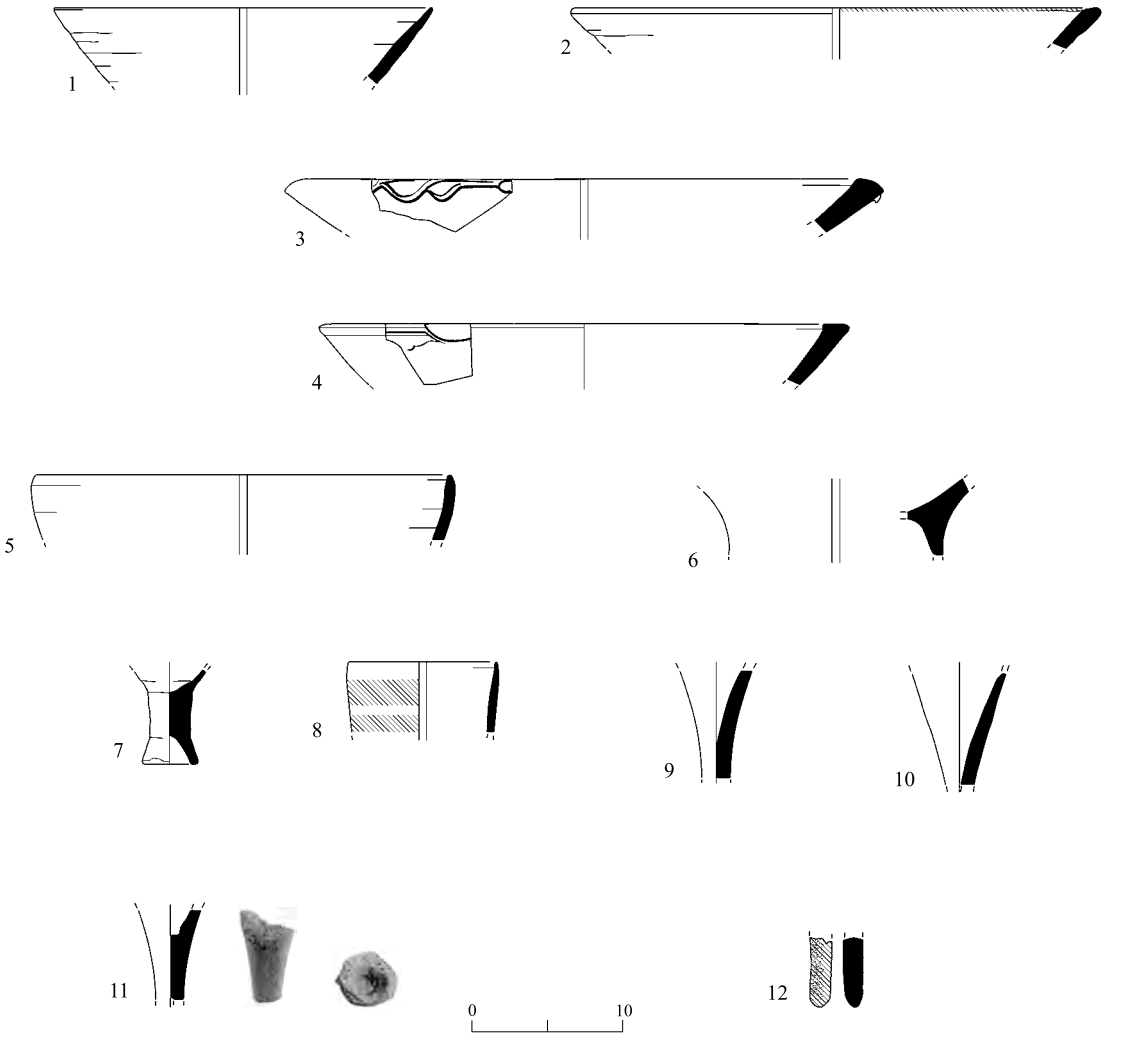


Fig. 56. Area A, Chalcolithic Phase 1 pottery finds from Fill 117.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Description
1	Bowl	4067/1	
2	Bowl	4068/1	Red-painted rim
3	Bowl	4058/1	Lip of rim finger-impressed
4	Bowl	4071/1	Lip of rim finger-impressed
5	Hemispherical bowl	4057/1	Traces of red paint below ext. rim
6	Pedestalled, fenestrated bowl	4078/1	Coarse fabric, many black grits
7	Goblet	4058/2	
8	Cornet[i]	4057/2	Red-painted ext.
9	Cornet[i]	4070/1	
10	Cornet	4078/2	
11	Cornet[i]	4070/2	Tool mark
12	Cornet	4078/3	Red-painted ext.

[i] For petrographic analysis, see Cohen-Weinberger, this volume.

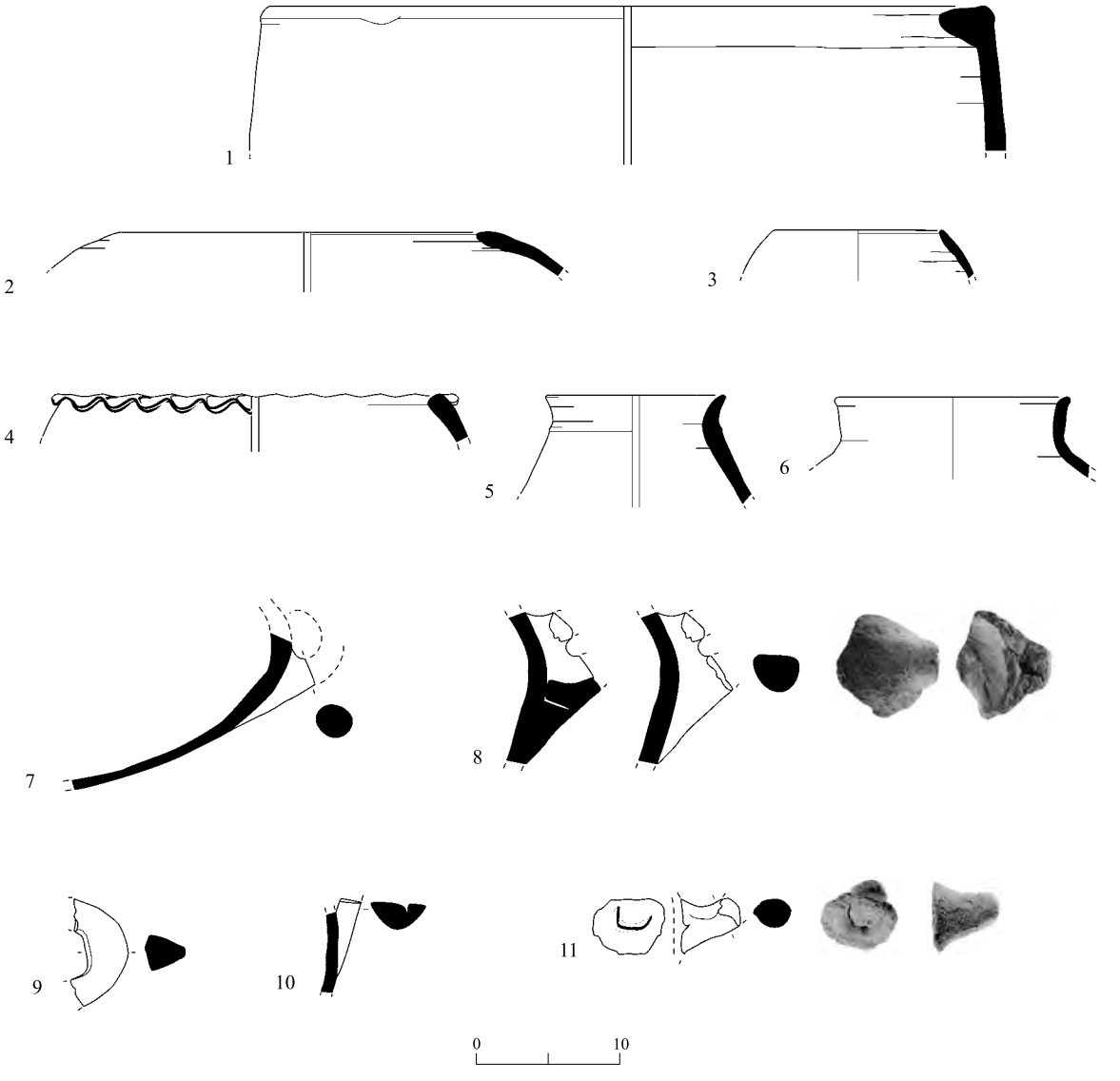


Fig. 57. Area A, Chalcolithic Phase 1 pottery finds from Fill 117 (cont.).

No.	Vessel	Basket	Description
1	Basin	4068/2	Many black and some white grits
2	Holemouth jar	4058/3	
3	Holemouth jar	4075	
4	Holemouth jar	4076/1	Faint traces of red paint on thumb-impressed rim ext.
5	Jar	4076/2	Coarse fabric; black-gray core
6	Jar	4055	
7	Churn	4078/4	
8	Churn	4067/2	Handle; note inset
9	Churn	4076/3	Handle
10	Churn	4076/4	Handle
11	Churn	4058/4	Handle; note inset

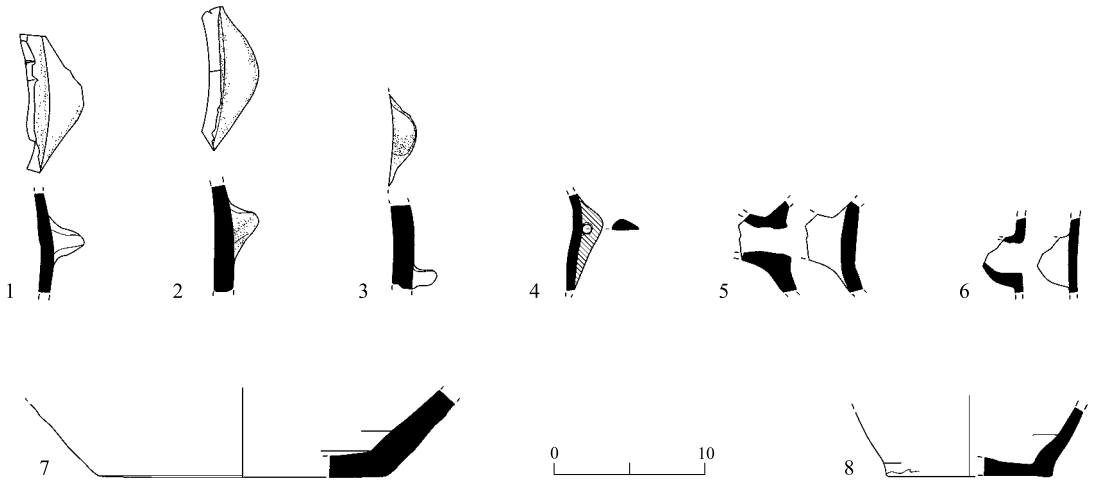


Fig. 58. Area A, Chalcolithic Phase 1 pottery finds from Fill 117 (cont.).

No.	Vessel	Basket	Description
1	Jar/krater	4057/3	Many black and white grits
2	Jar/krater	4060	
3	Small jar	4079	Small, thumb-impressed ledge handle; many black and white grits
4	Jar	4071/2	Red-painted
5	Spouted krater	4071/3	Fragment of spout
6	Spouted krater	4057/4	Fragment of spout
7	Jar/bowl	4070/3	
8	Jar	4067/5	

Fig. 59 ▸

No.	Vessel	Phase	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Bowl	1	4085/1	120	
2	Bowl		4246	158	Red-painted rim on int. and ext.
3	Slightly hemispherical bowl	2	4280	166	Red-painted band on ext.
4	Bowl	2	4120/1	133	
5	Bowl	2	4120/2	133	Many white grits
6	Pedestalled, fenestrated bowl	1	4262	157	
7	Pedestalled bowl	1	4326	181	
8	Pedestalled bowl	2	4016	107	
9	Bowl	1	4239	151	Many black and white grits
10	Bowl	1	4346	189	Coarse fabric; many black grits
11	Bowl[i]	1	4082/1	120	Internal ledge handle
12	Bowl	1	4052	110	Many black and white grits
13	Bowl	1	4036	110	Lip of rim thumb-impressed; many black and fewer white grits
14	Basin	2	4273	166	Coarse fabric; not well-fired

[i] For petrographic analysis, see Cohen-Weinberger, this volume.

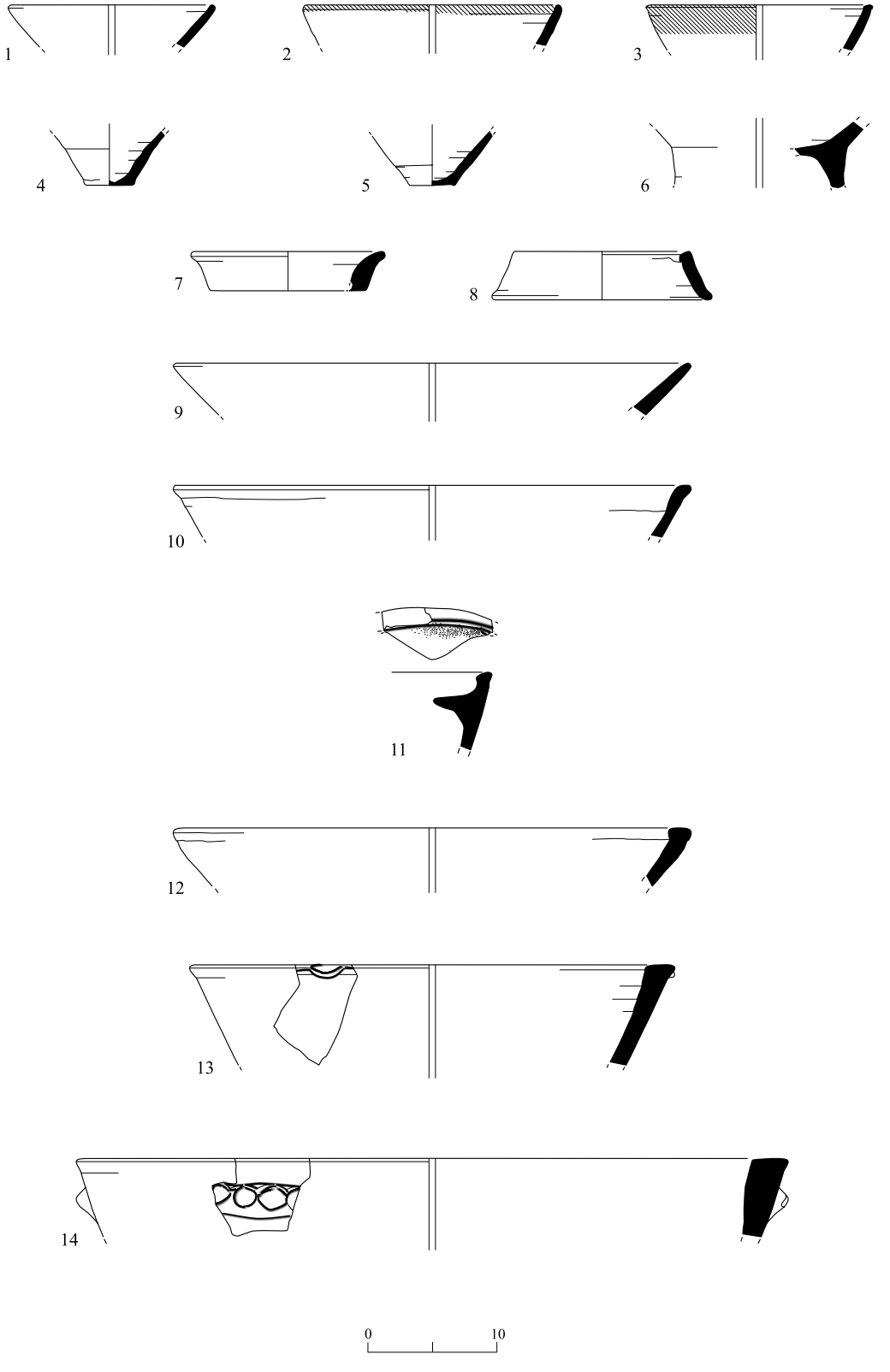


Fig. 59. Area A, Chalcolithic Phases 1 and 2 pottery finds from various loci.

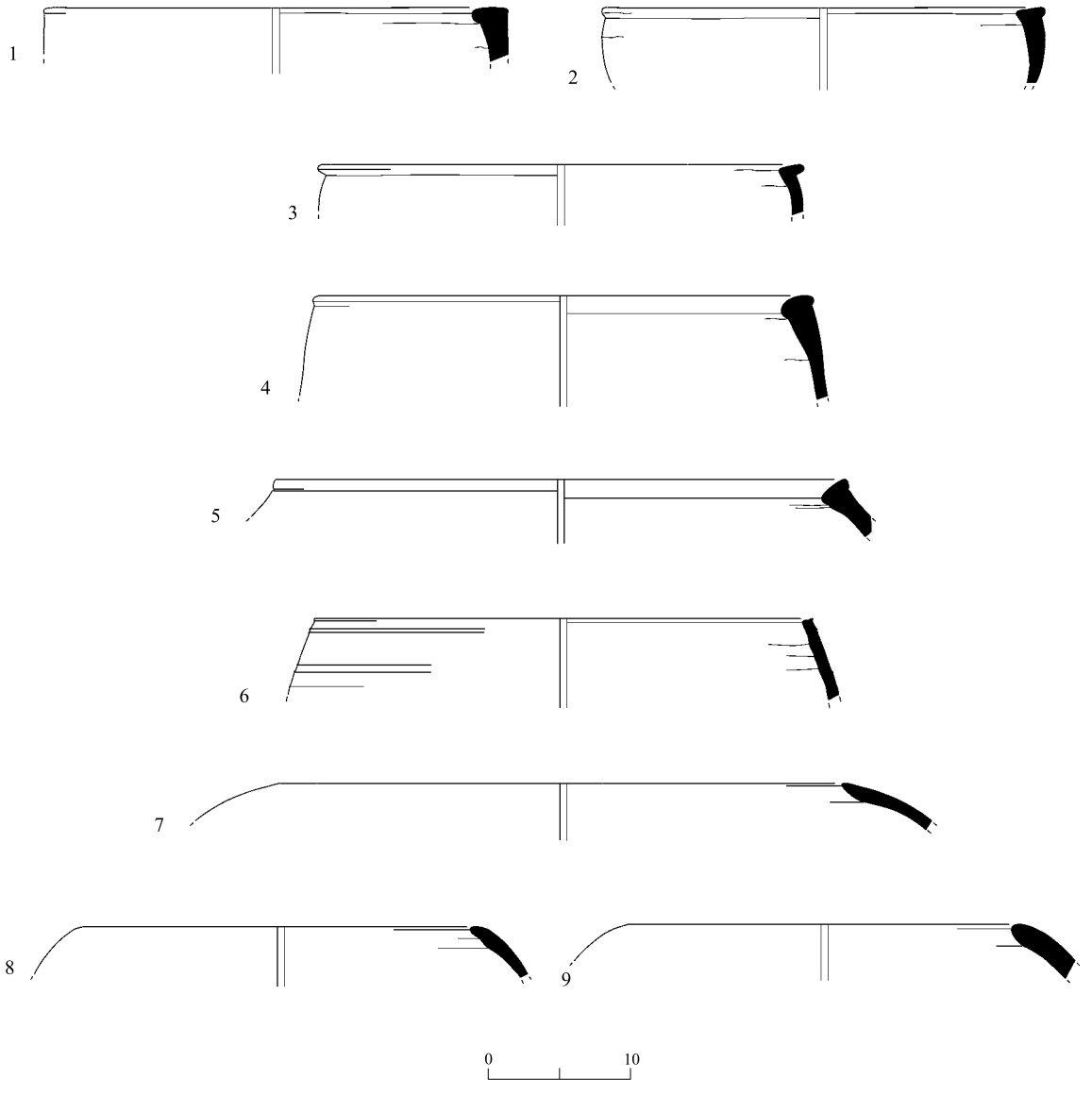


Fig. 60. Area A, Chalcolithic Phases 1 and 2 pottery finds from various loci (cont.).

No.	Vessel	Phase	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Bowl	1	4123	130	Many black and white grits
2	Bowl	1	4108	130	Many black grits
3	Bowl	1	4082/2	120	
4	Bowl	1	4338	179	
5	Holemouth bowl	1	4361	179	Many black and white grits
6	Holemouth jar	1	4095	120	Slightly guttered rim; traces of combing on ext.
7	Holemouth jar	1	4039/1	110	Many black and white grits
8	Holemouth cooking pot	1	4345/1	179	Soot on int. and ext.
9	Holemouth jar	2	4227	149	Many white and fewer black grits

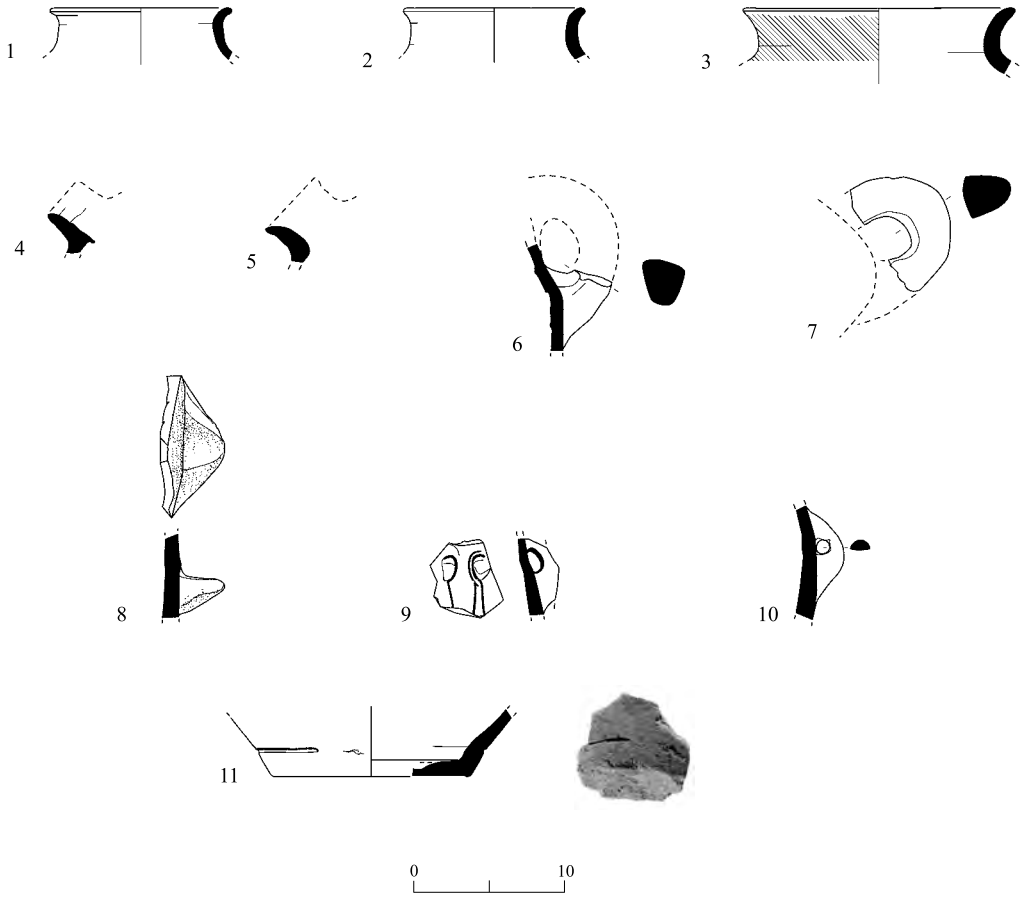


Fig. 61. Area A, Chalcolithic Phases 1 and 2 pottery finds from various loci (cont.).

No.	Vessel	Phase	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Jar	1	4251	157	
2	Jar	1	4085/2	120	
3	Jar	1	4345/2	179	Red-painted rim ext.
4	Cooking pot	1	4267	157	Soot on int. and ext.
5	Jar	2	4623	106	
6	Churn	1	4039/2	110	
7	Churn	1	4015/1	105	
8	Plain ledge handle	1	4239	157	Thumb-impressed
9	Small lug handle	2	4108	136	Pinched (not pierced)
10	Small lug handle	1	4015/2	105	Horizontally pierced
11	Jar	1	4337	179	

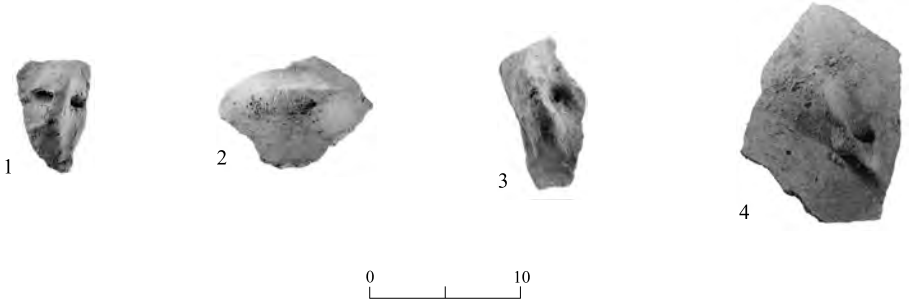


Fig. 62. Area A, Chalcolithic Phase 1: handles from various loci.

No.	Handle Type	Phase	Basket	Locus
1	Small lug handle	1	4015	105
2	Plain ledge handle	1	4060	117
3	Thumb-impressed ledge handle			
4	Thumb-impressed ledge handle			

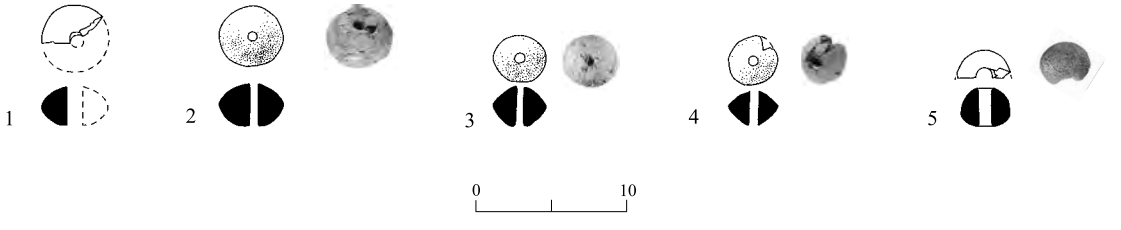


Fig. 63. Area A, Chalcolithic Phase 1 loomweights from various loci.

No.	Basket	Locus
1	4031	110
2	4096	127
3	4106	127
4	4319	177
5	4104	127

Pedestalled Vessels.— Fragments from several pedestalled, fenestrated bowls were found (Figs. 56:6; 59:6–8; for two complete specimens, see below, L169, Fig. 66:4, 5). Also to be included in this group is a goblet base (Fig. 56:7).

Jars.— Fragments of several short-necked jars were retrieved (Figs. 54:1–6; 57:5, 6; 61:1–3). One of these exhibits finger/production marks on its interior (Fig. 54:5). A single sherd was recovered from a small short-necked jar (or small churn?) with strainer (Fig. 54:7).

Also identified were holemouth cooking pots and jars with plain or decorated (combed or thumb-indented) rims (Figs. 53:3–8; 57:2–4; 60:5–9). For the regional (Shephalite) and chronological (LC1–2) significance of combing as an external surface treatment of Late Chalcolithic pottery vessels, see Commenge 2005:55; van den Brink 2013:55.

The dominant handle type in the pottery from these loci belongs to large jars. These handles are triangular in profile and cross-section, and were modified by pinching or perforation, or were left plain (not illustrated; Commenge-Pellerin 1987:46, *anse oreilletes*).

Churns.— These vessels are large (Figs. 54:8, 9; 57:7–11; 61:6, 7). Several cases demonstrate how some of the loop-handles were attached (Fig. 57:8, 11; see also Commenge-Pellerin 1990:8, *anse annulaire* [*ogive* and *talon*]).

Cornets.— Plain (Figs. 52:4–6; 56:9–11) and red-painted (Fig. 56:8, 12) cornets were found. Marks of scraping, possibly tool/production marks (not reported by Commenge-Pellerin 1990), are visible on the bases of cornets (e.g., Fig. 52:6), and in one of the medial segments (Fig. 56:11).

Handles.— Several handle types were recovered; it is unclear what vessels they belong to. The first type are plain and red-painted perforated lug handles, mainly small; large examples are much less common. These are triangular in profile and cross-section, and are either left plain, pinched or perforated (Figs. 54:12, 13; 58:4; 61:9, 10; 62:1). Another set are plain ledge handles (Fig. 62:2), frequently thumb-impressed from unilaterally pinched (Figs. 54:10, 11; 58:1–3; 61:8; 62:3, 4); for an example showing attachment of this handle type to a vessel's wall, see Fig. 54:10. A third handle type is a plain ledge handle attached to the vessel interior (single occurrence; Fig. 59:11). A rim fragment with a basket handle (Fig. 53:9) was recovered as well.

Loomweights.— A few ceramic loomweights were retrieved from Phase 1 (Fig. 63).

The total numbers and details of diagnostic sherds from all Chalcolithic loci in Area A—including L117, L167 and other selected loci of the group described above—are presented in Table 3. It is worth noting that no fenestrated bowls were found in L167, and that 15 of the 41 basin rims from L117 bear finger-impressed decoration, while small bowls were absent in this locus.

Pottery Cache from L169 (Figs. 64–66)

The cache contained 16 complete vessels: 13 medium-sized bowls (Figs. 64–66:1, 2), two pedestalled bowls (Fig. 66:4, 5) and a small jar (Fig. 66:6). As mentioned above, some of the bowls were found stacked inside one another (e.g., Reg. Nos. 169/5a, b, c and 169/9, 10, 11—Figs. 64; 65:2, 5; 66:3, and Reg. Nos. 169/10 and 169/11—Fig. 65:7), and others had originally been placed inside the two pedestalled bowls (Fig. 66:4, 5; Plan 2:2, 3). The

Table 3. Count of All Diagnostic Sherds Deriving from Area A, L100–190, Excluding L117, 167 and 169[i]

Type	L117	L167	Selected Loci	Total
Small bowl rims		10	37	47
Small bowl bases		8	16	24
Medium/large bowl rims	35	80	160	275
Cornet rims	8			8
Cornet bases	19 (MNI 10)	5	28	52
Goblet base	1			1
Pedestalled, fenestrated bowls	1		15	16
Basin rims	41[ii]	6	122	169
Holemouth jar rims	15	15	62	92
Necked jar rims	35	26	85	146
Small necked jar with strainer		1		1
Large lug handles (triangular in profile and cross-section; plain, pinched or perforated)	4		120	124
Small, perforated lug handles	12		13	25
Loop handle fragments of large churns	82 (MNI 14)		31	113
Plain ledge handles (of kraters?)			9	9
Internal ledge handle			1	1
Basket handle		1		1
Spouts	2		2	4
Bases of medium/large bowls and jars	116	89	411	616

[i] The finds from Cach 169 are described separately below (see Figs. 64–66).
[ii] Fifteen of these bear thumb-impressed decoration.

Fig. 64. Area A, Chalcolithic Phase 1 pottery cache (L169), stacked bowls.

pedestalled bowls were placed deeper in the earth than the other bowls, so that the tops of all the vessels were level and none reached above the top of the pit. Traces of burnt material were discernable in both pedestalled bowls.

The majority of the bowls are medium and large V-shaped vessels (Fig. 65). They have tapering, straight or slightly incurved rims, flaring walls and flat bases. Five of the bowls

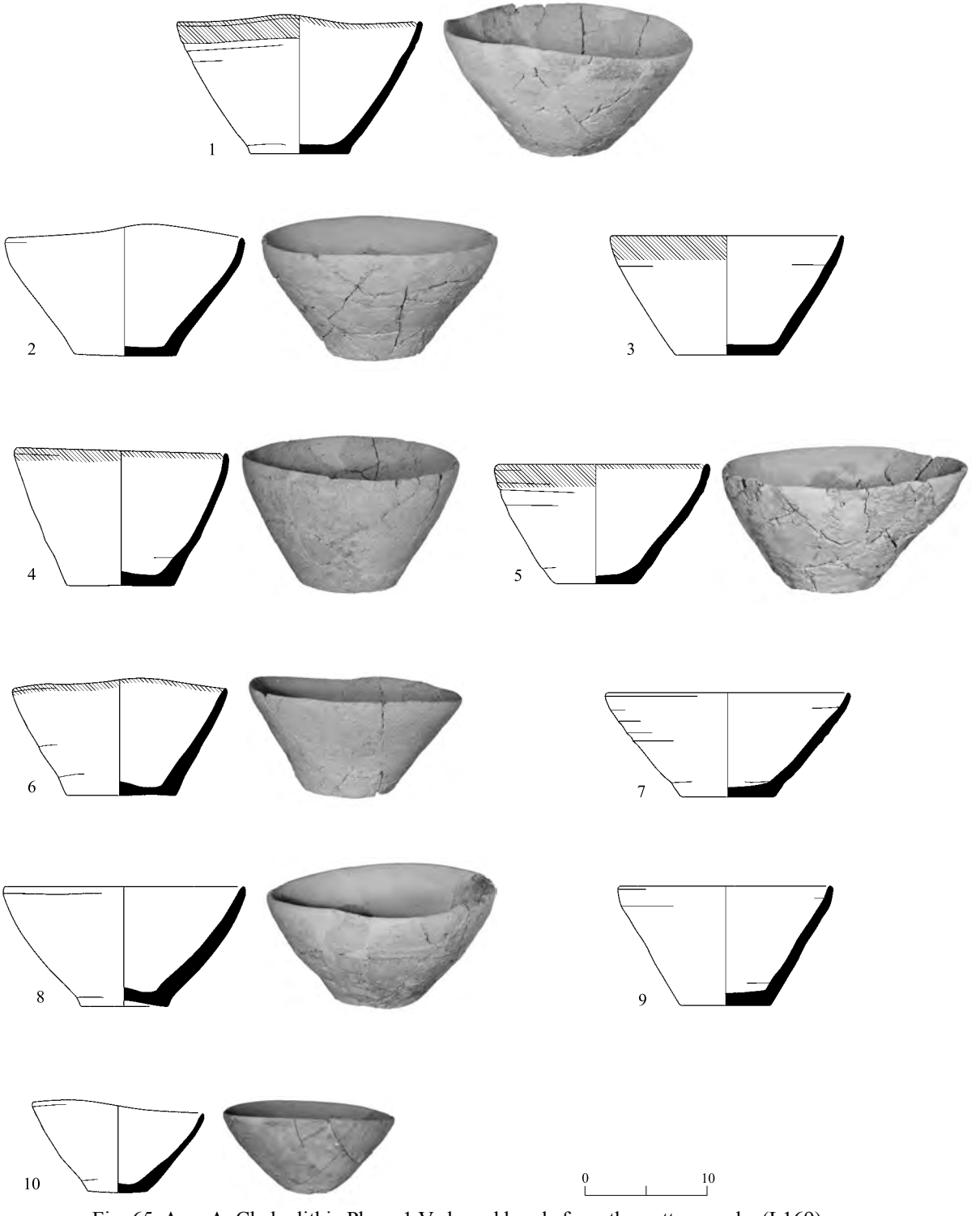


Fig. 65. Area A, Chalcolithic Phase 1 V-shaped bowls from the pottery cache (L169).

◂ **Fig. 65**

No.	Description	Basket No. (see Plan 2)
1	Red-painted rim	1
2		5b
3	Red-painted rim ext.	14
4	Red-painted rim	12
5	Red-painted rim	5c
6	Red-painted rim	13
7	Plain	9
8	Coarse fabric	11
9		10
10		8

feature red-painted decoration around the rim (Fig. 65:1, 3–6). Three flat-based lotus-shaped bowls have out-folded rims (Fig. 66:1–3). In addition to one pedestalled bowl (Fig. 66:5), all three flat-based specimens show pre-firing incised decoration on the rim interior. The hatched, curvilinear, continuous incised decoration on the rim interiors of two bowls (Fig. 66:1, 2) is paralleled by at least four fragmented incised bowl rims from Modi‘in (van den Brink, in press: Fig. 7.31:1–4) and also by two fragmented bowls from Bir Ṣafadi (Commenge-Pellerin 1990:130, Fig. 54:3 [*bassin à décor incisé*] and Pl. IX:4, 8). These clearly imitate similarly decorated Chalcolithic basalt bowls (e.g., Perrot 1972: Fig. 849; Chasan and Rosenberg 2017; Chasan, van den Brink and Rosenberg, in press; Commenge-Pellerin, in press). The only closed vessel in this assemblage—a small, red-painted jar—is particularly notable due to its elliptical-shaped mouth (Fig. 66:6). A similar, although not identical cache of open pottery bowls—also accompanied by a single jar (in this case a strainer jar)—was found in the Deep Deposits, Stratum 6 at Modi’in (van den Brink 2007a).

The L169 pottery cache as a whole is rather reminiscent of basalt caches discovered in the northern Negev (e.g., Abu Maṭar; Commenge-Pellerin, in press) and the central coastal plain (Giv‘at Oranim; Scheftelowitz and Oren 2004: Figs. 4.3:1–5; 4.7:2, 3). The appearance of clay imitations of basalt vessels may be the result of a lack of basalt resources in the vicinity of the present site. That said, basalt bowls—either pedestalled or with flat bases—were uncovered at the site in both Phases 1 and 2 (see below).

Discussion of the Chalcolithic Pottery Assemblages

As the reader may have noted above, in offering comparisons for the present assemblage we have mainly turned to Commenge-Pellerin’s 1987 and 1990 studies of the domestic assemblages uncovered at the archaeological sites of Abu Maṭar, Zumeili and Bir Ṣafadi, all three located in the Be’er-Sheva‘ vicinity. We did so because Commenge-Pellerin gave

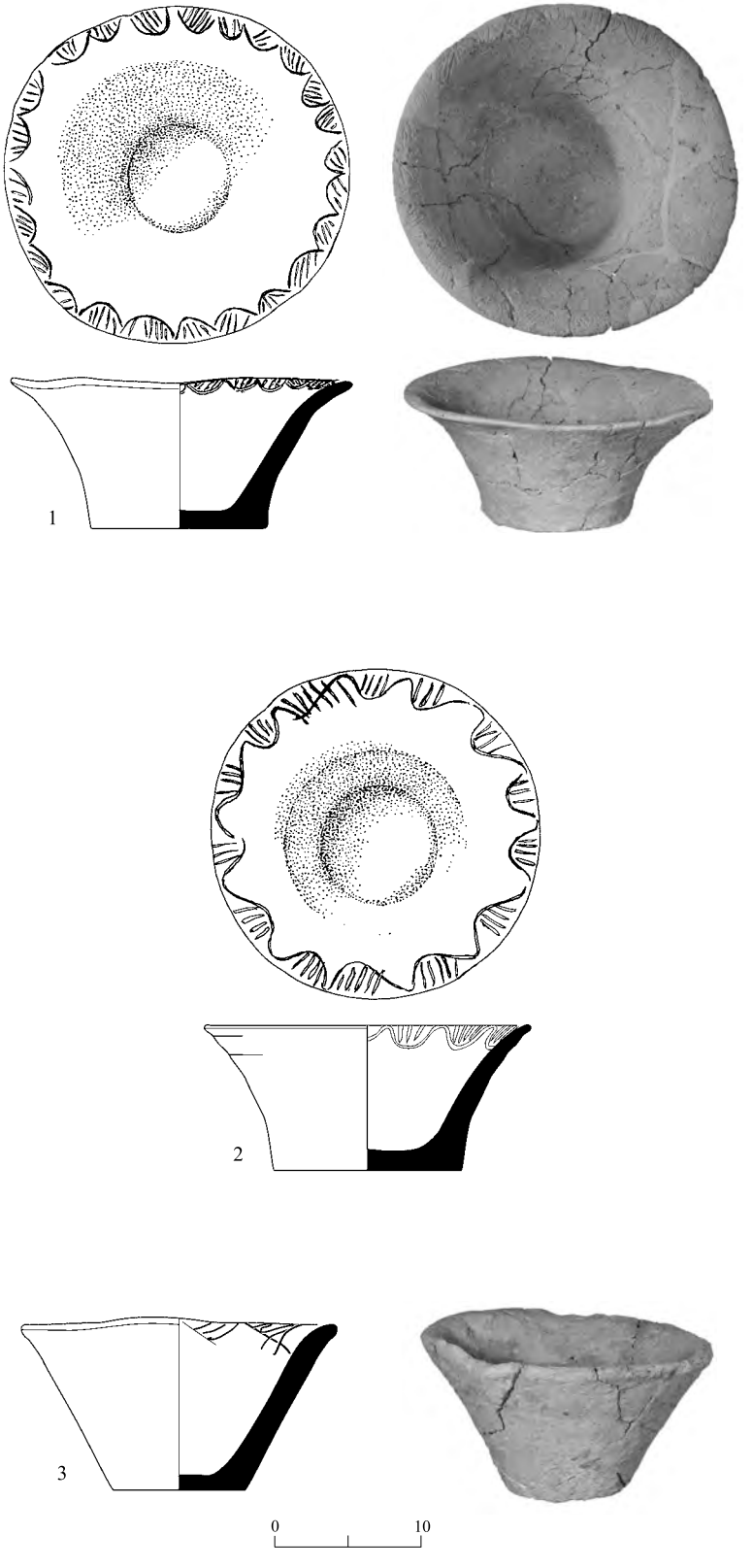


Fig. 66. Area A, Chalcolithic Phase 1 pottery cache (L169) (cont.).

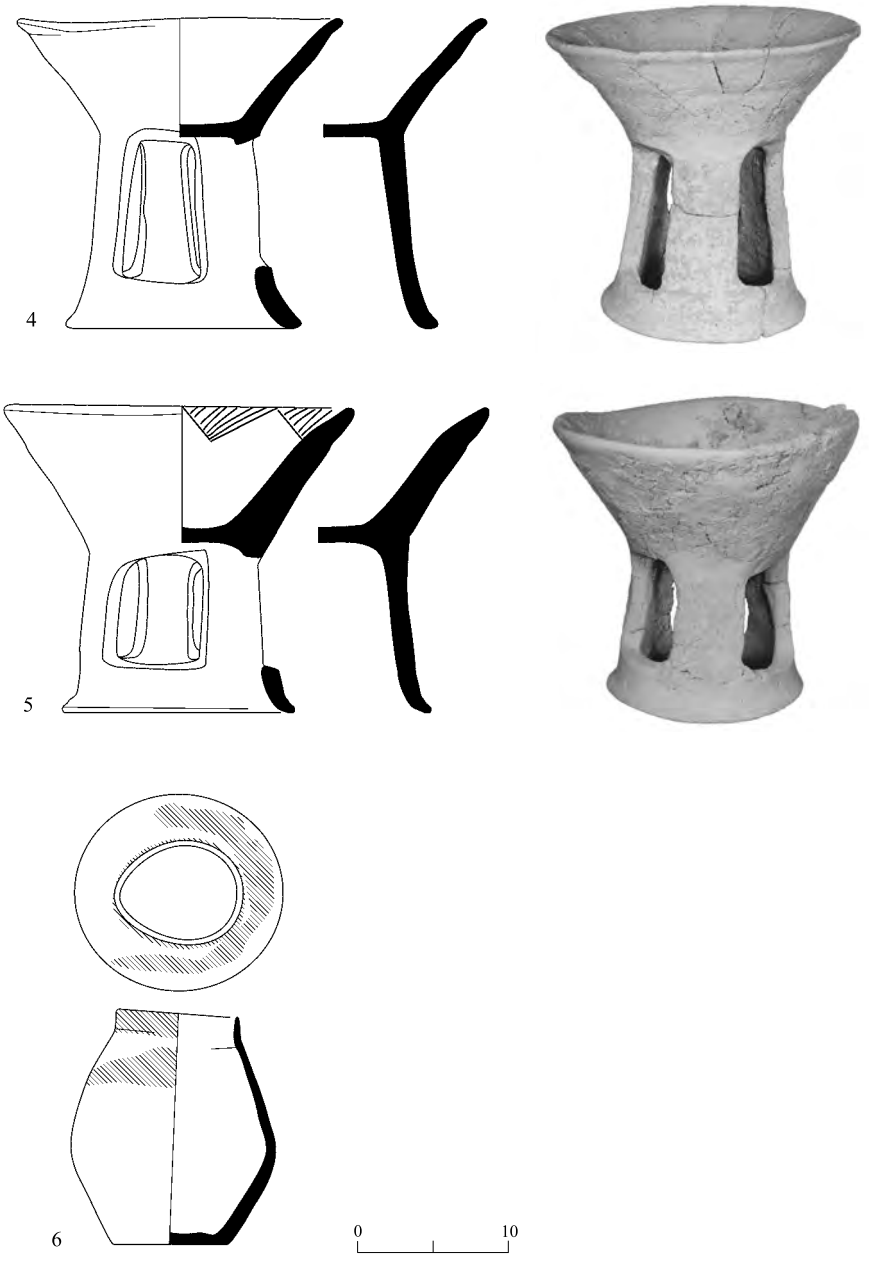


Fig. 66. (cont.).

No.	Vessel	Basket No. (see Plan 2)	Description
1	Lotus-shaped bowl	4	Incised decoration on rim int.; carefully made
2	Lotus-shaped bowl[i]	7	Incised decoration on rim int.; carefully made
3	Lotus-shaped bowl	5a	Incised decoration on rim int.; coarse fabric
4	Pedestalled, fenestrated bowl	2	Three 'windows'
5	Pedestalled, fenestrated bowl	3	Incised decoration on int. of rim; rather coarse fabric
6	Jar[i]	6	Red-painted bands on upper part of ext.; mouth elliptic

[i] For petrographic analysis, see Cohen-Weinberger, this volume.

a particularly descriptive treatment of those assemblages, and also due to the many typo-morphological similarities between those repertoires and that of Ḥorbat Nevallaṭ.[2]

Many vessel types are attested at all four sites: small bowls (*bols*), medium-large bowls (*jattes*), very large bowls (*cuvettes*), large deep bowls (*basins*), cornets (*vases-cornets,* notably hardly presented in the three Be'er-Sheva' sites), pedestalled fenestrated bowls (*vases à pied fenestré*), small-to-large holemouth jars (*jarres sons col*), spouted vessels (*pots à goulot tubulaire*), small-to-large necked jars (*grandes jarres à col court*; *jarres à col*) and large churns (*vases fusiformes à [grande] goulot*). Also the single and singular specimens of a goblet (*gobelet à pied creux*) and an internal ledge handle ([*basin à*] *languette intérieure*) are attested both at Ḥorbat Nevallaṭ and in some of the Be'er-Sheva' sites. Another similarity between Ḥorbat Nevallaṭ and, in this case, Bir Ṣafadi is the presence of bowls with continuous incised decoration, applied prior to firing, on the inside rim of the vessel (Commenge-Pellerin 1990:130, Fig. 54: 3 [*bassin à décor incisé*], Pl. IX:4, 8)—clear and appealing imitations of similarly decorated Chalcolithic basalt bowls (e.g., Perrot 1972: Fig. 849; Commenge-Pellerin, in press). Since geometric incised decoration is rare on pottery vessels, but common on those made from basalt (e.g., from Abu Maṭar [Commenge-Pellerin, in press] and Bir-Ṣafadi [Commenge-Pellerin 1990:10, Fig. 54:3]; see Chasan, van den Brink and Rosenberg, in press), it is assumed that these ceramic vessels are imitations of their stone counterparts.

Concerning the single strainer fragment at the base of a jar neck from Ḥorbat Nevallaṭ, strainers have not been recovered at Abu Maṭar and Zumeili, but in Bir Ṣafadi, a spouted vessel (*goulot à filtre*) was found. The only piece not paralleled at any of the three Be'er-Sheva' sites is a single fragment of a rim with a basket handle (in literature also referred to as a vertical wish-bone handle). However, this type of ceramic handle is known from few sites in the Negev, among them, Shiqmim (Levy 1987: Figs. 6.11a–b; 12.14:1;[3] see also Amiran 1986: n.1), Kissufim Road (Goren and Fabian 2002:24–25) in the southern coastal plain and Ḥorbat Govit in the western Galilee (van den Brink 2000:117*, Fig. 216; van den Brink and Commenge 2008: Fig. 6:7, 8).

Area C

Stationary Grinding and Pounding Facilities, Group I

The pottery assemblage retrieved from above, within and in between the cupmarks of Group I is rather limited in number (Table 4; Fig. 67). It includes fragments of medium and large open V-shaped bowls, some fenestrated bowls, deep bowls with beveled rims, large basins,

[2] The ceramic assemblages of two partially contemporary nearby Late Chalcolithic sites in the Shephelah—Shoham (North) and Modi'in, Deep Deposits Strata 6–5—were excavated only after the submission of this report. Both are very similar to the Ḥorbat Nevallaṭ assemblage (cf. Commenge 2005; van den Brink 2005a; 2007a; 2007b; 2013; Roux, van den Brink and Shalev 2013).

[3] In that publication the (missing) basket-handle is neither indicated nor illustrated; closer inspection by Goren and Fabian (2002:25, n. 2) showed that this vessel originally also had a basket handle.

Table 4. Area C, Cupmark Group I: Frequency of Diagnostic Pottery Sherds

Locus	Large Jars, Rims	Small, Short-Necked Jars	Basins, Flat Rim	Fenestrated Bowl	Deep bowls, Flat Rim	Medium–Large V-Shaped Bowls	Bases	Handles
201	1			1		2	1	
207			1					1 thumb-indented loop
210				1			2	
210			1				1	
212							2	
213		1	1			1	1	
214		1						
215		1 cup						
215	1	1						
218					1	1	1	
219						1	1	
221			1					1 triangular loop
224					1		1	
224		1		1		2	2	
224						3	9	
225		1					3	2 loop (1 triangular)
Total	*2*	*5*	*4*	*3*	*2*	*10*	*24*	*4*

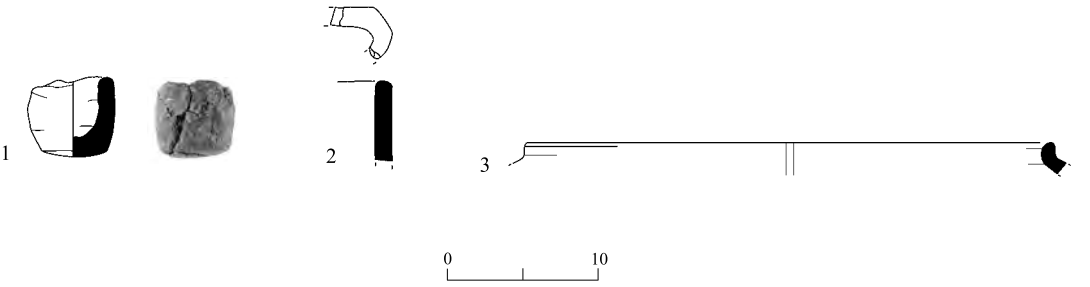


Fig. 67. Area C, Chalcolithic pottery finds from cupmark Group I.

No.	Vessel	Description
1	Cup	Very coarse, gritty and poorly fired fabric
2	Jar	Very coarse, gritty and poorly fired fabric
3	Jar	Very coarse, gritty and poorly fired fabric

small and large short-necked jars (Fig. 67:2, 3), a single holemouth jar, and various lug handles (most triangular in section). With the exception of a small, crude cup (Fig. 67:1), similar but usually better fired, and therefore better preserved, specimens were found in the habitation area (A). By contrast with the Area A assemblage, cornets, churns and other late Chalcolithic types are absent from Area C.

The Area C assemblage seems homogeneous in that it was manufactured from a single clay source, based on a petrographic examination of a single sherd selected from this specific assemblage (see Cohen-Weinberger, this volume: No. 8), identified as *terra rossa* soil tempered with crushed calcite crystals. Another common denominator is the low temperature at which the vessels have been fired, resulting in a very brittle condition of preservation.

Area B

Dwelling Cave (L309, L317, L321, L322)

The pottery retrieved from both the cave fill and its floor includes small vessels, e.g., small wheel-shaped open V-shaped bowls (Fig. 68:1, 2), slightly restricted bowls with red-painted rims (Fig. 68:3), a small, somewhat closed vessel (Fig. 68:4), the crudeness of which is reminiscent of the small cup uncovered in Area C (Fig. 64:1), and medium-sized open bowls with rather wide bases and red-painted rims (Fig. 68:5), as well as numerous fragments of large pithoi with thumb-indented rims (pie-crust rim; Fig. 68:6, 7, the former a near-complete specimen found *in situ* resting on the cave's floor).

The small, vertical-sided and slightly closed bowls, and the pithoi with thumb-indented rims found in this cave, are absent from the much larger pottery assemblage retrieved from the dwelling in Area A, located opposite the cave on the other side of the wadi. On the other hand, although present in Area A, cornets, fenestrated bowls and churns are absent from this cave. The vertical-sided and restricted bowls are known to appear only in the later stages of the Late Chalcolithic. Also, pithoi with pie-crust rims—although not uncommon in the Chalcolithic—do seem to have had their *floruit* in the subsequent early EB I (EB IA). Given these typological considerations and in the absence of cornets, fenestrated bowls and churns from the cave, it could be argued that the site at Area B most likely post-dates the habitation remains in Area A. However, in the absence of Carbon-14 from Area B, and in view of the limited cave assemblage, this issue can be neither proven nor refuted.

Fig. 68. Area B, Chalcolithic pottery finds from the dwelling cave.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Bowl	322	3045/1	
2	Bowl	322	3045/2	
3	Bowl/cup	317	3015	Red-painted rim; coarse fabric; many black grits
4	Piriform vessel	309	4174	Coarse fabric
5	Bowl	317	3016	Red-painted rim
6	Pithos[i]	322	3045/4	Coarse fabric, not well-fired; many black and fewer white grits
7	Pithos	321	3088	

[i] For petrographic analysis, see Cohen-Weinberger, this volume.

EARLY BRONZE AGE I

Area A

The few sherds which could be attributed with certainty to the later part of EB I derive from surface contexts and mainly consist of nondescript holemouth jar rims and base fragments. These have not been illustrated.

Area B

A burial deposited on the Chalcolithic fill and floor within the cave in Area B had been found severely damaged by bulldozer activities prior to our excavation. Other than a few human bone remains, all that could be retrieved from this locus were two ledge-handled amphoriskoi (Fig. 69:2, 3) and a wavy ledge handle (Fig. 69:4) belonging to a large jar. A fragment of a (handle-less) bowl with an incurved rim (Fig. 69:1), found within the fill elsewhere in the cave, probably derives from the same burial. The amphoriskos (Fig. 69:2) was made from two parts joined together at a late production phase (for a description of this, see van den Brink and Grosinger 2004:91, 92, 96 [right column]). This mode of manufacturing is most common in, but by no means restricted to (Cohen-Weiberger 2004), vessels deriving from Tell el-Farah (N).

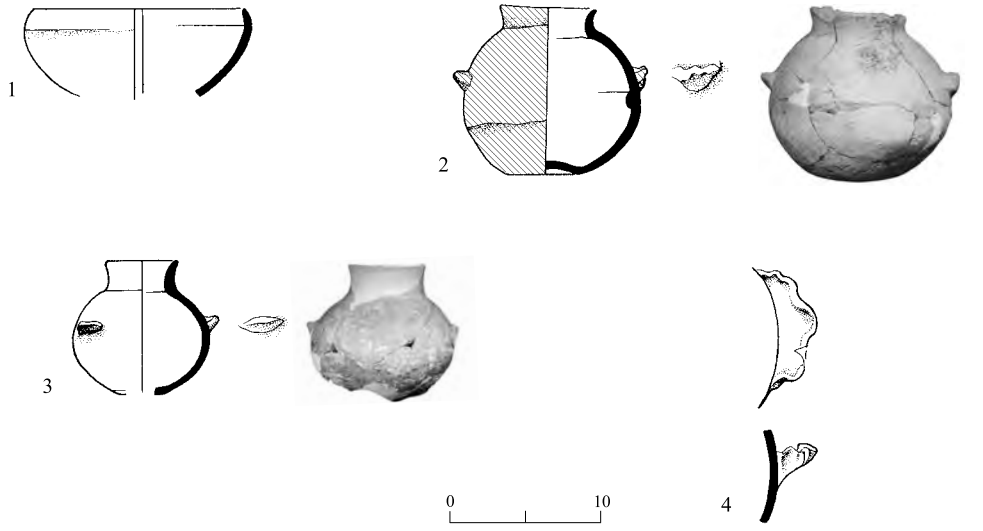


Fig. 69. Area B, Early Bronze Age I pottery finds from the cave.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Hemispherical bowl	4175	309	
2	Amphoriskos	4131	300	Two ledge handles and ampholos base; red slip on ext.
3	Amphoriskos	4132	300	Two ledge handles
4	Jar	4133	300	Ledge handle

INTERMEDIATE BRONZE AGE

Burial Cave

Two damaged but complete Intermediate Bronze Age ledge-handled jars were found on the floor of the antechamber, their rims tilted toward the entrance of the burial chamber. One jar (Fig. 70:1) was fully restored; the other, slightly taller, was not (L601/B4143). The entrance to the actual burial chamber was sealed with medium-sized stones. An amphoriskos (Fig. 70:2) was found beside the knee of one of two human interments in this burial chamber. The amphoriskos had incised decoration around its neck. All three vessels are typical of

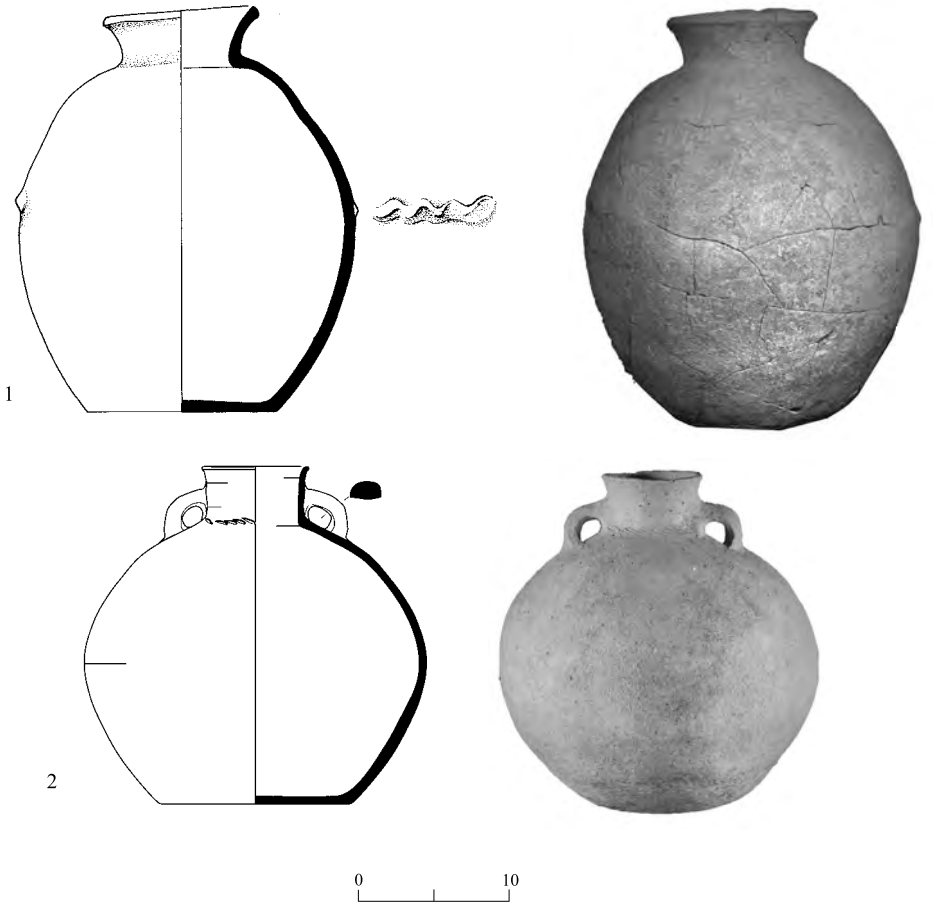


Fig. 70. Area B, Intermediate Bronze Age pottery finds from the cave.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Jar	4153	601	With 2 ledge handles
2	Amphoriskos	4181	602	Incised decoration around the neck

Amiran's (1960) Family A and Dever's (1970; 1995) Southern Group, which would date this assemblage to the early Intermediate Bronze Age.[4]

LATER PERIODS

Apart from the structural remains (winepress, installations and kiln) in Area B, which dated to the Byzantine period, occupation of this site during the Iron Age and later periods is attested by sporadic sherds uncovered on the surface and in various fills only. No diagnostic pottery was found in contexts which could actually point to a date for the few post-Intermediate Bronze Age structural features. A selection of sherds for each period represented at the site—the Iron Age, Persian, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Mamluk and Ottoman—is therefore illustrated in Figs. 71 and 72 without further discussion.[5]

THE HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS

YOSSI NAGAR AND DEBORAH A. SKLAR-PARNES[6]

Area A

The human bones were found in a poor state of preservation. They were examined in the field and afterward handed over to an official representative of the Ministry of Religion for reburial. Unfortunatley, the skeletal remains could not be dated.

Locus 112.— The human remains here included a fragmentary skull vault, teeth and postcranial bones of an adult individual. The skeletal remains indicate a primary burial. The individual was placed on its back, oriented east–west, head in the east, facing upward. The hands were resting on the pelvis. The skull morphology is indicative of a male (although this is not confirmed). Tooth attrition was not advanced: premolar teeth showed dentine exposure at one cusp and the third molar displayed a closed root. According to the tooth attrition rate, this individual died at 19–22 years of age (Hillson 1986). No pathologies were noticed.

Locus 121.— The human remains here included a fragmentary skull vault, one tooth and postcranial bones of an adult individual. The skeletal remains indicate a primary burial. The individual was placed on its back in supine position, oriented east–west, head in the east,

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[4] For a synchronism between Intermediate Bronze Age Family A material and Meydum Ware bowls from the late Old Kingdom to early First Intermediate Period in Egypt, see van den Brink and Gophna 2005:111, n. 2; see also Oren and Yekutieli 1990.

[5] Thanks are due to Peter Gendelman and Hagit Torgë for their assistance in the selection of the Iron Age and later ceramic sherds presented here.

[6] The bones from Area A were studied by Yossi Nagar, and the bones from Area B, by Deborah A. Sklar-Parnes.

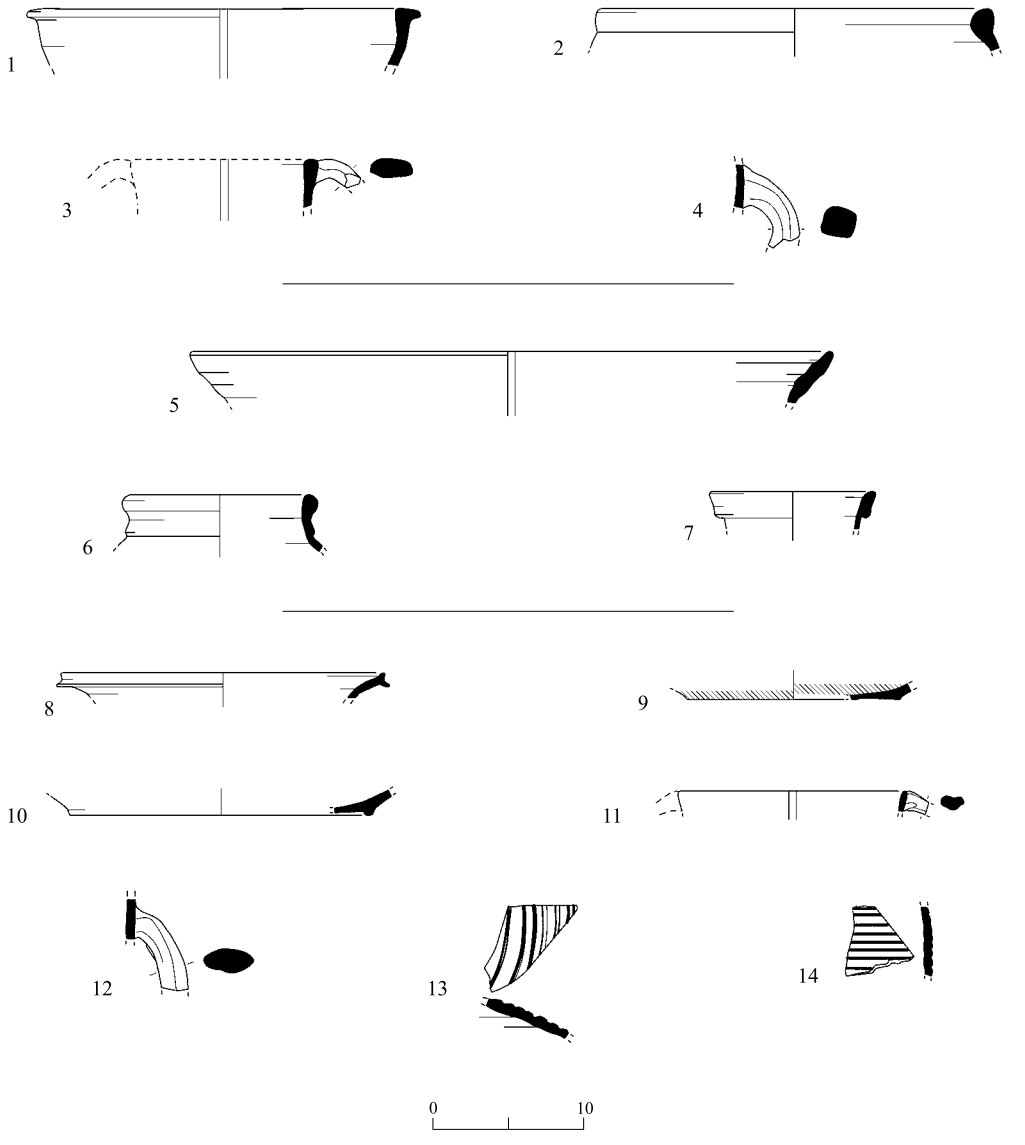

Fig. 71. Area A, Iron Age (1–4), Persian and Hellenistic (5–7) and Roman and Byzantine (8–14) pottery.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus
1	Bowl	4232	153
2	Jar	4067	114
3	Jar	4089	124
4	Jar	4102	128
5	Bowl	4002/3	102
6	Jar	4050/2	115
7	Jar	2401	142

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus
8	Bowl/krater	4102	128
9	Bowl	4052	111
10	Bowl	4003/2	100
11	?	4255	162
12	Bag-shaped storage jar	4019	106
13	Bag-shaped storage jar	4091	125
14	Jar	4007	102

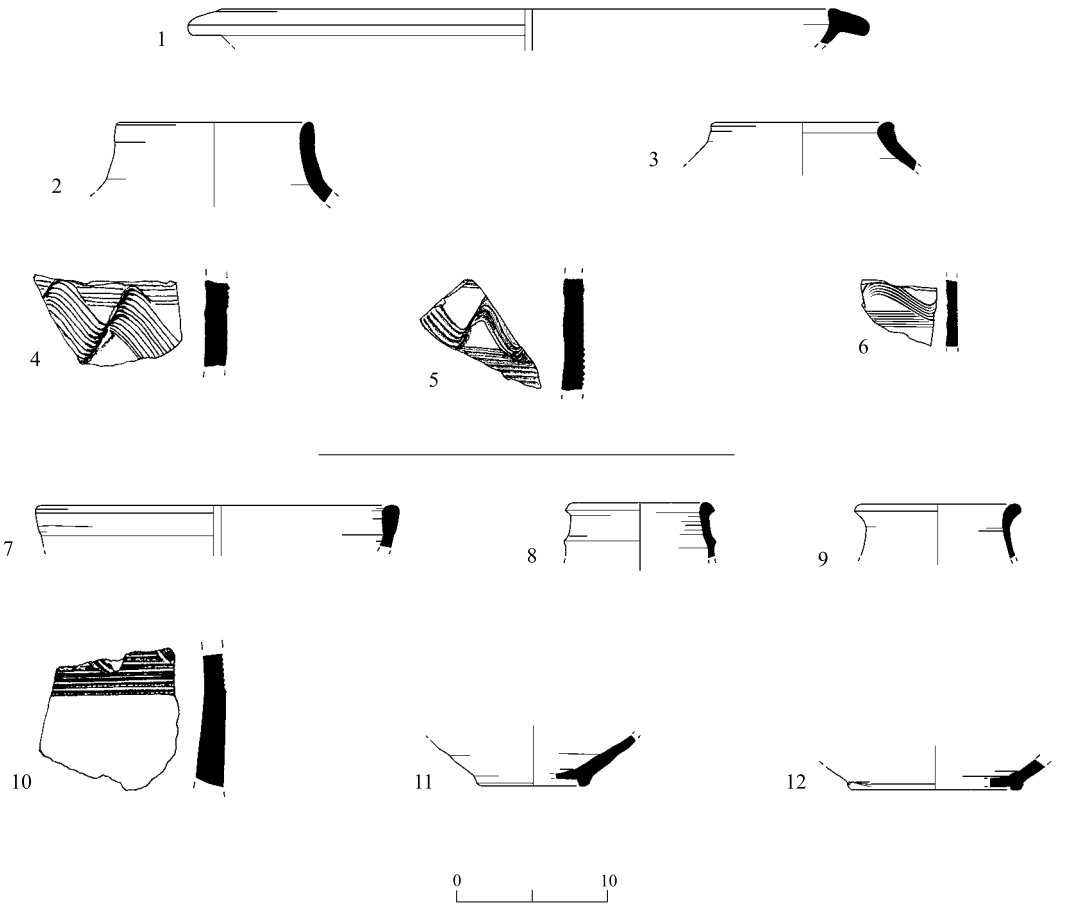

Fig. 72. Area A, Byzantine–Mamluk (1–6) and Ottoman (7–12) pottery.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Period (CE) and Description
1	Bowl	4050/1	115	Byzantine–Early Islamic
2	'Ramla storage jar'	4102	128	Early Islamic
3	Gazition jar	4018	108	5th–8th c.
4	Jar	4094	140	Abbasid–Mamluk; combed decoration
5	Jar	4094	126	Abbasid–Mamluk; combed decoration
6	Jar	4105	128	Abbasid–Mamluk; combed decoration
7	Bowl	4208	140	17th–20th c.
8	Jug	4038/1	111	17th–20th c.
9	Jug	4038/2	111	17th–20th c.
10	Jar	4200	141	17th–20th c.; Gaza Ware
11	Jar	4197	137	17th–20th c.; Gaza Ware
12	Jar	4004/4	103	17th–20th c.; Gaza Ware

facing upward. Tooth attrition: the upper central incisor showed dentine cup. Age estimate, following Hillson's (1986) tooth attrition rate, is 30–40 years. Sex unclear.

Locus 123.— The human remains here included a very small number of non-diagnostic, fragmentary postcranial human bones.

Locus 130.— The human remains included a fragmentary skull vault and a humerus shaft. In the temporal bone, the tympanic dehiscence was still open, which is indicative of a child younger than 5 years (Humphrey and Scheur 2006).

Area B

Bones belonging to at least two individuals were interred in Area B, the Intermediate Bronze Age (EB IV) cave. Due to the poor preservation of the human remains, the bones could not be reconstructed nor measured.

Individual 1 was an adult, represented by two lower incisors, fragments of the frontal bone, a left ulna, and fragments of right and left femora and tibiae. All of the long bones exhibited multiple locations of gnawing. The left central and lateral incisors were worn. Unfortunately, the age could not be determined on the basis of the teeth. Based on the location of the fragmentary bones, it is likely that this individual was placed with the legs lying on the right side, flexed toward the pelvis. The thorax was not preserved; therefore, its position was not determined. Artifacts associated with the burial included a metal toggle pin found on the western side of the interment (near the cranial bones), and a ceramic jar (Fig. 70:1) placed just north of the lower limbs.

Individual 2 was represented by two fragments of at least one femur. As in the case of Individual 1, these shaft fragments displayed multiple patches of gnawing. Age and sex could not be determined due to the poor preservation of this interment.

THE NUMISMATIC ASSEMBLAGE

GABRIELA BIJOVSKY

Six bronze coins were found in this excavation, all from Area A. Two coins were unidentifiable (Record Nos. 481835-P, 481837-P). All identified coins were surface finds. The coins were cleaned at the IAA laboratories, under the direction of Ella Altmark.

Catalogue

1. Reg. No. 4117, L131, IAA 94666.
Roman provincial, Antioch, first–second centuries CE.
Obv.: Head r.
Rev.: SC within wreath.
Æ, ↑, 6.98 g, 19 mm.
BMC Gal.:183, No. 270.

2. No Reg. No., Surface, IAA 94667.
330–341 CE, Alexandria.
Obv.: CONSTAN – TINOPOLIS Bust of Constantinopolis with helmet l.
Rev.: Victory standing l. on ship prow, holding standard and shield. In exergue: SMALA
Æ, ↓, 1.90 g, 19 mm.
LRBC 1:32, No. 1432.

3. Reg. No. 4018, L108, IAA 94665.
Constantius II, 351–361 CE.
Obv.: DN CON[STANTIVS PF AVG] Bust r., pearl-diademed, cuirassed and draped.
Rev.: [FEL TEMP REPARATIO] Virtus spearing fallen horseman. Mintmark illegible.
Æ, 1.56 g, 19 mm.
Cf. *LRBC* 2:100, No. 2632.

4. Reg. No. 4004, L103, IAA 94664.
351–361 CE.
Obv.: ---]PF AVG Bust r.
Rev.: FEL TEM[P REPARATIO] Virtus spearing fallen horseman. Mintmark illegible.
Æ, ↑, 1.78 g, 15 mm.
Cf. *LRBC* 2:100, Nos. 2632, 2633.

CONCLUSIONS

The contribution of the Ḥorbat Nevallaṭ excavations to the general settlement history of this area—a transitional zone between the Judean Mountains to the east and the coastal plain to the west—during the Chalcolithic, Early Bronze Age I, the Intermediate Bronze Age and later periods, is summarized here chronologically.

Chalcolithic Period

As a result of intensive public works carried out in this region—in particular the construction of segments of the Cross-Israel Highway and the towns of El‘ad, Shoham and Modi‘in—a number of Chalcolithic burial caves and settlement sites have been revealed in the vicinity of Ḥorbat Nevallaṭ (see van den Brink and Gophna 2005:165–173). The burial caves are but a sample of a larger system of Chalcolithic cemeteries situated in karstic caves in the limestone foothills of the mountainous Samaria anticline, stretching from Ben Shemen (Perrot 1967) in the south to the vicinity of El‘ad (Mazor) in the north and beyond.[7] Other excavated

[7] Other excavated Chalcolithic burial caves in the region include Shoham (North) (van den Brink and Gophna 2005), Qula (Milevski 2001) and Mazor (Milevski 2007). Much further to the north are Shuni near Zikhron Ya‘aqov (Martin Peilstöcker, pers. comm.) and Ḥorbat Qasṭra on the southern outskirts of Haifa (van den Brink et al. 2004).

Chalcolithic settlement sites—of which the present site at Nevallaṭ is but one—are still few and far between. Major sites include Giv‘at Oranim (Scheftelowitz and Oren 2004), located only a few kilometers to its north, and Modi‘in-Buchman (SE) (van den Brink 2005a; 2013).

The excavations at Ḥorbat Nevallaṭ offer a rare opportunity to study a Chalcolithic habitation site, in this case consisting of a single broadroom building with extramural activity areas (including some storage facilities) in Area A, as well as what can probably best be described as agricultural activity areas with numerous rock-cut features, slightly farther up the hill (Area C). Based on similarities in pottery and flint tools, Areas A and C are assumed to be contemporary. The presence of numerous carbonized olive stones and several storage facilities in Area A, and what appear to be agricultural bedrock installations in Area C, has led to a working hypothesis that both areas are to be associated with one another, both chronologically and functionally. The habitation remains in Area A date from around 4000 BCE, based on two calibrated Carbon-14 readings of carbonized olive stones (van den Brink et al. 2001:43; see Liphschitz, this volume: Table 5). According to pottery finds, mostly storage vessels, it would appear that the sparse Chalcolithic dwelling remains in a karstic cave on the opposite side of the small wadi (Area B) belong to a somewhat later phase of the Chalcolithic than the remains in Area A. This suggests that the site was occupied for an extended period or was returned to at the end of the Chalcolithic.

The general appearance of the shallow, oblong/oval cupmarks in Area C is very distinctive, as is their general distribution pattern over the bedrock surface. They usually appear in clusters, their long axes typically following the slope of the bedrock into which they are ground. As for the possible function of these cupmarks, one major finding of the analysis carried out on the ground stone assemblage recovered from the site (see Rowan, this volume) is the observation that in the immediate vicinity of the cupmarks (Area C), grinding stones (*manos*) and pounding stones are much more numerous than grinding slabs (*metates*). Although this is a situation common to most Chalcolithic habitation sites, the relative low frequency of grinding slabs might be explained by the ubiquitous presence of the stationary oblong basins which could have served for this very purpose. That is to say, the basins may have been used for grinding or crushing organic foodstuffs. Notably, none of the completely preserved *manos* are more than 20 cm long and would fit comfortably within the oblong basins (about 25 cm wide on average).

Identical cupmarks have been found during surveys and excavations at seven other sites in the region, both prior to and since the current excavation. A small number were noted at Giv‘at Oranim (Scheftelowitz and Oren 2004:33, Figs. 2.59, 2.60; Eli Yannai, pers. comm.), located just northeast of Ḥorbat Nevallaṭ. Hundreds more have been exposed on the bedrock surfaces of three adjoining hillsides at Modi‘in-Buchman (SE) (van den Brink 2007b), immediately south of Re‘ut/Modi‘in and some 10 km southeast of Ḥorbat Nevallaṭ. Identical cupmarks have also been exposed at a site close to Mevo Ḥoron (Benjamin Hareven and Eliot Braun, pers. comm.), only a few kilometers southeast of Modi‘in. Another site with the same cupmarks is Wadi ‘Illin (S) (Harley Stark, pers. comm.). Hundreds more have been exposed at Khirbat el-‘Alya (Ramat Bet Shemesh; Dagan 1998; Dagan and Mettens 1998:

Fig. 18).[8] Already in the early 1920s, Macalister uncovered a cluster of 18 identical basins below a surface layer of plaster associated with an Iron Age I building, which concealed the basins during his excavations on the hill of ‘Ofel in Jerusalem (Macalister and Duncan 1926:26ff., Figs. 19, 20).[9] The final and southernmost site with identical cupmarks is Wadi Aḥmad, where a bedrock surface with 45 similar cupmarks has been noted during a survey of the Map of Amaẓya (cf. Dagan 1998:96).[10]

Based on the pottery, flint and ground stone tools found in association with some of these Area C cupmarks—and a comparison with pottery and flint finds in Area A—a solid argument can be made that these rock-cut features do not postdate the Late Chalcolithic period—that is, they were in use no later than the end of the fifth millennium BCE or the beginning of the fourth millennium BCE. This would seem to be corroborated—or at least not contradicted—by findings at Giv‘at Oranim and Khirbat el-‘Alya (Ramat Bet Shemesh) where similar cupmarks were indirectly associated with nearby Chalcolithic settlements. Although an initial date for these cupmarks is argued to be not later than the Chalcolithic here, this does not exclude the possibility that they continued to be used during the early stages of EB I. Such a scenario seems to be suggested by a continued occupation of the Chalcolithic habitation (Strata 7–4) at Modi‘in-Buchman (SE)—surrounded on all sides by extensive bedrock surfaces which play host to hundreds of these cupmarks—during the earliest EB IA (Strata 3–1; van den Brink 2013; in press). Furthermore, identical cupmarks at a site near Mevo Ḥoron have been indirectly but exclusively associated with an early EB I occupation (in dwelling caves), Chalcolithic findings being so far conspicuously absent from that site (Benjamin Hareven, pers. comm.). With the exception of Wadi Aḥmad and Jerusalem, all sites yielding this cupmark type are located relatively close to one to another and are situated in a single geographic unit, i.e., the Shephelah (see van den Brink 2008: Fig. 7).

Early Bronze Age I

The EB I findings at this site comprise a single locus incorporating the badly damaged burial remains discovered in a karstic cave in Area B. This cave had a domestic function during the Chalcolithic period. Such a phenomenon of a Chalcolithic cave being reused during EB I has also been attested in another nearby cave, in the northeast of Shoham (van den

[8] Clusters of oblong, shallow basins have been uncovered in three separate areas on the hillside of Khirbat el-‘Alya at Ramat Bet Shemesh: Site 84/1, Area 205, with 110 ‘elongated’ basins (Dagan 1998:95, Fig. 9); Site 84/7, with 235 ‘elongated’ basins and 14 cupmarks (Dagan 1998:95, Figs. 10, 11); and Site 94/23, with 271 ‘elongated’ basins and 12 circular cupmarks (Dagan and Mettens 1998:102, Fig. 18). For a detailed overview of these and other related sites in Ramat Bet Shemesh, published six years after the submission of the present report, see Dagan 2010. Various Chalcolithic loci have been excavated by Dagan in the same general area (cf. Dagan 1998).

[9] We wish to thank Eilat Mazar and Yehuda Dagan for drawing our attention to these particular basins.

[10] During the time that elapsed between the submission of this report and its publication, some dozen other sites with similar cupmarks have been recognized (see van den Brink 2008).

Brink 2005b), as well as at nearby Mazor (Ianir Milevski, pers. comm.) and elsewhere, e.g., at Shaʿar Efrayim (see van den Brink 2011).

The EB I burial in Area B is perhaps related to the nearby coeval site at Tel Dalit, about one kilometer to the southeast of Ḥorbat Nevallaṭ. An unfortified EB I settlement, as well as the remains of a walled EB II stratum, were excavated here by Gophna (1996). Other nearby sites yielding EB I materials include Shoham (N) Caves 1 and 2 (van den Brink and Gophna, 2005:99–105) and the settlement at nearby Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Gophna and Beit-Arieh 1997: Site No. 56; Nadelman 1995; Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018).

Intermediate Bronze Age

A shaft tomb containing two primary burials with some ceramic and metal funerary gifts dating to the Intermediate Bronze Age period was discovered at the hilltop in Area B. Contemporary burials in the immediate vicinity of the site—albeit not in shaft tombs, but rather in karstic caves—have been exposed in the north of Shoham (van den Brink and Gophna 2005:107–111, Cave 1) and in the northeast of Shoham (Kletter 2002). Pottery refuse belonging to the same cultural horizon was also uncovered in two other caves at Shoham (N) (van den Brink and Gophna 2005:107–111, Caves 2 and 4).

The Ḥorbat Nevallaṭ tomb indicates the presence of people settling at or near this site. It is probably associated with a nearby settlement site excavated by Yekutieli (2002), revealing circular structures (map ref. 19645/65380). Traces of this Intermediate Bronze Age population were also detected at Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Nadelman's 1992 excavations—Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018; R. Gophna, personal observation), as well as at Tel Ḥadid and Tel Lod (Gophna and Beit-Arieh 1997:11, 19; van den Brink, in press: Fig. 2, Table 1) .

Iron Age and Later Periods

Archaeological remains indicating post-Intermediate Bronze Age activities at the site were found in Areas A and B and on the surrounding slopes. Dispersed pottery sherds indicate on-site activities during the Iron Age, Persian–Hellenistic, Roman–Byzantine, Byzantine–Mamluk and Ottoman periods. In the absence of *in situ* finds, the structural remains from these periods—two limestone kilns, a winepress and several human burials—are difficult to date. However, they do indicate agricultural, industrial and funerary activities carried out extramurally or on the peripheries of other later-period sites.

APPENDIX 1. List of Loci, Areas A, B and C.

Locus	Square	Phase	Start Level (asl)	End Level (asl)	Description	Basket
Area A						
100	F7	2	100.01	99.44	Surface of pile of small stones; Chalcolithic pottery	4000, 4003
101	F8	2	99.92	99.06	Surface in front of cave entrance; Chalcolithic pottery	4001, 4006, 4013, 4020, 4024, 4030, 4042
102	E7	2	99.86	99.34	Sediment from opening level down to surface of small stones	4002, 4007, 4009, 4017
103	F7	2	99.52	99.20	Surface sediment in northern part of square	4004
104	F7	2	99.01	98.65	Sediment against the facade in the cave opening	4008,4014, 4074
105	E7	1	99.50	97.00	Bottom of cave/cleaning of JCB cut	4010, 4011, 4015, 4022
106	F7	2	99.10	99.01	Under L100 on the Chalcolithic surface; Chalcolithic finds	4005, 4012, 4013, 4023
107	F7	2	99.14	98.68	Stone collapse in the southern part of L100	4016, 4025, 4029
108	E8	1	99.40	98.07	Under L102, from bedrock surface and below (top of natural shaft)	4018, 4021, 4026, 4035, 4044
109	E8	2	100.31	99.91	Bedrock surface	4027, 4034, 4043
110	F7	2	98.87	98.36	Under rock fall in L107, on a thick layer of chalk; fill of large, natural shaft	4031, 4032, 4033, 4036, 4037, 4039, 4045
111	E7	2	99.65	98.80	Surface that continues from Sq E7 to the north	4038, 4046, 4052, 4060
112	F7	2	98.66	97.96	Grave in the eastern wall of the cave	4040, 4048
113	F7	2	98.78	98.36	Suspected grave, but eventually turned out to be a wall	4041, 4091
114	F6	2	99.78	99.50	Surface of Sq F6	4047
115	F/7–8	2	99.93	98.92	Balk between Sqs F/7–8, over the grave and a layer of powdered chalk	4050, 4062, 4072, 4080
116	E–F/8	2	100.18	98.85	Balk between Sqs	4051, 4061
117	F7	1	98.36	97.07	Shaft fill composed of small stones and large quantities of Chalcolithic finds (below L110)	4053, 4054, 4055, 4056, 4057, 4058, 4059, 4065, 4066, 4067, 4068, 4069, 4070, 4071, 4075, 4078, 4079, 4083
118	E7		98.80	98.53	Sediment in large bedrock depression, continuing L108 from adjacent square	4063

APPENDIX 1. (cont.)

Locus	Square	Phase	Start Level (asl)	End Level (asl)	Description	Basket
119	E7	2	98.80	98.20	Natural depression in bedrock	4064
120	E7	1	98.07	95.80	Rock collapse within L108; it continued to the bottom of the shaft	4070, 4082, 4085, 4088, 4095
121	F8	2	99.40	98.16	Rock-hewn grave	4077, 4081, 4084
122			99.61	98.75	General cleaning after JCB	4086, 4090
123	E–F/8	2	98.83	98.48	Rock-hewn grave	4087
124	F8	2	99.35	98.63	Rock-hewn grave	4089, 4093
125	E15		100.37	100.07	Limekiln	4091, 4092, 4097
126		2	100.94	98.90	Limekiln excavated by JCB	4094, 4098, 4099, 4116, 4119
127	E15	1	100.98	99.87	Unearthing the northern wall of Limekiln 125	4096, 4100, 4104, 4106, 4107, 4112
128			100.90	100.54	Bedrock surface after removal of alluvium	4101, 4102, 4105
129	F12	2	101.35	100.98	Pavement of stones north of W10 of Chalcolithic building, on the rock collapse/floor of stones	4103, 4114
130	F11	1	100.80	100.14	Below L128; cleaning part of the Chalcolithic level, finding of stone alignment (W17?) sealing burial	4108, 4113, 4123
131	F13	2–1	101.13	100.92	Surface of Sq E10	4115, 4117
132	F12	1	100.98	100.71	Removal of floor/rock collapse exposed in L129	4118, 4122
133	E11	1	100.54	100.18	Depression in bedrock under L128; circular installation	4120
134	F15	Chalc.	101.4	98.30	Chalcolithic rock-cut pit	4121, 4147, 4148, 4149, 4150, 4164, 4170
136	E11	Chalc.	100.36	99.06	Deep depression in bedrock; exposure of living surface with pithos supported by stones	4185, 4189, 4196
137	E12	1	101.29	100.71	Surface	4186, 4190, 4193, 4207
138	E13	1	101.45	100.64	Surface	4187, 4191, 4198, 4206
139	E11	1	100.70	100.70	Exposure of fireplace/pit	4195
140	E13	1	101.26	100.73	Surface of Sq D11	4199, 4208, 4213
141	E14	2	101.32	100.66	Surface of Sq D12	4200, 4209, 4210, 4214
142	F/12–13	2	101.13	100.96	Removal of balk from opening level to L129	4201
143	F13	Chalc.	100.66	100.43	Area of lower bedrock in most of the northern part of the square	4202, 4205, 4218, 4223, 4264

APPENDIX 1. (cont.)

Locus	Square	Phase	Start Level (asl)	End Level (asl)	Description	Basket
144	E–F/7				Balk between Sqs E–F/7	4203, 4204
145	E12	1	100.71	100.24	Layer of small stones (floor?)	4211, 4212, 4215, 4224
146	E12	1	100.73	100.18	Depression in bedrock; probably the continuation of the depression excavated as L134	4216, 4225
147	F14	1	101.00	100.70	Chalcolithic surface east of broadroom building	4217, 4244, 4252
148	E/13–14	1	100.86	100.79	Floor level	4219, 4220, 4226, 4236
149	F12	1	101.00	100.87	Two floor phases of collapse	4222, 4229, 4242, 4245, 4247
150	E/11–12	1	100.99	100.79	Balk, arriving at floor level in L145	4230
151	E/11–12	1	101.40	100.75	Balk, uncovering W16	4228, 4239
152	E/11–12	1	100.99	99.97	Continuation of sandy sediment under L150, down to L136	4231, 4237, 4240
153	E12	1	100.59	100.37	Chalcolithic level in rock depressions	4231, 4233
154	E13	1	100.73	100.47	North of W14, beneath L148 and uncovering W15	4234
155	E14	1	100.90	100.26	South of W14, beneath L148	4235, 4268, 4274
156	E–F/12	1	101.00	100.60	Removal of balk	4238, 4241, 4277
157	E14	1	101.20	100.73	Floor(?) level in southern courtyard yard; large amounts of Chalcolithic finds	4242, 4248, 4251, 4257, 4260, 4262, 4267
158	E/11–12	1	99.97	99.09	Excavation of rock collapse beneath L152	4243, 4246
159	E–F/14	1	101.33	100.97	Removal of balk between Sqs D–E/12	4249
160	F/11–12	1	101.04	100.74	Removal of balk between Sqs F9 and F10	4253
161	E/12–13	1	101.22	100.94	Removal of balk between Sqs E10 and E11	4254
162	E12	1	100.19	99.64	Rock fall and discovery of olive pits	4255, 4261, 4269
163	F/11–12	1	100.94	100.69	Sediment under L160 and over floor of small stones (L145)	4259
164	F12	1	100.85	100.71	Beneath L149, 3rd floor phase and arrival at layer of larger stones	4258, 4265
165	F/11–12	1	100.69	100.71	Excavation of L163	4263, 4266
166	F12	1	100.71	100.25	Below L164; floor of large paving stones (c. 30 cm), under L164 and over bedrock	4270, 4273, 4280, 4281, 4285, 4290, 4306, 4311, 4316, 4317

APPENDIX 1. (cont.)

Locus	Square	Phase	Start Level (asl)	End Level (asl)	Description	Basket
167	F14	-1	100.73	100.26	Sediment under L157, starting at height of W16 foundation downward	4271, 4272, 4276, 4278, 4279, 4282, 4286, 4289, 4303, 4310, 4313
168			100.94	100.85	Beneath L161, down to Chalcolithic layer; sediment mixed with scattered, medium-sized stones	4275
169		-1	100.55	100.11	Depression in bedrock beneath the earliest floor of structure; Chalcolithic cache deposited in a pit within this crevice	4283, 4284, 4298, 4312, 4322
170	F14	1	100.26	100.16	Depression in bedrock beneath L167	4287
171	E–F/12		101.08	100.66	Removal of paving north of W10 area, including W11 and westward	4288, 4291, 4296, 4294
172	F13	1	100.98	100.48	Removal of paving north of W16	4289
173	E/13–14	1	100.70	100.68	Botanical sample from hearth/ fireplace	4292, 4293
174	E/13–14	1	100.98	100.31	Balk	4295, 4297, 4300
175	E/12–13	1	100.70	100.06	Beneath the paving which was taken apart in L171, continuing down to bedrock	4301, 4308, 4309, 4315, 4318
176	E13	-1	100.55	100.22	Sediment above ground limestone layer and beneath W16	4302, 4314, 4320
177	E/12–13	-1	100.59	100.10	Beneath L171, north of W10	4307, 4319
178	F13	-	100.70	100.21	South of W10; checking association with Limekiln 126	4321, 4324
179	F12	-1	100.44	98.89	Crevice/pit	4323, 4334, 4337, 4338, 4345, 4361, 4362, 4366, 4367, 4374, 4375
180		-1	100.06	99.68	Bottom of depression in bedrock	4325, 4332, 4335
181		1	100.62	100.21	Balk between L161 and L169	4326, 4329
182	F13	-1	100.94	100.56	Taking apart W16, down to plastered floor	4327, 4330
183	F13	1	101.11	100.36	Taking apart W16	4328, 4376
185		-1	99.98	99.40	Crevice in bedrock west of L180	4333, 4336
186	F13	-1	100.56	98.89	Crevice in bedrock	4339, 4369
187	E11	1	101.26	100.16	Disassembling of an installation	4340
188	E8	1	99.58	99.28	Grave	4344
189	E/13–14	1	100.82	100.48	Disassembling of W14 and W15	4346
190	F12	-1	100.01	99.64	Northern part of depression excavated in L179	4362, 4367, 4375
191	F8	2	99.00	98.20	Grave	

APPENDIX 1. (cont.)

Feature/Locus	Start Level (asl)	End Level (asl)	Description	Basket
Area B				
F1/L100			Water hole/cistern	4130, 4135, 4141, 4152, 4162, 4172, 4182
F2/L200			Cave openings	4125
F3/L300	99.00	97.50	Excavation and cleaning of EB I section after JCB	4131, 4132, 4133, 4140
L301	99.30	98.25	Probe above paving identified in section L300	4134, 4142, 4151, 4161, 4169
L302	98.19	97.85	Treading floor of Byzantine winepress	4136
L303	97.63	96.55	Byzantine collecting vat	4137, 4146
L304	98.30	96.84	Section of EB I L300	4146, 4167
L305			Top opening in cave ceiling	?
L306	98.24	97.40	Above stone floor adjacent to southeastern opening	4156
L308	98.24	97.80	Stone floor	4174, 4176
L309	98.00	97.37	Chalcolithic layer identified in section	4175, 4188, 4194
L310	97.90	97.37	Continuing excavation after dismantling of stone floor	4183, 4192
L311	98.00	97.60	Chalcolithic layer	4184, 4193
L315	99.36	99.00	Removal of remains after taking apart the cave ceiling	3000
L316	98.65	98.02	Chalcolithic layer	3001, 3002, 3003, 3004
L317	99.00	98.15	Chalcolithic habitation layers	3005, 3007, 3011, 3012, 3015, 3016, 3021, 3024
L318	99.00	98.15	Above Chalcolithic stone floor	3006, 3008, 3013, 3017, 3020, 3022, 3023
L319	98.02	97.41	Adjacent to L308 and 310	3009, 3010, 3014, 3018
L320	98.00	97.39	Adjacent to side of cave, next to L309	3027, 3030, 3033, 3034, 3035, 3036, 3041
L321	98.15	97.30	On Chalcolithic floor of cave	3023, 3026, 3028, 3029, 3031, 3032, 3037, 3038, 3039, 3040
L322	99.10	97.30	Balk (plastered layer?); Chalcolithic	3043, 3044, 3045
F4/L400	104.10	103.57	Quarry	4127
F5/L500–501	104.16	102.29	Limekiln	4128, 4139, 4144
F6/ L600	103.30	102.50	Excavation of shaft belonging to Intermediate Bronze Age tomb	4126, 4138
L601	102.10	101.07	Entry chamber of Intermediate Bronze Age burial cave	4143, 4153
L602	101.60	101.00	Intermediate Bronze Age burial chamber	4163, 4171, 4178, 4179, 4180, 4181
F7/L700	92.36	91.93	Terrace wall	4145, 4154
F8/L800–801	96.89	96.20	Opening of rock shelter	4157, 4158, 4159

APPENDIX 1. (cont.)

Feature/ Locus	Cupmark Group	Start Level (asl)	End Level (asl)	Description
Area C				
F11	F			Cupmark surface
F12	D	102.17	101.48	Cupmark surface
F13	A	104.72	103.93	Cupmark surface
F14	E			Cupmark surface
F17	G	106.24	105.23	Cupmark surface
F17	H			Cupmark surface
F18	C	98.07	97.77	Cupmark surface
F19	B	99.45	98.17	Cupmark surface
F21/L201	I	104.31	103.36	Installation in bedrock with cupmark at the bottom
L203	I	105.03	104.84	Two elongated cupmarks
L204	I			
L205	I	104.72	104.86	Elongated cupmark
L206	I	104.56	104.85	Elongated cupmark
L207	I	104.73	104.68	Excavation down to bedrock
L208	I	104.40	104.62	Round cupmark
L209	I	104.28	104.56	Elongated cupmark
L210	I	104.36	104.66	Depression in rock, partly paved
L211	I	104.66		Excavation down to bedrock
L212	I	104.48	104.84	Excavation from level of stones down to bedrock
L213	I	104.41		Excavation down to bedrock
L214	I	104.58	104.80	From surface down to stone paving
L215	I	104.55	104.70	Human bone remains resting on bedrock; no clear burial context
L216	I	105.11		Excavation down to bedrock
L217	I			
L218	I		104.47	Above stone paving, in which a grinding stone is inserted
L219	I			
L220	I	104.32		Excavation down to bedrock
L221	I	104.60		Above stone paving
L222	I			
L223	I			
L224	I	104.12	104.56	Disassembling of stone paving and excavation down to bedrock
L225	I	103.88	104.60	Disassembling of stone paving and excavation down to bedrock

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