'Atiqot 108, 2022

Early Bronze Age Remains at Tel Lod

Amir Golani

Introduction

During August–September 2009, a rescue excavation was conducted on the Early Bronze Age mound at Lod, prior to installment of new infrastructure.[1] The mound is located within the central coastal plain, between the Judean Shephelah and the Mediterranean coast, c. 15 km southeast of Tel Aviv and within the catchment area of Naḥal Ayyalon, which begins in the Judean hills and flows into the sea near Tel Aviv (map ref. 190599–635/651769–805; Fig. 1). The mound is flat and is demarcated on the northeast by the riverbed of Naḥal Ayyalon. The entire region has been covered by alluvium and has undergone intensive modern development.

Ancient Lod was first explored by Ory in the late 1930s (for references, see Schwartz 1991:22) and to date, over 40 excavations have been undertaken in the region (for a map and table summarizing both published and unpublished excavations, see Brink et al. 2015: Fig. 2, Table 1).[2] The present excavation was situated in the northern part of Remez Neighborhood of modern Lod that is considered to have been part of the ancient mound (Fig. 2). The outline of the mound, although it cannot be precisely determined at present, may represent the extent of Early Bronze Age settlement at Lod (see below). Remains of this period have been uncovered in several locales, most of which cluster in two distinct areas: the eastern extremity of He-Ḥaluẓ Street (Brink et al. 2015: Fig. 2, Sites 7A–B, 14, 14B) and the Remez Neighborhood (Brink et al. 2015: Fig. 2, Sites 1, 12, 13, 16, 24, 29, 40, 41). Nonetheless,

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[1] The excavation (Permit No. A-5732), carried out on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority and financed by the Ministry for Housing and Development, was directed by Amir Golani with the assistance of Shlomo Ya'aqov-Jam and Eliyahu Bachar (administration), Vadim Essman and Mark Kipnis (field surveying), Amit Shadman and Durar Masarwa (antiquities inspectors), Amit Re'em (district archaeologist), Yossi Nagar (anthropology), Roni Gat, Michal Bein and Nir Aloni (ceramic restoration), Irena Lidsky-Reznikov (artifact drawing), Oren Ackermann (geomorphology), Elisabetta Boaretto (radiocarbon analysis), Edward Maher (archaeozoology) and Polina Spivak (flint processing). Special thanks are due to Eli Yannai for providing access to unpublished data from his excavations at Tel Lod. For a preliminary report, see Golani 2013.

[2] The map erroneously depicts the location of Tel Lod as a very small feature adjacent to Ginnaton Junction on the southeastern outskirts of modern Lod, which was long thought to have been the site of the ancient mound; however, it is in fact the location of a defunct water tower.

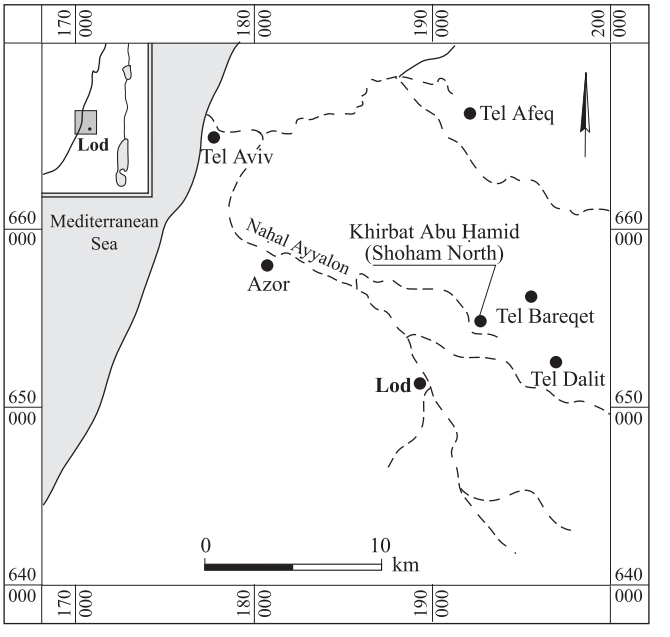
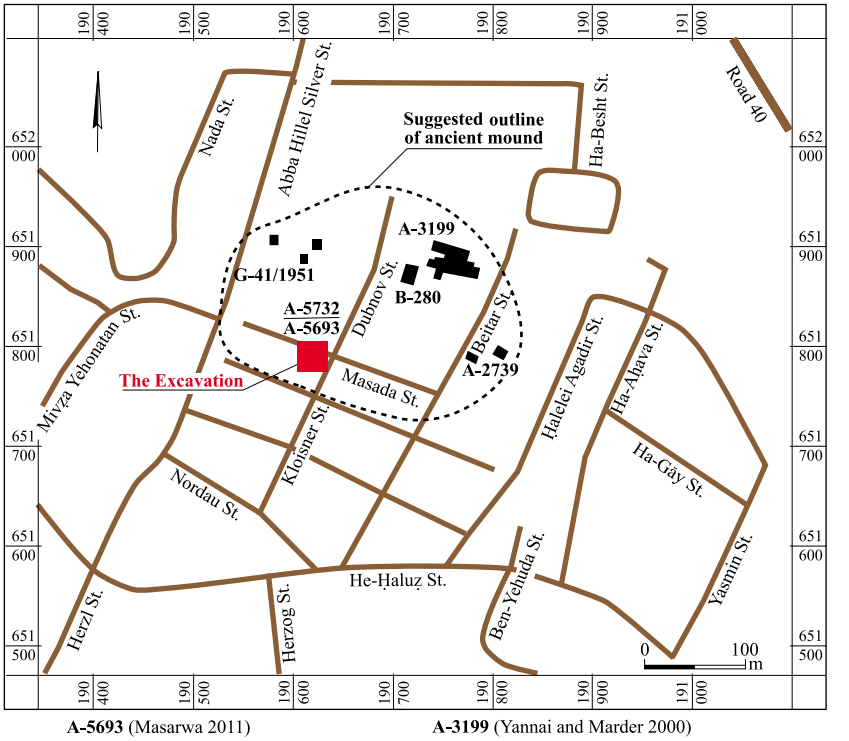


Fig. 1. Location map of Lod in relation to other nearby Early Bronze Age sites.



A-5693 (Masarwa 2011)
G-41/1951(Kaplan 1977)
B-280 (Paz, Rozenberg and Nativ 2005)
A-3199 (Yannai and Marder 2000)
A-2739 (Brink 1999; 2000; Brink et al. 2015)

Fig. 2. Location of the excavation in relation to previous excavations at Tel Lod yielding Early Bronze Age remains, and suggested outline of the ancient mound.

stratified deposits containing *in situ* architectural remains that were clearly attributed to the Early Bronze Age were only uncovered in the Remez Neighborhood, while the remains on He-Ḥaluẓ Street appear to represent *ex situ* finds located along the periphery of the ancient settlement. Therefore, the finds from the Remez Neighborhood provide the basis for determining the approximate extent of the Early Bronze Age settlement.

Previous Research of Early Bronze Age Lod

Previous excavations to the north, east and south of the present excavation serve to delineate the boundaries of the Early Bronze Age site (Table 1). The first excavation to reach the Early Bronze Age layers at Lod was conducted by Kaplan, on behalf of the Israel Department of Antiquities and Museums, 100 m north of the present excavation (Fig. 2:G-41/1951; Kaplan 1977). Kaplan discerned two architectural phases of the late EB I in Area B of his excavation, the early phase yielding mainly a mud-brick wall and the late phase including remains of a circular stone structure. More recent excavations conducted by Segal, on behalf of the IAA, immediately to the north of Kaplan's excavation, revealed scattered MB II burials and no *in situ* Early Bronze Age remains (Segal 2012). These findings indicate that Kaplan's excavation marked the northwestern edge of the Early Bronze Age settlement.

Subsequent excavations on behalf of the IAA by Brink, located 200 m east of the present excavation (Fig. 2: A-2739; Brink 1999, 2002; Brink et al. 2015), identified a 1.8 m thick EB IB occupation layer (Stratum IV) comprising two phases, the earlier of which yielded walls with stone foundations and mud-brick superstructures abutted by plaster surfaces (Stratum IVb). One of the Stratum IVb walls had a rounded exterior corner, an architectural feature typical of late EB I and the transition to EB II (Golani 1999). Stratum IVa yielded mud-brick walls with no stone foundations, abutted by plaster surfaces upon which were found imported Egyptian ceramics and local imitations thereof.

A small rescue excavation in 2003, on behalf of the Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University (Area I), was located c. 100 m to the northeast of the present excavation (Fig. 2: B-280). It revealed nine occupation strata, four of which (Strata VI–III) included architectural remains that were ascribed to EB IB (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005:131–154). Material culture of an Egyptian source was found only in Strata V and IV.

Two other excavations located immediately to the east (Gopher and Blockman 2004) and southeast[3] of the Tel Aviv University excavation did not yield *in situ* Early Bronze Age remains, indicating that that part of the site marked the eastern limit of the Early Bronze Age occupation.

A large-scale excavation directed by Yannai and Marder, 125 m to the northeast of the present excavation, identified three strata of EB IB (Strata VIII–VI; Yannai and Marder 2000: Areas C and A; Fig. 2: A-3199). These strata yielded remains of a circular structure

[3] This unpublished excavation was conducted by Eli Yannai and Radwan Badhi (Permit No. A-2409/1995).

Table 1. Summary of Occupation Strata at Tel Lod and Its Immediate Vicinity[i]

	Lod Remez, Present Excavation (A-5732)	Lod Remez (A-5693; Masarwa 2011)	Lod Compound (A-5658; Segal 2012)	Lod (G-41/1951; Kaplan 1977)	Lod (B-280; Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005: Area I)	Tel Lod (A-3199; Yannai and Marder 2000)	Lod Remez (A-5993; Golani 2012)	Newe Yaraq (A-1854; Gopher and Blockman 2004)	Lod (A-2739; Brink 1999, 2002; Brink et al. 2015)	Newe Yaraq (Brink and Commenge 2016)
Neolithic			*	*	*	Stratum X		*	Stratum VI	*
Chalcolithic			*	*	Strata IX–VII	Stratum IX			Stratum V	*
EB IB	Strata VII–IV/III	Stratum II		*	Strata VI–III	Strata VIII–VI			Stratum IVa–b	*
Late EB IB/ EB II	Strata III–II	Stratum I			*(?)	Strata V–II				*(?)
EB III						*				
IBA					*	* (ceramics only)			Stratum III(?)	
MB II			*			*	Stratum II			*
LB						*				*
Iron Age II			*			*				*
Persian								**		*
Hellenistic										
Roman			*			Burial complex				Pottery kiln
Byzantine			*		Stratum I				Stratum II	
Early Islamic						Scattered tombs	Stratum I			

[i] Absence indicated by *.

and a building with a rounded corner. The EB IB levels also yielded imported Egyptian ceramics, Egyptian *serekh*s, flints and stone vessels, as well as local imitations of Egyptian pottery that were recovered primarily from Stratum VI. The EB IB occupation layers were followed by four EB II strata (Strata V–II), showing much continuity in the material culture alongside indications for the beginning of centralized urban planning. This part of the site seems to have constituted the northeastern boundary of the Early Bronze Age settlement, as no additional *in situ* remains of this period were uncovered in excavations farther northeast.

The southern and southwestern boundaries of the Early Bronze Age site can be delineated based on recent excavations that did not produce *in situ* Early Bronze Age remains, including the excavations on He-Ḥaluẓ Street (Brink et al. 2015: Fig. 2, Sites 4, 7A–B, 10, 14, 14B); an excavation by the author (Golani 2012) 100 m to the southeast of the present excavation, which revealed only *in situ* remains of MB II and the Early Islamic period; and an excavation by Avivi, c. 100 to the west of the present excavation.[4] The reconstructed extent of the Early Bronze Age occupation at Lod allows estimating the site size as c. 50 dunams (Fig. 2).

The Excavation

The present excavation comprised five squares (120 sq m; Plan 1). A modern building that existed in this area (Stratum I) was demolished, and the removal of the rubble appears to have damaged the Stratum II remains found immediately below it. The northernmost part of the excavation area (Sqs A/2–3) was previously excavated as a sounding by Masarwa (2011; Fig. 2: A-5693) and incorporated into the present excavation. This sounding revealed an EB IB occupation stratum, overlaid by another of EB II; it did not, however, reach the virgin sand underlying the site. The sounding was widened and deepened in the present excavation, reaching sand in a small probe (Fig. 3) at a depth of over 4 m below the modern ground surface. This sand yielded scattered ceramics and flint tools of the Neolithic, Chalcolithic and EB IB periods.

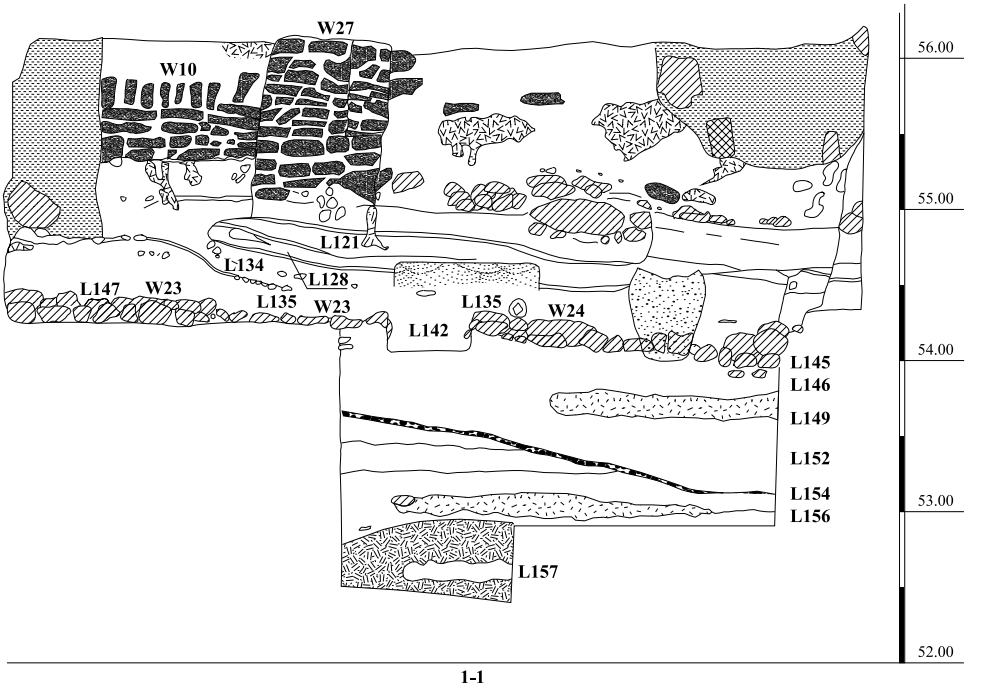
Seven occupation strata were identified: Strata VII—IV, ascribed to EB IB; Strata III–II, ascribed to the very end of EB IB or the EB IB/EB II transition; and Stratum I, comprising modern remains (Plan 1). Below is a description of these strata from earliest to latest.

Stratum VII (Plan 2)

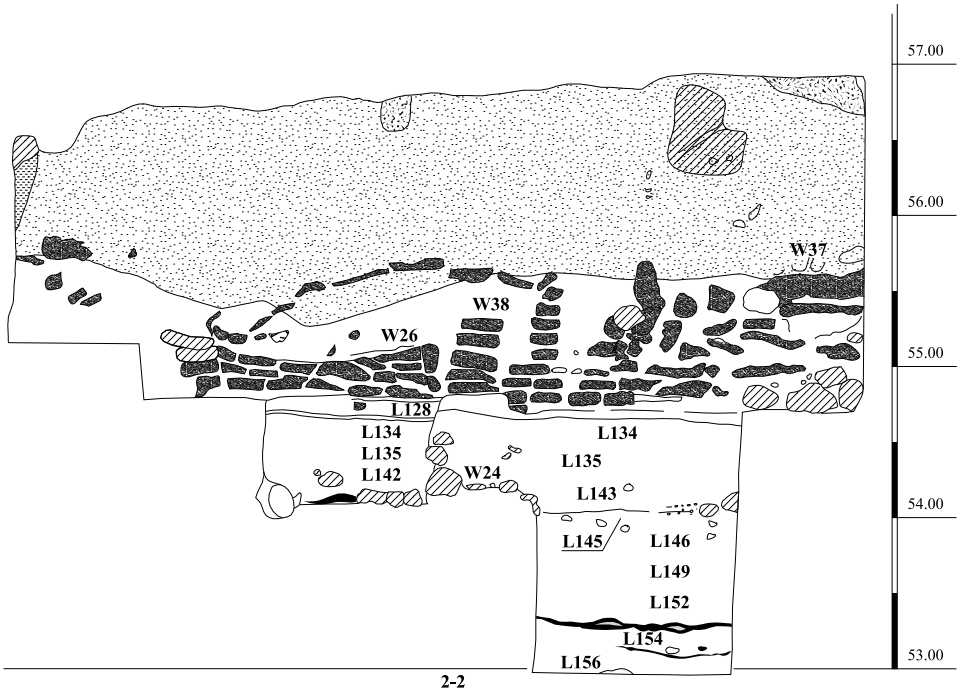
The earliest remains, comprising two distinct accumulations of small stones and burned debris (L156, L154; Plan 2: Sections 1–1, 2–2, 3–3), were uncovered directly upon sterile sands of a loose texture (L157) in Sqs A/2–3. These accumulations inclined to the north and were overlaid by sandy fills (L146, L149, L152)—possibly eroded material of Stratum VII or material that was intentionally laid at the time of Stratum VI to level the natural slope.

[4] This excavation is unpublished (License No. B-262/2002).

Plan 1. Strata VII–I, plan and sections.



1-1



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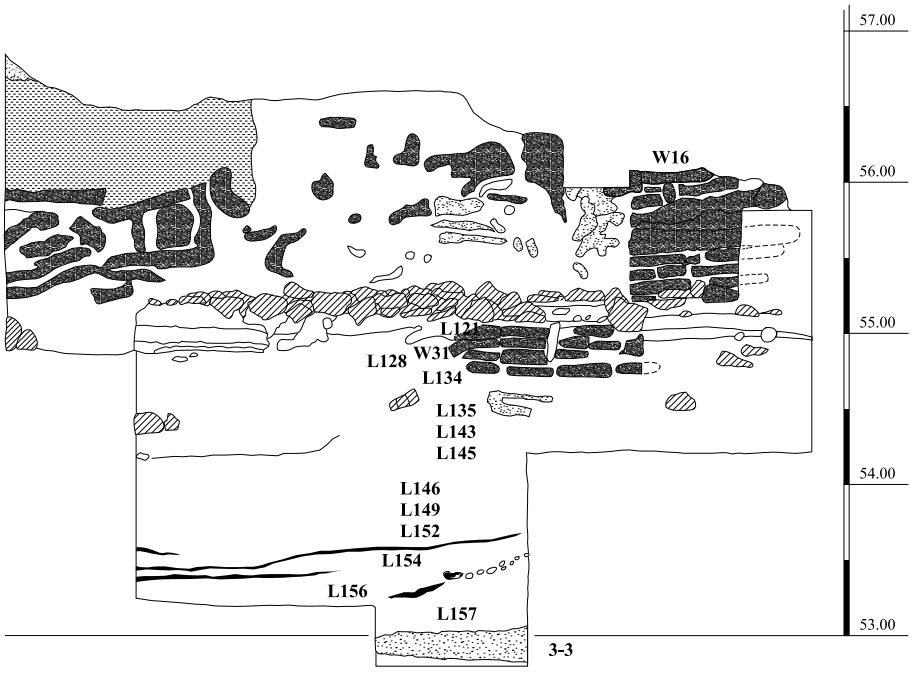
Plan 1. (cont.)


57.00
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W16
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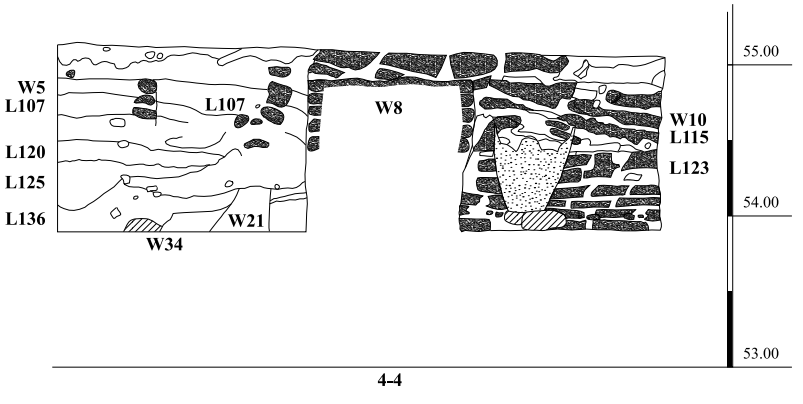
3-3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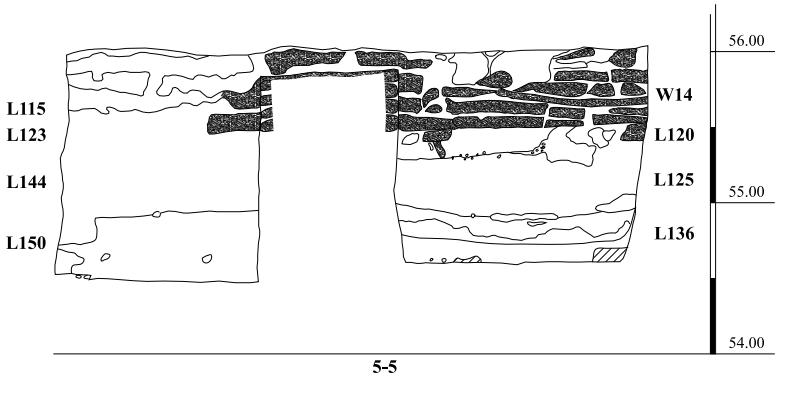
56.00
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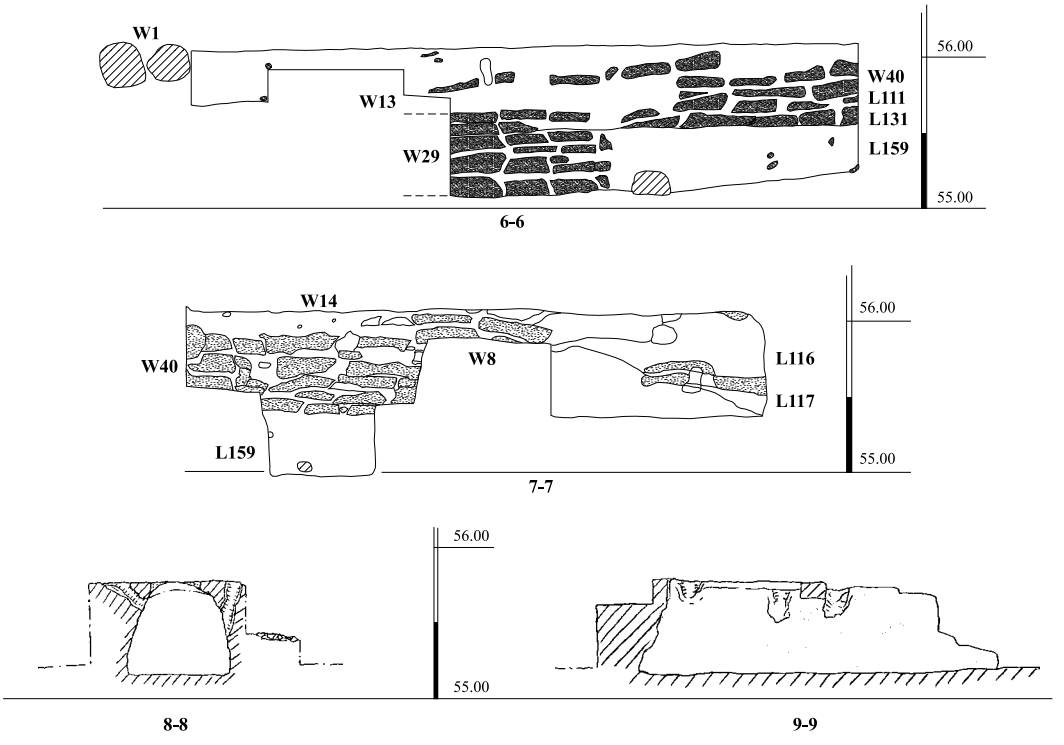
5-5

Plan 1. (cont.)



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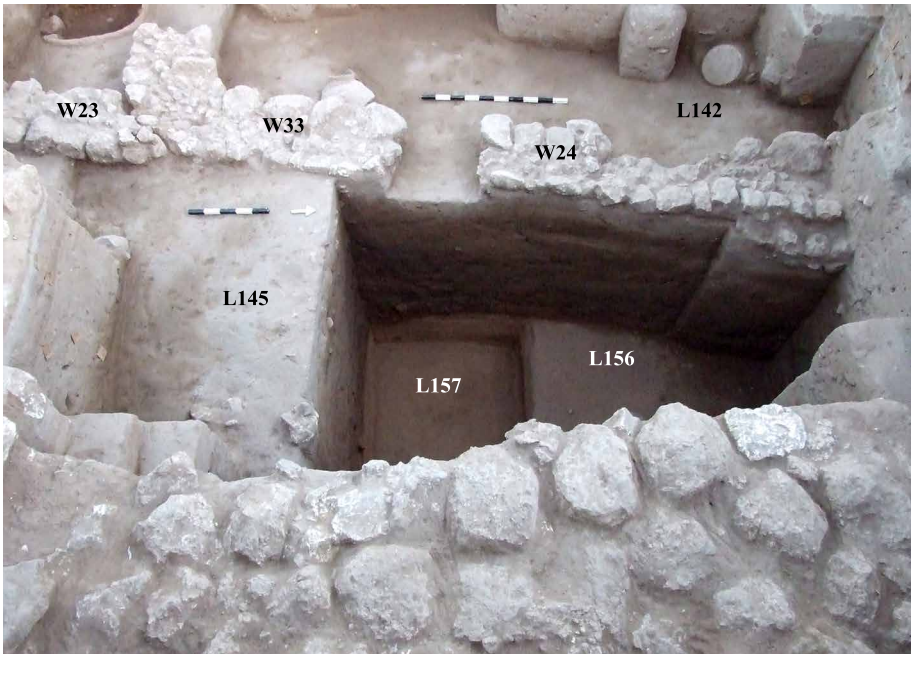


Fig. 3. A deep probe into Stratum VII and underlying sand, looking west; note the remains of a Stratum VI structure (W24/33) and the Stratum III stone pavement of Masarwa's excavations at foreground.

Plan 2. Strata VII–V (for sections, see Plan 1).

These meager remains, which were uncovered only in a small probe, were identified as belonging to one stratum based on their presence below the Stratum VI occupation.

STRATUM VI (Plan 2)

The Stratum VI remains, as those of Stratum VII, were reached only in the northernmost excavation square. The excavation exposed a structure comprising the stone foundations of three wall segments (W24/W33, W35), constructed of two rows of medium- and small-sized fieldstones with small chinking stones in between, preserved to a maximum of two courses. Wall 24/33, oriented southwest–northeast, had a rounded corner at its southwestern

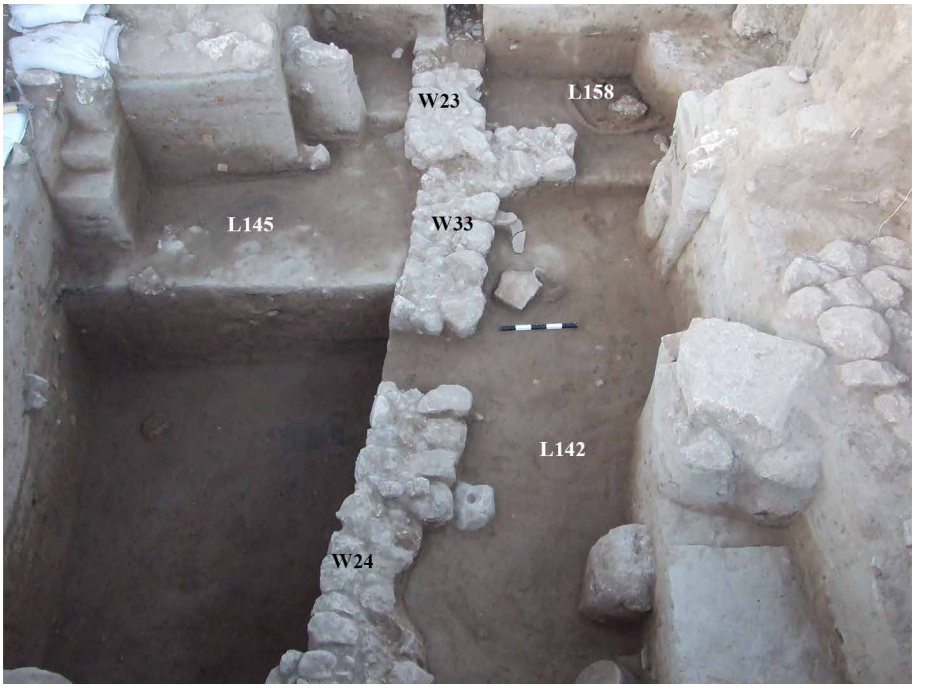


Fig. 4. Stratum VI structure, looking south; note eastern entrance and pivot stone, and southern entrance and burned mud-brick installation (L158).

end and what appears to have been an entranceway marked by squared-off wall segments (Figs. 3–5). Another such entranceway was detected in southern W35.

A pivot stone was found along the eastern face of W24, adjacent to the eastern entrance, and another stone with a small cupmark, possibly also a pivot stone, was found along the western face of W24, c. 1 m north of the entrance (Fig. 4). A rounded mud-brick installation (L158; Fig. 5), sunk into the ground and of unclear function, obstructed part of the southern entrance to the structure; it was partially exposed along the southern side of W35. The installation was filled with burned mud bricks and gray ash. The seemingly obstructing position of this installation indicates that it may have been a late addition.

The plan of the Stratum VI structure, and the fact that no pillar bases to support a roof were found in association with it, suggest that it was not a building, but more probably a boundary wall of an enclosure. A beaten-earth surface (L142) strewn with numerous restorable ceramic vessels (see below, Fig. 29:1–6, 8, 10, 11) was found within the structure, and a similar surface (L143/145; Plan 2: Section 2–2; Figs. 6, 7) was identified outside and to the east of it.

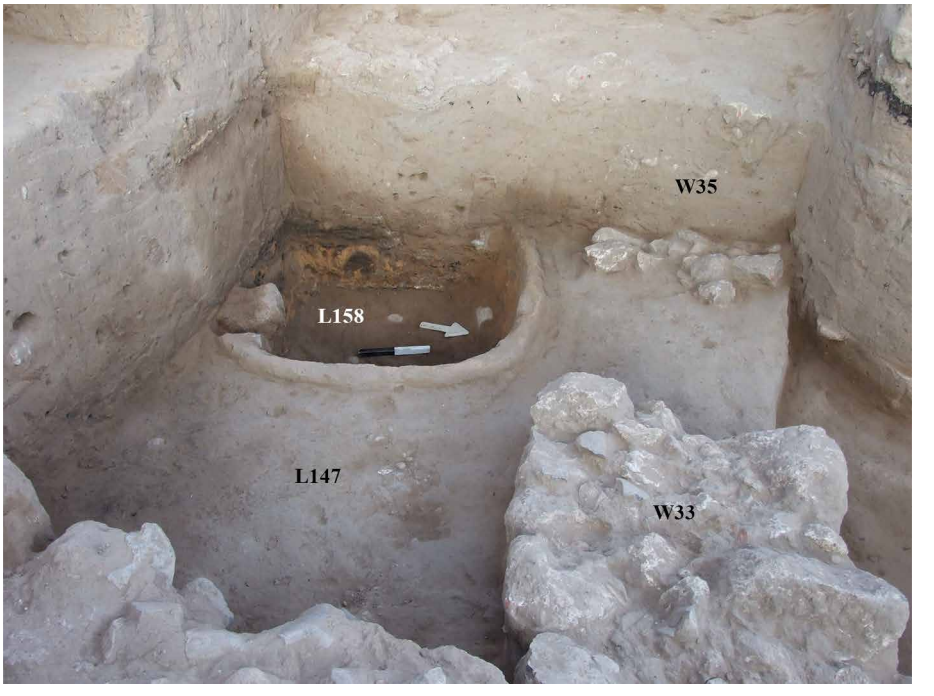


Fig. 5. Stratum VI burned mud-brick installation (L158) near southern entrance of structure, looking west.

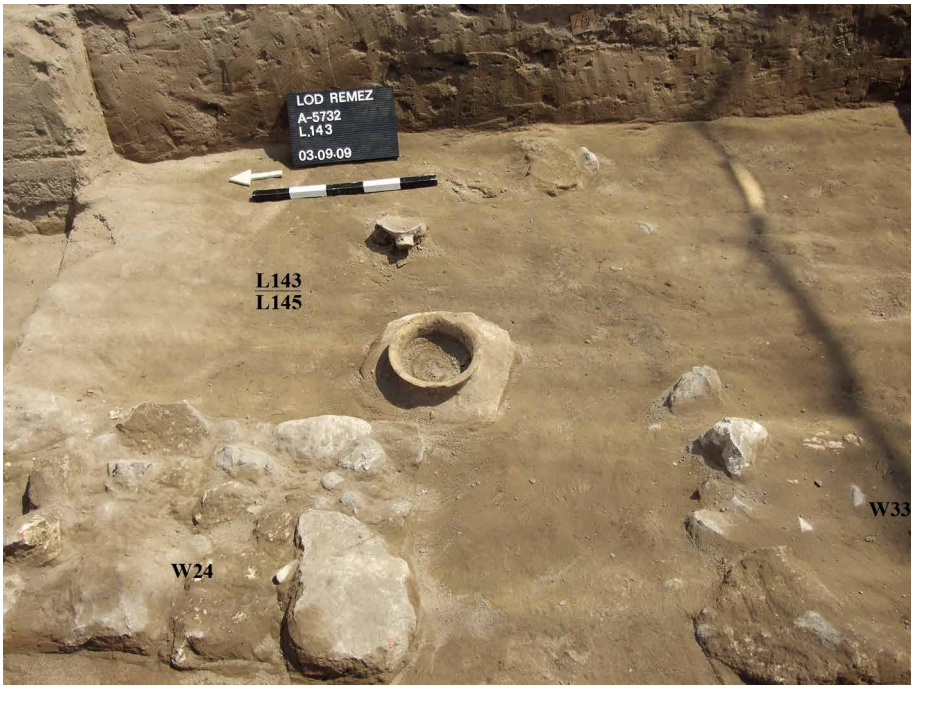


Fig. 6. Stratum VI Surface 143 overlaid by ceramic vessels, looking east.

Fig. 7. Complete crushed storage jar atop Stratum VI Surface 142, looking southeast.

Stratum V (Plan 2)

Only very few architectural remains of this stratum were exposed, as these were mostly destroyed by modern trenching in Sqs A/2–3, and the excavation in other squares did not reach this stratum due to lack of time. The Stratum V remains comprised the stone foundations of what appeared to be another large enclosure wall with a rounded corner, of a similar orientation as that of the Stratum VI structure. The northeastern corner of the Stratum V structure overrode and cancelled the enclosure wall of Stratum VI and was built directly atop it (Plan 2: Section 1–1; Fig. 8), indicating that a relatively short period separated the two occupations.

The Stratum V structure consisted mostly of a short wall segment (W23) built of two rows of medium- to small-sized stones with smaller chinking stones in between. Wall 23 was abutted by a beaten-earth surface on its western side (L147) and another on its eastern side (L148; Fig. 8). It was squared-off on its southern end, indicating the presence of an entranceway. The threshold of the entranceway may be seen in a patch of a small-stone

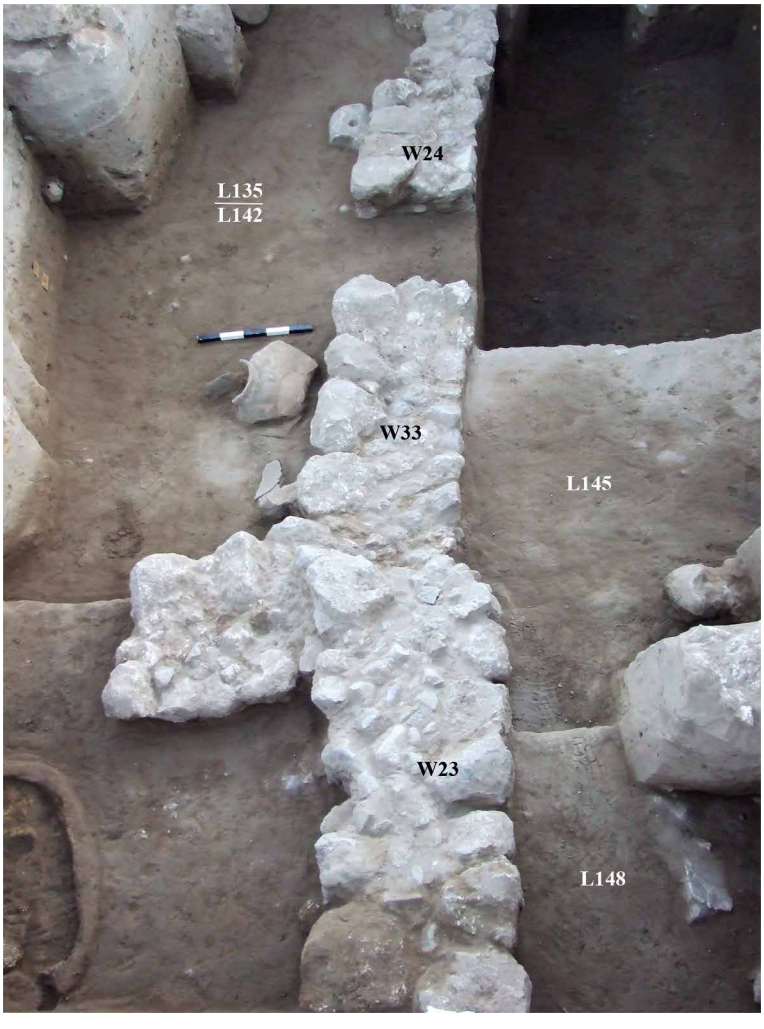


Fig. 8 Stratum V W23 overriding Stratum VI structure, looking north.

pavement that was not fully exposed and extended south of the squared-off segment of W23. While the Stratum V structure was largely destroyed by modern trenching on its southern side, the existence of another rounded corner and the southern wall (W34) of the structure can be reconstructed based on the presence of wall remnants. The stones of W34 may have been reused in a later Stratum IV wall (W21; see below) of a similar orientation.

A large open area with a beaten-earth surface (L135; Plan 2: Section 1–1; Fig. 8) that covered over and cancelled the Stratum VI remains was exposed outside and to the north of the Stratum V structure. A small painted juglet typical of late EB I (Fig. 9; see below, Fig. 30:11) was found atop Surface 135 .

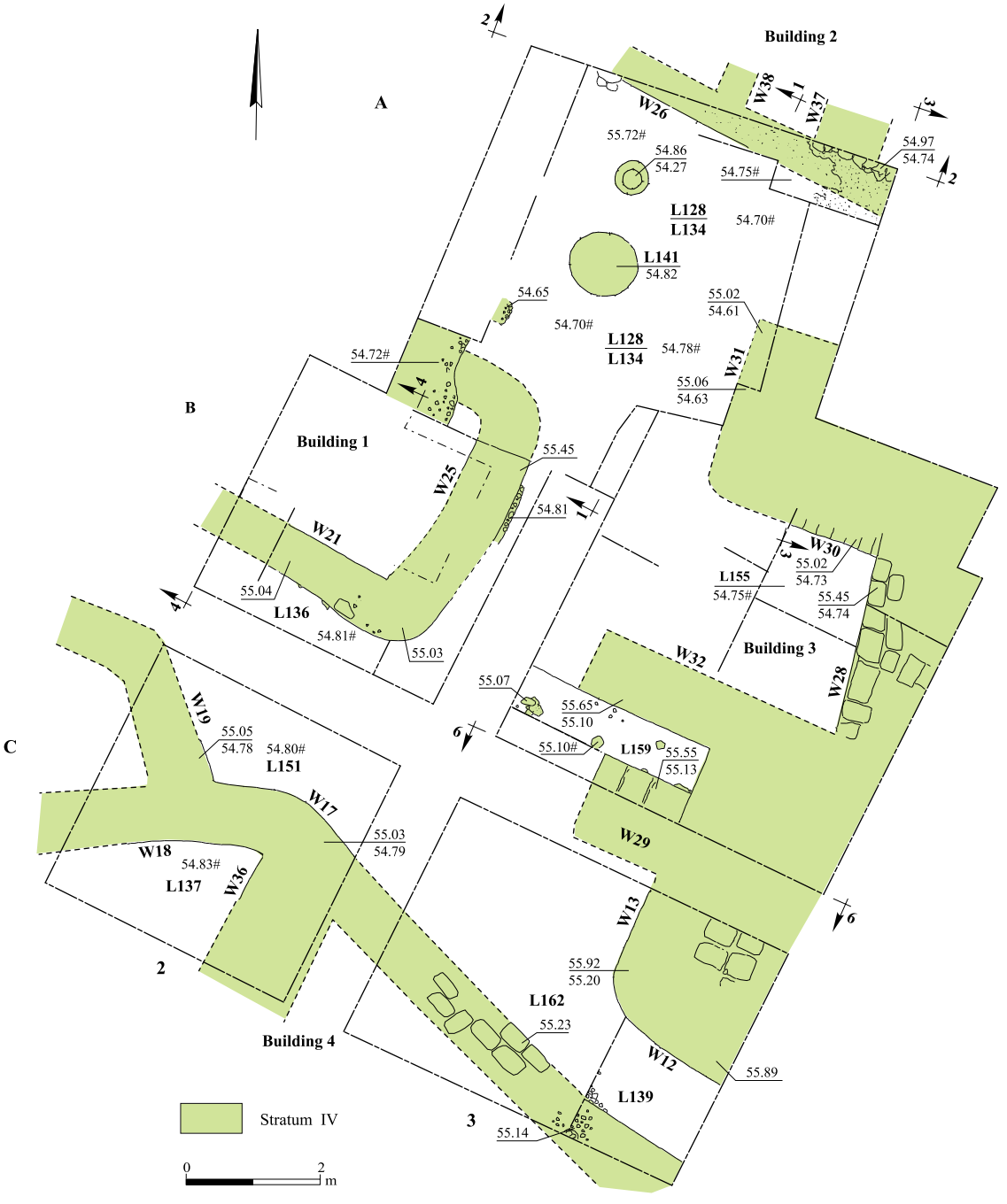
Fig. 9. Stratum VI Surface 142 at the bottom of the western section of Sq A2, and Stratum V ceramic vessel, looking west.

Stratum IV (Plan 3)

Remains of this stratum were unearthed in all the excavated squares, and appeared to comprise parts of three structures (Buildings 1–3) surrounding an open area with a rounded platform (L141); remains of another structure (Building 4) were found along the southern edge of the excavation area. The Stratum IV architectural layout may represent a preconceived plan of buildings separated by alleyways in a roughly orthogonal arrangement alongside open areas. It is noteworthy that all Stratum IV architectural remains were built of mud bricks with little if any use of stone foundations. An exclusive use of mud bricks with no stone foundations was previously observed at Lod (Stratum IVa; Brink et al. 2015:152).

Building 1

Remains of two walls (W21 and W25; Fig. 10), identified in the western part of the excavated area, appear to comprise part of a building with rounded exterior corners. Both walls were constructed of dark brown mud bricks, preserved to a maximum of four courses high. A beaten-earth surface (L136) was exposed to the south of W21. This southern wall appears to have incorporated several stones from Stratum V W34 in its base, while the remainder of that earlier wall was dismantled. Wall 25, constituting the eastern wall of Building 1, was severely damaged by a Stratum III pit containing a storage jar (Figs. 11, 12; Plan 3: Section 4–4) and by a modern disturbance. This wall also appears to have incorporated several small



Plan 3. Stratum IV (for sections, see Plan 1).

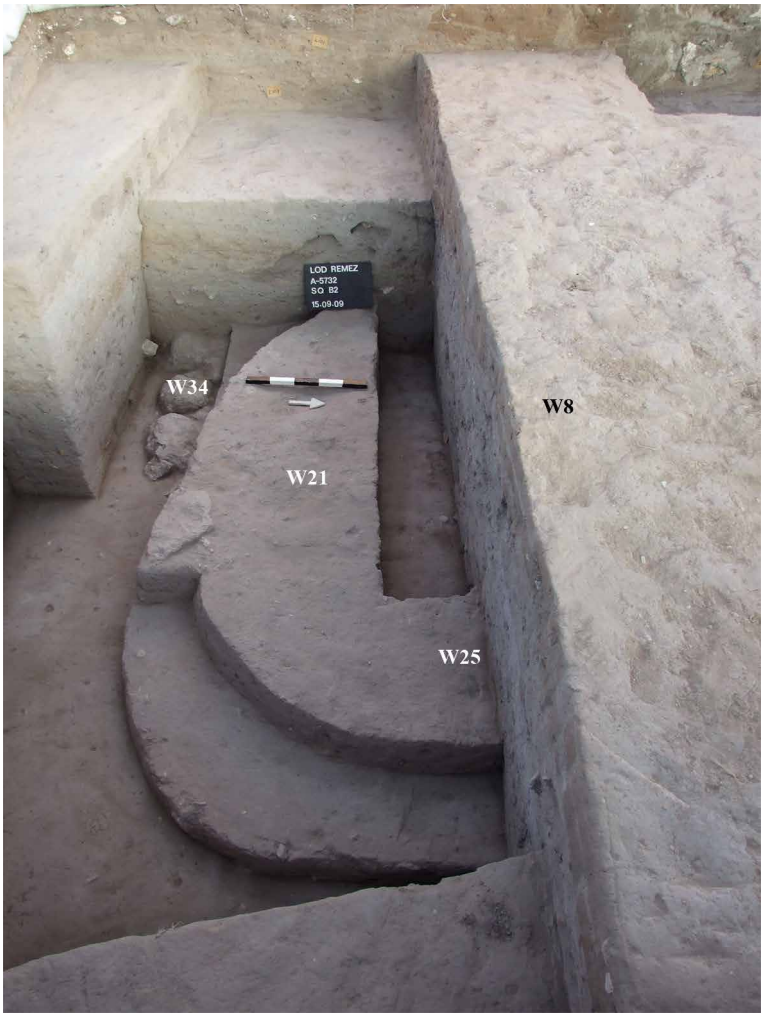


Fig. 10. Remains of Stratum V W34, Stratum III W8 and Stratum IV Building 1 (W21, W25), looking west.

stones as part of the mud-brick construction (Fig. 12), possibly for stabilization. A rounded corner may be reconstructed at the northern end of W25, despite the nearly destroyed part of the wall.

Building 2

Meager remains along the northern edge of the excavated area indicated the existence of another structure. These remains were primarily identified in a section at the northern part of Sqs A/2–3; this section cut through an east–west mud-brick wall (W26; Plan 3: Section 2–2) preserved to a height of three courses. The possible existence of two additional walls (W37, W38), perpendicular to W26 and preserved to a height of seven courses, was detected

Fig. 11. Remains of Stratum IV W25, looking west; note the partial exposure of Stratum V threshold between W23 and W34 at center bottom, and the lower half of a storage jar intruding from Stratum III.

Fig. 12. Stratum IV W25 cut by Stratum III storage jar at center, and Stratum III mud-brick W8 at top left, looking southwest.

in the section. Two surfaces of laminated white plaster (L128, L134; Plan 3: Sections 1–1, 2–2) abutted the base of these walls.

Building 3

Remains of a large and complex structure of unclear plan were identified in the eastern part of the excavated area. This building had very thick mud-brick walls and appears to have included at least one rounded corner.

Mud-brick W30 (Fig. 13) was preserved to a maximum of three courses, abutted at its base by a beaten-earth surface (L155). Wall 31(Plan 3: Section 3–3), preserved to a maximum of four courses, was perpendicular to W30 and appears to have formed a corner with it. This reconstruction is based on the orientation of these two walls, the near equivalent elevation of their bases and their stratigraphic position immediately below the Stratum III architecture.

Wall 28, of which only the western face was identified while its eastern face apparently lay outside the excavated area, appeared to have connected to W30 at an obtuse angle. This wall was preserved to a height of six courses and was abutted by the Surface 155, as was W30. Wall 28 (Figs. 13–15) may have joined another wall (W32) on its southern end that only partially exposed and preserved to a height of four courses. Wall 29 (Fig. 16), preserved to a height of five courses, was situated to the south of W32 and parallel to it. This wall joined W32 by a mud-brick construction on its eastern side and was separated from it by a narrow corridor with a beaten-earth surface (L159) on its western side. Another wall (W13), of which only the western face was exposed, formed a right-angled corner with W29 and a rounded corner with W12.

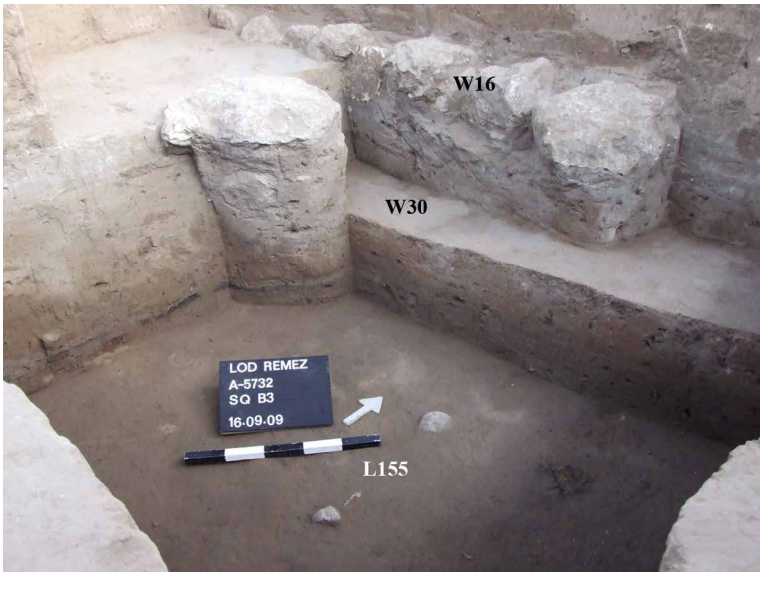


Fig. 13. Stratum IV W30 and Surface 155, below the stone foundations of Stratum III W16, looking northwest.

Fig. 14. Stratum IV mud-brick W32, cut by the stone foundation of Stratum III W22, looking south.

Fig. 15. Stratum III W22 atop Stratum IV W32, looking south.

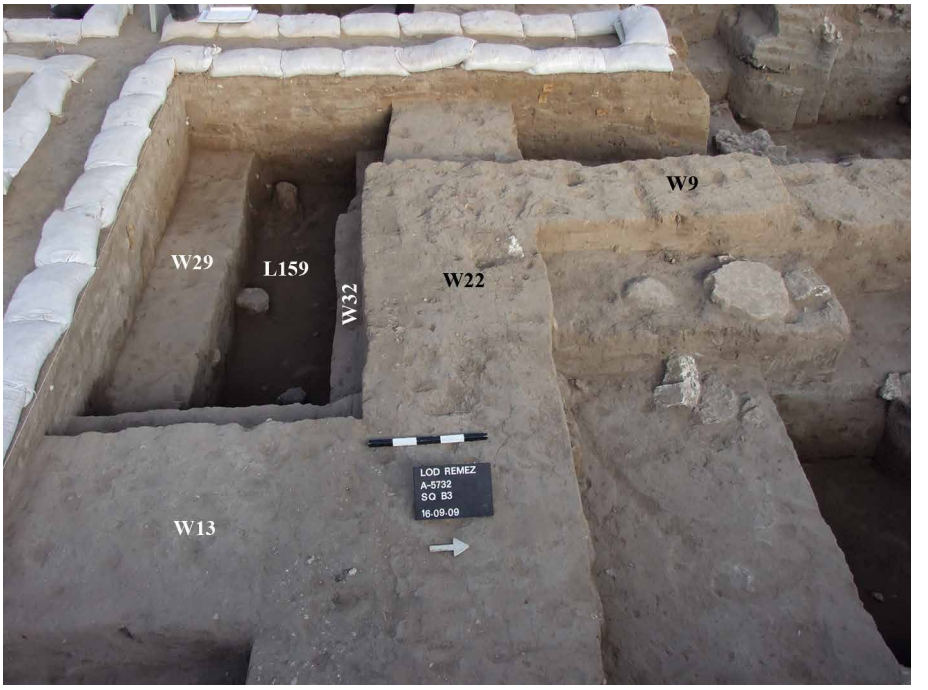


Fig. 16. The narrow space separating Stratum IV W32 and W29, looking west.

Open Area between Buildings 1, 2 and 3

The open area between Buildings 1, 2 and 3 moderately inclined northward. Excavation in this area revealed two surfaces of laminated white plaster (L128, L134; Plan 3: Section 1–1; see Fig. 9) and numerous burned seeds. A round mud-brick platform (L141; Figs. 17, 18), and an upright storage jar immediately to its north, sunk into underlying Strata VI and V, were unearthed at the center of the open area.

Building 4

The partial remains of several mud-brick walls, uncovered in the southern part of the excavated area, may represent the northern edge of a large mud-brick enclosure wall. These remains include a long curving mud-brick wall (W17/18, Sqs C/2–3; Fig. 19). The eastern end of this wall was abutted by fills (L162, L139) on its northern side, and no clear surface was found. A beaten-earth surface (L151) was found to the north of W17/18, near its western end, and another mud-brick wall (W19) connected to it at an obtuse angle. A thick mud-brick wall (W36) appears to have connected to W17/18 from the south, and both walls were abutted by a beaten-earth surface (L137) at their base, on the western side of W36.

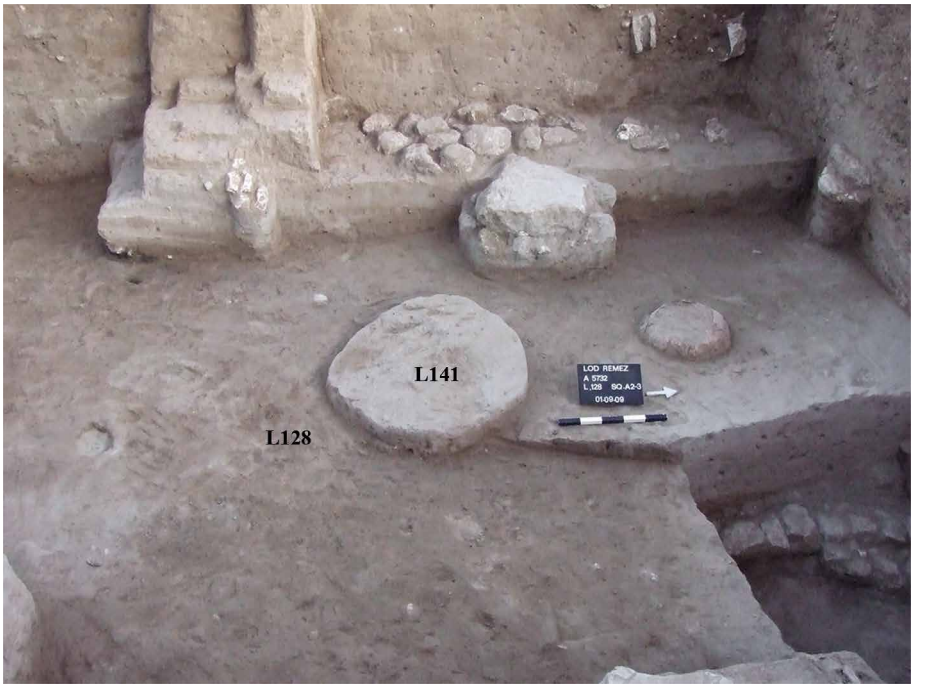


Fig. 17. Circular mud-brick Platform 141 and the top of a submerged storage jar to its right, atop Stratum IV Surface 128, looking west; note Stratum III architectural remains at top.

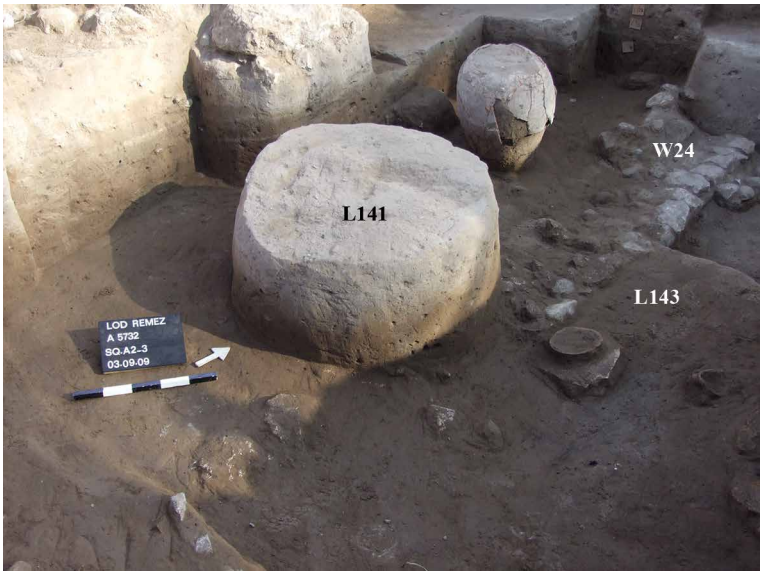


Fig. 18. Platform 141 and storage jar after surface removal of Strata IV and V, looking northwest; note Stratum VI remains at right.

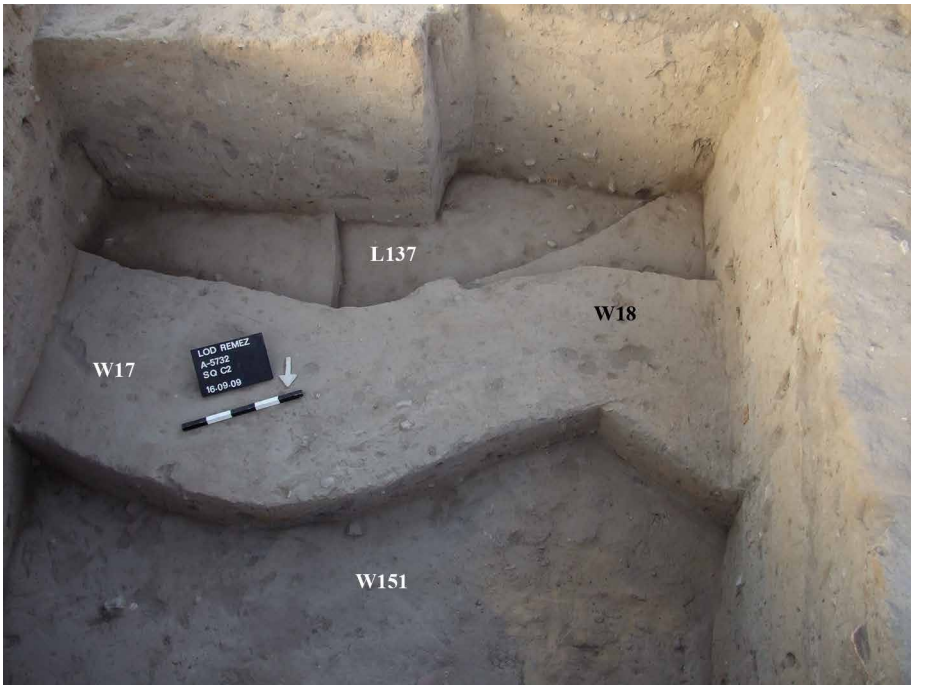


Fig. 19. Stratum IV remains, looking south.

Stratum III (Plan 4)

Remains of this stratum were identified in all the excavated squares and were relatively well-preserved. The Stratum III builders created a mostly new architectural plan, in some cases using the Stratum IV walls as a sturdy foundation (see Fig. 14), and in other cases completely dismantling them. The Stratum III walls were constructed of mud bricks, sometimes atop a partial stone foundation (see Figs. 13, 14).

A large multi-roomed building was appended at this time to part of the massive Stratum IV Building 3. Two rooms of this large building were identified within the excavated area, one of which appears to have opened on the north to a large courtyard. The building appears to have continued beyond the excavated area to the west, north and east. A pottery kiln was uncovered to the south of this building, in Sq C3.

The Courtyard

Part of a large courtyard, partially paved with medium-sized stones, was previously exposed by Masarwa (2011) in Sqs A/2–3. The courtyard contained a few large flat-topped stones that may have been pillar bases (Fig. 20), providing support for a roof that partially covered this area. A plastered installation with a flat surface and a hemispherical depression was found next to one of the flat-topped stones, within the area that was possibly roofed over. This open area may have been enclosed by walls on the west, east and north, which lay beyond the excavated area.

Plan 4. Strata I–III (for sections, see Plan 1).

Fig. 20. Stratum III courtyard, as exposed in Masarwa's excavation, looking east.

Room 1

The outline of this room, comprising five walls (W8–W10, W16, W27; c. 50 sq m), could be reconstructed despite considerable damage by modern trenching. A wide gap between two misaligned walls, W27 and W16, appeared to have served as an entranceway. All walls of Room 1 were constructed solely of mud-bricks, except W16 that had a stone foundation. Beaten-earth floors were identified in the eastern and southern parts of the room (L115/L123, L116/L117), and a complete storage jar was sunk into the floor near the southwestern corner of the room in an upright position (Fig. 21), penetrating earlier remains of Stratum IV (Plan 4: Section 4–4; see Figs. 11, 12). The existence of another room west of Room 1 was indicated by the westward continuation of W8 and W27.

A short segment of a mud-brick wall (W14), abutting W8 at an obtuse angle on its southern side, was discerned primarily in the balk (Plan 4: Section 5–5; Fig. 22). It was joined by another wall (W40; Plan 4: Section 6–6) on its southern end, also at an obtuse angle. These two walls appear to delineate a small space in the back of Room 1 that contained a beaten-earth floor overlaid by a fill (L111/L131); another such sequence was found to the west of this small space (L107/L120), where Surface 120 abutted W8 of Room 1, on its southern side.

Fig. 21 Storage jar sunk into Stratum III Floor 115, looking west; note remains of W8 at left.

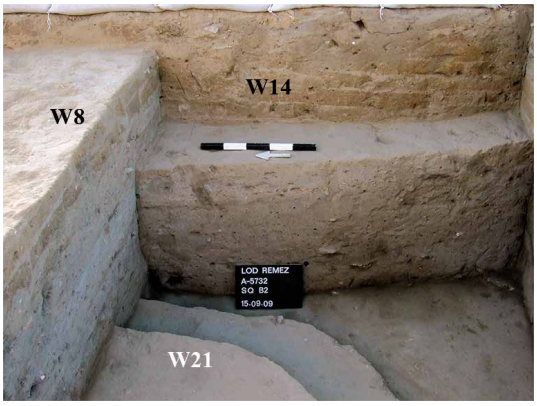


Fig. 22. Stratum III W14 in the eastern balk of Sq B2, looking east; note W8 at left.

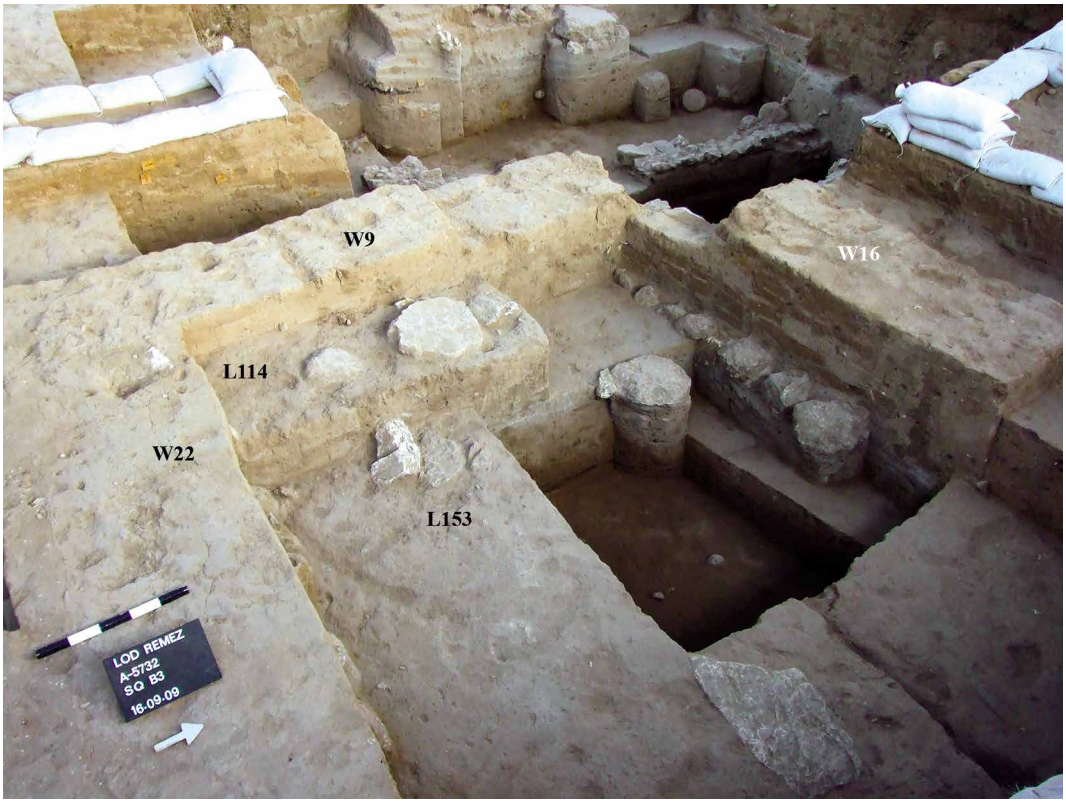


Fig. 23. Stratum III Room 2, looking northwest; note large flagstone Floor 153 below paving stones of Floor 114.

Room 2

This room, joining Room 1 on its eastern side, was delineated by three walls, forming its northern, western and southern sides (W16, W9 and W22, respectively; Fig. 23). The eastern wall of this room probably lay outside the excavated area. A short wall segment (W41), joining W16 perpendicularly, indicates the continuation of this structure to the north. Room 2 appeared to have been appended to the massive Stratum IV construction in the southern part of Building 3, which remained in use at this time; W22 was set directly upon and continued the line of Stratum IV W32 (see Fig. 15). Two superimposed beaten-earth floors were found within Room 2, the upper floor (L114) partly comprised of a cluster of several large paving stones near the room's southwestern corner, and the lower floor (L133/153), abutting the base of the walls and incorporating several large paving stones, was found scattered throughout the room (Fig. 23). One of the large paving stones of Floor 133/153 was set into the top of a Stratum IV wall (W28) that had been partially dismantled.

A Pottery Kiln

A pottery firing kiln (L160) was revealed in the southern part of the excavated area, in direct association with the other Stratum III architectural remains (Figs. 24–27). The kiln was U-shaped, and its curved side turned northward, where an intake flue leading to the combustion chamber was identified (Fig. 26). The installation appeared to have been a vertical (updraught), double-chambered pottery kiln (see Rye 1981:98–104, Fig. 88; Rice 1987:158–160, Fig. 5.22; Wood 1990:27–30, see Figs. 6–8), comprising three main elements: (1) a lower combustion chamber; (2) a funnel-shaped intake flue for stoking; and (3) an upper firing chamber that did not survive and would have been located directly above the lower combustion chamber where the ceramic vessels were placed.

The combustion chamber (1.20 × 2.00 × 0.65 m, wall thickness 25–50 cm; Plan 4: Sections 8–8, 9–9) was built of mud bricks of the same size and composition as those used in the construction of other Stratum III walls nearby. The interior of the chamber was coated with clay (thickness c. 5–10 cm; Fig. 24), burned near the bottom, mostly exhibiting a light red-orange color and in places also tinged with a gray-green color on its exterior face. A large amount of fine, loose gray ash was found within the lower part of the chamber. The chamber was sunk into a beaten-earth surface (L126, L127), reaching a shallow depth of 25 cm below the floor (Fig. 26). The L126/L127 surfaces abutted the base of W12 and W13. As these walls were incorporated into the Stratum III building that comprised Rooms 1 and 2, it can be surmised that the pottery kiln was stratigraphically connected to that building and was part of Stratum III. Several clay-lined ducts, found in the upper part of the combustion chamber, were apparently flues that led hot air into the firing chamber (Figs. 24–26). The roof of the combustion chamber remained nearly intact, held up without the use of supporting pillars.

The north–south air intake flue (0.60 × 1.00 × 0.65 m), narrowing to the kiln's opening at its northern end (width c. 0.3 m), was constructed of clay rather than mud bricks. A deposit of fine, loose gray ash was found at the bottom of the intake flue and the clay

Fig. 24. Stratum III pottery kiln, looking west; note mud-brick wall surrounding the firing chamber at center, below the air flues leading into the upper chamber, and Floor 126 abutting the kiln.

Fig. 25. Stratum III pottery kiln, looking east; note openings of air flues leading into the upper chamber.

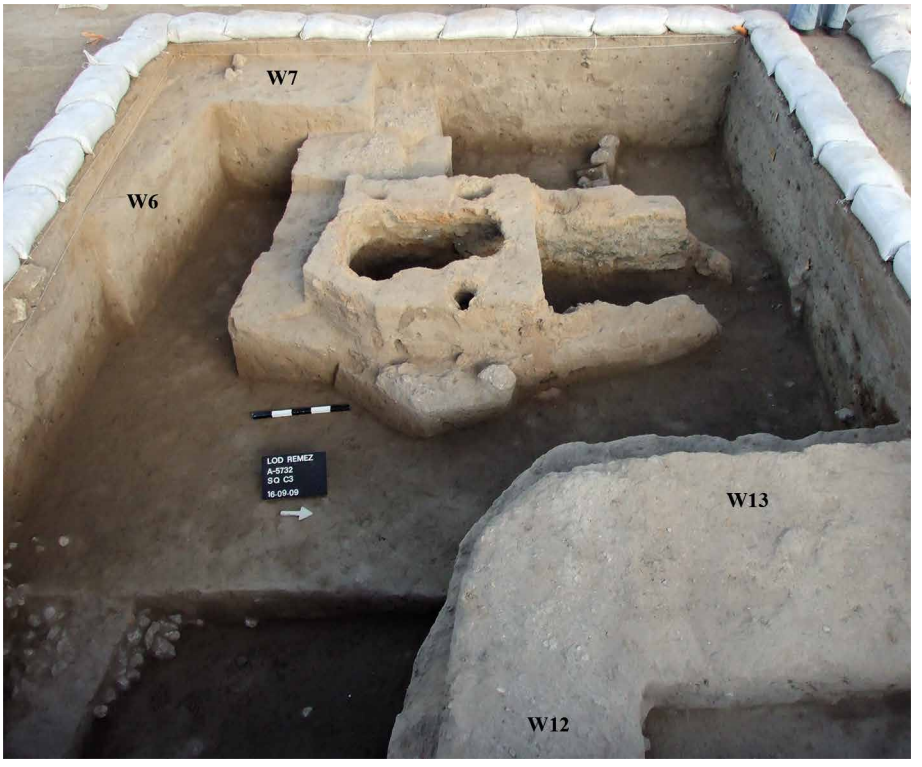


Fig. 26. Stratum III pottery kiln after removal of upper part of air flues and exposure of lower firing chamber, looking west; note main air intake flue and its bottom at upper right.

walls showed signs of high-temperature burning. Clear traces of phytoliths and possibly also spherolites were identified within the ash, indicating the burning of shrubs, grasses and/or dung. The clay walls showed signs of intense burning and vitrification (Fig. 27). Mineralogical analysis of the clay wall revealed that temperatures of up to 500–600 ºC were reached within the air intake flue, while the stoking draft produced temperatures exceeding 800 ºC in the combustion chamber.[5]

The soil accumulations that surrounded the kiln lacked the typical industrial waste that usually occurs with such installations, such as burned clay, ceramic wasters, rejects or large quantities of broken and discarded ceramics. Bones of at least three canine puppies, less than nine months old, were found in the burned ash (see Maher, this volume). The bones were not burned, indicating that they were probably discarded in the kiln after it fell out of use.

Several mud-brick constructions of unclear plan were uncovered immediately to the northwest and southwest of the kiln. The construction on its northwestern side (W39) was built of two mud-brick rows preserved to a height of one course and lined with small stones on its northern face. This construction may have been a wall, although, as it did not continue into the adjoining square (C2) to the west and was quite short, it appeared to have been a mud-brick pavement or platform. Two walls (W6 and W7; Fig. 26) to the southwest of the kiln appeared to have enclosed a small space, possibly for the storage of fuel or ceramic vessels.

Fig. 27. Interior wall of kiln's air intake flue, looking west.

[5] A detailed description and archaeometric analysis of the kiln and its context will be published in a forthcoming paper by A. Golani and Y. Asscher.

The positioning of the kiln opening opposite W22 and with additional enclosing walls at its back raises the question whether the flue was able to receive the steady air flow necessary to obtain high firing temperatures. The temperature difference revealed between the air intake flue (500–600º C) and the combustion chamber (>800º C) suggests that the required intensity of air flow for stoking the kiln was indeed achieved. These findings show that the highest temperatures were reached in the combustion chamber and not necessarily where the fuel was burned (see n. 5).

The absence of ceramic production waste within the kiln and in its vicinity may have been the result of periodic cleaning, which apparently also took place after it went out of use. The presence of dog carcasses within the kiln suggests that its immediate vicinity may have been cleaned prior to the partial dismantling and covering of the kiln in Stratum II.

The finding of a double-chambered pottery kiln in Stratum III is noteworthy. An installation resembling this kiln, also interpreted as a pottery kiln, was found at Tell el-Far‘ah North (Vaux 1955: Pl. 9, Figs. 10, 11), although it was round rather than rectangular and, unlike the present example, it had supporting pillars at its lower level to hold up the upper level. Both installations feature a funnel-shaped air intake flue leading into the combustion chamber—the lower of the two levels, and appear to have functioned in a similar manner, allowing air flow between the lower and upper chambers through connecting circular ducts. The relationship of the Tell el-Far‘ah installation to the surrounding structures remains largely unclear, as the area outside the installation was not completely excavated; it is, however, noteworthy that the Tell el-Far‘ah installation abutted a building, as the present example from Lod seems to have been built in the midst of a dense array of architectural features rather than in an open area.

The double-chambered pottery kilns of the updraught type from Lod and Tell el-Far‘ah are among the earliest examples of such kilns from the Southern Levant. They bear witness to increased specialization in pottery production during the initial stages of urbanization in this region. Both installations appear to have been situated at the fringes of the site, adjacent to large buildings where the pottery production workshops might have been situated. Judging by the unprecedented quantities of broken pottery sherds found in excavations of Early Bronze Age strata at Lod and other sites, ceramic production during this period in general was a flourishing industry. It is surprising that so few pottery kilns of this period are known so far.

STRATUM II (Plan 4)

Remains of this stratum were identified only in the southwestern part of the excavated area (Sq C2) and consist of three mud-brick walls of unclear architectural plan (W3–W5), with no stone foundations, and a beaten-earth floor (L106); the walls were preserved to a maximum of two courses high. The level at the base of the Stratum II walls and that of Surface 106 was c. 30 cm above the level of the Stratum III remains, indicating that a lengthy period of time may have elapsed between these two occupations. Surface 106 was found east of W4 and

may have continued farther to the east into Sq C3, where a small, seemingly isolated patch of beaten-earth floor, was found; part of this floor patch was flush with the top of the kiln's combustion chamber. It is possible that the top parts of some of the Stratum III walls were still visible at the time that the Stratum II building was erected.

Stratum I (Plan 4)

The uppermost stratified remains at the site consisted of a row of large- to medium-sized fieldstones (W1), roughly arranged in a line, which was uncovered at the eastern edge of the excavated area. These stones were not clearly associated with any datable finds, but they appeared to have been part of the foundation of a modern building that was previously demolished.

The Finds

Pottery (Figs. 28–36)

A small assemblage of representative ceramic finds from secure contexts of each of the Early Bronze Age strata (VII–II) is presented below (see Appendices 1 and 2); all loci were sifted through a 10 mm mesh screen. The pottery was sorted and only the diagnostic sherds that indicated the form, manufacturing and decorative technique of the original vessel were retained, including mainly rims, bases and handles. Material from loci that were designated for restoration and kept in its entirety was sorted by the same methods after restoration was completed. Many of the representative items are small and do not represent a complete profile of the original vessel. Moreover, the possibility that some sherds have undergone stratigraphic mixing and are not diagnostic of the context from which they were retrieved cannot be ruled out.

Ceramic finds recovered from the earlier excavation at the site were published elsewhere (Masarwa 2011) and are not included in this report. The material from Stratum I comprised mixed pottery of the Early Bronze, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic periods, and is not presented here.

The assemblages from previous excavations at Lod, such as those of Brink (1999; 2002; Brink et al. 2015) and Yannai (Yannai and Marder 2000; Yannai, forthcoming), were chosen for comparative purposes together with assemblages from several sites in central Canaan that have clear chronological and cultural affinities with the Early Bronze Age of Tel Lod. These latter assemblages included those from EB IB and EB II strata at Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North; Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018), Tel Dalit (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996), Tel Afeq (Beck 2000) and ʻAi (Marquet-Krause 1949; Callaway 1980); EB IB tombs at Azor (Ben-Tor 1975; Brink, Gophna and Ovadiah 2007); and occupation strata and tombs from Tell el-Far'ah North (Vaux and Stève 1948; 1949; Vaux 1951; 1955; 1961). Comparative material from EB IB–II sites of southern Canaan was also considered, including material

from Tel Ḥalif Terrace and other sites (Yekutieli 2000; Dessel 2009: Pls. 15–17). References to ceramic comparanda are cited in the figure tables.

Below is a summary description of the technological characteristics and decoration of the present assemblage, followed by a detailed description of the composition of diagnostic vessels, organized by strata.

Technological Characteristics and Decoration

The ceramic material is generally well-fired and almost always handmade, as indicated for example by clear signs of finger marks on some of the vessels; the rim and neck of some of the vessels, however, may have been fashioned on a slow wheel. Flat bases and ledge handles were most common. Some of the vessels bear traces of red slip or wash, and it is likely that this surface treatment was more common than it appears to be as the red color often wears off. Many of the vessels, especially the storage jars, exhibit traces of a white lime(?) wash on their exterior. A few storage-jar body sherds (not illustrated) retain remains of vertical red stripes on a white-washed background (Pyjama Ware). A red-painted net pattern occasionally occurs on small vessels (Figs. 30:11; 35:6). Rope decoration appears mostly on storage jars, comprising a thin coil applied around the vessel shoulder and impressed at set intervals. This feature begins to appear in Stratum VI (Fig. 29:13) and continues to appear in Strata IV (Fig. 32:7) and III (Fig. 35:4). Incised decoration, such as diagonal incisions on the neck of storage jars, common in assemblages of the ʻErani C ceramic horizon (Gophna 2002; Yekutieli 2006), are absent in the present assemblage, as are coil applications on the handles. Two primary types of ledge handles were found: plain (Fig. 28:11) and with thumb indentations applied at regular intervals along their exterior edge (Figs. 28:12; 35:8).

Imported Egyptian ceramics (Fig. 32:2) and local imitations thereof (Fig. 30:4, 5), were found. Although such vessels are uncommon finds, they were readily identifiable based on their dark brown fabric and uniform matrix, often covered with a buff or greenish gray exterior coating.

Stratum VII (Fig. 28)

The ceramic assemblage of this stratum, which lacked architectural remains, comprised deep bowls (Fig. 28:1, 2), holemouth jars (Fig. 28:3–7), small- to medium-sized storage jars (Fig. 28:8, 9) and a pithos (Fig. 28:10). Parallels for this small assemblage indicate an EB IB date. Especially diagnostic of this period are the holemouth jars with rims thickened on their underside (Fig. 28:7). Also found were holemouth jars with rims thickened on their upper side, folded back and displaying a low protruding ridge (Fig. 28:5, 6). Both of these forms were found throughout Strata VII–II, the latter type being especially common in Strata VII–IV, and also known from other excavations of EB I strata at Tel Lod (Brink 2002; Yannai, forthcoming). Such thickened-rim holemouth jars were unknown in the Chalcolithic period and are unique to the Early Bronze Age; the thickening of the rim on their interior is characteristic of the end of EB I (Alon and Yekutieli 1995:179).

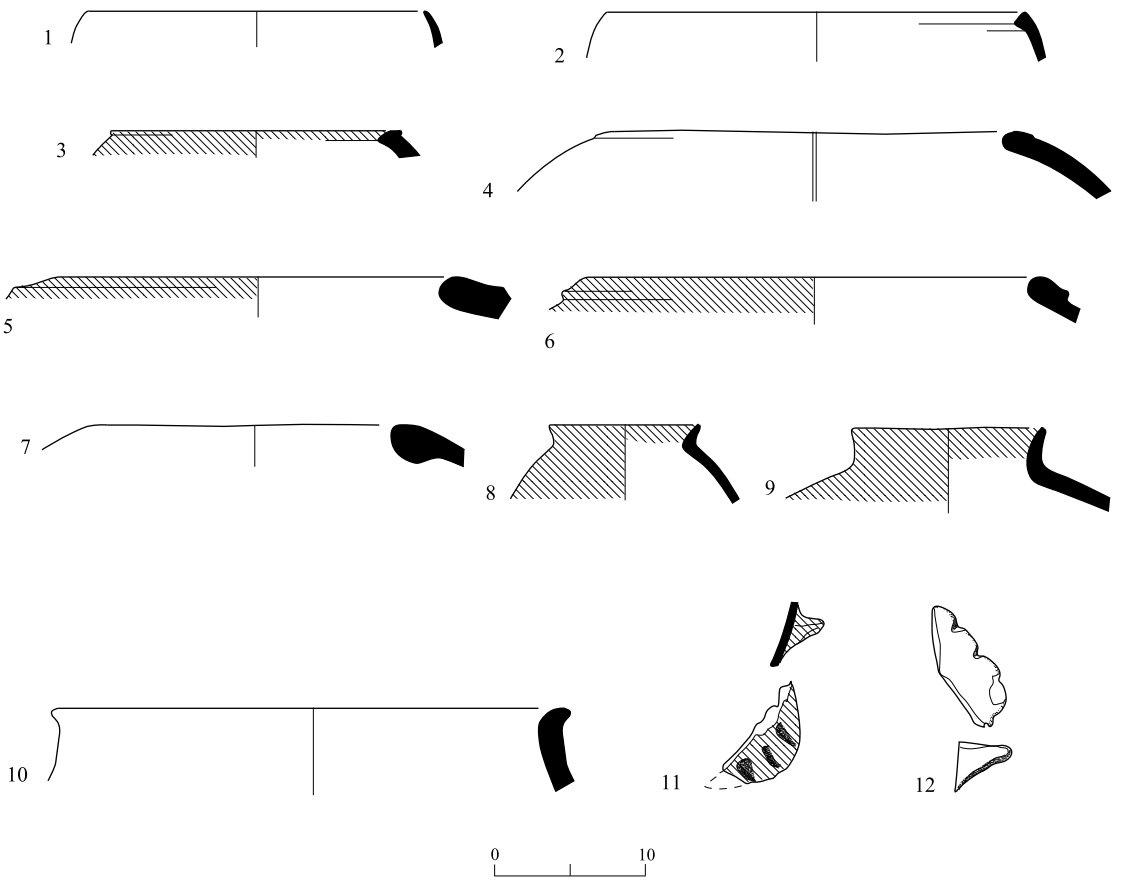


Fig. 28. Stratum VII ceramics.

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
1	Hemispherical bowl	154	1124	Light brown clay, light brown core, small white grits, very well-fired	
2	Holemouth jar	152	1116	Light brown clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, very well-fired	
3	Holemouth jar	154	1124	Brown clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, red wash on ext., well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII and VI, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.1:22; 4.3.12:9) Tel Afeq, Str. B VIII, EB IB (Beck 2000: Figs. 8.1:8; 8.2:23, 27; 8.3:3–6; 8.4:1)
4	Holemouth jar	152	1116	Brown clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, very well-fired	Tel Afeq, Str. B VIII, EB IB (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.1:17)
5	Holemouth jar	156	1125	Brown clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, red wash on ext., well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII, EB IB (Yannai forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.2:10) Tel Dalit, Str. V, EB IB (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 41:1, 3)

◂ **Fig. 28** (cont.)

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
6	Holemouth jar	156	1125	Light brown clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, red wash on ext., well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VII–VI, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.8:3, 12, 13; 4.3.12:2) Lod, Str. IV, EB IB (Brink 2002: Fig. 19.8:9) Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. III–II (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Figs. 13:10; 17:7) Tel Dalit, Str. V, EB IB (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 41:1, 3)
7	Holemouth jar	154	1120	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.8:14)
8	Storage jar	152	1116	Light brown-red clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, red wash and partial burnish on ext. and int. rim, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII–VI, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.3:7; 4.3.12:13) Tel Dalit, Str. V, EB IB (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 40:10, 12)
9	Storage jar	156	1125	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, red wash on ext. and int. rim, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VII, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.9:5–7) Lod, Str. IV, EB IB (Brink 2002: Fig. 19.8:19) Tel Dalit, Stratum V, EB IB (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 40:10, 12)
10	Storage jar	156	1125	Light brown clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, well-fired	
11	Ledge handle	156	1125	Light brown clay, light gray core, small white and gray grits, red wash on ext., very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.3:13)
12	Ledge handle	154	1127	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, thumb indentations on rim, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII–VII, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.3:16; 4.3.10:10–12)

Stratum VI (Fig. 29)

This assemblage comprises small bowls (Fig. 29:1, 2), holemouth jars (Fig. 29:3–6) small- to medium-sized storage jars (Fig. 29:7–10) and pithoi (Fig. 29:11–13). While all of these vessel types can be dated to EB IB, many of the same forms are known to have continued into EB II as well. A number of features of this assemblage are particularly noteworthy: the initial appearance of high-necked storage jugs or jars (Fig. 29:7, 8); the presence of a jar with a thin elongated spout (Fig. 29:9); and the presence of pithoi with outflaring rims (Fig. 29:10–13) that in some cases bear molded rope decoration on their shoulders (Fig. 29:13).

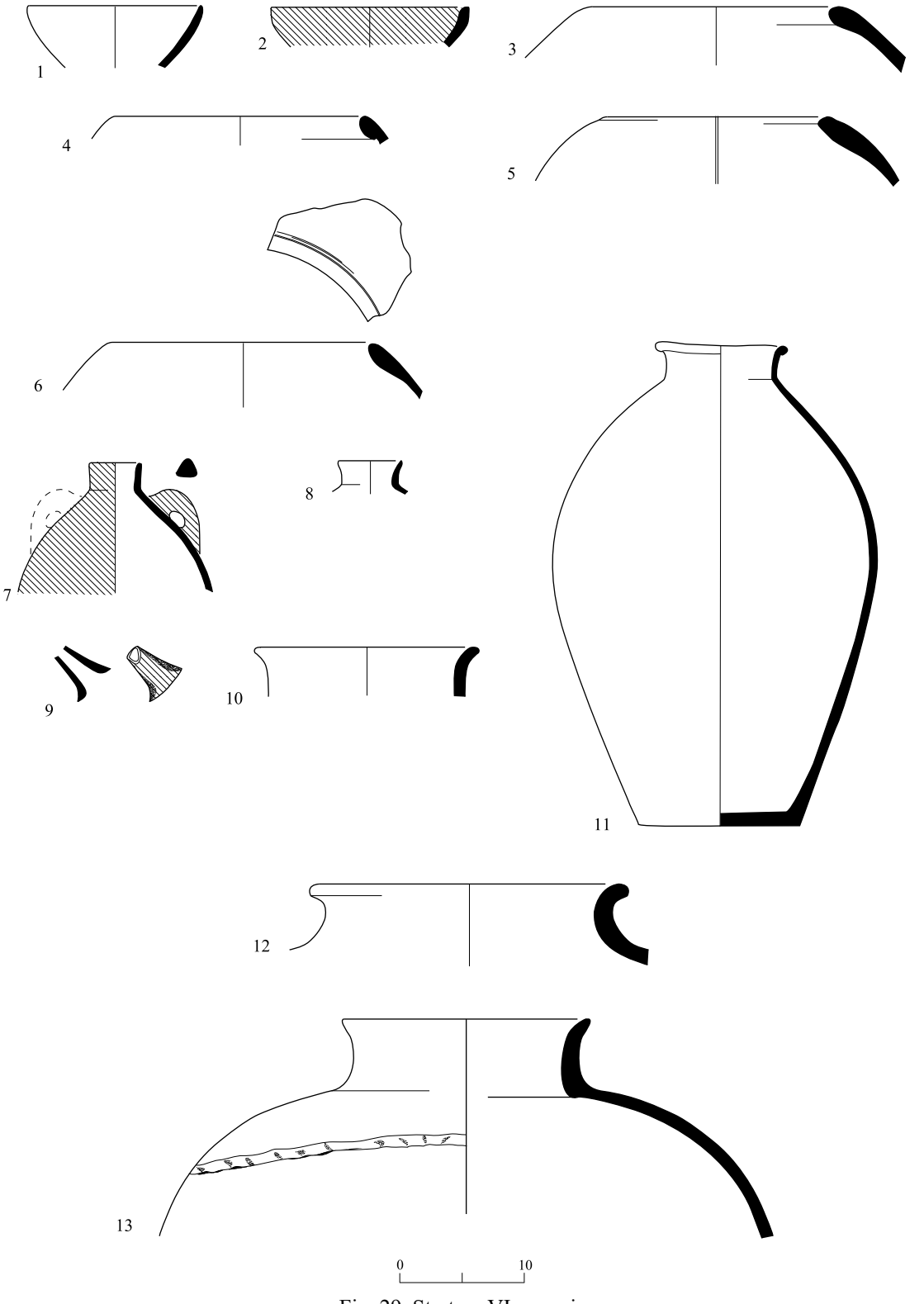


Fig. 29. Stratum VI ceramics.

◂ **Fig. 29**

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	142	1092	Light brown clay, light brown-gray core, small white and gray grits, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII–VA, EB IB–EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.1:5; 4.3.4:10; 4.3.13:9) Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. I (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Fig. 20:1)
2	Bowl	142	1106	Brown clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, red wash on ext. and int., well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VII–VI and IV, EB IB–EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.4:4; 4.3.11:4; 4.3.19:6) Lod, Str. IV, EB IB (Brink 2002: Fig. 19.8:2)
3	Holemouth jar	142	1106	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, medium fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII–VII and IV–III, EB IB–EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.2:5; 4.3.7:1; 4.3.21:2; 4.3.28:5)
4	Holemouth jar	142	1106	Light brown clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, medium fired	Tel Lod, Str. VII, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.7:5)
5	Holemouth jar	142	1092	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, medium fired	Tel Lod, Str. VB, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.18:7)
6	Holemouth jar	142	1106	Brown clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, medium fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII–VI and III–II, EB IB–EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.2:5; 4.3.7:3; 4.3.12:6; 4.3.29:6; 4.3.32:4) Tel Dalit, Str. V (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 41:9) Tel Afeq, Str. B VIII, EB IB (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.1:19)
7	Jug	143	1093	Light brown clay, gray core, small to medium white grits, red wash on ext., very well-fired	Lod, Str. IV, EB IB (Brink 2002: Fig. 19.9:10; Brink et al. 2015: Fig. 28:10, 11) ʻAi, Tombs C and G, EB IB (Marquet-Krause 1949: Pl. 79:561; Callaway 1964: Pl. 12:844; 14:561) Tell el-Farʻah, Tomb 2, Ancien Bronze I [EB IB–EB II] (Vaux and Stéve 1949: Fig. 6:38) Tell el-Farʻah Chalcolithique Supérieur [EB I] (Vaux 1961: Fig. 2:8)
8	Jug	142	1106	Light brown clay, gray core, small white grits, red wash on ext. and int. rim, well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VI, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.12:17)
9	Spout	158	1127	Light brown clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, red wash and burnish on ext., medium fired	Lod Str. IV, EB IB (Brink 2002: Fig. 19.9:9) Tel Afeq, Str. B VIII, EB IB (Beck 2000: Figs. 8.2:12; 8.3:11)

◂ **Fig. 29** (cont.)

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
10	Storage jar	142	1092	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, very well-fired	Lod, Str. IV, EB IB (Brink 2002: Fig. 19.8:17) Tel Ḥalif Terrace, Phases 7–6, EB IB (Dessel 2009: Pl. 15:11)
11	Storage jar	142	1151	Light brown clay, light gray core, small white and gray grits, well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. IV, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.23:8, 10, 11) Lod, Str. IV, EB IB (Brink 2002: Fig. 19.10:9) Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. II (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Fig. 16:10)
12	Storage jar	143	1103	Light brown clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.3:1)
13	Storage jar	143	1093	Light brown clay, light gray core, small white and gray grits, continuous plastic rope decoration on shoulder, well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII, Vb and IV–III, EB IB–EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.3:1; 4.1.18:12; 4.3.22:1; 4.3.23:2, 4; 4.3.30:5) Tel Lod, Str. IVa–b (Brink et al. 2015: Fig. 24:7) Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. II (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Fig. 16:8) Tel Dalit, EB II (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 53:13) Tel Afeq, Str. B VIII, EB IB (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.1:10) ʻAi, Phase III, EB II (Callaway 1980: Fig. 63:7)

Stratum V (Fig. 30)

The ceramic assemblage of this stratum closely resembles that of underlying Stratum VI, reinforcing the stratigraphic observation that a very short period of time passed between these two occupations, the later stratum representing an architectural modification of the Stratum VI remains.

The Stratum V assemblage comprises small bowls (Fig. 30:1–4), holemouth jars (Fig. 30:5–9), small jugs (Fig. 30:11) and a medium-sized jar (Fig. 30:12). The main distinction between this stratum and the preceding one is the appearance of locally-made vessels imitating Egyptian ‘lotus bowls’, indicating contacts with Egypt. The prototype of these vessels (Fig. 30:3, 4) is known from Lower Egypt in the very late pre-dynastic period (Naqada IIIB–IIIC1; see Mączyńska 2012: Fig. 18:1). Similar vessels were previously found in late EB I contexts at Lod (Brink et al. 2015: Fig. 19:1–5; see also Brink 2002).

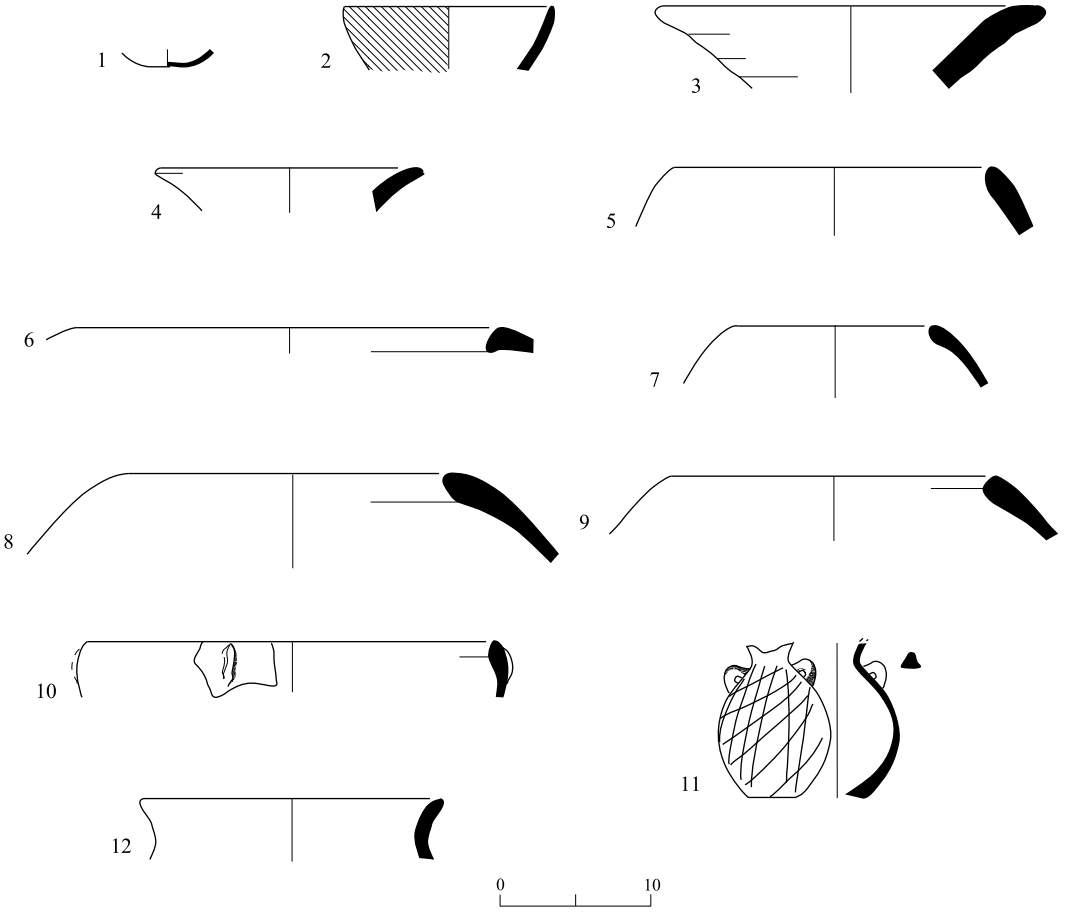


Fig. 30. Stratum V ceramics.

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
1	Omphalos base	135	1100	Light brown clay, brown-gray core, small white grits, well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.10:1, 2) Azor, EB IB (Ben-Tor 1975: Fig. 5:2)
2	Bowl	135	1073	Light brown clay, gray core, small white grits, red wash on ext., well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VA, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.13:8, 9)
3	'Lotus bowl'	135	1086	Brown-orange to dark brown clay, brown-gray core, small white grits, light gray-green slip on ext. and int., well-fired	Lod, Str. IV, EB IB (Brink 2002: Fig. 19.15:1–4; Brink et al. 2015: Fig. 19:1–4) Tell el-Farkha, Phases 4-5 (Jucha 2005: Pl. 48)
4	'Lotus bowl'	147	1108	Brown-orange clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII and VI, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.1:10; 4.3.11:9) Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. II (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Fig. 18:5)
5	Holemouth jar	135	1073	Brown clay, gray core, small to medium white grits, red wash on ext., well-fired	

◂ **Fig. 30** (cont.)

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
6	Holemouth jar	135	1086	Brown clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. III, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.29:11) Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. I (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Fig. 20:9)
7	Holemouth jar	135	1086	Light brown clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, medium fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.2:7)
8	Holemouth jar	135	1086	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, medium fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII–III, EB IB–EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.3:3–5; 4.3.7:1; 4.3.12:6; 4.3.15:6; 4.3.18:7–9; 4.3.21:5–7; 4.3.28:5; 4.3.29:4–6) Tel Dalit, Str. V, EB IB (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 41:9)
9	Holemouth jar	135	1086	Light brown-orange clay, orange-gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VII, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.6:8)
10	Holemouth jar	135	1086	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small white grits, vertical vestigial handle below rim, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VA, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.14:3)
11	Juglet	135	1147	Light brown clay, dark gray core, small white grits, dark red painted lattice pattern, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VI and IV, EB IB–EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.12:14; 4.3.24:1) Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. II (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Fig. 15:12, 14) Azor, EB IB (Ben-Tor 1975: Fig. 7:10–19) ʻAi, T.C., EB IB (Marquet-Krause 1949: Pl. 70:552)
12	Storage jar	147	1108	Light pale-brown clay, light gray core, small white and gray grits, white lime wash on ext., medium fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII–VI, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.2:7; 4.3.9:10, 11; 4.3.12) Lod, Str. IV, EB IB (Brink 2002: Fig. 19.8:17) Tel Afeq, Str. B VIII, EB IB (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.1:10)

Stratum IV (Figs. 31, 32)

This assemblage comprises small hemispherical bowls (Fig. 31:1); deep wide bowls (Fig. 31:2–6), including examples with inturned rims (Fig. 31:3–5); holemouth jars (Fig. 31:7–18); small- to medium-sized storage jars (Fig. 32:1–6), one of which is an Egyptian import (Fig. 32:2); and pithoi (Fig. 32:7, 8). The deep bowls with inturned rims are common in

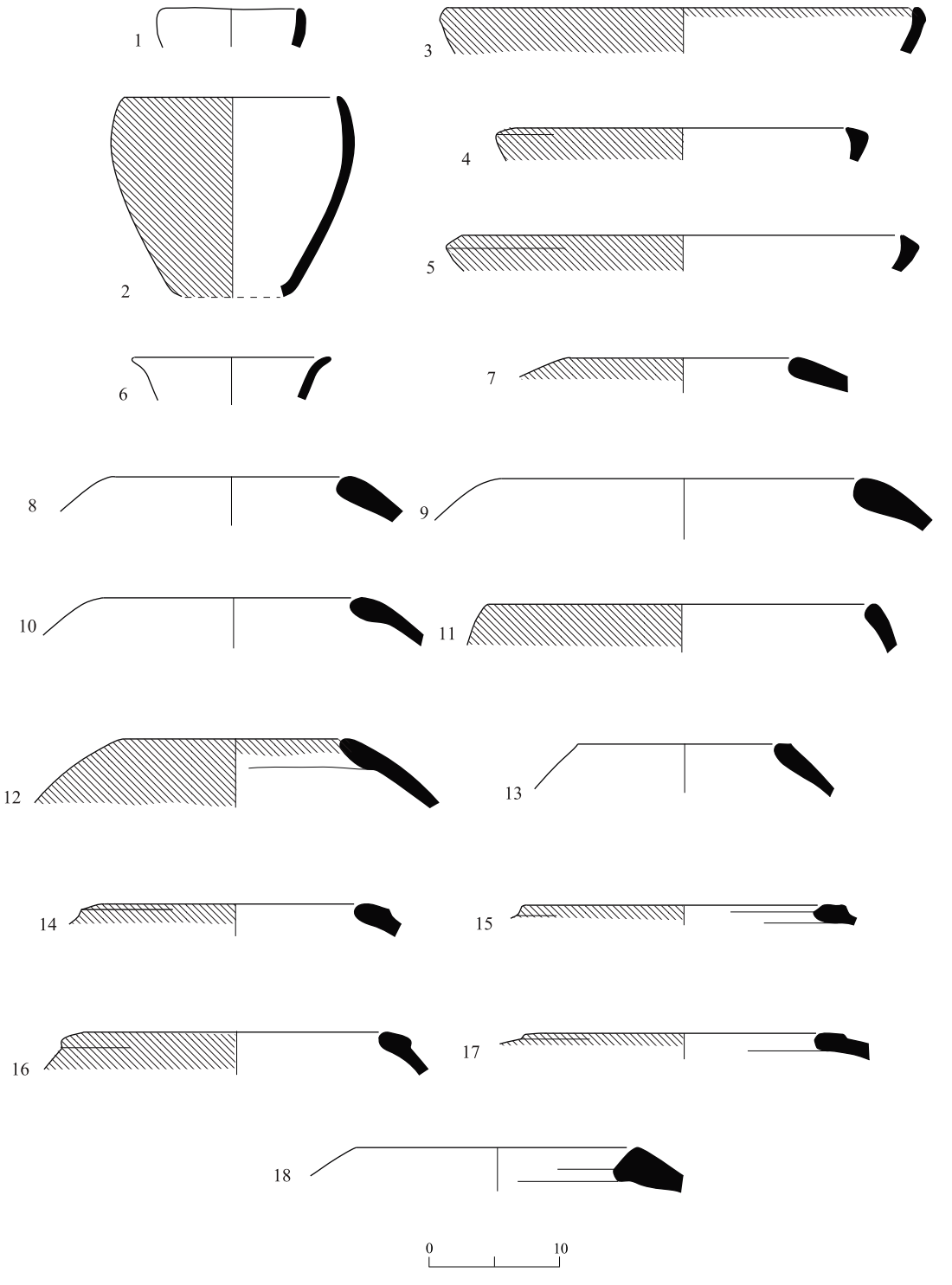


Fig. 31. Stratum IV ceramics: bowls and holemouth jars.

◂ **Fig. 31**

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	155	1140	Light brown clay, gray core, small white grits, well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII and VB/1, EB IB–EB II, (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.1:7; 4.3.17:6) Tel Afeq, Str. B VIII, EB IB (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.3:2)
2	Bowl	155	1122	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, red wash on ext., well-fired	Qiryat Ata, Str. II–III, EB IB (Golani 2003: Figs. 4.1:13; 4.3:2)
3	Bowl	130	1067	Light brown clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, red wash on ext. and int. rim, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VII, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.5:2)
4	Bowl	136	1076	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, red wash on ext., well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VB, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.2:10–14; 4.3.17:16) Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. II (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Fig. 15:2) Tel Afeq, Str. B VIII, EB IB (Beck 2000: Figs. 8.1:8; 8.2:27; 8.3:3–6) Qiryat Ata, Str. II–III, EB IB (Golani 2003: Fig. 4.2:28) Tel Ḥalif Terrace, Phases 7–6, EB IB (Dessel 2009: Pl. 17:1)
5	Bowl	128	1060	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, red wash on ext., well-fired	Lod, Stratum IVa–b (Brink et al. 2015: Fig. 23:3) Tel Afeq, Str. B VIII, EB IB (Beck 2000: Figs. 8.1:8; 8.2:27; 8.3:3–6) Qiryat Ata, Str. II–III, EB IB (Golani 2003: Fig. 4.2:28)
6	Bowl	128	1060	Light brown clay, gray core, small white grits, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. III, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.30:4) Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. III (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Fig. 13:3)
7	Holemouth jar	130	1067	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, very well-fired	
8	Holemouth jar	134	1072	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small to large white and gray grits, well-fired	Tel Afeq, Str. B VIII, EB IB (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.3:24) Tel Dalit, Str. II, EB II (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 52:5)
9	Holemouth jar	128	1060	Light brown clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VII, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.6:12; 4.3.7:1) Tel Dalit, Str. II (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 54:2, 3) ʻAi, Phase III, EB II (Callaway 1980: Fig. 64)

◂ **Fig. 31** (cont.)

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
10	Holemouth jar	128	1095	Light brown clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII–VB, EB IB–EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.2:7; 4.3.6:11; 4.3.18:8) Tel Dalit, Str. II (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 54:2, 3)
11	Holemouth jar	155	1123	Light brown clay, gray core, small white grits, well-fired	
12	Holemouth jar	151	1115	Light brown clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, red wash on ext. and int. rim, very well-fired	Tel Afeq, Str. B VIII, EB IB (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.1:20)
13	Holemouth jar	130	1067	Brown-orange clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, well-fired	Tel Afeq, Str. B VIII, EB IB (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.1:23)
14	Holemouth jar	128	1060	Light brown clay, gray core, small to medium white grits, red wash on ext., well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII–VII, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.2:10–14; 4.3.8) Lod, Str. IVa–b (Brink et al. 2015: Fig. 26:3–5, 8–11)
15	Holemouth jar	128	1060	Light brown-gray clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, red wash on ext., well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII–VI, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.2:10–14; 4.3.8; 4.3.12:2) Lod, Str. IV, EB IB (Brink 2002: Fig. 19.8:9) Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. III–II (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Figs. 13:8; 16:7)
16	Holemouth jar	159	1137	Light brown clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, red wash on ext. and int. rim, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII–VII, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.2:10–14; 4.3.7:13; 4.3.8) Lod, Str. IV, EB IB (Brink 2002: Fig. 19.8:11) Tel Dalit, Str. V, EB IB (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 43:7)
17	Holemouth jar	128	1060	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small white grits, red wash on ext., very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII–VII, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.2.:10-14; 4.3.8) Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. IV (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Fig. 12:2) Tel Dalit, Str. V, EB IB (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 43:7)
18	Holemouth jar	128	1060	Light brown clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. IV–III, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.21:12; 4.3.28:17)

both EB IB and EB II contexts. The deep bowl in Fig. 31:2 is probably an import from the northern culture of EB IB, known for example, from Qiryat Ata Strata III–II (Golani 2003: Figs. 4.1:7; 4.3:6; 4.15:16), providing an important chronological marker for Stratum IV.

The Stratum IV assemblage represents the final appearance of holemouth jars with a thickened outfolded rim and a protruding ridge below it (Fig. 31:13–17). This ceramic form is especially common in all EB IB strata excavated at Lod to date (see parallels in the figure table) and appears to have been a regional variant mainly produced during this period. Close parallels for the imported Egyptian jar (Fig. 32:2) are known from Stratum IVa of Brink's excavations at Lod and from Tel Afeq, all dated to EB IB. As noted above, Brink's Stratum IVa and our Stratum IV also show close resemblance in the absence of stone foundations for the mud-brick structures (see Brink 2002; Brink et al. 2015).

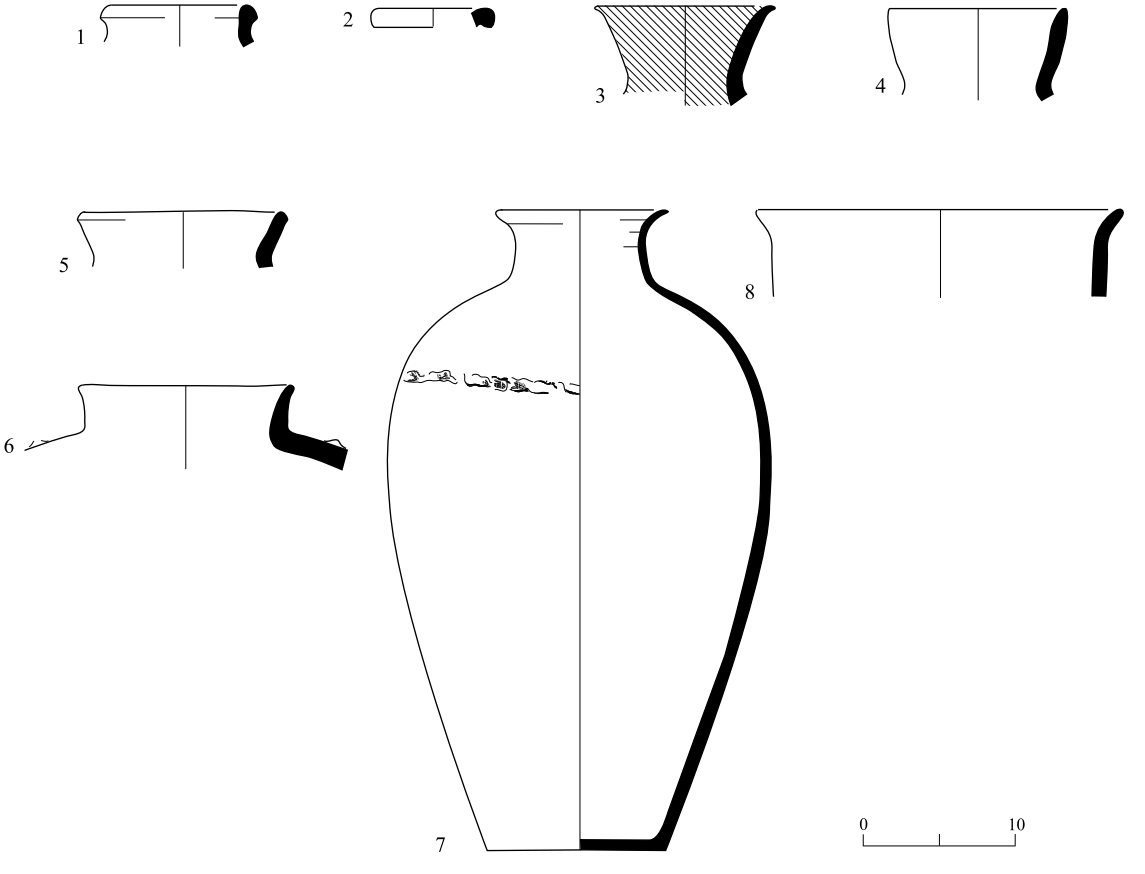


Fig. 32. Stratum IV ceramics: storage jars.

◂ **Fig. 32**

No.	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
1	144	1132	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small white grits, gray-green slip on ext. and int., well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VA, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.15:13) Tel Ḥalif Terrace, Phases 7–6, EB IB (Dessel 2009: Pl. 15:14)
2	128	1060	Brown clay, brown core, small white and gray grits, well-fired	Lod, Str. IVa, EB IB (Brink 2002: Fig. 19.13:7–11; Brink et al. 2015: Fig. 17:7–11) Tel Afeq, Str. B VIII, EB IB (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.4:8, 9) Tel Ḥalif Terrace, Phases 7–6, EB IB (Dessel 2009: Pl. 15:7, 9, 19, 21)
3	128	1095	Light brown clay, gray core, small to large white and gray grits, red wash on ext. and int. rim, well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. IV, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.23:15) Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. I (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Fig. 20:10)
4	159	1143	Light brown clay, light brown-gray core, small white and gray grits, very well-fired	
5	159	1143	Light brown-orange clay, light brown-orange core, small white and gray grits, very well-fired	
6	155	1123	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small white grits, well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.3:1)
7	128	1089	Light brown clay, light gray core, small white and gray grits, continuous plastic rope decoration on shoulder, well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. IV, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.22:1; 4.3.23:3, 4) Lod, Stratum IVa–b (Brink et al. 2015: Fig. 24:5) Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. III (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Fig. 13:25) Tel Dalit, EB II (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 53:13)
8	136	1076	Light brown clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, very well-fired	Lod, Str. IV, EB IB (Brink 2002: Fig. 19.9:7)

Stratum III (Figs. 33–35)

The Stratum III ceramic assemblage comprises small hemispherical bowls (Fig. 33:1–3), including Proto-Metallic Ware (Fig. 33:1, 2); carinated bowls (Fig. 33:4, 6); deep bowls (Fig. 33:5, 7–10); holemouth jars (Fig. 34); small- to medium-sized storage jars (Fig. 35:1–3); and pithoi (Fig. 35:4, 5). Carinated bowls appear for the first time in Stratum III and continue into Stratum II (see below, Fig. 36:1, 2). These bowls belong to a distinct group that was initially produced at the very end of EB I, possibly at Tel Afeq or in its vicinity.

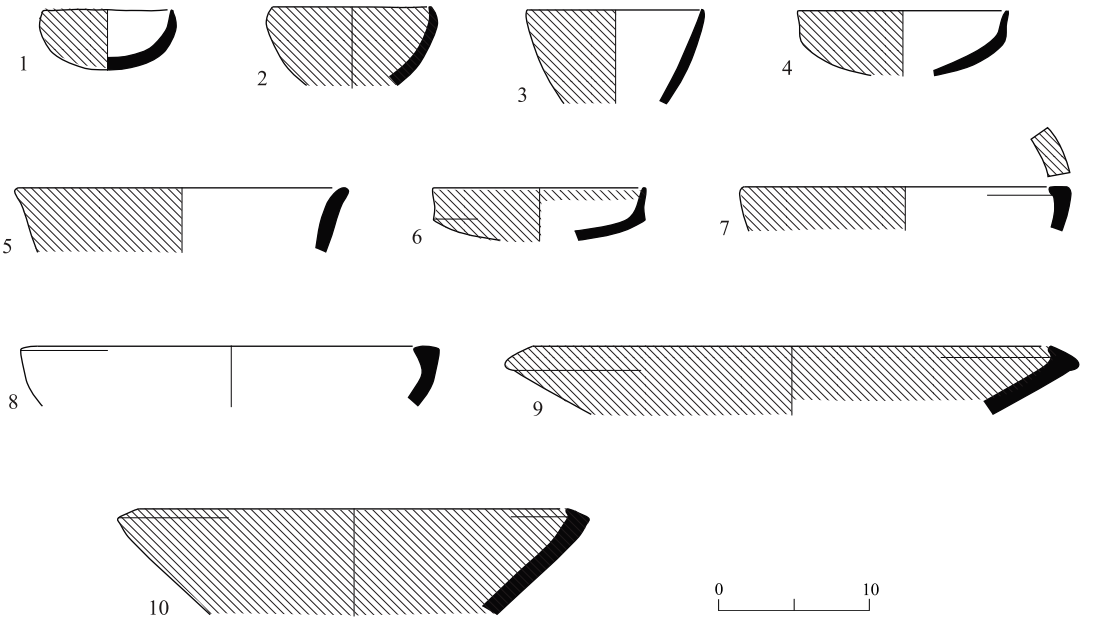


Fig. 33. Stratum III ceramics: bowls.

No.	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
1	108	1027	Light brown clay, gray core, small white grits, red wash on ext., well-fired, soot marks on rim	Tel Lod, Str. Vb–IV, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.17:4; 4.3.19:4)
2	108	1018	Light brown clay, gray core, small white grits, red wash on ext. and interior, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.1:8; 4.3.13:6)
3	108	1018	Light brown clay, light gray core, small white grits, red wash on ext., very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.1:3)
4	133	1118	Light brown-orange clay, brown-gray core, small white grits, red wash on ext., very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. Va–b–III, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.13:14–16; 4.3.16:14; 4.3.17:11; 4.3.19:21–23; 4.3.25:27–29) Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. I and Area F (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Figs. 23:1; 25:3) Tel Afeq, Str. B VII, EB II (Beck 2000: Figs. 8.4:16; 8.5:18–20) Tell el-Far‘ah, Ancien Bronze I [EB IB–EB II] (Vaux and Stéve 1948: Fig. 6:13)

◂ **Fig. 33** (cont.)

No.	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
5	121	1148	Light brown clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, red wash on ext. and int. rim, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. V–III, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.13:14–16; 4.3.17:11; 4.3.19:20; 4.3.25:32) Lod, Str. IV, EB IB (Brink 2002: Fig. 19.8:7) Tel Dalit, Str. V–II, EB IB–EB II (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Figs. 43:2; 53:5) Tel Afeq, Str. B VII, EB II (Beck 2000: Figs. 8.5:5–7, 18–20) Tell el-Far‘ah, Ancien Bronze I [EB IB–EB II] (Vaux and Stéve 1948: Fig. 6:13) Azor, Burial Cave 2, EB IB (Brink, Gophna and Ovadiah 2007: Fig. 6:2)
6	111	1065	Light brown clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, red wash on ext. and int. rim, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VI, EB IB–EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.11:9) Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. I (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Fig. 22:1)
7	108	1051	Light brown clay, gray core, small white grits, red wash on ext., well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VII–VI, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.5:4; 4.3.11:18) Tel Afeq, Str. B VIII–VII, EB IB–EB II (Beck 2000: Figs. 8.1:4, 8; 8.5:2) Qiryat Ata, Str. I, EB II (Golani 2003: Figs. 4.24:16, 21)
8	108	1027	Light brown clay, gray core, small white grits, red wash on ext. and int., very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. Vb, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.17:16) Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. II (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Fig. 15:2) Tel Dalit, Str. II (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 53:6) Tel Afeq, Str. B VIII–VII, EB IB–EB II (Beck 2000: Figs. 8.2:23; 8.3:3; 8.5:2)
9	133	1071	Light brown clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, red wash on ext. and interior, well-fired	Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. III (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Fig. 13:21) Tel Dalit, Str. II (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 53:6) Qiryat Ata, Str. I, EB II (Golani 2003: Fig. 4.25:5, 6)
10	160	1134	Light brown clay, light brown-gray core, small to medium white grits, red wash on ext. and interior, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. Va–IV, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.14:1; 4.3.20:2) Tel Afeq, Str. B VIII, EB IB (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.1:4) Qiryat Ata, Str. II–III, EB IB (Golani 2003: Figs. 4.2:27)

Such bowls were found in especially large quantities at Tel Afeq, primarily in EB II contexts (Beck 1985), in which they are generally thinner than their EB I predecessors, and are very well-fired. One of the Stratum III deep bowls is a platter bowl (Fig. 33:9), which is diagnostic of EB II. Such bowls have usually been found together with Metallic Ware, of which northern Canaan was the center of production (Greenberg and Porat 1996).

The date of Stratum III should probably be in the very late EB IB or the EB IB/EB II transition. Contemporary ceramic assemblages of similar composition were uncovered in other excavations at Tel Lod, as well as at other Early Bronze Age sites, including Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Tel Ḥalif Terrace, Tel Dalit, Tel Afeq, ʻAi and Tell el-Farʻah North (for references, see Figs. 33–35). Unlike Strata V–IV, Stratum III did not yield

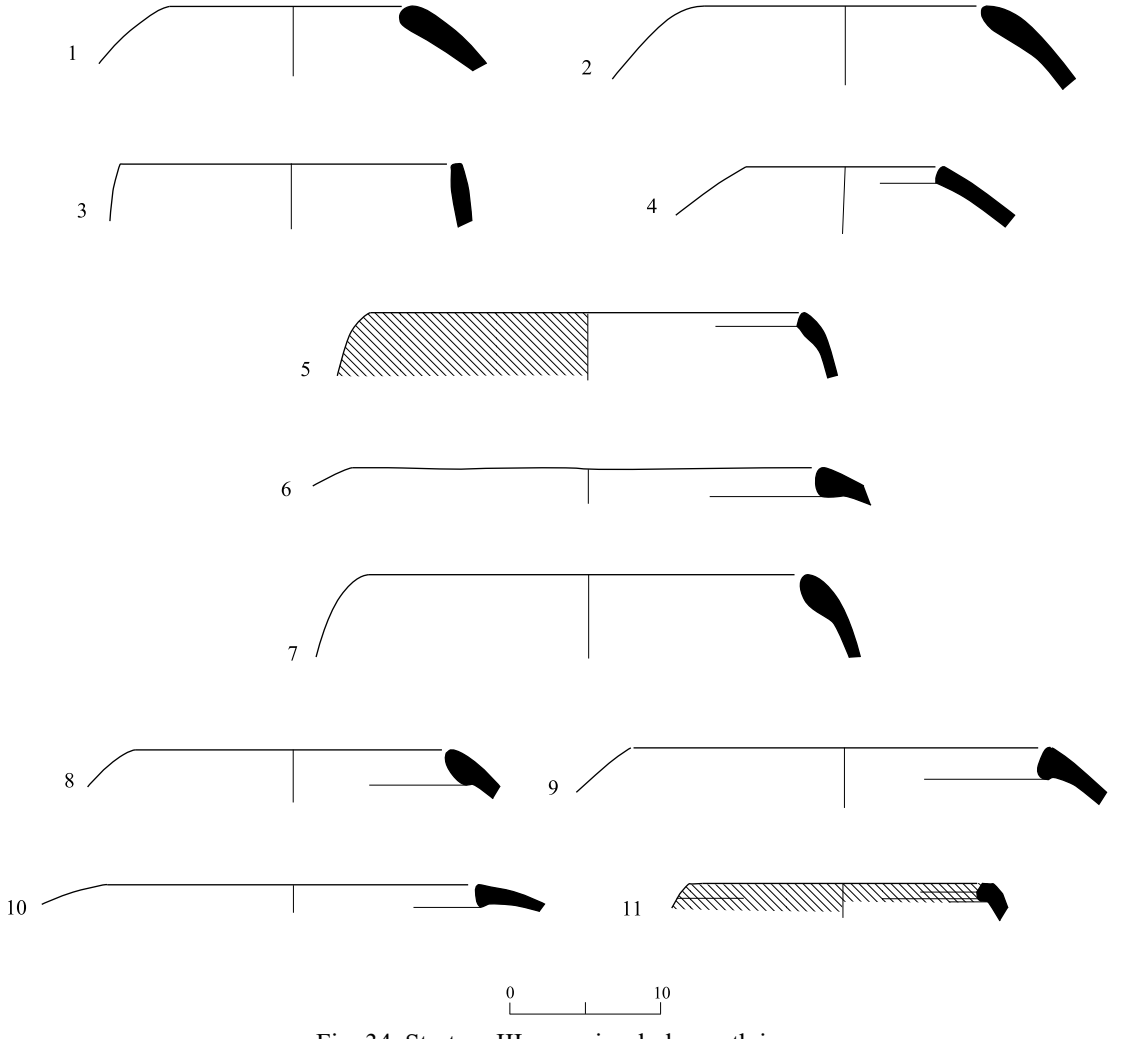


Fig. 34. Stratum III ceramics: holemouth jars.

◂ **Fig. 34**

No.	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
1	108	1080	Brown-red clay, gray core, small to medium white grits, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VII, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.7:1)
2	121	1136	Light brown-red clay, brown-gray core, small white grits, well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VI–Va, EB IB–EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.1:3; 4.3.12:6; 4.3.13:6)
3	138	1081	Light brown clay, light gray core, small white and gray grits, well-fired	
4	160	1134	Light Brown-orange clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, very well-fired	
5	111	1022	Light brown clay, gray core, small white grits, red wash on ext., well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. III, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.28:8)
6	133	1074	Light brown clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, medium fired	Tel Lod, Str. IV, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.21:3)
7	108	1049	Light brown clay, light gray core, small white and gray grits, well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VIII and V–IV, EB IB–EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.2:7; 4.3.18:9; 4.3.21:6) ʻAi, Phase III, EB II (Callaway 1980: Fig. 63:8, 9)
8	111	1022	Brown clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, very well-fired	
9	131	1129	Light brown-red clay, gray core, small to medium white grits, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. III, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.28:15, 16; 4.3.29:11, 12)
10	108	1034	Light brown clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, very well-fired	
11	115	1047	Light brown clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, red wash on ext. and int. rim, well-fired	Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. III (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Fig. 13:7)

Egyptian imports, a further indication of its very late date in EB IB or the EB IB/EB II transition (Sowada 2009). The presence of a few examples of Proto-Metallic Ware, typical of the very end of EB IB, primarily in the central coastal plain, is also noteworthy (Paz, Shoval and Zlotkin 2009).

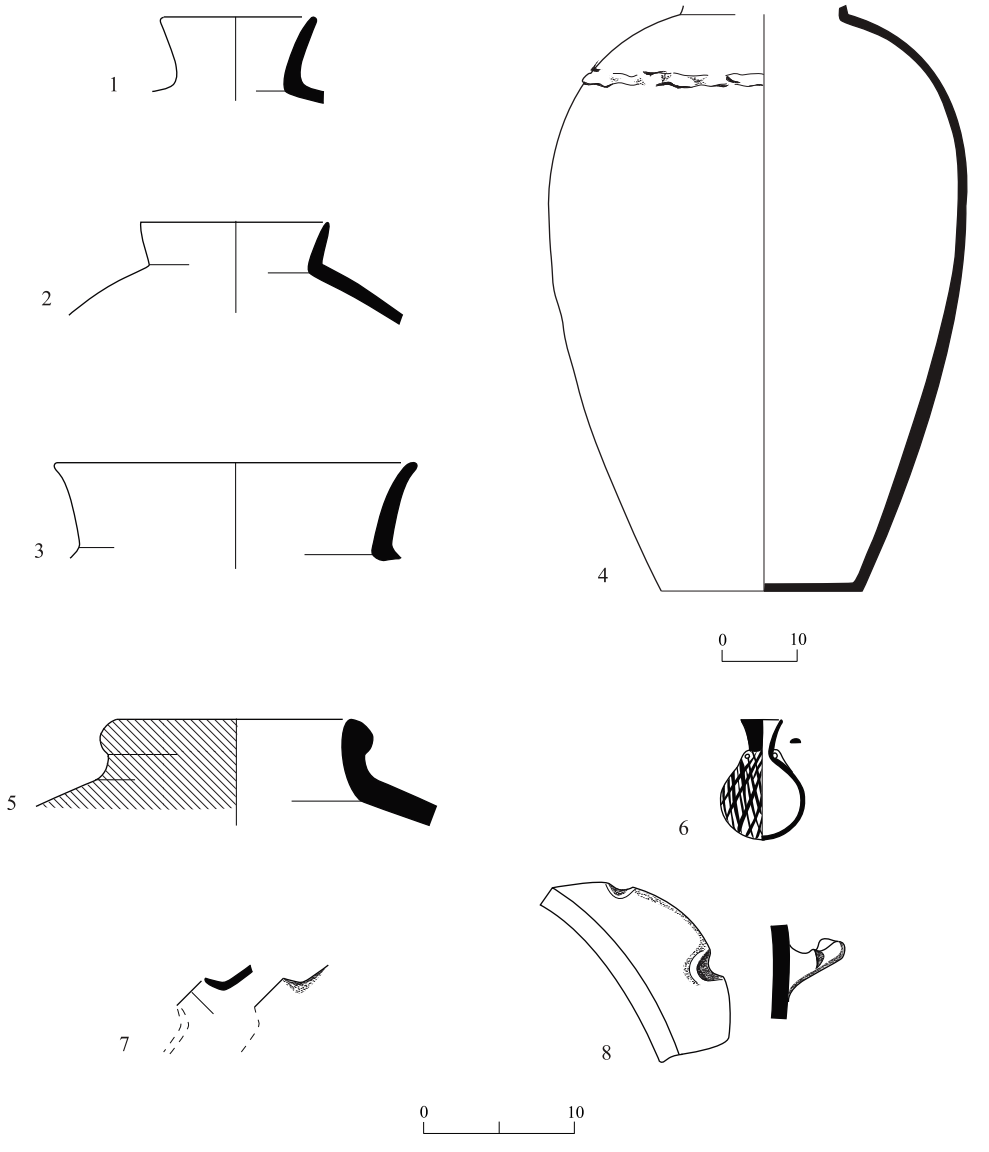


Fig. 35. Stratum III ceramics: storage jars and varia.

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
1	Storage jar	108	1027	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small white grits, red wash on ext. and int. rim, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VI, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.12:10) Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. I (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Fig. 20:10) Tel Ḥalif Terrace, Phases 7–6, EB IB (Dessel 2009: Pl. 15:3)
2	Storage jar	108	1051	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, red wash on ext. and int. rim, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. Va, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.15:15)

◂ **Fig. 35** (cont.)

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
3	Storage jar	108	1027	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small white grits, remains of white lime wash on ext., very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. IV–III, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.23:4; 4.3.30:5) Tel Dalit, Str. II (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 53:13) Tel Afeq, Str. B VII, EB II (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.5:25) ‘Ai, Phase III, EB II (Callaway 1980: Fig. 63:7) Tell el-Far‘ah, Ancien Bronze Periode 1 [EB II] (Vaux 1961: Fig. 3:7)
4	Storage jar	115	1053	Light brown clay, light gray core, small white and gray grits, continuous plastic rope decoration on shoulder, well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. IV, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.22:1) Tel Dalit, Str. II (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 53:13)
5	Storage jar	160	1134	Light brown clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, red wash on ext., very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. V–III, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.15:13; 4.3.16:19; 4.3.23:10; 4.3.30:11) Lod, Str. IV, EB IB (Brink 2002: Fig. 19.8:21) Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. IV (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Fig. 12:1) Tel Dalit, Str. V, EB IB (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 40:13) Qiryat Ata, Str. I, EB II (Golani 2003: Fig. 4.34:1, 2) Tell el-Far‘ah, Ancien Bronze I (EB II?) (Vaux and Stéve 1948: Fig. 6:2) Tell el-Far‘ah, Ancien Bronze Periode 1 [EB II] (Vaux 1961: Fig. 3:1) Tel Ḥalif Terrace, Phases 7 Ancien Bronze 6, EB IB (Dessel 2009: Pl. 15:8)
6	Juglet	114	1064	Light brown-orange clay, light brown-orange core, small white grits, red painted lattice pattern, very well-fired	Tel el-Far‘ah Tomb 2, EB IB (Vaux and Stéve 1949: Fig. 6:30) ‘Ai, Tomb G, EB IB (Marquet-Krause 1949: Pl. 72:870 Callaway 1964: Pl. 11:769–870) Tell el-Far‘ah, Ancien Bronze I (Vaux 1951: Fig. 1:3)
7	Spout	133	1074	Light brown clay, gray core, small white grits, well-fired	
8	Ledge handle	133	1118	Light brown clay, gray core, small white grits, thumb indentations on rim, very well-fired	

Stratum II (Fig. 36)

This ceramic assemblage comprises small carinated bowls (Fig. 36:1, 2) of the type found in Stratum III; deep bowls (Fig. 36:3–5); kraters (Fig. 36:5); holemouth jars (Fig. 36:6–9); small- to medium-sized storage jars (Fig. 36:10–13); and a pithos (Fig. 36:14). While most of these vessel types occur both in EB IB and EB II, the pithos in Fig. 36:14 has close parallels among EB II North Canaanite Metallic Ware (Golani 2003: Figs. 4.31:10–12; 4.32:4, 5) and may have been an import from that region.

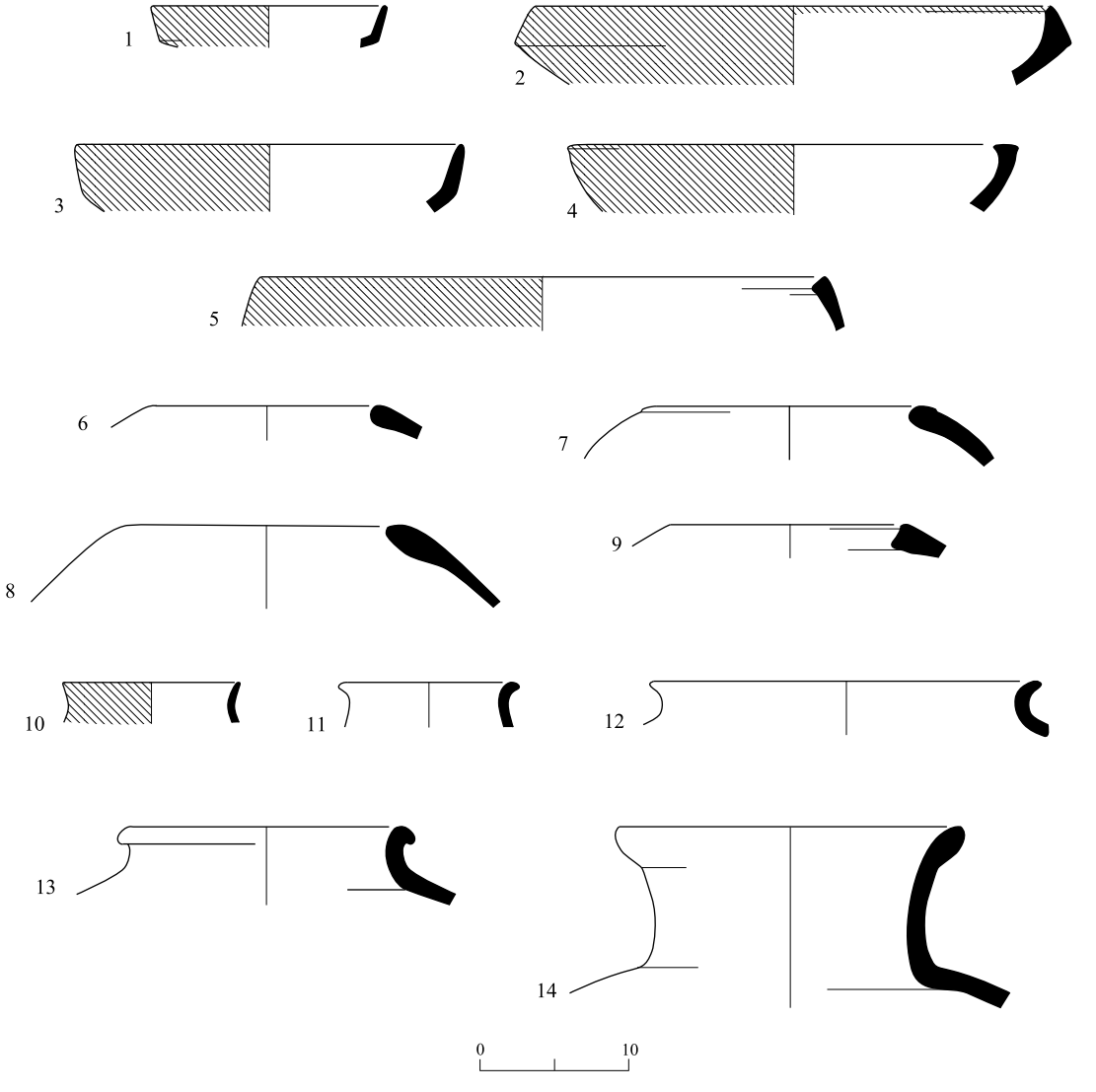


Fig. 36. Stratum II ceramics.

◂ **Fig. 36** (cont.)

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	106	1016	Light brown clay, gray core, small white grits, red wash on ext., well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. V–III, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.13:16; 4.3.16:14, 15; 4.3.19:22–24; 4.3.25:21, 22) Tel Afeq, Str. VIII, EB IB (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.2:26) ʻAi, Phase III, EB II (Callaway 1980: Fig. 68:17)
2	Bowl	106	1016	Light brown clay, light brown-gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, red wash on ext., very well-fired	Tel Dalit, Str. III (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 47:1) ʻAi, Phase V, EB II (Callaway 1980: Fig. 90:24)
3	Bowl	106	1024	Light brown clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, red wash on ext., well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. V–III, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.13:16; 4.3.16:14, 15; 4.3.19:22–24; 4.3.25:21, 22) Tel Afeq, Str. VII, EB II (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.5:4) ʻAi, Phases II–V, EB IB–EB II (Callaway 1980: Figs. 37:11; 87:12; 92:9) Qiryat Ata, Str. I, EB II (Golani 2003: Figs. 4.27:11) Tel Ḥalif Terrace, Phases 7–6, EB IB (Dessel 2009: Pl. 15:16)
4	Bowl	106	1024	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, red wash on ext., very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VI, IV and II, EB IB–EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.11:18; 4.3.20:1; 4.3.32:3) Tel Dalit, Str. II–III (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Figs. 47:4; 48:6) Tel Afeq, Str. VIII–VII, EB IB–EB II (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.3:3–6; 8.5:2) Qiryat Ata, Str. I, EB II (Golani 2003: Figs. 4.24:16; 4.27:13; 4.35:4)
5	Holemouth jar	106	1008	Light brown clay, gray core, small white grits, red wash on ext., well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. III, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.28:9, 10) Tel Afeq, Str. VII, EB II (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.4:22)
6	Holemouth jar	106	1016	Light brown clay, light gray-brown core, small to medium white and gray grits, very well-fired	
7	Holemouth jar	106	1008	Dark brown-red clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, medium fired	Tel Lod, Str. VII, V and III, EB IB–EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.7:1; 4.3.15:6; 4.3.29:2) Tel Afeq, Str. VII, EB II (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.5:12) Tel Ḥalif Terrace, Phases 7–6, EB IB (Dessel 2009: Pl. 17:6)

◂ **Fig. 36** (cont.)

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
8	Holemouth jar	106	1016	Brown-orange clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VI and III, EB IB–EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.12:6, 8; 4.3.29:5) Tel Dalit, Str. II, EB II (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Figs. 53:5; 55:2, 3) Tel Afeq, Str. VIII, EB IB (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.2:28) ‘Ai Phase III, EB II (Callaway 1980: Fig. 64)
9	Holemouth jar	106	1008	Light brown clay, brown-gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VI and IV–III, EB IB–EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.12:9; 4.3.21:8, 10, 11; 4.3.28:17) Tel Dalit, Str. II (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 55:4)
10	Storage jar	106	1024	Light brown clay, gray core, small white grits, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VII, EB IB (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.9:7)
11	Storage jar	106	1008	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small white gray grits, red wash on ext., well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. VI, EB IB–EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.12:11) Tel Dalit, Str. II (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 48:15)
12	Storage jar	106	1024	Light brown clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. V, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 4.3.16.:18) Tel Dalit, Str. V, EB IB (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Fig. 40:12)
13	Storage jar	106	1016	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small white and gray grits, very well-fired	Tel Lod, Str. V–III, EB II (Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 4.3.16:19; 4.3.23:10, 11; 4.3.30:11) Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. IV (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Fig. 12:1) Tel Afeq, Str. VII, EB II (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.5:10) Tell el-Far‘ah, Periode 1, 3 (EB II) (Vaux 1955: Fig. 13:32; 1961: Fig. 3:5)
14	Storage jar	105	1029	Light brown-orange clay, gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, very well-fired	Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), Area B, Str. II (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018: Fig. 16:10) Qiryat Ata, Str. I, EB II (Golani 2003: Figs. 4.31:10) Tel Dalit, Str. II (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996: Figs. 48:20; 52:2; 53:9) Tel Afeq, Str. VII, EB II (Beck 2000: Fig. 8.5:26) ‘Ai, Phases II–III, EB IB–EB II (Callaway 1980: Figs. 37:15; 62:17) Tell el-Far‘ah, Ancien Bronze I (Vaux and Stéve 1948: Fig. 6:1)

VARIOUS SMALL FINDS (Fig. 37)

A representative selection of small finds includes reworked ceramic disks in various stages of perforation (Fig. 37:1, 2); a fragment of a ceramic stopper (Fig. 37:3); a cuboid stone rubber or pestle made of basalt (Fig. 37:4); and two worked basalt stone rings (Fig. 37:5, 6) that are interpreted as spindle whorls. Basalt spindle whorls are very common in EB IB–EB II (Shamir 2003).

DISCUSSION

The present excavation is the first to produce a complete stratigraphic profile for the southwestern part of the Early Bronze Age mound at Lod, extending between the virgin sand layer and the modern ground surface. These findings indicate an intensive settlement in this area during the Early Bronze Age. While an occupation of the Neolithic or Chalcolithic

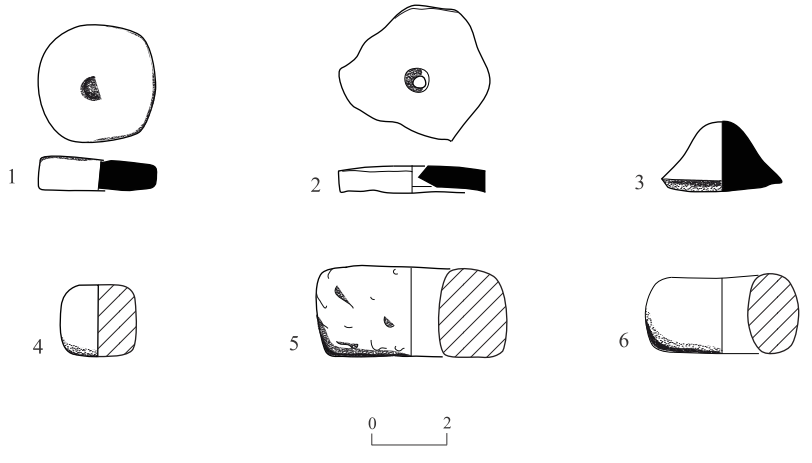


Fig. 37. Varia.

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Disk-stopper(?)	146	1105	Brown-gray clay, small white grits, very worn all over, beginning of shallow perforation on one side
2	Perforated sherd	108	1027	Light brown-orange clay, light brown-gray core, small to medium white and gray grits, remains of red wash on ext., well-fired, perforated on both sides
3	Stopper	160	1145	Brown-gray clay, small white grits, remains of shallow depressed lip on circumference of flat bottom
4	Rubber	151	1115	Limestone, rubbed on six sides
5	Spindle whorl	155	1122	Vesicular basalt, drilled on both sides, complete, 86.1 g
6	Spindle whorl	152	1116	Non-vesicular basalt, traces of drilling on both sides, complete, 52.4 g

period may have existed in this area or in its vicinity, a clear stratum belonging to these periods was not identified. The small probe in which the Stratum VII remains were exposed revealed that this area underwent extensive filling and leveling in EB I. The architectural remains of Strata VI–IV demonstrate the use of rounded exterior corners for domestic structures, characteristic of the end of EB I and the transition into EB II in the Southern Levant (Golani 1999). Stratum IV, dated to the end of EB I, is also characterized by the absence of stone foundations for mud-brick walls. This architectural phenomenon was also documented in Stratum IVa of Brink's excavations, also dated to the very end of EB I (Brink 1999; 2002; Brink et al. 2015:152). The architectural remains associated with Strata IV–III of the present excavation revealed the presence of large-scale, possibly public buildings in this area at the end of EB IB.

The ceramic assemblages retrieved from Strata VII–II are typical of late EB I in central and southern Israel. They closely resemble assemblages from stratified deposits at contemporary sites, such as Khirbat Abu Ḥamid (Shoham North), ʻAi, Tel Afeq, Tel Dalit and Tell el-Farʻah North, while parallels for some of the smaller vessels can be found in the tombs of this period at Azor. These sites are all affiliated with the late EB I ceramic culture of the southcentral coastal and highland regions, and are differentiated from the northern coastal plain and inland valleys, as known at sites such as Esur (Assawir), Tel Qashish, Qiryat Ata, Megiddo and ʻEn Shadud.

Unlike northern Israel, where there is a clear discontinuity between EB IB and EB II in the composition of pottery forms and the potting and decoration techniques (e.g., Golani 2003), a great deal of continuity is apparent in the ceramics of the central and southern regions, often hampering the ability to distinguish between these two periods. Many of the forms specific to the central and southern regions are prevalent during both EB IB and EB II. These forms include simple V-shaped and hemispherical bowls, holemouth jars with thickened and sculpted rims, storage jars with short or high out-flaring rims and carinated bowls. The frequent presence of vessels imported from the northern and southern regions among EB IB and EB II ceramic assemblages of central Canaan often allow for a distinction between the assemblages of these two periods. Such imports may include northern Metallic Ware and Egyptian vessels.

The ceramic evidence from Tel Lod agrees well with the evidence from architectural remains, likewise revealing the chronological correspondence between strata of the present excavation and those of previous large-scale excavations by Brink and Yannai. The absence of Egyptian imports in Strata VII–VI indicates a date in the beginning of EB IB. The ceramic assemblages of subsequent Strata VI–V demonstrate a lack of affinities with the contemporary ʻErani C ceramic culture of the south (Yekutieli 2006), indicating that the influence of this culture did not reach as far north as Lod. The pottery of these two latter strata closely resembles that of Stratum IVb of Brink's excavations (Brink 1999; 2002; Brink et al. 2015) and Strata VIII–VII of Yannai's excavation (forthcoming). The presence of an imported Egyptian storage jar in Stratum IV of the present excavation indicates a date in late EB IB, as was the case with Stratum IVa of Brink's excavations (1999; 2002; Brink et al. 2015) and Stratum VI of Yannai's excavations (forthcoming).

While Stratum III of the present excavation seems at first glance to be distinguished by the appearance of platter bowls—one of the hallmarks of the EB II ceramic repertoire—its attribution to this period is misleading. These vessels occur either as imported vessels belonging to the northern group of Metallic Ware or as imitations thereof (Greenberg and Porat 1996). The absence of Egyptian pottery and of imitations of such pottery in Stratum III also indicates that it could be considered the first EB II stratum in the present sequence from Lod. However, another distinguishing characteristic of the Stratum III pottery is the appearance of Proto-Metallic Ware typical of late EB IB (Paz, Shoval and Zlotkin 2009) and furthermore, many of the vessel types have parallels in EB IB ceramic assemblages. While an EB II occupation was not reported in Brink's excavations (1999; 2002; Brink et al. 2015), Yannai (forthcoming) attributed his Strata V–II to EB IB–II.

The ceramic material of Stratum III includes forms typical of late EB I in central and southern Canaan and may best be paralleled with that of Khirbat Abu Ḥamid in the Lod Valley (Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018) and Tel Dalit Stratum V (Gophna and Iron-Lubin 1996:82, Figs. 39–45), both representing a late pre-urban phase of EB IB. The EB IB characteristics of this stratum include the presence of a small quantity of Proto-Metallic Ware (Fig. 35:1, 2; Paz, Shoval and Zlatkin 2009) and of thick-walled carinated bowls that began to be produced in EB IB (Beck 2000: Figs. 8.2:26; 8.4:16). These carinated bowls continued as thin-walled vessels in EB II, found for example at Tel Afeq Stratum VII (Beck 1985:24–25; 2000: Fig. 8.5:16, 18–20). Also noteworthy is the absence of North Canaanite Metallic Ware (NCMW), indicative of EB II–III in northern Canaan (Greenberg and Porat 1996), and the rope decoration on holemouth vessels—a common feature at EB II Tel Bareqet and Tel Dalit (Paz and Paz 2007; Paz, Segal and Nadelman 2018:147). Strata V–IV of the present excavations contained imported Egyptian pottery (Dynasties 0–1) and small quantities of local imitations thereof. These are entirely missing from Strata III–II. Egyptian ceramic imports or locally produced 'Egyptianised' ceramic imitations of such vessels are characteristic of EB IB (Brink 2002), yet are generally absent in sites of the subsequent EB II–III (Kantor 1965:27, Fig. 3; see also Sowada 2009). Stratum III in the present excavation appears to represent a 'post-Egyptian' phase, still within EB IB, yet apparently transitional into EB II (but see below). Pottery assemblages of this nature have also been identified in other excavations at Lod (Paz, Rosenberg and Nativ 2005:139).

The date of Stratum II is similarly ambiguous, as it likewise yielded many ceramic forms that are found in both EB IB and EB II, representing either a very late phase of EB I or an early phase of EB II.

Recent studies have relied on ^{14}C dating to improve chronological assignment of Early Bronze Age strata and their associated material culture. According to the most recent analysis integrating relative ceramic chronology with absolute radiocarbon chronology (Regev et al. 2012), the EB II of the Southern Levant was relatively short-lived, dated to the early third millennium, 2950–2800 BCE. Two ^{14}C dates for Stratum IV of the present excavation indicate a date at the beginning of EB IB (3350 BCE), raising doubt regarding the attribution of the subsequent Stratum III to EB II. The radiocarbon samples, analyzed at the Weizmann

Institute (RTT-6473, RTT-6474; Fig. 38),[6] were obtained from short-lived seeds uncovered from sealed contexts: RTT-6473 was retrieved from a collection of charred cereals, probably wheat, found in-between laminations of white plaster of Surface 128 of Stratum IV; RTT-6474 is a charred olive stone recovered from a context identified as a surface make-up of Stratum III, directly above Surface 128 of Stratum IV (L138; see Plan 4: Section 1–1). Both ^{14}C assays produced nearly identical results with the best-averaged probability suggesting a date of c. 3350 BCE. The fact that the two dates are indistinguishable, although they originated from two separate strata, could have one of two explanations: (1) the Stratum III occupation began immediately after that of Stratum IV, and both may have been short-lived; or (2) the olive pit obtained from the Stratum III floor make-up originated from Stratum IV and was mixed into the soil used by the builders of the Stratum III surface. The latter explanation is deemed more likely. Given these absolute dates and the ceramic evidence, Stratum IV should be dated to the very end of EB IB, and Stratum III should be taken to represent a transitional period, a very late stage of EB IB—the very end of the fourth millennium BCE—postdating the cessation of trade with Egypt.

The faunal assemblages recovered from the various strata indicate a broad-based subsistence economy dominated by the keeping of domestic livestock, sheep/goat, cattle, pigs and small equids, along with a very limited use of small game (see Maher, this volume). The largest assemblage, retrieved from Strata III–II, indicates a mixed economy, in which animals were mainly exploited for their meat in combination with secondary production of dairy and wool and use of animals for labor. The lithic assemblage, composed primarily of locally obtained raw material, resembles other such assemblages previously documented at Tel Lod, including some residual items of the Pre-Pottery Neolithic period and Pottery Neolithic (Lodian) blades (see Spivak, this volume).

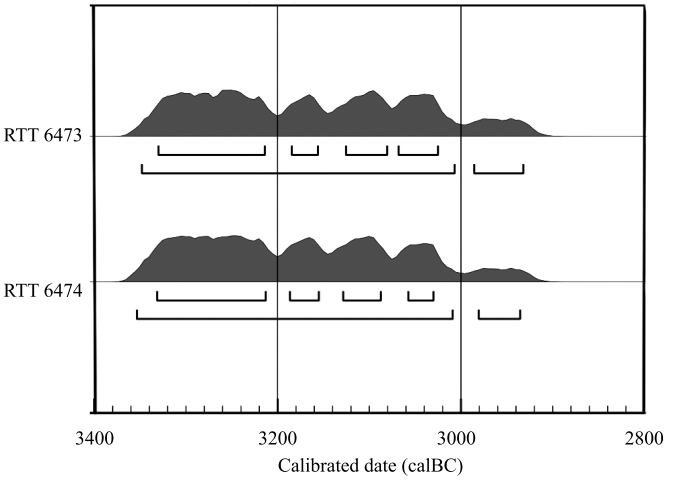


Fig. 38. Radiocarbon dates.

[6] The samples were analyzed by Elisabetta Boaretto at the DREAMS Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory at the Weizmann Institute, Reḥovot.

APPENDIX 1. Locus Register

Locus	Square	Locus above	Locus below	Description	Stratum
100	B3		109, 111, 114	Removal of topsoil and backhoe debris	
101	B2		107, 110, 115	Removal of topsoil and backhoe debris	
102	C3		108, 119	Removal of topsoil and backhoe debris	II(?)
103	C2		106, 112	Removal of topsoil and backhoe debris	
104	D2			Cancelled	
105	A2/3		121	Cleanup	
106	C2	103	113	Debris upon surface and surface make-up	II
107	B2	101	120	Debris upon surface south of W8	II-III
108	C3	102	118, 126, 127	Debris upon surface around ceramic kiln	III
109	B3	100	116	Combined into L100	
110	B2	101		Debris west of W10 and north of W8	III(?)
111	B3	100	131	Debris upon floor south of W22	III
112	C2	103		Debris west of W4	II(?)
113	C2	106	124	Debris	III(?)
114	B3	100	133	Debris upon floor	IIIA
115	B2	101	123	Debris upon floor	III
116	B3	109	117	Debris upon floor west of W9	III
117	B3	116		Floor make-up	III
118	C3	108	127	Combined into L108	III
119	C3	102		Probe into W12 and W13	III–IV
120	B2	107	125	Surface make-up	III
121	A2/3	105	128	Surface make-up	III
122	A3		114	Topsoil removal	---
123	B2	115	144	Floor make-up	III
124	C2	113	130, 137	Dark brown debris	III–IV
125	B2	120	136, 140	Debris above surface	IV(?)
126	C3	108	138	Surface make-up	III
127	C3	108, 118	138, 161, 162	Surface make-up	III–IV
128	A2/3	121	134	Debris upon surface of white laminations	IV
129	B3			Combined into L100	---
130	C2	124	151	Combined into L15.	IV
131	B3	111	159	Floor make-up	III
132	B3	100		Combined into L100	---
133	B3	114	153	Floor make-up and debris upon floor	III
134	A2/3	128	135	Surface make-up	IV
135	A2/3	134	142/143	Debris upon surface	V
136	B2	125	164	Debris upon surface	IV
137	C2	124		Debris upon surface	IV
138	C3	126, 127	139, 162, 163	Combined into L126	III
139	C3	138		Probe below L126 surface make-up	IV(?)
140	B2	125		Debris north of W21	IV(?)
141	A2/3	121	135	Dismantling of round mudbrick platform	IV

Appendix 1. (cont.)

Locus	Square	Locus above	Locus below	Description	Stratum
142	A2/3	135		Debris upon surface within large structure	VI
143	A2/3	135	145	Debris upon surface to the east of large structure	VI
144	B2	123		Probe into W25 and pit of storage jar L115	III–IV
145	A2/3	143	146	Surface make-up	VI
146	A2/3	145	149	Debris/fill below surface make-up	VI–VII(?)
147	A2/3	135	158	Debris upon surface within large structure	V
148	A2/3	143		Debris upon surface	V
149	A2/3	146	152	Combined into L146	VI–VII(?)
150	B2	144		Debris between W25 and W23	IV–V
151	C2	130		Debris upon surface	IV
152	A2/3	149	154	Debris upon and below sloping surface	VII
153	B3	133	155	Surface make-up	IIIB
154	A2/3	156	152	Combined into L152	VII
155	B3	153		Debris upon surface	IV
156	A2/3	154	157	Anthropogenic debris and stones atop sterile sands	VII
157	A2/3	156		Probe into sterile sands	---
158	A2/3	147		Debris within mudbrick installation	VI
159	B3	131		Debris upon surface	IV
160	C3	102	108	Debris within kiln firing chamber	III
161	C3	127		Debris upon and north of W39	III–IV
162	C3	127		Debris	IV(?)
163	C3	138		Debris	IV(?)
164	B2	136		Surface make-up	V–IV

APPENDIX 2. Wall Register

Wall	Square	Stratum	Type
1	B3/C3	I	Modern(?) stone foundations
2			Cancelled
3	C2	II	Mudbrick wall of building
4	C2/B2	II	Mudbrick wall of building
5	B2	II	Mudbrick wall of building
6	C3	III	Mudbrick wall of building
7	C3	III	Combined into W11
8	B2/B3	III	Mudbrick wall of building
9	B3	III	Mudbrick wall of building
10	B2	III	Mudbrick wall of building
11	C2		Cancelled
12	C3	IV–III	Mudbrick wall of building
13	C3	IV–III	Mudbrick wall of building
14	B2	III	Mudbrick wall of building
15			Cancelled
16	B3	III	Mudbrick wall of building on stone foundation
17	C2	IV	Mudbrick enclosure(?) wall
18	C2	IV	Mudbrick enclosure(?) wall
19	C2	IV	Mudbrick enclosure(?) wall
20			Cancelled
21	B2	IV	Mudbrick wall of building
22	B3	III	Mudbrick wall of building
23	A2/3	V	Stone wall of enclosure(?)
24	A2/3	VI	Stone wall of enclosure(?)
25	B2	IV	Mudbrick wall of building
26	A2/3	IV	Mudbrick wall of building
27	A2/3	III	Mudbrick wall of building
28	B3	IV	Mudbrick wall of building
29	B3	IV	Mudbrick wall of building
30	B3	IV	Mudbrick wall of building
31	A2/3	IV	Mudbrick wall of building
32	B3	IV	Mudbrick wall of building
33	A2/3	VI	Stone wall of enclosure(?)
34	B2	V	Stone wall of enclosure(?)
35	A2/3	VI	Stone wall of enclosure(?)
36	C2	IV	Wall of building(?)
37	A2/3	IV	Wall of building(?)
38	A2/3	IV	Wall of building(?)
39	C3	III	Wall of building(?)
40	B3	III	Wall of building(?)
41	B3	III	Wall of building(?)

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