

Tel Achziv – Israel
Preliminary Report - 2016

The Third Season of Excavations

No. G-71/2016

Directed by

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With the participation of

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Introduction

Our third season of excavations at Tel Achziv (previous IAA permits nos. G-64/2014 and G-67/2015) was the continuation of a joint project. An international group of archaeologists and scientists from the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology - Hebrew Union College (HUC), Jerusalem, the French Research Center at Jerusalem (CRFJ) and Lyon University 2 supported by the French Foreign Affair Office (Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development) and the Honor Frost Foundation (HFF) (Figs. 1, 2).

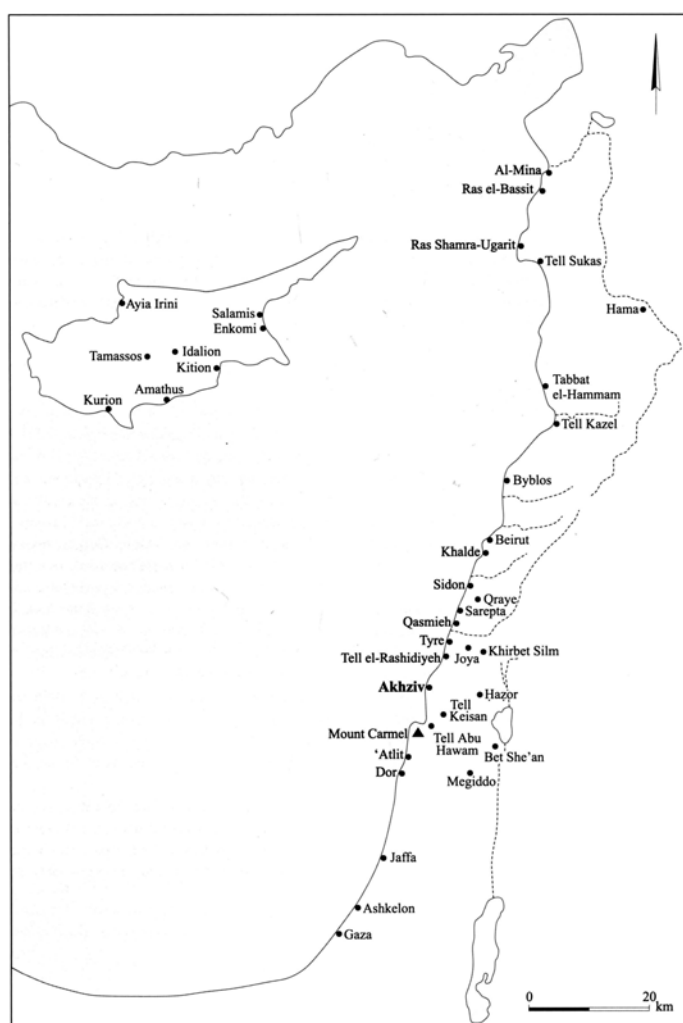


Fig. 1: Map of sites along the eastern Mediterranean coast.

The 2016 excavation at Achziv lasted three weeks, between June 26 and July 15. Twenty volunteers, French and Israeli, participated in the project.



Fig. 2: Aerial view of Tel Achziv looking southeast.

The 2016 season resumed excavation at two main areas: Area N at the northwestern corner of the mound and Area C at the northwestern part of the national park, close to the Eli Avivi compound (Fig. 3).

Previous excavations at Area N yielded considerable archaeological evidence for the existence of a fortification system in the northwestern part of the mound. Based on ceramic material the architectural remains at Area N were dated with certainty to the MBIIb-c with several stratigraphical sub-phases. A possible conflagration layer was detected in the transition between the MBIIb and the MBIIc layers. During the 2015 excavation season at Area N, we exposed layers that we thought represented depositions on top of the bedrock. Consequently, we assumed that the 2016 excavation season would be the last in this area.

Excavation at Area C resumed in all three squares, where Late Roman period (Squares C1 and C2) and Iron Age IIa (henceforth: IAIIa) (Square C4) architectural features and objects were unearthed.

Benchmarks:

Area C 11.90 m.

Area N 11.12 m.



Fig. 3: Achziv excavation areas, summer 2016.

Area C

Area Supervisor: Chloé Schmidt assisted by Josselin Pinot

General Overview and Previous Exploration

Area C is located in the northwestern part of the national park, close to Eli Avivi's compound and not far from the excavation area of Prausnitz's team. First opened in summer 2015, the 2016 excavations resumed in three squares (squares C1, C2 and C4). The area was dug from June 26th to July 15th, 2016, by a group of 12 students under the supervision of Chloé Schmidt assisted by Josselin Pinot.

The 2015 excavation season in Area C produced important information concerning stratigraphy and architecture of the IAI and Roman period Achziv. Architectural remains including walls, floors and pits were detected in all three excavation areas and were assigned to four main stratigraphical phases.

Excavation of sealed loci and clean contexts was accompanied by wet sieving and floatation. Started in 2015, this high resolution method is aimed at sampling and mapping the existence of small scale objects, faunal and botanical remains in the archaeological assemblage of Achziv.

Past exploration has uncovered immediately below surface level (15 cm. below surface) and close to the park's infrastructure, the remains of the post-Ottoman pre-1948 houses of the Arab village of ez-Zib (Phase C1). In square C4, below the floor of an Arab house, a subterranean unit (a basement?) that was built of stones and blocked in the 1960's and an adjacent sewage pit filled with stones were found (Phase C2).

Remains of domestic architecture including paved floors, walls and possible installations that were dated to the late Roman period (Phase C3) have been uncovered in squares C1 and C2.

Finally, a thick burnt mudbrick layer with restorable vessels that share parallels with IAIa sites in northern Palestine and that was dated to the mid tenth or mid ninth century BCE, was uncovered in square C4 (Phase C4).

Naturally, this substantial evidence from Area C presented us with some scientific challenges and raised many new questions:

I. What is the foundation date of the Late Roman Period houses and what was the connection between the Late Roman houses revealed in Square C1 and the pavement

segments uncovered in Square C2? What new information can be added to our knowledge of the settlement of Achziv in the Late Roman period?

II. Which architectural features were associated with the IAIIa destruction layer and the ceramic assemblage retrieved from it? What was the historical context of this destruction and is it supported by direct or indirect plaeographic evidence? In what way this new information shed light on the IA city of Achziv?

III. Do we have ceramic or any other material culture attestation to the existence of other periods between the Late Roman and the IA (Early Roman, Hellenistic, Persian and IAIIb-c)?

With these questions in mind we launched the second season of excavation at Area C (Fig. 4). The first three days of excavations focused on cleaning inside and outside the squares, removing the geo-textile and fills that we put last year and preparing the squares for excavation.

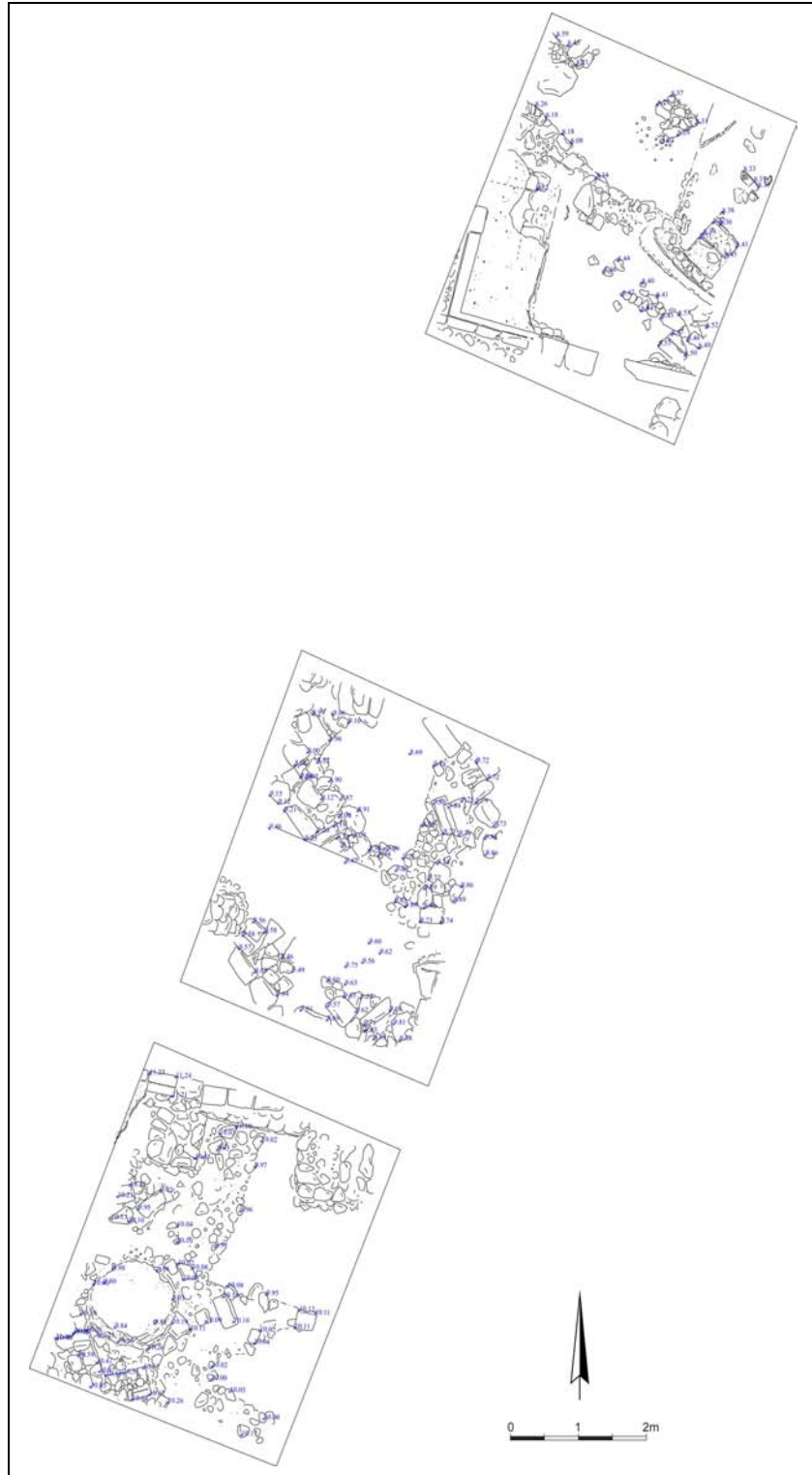


Fig. 4: Area C, general plan.

Description of the Archaeological Evidence

Phases C1-C2

Archaeological remains associated with Phase C1 and C2 were uncovered in 2015 consisting mostly of floors and walls that belonged to the Arab village ez-Zib of the late 19th-first half of the 20th centuries CE.¹

No architectural features of these phases were excavated in 2016.

Phase C3

In square C1, below walls and floors of the Arab village ez-Zib and below a very thin layer of a fill (ca. 60 cm below the surface) appeared the heads of walls from the late Roman period. Two Roman period buildings were built in a north-south and northeast-southwest orientation (Fig. 7).



Fig. 5: Area C, Square C1: Aerial view looking north.

The northern part of square C1 was dominated by a building composed of three walls (Fig. 5): a long broad wall that was built in an east-west axis (W348) and two short walls abutting it from the south, one from each side (W641 and W642). The walls were preserved to a height of five courses. A broad wall (W348) was preserved to a height of 70 cm and is abutted by a layer of stones from the south (L625) at a level of

¹ For a detailed stratigraphical description see the 2015 preliminary report (Thareani and Jasmin 2015).

9.94 m asl. Both the walls and the pavement are built of medium size field stones. Here, in the northern and western parts of square C1, the stone pavement seems to continue below the foundation courses of the walls and further to the western section. It seems that the stone pavement pre-dated the walls from the late Roman period even though this could be merely an earlier constructional phase.

While the northern and the western parts of the square were occupied by the pavement, the eastern part of square C1 contained a soft light brown soil (L626). No remains of the stone pavement were found here.

Segments of a pavement were found in the southern part of the square (L613), as were the remains of two additional walls (W643; W644). Comparison of the levels (9.94 m in the northern pavement and 10.02 m in the southern one) shows that the remains from the two parts of square C1 belong to the same stratigraphical horizon.

In the southwestern part of the square, the pavement is cut by a pit or an installation (L353; L649). Situated below the fill of pebbles and gravel of the Arab house, observing the section it is not clear if the pit cuts the remains from the Roman period or is contemporary to them.



Fig. 6: Area C, Square C1: W643, W644 and L353 (L649) – a pit or an installation.

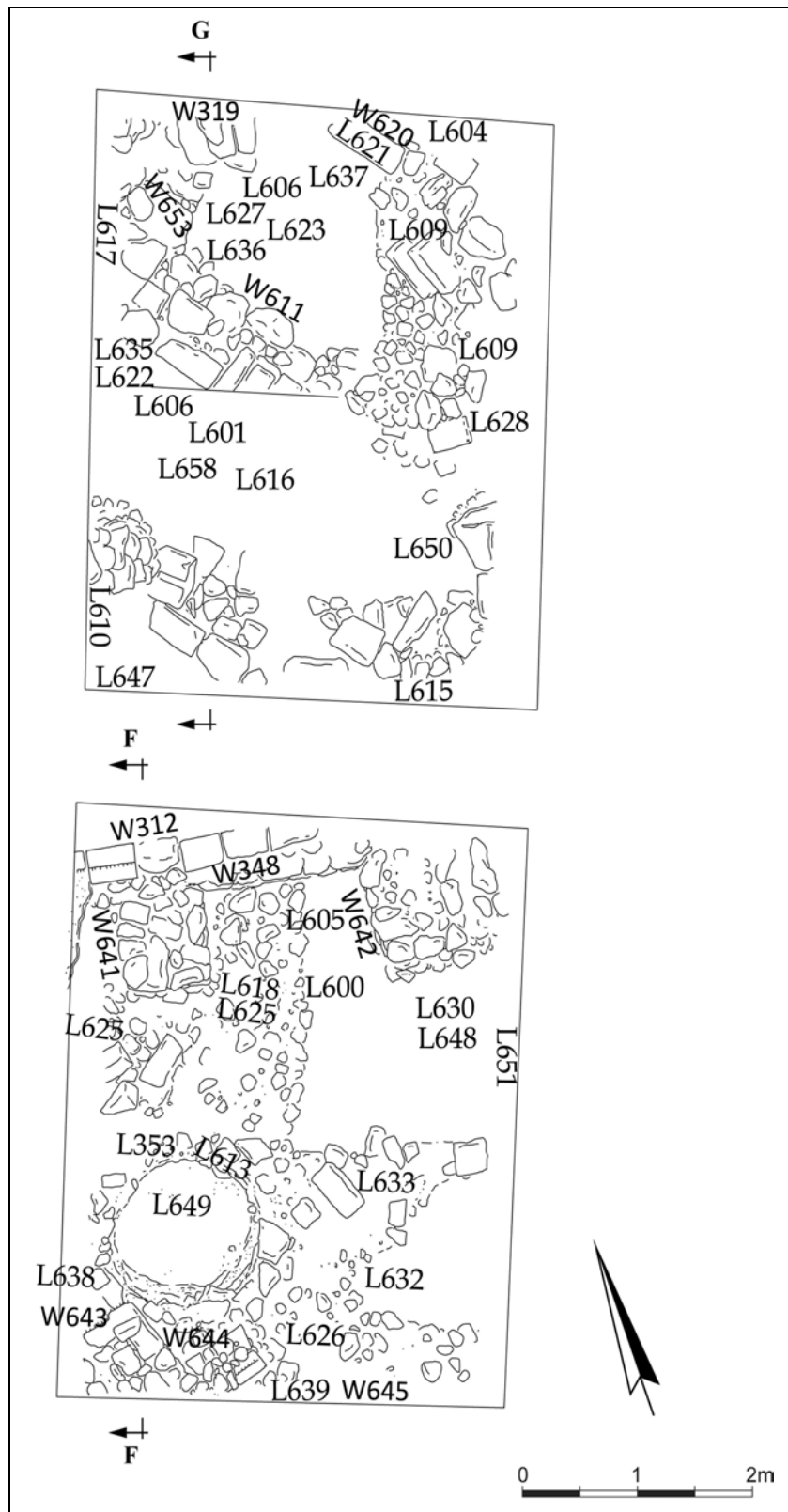


Fig. 7: Plan of Squares C1 and C2.

Above the stone pavement of L625 a compact layer containing objects was found. Counted among these were: serving and consumption vessels as well as decorated pottery – all were dated based on ceramic parallels to the Late Roman Period. Few remains of a decorated plaster painted in red, some white mosaic stones, animal bones and glass fragments were unearthed as well.

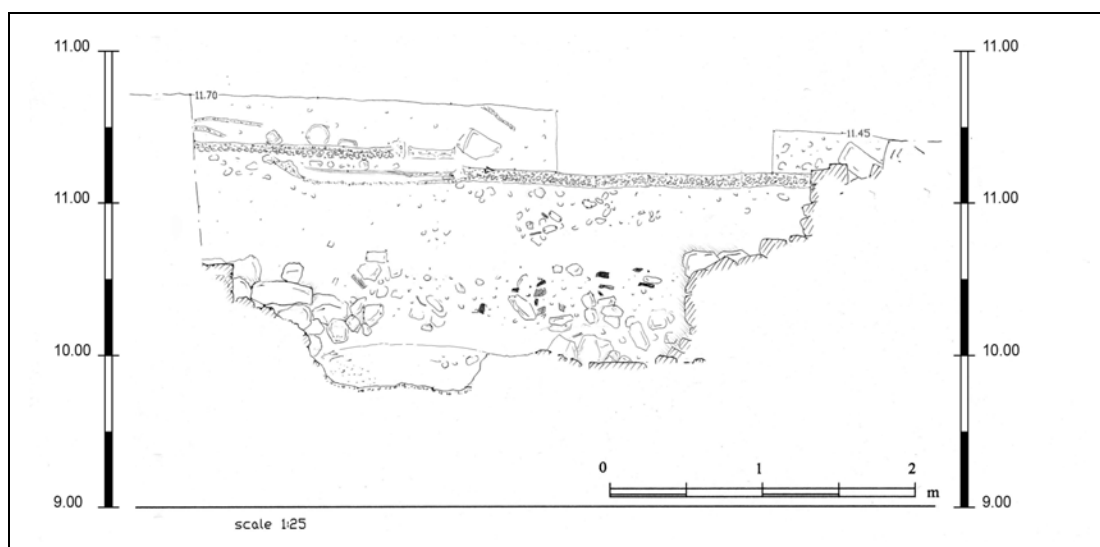


Fig. 8: Section F-F: the western section at Square C1, a view from the east.

Forming the continuation of square C1 to the north, excavation in square C2 yielded remains similar to those found in square C1 (Fig. 6). Here too, the upper part of the sections is occupied by the remains of the Arab village ez-Zib (Phase C1). Remains from the late Roman period were uncovered and can be seen in the western and northern baulks (Fig. 8).

Remains of the stone pavement that was exposed in square C1 were unearthed in the northeastern (L609) and southern parts of Square C2 as well, close to the southern section. A crumbling brown-reddish layer containing much ceramic material, broken vessels and sherds superimposing a hard packed layer occupied the central part of the square (L616). Most of the pottery found in this spot was dated to the Late Roman Period. IAI material (complete vessels and sherds) was also identified, though in lesser quantity. The appearance of many sherds and our disability to trace a floor below this layer suggest that this area used as a trash pit into which IAI and Roman period broken vessels were swept away, probably as part of leveling the area and preparing it for habitation in later periods.



Fig. 9: Area C, Square C1: L632; L633 and L648, view from west.

Of special interest was the appearance of large well-dressed stones in the northeastern part of the square (W620), on top of the stone pavement. These stones seem to represent a collapse. It is still not clear if these walls belong to the buildings that we uncovered or to a larger edifice that was located northeastern of Area C and that its destruction remains we see. Moreover, unlike square C1, the structural connection between the Roman period walls and the stone pavement at square C2 is not clear enough.

The fill that was found on top of the pavement consisted of two different compositional layers. While the soil in the northern part of the square was dark and compact (L628), the southwestern area contained a soft lighter soil and a powder-like thick light fill (L616), ca. 65 cm thick, including many sherds and broken vessels from the Late Roman Period. The southwestern corner could have used as a pit in which broken vessels and gravel were concentrated. A half complete storejar from the Roman period was detected close to the eastern section.

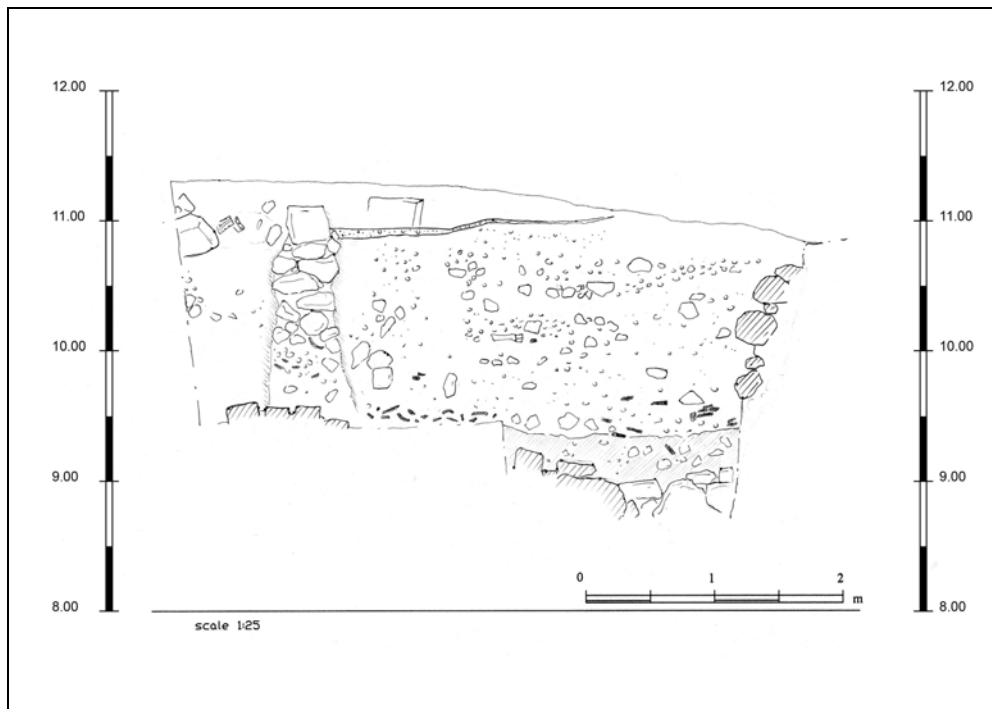


Fig. 10: Section G-G: the western section at Square C2, a view from the east.

During the 2015 excavation season, a probe, its dimensions 2.3×2.3 m, was opened in the northwestern part of square C2 (L606). The probe cuts through the thick layer of sherds. A short wall was discovered in its southern part (W611). This wall, which is located at the bottom of the section, was built in a southeast-northwest orientation. It contains two courses of medium to large size stones. In its northeastern side, this wall is supported by row of smaller stones (similar to the building technique of IAII walls in some of the southern Levantine sites). In the southwestern corner of the probe, above the head of the wall and at a height of 46 cm, ash layer with well-burnt orange mudbricks were detected (L623). This layer may represent the bottom of the dense sherds layer to its south. It should be noted that the pottery discovered there has not produced a clear date for the wall yet.

Approximately 80 cm below the layer of sherds, the excavators exposed a diagonal wall built in a northwest-southeast axis (W653), three courses of which were preserved. Here too, a mixture of sherds from the IAII and the Roman period was found implying that the pit found in the south still continues (Fig. 11).

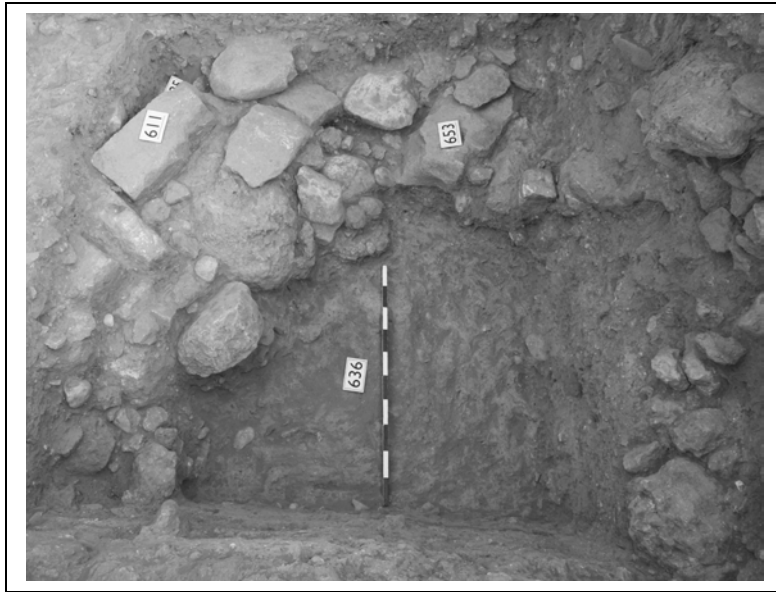


Fig. 11: Area C, Square C2: W611, W653 and L 636, view from north.

During the excavation of the northeastern corner of the probe, nearly 1.8 m below surface, a semi-squared like architectural feature was exposed (45 × 48 cm) (L637). This square, 21 cm high, is composed of layers of earth and orange material mixed with small stones, shells, sherds including and pebbles dated to the late Roman period. It includes some decorated ware: black burnished pottery, *tridacna* shells and animal bones. This architectural element, its function and stratigraphic context are not clear yet. It seems that this feature consists of several contemporary layers. In its lower part, small flint stones and a large bone of cattle were discovered.

Phase C4

During the 2016 season we continued excavating the central and eastern parts of square C4 where thick burnt mudbrick IAIa layers with the remains of white plaster were unearthed (Figs. 4, 12).

Immediately below the geo-textile and the fill from last season, we excavated a red-brownish mudbrick layer and a soft soil (L607) in which a full profiled chalice was recovered at a level of 8.62 m. This chalice joins the other two chalices that were found in the 2015, as well as large parts of other vessels – all dated to the IAIa. Remains of the white plaster line that last year had been visible only in the eastern section were discovered now in a lower level inside the destruction layer. The thickness of the plaster reached 25 cm in some places.



Fig. 12: Area C, Square C4: Aerial view looking west.

Previously, we thought that the plaster represents the borders of a pit that contains material culture from the IAIa mixed with brown soil and mudbrick material. As the excavation continued it became apparent that the plaster features are part of an architectural unit that was built in a northeast-southwest axis and that the vessels were found *in situ* and represent the destruction moment. The thickness of the plaster and the notion that complete and restorable vessels were found outside the borders of the plastered area support this scenario. It is clear that the continuation of this building is located further to the east and northeast of Square C4 and therefore continues directly into the eastern section.

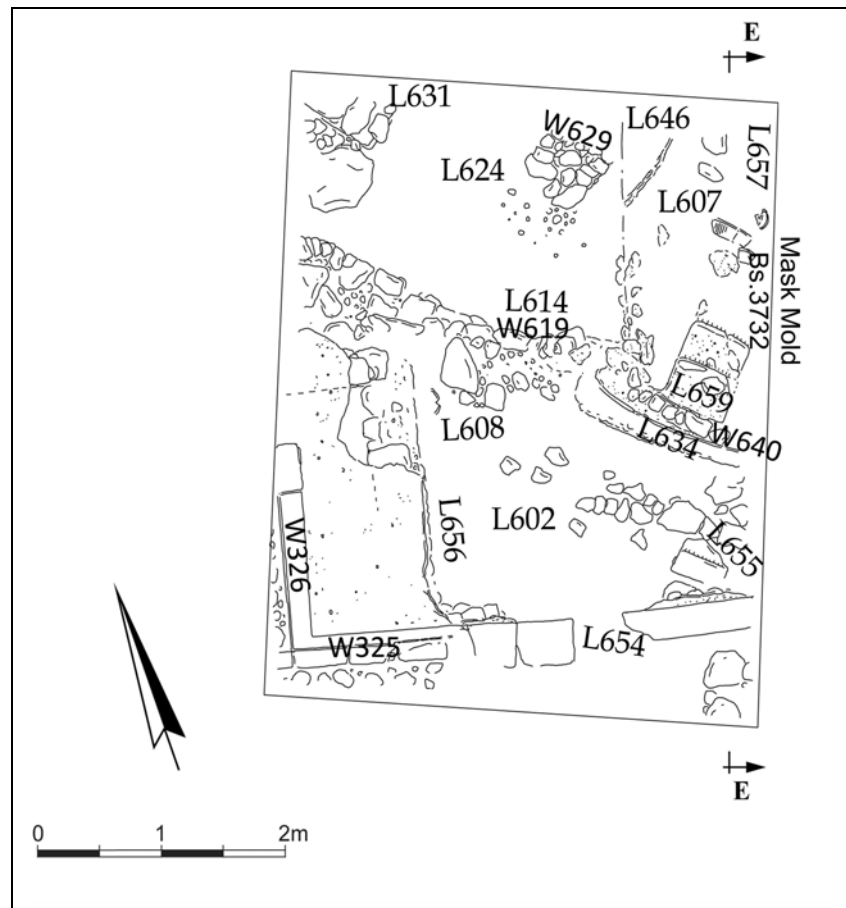


Fig. 13: General plan of Area C, Square C4.

One option that was raised is that the plaster layer and complete vessels represent a floor that was smashed following the collapse of the building, perhaps of a second storey of a building. It explains how the complete vessels were smashed as a result of a collapse of a second storey and were scattered beyond the borders of the plaster line. Another possible explanation is that we dug a plaster floor. However, examination of the eastern section of Square C4 (Fig. 16), clearly shows that the layer of restorable vessels continues below the plaster line.

Other clues for the architectural function of the plaster were provided by the finding of two plaster walls that delimited the architectural unit to its south.

Only part of the southern wall (W640) was uncovered and it seems to continue into the eastern bulk. This was a mudbrick wall that was plastered on both sides. Only the lower part of this wall was preserved. The external part of this wall is a bit rounded and continues to northeast. A bench consisting of two courses of medium sized stones (0.94 length \times 0.15 m height) is attached to this wall from the north (Fig. 14).



Fig. 14: Area C, Square C4: W640 – a plastered mudbrick wall with a stone bench and two plastered stairs in front, a view from east.

The western part of the plaster wall (W640) was exposed to a length of 2.07 m but is less well preserved than the southern one due to the existence of a sewage pit of the pre-1948 village.

An answer to this somewhat puzzling stratigraphical situation was provided by a careful exposure of the plaster and the appearance of two plastered stairs abutting the southern wall and the stone bench from the north (L659) (Fig. 13). The stairs are built in a northeast-southwest orientation and their dimensions are:

The upper stair – 1.3 m length, 0.1 m height was found at a level of 8.58 m.

The lower stair – was found at a level of 8.44 m. A complete storejar was found attached to the western side of this lower stair.

Excavating below the plaster uncovered a layer of small stones that appeared in a uniformed level. This layer of small stones formed the foundation of the floor that was then plastered.

Many complete vessels, 14 thus far, were found in the mudbrick layer (L607), on the stairs and along the eastern section. Most of these vessels were concentrated in the northeastern part of the square. The rich ceramic assemblage exposed in the building includes: bowls, chalices, lamps and storejars with parallels in IAIa horizons in the southern Levant as well as burnt animal bones – all point to some sort of a public building with a unique function. At the northeastern corner of the square a complete burnished goblet was found. A small chalice was discovered in the northeastern corner of the square (Bs. 3870; at a level of 8.41 m) (Fig. 15).



Fig. 15: Area C, Square C4, looking north – plaster wall (W640), a stone bench and plastered stairs. The destruction layer of L607 to the north.

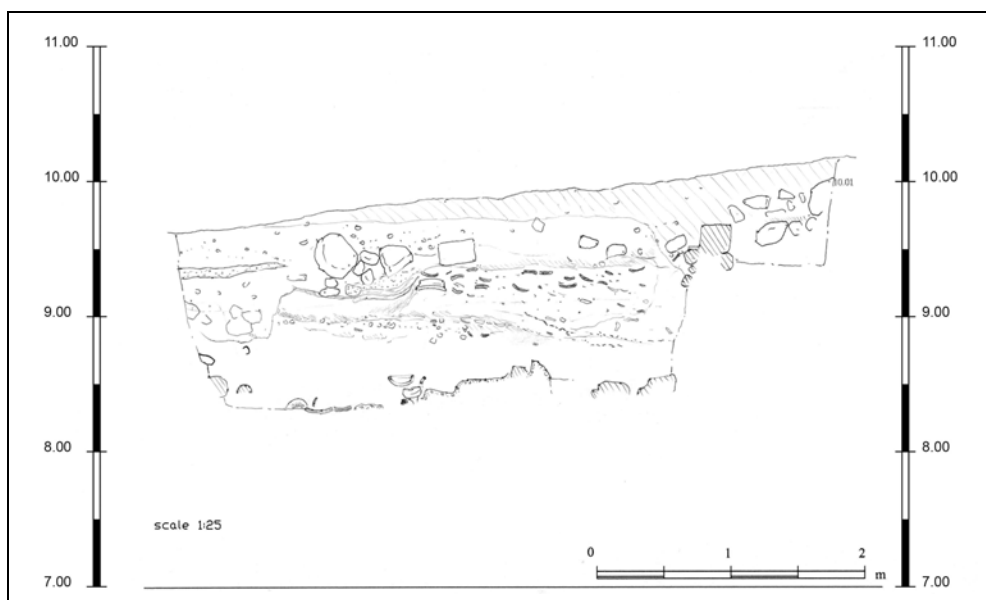


Fig. 16: Section E-E: the eastern section at Square C4, view from the west.

A support for this hypothesis came up on July 7th when volunteers working along the eastern section of square C4 revealed a complete bowl and a complete

anthropomorphic mask mold (No. 3732/1; Loc. 607; level 8.42 m; Fig. 17). The mold was found with its concave part turning up and its head turns to northeast. The oval shaped mold is made of red brownish clay with thick gray core. A broken thick handle, its two bases preserved, was attached to its rear part. The mold was gently removed from the dirt. At this point we were able to discern the face of a human and the hairdo but not many details. After the dig, the mold was handed to the conservation laboratories at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem where a careful cleaning of it exposed the face of a youth – an unprecedented object in the ancient near east (Jasmin, Thareani and Abrahami 2017).



Fig. 17: A complete anthropomorphic mask mold found in the IAIa building at Area C; No. 3732/1; Loc. 607; level 8.42 m. (left front, right rear). Note the massive broken handle at the rear part (photo taken by Vladimir Naikhin).

Excavation to the north of the plastered stairs and vessels exposed a dark soft brown fill beside crumbly orange soil that was hard to dig and some charcoal (L607). It seems that these were mudbricks that collapsed from the upper courses of the walls. This composition filled the entire area to the north of the plaster and abutted the plaster line to the west that formed the border of the plaster feature. It should be noted that not much pottery were found in the fill, but beads that were found in the sieving. The area to the southwest of the plaster borders the floor of the Arab house from the east and north and is entirely different in nature than the western area.

A burnt mudbrick layer containing IAIIa vessels was found (L608). Although the number of vessels is limited in comparison to that found in the eastern part of the square, it seems that this area constitutes the continuation of the burnt mudbrick layer uncovered to its east. No plaster remains were found here but the heads of stones, some 17 cm below the mudbrick layer. This layer is composed of small to medium sized field stones, mostly *kurkar* and limestone (Fig. 18).



Fig. 18: Area C, Square C4: the IAIIa layer (Phase C4), view from south.

Below the mudbrick layer the heads of stones aligned in one row in an east-west axis were exposed (W619). Examination of the section clearly shows two walls that were built one on top of the other. The upper wall is built in an east-west axis (W619a) while the lower wall slightly inclines towards northwest and southeast (W619b). A semi-circular ash layer mixed with small stones was unearthed at the centre of the southern part of the square. Below this feature and below the lower wall a layer of small stones was exposed. Located below the destruction layer of the IAIIa, the exact nature of this layer has not been clarified yet.

A probe that was initially opened in 2015, in the northwestern part of the square, is situated below the sewage pit of the pre-1948 house (L624). The probe measures 2.7

× 1.65 m. In its northeastern part, a segment of a wall built of medium sized undressed lime stones was exposed (W629) (Fig. 19). Only one course of this wall has been uncovered thus far. The head (?) of this wall appeared at the end of the plaster layer with a broken IAII storejar on top of it. This wall is built in a northeast-southwest orientation and together with W619 which is located to its south and built in an east-west axis, provide the first two architectural evidence for the IAIa at Achziv.



Fig. 19: Area C, Square C4: to the right, stone wall W629 and a mudbrick layer to its west.

Area N

Area Supervisors: Pimprenelle Atlan and Xavier Desormeau

General Overview and Previous Exploration

Area N is situated at the north-western edge of the mound, on a slope overlooking the Mediterranean to the west, Nahal Kziv to the north-west and the road leading to the Lebanese coast via Rosh-Haniqra to its north (Fig. 1).

The area was dug from June 26th to July 15th, 2016, by a group of 10 students under supervision of Pimprenelle Atlan and Xavier Desormeau. This season we resumed excavating squares N1 and N2.

First opened in 2014, excavation at Area N uncovered part of the MBII fortification system at Achziv. In all, two squares were excavated: Square N1 to the north and Square N2 to the south. In 2015, Square N2 was expanded southward so it encompassed a fill of pebbles and dirt (Fig. 20). A total area encompassing of 350 sq. m was excavated.

Evidence for MBIIb fortification system at Achziv was first detected in the northeastern part of the mound during the excavations directed in 1963-1964 by Moshe Prausnitz (Prausnitz 1993: 32). It was composed of a beaten-earth rampart, a revetment containing several layers of earth and a glacis made of a stone wall coated with clay. Typical MBIIb pottery was found in this area confirming the date of the system (Oren 1975). According to the excavator a fosse was dug at the foot of the glacis turned the city into an island surrounded by rampart (Prausnitz 1975).

Exposing another part of the MBII fortification system of Achziv, its northwestern end, by our mission allowed a careful examination of the stratigraphy, architecture and material culture correlates involved in the construction of Achziv's fortification system.

Preliminary analysis of the ceramic assemblage and architectural evidence from previous seasons indicated that the northwestern part of the mound was occupied during the Middle Bronze Age (MBIIb-c) and the Medieval/Ottoman periods. Notable among the architectural remains from this area are thick walls that were part of a MBII fortification system running parallel to the western slope of the mound. A squared bastion or a room was fixed at the center of the excavated area.

Two main phases were discerned in the fortification system: an initial phase attributed to the establishment and use of the fortifications. Based on ceramic analysis, this phase was dated to the MBIIb (Phase N4). A second phase of use that should be probably dated to the transition from the MBIIc to the LBI (Phase N3) was detected as well.

Finally and as was the case with the MBII system in the northeastern part of the mound (Prausnitz 1993: 32), the northwestern section of the fortification suffered of a violent destruction. Preliminary ceramic results indicate that this destruction (our Phase N3) should be dated to the latest part of the MBII (MBIIc) or the beginning of the LB (LBI).²

Three main goals guided us in our 2016 season at Area N:

- I. Resuming excavation of the occupational layers associated with the fortification system.
- II. Exposing the core of the MBII fortification wall.
- III. Continuation of the excavation at the southern part of Area N and connecting its architectural features to those from the north.



Fig. 20: Area N – aerial view looking west.

² For a similar destruction date of the northeastern fortification system, see: Prausnitz 1993: 32.

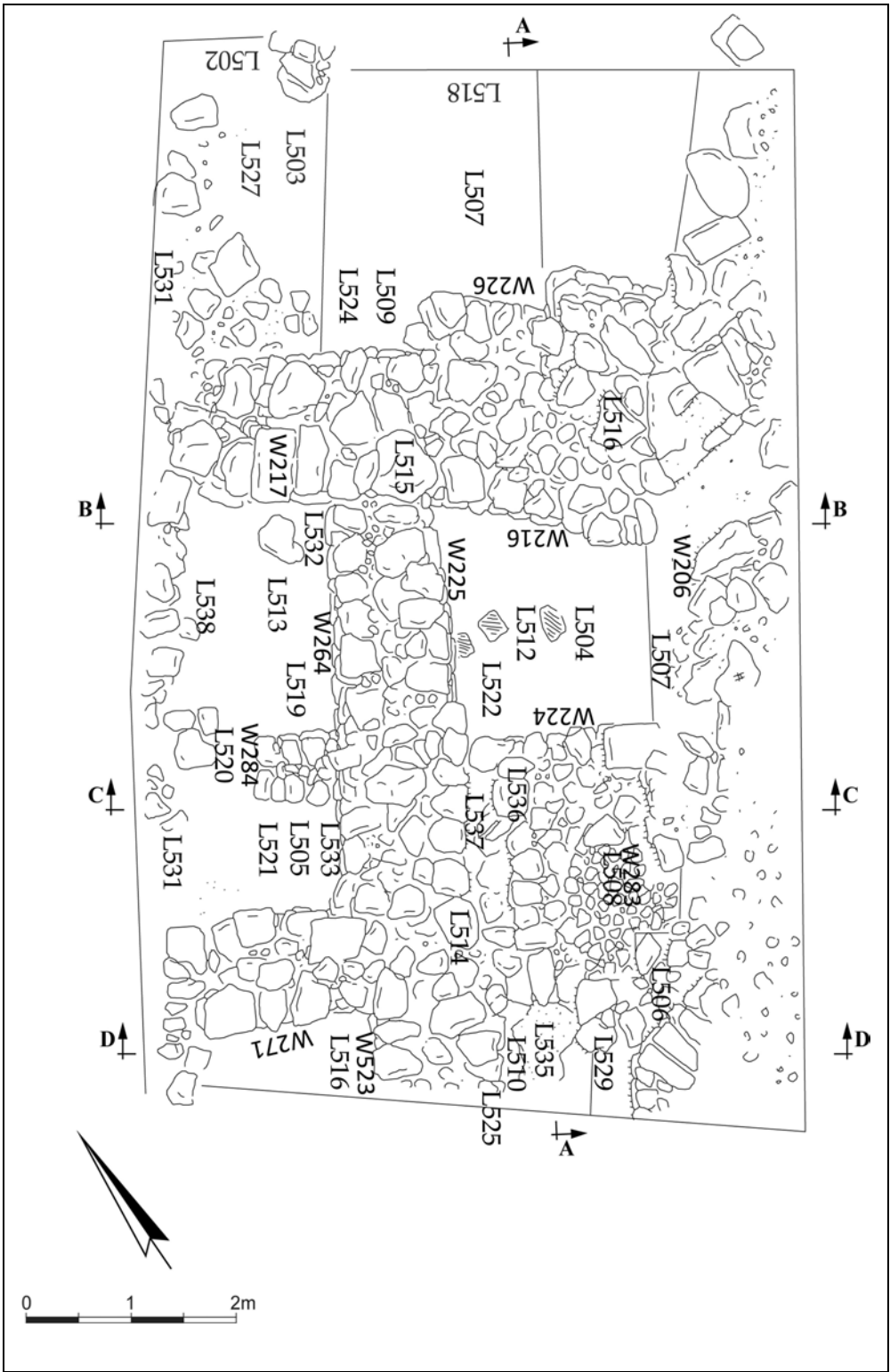


Fig. 21: Area N, general plan.

Description of the Archaeological Evidence

Phase N3

The uppermost part of W226 is supported to its north by a later addition of four courses of stones leaning against W226 and inclining southward. This wall is associated with a thin layer that is identifiable in the section (L522) and that seems to reflect a late phase of use in the fortification system – the end of the MBII or the beginning of the LB (Fig. 21).

A room situated at the center of the excavated area measures 1.7 x 2.2 m with only its northern and western walls exposed (W217 and W225 accordingly) (Fig. 22).



Fig. 22: Area N, Square N2, looking eastward – W225 (in front) and W217 (to the left) delimiting the small room.

The eastern section of the room (L523) was exposed to a length of 1.4 m. At least four layers were observed in the room (Fig. 23). The uppermost layer was first discovered in 2014 and contained indicative pottery dated to the MBIIc or the LBI. It contained a white-gray ashy material. 20 cm below an additional and similar layer was unearthed, superimposing yet another similar layer some 10 cm below. These three uppermost layers seen in the section represent layers of delicate plaster that covered the floor of

the room. We were surprised to find out that beyond the upper layer of plaster bearing ceramics dated by us to the transition from the MBII to the LBI, three additional layers bearing indicative sherds dated to the MBIIb were detected. Notable among these is an open shallow bowl with a simple rim which was found half complete. Remains of burnt mudbricks and ash mixed with pottery sherds were found in all layers of the room.

Additional evidence of Phase N3 was unearthed in the southern part of the excavated area where several large limestone and *kurkar* stones were uncovered, three of which were laid in one course and organized in a north-south axis. Immediately to the north of these stones concentration of medium-small sized field stones (W283) were exposed. These stones seem to cover the core of the MBII fortification rampart and they could be either contemporaneous with the date of establishment of the fortification system (MBIIb – Phase N4) or later (MBIIc-LBI – Phase N3), namely same period as the upper plastered layer discovered in the small room at the center.



Fig. 23: Area N – Section A-A, looking east.

Phase N4

Forming the northern border of the area, W226 appears to be much narrower than we previously thought. It seems that these are the foundations of the wall that had been covered by large stones and supported to the north by an artificial stratification of sea sand and bricks. Similar to the room discovered at the center, it is possible that the core of W226 was intentionally covered, right from the beginning, by layers of soil and sea sand (Fig. 24).



Fig. 24: Area N, square N1, a view from the west – to the right, stone wall W226. To the left, the fill of L222 superimposing another (constructional?) fill of L274.

Excavation of the area to the north of the massive stone wall (W216) concentrated in exposing the northern face of the wall. Four courses of stones were exposed thus far from the southern face of this wall (W217). It seems that the wall continues down. A 15 cm probe cut into the northwestern end of W216 revealed a fill but no courses of stones. The fill consists of a soft light brown soil mixed with small stones and shells (L222). Few animal bones and pottery sherds were found there as well. The upper part of the fill was coated by several *kurkar* and lime stones covered by a collapse of *kurkar* and lime stones. Its lower part (L274) consists of brown compact earth mixed

with sea sand, clay and bricky inclusions. Some sea shells were also found. Only few pottery sherds have been discovered here, most of which are eroded and mixed (MBIIb-c; LB and Mamluk periods).



Fig. 25: Area N, Square N1, looking south – a fill to the north of the massive wall (W216). Note the upper part of the fill (L222) and its lower part (L274).

At this point two constructional settings offer two optional scenarios:

At the basis of the first scenario laid the hypothesis that this architectural composition was intentionally made and that the MBII fortification wall was abutted from its north by an earthen rampart with its top covered by a glacis. Another possible interpretation is that the core of the monumental wall had been originally much narrower than we previously assumed – narrower than the width of the collapse above it.

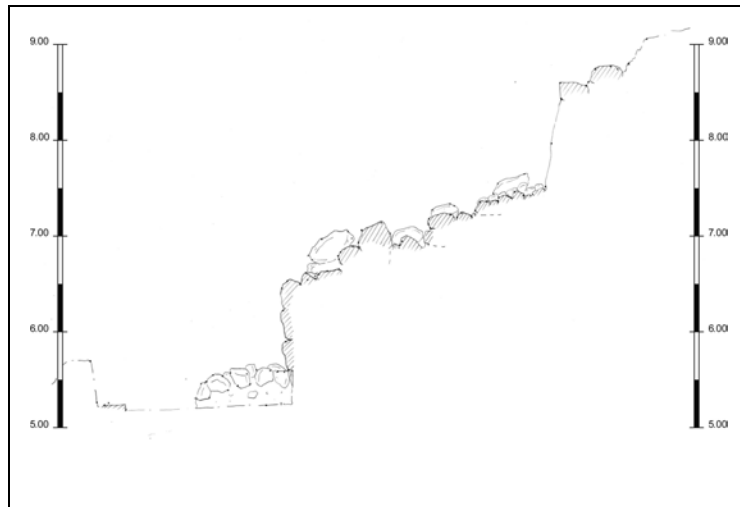


Fig. 26: Area N – Section C-C looking north.

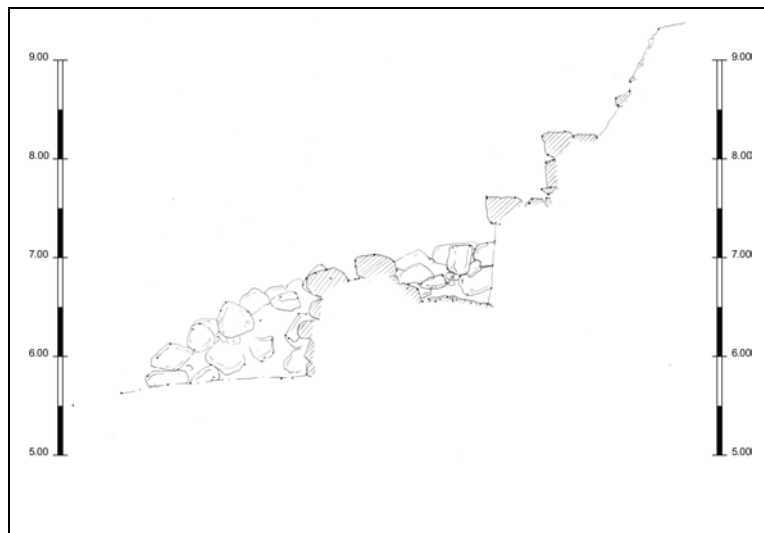


Fig. 27: Area N – Section D-D looking north.

Examination of two sections (Section C-C of the northern face of the fortifications core [Fig. 26] and Section D-D of its southern face [Fig. 27]) cutting through the northern part of Area N in an east-west axis reveals that the northern face of the fortification wall (Section D-D) is narrower than its southern face. Moreover, Section D-D clearly illustrates the terraced structure of this massive stone feature and the possible existence of a glacis on top of the core wall (Fig. 28).



Fig. 28: Area N – a view from northwest. Note the terraced structure of the MBII features.

The lowermost layer in the eastern section of the room was different in color and composition from the other three upper layers. Its dark gray color is clearly seen in the section and its upper part contains brown-orange mudbrick material (Figs. 23, 29).



Fig. 29: Area N, Square N2, the room looking east – a section composed of several layers of plaster, ash and mudbrick material superimposed by fill.

At the center of Area N, the northern face of W224 has not been discovered yet, except for one course of medium sized stones covered by some fallen stones. Its eastern part (L283) was found covered by a layer of medium size field stones (limestone and *kurkar*). Below them, a large well organized concentration of stones was uncovered. Here too, the stratigraphic condition could reflect the existence of an original glacis containing several layers of earth and coated by stones (a similar constructional phenomenon was encountered in the northern face of W216 to the north) (Figs. 28, 30).

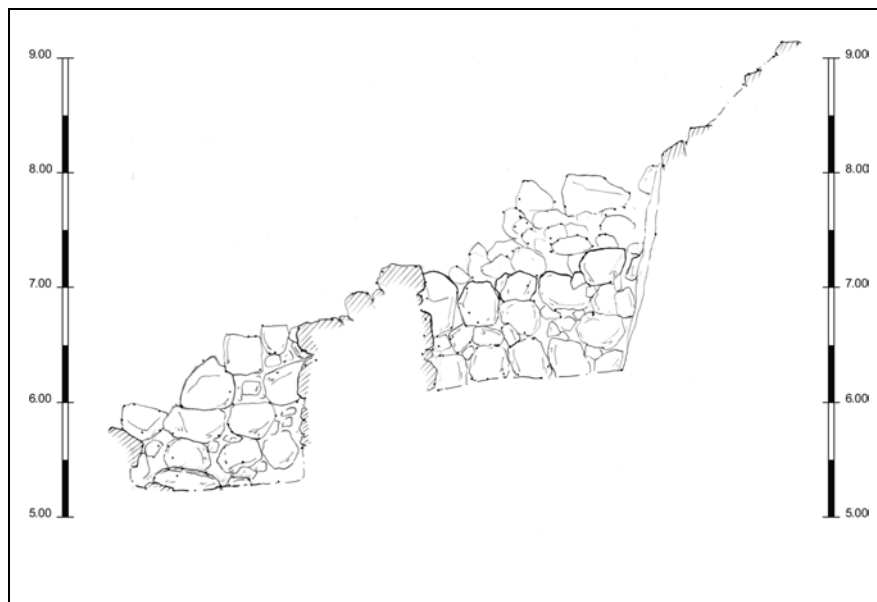


Fig. 30: Area N – Section B-B looking north. Note the terraced structure of the MBII architectural feature.

A section opened at the southeastern corner of Area N, to the south of W271, contained two layers of ash and plaster (L 535), similar to those found in the central room. These layers seem to abut the southern face of the wall.

Immediately to the south of these layers the fortifications' core was exposed consisting of large limestones and *kurkar* stones aligned in an east-west orientation. It was found covered by a collapse of big stones that continue into the southern section (L536; 537) (Fig. 31). Few ceramic sherds and animal bones were found here. It is

still not clear if W271 consists of one or two rows of large stones. Nevertheless, this season it became clear that this wall is contemporaneous with W217; W224 and W225.

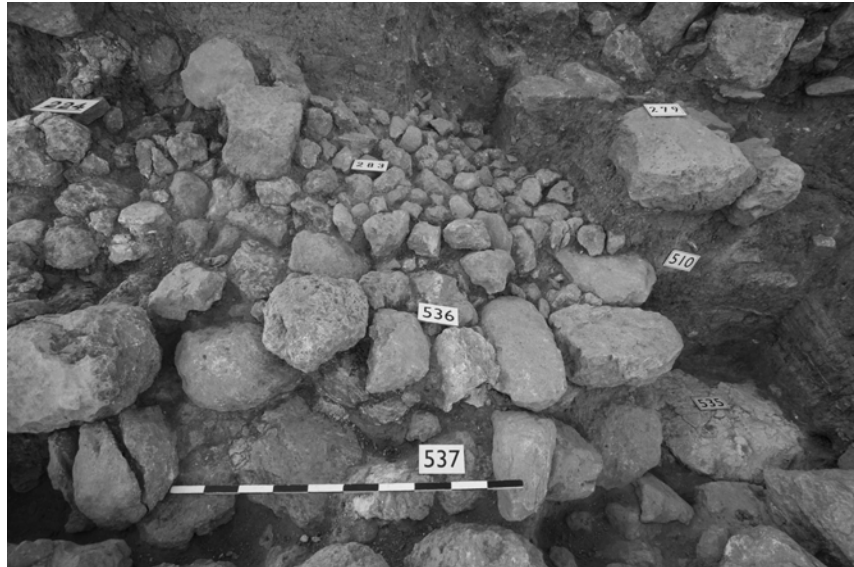


Fig. 31: Area N, the southeastern part of Square N2, looking east – a collapse of large stones covering the fortifications core (L536; 537).

The western part of Area N was occupied by a layer of brown soil mixed with pottery sherds. At the northeastern corner of W225 several layers consisting of sand and few shells were exposed. The same kind of layer was found at the bottom of W225 – the clearest and longest of all the fortification system walls. It is built of large limestone and *kurkar* stones filled with mortar. The wall is built of four courses, similar to W217 (Fig. 32).



Fig. 32: Area N, Square N2 looking east – a limestone and *kurkar* W225 in front of a collapse of stones.

Adjacent to W225 two well burnt rectangular orange bricks were unearthed (L533). The bricks were surrounded by concentration of ash, a phenomenon that is known from other parts at Area N. W225 makes a corner with W217, which forms the southern border of this unit.

Slightly to the north of W271, a short wall (W284) abuts W225 from the west. W284 is built of two courses of stones. Although W284 is located below the lowermost course of W225, the sharp inclination of the natural *kurkar* hill implies that W284 could have been constructed later than W225 (Figs. 33, 34).



Fig. 33: Area N, Square N2 looking east – general view.



Fig. 34: Area N, Square N2 looking east – W284 to the left and a brown soil mixed with ash (L533) to the right.

Dominating the western part of the excavated area, a broad unit consisting of two wings divided by a short wall that its western part was washed off. The central part of

the southern room and the area to the south of W284 contained a hard packed layer, perhaps a floor consisting of brown soil mixed with some ash remains (L533). The northern wing of the architectural unit, built to the north of W284, shaped as a broad room. At the center of this room concentration of sherds, animal bones and objects were found (L 532). Counted among these was a zoomorphic head of a vessel or a figurine shaped in the form of a snake, its eyes and mouth schematically marked. A large sherd of a storejar was found nearby (Fig. 35).

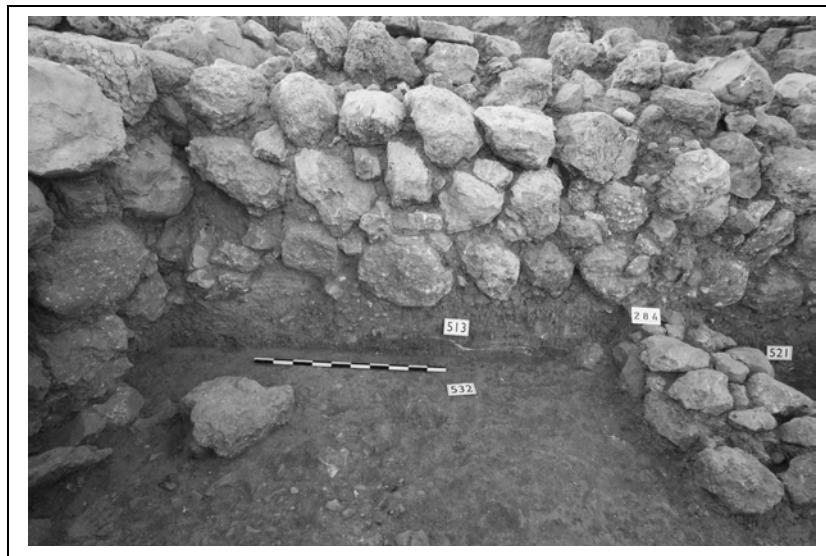


Fig. 35: Area N, Square N2, looking east – L532 to the north of W284.

Additional wall running parallel and to the west of W225 was detected in the last days of the excavation (W538). It is built of large to medium sized stones. Together with the other architectural remains, it seems that this wall formed a terrace wall. Altogether three terraces have been uncovered so far at Area N suggesting the structural layout of the northwestern slope of the mound during the MBII was different than its eastern parts (Figs. 28, 29, 36).



Fig. 36: Area N, Square N2, looking north – the corner of W217 and W538.

A strong support for a possible conflagration of Phase N4 comes from the northeastern corner of the broad room where a clear layer of ash and burnt mudbricks was found (L513) (Fig. 37).



Fig. 37: Area N, Square N2, looking northeast – ash and burnt mudbrick material (L513) at the corner of W225 and W217.

Summary and Conclusions

Area C

Following the probing and cleaning activities that took place at Area C in 2015, this season was dedicated to a careful investigation of the archaeological remains from the IAI and the Late Roman Period.

Two domestic buildings uncovered in squares C1 and C2 and dated to the Late Roman Period illustrate well built houses incorporating stone walls and pavements and integrating installations in their courtyard.

The remains of a unique building associated with Phase C4, its complete layout is unknown, were discerned at Square C4 consisting of mudbrick walls coated with white plaster, two plastered stairs leading to a small niche and a plastered stone bench. The unique material culture assemblage discovered so far including complete lamps, bowls, chalices, storejars, cooking pots, bottles and an anthropomorphic mold of a mask and the distribution of the finds in the building imply at a cultic function. The notion that the ceramic repertoire uncovered in the building share parallels with other northern sites such as Tel Rehov to the east and Tyre to the north support its dating to the IAIIa. This small part of what seems to be a unique and an important building imply for the high potential that excavations at Achziv have for our understanding the IA coastal communities in general and the Phoenician cultural milieu in particular.

Area N

At Area N, the most important discovery concerns the architectural structure of the MBII fortification system at Achziv and its adjustment to the natural topography of the mound. Although the exact nature of the Achziv's fortifications is still investigated, we can now conclude with safety that its construction involved the use of large stones from mixed materials: limestone and *kurkar*. This features might have been coated by a stone glacis. The guiding principle at the western slope was building through terraces on top of the natural *kurkar* ridge. It seems that the terraces continued down to the west, to the lower part of the slope and very close to the coastline.

Moreover, a careful examination of the stratigraphy of Area N made it possible to distinguish between two phases of use: Phase N4, dated by us to the MBIIb, when the structure was first established; and Phase N3, of the transition from the MBIIc to the LBI, which was the final date of use in the system. Remains of a conflagration were detected at some places indicating that the transition between the two phases might have not been quite.

Enterprise like the one constructed at MBII Achziv necessitated an advanced thinking and a plan, imported resources, transportation and management of manpower, processes that could not have been executed without the involvement of major political power.

Being a formative period as far as urban planning and building layout at Achziv are concerned, the MBII operations determined the character of the site for years to come and shaped its urban character for the future.

<i>N</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>Remains</i>	<i>Approximate Date</i>
N1	-	Topsoil , fills	Post 1948
-	C1	Domestic	Pre 1948
N2	C2	Graves; subterranean unit	Ottoman, 19 th century CE
-	C3	Domestic	Late Roman Period
-	C4	Shrine?	Iron Age IIa, 9 th century BCE
N3	-	Fortification system	Middle Bronze Age IIc-Late Bronze Age I
N4	-	Fortification system	Middle Bronze Age IIb

Table 1: Local phases and chronology of the renewed excavation at Tel Achziv.

Appendix 1

Orthophoto of Tel Achziv

Philippe Abrahamsi

The photos were taken on July 15, 2016, at the last day of the excavation season, early in the morning, after adequate cleaning of the squares. In Area C, branches of the tree stretching over the squares, needed to be cut in order to offer an unobstructed view to the area.

Four points of topographic references for each square, identified by plates fixed at their corners, were provided by Slava Pirskey (our surveyor).

The equipment used included:

- A fishing line Bankstiff 1100
- A small light digital camera placed in a basket attached at the top of the fishing line
- A remote control as a mean for shooting the photo

Two operators were required: one holding the fishing line at a high around 8 m, standing few meters off the square; the other placed beside the square, in charge of controlling the camera line of sight, took the photos with the remote control.

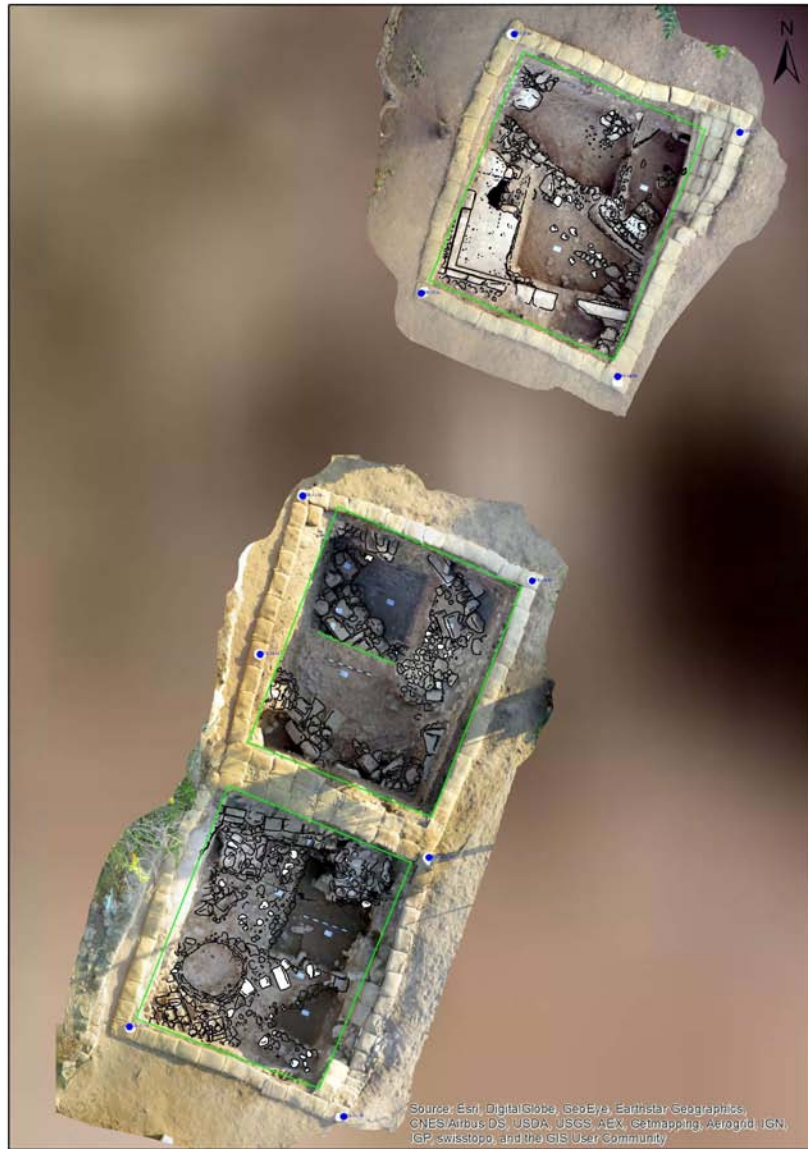
A fast shutter speed was preferred to avoid the photo to be blurry due the camera swaying. A number of overlapping photo were taken: two for each square of area C and around 10 in area N.

The basket and its fastener were made by O. Barge (UMR 5133 Archéorient).

Philippe Abrahamsi took the photo helped by one of the volunteers. The orthophoto images were produced by Alexandre Rabot (UMR 5189 HiSoMA).



Fig. 38: Area C, general view of squares C1, C2 and C4 with their reference points (marked in blue).



2 1 0 2 Mètres

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Fig. 39: Area C, general view of squares C1, C2 and C4. A geo-spatial accurate "top-down" orthophoto used for architectural layout and analysis.



Fig. 40: Area C, squares C1 and C2 – a close look of the geo-spatial accurate "top-down" orthophoto.

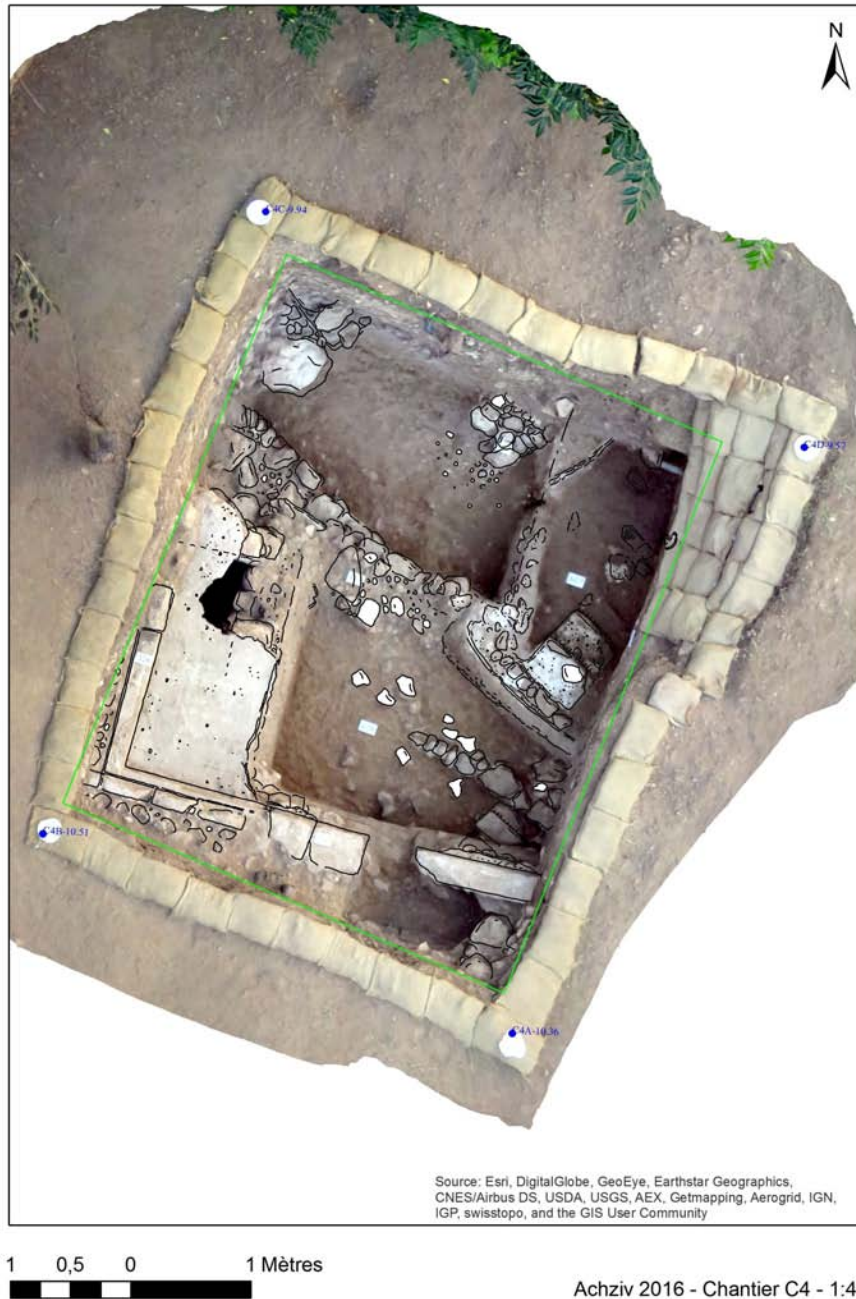


Fig. 41: Area C, Square C4 – a close look of the geo-spatial accurate "top-down" orthophoto.



Fig. 42: Area N, squares N1 and N2 – a close look of the geo-spatial accurate "top-down" orthophoto.

Appendix 2

List of Loci and Walls

List of Loci - Area C

<i>Locu s</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Stratu m</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Up. Level</i>	<i>L. Level</i>	<i>Square</i>	<i>Baskets</i>	<i>Description</i>
600	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Surface	10.06	C1	3400, 3403, 3408	Cleaning the eroded layer from last season below the geotextile
601	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Surface	Surface	C2	3401, 3404, 3405	Cleaning the eroded layer from last season below the geotextile
602	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Surface	8.83	C4	3402, 3406, 3407	Cleaning the eroded layer from last season below the geotextile
603	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	C2	3409	Clearing the eastern section
604	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	C2	3410	Clearing the northern section
605	C3		Late Roman	10.06	9.94	C1	3411, 3416, 3430, 3431, 3433, 3435, 3437, 3442, 3445, 3455, 3458, 3461, 3462, 3550, 3550-bis, 3552, 3554, 3563, 3570	Space delimited in front and between W641 and W642. Occupational layer just below L600 and above the stones of the structure. Dark layer, compact, dense and sticky, with inclusions of sherds, bones, shells, painted plaster (ca. 12cm of thickness). Clearance of several medium size stones, quite organized but too irregularly to be a paved floor (L618=L625)
606	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed			C2	3412, 3417, 3420, 3424, 3440	Layer just under the eroded layer of L601, in the sounding at Square C2
607	C4		Iron Age IIa	8.83	8.15	C4	3413, 3414, 3415, 3421, 3422, 3428, 3429, 3434, 3447, 3452, 3453, 3457, 3468, 3493, 3503, 3504, 3505, 3520, 3523, 3526, 3543, 3565, 3571, 3580, 3588, 3604, 3610, 3615, 3622, 3631, 3632, 3637, 3660, 3661, 3665, 3672, 3679, 3686, 3692, 3701, 3707, 3708, 3719, 3720, 3724, 3726, 3727, 3732, 3735, 3738, 3747, 3756,	Area to the east of the pipe line in Square C4. From 03/07/16 this locus was limited to the northeastern corner of the square, to the north of the plaster line (L634). Destruction layer. Dark layer, compact, dense and sticky with inclusions of sherds, charcoal, mudbrick, ash, bones ... (Sifting 1/4 and after 1/2). A plaster line appear the 03/07/16 near the southeastern corner of the sounding (L634) and at the northwestern corner of L607. A plastered stair appeared on 05/07/16 to the south of L607. One course of medium size stones appeared on the plaster line to the south of L607 (W640). Ceramic vessels and objects that were dated to the IAIIA (a clay mold mask Bs. 3732, complete chalices at Bs. 3735, 3738, 3870, a bowl at Bs. 3720 and

							3757, 3771, 3794, 3801, 3808, 3817, 3818, 3820, 3828, 3833, 3844, 3849, 3870, 3871, 3875, 3879, 3883, 3895, 3896, 3900	the base of a jar Bs. 3726)
608	C4		Iron Age IIa	8.83	8.13	C4	3423, 3436, 3438, 3439, 3441, 3448, 3478, 3479, 3483, 3485, 3494, 3527, 3533, 3534, 3544, 3558, 3559, 3560, 3566, 3589, 3595, 3605, 3606, 3611, 3638, 3653, 3654, 3655, 3662, 3668, 3693, 3697, 3698, 3699, 3706, 3709, 3725, 3734, 3748, 3758, 3759, 3760, 3761, 3768, 3772, 3795, 3802, 3806, 3807, 3824, 3825, 3826, 3837, 3845, 3850, 3864, 3865, 3866, 3880, 3882, 3884, 3887, 3899	Area to the west of the pipe line. This locus was expanded to the east and to the south of the plaster line (L634). Dark layer, compact, dense and sticky with inclusions of sherds, charcoal, mudbrick, ash, bones (wet seaving 1/4), probably a conflagration layer. A plaster line near the southeastern corner of the sounding (L634) and close the northern border of L608. W619 appeared to the north of L608, in the southern section of the sounding. A structure between the with many small and medium size stones aligned in a southeast-northwest axis (L655), perhaps a collapse. Mixed material from several periods but mostly IAIIa
609	C3		Late Roman?	9.79	9.72	C2	3418, 3419, 3432, 3449, 3469, 3470, 3472, 3497	Structure composed of disorganized stones (medium and large size) in the northeastern part of the square, to the south of W620 and close to the circular structure of L628 to the south (collapsed from W620 ?). Mixed material
610	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed			C2	3425, 3426, 3427	Clearing the western section
611								Cancelled
612				9.28	9.17	C2		Small area in the southeastern corner of the sounding of Square C2, with inclusions of charcoal, mud brick, ashes, sherds. This area was not excavated. Gray layer, 11 cm thick, with inclusions of charcoal, bricks and mudbrick material, ash and sherds, perhaps a conflagration layer
613	C3		Late Roman		10.02	C1	3443, 3444, 3451, 3456	Dismantling the edges of the circular structure (L353) in the

								southwestern part of the square. Brown loose soil, wet, with sherds and bones. Late Roman ceramic material
614	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	C4	3454, 3459, 3460, 3463, 3476	Clearing the southern section of the sounding
615	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	C2	3450, 3657	Clearing the southern section
616	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	9.79	9.15	C2	3464, 3473, 3474, 3498, 3502, 3506, 3512, 3513, 3551, 3553, 3575, 3576, 3587, 3593, 3601, 3602, 3603, 3634, 3648, 3649, 3658, 3671, 3673, 3687, 3688, 3703, 3704, 3716, 3742, 3755, 3763, 3764, 3791, 3797, 3829, 3830, 3841, 3847, 3862, 3868, 3869, 3876, 3877, 3886	Excavating the area between the southwestern and the southeastern corners of the square, with the architectural features of L628 and the southern section of the sounding its northern limits. Dark brown loose soil with inclusions of charcoal, brick, mudbrick, ash, sand, bones, shells and lot of sherds, perhaps a conflagration layer or a fill. A thick layer of fragmentary sherds and some restorable vessels from the Roman period. Many big and medium size stones and an architectural feature in the southwestern corner of the square (L652). It is not clear if it's a wall, a collapse or the back of the Roman walls observed in Square C1. A circular feature was excavated at the southeastern part of L616 with a different fill consisting of inclusions of sand, pebbles, eroded sherds, shells and many small bones (a votive deposit ?) (=L650). Mixed material from the Roman period and the Iron Age
617	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	C2	3446, 3465, 3466	Clearing the western section of the sounding
618	C3		Late Roman	9.94	9.53	C1	3467, 3471, 3475, 3477, 3492	A structure composed of many stones (small and medium size) quite organized, between W641 (W338) and W642 (W340) - a collapse on a floor? A layer ca. 41 cm in thickness with Late Roman period material (rim of oil lamp, painted plaster, coins, nail) and inclusions of sherds, bones and shells
619								Cancelled
620								Cancelled
621	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Baulk	Baulk	C2	3480, 3481, 3482	Clearing the eastern section of the sounding
622	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	C2	3484	Clearing the southern section of the sounding
623	C3		Late Roman	9.05	9	C2	3486, 3499, 3507, 3508, 3510, 3511	An occupational layer below L606 in the sounding, in order to search other courses of the wall W611. Light brown layer. Small circular structure

								at the northeastern corner of the sounding containing pebbles, eroded sherds, teeth, small bones, shells, nacre (a votive deposit ?) (L637)
624	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed		7.7	C4	3487, 3488, 3490, 3491, 3495, 3496, 3516, 3517, 3522, 3537, 3545, 3561, 3568, 3572, 3579, 3581, 3585, 3695, 3700, 3750, 3765, 3767, 3779, 3810, 3814, 3815, 3816, 3831, 3867, 3872, 3873, 3874, 3881, 3897, 3898, 3910, 3911	Excavating the sounding in search of additional courses of W619 and in order to clear W629. A hard brown surface (56-60 cm thick) with sherds, bones, shells, ash, and brick. Mixed material from several periods (Iron Age, IAlIa, Late Bronze).
625	C3		Late Roman	9.94	9.53	C1	3501, 3509, 3518, 3519, 3525, 3528, 3529, 3535, 3538, 3539, 3540, 3541, 3546, 3562, 3583, 3584, 3592	A 41 cm thick feature consisting of many stones (small and medium size), concentrated irregularly between W641 (W338) and W642 (W340)
626	C3		Late Roman	10.29	9.92	C1	3500, 3514, 3515, 3521, 3536, 3542, 3547, 3548, 3556, 3557, 3574, 3577, 3578, 3591, 3596, 3597, 3598	To the east of the circular structure (L353), in search of the continuation of the feature at L625. Brown loose soil, wet with inclusions of small pebbles. The layer becomes harder at the north. Late roman material (sherds and a coin)
627	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	9.05	8.94	C2	3524, 3530, 3531, 3532, 3549, 3555, 3567, 3573, 3582, 3594, 3599, 3600, 3609, 3623, 3843	A layer below L623 in the sounding, in search of additional courses of W611
628			Late Roman?	9.95		C2	3564	Oval structure in the eastern part of the square composed of medium size stones, which delimit L609. Dimensions : 67cm (E/W) x 87cm (N/S). Brown loose soil with few ceramic sherds
629								Cancelled
630			Late Roman		9.79	C1	3569, 3626, 3628, 3630, 3633, 3639, 3643, 3650, 3663, 3667, 3681, 3733	Excavating the area to the north of L626 in search of additional courses of W642. Brown loose soil, wet with inclusions of small stones, sherds, charcoal, bones, glass, shells, brick and small centers of ash at the southwestern

								corner of L630
631	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	C4	3664	Clearing the northern section
632	C3		Late Roman	10.04	9.55	C1	3607, 3608, 3612, 3613, 3614, 3621, 3625, 3627, 3640, 3646, 3676, 3909	The eastern part of the square (below L626) delimited by the stones of L625 to the west, by W645 at the south, and by some stones at the north. Dimensions of the area : 120cm (N/S) x 110-50cm (E/W). Loose soil with inclusions of small pebbles and lot of bones, teeth, sherds, charcoal, jaws ... Some stones appear at the north, with a difference of the fill : L632 and L633. Material from Roman period.
633	C3		Late Roman	10.04	10.02	C1	3617, 3618, 3619, 3620	The eastern part of the square, delimited by 2 alignments of stones to the north and to the south and by the stones of L625 to the west. Brown loose soil with inclusions of small pebbles, charcoal, sherds. Late Roman material.
634	C4		Iron Age IIa	8.7		C4		White plastered line between L607 and L608. Some stones appeared along the rare part of the plaster (W640)
635	C3		Late Roman		8.8	C2	3635, 3773, 3774, 3775, 3777, 3778, 3792, 3798	To the south of W611, at the southwestern corner of the sounding in C2. Loose soil with inclusions of chalk, charcoal, bones, shells and Roman sherds
636	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	8.94	8.41	C2	3636, 3641, 3642, 3659, 3666, 3689, 3690, 3696, 3702, 3705, 3723, 3776, 3780, 3786, 3796, 3803, 3804, 3805, 3848, 3851, 3853, 3857, 3885, 3888, 3890, 3891, 3893, 3903, 3904, 3912	To the north of W611 in search of additional courses of W611. Grey loose soil, hard packed at some points containing inclusions of ash, brick, mudbrick, charcoal, sherds and bones - a destruction layer. Stones appear to the west of the sounding (W653). Mixed material from the Iron Age and the Roman period
637	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	9	8.84	C2	3644, 3645, 3647, 3651, 3677, 3678, 3684	Circular feature at the northeastern corner of the sounding in square C2. Grey soil containing many small eroded pebbles and eroded sherds, teeth, bones, metal, flint, shells. Teeth and metal were in the middle of the circular structure. Votive deposit ?
638	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	C1	3656, 3680, 3682, 3683, 3685	Clearing the western section
639	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	C1	3652	Clearing the southern section

640								Cancelled
641								Cancelled
642								Cancelled
643								Cancelled
644								Cancelled
645								Cancelled
646	C4		Iron Age IIa	8.51	8.47	C4	3694	To the north of the plastered line, in the northwestern corner of L607. Hard and compact fill with inclusions of small pebbles
647	C3		Late Roman	9.75	9.23	C2	3586, 3616, 3624, 3669, 3670, 3674, 3675, 3715, 3749, 3889, 3892, 3894, 3901	Area to the south of the structure of L652, in the southwestern corner of Square C2. Dark brown loose soil with inclusions of sherds, mudbrick, teeth, chalk and charcoal, probably a destruction layer dated on ceramic base to the Late Roman period. Bronze blade, Egyptian scarab amulet (3624).
648	C3		Late Roman	9.79	9.45	C1	3710, 3711, 3712, 3730, 3731, 3736, 3737, 3740, 3751, 3769, 3770, 3789, 3800, 3811, 3812, 3813, 3827, 3834, 3839, 3840, 3842, 3846, 3852, 3854, 3863, 3878, 3908, 3913	Sounding (170x240 cm) at the northeastern part of Square C1, in order to dismantle the structure L625 and in search of the foundations of W642. Brown soil, hard packed with inclusions of charcoal, shells, sherds, fragmentary plaster and mudbrick. A thin line of sherds appears along W642 and W348, just below the stones of L625. New stones appeared below this line (additional course of the wall ?)
649	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	9.98	9.59	C1	3713, 3714, 3717, 3718, 3721, 3722, 3728, 3729, 3741, 3743, 3744, 3745, 3746, 3752, 3766, 3784, 3785, 3855, 3856, 3858, 3859, 3860, 3861	Fill inside the circular structure of L353, in the southwestern part of Square C1. Brown loose soil with inclusions of charcoal, chalk, bones, metal, painted plaster, shells, sherds. The bottom of the structure is coated white. Mixed material from the IA, Roman and Mamluk periods
650	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	9.52	9.45	C2	3753, 3754, 3762, 3781, 3782, 3783, 3787, 3790, 3793, 3799, 3809, 3819, 3821, 3822, 3823	Area at the southeastern part of Square C2 delimited by stones, approximately circular. Brown loose soil with inclusions of sand, many small bones, small pebbles, eroded sherds, shells, metal (cube), seeds and a token - a votive deposit ? Mixed material from the IA, Roman and the Persian periods
651	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	C1	3788	Clearing the eastern section. Roman material

652	C3		Late Roman	9.49		C2		Structure in the southwestern corner of Square C2 composed of an alignment of two large rectangular stones. Additional stones may be seen in the southern section) - a wall measuring 130cm (E/W)x 80cm (N/S)
653								Cancelled
654	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	C4		Trimming the southern section against W325 in Square C4
655	C4		Iron Age IIa	8.52	8.41	C4		Structure composed of small to medium sized stones built on an east-west axis, in the southeastern part of the square. Dimensions : 172cm (E/W) x 55-19cm (N/S)
656	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	C4		Trimming the western section against the subterranean unit of the Ottoman period
657	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	C4		Trimming the eastern section
658	C3		Late Roman	9.15	9.13	C2	3902, 3905, 3906, 3907	Same area as L616, fill just below L616. Brown loose soil with inclusions of sand, charcoal and mudbrick material. Many stones and less sherds. Restorable pottery
659			Iron Age IIa	8,58m for the 1st step / 8,44m for the 2d step		C4		Plastered stairs (2 steps). Dimensions of the 1st step: 54cm (E/W) x 36cm (N/S).

List of Loci - Area N

<i>Locus</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Stratum</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Up. Level</i>	<i>L. Level</i>	<i>Square</i>	<i>Baskets</i>	<i>Description</i>
207	N2		Ottoman			N2	2501	An Ottoman grave
218	N2		Ottoman			N2	2443; 2468; 2469; 2484; 2485	Rectangular stones associated with the Ottoman grave excavated in 2014 season
283	Post N3					N2	2546	Concentration of small stones from east to west along a north-south slope and above L536. These fill of stones is constructively later than the MBIIb core of the fortification wall
218a	Cleaning	Cleaning	Cleaning			N1	2468; 2469	Cleaning between W216 and W226. Brown and grainy soil with mixed sherds
274	Cleaning	Cleaning	Cleaning	6		N1		Cancelled
501	Cleaning	Cleaning	Cleaning			N1-2	2401; 2403; 2461, 2422	Cleaning surface, soil removed from last season
502	Cleaning	Cleaning	Cleaning			N1	2402; 2547; 2552	Cleaning the northern section of Square N1. East-West orientation. A broken storejar was detected inside. Some mixed material
503	Cleaning	Cleaning	Cleaning			N1	2403; 2413; 2414; 2415; 2460; 2563; 2564; 2565	Oriented east-west, cleaning the upper part of W226. Mixture of porous and square stones. The stones are not organized or connected
504	N3		MBIIc-LB1	6.43	5.93	N2	2404; 2407; 2410	Southeast of W217; W216 to the east of W225 and to the northeast of W225. Cleaning the « room ». A thin layer with mist of ash; bones; ceramics and inclusion of red and dark deposits
505	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	5.57	5.54	N2	2405; 2408; 2409; 2416; 2417; 2432	Oriented at the eastern end of Square N2. The purpose was to level the surface between W225 and the western section. Brown soil brown with many pebbles and small stones; clusters of pottery and bones
506	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	N2	2406	Different layers of small stones. Muslim graves
507	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	N2	2411; 2412; 2425; 2428	Trimming the eastern section of the "Room". Different occupational layers consisting of ash, mudbrick material and charcoal with mixed pottery
508	Cleaning	Cleaning	Cleaning			N2	2418	Surface cleaning of small round and flat stones in

								the extension of L283. Pebbles in various sizes mixed with brown soil. Ottoman pottery and mixed ceramic material
509	N3-2		?	6.89	5.93	N1	2419; 2426; 2433; 2437; 2445; 2451; 2462; 2466; 2474	Northwest of W226. Brown soil with mixed ceramic material; porous and square stones. Excavation was aimed at removing some floating stones in order to expose the continuation of W226 and see if there are organized stones at the bottom of the floating stones. Stones look not organized
510	N4		MBIIb	6.6	6.1	N2	2421; 2444; 2454	The southeastern end of Square N2 soil. Brown compact soil with inclusions of ash and soil mixed with some plaster remains. The plaster was not preserved well
511	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	N2	2420	Trimming the northern section of the "Room".
512				6.84	5.93	N2	2424; 2447; 2457; 2458; 2465; 2586; 2504	Soil mixed with sherds
513	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	5.57	5.34	N2	2423; 2427; 2431; 2434; 2438; 2439; 2441; 2448; 2449; 2450; 2456; 2463; 2467; 2470; 2475; 2478; 2480; 2481; 2487; 2490; 2495; 2503; 2506; 2514; 2524; 2531; 2535; 2536; 2537; 2549; 2553; 2554; 2557; 2570; 2578; 2581	Pottery sherds adjacent to W217. Contemporaneous with the first course of W225 and the 4 courses of W217
514	N4-N3		MBIIb-c-LBI	7.83		N2	2429; 2430; 2435; 2493; 2500	Oriented at the southwestern end of Square N2. East of W271. Brown and grey compact soil. Some stones seem to be the continuation of W225
515	N4-N3		MBIIb-c-LBI			N2	2436; 2440; 2477; 2479	Expose the courses of W217 in search of the continuation of the wall. Brown and grainy soil.
516	N4-N3		MBIIb-c-LBI	6.7	5.71	N2	2442; 2446; 2464; 2473; 2476	South of W271. Grainy loose soil with some mixed sherds. Exposing the southern face of W271 and the eastern face of W523.

517	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	N2	2453; 2472	Trimming the southern section of Square N2
518	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	N1	2459	Trimming the eastern section of Square N1
519	N3		MBIIc-LBI	5.39	5.35	N2	2471; 2515; 2525; 2526	Black soil mixed with ash, charcoal, mudbrick material and some pottery sherds to the north of W284 and east of W225
520	?		?	5.64	5.57	N2	2482; 2491; 2499; 2511; 2516	Excavation to the east of W225 and above W284. Cleaning and exposing W284. Many pebbles mixed with brown grainy soil.
521	?		?	5.38	5.3	N2	2483; 2492; 2517; 2530; 2540; 2541; 2542; 2543; 2544; 2545; 2550; 2555; 2567; 2568; 2571; 2576; 2577; 2586	To the east of W225, south of W284 and north of W271. Compact earth mixed with charcoal and plaster. A layer of flint stones was found inside
522	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	6.85	6.1	N2	2486; 2488; 2494; 2498; 2505; 2518; 2520; 2521; 2529; 2532; 2551; 2556; 2572; 2579; 2580; 2591; 2600; 2606	Excavating brown soil to the north of W224, west of W225; south of W217 and W226
523	N3		MBIIc-LBI			N1		The eastern section of a room
524	?		?	5.94	5.54	N1	2489; 2496; 2497; 2512; 2519; 2528; 2534; 2548; 2561; 2562; 2569	Excavation to the east of W226 and north of W217 in search of the face of W226 that continues at the east, parallel to W217.
525	N4		MBIIb	5.34		N2	2502; 2507	Below L510, at the southern end of Square N2. Brown soil mixed with stones and inclusion of ash. The aim was to clarify the stratigraphic context between W52, W271 and W225
526	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	N2	2508	Trimming the eastern section of Square N2
527	N3?		MBIIc-LBI?	5.72	5.51	N1	2509; 2510; 2513; 2522; 2523; 2527; 2538; 2539	Excavation to the north-east of W226 and W217 and to the east of L214. Brown compact soil mixed with ceramic sherds, bricky material and shells
528	Cancelled	Cancelled	Cancelled	Cancelled	Cancelled	N2	2558; 2566	
529	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed			N2	2559; 2560	Oriented to the south-east of Square N2 below the 3 stones of the pavement
530	N4?		MBIIb?			N2		Structure oriented to the north-south; east-west feature composed of three

								stones below L283
531	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	Baulk	N2	2573; 2574; 2575; 2599	Trimming the western section of Square N1
532	N4		MBIIb	5.34	5.16	N2	2582; 2583; 2584; 2585; 2592; 2593; 2597; 2598; 2601; 2602	Excavating the eastern part of Square N2, south of W217. Brown soil mixed with the remains of white plaster, mudbrick material and clay inclusions. Head of a zoomorphic vessel or figurine shaped as snake
533	N4		MBIIb	5.33	5.13	N2	2587; 2588; 2589; 2590; 2594; 2595; 2596; 2603; 2604; 2605	Excavating the southeastern part of Square N2, to the north of W271. Compact layer mixed with charcoal and clay. The charcoal was sampled
534	N4?		MBIIb?	5.54		N2		Foundations to the north of W217
535	N4		MBIIb	6.6	5.21	N2		The white plaster floor
536	N4		MBIIb			N2		Structure built in a north-south; east-west axis. Three rows of stones below L283

List of Walls - Area C

<i>No.</i>	<i>Sq.</i>	<i>Axis</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>L.</i>	<i>H.</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Base</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Notes</i>
312	C1	E-W	0.25	2.1	0.4	11.25	10.85	C1	Post Ottoman - Pre 1948	A wall in the northern bulk consisted of one course of 5 big limestone. The first stone to the northwestern corner is a threshold and others are kurkar.
314	C1	N-S	1.06	2.44	/	/	/	C3	Late Roman	A stone feature, maybe a wall composed of one course of several stones that are associated with W312.
316	C2	E-W	0.48	0.4	0.9	10.85	9.86	C3	Late Roman	A wall that continue to the western bulk of the square C2. It is formed by a few large stones irregularly shaped build of kurkar stones with 6 courses and a foundation layer made of small stones, shells, sherds.
319	C2	N-S	0.9	0.46	1.22	10.63	9.36	C3	Late Roman	A wall that continues to the northern section composed of large kurkar stones with a foundation layer with 6 courses, with a mortar of sherds and shells.
325	C4	E-W	0.24	3.6	0.4	9.69	9.35	C1	Post Ottoman - Pre 1948	Southern wall of a pre 1948 house made of concrete.
326	C4	N-S	0.24	2.45	0.4	9.92	9.43	C1	Post Ottoman - Pre 1948	Lower course of the wall of a pre 1948 house which contains a lower course of concrete and a second course of stones. This wall is related to the plaster floor.
348	C1	E-W	0.4	1.35	0.75	10.74	10.05	C1		A wall in the northern bulk below W312 with 6 courses made of medium to large size kurkar stones and upper course made of mudbrick.
611	C2	NW-SE	0.8	1.75	0.3	9.24	8.88	?	?	A wall in the northwestern part of the square with limestone and kurkar well dressed with mortar, some are flat, there are 3 courses.
619	C4	NW-SE	0.65	2.56	0.46	8.65	8.13	C4	Iron Age IIa	A not well build wall made of limestone and kurkar medium size stone, there is 3 courses, the wall is cut on his eastern part. There is a mortar and small stones.
620	C2	NW-SE	0.7	2	0.3	10	9.62	C3	Late Roman	A wall in the northeastern corner with 1 course of relatively big kurkar and limestone. The biggest one in the northern bulk is probably a collapse of a monumental building.
629	C4	SW-NE	0.52	0.52	0.18	8.37	8.06	C4	Iron Age IIa	A short wall abutting the northern section in the sounding, not well build, with medium size limestone and there is 2 courses.
640	C4	NW-SE	0.14	1.1	0.12	8.67	8.51	C4	Iron Age IIa	A wall composed of 2 courses, 1 raw and medium size kurkar stone, and a plaster surface rectangular abutting the wall from the north with another vertical layer of surface to the south.

641 (L348)	C1	N-S	0.8	0.84	0.54	10.7	10.01	C3	Late Roman	A short wall making a corner with W348, made of 4 courses with medium size kurkar and limestone undressed and with a mortar.
642 (L340)	C1	N-S	1.07	0.92	0.78	10.73	10.02	C3	Late Roman	A short wall making a corner with W348, made of 4 courses with medium size kurkar and limestone, undressed and with a mortar.
643 (L352)	C1	NW-SE	0.8	1.3	0.3	10.65	10.32	C3	Late Roman	A wall in the southern corner consisted of 2 courses made of medium and large size kurkar stones which some are dressed and there is a mortar.
644 (L351)	C1	SW-NE	0.43	1	0.3	10.67	10.29	C3	Late Roman	A wall in the southern corner consisted of 2 courses made of small to large size kurkar stones which some are dressed and there is a mortar.
645	C1	NE-SW	/	1.25	0.86	10.99	10.18	C3	Late Roman	A wall in the southern bulk made of 6 courses of medium size kurkar stones which are undressed with a mortar made of sherds and small stones.
653	C2	N-S				8.81		C3/C4 ?	Late Roman / Iron Age ?	A wall in the northwestern corner of the square consisted of limestone and kurkar medium size stones which make an angle with W611.

List of Walls - Area N

<i>No.</i>	<i>Square</i>	<i>Axis</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Base</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Stratum</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Notes</i>
206	N2	NE-SW	0.4	2.75	8.59		N-1		Ottoman	Medium sized squared stones arranged in one row
216	N2	NW-SE	0.5	1.75	7.62	7.13	?			
217	N1	NW-SE	0.6	1.75	6.53	5.93	N-4		MBIIb	Stone wall built of relatively large ashlar parallel and to the south of W218. At least two courses were preserved
218	N1	NW-SE	2.5	4	6.86	5.77	N-4		MBIIb	Stone feature composed of medium sized field stones and might have used as revetment to the earthen fill below
224	N2	NW-SE	0.3	1.5	7.38		N-4		MBIIb	
225	N2	NE-SW	0.75	3.5	7.14	6.82	N-4		MBIIb	Large stones filled with smaller stones leaning against W217. Same technique as W264
226	N1	NW-SE	0.75	1.6	7.4	7.04	N-4		MBIIb	Four courses of stone wall leaning atop an earthen fill and towards south
271	N2	NW-SE	1	1.75	6.78	5.64	N-4		MBIIb	A relatively thick wall
264	N2	NE-SW	0.5	3.5	7.12	6.1	N-4		MBIIb	At least three courses of large stones. Small stones in holes. Same technique as W225
283	N2	NW-SE	1.5	1.5	7.44	7.2	N-4		MBIIb	Squared like feature composed of small stones
284	N2	NW-SE	0.75	0.75	5.89	5.52	N-4		MBIIb	

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