

Area O Field Report: 2014

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Area O was opened in 2014 with the goal of clarifying the remains along the western perimeter of the lower part tell in the south (Fig. 1). The main grid square is 805. Three squares (H/12, I/12 and J/12 from west to east) were excavated and three main strata (O-3, O-2 and O-1 from earliest to latest) were identified. The season lasted 13 days (30.6–16.7.14). Fifteen team members participated in this season's excavation. The area was supervised by Dr. Christopher Monroe of Cornell University and assisted by Ariel Shatil, a graduate student of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, who was also the registrar.



Fig. 1. Lower mound, looking south; Area O on the western slope on the right, in relation to Area F at the southern end of the lower mound.



Fig. 2. Surveying topsoil in Area O, prior to excavation, looking north.



Fig. 3. First day of excavation, looking northeast (Squares I-J/12).



Fig. 4. The supervisors and some team members

Stratum O-3

The earliest phase reached in Area O in 2014 is designated Stratum O-3. The few remains attributed to this phase were uncovered in Square H/12 and are dated generally to MBII; finer phasing will be done pending further study of the pottery and other finds.

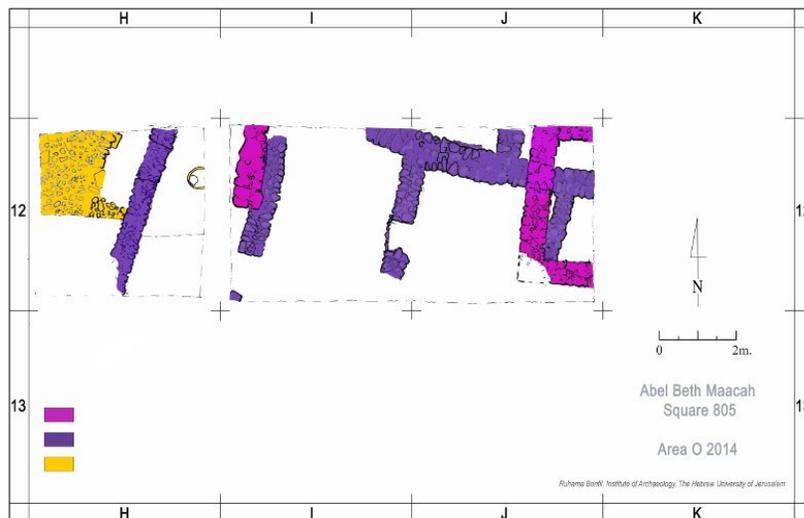


Fig. 5. Plan of Stratum O-3; marked in yellow

The remains of Stratum O-3 were reached in the northern part of Square H/12, directly underneath elements attributed to Stratum O-2 (described below). The southern part of this square remained excavated down to Stratum O-2 this season (2014) (Fig. 6).



Fig. 6. Square H/12, looking east. Left half of square excavated down to Stratum O-3 Remains, below O-2 Wall 2510 (center)

The segment of a north-south wall (2547) was excavated in the center of the square. It was one row wide, built of medium fieldstones and excavated to one course. On the eastern face of its northern end (where it enters the balk), was a squared stone that protruded from the face of the wall. It was positioned just about under a storage jar with a burial (see below) and might have been related to that rather than to Wall 2547. Abutting Wall 2547 on the west at 365.41 m was a 2.2 –m wide concentration of small, closely laid fieldstones (2544) that continued to the west, north and south, beyond the present borders of the excavation (Fig 7). Since only a small part is exposed, it is difficult to determine whether this is a pavement (perhaps a street or public area) or part of a fortification wall. It is possible that the stones of Wall 2547 are a lining for the core of such a wall. Since the stones of 2544 run underneath a wall attributed to MBII (2537), it is possible that this is dated to the Early Bronze Age, although more exposure is necessary to determine this. The layer directly above the stones (2538) was a constructional fill laid under the Stratum O-2 floor here, as detailed below.

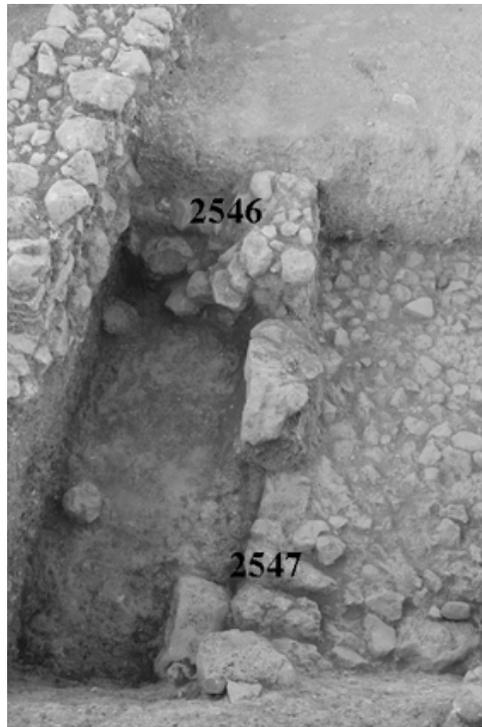


Fig. 7. Stratum O-3 remains in northern part of Square H/12, looking south; Walls 2546 and 2547. Right: pavement 2544; upper left: Stratum O-2 Wall 2510.

Two rows of an east-west wall (2546) were found along the southern subsidiary balk that was left in the center of the square. Wall 2546 was excavated to three courses, and since its eastern continuation is missing at the point where it meets with Stratum O-2 Wall 2510, it is possible that the latter cut 2546 when it was built, since the wall was not found east of the O-2 wall. The western end of Wall 2546 was preserved higher than the eastern end and terminated on a straight line with pavement 2544, so that the two elements are contemporary. Wall 2546 made a corner with Wall 2547, which was preserved on a somewhat lower level.

To the east of Wall 2547 and north of Wall 2456, excavation ceased on a layer (2548) that might have been a floor, judging mostly by its relationship to a similar layer to the east (2542). Floor 2542, found to the east of floating Stratum O-2 Wall 2510, was defined as a floor due to its hard-packed nature and an oven (2545) resting on it. Oven 2545 (ca. 0.5 m diameter) was well-preserved and protruded from the eastern balk of the square; a basalt upper grinding stone was found inside. Since no traces of burning were found, it is possible that this was a bin that was built of oven-like clay material. Above Floor 2542 was a 0.25 m layer of occupation debris with pottery (including a complete lamp—Reg. no. 25236), bones, flint, burnt brick fragments and oven fragments (2529). The level of Floor 2542 (365.55-366.45 m) is somewhat

higher than that of 2548 to the west (365.32 m), but it seems probable that they represent the same surface (Fig. 8). This will be determined for certain after O-2 Wall 2510 has been removed.



Fig. 8. Stratum O-3 floor (2542 on east and 2548 on west) running below O-2 Wall 2510 (center); Oven 2545 on the left, with grinding stone in it. Square H/12, looking south

Stratum O-2

Remains of Stratum O-2 were found in all three squares excavated this season, making it the most widely exposed stratum of the three. These remains are generally dated to MBII, with more precise dating pending further study of the pottery and other finds.

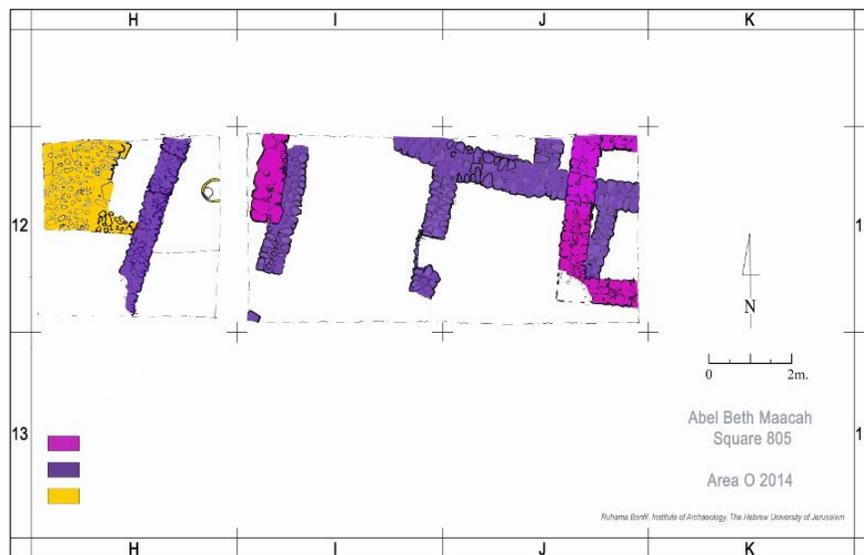


Fig. 9. Plan of Stratum O-2; marked with dark purple

Square H/12

The elements attributed to this phase in H/12 are unrelated to those in the other two squares. In fact, the main element assigned to O-2 (Wall 2510) was the first in this square to be encountered under topsoil (a 60 cm thick layer), and as such, might be regarded as belonging to Stratum O-1. However, elements found just below topsoil (a 50 cm thick layer) in Square I/12 to the east were designated Stratum O-1, and they were set right on top of walls and layers whose orientation and nature were similar to that of Wall 2510. The preserved top height of Wall 2510 is similar to that of the walls attributed to O-2 in the other squares. Since Wall 2510 is the only wall excavated to floating level (365.77 m), it is not yet known whether the walls in Squares I-J/12 have similar foundation levels. Thus, we have tentatively related Wall 2510 and its associated layers to Stratum O-2, even though they are the first remains under topsoil. It is always possible that Wall 2510 and its related layers belonged to Stratum O-1, but this seems less likely. Removal of the balk between Squares H-I/12 might resolve this question in the future.

Wall 2510 (top at 366.49 m, floating at 365.77 m) ran northeast to southwest through the entire square and apparently continued both north and south. It was 0.6 m wide with two rows of medium fieldstones and a fill of smaller stones between them, preserved five courses high on the north; its southern end was not excavated down to floating level. On its northern end was a well-built stone threshold, 1.0 m wide (at 366.07 m) (Fig. 10). A pit was cut into the western face of the wall near its southern end, perhaps similar to Iron Age II Pit 2549 (see below), though it was found devoid of finds.



Fig. 10. Square H/12, looking north; Stratum O-2 Wall 2510 in center; meter stick on debris 2511; debris 2512 to east of wall.

Wall 2510 is abutted on the east by a layer of soft gray debris (2512) containing some pottery and bones. This layer rested on a patchy orange-brown layer that might have been a floor. Below it was a distinct layer of chalky chips and dark brown soil (2524) that was interpreted as a sub-floor fill. Both of these layers abutted the eastern face of Wall 2510.

To the west of Wall 2510 was a layer of soft brown gray debris (2511) that contained a large amount of pottery, flint and bones almost exclusively in its northern part, mainly west of the threshold in Wall 2510 where the matrix was softer and stonier. About halfway through the excavation of this matrix, we realized that this was a pit which had cut into the western edge of the threshold and continued towards the west, with an amorphous contour on that side and possibly bordered by a row of stones on the south (Figs. 11-12). Alternatively, these stones might be parts of unidentified features that rested on the floor below. Thus, this was retroactively designated Pit 2549. It seems that the pottery in this pit (at least one storage jar, a jug, and several cooking pots) belonged to Iron Age IIA, although further study is required after restoration and perusal of the entire assemblage from Locus 2511, to attempt to separate it from the area of the pit.



Fig. 11. Square H/12, looking south. Wall 2510, with threshold and pottery in Pit 2549 to its west. Note stones to southwest of the pit.

Debris 2511 (and Pit 2549) rested on a layer of compacted gray soil mixed with chalky chunks. This was similar to the matrix of 2524 (the sub-floor fill east of Wall 2511 described above), but with fewer inclusions. Below this “floor” was a layer (2538) that continued the same matrix, but with a higher content of chalky inclusions. In the northern balk, 2538 can be seen

sloping down to the west, so it seems that the sub-floor fill (2524 and 2538) were originally laid on a slope. As noted above, Fill 2538 rests directly on O-3 stone pavement 2544 (Fig. 13).



Fig. 12. Square H/12, looking east; closeup of pottery in Pit 2549, west of threshold in Stratum O-2 Wall 2510.

An element attributed to Stratum O-2, but still enigmatic is Wall 2537 (Fig. 12), along with a storage jar burial associated with its floating level (see below).



Fig. 13. Square H/12, looking southwest. Wall 2537 in center; arrow pointing to storage jar burial; Stratum O-3 pavement 2544 on the left. Note chalky fill 2538 in northern and western sections.



Fig. 13a. Detail of storage jar burial under Wall 2537, looking west.

Wall 2537 runs north-south and is rather carelessly built of a mix of small, medium, and large stones; it is one stone wide and preserved two courses high (Fig. 13). On the south, its top stones protruded into the matrix of Floor (?) 2531 and its lower western face was abutted by chalky fill 2538. Its top level was 10 cm higher than the floating level of Wall 2510 and its floating level was ca. 15 cm above Stratum O-3 stone pavement 2544 and its related Wall 2547 (described above). Thus, this wall was some sort of interim element between O-2 and O-3 and its phasing remains ambivalent. On the one hand, W2537 does not run parallel to W2510, and the top/bottom levels of both walls show that they were not built together, unless W2537 served some constructional purpose and was mostly under the floor that was in use with W2510 (2531 and 2512). On the other hand, Wall 2537 is clearly later than Wall 2547 and Stone Pavement 2544. The relation of W2537 and the wall stump 2546 is also not clear, since the latter was preserved high, to the same level as W2537. What complicates matters more is the storage jar burial (Reg. no. 25269) which lay adjacent to the floating level of Wall 2537 at its northern end (Fig. 13a). The jar is thus situated between Walls 2537 and 2547, inside debris layer 2529.

Note the squared stone mentioned above that adjoined the eastern face of Wall 2547 at precisely this point, which might have been deliberately placed under the jar burial. Inside this jar were found bones of a baby along with several adult bones. It is important to note that the chalky material of 2538, supposedly an O-2 constructional fill, is abutting W2537 from the west and it would make sense that the construction of the wall and the placement of the fill were connected. Two interpretations for Wall 2537 are offered at this stage: **1)** that it was built by the O-2 phase residents as a foundation or support wall, maybe at the same time as they placed the

storage jar burial, or 2) that it might have been related to the construction of Iron IIA Pit 2549 (see below), although the elevations are somewhat low for this.

Squares I–J/12

The remains attributed to Stratum O-2 in Squares I/12 and J/12 belong to the same unit and will therefore be described here together. These remains are not connected architecturally to H/12, so it is not entirely certain that they are contemporary, as noted above. However, there are three walls (2527, 2533, 2534) in these squares that run parallel to 2510 in H/12 and appear to be built (two to three fieldstones wide) and even robbed/damaged (with southern extents missing or damaged by pits or modern burials) in a similar manner. Their preserved tops are also at similar elevations: 366.49–366.60 m (Fig. 14). Excavation in I/12 and J/12 did not go as deep as H/12, so the Phase O-2 walls were not floated and an earlier O-3 phase was not reached, as it was in the latter square. The western and eastern parts of these walls were superimposed by Stratum O-1 elements, described below.

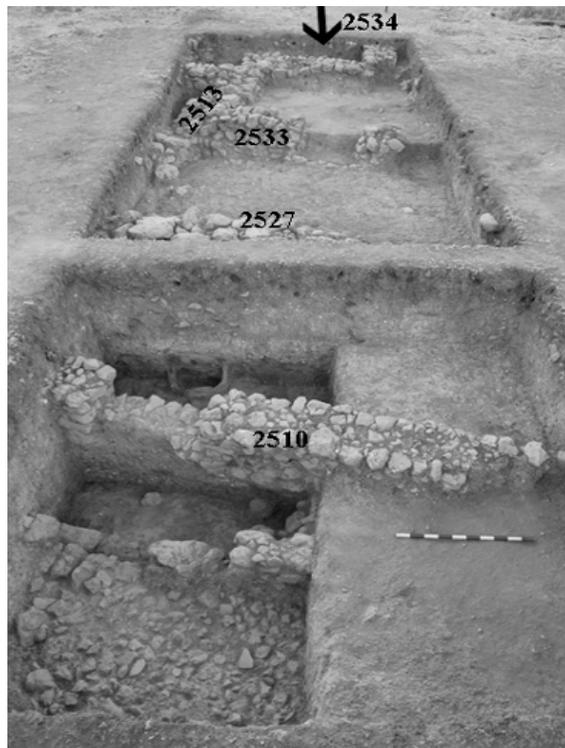


Fig. 14. Squares H.12-J/12, looking north, with four parallel O-2 walls; from west to east: 2510 (H/12), 2527 (I/12), 2533 (I-J/12) and 2534 (J/12), ‘hiding’ behind O-1 wall and marked with an arrow; east-west Wall 2513 in the upper left; possible city wall in the foreground.



Fig. 15. Squares I–J/12, looking north at O-2 walls, superimposed by O-1 walls on west and east.

The three northeast-southwest parallel walls in Squares I–J/12 were as follows from west to east: 2527, 2533 and 2534. They were equidistant at ca. 3.0 m apart and were constructed somewhat differently from one another, with the western (2527) and middle (2533) walls being wider and sturdier than the eastern one (2534) (Figs. 14–15). Walls 2527 and 2533 were damaged on the south; the former by modern burial 2505 and the latter by modern burial (?) 2507. The southern part of Wall 2534, south of its threshold, was covered by Stratum O-1 Wall 2509 and related debris on the south (see below). The middle and eastern walls corned with a solidly built northwest-southeast wall (2513), whose assumed corner with Wall 2527 was beyond the limits of the excavation to the north. The short segment of a wall (2514) extended from Wall 2513 into the northern balk in Square J/12, dividing the area north of Wall 2513 into two rooms that are not in line with the rooms to the south of this wall. There might have been access from the southern to the northern rooms through an entrance, possibly between Walls 2513 and 2527, though it would be beyond the limits of the excavation area from this season.



Fig. 16. Squares I-J/12, looking east; O-2 Wall 2533 with threshold; O-1 walls in background.

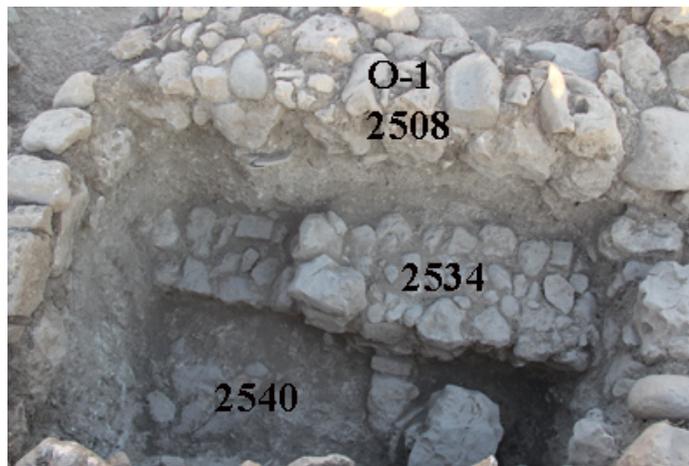


Fig. 17. Square J/12, looking south; O-2 Wall and Floor 2540, superimposed by O-1 architecture.

Wall 2533 had a poorly preserved stone threshold, ca. 1.5 m from its corner with Wall 2513 (Fig. 16). Wall 2534 had a nicely built stone threshold, recalling that of Wall 2510 in Square H/12, ca. 1.3 m from its corner with Wall 2513 (Fig. 17). Thus, while these two thresholds were more or less inline they did not line up with the one in Wall 2510, which was somewhat further to the north. The preserved part of Wall 2527 did not have a threshold, but if there had been one in the presently damaged area to the south, it too would not have been inline with those of Walls 2533 and 2534.

In summary, altogether the four walls in the three squares form a unit with five consecutive rooms on an east–west access and two more rooms that continued to the north beyond the excavation area. Floors were reached in parts of the building as follows:

In Square I/12, a floor was reached at 366.20 m in the room enclosed by Walls 2527, 2513 and 2533. In the room between Walls 2513, 2533 and 2534 the excavation has not yet reached the floor.

A narrow area between Wall 2534 and the eastern balk of Square J/12 contained debris (2532) with a cooking pot and other pottery, apparently resting on a stone floor (2540 at 366.36 m) that was on the same level as the threshold (366.36-366.41 m). The floor levels in Squares I-J/12 can be compared to those of this same unit in Square H/12, which were 365.83 m (west of Wall 2510) and 366.07 m, east of Wall 2510. The somewhat lower level in the west might be due to the descent in the topography towards the slope of the mound.

Another possible floor that was reached in this unit included a very narrow strip between Wall 2513 and the northern balk of Square J/12, where a lamp (in the western part) and a storage jar (in the corner between Walls 2513 and 2514) appear to mark a floor level (2535) at 366.60 m, which is higher than the other floors. However, on the last day of excavation a storage jar that contained baby (?) bones was exposed in the center of this locus. This might represent a burial beneath this floor, or possibly indicate that the 'real' floor level is lower down. This jar burial was not excavated due to the extremely narrow space and lack of time.

In the northeastern corner of Square J/12 in the corner formed by Wall 2514 on the west and Wall 2513 on the south a skeleton was found lying on its stomach and possessing an extraordinarily large skull (Figs. 18-20). The skull and upper body were exposed, but the rest ran into the eastern balk. The left arm (on the south) was flush against the body and the right arm (on the north) was bent at the elbow near the head, under several of the pithos fragments. Anthropological examination of the skeleton in the field and in the lab showed that this was a man, 40-50 years old, with an exceptionally large skull. It seems that the skeleton is resting on a stone, although it is not clear whether this is a deliberately placed stone or fallen together with the person when he died. One possibility is that this is bedrock, but this still needs to be clarified. Soft brown debris (2521) covered the skeleton and fragments of a large pithos were found mainly to its north, with at least one large sherd partly covering the right upper body torso (Figs. 18-20). More of the pithos fragments were covered by Stratum O-1 Wall 2530, part of which was removed in order to recover more of the vessel, although it was found to continue into the northern balk, and thus not all of it was excavated this season. No rim was found, but it might be beyond the northern balk. It is debatable whether this was a pithos burial or a death caused by

trauma. The large size of the elderly individual and his position (which looks like he ‘fell’ on his stomach) would not suit such a burial. It is possible that the pithos simply fell partly on top of him as he ran to his death, which would explain the smashed nature of the vessel. On the other hand, the proximity of the pithos might allude to this having been such a burial, which is a known custom in the MB. We removed the skull, but the skeleton was left *in situ* and covered up until further expansion to the north and east will allow us to completely expose it.

Excavation of this context was carried out with small tools and employing 100% sifting of the associated debris. The skull, which had fractured into several pieces, was marked by Ariel Shatil, in order to facilitate restoration in the lab (Fig. 18a). The teeth were removed by Dr. Naama Yahalom-Mack of the Department of Earth Sciences of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in order to possibly extract a DNA sample.

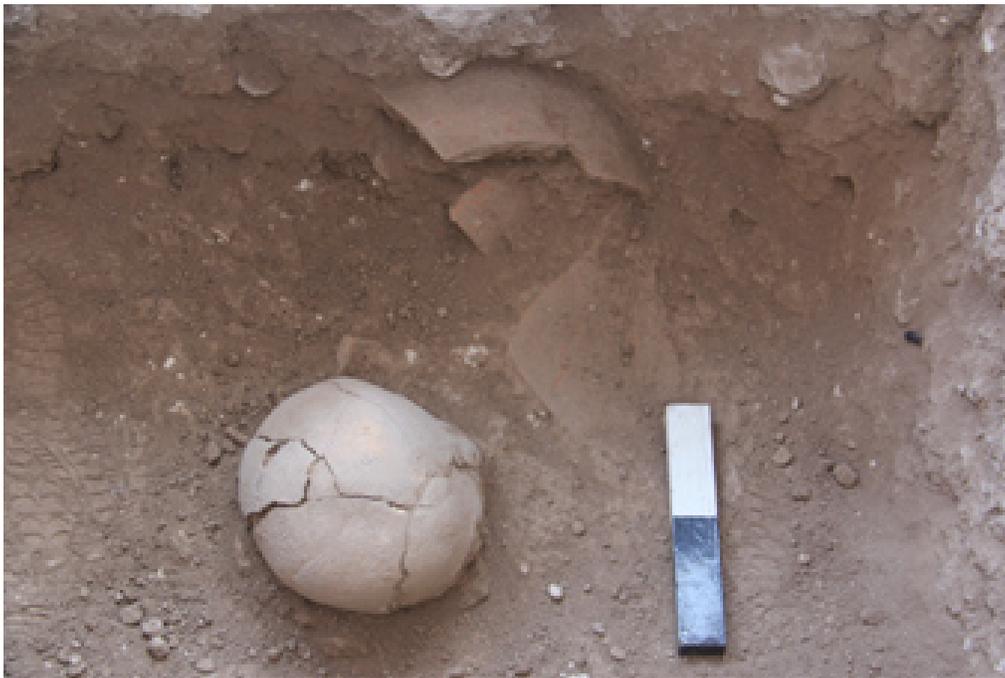


Fig. 18. Square J/12, Locus 2521, looking east; skull before exposure of torso; note pithos fragments on the left (north), under O-1 Wall 2530.



Fig. 18a. Skull marked with numbers before removal

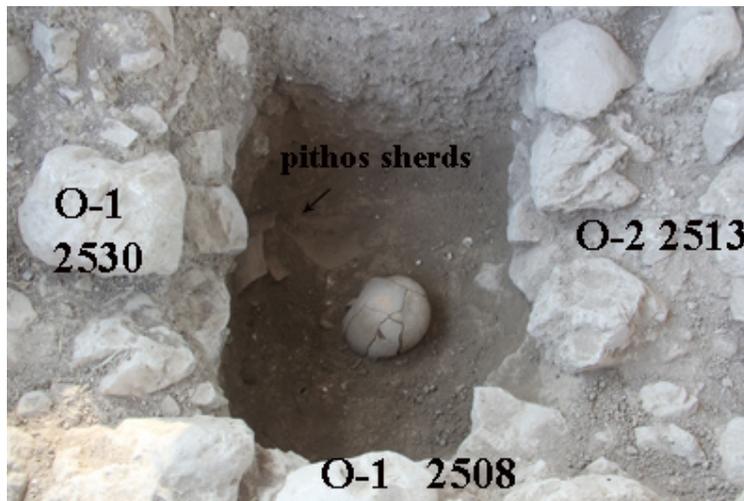


Fig. 19. Square J/12, Locus 2521; closeup of skull in 2521, before exposure of body, with pithos sherds to its north, partly covering the body.



Fig. 20. Closeup of skeleton in 2521, looking west, before removal of O-1 Wall 2530 on the right (north); note pithos fragments jutting out from underneath this wall, partially covering the right side of the skeleton.



Fig. 22. Square I/12, O-1 Wall 2504 on top of O-2 Wall 2527, looking south.



Fig. 23. Square I/12, looking northwest at O-1 Wall 2504 and Floor 2523 with mortar. Note stones 2505 (a late disturbance/burial) near southeastern end of the wall.



Fig. 24. Square I/12, looking north at mortar in Debris 2506 (on Floor 2523), Stratum O-1



Fig. 24a. Mortar and bases surrounding it, looking west.

Just under topsoil, we encountered a layer of soft debris (2506) that contained a nicely worked basalt tripod mortar against the northern balk of the square. It was surrounded by several upside-down bowl and jug bases, which appear to have been intentionally placed (Figs. 23–24). This debris rested on a layer identified as a floor (2523 and its makeup 2525), although it was not much different in matrix from the debris above it. The eastern part of this occupation debris was excavated as 2515 in Square I/12, abutting the western face of Wall 2508 (see below) (although the bottom of 2515 abuts the top of the O-2 walls here as well, so that this locus is not entirely ‘clean’). All in all, the space where the mortar is located extended from Wall 2504 in the west to Wall 2504 in the east – a total of 7.0 m (Fig. 15), which suggests that this had been an open area.

The southern end of this square was damaged by Loci 2505 and 2507, apparently late burials (see below).

Square J/12

The western end of a unit that continued to the east beyond the excavation limits was revealed near the center of Square J/12. It comprised Walls 2508 in the west, 2509 in the south, and 2530 in the north. These walls were generally the same construction as the O-2 walls below, composed of various sized stones and measuring ca. 0.6 m wide (Figs. 25-26). These walls were preserved one course high. Wall 2508 cut O-2 Wall 2513 (Figs. 24-25), Wall 2509 was built over the threshold of O-2 Wall 2534, and Wall 2530 was built on top of the pithos associated with the skeleton in O-2 Locus 2521 (Figs. 19-20).

Between these walls was a layer of debris (2516) that contained sherds, flint, bones, and a bronze object. A lower layer (2522) might be the earthen floor on which this accumulation rests, although it is not much different than 2516. This layer covered O-2 Wall 2534 (Fig. 24).

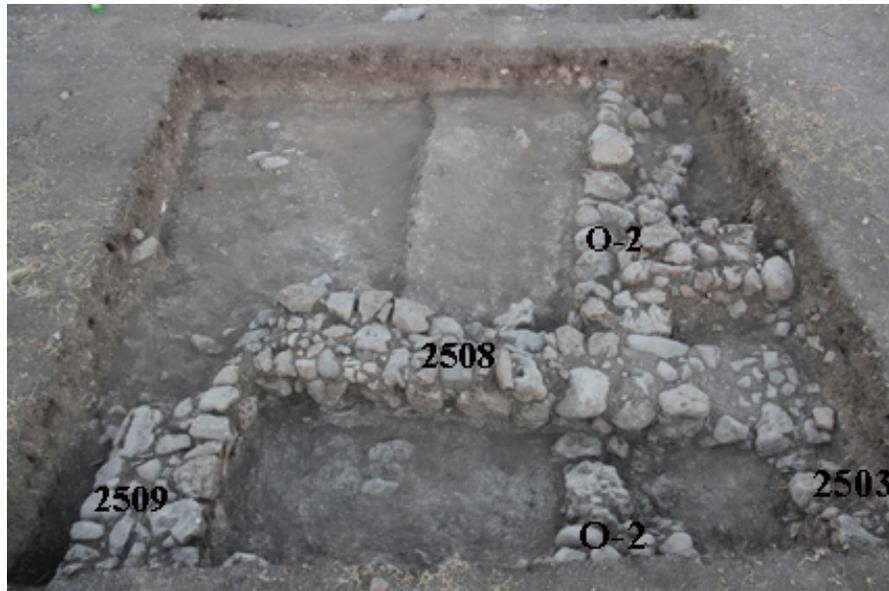


Fig. 25. Square J/12, looking west; O-1 Walls on top of O-2 walls; Debris 2516 being excavated west of Wall 2508. Note top of O-2 Wall 2534 beginning to emerge in Locus 2522, east of Wall 2508.



Fig. 26. Square J/12, looking north at O-1 walls on top of O-2 walls.

The tentative date assigned to Stratum O-1 is late LBIIB, based mainly on the pottery surrounding the basalt mortar, although the debris was found mixed with Iron I and other sherds as well. The pottery needs to be examined more closely to make a more precise call, but given the location of this stratum just below topsoil and the rather ephemeral nature of the floors, this dating might remain uncertain pending further excavation.

An Iron IIA Oval Stone Seal

In the topsoil above the top of Wall 2508 was found a black-stone scaraboid seal (25085). It was attributed to Locus 2516, though in fact, it was found to the north of this locus proper. Preliminary examination of the photo of the seal led Christophe Uehlinger to assign it an Iron IIA date. A close parallel to this seal from Tel Rehov Stratum IV (9th century BCE) supports this date.



Fig. 26. Scaraboid seal

Iron IIA Pit

In Square H/12 to the west of the stone threshold in Stratum O-2 Wall 2510 a ca. 1.5 sq m area of soft gray debris was identified as a disturbance/pit only after it was almost entirely excavated (Figs. 11–12). The pit contained a large amount of pottery, some of it restorable (mainly cooking pots, as well as a storage jar and a jug) and flint and bones. It cut into the western edge of the threshold. In fact, almost all of the finds west of Wall 2510 were concentrated in the area retroactively identified as this pit, which was subsequently numbered 2549. Its elevations ranged from 366.10 to 365.85 m (the level of O-2 Floor 2531 here). Baskets from Loci 2511 and 2531 were transferred to this locus. Preliminary examination of the pottery from Pit 2549 points to an Iron IIA date, but this needs to be further studied. It may be tentatively suggested that flimsy Wall 2537, attributed to Stratum O-2 (see above) was in some way related to the construction of Pit 2549, although this cannot be proven.

Since the pit was identified after the stratigraphic designations were assigned, it is not included within the present count of the strata and simply noted as an Iron IIA pit.

Other Pits and Disturbances

Pits

Just before Wall 2510 enters the southern balk in Square H/12 there is a round-contoured cut into its western face (see Figs. 6, 10–11). This pit (unnumbered) is on the same line as Pit 2549. Although found empty of finds, its levels and location suggest that it might be contemporary with the latter. Its bottom was not reached, since excavation in the southern part of Square H/12 stopped on the level of the O-2 floor.

The southern end of O-2 Wall 2533 (ca. 0.6 m south of the threshold) was cut away by what looks like yet another round-contoured pit (Fig. 14), which was more or less inline with the pit cut into Wall 2510 noted above. It is possible that they are related to the same phenomenon. During excavation, material from this pit could not be separated and it remained unnumbered.

The corner of Stratum O-1 Walls 2508 and 2509 is cut by a large round pit; only non-indicative material was found in it so it cannot be securely dated. It might have been a robbers' pit meant to take the stones from this corner and not meant for storage or refuse.

Modern (?) Burials

The southern end of Squares I-J/12 (especially I/12) was damaged by later activity that took the form of soft debris with stones in Square J/12 and two stone piles (2505, 2507) in Square I/12. These disturbances were visible from topsoil down to the level of Stratum O-2. Stone pile 2505 cut the southeastern end of O-1 Wall 2504 and the southern end of O-2 Wall 2527. 2507 was located ca. 1.0 m to the southeast of Locus 2505. Both were found to contain human remains, identified as an adolescent (2505) and an adult male (2507). It seems most likely that these are recent burials in this part of the Palestinian village that was occupied by tilled fields.

Summary of Area O, 2014

Three main strata were revealed under a relatively shallow topsoil layer. The two earliest ones (O-3 and O-2) are assigned to MBII, while the later one (O-1) is difficult to date in light of the paucity of secure material. It appears to date to a late phase of LB or to Iron I. Being so close to topsoil, the pottery was often mixed. The latest sherds examined during field sorting dated to Iron Age IIA; sporadic EB sherds were identified as well.

The walls were all composed of stones with no extant mudbricks. The floors were either beaten earth or made of stone. The architecture of the three strata, especially O-1 and O-2, follow a similar orientation and were apparently close in time, as they are built on top of each other with no intervening fills or abandonment layers. Aside from later damage by burials or pits, overall preservation is good.

Stratum O-2 (MBII) contained two jar burials, apparently containing babies, as well as a complete skeleton (only partly excavated) near by a large pithos that might have been this individual's burial jar, though it also possible that he met his death in an unnatural manner, as several smashed restorable vessels in this layer, along with the skeleton, might allude to a violent end for Stratum O-2. The end of Stratum O-1 (late LB/Iron I?) did not contain any solid evidence of destruction, and aside from a possible Iron Age IIA pit, there are no traces of later occupation in this area.

At this stage, it is difficult to characterize the nature of occupation. The store jar burials in Stratum O-2 bespeak of a domestic context, where such intramural burials are known during the Middle Bronze Age; but the architecture, as far as can be understood up till now, does not represent any clearly known house layout of this period. However, the remains are too sporadic to determine anything for certain. The large and well-made tripod mortar surrounded by vessel bases in Stratum O-3, located in what might be a courtyard, could allude to some special function for this space, whether industrial or cultic.

A curious feature is the lack of fortifications in this area that are so dominant in Area F, some 80 meters to the southeast, along the perimeter of the tell just like Area O. It is possible that such fortifications (wall and rampart) will be found if excavation in Area O is extended down the western slope; perhaps the dense stone 'pavement' in Square H/12 in Stratum O-3 is related to such a city wall system in some way.