

## **Area F Field Report-2014**

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The second season of excavation in Area F, located on the southern end of the lower mound (Grid Square 905, sub-squares Q-R-S/4-5-6, part of R7; Fig. 1) was conducted in 2014 and lasted for four weeks, with the participation of ca. 15 volunteers. The supervisor was Ortal Haroch and the assistant supervisors were Dianne Benton, Scott Booth, Lisa Marsio and Dean Rancourt; Claire MacKay was the registrar.

Excavation was expanded to the north (Square R/4) and east (Squares S/4-6; Square S-4 excavated in its western half only), as well as continued in Squares Q/5-6, in order to clarify the nature and date of remains north and east of Building 1307 (the “Middle Bronze tower”), and to determine the date of the tower itself.

A more complex and complete stratigraphic sequence than that understood in the 2013 season was obtained, and thus, this report comprises a comprehensive revised report, and not only an update of the stratigraphy, in wake of the 2104 season.

A total of six main strata were defined, dating from the Middle Bronze II (Stratum F6, the tower, rampart and wall) to Iron Age I (Stratum F-1 under topsoil) to. Elements that post date F1, comprised of disturbances cutting into the remains, were designated F0. The basis of the stratigraphic development in this area was the Middle Bronze fortifications, which were reused during the entire Late Bronze sequence, but put out of commission in the Iron I, when a building was built just to the north of these fortifications, and numerous pits were cut into their extant top. No destruction was noted in the contexts related to the transition from Late Bronze to Iron I; within the Iron I sequence (Stratum F2), there are signs of a possible destruction that might correlate with Stratum A4 in Area A. The uppermost occupation, Stratum F1, was apparently abandoned, but not destroyed; this might be correlated with Stratum A2 in Area A.

It should be kept in mind that the strata designations in the following report are valid for the 2014 season and might change with new data in the future.

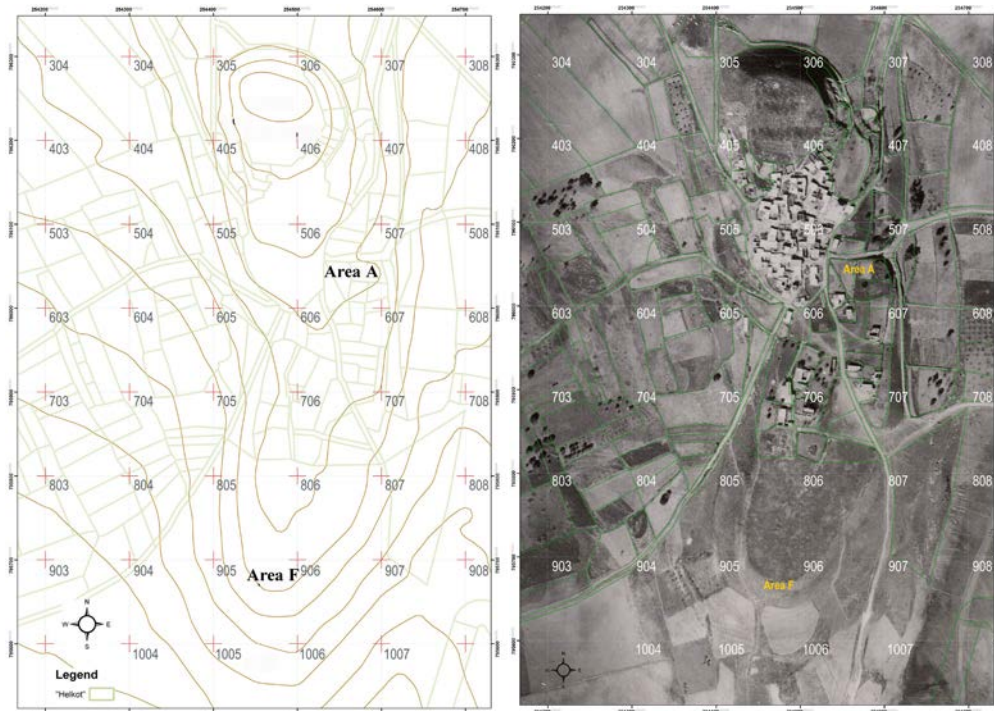


Fig. 1. Left: topographic map showing the location of Area F at southern end of the lower tell; Right: Area F positioned on 1945 aerial photo.

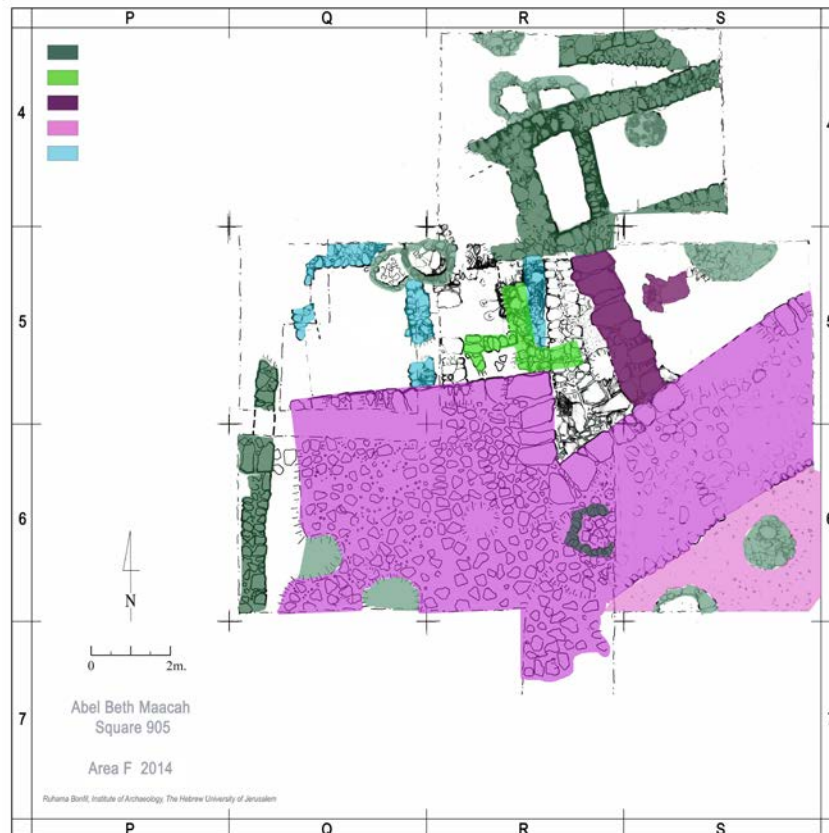


Fig. 2. Superposition of Strata F6-F1.

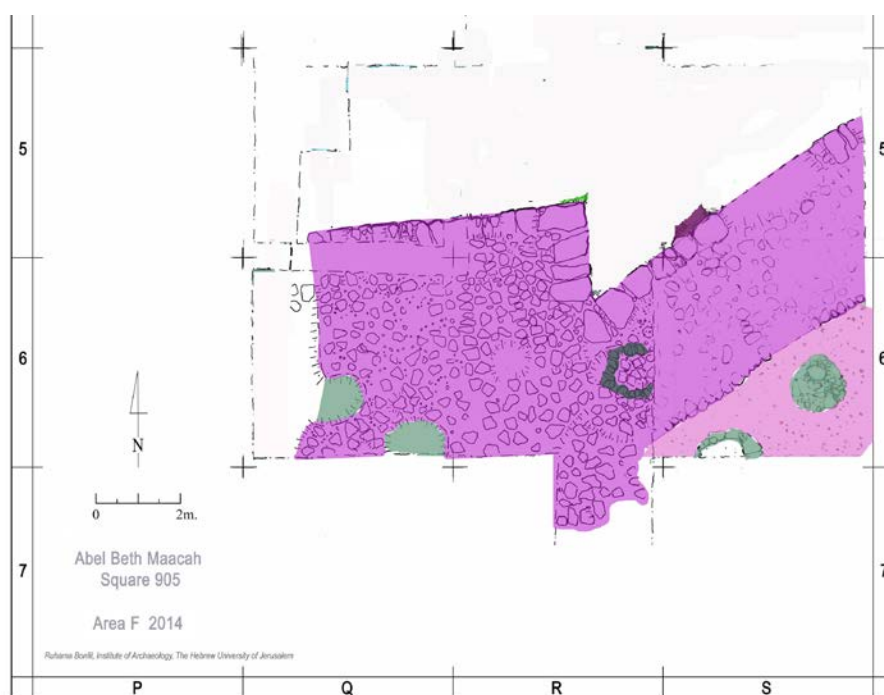
**Table 1. Phasing of Loci and Walls**

| <b>Stratum</b> | <b>Loci</b>                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Walls</b>                                                                | <b>Comments</b>                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| F1a            | <i>Q-R/5-6</i> : 1301,<br><i>R-S/4</i> : 2309, 2310,<br>2312, 2319                                                                                                                | <i>R-S/4</i> : 2364, 2360, 2308,<br>1309, 2360<br><i>Q/5-6</i> : 1324, 1373 | Scanty remains just under<br>topsoil, eroded, directly<br>above F1b; some F1b<br>walls (and silos?) reused<br>Iron I                                                      |
| F1b            | <i>Q/5-6</i> : 1306, 1333, 1336<br><i>R/5-6</i> : 1308, 1316, 2372<br><i>Q-R/5</i> : 1374<br><i>R-S/4-5</i> : 2307, 2317,<br>2318, 2322, 2332, 2337.<br>2340, 2341, 2346, 2348    | <i>Q/6</i> : 1323<br><i>R-S/4-5</i> : 1309, 2338, 2344                      | Building FA in northern<br>part of area; many silos<br>and pits; pits and silos<br>dug into F6 fortification<br><br>Iron I (+transition to Iron<br>IIA?)<br>=A2-3?        |
| F2             | <i>Q-R/5</i> : 1315, 1322,<br>1330, 1339, 1340, 1364,<br>1365, 1374<br><i>R-S/4</i> : 2311, 2316, 2366,<br>2374, 2376, 2381<br><i>S/5</i> : 2315, 2330, 2339<br><i>R/7</i> : 1359 | <i>R/5</i> : 1348<br><i>S/4</i> : 2361                                      | Floors, installations, pits<br>and silos under Building<br>FA and to its south;<br>possible destruction?<br>Iron I<br>=A4?                                                |
| F3             | <i>Q-R/5</i> : 1329, 1337,<br>1344, 2323<br><i>S/5</i> : 2327, 2336                                                                                                               | <i>Q-R/5</i> : 1335, 1346, 1360,<br>1362, 2306, 2349, 2354,<br>2355         | Walls, debris and floors<br>abutting the north and<br>northeastern faces of<br>Tower 1307; robbing of<br>stones from F-6 Wall<br>1332/2391<br>LBII-transition Iron I      |
| F4             | <i>Q-R/5</i> : 1342, 1355,<br>1358, 1369, 1370, 1375,<br>1376, 2313, 2353 2370,<br>2389, 2390                                                                                     | <i>R/5</i> : 1371                                                           | Debris on an earthen<br>floor, abutting the north<br>of Tower 1307 and Wall<br>1371; flat-stones in<br>secondary use in corner of<br>Walls 1302 and 1332;<br>silver hoard |
| F5             | <i>Q-R/5</i> : 2326, 2379,<br>2389, 2390                                                                                                                                          | <i>R/5</i> : 2320?, 2377                                                    | Debris on red clay layer<br>in west, soft debris in<br>east, abutting Wall 2377                                                                                           |
| F6             | <i>Q-R/6</i> : 1307, 1317,<br>1334, 1338<br><i>Q/5-6</i> : 1325, 1338, 1357<br><i>A/6</i> : 2378, 2388<br><i>R/7</i> : 1343, 1347                                                 | <i>R/6</i> : 1318                                                           | Stones and chalky layers<br>related to Tower 1307                                                                                                                         |
| F-6-3          |                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1302, 1327, 1332, 2343,<br>2391                                             | MBII tower walls and<br>fortification wall re-used<br>in later strata                                                                                                     |



Area F staff and team members-2014 (partial)

## Stratum F6



**Fig. 3. Plan of Stratum F6**

In the 2013 season, the large stone structure (Tower 1307) was assigned to Stratum F5. Excavation in 2014 revealed new data that necessitated a change in strata designations, so that F5 is now renamed F6.

Some of the following text is a repeat of the description of Tower 1307 as excavated in 2013, while the rest describes the new elements revealed in 2014 related to the tower: a wall (2343, 1332, 2391) and a rampart (2378, 2388).

### **Large Stone Structure: Tower 1307**

The earliest feature in Area F is a large stone structure (Building 1307) revealed mainly in Squares Q–R/6; its northern end ran along the southern edge of Squares Q–R/5 (Figs 3–5). The extant width (east–west) of the structure is c. 6.5 m and the length is c. 7.7 m. The continuation to the south was revealed in a small probe in Square R/7 and requires further clarification; the western side is cut by later (Stratum F1-2) elements, while later structures (Strata F5–F3) abut it on the north. Its north eastern side is well preserved and is joined to a fortification wall and rampart, described below.

Although this feature was revealed just below topsoil, it is, in fact, the earliest in the stratigraphic sequence; the downslope of Area F from north to south, particularly acute on the east, is the reason why the earliest element is revealed just below topsoil, while later phases, which cut and abutted the structure on its north and west, were exposed lower down. It should also be noted that since the tower is peppered with pits dating to Strata F2 and F1b, it seems that this had been the height of the structure when they encountered it. This suggests that its top (brick superstructure?) had been deliberately dismantled at one point or that the foundation of the structure lies much deeper. It is difficult to determine this at the present state of the excavation.



**Fig. 4. Tower 1307, looking southwest; probe in Square R/7 on far left, near edge of tell. Note large stones in northeastern corner.**





**Fig. 5. Tower 1307, looking west; Stratum F3 walls on the lower right, abutting the northeastern corner**



**Fig. 6 Square R/5, northeastern corner of Building 1307, looking southwest. Stratum F3 walls abut this corner**



**Fig. 7. Northeastern corner of Tower 1307, looking southwest. Wall 1332 cornering with it and later elements (F4 pavement 1375 and F5 Wall 2377) abutting it in foreground**

A most outstanding feature of Tower 1307 is its northeastern corner, composed of very large, roughly worked stones (Figs. 4–7). The north–south wall, 1302, is composed of an upper course with four large stones (the tops of three were revealed in the 2012 survey, as noted above). These stones, roughly worked into rectangles, measure c. 1.0 x 0.50 x 0.35 m, aside from the third from the north, which is narrower (0.30 m); upper level: 384.63 m on the northern cornerstone, 364.49 m on the southernmost stone. The top of the northernmost stone, the cornerstone of Building 1307, is sunken; it is not clear whether this is erosion or a deliberate feature. Two more courses were revealed below, so that the wall was exposed to a height of 1.0 m and it most certainly continues down. Wall 1302 makes a corner with Wall 1327, which runs slightly askew (northeast–southwest) in relation to the due north–south line of Wall 1302. The stones of Wall 1327 in Square R/5 and the eastern end of Square Q/5 are large, measuring at least c. 0.60 x 0.60 x 0.40 m, with smaller stones placed between them. Wall 1327 is preserved to three to four courses; the eastern end contains large roughly worked stones (Fig. 9), while the western part (Square Q/5) contains large and medium stones, with smaller stones between them (Fig. 10). The western part of the wall (Q/5) is preserved lower than the eastern end: 364.16 m on top of the stone just under the western end of the cornerstone to 363.64 m on top of the westernmost stone; it seems that this uppermost course had been robbed (Figs. 8–10). The western end of the wall

terminates abruptly just before the western border of Square Q/5 and appears to have been damaged, possibly when F-1 Wall 1373 was constructed.



**Fig. 8.** Squares R-/5, looking east; Wall 1327 on right (south) showing lower preservation in the west (see also Figs. 9–10); later elements (Strata F1–F4) to north of wall (see Figs. 9-10 for details).



**Fig. 9.** Square R/5, looking south at eastern end of Wall 1327, at northeastern corner of Tower 1307.



**Fig. 10.** Square Q/5, looking south at western part of Wall 1327; note robbed(?) upper course and western end.



An interesting feature is the position of the northernmost stone of Wall 1302, which is, in fact, the cornerstone of the tower. It is set above the top of the easternmost stone of Wall 1327, with a difference of c. 0.50 m between them (Fig. 8). It is not clear whether this discrepancy is because the upper course of stones in Wall 1327 was deliberately removed here (a suggestion supported by the even lower western part of this wall, as described above) or whether this was deliberate.

The sturdy northeast corner and northern wall form a kind of frame around a concentration of field stones to their south and east (1307 in Square R/6 and 1366, 1325, and 1357 in Square Q/6). The stones continue to the south, as revealed in the probe in Square R/7, c. 0.5 m from the cusp of the tell, suggesting that they continue further down the slope. The western border is cut by later construction (see Strata F-2 and F-1 below). The western end of Wall 1327 in Square Q/5 is more or less on line with the western end of the stones in Square Q/6 (Figs. 11–12), but it is not clear whether this is the original western border of the large stone structure or whether it is the result of the intensive later activity that seems to have cut them here. If indeed, the western end of the stone structure ran along this line, one would expect a wall similar to 1302 and 1327 to contain it. No traces of such a wall were found, although it is possible that it will emerge below the later disturbance found here. On the east, south of the end of Wall 1302, was a wall (2343) that extended to the northeast (described below); to the south of this wall were layers of brown soil and chalky inclusions that appear to belong to a rampart (described below).



**Fig. 11. Tower 1307, looking east; note straight end of stones 1366, on line with western end of Wall 1327, possibly indicating the western border of Building 1307 (robbed away or cut by later elements)**



**Fig. 12. Squares R–Q/6, looking east at stones and chalk layers of Tower 1307; F1 Wall 1323 in foreground and pits cutting into top of tower.**

The stone construction is composed of layers of limestone fieldstones, with layers of hard white chalk chips set in brown soil between them. The stone layers are c. 0.30–0.40 m thick, while the chalky layers that could be examined (mostly on the west) range from c. 0.20–0.40 m thick (Figs. 11–14).

Three layers of stones and two of the chalky material were identified, mainly in the western part (Square Q/6), due to the cut of later activity on the west which provided a section into the stone construction. It should be noted, however, that these layers are not neatly superimposed, as the nature of construction had the stones set into the chalky matrix and not horizontally layered (Figs. 13–14). Thus, the differentiation between the chalky material and the stones, especially in the upper layers, is not clear-cut. Future excavation that will cut a section into the stone structure will clarify the exact nature of this unique construction.



**Fig. 13. Squares Q–R/6, looking east at stone and chalk layers in Tower 1307; chalk layer (1338) in western part of the building in foreground.**



**Fig. 14. Close up of chalky matrix 1338, Square Q/6, looking east; row of stones on top–‘Wall’ 1318.**

The uppermost layer of stones, revealed just under topsoil in Square R/6, was comprised of a rather haphazard scatter of small and medium stones, suggesting that they were mostly fallen and not as well-preserved as the lower part of the construction. Upon removal of these (mostly) fallen stones, a better-constructed layer was revealed, whose stones quite regularly placed, although widely spaced; it seems that these stones had been minimally worked to achieve a roughly rounded contour and most were of the same size.

In the middle of the stone construction of Building 1307, running in the balk between Square R/6 and R/5, is a north–south row of stones, similar in size and shape to the other stones, but more regularly placed so as to recall a wall. These stones, designated Wall 1318, appear to be an integral part of the stone structure, but it is not clear if it is a wall or just the way the stones were laid here (Figs. 11–12).

The effect of the arrangement described above appears to be that of strong walls enveloping a fill, comprised of stones and hard white chalky ‘cement’ between them. This ‘fill’ is not haphazardly thrown in, but rather was systematically laid, although on somewhat different orientations: roughly north–south in the east (Square R/6) and roughly northeast–southwest in the west (Square Q/6).

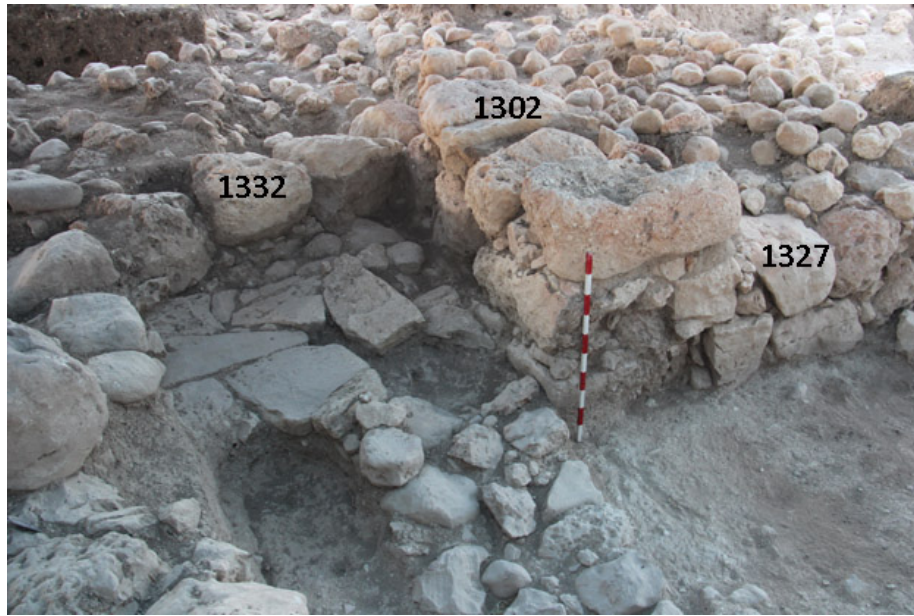
Very few finds are associated with the stone and chalk-layer construction of Building 1307, mostly because it is found just below topsoil and because no secure floor levels have yet been found associated with it. The lower parts of the construction in Square Q/6 yielded some pottery and bones; samples of the chalky material that filled between the stones were taken for geological analysis.

### **Fortification Wall 2343**

From the southern end of Wall 1302, a 3.0 m wide wall extends, running to the northeast, nicely cornering with the former wall. This is defined as a fortification wall, being adjoined with Tower 1307, although it apparently was not an independent feature, but was integrated with the layers considered to have been a rampart on its south, as described below.

The northern border of this ‘wall’ was a line of large roughly worked boulders, similar in size and workmanship to those of Walls 1302 and 1327. These were designated 1332 on the southern end and 2391 on the northern end; one full course and the top of a second one were exposed. Between these ends was a gap in the stones of c. 2.0 m (Fig. 15). It seems that these stones were robbed and used to build a wall nearby (1360) in Stratum F3 (see below). Wall 1332 is preserved two courses high and seems to be continuing down, although Strata F4 and F3 elements abutting it prevent this exposure so far. It is notable that what seems to be a surface used in Stratum F3 (2327) abutted Walls 1332/2391 and their robbed middle, showing that it was still in secondary use at that time (together with Wall 1360 which was built of these stones – Fig. 16–17; see further below). The stones of Wall 2343 (see below) served as the border of this F3 room, instead of the robbed stones of Wall 1332/2391 (Fig. 16).





**Fig. 15. Corner of Walls 1302 and 1332, looking south; note pavement 1375 (Stratum F4) and Wall 2377 (Stratum F5) abutting this corner on its north**

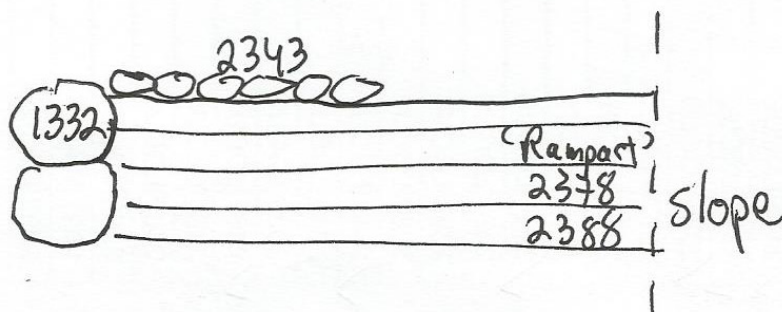


**Fig. 16. Fortification 'Wall' 2343 with boulder-stone 'border' on north-Wall 1332 on the west and 2391 on the east; gap between them of robbed stones; note F3 Wall 1360 on the right, built of these stones. Meter stick on Stratum F3 surface 2327**



**Fig. 17. Top of Wall 2342 (western end), looking west; note top of rampart to south of wall**

As noted, Wall 1332/2391 bordered the northern face of Wall 2343, which was composed of stones set in an identical manner to those in Tower 1307 (although lacking the hard white ‘cement’ between them). Wall 2343, ca. 3.0 m wide, was apparently one course high, although it might have had one lower course in its eastern side. While this might be a matter of preservation and this is merely the bottom course of stones in a wall that had stood much higher, it seems more likely that they served as a kind of capping or upper reinforcement for the layers of brown earth and small chalky inclusions that composed the rampart to the south of the wall (see below); these layers underneath the stones of Wall 2343 (see Figs. 19–20). It seems that we must understand ‘Wall’ 2343 and Rampart 2378/88 as one and the same constructional feature, and that Wall 1332/2391 was its border on the north (Figs. 17–18). Excavation stopped on the Stratum F3 layer to the north of Wall 2343/1332/2391, so we do not know the nature of the matrix in this part of the building in Stratum F6.



**Fig. 18. Schematic reconstruction of a section through Walls 1332, 2343 and Rampart 2378/88, looking east; horizontal rampart ‘layers’ are schematic Rampart 2378/2388**



To the south of Wall 2343 and up to the southern border of the excavation in Square S/6 were layers comprised of very dark brown earth and small chalky inclusions (Figs. 19–20). As noted above, these layers were also found underneath the stone capping of Wall 2343. The rampart layers (2378, 2388) were excavated down to a depth of 1.50 m (364.30–362.80 m). It is clear that this matrix continues to the south towards the present slope of the mound, as well as to the east.

Stratum F1 silos and pits penetrated into the layers of the rampart (see below).

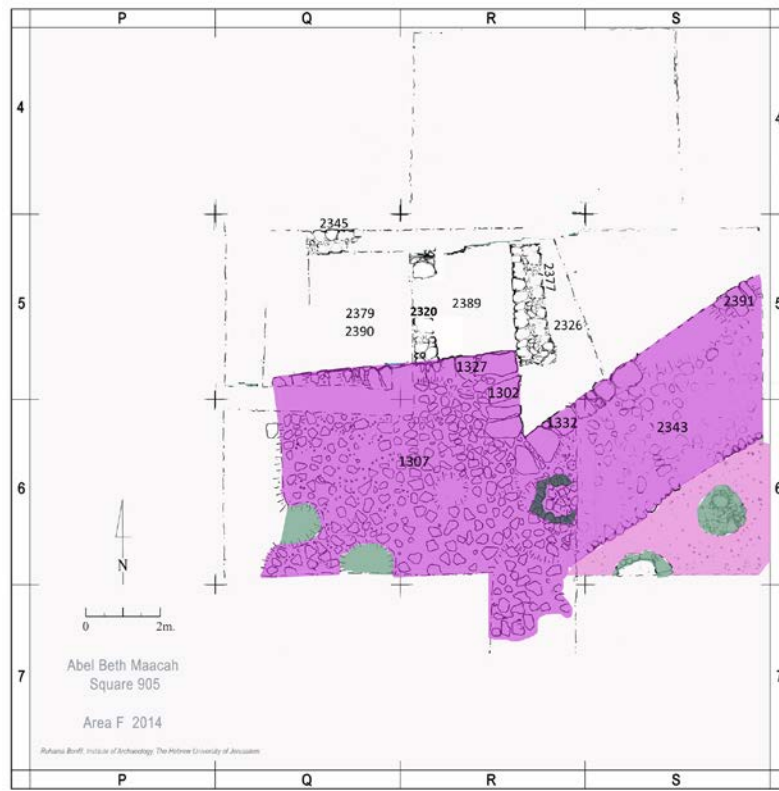


**Fig. 19. Square S/6, looking north; layers in rampart (2378) ‘capped’ by stones of Wall 2343; right: Stratum F1 Pit 2385 cutting into stones and rampart.**



**Fig. 20. Square S/6, looking southeast; layers in rampart (2378/2388); F1 silo 2383 cutting into rampart; Wall 2343 on left.**

## Stratum F5

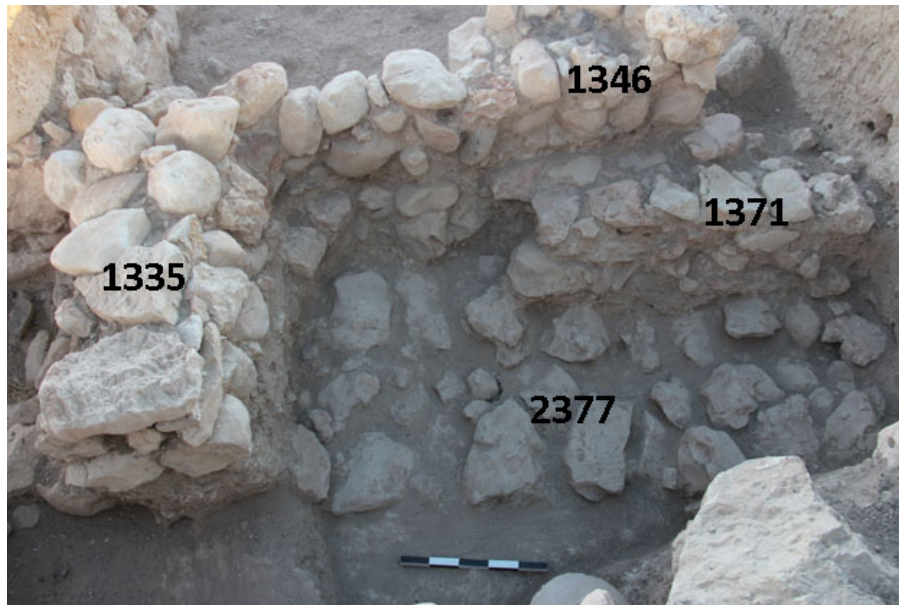


**Fig. 21. Plan of Stratum F5; purple: re-use of Tower 1307 and Wall 1332/2343; green: Stratum F1 pits**

### Square R/5

The main element that is attributed to Stratum F5 at this point is a well-built north-south stone wall in Square R/5, 2377, that runs into the northern balk of the square and on the south, runs just east of the corner of Walls 1302 and 1327 of Tower 1307 and was cut on its southern end, just about at the northeastern corner of the tower. A stone pavement (1375, see below) laid in Stratum F4 seems to be the reason for this damage and originally, Wall 2377 probably had continued to the south to abut the northern face of Wall 1332. However, Wall 2377 was secondary to the tower and wall/ramparts and was not built together with them, but rather was added to this system at a later date. It is assumed that the fortification system is Middle Bronze Age and thus, Wall 2377 and related debris layers are most likely to be dated to the Late Bronze Age, though more precise dating in that period is not yet possible. Above this is Strata F4 and F3, both of which may be dated to the Late Bronze Age II(?).





**Fig. 22. Top of Wall 2377 emerging in Square R/5, under F4 Wall 1371; F3 Walls 1335 and 1346 above**



**Fig. 23. Square R/5, looking south; southern end of F5 Wall 2377 cut by F4 stone pavement 1375; corner of Tower 1307 on the upper right.**

Wall 2377 is built of two rows of medium-large field stones with a narrow row of smaller stones filled between them. It stands at least two courses high and continues down; it is abutted on the east by Debris 2326 and on the west by Debris 2389. Stratum F4 Wall 1371 was built on top of its western face. No floors have yet to be found abutting this wall.

An element that is difficult to phase and was attributed to F5 based on elevations, is Wall 2320, a small segment of a wall (1.1 m long, 0.5 m wide) that abutted the northern face of Wall 1327, just east of the balk between Squares R and Q/5. Yet another element attributed to this phase is a concentration of large and medium stones in the northwestern corner of Square R/5, partly covered by F2 Silo 1374; since they were on line with the stones of 2320, it is possible that they represent a continuation of this wall, following a disturbance or entranceway that created the gap between them.



**Fig. 24. F5 Wall 2377 and F4 Wall 1371 on top of its western face (abutting northeastern corner of Tower 1307), looking south; note cut southern end of Wall 2377.**

### **Square Q/5**

Other elements attributed to Stratum F5 were exposed under F4 Floor 1355 in Square Q/5 and include a soft debris layer, 2379, that rested on a layer of hard red clay, of which almost 30 cm were excavated but still continues down (2390) (Figs. 25–26). Both abutted the southern face of Wall 2345, which also was used in Stratum F4; this wall was cut on its western end by F2 Pit 1364, although note that the stone floor of this pit was above the red clay layer. On the south,

Wall 1327 (the northern wall of Tower 1307) bordered this layer, which was traced up to the balk between Squares R and Q/5, but did not seem to continue eastwards into Square R/5, where Debris 2389 was found, although it may possibly be uncovered on a slightly lower level. In the hard red clay matrix of 2390 was a large posthole (362.99 m) filled with charcoal (Figs. 25–26), located in the northeastern section of the locus. On the western end of this red clay layer (top part) was a concentration of astragali (23630) and a ` (23629).



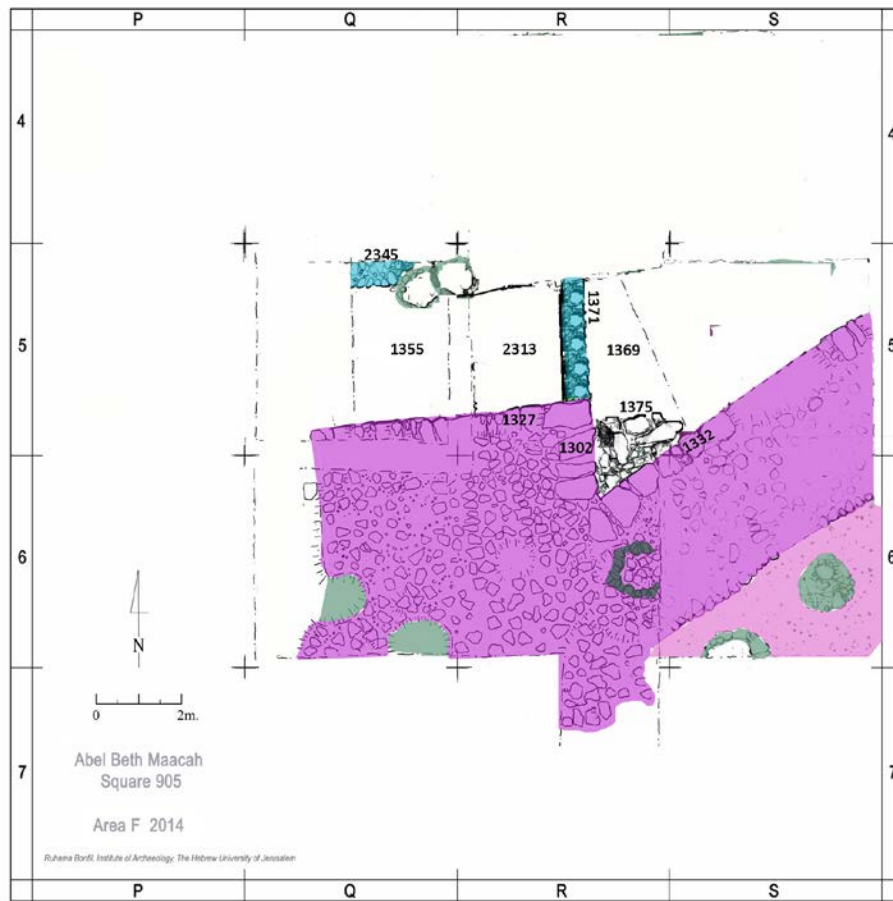
**Fig. 25. Square Q/5, looking east; red clay layer 2390 (seen as darker layer in section), with posthole, abutting Walls 2345 on the north and 1327 on the south; F2 silo 1374 and Pit 1364 in upper left corner, cutting F3 Wall 2306**



**Fig. 26. Square Q/5, looking east; F5 red clay layer 2390 with posthole (detail); note darker striations in section=top of red clay layers.**



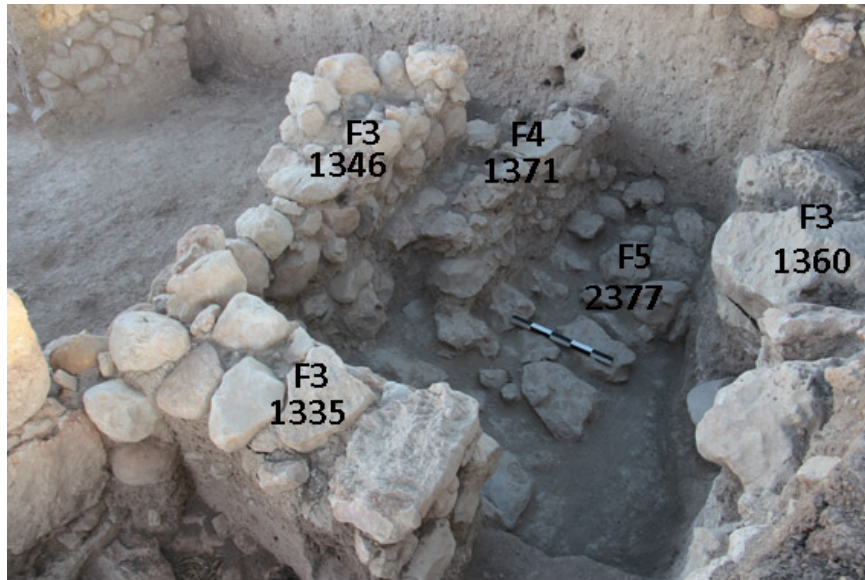
## Stratum F4



**Fig. 27. Plan of Stratum F4; purple: reuse of F6 structure; green: F1 pits.**

The elements attributed to Stratum F4 abutted the northern face of Tower 1307 and Wall 1332 at its corner with Wall 1302; this stratum was not reached in Square S/5 to the east of F3 Wall 1360. In Square R/5, these elements included a well-built north-south stone wall, 1371, that abutted the top of the third course down of the northern face of the northeastern corner of the tower and was cut on the north by Stratum F1b and F2 activity (Figs. 24, 28–29). An earthen floor, 2313, abutted the western face of this wall; a small amount of pottery found on this level included part of an LB carinated bowl against the wall (Fig. 29). A short row of stones (2386) was found against the western face of the northern end of Wall 1371; this might have been an installation on Floor 2313. Above it was yet another concentration of stones (2349, removed in the photo Fig. 29, see Fig. 37), poorly preserved and difficult to phase.





**Fig. 28. Square R/5, looking north; F4 Wall 1371 above F5 Wall 2377; F3 Walls 1346, 1335 and 1360 on top.**



**Fig. 29. Looking east at F4 Wall 1371 abutting northeastern corner of Tower 1307; carinated bowl fragment on F4 Floor 2313 (with meter stick). Stones 2386 against Wall 1371; F3 Wall 1360 in background.**

The continuation of this floor to the west is 1355; it abutted the top course of Wall 1327 in Square Q/5. In the debris on this floor (1342 in the east, 2353 in the west) was a concentration of stones, including a doughnut-shaped weight and some pottery (Figs. 30–31) and, on a lightly lower level, just above Floor 1355, was a small jug that contained a silver hoard (Figs. 32–33) leaning against the uppermost preserved course of Wall 1327 in this square (Fig. 31). This jug appears to be an imitation of a Cypriot Base Ring bilbel, supporting the Late Bronze Age date of

this context. Note the cut western end of Wall 1327, lower courses of which were revealed here slightly lower down (Fig. 10).

Pit 1364 and Silo 1374 cut the northeastern corner of this debris and somewhat into the floor as well.



**Fig. 30. Looking south; Stratum F3 debris 1358 on left (Floor 2313 not yet exposed); stones and pottery on Floor 1355 on right**



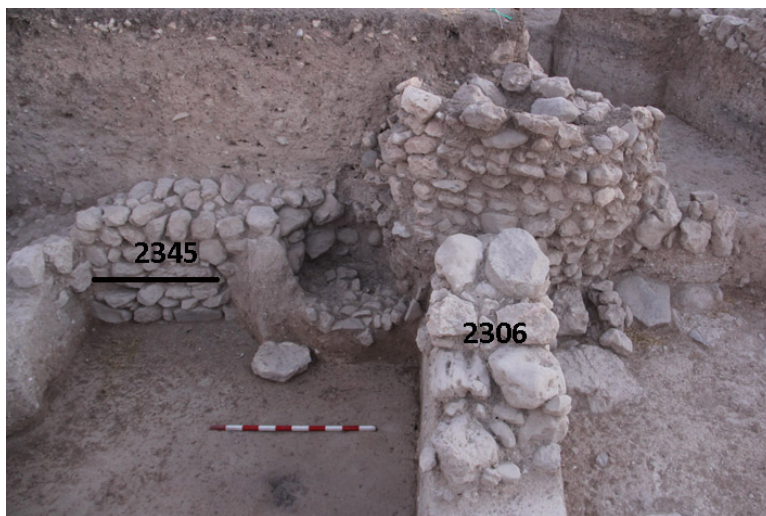
**Fig. 31. Square Q/5, looking south; stones and pottery in Debris 1342 above Floor 1355 (detail of Fig. 30).**



**Fig. 32. Square Q/5, looking east; Debris 1342 with silver hoard jug, abutting uppermost preserved course of Wall 1327 in this square.**



**Fig. 33. Jug with silver hoard, before cleaning (photo by Gabi Laron).**

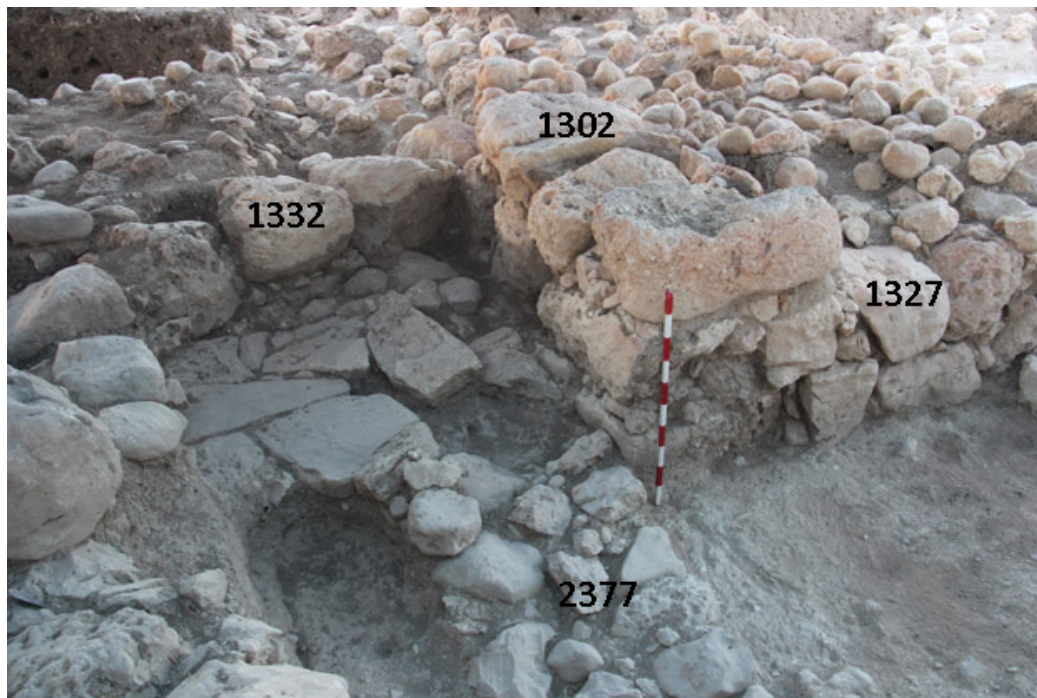


**Fig. 34. Squares Q–R/5, looking north; F5-4 Wall 2345 cut by F2 Pit 1364 on its east; level of Floor 1355 marked with line on Wall 2345**



On the north, Floor 1355 and the debris above it (1342), abutted Wall 2345, which had been cut on its east by Pit 1364 and, in fact, served as the northwestern ‘wall’ of this pit (Fig. 34). Wall 2345 was a Stratum F5 wall that had been reused in Stratum F4; it was preserved six courses high and still was not floating at the end of the 2014 season. It is possible that Wall 2345 had originally continued to the east to corner with Wall 1371, but this area was disturbed by construction in Strata F2 and F1b. On the west, a north–south line of poorly preserved stones (unnumbered) that cornered with Wall 2345 and might be the remains of a closing wall on the west. The reason for their poor preservation might be the disturbance (1314, 1336) identified here on a higher level, that appeared to penetrate down to this level as well.

### **Stones 1375**



**Fig. 35. Square R/5, looking south; flat stones in ‘pavement’ 1375, in corner of Walls 1302 and 1332; these stones cut the southern end of F5 Wall 2377.**

In the corner between Walls 1302 (Tower 1307) and 1332 (‘Wall’ 2343) was a patch of flat-topped angularly cut stones that were fitted together with the gaps between them filled with smaller stones (Fig. 35). This pavement (1375) abutted the top of the second course down of Walls 1302 and 1332; it was clearly not the original floor here and it was set into this corner at a later date. It is related to F4 mainly because it cut F5 Wall 2377 and its elevations suit the layer attributed to F4 to its north, 1369. It seems that these stones were taken from some other

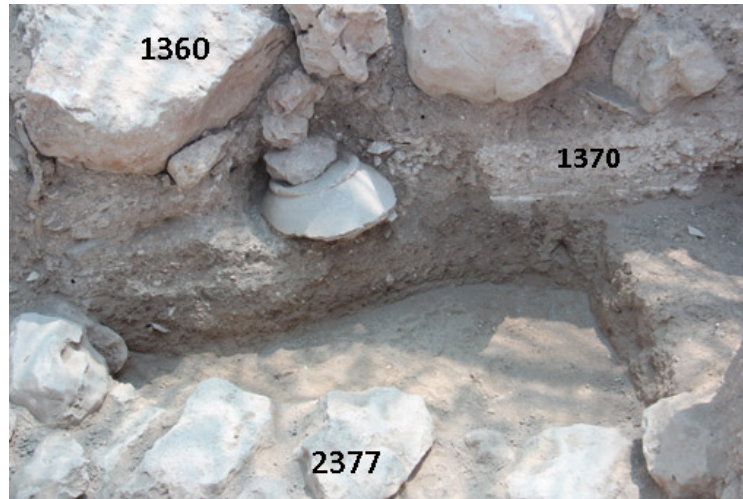
structure, as yet unexcavated, and placed here in secondary use. Above these flat stones, mainly in the southern end against Wall 1332, was a pile of smaller stones (see Fig. 23); it is not clear if they were fallen here or deliberately placed, perhaps in Stratum F3.

### **Plaster Layer 1370**

An enigmatic feature that is attributed to Stratum F4 is 1370, a 30 cm thick layer of hard white plaster whose top was found just below the floating level of F3 Wall 1360, and continued down to about the debris (1369). The top of this patch of white plaster extended some 30 cm to the west from the balk formed under Wall 1360, and appears to continue to the east below this wall (Fig. 37). On its northern end, the thick white plaster layer ends and there is an upside down base and lower body of a large, MBIIB-type krater, topped by three small stones (which might have been placed when Wall 1360 was built). This might have been some kind of installation, related to 1369 to its west; faint traces of white plaster are discerned on the northern side of the krater. Alternatively, the krater might be a foundation deposit of sorts placed when F3 Wall 1360 was built, and it cut into the plaster of 1370.

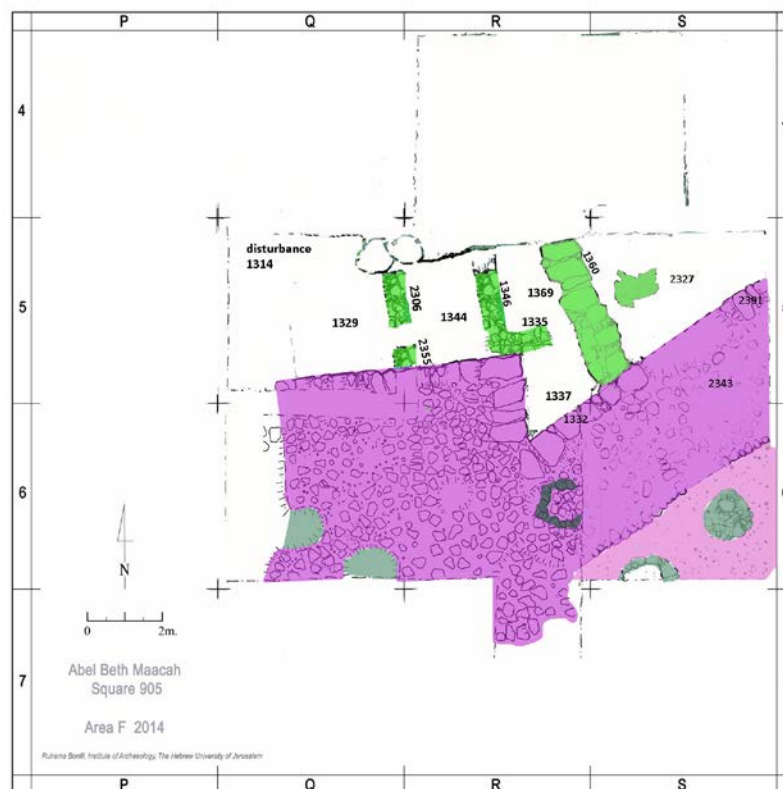


**Fig. 36. Square R/6, top of white plaster patch 1370, looking east; F3 Wall 1360 floating above it; base of large krater on northern end of the plaster patch and large bone nearby.**



**Fig. 37.** View of section under Wall 1360 with plaster patch 1370 and large krater base set into it, looking east.

### Stratum F3



**Fig. 38.** Plan of Stratum F3; purple: reuse of F6 structure; dark green: F1 pits

The remains attributed to Stratum F3 were revealed in Squares Q–S/5 and included walls and related floors abutting the northern face of Tower 1307 and Wall 1332/2390/2343 (Fig. 38).



These elements were laid just above the earthen floor (1355, 2313, see Fig. 42) and Wall 1371 of Stratum F4 in Squares Q–R/5 and were the lowest level excavated in Square S/5.

In the balk between Squares Q–R/5 were two stone walls (2306 on the north and 2355 on the south). Their floating level was just above that of F4 Floor 1355/2313, so that, in fact, the debris resting on these floors abutted the bottom of these walls (or the walls cut into that debris, but this was not discerned). Thus, although these walls were attributed to a phase later than the floor (with the silver hoard), it should be kept in mind that the proximity between the two was close.

Wall 2306 was revealed just below the stones 2305 that are understood to have been a poorly preserved F2 stone silo (see below); the differentiation between the two was not sharp, but after removal of the smaller and more irregularly laid stones on top (Figs. 39, 39a), Wall 2306 became clearer (Fig. 40). Its northern end seems to have been cut by Silo 1374; in the ca. 0.4 m wide gap between the two elements were two large stones that appeared to have been deliberately inserted into the gap, possibly as a kind of retainer (Figs. 41, 41a). Alternatively, these stones belong to the wall, but the courses above them were removed when the silo was built.



**Fig 39. Sqs Q–R/5, looking east; silo? 2305 above F3 Wall 2306**



**Fig. 40. Squares Q–R/5, looking southeast; F3 Walls 2306 and 2355 in center; F4 Wall 1371 on left.**



**Fig. 41. Cut northern end of Wall 2305, filled with two stones, up to Silo 1374.**



**Fig. 41a. Same as Fig. 41, looking west.**

Wall 2306 runs 1.25 m from its cut northern end; 0.5 m to its south is Wall 2355, a short segment (80 cm long) of a similar wall, preserved one to two courses high, that abutted the northern face of Wall 1327. It is possible that 2306 and 2355 were one and the same wall and for some reason, the stones between them are missing/robed, or that this gap had been an entranceway. A layer of debris, but not a clear floor, abutted Walls 2306 and 2355–1329 on the west (disturbed by ‘Pit’ 1314) and 1344 on the east.

Some 1.5 m to the east of Walls 2306 and 2355 was the corner of two walls – north-south 1346 and east-west 1335 (Figs.22, 28, 42); 1346 was cut on the north by F1b Building FA (Figs. 42–43) and 1335 terminated on the east with no apparent cut. Both walls were built of limestone fieldstones, composed of two rows and preserved one to two courses high. The middle of Wall 1346 was missing one row and this single-row part was designated 1362, although it is one and the same wall. Debris 1344 abuts these walls on the west and east (this number was used for both by mistake). No floor was found.



**Fig. 42. Square R/5, looking east; Walls 1346 and 1335; Wall 1360 to the east.**



**Fig. 43. Square R/5, looking east at F3 Wall 1346; note cut on left (north) and white line demarking F4 Floor 2313**



### Wall 1360

Wall 1360 is assigned to Stratum F3, although it is possible that it was added at a somewhat later phase, as it is not similar in construction style or orientation to the other walls of this level; it does suit the elevations. Wall 1360 is composed of large boulders that were evidently taken from F6 Wall 1332/2391 (see above and Fig. 16) and placed on a line running northwest-southeast and incorporated several smaller stones, mainly in the southern end, just at the corner with Wall 1332. One course of this wall was preserved. Its southern end was only one meter to the east of the eastern end of Wall 1335 and 1.3 m from Wall 1346 on the northern end. This narrow area contained a soft debris layer with stones (1344 – note that this number was also used for the debris to the west of Wall 1346); on the south, in the small area bounded by Walls 1302, 1332 and 1360, was a thin layer of debris (1337) that covered the stones of F4 pavement 1375; it is possible that the concentration of small stones piled up on the southern end of this pavement, against Wall 1332, belonged to Stratum F3. The different orientation of Wall 1360 as opposed to the others, and the narrow space it enclosed on the west, suggest that it was a secondary addition during the course of Stratum F3, perhaps laid in order to block access from the area of Squares Q–R/5 on the west and S/5 on the east.

As noted above, Wall 1360 was built on top of plaster patch 1370 and it is possible that the large krater base found upside down in this patch was a foundation deposit placed when this wall was built. Interestingly, the krater is of an MBIIB type, although the date of the context (Wall 1360, Debris 1344) is LBII. F2 Pit 1320 was built directly on top of Wall 1320 (Fig. ##).

### Square S/5

Remains attributed to Stratum F3 in Square S/5 included a debris layer (3446) above a poorly identified earthen floor (2327) that abutted the western face of Wall 1360 and the northern face of Wall 1332/2391/2343. The floor was identified mostly due to a large flat stone found in the northwestern part of this floor, identical to the stones that make up Stratum F4 Floor 1375 (Figs. 44–45); it seems that this stone was removed from that pavement (which has gaps) and placed here, possibly when Wall 1360 was built. As noted above, these stones were apparently reused from yet another, earlier structure.

To the west of this stone was a concentration of smaller stones, possibly part of a stone pavement. To the south of the flat stone was a small basalt stone with a rounded depression surrounded by wide ‘frame’; its base was rounded and the top showed traces of use (very shiny surface on top) (Figs. 45–46). It is not clear what that use was; it was suggested that it might have belonged to a potter’s wheel. To its south was a stone that might have been a pestle.



**Fig. 44. Floor 2327 (with meter stick), looking southwest; Wall 1360 bordering this space on the west; robbed-out Wall 2391/1332; large stone in lower right.**



**Fig. 45. Square S/5, detail of flat stone in Locus 2327; note stone with hole to its south (see Fig. 46).**



**Fig. 46. Closeup of stone with depression (Fig. 45).**

Under the second stone from the east in Wall 2391 that bordered this space on the south, just before the gap of the missing stones in this wall, was the large part of a bowl (Fig. 47). Since it was placed between the uppermost and second courses (as preserved), it does not seem a likely candidate as a foundation deposit, which is usually placed under the founding course of a wall. On the other hand, the position of the bowl, ‘stuck’ between the stones of the wall, seems to point to it having been deliberately placed there.

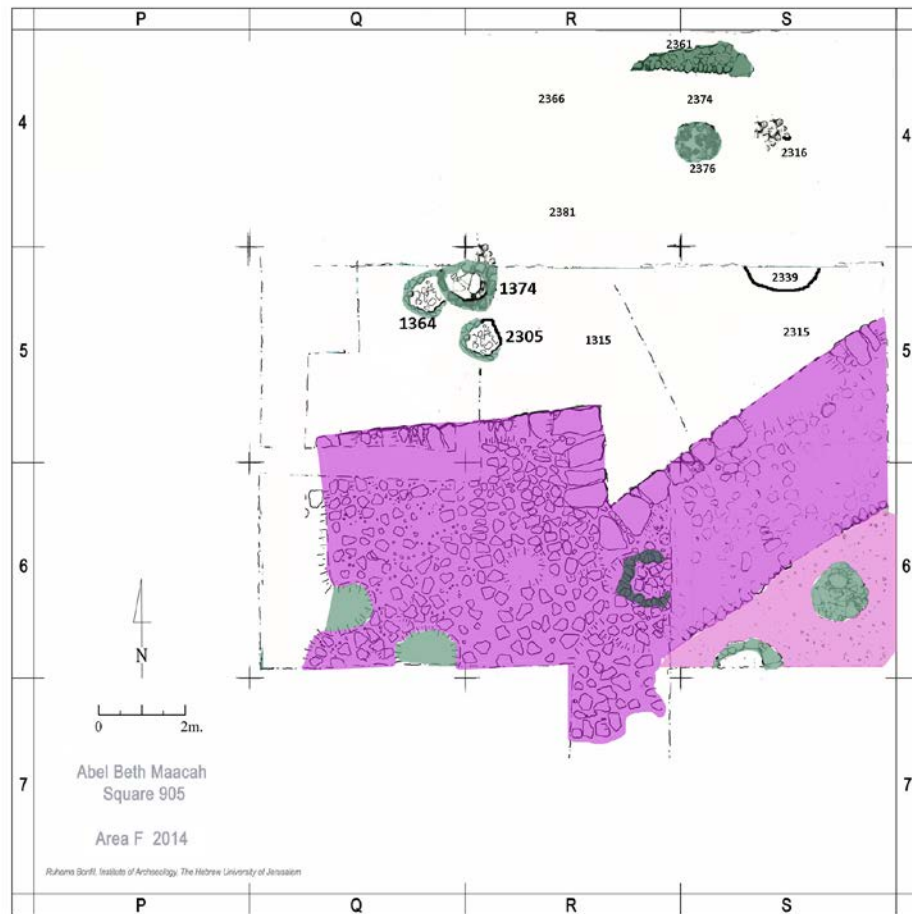
No border was found for Space 2327 on the north or east; F2 Silo 2339 cuts it on the north.



**Fig. 47. Square S/5; northern face of Wall 2391 with ‘bowl’ foundation deposit.**



## Stratum F2



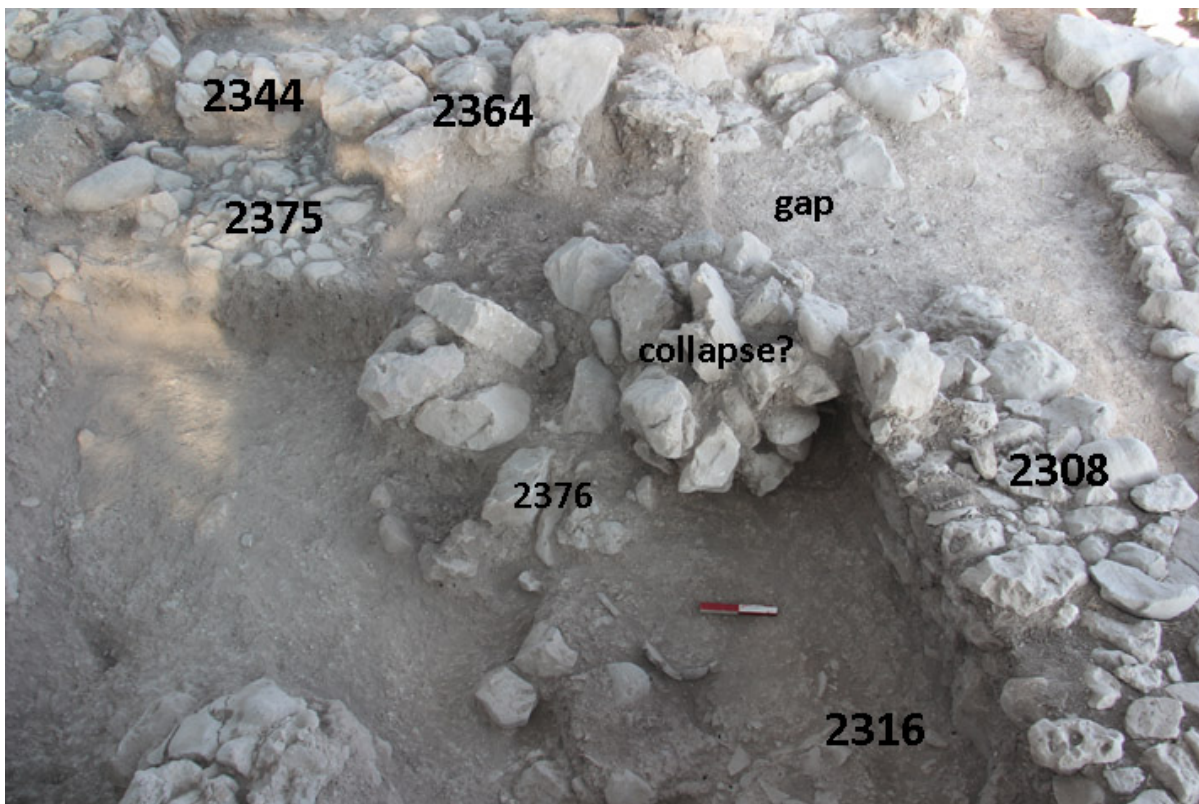
**Fig. 48. Plan of Stratum F2; purple: reused F6 structure.**

Stratum F2 contained relatively patchy remains of an occupation layer above the final Late Bronze phase, F3. The elements attributed to this stratum are, for the most part, difficult to correlate with each other, as they are dispersed throughout the area and their attribution to this stratum is based mainly on their relative position and elevations. However, it should be kept in mind that the features to the south of F1b Building FA, particularly in Squares R–S/5 that are ascribed here to F2, might have been contemporary with that building, as they are not clearly superimposed by F1b elements. Their ascription to F2 is based mainly on elevations, with a guiding line being the level of Floor 2316 (364.20–364.12 m), the only clear floor of F2.

The elements ascribed to F2 include: a floor with smashed pottery and some traces of burning that might relate to a wall (Square S/4), a layer of soft debris on an ash layer (Square R/4), an installation (Square R/5) and several silos and pits (Squares Q–S/5).

***Floor 2316 and Wall 2361(Square S/4)***

Below Room 2375 of Stratum F1b Building FA, excavation proceeded down to a level with a hard-packed clay floor (2316) at 364.20 m, which was found ca. 0.20 m below the floating level of F1 Wall 2308 to its north (Figs. 49–50). On this floor was a 0.20 m thick layer of debris (2369) containing smashed pottery, concentrated mainly in the northern part of the area and laying close to the floor. Under this concentration of pottery was a layer of loosely laid small stones, which might have been part of the floor or its foundation. Excavation to the south of the pottery concentration proceeded down to 364.12 m, and it seems that the entire area slopes down to the south. On the northwestern part of Floor 2316 was a round pile of stones (2376) that appears to represent a silo; its top layer contained a pile of stones between it and Wall 2308 to the north (Fig. 49), although this appears to have been collapse from the wall and not part of the silo. The top of the stones of 2376 was on level with F1b stone floor 2375, while its bottom, paved with stones, was on the level of the smashed pottery on the floor.



**Fig. 49. Pile of stones on top of F2 silo 2376, looking west.**



**Fig. 50. F2 Room 2316, looking north; smashed pottery on Floor 2316; note stones below pottery. Left: F1b stone pavement 2375; F2 stone pit/silo 2376 (after stone collapse above was removed), excavated to its base level. F2 Wall 2361 to north of floating F1b Wall 2308.**

Although no direct contact was uncovered, it is suggested that Floor 2316 had continued to the north under Wall 2308, to abut the southern face of Wall 2361. In the narrow area between floating Wall 2308 and Wall 2361 is a layer of debris (2374) that might be the continuation of Debris 2369, based mainly on elevations. Wall 2361 ran on an east–west line (as opposed to Wall 2308, which is northeast-southwest) from the eastern balk for ca. 3.0 m, where its western end seems to have been cut by F1 Wall 2360 or by the laying of stones 2380 in the courtyard/street here (see below) (Fig. 51). It was constructed differently from the nearby F1 walls, composed of three rows of small stones. Incorporated into its eastern part was a large flat-topped stone, which might have been inserted at a later phase, since it was just underneath a smaller stone that we attribute to Stratum F1b, demonstrating the proximity of the strata here. It is possible that the extant top of Wall 2361 was visible in the matrix of the street/open area that ran here in Stratum F1 and was reused as a pavement in the street, when, for some reason, these two stones were incorporated into it. The exposure of Wall 2361 was limited, as it ran in the narrow area between F1 Walls 2308 and 2360; however, the elevations and orientation suggest that it should be attributed to Stratum F2.





**Fig. 52 Square S/4, looking east; F2 Wall 2361 on right, with later(?) large stone incorporated in it; F1b Wall 2308 in center, covering northern face of Wall 2361.**

#### **Square R/4—Loci 2366 and 2381**

Excavation under the western end of F1b Building FA reached a debris layer ascribed to F2.

Under F1b stone floor 2317, surrounding walls 2308 and 2338, and courtyard 2322 north of Room 2317, was a 0.4-m thick layer of soft brown debris with chalky inclusions that rested on a gray ash layer (Fig. 53) 2381 (including the ash) under the stone floor in the room and 2366 under the courtyard to the north of the room, although they are one and the same layer. They are equivalent in phasing to Loci 2311, 2369, 2316 in Square S/4 and the ash layer may represent the same destruction(?) event, although the excavated area was too small to determine this and it is possible that this layer is a fill laid on the burnt ashy layer in preparation for the construction of Building FA. The debris and ash layer slope down to the south, just like the layers in Square S/5. Under the gray ash layer was similar brown-gray debris (2394) that is attributed to F3, although it might, in part, be a fill laid in preparation for the construction of the F2 elements.



**Fig. 53.** Square R/4, looking northeast at excavation below corner of F1b Walls 2308 and 2338. F2 Debris 2381 on an ash layer and F3 fill(?) 2394 below; 2366 can be seen to the north of Wall 2308.

#### **Squares O–R/4–Silo 1374 and Pit 1364**

At the southwestern end of Building FA were a silo (1374) and an adjoining pit (1364); their relationship to the building remains ambivalent (Figs. 52–53). In the present report, they are attributed to Stratum F2, based mainly on position and elevations. However, it is possible that they should be attributed to Stratum F1b, contemporary with that building.

The question is whether stone floor 2317 and Wall 1309 of that building covered or abutted the silo. This was difficult to determine; on the top of the silo was a rather haphazard layer of large field stones covering its round opening (Figs. 52–53, 55); excavation slightly into the top of the silo showed that a few of these stones ‘fallen’ inside. The relation of these stones to the silo remained unclear; it is possible that they are collapse from the western end of Wall 1309, or that they are a capping/cover placed deliberately over the top of the silo. Another point that remained unresolved was the relationship of stone floor 2317 in Building FA to the top of the silo. It is not clear whether the southwestern end of this floor covered the top of the eastern side of the silo or abutted the ‘rim’ of the silo at this point; this area was disturbed and we could not ascertain this relationship for certain. A section in the southern part of the silo will help resolve this question in the future. In favor of the silo having been earlier than the building is its position vis a vis Wall 1309, the southern wall of the building. Although this wall is missing here, it most likely continued and if so, would have covered part of the silo. See Fig. 55a for a possible foundation trench of Silo 1374 (on its right) that is covered by stones that might have belonged to Wall 1309. However, it cannot be ruled out that Building FA ended at this point and the silo adjoins its southwestern corner. If the former scenario, then the silo belongs to Stratum F2. If the latter, then it was in use in F1b (although possibly first built in F2).





**Fig. 52.** Looking east; Stratum F1b Building FA in upper left, F2 Silo 1374 and Pit 1364 in center foreground.



**Fig. 53.** F1b stone floor 2317, northeast of Silo 1376, looking east; large stones on top of silo—collapse of Wall 1309 or covering of silo by the floor?



### Silo 1374

Silo 1374 is known only from its external contour, as its interior remained unexcavated. It is located in the northeastern corner of Square Q/5, and its northwestern side remains inside the unexcavated balk; all other sides have been exposed. It is rounded and has a diameter of ca. 1.5 m; it stands ca. 1.0 m high (Figs. 52–54). The walls of the silo are constructed of small and medium limestones, with occasional basalt stones, tightly packed in rather irregular courses. This is particularly so for the western ‘face’; the southern and eastern ‘faces’ are less well preserved. This silo had not been freestanding, and was, for the most part, subterranean, although it seems that the upper 0.3 m was above ground and from the level of the top of Pit 1364 (1333; see below) down, it was below ground.



**Photo 54a. Looking north at Silo 1374; F3 Wall 2306 on left and F4 Wall 1371 on right; note possible foundation trench of silo to its east, capped(?) by stones (of Wall 1309?)**

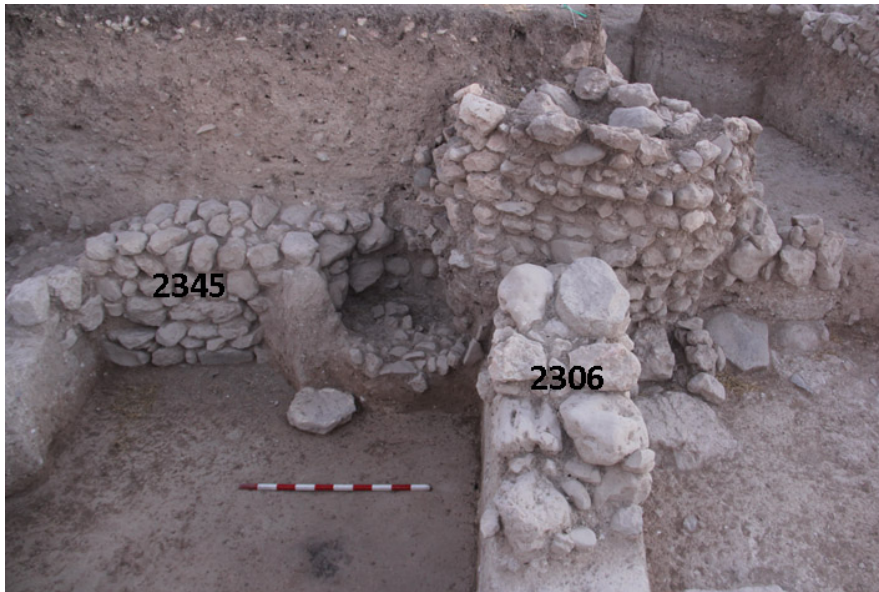


**Fig. 54b. Silo 1374, looking north; F-3 Wall 2306 in foreground (cut by silo); area east of silo (right) – after excavating the F3 debris here that is seen in Fig. 54a.**

On the south, Silo 1374 cuts into debris layers (1329, 1342) and a wall (2306) attributed to earlier phases (F3-F4). The bottom of the silo is on the level of F4 Floor 1355 (with the silver hoard). As noted above, when the builders of the silo cut the northern end of Wall 2306, they apparently inserted a few large stones in the gap, possibly as a buttress for the bottom of the silo. On the north, F2 debris and ash layer 2381 and F3 debris 2394 abut it, although it is not clear whether the silo cut into them rather than abutting. Silo 1374 was on the same line and elevation as Silo 2339 to the east in Square S/5 (see below). Note also the suggestion that a concentration of stones (2305) on top of Wall 2306 was yet another silo, which was positioned close to the southern face of Silo 1374 (see below). Adjoining the silo on its western side was Pit 1364.

### **Pit 1364**

Pit 1364, adjoining the western side of Silo 1374 (Figs. 53, 55) such that its stones wall comprise the eastern wall of the pit, is 1.0 m in diameter, and is composed of three parts: a stone capping (1333), a bell-shaped pit (1364) and a stone-lined bottom (2367). The uppermost stones of 1333 are at 364.37 m, the top of the pit is at 364.15 m, and the stone base is at 363.22; thus the entire pit is 1.1 m deep. Pit 1364 is cut into the eastern end of F3 Wall 2345 such that its stones comprise the northwestern border of the round pit from about its middle down to its base. Thus, the pit is 'lined' with stones of Silo 1374 on the east and (partially) of Wall 2345 on the west, but was dug into the earth without a stone lining on the south and north. It is not clear whether the silo and pit were built together, or whether one was earlier than the other. In favor of the silo being later is the fact that it seems to cut the pit on its east. However, the stone capping of the pit (see below) abuts the silo's western side, suggesting that the pit was dug after the silo was dug. It is clear that Pit 1364 cut F4-5 Wall 2345. Alternatively, the pit existed, the silo cut into it, and then the pit was 'closed' with the stone capping, putting it out of use.



**Fig. 55. Squares Q–R/5, looking north at Silo 1374 and Pit 1364, which cuts into Walls 2345 (left) and 2306 (center).**

The top of the pit was covered by Stones 1333, a circle of small angular flat stones standing ca. 0.2 m high, enclosing a layer of similar small flat stones laid closely together (Figs. 56–57). These stones seemed as though they had been part of one slab that was smashed. The position of this circle of stones just above Pit 1364 indicates that they were related, although the proposal that they were a capping for the pit might allude to their being a phase later than the actual use of the pit itself (as noted above, perhaps when Silo 1374 was built). A few sherds and bones were found above the flat stones, and just below them were a complete jug, part of a collared rim pithos, and several pestles (Figs. 58–59), located at the top of the bell-shaped pit. The rest of the pit contained only a few sherds (including an LB cooking pot rim) and bones. The stone-lined bottom of the pit (2367) was composed of closely laid field stones, a few of them similar to the flat ones used in 1333 to cap the top of the pit (Fig. 55). The bottom of the pit penetrated down to Stratum F5 Locus 2379.





**Fig. 56.** Square Q/5, looking east; Stones 1333 (top of Pit 1364) emerging in Debris 1315; note top of Silo 1374 behind the pit and the top of F5 Wall 1327 on the right (south).



**Fig. 57.** Stones 1333, capping the top of Pit 1364.



**Fig. 58.** Top of Pit 1364 with vessels (collared rim jar and jug); stones of 1333 above partially removed. Stones of Silo 1374, not entirely exposed, adjoining the pit on the east.



**Fig. 59. Pit 1364 – jug and pestles, following removal of collared rim jar, looking east. Silo 1374 in back left.**

### **Silo 2339**

Above the debris and floor attributed to Stratum F3 (2327) was a layer of soft debris that was, in fact, topsoil. In this debris, the top of yet another large stone silo emerged, 2339; this was a large round concentration of stones (ca. 1.5 m diameter), its northern part remained unexcavated in the balk. It is similar in size and elevation, and is on the same line, as Silo 1374 in Square Q/5, seven meters to the west, (described above) (Fig. 60). It was abutted by a layer of loose brown-gray earth (2315; 364.44–363.97 m) under topsoil.

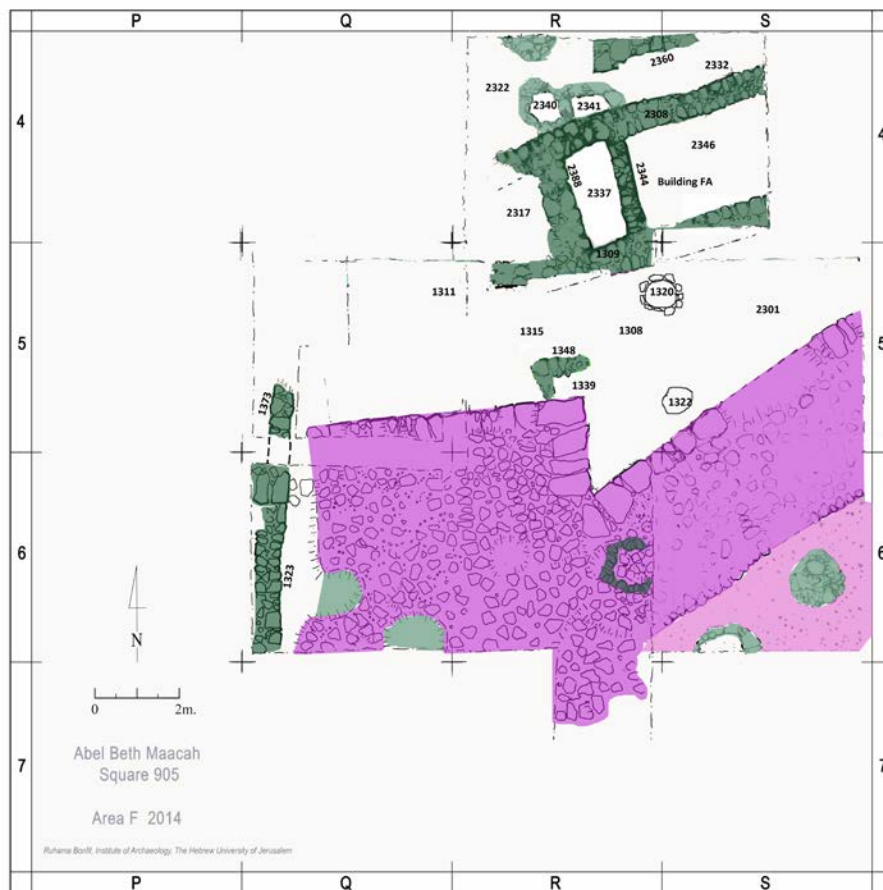


**Fig. 60. Square S/5, looking west; stone silo 2339 on right; F3 layer below.**

## STRATUM F1

Two phases were identified, designated F1a and F1b (Figs. 61, 82). The remains attributed to Stratum F1b, the main phase, comprise 1) part of a building and related silos and pits in Squares R-S/4-5; 2) silos and pits cut into the Middle Bronze Tower 1307, Wall 2343 and rampart 2378/2388 in Squares Q-R-S/5-6; and 3) a wall and silo/pit in Squares Q/5-6. These remains were revealed under a thin topsoil layer. The remains attributed to F1a, the latest phase, are especially patchy due to erosion; they include segments of two walls, part of a stone floor, and several silos or pits.

### Stratum F1b



**Fig. 61. Plan of Stratum F-1b.**

The elements related to Stratum F1b, the main phase of the uppermost stratum in Area F, comprise part of a substantial southwest-northeast building (FA) and a series of debris layers,



silos, pits and installations to its northwest and south. A number of these elements are cut into the fortification system ascribed to Stratum F5, showing that this system was no longer operative at the time of Stratum F-1b. Building FA was built directly above the remains of Stratum F2 and, this proximity made it difficult to allocate certain installations and pits to either of these strata with certainty in those areas where the two were not superimposed, as detailed below.

### **Building FA– Squares R-S/4–5**

Part of a building oriented northeast–southwest was revealed just under topsoil in Squares R–S/4 (Fig. 62). It continues to the east into the unexcavated half of Square S/4 and to the west into Square Q/4. In the narrow area excavated to the north of the building is what might be an open area, containing pits and silos. Bordering this activity on the north of its eastern part is a segment of a wall that might represent the southern part of yet another building.



**Fig. 62. F-1b Building FA in foreground (Squares R–S/4), looking south; Rooms 2375, 2337 and 2317 from east to west. MB fortifications in background.**

The excavated part of the building is composed of three rooms (Fig. 62): **2375**, a rectangular room on the east, whose eastern end is beyond the limits of the excavation, **2337**, a small narrow room in the middle, and **2317**, on the west, whose western border is beyond the excavation limits. The walls are all made of stones, with no traces of a brick superstructure, nor of a brick collapse nearby. This suggests that the entire building had been built of stone, which is

corroborated by the large amount of fallen stones found in this area. The northern and southern walls of the building are substantial and well-built. Wall 1309 on the south runs ca. 6.5 m and is ca. 0.65 m wide, built of a combination of medium and large basalt and limestones, both fieldstones and roughly worked stones, filled in with smaller stones between them; it is cut on its western end (see Stratum F0), and west of this cut are a few stones that seem to represent its poorly preserved continuation. At this point, these stones reach Silo 1374, but the relationship between the two is not clear (see further below). Wall 2308 on the north is 0.65–0.7 m wide and runs for ca. 7.0 m until the western balk of Square R/4, although its southern face on this end is cut by a later disturbance. Some 2.6 m from the eastern balk was a gap in the wall, where the upper preserved course was missing; the lower course was revealed below this gap and might have served as a threshold. This supposed entranceway was online with stone floor 2375 in the eastern room of Building FA and more or less on line with the western end of Wall 2360 on the north. If indeed this is an entranceway, it is possible that it was opened up at a later stage of use of Wall 2308 and was not an original constructional feature of this wall. On the other hand, a stone pile just to the south of this gap (see Fig. 49) appears to be collapse, possibly from this part of the wall.

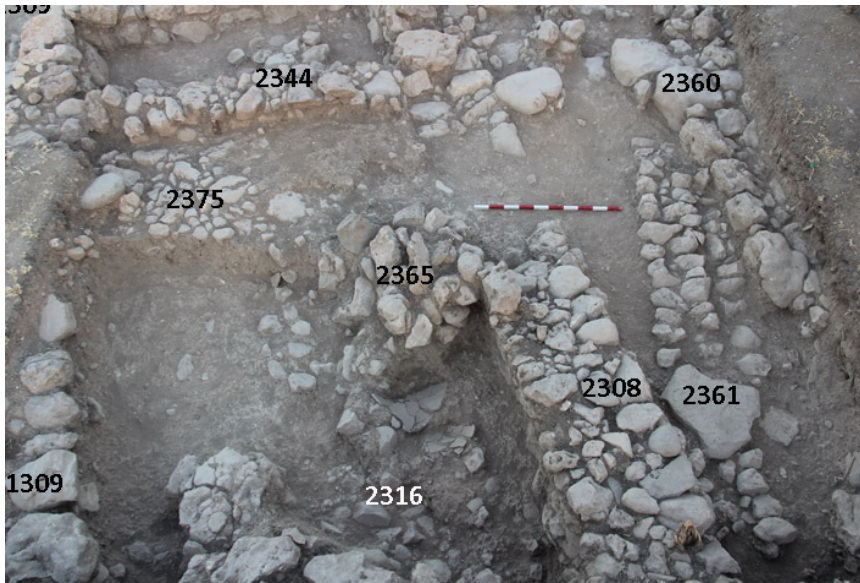
The western inner cross wall, 2338, is substantial, 0.7 wide, while the eastern inner cross wall, 2344, was narrower, 0.5 m wide, and was possibly added at a somewhat later stage during the lifetime of the building, as it seems to be built on top of the stone pavement 2337 and 2375 (see below). If so, then the eastern room would have originally been (at least) 5.2 m long, and possibly the same size as Room 2375 on the east.

According to this plan, there was no access between the rooms, and it was possible that each room had its own separate entrance from the north. If so, then such an entrance into the western room 2317 would have been located to the west of the excavation border. Alternatively, the rooms were entered from an upper level by ladders.

Such a building plan, of two parallel, wide sturdy walls, internally subdivided into long chambers, recalls casemate walls. The position of this structure near the southern end of the mound, overlooking the Hula Valley, might allude that it was part of a fortification or the external wall of a citadel. If so, this would be notable, since this structure is immediately north of the mighty Middle Bronze Age tower, rampart and wall that apparently were still in use during all of the Late Bronze Age, but were discontinued in the Iron Age I (Stratum F1), judging by the many pits and silos of this period cut into it.

***Room 2375 (Square S/4)***

This room (2.25 x at least 3.25 m) is bordered on the north by Wall 2308, on the south by Wall 1309, on the west by Wall 2344; its eastern border is presently beyond the limit of the excavated area (Figs. 63–64). Underneath the poorly preserved remains attributed to Stratum F1a (see above) was a layer of soft debris with many stones (2372) that rested on a stone pavement (2375; 364.44 m) running along Wall 2344 on the west, abutted by a soft debris layer with stones (2346) on the east (364.40 m). On the northern end of Floor 2375 was a disturbance that also cut into Wall 2308 at this point (see below).



**Fig. 63. Stratum F1b Building FA, Room 2375, looking west, Square S/4 (excavated down to the level of Stratum F2 in east–2316); Center: F1a stone collapse 2365, on top of F2 Installation 2376; note gap in Wall 2308 and Floor 2375 (Stratum F0).**

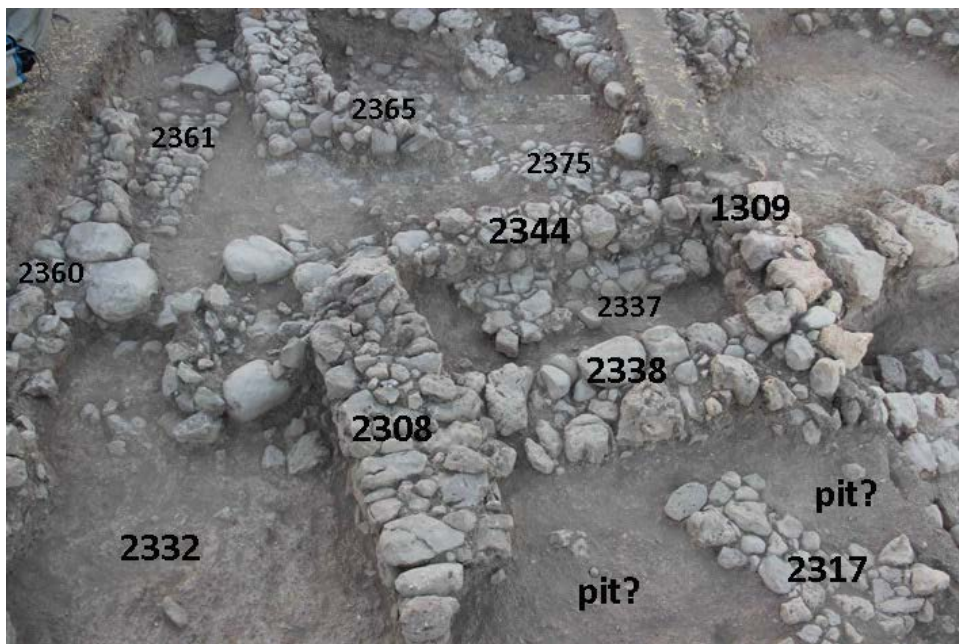


**Fig. 64. F1b stone floor 2375 and Wall 2344, looking west; Wall 2338 in background and Wall 1309 on left.**



#### ***Room 2337 (Square R/4)***

The middle room, bordered by Walls 2308 on the north, 1309 on the south, 2338 on the west and 2344 on the east, was very narrow (1.0 x 2.5 m) and had no entrance (Figs. 62, 65). A layer of debris (2318) rested on a floor (2337) composed of a row of stones on the east, along Wall 2344 (although they did not reach Wall 2308 in the north), and an earthen layer on the west. The debris contained several grinding stones. It is possible that Wall 2344 was built on top of a stone pavement, represented by 2375 in Room 2316 on the east (described above) and 2337 on the west; this would indicate that the division into a small and large room was secondary to the construction of the building. This will be determined with the removal of Wall 2344 in the future. This room contained only a small amount of pottery, bones and shells.

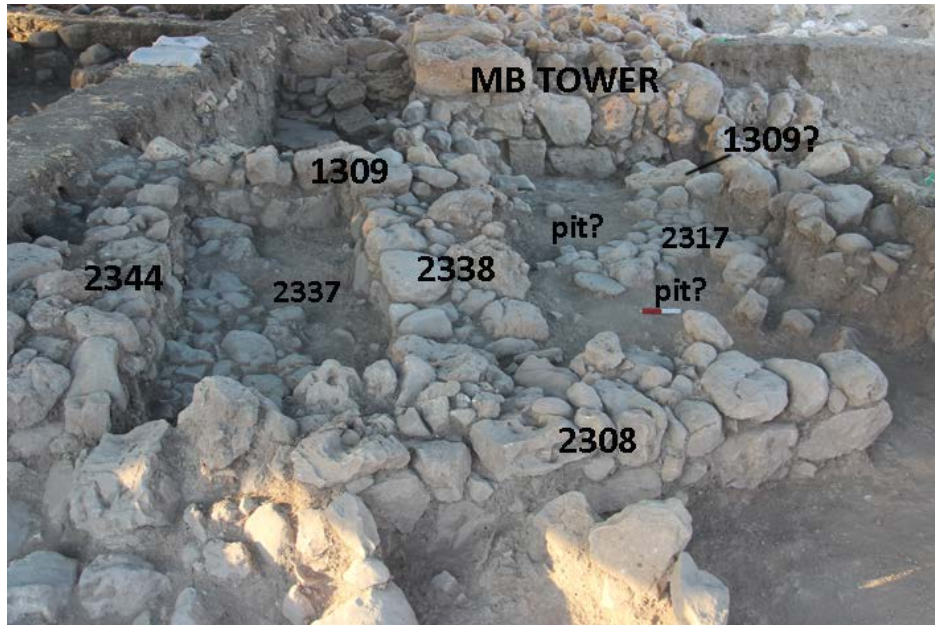


**Fig. 65. Center: Room 2337 in Stratum F-1b Building FA, looking east, Square R/4.**

#### ***Room 2317 (Square R/4)***

The western room (2.25 x at least 2.0 m) was bordered by Walls 2308 on the north, 1309 on the south and 2344 on the east; its western border was beyond the limits of the excavation (Figs. 62, 66–67). However, the excavated western end appears to have been disturbed by activity that was difficult to define and attributed to Stratum F0 (see below); the western end of the walls and part of the stone floor of the room (2317) were missing. The southern face of the western end of Wall 2308 was cut on a rounded contour that can be seen in the northern part of the stone floor, indicating the possibility of a pit. The same can be said of the southern part of the room: the western end of Wall 1309 and the southern part of stone floor 2317 might be cut by yet another

large pit. Several large stones found abutting the western side of the top of Silo 1374 (see above) might be the continuation of Wall 1309 after the cut of this assumed pit.



**Fig. 66. Stratum F-1 Building FA, looking south, Rooms 2337 and 2317. Note disturbances (F0) in stone floor 2317 and Walls 2308, 1309.**



**Fig. 67. Stratum F1b Building FA Room 2317, Square R/4, looking west; note cut in stone floor and Wall 1309 (Stratum F0); large stones in west—possible continuation and collapse of Wall 1309. Left: Stratum F3 Wall 2306 cut by Silo 1374 (not seen in photo).**

Despite these disturbances, Floor 2317 seems to have been a fine stone pavement. Several grinding stone fragments and olive pits, as well as sherds, flint and bones, were found in the debris above the stones. On its western end, just in the balk, is a concentration of stones that might be the continuation of 1309 and collapse from this wall towards the north.

The relationship of stone floor 2317 and Wall 1309 to Silo 1374 is discussed above.

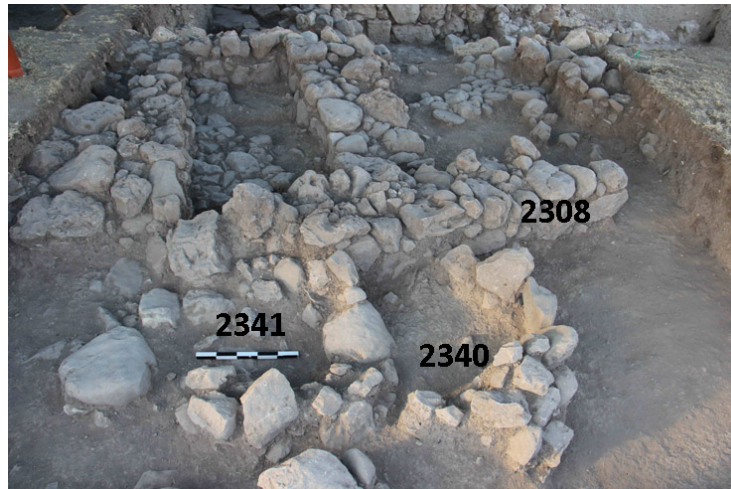
### **Open Area/Street North of Building FA**

To the north of Building FA (northern end of Squares R–S/4) was what seems to have been an open area or street/passageway, running between this building and the structure to its north, represented presently by Wall 2360. Wall 2360 runs parallel to Wall 2308 for ca. 3 m from the eastern balk; its western end is either disturbed or possibly, it is a corner with a wall that continues to the north beyond the border of the excavation. If indeed the gap in Wall 2308 (described above) was not a later disturbance, but rather an entranceway into Room 2375, then there would have been direct access from the eastern room of the building to this street or courtyard. The assumed entranceway is on line with the western end of Wall 2360, further supporting the proposal that the latter represents the corner of another building. However, it is possible that the ‘entrance’ is, in fact, no more than a disturbance, so that the open area/street was approached from the west or east.

The area contains a debris layer whose lowest part, 364.40 m, appears to represent a surface: 2332 in the east (Square S/4) and 2322 in the west (Square R/4). As noted above, the top of F2 Wall 2361 protruded into the surface of 2332 and was apparently utilized as a stone paving in this level; at this time, the large stone in the eastern part of Wall 2361 might have been inserted (Fig. 63). On the western surface were two adjoining stone-lined pits – 2340 and 2341 – that abutted the northern face of Wall 2308, just west of the end(?) of Wall 2360.

Pits 2340 and 2341 were round circles composed of one to two courses of small field stones, ca. 1.0 m diameter, that shared a central wall (Fig. 68). It is not clear whether they were built together or whether, quite likely, 2341 was added to 2340 at a somewhat later phase; 2340 was better built than 2341. Both were built against the northern face of Wall 2308 and stood only 0.1–0.15 m high; they were filled with soft debris, containing few sherds and bones. Pit 2340 contained an iron sickle blade in its bottom and was built partly on top of F2 debris/fill 2366 and partly on top of 2380, a layer of loosely laid small and medium (2380) that appears to have been a stone flooring in this open area. Pit 2341 was built on top of these stones. A flat-topped stone in the center of 2380 is similar to the one that was inserted into Wall 2361 to the north, further supporting the secondary nature of the latter stone. Three large rounded stones were found on the eastern end of Pit 2340; two of these were placed opposite each other, one against Wall 2360 and the other against Wall 2308, just west of the entrance in that wall. A third, similar stone was found near the western end of Wall 2360. Their purpose is not known; possibly they were collapsed from the nearby walls, although they appear to have been intentionally placed.





**Fig. 68. Stratum F1b Pits 2340 and 2341, Square R/4, looking south.**



**Iron blade from Pit 2340**



**Fig. 69. Squares R-S/4, looking south at area between Walls 2308 (right) and 2360 (left); Center: stones 2380 under Pit 2340.**

### **Squares R–S/5–Courtyard(?)**

To the south of Building FA was a layer of debris with associated installations, pits and silos. These are attributed to Stratum F1b based mainly on its elevations, although it should not be ruled out that they had belonged to F1b. A layer of dark brown soil with chalky white inclusions (1308, 1315) abutted the following in Square R/5:

*Pit 1320*: a round (ca. 1.0 m diameter) pit, preserved 40 cm deep, whose perimeter was lined with stones. It was empty aside from a few bones and sherds. The bottom of the pit was built 15 cm above the top of the stones of Stratum F3 Wall 1360 (Fig. 70).



**Fig. 70. Pit 1320 on top of Wall 1360.**

*Pit 1322*: a round (.5 m diameter) concentration of stones, ca. 0.2 m deep; few sherds and bones.

*Pit 1340*: an irregularly shaped pit, ca. 0.2 m deep (364.23–364.00 m) with few sherds and bones, as well as a bronze Scythian arrowhead in it, that cut into 1337, a layer of debris on top of a flat-stone floor (1375) attributed to F3. Finds in this debris around the pit—mostly bones, with a small amount of pottery and flint and a bronze fragment, a spindle whorl, a ceramic stopper and an iron arrowhead—might be associated with the pit.

*Installation 1348*: an L-shaped stone formation whose east–west arm was composed of smooth oval basalt stones, while its north–south arm was composed of limestone fieldstones (Fig. 71). Against its southern face was a concentration of pottery (1339), including a fragment of a collared rim jar and body sherds of a storage jar. These stones and the pottery were built on top of a layer of soft dark soil (1372) that might have been a fill laid above the F3 elements below, although its concentration mainly under this installation may allude to it having been related to it in some way, perhaps a pit whose rim was surrounded by the stones of 1348.



**Fig. 71. F2 Stones 1348 and concentration of pottery (1339) against its southern face**

*Installation 1330*: a small (0.30 m diameter) flat round basalt stone surrounded by small unworked stones, making the entire installation some 0.40 m in diameter (Fig. 72). A number of grindstones were found nearby, as well as a concentration of sherds to the west that might be restorable. Although the nature of this small installation, perhaps used to grind or pound small amounts of grain, suggests that it sat on a floor, no such element could be defined within the soft debris of Locus 1315 that surrounded it.



**Fig. 72. Installation 1330 in right foreground, looking north; stone collapse (F1b 1308); pottery on left in Locus 1315.**

On the northern end of Locus (courtyard?) 2322 was yet another stone silo, 2350 (ca. 0.8 m diameter); its northern half was in the balk and since its top protruded in topsoil, it was considered to have been used during the F1a occupation, although this is not certain and it possibly was used in F1b as well. This silo remained unexcavated.

### ***Squares Q–S/5***

In the balk between Squares Q–R/5, on top of Stratum F3 Wall 2306, was a patch of flat-topped stones (2305) (Fig. 73) that had a roughly round contour, above a concentration of medium sized



fieldstones with a somewhat rounded contour that might represent yet another pit or silo; the stones of this assumed silo were set on top of F3 Wall 2306 (Figs. 39, 74). The flat stones somewhat recall stones 1333 that capped Pit 1364 just to the northwest.



**Fig. 73. Stones 2305 (top of silo?) in balk between Squares Q–S/5, looking north.**



**Fig. 74. Squares Q–R/5, looking northeast; stones 2305 on top of F3 Wall 2306—possibly silo**

To the west of Silo 2305, in Square Q/5, was a layer (1311) that continued from topsoil down to the top of F2 Pit 1364 (see above); this layer of hard brown chalky debris was disturbed, mainly on its west, by an area of soft gray earth mixed with many stones that contained many sherds, bones and stones (1314), understood to have been a later disturbance (see Stratum F0).

To the east of Silo 2305, in Square R/5, was a layer (1308) of soft debris and many stones, probably collapse from Building FA. Several installations and pits related to this debris. A pit related to this debris is 1320: (on the border between Squares R–S/5 and built directly on top of the stones of F3 Wall 1360 (Figs #). It was composed of a large circle of stones (1.0–1.1 m in diameter, 0.4 m deep). Inside the pit was soft brown earth, very few pottery sherds and bones. The flimsy walls were composed of two ‘courses’ of small unworked stones, with a thin layer of soil between them.

In Square S/5 was a debris layer (2301) that appears to be the continuation of 1308. The top of F2 Silo 1229 protruded into the lower part of this debris.

### ***Pits and Silos Cut into MB Fortifications***

Several pits and silos were cut into elements attributed to the earliest stratum in Area F, to which the Middle Bronze Age fortifications belong (Tower 1307, Rampart 2378, Wall 2343). They are described here as belonging to Stratum F1b, although their elevations point to the possibility that they belonged to F2. From east to west, these are:

### **Square S/6**

The following pits/silos were cut into the rampart (2378) and fortification wall (2343):

*Pit 2385.* The northern half of a round pit (1.0 m in diameter; 364.29–363.55 m) in Square S/6; the southern half was not discerned. It is stone-lined and cut into the stones of fortification wall 2343. It contained some pottery, bones, flint.

*Pit 2382.* The northern half of a round pit (1.0 m in diameter; 364.08/363.71–362.81 m) lined with stones; only part of its interior was excavated, yielding some sherds, bones and flints, and an intact pyxis (missing its rim). It was cut into the chalky layer of Rampart 2378 (Fig. 75).

*Silo 2384.* A circle of stones, 1.0 m in diameter (363.83–362.89 m), cut into the chalky layer of Rampart 2378 (Fig. 75). The stones are mostly medium sized, with a few large stones in the top layer. Curiously, the layer of brown earth (2378) in the upper part of the rampart did not seem to have been disturbed above the top layer of the silo; however, since it is assumed that this brown layer is part of the rampart construction, and the silo is definitely a later element, it seems that we simply did not note this cut/disturbance. The stones were sectioned almost down the middle, showing that this was not hollow, but rather composed entirely of stones. When dismantling the stones, a small amount of sherds, bones and flint was found.



Fig. 75. Square S/6, looking south; Pit 2382 and Silo 2383 cut into rampart (2378, 2388); edge of Wall 2343 in right foreground.



Fig. 76. Rampart 2378/2388, looking east; Silo 2383 cut into it.



Fig. 77. Pit 2385 cut into Rampart 2378



### Squares Q–R/6

The following pits/silos were cut into the stones of Tower 1307 (Figs. 78–79):

*Pit 1310:* Pit 1310 was cut into the western end of Wall 2343, near its join to Tower 1307 (Square R/6; 364.15–363.85 m). It is a rather haphazard circle of small stones, ca. 1.1 m in diameter and included some pottery, bones, flint and a spindle whorl (Fig. 78). Debris 1316 abutted the pit on the north, going down to the stones of F3 Wall 1332. Some 0.35 m below the bottom of Pit 1310 was yet another circle that appears to have cut further into the stones and white chalky layer of Wall 2343; this perhaps was an earlier phase of the pit and should be assigned to Stratum F2.



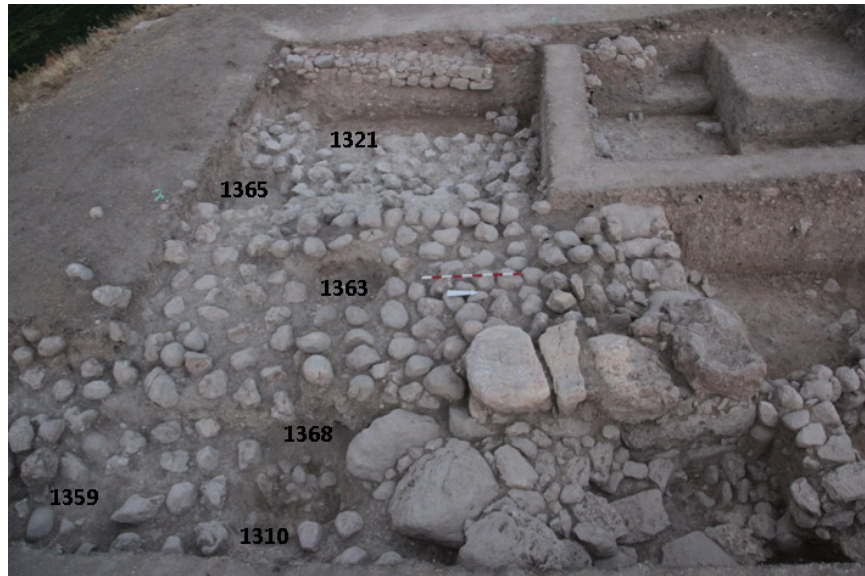
**Fig. 78. Pit 1310, cut into the stones of Tower 1307, looking west; right: spindle whorl and bones inside pit.**

*Pit 1368:* To the north of Pit 1310 was yet another disturbance in the stones of the earlier wall, designated 1368 (Square R/6; 364.26–364.00 m); it was similar to 1310 (1.0 m diameter, ca. 0.25 m deep (Fig. 79).

*Pit 1363.* In the middle of 1307 (Square R/6; 364.00–363.73 m) was a round pit (1363), 1.0 m in diameter (Fig. 79). It was c. 0.25 m deep and upon reaching its bottom, the stones of 1317 (the layer of stones and white chalk below 1307) were revealed, showing that the pit cut only into the upper layer of stones. This pit was empty of finds.

*Pit 1359.* Only part of this pit was excavated, as it is located in a small probe south of the southern border of the excavation, in Square R/7 (363.71–363.66 m). It is similar to Pits 1310, 1363 and 1368 in size and depth (Fig. 79).

*Pit 1365.* The northern part of a large pit (1.4 m diameter) in Square Q/6 (363.70–363.55 m); the southern part is in the balk. It cuts into the southwestern part of Tower 1307 (Fig. 79).



**Fig. 79. Tower 1309 and the western end of Wall 2343 with pits (1310, 1321, 1363, 1359, 1368) cut into it, looking west; Pit 1321 shown with upper stones removed.**

*Pit 1321.* This is a circle of stones, ca. 1.0 m to the east of Wall 1323, ca. 1.1 m in diameter and standing ca. 0.45 m high (Square Q/6; 364.41–363.95 m; Figs. 79–81), with several sherds of a storage jar and other vessels incorporated in the lowest layer, as well as a grindstone fragment. Locus 1313, a layer of debris and many fallen stones that covered the stones of Building 1307 on the east, abutted Pit 1321. Some 0.30 m below the bottom of the stones of Pit 1321 is an area of soft dark debris, Locus 1367, in which is yet another rounded area cut into the stones of Building 1307 that appears to be an early phase of Pit 1321, possibly to be attributed to Stratum F2. This lower ‘pit’ was empty, but it is possible that the vessel fragments found at the base of the stones above were, in fact, from this lower pit.



**Fig. 80. Square Q/6, looking north; top of Pit 1321; stones of Tower 1307 emerging on right; F1b Wall 1323 on left, covered by F1a Wall 1324.**



**Fig. 81.** As Fig. 80, looking west; note relationship between Pit 1321 and the stones (1325) of Tower 1307; two large stones in center and upper right – Stratum F1a.

### Stratum F1a

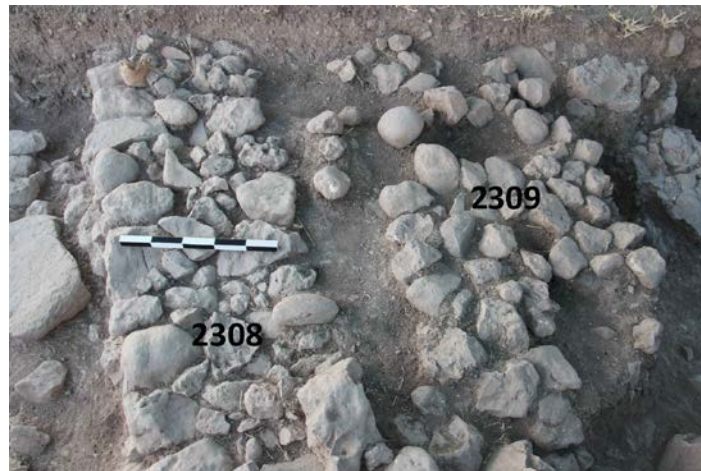


**Fig. 82.** Plan of Stratum F1a



### ***Squares R–S/4***

A short (ca. 0.8 m) segment of a north–south wall (2364; see Fig. 49 above) composed of a large limestone fieldstones, and part of what seems to be a stone pavement (2309) abutting its bottom level, composed of loosely laid small stones, were exposed immediately under topsoil in Squares R–S/4. The southern continuation of Wall 2364 is missing, as is the southern part of the stone pavement, and it seems that there had been some disturbance here that we were unable to identify. Collapse from Wall 2364 was possibly identified to its northeast, in Locus 2365. Wall 2364 and Floor 1309 abutted Wall 2308 that closed this space on the north; Wall 2308 was reused from Stratum F1b. Wall 2364 was built on top of F1b stone pavement 2375 and stone floor 2309 was on top of F1b Locus 2316.



**Fig. 83. Square S/4, looking east; northern part of Wall 2308 and F1b stone floor 1309 to its south; note large stone in Debris 2310 to the north of Wall 2308.**

Abutting Wall 2308 on the north was a layer of soft debris under topsoil (2310 in the east, 2312 in the west); in its eastern end was a large flat-topped stone (364.81 m, top elevation); this stone was set on top of a similar, larger stone that was incorporated into the extant top of Stratum F2 Wall 2361 (Fig. 84); see above. Bordering this layer of debris on the north was the southern face of a wall (2360) (its northern part was in the balk). It is possible that 2360, like 2308, was a F1b wall that continued to be used in F1a, although exposure was too limited to be certain.



**Fig. 84. Square S/5, looking south; F1a stone on top of F1b stones against Wall 2308.**

Other elements that may possibly be attributed to Stratum F1a are two silos/stone pits in Square R/4: 2350 in the northern balk (only its southern half was exposed, but not excavated) and 2319 in the southern part of the western balk (possibly the top layer of stone silo 2384, F1b), whose top layers were abutted by the F1a debris. However, since debris layers related to F1b abutted the bottom part of both silos, it is difficult to ascribe them to either phase.

#### ***A Disturbance (Pits?) in F1b Room 2317***

Damage done to the western end of Room 2317 may be attributed to Stratum F1a, although it just as well might have been much later (see Stratum F0 below); it was poorly defined and no clear pottery was collected that could date this disturbance.

The western end of Wall 1309 in Square R/4 is missing, as is the southern part of stone floor 2317, and possibly both are part of the same disturbance (Fig. 85). To the west of this gap in Wall 1309, and just at the join with Silo 1374, are several large stones that seem to be the continuation of Wall 1309, although it was considered that they might be a stone capping of Silo 1374 (Figs. 67, 74, 85); see discussion above about this point.



**Fig. 85. Disturbance in west end of Wall 1309 and Stone Floor 2317, looking west; large stones on the western end - continuation of Wall 1309?; Stones 2384 in center.**

### *Squares Q/5-6*

Elements uncovered in Square Q/6 in the southwestern part of Area F are related to Stratum F1a on the basis of their relative position, but there is no secure correlation between them and the elements in Squares R-S/4. These include Wall 1324, a short wall segment composed of irregularly shaped field stones uncovered in the topsoil layer, built on top of the northern end of F1b Wall 1323 (Fig. 86). It seems that Wall 1324 continued to the north into Square Q/5, where a few large stones just north of the balk (termed 1373) might belong to it, despite a gap between them and the other segment of the wall in Q/5. This gap might have been an entrance or a later pit that cut the wall. Wall 1324 was built right on top of the northern part of F1b north-south Wall 1323. Two very large stones positioned to the southeast of the end of Wall 1324, and a debris layer under topsoil (1301), might be related to this phase as well. This debris layer covered the top of Silo/pit 1321, attributed to Stratum F1b (see above).



**Fig. 86. Squares Q/5-6, looking south. F1a Wall 1324/1373 on top of F1b Wall 1323.**



## STRATUM F0

### *Square Q/5: Locus 1314/1336*

It seems that the northern part of Square Q/5 contained a disturbance in the form of a large refuse pit or dump (1314 in the east, 1336 in the west, and possibly 1361 in the southwest). This dump contained a very large amount of pottery sherds, bones, stones and flint in a matrix of loose brown soil with some white chunks. It is difficult to discern the borders of this dump; it is clearest in the northwestern part of Square Q/5. In the eastern part of the square, the makeup was soft brown earth with many chalky inclusions and less pottery; this part covered Pit 1364 and penetrated down to the debris (1342) above Floor 1355 (Locus 1361, as noted above). The pottery recovered from this context is mixed, the earliest being Middle Bronze Age and the latest, apparently, Persian period. Among the sherds were a relatively large amount of Phoenician Bichrome. Two bronze fibula that may be dated to the 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE (Fig. 87) were found in this area as well.



Fig. 87. One of the two bronze fibula from disturbance 1314.

## Summary

Two seasons of excavation in Area F have shown that the earliest occupation, represented by a fortification system with a tower, wall and rampart, dates to (apparently) MBII, while the latest occupation dates to (apparently) Iron I. Abutting the MBII structure on the north were three phases of LB occupation, that utilized the tower and wall and built against it. These LB structures were only partially revealed, but it seems that we may conclude that there had been no violent event marking the end of the LB and beginning of the Iron Age I, although exposure, to date, has been limited. In Iron I, the tower, wall and rampart went out of use, since silos and pits of that period are dug into the extant top of both.