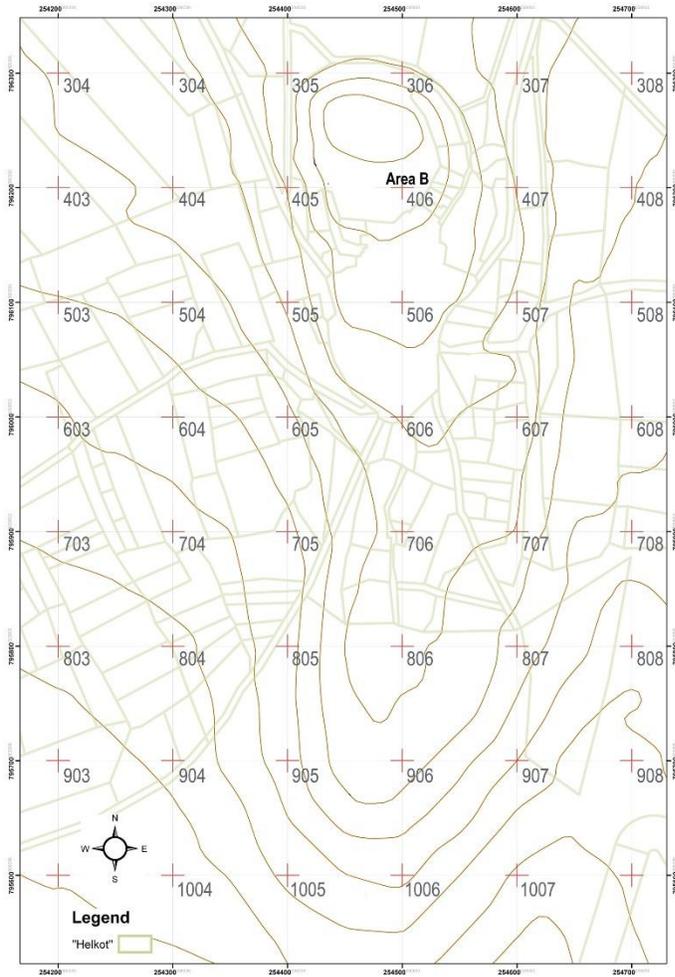


Area B-Field Report, 2015

Area B is located on the top of the eastern slope of the upper mound (Grid Square #306#).



View of the northern end of the tell with prominent 'bump' (right), looking west; black star=Area B

It was opened due to the identification of a large north-south stone wall in the 2012 survey that followed the line of a recent agricultural terrace, but whose nature suggested that it was an ancient wall that had been reused. Aerial photos point to the possibility that the higher northern part of the tell contained a large building, possibly a citadel, and the goal was to explore whether this wall was part of such a structure.

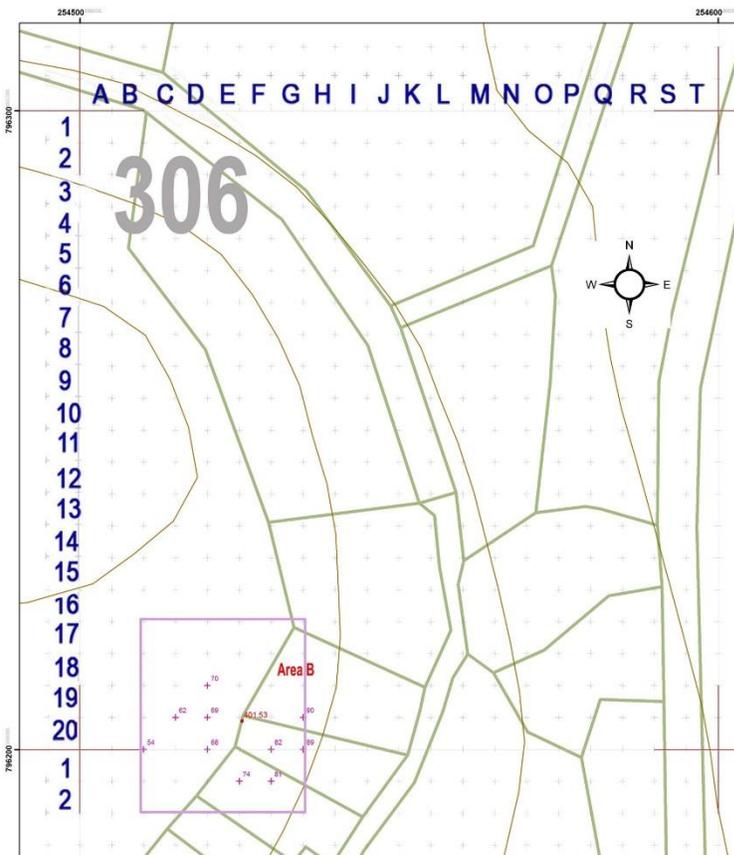


The stone wall before cleaning, looking west



The stone wall after cleaning, looking west

The area was supervised by Ariel Shatil, assisted by John Harmon, Margot Murray (registrars) and Joshua Errington. The large north-south wall identified in the survey served as the ‘backbone’ of the excavated area in 2015: it ran through Squares E/18–20 (see below for a complete description). In the 2015 season, excavation concentrated in the northern half of Squares E–F/20 (only the northwestern corner of the latter was excavated), Squares E–F/19 (the eastern end of the latter was not excavated) and the southern part of Squares E–F/18 (the northern part is bordered by a ca. 3 m high balk).



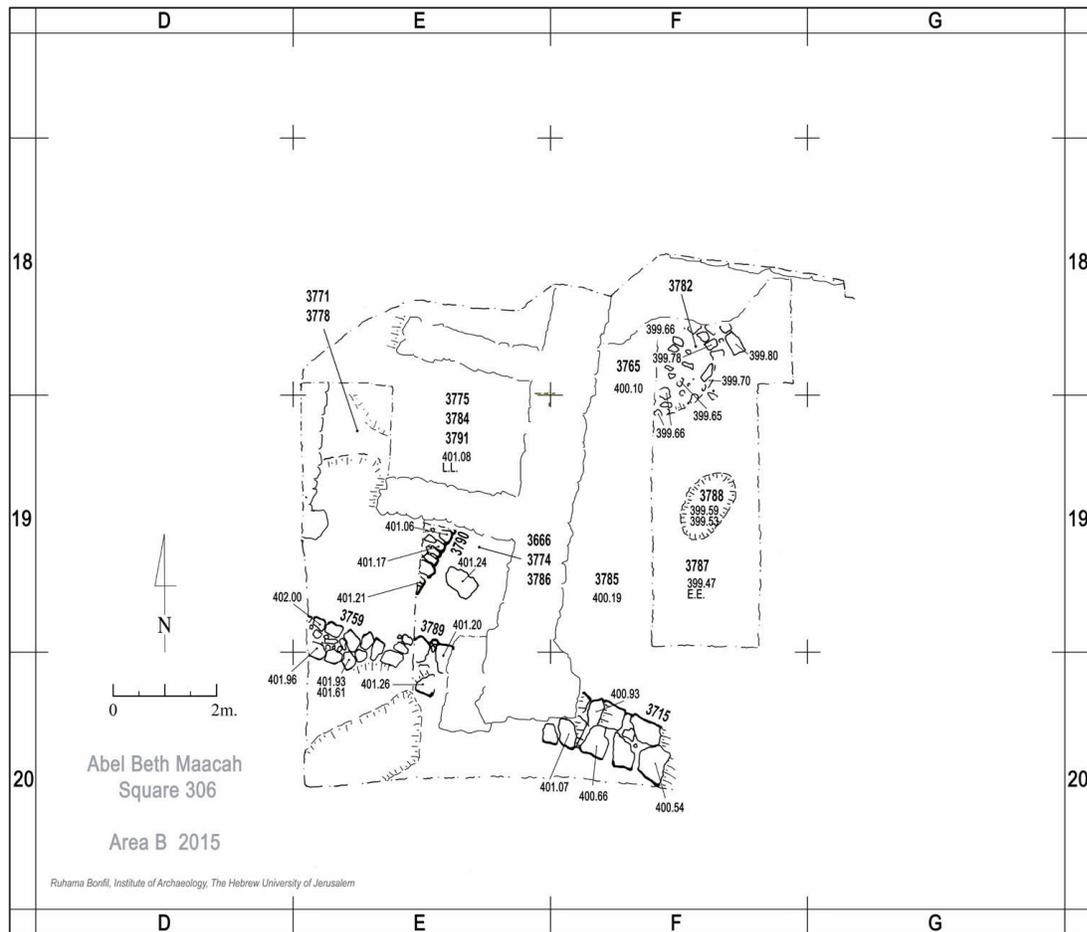
Four main strata were identified (B1-B4). Stratum B3 contained three sub-phases (B3a, b, c). Stratum B4 contained various activities that were not sub-divided this season into phases due to insufficient exposure and unsealed contexts. These features will be described below and ascribed to more precise phases as the excavation progresses.

Table 1. Summary of strata and main features

Stratum	Squares	Definition	Loci	Walls	Proposed date
B-4	E/19, F/18–20	E/19: top of stone walls E/19–20: destruction layer with skeleton (possibly intrusive), oval-shaped burnt installation, stone concentrations/pits, massive stone wall on south	3747, 3748, 3752, 3757, 3758, 3762, 3764, 3765, 3769, 3774, 3778, 3780, 3781, 3782, 3783, 3785, 3786, 3787, 3788, 3791	3715, 3789, 3790	Ion II/Iron I
B-3-4	E/19	Fill under Building 3701	3766, 3771, 3784		
B-3c	E/18–19, F/18	Lowest phase of Building 3701; walls and floors	3718, 3719, 3751, 3768, 3773	3701, 3702, 3750, 3759, 3761	Late Persian/early Hellenistic
B-3b	E/18–19, F/18	Middle phase of Building 3701; walls and floors	3718, 3751, 3756, 3763, 3767	3701, 3702, 3706, 3750, 3759, 3761	
B-3a	E/18–19, F/18	Upper phase of Building 3701; walls and floors	3708, 3710, 3728, 3729, 3730, 3737, 3738, 3743, 3744, 3751, 3754, 3755, 3756, 3760, 3777	3701, 3702, 3709, 3721, 3736, 3750, 3759, 3761	
B-2	E/18	Pits, flimsy stone walls	3749, 3770	3720?, 3740, 3741	Hellenistic?
B-1	E/20	Burials, stone and debris layers	3705, 3711, 3712, 3713, 3714, 3717, 3722, 3723, 3725, 3732, 3733, 3734, 3735, 3739, 3745	3724	Islamic/ Medieval?
Un-stratified	F/19	Oven in balk under Wall 3701	3753		

Stratum B4

The earliest occupation in Area B was reached both to the west and to the east of the floating level of B3 Wall 3701 (which was not removed this season). No relationship between these two appearances was found at this point, so they are described separately. The ascription of the various elements of Stratum B4 to Iron Age II is based on the pottery, which was almost all belonging to this period, both IIA and IIB.



Plan of Stratum B4

West of B3 Wall 3701–Square E/19

Stratum B-3c Floor 3718 in the southeastern quadrant of the square (south of B3a Wall 3709) was removed in order to probe below Building 3701 (the western part of this floor remained unexcavated). Below the floor was a homogenous fill of gray-brown soil (3666), ca. 30-40 cm

deep, apparently laid in preparation for the construction of B3 Building 3701. The fill rested on a layer of gray ash (3774). Both the fill and the ash layer contained mainly Iron Age II pottery, as well as bones and flint. At level 401.18 m, the top of two walls was revealed: a northeast-southwest stone wall (3790; 70 cm wide and exposed 1.1 m) and a northwest-southeast stone wall (3789; exposed 70 cm, southern face in the balk). These two walls probably cornered



Southeastern quadrant of Square E/19, below B3 Floor 3718, looking south; B4 Walls 3789 and 3790; Locus 3786 and large stone between the walls

In the northern part of the square (north of B3 Wall 3709, which was not removed this season), excavation also proceeded below the floor of Building 3701. The sequence is more or less the same as to the south of the B3 wall, as described above.

For technical reasons, different numbers were given in the west and the east of this area; in the west: 3771=homogeneous fill layer, laid above an ashy layer 3778 (lowest level excavated: 401.03 m). In the east, the fill layer is Locus 3775 and 3784, while the ashy layer is 3791 (excavated down to 401.08 m). The latter includes some stones and much charcoal. No architecture was revealed so far in this part of the probe (northern part of Square E/19).



Square E/19, looking south at subsidiary balk under Wall 3709 with fill 3775, 3784, 3791 (ash); meter stick on unexcavated southwestern part of the square



Square E/19 (unexcavated northwestern quadrant in lower right-hand corner); probes down to B4 Walls 3789 and 3790 on the right and down to Loci 3778, 3791 with collapsed stones on the left

East of B3 Wall 3701–Squares F/18–20

Excavation to the east of the floating level of B3 Wall 3701 and south of B3 stone pavement 3751 began following the removal of ca. half a meter of loose soil and stones by mechanical equipment that had accumulated against the eastern face of this wall. Excavation by hand began at ca. 400.75 m. It should be noted that at this point, stratigraphic separation of these remains into clearly demarcated phases is not possible and thus they are described together, noting the relationships between them. The remains are described from south to north:

On the southern end of the excavated area (in the middle of Square F/20), a large stone east–west wall was revealed (3715; top level in the west: 401.07; in the east: 400.64). Wall 3715 is composed of two rows of large stones, one meter wide. It clearly continues to the west underneath B3 Wall 3702, which is built directly above its northern row.



Wall 3715 below B3 Wall 3702, looking southwest



Wall 3715 under B3 Wall 3702, looking west; stones 3722 on the right (north of Wall 3715)

In the area just to the north of Wall 3715 and up to a narrow subsidiary balk left in the middle of Square F/19 (3.0 m to the north of Wall 3715), the stratigraphic situation was unclear due to the presence of concentrations of stones: 3722 and 3757. It was not clear whether these were the tops of very disturbed walls or whether they might have been silos, pits or collapse. While stones 3722 did not appear to have any obvious contour, and contained a mix of Iron Age, Medieval and modern finds, stones 3757 appear to have a rounded contour and in fact, upon their removal, it seems that they cut into the white gravelly layer underneath it (3785; see below) suggesting that this represents the bottom of a pit or some collapsed structure. The pottery recovered from among and around these stones contained a mix of Iron I (including a large sherd of a Wavy Band pithos) and Iron II sherds (Loci 3723, 3726, 3747, 3758). Yet another concentration of stones (3764) was found on a somewhat lower level to the east of stones 3722 (abutted by debris 3774, 3781). Stones 3764 appear to be arranged on an east-west line, but it is impossible to determine at this point if they comprised a wall or collapse, nor what is their relationship to Wall 3715.



Left: Square F/19, looking south; upper layer of stone concentrations against B4 Wall 3715
Right: Same, looking north.

Following the exposure of the stone concentrations and adjoining debris layers just north of Wall 3715, excavation proceeded only in the eastern part of Squares F/18–19, leaving a ca. 1.2 m wide higher step in the west, along the balk created under floating B3 Wall 3701. The locus in the higher step north of this balk (3748) contained a strip of white gravelly material (see further below), apparently running on a northeast-southwest line, but this is not certain due to insufficient exposure.

The following remains were revealed along the eastern end of the excavated strip:

A layer of collapsed and burnt bricks, stones, pottery and ash was reached (3762 in Square F/19 and 3765, 3769 in Square F/18), ca. 40 cm deep.

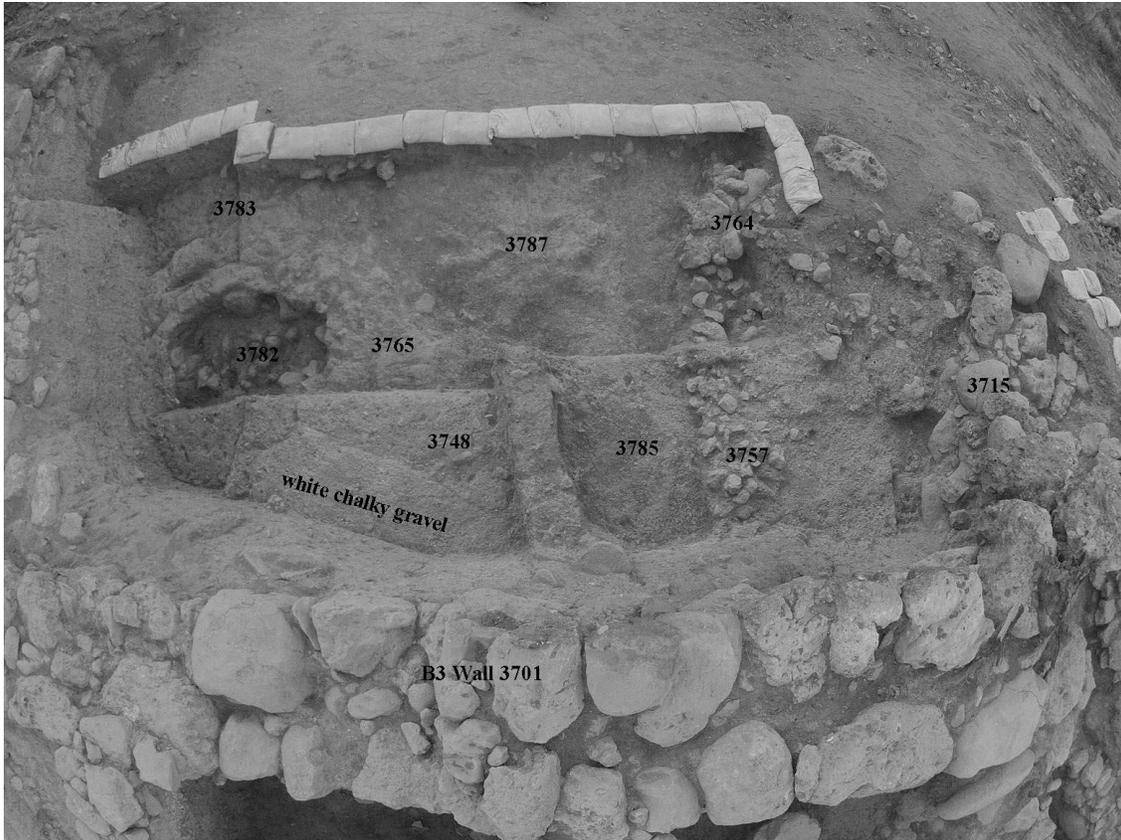


Detail of destruction layer 3762

This layer of brick and stone collapse rested on a relatively sterile brick debris layer (3787), in which an articulated skeleton of a child (3788) was found. Excavation proceeded only ca. 10 cm into Locus 3787 this season. The pottery recovered from the collapse and from this more sterile layer is mainly Iron II, including a small sherd of BOR, red-slipped and hand burnished sherds, and a storage jar sherd with an inscribed letter.



Large incised letter on storage jar sherd; bet or nun?



Squares F/18–19, remains east of B3 Wall 3701



Stratum B4 remains east of B3 Wall 3701, looking west.



Skeleton 3788 in Square F/19, looking west

Installation 3782

On the eastern end of the excavated area, in the southern half of Square F/18, a roughly rounded installation was uncovered (3782). It was covered by a layer of ash (3765) revealed below the debris of 3752. At this point, it seems that Installation 3782 was abutted by the destruction debris on its south and east, as well as by the less-burnt layer below the latter. An open question is

whether this installation cut into the white gravelly material revealed to its south in the higher ‘step’ left on the west. If so, then the installation and related destruction debris layer (and the skeleton) are later than whatever this white gravelly layer represents.

The eastern half of Installation 3782 was revealed, while its western end is underneath the higher step left unexcavated along B3 Wall 3701. The installation is somewhat oval-shaped and is lined by a double row of gray mudbricks, which were not well-identified on the southern side. The diameter is roughly 2.0 m, although the oval-shape makes it somewhat more on a north-south axis. The interior is filled with gray soil interspersed with fine dark black ash and chunks of collapsed bricks and a few stones; it contains some pottery sherds (mostly Iron II) and some bones, as well as a degraded scarab fragment (37379) and a bead (37389). Samples of the interior matrix of the installation were taken for analysis, but as of now, the function of this installation or pit remains unknown, other than that it entailed an activity that left burnt residue. The idea that this might be a pottery kiln was considered, though there is no slag or other items that might support this idea so far.



Square F/18, looking east; Installation 3782

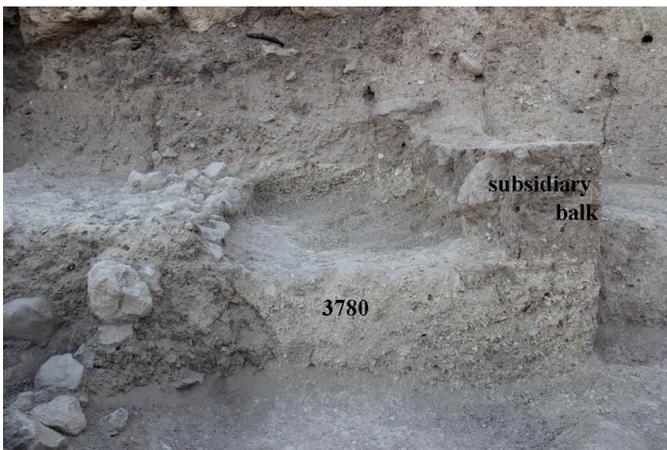


Close-up of Installation 3782, looking west

White Gravel Layer

An intriguing feature revealed at the end of the season, and thus not comprehensively excavated or studied, was a concentration of whitish chalky gravelly material, revealed mainly in the higher step left in the western part of the squares, along the balk created below B3 Wall 3701. This material runs both east-west (deemed 3780 in Square F/19, to the south of the small subsidiary balk left in the middle of the square) and north-south (a clearly demarcated ca. 60 cm wide line, running to the north of the aforesaid subsidiary balk, revealed in the lower part of Locus 3748 and 3752). Stones 3757 appear to have been laid above/into the white material of 3780.

On one hand, this material is definitely deliberately constructed and is not merely collapse; on the other hand, it is impossible at this point to determine whether it is part of *terre pise* walls, a rampart component, or perhaps a fill. This remains to be explored in the next season.



Square F/19, looking west at higher step, with white gravel material 3780, after removal of stones 3757, which appear to have cut into the top of the gravelly material

Summary of Stratum B4

The elements of Stratum B4 exposed to date do not comprise a comprehensive occupation phase and will need to be separated into sub-phases in the subsequent season, especially with further exposure. In the western part of the area (Square E/19), the top of an Iron Age IIB(?) level has been reached, which had been filled in when the substantial Building 3701 was built in Stratum B3. In the eastern part of the area (Squares E/18–19), it is tentatively suggested that the destruction layer expressed by the skeleton and the collapsed burnt brick and stones might be dated to Iron IIB. The activity represented by the stone concentrations just to the north of this wall might be later; alternatively they represent a collapse of architecture that belongs to the destruction phase. It is also considered that Installation 3782 is either part of the occupation phase that suffered this destruction, or alternatively, is a later intrusion, though still to be dated to the Iron Age II. The function of this installation/pit remains unknown at this point, though it clearly had to do with incendiary action.

The pottery recovered from contexts securely attributed to this stratum was exclusively Iron II, including a sherd of Black-on-Red, red slipped and hand burnished sherds, including a strainer jug and carinated bowls. The cooking pots rims are both Iron IIA and IIB.

Stratum B3

Stratum B3 comprises part of a very substantial building, designated Building 3701, that contained three phases (B3c, B3b, B3a). In fact, this building was the first and main feature revealed under topsoil; later strata (B1 and B2) are flimsy walls, graves and pits cut into this large and impressive building. The western part of Building 3701 was built above a fill laid on top of an Iron II structure of which only the top has been revealed so far (see B4, above). All the remains are located to the west of Wall 3701, while whatever had belonged to this unit to the east of Wall 3701 has been eroded away, as this is close to the eastern slope of the mound, aside from a small remnant of a stone pavement and the southern face of a wall on the north.

The ‘backbone’ of this building was a massive stone wall running north-south (3701) that was in use during all three phases. As noted in the introduction to this report, Wall 3701 was first identified in the 2012 survey; it was re-used as an agricultural terrace wall in recent times. It cornered on the south with a wall (3702) that ran to the east, but was completely eroded away

beyond two large stones. From the corner with Wall 3702, Wall 3701 ran to the north for 8 meters until its apparent corner (not yet exposed) with a stone wall (3750) composed of huge boulders that extended to the east and ran parallel to Wall 3702; the southern face of Wall 3750 was revealed in the northern balk bordering Area B.

Wall 3701 is 1.3 m wide, composed of two rows, and was preserved only two courses high (ca. 60 cm high); the stones in the wall are particularly large and some appear to have been slightly worked. About 4 m north of the southern end of Wall 3701, just about in its center is a 1.5 m wide gap with only one course of stones that appears to have been a threshold. Wall 3702 on the south is 1.1 m wide and composed of very large boulders, of which only the ones joining Wall 3701 have been preserved. Wall 3702 was built directly on top of B4 Wall 3715.



Looking west at B3 Walls 3701, 3702 and 3750, with pavement 3751 in northern corner



Squares E/19-20, looking west at Wall 3701 (floating) and corner with Wall 3702 (eroded); northern end of Wall 3701 not yet exposed



Southern face of Wall 3702 with large boulders (eroded beyond this point to the east), looking north; small stones to the west belong to later grave (B1)



Threshold in Wall 3701, looking south at corner of Walls 3701 and 3702; on the right: stone collapse in western side of entranceway

East of Wall 3701

As noted above, almost all the remains east of Wall 3701 were eroded away, leaving only a stump of Wall 3702 that had cornered with it on the south and on the north, the southern face of a wall composed of large boulders (3750) was revealed; it apparently had cornered with the northern end of Wall 3701, but the actual corner is still in the balk. A small segment of stone pavement (3751) was preserved in the northwestern corner (of Walls 3701 and 3750) at 401.55 m; it abuts the boulders of Wall 3750. The threshold in the center of Wall 3701 suggests that the remains on the west (described below) and whatever had been to the east of this wall (now mainly eroded) were connected and part of one unit.



Stone pavement 3751 abutting Wall 3750, looking north; small stones in balk above Wall 3750 are a later burial; pavement 3751 seals debris of Stratum B4



Pavement 3751 and Wall 3750, looking northeast

West of Wall 3701

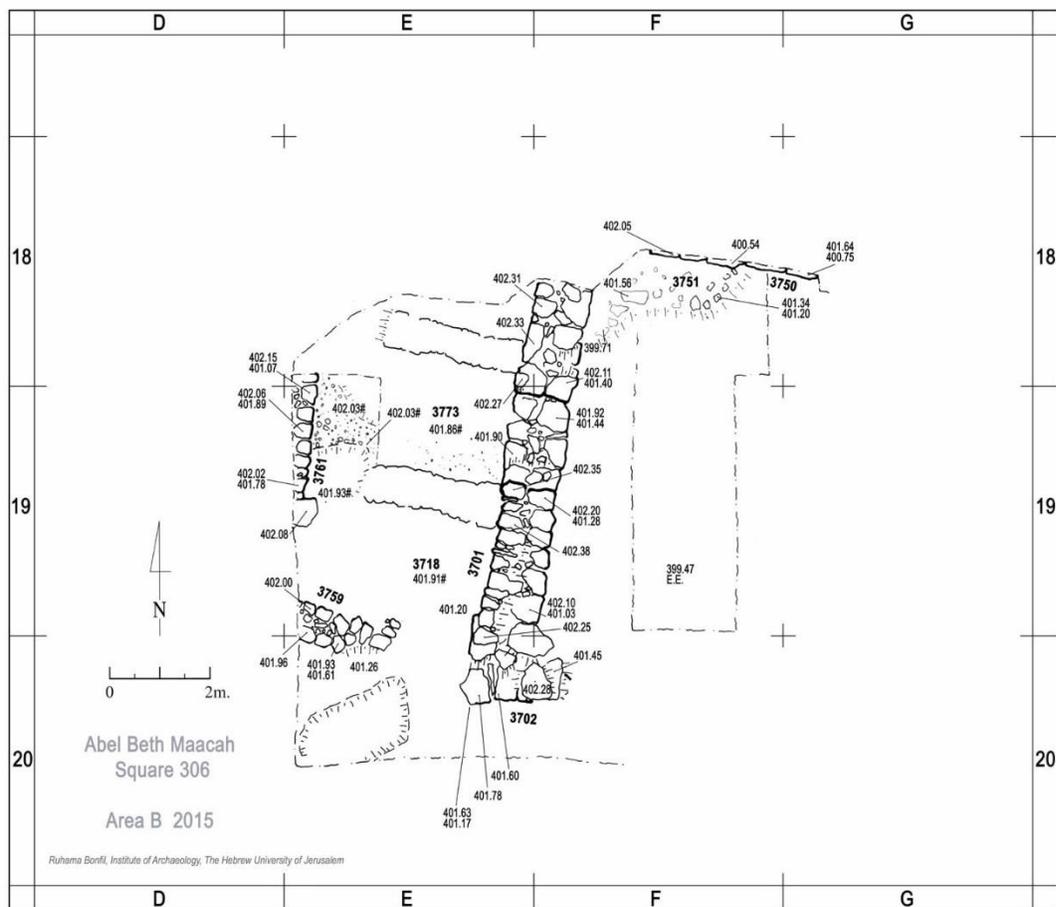
The main part of Building 3701 revealed this season was west of Wall 3701 (Squares E/19 and part of E/18), where three main phases were discerned; the two lower phases (B3c, B3b) were represented mainly by floor raisings, while the latest phase (B3a) contained new architecture and floors. The building was covered by a dense layer of collapsed stones, while the southern end was cut by later burials.



B3 remains west of Wall 3701

Phase B3c

In Phase B3c, the area west of Wall 3701 appears to have been one large open(?) space with a composite earth and pebble floor at level 401.85–401.91. This is ca. 30 cm higher than stone pavement 3751 to the east of Wall 3701; the difference might be due to some terracing towards the east. The earthen and pebble floor (3768 in the northwest, 3773 in the northeast, 3718 in the southwest, 3719 in the southeast) was bordered by Wall 3759 on the south and Wall 3761 on the west; the northern border was beyond the excavated area (and covered by B3a Wall 3736). Two pits penetrated down to touch the floor level, although they did not actually cut into it: 3749 in the center-west and Pit 3770 in the north.



Plan-Phase B3c

Wall 3759 was preserved to one course and 2.0 m long, being cut on the southeast by a later burial, and two rows wide; it is not clear if it had originally abutted the corner of Walls 3701 and 3702 on their west. Wall 3761 was preserved to one course and 2.3 m long; most likely, it had

been two rows wide, but the western row is in the unexcavated balk. It seems that these two walls had originally cornered (beyond the western border of the excavation), or that there had been an entranceway between them, leading into the building from the west. These two walls apparently continued to be used in the two subsequent sub-phases.

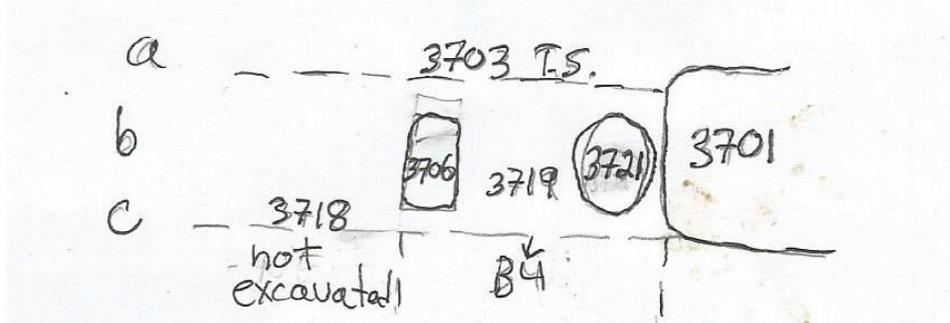
Very little pottery was recovered from this phase; its precise dating remains to be further clarified, but it seems that it may be attributed to the same time as the upper phases of this building, the Persian/early Hellenistic period.



Left: Square E/19, looking north; Wall 3761 abutted by B3b pebble floor 3763, cut by Pit 3749

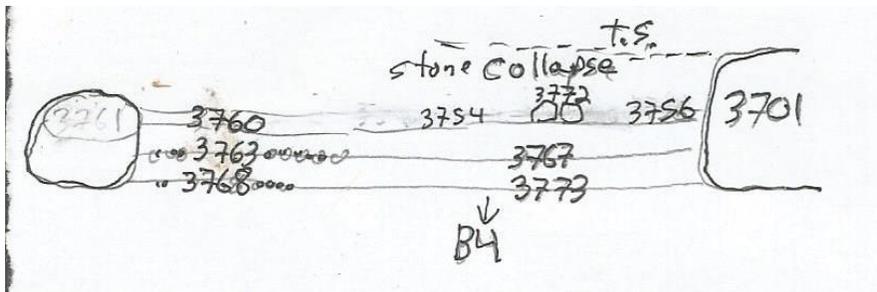
Right: Square E/19, looking east; Wall 3759 abutted by Locus 3718

Notably, a very large stone at the southern end of this wall, located just west of the corner of Walls 3701 and 3702, is set on yet another very large stone that is hardly visible at this point of excavation. The possibility that these stones belong to the western continuation of B4 Wall 3715 was considered.



Schematic section, southern part of Square E/19, looking north

The floors in the north of Square E/19; south of B3a Wall 3736), were raised, but by only a few cm: 3763 in the west, composed of pebbles at 402.10 m, ca. 20 cm above the earlier floor and 3767 in the east, ca. 5 cm. above the previous level.



Schematic section, northern part of Square E/19, looking north

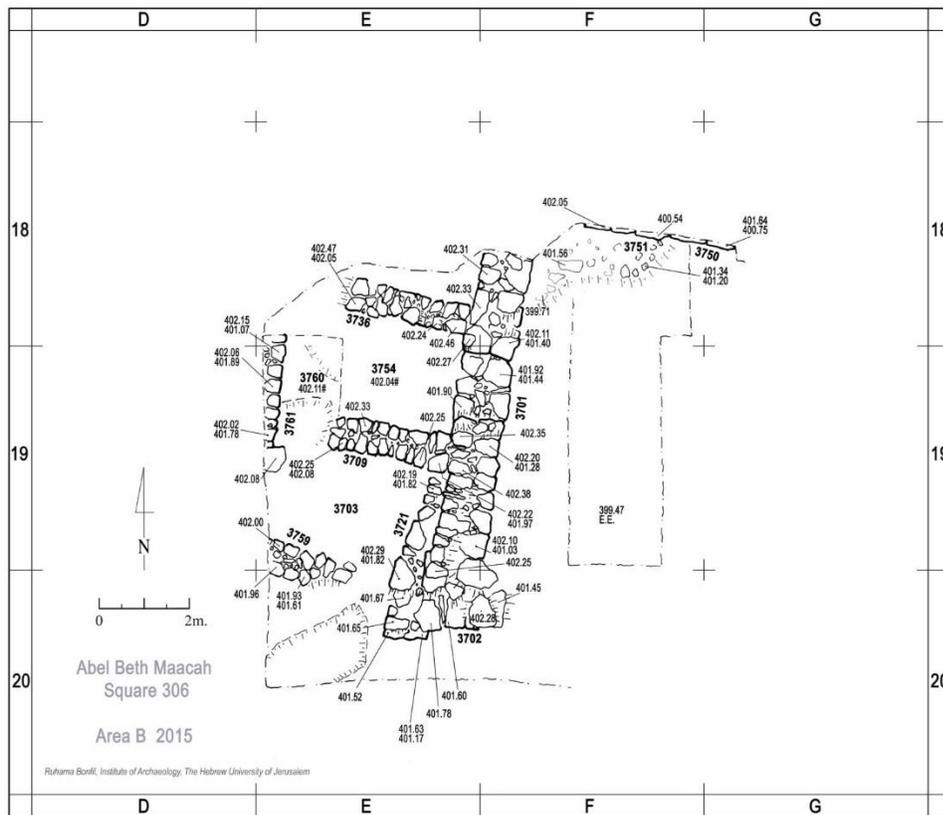
A narrow row of stone (3772, 25 cm wide, running 1.5 m) was laid on top of this floor, running up to the threshold in Wall 3701. Although they run in a manner that would block the entrance through the threshold from the east, they were too flimsy to have been a real blockage. It seems that they were used in the subsequent Phase B3a as well. Between Wall 3772 and the threshold is Locus 3756, a concentration of stones that was understood as a kind of platform or step; two Phoenician semi-fine ware juglets (one complete, one broken; reg. no. 37226) were found here.



**Phoenician
juglet**

A phenomenon worth noting is the presence of two rather large and somewhat flat-topped stones, running on the same line and ca. 3 m apart (in Square E/19); the western one is located at the southern end of Wall 3761 and the eastern stone is against the western face of Wall 3701, and was sealed by the stones of Wall 3721. Thus, although it is clear that the eastern one was already out of use by the time Wall 3721 was laid down, it is difficult to say, at this point, if they were in some way related to the activity at hand, nor to which sub-phase they might relate. Pits 3749 and 3770 also cut the floors in this phase.

Phase B3a



Plan-Phase B3a

In the uppermost phase in Building 3701, two east-west walls were added that sub-divided the space to the west of Wall 3701 into three spaces on a north-south axis. These walls were positioned flanking the threshold in Wall 3701. Floors were raised in the northern part of Square E/19 (now the middle room in this area). Wall 3759 and 3761 apparently continued to be in use as well, although it is not clear whether the narrow row of stones (3772) just west of the

threshold in Wall 3701 continued to be used. In the northern half of E/19 and in E/18, above the remains of Phase B3a was a dense stone collapse (, 3728, 3729, 3730, 3737, 3738, 3743, 3744).



Stone collapse above the northern part of Building 3701; black arrow = B2 Wall 3740; red Arrow = B2 pit 3749 (bottom) cutting collapse and B3a Wall 3709



Stone collapse in Square E/18 above B3a Wall 3736 and Floor 3777, looking south

Wall 3709 was a well-built wall, 70 cm wide, traced for 2.5 m until cut on west by Pit 3749; there might have been an entranceway here, leading from the middle room to the southern room. It was composed of two rows of fieldstones. Wall 3709 abutted the western face of Wall 3701 and was situated just south of the threshold in this wall.

Wall 3736 was a well-built wall, 70 cm wide, traced for ca. 2.7 m, until cut on the west by Pit 3770. It was composed of two rows of fieldstones. Wall 3736 abutted the western face of Wall 3701 and was situated just north of the threshold in this wall.

The addition of Walls 3709 and 3736 created three rooms west of Wall 3701:

The southern room was apparently bordered on the south by Wall 3759, which continued from the previous phase, although the latter wall runs on a somewhat different angle than Wall 3709. Wall 3701 was the eastern border of the room. If the southern end of Wall 3761 served as the western border of this room, then it measured 2.5 m from north to south and 4 meters from west to east. No clear floor was discerned in this room, probably due to erosion. On the eastern end of the room, along the western face of Wall 3701, was a row of large stones (particularly on the south), whose phasing is unclear (Wall 3721). It is possible that this was added as a kind of bench in the room, or possibly, it represents activity following the abandonment of the building, when large stones were removed from Wall 3701. Its proximity to Wall 3706, only ca. 50 cm to its west, is curious, especially since the top and floating levels of Wall 3706 (attributed to Phase B3b) were quite similar to those of Wall 3721. As noted above, there possibly was an entrance in the northwestern corner of this room, where Pit 3749 cut.

The middle room was bordered by Wall 3761 on the west, 3709 on the south, 3736 on the north and the threshold in Wall 3701 on the east. An earth-and-pebble floor (3760 in the west, 3754 in the east) was detected, although poorly preserved and cut by Pit 3755 in the northeast and by Pit 3770 in the northwest. The row of stones (3772) just inside (west of) the threshold in Wall 3701 is shown in the plan of Phase B3a, as it is possible that it continued to be used (based on elevations). It is possible that there had been an entranceway in the northwestern corner of the room (between Walls 3736 and 3761), which would have been on line with the proposed entranceway in the room to the south. However, Pit 3770 has cut this evidence away.

Only a small portion of the *northern room* was excavated, as the northern border of the excavation cuts through it on an irregular line. The room is bordered on the south by Wall 3736 and on the east by Wall 3701. A pebble floor (3777) abuts the western part of Wall 3736 and a soft debris layer (3776) abuts the eastern part of this wall.

Summary of Phase B3 Building 3701

Building 3701 is a structure of monumental scope which, though suffering from erosion and damage from later activity, can be understood as having had a public function rather than being a

private dwelling. Due to the 1.5 m wide threshold in the central ‘backbone’ wall 3701, the two spaces that flank it on the west and east (presently almost totally eroded away) were probably part of the same unit. The building continues to the north into the unexcavated balk and probably also to the south (cut by later activity). The location of this imposing structure on the top of the eastern slope must have rendered it a high degree of visibility to the surroundings. Due to the severe erosion, the finds in the building comprised mostly sherds, bones, flint, shells and a few other small objects. A prominent find was the concentration of Phoenician semi-fine ware juglets in the upper (or middle) phase of the building, providing an indication that the building should be dated to the late Persian/early Hellenistic period. In the fill below the floors were sherds dating to Iron II.

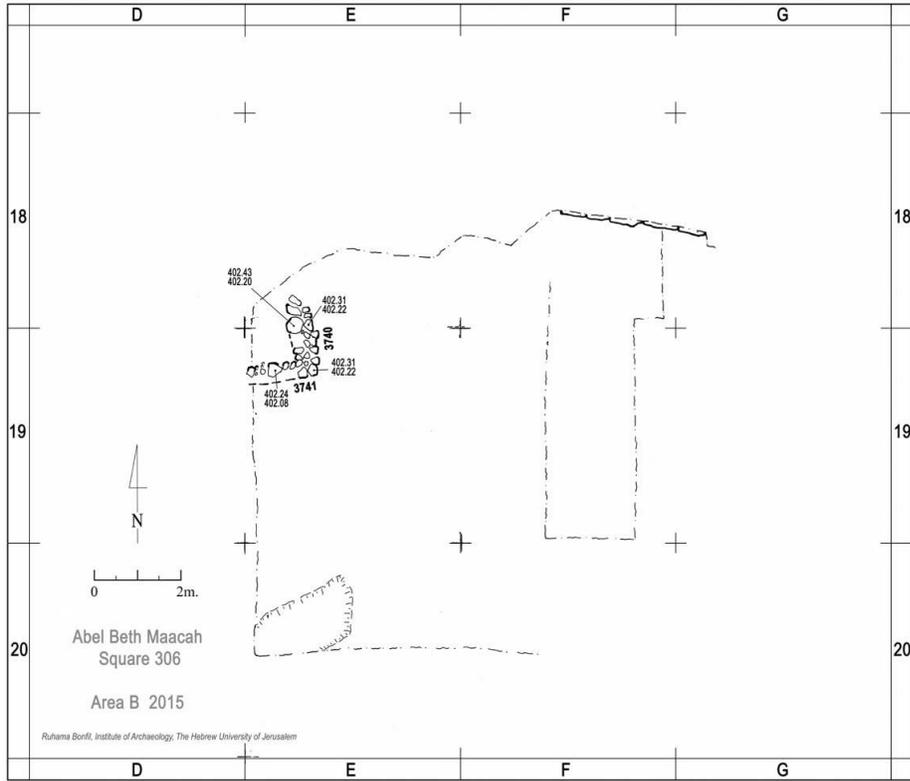
Phase B2

Only scant remains of a phase post-dating Building 3701 were identified due to the severe erosion here. The main element was the corner of two walls (north-south Wall 3740 and east-west Wall 3741) in the southwest of Square E/18 and the northwest of Square E/19. Both walls were preserved only one course high and were composed of two rows of small fieldstones. No related debris layer was identified.

Another element attributed to Phase B2 is Wall 3720, a north-south row of nicely shaped field stones laid above the western row of Wall 3701. Since there is no connection to the corner of Walls 3740 and 3741 attributed to this phase, it cannot be said with certainty that Wall 3720 and these walls were contemporary, only that both post-date the B3 building. Since the stones of Wall 3720 rest directly on the second course from the bottom of Wall 3701, they were apparently laid when this large wall had been mostly dismantled.

It seems that Wall 3701 was no longer in use (though it currently appears in the plan).

It is difficult to date Phase B2 due to the lack of material recovered and the very eroded state of this level of occupation. If it post-dates the building attributed to the Persian/early Hellenistic building, it might belong to the Hellenistic period, but not enough data is known at present.



Plan-Phase B2



Wall 3720 on top of Wall 3701, looking east



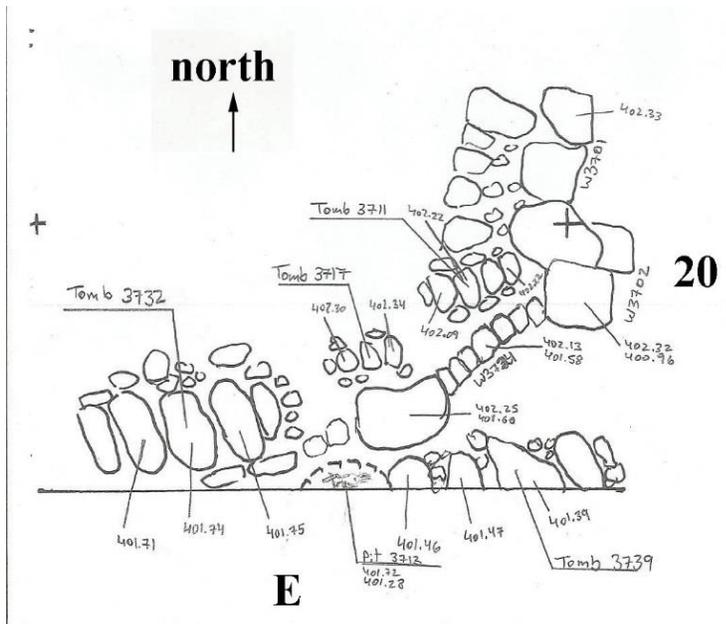
Wall 3720, looking south

Pits

Two pits that cut through all three Stratum B3 phases of Building 3701 did not cut through the scant remains of Stratum B2 and thus should be considered activity that took place in the interim between the two (they are shown on the plan of B2 for convenience), possibly related to the construction of the B2 structure. These pits are 3749 in Square E/19 and 3770 in Square E/18. Pit 3749 was round, 1.1 m in diameter and almost 30 cm deep. Pit 3770 was amorphic and in fact, mostly its western part was clear; it too penetrated 30 cm deep. Both pits were full of soft dark earth and contained a few sherds.

Stratum B1

Remains of burials and one wall in Square E/20, the southern end of the excavation this season, are the latest element in Area B. They are designated Stratum B1, although they do not comprise a comprehensive stratum and the relationship of the burials to each other is not clear, neither is the date, as no items were found that could assign a date to any of the burials. Their orientation is generally the same (northeast-southwest) and differences between them might be due to the age and/or gender of the interred individual or to time lapse.



Plan-Stratum B1



Squares E/29-20, looking east; collapse and burials cutting southern part of Building 3701

Burial 3711

A row of four roughly oval capstones (ca. 40 cm wide), lined on the north and south by smaller stones, so that the total width was ca. 50 cm and total length was ca. 90 cm, comprised the cist grave of a child, ca. 4-6 years old (with milk teeth). A few non-diagnostic sherds, a piece of glass and ca. 20 olive pits deliberately sawed in half were found around the bones.

This grave cut the southern end of B2 Wall 3720 and adjoined the southern end of Wall 3701.



Square E/20, Burial 3711, looking north

Burial 3717

Three oval cover stones surrounded by smaller stones, 65 cm long and ca. 40 cm wide. This marker was similar to that of Grave 3711, only smaller. No articulated bones were found inside the grave, only small fragments of bones. It seems that this must have been the grave of a child or baby, judging by its size. Only a few worn and non-indicative sherds were found.



Burial 3717 in relation to Burial 3711, looking north

Burial 3739

Along the southern border of the excavation in the middle of Square E/20 was an east-west row of large stones, most roughly oval and one irregular, interspersed with smaller stones. This appears to be yet another burial, which was not excavated and the cover stones were left intact.



Burial 3732

The largest and best-preserved of all the cist graves, located ca. 50 cm southwest of Burial 3717; measuring 2 m long and ca. 90 cm wide, covered by five oval cover stones surrounded by smaller stones; the walls were lined with three courses of field stones and in the southern face were two large boulders which were either removed from B3 Wall 3701 and reused to build the grave or

were part of a large wall that lies to the south which was incorporated into the wall of the grave. The possibility that these stones might be part of the western continuation of Stratum B4 Wall 3715 was considered. The grave was 1.1 m deep and contained a poorly preserved skeleton lying on its back, head in the west. No grave goods were found in this burial.



Burial 3732, cover stones, looking north



Burial 3732 with skeleton exposed, looking north.

Wall 3724

A northeast-southwest wall composed of one row of small field stones (3724) was found between Burials 3711 and 3739, its top exposed in topsoil and preserved two courses high; it ran for 1.1 meter and was 40 cm wide. The western end terminated in a large stone. It is possible that this wall functioned as a kind of divider between the two burials.

