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2018

Ayelet Gilboa, Ilan Sharon, Jeffrey R. Zorn
and Sveta Matskevich

EXCAVATIONS AT DOR, FINAL REPORT

VOLUME IIA

AREA G, THE LATE BRONZE AND IRON AGES:
SYNTHESIS, ARCHITECTURE AND STRATIGRAPHY

DIRECTED BY

EPHRAIM STERN 1986–2000

ILAN SHARON AND AYELET GILBOA 2002–2004

with contributions by:

John E. Berg, Elizabeth Bloch-Smith, Allen Estes

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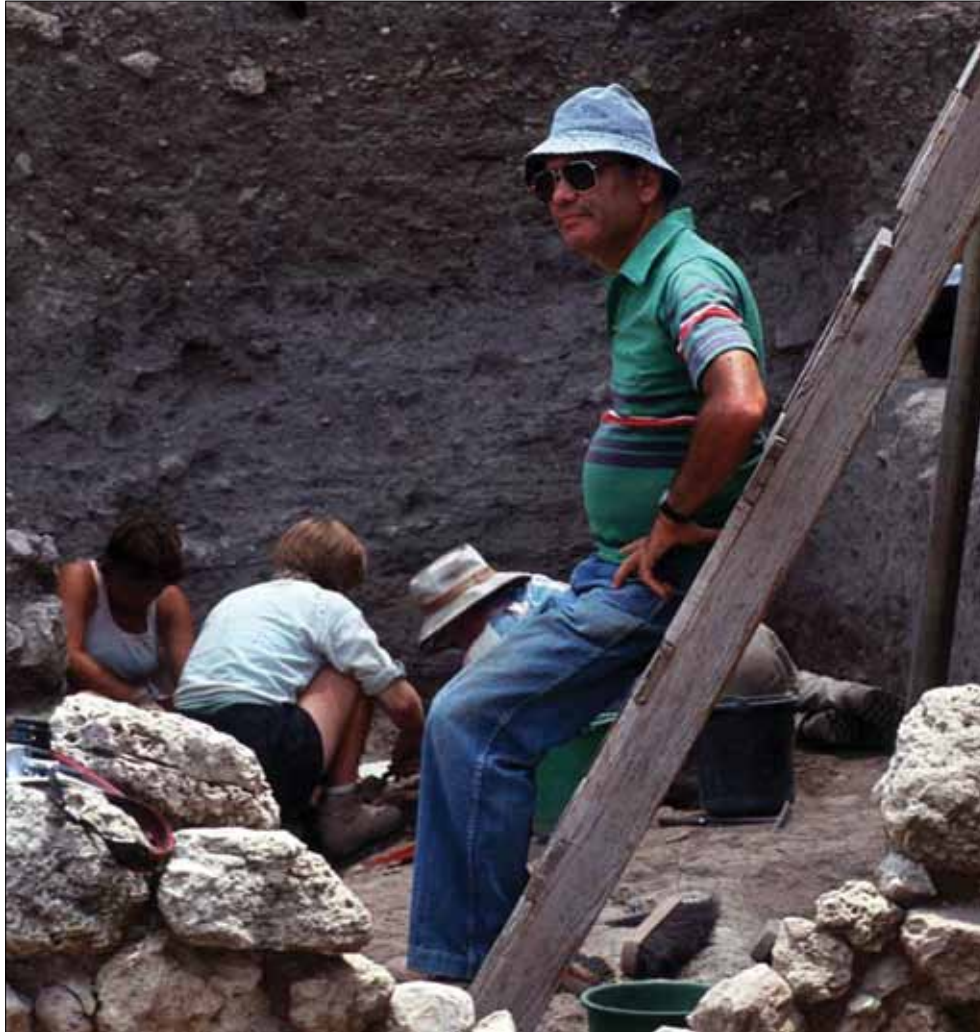
“Hamizgaga” Museum (Kibbutz Nahsholim), also known as the Glass House, its curator Bracha Guz-Zilberstein, directors and staff: Israel Hirshberg, Nurit Shatzman, Liat Margalit, Roni Sofer-Rozenblum, Hava Mager, Roni Israeli, Inbal Shahaf-Gilad, Nurit Sela and Rina Zemmarin.

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In memory of
Professor Ephraim Stern (1934–2018), Director of the Tel Dor Excavations
1980–2000

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CONTENTS

List of Illustrations	IX
List of Abbreviations.	XXI

VOLUME IIA (QEDEM 10)

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION AND SYNTHESIS

Chapter 1. History of the Excavations in Area G (1986–2004), Post-Excavation Analysis (1993–2010) and Remarks on Documentation and Methods — <i>Jeffrey R. Zorn, Ilan Sharon and Ayelet Gilboa</i>	3
Chapter 2. The Late Bronze and Iron Ages in Area G: An Architectural, Contextual, Functional and Chronological Synthesis — <i>Ayelet Gilboa, Ilan Sharon and Jeffrey R. Zorn</i>	27

PART TWO: STRATIGRAPHY

Chapter 3. Introduction to the Stratigraphy of Area G — Phases 5–12 — <i>Ilan Sharon</i>	81
Chapter 4. East of “Cheryl’s Room”: AG/33–34—Phases 5–6/7? — <i>Allen Estes and Jeffrey R. Zorn</i>	99
Chapter 5. The “Pithoi Room”: AH–AI/33—Phases 5–10 — <i>Allen Estes and Jeffrey R. Zorn</i>	109
Chapter 6. Below “Ana’s Room”: AH/34—Phases 6–8 — <i>Allen Estes</i>	121
Chapter 7. “Cheryl’s Room”: AH–AG/33—Phases 5–8 — <i>Allen Estes and Jeffrey R. Zorn</i>	125
Chapter 8. The “Egyptian-Jars Room”: AI/31—Phases 5–12 — <i>Jeffrey R. Zorn</i>	137
Chapter 9. The Courtyard (The “Bakery” and the Bronze Smithy): AI/32–33, AJ/32—Phases 5–12 — <i>Jeffrey R. Zorn</i>	155
Chapter 10. “Doreen’s Room”: AI/33—Phases 5–10 — <i>Jeffrey R. Zorn</i>	191
Chapter 11. Fragmentary Remains of Phases 5–7 in AI/34 — <i>Jeffrey R. Zorn</i>	205
Chapter 12. The “Cult Room”: AJ/34—Phases 6–10 — <i>Jeffrey R. Zorn</i>	209
Chapter 13. The “Fish Room”: AJ/33 East–AI/33 West—Phases 6–12 — <i>Ilan Sharon</i>	219
Chapter 14. The “Antler Room”: AJ–AK/32—Phases 5–12 — <i>Elizabeth Bloch-Smith, Jeffrey R. Zorn and Ilan Sharon</i>	229
Chapter 15. “Sloan’s Room”: AJ/33–AK/33 West—Phases 5–10 — <i>Ilan Sharon</i>	249
Chapter 16. Iron Age Traces: AK/34 — Phases 4?/5?–6 — <i>Jeffrey R. Zorn</i>	259
Phase Plans and Section — <i>John E. Berg and Sveta Matskevich</i>	261

VOLUME IIB (QEDEM 11)

PART THREE: CERAMICS

Chapter 17. The Local and Imported Late Bronze Age II–III Pottery of Phases 12 and 11: Typology, Chronology and Cultural Setting — <i>Ragna Stidsing and Yossi Salmon</i>	3
Chapter 18. The Aegean-Type Pottery of Phases 12 and 11 — <i>Philipp W. Stockhammer</i>	71
Chapter 19. Neutron Activation Analysis of Aegean-Type Pottery of Phase 11 — <i>Yossi Salmon</i>	89
Chapter 20. The Iron Age Pottery of Phases 10–5: Sequence, Contexts, Typology, Cultural Affinities and Chronology — <i>Ayelet Gilboa</i>	97
Chapter 21. Quantitative Aspects of the Iron Age Pottery Assemblage — <i>Sveta Matskevich and Ayelet Gilboa</i>	173

PART FOUR: ARTIFACTS, ECOFACTS AND OTHER STUDIES

Chapter 22. Metalworking in Area G — <i>Naama Yahalom-Mack, Jeffery R. Zorn, Adi Eliyahu-Behar, Sana Shilstein and Sarel Shalev</i>	195
Chapter 23. Lead Isotope Analysis of Copper-Based Artifacts from Area G — <i>Naama Yahalom-Mack and Irina Segal</i>	205
Chapter 24. The Flaked-Stone Tool Assemblage — <i>John E. Berg</i>	211
Chapter 25. The Glyptics of Area G — <i>Othmar Keel and Stefan Münzer</i>	233
Chapter 26. Ornamental and Utilitarian Objects of the Late Bronze IIB and Iron Ages — <i>Hagar Ben Basat</i> With an Addendum by <i>Christian Herrmann</i>	247
Chapter 27. Mammalian Remains — <i>László Bartosiewicz and Elicia Lisk</i>	277
Chapter 28. Non-Mammalian Vertebrate Remains — <i>László Bartosiewicz, Elicia Lisk and Irit Zohar</i>	313
Chapter 29. The Human Skeletal Remains from Area G — <i>Tzipi Kahana, Marina Faerman and Patricia Smith</i>	323
Chapter 30. Radiocarbon Dating of the Human Skeletal Remains from Area G — <i>Elisabetta Boaretto</i>	331
Chapter 31. Mollusk Shells from the Late Bronze Age IIB in Area G — <i>Daniella E. Bar-Yosef Mayer and Yana Vitalkov</i>	333

VOLUME IIC (QEDEM 12)

PART FIVE: POTTERY PLATES, PHASE PLANS AND INDEX OF LOCI

Pottery Plates – Chapter 17.	3
Pottery Plates – Chapter 20.	63
Phase Plans and Section – <i>John E. Berg and Sveta Matskevich</i>	241
Index of Loci – <i>Jeffrey R. Zorn, Ilan Sharon, Elizabeth Bloch-Smith and Allen Estes</i>	257

CHAPTER 8

THE “EGYPTIAN-JARS ROOM”: AI/31—PHASES 5–12

Jeffrey R. Zorn

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Jeffrey R. Zorn (1987–1999)
Elizabeth Bloch-Smith (2000)
Directed by: Andrew Stewart on behalf of UC Berkeley
(1988–1994)
Jeffery R. Zorn on behalf of Cornell University
(1997–1999)

INTRODUCTION

The excavation unit analyzed in this chapter includes all of AI/31. This is the area generally south of Phase 9 W9800, although in later and earlier phases, when this wall does not exist, the division of loci between this square and AI/32 is based on the square in which the locus was excavated. AI/31 contains one of the longest stratigraphic sequences on the tell, extending from the end of the Late Bronze Age until the Roman period (Fig. 8.1). This sequence includes eighteen stages (i–xviii) and twelve phases, sometimes with more than one sub-phase.

Although a relatively small exposure that included one fieldstone wall, an oven, four small floor sections and a few deposits sealed below late (stages iii–iv) features, this makes up the largest expanse of late Iron Age material (Iron IIB–C) in Area G (stage vi; Phase 5). As in AI/32 to the north (Chapter 9), more extensive Iron Age remains undamaged by later activities only begin to appear towards the beginning of Iron Age II, although preservation is still poor and consists of only one wall and a few scraps of floors (stage vii; Phase 6). Clear substantial architecture dividing AI/31 into several rooms appears in the next stage down (stage viii, Phase 7). The walls of this stage are built directly on top of the floors of the previous stage with no foundation trenches, a feature characteristic of other parts of Area G. This next lower phase consists of two sub-phases (stages ix–x, Phases 8a–b) and seems to represent mainly leveling operations to prepare the area for construction above the massive destruction (stage

xi, Phase 9). This destruction provided large amounts of *in situ* pottery and clear evidence for the roofing system for the building which burned here. Below the destruction was a stage of pre-construction leveling, below which were deposits associated with metallurgical activities (stages xii–xiv, Phases

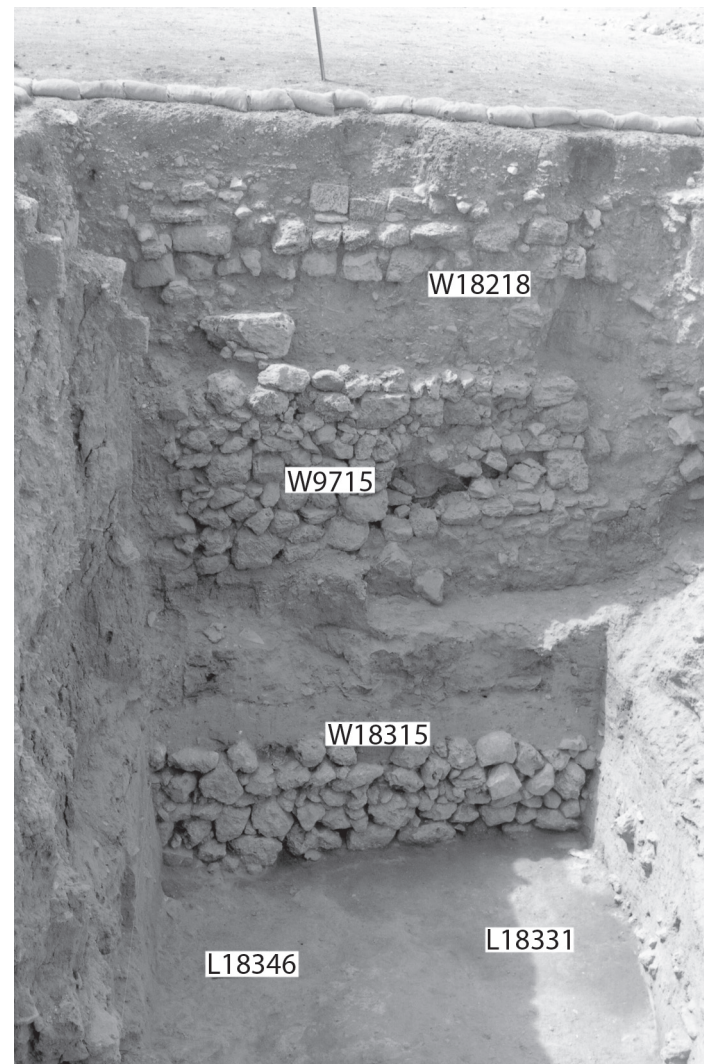


Fig. 8.1. Southern balk in AI/31, showing three superimposed wall sequences: W18218 of stages iii–iv (Phases 2–3), W9715a–b of stages vii–x (Phases 6–8), and W18315 of stages xii–xiv (Phase 10). (p08Z3-1209)

10a–c). Below Phase 10, the deposits revealed are sketchier. There are no walls and only fragments of floors; these seem to represent another leveling operation in preparation for the construction of Phase 10, preceded by a possible earlier area of metallurgical activity (stages xv–xvi, Phases 11a–b). The earliest deposits reached seem to represent tell debris and beach sand brought in to level the area for construction (stages xvii–xviii, Phases 12a–b). A possible floor was reached at the lowest point excavated in AI/31, but with no wider architectural context into which to integrate this surface, it is impossible to know if it is part of a building or a sub-phase in the general leveling operation.

WALL AND FLOOR STAGES

Table 8.1. Walls and floors per stage and phase

Stage	Phase and Horizon	Walls and Floors	Plans
vi	Phase 5 – Ir2b–c	W9636 ≡ F9627 ≡ F9635 ≡ F18200 ≡? F9165	Thumbnail plan: Fig. 8.2; details: Plan 10
vii	Phase 6 – Ir1l2–Ir2a	W9175a ≡ F9850 = F9606 ≡ F9056 ≡ F9688 ≡ F18288 ≡ F18364	Thumbnail plan: Fig. 8.10; details: Plans 8–9
viii	Phase 7 – Ir1b–Ir1l2	W9715a ≡ W9963 ≡ W9964 ≡ W9952 ?≡ W18023 ?≡ W18300 ≡ F9979 ≡ F9965 ≡? F18001	Thumbnail plan: Fig. 8.16; details: Plan 7
ix	Phase 8a – Ir1alb	W9715a ?≡ F18003 = F18024 ≡ F18002 = F18018 ≡ F18016 ≡? F18001	Thumbnail plan: Fig. 8.17; details: Plan 6
x	Phase 8b – Ir1alb	W9715b ≡ F18077	Thumbnail plan: Fig. 8.17; details: Plan 6
xi	Phase 9 – Ir1a <i>late</i>	W9800 ≡ F18237 = F18033* = F18064 = F18265 = F18319	Thumbnail plan: Fig. 8.25; details: Plan 5
xii	Phase 10a – Ir1a <i>early</i>	W18315 ?≡ F18078 ≡? F18086	Thumbnail plan: Fig. 8.34; details: Plan 4
xiii	Phase 10b – Ir1a <i>early</i>	W18296 ≡ W18315 ≡ F18295 = F18297 ≡ F18316 = F18317 ≡? 18086	Thumbnail plan: Fig. 8.36; details: Plan 3
xiv	Phase 10c – Ir1a <i>early</i>	W18296 ≡ W18315 ≡ F18298 ≡ F18322 ≡ F18330**	Thumbnail plan: Fig. 8.39; details: Plan 2
xv	Phase 11a – Horizon 4	F18353 = F18357 = F18346	Details: Plan 1
xvi	Phase 11b – Horizon 2/3	F18465	Details: Plan 1
xvii	Phase 12a – Horizon 1/2		Details: Plan 1
xviii	Phase 12b – Horizon 1	F18414	Details: Plan 1

pottery assemblages: * Plates 20.21–20.26 ** Plates 20.10–20.11

DISCUSSION OF PHASES AND STAGES

Phase 5 (Stage vi)

W9636 ≡ F9627 ≡ F9635 ≡ F18200 ≡? F9165

The relatively limited stage vi material is preserved either below the stage iii walls or stage i drain L9205 (to be discussed in the forthcoming volume on the post-Iron Age material).

W9636 is below both stage iv W9058 and stage v cobble floor F9044 (top #14.73, base #14.32; Figs. 8.3–8.5). It is too close to W9715a (ca. 1 m) for the two to have been in use together, despite the high level of the preserved top of W9715a. For the most part, W9636, 60 cm wide, is constructed of fieldstones and preserved only two courses high, although at its eastern end it is three courses high. The eastern end is also squared off, as if it had been a doorway; however, this is also the area cut by Pit 9062 of stage v, so this remains uncertain (Figs. 8.6–8.7). In about the center of its excavated limits, two almost-ashlar blocks form a squared section of masonry, possibly the base for an ashlar pier (Figs. 8.3–8.4). To the west of this base, the northern edge of the wall rises ca. 10 cm above the rest of the wall; this lip is composed of stones sunk deeper into the wall than the stones on the south. It is just at this lip that the wall is reached by F9627 from the south (#14.78; Fig. 8.5) and by F9635 from the north (#14.61–14.59; Figs. 8.5, 8.7). Both floors were fragmentary and found only near or in the western balk; the difference in their elevations indicates a slight slope. Both floors are below the base of the stage iv W9058.

F9165 (#14.45–14.36), on the border between AI/31 and AI/32, seems too high to be a Phase 6 floor (nearby Phase 6a floors being ca. #13.70–13.85). On the other hand, its elevation is closer to that of F18200 and oven L18363 (discussed below), making it more reasonably Phase 5 (see also locus genealogy for AI/32).

Contemporaries of these floors and associated materials were found below drain L9025 and in the western balk, to the north of W9636. This includes F18200 (#14.67–14.58), on

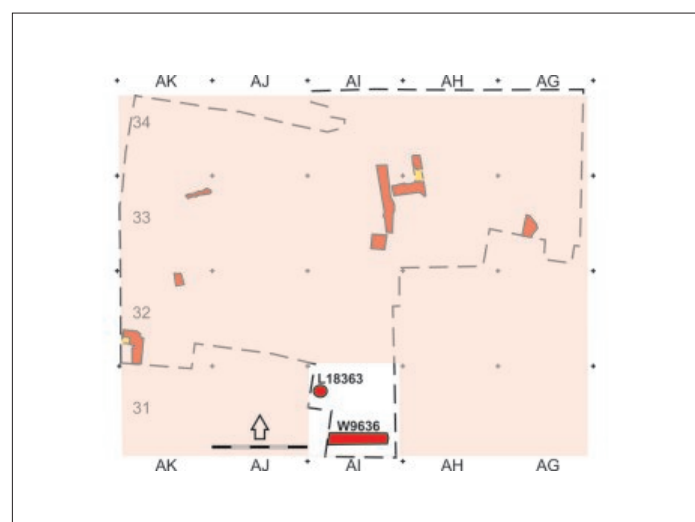


Fig. 8.2. Thumbnail plan of Phase 5, AI/31. For details, see Plan 10. (d09Z3-1216)

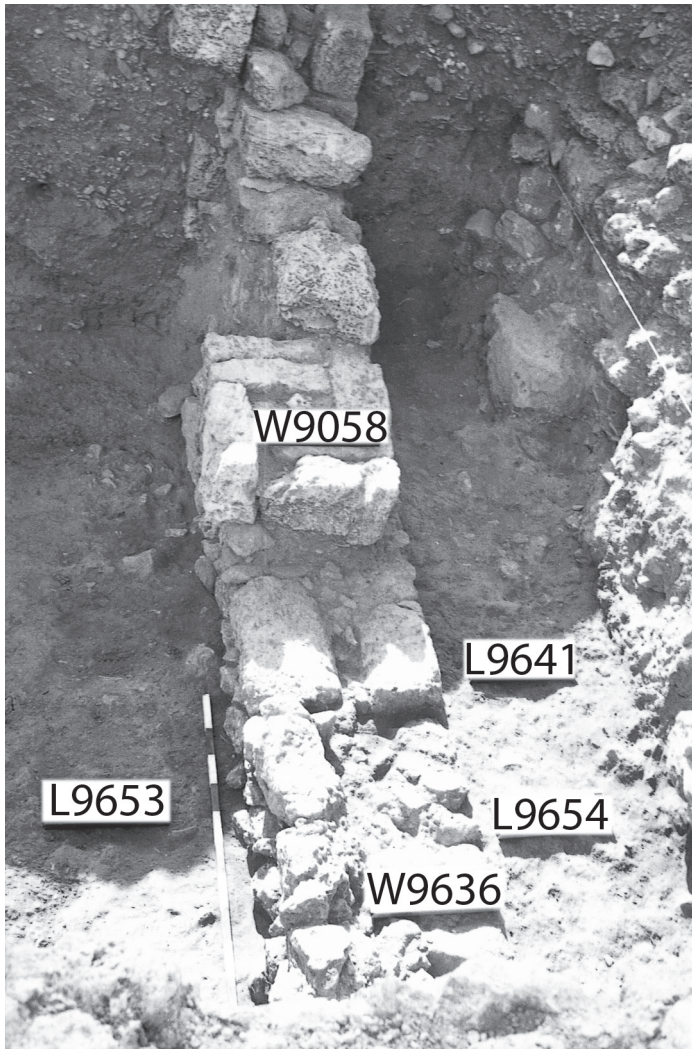


Fig. 8.3. Foreground: Phase 5 W9636, looking east. Late W9058 built directly on top of W9636 to the rear (see Fig. 8.4). (p05Z3-0230)

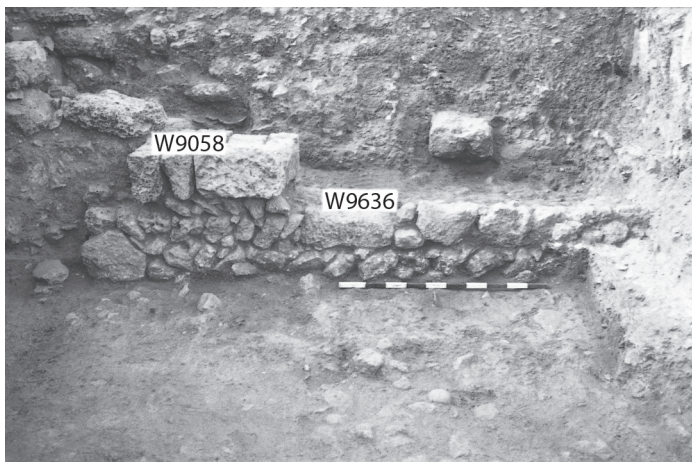


Fig. 8.4. W9636, looking south. Above and left: late W9058; the ashlar sticking out of the rear balk is part of late W9047. (p05Z3-0224)

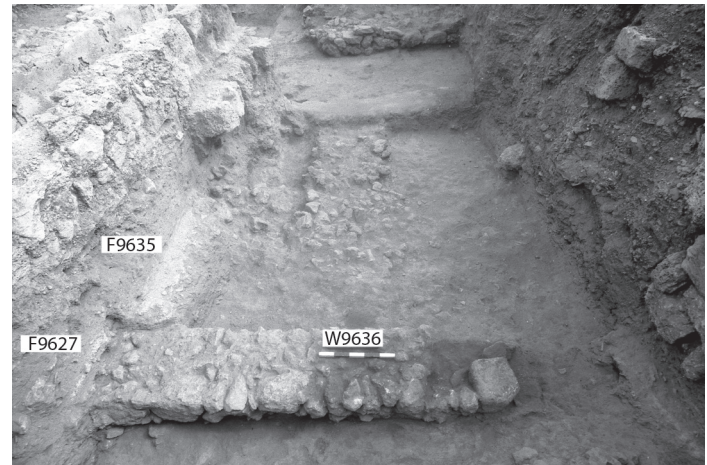


Fig. 8.5. Foreground: W9636, looking north. Left balk: white lines of F9635 (north) and F9627 (south), reaching the higher lip of W9636. (p08Z3-1234)



Fig. 8.6. AI/31, looking southeast. Left: late W9058 in balk. Squared eastern end of W9636 suggesting a doorway (photograph courtesy of Andrew Stewart). (p10Z3-0067)

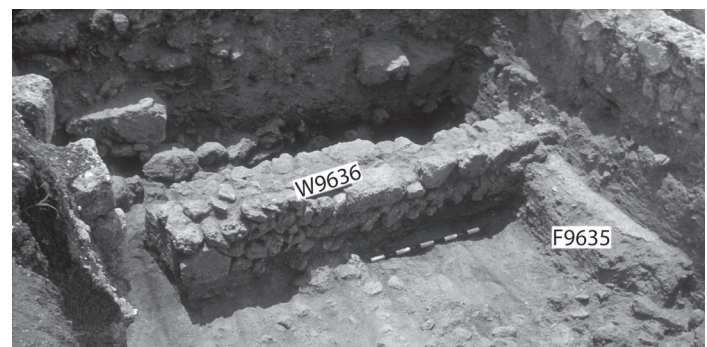


Fig. 8.7. Squared eastern end of W9636, looking southwest. Right: Phase 5 F9635 in balk (photograph courtesy of Andrew Stewart). (p10Z3-0068)

which oven L18363 rested (base at #14.53). Its fairly smooth clay walls are almost cylindrical and do not contain sherds or stones, as did some other Area G ovens (e.g., two on “Cheryl’s floor” in AH/33; Chapter 7). The eastern wall of oven L18363 originally appeared when the balk below drain L9025 began to erode and was designated L18205 (Fig. 8.8),

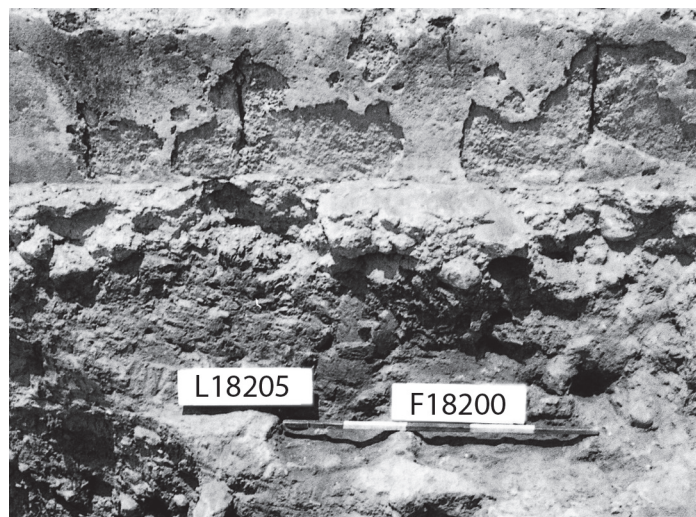


Fig. 8.8. Phase 5 oven L18363 (its eastern face numbered here L18205) on F18200, below late drain L9025, looking west. (p10Z3-0068)

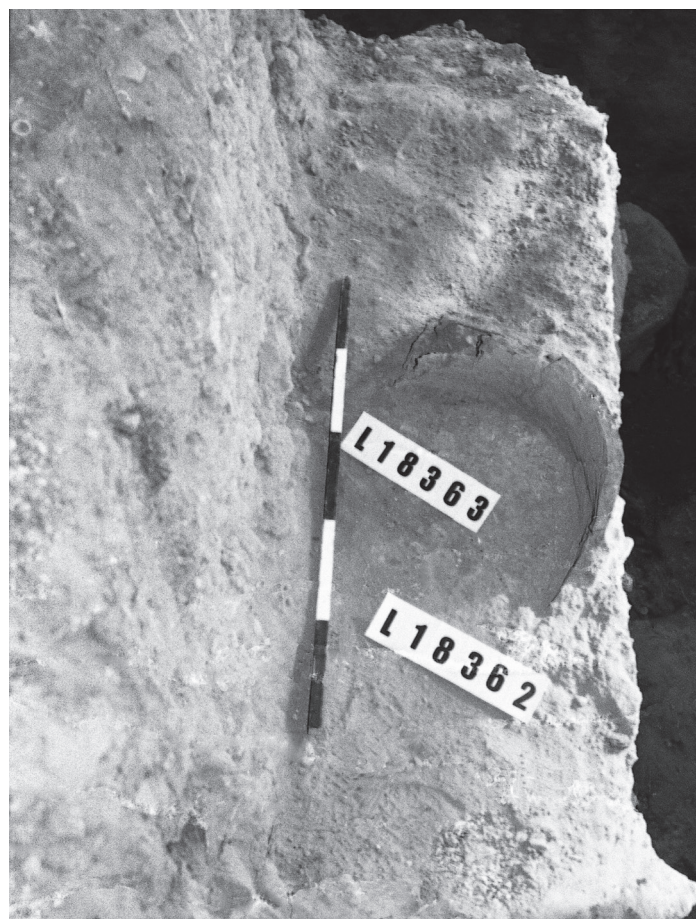


Fig. 8.9. Oven L18363, looking north. (p05Z3-0233)

but was renumbered L18363 when completely excavated (Fig. 8.9).

As noted above, although limited in scope, the material recovered from this phase is the most extensive and secure Iron IIB–C pottery to be found in Area G. These contexts include: fills L9621 and L9628 that were sealed below F9044 = F9046 of stage v, L9627 that was sealed below W9052 of stage iv, L9641 below W9047, and L9654 below L9627 (stage iv) and L9628 (stage v). L18200 and L18362 below drain L9025 were too limited in scope and difficult to trace due to many years of erosion and desiccation, and contained mixed materials.

Phase 6 (Stage vii)

W9715a ≡ *F9850* = *F9606* ≡ *F9056* ≡ *F9688* ≡ *F18288* ≡ *F18364*

The separation of stage vii (Phase 6) from stages vi and viii is difficult. There are ca. 1.4–1.6 meters of debris from the highest preserved material cut on the north and south by W9636 of stage vi (ca. #14.70–14.60), which must be earlier than that wall, until the next set of clear and certain floors which can be associated with stage viii walls (ca. #13.35–13.10). Only small disconnected patches of possible floors were found within that gap. These might either be Phase 6 or (higher within) Phase 7.

W9715a, which must be earlier than W9636, rises to almost the same height (ca. #14.60), suggesting that it continued in use into stage vii. The other walls of stage viii, W9963 and W9964, are preserved much lower. While they might have existed in stage vi, there is no positive evidence for this. On the other hand, the lack of W9963 and W9964 in stage vii would make for a very large space extending from the southern balk of AI/31 to the middle of AI/32.

Lacking walls or continuous floors over the entire AI/31–32 expanse, the correlation between the various patchy surfaces—within AI/31 and between AI/31 and AI/32 — is difficult. Moreover, AI/31 contains several patches of floor which may belong (at least by elevation) to Phase 6, but floors

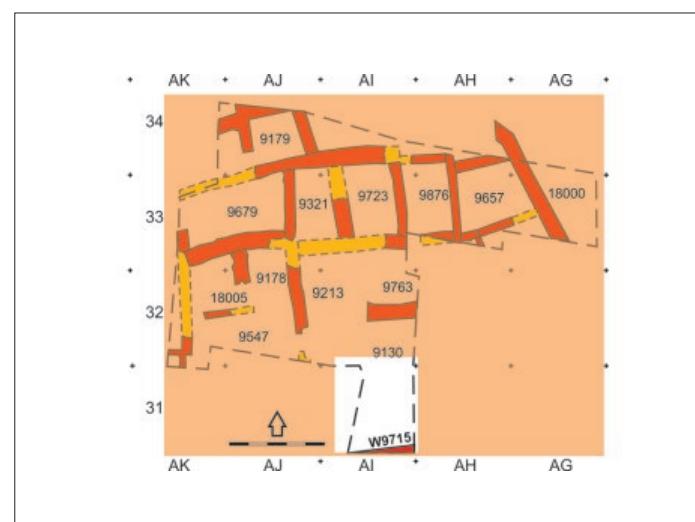


Fig. 8.10. Thumbnail plan of Phase 6, AI/31. For details, see Plans 8–9. (d09Z3-1217)

of the same phase are lacking in AI/32. By contrast, AI/32 preserves four superimposed Phase 7 floors, but only one Phase 7 floor is evident in AI/31.

Several small patches of floor were found scattered across AI/31 at about the same level. These include F9850 = F9606 (#14.23–14.04; Fig. 8.11), which were found in cleaning loci at the bottom of wash that eroded into the square between 1986 to 1991 and so, may be suspect. However, their crushed-*kurkar* matrix is consistent with that of F9056, excavated in 1986. Most of the other floor fragments in this stage are of ashy material: F9688 (#14.17; possibly not a floor, but rather a *kurkar* brick; see further below), F9056 (#14.12), F18207 (#14.01–13.90), F18288 (just below F18207 at #13.91–13.86) and F18364 (#14.41–14.18). Although none of the floor fragments could be traced to any of the walls (W9715a and, possibly, W9963 and W9964; see below), they are all below the base of W9636 of stage vi and above the floors associated with W9963 and W9964 in stage viii, which places them in stage vii. Moreover, it is at about this elevation that the tops of the heavy rubble loci of stage vii, which reach their fullest extent in L9895, begin to appear: L9714 (#14.24–14.23) and L9724 (#14.15–14.04; Figs. 8.12–8.13).

W9715a (top #14.62, base #13.15; Figs. 8.1, 8.19, 8.21) was first built in Phase 8; about half of it remained unexcavated in the southern balk. Its visible width was 35 cm. It stood ca. eight courses high and was built of fieldstones measuring 40 by 20 or 10 cm. This wall surely belongs to this stage, as it is preserved almost as high as W9636 of stage vi (ca. #14.60 vs. #14.70), well above the top of the rubble layer (L9895 and others).

A later constructional stage of W9963 and W9664 (described below) might theoretically belong to stage vii as well. It depends, first, on whether F9688, the *kurkar* patch found in the preserved upper portion of W9963 (Fig. 8.14), is truly a floor or merely a brick; the latter possibility seems more likely. Especially suggestive of later continued use of W9963 and W9964 are the mudbricks visible in the western balk at and above the stone rubble layer (Fig. 8.13). The massive amount of stone rubble found above W9963 and W9964 might well be the collapsed and leveled remains of a later stage of these walls, when the earlier mudbrick walls served as foundations for later stone socles, especially as this rubble appears to match the line of these two walls (Fig. 8.12). It seems less

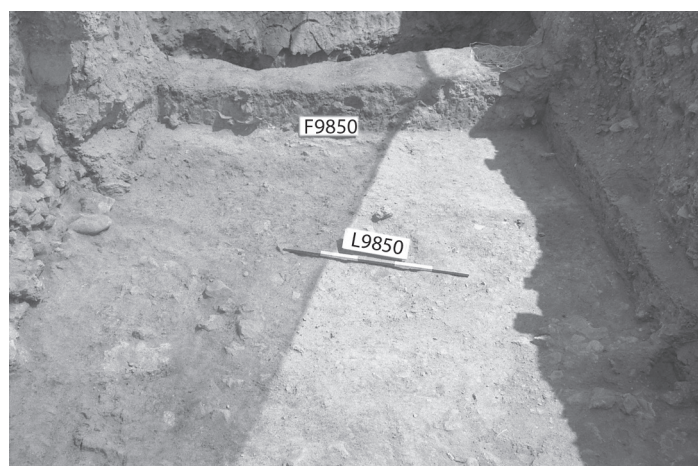


Fig. 8.11. F9850 in AI/31, looking north. (p05Z3-0237)



Fig. 8.12. Foreground: Phase 5 W9636, looking north. T-shaped rubble L9714 north of W9636, possibly associated with mudbrick walls W9963 and W9964 (Phase 7) below. See Figs. 8.18–8.19. (p05Z3-0239)

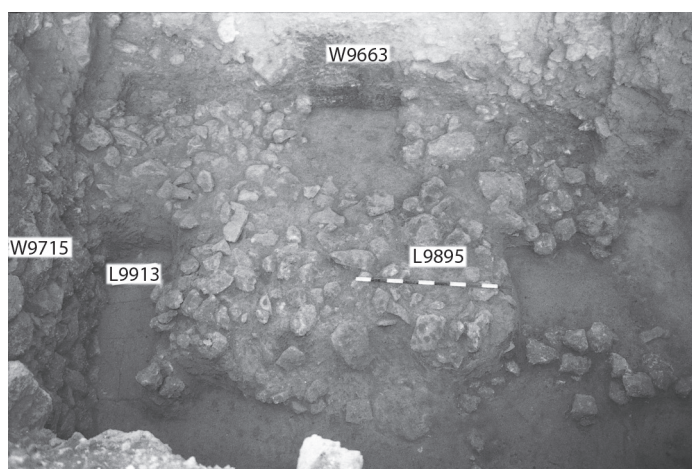


Fig. 8.13. Phase 6 rubble L9895, looking west, above Phase 7 W9663 and W9664 (top: mudbricks of W9663 in section). Left: W9715; note its height in relation to the adjacent rubble. (p05Z3-0240)

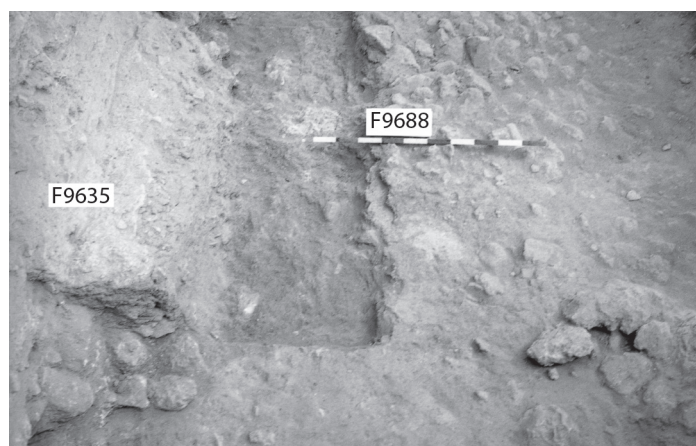


Fig. 8.14. Phase 6 F9688 in middle of stone rubble, looking north. Left: Phase 5 F9635 floating. (p08Z3-1237)

likely that such a large amount of debris could originate from W9715a or from unexcavated walls in the balks. However, the degree to which this rubble was leveled made tracing the lines of this later reuse impossible and so, this theoretical later stage for these two walls is not depicted on the plan. All told, our ability to differentiate between stages vi, vii and viii is based on meager data and should be regarded as tentative.

Stone-lined silo L9882 (top #14.65, base #12.65; Fig. 8.15) was cut and partially built over by oven L18363 of stage vi/Phase 5. This suggests that prior to the construction of Phase 5, there was some general leveling of the area, effacing the upper part of the earlier silo.

Comments on the Nature and Integrity of the Stage vii Deposits

For dating purposes, stage vii has several key loci which are sealed by features of stages iv, v and vi, or are cut by features of stage vi. For the most part, these loci are mudbrick debris, distinct from the debris of the stage ii Roman disturbance. The sealed deposits include L9671 (below W9047 stage iv, cut by W9636 stage vi), L9670 (below F9046 stage v, cut by W9636 stage vi), L9653 (below F9635 stage vi and F9044 stage v, cut



Fig. 8.15. Silo L9882, looking northeast. (p05Z3-0234)

by W9635), L9705 (below W9636), L9688 (sealed by L9653), L9718 and L9724 (below L9670, L9688 and L9705). Besides these loci, which have direct relevance for the dating of the later part of stage vii, L9689 and L9714 also belong to this part of the stage; they may, however, contain some between-season erosion wash. L18207 is below W9051, but is not sealed; L18364 is also unsealed.

Phases 7 (Stage viii), 8a (Stage ix) and 8b (Stage x)

Stage viii W9715a ≡ W9963 ≡ W9964 ≡ W9952 ≡? W18300 ≡? W18023 ≡ F9979 ≡ F9165 ≡? F18001 – Phase 7

Stage ix W9715a ≡? F18003 = F18024 ≡ F18002 = F18018 ≡ F18016 ≡? F18001 – Phase 8a

Stage x W9715b ≡ F18077 – Phase 8b

W9963, W9964 and W9715a and their relationship to

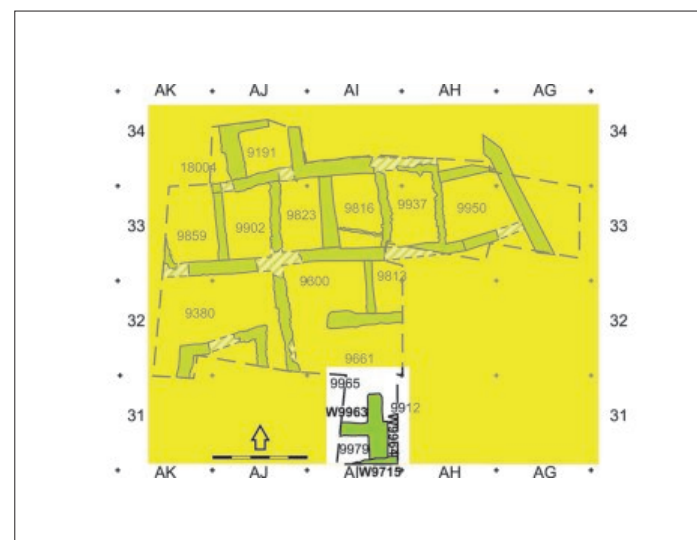


Fig. 8.16. Thumbnail plan of Phase 7, AI/31. For details, see Plan 7. (d09Z3-1218)

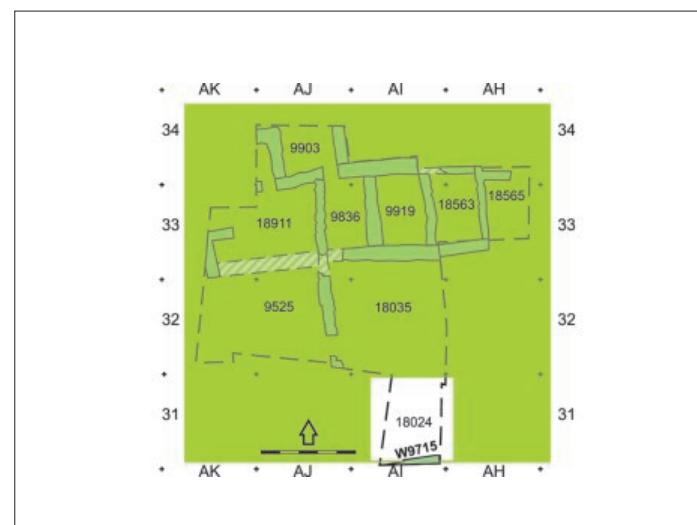


Fig. 8.17. Thumbnail plan of Phase 8, AI/31. For details, see Plan 6. (d09Z3-1219)

surrounding floors are the key for understanding stages viii–x (Phases 7–8) (Figs. 8.18–8.20). W9715 existed in all three of these stages, while W9963 and W9964 only in stage viii (Phase 7).

W9963 runs east–west and abuts north–south W9964, which abuts the upper stone part of east–west W9715a. W9963 is 70 cm wide; its bricks were ca. 45 x 35 x 7 cm, laid two bricks wide; at least four courses were uncovered during excavation (top #13.60, base #12.97) and probably another four were visible in the western section (Fig. 8.13). W9964 was 75 cm to 1 m wide and preserved two–three courses of mudbricks high, similar in size to those in W9963 (top #13.45, base #12.94). It is unclear if W9963 and W9964 had upper stone stages similar to W9715a. There was certainly enough rubble, especially in L9895 (top ca. #14.00, base #13.70), above these two walls for such stone courses, but no such courses were found *in situ*. W9715 has an upper fieldstone section (=W9715a, attributed to stage vii, described above), with three courses of mudbrick below (=W9715b; top #13.32, base #12.84); the mudbricks were 9

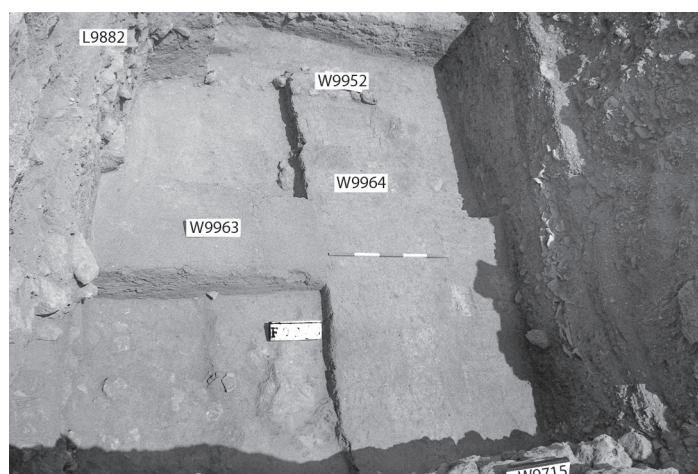


Fig. 8.18. Juncture of W9963 and W9964, looking north. Note fieldstone W9952 at northern end of W9964. Phase 6 Silo L9882 in western balk. (p08Z3-1128)

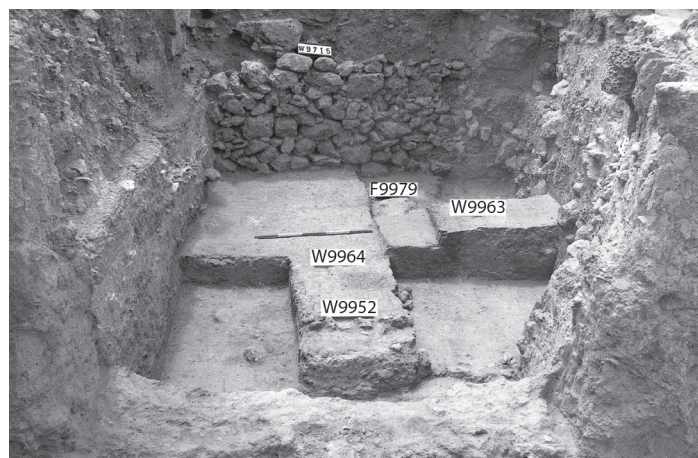


Fig. 8.19. Phase 7 W9963, W9964 and W9715, looking south. (p08Z3-1129)

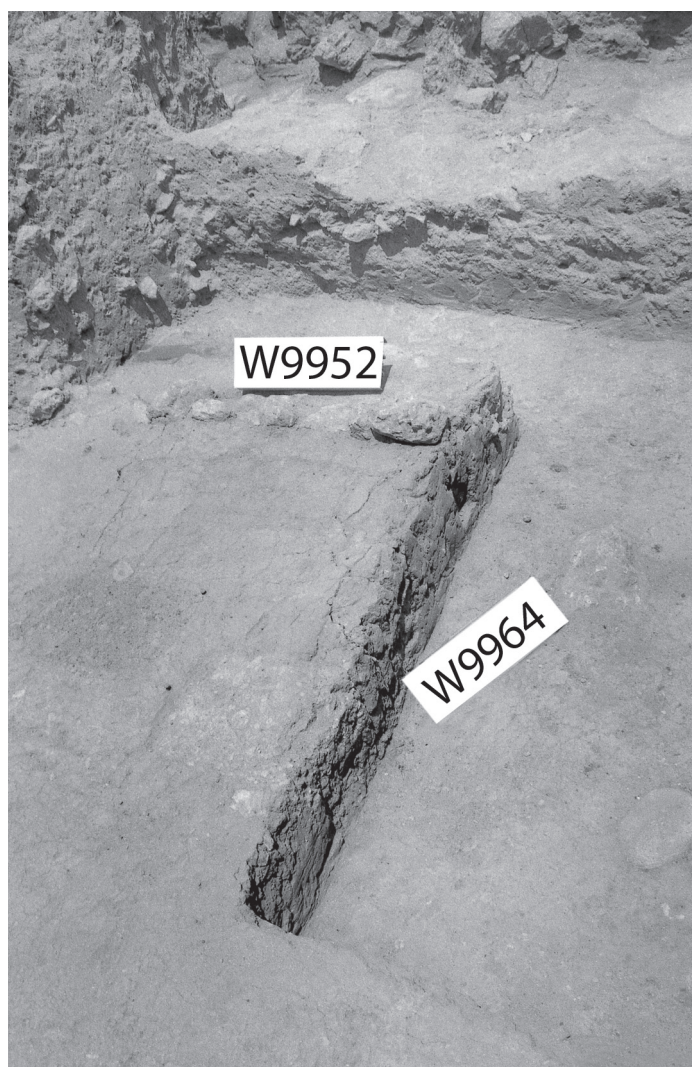


Fig. 8.20. W9964, with row of fieldstone W9952, looking northwest. (p08Z3-1130)

x 20 cm in section. W9952 is a single course of cobble-size fieldstones set in the north face of W9964 (#13.47–13.36; Figs. 8.19–8.20), which might have been a partial facing on this wall.

W18023 is a mudbrick wall which was seen only in the eastern balk, attributed to stage viii. Its height is uncertain, but it has a base elevation of ca. #12.80 and is 80 cm wide. It is on roughly the same line as W9963, perpendicular to W9964. Some seemingly intact mudbricks were found in the area between W9964 and the eastern balk containing W18023, but it was not possible to trace them at the time as a wall. F18002 = F18018, found in the space between the two walls, appears to be below these walls and is attributed to stage ix (Phase 8a). It remains uncertain if W18023 reached W9964, or if the bricks found represent only debris or a threshold for a doorway.

W18300 (top #13.34, base #13.07; Fig. 8.21) is a small section of a stone wall attributed to stage viii, ca. three stones wide and 1.2 m long, although its western face is in the balk. It runs perpendicular between W9963 and W9715a, but no direct connection to either wall was established.



Fig. 8.21. Stone section of W9715 in southern balk and W18300 in western balk, below drain L9025, looking southwest. (p05Z3-0242)

W9963 and W9964 divide the space into several distinct areas. The floor sequences are best treated on a room-by-room basis: east of W9964 (Room 9912), northwest of W9963 and

W9964 (Room 9965), and southwest of W9963 and W9964 (Room 9979).

In Room 9912, east of W9964 is F18002 (#13.11–13.09) = F18018 (#13.11–12.95; Fig. 8.22) which either reaches the base of the lowest stones in W9715a or covers the top of the mudbrick portion of W9715b. No clear relations to W9964 could be established. This is an extremely patchy floor. Its elevation and stratigraphic position are similar to F18003 and F18024 (below) and it is likewise assigned to stage ix (Phase 8a). Beneath F18002 = F18018 is a leveling fill (L18025, see below) laid over the destruction material of stage ix.

In Room 9979, southwest of W9964 and W9963 are several floors. F9979 (#13.35–13.27), although not traced to any walls, is attributed to stage viii (Phase 7). F18003 (#13.17–12.99), which reached the base of the lowest stones in W9715a and ran under W9963 and W9964, and F18024 (#13.07–12.86), which reached base of the lowest stones in W9715a and ran under W9963 and W9964; both are attributed to stage ix (Phase 8a) because of their identical stratigraphic relations and it is very likely that these are one and the same floor. F18077 (#13.03–12.95), seen only in section, reached the lower mudbrick phase of W9715b and ran under W9963 and W9964; it is attributed to stage x (Phase 8b). All of these floors were patchy and discontinuous.

In Room 9965, northwest of W9964 and W9963 are F9965 (#13.39) and F18016 (#13.02). F9965 did not reach any of the adjacent walls; however, several of the small vessels found in this locus were leaning against W9963 and had base elevations (ca. #13.35) that corresponded with those of F9965 (Fig. 8.23). Several other complete vessels were found in other loci above F9965 (see below). It is very probable that F9965 reached W9963 and is thus attributed to stage viii (Phase 7). F18016 extended below W9963 and is attributed to stage ix (Phase 8a).

Finally, F18001 was found while dismantling the northern balk between AI/31 and AI/32 (#13.36–13.15; Fig. 8.24). It is directly over the destruction debris and the leveling fill

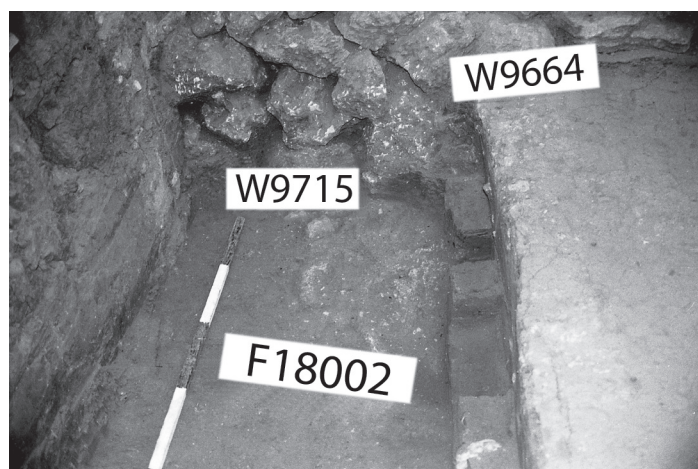


Fig. 8.22. Juncture of W9964 and W9715, looking south. F18002 may go underneath stones of W9715a or reach it. (p05Z3-0244)



Fig. 8.23. Vessels found in L9965, some leaning against W9963, looking west (photograph courtesy of Andrew Stewart). (p10Z3-0070)



Fig. 8.24. F18001, looking north. (p10Z3-0071)

laid over it at the end of Phase 9 (L18009, L18017). No later floors were found above it, although it is possible that they could have been missed during the dismantling process. F18001 does not reach any walls and is related to either Phase 7 or 8.

In summary, of the three stages identified here (viii, ix and x), stages ix and x are associated with construction activities following the stage xi (Phase 9) destruction and perhaps represent leveling activities preceding the construction of new buildings in stage viii. Perhaps W9715b represents a retaining or terrace wall used to prepare the area for this new construction. Stage viii represents a full architectural recovery and is designated Phase 7.

Comments on the Nature and Integrity of the Stages viii–x Deposits

Isolating clean deposits associated with these three stages is nearly impossible, due to the condition of the floors, which are fragmentary, undulating and fairly compact, within a layer of only ca. 35 cm. In fact, a full three-stage floor sequence was only found in the southwestern room. The northwestern room preserved only two floors and the eastern room, only one. On the other hand, the debris on top of the floors of stage viii is quite deep and it is likely that the lowest loci, while not sealed, should not be considered disturbed. Finally, a few intact vessels were found that might indicate a living surface.

The cleanest and most-certain stage viii deposit is L9965, which yielded three complete vessels, two of which were found leaning against W9963 on the level of F9965. Besides mudbrick debris, this matrix consists of fair amounts of charcoal and sand lenses. Similar material was found in the lowest parts (below #13.50) of L9911, L9934 and L9945, immediately above L9965. Each of these loci produced at least one complete vessel found near the level of F9965. Roughly similar matrices were found in L9979 and L18001.

Other stage viii loci of more dubious certainty are those above the level where both W9963 and W9964 could be clearly defined (ca. #13.50) and below the level of the stage

vii (Phase 6) floors (ca. #14.20) and mix of stone rubble and mudbrick debris that likely constitute the collapse of the upper parts of these walls. These include L9894, L9895, L9910 (ashy debris), L9912, L9913 (possibly contaminated by Pit L9062), L9933, L9946 and L9956; they also include material from L9911, L9934 and L9945 above ca. #13.50. No clear later intrusions could be traced in these loci, although they cannot be said to be sealed.

Due to the uncertain distinctions between stages viii–x floors, finer distinctions are difficult to establish. It is likely that debris loci below the stage viii floors at ca. #13.40–13.30, and above the level of the bases of W9963 and W9964 at ca. #13.00, represent mostly stage ix material. Tentatively, these may be L9966, L9984 and the lower parts of L18001, L18002, L18003, L18007, L18016 and L18018. Material assignable to stage x is even more problematic because the sole floor belonging to this phase, F18077, was seen only in section.

Phase 9 (Stage xi)

W9800 ≡ *F18237* ≡ *F18033* = *F18064* = *F18265* = *F18319* – *The Destruction Deposit - The “Egyptian-Jars Room”*

This stage is of great importance because the easy-to-recognize destruction material clearly differentiates it from the stages immediately above and below (see section drawing, Fig. 8.26), as well as provides a clear correlation to stage x in AI/32 to the north.

The only stage xi wall is W9800 (top #13.45, base #12.32; Fig. 8.27), which is an 80 cm-wide fieldstone wall preserved four courses high, built of stones with varying dimensions, from 10 cm across up to a single stone over 60 cm long. A threshold in the western end of this wall marks the doorway to AI/32 to the north (ca. #12.60). A question that cannot be answered is if there was a wall in Phase 9 at the southern end of AI/31. There were such walls in Phases 6–8 (W9715) and 10

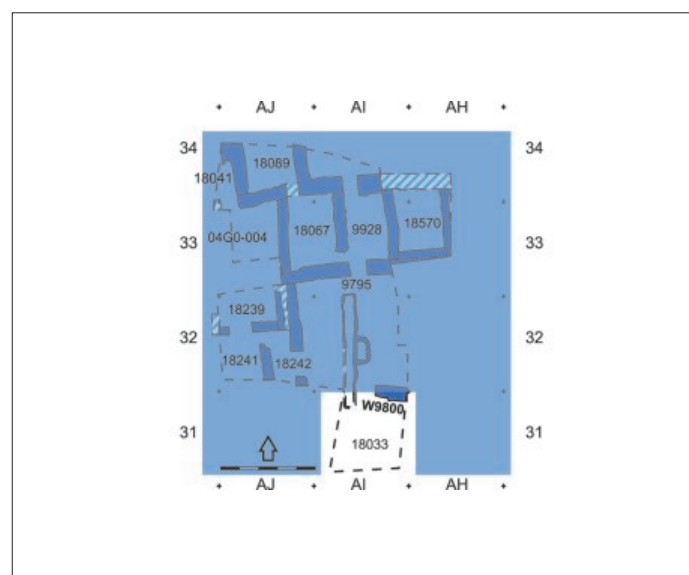


Fig. 8.25. Thumbnail plan of Phase 9, AI/31. For details, see Plan 5. (d09Z3-1220)

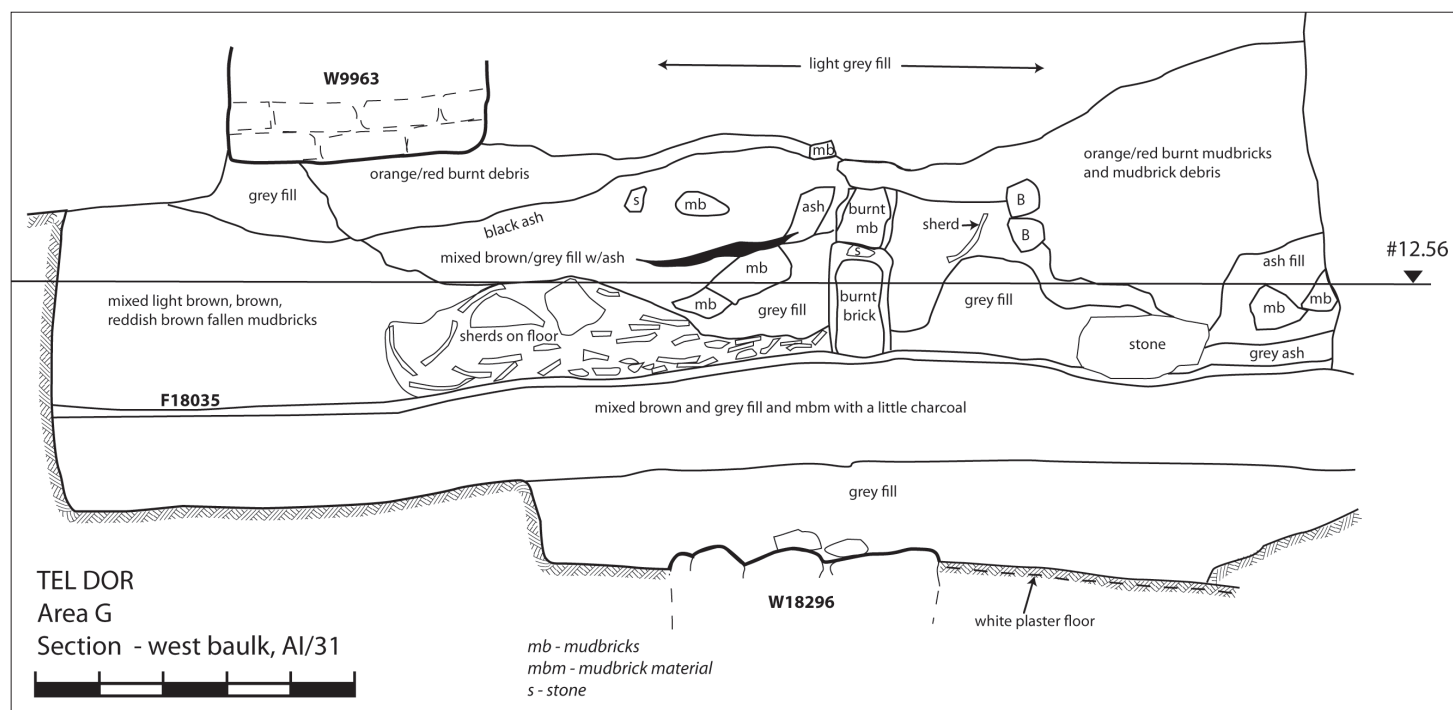


Fig. 8.26. Western balk of AI/31 showing Phase 9 material between W9963 (Phase 7) and W18296 (Phase 10). (d09Z3-1221)

(W18315). It may be that such a Phase 9 wall was sandwiched between these two walls, but slightly farther south and hidden from view in the balk.

W9800 is reached by F18033 (#12.50–12.22; Fig. 8.27) = F18064 (#12.39) = F18237 (#12.47–12.26) = F18265 (Figs. 8.28, 8.30). There is a general downward slope of the floor from north to south of 30–40 cm. The stage xi floor was densely covered with *in situ* vessels (Figs. 8.28–8.30), including three complete Egyptian storage jars made of Nile clay (see Chapter 20), which gave this context (and by extension, the unit as a whole) its name. The burning is most virulent in L18033 on the north and peters out in L18265 to the south. The destruction debris consisted of mudbricks burned to red and orange, as well as lenses of black and white

ashy material. Destruction loci are L9991, L18017, L18033, L18047, L18064, L18237, L18254, L18262 and L18265.

Although traces of ceiling material were found throughout L18033, it was mainly from the balks that it was possible to determine the way in which this room was roofed (Figs. 8.31–8.32). Large beams (9–10 cm in diameter) seem to have run north–south and supported small beams (2–3 cm in diameter), also running north–south. The smaller beams were spaced no more than 20 cm apart. The beams were found completely carbonized. Some organic material (reed matting?), appearing as a thin (up to 3 cm thick) white line, was traced both above and below the beams. This may indicate that reed matting was in some way interwoven with the beams. On top of this was a layer of mud plaster (ca. 3

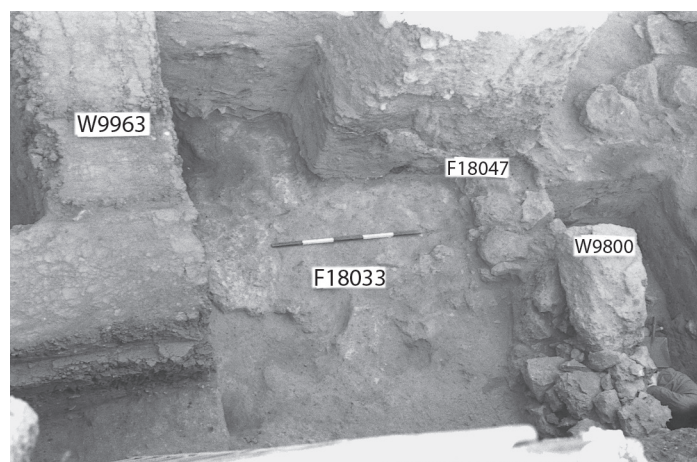


Fig. 8.27. Stage xi (Phase 9) destruction debris F18033 and F18047 (in doorway), looking west. Left: Phase 7 W9963. Right: beyond W9800 is courtyard F9795. (p05Z3-0243)



Fig. 8.28. *In situ* vessels on F18265, looking south (see Fig. 8.30). (p08Z3-1197)



Fig. 8.29. *In situ* vessel on F18033, looking west. (p05Z3-0249)



Fig. 8.31. Burnt ceiling material in western balk, with ashy white reed-matting material interwoven with carbonized beams and clay layer on top. (p05Z3-0252)



Fig. 8.30. *In situ* vessels on F18265 (see Fig. 8.28). (p05Z3-0211)



Fig. 8.32. Eastern balk showing ceiling collapse similar to that in Fig. 8.31. (p05Z3-0253)

cm thick) used to waterproof the roof. Remains of a large carbonized beam were found lying across the threshold in W9800, perhaps the lintel. No restorable vessels were found in the debris above the ceiling, suggesting that the surface of the roof above this room served no special purpose. General elevations for the height at which the ceiling debris was found in L18047 were ca. #12.95–12.58, about 40–50 cm above floor level.

One enigmatic feature is L18319 (Fig. 8.33) in the southwestern corner of the square and above W18315, which was exposed as a result of erosion and was only visible in the balk. It sits on the stage xi floor and seems to have pressed it downward. The visible core of the feature includes three mudbricks laid horizontally one on top of the other. On the western side there is a vertical mudbrick, functioning apparently as a partial extension/support of the core. The northern side seems to be supported by smaller mudbrick chunks. The top is relatively level at #12.20–12.09. Its function is unknown, but it seems too high to be the base for a pillar; perhaps it was a low bench.

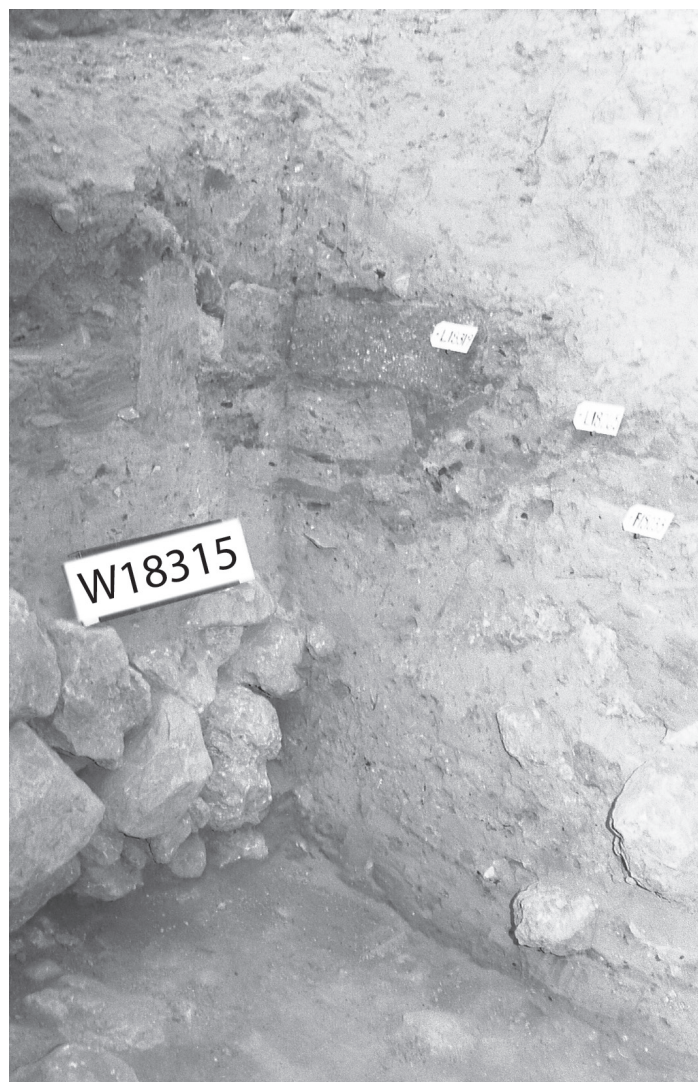


Fig. 8.33. Feature L18319 above Phase 10 W18315, looking southwest. (p05Z3-0254)

Following the destruction, mudbrick debris was used to level the destruction material in preparation for the laying of the floor of stage x (Phase 8b). This material, which is sealed below Phase 8, is not in primary deposition, however. It is found in L18009, L18020, L18025, L18071, L18260 and L18261.

PHASES 10A–C (STAGES xii–xiv): THE BRONZE SMITHY

Overview

Stage xii (Phase 10a) represents the final use of this area before the construction of Phase 9; it seems to be comprised mostly of leveling actions. While it clearly predates the stage xi destruction, none of the ash layers or fire pits characteristic of the metalworking activity of Phase 10b–c were found in this stage. On the other hand, the possible continued use of at least one Phase 10 wall (W18315) seems to justify its inclusion in Phase 10. The other Phase 10 wall in this unit, on the other hand, was evidently not in use in Phase 10a, because it is sealed by a floor of this phase. This leaves a rather wide expanse of about eight meters without any walls.

Stages xiii and xiv (Phases 10b–c) represent the gradual development of AI/31 as part of the metalworking center, also attested in AI/32 to the north. However, unlike in AI/32, where the stages of construction of W18229 provide some guide for sub-phasing, there are no such elements here. Thus, the two stages attest only to a gradual raising of surface levels as a result of the dispersion of ashy material from small fire pits (only a handful of which could actually be traced, either in plan or in section) due to repeated crucible firings.

Because in these stages, we are not usually dealing with single, discreet floors which originally covered the area of entire rooms, but only with partial “resurfacings” due to the gradual accumulation of dispersed ashes, there are few connections traced between most of these surfaces and either of the two walls in this square (W18296 and W18315). W18296 crosses the unit from east to west, dividing it into Room 18330 to the south, between it and W18315 in the southern balk, leaving a sector about 1.5 m to the north, which is actually a part of Courtyard 18333. Floors and installations of Phases 10b and 10c in this northern sector will be discussed with the courtyard (Chapter 9), although their genealogy is presented here.

Phase 10a (Stage xii)

W18315 \equiv *F18078* \equiv ? *F18086*

Stage xii (Phase 10a) is little understood. On the north, it is comprised mostly of loose sandy fills ranging from yellow to red to gray, sometimes with ash (L18078, L18086, L18257, L18266). This material is similar to Phase 10a loci in AI/32. L18302 to the south was mostly darker brown soil with much mudbrick debris. No walls can clearly be associated with this stage; however, the mudbrick debris found in L18302 seems to represent the collapse from W18315 (described below). Two floor fragments belong to this stage: F18078 (#12.33–

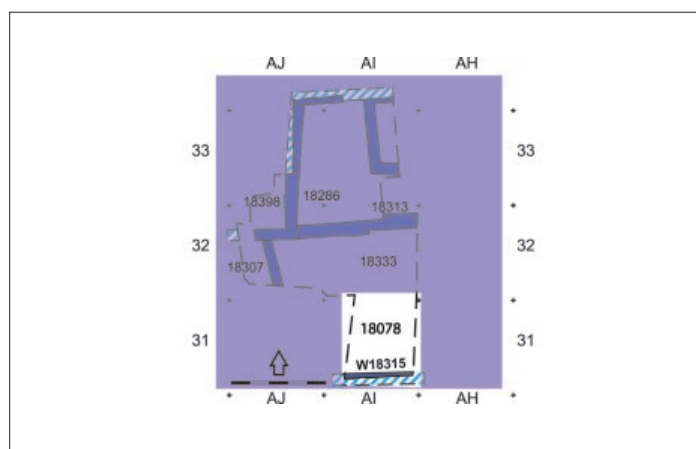


Fig. 8.34. Thumbnail plan of Phase 10a, AI/31. For details, see Plan 4. (d09Z3-1222)

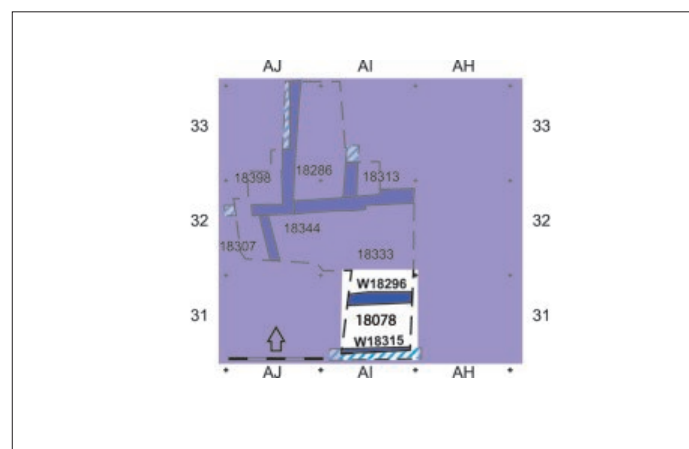


Fig. 8.36. Thumbnail plan of Phase 10b, AI/31. For details, see Plan 3. (d09Z3-1223)

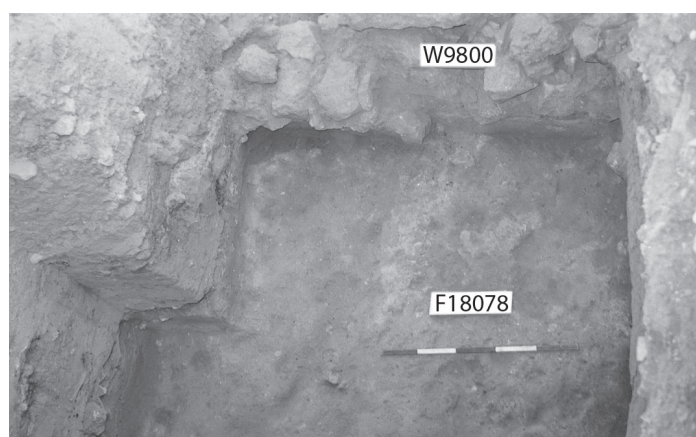


Fig. 8.35. Stage xii (Phase 10a) F18078 below Phase 9 W9800. (p05Z3-0255)

12.11; Fig. 8.35) and F18086 below it (#11.83–11.80). F18078 covers W18296, showing that it had gone out of use by stage xii.

Phase 10b (Stage xiii)

$W18296 \equiv W18315 \equiv F18316 = F18317 \equiv? 18086 (\equiv F18295 = F18297 \text{ discussed in Chapter 9})$

W18315 (top #12.00, base #10.95) is an east–west wall that appeared when it began to erode out of the southern balk; it was not completely excavated. The visible part was 25 cm wide, preserved ca. five courses high and built of fieldstones 20–40 cm across (Figs. 8.1, 8.37–8.38, 8.40). W18296 (top #11.67, base #11.22; Figs. 8.37–8.38, 8.40, 9.75, 9.77) is another east–west wall, about one meter south of the northern balk. It was 60 cm wide, preserved three courses high and built of fieldstones generally 10–30 cm across.

The debris loci L18310 and L18316, south of W18296 and north of W18315, were of loose reddish-brown material

with noticeable amounts of burned mudbrick debris (like those north of W18296; see Chapter 9). L18317 is stone debris, probably fallen from W18296 onto F18316 (#11.44–11.26; Figs. 8.37–8.38), that reached stone walls W18296 and W18315. Ashy material was found in L18316, but it was not laminated as were the multiple ashy layers of stage xiv. In the courtyard to the north, the metallurgical activities spanned both Phases 10b and 10c (see Chapter 9). Thus, our assumption is that the same should be true here and this ash represents the remains of that activity. However, the macro-level characteristics, including ash splays and fire pits, were not observed here in this stage. By the time we returned to Area G with micro-level instrumentation in 2002, this area was buried under balk collapse and was not tested.

Phase 10c (Stage xiv)

$W18296 \equiv W18315 \equiv F18298 \equiv F18322 \equiv F18330$
(*metallurgical activity*)

To the south of W18296, F18330 (#11.32–11.18; Fig. 8.40), below stage xiii F18316, reaches W18296, but could not be traced to W18315, although such an original connection seems likely. F18330 is the lowest floor to reach W18296, which floats just below this level. L18330 consisted of five or six multiple ash layers. Two fire pits, L18342 and L18343, were identified as part of this ashy accumulation. L18342 was ca. 20 cm in diameter and 2 cm deep; L18343 was ca. 50 cm in diameter and 8 cm deep. These features indicate that the Phase 10 metallurgical activities extended all the way to the southern edge of the area at this stage.

Neither F18316 nor F18330 were found in the southwestern corner of AI/31. Perhaps there was a shallow stage xii pit/hollow in this area which destroyed most of the earlier stage xiii–xiv floors. L18331, loose reddish soil with sand and mudbrick material which ended on a layer of grayish clayey soil, found just to the west of F18330, might represent such a disturbance here in stage xii. The matrix is clearly unlike the material in Phase 12a L18392 below.



Fig. 8.37. Stage xiii (Phase 10b) F18316 between W18296 and W18315, looking east. (p08Z3-1205)

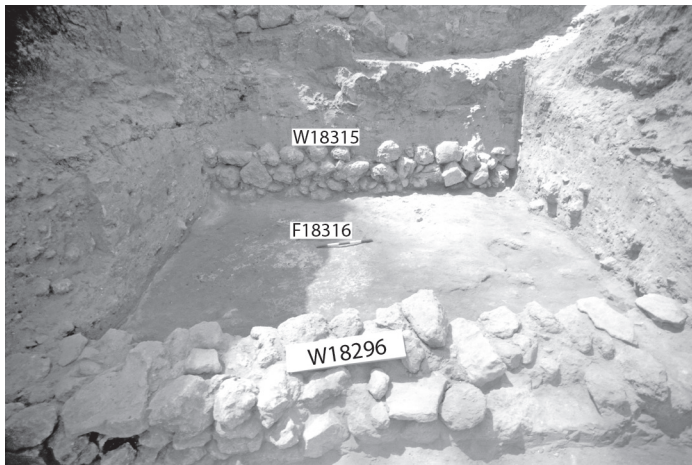


Fig. 8.38. Stage xiii (Phase 10b) F18316 between W18296 and W18315, looking south. (p08Z3-1206)

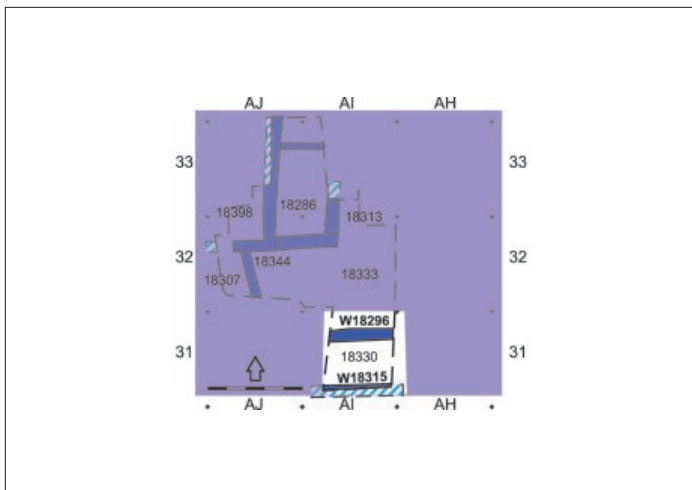


Fig. 8.39. Thumbnail plan of Phase 10c, AI/31. For details, see Plan 2. (d09Z3-1224))

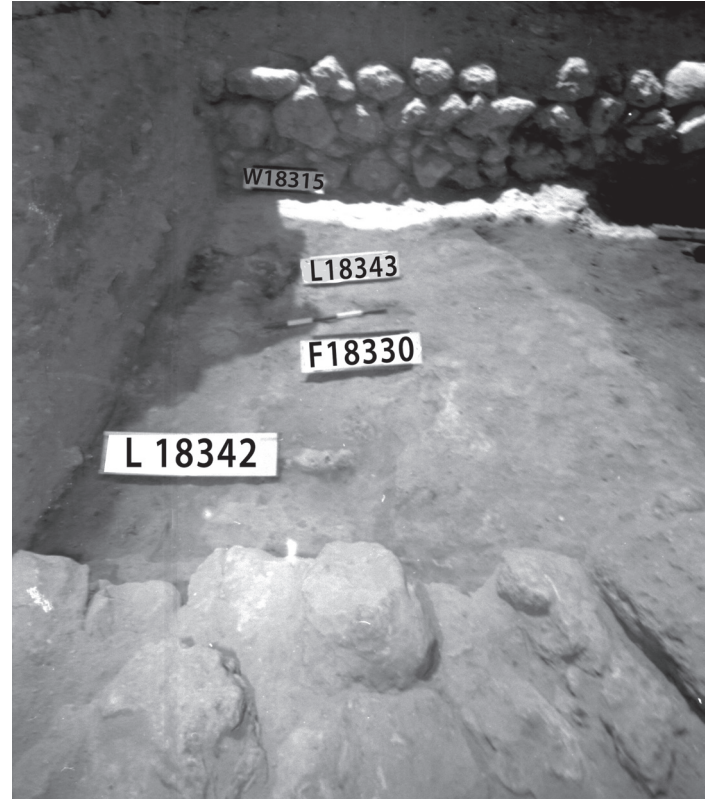


Fig. 8.40. F18330 between W18315 and W18296, looking south. (p05Z3-0726)

PHASES 11 (STAGES xv–xvi) AND 12 (STAGES xvii–xviii) – A WINDOW TO THE BRONZE AGE

Overview

As the excavation of Area G wound down, it was decided to open a limited probe in the southern part of AI/31, in an effort to reach Bronze Age levels. This accounts for the limited, but relatively deep exposure of these early phases necessitated by the time available.

Below stage xiv (Phase 10c), there are no walls in AI/31 and only three fragmentary possible floors comprise the earliest phases here. This makes the division of debris loci into phases fairly tentative.

The upper meter or so in the probe trench was composed of apparently dumped material, sloping from northwest to southeast, much of it burnt, containing fragmentary surfaces/tip-lines. These were designated Phase 11 and further subdivided into two stages (xv–xvi) according to the said surfaces.

The nature and sub-staging of the debris below Phase 11 is even more uncertain, due to the very partial nature of the excavation at this depth. The sandy nature of much of the material, and a general pattern of alternating layers of sand with other material sloping down from north to south, suggest that these are leveling fills of some sort. These fills lack the striations/surfaces of Phase 11 and are designated Phase 12 (stages xvii–xviii).

Although it was only possible to stratigraphically

differentiate Phases 11 and 12 into earlier and later stages in AI/31 in a rather broad manner, the typological analysis of the ceramics in these phases was able to group the loci into chronologically distinct ceramic horizons (see Chapter 17). The division of the loci into these horizons matches well with the general stratigraphy as presented in the locus genealogy (below).

Phase 11a (Stage xv)

F18353 = F18357 = F18346

Below the stage xiv (Phase 10c) floors and walls, there seem to be two main deposits, both of which slope from north to south and perhaps also from west to east. The lower deposit (part of L18334, L18341, L18352) consists of very mixed debris, including burnt mudbrick, some sand, ash and small fieldstones. Clearly this debris is burned, but the architectural features which must be its origin remain unknown, as they lie to the northeast, beyond the excavated area. Above this burnt material was a brown sandy fill (part of L18334, L18340, L18346, L18351?, L18353, L18357) that was somewhat like the leveling fill found in Phase 10a, described above. Below the sandy fill, F18353 was identified sloping slightly from north to south (#11.08–10.83; Fig. 8.41). It appears to be at an elevation which would run below W18315 and it is assumed that this wall did not exist in this phase. F18353 may be the same as F18357 (#11.14–10.96) and F18346 (#11.05–10.96).

L18399 was first identified near the corner of the eastern and southern balks and appears to begin in stage xv at ca. #11.05 and bottoms out at ca. #9.27 (Figs. 8.42–8.43). It appears to be a stone-lined pit/silo or sump, ca. 1 m in diameter. The uppermost part consists of two stones of ca. 30 cm diameter, with smaller stones both beneath and comprising the walls. Below these stones were alternating layers of black and yellow sand and grey clay similar to the matrix of stage xvii. The base of the deposit, lined by cobbles, was simply sand. The cobble wall was flimsy, indicating its sub-surface nature, and seems to have been disturbed on the north and west by material below W18315.

Phase 11b (Stage xvi)

F18465

Stage xvi consists of a series of multiple layers of sandy material and ash, and charcoal interspersed with lenses of burnt material and white plaster/ash lenses; these layers slope down from north to south and continue north into AI/32. Only one floor was identified, F18465 (#10.97–10.77), which was a thick clay surface.

Phases 10 and 11 are somewhat parallel in nature. The latest stages in both are sandy leveling fills, while the earlier fills seem to represent metallurgical activity, although in the case of Phase 11, this is much more debatable. Lack of any significant horizontal exposure of this stage, as well as the fact that the probe had been filled by balk collapse by the time we returned to Area G with scientific equipment in 2002, make it impossible to determine if this is indeed an earlier phase of the Phase 10 metallurgical working area.



Fig. 8.41. F18353 running under W18296, looking south. Background: W18315. (p05Z3-0261)

Phase 12a (Stage xvii)

Stage xvii is a series of alternating layers of sand, some fieldstones and other materials usually clayey in nature, sloping slightly from north to south. Top and bottom elevations are generally #11.00–10.30. No floors or other architectural elements could be assigned to this stage.

Phase 12b (Stage xviii)

F18414

Stage xviii material was recovered only at the southern end of AI/31 in a deep probe intended to reach the Iron I/LB II transition. The debris is extremely mixed and may well contain material from several different stages/sub-stages; without any other architectural context, the precise sub-staging remains hazy. The top elevation was at ca. #10.30 and bottom elevation was at #9.05, where a possible floor, F18414, uncovered on the last day of excavation in this probe, was only partially cleared (#9.15–9.05; Figs. 8.42–8.43).

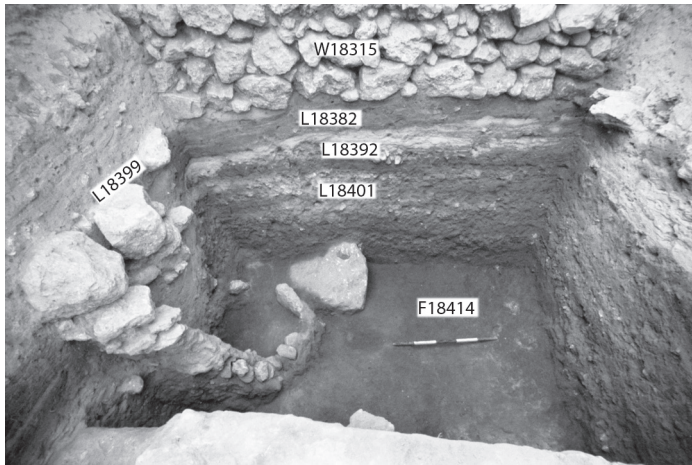


Fig. 8.42. Phases 11 and 12 debris layers and flimsy pit/silo L18399, damaged on the south, below W9715, looking south. (p05Z3-0205)

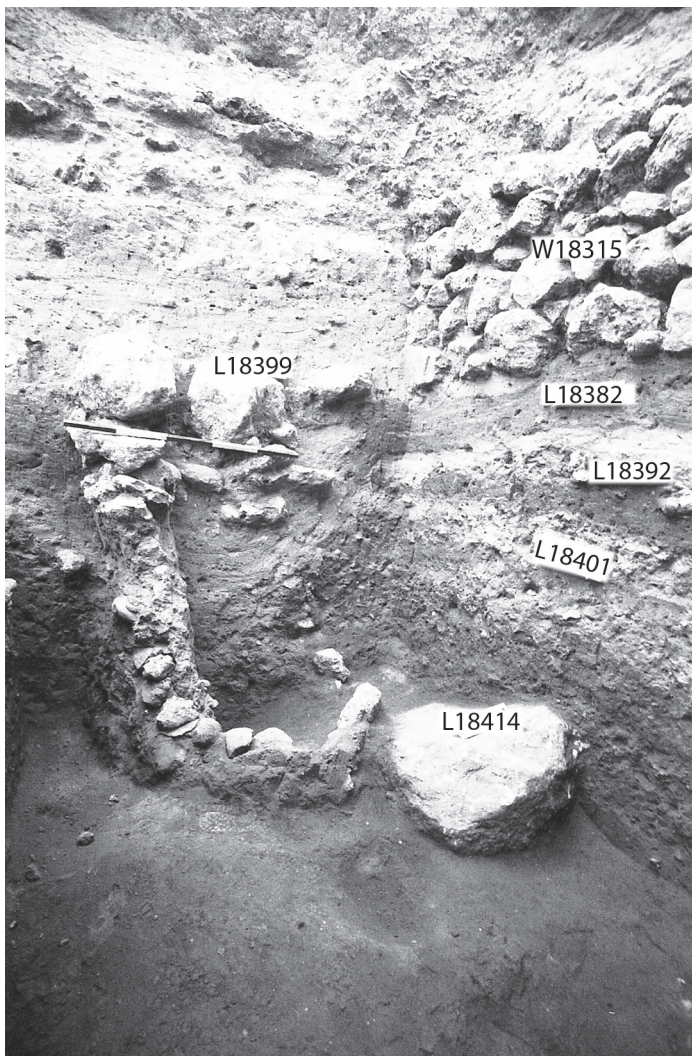


Fig. 8.43. Probe in southeastern corner of AI/31; Phase 11a L18399, Phase 12 F18414 and debris loci of Phases 11 and 12. (p05Z3-0207)

THE “EGYPTIAN-JARS ROOM”: AI/31—PHASES 5–12

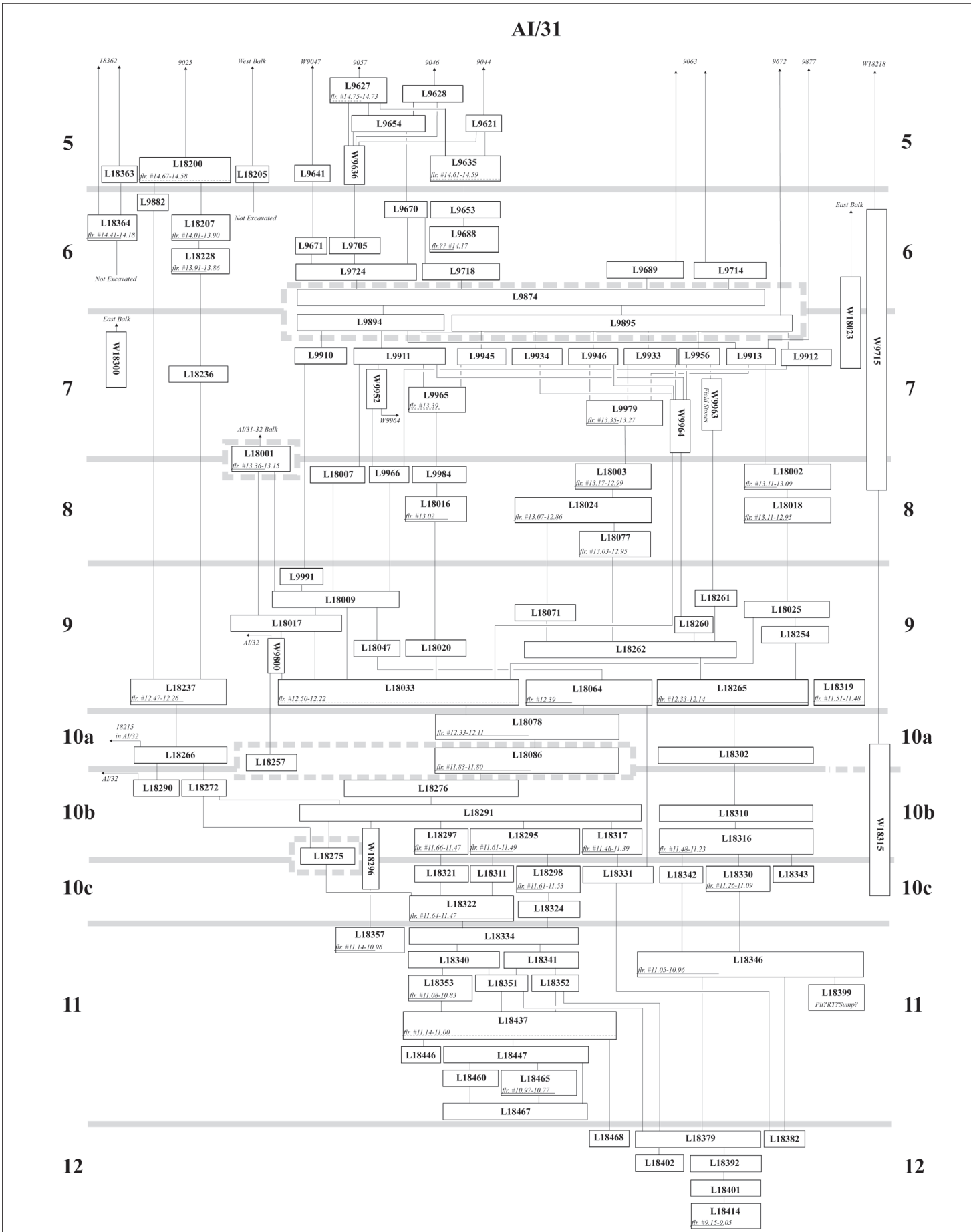


Fig. 8.44. Locus genealogy for AI/31. (d09Z3-1250)

