

**TELL ABU AL-KHARAZ**  
**THE SWEDISH JORDAN EXPEDITION 1989**  
**FIRST SEASON PRELIMINARY REPORT FROM TRIAL SOUNDINGS**

by  
Peter M. Fischer

**Introduction**

During excavations in Cyprus and in Greece, the author was frequently in contact with finds displaying connections to the Levant and further east. My interest towards that region grew, especially since I had been in touch with scholars who are specialists in the archaeology of Transjordan. Professor Basil Hennessy together with other members of the Australian Expedition to Pella, especially Miss Kathryn Eriksson and Mr. Stephen Bourke, and Dr. Jonathan Tubb from the British Museum, the excavator of Tell es-Sa'idiyeh, stimulated my interest to investigate areas in or near the Jordan Valley.

During preliminary encouraging discussions in 1988, the former director of the Department of Antiquities, Dr. Adnan Hadi-di, generously offered me access to three sites for the first Swedish excavations in Jordan: Tell al-Maqlub at Wadi al-Yabis, Tell al-Ḥammam at Wadi Meqta'a and Tell al-Kufrein at Wadi al-Kufrein. In February 1989, in advance of the planned survey of these sites, I met the then new director of the Department of Antiquities, Dr. Ghazi Bisheh. He kindly studied my plans to survey sites in or near the Jordan Valley, and helped to plan where to start the first Swedish excavations in the area. I am much indebted to his generosity, which facilitated my survey of two of the three sites during February 1989: Tell al-Ḥammam and Tell al-Maqlub. Professor Hennessy generously invited me to use the dig house at Pella as a base camp for my surveys. During one of my reconnaissance trips I visited the double site Tell al-Maqbarah/Tell Abu al-Kharaz in Wadi al-Yabis, which aroused my curiosity. This site turned out to be the most interesting of the surveyed sites as regards my initial intentions and goals, which can be summarized as follows: 1. to find a site where connections with the Aegean sphere of culture may be

found, and 2. to find a site with a long sequence of occupation in order to verify a new technique of absolute dating. In conjunction with my engagement at the Institute of Ancient Culture and Civilization, Gothenburg University, I am also a member of a research group at the Department of Physics, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden. The group is developing a dating method based on Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry (SIMS), for which stratified human skeletons are essential (*e.g.* Fischer *et al.* 1989: 109-119). The decision to choose Tell Abu al-Kharaz was taken after examining surface sherds in collaboration with Professor Hennessy and Miss Eriksson. The most frequently collected pottery derived from Early Bronze Age I, II and III, Late Bronze Age I and II, and Iron Age II. Stray finds from Chalcolithic (?), Early Bronze Age IV and Middle Bronze Age, Iron Age I, as well as periods succeeding Iron Age were also discovered. Trial soundings were performed seven months later during October-November 1989. The excavation team consisted of Mr. Tony Bergstrand — photographer, Mr. Jörgen Ernstson — area supervisor, University of Uppsala, Mrs. Lotta Holm — area supervisor, University of Gothenburg, Mr. Elias Markou — architect, Mr. Hikmat Ta'ani — representing the Department of Antiquities and also working as area supervisor, Badri Madri Abu Issa — foreman, and Hassan Rahmi Abu Sami — cook. About thirty trained local workers were hired.

My deepest gratitude goes to all who have supported the project. Among these, thanks are especially due to the Department of Antiquities, and in particular to the then Director General Dr. Ghazi Bisheh, for his encouragement and practical support. Thanks also to BITS, the Swedish Agency for International Technical and Economic Cooperation; without their financial support the

excavations would not have been possible. Thanks also to Professor Carl-Gustaf Styrenius, the director of the Museum of Mediterranean and Near Eastern Antiquities in Stockholm, who very kindly acted as an intermediary in my contacts with BITS. Other financial support was gratefully received from the following Swedish funds: the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation, Stockholm; the Gyllenstiernska Krapperup's Foundation, Nyhamnsläge; the Anna Ahrenberg's Foundation of Science, Gothenburg; the Wilhelm and Martina Lundgren's Foundation of Science, Gothenburg; and the Royal Academy, Stockholm, very kindly supported by Professor Paul Åström. Many thanks also to Professor Basil Hennessy, who very generously offered me the use of the Pella dig house during the campaign, and much valuable advice. I am also very much indebted to Basil and Kathryn concerning the help received during the pottery classification of the February survey. I would also like to express my gratitude to the British Institute at Amman, and especially to Alison McQuitty, for all her help and hospitality. My deepest appreciation to Their Royal Highnesses Prince Raad and Princess Majda for their genuine interest in the excavations. Finally, the expedition is grateful to the Swedish Embassy in Amman, and particularly to H.E. Ambassador Lars Lönnback, now established as ambassador in Copenhagen, Denmark, who in many ways was one of the initiators of the project, and whose interest and support is commendable.

#### Previous Surveys in the Area

The Wadi al-Yabis area has been surveyed in the past by travellers and scholars in order to describe the region as regards its inland scenery and evidence of human activity (Robinson 1852: 316-326; Merrill 1883: 185-190; Steurnagel 1925: 108; 1926: 11-12; McCown 1930: 23-26; Abel 1938: 352; Augustinovič and Bagatti 1952: 276-299). To the author's knowledge the American scholar Nelson Glueck was the first, in the 1940s, to start a series of surveys of Tell Abu al-Kharaz/Tell al-Maqbarah. He collected artifacts in order to date both tells (Glueck 1951: 261-275; 476-477). He also devoted special

attention to the discussion as to whether Tell Abu al-Kharaz or Tell al-Maqlub, located in the eastern extension of Wadi al-Yabis, should be identified with the Biblical site of Jabesh Gilead (mentioned in I Sam. 11: 1-13; 31: 10-13; II Sam. 2: 5-6; 21: 12; I Chron. 10: 11-12; Judges 21: 8-14). In the light of his conclusions a positive identification of Tell Abu al-Kharaz with Jabesh Gilead was ascertained. He expressed some valid points, but only manifest archaeological evidence can support his theory. Further surveys of the area were performed by Mellaart (1962), de Contenson (1960 and 1964), Mittman (1970), Ibrahim, Sauer and Yassine (1976), Mabry and Palumbo (1988) and by the author in 1989. The last three surveys of Tell Abu al-Kharaz revealed pottery dating from Chalcolithic (?), Early Bronze Age I, II, III, IV (?); transition EB/MB (?); Middle Bronze Age II A, II B/C (?); Late Bronze Age I, II; Iron Age I, II; Roman; Byzantine; and Ayyubid and Mamluk. The surveys of Tell al-Maqbarah produced pottery belonging to the following periods: Early Bronze Age I, II, III; Middle Bronze Age (?); Late Bronze Age I, II; Iron Age I, II; Roman; and Umayyad (?).

#### The Sites of Tell Abu al-Kharaz and Tell al-Maqbarah

Tell Abu al-Kharaz, "The Hill of the Beads", is located just above the eastern border of the Jordan Valley, north of the perennial stream of Wadi al-Yabis, about 4 km east of the River Jordan (Fig. 1). According to the Palestine Grid Coordinate System, the coordinates of the summit are, to an accuracy of 50-100 m, 206.2 E and 200.6 N (or 35 35' 44" E and 32 23' 58" N). The isolated, huge mound of Tell Abu al-Kharaz lies about 300 m east-southeast of the smaller hillock of Tell al-Maqbarah. A splendid view over large areas of the Jordan Valley is possible from the summit of Tell Abu al-Kharaz (top elevation -142.70 m), including Beisan and Mount Tabor. The valley floor level, near the main road west of Tell al-Maqbarah, is about -250 m. The site of Tell Abu al-Kharaz is located on a strategically important point, where Wadi al-Yabis emerges from the eastern hills into the Jordan Valley. Irrigation systems,

ancient as well as modern can be seen everywhere in the fertile surrounding land. A large area in all directions could be defended from the top of the hill. The steep slopes are a natural obstacle to presumptive invaders, especially the rocky western slopes facing the Jordan Valley. The relatively flat summit of the hill is oriented approximately east-west. The elevation is moderate from east to west, but more abrupt in the northern, eastern and southern directions. In the west the hill terminates in a wide, rocky, steep slope facing the Jordan Valley. The "plateau" on the summit measures about 120 m east-west and about 90m north-south. There are traces of a "fortification" wall (approximately 350m), which once possibly completely surrounded the whole of the flat summit. Also, transverse walls to the south, east and west, and probable "towers" in the southeast and southwest can be traced. Traces of other encircling walls can be seen parallel to the encircling "fortification" wall. At this stage it is difficult to ascertain if these walls belong to a defensive system, or if they just served as retaining terrace walls. Traces of a square building about 10 m×10 m can be seen immediately east of the summit. Crop marks of variable growth of briars and weeds indicating the outlines of this building could easily be seen during the writer's survey in February, but were almost invisible during the excavation campaign in October-November 1989.

The low artificial mound of Tell al-Maqbarah, "The Hill of the Cemetery" (summit coordinates 205.8 east and 200.7 north), has a top elevation of -221.83 m. Its circular outline has a diameter of about 60 m. Traces of mudbrick and stone constructions together with a considerable amount of sherds are evident on the surface. Unfortunately about a third of the hill has been bulldozed at two levels since the writer's survey in February 1989. The upper cut terrace, about 2 m from surface level, revealed scattered skeletal remains of a human female and a possible tomb, but no accompanying pottery. The second lower cut terrace, 4 m below the first cut, uncovered mudbrick walls, stone constructions and ashy layers in the section. An intact, one handled, burnt juglet from the

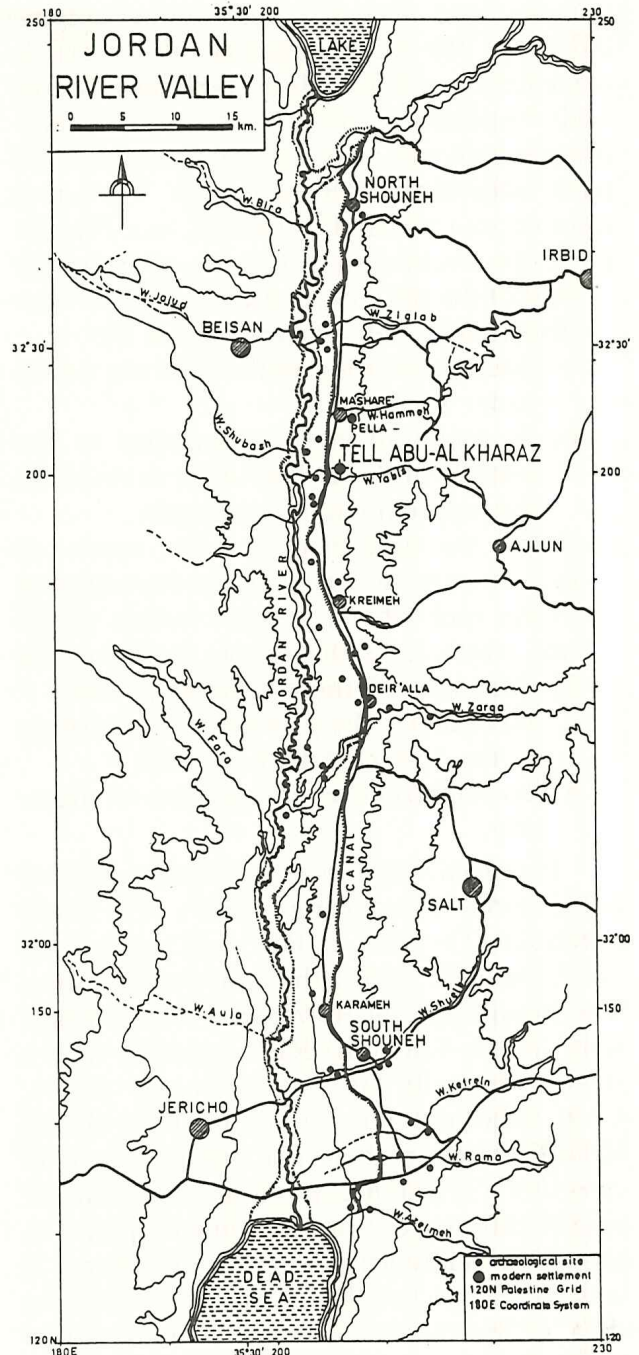


Fig. 1. Map of the Jordan River Valley showing the location of Tell Abu al-Kharaz.

Late Bronze Age was found in the loose remaining soil from the second cut. The villagers were informed about the importance of the site in order to help prevent further destruction of the tell.

### THE TRIAL SOUNDINGS

In the 1940s Glueck observed at Tell Abu al-Kharaz traces of a "fortification wall", which "once had completely surrounded the flattish top of the hill", with a

possible Iron Age I/II date (Glueck 1951: 263-266). He also suggested the possible presence of a stone glacis built against the wall. Verification of the presence of a fortification wall was considered to be one of the main tasks of the 1989 campaign. Two areas were chosen for trial soundings (see Fig. 2):

1. In the southwestern corner of the upper part of the tell, where traces of a wall were discernable (later termed Area 1):
  - a. Soundings inside and outside the wall in order to date it.
  - b. A probe in close connection to the outside of the wall in order to establish the approximate stratigraphy.
2. Below the western part of the upper tell (i.e. outside the wall) on the slope leading to the rock ribbed western facade of the tell, which faces the Jordan Valley (Area 2). The aim of these soundings was:
  - a. To establish the presence of occupation in the lower part of the tell.
  - b. To establish the approximate stratigraphy.

Electronic Distance Measuring (EDM) equipment, comprising Wild's electronic theodolite Theomat T 1000 and Distomat DI 1000, was used during the entire excavations. The equipment incorporates a data storage unit, Wild's GRM 10 REC module, with a storage capacity of 500 measured points. Each measured point is defined by (1) an identification number, (2) distance in E/W direction, (3) distance in N/S direction and (4) height difference from instrument point or any other reference point to target point. It was possible to use the module to process the data in the dig house without the need of keeping records in the field. The measuring accuracy is  $\pm 5$  mm/km. The instrument was time-saving and was used for topographical surveys including the establishment of a grid system, trigonometrical height measurements, profiles, staking out of trenches, and measurements of small finds, architectural remains and strata (cf. Fischer 1986: 499-503). A portable lap-top computer together with a data base software was used as well. Each day's records (loci, strata, finds etc.) were filed in the data base, giving the possibility of fast processing and searching. Also, an electromagnetic Very Low Frequen-

cy (VLF) detector was utilized during the excavations. VLF detectors have been used by the author in excavations during the last decade. A summary of the advantages of such instruments in conjunction with conventional and careful excavations is documented (see Fischer 1980: 28-46). The detector can be used for the discovery of metal objects that are otherwise very difficult or sometimes impossible to find (e.g. small beads, lead objects), the indication of the presence of artifacts allowing the definition of size and shape before the object is brought to light (extreme care can therefore be observed during excavation obviating possible damage to the object), and the possibility of discovering non-metal objects and features (ceramics, ash, minerals and changes in soil type and structure which allow differentiation between strata and features). Soil samples were taken from each stratum/locus for flotation of plant remains, and charcoal samples of all strata were taken for later radiocarbon accelerator dating. All bones and teeth were collected for classification and later SIMS dating.

*Explanations concerning the nomenclature and abbreviations used in the report:*

*Grid system:* The entire area including both tells was divided into 10m×10m squares (62×44 squares), labelled from A-Z, AA-ZZ and a-l from the west to the east, and from 1-44 from the north to the south (Fig. 2).

*Area:* A collection of adjoining trenches.

*T = Trench:* A trench with a certain Roman number is limited by a 10 m×10 m square, this being the maximum size of a trench. The numbering is consecutive regardless of area or year of excavation.

*N = Finds:* Each find number is coded both to fit the data base and to determine when excavation took place; e.g. stone pounder K 89 VI 2 L63 N0062 is (Tell Abu al-) Kharaz - 1989 - Trench VI - Stratum 2 - Locus 63 - (Find) Number 0062. A running find number system is used; it was decided in advance of the excavations to provide Area 1 with N 0001-0099 and Area 2 with N 0100-0199 for the 1989 campaign. In the plans only the N.... numbers together with heights below 0-point (summit) appear.

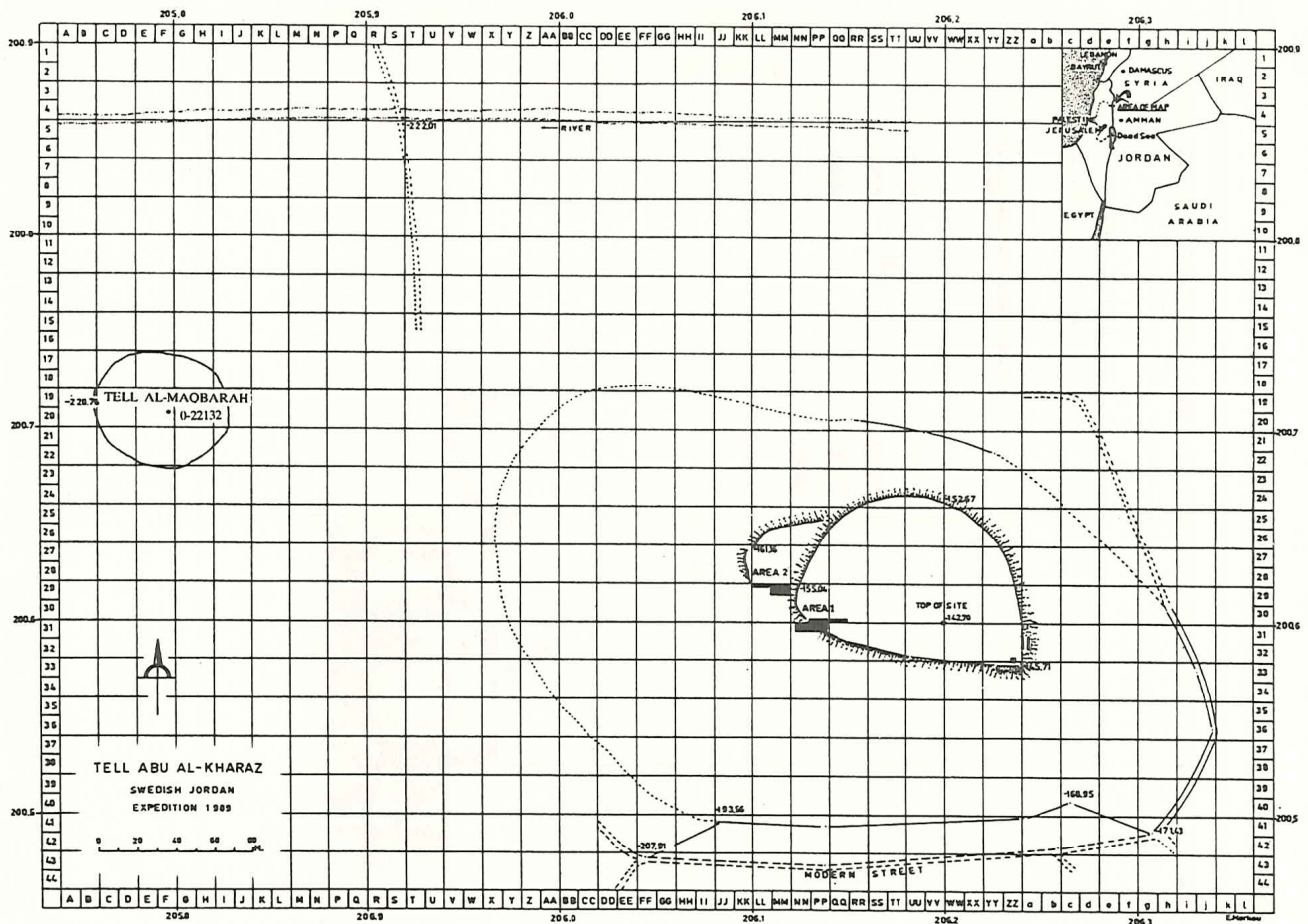


Fig. 2. The grid system and excavation areas.

(-) = Altitudes are given in meters. All altitudes are given in relation to the summit of Tell Abu al-Kharaz, which is equal to the site's zero level (in absolute terms -142.70 m sea level).

L (with encircled numerals) = Locus, feature within a stratum; W = Wall; loci and walls are labelled by running numerals within each area.

R = Room, consecutive numbering (see Trenches).

S = Stratum.

As mentioned above traces of a wall surrounding the upper part of the tell were visible at several spots, especially in the southwestern part of the "plateau". The primary task of the 1989 campaign was to date this wall and to obtain information about the stratigraphic sequences inside and outside it. In order to achieve this, trial soundings in two areas were carried out: Area 1 inside (T I, II, V) and outside (T VI), and Area 2 (T III, IV) outside the wall (see Fig. 3). The strata in both areas will be described layer by layer

from topsoil (colluvium). For further parallels to finds mentioned in the description of the strata, see "Catalogue of Illustrated Pottery and Other Finds".

**AREA 1**

Area 1 consists of Trenches I, II, V and VI. According to the grid system in Fig. 2, the following coordinates determine the trenches (the extension of the trenches within brackets): I = QQ30 (9.5×2 m), II = PP30 (9.5×2 m); V = PP31 (9.5×5 m); VI = NN31 (4.5×5 m). The area slopes gently towards the west and the southwest. There is a step south of the slightly discernable wall (W 4). During the progress of the excavations the area was extended to include a zone outside the wall. The deepest spots were reached in the easternmost extension of T I (probe size 2×2 m) and in the southwest of T VI at about 3 m from the surface. In neither spot was virgin soil reached. Fig. 5a, b and c show sections.

*Colluvium*

An accumulation of stones was found in

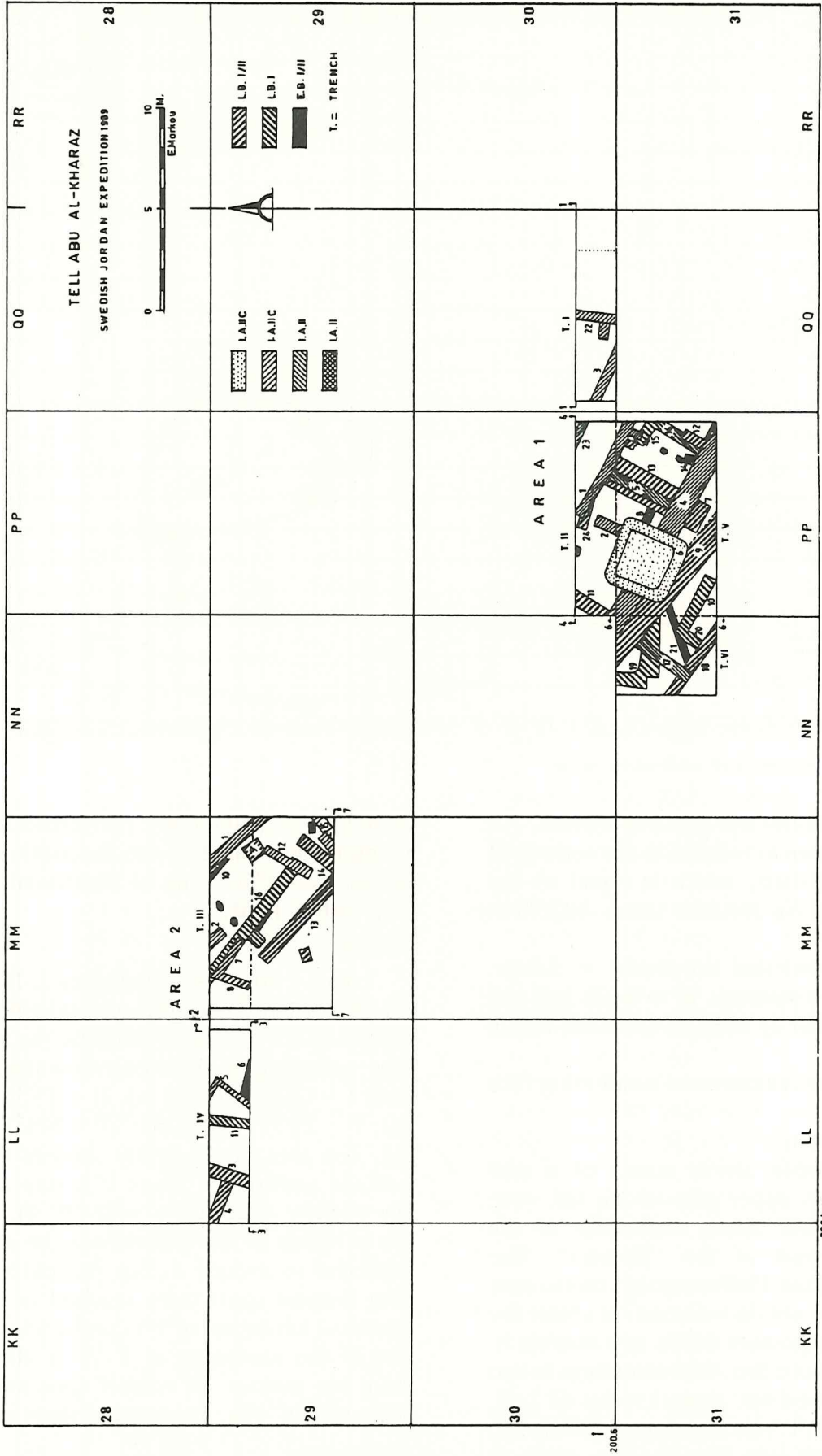


Fig. 3. Area 1 and 2. Sketch of walls separated chronologically.

T V (the cistern below), together with a shallow robbers' pit.

### Iron Age

#### *Stratum 1, T V*

The cistern (L 31) excavated in T V has internal dimensions of about 2.5 m×2.5 m. It was surrounded by a ca. 0.5m thick well built wall (W6; Fig. 4a and Pl.I,1). The minimum depth from the top of the wall to the bottom was 1.0 m. The cistern is coated on the inside with lime mortar, mixed with clay and fine quartz sand of weak structure and strength (personal communication Professor Roman Malinowski, Gothenburg), which keeps water very well, as we observed after some hours of rain. The cistern must have been used for rubbish disposal over quite a long period, according to the pottery found in it, which dates to the Iron Age and the Byzantine and Islamic periods.

Date: the cistern seems to have been constructed at the very end of Iron Age II C (*terminus post quem*).

#### *Strata 1, 2 and 3, T I, and Stratum 2, T II, V and VI*

The walls 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 22 and 23, oriented northwest-southeast and northeast-southwest, were used during this period. W 5 is a reused wall from an earlier Iron Age period. The construction of W 11 is different from the other Iron Age walls. The exposed small extension of the wall makes a dating at this stage problematic. A working theory is that the date of W 11 goes back to the Late Bronze Age, perhaps Late Bronze Age II. W 23 in T II is a continuation of W 3 in T I. W 4 dominates the area. It is very probably the wall described by Glueck. It is 1 m wide, approximately 0.4-0.5 m high, and skilfully built of medium large and small stones. Its continuation can be seen at several spots south and east of the summit. Traces of the wall can also be discerned at the northern and western (?) part of the upper tell, which would theoretically give a total approximate length of around 350 m. Its slender construction (three to four rows of stones) would not indicate a defensive wall, even if its location, very likely surrounding the whole of the upper part of the summit, could possibly

indicate that. On the other hand W 4 has certainly had a reinforced superstructure of mudbrick, and could perhaps have served as a second line of defence.

#### Trench I

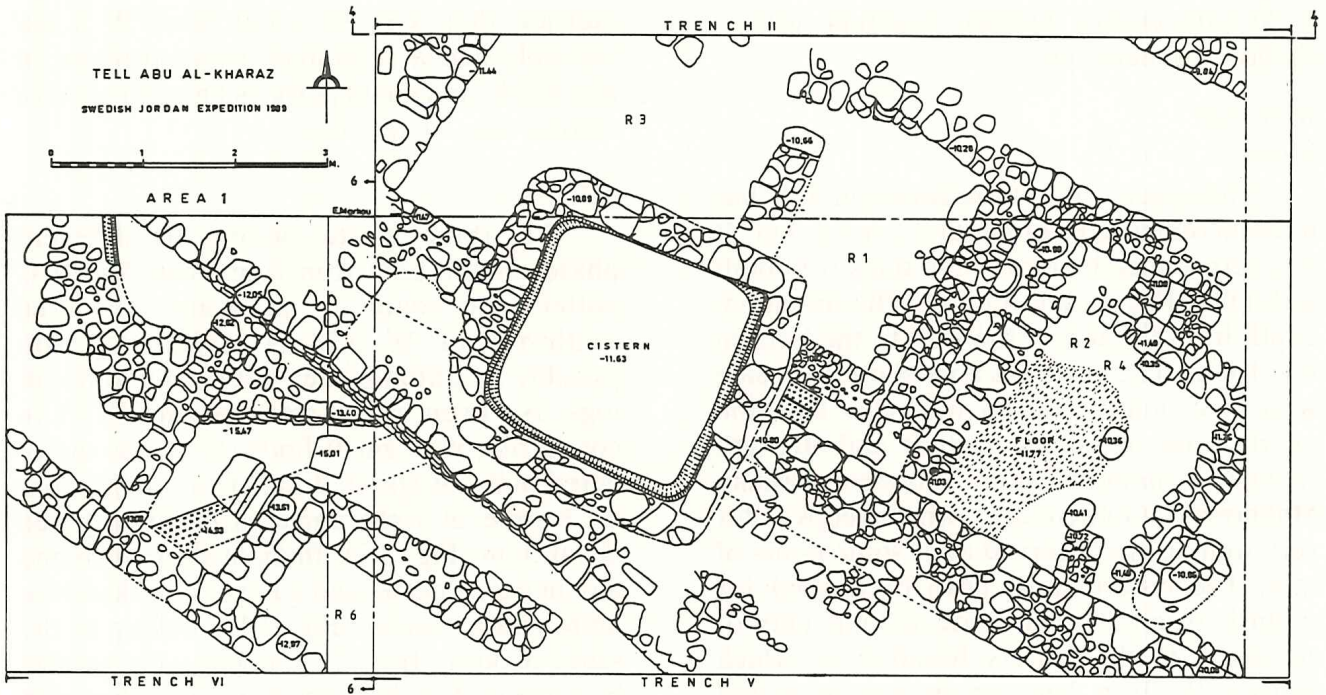
All three strata belong to different phases of the Late Iron Age. Iron Age II C pottery was found in all strata. The area southwest of W 3/23 (L 10/15, 16) was possibly an outdoor area between two buildings. An oven and a stone paving (L 5) in connection with small finds (L 6) was discovered in S2: A spouted juglet with a horizontal handle at right angle incorporating red decoration (Fig. 8:3); finds of stone included a pounder, a pestle and a bead; a broken iron knife and a scraper (Fig. 7:13) belong to the same deposit. In L 7, a juglet with vertical burnishing (Fig. 8:2) was found together with "decanter" and spouted strainer-jugs.

In the eastern most part of T I, a ca. 3 m deep probe was dug which revealed Iron Age pottery in all strata. One sherd which is partly hand and partly wheel made has a possible date in the transitional EB IV/ MB I period (Fig. 15:1).

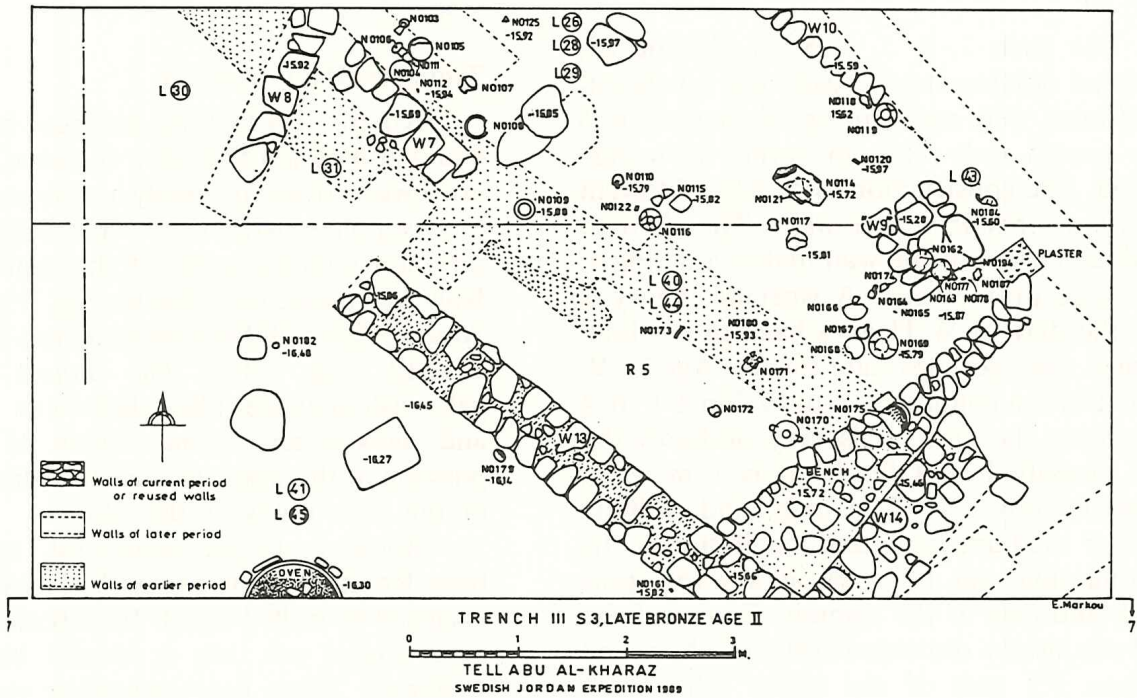
#### Trenches II, V and VI

Room 1 (Pl.I,2) was enclosed by W 1, 5, 4 and 2, with a 0.5 m wide entrance from the northwest. It was probably a storage room for food supplies (within the room large storage jars and cooking pots, of the typically late Iron Age types, were found; Fig. 7:9, 10, 12). Among the small finds were an iron blade and a shell (Fig. 7:14). The almost circular, yellowish-alabaster-like shell was polished and showed several burr holes. It was not possible at this stage to ascertain the purpose of the burr holes or the object.

Room 2, to the southwest, is divided from Room 1 by the reused W 5, and further enclosed by walls 1 and 4. Its entrance has not been found yet, but it should be to the southeast. Three roof supporting stone slabs were found about 2m southeast of and parallel to W5. These supports have been reused from an earlier phase (S 3) together with W 5. A hearth was found in the southern part of the room. A cooking pot (Fig. 8:9) was exposed *in situ* on a bed of a stone paving

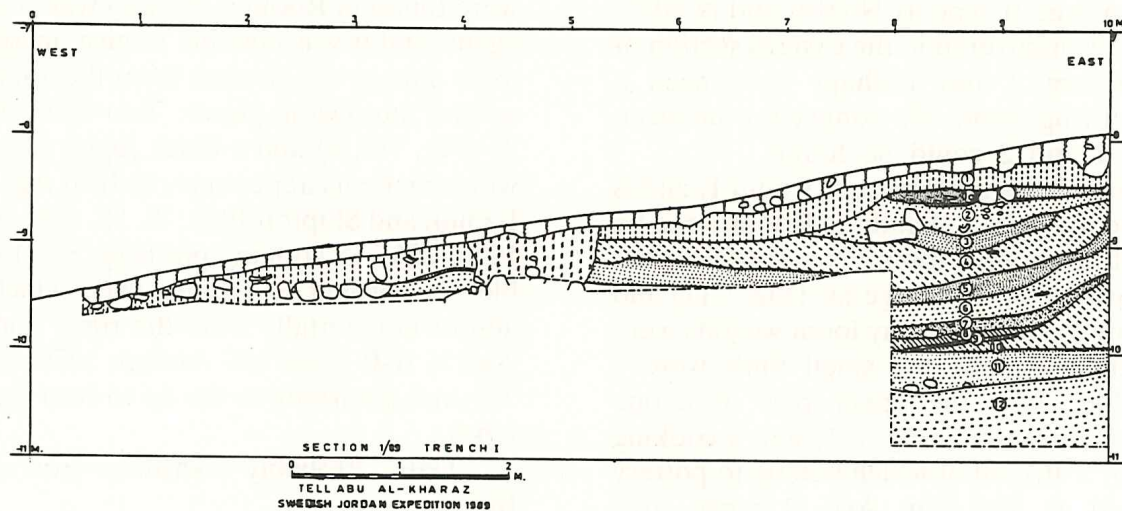


a. Overhead view of Area 1.

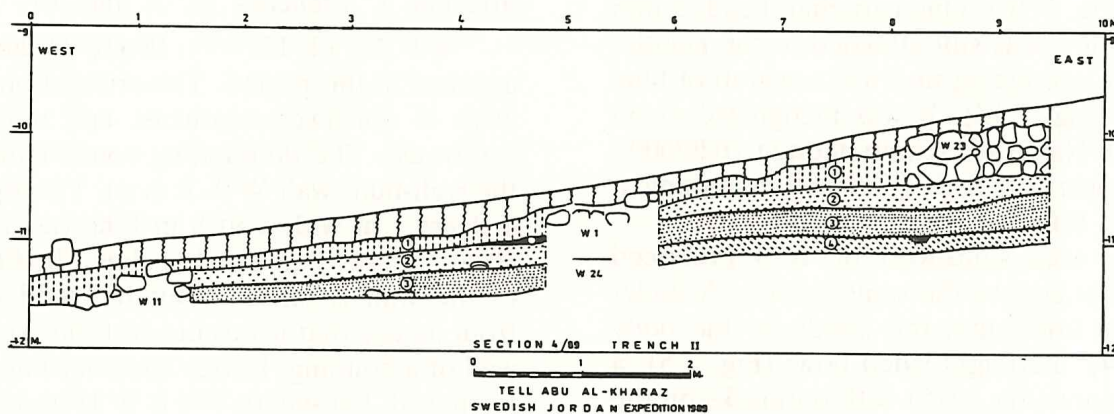


ea 2, Trench III, Stratum 3, Room 5. Late Bronze Age II.

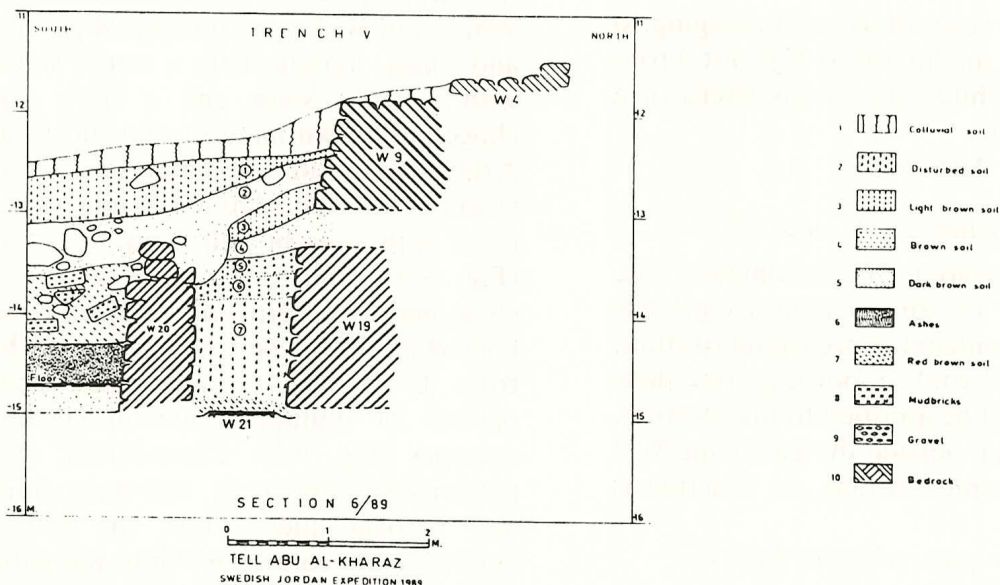




a. Northern section Trench I.



b. Northern section Trench II.



c. Western section Trench V.

Fig. 5.

in the center of the hearth. It is of the same late Iron Age II type as N 0030 and N 0045, which was discovered in the eastern section of T V. Room 2 may perhaps have been a kitchen/living room. No connection between Rooms 1 and 2 could be found.

Room 3 lies northwest of Room 1, and is enclosed by walls 2, 4 and 11. Room 1 can be reached from this room. No entrance has been found yet. A storage jar (Fig. 7:11) and a heap of 25 sun dried clay loom weights were discovered. Among the small finds were a bowl (Fig. 7:1), the upper part of a one handled "decanter" (Fig. 8:1) and a cooking pot (Fig. 8:10), all of which belong to pottery identified as late Iron Age II types. Just outside the entrance to Room 1 a bronze-iron fibula with two small carnelian beads was found (Fig. 7:16). One carnelian bead, 5 mm in diameter, was still attached to the needle. Another interesting find was a scarab of blue faience (Fig. 7:15). It was recognized as an Egyptian Naukratis scarab dating to 620/600 - shortly post 550 B.C. (personal communication Dr. Günther Hölbl, Vienna).

The area southwest of W 4 produced finds belonging to the same period: A juglet with two horizontal red bands on the body (Fig. 8:4), a straight-sided bowl (Fig. 7:5), a cooking pot (Fig. 8:15) with potmarks on the handles, and a one-handed juglet with high neck (Fig. 8:5). In L 30 two kraters (Fig. 7:7, 8) were found.

Among the stray finds not belonging to this period was an imported Cypriot Proto White Slip or White Slip I body sherd of a bowl (Fig. 11:4).

Date: Iron Age II C.

#### *Stratum 3. Trenches II, V and VI*

The stratigraphy in S 3 is complex. The scarce amount of pottery is in accordance with the types found in the preceding stratum. W 5 and the three roof supporting stone slabs in Room 2 should be ascribed to this stratum. W 17 on the slope outside the encircling W 4 belongs to the same stratum. Its function is not clear yet.

Date: Later part of Iron Age II.

#### *Stratum 4. Trenches II, V and VI*

A floor level was reached in T V at the

bottom of S 4. Four partly destroyed ovens were found in Room 4. Pottery was abundant again, and it was possible to give an approximate date to the stratum from the analysis of several interesting pieces: Two bowls from L 43 (Fig. 7:3, 6) and a black juglet (Fig. 8:6), which made its appearance in Iron Age II (cf. Lamon and Shipton 1939: Pl. 55. 124; Amiran 1970: 256). A cooking pot (Fig. 8:11) resembles (according to the handles, which emit almost horizontally from the rim), both Iron Age II A-B types (cf. Amiran 1970: 228, Pl. 75) and according to the lip to Iron Age II C types.

Date: Probably transition Iron Age II B/C.

#### **Late Bronze Age**

##### *Stratum 5. Trenches II, V and VI*

W 9, 11, 12, 13 (=7), 18 and 24 should be ascribed to this period. The orientation of the walls is northwest-southeast and northeast-southwest. The dominating construction was the well-built wall W 9. It is ca. 1 m high and at least 1 m wide and 8 m long (as measurable), and rests on a bed of clay. The function of the wall is unclear, but it would appear from its size that it was not just the bordering wall of a building. It may have been an upper town wall. Parallel to W 9 is W 18 and 24, and at about right angles, W 11 and 7/13.

The finds from different loci belonging to this stratum show a variety of Chocolate-on-White and Bichrome pottery of good quality and finish, among them a round sided bowl with a short stem and a base ring and chocolate brown band on the rim (Fig. 9:1). Articles found in L 73 comprised a carinated vessel of the Chocolate-on-White ware, decorated with straight and wavy lines and dots (Fig. 9:3), and the rim of a vessel with chess-board pattern and straight concentric lines (Fig. 9:2). The Chocolate-on-White jug from L 85 has a complicated geometric pattern of multiple elements arranged in metopes (Fig. 9:5): Chess-board, quadratic patterns with diagonals, and wavy, horizontal and vertical lines. From the same locus derives a Chocolate-on-White jug with parallel lines (Fig. 9:4) and a bichrome jug (?) with carination (Fig. 9:8). A body sherd of a jar with attached handle of the Bichrome

ware shows red and black decoration forming a "shooting star" on the upper side of the handle (Fig. 9:7). Similar "shooting star" decorations were found at several Late Bronze Age sites in Palestine (e.g. Lachish and Hazor). L 60 produced a body sherd of a jar with a palm-tree motif (Fig. 9:9).

Date: Preliminary dating of S 5 would suggest the transition of Late Bronze Age I/II.

#### *Stratum 6. Trenches V and VI*

W 10 (=20), 15, 16 and 19 belong to this period. The corner of a massive stone construction, W 19 dominates S 6. It is about 1m wide and 2m high. Its direction, north-south and east-west, diverges from all the other walls. A rectangular recess (ca. 0.7m×0.7m) can be seen at the outermost corner of the wall, the purpose of which is unclear so far. The corner of a building (W 10, 20) was found south of W 19. The foundation walls are about 1.5 m high and 0.6 m wide. Its foundation level is identical to W 19 but not its direction, which coincides with the other walls. The two large stone slabs, found *in situ*, leaning against the northwestern face of W 10, are interesting (Pl. II, 1), they are large enough to block the passage between W 10 and 19. Room 6, enclosed by W 10/20, is filled with thick debris of ash, mudbrick, and pieces of plaster wall covering. Among the debris found on the floor (L 92) was a ca. 5 cm thick layer of well preserved vegetable fibres in the southern-most section. It is likely that we are dealing with a collapsed straw roof. The space between W 10/20 and W 19 was partly filled with fallen stones, pieces of mudbrick and plaster, and loose soil. Spots of ashes were found in the space between the walls (L 86, 89).

Another floor was exposed in T V, L 71. It is enclosed by W 15 and 16. A debris layer consisting of burnt mudbrick and the remains of straw was uncovered on top of it. The surface of the floor was very hard with white chalky spots resembling the Cypriot 'Chavara' floors (see also e.g. from Pella, Hennessey *et al.* 1983: 331).

The pottery includes Chocolate-on-White and plain wares, among which was a small bowl with a rounded profile and string

cut base (Fig. 9:10), a plain jug with one vertical handle on the shoulder (Fig. 9:13), and a juglet similar to others found in contemporary layers (Fig. 9:12). Also found in L 93, the locus at floor level, were the rim and neck of a jug decorated with dots on the upper side of the rim, parallel lines just below the rim, and a triangle surrounded by dots on the neck and upper part of the body (Fig. 9:11). A plain carinated bowl was found in L 93 (cf. Yadin *et al.* 1960: Pl. CXXIX:7).

Date: Preliminary dating suggests the Late Bronze Age I.

#### **Early Bronze Age**

##### *Stratum 7. Trench VI*

A tiny mudbrick wall was exposed at the very end of the season, W 21. A hard packed clay floor was uncovered to the north, close to the foundation of W 19. On the floor large jars of the Early Bronze Age were found, one of which contained some hectograms of carbonized seeds.

The pottery from S 7 was exclusively Early Bronze Age and consisted, among others, of large holemouth and storage jars of the Grain Wash/Band Slip wares. A body sherd of a holemouth(?) jar is decorated in relief with a half-moon, resembling a 'de-generated' ledge handle (Fig. 15:19).

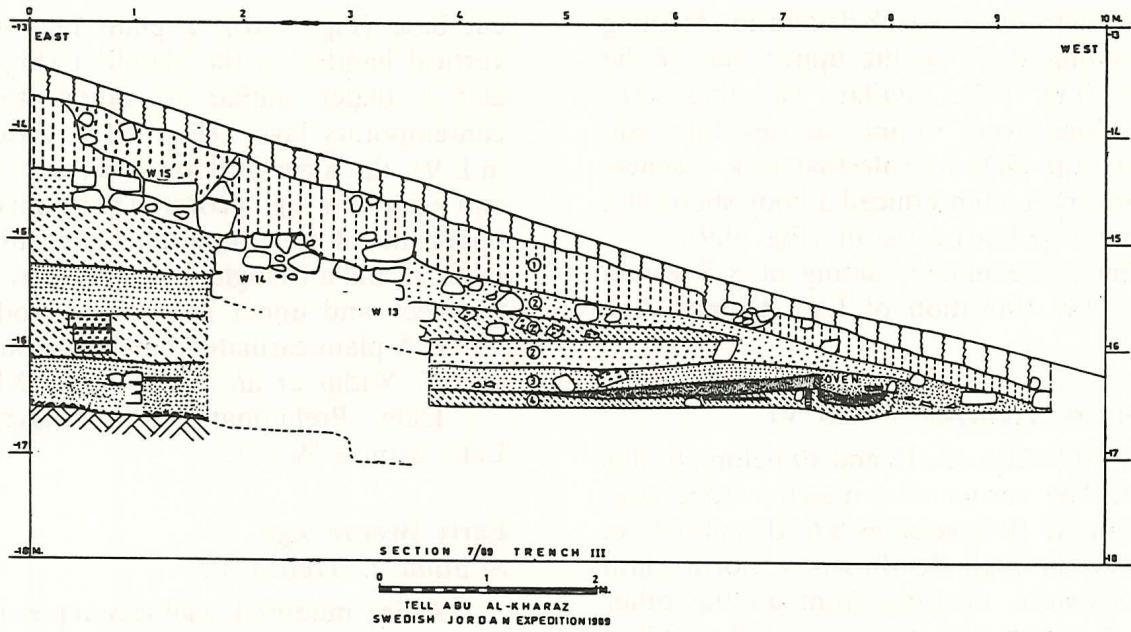
Date: Possibly within the Early Bronze Age I/II.

#### **AREA 2**

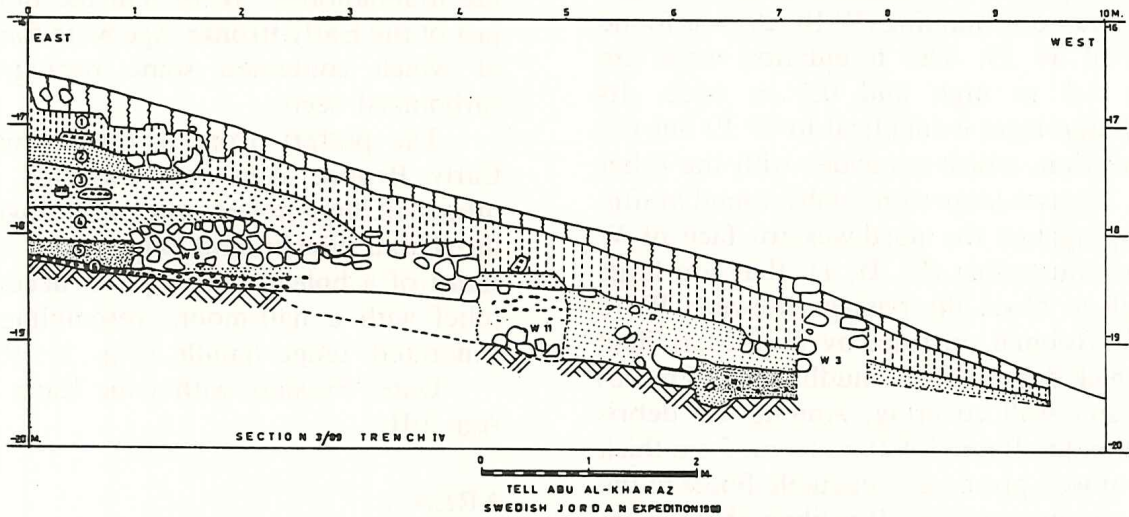
Area 2 consists of Trenches III and IV. According to the grid system the following coordinates define the position of the Trenches: III = MM29 (9.5×5.5), and IV LL29 (9.5×2). The area stretches from just below a steep step, which perhaps contains the continuation of W 4 from Area 1, separating the upper plateau from the rest of the Tell, gently sloping towards the west. Virgin soil was reached at two spots: in the eastern-most part of T III and IV about 3 m from the surface. Fig. 6a, b and c show sections.

#### *Colluvium*

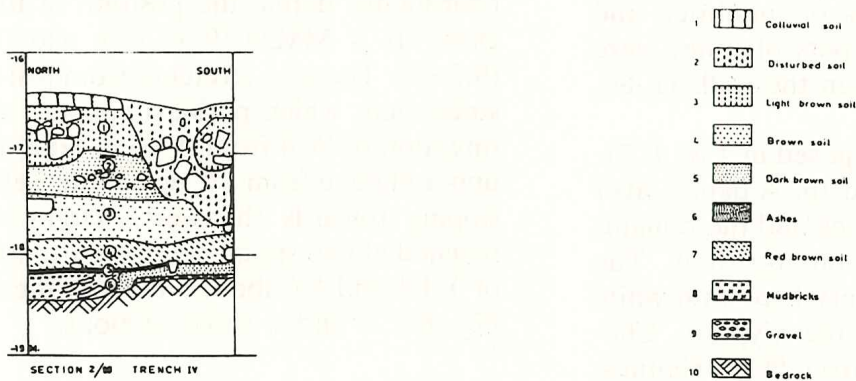
The entire surface was covered by irregularly arranged blocks of stones. No features of interest could be discerned.



a. Southern section Trench III.



b. Southern section Trench IV.



c. Eastern section Trench IV.

Fig. 6.

## Iron Age

### Stratum 1. Trench III

W 1 (northwest to southeast) and the partly destroyed W 2 (possibly reused) belong to this layer. Sherds belonging to the late Iron Age II repertoire were found. No finds in T IV could be ascribed to the Iron Age.

Date: Iron Age II, possibly II C.

### Stratum 2. Trench III

The interpretation of S 2 is complicated. Two walls, W 12 and 15 and heaps of stones, one of which formed a semicircle (L 37), can be ascribed to the period represented by S 2.

The dominating finds were those of stones: Pounders, grinders and bowls. The pottery was predominantly a mixture of Late Bronze and Iron Age sherds.

Date: It is not possible at this stage of the excavations to give a more precise date within the Iron Age.

## Late Bronze Age

### Stratum 3. Trench III

The walls W 7, 8, "9", 10, 13 and 14 belong to this stratum (Fig. 4b). The function of W 7 and 8 is unclear at this stage. W 13 and 14, and very likely W 10, enclose Room 5 which measures 4 m × 5 m (Pls. II,2;III,1). Room 5 is orientated northwest to southeast with its entrance from the northwest (?). Two pairs of stone slabs, parallel to W 14, served as roof supports on one side. The inner space of the room is 20 m<sup>2</sup>, therefore it is somewhat surprising that no roof supports were found in the center of the room. A square stone construction ("W 9"), measuring about 1 m × 1 m, was found in the eastern corner of the room. Also, in front of W 14 and parallel to it, a stone "bench" was uncovered. An oven with a diameter of ca. 1 m surrounded by layers of multicolored, fine clay was found southwest of Room 5. Inside Room 5 and to the northwest of it (antechamber?, Pl. III,2) whole vessels (some of them upside down), stone tools and beads were excavated.

The pottery from Room 5 and the area northwest of it consisted of a large variety of fine quality vessels from the Late Bronze Age (Figs. 10-12). Quite a few samples are intact or complete. The vessels being monochrome as

well as bichrome. Amongst the vessels were rounded and carinated bowls, stemmed bowls (slipped or burnished), a goblet, large two handled carinated bowls, jugs (including one biconical), and juglets. A two-handled stand with a triple carination and four rectangular windows (Fig. 12:10) was found in the same room. Among the loose sherds showing a great variety of the metope style, both bichrome and monochrome, a sherd with a pictorial decoration in bright red depicting the lower part of the body of a bird and the legs surrounded by decoration performed in the metope style should be mentioned (Fig. 12:7).

The rim and neck of a hand-made jug with three concentric circles and a partly preserved triangle (resembling MBIIA and B/C jugs, Amiran 1970: 106-112), was found in L 40 along with Late Bronze Age sherds. Also found was a variety of EBI/II pottery.

Cypriot imported wares included a White Slip II Milk bowl (Fig. 11:5); it is one of the most easterly examples of early White Slip II ware, according to Dr. Alfred Kromholz (personal communication). It is decorated according to the A/C pattern, i.e. a single horizontal lattice with alternating vertical four-line lattices with four-line hatched lozenges; the broad rounded handle, like the A/C pattern, suggests a relatively early date of ca. 1,400 - 1,350 B.C. The provenance is perhaps Kalavassos, very likely coming directly rather than via Enkomi or further to the north in light of the differences in the distribution patterns between Palestine and Syria/Lebanon. Also the rim and neck of a Base-Ring I juglet belong to the same context (Fig. 11:6).

It is difficult at this stage to draw any definite conclusions about the function of the room. Parallels can be drawn to e.g. the "Fosse Temple" from Lachish (Tufnell *et al.* 1940): The location (outside any contemporary city walls), a bench near the "W 9" (altar?), an accumulation of pottery around the "altar" and in antechambers (L 26?), and many objects, including stands. The function of the stand in Room 5 (N 0114) could perhaps have been sacral, however other secular functions have been suggested (Fowler 1984: 183-186). Further excavations ex-

tending to both the north and south could possibly throw more light on the function of this interesting area, which gives the impression of being hastily abandoned.

The area southwest of Room 5 (L 41, 45) exhibits an oven in the south section, and is partly covered by multicoloured unfired clay and broken vessels. It is too early to ascribe this locus to a potter's workshop, until a larger part of the area gets excavated. However, in the meanwhile this possible explanation can serve as a working theory.

Date: Very beginning of the second part of the Late Bronze Age, possibly II A.

#### *Stratum 4. Trench III*

The partly destroyed wall W 16 stretches from northwest to southeast.

The pottery belonging to this period consisted of vessels mainly of the Chocolate-on-White ware (Fig. 14:2, 3), which dominate, and the Bichrome unburnished ware. The bowl, Fig. 14:3, exhibits an interesting combination of the Chocolate-on-White and Bichrome techniques. The metope style is frequently applied. The rim of a goblet with parallel lines, triangles and dots was found in this stratum (Fig. 13:1). A cooking pot resembling a type from Megiddo (Loud 1948: Pl. 85.16) was also found amongst other coarse sherds.

Date: Probably the end of Late Bronze Age I.

#### *Strata 1 and 2, Trench IV*

Stratum 1: A circular stone paving was found in the eastern part. A bowl of finely mixed clay with thick white slip both inside and out, burnished, and with an excellent finish was found (Fig. 14:1). A part of a stand with a rectangular window similar to the one from T III (Fig. 12:10) derives from L 1.

Date: End of Late Bronze Age I.

Stratum 2: The walls W 3, 4 and 5, and an oven belong to this stratum.

Pottery: The most frequently found ware was Chocolate-on-White, but also Bichrome, burnished and unburnished wares were found. A large bowl with a short hollowed stem should be mentioned amongst the Chocolate-on-White ware (Fig. 14:4). It has a

thick white burnished slip and was decorated using chocolate brown matt paint. The careful, elaborate decoration shows a pattern with concentric circles both on the outside and inside, a chess-board pattern framed by two "rail"-bands on the inside, and below a single bird and three parallel bands. Other Chocolate-on-White wares consisted of jugs decorated with a metope style pattern (Fig. 14:5-8). A carinated unburnished bowl is decorated with three parallel horizontal lines (Fig. 13:2).

Date: A date within Late Bronze Age I is likely.

#### *Strata 3 and 4. Trench IV*

W 11 belongs to these strata. The Late Bronze Age finds came from layers deposited directly on bedrock.

Among the pottery finds was a juglet with a pointed base and reddish-brown parallel bands and one vertical band on the shoulder (Fig. 13:7). The design of the handle of a jug illustrated a tree, and one dot (Fig. 13:6). A two-handled storage jar with a small flat base was also found scattered all over L 11 (Fig. 13:8).

Date: A date within Late Bronze Age I is likely.

#### **Early Bronze Age**

#### *Stratum 5, Trench III, and Strata 5 and 6 Trench IV*

The hitherto exposed small area (L 49, 50, 51, 53 and 54), belonging to the Early Bronze Age, is too small to draw any conclusions about its function. A paving of pebbles on bedrock and pottery was found.

Grain Wash ware together with a red polished platter with slightly inverted walls and tapering rim was found (Fig. 15:7). An elaborate small bowl coated with red paint (once burnished?) was also found in a layer just above bedrock (Fig. 15:4).

In T IV, W 6 and the semicircular stone construction in L 18 belong to this period. A combined clay-pebble floor was exposed in the eastern part of the trench. An accumulation of large storage jars was excavated on top of it. The soil, in which the pottery was found, was mixed with ashy spots, burnt and un-

burned mudbrick, and charcoal.

Grain Wash ware was the dominant ware. A number of large storage jars (Fig. 15:21-25, 27-29) with flat bases and overhanging rims were found (Hennessy 1967: 19, Pl. XI.11), of which three types could be distinguished (Fig. 15:21-23). Another, almost globular, storage jar has two vertical handles (Fig. 15:29). Three jars with short, out-curving necks, were found in both Strata 5 and 6 of Trench IV in the eastern part. The shoulders join the necks at almost right angles with a tapering lip (Fig. 15:2, 3). A jar with a marked shoulder and tapering rim (Fig. 15:25) and holemouth jars with different rims were found (Fig. 15:9-18). One of the latter had a potter's mark just below the rim (Fig. 15:17) and another showed a rope pattern (Fig. 15:18). A variety of ledge handles together with lug handles were represented.

Date: Early Bronze Age, very likely within Early Bronze Age I/II.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Light has been thrown on the archaeology of Tell Abu al-Kharaz by a series of trial settlement soundings in two areas. Although a series of surface surveys have been carried out previously, the excavations of 1989 established, to a certain extent, the chronological sequences in two areas.

### Iron Age

Trial soundings in the southwestern corner of the upper part of the Tell (Area 1) exposed a wall (W 4), which was supposed to encircle the entire upper tell. The date of the wall has been proved to be the end of the Iron Age II period. The only structure which might possibly be later than Iron Age IIC is a water cistern incorporated into the wall. In connection with the above wall several rooms containing objects of daily life were found. A blue faience scarab has proved to be of an Egyptian, Naukratis, provenance. No structures could, with any certainty, be ascribed to the beginning of the Iron Age, although some loose sherds belonged to this period. In Area 2, outside W 4, the Iron Age finds were scarce. The few isolated structures found could not be interpreted at this stage.

### Late Bronze Age

Massive stone constructions in Area 1 and a large room in Area 2 belong to the Late Bronze Age. In Area 1, two diverging walls on top of each other belong to different phases of the Late Bronze Age. The size of the uppermost (W 9) indicates a function other than its merely being the wall of a building. Perhaps it is an upper town wall. It was tentatively dated to the transition of Late Bronze Age I/II. The lower wall (W 19) was probably the corner of a building. Together with the opposite corner of another building to the south it could be dated within Late Bronze Age I.

Items found in Area 2 (possibly outside a contemporary town wall), were a large room (Room 5) with a variety of fine pottery, including a stand with four rectangular windows, and parts of another similar stand. Vessels with monochrome and bichrome decorations often performed in the metope style were uncovered. Cypriot-imported wares consisted of an almost complete White Slip II "milk" bowl, with a possible Kalavassos provenance, and Base Ring I ware. Room 5 may probably have had a sacral function, since parallels with the "Fosse Temple" (Structures I and II) from Lachish could be disclosed. A likely date is the very beginning of the Late Bronze Age II period.

Chocolate-on-White ware was the most frequent ware in the following strata, which do not have any interpretable architectural features. A Late Bronze Age I date is plausible.

### Middle Bronze Age

No architectural remains but unstratified sherds could be ascribed to the Middle Bronze Age I (possibly transition EBIV/MBI) and II.

### Early Bronze Age

As regards to pottery, the Early Bronze Age is well represented in all strata. Pottery from Early Bronze Age I/II is perhaps the most abundant at the site. Stratified pottery from both areas consisted of mainly Grain Wash/Band Slip ware, and burnished and net painted wares. Primarily holemouth jars and

storage jars with overhanging rims were uncovered. A date within the Early Bronze Age I/II period is suggested.

An extension of the trial trenches in both areas is planned for the next season in order to study the stratigraphy more thoroughly.

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## CATALOGUE OF ILLUSTRATED POTTERY AND OTHER FINDS

Description/abbreviations: identification number, shape, firing: hard (H), medium (M) or soft (S), colour of clay, core, inclusions, slip (SS=self slip) and surface

### Area 1

#### Fig. 7. Iron Age.

1. I2L24N0016, bowl, H, light brown, grey core, medium white grits, SS, partly red burnished; Jericho, Kenyon and Holland 1982: 471, Fig. 196.11; Hazor, Yadin *et al.* 1960: Pl. LXXIX.7.
2. II1L15/2, bowl, H, greyish buff, small grey grits, red slip in and out, burnished; Hazor, Yadin *et al.* 1960: Pl. LXXIX.7.
3. V3L43/1, bowl, M, buff, medium grey grits, reddish brown slip on rim and out; Hazor, Yadin *et al.* 1958: Pl. LXXI.13.
4. II2L24/1, bowl, H, buff, red slip on outside of rim and inside.
5. V2L37N0037, bowl, M, light brown, medium coarse, grey core, reddish-yellowish brown slip in and out, once burnished (?); Lachish, Tufnell 1953: Pl. 80.65; Jericho, Kenyon 1965: 505, Fig. 265.12.
6. V3L43/3, bowl, H, buff, medium coarse, red slip in and out; Hazor, Yadin *et al.* 1960: Pl. LIII.12.
7. V1L30/2, krater, H, light brown, medium coarse, red slip on rim and outside; Hazor, Yadin *et al.* 1960: Pl. CVII.19.
8. V1L30/1, krater, H, buff, medium white grits, SS.
9. V1L27N0024, storage jar, H, light greyish brown, medium coarse, SS; Hazor, Yadin *et al.* 1960: Pl. LXXXI.11.
10. V2L34N0027, storage jar, H, pinkish light brown, medium coarse, SS.
11. II1L14N0002, storage jar, M, orange brown, fine, small black grits, orange brown slip; Pella, Smith 1982: 325, Fig. 1, middle rim.
12. V2L34N0029, storage jar, M, light brown, greyish brown core, medium coarse, pinkish light brown slip; Hazor, Yadin *et al.* 1958: Pl. LXVIII.3.
13. II1L1N0001, scraper, iron.
14. II2L24N0067, shell, yellowish white, burnished, 10 drill holes.
15. II2L45N0038, scarab, light blue faience, animal with upright tail walking to the right; "Naukratis scarab, 620/600 - shortly after 550 B.C..", pers. comm. Dr. Günther Hölbl, Inst. of Egyptology, Vienna.
16. II2L45N0043, fibula, bronze shaft with iron needle and two carnelian beads; Lachish, Tufnell 1953: Pl. 54.40 (700-600 B.C.); or Megiddo, Lamon & Shipton 1939: Pl. 79.13, Stratum III (810-710 B.C.).
17. III1L23/1, bracket? lid?, H, dark grey, medium coarse, reddish brown paste and thin grey brown slip, pierced after firing.



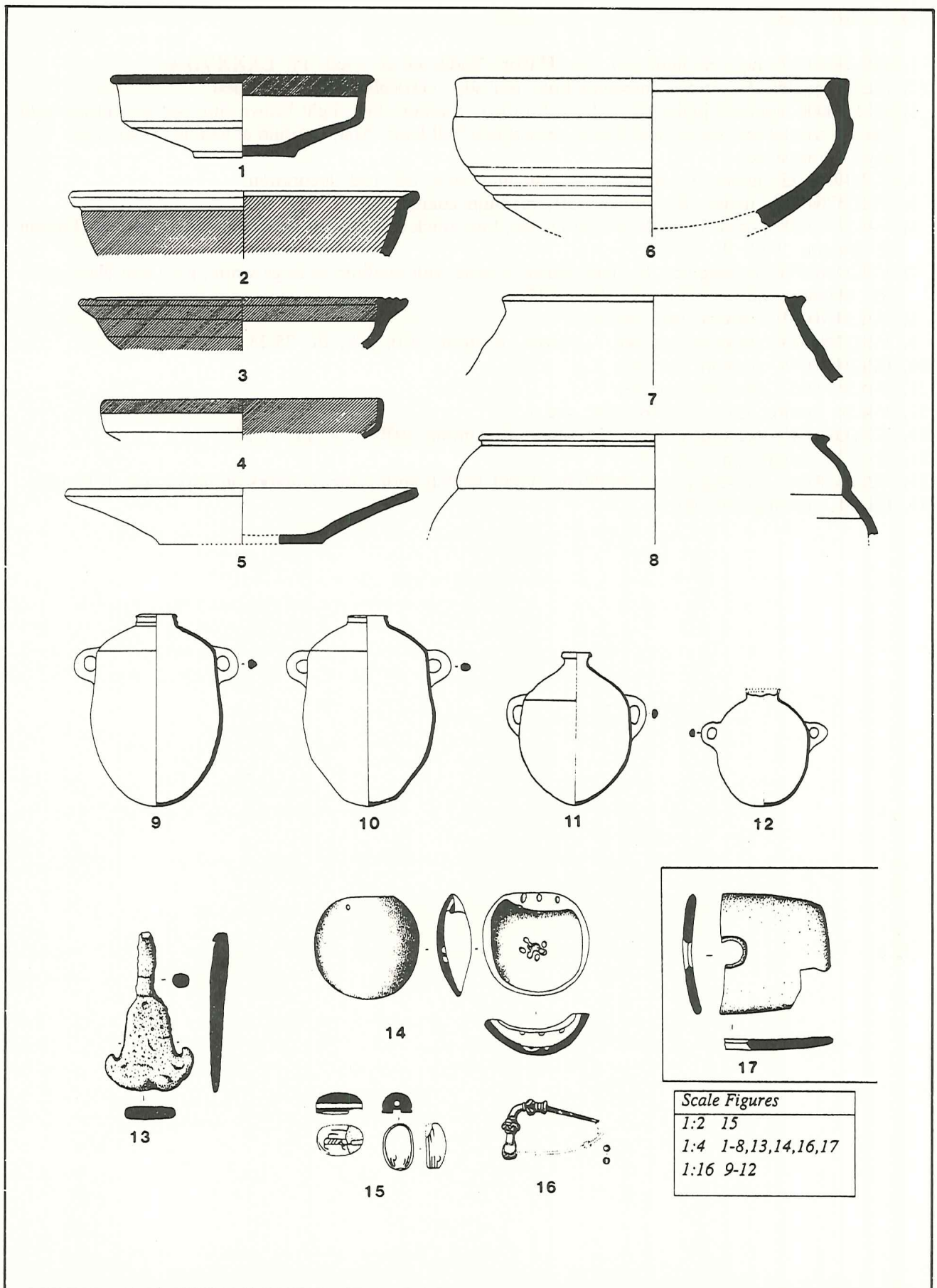


Fig. 7. Area 1. Iron Age.

*Fig. 8. Iron Age.*

1. II2L24N0017, jug, H, light red, SS; Hazor, Yadin *et al.* 1960: Pl. LXXXVII.4.
2. I1L7/1, juglet, H, brown, medium fine, red slip, vertically knife-burnished.
3. I1L5N0006, spouted juglet, H, yellowish brown, medium fine, light brown slip, red decoration with one horizontal and six vertical bands; resembling Tell Deir 'Alla, Ibrahim & van der Kooij 1986: 141, Fig. 4 lowest row.
4. V1L30N0022, juglet, H, light brown, medium fine, SS, red decoration.
5. VI1L57N0053, juglet, H, orange buff, medium coarse, SS.
6. V4L56N0058, juglet, H, pinkish light brown, fine, thick black slip, hand burnished; Megiddo, Lamon & Shipton 1939: Pl. 8:179.
7. V2L34N0030, cooking pot, H, dark brown, coarse with medium to large white, grey and black grits, SS; Hazor, Amiran 1970: 228, Pl. 75.17.
8. V2L34N0031, cooking pot, see 7.
9. V2L33N0028, cooking pot, see 7. Hazor, Amiran 1970: 228, Pl. 75.23.
10. II2L24N0046, cooking pot, see 7.
11. V4L56N0057, cooking pot, see 7.
12. V4L56 Section East, cooking pot, see 7.
13. V2L33N0045, cooking pot, see 7. Samaria, Amiran 1970: 228, Pl. 75.21.
14. I1L2/2, cooking pot, see 13.
15. V2L36N0047, cooking pot, resembling 13 and 14, but with potter's marks on upper side of handles.
16. I1L2/1, cooking pot, see 7.

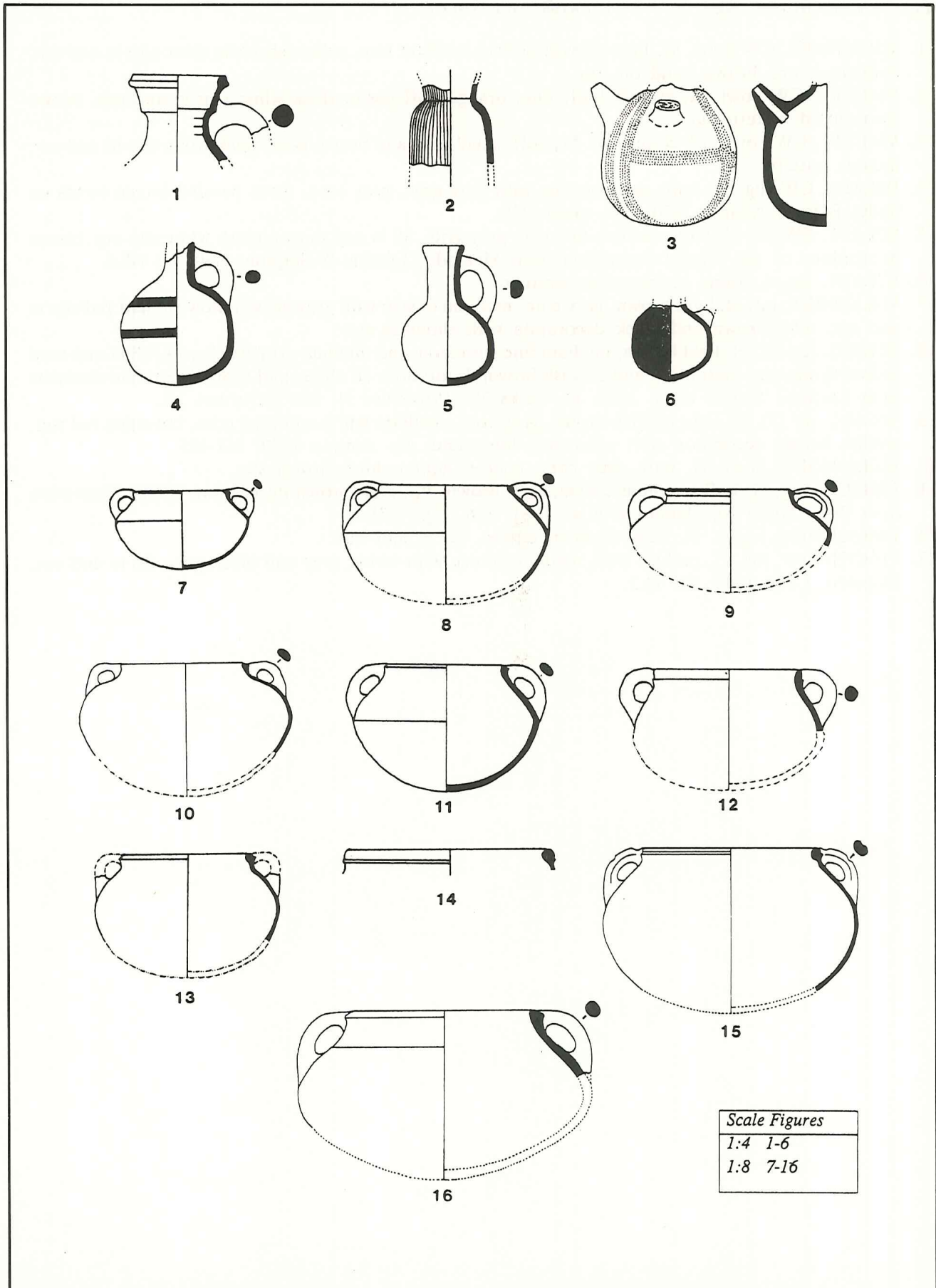


Fig. 8. Area 1. Iron Age.

Fig. 9. Late Bronze Age. (CW = Chocolate-on-White)

1. V5L51N0056, CW bowl, M, light greyish brown, medium fine, yellowish white thick slip in and out, burnished, one brown band on rim.
2. VI4L73/2, CW bowl, H, greyish buff, fine, orange buff paste, thick white slip in and out, brown chess-board pattern out.
3. VI4L73/1, CW bowl with carination, M, buff, small grey and brown grits, thick white slip in and out, metope pattern.
4. II5L85/2, CW jug, H, buff, medium fine with grey grits, grey core, three parallel brown bands on body; Beisan, Amiran 1970: 161, photo 159.
5. II5L85/1, CW jar, H, buff, medium fine with grey grits, SS in and thick pinkish white slip out, brown decoration; cf. the related decoration from Megiddo, Lamon & Shipton 1939: Pl. 64.4.
6. V2L37/1, see 4; found in Iron Age stratum.
7. V5L53N0048, jar, H, light brown, grey core, medium coarse with grey grits, yellowish matt red slip in and out, matt brown and black decoration with shooting star.
8. II5L85/2, jug (?), H, light brown, medium fine with large and medium grey-black grits, SS in and matt yellowish slip out, matt black and reddish brown decoration; cf. shape and some decorative elements from Lachish, Tufnell *et al.* 1940: Pl. XLIX.255 (Structure I), 265 (Structure II).
9. V6L60/1, jar (?), H, light pinkish brown, grey core, medium white and grey grits, brownish red slip, reddish brown decoration with palm-tree, burnished; see Amiran 1970: 161-165.
10. VI6L89N0070, bowl, H, buff, grey core, coarse, light reddish brown slip.
11. VI6L93/1, jug, H, buff, medium coarse, light brown slip, matt brown decoration; cf. the decoration from Pella Tomb 20, Hennessy *et al.* 1981: 276, Fig. 6.75.
12. VI6L92N0074, juglet, H, buff, medium coarse, SS in and out.
13. VI6L92N0075, jug, H, pinkish buff, medium coarse with white, grey and black grits, SS in and out; Megiddo, Loud 1948: Pl. 48.2.

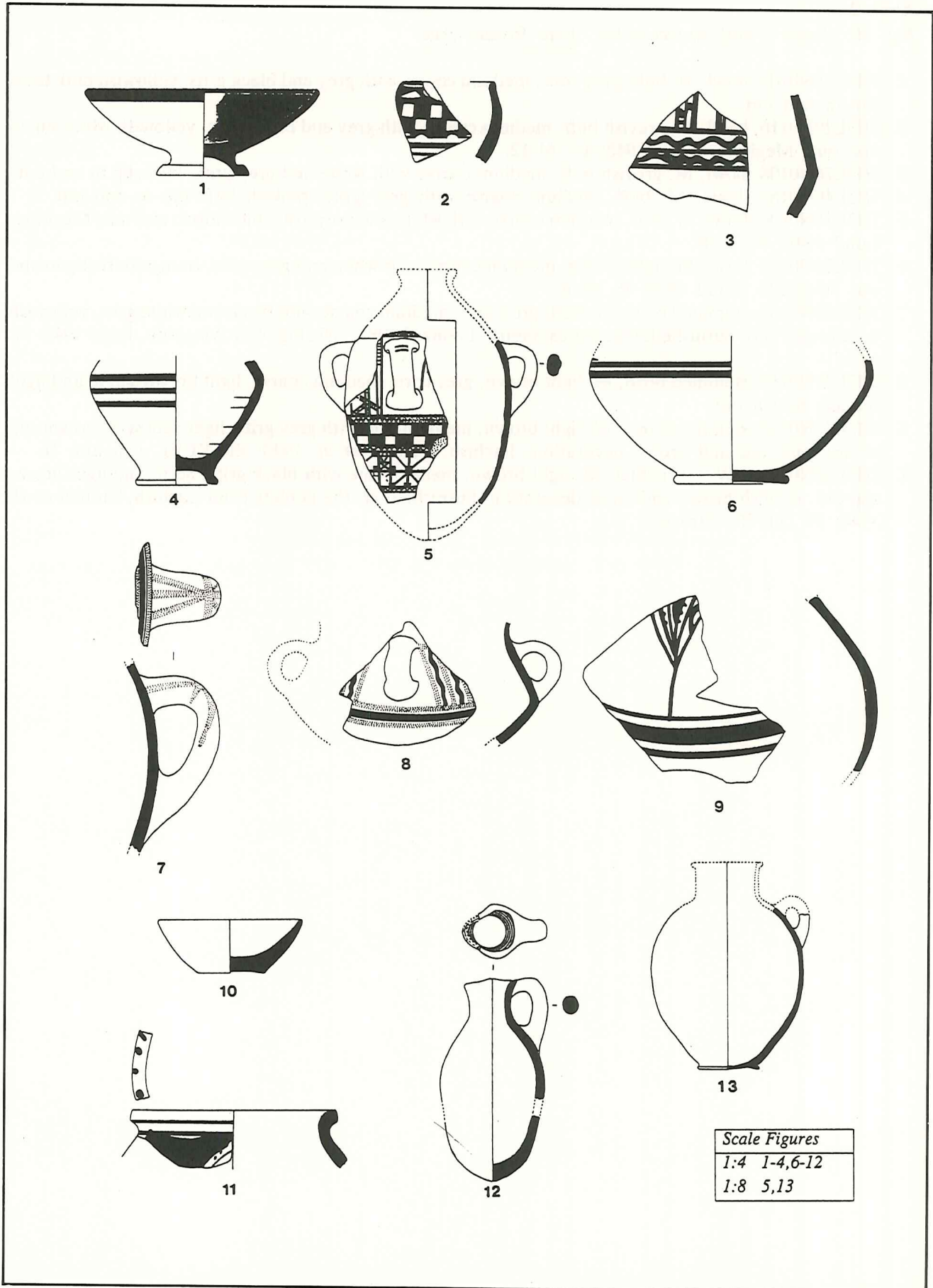


Fig. 9. Area 1. Late Bronze Age.

**Area 2**

**Fig. 10. Room 5 and Antechamber. Late Bronze Age.**

1. III3L26N0109, bowl, M, buff, grey core, medium coarse with grey and black grits, yellowish pink thick slip in and out.
2. III3L29N0116, bowl, M, greyish buff, medium coarse with grey and black grits, yellowish white slip in and out; Megiddo, Loud 1948: Pl. 61.12.
3. III3L26N0108, bowl, M, greyish buff, medium coarse with white and grey grits, buff slip in and out.
4. III3L40N0166, bowl, M, buff, medium coarse with grey grits, pinkish buff slip in and out.
5. III3L26N0106, bowl, M, buff, medium coarse with white and grey grits, buff slip in and out; Megiddo, Loud 1948: Pl. 61.8.
6. III3L26N0105, bowl, M, light brown, medium coarse with white and grey grits, orange buff slip in and out; Megiddo, Loud 1948: Pl. 61.8.
7. III3L26N0103, stemmed bowl, M, buff, grey core, medium coarse with black and white grits, yellowish light brown slip, burnished; Qataret es-Samra, Leonard 1981: 187, Fig. 4.G; Megiddo, Loud 1948: Pl. 54.17.
8. III3L40N0169, stemmed bowl, M, light brown, grey core, medium coarse, light brown slip in and light reddish brown out.
9. III3L26N0104, stemmed bowl, M, light brown, medium fine with grey grits, light yellowish brown slip in and out, red and brown decoration; Lachish, Tufnell *et al.* 1940: Pl. XLVI, structure II.
10. III3L40N0194 ("W 9"), goblet, M, light brown, medium fine with black grits, SS in and light brown slip out, reddish brown and black decoration, burnished; *cf.* the goblets from Lachish, Tufnell *et al.* 1940: Pl. XLVII, Structure II.

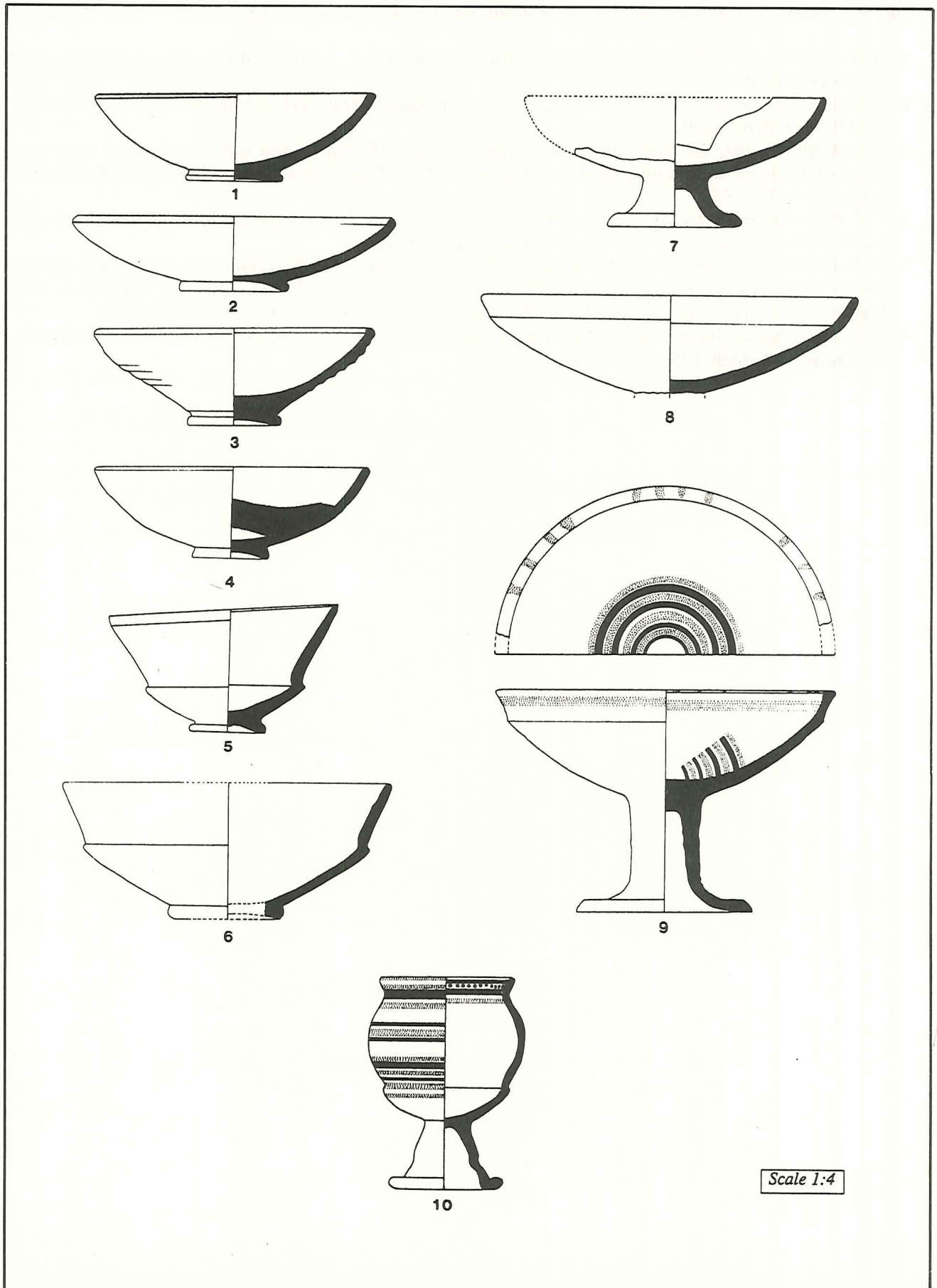


Fig. 10. Area 2. Room 5 and antechamber. Late Bronze Age.

*Fig. 11. Room 5 and Antechamber; 11:4 from Area 1. Late Bronze Age. (HM = hand made)*

1. III3L26N0107, bowl, M, yellowish light brown, medium coarse, yellowish brown slip, dark and reddish brown decoration, burnished.
2. III3L40N0170, bowl, M, light brown, grey core, medium coarse, light orange brown slip in and out, matt brown decoration.
3. III3L40N0117, jug, M, buff, medium coarse, pinkish buff slip in and out, matt brown and black decoration; shape and decorative elements from Lachish, Tufnell *et al.* 1940: Pl. XLIX.260; Megiddo, Loud 1948: Pl. 58.3.
4. V2L36/2, Cypriot Proto White Slip or White Slip I bowl, HM, H, dark grey, medium fine, thick pinkish white burnished slip, matt brown and light red decoration.
5. III3L43N0184, Cypriot White Slip II bowl, HM, H, dark grey, medium fine, matt thick white slip and brown decoration; *cf.* the bowls from Lachish, Tufnell *et al.* 1940: Pl. XLIII; Pella, Potts *et al.* 1988, Fig. 10.9,10; Deir 'Alla (unstratified), Ibrahim & van der Kooij 1983: Pl. CXXVII.1.
6. III3L40/2. Cypriot Base-ring I juglet, HM, H, dark grey, fine, small white grits, yellowish brown slip; *cf.* Lachish, Tufnell 1958: 204.12,13.



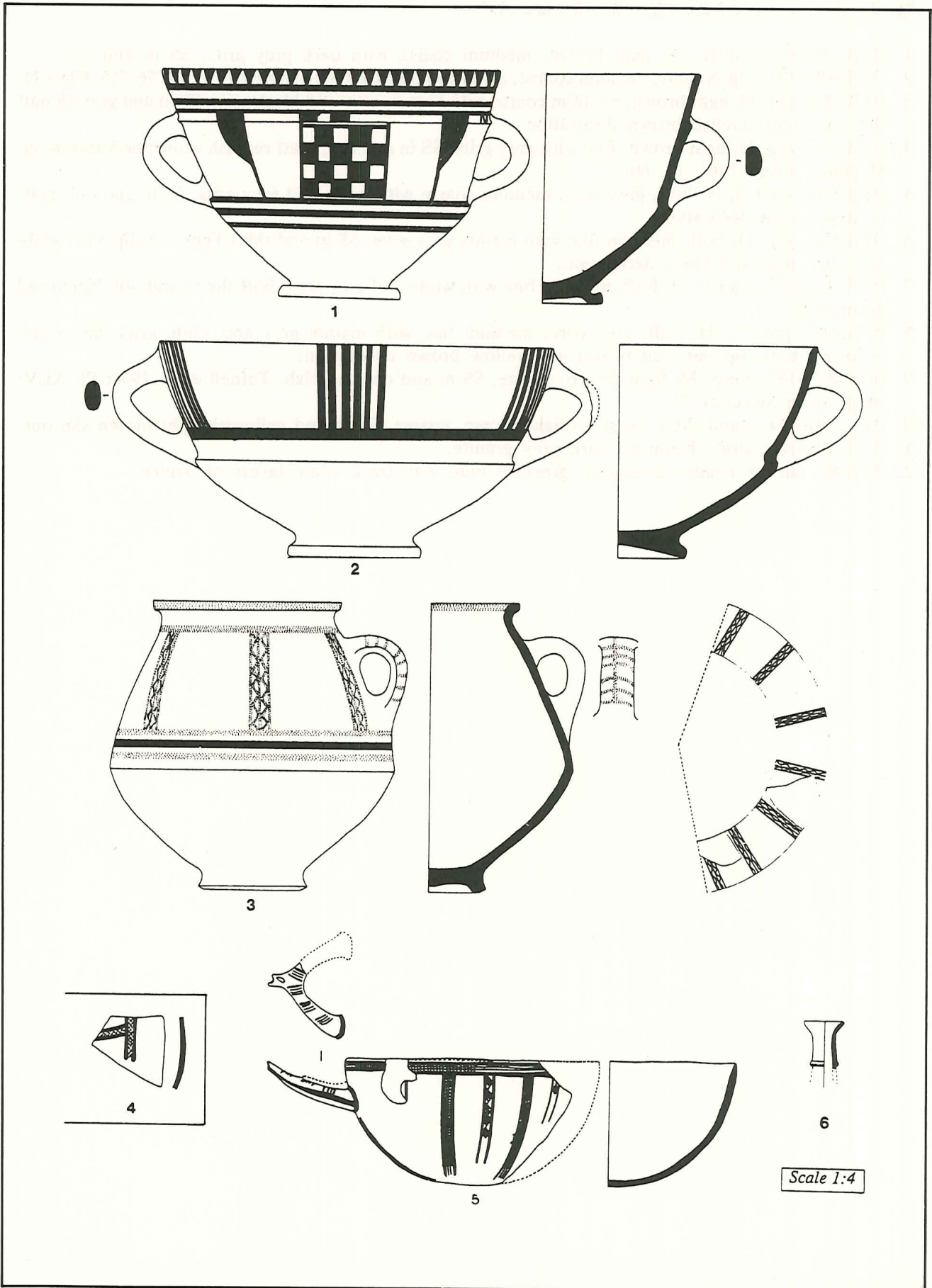
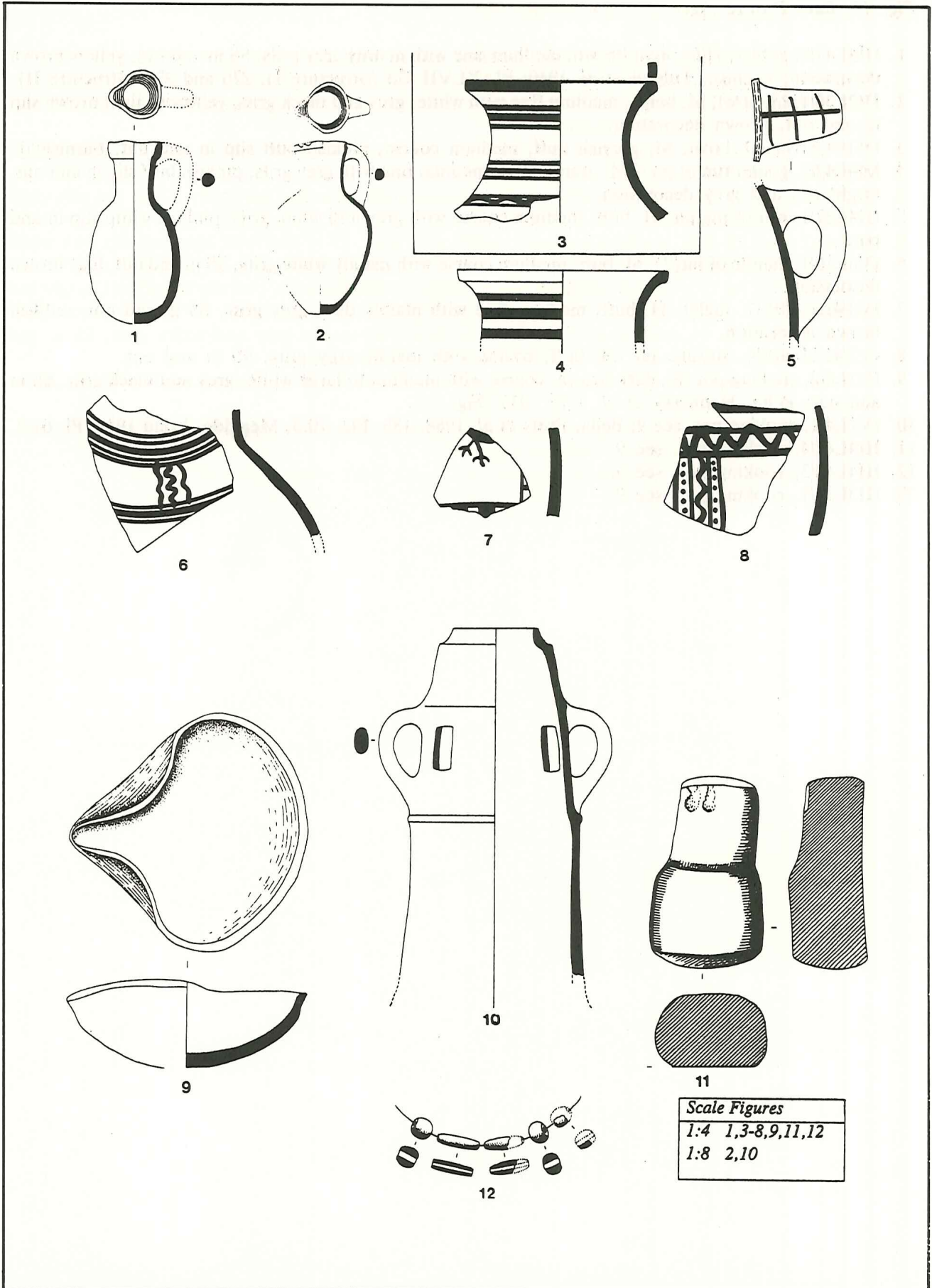


Fig. 11. Area 2. Room 5 and antechamber. Late Bronze Age. 11:4 Area 1.

Fig. 12. Room 5 (12:1,2,6-12). Late Bronze Age.

1. III3L43N0177, juglet, M, light brown, medium coarse with dark grey grits, SS in and out.
2. III3L40N0171, jug, S, buff, medium coarse, SS in and out; Lachish, Tufnell 1958: Pl. 76.715, Class D.
3. III2L36/1, jug, H, light brown, medium coarse with brown, grey and black grits, SS in and greyish buff slip out, matt reddish brown decoration.
4. III4L45/1, jug, H, light brown, fine with grey grits, SS in and out, matt reddish brown decoration; cf. Megiddo, Loud 1948: Pl. 60.2.
5. III2L39/4, jug (?), H, buff, grey core, medium coarse with white and grey grits, SS in and out, matt reddish brown decoration.
6. III3L44/1, jug, H, buff, medium fine with mainly grey grits, SS in and thick light red slip with white grits out, lilac and black decoration.
7. III3L40N0173, jug (?), H, buff, medium fine with white and grey grits, buff slip in and out, bright red decoration.
8. III3L44/2, jug (?), H, buff, grey core, medium fine with mainly grey and white grits, SS in and yellowish buff slip out, red brown and yellow brown decoration.
9. III3L40N0167, lamp, M, light brown, coarse, SS in and out; Lachish, Tufnell *et al.* 1940: Pl. XLV: lamps from Structure II.
10. III3L29N0114, stand, M/S, beige to light brown, coarse, SS in and yellowish light brown slip out.
11. III3L40N0164, stone hammer, dark grey granite.
12. III3L40, faience beads (arranged), greenish blue with thick white layers of oxides.



Scale Figures	
1:4	1,3-8,9,11,12
1:8	2,10

Fig. 12. Area 2. Room 5 (12:1,2,6-12). Late Bronze Age.

Fig. 13. Late Bronze Age.

1. III4L47/2, goblet, H/M, light brown, medium fine with mainly grey grits, SS in and out, yellow brown decoration; Lachish, Tufnell *et al.* 1940: Pl. XLVII.223 (Structure I), 226 and 227 (Structure II).
2. IV2L3N0123, bowl, M, beige, medium fine with white, grey and black grits, yellowish light brown slip in and out, brown decoration.
3. IV3/4L11N0140, bowl, M, greyish buff, medium coarse, pinkish buff slip in and out, burnished.
4. III4L47/3, goblet/rim of jar?, M, orange buff, medium fine with grey grits, pinkish buff slip in and out, bright red and grey decoration.
5. III4L32/1, rim of jug/jar, H, buff, medium coarse with grey and white grits, pinkish white slip in and out.
6. IV3L16/1, handle of jar(?), M, buff, medium coarse with mainly white grits, SS in and out, lilac brown decoration.
7. IV3/4L11N0137, juglet, H, buff, medium fine with mainly dark grey grits, SS in and out, reddish brown decoration.
8. IV3/4L11N0124, storage jar, H, buff, coarse with mainly grey grits, SS in and out.
9. IV1L4/2, cooking pot, H, dark brown, coarse with medium to large white, grey and black grits, SS in and out; Pella, Hennessy *et al.* 1983: 333, Fig. 5.2.
10. IV1L4/1, cooking pot, see 9; Pella, Potts *et al.* 1988: 135, Fig. 10.3; Megiddo, Loud 1948: Pl. 61.7.
11. III4L47/4, cooking pot, see 9.
12. III4L48/3, cooking pot, see 9.
13. III3L33/1, cooking pot, see 9.

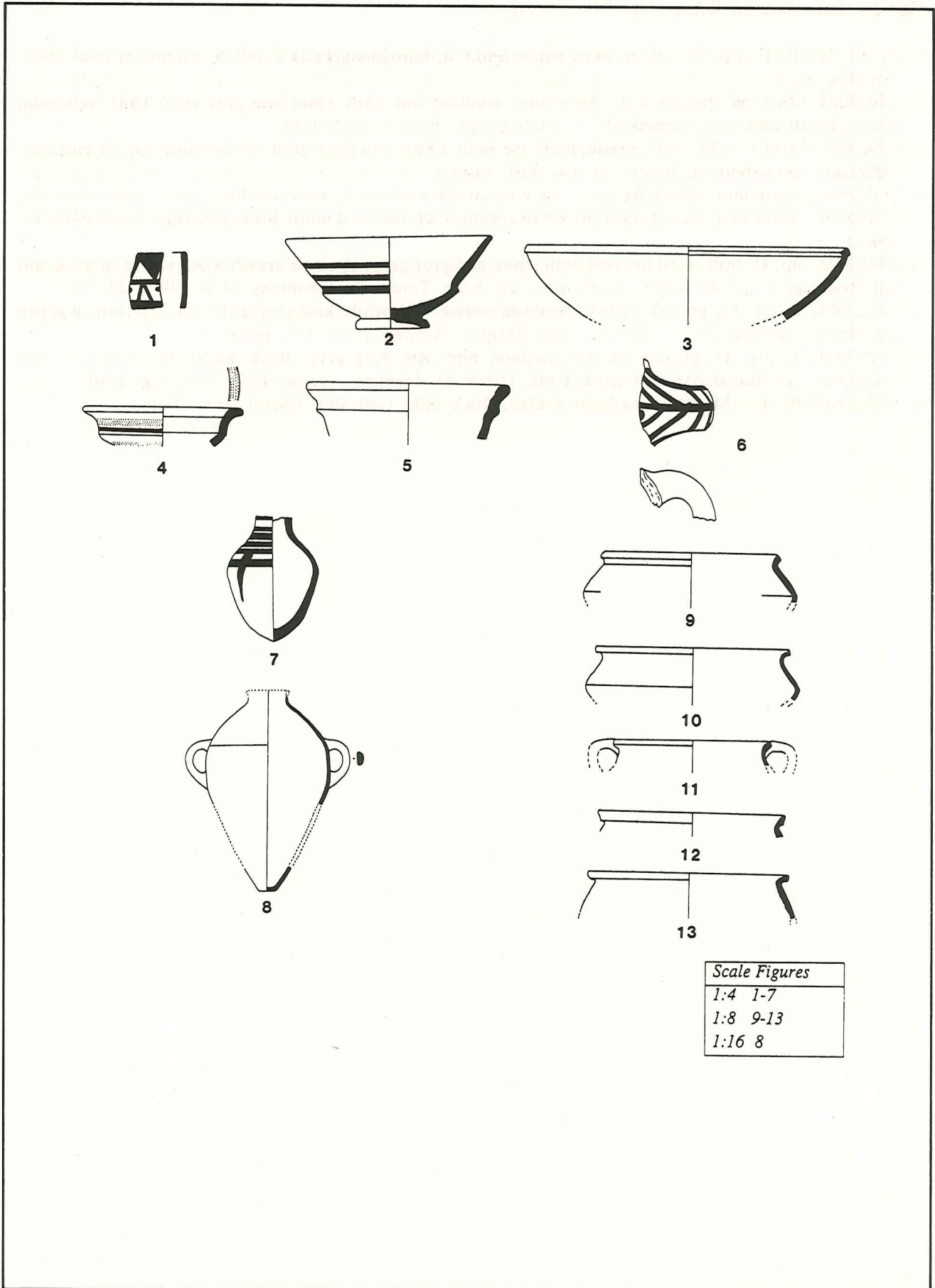


Fig. 13. Area 2. Late Bronze Age.

*Fig. 14. Chocolate-on-White. Late Bronze Age.*

1. IV1L1, bowl, H, buff, fine, thick white slip in and out, burnished; Pella Tomb 20, Hennessy *et al.* 1981: 276, Fig. 6.23.
2. III4L48/2, bowl, M, greyish buff, grey core, medium fine with white and grey grits, thick yellowish white slip in and out, burnished (?), matt purple brown decoration.
3. III4L48/1, bowl (?), M, buff, medium coarse with white and grey grits, thick white slip in and out, bichrome decoration in bright red and dark brown.
4. IV2L3N0131, stemmed bowl, M, grey, medium coarse with white, grey and black grits, thick white slip in and out, burnished, matt purple brown decoration; *cf.* the bird motif from Megiddo, Loud 1948: Pl. 134.21.
5. III4L33/2, jug, H, buff, medium fine with white and grey grits, thick yellowish white slip in to neck and out, burnished, purple brown decoration; *cf.* Pella Tomb 20, Hennessy *et al.* 1981: 276.75.
6. IV2L3N0126, jar, M, greyish brown, medium coarse with white and grey grits, thick brownish white slip, brown decoration; *cf.* the jar from Zerqua, Amiran 1970: 159, photo 156.
7. IV2L3N0128, jug, H, greyish brown, medium fine with grey grits, thick white slip, purple brown decoration; *cf.* the decoration from Pella Tomb 20, Hennessy *et al.* 1981: 276, Fig. 6.40.
8. IV2L3N0129, jug, M, buff, medium coarse, thick light buff slip, brown decoration.

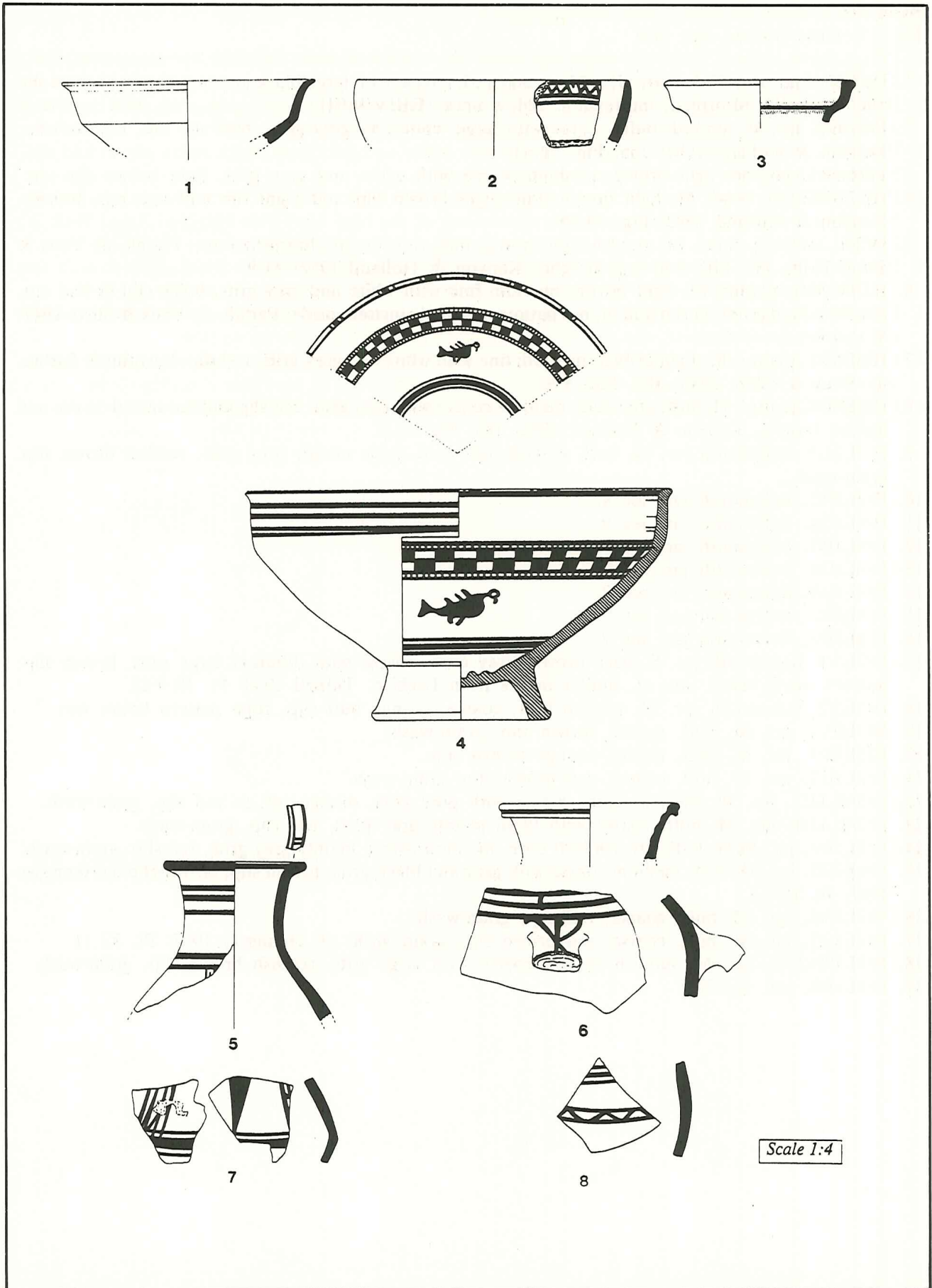


Fig. 14. Area 2. Late Bronze Age.

**Area 1/2**

**Fig. 15. Early Bronze Age HM.**

1. I12L87/1, jar, rim WM, body HM, M, orange red, coarse with large black and brown grits, brown slip out, vertically burnished, impressions below neck (EBIV/MBI).
2. IV2L6/3, jar, M, pinkish buff, coarse with large white and grey grits, buff slip out; e.g. Jericho, Kenyon & Holland 1982: 165, Fig. 58.33.
3. IV6L19/1, jar, M, light brown, medium coarse with white and grey grits, light brown slip out.
4. III5L53N0193, bowl, M, light brown, fine, light brown slip, red paint rim and out; e.g. Jericho, Kenyon & Holland 1982: Fig. 54.25.
5. IV3/4L16N0144, bowl, M, greyish light brown, fine, red slip and burnished out; Far'ah, de Vaux & Steve 1948: 565, Fig. 8.6; e.g. Jericho, Kenyon & Holland 1982: 51.9.
6. III3/4L33/1, platter, M, light brown, medium fine with white and grey grits, beige slip in and out, burnished red paint on rim and in, net pattern shallowly incised inside; Far'ah, de Vaux & Steve 1947: 413, 4.8.
7. III5L53/1, platter, M, light brown, medium fine with white and grey grits, red slip, burnished; Far'ah, de Vaux & Steve 1948: 565, Fig. 8.8.
8. III5L48/4, platter, H, buff, grey core, medium coarse with grey grits, red slip and burnished on rim and inside; Jericho, Kenyon & Holland 1982: 145, Fig. 51.2.
9. IV3L11/3, holemouth jar, M, buff, greyish buff core, large mainly grey grits, reddish brown slip, grain-wash.
10. IV4L10/5, holemouth jar, see 9.
11. IV4L10/6, holemouth jar, see 9.
12. IV4L10/7, holemouth jar, see 9.
13. IV4L10/8, holemouth jar, see 9.
14. IV4L10/9, holemouth jar, see 9.
15. IV6L19/2, holemouth jar, see 9.
16. IV6L19/3, holemouth jar, see 9.
17. IV2L5/1, holemouth jar, S, dark brown, grey core, coarse with different large grits, brown slip; potter's mark below rim, cf. similar marks from Lachish, Tufnell 1958: Pl. 18.9-12.
18. IV1L3/2, holemouth jar, M, greyish buff, coarse, orange buff slip, rope pattern below rim.
19. VI7L95/1, jar, M, buff, coarse, brown slip, grain-wash.
20. III6L54/1, jar, M, buff, coarse, orange brown slip.
21. IV4L10/1, jar, M, buff, coarse, red brown slip, grain-wash.
22. IV3/4L11/2, jar, M, buff, medium coarse with grey grits, orange red to red slip, grain-wash.
23. IV3/4L11/1, jar, M, buff, coarse with large mainly grey grits, red slip, grain-wash.
24. IV6L19/4, jar, M/H, buff, greyish buff core, medium coarse mainly grey grits, red slip, grain-wash.
25. IV6L19/5, jar, M, buff, medium coarse with grey and black grits, brown slip; cf. Jericho in Hennessy 1967: Pl. IV.33.
26. VI7L95/2, jar, M, buff, coarse, red slip, grain-wash.
27. IV4L10/2, jar, M, buff, coarse, red brown slip, grain-wash; cf. Hennessy 1967: Pl. XI.11.
28. IV6L19N0195, jar, M, reddish brown, coarse with large grits, reddish brown slip, grain-wash.
29. IV6L19/6, jar, see 24.



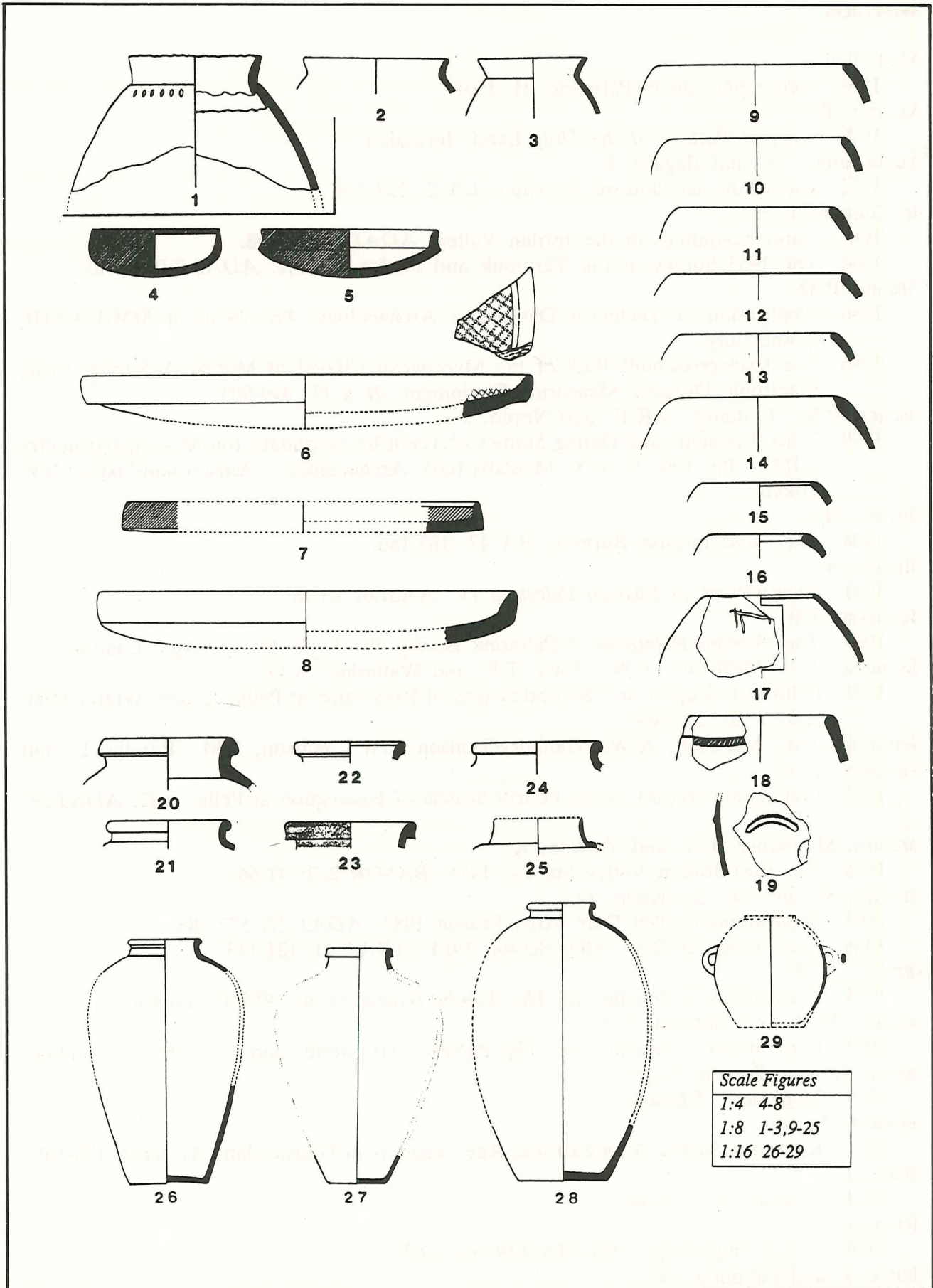


Fig. 15. Area 1/2. Early Bronze Age. 15:1 EB IV/MB I.

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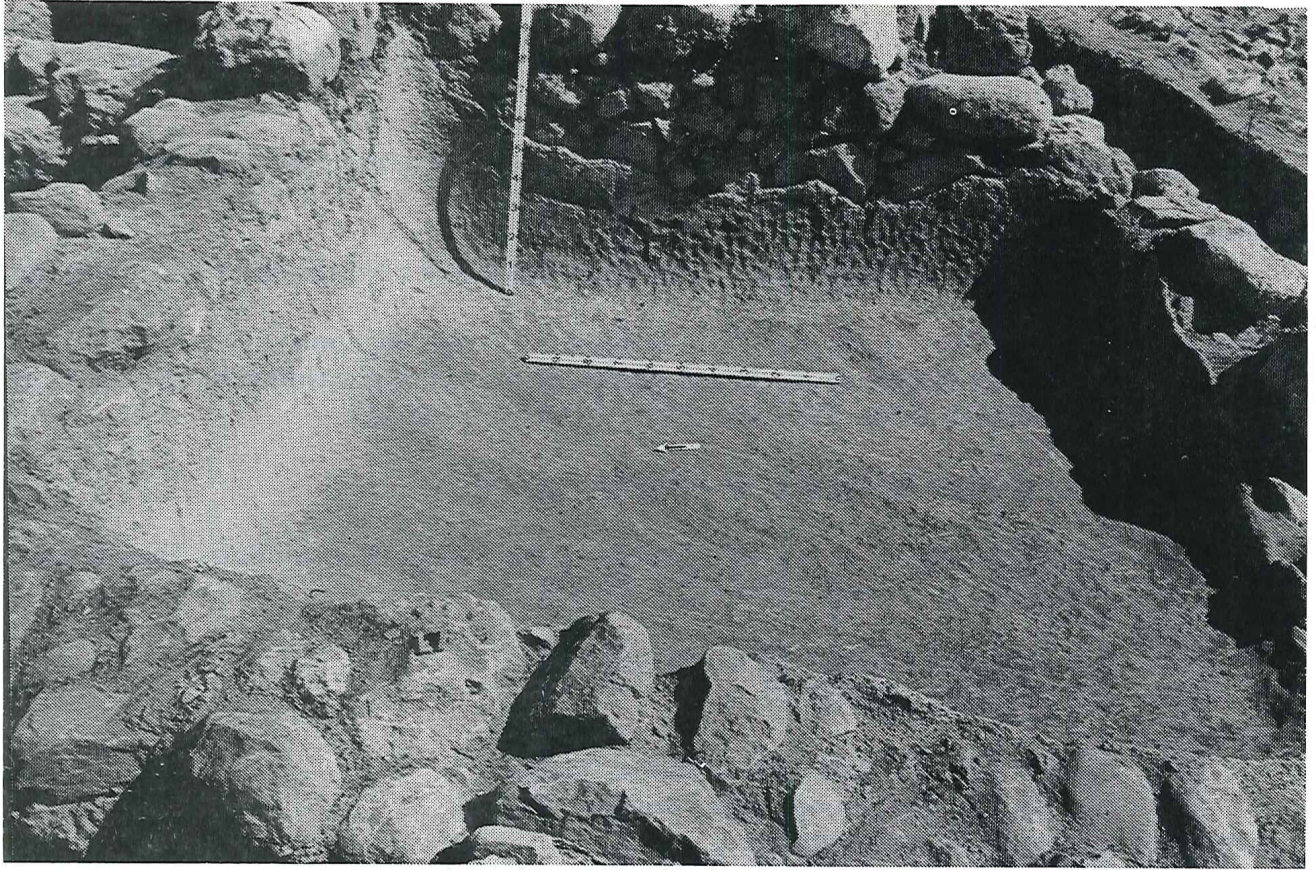
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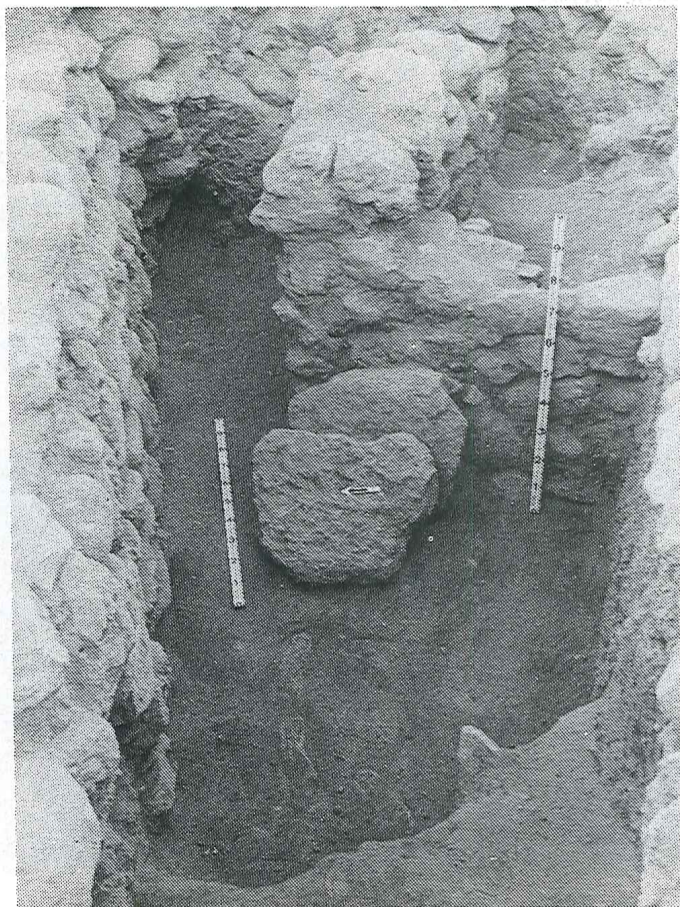
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1. Area 1. Cistern. Late Iron Age II C (*terminus post quem*).



2. Area 1. Room 1. Iron Age II C.



1. Area 1. Stone slabs in front of Room 6. Late Bronze Age I.



2. Area 2. Room 5. Late Bronze Age II.



1. Area 2. Room 5. Altar(?) in the left upper corner. Late Bronze Age II.



2. Area 2. Antechamber Room 5. Late Bronze Age II.