

TALL JUḤFIYYA

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE 2004 AND 2007 SEASONS

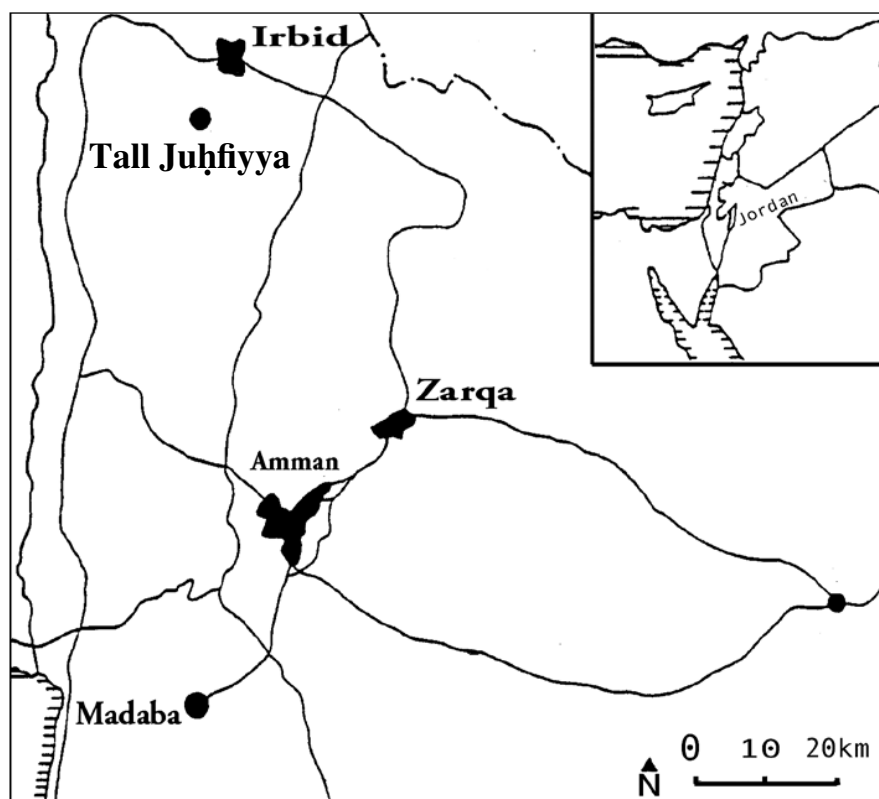
Roland Lamprichs and Ziad Al-Sa'ad

Under the joint directorship of Roland Lamprichs and Ziad al-Sa'ad the third and fourth seasons of archaeological excavations at Tall Juḥfiyya were conducted from 17.05.2004–15.06.2004 and from 15.04.2007–10.05.2007 (**Fig. 1**).¹ The work mainly aimed at studying the archaeology of the early phases of the site, documenting its remains and increasing our knowledge and understanding of the site's history.

The Season of 2004 ²

Within six trenches more than 175sqm were newly opened in 2004: four trenches, including a deep sounding, within the perimeter wall and two trenches on the slope of the tall (**Figs. 2, 3**).

Almost 92% of the more than 22,000 pottery sherds registered in 2004, date back to the late Iron Age. The remaining pieces date to the

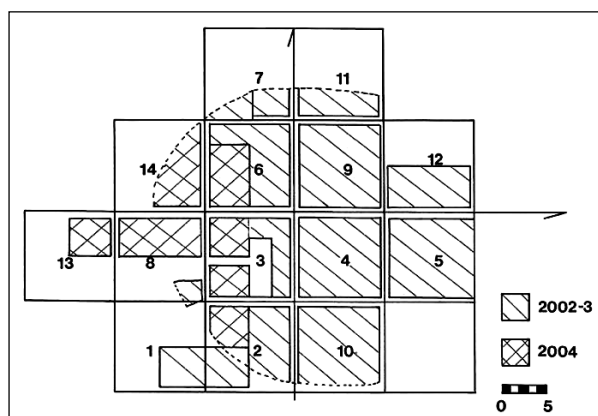


1. Map of Jordan showing Tall Juḥfiyya.

1. Both seasons were jointly funded by the GERA HENKEL STIFTUNG, Düsseldorf and the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology, Yarmouk University Irbid. The excavations were carried out with the constant support of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan and we would like to express our gratitude to its director

general, Dr. Fawwaz al-Khraysheh. Our thanks are also due to the inhabitants of the village of Juḥfiyya, our excellent workmen and team members.

2. For more details see the final report on the 2002-2004 seasons which was released by the end of 2007 (Lamprichs 2007).



2. Area of excavation 2004.

early Iron Age, Persian and Omayyad periods. In addition the lower layers of the deep sounding (Fig. 4) brought to light pottery sherds of a late Bronze Age date for the first time at Tall Juhfiyya.³

Furthermore new information concerning stratigraphy, dating, structure, function and socio-economic setting of the site were obtained. Within the already mentioned deep sounding which was dug for more than 6.50m below surface level seven different stratigraphic units could be separated. They are representing altogether two main phases of “occupation” and a later resettlement during Umayyad times, which could be summarized as follows:



4. Tall Juhfiyya 2004: deep sounding (photo by H. Deba-jah)

1. The first phase of “occupation” is characterized by a huge circular structure of still unknown function. It consist of several concentric walls made of huge stones (see Fig. 30). The space inbetween the walls was filled with small stones and pebbles. Pottery found within this structure belongs mainly to the late Bronze Age “chocolate on white” typus. By the end of this period the surface of the megalithic structure was partly levelled and beside other activities a perimeter wall, surrounding the plateau area, was built.
2. The following subphase 1 of the second phase of occupation at Tall Juhfiyya was character-



3. Tall Juhfiyya 2004: view to the east (photo by H. Deba-jah).

3. For a detailed presentation and description of the 2004

pottery see Lamprichs (2007: 383-544 u. 595-600).



9. Tall Juhfiyya 2004: locus 6042, view to the south.

the Persian period Tall Juhfiyya as a whole was temporarily abandoned.

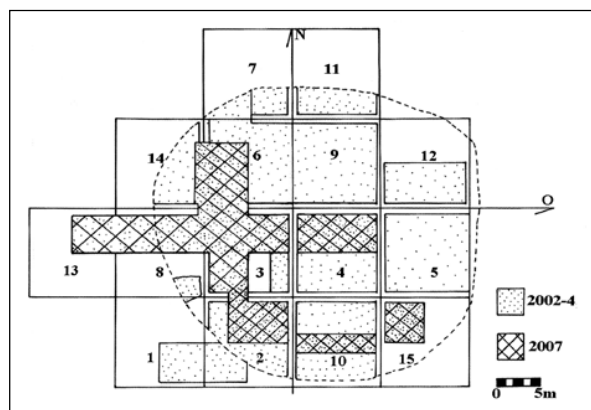
It was only after a gap of more than 800 years that the fringes of the site were resettled during Umayyad times. Characteristic remains of this resettlement at Tall Juhfiyya are a cistern and several small rooms excavated mainly in 2002 (Lamprichs and al-Sa'ad 2003: 104-107). By the end of the Umayyad period the site was finally abandoned.

The Season of 2007 (Fig. 10)

During our hitherto last season at Tall Juhfiyya we looked into more than 220sqm within seven



10. Tall Juhfiyya: spring 2007.



11. Area of excavation 2007.

trenches including a deep sounding (**Fig. 11**). New and conclusive information concerning the foundation level and pottery of the early phases as well as the first architectural remains, considered to be a circular megalithic structure, have been obtained (**Fig. 12**).

In all, 12,386 pottery sherds (=430.00kg) were collected and registered. 1,244 pieces were classified as diagnostics (**Figs. 13-23**). Besides a huge amount of cooking pots and handles, many jars, bowls, bottoms, storage jars and decorated body sherds were found in 2007. Furthermore lids, spouts and lamps have been registered. Altogether 22 out of 28 defined wares could be identified in 2007.⁴ Pieces of the Iron Age are

4. For a detailed description of wares 1-24 see Lamprichs (2007: 115-122). Wares 25-27 have been registered for the first time in 2007 and have been defined as follows: Ware 25 — pieces of a fine, well burnt clay tempered with small particles of chalk, basalt and stone; reddish-brown slip inside and outside (2.5 YR 5/6 red – 2.5 YR 5/4-4/4 reddish brown). Ware 26 — a variant of

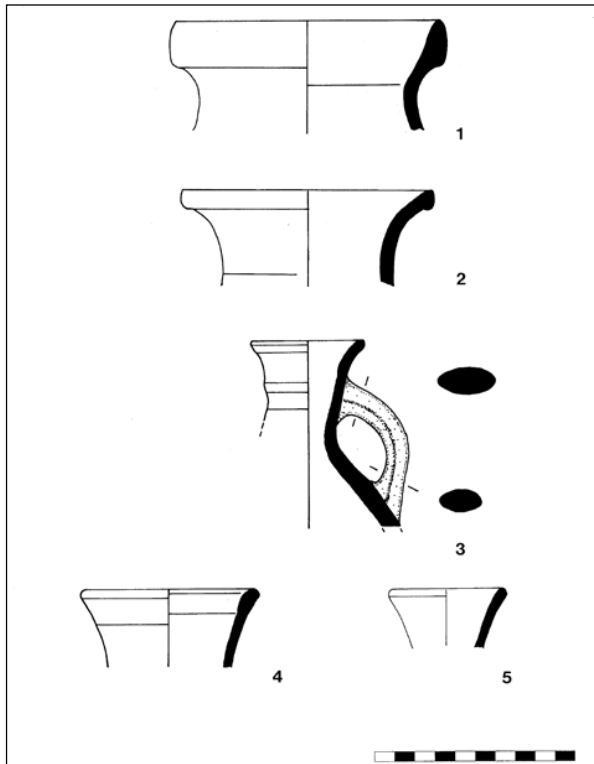
“chocolate on white” pottery. Ware 27 — medium-fine, well burnt pieces; roughly burnished and tempered with small chalk-, sand- and basalt-particles; beige to orange core and exterior (7.5 YR 7/4 pink; 7.5 YR 6/4 light brown; 10 YR 7/3 very pale brown; 10 YR 7/2 light gray; 2.5 YR 7/2 light gray); paint (stripes) decoration possible (10 R 4/6 red; 10 R 3/4 dusky red).



12. Tall Juhfiyya 2007 (post excavation): view to the south (photo by H. Debajah).

still dominant but the share of late Bronze Age sherds has been growing considerably (**Fig. 22**). Within specific squares (e.g. square 4) almost 71% of the sherds date back to the late Bronze Age. Pottery of the “chocolate on white” typus are very common in the lower levels of the site. Besides pottery sherds only bone-, flint- and ba-

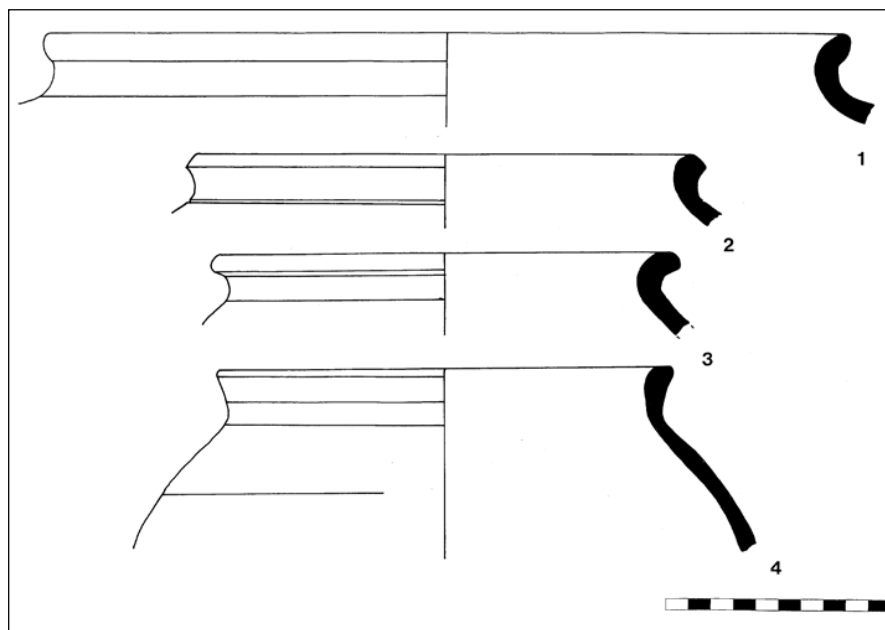
salt-fragments, an arrow-head made of bronze (**Fig. 28**), a bead fragment and a few pieces of wood have been found in 2007 (**Figs. 24-28**). In general finds were very few in the lower levels and most of the finds made in the upper layers are still related to domestic and farming activities.



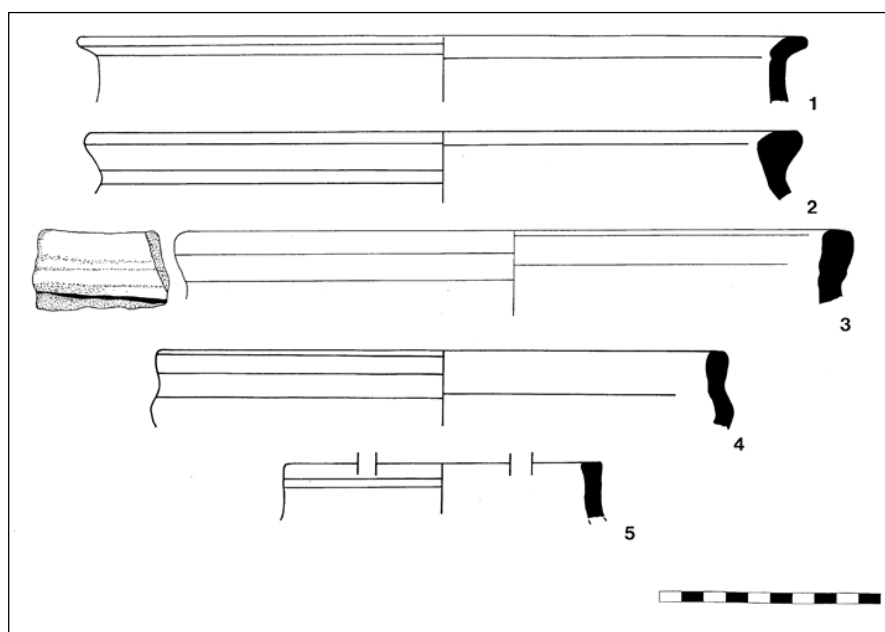
13. 1. ware 27, locus 4066, sq. 4; 2. ware 21, locus 3072, sq. 3; ware 4.1, locus 15007, sq. 15, slip (5YR 4/4); 4. ware 4, locus 3061, sq. 3; 5. ware 27, locus 4062, sq. 4.

Following the results achieved in 2007, Tall Juhfiyya was founded on natural bed-rock during the late Bronze Age as a huge circular “structure” measuring more than 50.00m in diameter (**Fig. 29**). As shown by our excavations this “structure” was most probably made up of several concentric walls (>3), each separated by a distance of approximately 2.00m (**Fig. 30**). Some of their inner faces carried a lime plaster. The same is true for some of the small dividing walls connecting the concentric walls. The areas in between the main circular walls were filled intentionally with medium sized lime- and flint-stones forming a huge megalithic structure of still unknown function. Its general state of preservation is good and the excavated parts of the concentric and dividing walls still have a height of more than 4.50m. The width of the excavated walls measures up to 1,80m (**Figs. 31, 32, 33**). A thick layer (c. 0.20m) of lime, sloping down to the center of the site, finally covered and sealed the megalithic “structure” (**Fig. 34**). The reason for this is not clear and convincing parallels are hardly known for the region.

Only the central(!) part of Rujm al-Hiri (Kochavi 1989; Zohar 1989; Mizrachi *et al.* 1996),



14. 1. ware 1, locus 6082, sq. 6; 2. ware 27, locus 3088/97 (baulk), sq. 3; 3. ware 1; locus 3088/97 (baulk), sq. 3; 4. ware 1, locus 3073, sq. 3.

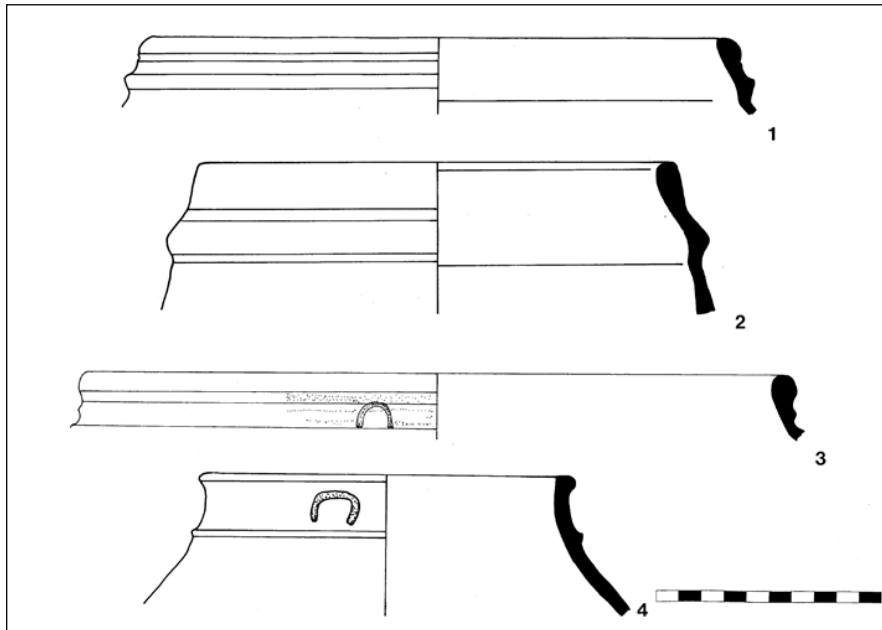


15. 1. ware 27, locus 4055, sq. 4; 2. ware 21, locus 3078, sq. 3; 3. ware 27, locus 4056, sq. 4, remains of paint; 4. ware 27, locus 8041, sq. 8; 5. ware 21, locus 6082, sq. 6.

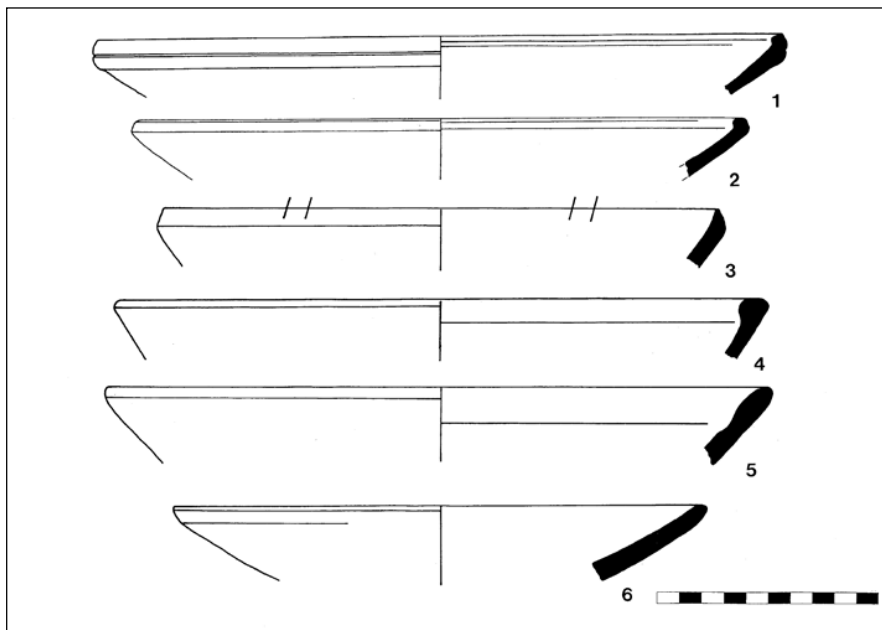
a site situated in the southern Golan area, has some features in common with the structure excavated in the lower levels at Tall Juhfiyya. Based on this, an interpretation of Tall Juhfiyya during the first phase of “occupation” as a late Bronze Age burial cairn seems possible. More scientific investigations and excavations, however, are badly needed to verify this hypothesis.

By the end of the late Bronze Age at around 1200BC and during the following Iron Age times the function of the site changed consid-

erably. The huge circular structure of stones was leveled by another fill of medium sized lime- and flintstones (**Fig. 35**). A perimeter wall was erected and most of the late Bronze Age walls were reused as foundations for a “fortified farmstead” already known from our excavations in 2002-2004 (Lamprichs and al-Sa‘ad 2003, 2004). The spaces in between the circular walls now became semicircular passageways (**Fig. 36**) connecting the main farmstead building in the north with the storage and processing facili-



16. 1. ware 1, locus 8042, sq. 8; 2. ware 4.1, locus 4047, sq. 4, 5YR 7/6 6/6; 3. ware 1, locus 3508, sq. 3; 4. ware 1, locus 3063, sq. 3.



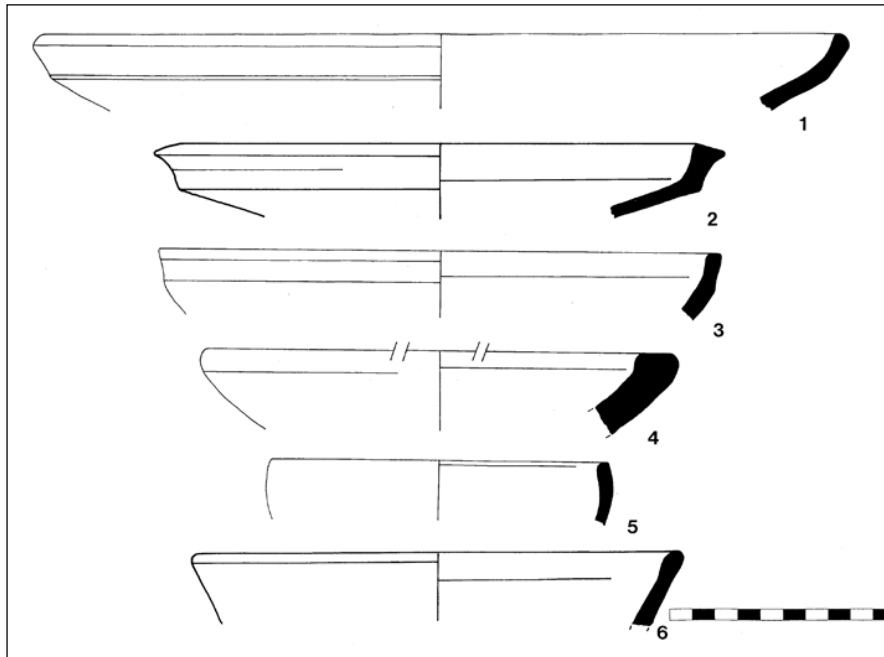
17. 1. ware 27, locus 6085, sq. 6; 2. ware 21, locus 4059, sq. 4; 3. ware 25, locus 3072.2, sq. 3; 4. ware 26, locus 6082, sq. 6; 5. ware 21, locus 8036, sq. 8; 6. ware 4.1, locus 4051, sq. 4, 7.5YR 7/6 6/6.

ties in the southern part of the tall (see Lamprichs and al-Sa'ad 2004: 174-177). In this way the round structure of the site was maintained through time from the late Bronze Age down to the Omayyad period.

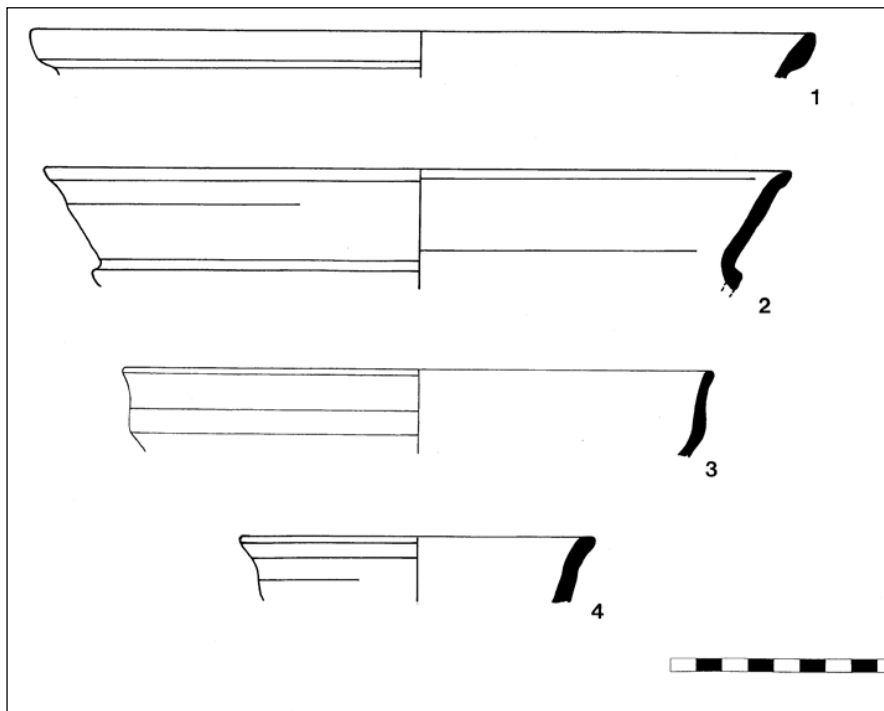
Summary

Summarizing our results, we may say that the north Jordanian plateau during the late Bronze Age was most probably characterized by round megalithic structures like Tall

Juhfiyya and many dolmens of an earlier date. Around 1200BC, however, the north Jordanian landscape changed considerably. Sites like Tall Juhfiyya, Tall Bayt Yāfā, Tall ash-Shiqāq and others, most probably used as burial cairns during the late Bronze Age, changed their function and were used for domestic and farming activities from now on. Starting with small domestic chambers during Iron Age I they became flourishing and prosperous farmsteads during Iron Age II and III. After a gap



18. 1. ware 21, locus 4056, sq. 4; 2. ware 4.1, locus 3062, sq. 3, 2.5YR 5/6 red; 3. ware 25, locus 4062, sq. 4; 4. ware 26, locus 4055, sq. 4, white slip; 5. ware 4.1, locus 4060, sq. 4; 6. ware 21, locus 4060, sq. 4.



19. 1. ware 21, locus 6086, sq. 6; 2. ware 26, locus 4050, sq. 4, white slip, red (2.5YR 4/6 5/6 red) dots and remains of dark gray (7.5YR 8/0 8/2 dark gray) stripes; 3. ware 27, locus 6081, sq. 6; 4. ware 21, locus 4061, sq. 4.

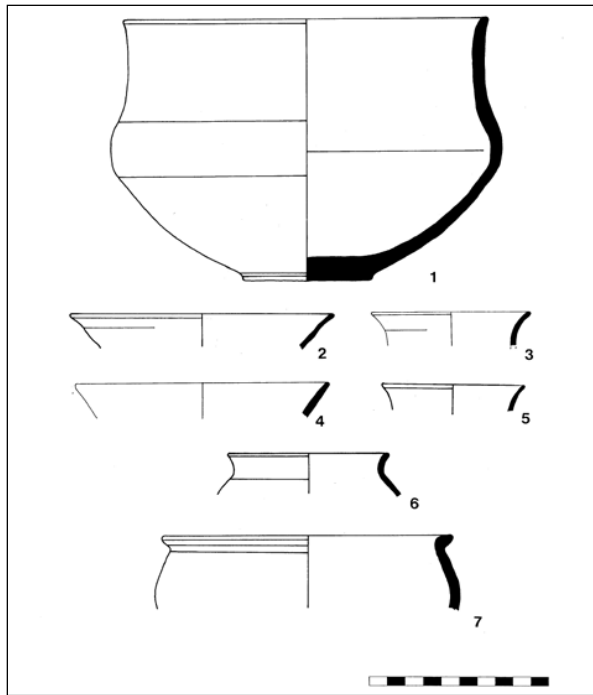
in occupation the fringes of the site were resettled again during Umayyad times. The circular structure of the site, however, was kept through the ages.

Addresses of authors:

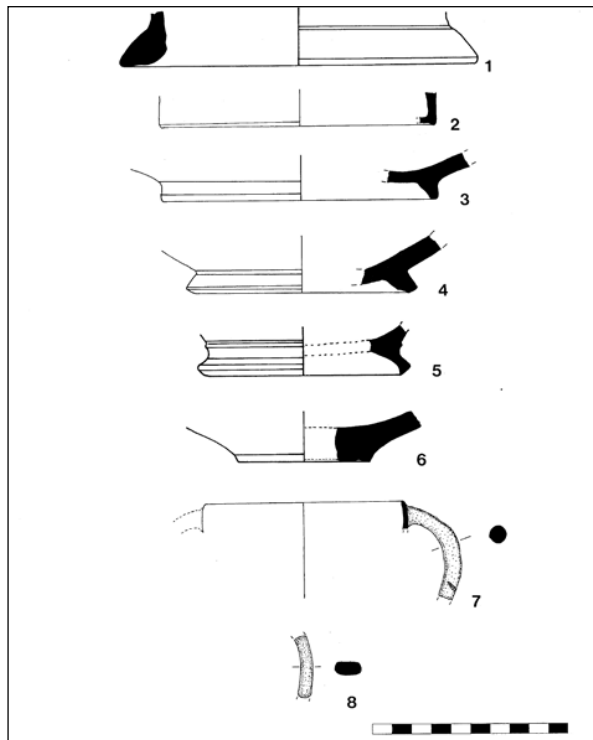
Roland Lamprichs
Institut für Altorientalische Philologie und

Vorderasiatische Altertumskunde
Rosenstraße 9
48143 Münster / Germany

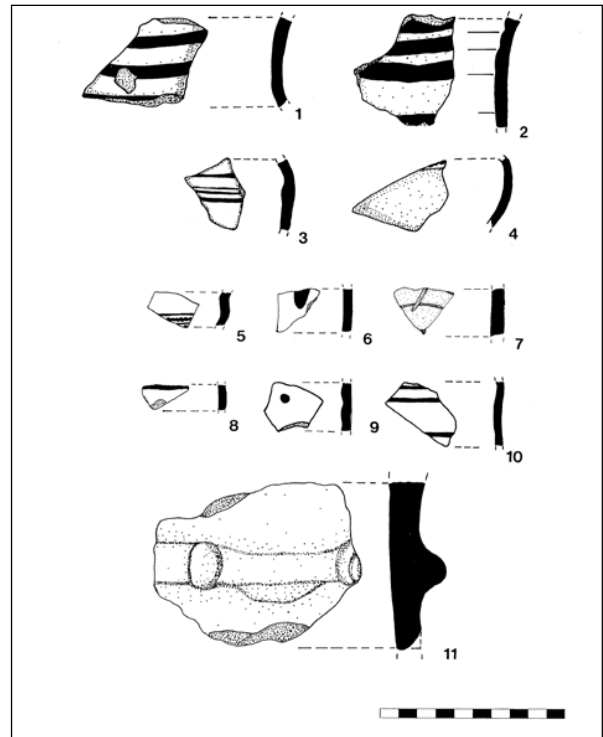
Ziad al-Sa'ad
Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology
Yarmouk University
Irbid / Jordan



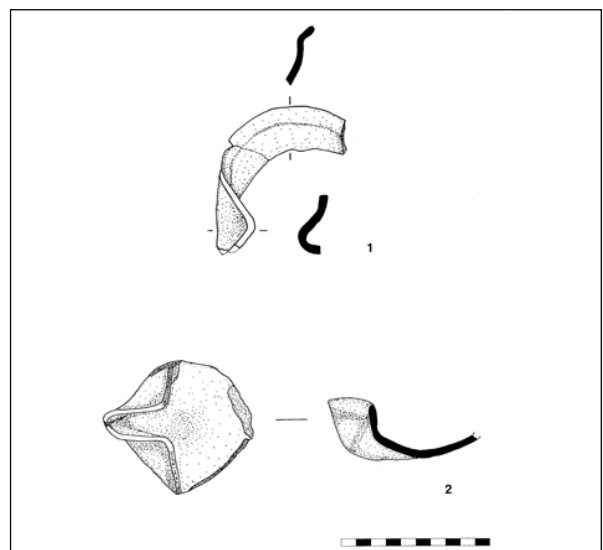
20. 1. ware 4, Locus 6081, sq. 6; 2. ware 22, locus 4052, sq. 4; 3. ware 22, locus 4068, sq. 4; 4. ware 21, locus 4065, sq. 4; 5. ware 22, locus 4056, sq. 4; 6. ware 21, locus 6086, sq. 6; 7. ware 21, locus 2033, sq. 2.



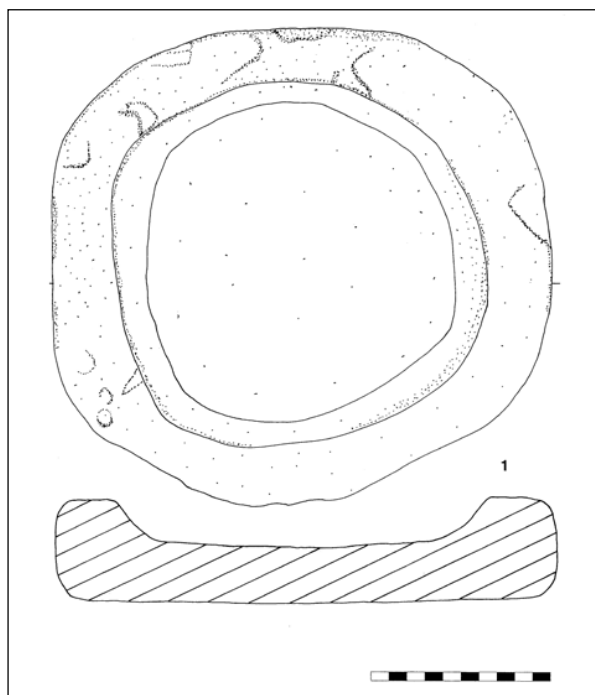
21. 1. ware 27, locus 4057, sq. 4; 2. ware 21, locus 6086, sq. 6; 3. ware 21, locus 4055, sq. 4; 4. ware 21, locus 3077, sq. 3; 5. ware 21, locus 4053, sq. 4; 6. ware 2, locus 2033, sq. 2; 7. ware 25, locus 6086, sq. 6; 8. ware 22, locus 4068, sq. 4.



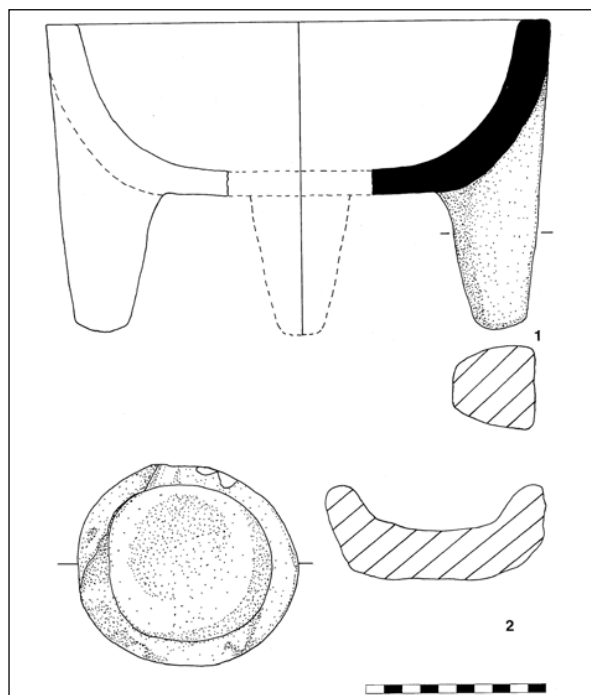
22. 1. ware 26, locus 4054, sq. 4, 3 stripes (10R 3/4 dusky red); 2. ware 27, locus 4057, sq. 4, 4 stripes; 3. ware 4, locus 4056, sq. 4, 4 stripes (5YR 3/4 dark reddish brown), slip (5YR 7/6 6/6 reddish yellow); 4. ware 22, locus 3074, sq. 3, red paint (10YR 3/4 dusky red); 5. ware 26, locus 4067, sq. 4, white slip, red paint (10YR 3/4 dusky red); 6. ware 27, locus 4068, sq. 4, red paint (10YR 5/6 red), pink clay (7.5YR 7/4 pink); 7. ware 21, Locus 4057, sq. 4; 8. ware 22, locus 4066, sq. 4, red stripes (10R 4/8 red); 9. ware 22, locus 4500, sq. 4, red paint (10R 4/8 red); 10. ware 26, locus 4053, sq. 4, three red stripes (10R 3/2 dusky red); 11. ware 1, locus 4059, sq. 4, bar-handle.



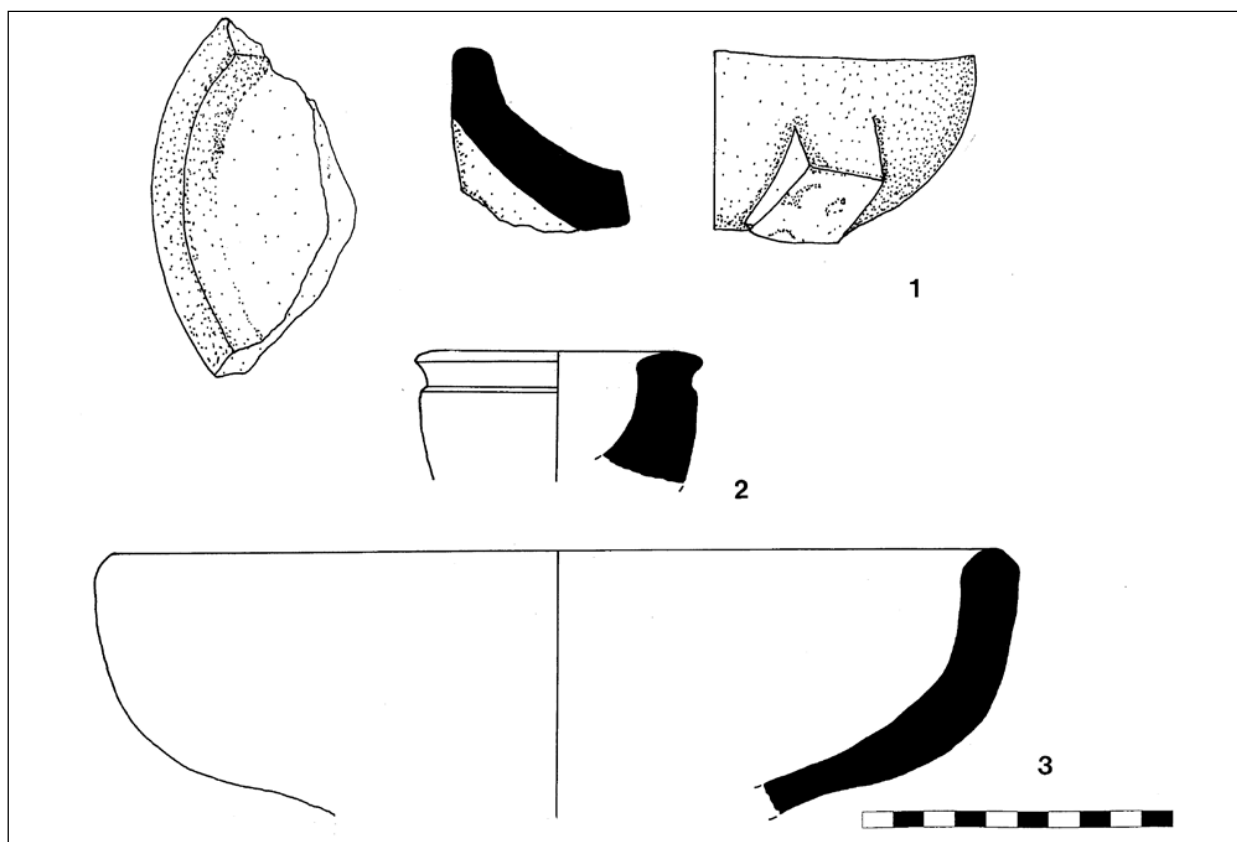
23. 1. ware 4, locus 3061, sq. 3; 2. ware 4, locus 2032, sq. 2.



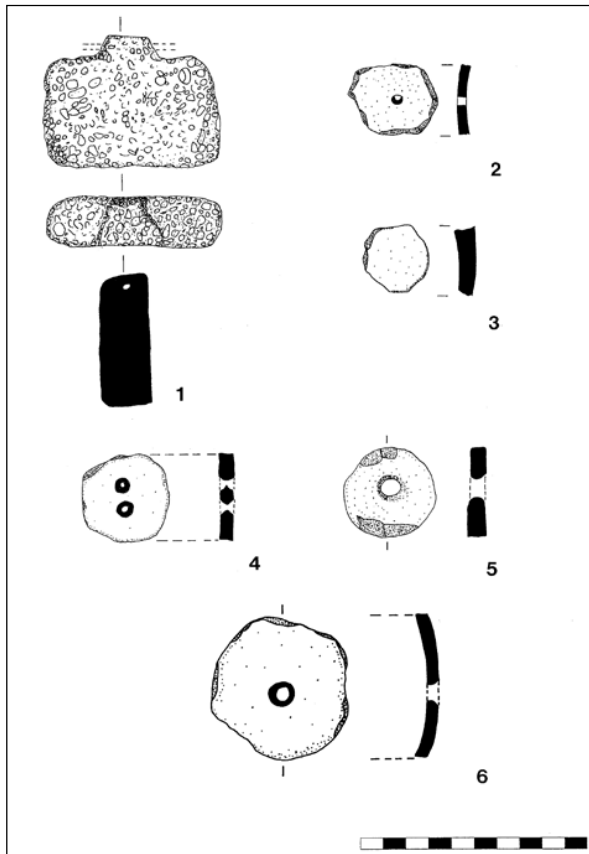
24. 1. mortar, red stone, 4.8kg, locus 6052, no. 6323, sq. 6.



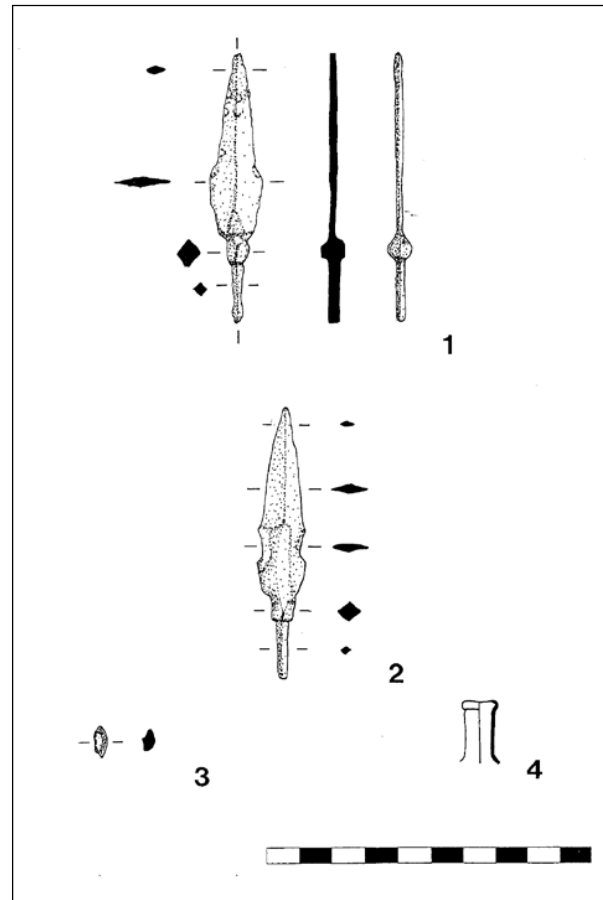
25. 1. mortar-fragment, basalt, 2,0kg, locus 10013, no. 10127, sq. 10; 2. mortar, basalt, 0,7kg, locus 3056, no. 3250, sq. 3.



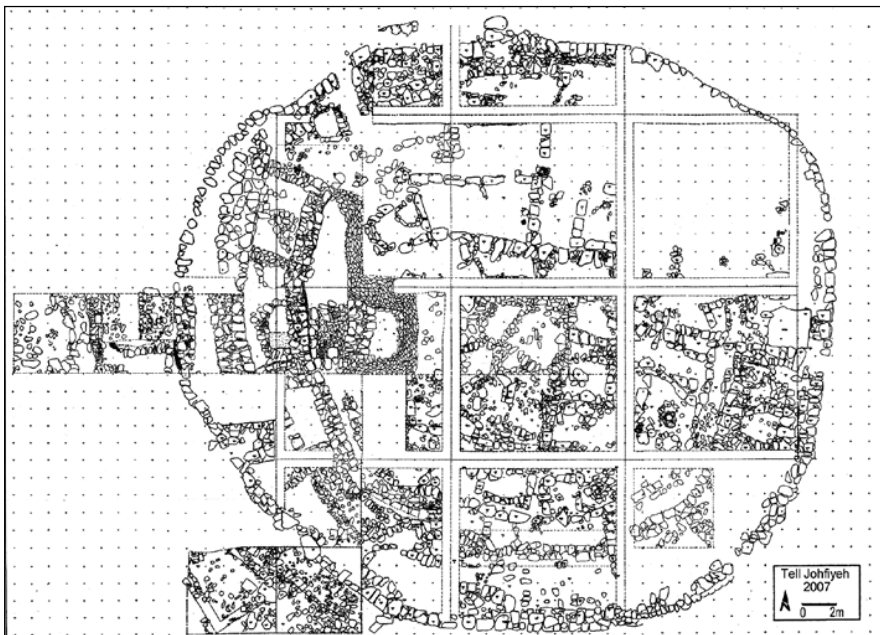
26. 1. mortar-fragment, basalt, 0,3kg, locus 3062, no. 3229, sq. 3; 2. alabaster-fragment, 0,15kg, locus 3060, no. 3224, sq. 3; 3. bowl-fragment, basalt, 0,37kg, locus 3065, no. 3249, sq. 3.



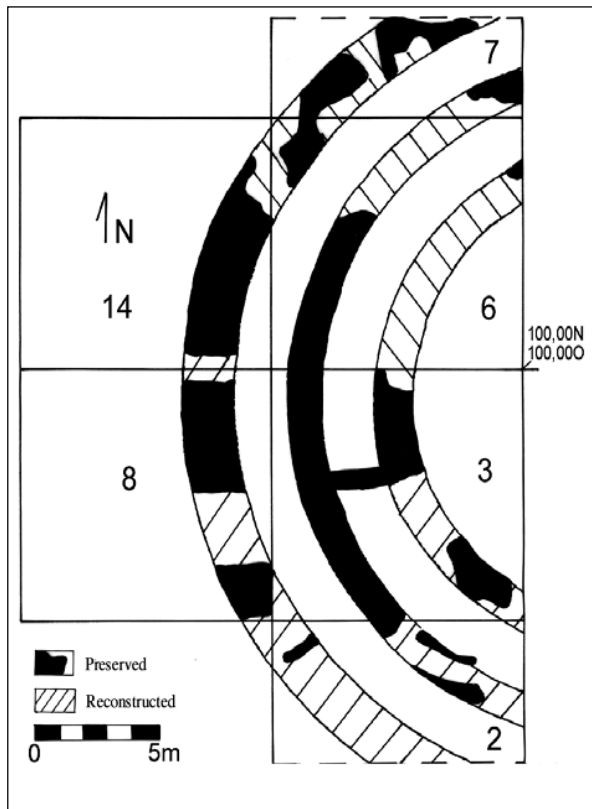
27. 1. pumice stone, 0,05kg, locus 14023, no. 14067, sq. 14; 2. clay-disc (spindle whorl), 0,005kg, locus 4045, no. 4816, sq. 4; 3. clay-disc, 0,01kg, locus 6078, no. 6321, sq. 6; 4. clay- button, 0,02kg, locus 4500, no. 4506, sq. 4; 5. spindle-whorl, clay, 0,02kg, locus 4500, no. 4507, sq. 4; 6. clay-disc (spindle-whorl), 0,04kg, locus 3507, no. 3516, sq. 3.



28. 1. arrow-head (before restoration), bronze, 0,015kg, locus 4062, no. 4246, sq. 4; 2. arrow-head (after restoration); 3. bead-fragment, carnelian, 0,001kg, locus 4049, no. 4203, sq. 4; 4. glass-fragment, 0,001kg, locus 15006, no. 15018, sq. 15.



29. Architectural remains – a general view of excavated areas 2007.



30. Circular structure of the late Bronze Age.



32. Excavated walls 2007: view from north.



33. Deep sounding 2007.



31. Excavated walls (1-3): a detail view from north.

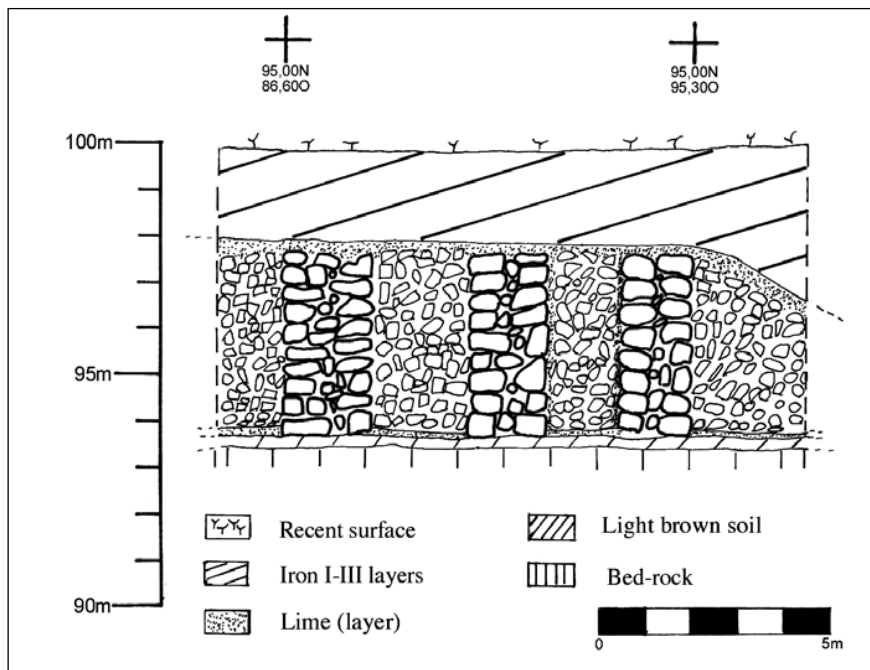
References

Kochavi, M.

- 1989 The Land of Geshur Project: Regional Archaeology of the Southern Golan (1987 - 1988 Seasons). *Israel Exploration Journal* 39: 1-17.

Lamprichs, R.

- 2007 Tell Johfiyeh. Ein archäologischer Fundplatz und seine Umgebung in Nordjordanien. Materialien zu einer Regionalstudie. *Alter Orient und Altes Testament* (AOAT) Band 344, Ugarit-Ver-



34. Artificial section (squares 3 and 8) showing the structure of the "cairn".

- lag Muenster.
 Lamprichs, R., al-Sa'ad, Z.
 2003 Tall Juhfiyya an Archaeological Site in Northern Jordan: A Preliminary Report on the 2002 Field Season. *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* 47: 101-116.
 2004 Tall Juhfiyya: An Iron Age Site and its Surroundings in North Jordan. Preliminary Report on the 2002 and 2003 Seasons. *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* 48: 171-180.
 Mizrahi, Y., Zohar, M., Kochavi, M., Murphy, V., Lev-Yadun, S.
 1996 The 1988-1991 Excavations at Rogem Hiri, Golan Heights. *Israel Exploration Journal* 46, No. 3-4: 167-195.
 Zohar, M.
 1989 Rogem Hiri: A Megalithic Monument in the Golan. *Israel Exploration Journal* 39: 19-31.



35. Fill of small and medium sized lime- and flintstones.



36. *Example of a semicircular passageway.*