

Dor End of Season 2006 Area D5 Supervisor's Report

Preliminary Information / Credits

Area D5 (image :p06D5-8028) is the new name that has been given this season to the lower, southern part of area D1. This area was re-opened in 2005 and was called then "D1 low".

The area was excavated in 28/6/05 – 05/08/05 divided to three sub-areas :

- The eastern part, which includes squares AT/10-11 and the eastern half of AU/10 was excavated by Amir Haim (Initials AMH).
- The middle part, which includes squares AV/8-10 and the eastern half of AU/10 was excavated by Yiftah Shalev (Initials EFI).
- The western part, which includes squares AW-AX/10-11 and was excavated by Talia Goldman (Initials TAG).

The recorder was Bark Givon with the help of Desiree Carlisle

Photographs were taken by Howard Karesh and field drawing was done by Svetlana Maskevich.

Basket bank: 06D5-0000 – 06D5-2200

Locus bank: **AMH** : L06D5-400 - W06D5-434

EFI : L06D5-001 – L06D5-072.

TAG : L06D5-200 – L06D5-255.

Image bank: Top Plans : d06D5-0001 – d06D5-0050

Sketches and Gen : **AMH** : 06D5-4000 to 4041

EFI : 06D5-1000 to 1071

TAG : 06D5-2000 to 2060

Photos: p06D5-8100 – D06D5-9999 (Photos taken by Howard Karesh)

p06D5-8000 – p06D5-8099 (Photos taken by the area supervisor)



Figure 1: Area D5 , Looking South. (p06D5-8028)

Overview

The original objectives of the excavation in the middle part of area D5 were to try to find remains of the Late Bronze Age period. This year we also opened higher areas to the east and to the west of the area that was opened last year, to begin to expand the area to a large-scale ‘early’ exposure.

Upper D5 (The Western part, exc. by TAG) is located on the slope, between lower D5 on the east and the crusader moat on the west. It was opened this season from top soil after Ya’akov’s tractor removed about 1.5 m of modern material. Since this area is located on the slope most of the excavated features lacked spatial continuation and for now appear as isolated “bits and pieces” that hardly relate to known features from the area. Furthermore, the area was disturbed by pits on the east side while most the west edge was continually disturbed by the moat and later, modern, activities. Hardly any clean loci were excavated.

The Eastern part of D5, unlike the western one, is a re-opening of an existing area (by AMH), once part of area D1. The squares in this area, AT/10 and AU/10 were last dug in 1998 and 1993 respectively. The main objective of the excavation in this area is to establish a better understanding of the stratigraphic scheme, which was left somewhat unclear after the excavation seasons that were held here during the 90’s.

The excavation in the middle part (EFI) focused on the attempt to date the Iron Age courtyard building, and to find the connection between it and the destruction layer that began to be uncovered last season.

Although this area was already dug in the past and its primary separations already have been made, the phasing scheme used in D1 proved insufficient to describe the stratification of this area. The re-labeling of area “D1 low” as “D5” enabled the assignment of a new phasing scheme.

The new proposed scheme is as :

#	architecture	period	comments
Phases 1-2	Paved street, drain, etc	Roman	
Phase 3	Thin “ <i>a-telaiio</i> ” walls on top of “Persian Palace” & upper facade on the S. side of the street	Late Hellenistic	
Phase 4	“Persian Palace”; Murex installation	Hellenistic	
Phase 5	Degraded walls in Amir’s area	Hellenistic?	A previously unattested phase
Phase 6	Walls in balks of Effi’s area; Tali’s lower walls? (not yet reached in Amir’s); Persian pits?	Persian?	Previously phase 5?
Phase 7	Massive ashlar walls in AU/8 (not excavated since the ’90’s)	Late IrA?	
Phase 8	Thick white floors (from ’90’s + Effi’s balks)? apparently lower than phase 7 ashlar and sealing the ‘courtyard building’	Late IrA	
Phase 9	Courtyard building	Ir2a?	Previously phase 7
Phase 10	Phytolith surfaces; cut by courtyard building	Ir1 2	
Phase 11	Burnt layer; pithos; etc.	Ir1a?	

Although the three sub-areas are close to each other and are part of the same area there is actually no real connection so far between the features in the different areas and therefore the detailed description of each of them will be noted separately.

Area D5 – The Western Part (TAG)

The area was divided into two terraces: an upper terrace (AW-AX/10) where phases 2 to 4 were encountered and a lower terrace (AW-AX/9) with phases 6 to 8. The upper terrace was mostly composed of Hellenistic pits (see below) and few walls, floors and a tabun- none of which added up to any coherent architecture or defined activity but only mark the existence of a built-up area south of the street in all of these phases. In the lower terrace a sequence of Persian period walls were found with no floors relating to them. A late Iron Age layer with and crushed murex shells covering tabun fragments overlay the thick kurkar floor seen on AV/09 west section (=F5594 in AV/09, not excavated this season). This indicates that this floor is of Iron-Age date, rather than Persian as previously thought. The new date for this thick floor gives a new and earlier *ante-quem* date to *the courtyard building* and indicates murex-related activity (tabun and crushed murex layer above the floor) in the late Iron Age.

#	Period	Comments
Phases 1-2	Roman	W06D5-203
Phase 3	Late Hellenistic	Tabun 06D5-225 Pits: 06D5-224, 06D5-221, 06D5-208, 06D5-218, 06D5-219, 06D5-248 W06D5-211 F06D5-210, F06D5-F204, F06D5-F201
Phase 4	Hellenistic	W06D5-232 W06D5-236 F06D5-217
Phase 6	Persian?	W06D5-237, W06D5-212, W06D5-202, RT06D5-213, installation 06D5-227
Phase 7	Late IrA?	F06D5-215

Stratigraphic Scheme and Phase Descriptions

Upper terrace (AW-AX/10):

Phase 2 is defined by a Roman wall (W06D5-203).

Phase 3 is defined by the sequence of late Hellenistic pits (Pit 06D5-208, 06D5-219, pit 06D5-249, pit 06D5-221, pit 06D5-248, pit 06D5-224, pit 06D5-233, pit 06D5-228, pit 06D5-253, pit 06D5-218), a wall (W06D5-211), robber trenches (RT06D5-252, RT06D5-251, RT06D5-242?), floors (F?06D5-204 and F06D5-210), installation (06D5-238) and a tabun (06D5-225). This phase has two stages with most of the pits as part of the later stage cutting through earlier features of phase 3.

Phase 4 has two walls (W06D5-232 and W06D5-236) and a floor (F06D5-217).

Lower terrace (AW-AX/9):

Phase 6 has a sequence of Persian period walls (W06D5-202, W06D5-212, W06D5-237) and a robber trench (RT06D5-213).

Phase 7 with a Late Iron age floor (F06D5-215), tabun and murex shell layer (06D5-229 and 06D5-230).

Phase 2

The only remnant of this phase was exposed in unit AW/10: W06D5-203. This is a very small north-south stub, floating above the phase 3 floors (F06D5-201, F06D5-204 and F06D5-210) This stub must be part of some construction in the south side of the street. The rest of this construction was probably washed down with the slope.

Phase 3

This is the main phase in the upper terrace (AW-AX/10). It is mainly composed of a pit sequence (Figure 2). By their ceramic content they are more-or-less contemporary. This phase is divided to two stages since some of the pits cut through walls and robber trenches that are also relegated to this phase. Separation between these two stages is not clear in all cases, however. This is further complicated by the fact that ceramic materials from both within the pits and outside the pits are similar as well (mixed Persian and Hellenistic pottery).

Stage i: The pits are concentrated only in the east side of the unit (east of W06D5-203 which marks north-south baulk line). In the south-east portion of the unit Pit 06D5-333 cut pit 06D5-224 which cut pit 06D5-221 (=pit 06D5-248). In the north part pit 06D5-208 is dug into RT06D5-251 of stage ii (see below) and dug from F06D5-204. Pit 06D5-208 was dug into RT06D5-251. In pit 06D5-221 a complete Hellenistic type 12 lamp was found, dated to the 2nd century B.C.E.

Pits 06D5-219 and L06D5-249 are part of one pit, that seems to contain kitchen trash. In pit 06D5-219 large quantities of bones and two complete profiles of bowls were found above a layer of stones. Below the stones, a layer of ash was found. Pit 06D5-249 did not contain the stones and ashes but seem to be part of the same pit. Both were lined with harder soil and had organic material overflowing from their edges. Adjacent to these two pits an almost complete horse skull (minus its mandible) was found (in L06D5-241). This skull was missing but else complete, with a stone found within the skull. It seems this context as well is part of a pit – judging by amounts and alignment of sherds found around it – though its limits were not defineable. There was also no indication whether or not this ostensible pit has bottomed out, and it should be sought again next season. Not far from the pit, at the north-east corner of the unit, installation 06D5-238 was found. It consisted of two single-course lines of small field stones making a corner and had ash within it. Its content affords no information to its function.

The pits were excavated through a very hard compact deposit (L06D5-239) that was cut from the north by L06D5-241.



Figure 2: Phase 3 Hellenistic pit sequence in unit AW/10, looking south. (P06D5-7005)

Stage ii: This stage is mostly cut by stage i pits, although they could not be ceramically differentiated. This phase has an east-west wall (W06D5-211) that is cut by pit 06D5-218 on the east. W06D5-211 is a two course *pseudo a- telaio* wall with one big ashlar and field-stones beside it. The same method appears in other phase 3 walls in adjacent units (Figure 3). No floors or other walls relate to this wall. Robber trenches (see below) found in the unit are probably part of the same structure as this wall although they do not relate to it directly.

Floors were found only in the east side of the area. F06D5-201 is a very small patch of a pavement (0.5X0.5 m), composed of 4 flat slabs, located at the north east corner of the area. F06D5-204 is a very fragmentary and partial kurkar floor. It is very close in elevation to F06D5-201 and might be part of its sub-floor. Pit 06D5-208 was dug from F06D5-204 but the rest of the pits cut through this floor. It runs below W06D5-203 and does not relate to any other walls. F06D5-210, found below this floor was better preserved and sealed a small locus below it. Similar to F06D5-204 it did not relate to any walls and was cut by the pits. This floor is may be related to W06D5-211 based on their similar elevations.

Two robber trenches were found at the north-east portion. RT06D5-251 was filled with kurkar material and was hardly excavated this season. Pit 06D5-208 was dug directly into it. RT06D5-252 was not excavated and although higher and with no direct relation, it is on the same alignment as RT06D5-213 in AW/09 as well as W06D5-211 (see above).

On the west side, almost no features were preserved. Most of the area was filled with stone rubble (of W06D5-211 and other walls) and was disturbed by the moat. At the corner of the baulk (below W06D5-203) and the north edge of the excavation a quarter of a tabun was found (tabun 06D5-225). Most of it is continues north and east in the baulks. It is built on top of W06D5-232. The floor it was dug from was not preserved but judging from its elevation and the baulk it is probably dug from the same level as F06D5-204. Nothing was found within this tabun and it partially fell apart while being excavated.



Figure 3: Phase 3, looking south.(p06D5-8171)

Phase 3- D5 west

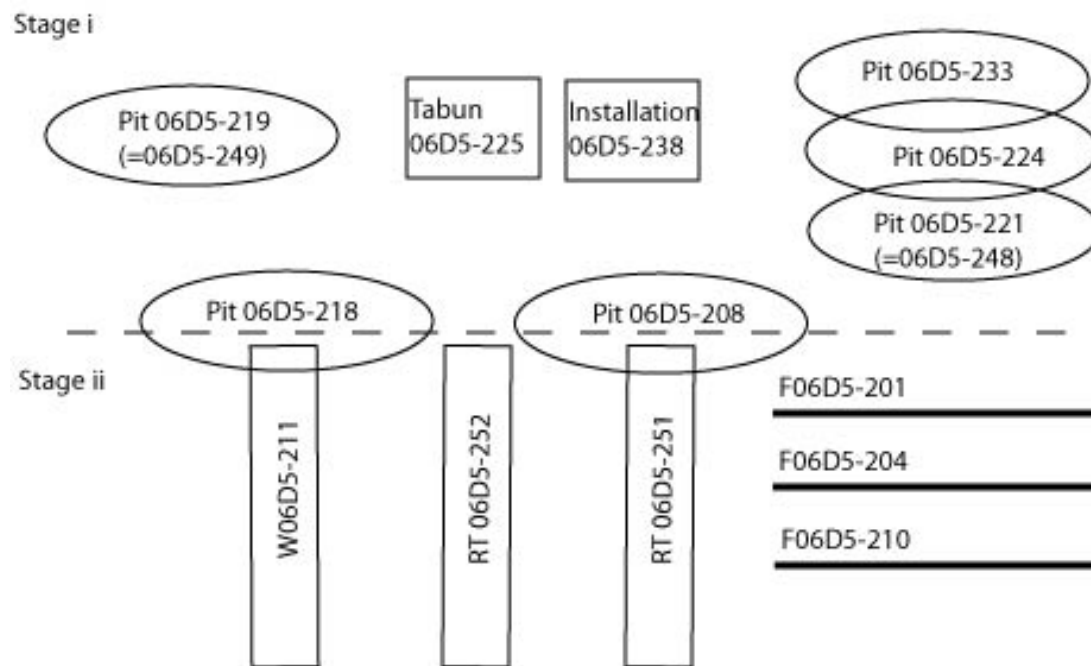


Figure 4: Schematic representation of the area.

Phase 4

This phase has two walls (W06D5-232 and W06D5-236) - both north-south walls at the west side of unit AW/10. W06D5-232 is composed of big ashlar stones, and had tabun 06D5-225 built on it (see above). Its foundation trench is visible to its west side and it is cut on the south by a RT not yet excavated (06D5-242). W06D5-237 consisted of 4 ashlar and is located on the edge of the slope - not giving a lot of hope for its continuation. Both these walls are below W06D5-211.

F06D5-217 was found at the south-west part of the unit, cut by the slope and pit 06D5-228 (not excavated this season). It is a very small fragmentary floor that although not fully exposed this season does not seem to continue further much. This floor does not relate to any walls but judging by its elevation, may be contemporary with W06D5-237.



Figure 5: Phase 7 walls in unit AW/09, looking north-west.(P06D5-7006)

While the walls on the 'upper terrace' (units AW-AX/10) All belong to phases 2 – 4, the ones on the 'lower terrace' (units AW-AX/09) are much lower. Nothing that was matching in elevation to the main phase excavated by Amir (phase 5) was found in western D5.

Phase 6:

This phase appears only in units AW-AX/09 and consists of walls. The main wall is W06D5-202. This is an east-west wall that does not continue into unit AV/09 and stops just short of the east baulk. This wall is built of two phases: phase a is of ashlar pier construction and was not preserved west of W06D5-212. Phase b is composed of only lying headers (possibly a foundation-course for an ashlar wall) and is offset from the upper phase to the south-west. It does continue west beyond W06D5-212. It is very possible the lower phase is merely the foundation course of phase a – this will be cleared once the wall is further excavated. In its middle, this wall is crossed by W06D5-212 which is a north-south wall. The relations between these two walls are not yet clear. For now it seems that W06D5-212 cut the upper phase of 06D5-202 and crossed over the lower phase. W06D5-212 was robbed to the south by RT06D5-213 and continues to the north into unit AW/09. W06D5-237 is another north-south ashlar wall which abuts W06D5-202 from the west and very close to the slope. South of W06D5-202, on its east side, one course of two lines of medium size field stones were found (L06D5-227). This stub of stones had a rectangular overall shape and was probably some kind of installation.

In this unit many fallen stones were found. No fills of floors related to these walls.

Phase 7

South of W06D5-202 and east of RT06D5-213, F06D5-215 (=F5542?) was found, cut by W06D5-202 and installation 06D5-227. Below this floor clean contexts were excavated; both sealed (L06D5-229) and not sealed (L06D5-230), dating this floor to Late Iron Age. Excavation stopped on a crushed murex layer, overlaying tabun fragments that were not fully excavated. A crushed murex layer appears at this elevation in the west section of unit AV/09 above the big white kurkar floor (***** of phase 8, previous phase 5). When excavated in the 1990's this floor was thought to date to the Persian period, but since it is definitely below a clean Late Iron Age context it should probably be of Late Iron Age date. This floor is sealing Effi's building, giving a new *ante-quem* date for it. Murex activity, expressed by the crushed murex shell layer with relation to the burnt tabun slabs, is previously known at Persian period time but appears here in a clear Iron Age context. If indeed the crushed murex and tabun layer are part of the big kurkar floor than both are part of phase 8 rather than phase 7.

Special finds

Out of context:

- Mycenaean IIC krater, (B06D5-0002) found while cleaning the slope.

Phase 3:

- Small stone chisel (pit 06D5-208, B 06D5-0217); complete lamp dated by B. Martin to the 2nd century BCE. (pit 06D5-221, 06D5-0512, 06D5-0512); complete Unguentarium (disturbed context of 06D5-226, B06D5-0025); Tanit weight (disturbed context of 06D5-226, B06D5-1136);

Key Loci

Phase 3 :

- pit 06D5-208 – this pit was sent for restoration
- . L06D5-235 - sealed fill below F06D5-210.

Phase 7:

- L06D5-229 is sealed fill below F06D5-215. L06D5-231 is sealed fill below installation 06D5-227.

Area D5 – The Middle Part (EFI)

The 2006 excavation in area "Middle D5" revealed five different stages. The earliest one, Phase 11 (previously phase D1/8), relate to an earlier structure that occupied this area during the IR1 period (henceforward "Iron I house") and was destroyed by fire. The only remains of this structure are its robber trenches, fallen mud-brick and large pieces of burnt wood, plus a large amount of complete vessels in a primary deposition. The walls of this structure were removed soon after the destruction and the ruins were covered by series of white phytolith surfaces that are the main feature of phase D5/10. It seems that during this phase the area was open.

The third phase, D5/9 (previously phase D1/7), relates to the construction and use of the stone courtyard structure, probably at IR2a (henceforward "Iron II house"). Unlike what was written in the 2005 report of this area, this season has proved that the walls of this structure cuts, and definitely later then the many phytolith surfaces and therefore these has assign as phase by themselves, phase D5/10.

A round Installation, a pit or a sump of some kind, was found at the south-eastern corner of the area, half of it is still in the baulk. Judging from its elevation only, this feature seems to be part of phase D5/7 (previously D1/6)

Phase D5/6 (previously D1/5) contains mainly Persian pits that cut and canceled the Iron II house. All of these pits where already dug completely last season but cleaning and straightening the baulks reveals some small finds, among them a head of a figurine (Fig. 6).

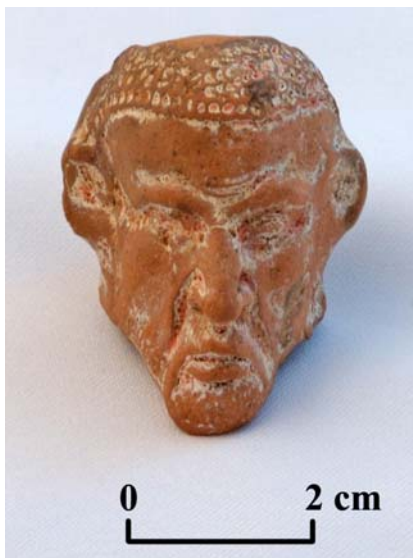


Figure 6: Figurine head from D5 Middle (p06X-1077)

Image p06D5-8028 (above) show these four phases. The image (looking south) shows the Iron II house's courtyard surrounding the floor resurfacing of phase 10 and the R.T of the Iron I house (at the Northeast).

Stratigraphic Scheme and Phase Descriptions

This unit is characterized by five phases. The general stratigraphic sequence is as

(i) L05D1-511, L05D1-515, L05D1-530, > (ii) L06D5-023 > (iii) W10817, W10825, W05D1-531, W05D1-547, W05D1-548, F06D5-012, F06D5-041 > (iv) F06D5-013, F06D5-014, F06D5-036, F06D5-037, F06D5-046 > (v) W05D1-537, F06D5-053, F06D5-038, F06D5-060, F06D5-018, R.T 06D5-059.

Phase 6: this phase is represented by a series of large pits, L05D1-511, L05D1-515 and L05D1-530, that cuts through the walls and floors of the phase 9's structure. These features were not dug this season but material from them was removed during baulk cleaning – see description in the 2005 end of season report.

Phase 7 : The only feature that seems to belong to this stage is a circular stone-built, dug into the ground pit (Fig. 7). This installation was noticed while cleaning the baulk in the south-east corner of the area and since most of it is outside of the excavated area its relations are unclear. By its elevations, this installation seems to be part of phase D5/7 but this to be clarified in the next seasons.



Figure 7 : Installation L06D5-023, Looking East (p06D5-8002)

Phase 9: – This is the phase of the Iron II courtyard house, represented by five fieldstones walls (W10817 (W), 10825 (N), W05D1-531, W05D1-547 and W05D1-548). W10817 and W10825 (already found in 1992-1993) are two dovetailing walls forming western and northern walls of the courtyard. W10825 continues into the western baulk. W05D1-531 and W05D1-547 are two short walls abutting W10825 from the north, forming the north line of rooms around the yard. All the walls of this structure are 0.8-0.9 m. wide, made of small and medium size field stones. The only exception is a 1.6 m. long section located at the northern part of W10817 which was built of larger (~ 0.6x0.6) stones. W10825 and the two walls that abut it from the north are floating (bottom elevation: #11.80) but at its southern, lowest most point it can be seen that W10817 still going farther down, standing so far to a height of 1.7 m (bottom elevation: #10.80).

From this, it may be assumed that the Iron II house was terraced built over the natural topographic slope, as the W10817 is getting dipper as it goes south, according to the natural slope.

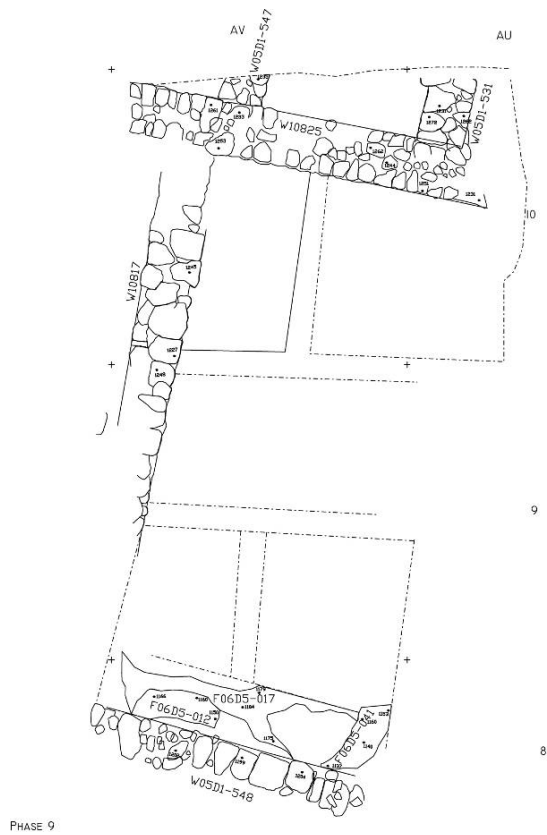


Figure 8: Area D5 Middle, Phase 9- The Courtyard House

At the southern side of this yard a 5 m. long field stones wall (W05D1-548) was found, running from east to west. This wall however is not the original southern wall of the Iron II house is and seems to be a later addition to the structure. The northern face of the wall is clear but it's southern one are not - it may be that W05D1-548 sits above an earlier wall, projecting above it to the north. W05D1-548 is only two courses high, floating at elevation of #11.27 – some 50 cm. higher than the N-S wall it abuts. The upper course continues farther east the lower course and therefore it is obvious that these two courses represent two different stages (Fig. 9).



Figure 9: W05D1-548, Looking South.(p06D5-9538)

An important feature of this stage is FT 06D5-069 which is the FT of w10817. This FT cuts all the phytoliths floors of stage 10 (Fig 11). Since the house was originally planed as terraced, the F.T was dug accordingly, getting deeper as it goes south.

Two floors only were found relating to the Iron II house. F06D5-012 (~#11.70) is a kurkar floor that was found in the southern side of the area, reaching W10817 and the upper course of W05D1-548. This floor is the continuation of F06D5-546 (=F10822) The pottery that came from this floor was dated to Ir2a.

F06D5-041 is a another kurkar floor (~#11.40) that was found at the southeastern side of the area, reaching the lower course of W05D1-548, going below the eastern stones of the upper course.

Phase 10: – The main features of this stage are the sloping phytolith floors. More floor levels were found this season, making the same uneven profile of a “U” shape slide that slopes from north to south (F06D5-024 and F06D5-036) into a bathtub-like depression (F06D5-014 and F06D5-046). As this floor level is going down it became obvious that these are dug trenches, cutting the destruction layer of phase 11. All of the phytolith floors of phase 10 are cut by the F.T of the phase 9’s wall.



Figure 11: F.T 06D5-069 cuts the phytoliths floors, looking north. (p06D5-9790)



Figure 10: U Shape phytolith floor F06D5-036, Looking south. (p06D5-9931)

The lower level of the “U” shape floor, F06D5-036 (Fig. 10), is somewhat different then the floors above it. The profile of it is steeper then the floors above and its western wall is vertical rather then sloping – Since these floors lies in a dug trench it seems that this floor is the lowest and the first “U” shape floor, accumulating straight against the trencher’s walls. The rest of the "Y" shape floors accumulated over this one, getting shallower (and less slopes) over time.

The lines of the trench on which F06D5-036 lies are straight and are parallels to a robber trench of phase 11 wall that lies to the west. John Berg suggested that this, and maybe even the trench that make the bathtub depression, are actually robber trenches of a stage 11’s walls.

In any case, even if the trenches are originally robber trenches, it seems that the sloping phytolith floors are part of an intentional, man made installation - Mud brick construction have been found

below the higher margins of both the “U” shape and the bathtub floors. At the eastern side of F06D5-036 this construction includes a horizontal line of four bricks, but at the other places it was just mud bricks piles. These piles were not laid at one time but were raised over the time. This mudbrick material was found below and above the different floor levels alternately. During this phase the area changed his functioning and was transferred into an open space on which some kind of an industrial took place.

The pottery that comes from these floors is most probably dated to the Ir1|2 transition or possibly to Ir2a, among them some pieces of a Cypriot bawl.

The correlation between the "u" shape and the "bathtub-like" floors are not 100% clear, mostly because every noticeable surface is actually composed of many thin layers. The finding of the Cypriot bowl helped us solve this problem a little because few of its sherds were found in the "u" shape floor (F06D5-529) and few in the "bathtub-like" (F06D5-541).

The general floor sequence seems to be as:

Bathtub-like floor	"U" shape floor
10907	18450, 10849
05D1-518	05D1-507
05D1-541 (=06D5-003 =06D5-014)	05D1-529 (=06D5-008 = 06D5-024)
06D5-067	06D5-036

Phase 11: – This phase includes the destruction layer of the Iron I house. At the northern part of the area this destruction was found below the walls of phase 9 , cut by the trenches of phase 10 floors. Two floors were found in this part of the area (#11.80-11.60), sloping from north to south, divided by a 1.2 m. wide robber trench (Fig. 12).



Figure 12: R.T L06D5-059 cuts the destruction layer, Looking north.(p06D5-8016)

These floors were covered by a thick layer of ash and red/orange sandy deposit, and contain big pieces of burnt wood, many stone weights, large amount of pottery and complete vessels (Figs 14-15). One important find was a neck of a BIC jug (Basket 06D5-0665) that came from the middle of the locus. This jug was found before the R.T was noticed, and although this is not certain, it seems to come from it and not from the destruction layer. (The sketch below shows the locations of most of the finds in this area. Fig. 13). According to the samples the Weizmann people took the red/orange deposit was burnt in a temperature of 700-800 degrees. The same red/orange deposit with large amount of pottery in it was also uncovered (but was not dug yet) at the middle part of the area, below the upper part of the "bathtub-like" floors.

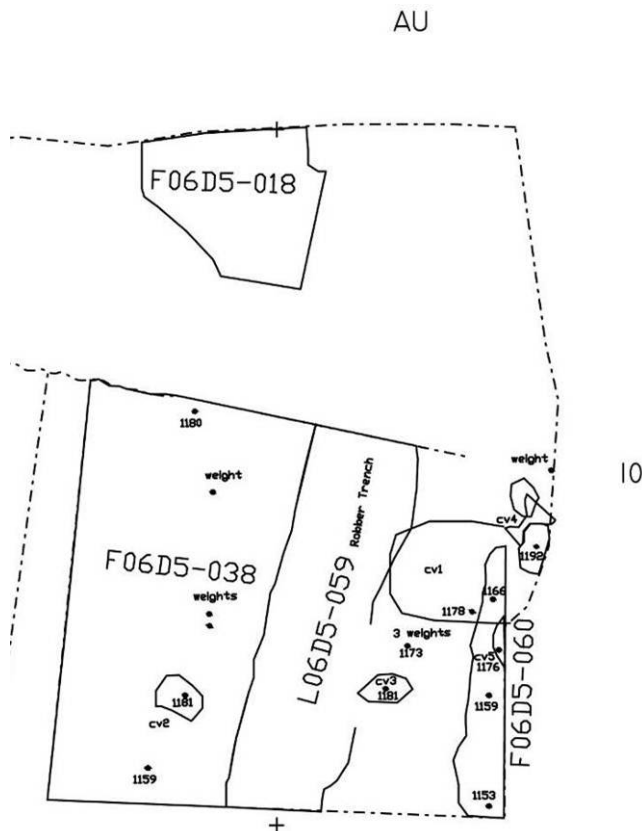


Figure 13 :D5 Middle, phase 10 – The destruction layer.



Figure 14 : Chalise (p06D5-9540)



Figure 15: Jar I (Basket 06D5-0402), one of few complete vesseles found *In Situ* in the destruction layer (p06D5-9540)

The robber trench was not noticed at the beginning because it, like the areas to its sides, contain large amount of pottery and burnt soil, and there for L06D5-029 (and possible also L06D5-046 next to it) is disturbed. From the fill inside the robber trench, it seems probable that the robbing of the wall happened soon after the destruction and the robber trench was filled by debris of the destruction.

At the southern side of the area, this destruction includes the remains of the large “wavy band” pithos that was found there last year, lying in a red sandy fill, sealed under a white phytolith floor (Fig. 16). An interesting discovery occurs with the removal of this pithos when large amount of lentils were found imbedded in the floor. No lentils however where found in the pithos it self so it is still unknown if these lentils were indeed the contents of the pithos.



Figure 16: The crushed 'Wavy Band' pithos , looking south (p06D5-9915)

The white phytolith floor of the pithos (F06D5-053 = F05D1-542) stretches east up to the small south-north fieldstones wall (W05D1-537) that was found in 2005. The relations between these two features are still unclear but the floor seems to go below the wall.

The pottery that came from the destruction layer of phase 11 is dated to Ir1a?Ir1b?;

Special Finds

Phase 6 :

- A figurine head – basket 06D5-1564 from L5D1-511

Phase 10 :

- 8 joining fragments of Cypriot white painted bell shaped skyphos – Baskets (06D5-0224, 06D5-1227, 06D5-1379, 06D5-1816, 06D5-1955, 06D5-2139, From the phytoliths floor F06D5-008 and F06d5-014.
- An Ivory lid - B06D5-1033 from L06D5-014.
- Olive Pits – Many olive pits from the phytolith floors L06D5-008, L06D5-024 , L06D5-036 and L06D5-014.

Phase 11 :

- Complete Vessels – A chalice (Basket 06D5-0657) and few jars (numbered I-VII) from the eastern part of the destruction layer L06D5-040 and L06D5-060
- A wavy pithos from L06D5-053.
- The "Ugly Flask" – B06D5-1649 from L06D5-068
- Lentils from L06D5-053

Key Loci

Phase 6:

- L05D1-515 (should be restored with L05D1-524) and L05D1-511 - two Persian pits from 2005

Phase 9:

- F06D5-012 (=F06D5-010=F05D1-546)

Phase 10:

- F05D1-014 (=06D5-003) and F05D1-046 – The two "bathtub" like floors.
F06D5-008 – The upper U shape floor (=05D1-529)
F05D1-536 – The lower U shape floor.
F06D5-037 – The phytolith floor that seal the pithos (should be restored with L06D5-042)

Phase 11:

- L06D5-029 (A main locus number for the destruction layer before the identification of the robber trench)
L06D5-060 (=06D5-040 = 06D5-016 = 05D1-543 – eastern side of destruction)
L06D5-038 (=06D5-058 – western side of destruction layer)
L06D5-059 (=06D5-039 – robber trench)
L06D5-053 – "Wavy Pithos" locus. (=06D5-065 = 06D5-068 = 06D5-071= 05D1-535)

Area D5 – The Eastern Part (AMH)

D5 east was the name that has been given this season to squares AT/9-10 and the eastern half of AU/10. These squares were already been dug in previous seasons- AT/9-10 was last excavated in 1998 and square AU/10 in 1993.

Five phases were observed during the 2006's season in the eastern part. Three phases, 1 or 2, 3 and 4, were mostly represented by a single wall, W5020. It was left floating from previous seasons and this year it was finally dismantled. Phase 5 was the primary objective of the excavation. It consists of two sub-phases, A and B, represented by a few walls and floors which construct few rooms. This phase was exposed in previous years but it was unattested until now. The other two phases are represented by a single floor and a pit.

Stratigraphic Scheme and Phase Descriptions

- Phase 1 or 2 - Roman:

W5020 runs east-west in the northern section of the excavation area (Fig. 17). It has been exposed and left floating since the previous seasons and all that was done with it this season is dismantling. The wall has three stages, and only the upper one, W5020a, is related to this phase. It is constructed from 2 courses of kurkar ashlar stones (~0.35x0.20 m.) bonded with cement with overall width of ~0.70 m. This stage survived only in its western part. Thus, no relations were detected. The construction method implies that it should be considered as phases 1 or 2. Because of the location and orientation of the wall it was probably part of the facade.



Figure 17 : Area D5 East, looking North (p06D5-9118)

- Phase 3 + 4 - Late Hellenistic and Hellenistic:

W5020b constructed of one course only, built in what seems to be a "pseudo a-telayo" fashion. The sizes of the ashlar are ~0.60x0.20 m. and of the field stones are ~0.30x0.20 m., overall width is ~0.60 m. This stage abuts W16205 to the east. This wall is located in the eastern baulk and it was not excavated this season.

W5020c is constructed from two rows of stones, an unordered composition of ashlar and field stones (~0.20x0.30 m.) with inclusion of small stones, overall width of ~0.50 m. Like W5020b above it, this stage also abuts W16205 to the east. W5020c runs under W5020b, which is a phase 3 wall, and floats over few stage 5 walls: (p06D5- 9118 above) W16486, W16470, W16790 (see below). This wall can be earlier in stage 3 but it seems more probable to assign it to phase 4.

Pits L06D5-402, L06D5-405, L06D5-422 are attributed to phase 4. L06D5-402 (=L16791) is a part of large pit that is located in the south-western part of AT/10 (Fig. 18). It cuts W16790 to the north and W16786 to the east. These 2 walls are part of the same room that belongs to phase 5 (see below). L06D5-422 is a small pit which cuts pit L06D5-402. It was attested in the section on the 24/07/06 after it had been excavated for a while. As a result, till then pit L06D5-402 included material from it. Pit L06D5-405 (=L16774) is located in the eastern part of AT/10. The matrix of the pit consists of dark ashy loose deposit rich in medium size field stones (~0.20x0.20 m). A complete Hellenistic lamp was found in it.



Figure 18 : Pit 06D5-402 cuts W16786 and W16790,
Looking north (p06D5-9074)

- Phase 5a - Hellenistic:

Phase 5 was the main phase excavated this season. It contains 6 walls (Fig. 19) that are similarly constructed: two rows of field stones that vary in size and shape (~0.20x0.20 m.) and between them inclusion of small stones, overall width is ~ 0.50 m. Also, they are all only one to two courses high. W16486 runs south–north and continues into the southern baulk. W16470 which runs east-west dovetails W16486 in the east and W16790 in the west. W16790 runs north-south and consists from two parts with a gap between them. There are two possibilities for it: First, the wall was eroded. Second, there was a doorway. W16786 runs east-west and abuts W16486 to the east. W16787 runs east-west and dovetails W16486 in the west. L06D5-431 (p06D5-9921) is probably a foundation trench of W16486 and W16787 (see below). W06D5-417 runs east-west and continues into the eastern baulk. Only small part of it was revealed (~0.40 m.).

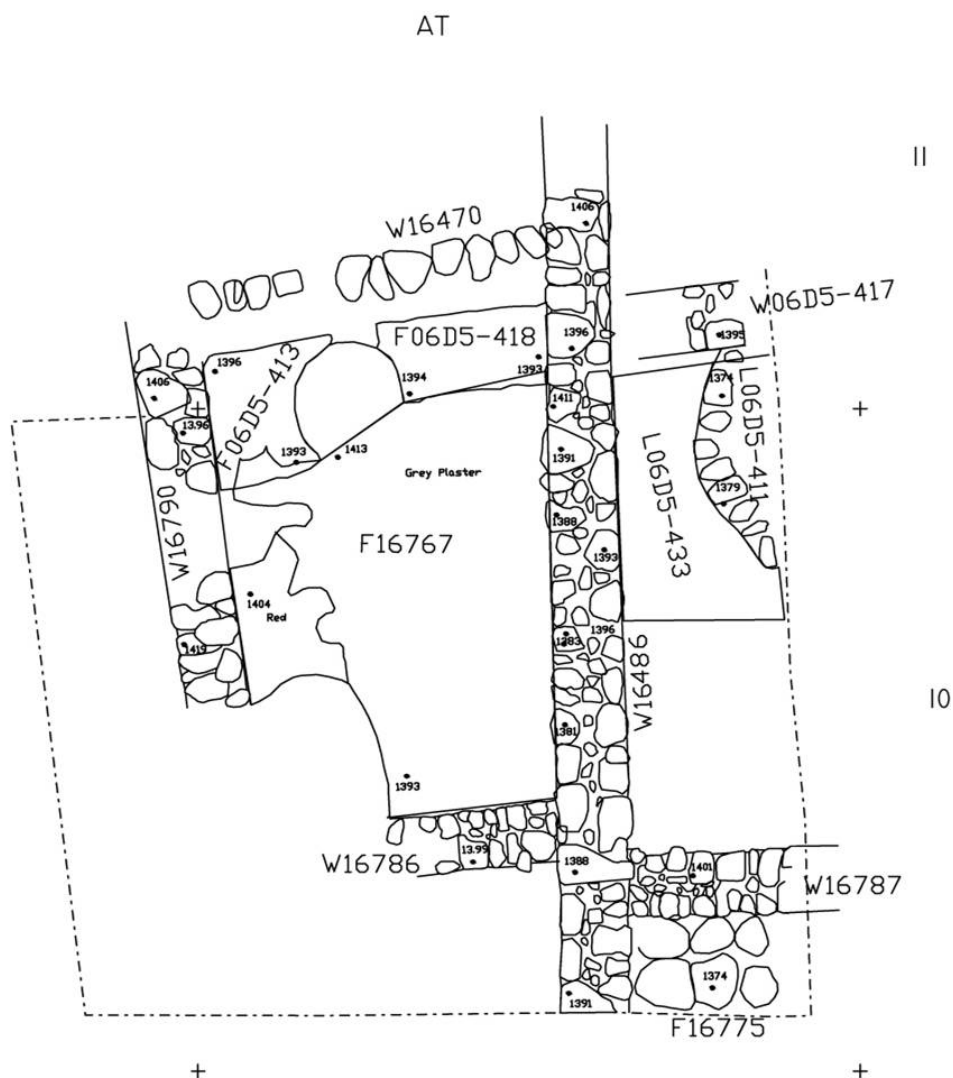


Figure 19 : D5 East, Phase 5a

F06D5-400 (#14.03-13.89) is a grey compact floor with red patches above it that was revealed in 1998 as F16767. F06D5-413 (#13.88-13.85) and F06D5-418 (#13.87-13.85) are continuation of this floor that is sealed by W5020 (p06D5-9383). Those two parts of the floor are cut by a small pit L06D5-409. The material above F06D5-418 was rich in shells, mostly murex, which might indicate on the purpose of the floor. From the section observations it occurs that this floor is earlier than the "Murex Floor" which is connected to the dying installations, L5653 and L5597. It might indicate on a functional continuation in the area. F06D5-400 is the main name to all the parts of the floor. It reaches W16790 to the west, W16786 to the south, W16486 to the east and W16470 to the north. This shows that W16470, W16486, W16786, W16790 and F06D5-400 are contemporary and can be seen as a single room.

Pit L06D5-402 cut W16790 in its southern part, W16786 in its eastern part and F06D5-400 in its south-western part. In other words, the entire south-western corner of the room was cut by the pit.

Above F06D5-400 2 dog burials were discovered: the first one was revealed in the northern part and it included several pieces of spine. The second one was revealed in the south-western part of the floor, near pit L06D5-402 and it included a few bones.

Since W16787 is dovetail W16486 and similar to it in construction and width, and F16775 (#13.93-13.73) reaches W16787 to the north and W16486 to the west this part is also contemporary to the room of F06D5-400. It can be seen as another room or - because of the cobble surface of F16775 - as a courtyard.

The area between walls W06D5-417, W16486 and W16787 may be seen as a third room even though no floor was identified in it. That is because W06D5-417 is constructed similar to other walls of the phase and W16787 dovetails with W16486. It leads to an assumption that the gap between W16486 and W06D5-417 functioned as a doorway.

Phase 5b - Hellenistic:

W06D5-434 runs east-west and it is constructed from two rows of medium size field stones (~0.20x0.20 m.), overall width 0.40 m. For now, there is only one course that isn't floating. The uncertain definition of this wall is due to the fact that it is only 1m. long and no robber trench was observed. F06D5-407 (#13.69-13.67) matrix is grey and compact. It includes three patches: the first, reaches W06D5-434 to the south and the two others are tiny. One reaches W16486 to the east and the other reaches W16786 to the south. Thus apparently these floors make use of the same basic wall set as F06D5-400, and they are therefore regarded, for now, as a lower sub-phase within 5, rather than an independent architectural phase. Since the outline of F06D5-407 that reaches W06D5-434 is reddish, John Berg suggested that those stones may be part of a tabun base and not a wall. F06D5-427 (#13.67-13.64) and F06D5-428 (#13.65) are uncertain floors that may be seen as a continuation of this floor and are sealed by W5020. There are two reasons for the uncertainty of those floors: First, in spite of the fact that F06D5-407 reaches W16486 and W16786 it is lower than W16790 which is contemporary to the walls above. Second, the matrix of the floor, grey compact, is similar to the fill that was above F06D5-427 and F06D5-428. Therefore, during the excavation we felt like we are "creating" floors.

South of W06D5-417 semi circular line of medium size field stones (~0.20x0.20 m.) was exposed and defined as an installation L06D5-411 (Fig. 20). The rest of it lies under the eastern baulk. The installation abuts the bottom of W06D5-417 to the north. But, the stone that abuts the wall seemed to be sloping down. As it looks for now, the installation is related to the bone line below it, L06D5-433 (see below). These bones are lower than the bottom of W06D5-417. Therefore, there is a possibility that the wall cut the installation. It will explain why the stone of the meeting point seems sloping.



Figure 20 : The Semi-Circular stone installation, Looking east (p06D5-9926)

Below the installation a line of bones was exposed (Fig. 21). The shape and location of this line seem to preserve the shape and location of the stone line of the installation above them. The way the bones are truncated and ordered from east to west is definitely artificial and intentional. Noa Raban identified at least four species: horse, sheep-goat, cattle and pig. There are two possibilities for relations between the installation and the bones under it: First, the installation and the bones are connected. This seems the likeliest scenario, because the bones preserve the installation line. Second, the installation and the bones aren't connected. It is possible that the installation was a stone-lined pit which cut a continuous layer of bones. The 'line of bones' is not a real line but the negative of the cutting feature. This possibility is less likely because some of the bones protrude outside of the line of stones above them and there was no difference observed between the matrix directly under the stones from that on either side of them.



Figure 21 : The 'Bone Line', looking east (p06D5-8034)

The 'bone line' will need further study which we did not have time to do this season. Therefore, even though most of the bones were revealed they weren't taken out. The bones were covered in specific order: a plastic mesh was put on them and above it moist sifted soil was laid. Above a geotechnical fabric was put and on it more sifted soil was thrown.

- At the end of the season, except from W16790 which was dismantled, W06D5-434 which is not revealed entirely and W16470 that is out of the excavation area, the rest of the phase 5 walls were left floating: W16486 (bottom: #13.67-13.61), W16786 (bottom: #13.60-13.59), W16787 (bottom: #13.55-13.51) and W06D5-417 (bottom: #13.62-13.58).
- It is very important to add that the material that came out from all loci and the floor of this phase was Hellenistic.

- Unschemed phase? - Hellenistic?:

F06D5-424 (#13.60-13.59) is located in the south-eastern part of the area and is consisted of phytoliths on top of cobbles. It was cut to the north and west. There is a possibility that the floor was cut by W16787 to the north and by W16486 to the west. In that case L06D5-431 is a foundation trench of these two walls, although this isn't clear. At the end of the season the floor was removed.

In my opinion this floor which is for sure earlier than phase 5, since phase 5 walls cut it, and not yet phase 6. Therefore, it represents a phase that wasn't mentioned in the new scheme for the area.

- Phase 6 - Persian?:

Pit L06D5-419 is located in AU/10. Its dimensions are 1.4 m. x 0.90 m. As it was observed in the field, the top elevation of the pit (#13.47-13.45) was lower than the lowest part of phase 5 walls. This indicates that it is related to an earlier phase.

Because several shreds were large pieces and few of them were part of the same vessel, it was sent to restoration. The pit wasn't dug entirely this season so, the restoration will begin after it will be entirely dug.

Key Loci -

Phase 3 + 4:

- Pits - L06D5-405, L06D5-402.

Phase 5a:

- F06D5-400 (=F16767 = F06D5-413 = L06D5-418).
F16775.

Phase 5b:

- F06D5-407? (=F06D5-427?, F06D5-428?).
L06D5-411, L06D5-433 - installation and bones line.
L06D5-431 - probably a foundation trench of W16486 and W16787.

Unscheme phase?:

- F06D5-424 - phytolith floor.

Phase 6 - L06D5-419:

- restoration pit.