

Dor End of Season 2007 Area D5 Supervisor's Report

Preliminary Information / Credits

Area D5 was excavated in 27/6/07 – 28/07/07. In order to keep the division in which we start last year the area was divided to three sub-areas (Figure 1):

- The western part, which includes squares AW-AX/9-11 and was excavated by Talia Goldman (Initials TAG).
- The middle part, which includes squares AV/8-10 and the eastern half of AU/10 was excavated by Yiftah Shalev (Initials EFI).
- The eastern part, which includes squares AT/9-11 and the eastern half of AU/10 was excavated by Yiftah Shalev (Initials EFI).

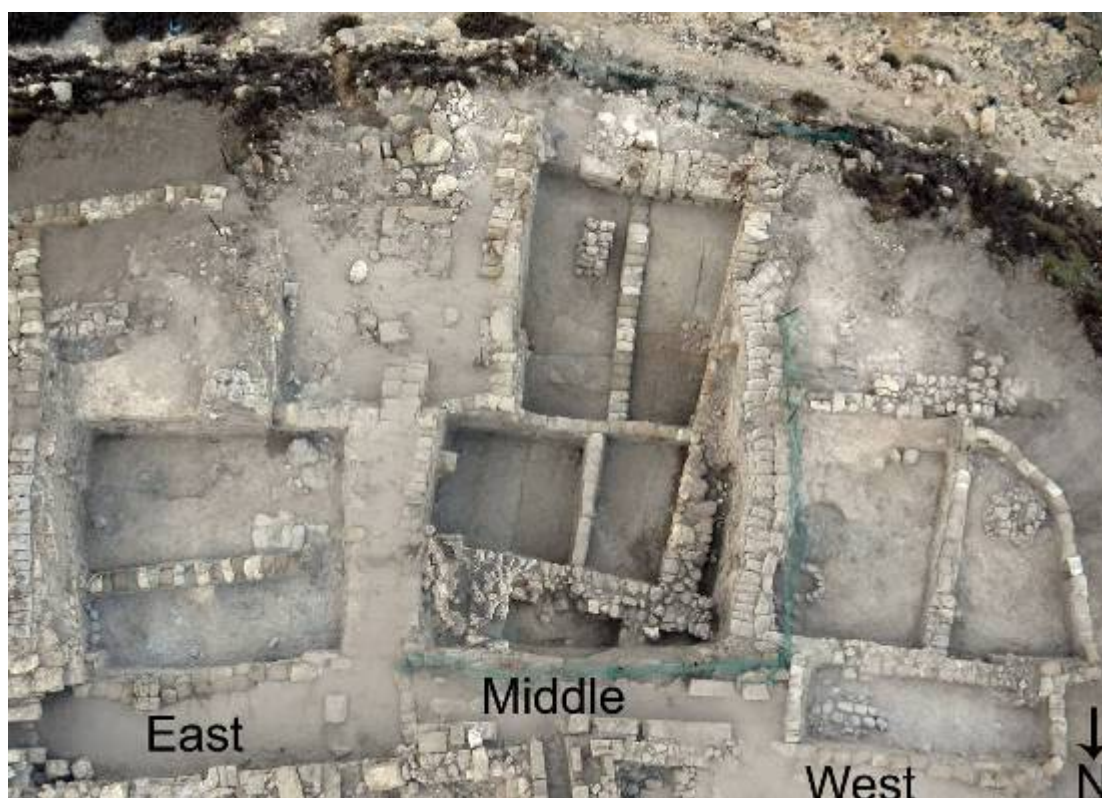


Figure 1 (image: p07D5-9071) Baloon photo of the area at the end of season

The recorders were Floris Vermeulen (The western part) and Bronwen Manning (The eastern and middle parts)

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

Basket bank: **EFI** B07D5-1000 – B07D5-3001
TAG B07D5-3012 – B07D5-3749

Locus bank: **EFI** L07D5-100 – L07D5-136; L07D5-200- L07D5-234.
TAG L07D5-300– L07D5-353.

Image bank: Top Plans **EFI** d07D5-1300 – d07D5-1399
TAG d07D5-0001– d07D5-0018

Sketches and Gen **EFI** d07D5-1000 – d07D5-1299
TAG d07D5-3010 – d07D5-3068

Photos p07D5-9000 – p07D5-9999

Overview

In addition to the areas excavated in 2006, this year we also opened higher areas to the east, as part of a long-term excavation and conservation policy, according which the southern side of the tell will be dug gradually, from the crusaders' moat to Garstangs' trench, making an 'amphitheatre-like' design, open toward the south.

The main objective of the excavation in the **western part** (TAG) was to dig the large Hellenistic pit sequence that disturbed the area during 2006 field season (units AW-AX/10). This would level the area and spatially extend the Persian period/Iron Age remains that still exist in the southern part of the area (AW-AX/09). A small east-west strip was opened in the northern part of the area (AW-AX/11) to track the southern Hellenistic (and hopefully Persian) street façade.

The excavation in the **middle part** (EFI) focused on the attempt to reveal all remains of the destruction layer that was partly excavated last season, and to try to reach the earlier construction phase beneath it.

The main objective of the excavation in the **Eastern part** of D5 (EFI) were to establish a better understanding of the Persian period remains together with leveling of the area in order to make a enlarge the exposure. Square AT-AU/10 reaches the level of AT-AU/9 that was left unexcavated since the 90's, and AT/9 was opened from top soil

Although the three sub-areas are close to each other 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.

Beside the additional of an earlier stage in middle D5 no stratigraphic changes has been made, and the proposed scheme is as :

#	Architecture	period	comments
Phases 1-2	Paved street, drain, etc	Roman	
Phase 3	Thin "a-telaiο" 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 the eastern area and robber trenches on the west area	Hellenistic?	A previously unattested phase
Phase 6	Wall in eastern area + in balks of middle area ; lower walls in western part?; Persian pits? ; Dogs burials?	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 + Lower eastern area + middle areas' balks?) apparently lower than phase 7 ashlar and definitely 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 late?	
Phase 12	Mud-bricks walls	Ir1a early?	

Area D5 – The West Part (TAG)

The 2007 season lacked any significant architecture- either due to later disturbances or to small exposure. The occupational sequence covered the time span between Late Iron Age to Late Roman times. The area was excavated in three terraces:

- The upper terrace (AW-AX/11) was opened to expose the Roman-Hellenistic street to the north of the façade wall (W06D5-250), which was visible on the northern baulk of unit AW/10. Unit AW-AX/11 was excavated only partially to the north and contained very dense layers of street pavements in a narrow strip, capped by the Roman drain system, still visible in unit AV/11.
- The middle terrace (AW-AX/10) has occupation levels of phases 3 to 6. This area was mostly disturbed by the Hellenistic pit sequence, also excavated in 2006 (see 2006 area report). It seems that during this time period the area was open and was used only for trash disposal. To the north and south of the pit sequence some segments of walls and floors were unearthed; in the upper elevations those are Hellenistic and in the lower elevations they were Persian kurkar surfaces – none of these segments have a coherent architectural definition.
- The lower terrace (AW-AX/09) was only briefly excavated and contained a Late Iron Age floor and a massive wall that *post-date* the courtyard building of phase 9, excavated in unit AV/09. At the end of the season three robber trenches were revealed. These ghost walls precede the massive wall but still (we assume) postdate the courtyard building.

#	<i>Period</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Phases 1-2</i>	<i>Roman</i>	<i>F07D5-313, F07D5-328, 07D5-340, W07D5-347 (drain system), sump 06D5-236¹, pavement 07D5-201²</i>
<i>Phase 3</i>	<i>Late Hellenistic</i>	<i>F07D5-323, pits: 07D5-303, 07D5-317, 07D5-318, 07D5-323, 07D5-338, 07D5-339, 07D5-321.</i>
<i>Phase 4</i>	<i>Hellenistic</i>	<i>W07D5-232, Tabun 06D5-225³, F07D5-315, W06D5-250, pit 07D5-335</i>
<i>Phase 5</i>	<i>Hellenistic</i>	<i>RT07D5-307, 07D5-308, Installation 07D5-341</i>
<i>Phase 6</i>	<i>Persian</i>	<i>F07D5-305 (=F07D5-306, F07D5-326), F07D5-322 (=F06D5-217), 07D5-329, F07D5-324 (=F07D5-337), F07D5-331 (= F07D5-321, F07D5-342), pit 07D5-337</i>

¹ W06D5-236 was assigned to phase 4 in 2006 end of season report.

² W06D5-201 was assigned to phase 3 in 2006 end of season report.

³ Tabun 06D5-225 was assigned to phase 3 in 2006 end of season report.

Phase 7a	Late IrA	Installation 06D5-227 ⁴
Phase 7b	Late IrA	Installations 06D5-229, 06D6-230
Phase 8a	IrII b-c	W07D5-320, F07D5-333, F07D5-353
Phase 8b	IrII b-c?	RT

Stratigraphic Scheme and Phase Description



Figure 2 Overview of the area, looking west.

⁴ Installation 06D5-227 was assigned to phase 6 in 2006 end of season report.

Phase 1-2

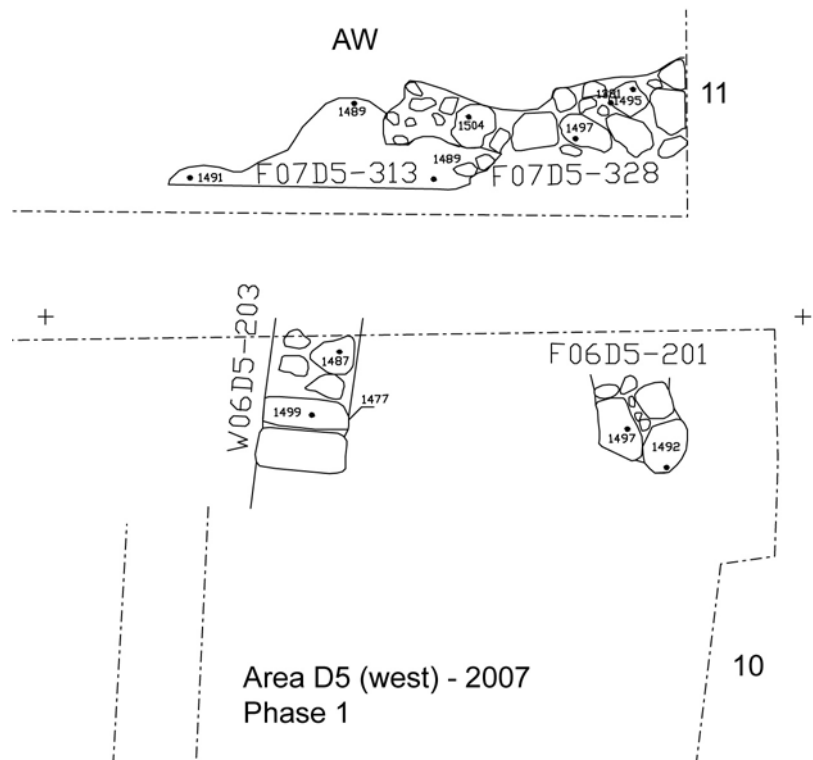


Figure 3 Phase 1 – Separation

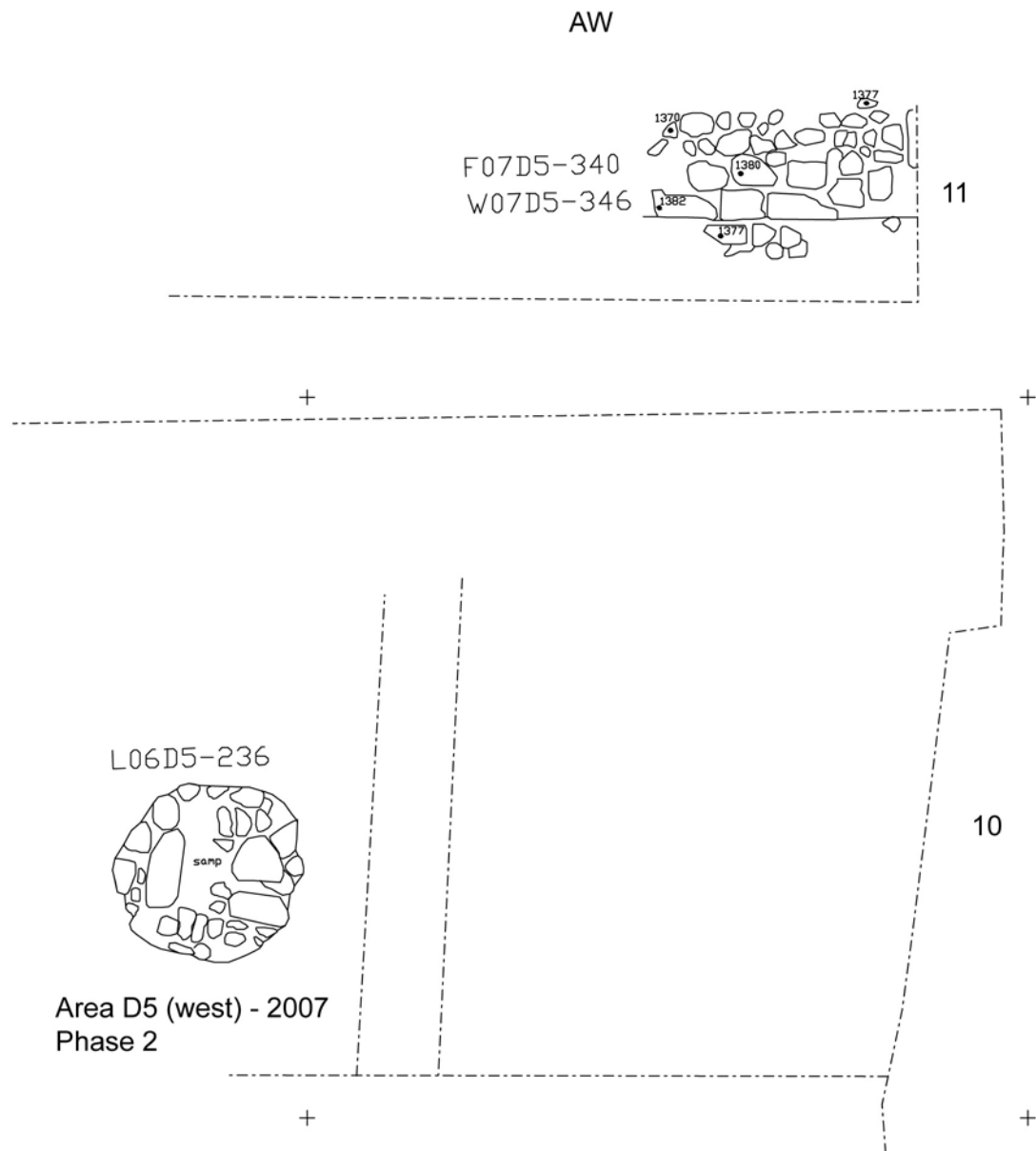


Figure 4 Phase 2 – Separation

This phase was mostly excavated at the north-east part of the area in unit AW/11 and was disturbed by the crusader moat on the west in unit AX/11. The remains are mainly part of the drain system. Only the south part of units AW-AX/11 was excavated and therefore only narrow strip of the street was unearthed. In the upper most part small pavement was found (F07D5-328) in similar elevation and composition as pavement 06D5-201. F07D5-328 (15.04-14.95) is composed of a few medium sized slabs and was disturbed from the north, south and west. Pavement 06D5-201 was erroneously assigned to phase 3 during 2006 field season and should be assigned to this phase. Both pavements are part of the Roman street level, just above the drain system and contemporary to it. Adjacent to and in lower elevation to pavement 07D5-328 a very fragmentary kurkar floor was found (F07D5-313; 14.90) that is either the makeup of the drain's bottom or an earlier street level that was damaged by the drain. The drain itself was very poorly preserved; it is composed of small E-W wall (W07D5-346) that was robbed from the south and its pavement (F07D5-340). W07D5-346 is composed of three medium sized ashlar stones (40 cm) and pavement 07D5-340 (14.80-14.70) is composed of small field stones (15 cm) with shells between the stones that did not cover them.

It seems the Roman drain system disturbed earlier Hellenistic street levels that are still visible in small patches as F07D5-313. The small excavated area and the density of the remains makes it hard to define the sequence properly. A probe was opened in AX/11 to reveal the street level sequence (07D5-334) but unfortunately this area was completely disturbed and did not reveal any significant information.

In the south-west part of unit AX/10, very close to the slope, more of W06D5-236 was exposed and defined as Roman sump, dug into the surrounding fills. The inside of the sump is a very narrow stone-lined tube. Since the lining is much wider than the pit itself, the outside of it looks like a pile of stones with a small hole at the top.

Special special find: Possible *opus-sectile* marble found in L07D5-313 (B07D5-3349). Polished round marble tube- part of marble basin? Sculpture? Found in L07D5-347 (B07D5-3754).

Phase 3

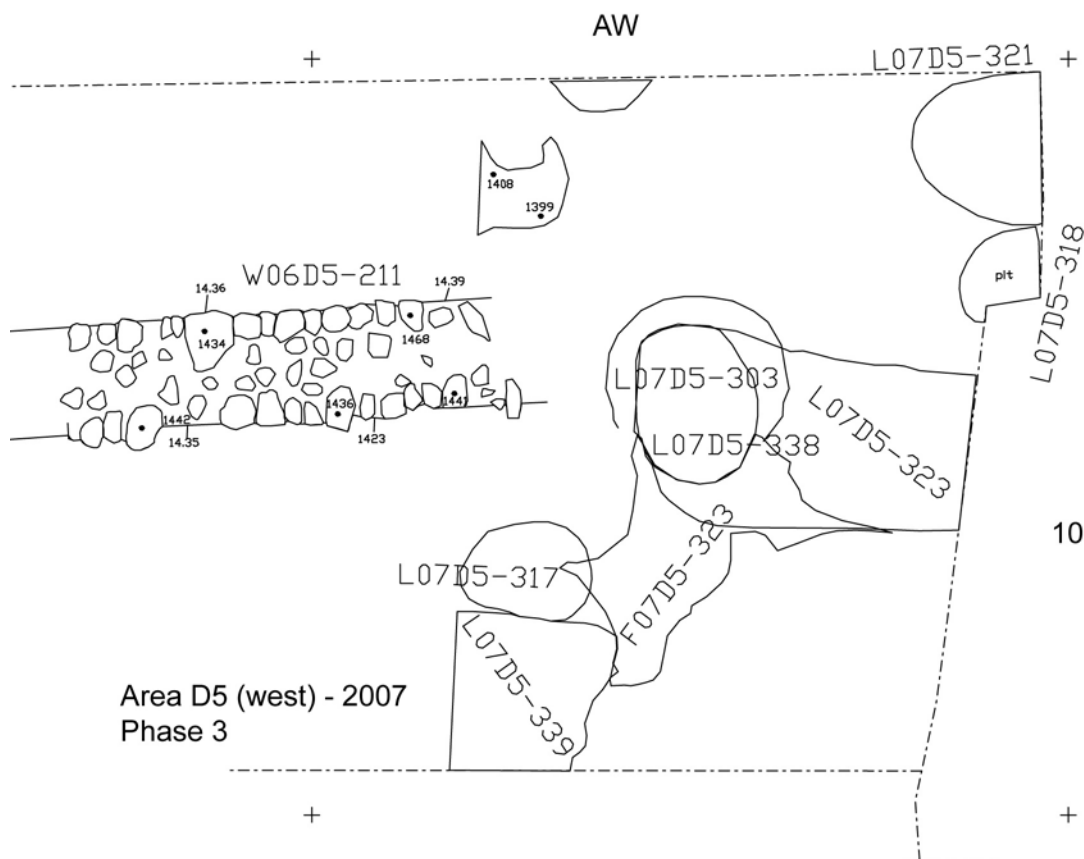


Figure 5 Phase 3 – Separation

This phase is defined in unit AW/10. During this phase the area lacked any architecture and was presumably used as open area for dumping. It is characterized by numerous pits dug from various levels within the open area (Figure 6). The pits were mostly concentrated in the middle part of the unit and were unified to one big pit (07D5-323). Some pits were excavated separately in the edges

of pit 07D5-323 (pits 07D5-303=07D5-338 and 07D5-317) and pits 07D5-318, 07D5-321 were located on the north-east part of the unit. Pit 07D5-339 was found at the south part of unit AW/10, cuts earlier levels with large amounts of ashlar stones in it that suggests it was either a dump of stones or that it disturbed earlier walls (as W07D5-212 in unit AW/09). Pottery found in all the pits was mixed (from Late Hellenistic to Persian), with no chronological difference between them.

These pits are the continuation of the pit sequence that was dug in the area during the 2006 field season (attributed to stage i of phase 3, see 2006 area report). In the east and north sections of unit AW/10 a dark gray layer (similar in appearance and contents to the material within the pits) is laid over/ cut earlier layers. Towards the end of the season the pit area was narrowed down to the middle-east part of the unit (Figure 6) and more substantial intact features began to appear below, mostly attributed to phase 6 (see below).

Fragmentary surfaces were found in the pits area and are either remains of earlier floors that were cut through by the pits or part of phase 3 floors, contemporary with the pits, or simply organic-rich sub-layers within the pits themselves. Since most of the surfaces were poorly preserved and the material found below them was mostly disturbed it was impossible to date them properly. F07D5-323 (13.75-13.65) is clearly part of the later usage of the area as dumping area during phase 3- this is a thin white surface of either phytoliths or plaster that covers earlier floor F07D5-324 (see below).

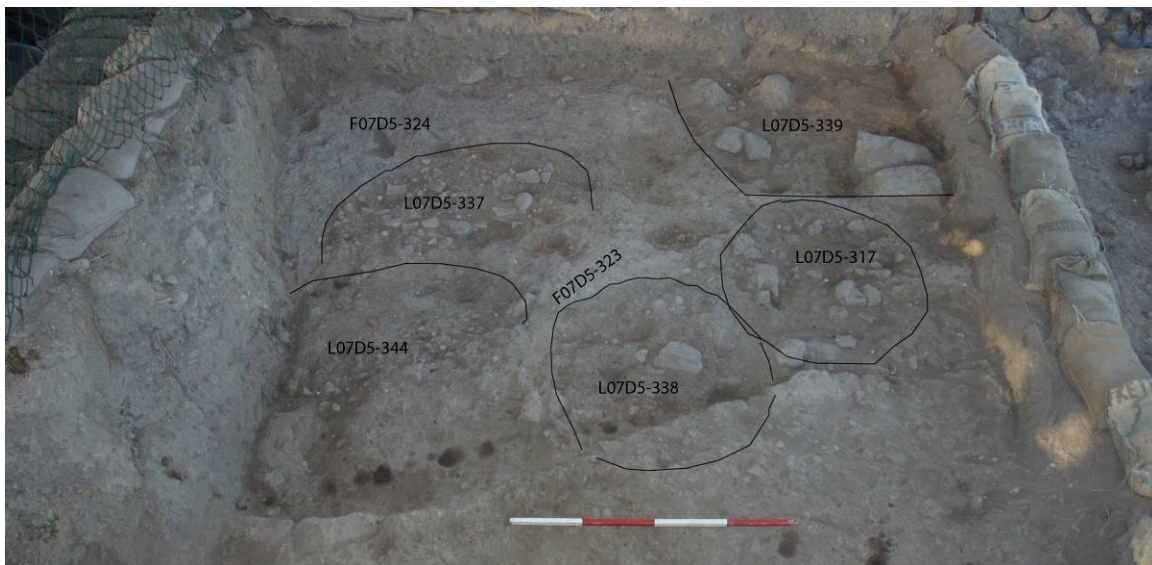


Figure 6 (p07D5-9525) Hellenistic pits and a Persian floor (F07D5-324), south portion of unit AW/10, looking south.

Special special finds: small red figure sherd depicting naked man with upper chest muscle from L07D5-312 (B07D5-3348).

Key Loci: None

Phase 4

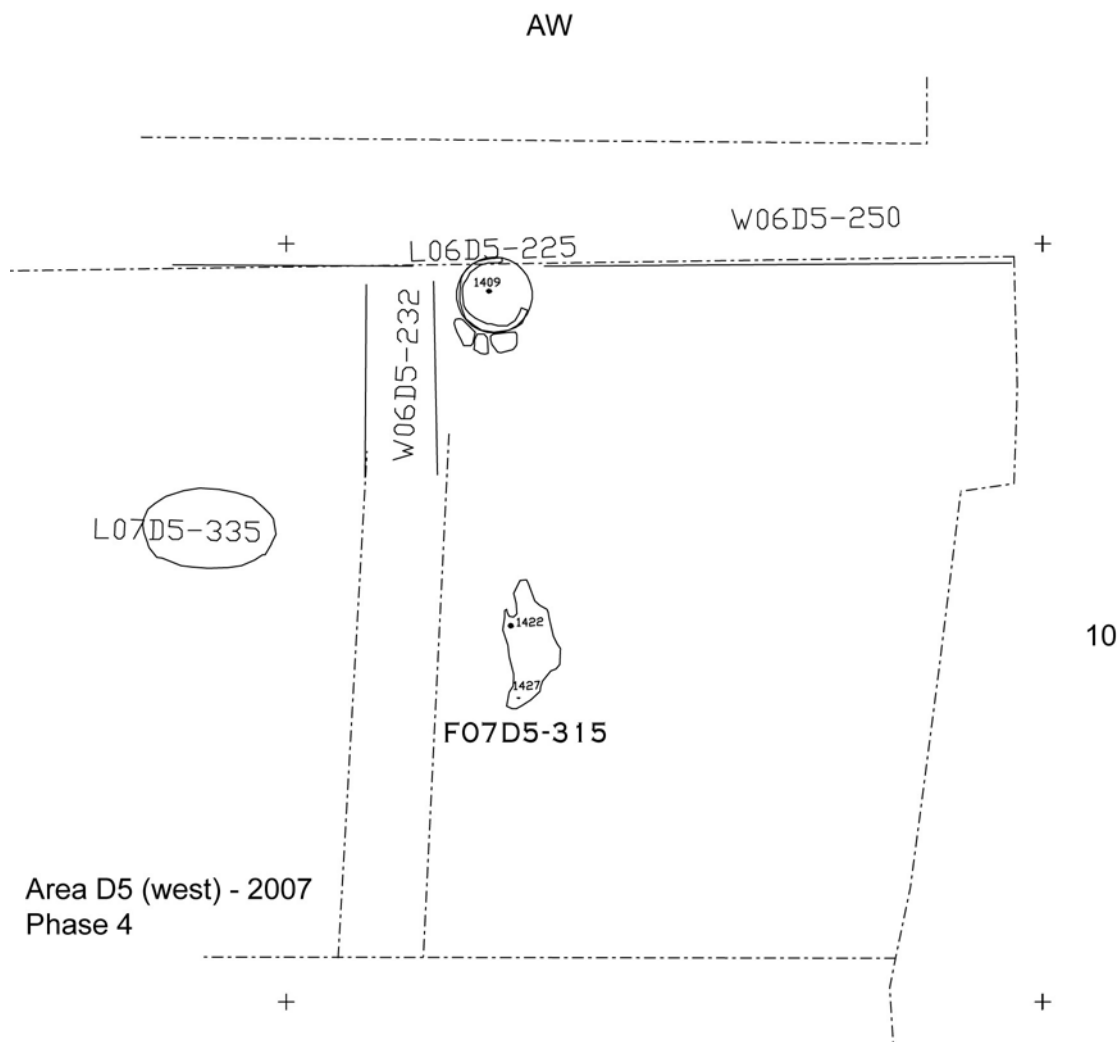


Figure 7 Phase 4 – Separation

This phase was preserved poorly and appears on the north portion of unit AW/10. Only a few architectural remains, part of the Hellenistic Insula located south of the street façade are attributed to phase 4. The remains were disturbed by the phase 3 Hellenistic pits from above. In the north part of the unit, below the baulk, the south Hellenistic street façade (W06D5-250) was found and is the main feature in the area. The upper elevations W07D5-250 in unit AW/11 are lower than its continuation in unit AW/09 (W5535a) and it is possible that the phase 3 façade was not preserved in unit AW/11. W06D5-250 continues the line of the street façade W5535b in unit AV/09 and jugs slightly to the north of it. W07D5-250 is constructed of medium size field stones and has an ashlar pier at the east end of the unit (Figure 8). W06D5-232 (see 2006 area report) reaches the façade from the south and tabun 06D5-225 was built in the corner of these two walls. The tabun was further excavated during this season and was 60cm diameter, built of small clay tiles. The original floor tabun 06D5-225 was dug from is not clear as the tabun is cut on its eastern part (Figure 8) however F07D5-315 (14.27-14.22) is the only candidate as it is the only floor attribute to this phase. It is a very small patch of white plaster floor found in the west part of AW/0 and did not relate to any other features in the area. The floor is cut by phase 3 Hellenistic pit sequence. In unit AX/10 a

small pit was found (pit 07D5-335) cutting phase 5 and 6 features in the area and distant from the location of the phase 3 Hellenistic pits. It possibly also dates to phase 4.

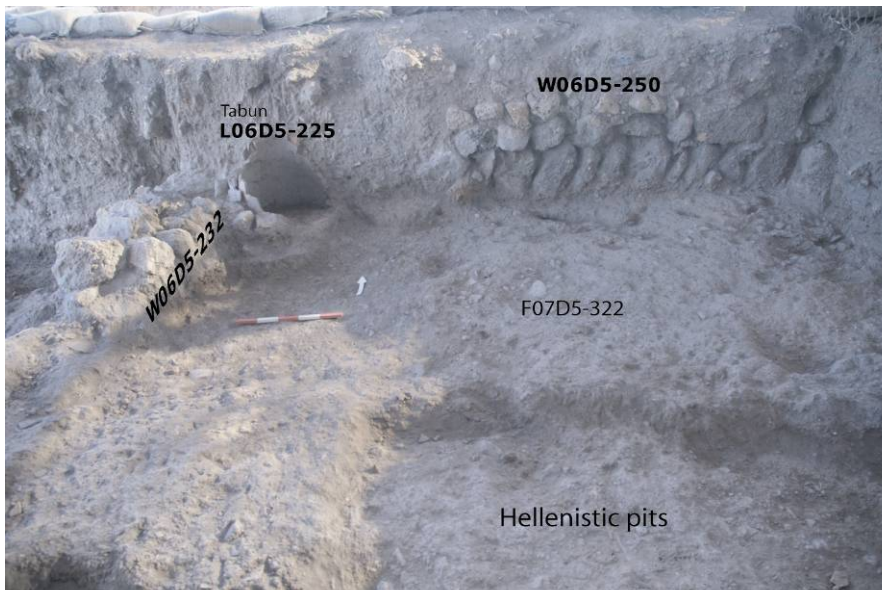


Figure 8 (p07D5-9522) Unit AW/10, phase 4 remains, disturbed by the Hellenistic pit sequence

Phase 5

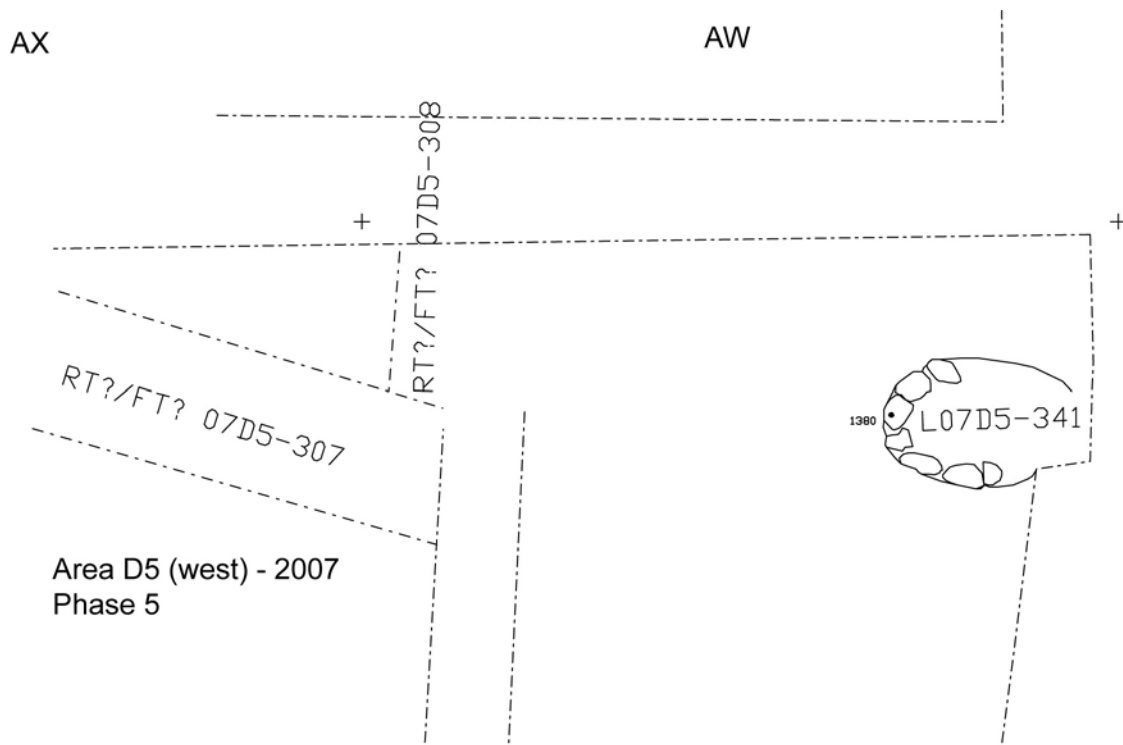


Figure 9 Phase 5 – Separation

This phase too is not really a coherent architectural phase, and mostly contains features that cannot be attributed to phases below and above it in units AW-AX/10. In unit AX/10, two contemporary robber trenches were found; RT07D5-308 is a north-south trench, just below W06D5-232, and RT07D5-307 is an east-west trench, below W06D5-211 (see 2006 end of season report). RT07D5-307 did not continue to the east part of the unit and was probably disturbed by the phase 3 Hellenistic pits. Both trenches cut the lower Persian kurkar floors (see below) and were found below phase 4 wall W06D5-232.

Installation/pit? 07D5-341 (Figure 2) was found in the east part of unit AW/10, close to the baulk, below a Hellenistic pit. It is constructed by field stones lined in half circle. Very few Hellenistic and Persian sherds were found within this Installation which does not imply its function. Judging by its elevation, the installation cannot be assigned to phase 4 on the one hand and since it cuts phase 6 kurkar floors it was assigned to this phase (see below). However, lacking relations to other features and/or some more significant material it is hard to assign it.

Special special find: Bronze earring (B07D5-3071) from RT07D5-308.

Phase 6

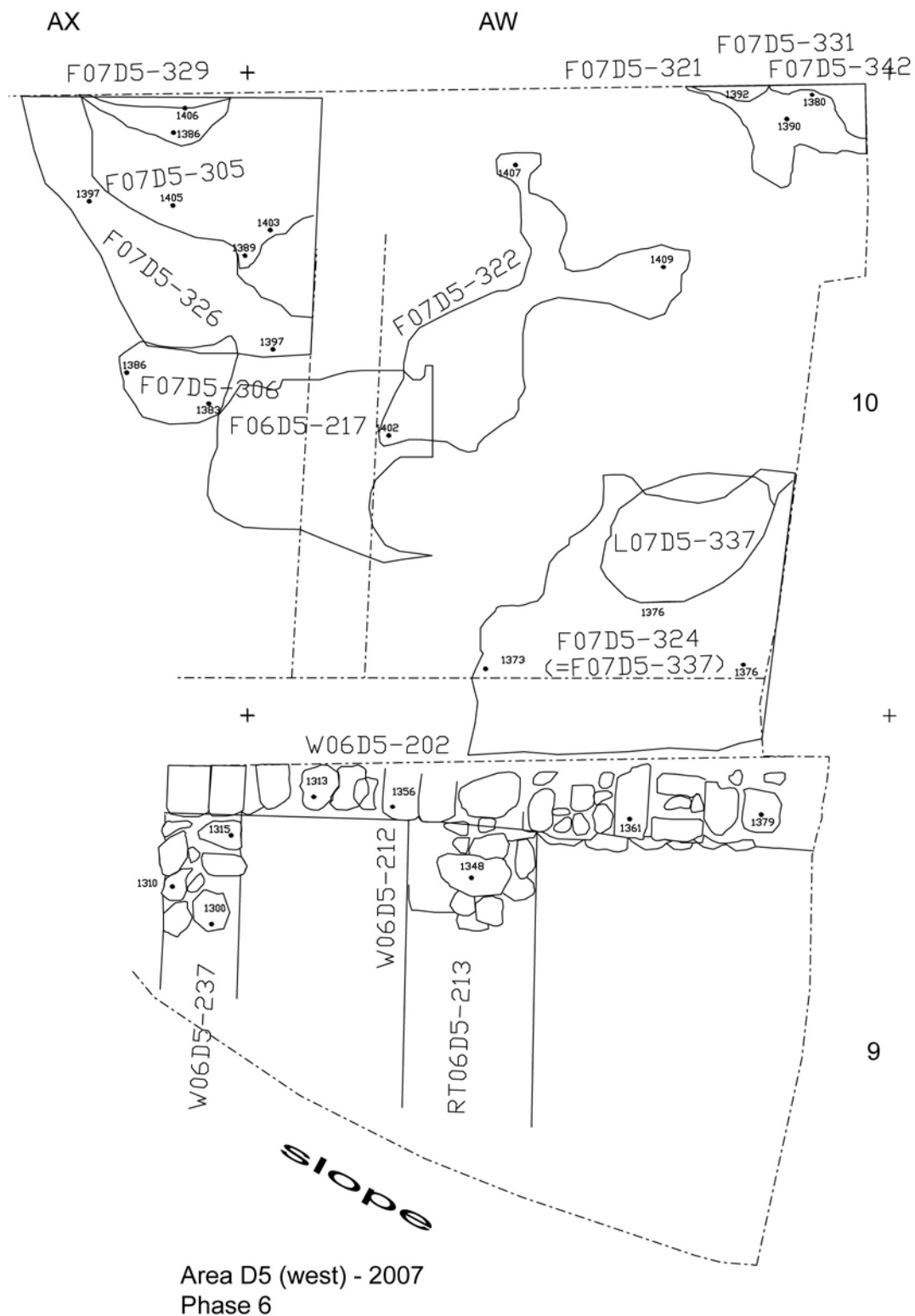


Figure 10 Phase 6 – Separation

This phase was defined in AW-AX/10, beside the phase 3 Hellenistic pits. It contains a sequence of Persian kurkar floors that are added to the walls that were defined in AW/09 during 2006 field season (Figure 2).

In AX/10, the floors were preserved in the north part with three levels of resurfacing of very thick kurkar (up to 10cm). F07D5-308 (14.14) is the uppermost floor level, below it F07D5-305 was found (14.05-13.83) which is the main number of the floors (= 07D5-326 and 07D5-306). F07D5-329 (14.06-13.89) is the lowermost level of these floors. The floors were poorly preserved below the level of RT 07D5-307 and cut from the south by the Roman sump 06D5-236.

The most substantial remnants of phase 6 floor were found in the south part of AW/10. F07D5-324 (13.76-13.62; F07D5-324 is the main number, F07D5-324=F07D5-337) was cut by the phase 3 Hellenistic pits from the north. The connection between F07D5-324 and W06D5-202 (see 2006 end of season report) was not preserved as it is very close to the baulk between the units. However comparing their elevations they are most likely contemporary. Pit 07D5-337 is located at the edge of F07D5-324 and below the pit a small depression in the floor was found, implying it is some installation dug as part of F07D5-324. Both floor and installation were disturbed by the phase 3 Hellenistic pits and both loci contain also Hellenistic material.

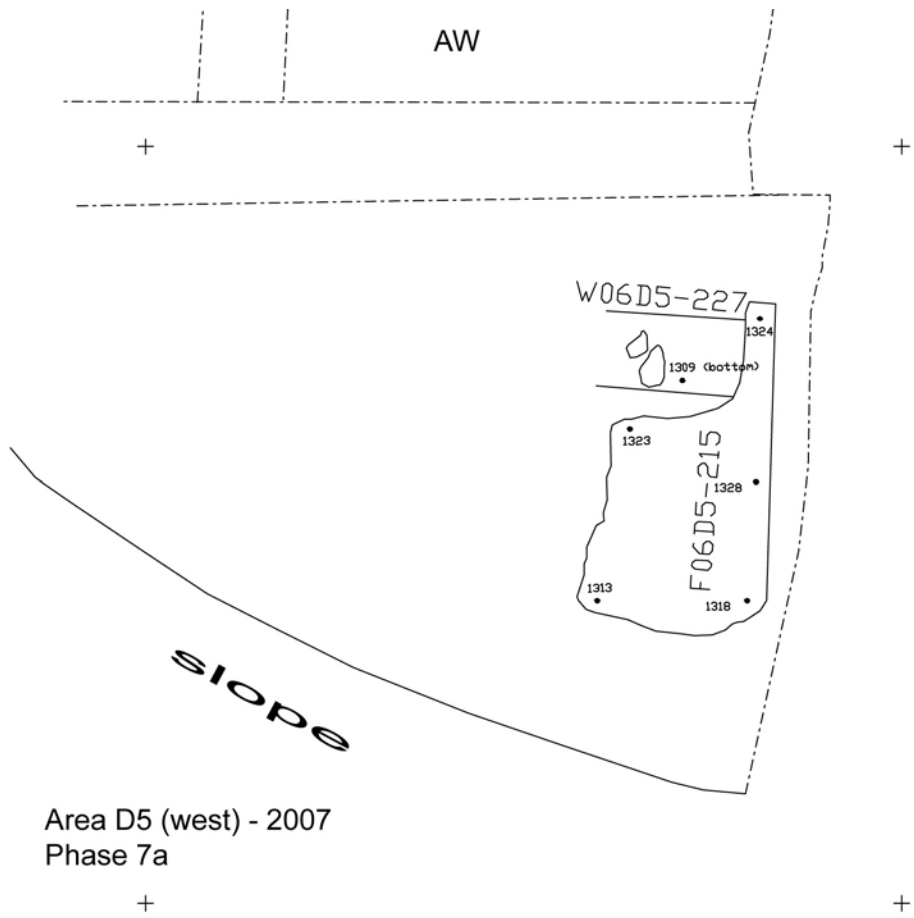
In the north-east part of AW/10 very narrow strip of kurkar floors were found with similar appearance - F07D5-331 (13.92-13.86; main number; F07D5-331=07D5-321) is the upper floor level and F07D5-321 (13.85-13.80) is part of the same floor and resurfacing of F07D5-342 (13.83-13.70), the lowest floor found just below it. This area was mostly damaged by the later activity and is cut both by phase 5 installation 07D5-341 and phase 3 pits. Above F07D5-324, in a disturbed fill, a large amount of nails in various sizes were found. Above F07D5-331 more nails were found and a coin, however less than above F07D5-324. Material within L07D5-324 was disturbed by the pits and it is not know whether the nails are part of this phase or just part of a pit with many nails. The fact the no slags were found in the area imply this is actually part of a pit with large amount of nails.

F07D5-322 (=F06D5-217; 14.09-14.00, Figure 8) is hard to assign to a specific phase. This floor is very thin white/compact surface that covered a comparatively large area in the northern and western part of unit AW/10. The floor is of same elevation as phase 6 floors, and was found below phase 4 floor F07D5-315 (see above). It is cut by phase 3 Hellenistic pit sequence. Although meager (two indicative sherds), the sherds that were found directly below F07D5-322 were Persian. The excavator (TAG) prefers to assign F07D5-322 to phase 3, for several reasons: a). F07D5-322 is rather thin, compared to the thick phase 6 kurkar floors. On the other hand, the area covered by 07D5-322 was quite substantial while the kurkar floors are much smaller. One would assume the thicker floors will be preserved spatially better. b). if the area of F07D5-322 was preserved and not harmed by the pits one would expect at least one wall or robber trench to survive. c.) The main reason is the matrix that was found below F07D5-322 was similar to the pits matrix and to the matrix above the floor.

Key Loci: L07D5-329 (sealed fill below F07D5-305).

Special special finds: a large amount of nails in various sizes and shapes and other unidentified metal objects in L07D5-324 (B07D5-3558, B07D5-3557, B07D5-3504, B07D5-3508, B07D5-3547, B07D5-3548), pit 07D5-337 (B07D5-3652, B07D5-3634, B07D5-3726,) and L07D5-331 (B07D5-3514, B07D5-3516, B07D5-3584, B07D5-3520, B07D5-3552). Brazier fragment found in L07D5-326 (B07D5-3259). Coin found in L07D5-331 (B07D5-3515). Piece of a stamped handle jar from L07D5-322 (B07D5-3351)

Phase 7b



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Figure 11 Phase 7a – Separation

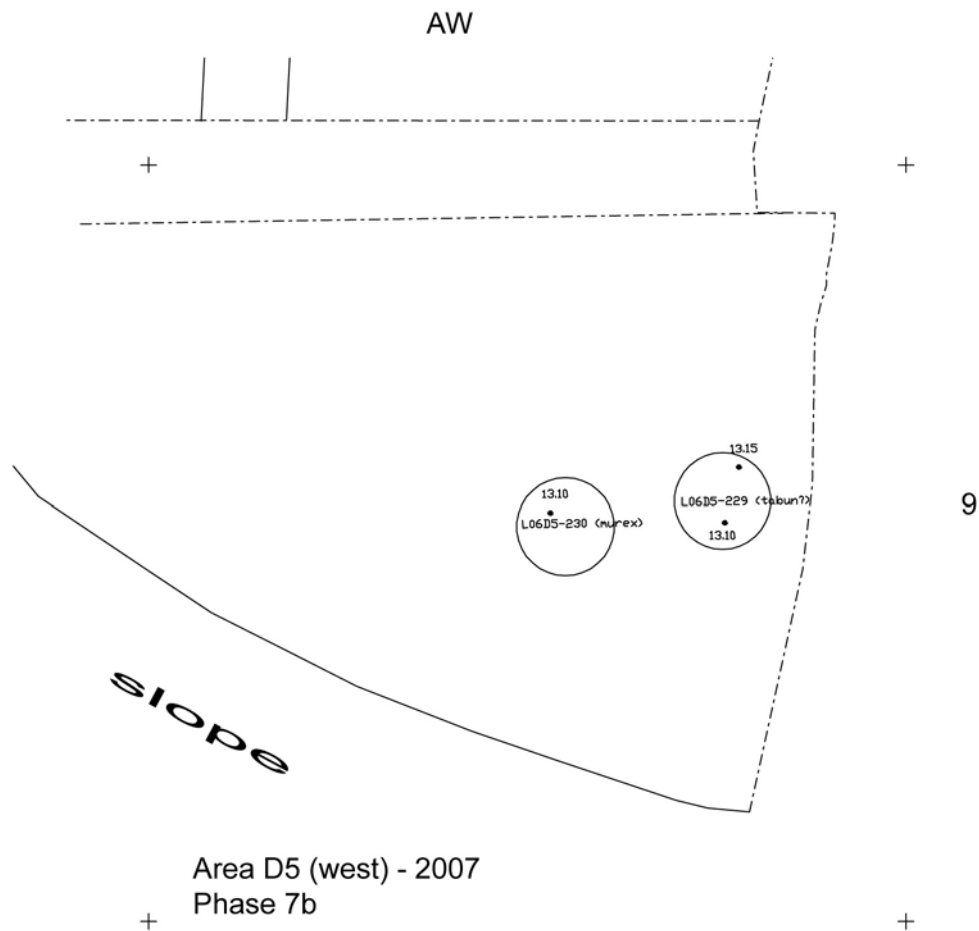


Figure 12 Phase 7b – Separation

Two Iron Age installations were dug in 2006 in unit AW/09 (L06D5-229 and L06D5-230; 13.10 bottom elevation). There is no spatial connection between the two installations but they are both on the same elevation. L06D5-229 is layer of burnt clay material, laid on a surface. This layer was discovered at the end of 2006 field season and was probably damaged between seasons. L07D5-230 is a sort of murex installation with thick layer of smashed murex shells (samples were taken by Weizmann Institute team). No floor was found in any connection to this installation and their context is unknown. L07D5-229 is sealed below phase 7a Late Iron Age F06D5-215, securely dates it to earlier stage of phase 7. Installation 06D5-230 was unsealed but the amount of Iron Age pottery found above, below and around it dates it to the same time period- with the first evidence of murex shell activity within Iron Age.

Key loci?

Phase 8a

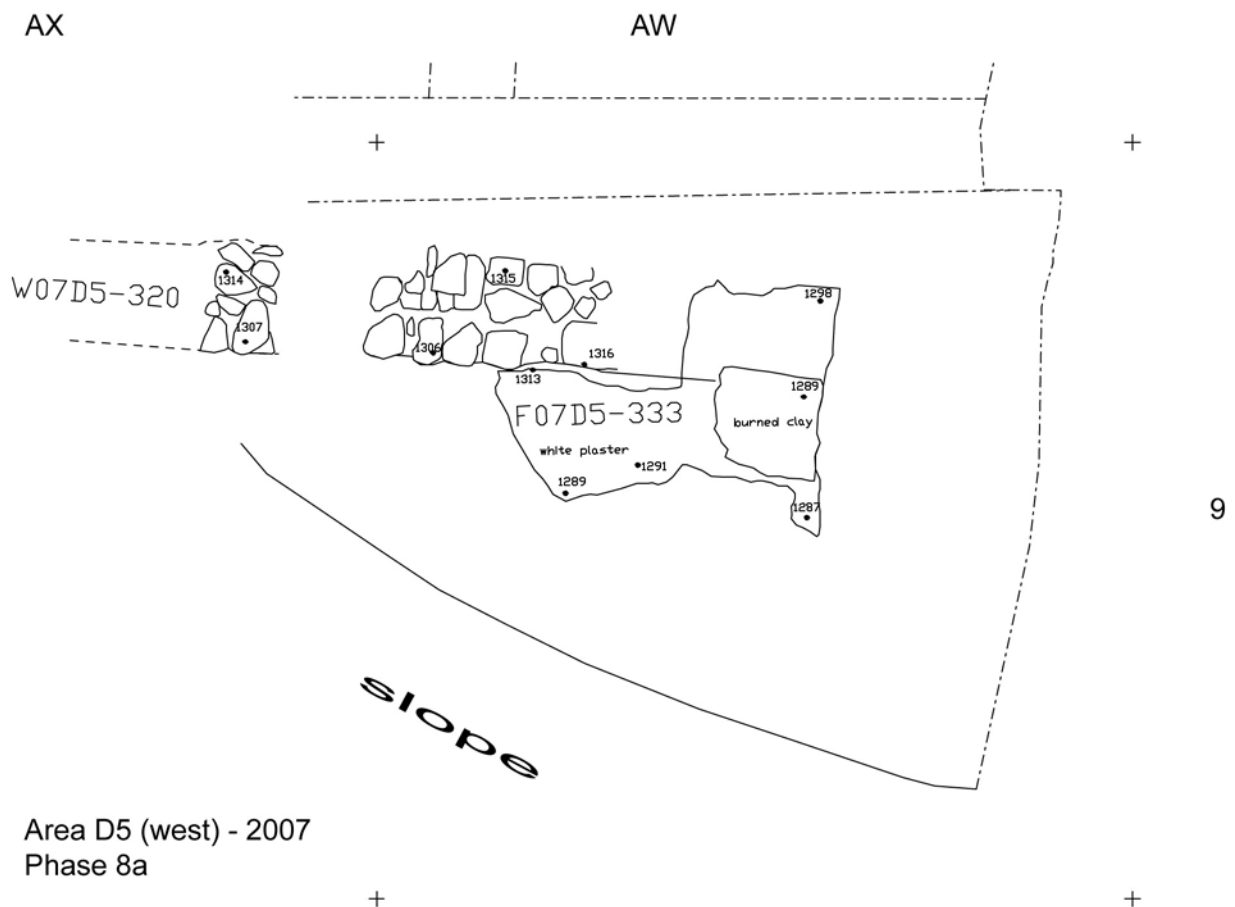


Figure 13 Phase 8a – Separation

This phase was defined in the lower terrace, in units AW-AX-09. Features from this phase post-date the courtyard building of phase 9 (found in unit AV/09) and predate phase 7 features. The remains were preserved in a comparatively small area of 3 m maximum length (in the east portion) between phase 6 walls on the north and the slope on the south (Figure 2).

The phase is defined by a wide wall (W07D5-320) and a floor (F07D5-333 and F07D5-353). W07D5-320 is located on the west side of the area, south-of and below phase 6 walls: its northern face is covered by W06D5-202 and its east side is covered by W06D5-212. The wall is also covered by W06D5-237 (see 2006 end of season report), close to its western end, which is cut by the slope. W07D5-320 is 70 cm wide east-west wall, made of medium sized field stones (20-40 cm). A similar wall was found in unit AV/09 (W5548; Canadian phase 6) on the same line and in similar elevations, and the two were probably part of the same structure. Installation 06D5-227 was found in 2006 on the same line of W07D5-320 in the east part of unit AW/09 (see 2006 area report). However, the installation was higher than this wall (both in unit AW/09 and in unit AV/09) and for now there is no reconstruction that can include the two in the same phase.

F07D5-333 (12.13-12.87) was found in the middle part of unit AW/09. This is a plaster floor extending to the south and east of W07D5-320. Many broken sherds were found on the floor and in its east part (directly south from the line of both W07D5-320 and installation 06D5-227) burnt clay

was found. From the broken sherds found on F07D5-333 a ridged jar and Hazorite jar were identified, dated to IR2b. F07D5-333 does not extend much to the west, south of W07D5-320 and it seems it reaches the walls' most eastern stones and therefore dates contemporary to the wall in phase 8a. However, the relations to the robber trenches of phase 8b (see below) are not yet cleared and it is very possible this floor is contemporary to the robber trenches as part of phase 8b. These relations should be checked during 2008 field season. On the east section of unit AW/09, remnants of F07D5-333 are most probably the continuation of F07D5-353 to the south. F07D5-353 is a phantom floor. It is a thick kurkar floor that can be seen in the balk (F5594 in unit AV/09; Canadian phase 5) but was never found in unit AW/09 (below 06D5-215). However comparatively large amounts of very fine made plaster pieces of either a wall or a floor were found below F06D5-215, above the area where F07D5-333 did not appear. The plaster pieces were about 5 cm thick, made of concretion of crude plaster mixed with shells and stones and nicely polished on the surface (samples were taken to Weizmann Institute of Science). F07D5-333 stopped on an abrupt line on the east with no apparent reason, on the western line that both F06D5-215 and installation 06D5-227 ends abruptly, both found higher than it. F07D5-333 seems to have some connection to F06D5-215 and installation 06D5-227 due to their complementary location and on the other hand F07D5-333 can be attributed earlier, with the robber trenches of phase 8b. The connection between the mentioned features, covering phases 7a, 7b, 8a and 8b, is not clear. Material from all this phases is late Iron Age (IR2b, IR2c).

Key Loci: L07D5-333.

Special special find: plaster pieces, probably originated from a floor made from concretion of plaster mixed with shells and stones, very nicely polished on the surface from L07D5-333 (B07D5-3556).

Phase 8b

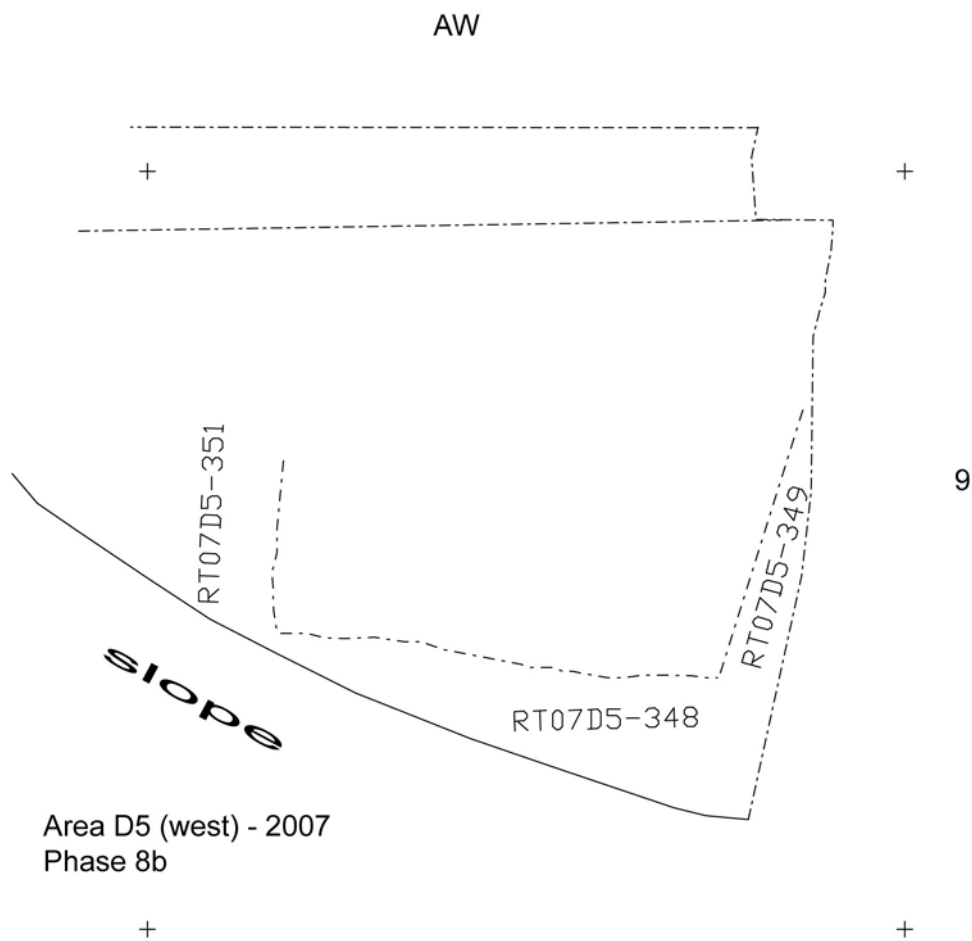


Figure 14 Phase 8b – Separation

This phase is defined in units AW-AX/09 due to robber trenches that were found at the last day of excavation and were not excavated. RT07D5-348 is an east-west trench that connects to the north-south trench RT07D5-349 on its east side and RT07D5-351 on its west side. The three trenches are part of the same construction, above the courtyard building of phase 9, found in unit AV/09. RT07D5-351 cut the north-west part of F07D5-333 (see above) and the two might be contemporary. RT07D5-351 is below W07D5-320 and therefore earlier than it.

Area D5 – The Eastern Part (EFI)

Introduction

Two separate areas were excavated during 2007 in the eastern part of area D5. Square AT/9 (a.k.a “The Loft”) was opened from top-soil and revealed three different phases, and squares AT/10-11 to its north of it, on which the excavation continues from last season. The first deed in this area was the removal of all of phase 5 walls that were left floating at the end of 2006.

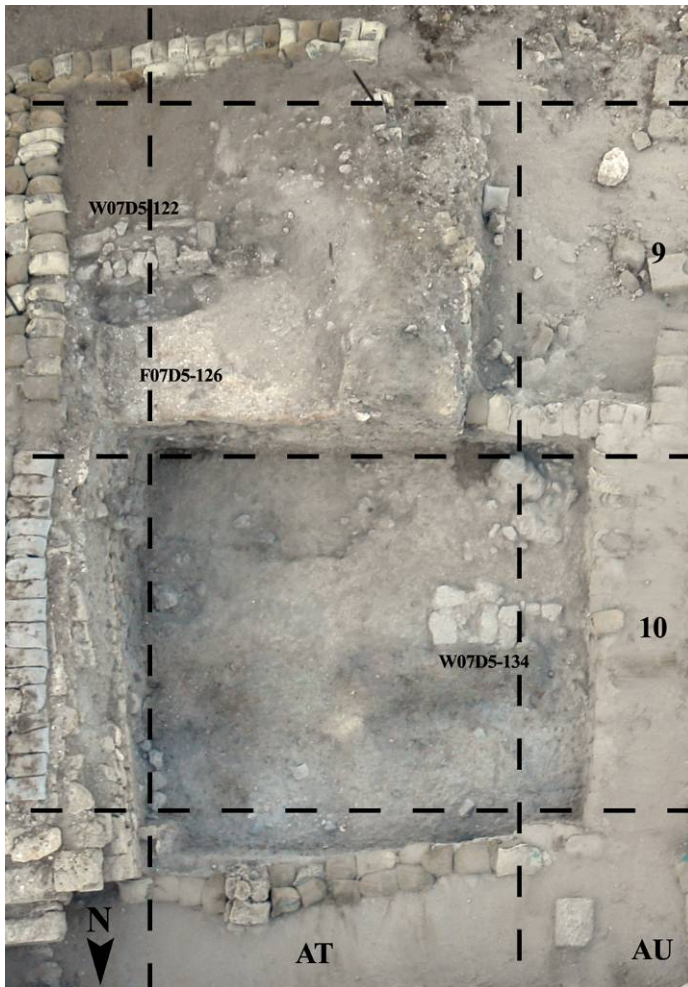


Figure 15 Overview of the area, looking south. (Processed from P07D5-9071)

Phase 7: This phase includes one east-west robber trench and one small floor patch that were found at the end of the season below the dog burials of stage 6

Phase 6: This phase includes one east-west wall in AT/10. This wall seems to be the continuation of a wall that was found in 2005, projecting from the eastern baulk of AU/10. At a later stage in this phase this wall was robbed and it seems that the area become an open area, maybe a dump of some kind. Three dog burials and an un-explained bone installation (?) were dug into the ground in that stage. These were found at the uppermost level and may actually be phase 5 features, dug into stage 6.

Phase 4: This phase includes one pit in AT/10 that was already excavated in 2006

Phase 3: The main feature that belongs to this stage is an east-west wall, constructed in an “interlocking-squares” fashion that was found in the loft. This wall locates in the slope and there for only its top was revealed this season and its relations are still unclear. F07D5-126 was found near to this wall below the phase 2’s wall.

Phase 2: Three stones walls were found in the loft. These belong to a structure that its northern part was already dug in AT/10 during the 90’s. One of these walls cuts the stage 3 wall.

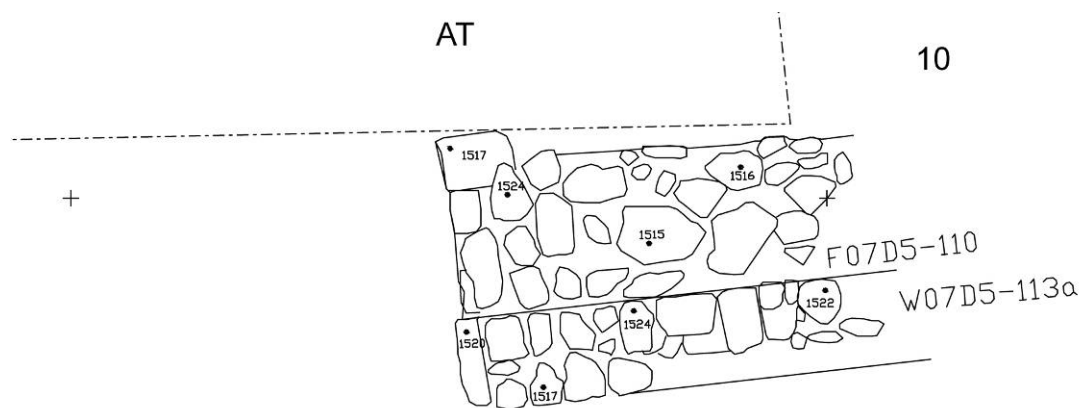
Phase 1: This stage includes a renovation of one of the stage 2 walls, and a stone pavement that reaches this wall, covering one of the others stage 2 walls.

Stratigraphic Scheme and Phase Descriptions

This unit is characterized by seven stages. The general stratigraphic sequence is:

- (i) W07D5-113a, F07D5-110 > (ii) W07D5-113b, W07D5-127, W16091 > (iii) W07D5-122, F07D5-126 > (iv) Pit L07D5-119 > (v) L07D5-112 (dog burials), L07D5-114 (Bone installation), R.T 07D5-124 > (vi) W07D5-134 > (vii) RT 07D5-132, F07D5-125.

Phase 1



Area D5 - 2007
Phase 1

Figure 16 Phase 1 – Separation

The main feature of this phase is a stone pavement that was found in the loft, just below the topsoil. This pavement (# 15.15-15.05) reaches W07D50-113a, which is a renovation of W07D50-113b from stage 2. A few small field-stones were added to the southern side of the wall at its upper course, widening it to c. 70 cm. The pavement covers another stage 2 wall, W10961 (Figure 17).



Figure 17 (p07D5-9010) pavement F07D50-114 and W07D5-113

Stage 2

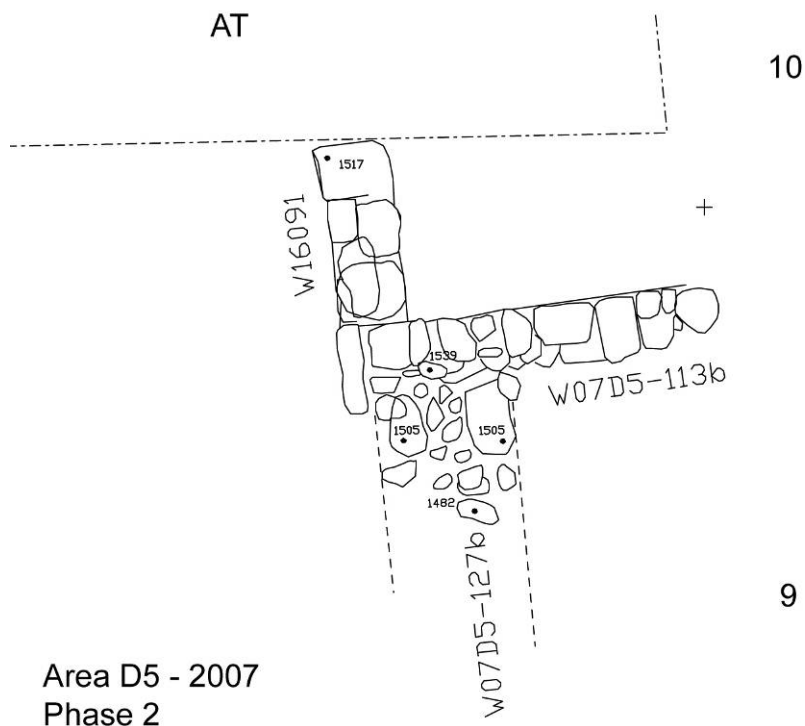


Figure 18 Phase 2 – Separation

This stage includes three walls, all belonging to the same structure. W16091 (# 15.18-14.68) is a short two course stone wall, constructed of small and medium size field-stones. It was originally found in AT/10 in 1995. To the south this wall abuts W07D5-113b (#15.17-14.62) which is an east-west wall, constructed of ashlar that stand on their long side as piers, 1m. apart, with square ashlar and field-stones between them. W07D5-127 is a south-north field-stone wall, dovetailing with W07D5-113 from the south. This wall seems to cut phase 3 wall, W07D5-122 (Figure 19).

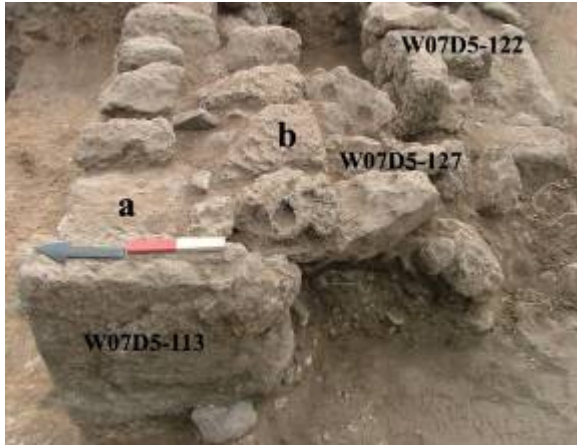


Figure 19 (p07D5-9049) The inter-relations between W07D5-113 (a+b), W07D5-127 and W07D5-122

Phase 3

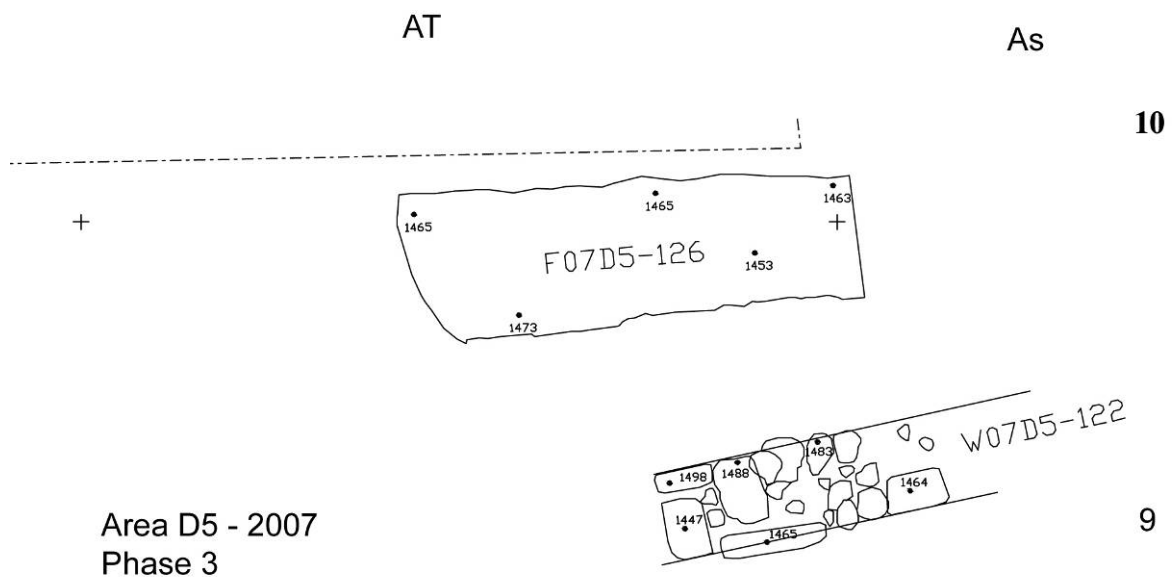


Figure 20 Phase 3 – Separation

The only feature that belongs to this stage is W07D5-122, an “interlocking-squares” fashion east-west wall that was found in the southern side of AT/9. This wall is located on the slope, and therefore only its upper part was revealed. It is cut by W07D5-127.

F07D5-126 is a kurkar floor that was found below W07D5-113 and W10961 of phases 1 and 2. This floor does not reach W07D5-122, but its elevation (c. 14.60) seems to fit the elevation of this wall, and therefore was assigned to phase 3 as well.

Phase 4

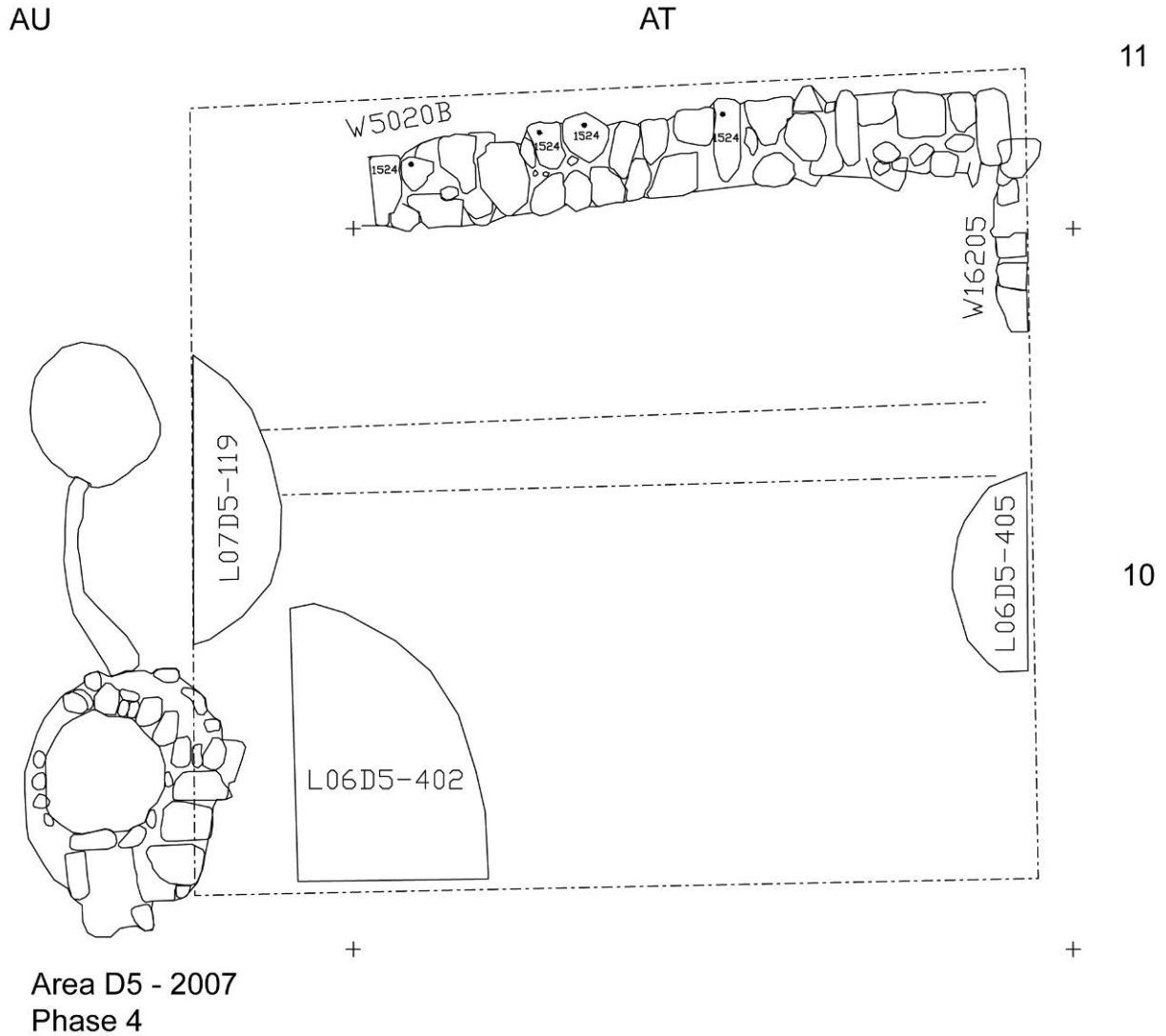


Figure 21 Phase 4 – Separation

The only feature dug this season that belongs to this stage is pit 07D5-119, the continuation of pit 06D5-419 found in AT/10 at 2006. Last season this pit yields quantity of restoration pottery. However, the amount this season was quite small and maybe we have reached the bottom of the pit.

Key Loci : L07D5-119 – Hellenistic pit, continuation of L06D5-419.

Phase 5

The phase 5 walls that were found in AT/10 in 2006 were removed at the beginning of this season. Other than these, no features which certainly belong to this phase were excavated this season. It is possible, though, that the 'bone feature' and dog burials are intrusive elements of phase 5, dug into phase 6 (see below).

Phase 6

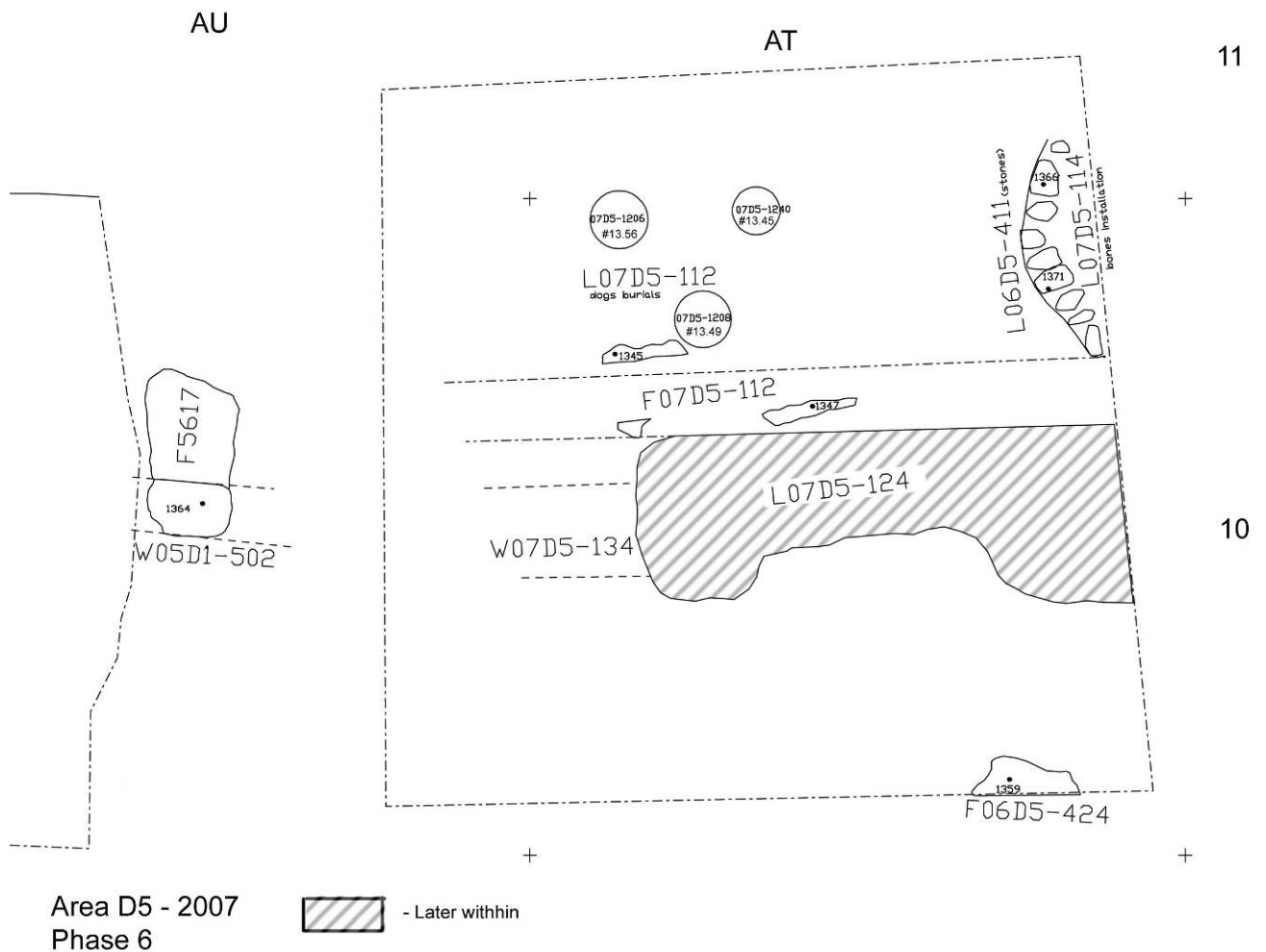


Figure 22 Phase 6 – Separation

The main characteristic of this phase is the thick layer of fill/debris that covers the whole of AT/10, below the phase 5 walls. This accumulation contains large quantities of bones and potsherds. Although some of these shreds were quite big, and sometimes even includes quarter or a third of a complete vessels this is not an in-situ or primary locus, and did not enable restoration. It is not clear at this moment whether these are constructive fills or debris accumulated in an open area - maybe a dump of some kind.

Beside the many individual bones three articulated dog skeletons (Figure 23) were found in this area, all are in the same part of the unit. They seem to be intentional burials, a phenomenon well known in the Persian period.



Figure 23 (p07D5-9029) One of the dog burials in AT/10

Another interesting feature which belongs to this phase is a circular installation/pit that was found at the end of 2006 at the northeastern part of the area, half of it is hidden in the eastern baulk. This feature includes five layers of large bones and potsherds, all lined up in the same direction. The two upper layers contain only bones (Figure 24). These belong to four species: horse, cattle, pig and sheep/goat. The two other layers include bones and pottery and the lower one contained pottery only. Three medium size fieldstones were found below this layer but it is still unclear whether they are part of this feature or not (Figure 25).



Figure 24 (p07D5-9028) L07D5-114 – The ‘bone installation’ – upper level



Figure 25 (p07D5-9050) L07D5-114 – The ‘bone installation’ – lower levels in section

Both the dog burials and the bone installations were found at the upper most part of phase 6, just under the bottom of phase 5 walls and therefore may actually be part of phase 5, dug into phase 6.

W07D5-134 is a small wall was found at the end of the season below these fills. By its elevation (top #13.37-13.30) and orientation, this wall can be the continuation of W05D1-502 that was found in 2005 (# 13.64-13.02), projecting from the eastern baulk of AU/10. The northern part of this wall is cut by R.T 07D5-124.

Only the top of this wall revealed so far and its relations are unclear now. At the moment this wall seems to be later than the walls in AU/9 that were assigned to phase 7 and this is why it was still attributed to an earlier stage in phase 6 and not to phase 7. These relations are to be verified next season.

Key Loci :L07D5-113 , L07D5-125, L07D5-133 – Fills in which the dog burials were found (a.k.a - ‘Dogville’); L07D5-114 – Bone installation

Special find: Three dog burials (07D5-1207, 07D5-1208, 07D5-1241+07D5-1448, L07D5-112 and L07D5-125) ; Decorated amphora (B07D5-2012, L07D5-133) ; Chian Amphora (B07D5-2154, L07D5-130) ; Grotesque figurine head (B07D5-1630, L07D5-125)

Phase 7 : Two features belongs to this phase, a robber trench and a floor. These features have no relations to any other feature and were assigned to this phase by their elevation only.

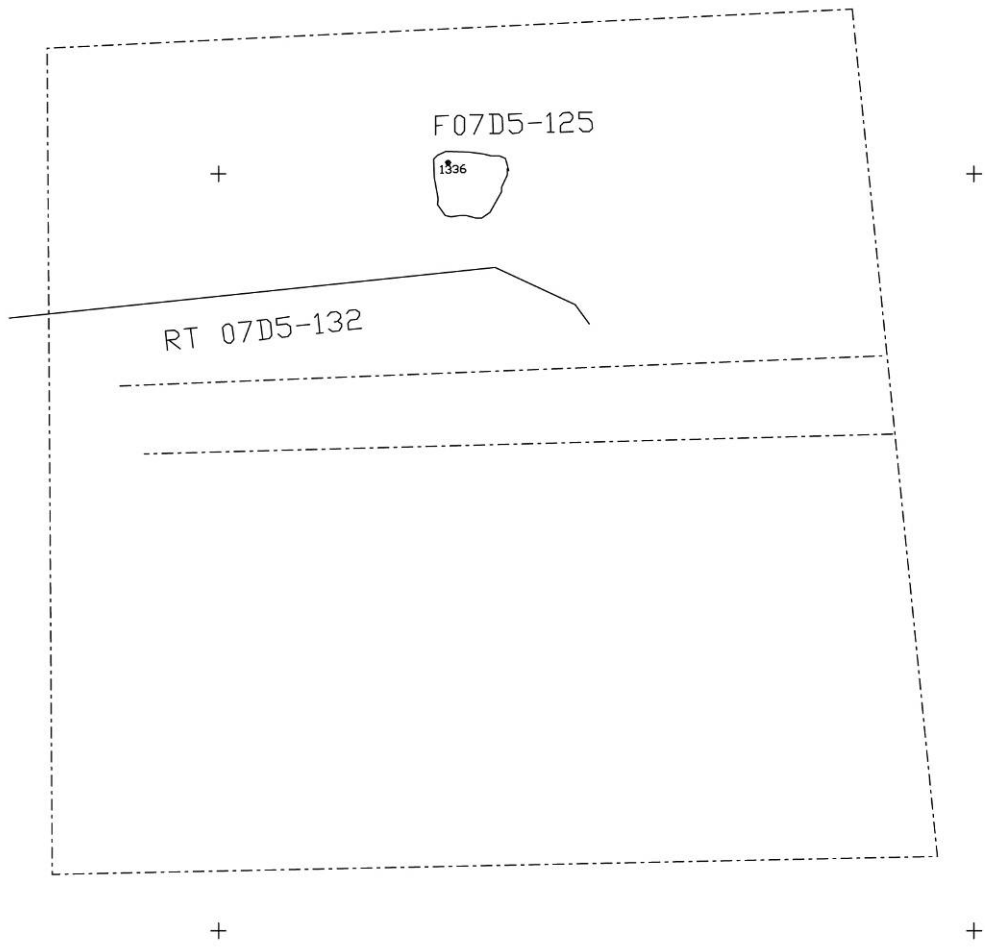
The main feature of this stage is an east-west robber trench, RT 07D5-132. The southern side of the robber trench is in the baulk running E-W in the middle of the square. It was found at the end of the season and it's relations are unclear at the moment.

F07D5-125 is a small kurkar floor patch that was found below one of the dog burials

AU

AT

11



Area D5 - 2007
Phase 7a

Figure 26 Phase 7 – Separation

Area D5 – The Middle Part (EFI)

The 2007 excavation in area "D5 lower" revealed four different phases. The earliest one, Phase 12, is a new addition for the stratigraphic scheme from last season, and is only partly excavated. The only features that belong to this level are the top of two mud-bricks walls and a mud-bricks collapse that were found below the walls and floor of the burnt "Iron I House" (cf. 2006 end of season report).



Figure 27 Overview of the area, looking south. (Processed from P07D5-9071)

Phase 11 (previously phase D1/8), relates to the Iron I house that was destroyed by fire. This structure was fully exposed this season. Most of its walls were robbed and the structure itself can be reconstructed mostly by its robber trenches. Some more complete vessels in a primary deposition were found this season, as well as large amount of fallen mud-brick and large pieces of burnt wood. Beside the large storage containers, this house was found almost empty of small finds or other types of vessels (e.g. bowls, cooking pots etc).

The walls of this structure were robbed soon after the destruction. At least one of its robber trenches was backfilled with the destruction debris, and the ruins were covered by series of white phytolith surfaces. These surfaces seem to indicate that this area was left as an open area during this phase (*Phase 10*). The removal of the lowest of these surfaces had proved that all of these

surfaces accumulated dug trenches. It seems mostly probable that these trenches were not dug intentionally for as part of an installation of some kind, and that the reason for the uneven “U” and “bath-tub” profile of these surfaces lies in the orientation of the Iron I houses’ robber trenches in which they accumulated.

The fourth phase, *D5/9* (previously phase *D1/7*), relates to the construction and use of the Iron Age II courtyard house. Except for the southernmost part of the area the walls of this structure are already floating. The upper courses of the southern wall of this structure, *W05D1-548a + b*, seen to be floating, were removed. This revealed a lower, third stage to the wall, built of particularly large ashlar. This stage is also part of the same courtyard house as it abutted the east wall of the house, *W10817*. Therefore the courtyard house had at least three different stages. The massive ashlar south wall may have served as a city-wall, as it is right above the kurkar ledge that drops into the bay..

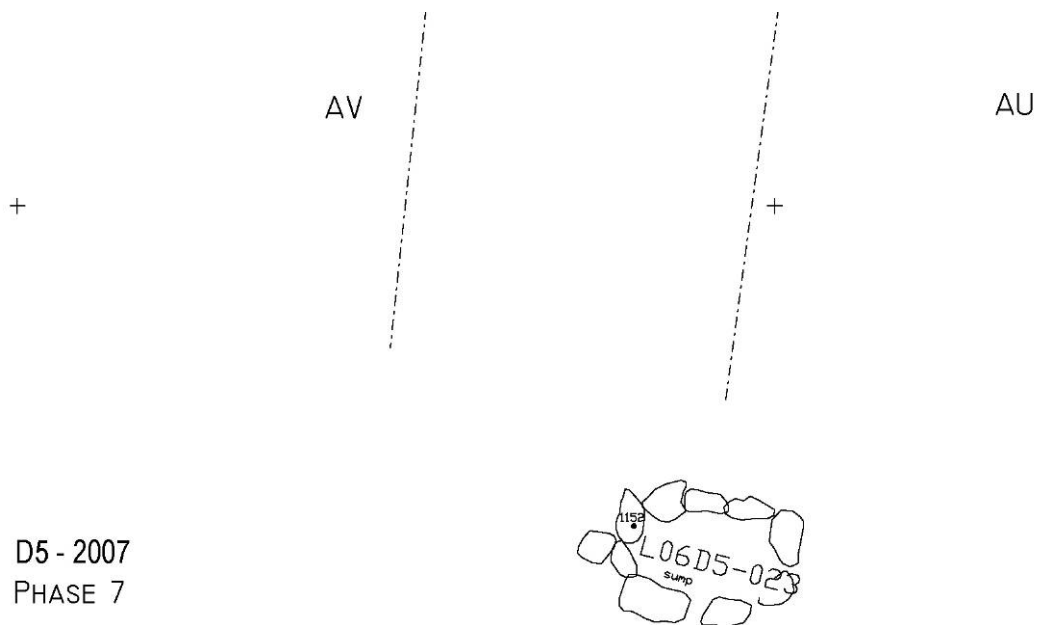
A round Installation, a pit or a sump of some kind, found last season at the south-eastern corner of the area, was completely removed. Judging by its elevation only, this feature seems to be part of phase *D5/7* (previously *D1/6*).

Stratigraphic Scheme and Phase Descriptions

This unit is characterized by seven stages. The general stratigraphic sequence is as

(i) *W06D5-023, L07D5-107*, > (ii) *W05D1-548a* > (iii) *W05D1-548b, F07D5-108* > (iv) *W05D1-548c, L07D5-220* > (v) *L07D5-200, L07D5-210*, > (vi) *W05D1-537, W07D5-230, F06D5-053, F07D5-205, R.T 07D5-213, R.T 07D5-215, R.T 07D5-217, R.T 07D5-225, R.T 07D5-231, R.T 07D5-234, Installation 07D5-216, W?06D5-031, W?07D5-212* > (vii) *W07D5-218, W07D5-228, W07D5-233, L07D5-232*.

Phase 7



8

Figure 28 Phase 7 – Separation

The only feature that seems to belong to this phase is a circular stone-built installation (L06D5-023), dug into the ground. This installation was found in 2006 while cleaning the baulk in the southeast corner of the area (AV/8). The eastern part of this installation is still in the baulk, but its western half was completely dug down to its stone paved bottom (Figure 29). By its elevations, this installation seems to be part of phase D5/7 but this to be clarified in the next seasons, while excavating AU/8.



Figure 29 (p07D5-9003) Instalation 06D5-023

Phase 8

Not excavated.

Phase 9



PHASE 9

Figure 30 Phase 9 – Separation

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). In most of the area, the excavation went below the levels of the Iron II houses' walls (see description in the 2006 report). The only addition relates to the southern wall of the courtyard, W07D5-548.

Already in 2006 it was obvious that this wall has more than one stage. W05D1-548a, which constructed of fieldstones and W05D1-548b, constructed of fieldstones and ashlar headers. W05D1-548a continues farther east than W05D1-548b and therefore it is obvious that these two courses represent two different stages (Figure 31).



Figure 31 (p06D5-9538) W06D1-548 phases a and b

F07D5-108 was found below the easternmost stones of W05D1-548a (elev. 12.06/11.99 - 11.75/11.70), reaching W05D1-548b (11.75/11.70 - 11.42/11.34).

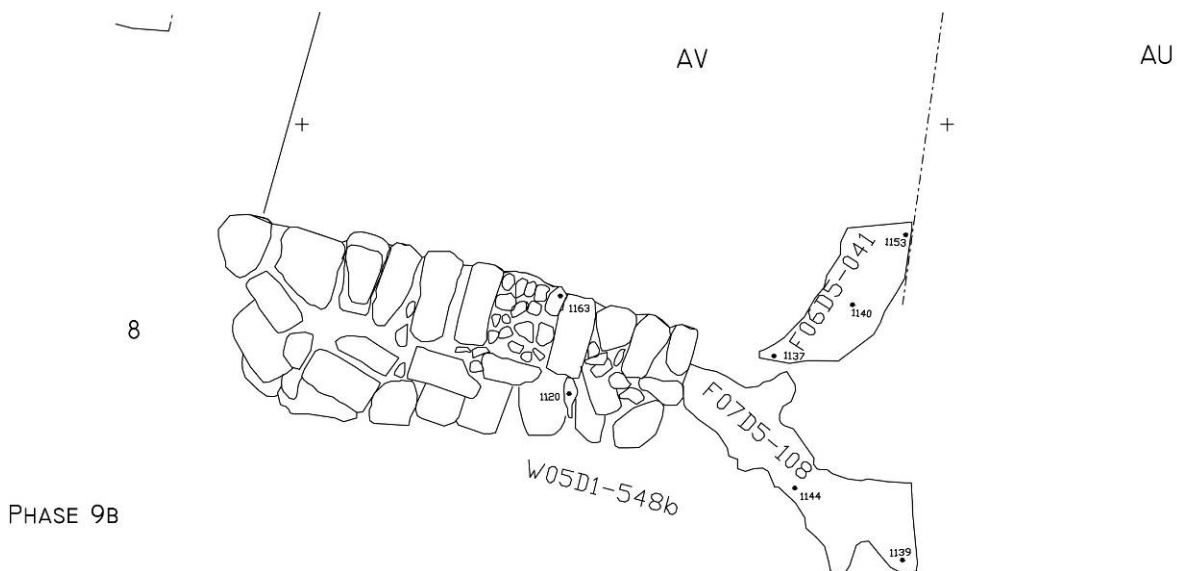


Figure 32 Phase 9 – W05D1548b

Unlike what we thought last season, it is now obvious that W05D1-548 was not floating. Further excavation revealed that it was built over another wall, W05D1-548c, projecting from it to the north in about 30cm. W05D1-548c, (top elev. 11.42/11.34 bottom not yet reached), as stages b and a above it, also abuts W10817 to the west. W07D5-548c is constructed of big ashlar, (c. 1.0 x 0.5 x 0.3 m.) some laid as headers and some as stretchers.. The construction-pattern may be “headers against a stretcher” (with stretchers on alternating sides) or ‘interlocking squares’. If this is the case than the wall is missing its outer (southern) face – which may well have been robbed or eroded out as rubble covering this wall was visible on the slope of the tell prior to excavation. Small fieldstones were found on top of the ashlar, probably a leveling course for the upper phases (Figure 33).



Figure 33 (p06D5-9538) W06D1-548 phases b and c

John Berg pointed out the similarity of construction and use of smaller "leveling stones" between courses in the inset-offset wall in Area C, W4898, and W05D1-548c (A & C report, page 144, photo 5.119).

Phase 10:

The main features of this stage are the sloping phytolith surfaces. Most of them were excavated in 2006, and found that they cut by the foundation trench of the phase 9 walls. Only the lowermost surfaces in AV/9 were left at the end of 2006 and removed this season (L07D5-210 – floor make-up of F06D5-001 and L07D5-200 floor make-up of 06D5-067).



Figure 34 (p07D5-9056) phytolith accumulation in the eastern baulk of AV/9

The removal of these floors reveals two robber trenches: R.T 07D5-231 below 07D5-200 and R.T 07D5-234 below L07D5-200. Another R.T (07D5-225) was found to the south of F06D5-036, continuing its direction. Exposing these robber trenches has strengthened the hypothesis that the phytolith surfaces represent an accumulation (of dung?) in an open area, and that their uneven profile was not intentional but formed by topography of the surface after the destruction and robbing of the phase 11 structures (see below) (Figure 34).

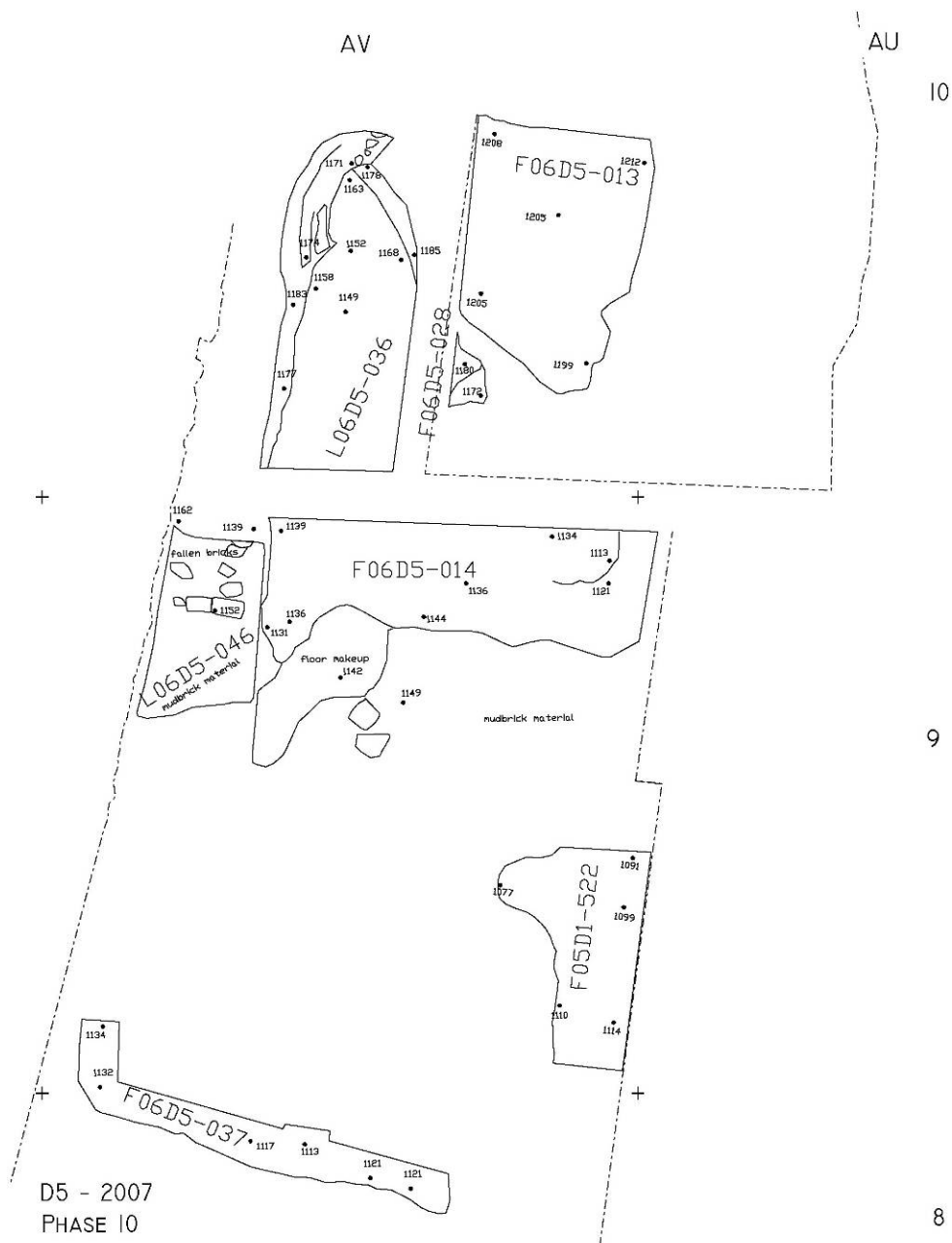


Figure 35 Phase 10 – Separation

During baulk removal in AV/9 a small seal was found in the higher most surface, the southern continuation of F10907.

The pottery that comes from these floors is most probably dated to the Ir1|2 transition or possibly to Ir2a.

Special find: A seal (Basket 07D5-1881). Found in the eastern baulk of AV/9, at the southern continuation of Phytolits surface L10907.

All remains of this destruction at the northern side were already removed last season and all that was left this season were few small sections at the southern part. At the southern side of the area, this destruction includes the remains of the large “wavy band” pithos found there last year.

The floor on which this pithos was found (F06D5-053) was fully exposed (Figure 37). The floor reaches W05D1-537 to the east, and cut by three robber trenches, 07D5-213, 07D5-217 and 07D5-215, from the south, the west and the north respectively. A small quarter-circle installation (L07D5-216) was found in the north-eastern corner of this floor, reaches W05D1-537 to the east and cut by R.T 07D5-215 from the north. The wall of this installation was constructed of field stones and mud bricks.



Figure 37 F06D5-053 and installation L07D5-216

W07D5-230 is a small remnant of an east-west stonewall that was found at the bottom part of R.T 07D5-215, probably the remains of the robbed wall that was here, probably reaching W07D5-537.

No floor was found to the east of W05D1-537, but a complete jar was found there (L07D5-209), lying in a layer of ash and burnt wood.



Figure 38 (p07D5-9009) Burnt bricks and a collapsed collared-rim pithos of floor F07D5-205

Destruction remains were also found to the north of W07D5-537, where two collared rim jars were found, lying on F07D5-205 (Figure 38). A handful of lentils were found in the bottom of one of this jars. A decorated hemispheric bowl and two grinding stones were also found on this floor.

Two segments of mudbrick wall were found at the eastern baulk (L06D5-031 and L07D5-212). These were found above the destruction floor, covered by the destruction debris, showing that at

least some of the structures' walls were of mudbrick and not of stones. This, again, is a well-known phenomenon at Dor (e.g. the area G house).

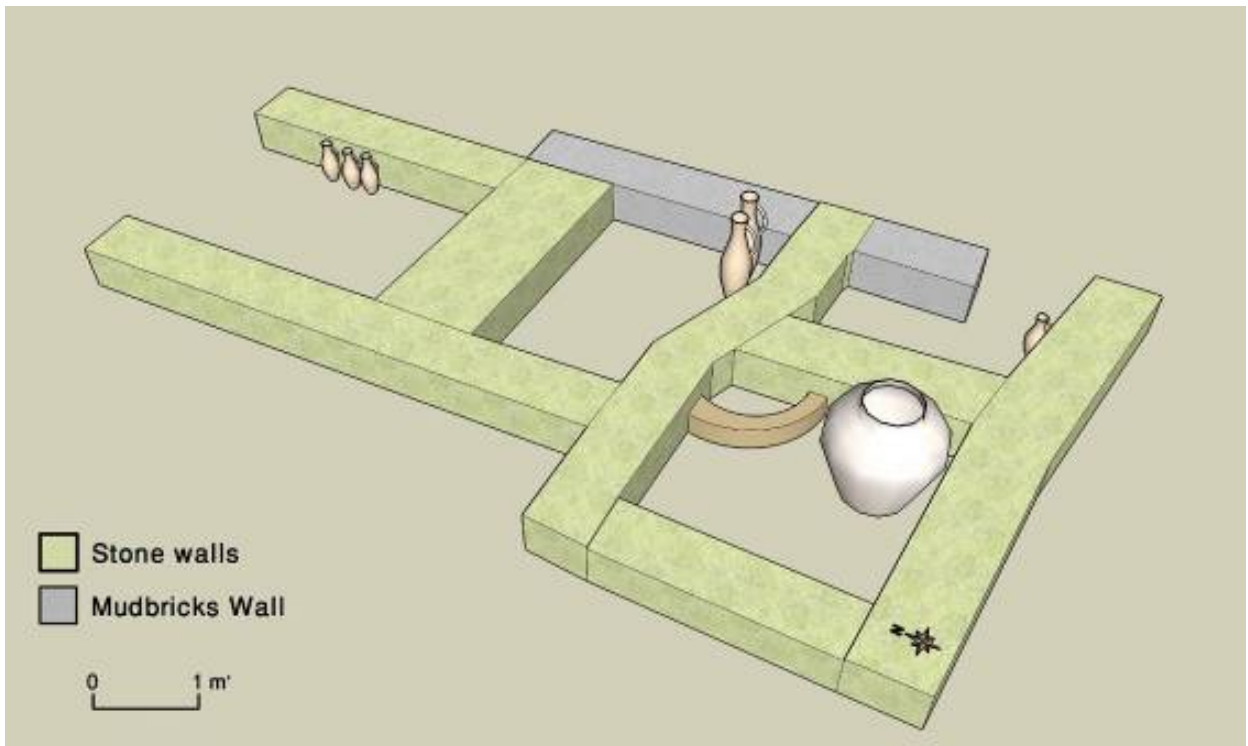


Figure 39 A reconstruction of the burnt house.

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

Key Loci: L07D5-205 – Destruction in the middle part; L07D5-209 – Destruction in the southern part, west of W05D1-537; L07D5-206 - Destruction in the southern part, above F06D5-053

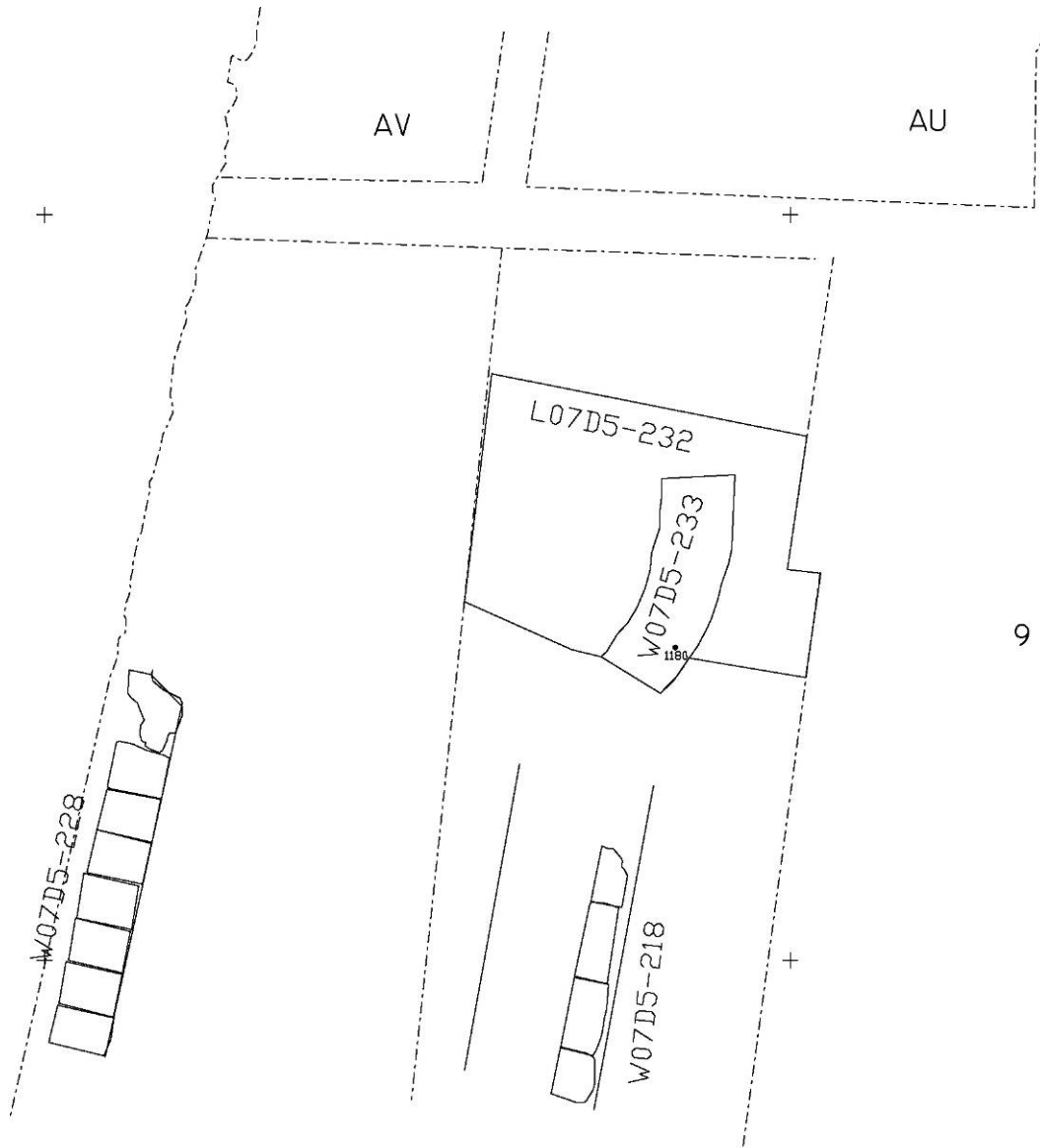
Special find: Complete Vessels – Two collared rim jars (Basket 07D5-1087 and 07D5-1561) and decorated hemispheric bowl (Basket 07D5-1432) from the middle part of the destruction layer L07D5-205.

Complete jar (Basket 07D5-1314) from the southern part of the destruction layer, west of W05D1-537, L07D5-209.

Lentils from collard rim jar (Basket 07D5-2129, L06D5-053)

Phase 12

This phase includes the top of two mud-bricks walls and a mud-bricks collapse that were found below the walls of phase 11.



D5 - 2007
PHASE 12

9

8

Figure 40 Phase 12 – Separation

W07D5-218 is a S-N mudbrick wall that was found below W05D1-537. This wall is cut from the south by R.T 07D5-213 and from the north by R.T 07D5-234. W07D5-233 is another mud-brick

wall that was found just to the north of R.T 07D5-234. This wall is in the same direction as W07D5-218 but is narrower than it and has a somewhat circular outline. The relations between the two should be clarified next season.

W07D5-208 is another mudbrick wall (2.4 x 0.5 m.) running SE-NW at the western side of the area, below RT07D5-217. The wall seems to reach the phase 11 wall, W07D5-230, and therefore could have been considered as phase 11 (i.e. the ghost wall in RT07D5-217), but due to its similarity to W07D5-218 and the unlikelihood of the robbing of mud-bricks, it was considered phase 12.



Figure 41 Unit AV/9 at the end of excavation

A collapse of mud bricks (L07D5-232) was found below F07D5-205, to the north of R.T 07D5-234, cut by it from the north. This collapse also cut by R.T 07D5-255 from the east and by R.T 07D5-231 from the north.

Key Loci: L07D5-229 – sealed fill under F07D5-053; L07D5-219 – fill below destruction L07D5-209