

## Dor End of Season 2008 Area D5 Supervisor's Report

### Preliminary Information / Credits

Area D5 was excavated in 1/7/08 – 29/07/08. In order to keep the division in which we start in 2006 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 /9-10 and the eastern half of AU/10 was excavated by Hagar Ben Basat (AT-AU/10 - Initials HBB) and Yiftah Shalev (AT/10 - Initials EFI).

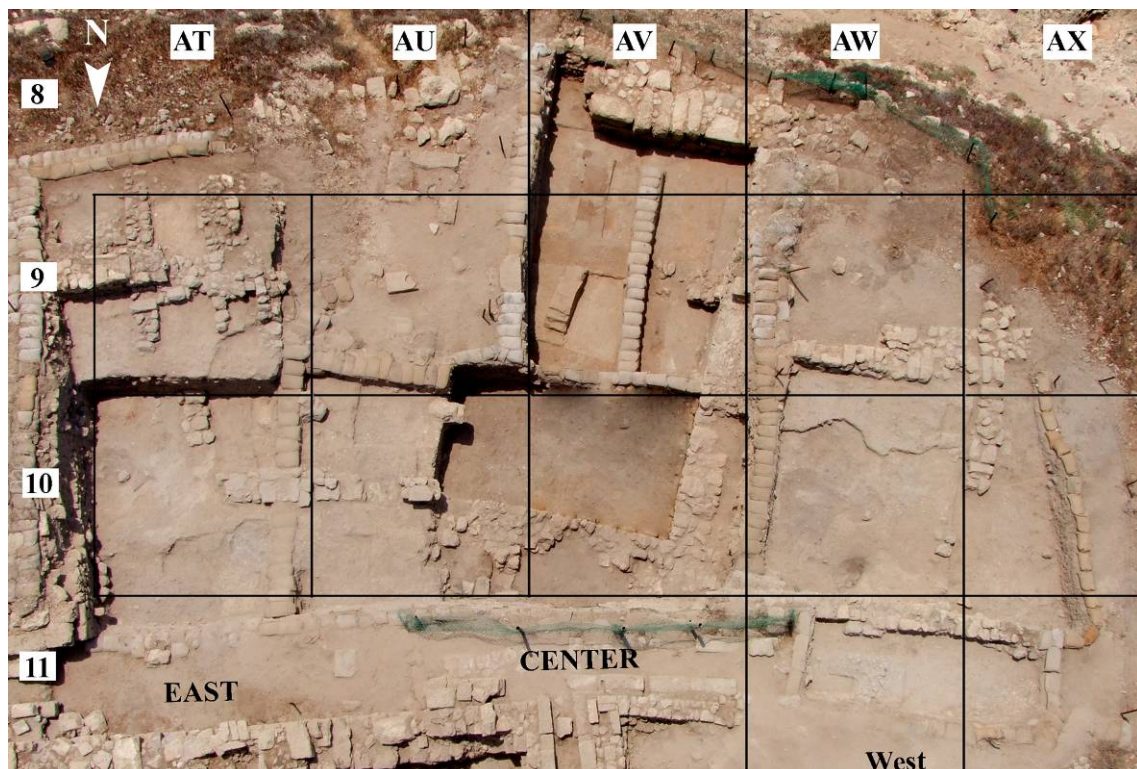


Figure 1: Area D5, Looking south (p08D5-9029)

The recorder was Bronwen Manning

Photographs were taken by Annalisa Ferrari and field drawing was done by Svetlana Maskevich.

*Basket bank:* 08D5-5001 – 07D5-7380

*Locus bank:* **EFI** : L08D5-600 – L07D5-635

**HBB** and **EFI**; L08D5-700- L07D5-790

**TAG** : L07D5-500– L07D5-545

*Image bank:*

Top Plans : **All Areas:** d08D5-5000 – d08D5-5062

Sketches and Gen : **EFI** : d08D5-6000 – d08D5-6130

**HBB** and **Efi**: d08D5-7000 – d08D5-7057

**TAG** : d08D5-5500– d08D5-5547

Photos : **EFI** : p08D5-9000– p08D5-9030

**HBB** and **Efi**: p08D5-9700 – p08D5-9719

**TAG** : p08D5-9500 – p08D5-9546

## Overview

The excavation this season included all the squares opened last year, as part of a long-term excavation and conservation policy, according to which the southern side of the tell will be dug gradually, from the crusader moat to Garstangs' trench, making an 'amphitheatre-like' design, open toward the south.

The excavation in the **western part** (TAG) concentrated in the upper terraces, mainly AW-AX/10. The lower unit (AW/09) was not opened and the upper unit, AW/11 was excavated briefly. The objective was to isolate 'clean' Persian and Late Iron Age contexts and establish the 7-6 century BCE sequence in the area. Although spatial exposure was limited, remains covered features from Roman to Late Iron Age.

The excavation in the **middle part** (EFI) focused on the lower and deeper area in an attempt to reveal remains of occupation phase earlier to the destruction layer that was excavated there last season.

As in last season the main objective of the excavation in the **Eastern part** of D5 (HBB and EFI) were to establish a better understanding of the Persian period remains together with leveling of the area in order to enlarge the exposure of the Iron Age. 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 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 discussed separately.

The stratigraphic scheme of the area remains more or less as it was in the last three seasons Prior to 2005 the area was considered part of area D1 and its stratigraphic scheme was connected to the latter's. There is one change however. It is now clear that the 'big white floors' covers W5548 and not cut by it, as previously thought. This necessitates a switch between phase 7 and phase 8 of the new scheme. The big stone in the western baulk of AV/09, that seems to cut these floors, is not part of W5548, and probably sits in a pit that can be noticed in the section.

#	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	=D1/4
Phase 5	Degraded walls in the eastern area and robber trenches on the west area	Hellenistic?	Not attested in D1
Phase 6	Wall in eastern area + in balks of middle area ; lower walls in western part?; Persian pits? ; Dogs burials?	Persian?	=D1/5 (pits)
Phase 7	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?	=D1/5 (floors)
Phase 8	Massive ashlar walls in AU-AV/9	Late IrA	= phase 6 in "lower D1"
Phase 9	'Courtyard building'	Ir2a?	Previously phase 7/"lower D1"
Phase 10	Phytolith surfaces; cut by 'courtyard building'	Ir1 2	
Phase 11	Burnt layer; pithos; etc.	Ir1a <i>late</i> ?	
Phase 12	Mud-bricks walls	Ir1a <i>early</i> ?	

## Area D5 – The western Part (TAG)

During 2008 field season, only upper and middle of the three terraces in D5 west were excavated:

*The upper terrace-* AW-AX/11- was opened to a limited extent. This terrace is located in north of the façade wall (W06D5-250) and comprises of superimposed street levels. During this season we continue excavating the foundations of the drain system of phase 2 (Roman) and Hellenistic fills within the street.

*The middle terrace-* AW-AX/10 – excavation during the season concentrated in this unit. Remains were found from mainly three periods (Late Iron Age, Persian and Hellenistic) and could be roughly divided spatially by the end of the season (Figure 2): The Hellenistic pit sequence in the east-center part of the unit, disturbed Iron Age and Persian fills. However, this disturbance, known in this unit since 2006 (see 2006, 2007 end of season reports), has narrowed down. Persian period floors and fills continue appearing in the north and north-west portion of the area. An extension to the north of the phase 6 wall W06D5-237 was found (W08D5-525), adding some substance to the (still) poorly preserved Persian architecture in the area. Along the south part of the unit Late Iron Age floors were found with extensive murex shell foundation below them. These are clearly cut by the Persian period construction.

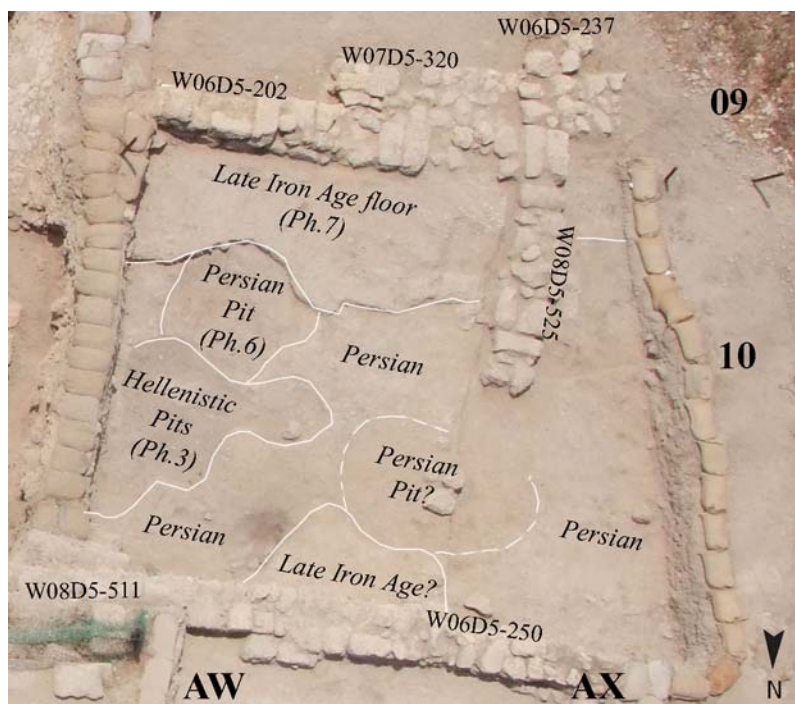


Figure 2: D5 west, aerial photo with main excavated features (p08D5-9029)

Features were attributed to Roman to Late Iron Age phases as follow:

<i>#</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Features</i>
Phases 1	Roman	W08D5-511
Phases 2	Roman	F08D5-532, F08D5-535.
Phase 3	Late Hellenistic	W08D5-501, F08D5-500. Pits: 08D5-510, 08D5-516, 08D5-528, 08D5-505, 08D5-502 ,08D5-523.
Phase 4	Hellenistic	W06D5-250, Pit?08D5-518
Phase 5		
Phase 6	Persian	W08D5-525 (=W07D5-237). F08D5-510, F08D5-508, Pit 08D5-519, F08D5-515. Foundation trenches 08D5-530, 08D5-541,
Phase 7 <sup>1</sup>	Late IrA	F08D5-520, F08D5-533

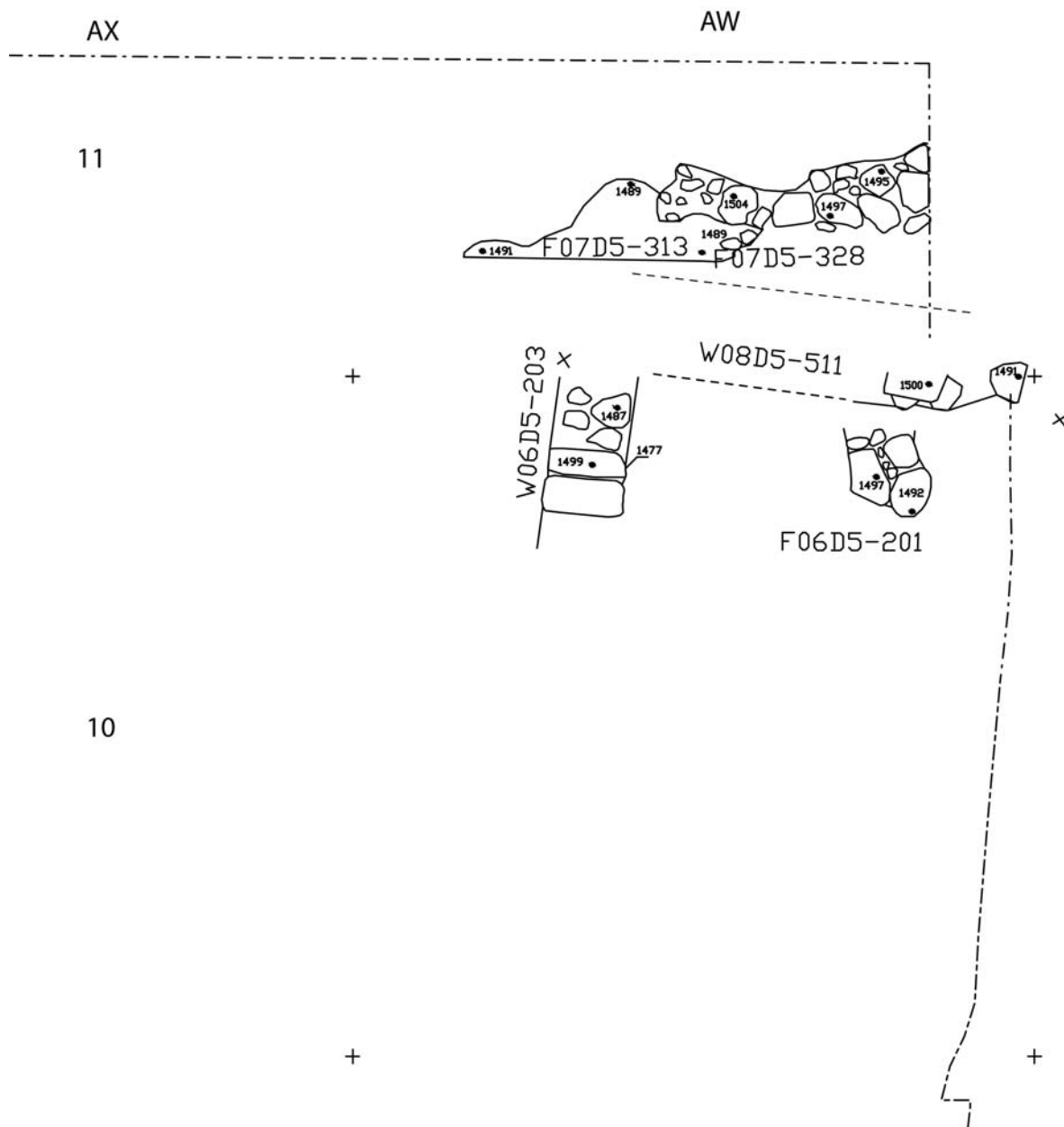
### *Stratigraphic Scheme and Phase Descriptions*

#### Phase 1 (Figure 3)

W08D5-511 (15.00-14.91) is the only feature attributed to this phase this season. Only the south face of this east-west wall was uncovered and its north face is still below unexcavated area of AW/11. The wall is composed of five field stones. It comprises the uppermost street façade (W06D5-250a) in its eastern edge, adjacent to AV/10. It was not named W06D5-250, however, since a fair amount of compact soil was found between the two walls W08D5-511 cut W08D5-501 and F08D5-500 of phase 3 to its south.

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<sup>1</sup> This phase was divided into two sub-phases in 2007 end of season report.



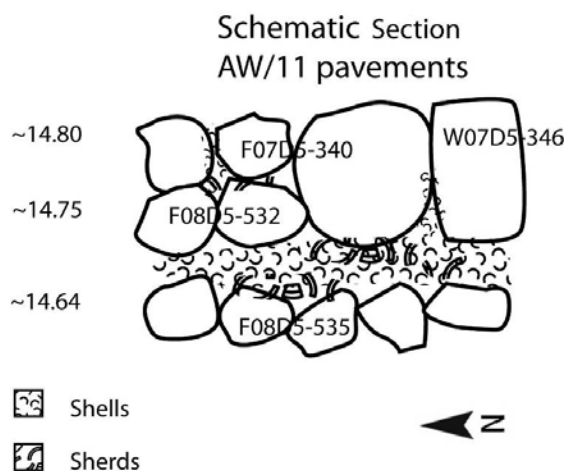
Area D5 (west) - 2008  
Phase 1

**Figure 3: Area D5 (West). Phase 1 (p08A-0145)**

Phase 2

Two successive paved floors (F08D5-532: 14.75-14.60 and F08D5-535: 14.64-14.50) were found in the north-east part of unit AW/11. The floors were directly below another paved floor and a wall, excavated during 2007 field season (F07D5-340 and W07D5-346; see 2007 end of season report). The floors were composed of small field stones (about 10 cm) and had very hard compact soil mixed with gravel and shell between and below them. Elevations and construction method testify that all these features (W07D5-346, F07D5-340, F08D5-532, and F08D5-535) are part of the foundation for the street drain (Figure 4). The possibility that these are parts of street pavements seems less likely to the excavator but cannot be excluded.





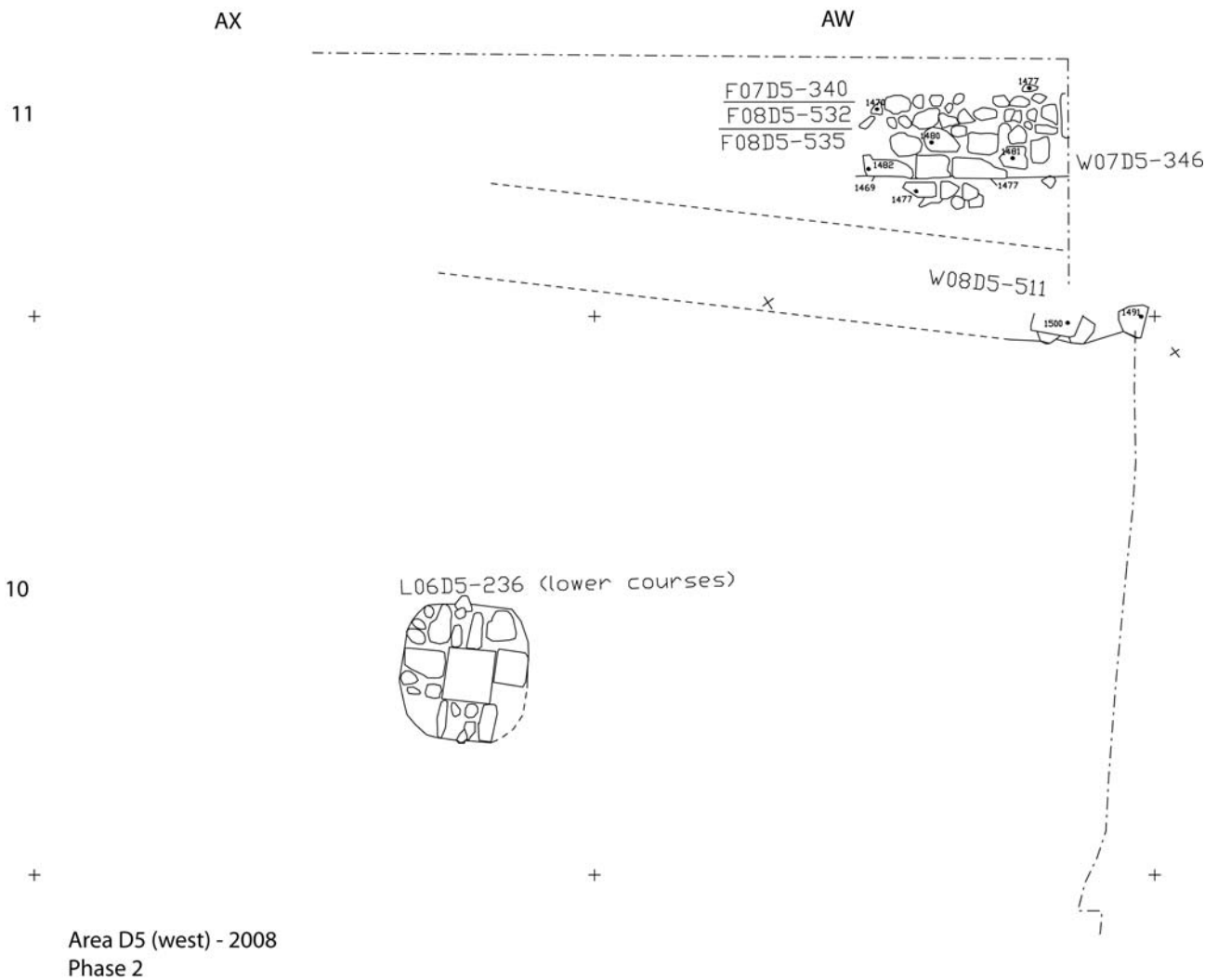
**Figure 4: Area D5 west. Schematic section of the succession of drain floors / street pavements in unit AW/11 (d08D5-5546)**

During this season sump 06D5-236 was fully excavated and removed. Its lower stage was constructed carefully with ashlar, making a square central recess. On the north and south sides ashlar headers were ordered nicely but on the east and west they were laid more randomly. One of the stones of the sump was covered with plaster, implying secondary use of building stones. The only stratigraphic relation of the sump is that it is later than the phase 6 W08D5-525 found below it (Figure 5). No Roman or Late Hellenistic material was found in, below or around the sump. Its attribution to this phase is based on similarity to other sumps found on site.



**Figure 5: Area D5 west. The sump in unit AW/11 (p08D5-9521)**





**Figure 6: Area D5 (west). Phase 2 (p08A-0146)**

### Phase 3

During baulk removal between AW/10 and AV/09 a wall and a floor were discovered in the north part of the baulk. W08D5-501 (# 14.86-14.67/14.58-14.53) is a north-south wall with two courses, composed of two faces of medium sized field stones (about 20 cm each). F08D5-500 (14.75-1.57) is a thin kurkar floor, sloping to the south. F08D5-500 reaches W08D5-501 from the west and both are cut by W08D5-511 on the north and by the Hellenistic pit sequence on the south (pit 08D5-502, see below). However, F08D5-500 cover kurkar pit 07D5-318, excavated during 2007 field season. Below the wall and the floor Late Hellenistic material was found, safely situating them within phase 3.

W06D5-250a (the south street façade: upper elev. 14.96-14.65) correlates to phase 3. This stage of the wall is located in the east part of the wall and its upper course covers the entire extent of the wall with no direct connection to phase b. This phase of the wall is composed of three courses. The lower course is constructed of thin fieldstone headers lying diagonally. Above it, two courses of medium size field stones and ashlar are constructed. There is no direct connection to W08D5-501 but the

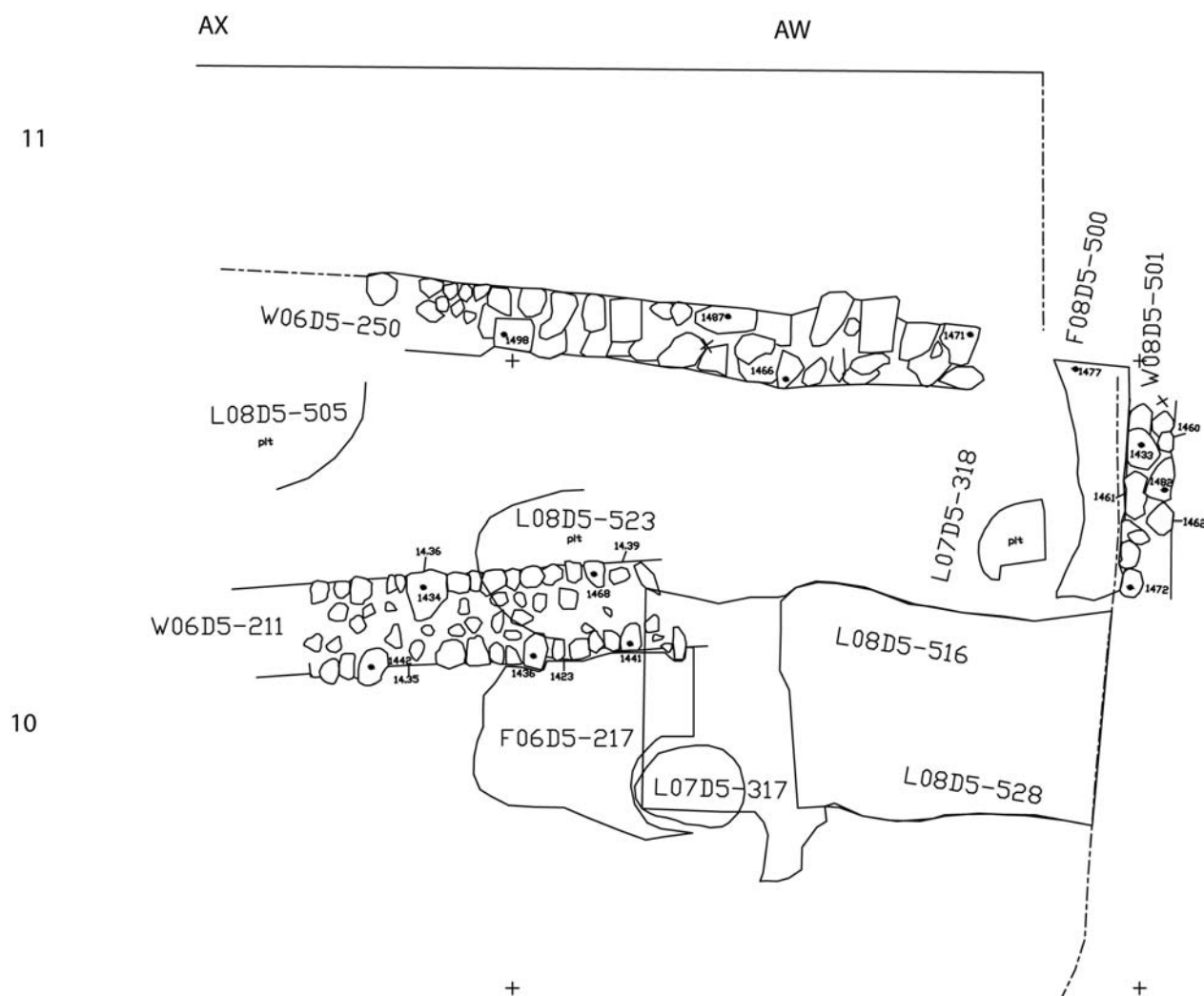
two have comparable elevations (Figure 7). No features relate to this wall but its elevations correlate to phase 3 W06D5-211 (see 2006 end of season report).



**Figure 7: Area D5 west. W06D5-250 in AW/11, looking north (p08D5-9545)**

In the east-center of AW/10 the Hellenistic pit sequence was excavated. It is known in the area from 2006 and 2007 and disturbed most earlier features in this unit. During this season the spatial extension of the pits became narrower, implying their (hopefully) close ending. Pit 08D5-502 was opened in baulk removal between AW/10 and AV/09, it cut W08D5-501 and F08D5-500 on the south and F07D5-324 on the north. In the east-center part of the unit three pits were found, with unclear border between them. These were excavated together, and where separation was possible, material was divided to east-center-west. The upper part of the pits was excavated as L08D5-510 pit area. This pit cut F08D5-510, found to its north. Below pit 08D5-510 pit 08D5-516 was defined, both are part of the same disturbance. It cut F08D5-515 and pit?08D5-518 to the north (Figure 11). To the south pit 08D5-516 cut pit 08D5-519. The west pit in L08D5-516 is located not far from pit 07D5-317 (excavated during 2007) and can be part of it. Large amount of stones and large pottery fragments were found in it, some mended in the field. This part of the pit was sent to restoration. When the bottom of the west pit was found, the remaining pits were excavated as 08D5-528. Pit 08D5-528 was excavated briefly, continue cutting pit 08D5-519 to the south and pit? 08D5-518 to the north.

In AX/11 additional two Hellenistic pits were found (08D5-505 and 08D5-523). The two pits can be attributed to phase 3 or phase 4. They are considered as part of phase 3 since many pits are found in the area during this phase. However their relations to other features and the material found within them do not necessarily favor this option. Pit 08D5-523 was poorly defined but judging from the Hellenistic material found within it was considered as a pit. L08D5-523 is located in the center-east part of unit AX/10 and does not have any relation to other features. The pit ended by the end of the season. Pit 08D5-505 is located at the north-west end of the excavated area. This pit cut F08D5-508 from the west. Two successive layers of snails were found in the pit- according to archaeozoologist Dr. Guy Bar-Oz it is uncertain if they are recent or not.



**Figure 8: Area D5 (West). Phase 3 (p08A-0147)**

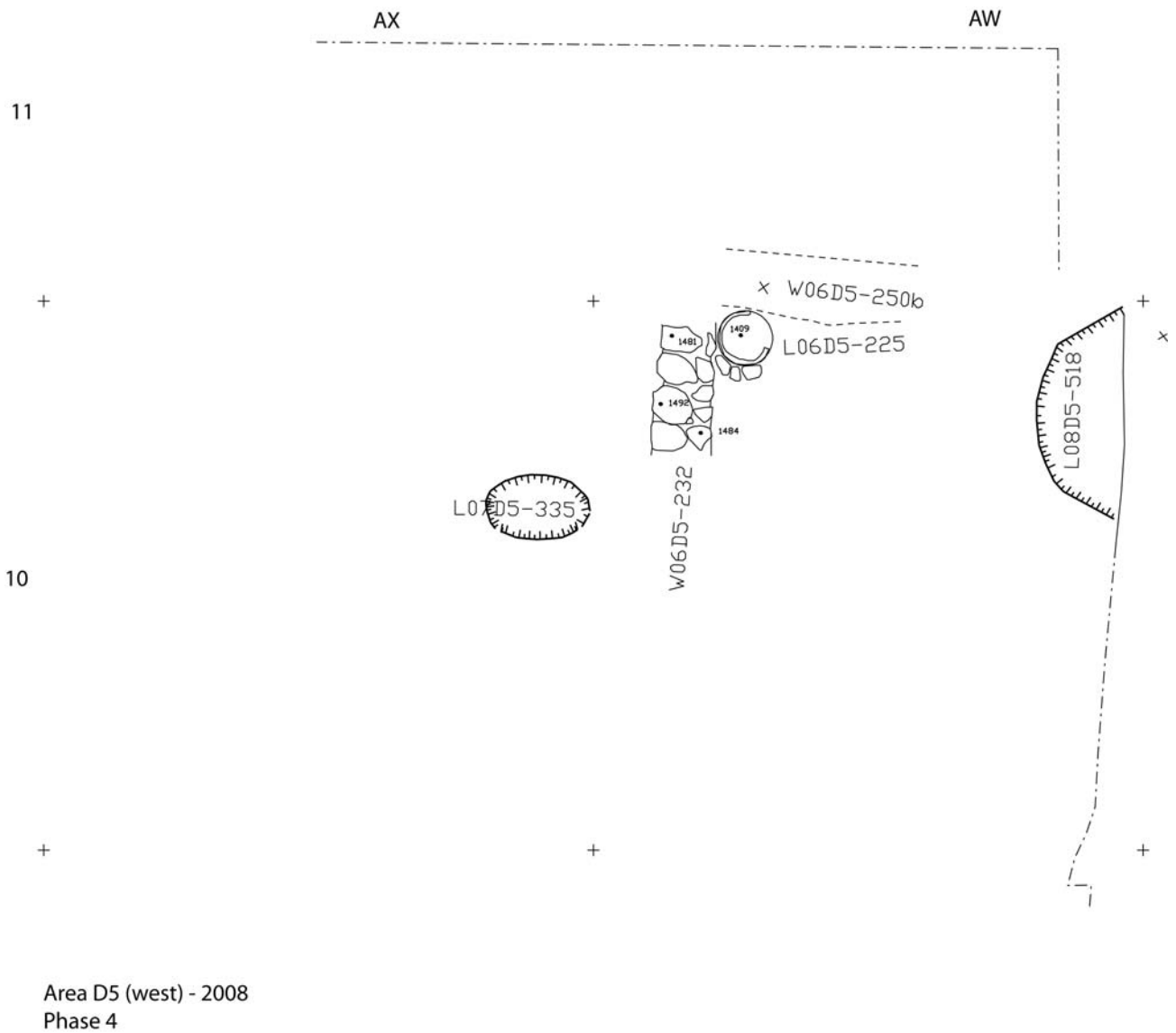
Phase 4 (Figure 9)

During this phase W06D5-250b, the south wall of the street façade was constructed, along the border between AW/10 and AW/11 (Figure 7). W06D5-250b is located in the lower west side of and is contemporary to W06D5-232 (see 2006 end of season report).

**In the north-east part of the unit L08D5-518 was found. This is poorly defined pit?, disturbing phase 5 (installation 07D5-341) and phase 6 (F08D5-510) features to its west and north. It looks similar to the pit sequence to its south but can be observed as different on the section (**



Figure 9).



**Figure 9: Area D5 (West). Phase 4 (p08A-0148)**

Phase 5:

During this season installation 07D5-341 was excavated and removed. This installation is composed of two courses of field stones, aligned in half a circle. It is cut by pit?08D5-518 from the east. Its relation to F08D5-515 is not clear (see below). The installation is cut by the Hellenistic pit sequence (pit 08D5-516) from the south.

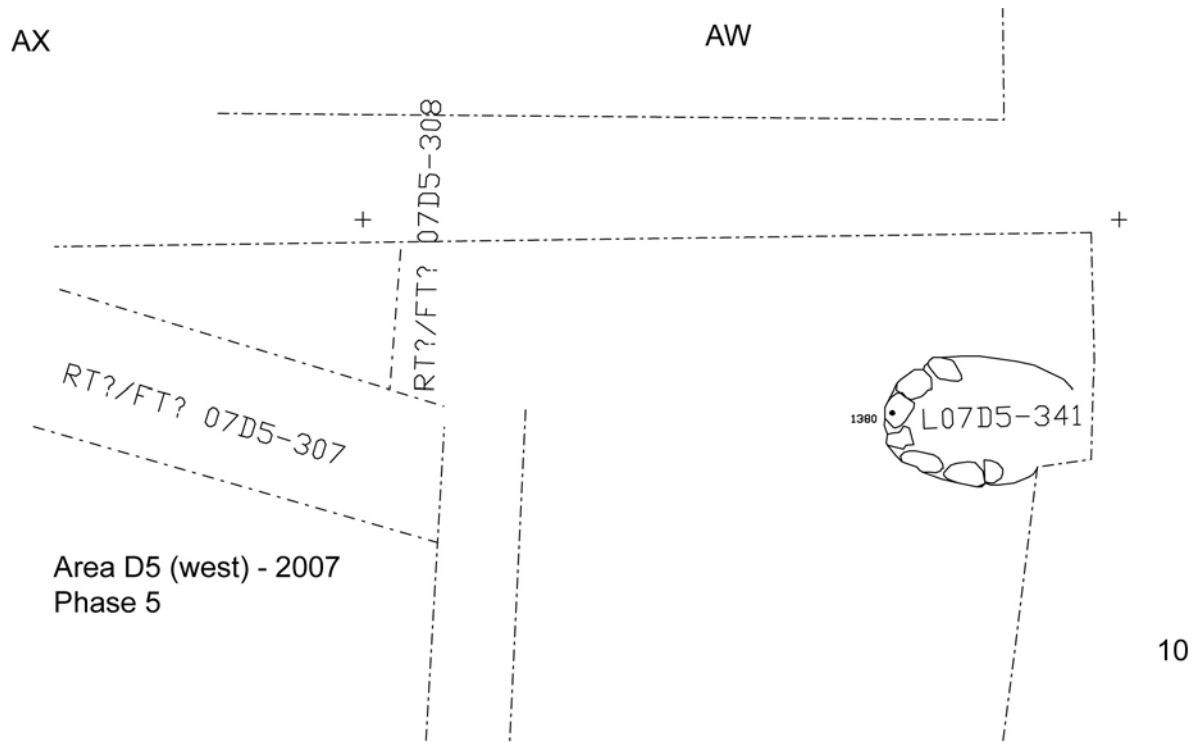


Figure 10: Area D5 (West). Phase 5 (p08A-0149)

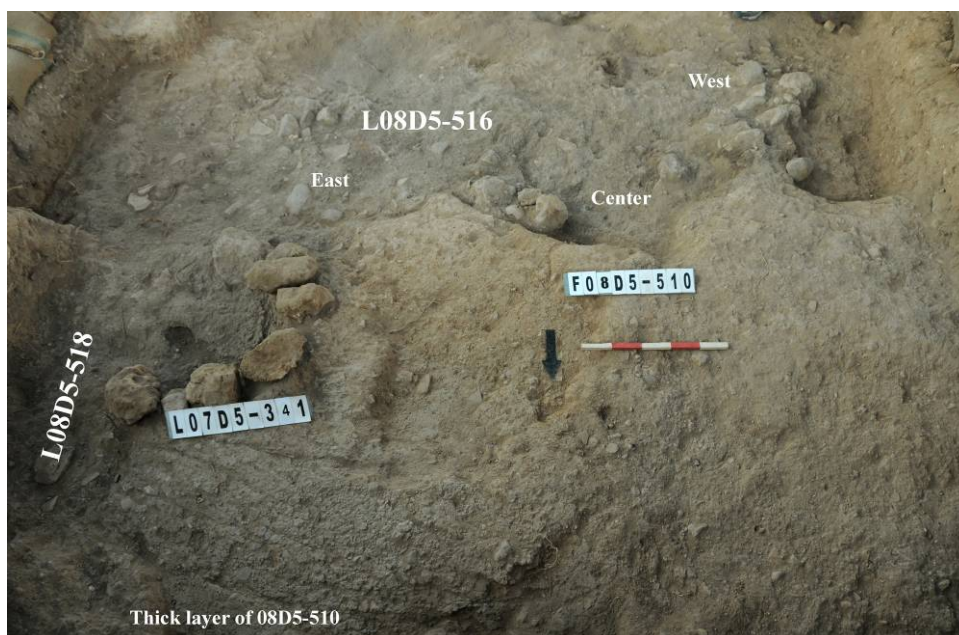


Figure 11: Area D5 west. Unit AW/11, looking south (p08D5-9509)

Phase 6 (Figure 12)

W08D5-525 (13.34-13.25) was found directly below sump 06D5-236 (Figure 5). This north-south wall is the continuation of W06D5-237 (Figure 2) and dovetails with W06D5-202. It is very similar



to W06D5-202 in its ashlar pier construction method: two large ashlar headers and filed stones between them. The north part of the wall jugs slightly to the west. The foundation trench of this wall (L08D5-541) cuts F08D5-540. The foundation trench of W06D5-202 (L08D5-530) was defined this season and cuts F08D5-533 and F08D5-517 to its north. These floors thus belong to phase 6 (see below).

In the north part of unit AX/10, during baulk trimming, F08D5-508 was found (#13.83-13.80). The thick kurkar floor is cut by pit 08D5-505 on the west. This floor is the continuation of F07D5-329 found in the area during 2007 season (see 2007 end of season report).

**In the north part of unit AW/10 two successive floors were found, different from other phase 6 floor in the area. The upper floor, F08D5-510 (#13.75-13.65;**

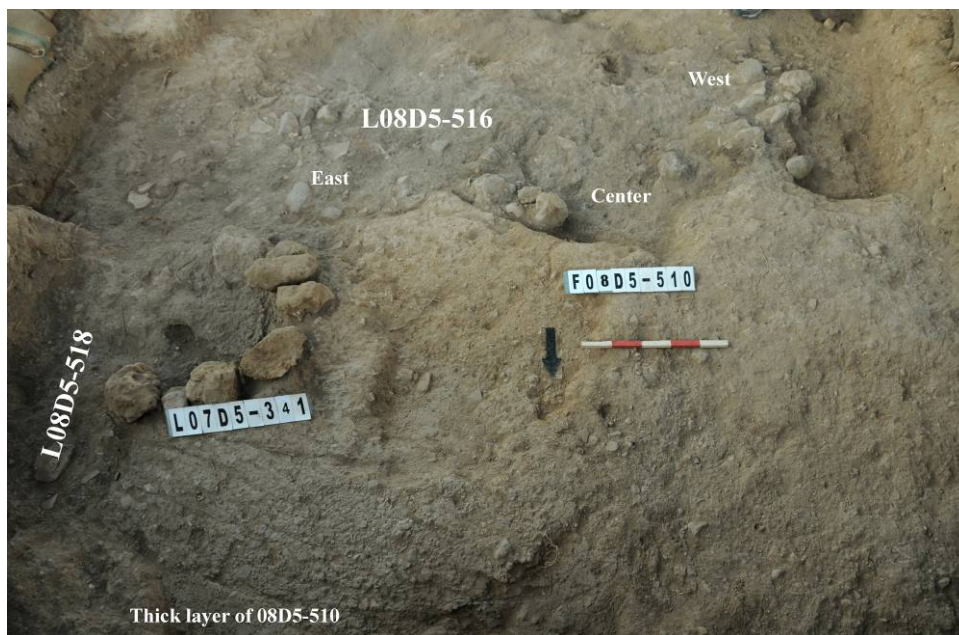


Figure ), is made of fine gravel and compact soil and was preserved poorly in most parts except in its north area. It is cut by the Hellenistic pit sequence on the south (pit 08D5-516) and pit?08D5-518 on the west. Relations to installation 07D5-341 are not fully clear. Although it seems the floor reaches the lower stones of the installation, material within it and below seems to cut material of the floor and below it. It is therefore more likely that the installation is later than the floor. The lower floor, F08D5-515 (#13.56-13.50) is much smaller, and located in the west-center part of the unit. It is made of mixed kurkar and compact earth. It is cut by the Hellenistic pit sequence on the south (08D5-516).

In the south part of unit AW/10 a Persian period pit (08D5-519) was defined (Figure 2). In its upper part large pieces of storage jars were found and the pit was sent for restoration. The material found within it was rich with special finds (see below, key loci). The pit is cut by the Hellenistic pit sequence on the north (pits 08D5-516 and pit 08D5-528); and in turn cuts floors 08D5-520, 08D5-533 to its south.



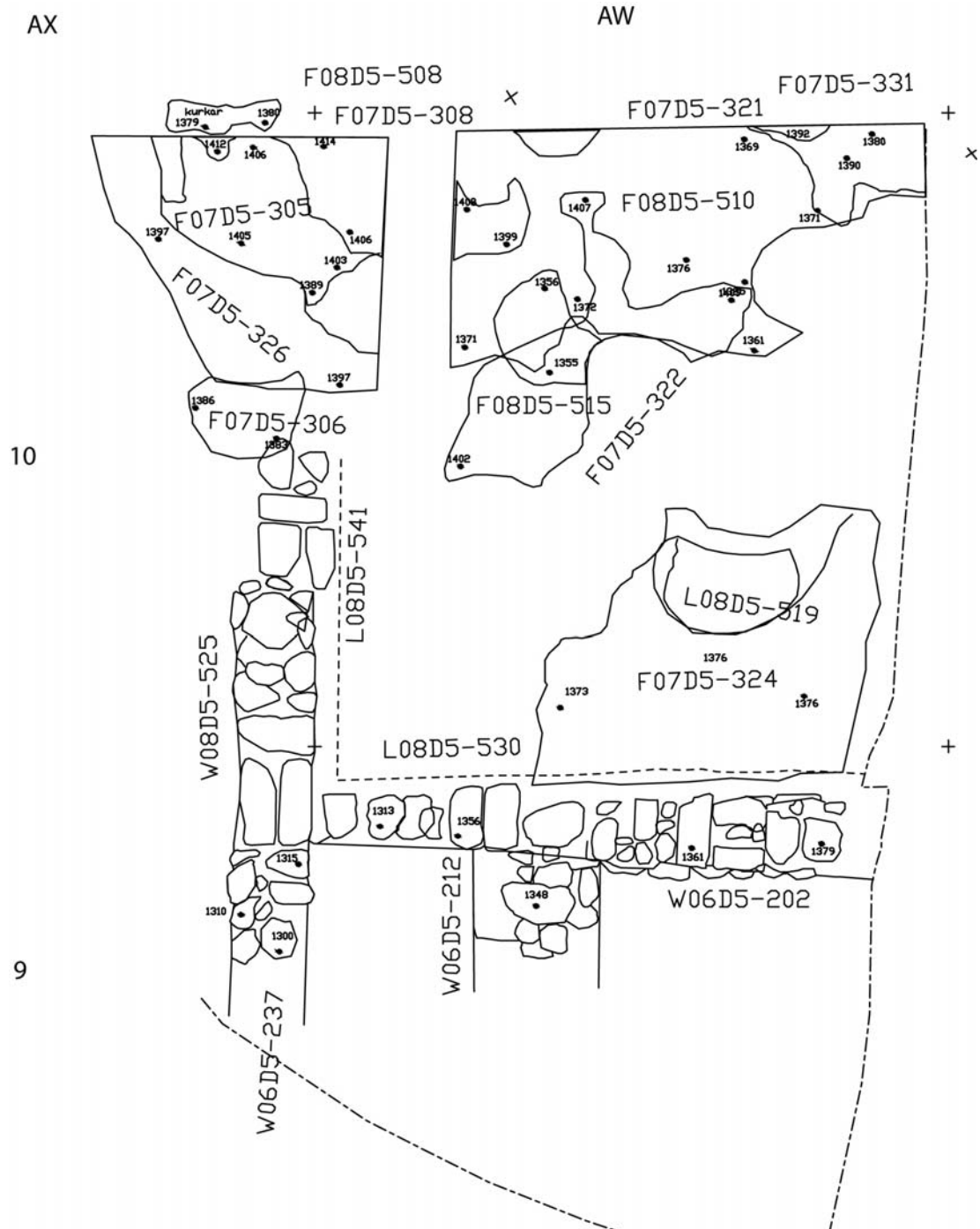


Figure 12: Area D5 (west). Phase 6 (p08A-0150)

Phase 7

Phase 7 is composed of two large consecutive floors (F08D5-520 and F08D5-533). These floors cover the south part of unit AW/10, and are cut by foundation trenches of phase 6 walls. F08D5-520 is located at the south-east part of the unit (#13.41-13.28) and is constructed from mixed kurkar and compact soil. It is cut on the south by foundation trench L08D5-530 of W08D5-202 and on the north by pit 08D5-519 (Figure 10). The floor is not fully preserved. Its west side is well defined while its eastern part is poorly preserved. Below this floor is F08D5-533 (main number; #13.41-

13.28 =08D5-517 at #13.36, 08D5-540 at #13.24 and 08D5-542 at #13.10 west of W08D5-525). This floor covered most of the south part of units AW/10 and AX/10. These various floors which had different appearance were all at comparable elevations and all had quantities of crushed murex and sometimes other shells (e.g. cowrie in F08D5-517). Foundation trench L08D5-541 of W08D5-525 cuts F08D5-540 on the west. L08D5-542, located west of W08D5-525, was excavated from top soil and had two small patches that were located in comparable elevations and appearance to F08D5-520 and F08D5-533 and were cut by W08D5-525 east.

The floors were not yet removed during this season and their thickness is unknown. Their close elevation to F08D5-520 (directly below in place the upper floor was preserved) makes it safe to assume the lower floor was foundation to the upper floor.

In 2006 similar floors were found in unit AW/09. F06D5-215 (#13.13-13.23) was formed by thicker kurkar but below and adjacent to it was a “crushed murex installation” 06D5-230 (#13.10). Although the upper floors F06D5-215 and F08D5-520 are different in appearance, the crushed murex floor and crushed murex ‘installation’ can be correlated, and the ‘installation’ was probably a poorly preserved floor patch. In the 2006 report phase 7 was subdivided to “a” and “b” sub-phases; but if we assume that the crushed murex surfaces are a sub-floor to the kurkar than such a division is not necessary. It is hard to date the phase 7 features on material excavated in 2008. Only a small amount of pottery was recovered below 08D5-520 and F08D5-533 is not yet removed. The material sealed below floor, although ample, dated to late Iron Age. Other, unsealed areas, mainly above of F08D5-533 (Figure 2), were mostly late Iron Age with some Persian material. However, in 2006, material below F06D5-215 was purely Iron Age and it can be assumed the two newly found floors F08D5-520 and F08D5-533 are of the same date.

On the west section of AW/10 a similar situation appears where a kurkar floor is located above a crushed murex shell floor and the thick white floor is located below. The thick white floor was not found in unit AW/09 and not yet excavated in unit AW/10. Phase 8 and 7 should be reconsidered when a larger exposure area is established for the two phases.



Figure 103: Area D5 west. Unit AW/10, looking west (p08D5-9526)

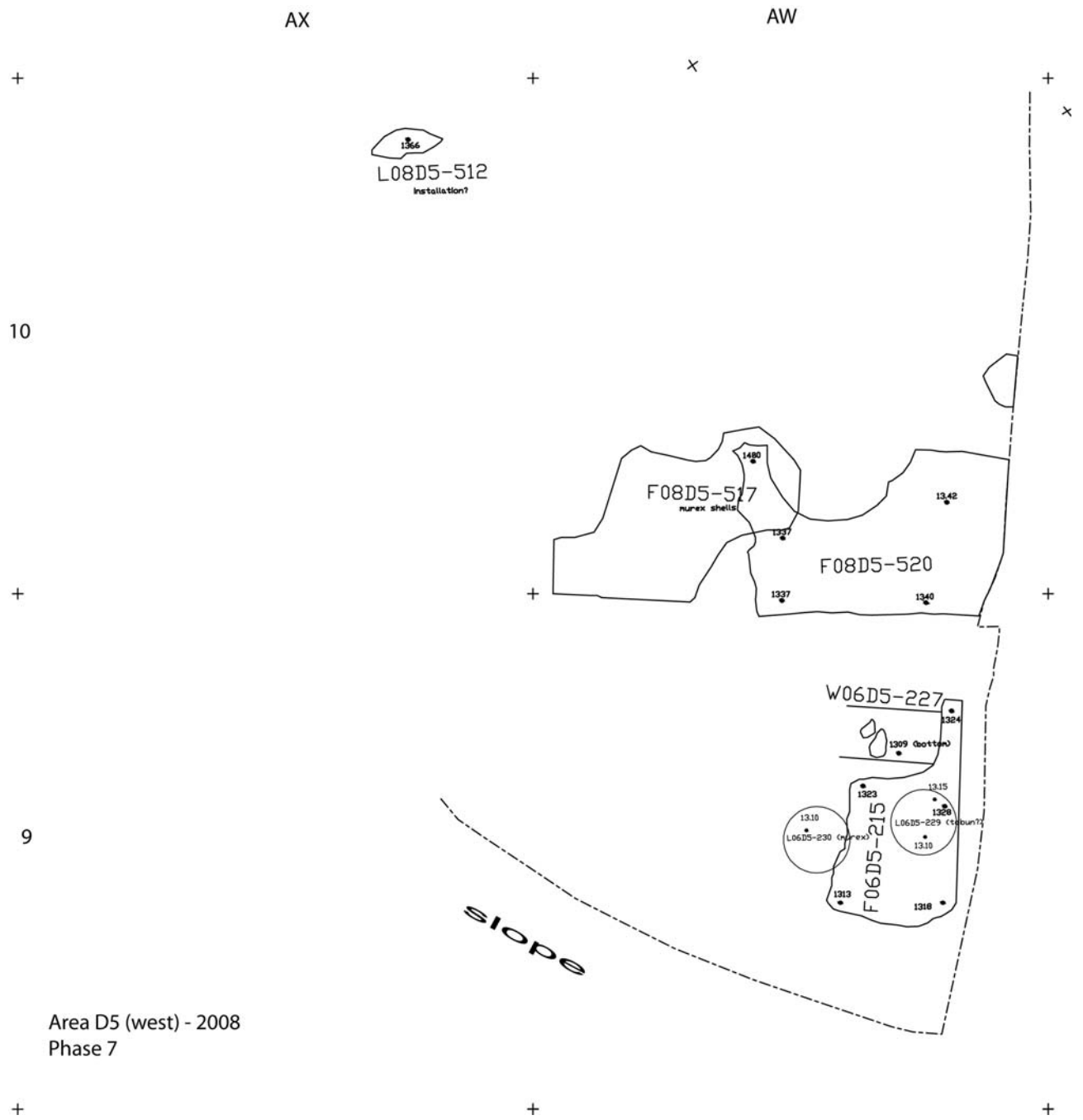


Figure 14: Area D5 (west). Phase 7 (p08A-0151)

## Special Finds

### Phase 6:

- Part of a Gorgone mask (B08D5-6823): L08D5-522 (fill, had Persian floor above it, not directly).
- Figurine (B08D5-7370): L08D5-543 (below floor F08D5-515).
- Aramaic ostrakon dated to circa 4-5<sup>th</sup> century BCE. (B08D5-7330): Pit 08D5-519 (Persian pit).
- Lead weight (B08D5-5371): Pit 08D5-519 (Persian pit).
- Figurine head (B08D5-6819): Pit 08D5-519 (Persian pit).

## Key Loci

Phase 2 – L08D5-532 – sealed fill below F07D5-340. Part of the sewage foundation.

L08D5-535 – sealed fill below F08D5-532. Part of the sewage foundation.

Phase 3 – L08D5-504 – fill below F08D5-500.

L08D5-521 – fill below W08D5-511.

Phase 6 – L08D5-509 – sealed fill below F07D5-324.

L08D5-515 – fill between floor F08D5-515 and F08D5-510

L08D5-519 – Persian pit with Ostrakon and figurines.

L08D5-543 – fill below F08D5-515.

Phase 7 – L08D5-533 – sealed below F08D5-520.

## Area D5 – The Eastern Part (HBB and EFI)

### *General*

Two separated areas have been excavated during 2008 in the eastern part of area D5. Square AT/9 (a.k.a “The Loft”- excavated by EFI) that was opened at 2007 from top soil, and squares AT-AU/10 (excavated by HBB) to its north on which the excavation continues for three seasons now.

Phase 6: According to the different features excavated this season it is now clear that this phase should be divided into 3 sub-phases: 6a - 6c. Phase 6c includes the main architectural features at AU-AT/10, which are two walls, one running east-west and one running south-north, and two floors. The construction of phase 6b includes the laying of new floors reaching the phase 6 structure. Phases 6a and 5c represent the abandonment of the earlier phases. In both phases no architectural remains were found but only pits. Therefore, it was decided to unite them into one phase: 6a-5c, in which the earlier features are related to the late Persian period and the later features to the early Hellenistic period.

Phase 6a-5c: The only feature excavated this season that belongs to phase 6a is pit L08D5-709 that cuts the floors of phases 6b and 6c. The only features relating to phase 5c are as well several pits that were found in AU-AT/10.

Phase 4: No features relating to this phase were excavated at AU-AT/10. At the loft this phase includes five field stones walls that seem to belong to two separate stages of constructions.

Phase 3: The only features that belong to this stage excavated this season were found at the loft. These are two floors, both reaching W07D5-122, and two pits. Both pits cuts phase 4 walls but one of them (pit 08D5-718) is sealed under phase 3's floor. This was assigned to an earlier stage of phase 3 although it can also be regarded as a later stage of phase 4.

### *Stratigraphic Scheme and Phase Descriptions*

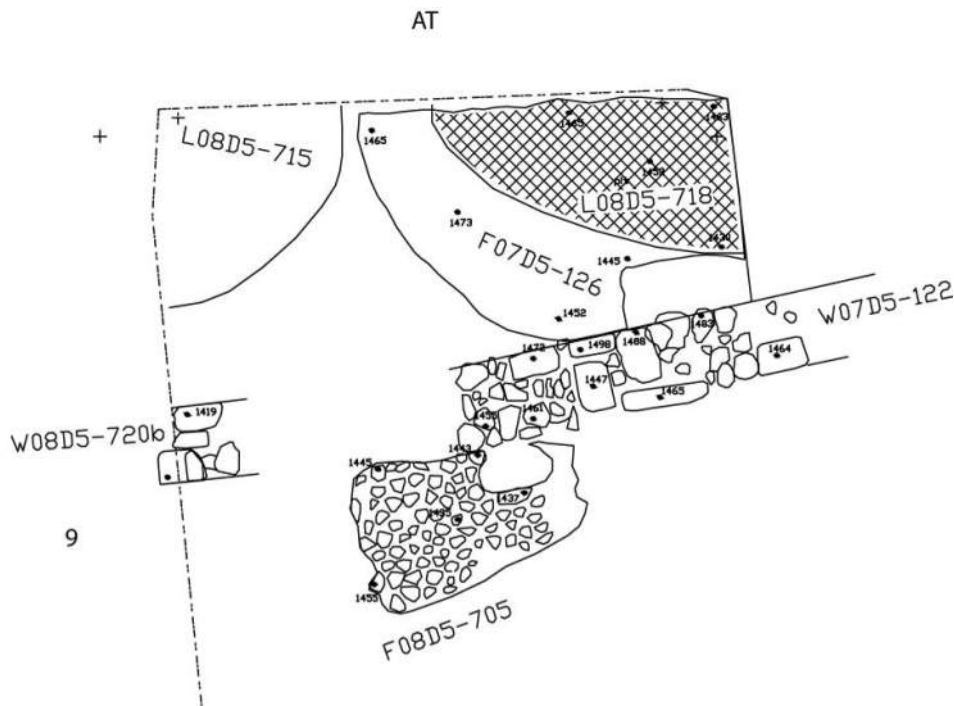
This unit is characterized by 13 stages. The general stratigraphic sequence is as

(i) W07D5-113a, F07D5-110 > (ii) W07D5-113b, W07D5-127, W16091 > (iii) W07D5-122, W08D5-720, F07D5-126, F08D5-705 > (iv) Pit 08D5-718, Pit 08D5-715 > (v) W08D5-729 > (vi) W08D5-727, W08D5-728, W08D5-762, W08D5-780, W5020d > (vii), F16767, F06D5-413, F06D5-418 > (viii)W16470, W16486, W16786, W16787, W16790, W06D5-434, F05D1-503, F06D5-407 (ix) Pit L07D5-119, Pit 08D5-713, Pit 08D5-710, Pit 08D5-714, Pit 08D5-704, F5617 > (x) L07D5-112 (dog burials), W06D5-411, L07D5-114 (Bone installation), R.T 07D5-124> (xi) Pit 08D5-709, 08D5-782, Pit 08D5-772 > (xii), F08D5-708, F08D5-747=F08D5-735, > (xiii) W07D5-134 = W05D1-502, W08D5-740, F08D5-738, F08D5-725, F08D5-758 = F08D5-767, F08D5-726 = F08D5-752.

### Phase 3:

Features from this stage were found in AT/9 (Figure 11/12). Cleaning at the beginning of the seasons revealed another small part of F07D5-126 and it is now clear that this floor reaches W07D5-122 from the north. F08D5-705 is a small floor/pavement made of small field stones that was found to the south of W07D5-122, reaching it from the south.

Pits 08d5-718 and 08D5-715 are two pits that were found below the level of F07D5-126. Pit 08D5-718 is sealed under the floor but 08D5-715 was unsealed by the floor and may have been dug from it. Both these pits cut walls of phase 4: W08D5-727, W08D5-729 and W08D5-780. Since pit 08D5-718 was found sealed under F07D5-126 it may actually be a later feature of phase 4 rather than an early phase 3, but since it cuts W08D5-729, which is a phase 4a wall (see below), it seems more probable to assign the pit to phase 3b rather than 4a.



**Figure 11: Area D5 (east), Phase 3 (p08A-0152)**

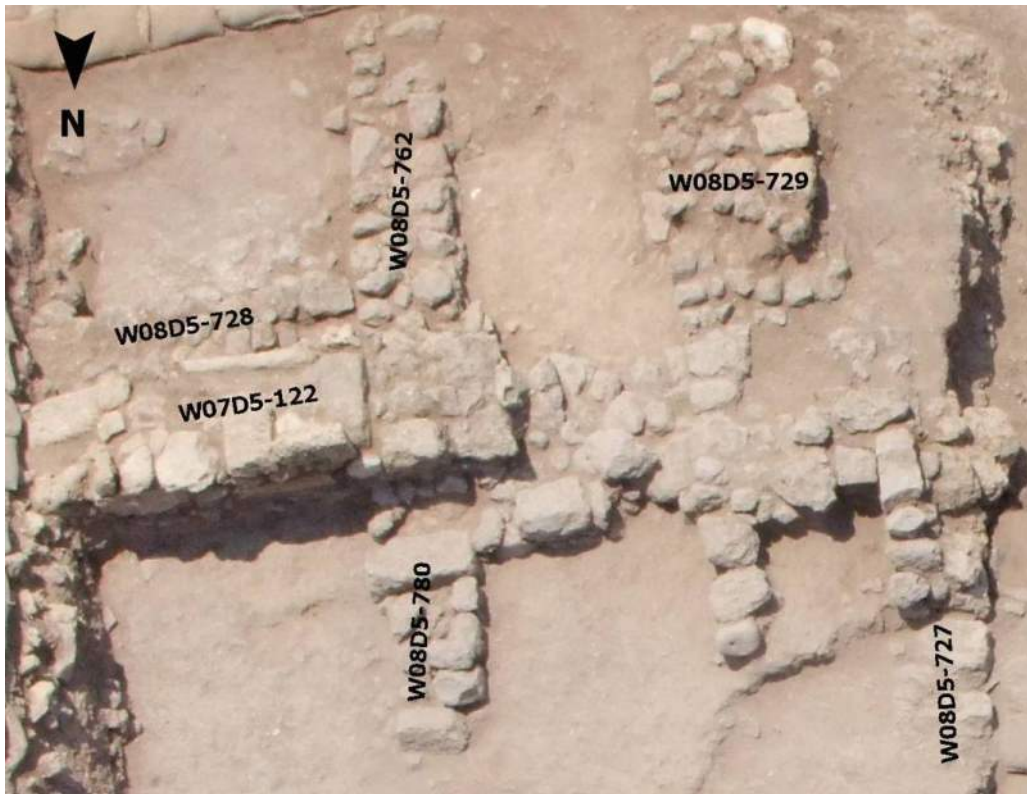
### Phase 4

At the northern part of the area, AT-AU/10 this phase includes mostly pits, some of them were already found in 2006 and 2007.

Several stone walls in AT/9 (Fig. 16) were found below the phase 3 floor and their elevations (Top elevation c. 14.30) seem to fit other phase 4 walls that were previously found in AT/10 (e.g. W5020c).

W08D5-762 and W08D5-780 are actually part of the same wall, running south-north below W07D5-122. W08D5-728 abuts W08D5-762 from the east.

W08D5-727 is another south-north stone wall that was found in the western side of the square. There are no direct relations between this and the other walls but elevations and construction-wise this wall seems to be part of the phase 4 structure.

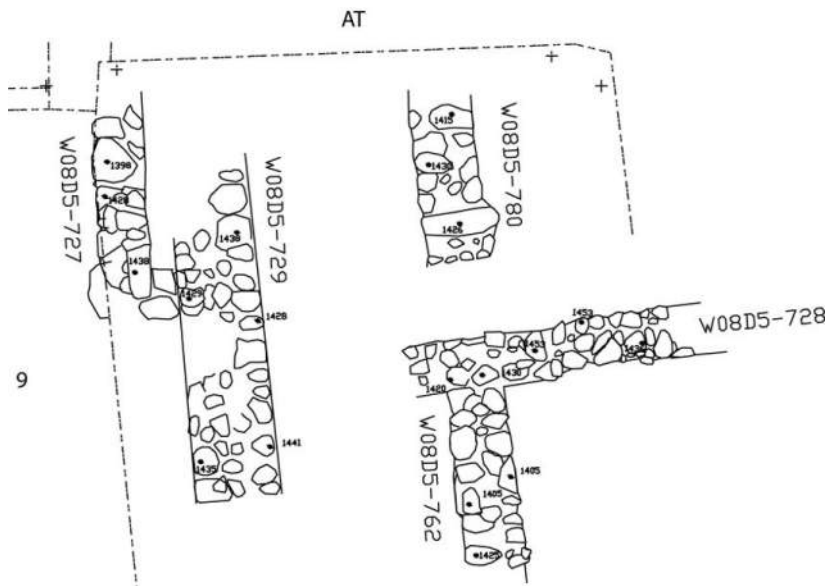


**Figure 12: AT/9, looking south ((P08d5-9030)**

W08D5-729 is another South-north stone wall running alongside W08D5-727. The relations between these two walls are unclear but it seems that W08D5-729 is later than 08D5-727. At the northern part of W08D5-727 there are two stones that project to the east, and seem to be part of an east-west wall dovetailing with W08D5-727. W08D5-729 seems to cut this wall.

W08d5-727 and W08D5-729 are cut by pit 08D5-715 while W08D5-780 is cut by pit 08D5-718. Pit 08D5-715 belongs to Phase 3 and therefore W08D5-729 was assigned to Phase 4, probably a later stage in this phase.





**Figure 13: Area D5 (east), phase 4 (p08A-0153)**

### Phase 5:

The architectural features of phase 5 (e.g. W16486, W16787, W16786, W16790, W16470, W06D5-417 and W06D5-474) were removed last season and all the features excavated this year belong to a lower stage beneath them (Fig. 18).

### Phase 5c-6a:

Under the level of the floors of "Amir's house" were found several pits and dug installation, containing Hellenistic and Persian pottery. We can argue that the pits are earlier than phase 5b and later than phase 6b features (see below); otherwise it was not always possible to define stratigraphic relationships between the pits and other features in the area. It is possible to identify inner stratigraphy within the phase (Fig. 19), and from the preliminary pottery reading done during the season it seems that Hellenistic pottery was found only in the later ones, while the earlier contain Persian pottery only. The exact nature and duration of this phase is still unclear and therefore we decided to define it as a transit-phase between the architecture features of phase 5b and 6b (i.e for some time from the end of the Persian period to the beginning of the Hellenistic time, named phase 5c-6a (Fig. 18-21).

Pit L08D5-713 (Figure Figure ) is located in square AT/10. Although it is covered by floor F16767 (phase 5a), it still contains Hellenistic material. From measurements taken in the baulk it is now clear that it was dug from a higher level than the level in which it was noticed this season, cutting the Persian dog burials of phase 6a, but still under the level of the phase 5b F06D5-407. For these reasons it was assigned to an earlier stage in phase 5 - phase 5c. This was not noticed last season and therefore the eastern part of L07D5-112 is disturbed. This pit cuts also kurkar floor L08D5-752 that relates to phase 6b. The exact elevation and measurements of the pit will be taken next year after baulk cleaning at the beginning of the season.

Pit L08D5-710 in square AU/10 was assigned to phase 5c as well. It seems to be cut by the southern part of the murex installation (L5597) assigned to phase 4. This is not certain because the installation was dug in 1991 and the relations between it and the features around aren't clear. The

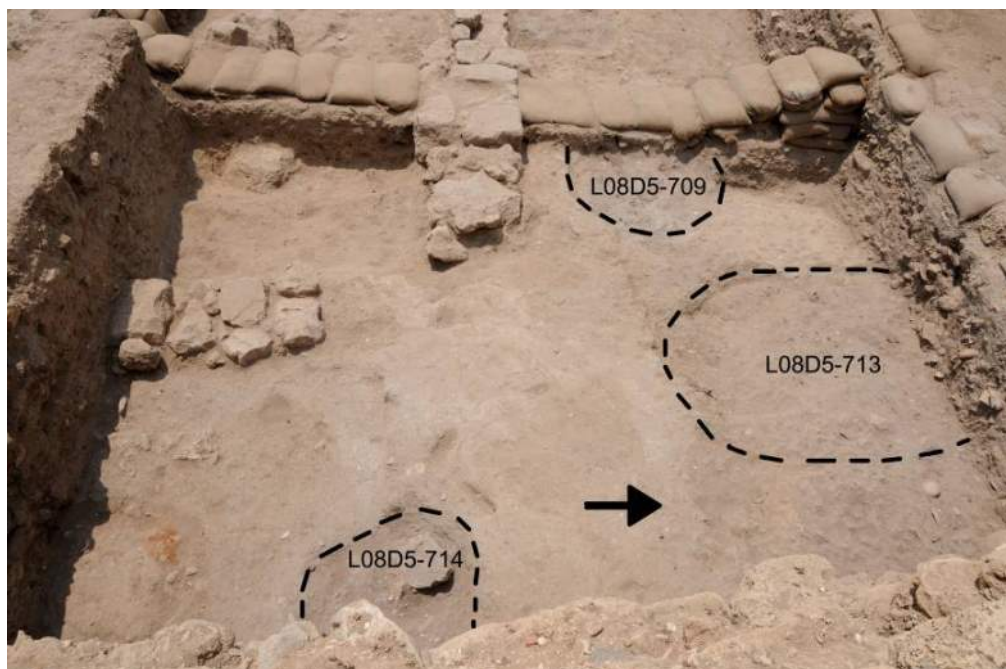
top elevation of the installation is #14.04, higher than the top elevation of the pit (#13.59), which supports our suggestion that it was dug into the pit. There is no direct relation between pit L08D5-710 and the phase 5 house but we assume that the pit is earlier since it starts lower than the lowest floors of the house. Pit 08D5-710 cuts Persian material and contains Hellenistic pottery and therefore seems to belong to the later part of this stage.

Pit L08D5-714 in square AT/10 is a Hellenistic pit, located below W16787 (phase 5b) and therefore was attributed to phase 5c.

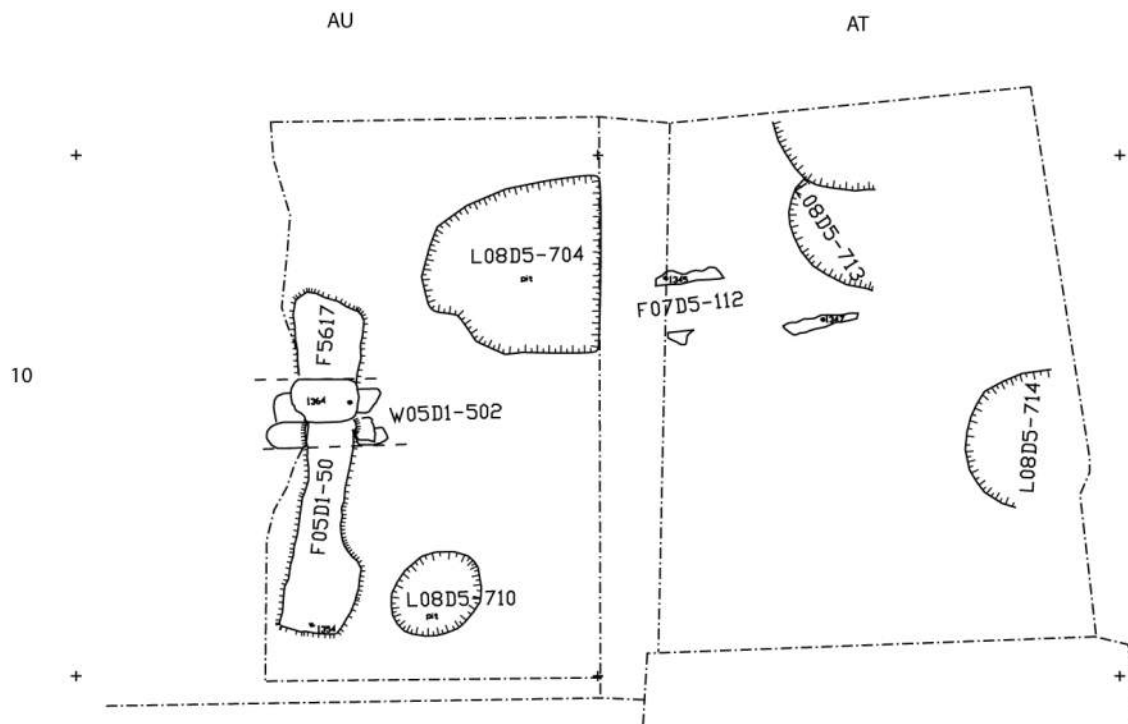
Floor F07D5-112 (# 13.45) consists of several small patches of a kurkar that were found in this area last season below phase 5b's W06D5-434. This season, just under the floor was found a Persian pit L08D5-709 which we assigned to phase 6a (see below). Therefore the floor F07D5-112 belongs to phase 5c.

Pit L08D5-704 is a Hellenistic pit, located on the North Eastern part of Sq. AU/10. It cuts Floor F5617, and for this reason and for the ceramic differentiation mentioned above, it was assigned to phase 5c.

Floor F5617, #13.54, is a kurkar floor that was excavated in 1986. It reaches wall W05D1-502 from the north. For the reason that shell floor F05D1-503 covers only the southern part of wall W05D1-502 and doesn't seal it completely, floor F5617 can be earlier than floor F05D1-503 (#13.54, is a shell floor that was excavated in 2001. it reaches W05D1-502 from the south). I think that both floors belong to stage 5c, with the top of wall W05D1-502 serving as some kind of pavement for two reasons: a. They both have the same elevation (#13.54). b. It doesn't seem logical that only the western part of wall W05D1-502 was exposed in phase 5c.



**Figure 18: AT/10, looking west. Pit 08D5-709 is an earlier phase 6 feature (p08D5-9717)**



**Figure 19: Area D5 (east), phase 5c-6a (P08A-0151; p08A-0154)**

Phase 6a:

Phase 6a contains so far only pits and fills, and therefore seems to be of the same nature as phase 5c above. Nevertheless, some features in phase 5c-6a can be identified as later within the phase and therefore were assigned to phase 6a.

Pit L08D5-709 was found below the elevations of the phase 5 walls, but unlike the pits of phase 5c, no Hellenistic pottery was found in it. The pit cuts floors F08D5-726 and F08D5-752 (see below). The ashy fill on the southern side of the pit was found just above W07D5-134. The pit was therefore assigned to a later stage of phase 6 (phase 6a), while the floors and the wall - to phase 6b. It seems that the three dog burials found last season in L07D5-112, and the bone installation (L07D5-114) are also later than these phase 6b features and thus belong to phase 6a as well.

Pit 08D5-772 was found at the last days of the season at the north-western part of the area. It was not excavated and the relations between it and W05D1-502 (phase 6b-c) to its south are unclear due to the phase 4 murex installation L5653 which cuts the upper courses of the wall in this place. Pit 08D5-772 cuts floor F08D5-747 to its north. The attribution of the pit L08D5-772 to phase 6a is preliminary and need to be confirmed when it will be excavated.

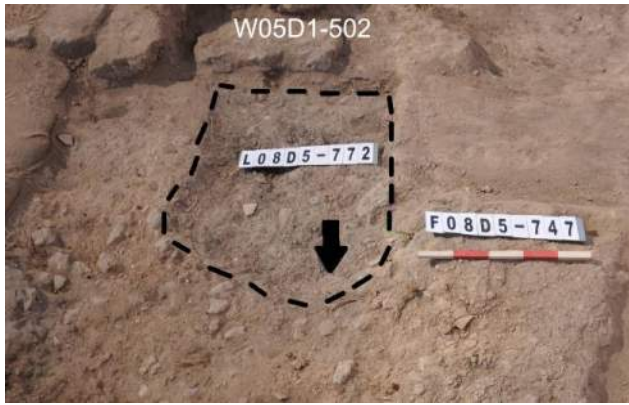


Figure 20: AU/10, looking south (p08D5-9707)

A large phytolith layer L08D5-782, (#13.05-12.94) was found on the last day of the excavation at the area between W07D5-134 and W08D5-740 (early in phase 6, see below). This layer seems to have accumulated after the robbing of the walls. Therefore, despite its relatively low elevation, this feature was assigned to phase 6a. This observation needs to be reconsidered during its excavation next season.

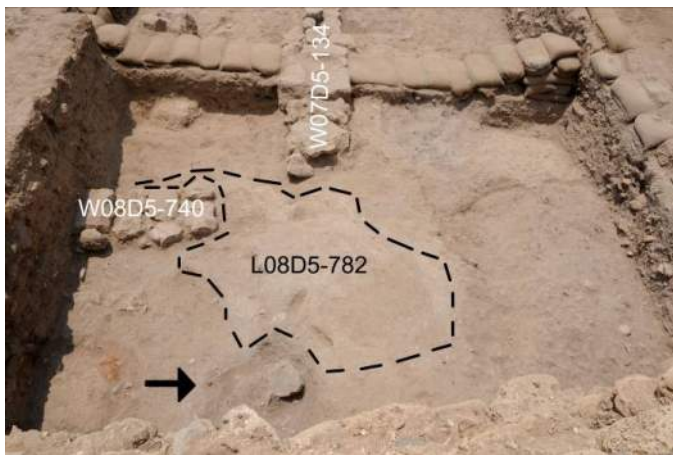


Figure 21: The phytolith layer at AU/10, looking west (p08D5-9717)

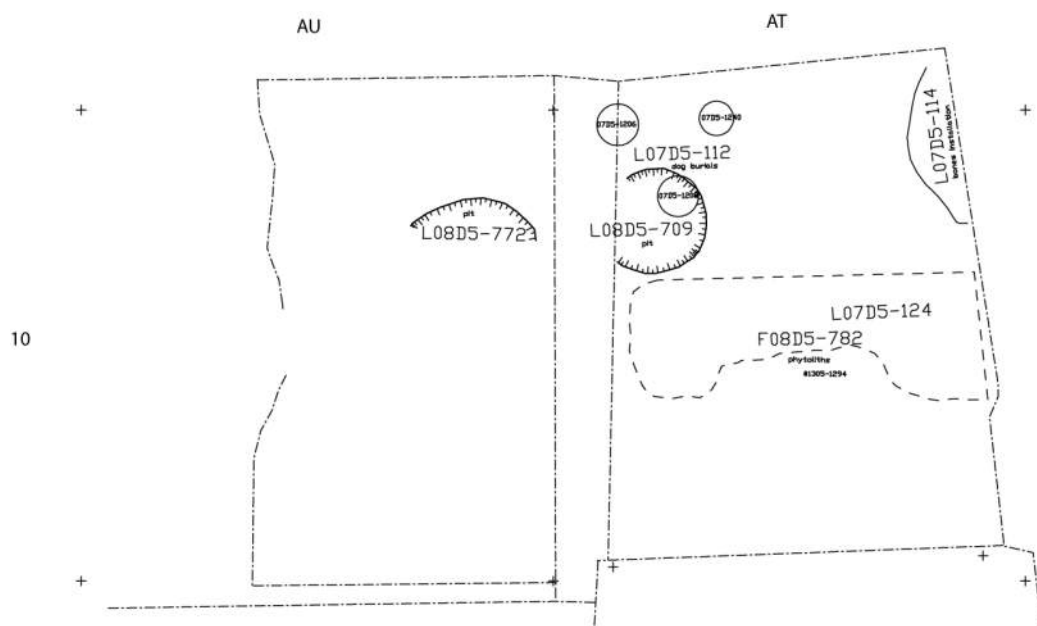


Figure 22: Area D5 (east), phase 6a (p08A-0155)

## Phase 6:

According to relations of new features excavated this season it was suggested that phase 6 be divided into two sub-phases 6b - 6c.

## Phase 6b:

This phase continues use of the same walls as in phase 6c, while adding new floor levels. None of these floors were observed to actually reach the walls of phase 6. Rather, their assignment to stage 6b is only an assumption based on the fact that they are higher than phase 6c floors (see below) and still a bit lower than the preserved top of the walls W07D5-134 (east) and W08D5-740.

The major feature excavated this season - W07D5-134 in square AT10, is the continuation of W05D1-502 in square AU10 (Figure Figure ). It is made of ashlar and aligns east-west. The western end of the wall stands up to four courses height.

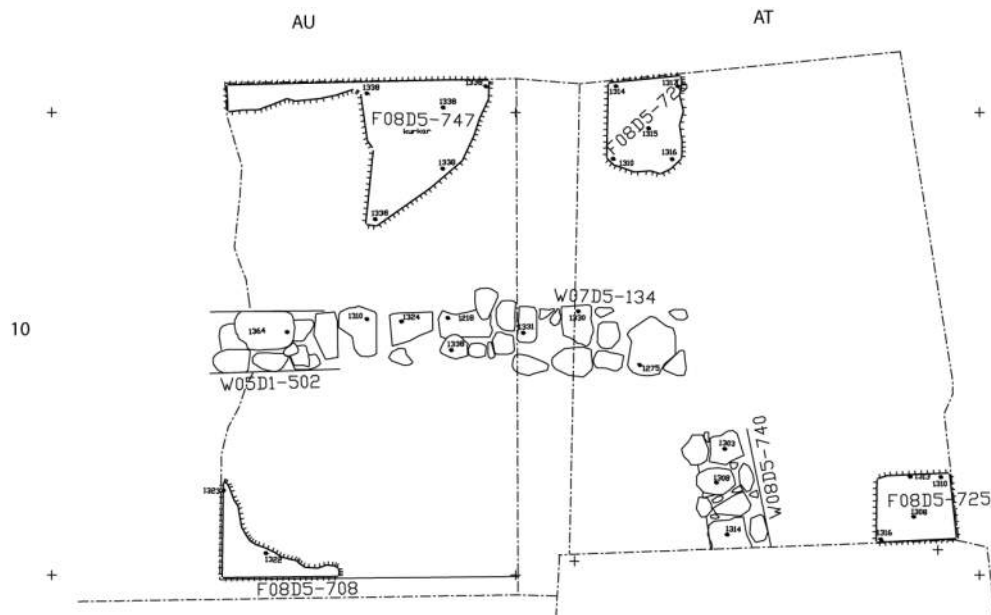
Wall W08D5-740 is a stone wall running north-south, perpendicularly to the wall W07D5-134. This season we excavated only the upper course of ashlar of the wall. The bottom level of both walls is still unknown.

Floor F08D5-708 (# 13.24-13.14) is located in the SW corner of AU10, below the phase 5b shell floor F05D1-503 (# 13.54).

Floor F08D5-747 (=F08D5-735, # 13.25-12.90) in AU10 is cut by pit L08D5-704 (phase 5c) and by pit L08D5-772 (phase 6a?).

Floors F08D5-726 (#13.17-13.10) and F08D5-752 (#13.24-12.90) are two super-imposed northward sloping kurkar floors north of W07D5-134. Both floors are cut by 2 large pits: from the north by pit L08D5-713 (phase 5c) and from the south-east by pit L08D5-709 (phase 6a). This is either re-flooring during the later stage of the wall usage, or floor 08D5-752 is contemporary to other surfaces above the level of approximately #13.10 (the floor level is 13.10-13.16) that were assigned to stage 6c (see below). We'll preliminary accept the second option.

Floors F08D5-725 (#13.13-13.08) and F08D5-738 (#13.11-13.03) are another set of super-imposed kurkar floors with only few cm gap between them. They are located below floor F06D5-424 (phase 5) and because of their elevations were attributed, similarly to the first set, either both to phase 6b, or to 6b and 6c respectively.



**Figure 22: Area D5 (east), phase 6b (p08A-0156)**

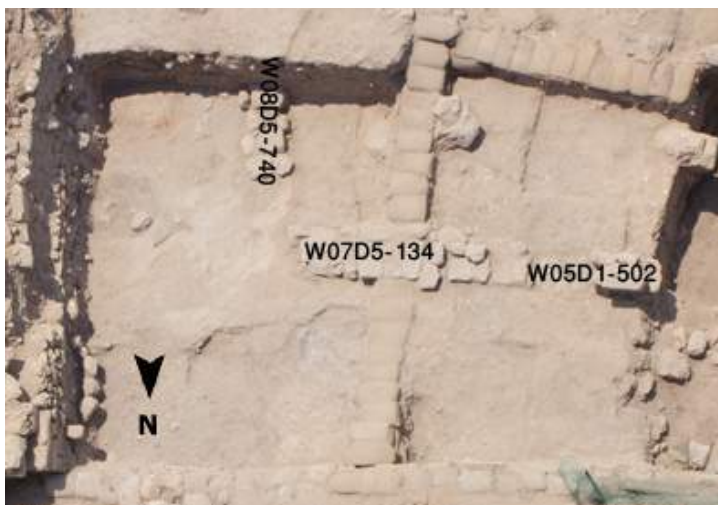
Phase 6c:

The walls W07D5-134 and W08D5-740 exist already in this stage (earliest so far).

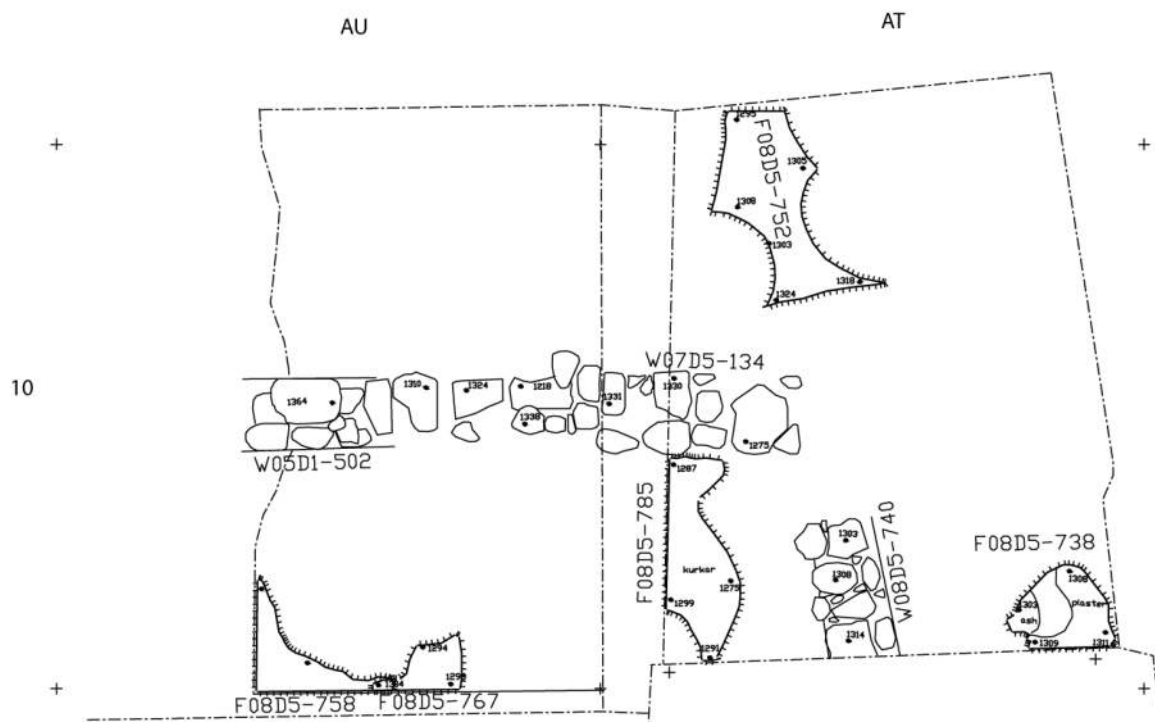
Kurkar floor L08D5-785 (#13.00-12.90) reaches wall W07D5-134 from the west, It is lower than the floors assigned to phase 6b, and thus seems to belong to the lower series of floors contemporary to the wall.

Floor F08D5-758 (=F08D5-767. c.#13.10) is located on the SW corner of AU/10, below the phase 6b floor F08D5-708, therefore it should be assigned to an earlier phase (6c?).

As described above (phase 6b), two more surfaces with elevations around #13.10 are preliminary assigned to this stage. These are F08D5-738 in the south-eastern corner of AT10, and F08D5-752 in the north-western part of the same square.



**Figure 23: AT/10, looking south. (P08A-0157)**



**Figure 24: Area D5 (east), phase 6c (p08A-0158)**

### *Special Finds*

#### Phase 5:

- Stamped handle with Cypro-syllabic inscription (Basket number 08D5-6366. Found between pit L08D5-710 and the fill to its south.
  
- Several figurines were found in pit L08D5-713:
  - Female figurine (Basket number 08D5-5713).
  - Figurine head (Basket number 08D5-6933).
  - Figurine (Basket number 08D5-7373). Originally from basket 08D5-6488.
  - Arrow head (Basket number 08D5-6329).



### Phase 6a or 6b:

- Inscription: triangular clay docket or pendant with Hebrew/ Phoenician/ Aramaic inscription, and stamp of crescent Sin sign. (Basket number 08D5-6695, original basket number 08d5-6326).

The docket was found in Locus 08D5-726 which is a cleaning locus, spreading on the northern half of square AT/10 between pit 08D5-709 and pit 08D5-713. It wasn't noticed on site and therefore its exact location isn't sure. Though, it is possible to assume that it derives from the eastern area of the locus (above pit 08D5-784), because it was the only place in which we worked using "big" tools, taking out larger quantities of dirt.

### Phase?:

- Sitting 'Temple-boy ' figurine. (Basket number 08D5-5208) Found during baulk cleaning. By elevation, this could be either phase 4 or 5.

### *Key Loci*

Phase 3 – L08D5-718: Pit sealed under F07D5-126.

Phase 5 - L08D5-713: Pit that cuts floor F08D5-752.

L08D5-710: Pit probably cut by the southern murex installation.

L08D5-714: Pit.

L08D5-741: Fill above F08D5-785 and above phytoliths surface

Phase 6a - L08D5-709: Pit that covers W07D5-134, and cuts floor F08D5-752.

Phase 6b - L08D5-752: Cut by phase 6a pit 08D5-709.

Phase 6a/6b – L08D5-726: Cleaning locus, important for the special inscription found in it (Basket number 08D5-6695).

**Phase 7? – L08D5-775: Sealed fill below F08D5-752.**

## **Area D5 – The Middle Part (EFI)**

Three different phases, all of them where already known from previous seasons were excavation in area "D5 middle" in 2008. The earliest one, Phase 12, includes few mud-bricks walls, robber trenches and a mud-bricks collapse that were found below the walls and floor of the destroyed "Iron I House" (c.f. 2006's and 2007's end of season report).

Phase 11 (previously phase D1/8), is the Iron I house that was destroyed by fire. This structure was fully exposed last season, but its robber trenches, some of them are more then 1m. deep, were still under excavation this season.

The walls of this structure were robbed soon after the destruction. At least two of its robber trenches were backfilled with destructions 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- was not excavated this season). Some of these surfaces accumulated in the robber trenches, and therefore their uneven "U" and "bath-tub" profile.

The third phase, D5/9 (previously phase D1/7), relates to the construction and use of the Iron II stone courtyard house. Beside in the southernmost one all the walls of this structure are already floating. Excavating to the south of the southern wall of this structure W05D5-548c revealed that the wall is much wider then it was thought to be, and that it is built in inset- outset fashion.

### *Stratigraphic Scheme and Phase Descriptions*

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

(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, R.T 08D5-627, R.T 08D5-628, F08D5-633.

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

The two upper courses of this wall, W05D1-548a and W5D1-548b, were already removed in 2006 and 2007. These two courses were found above W05D1-548c and represent two different stages. W05D1-548c, as stages b and a above it, seems to abut W10817 to the west. Three courses of this stage have been revealed so far but the wall is not floating yet. The lower courses are below the bottom of W10817. W07D5-548c is built with big ashlar,(c. 1x0.5x0.3 m.) some laid as headers and some as stretchers. (top elev. 11.42/11.34).

The northern face of the wall in the excavated area extends for 4 m. from west to east, and then appears to stop. Untill this season it was thought that the eastern end of the wall is cut or that there was an opening of some kind there. Excavating to the east and to the south of the wall this season

revealed its southern face and it became clear that the wall is both wider and longer than was thought (**Error! Reference source not found.**-26).



**Figure 25: W05D1-548c, looking south. The green fence sits on the southern stones of the second course. (p08D5-9027)**

Along the southern face stones of the upper course are missing but the second course is better preserved. The full width of the wall is c. 2.5 m.

Also, the wall is not cut at its eastern end but that it was built with insets and outsets.



Area D5 - 2008  
Phase 9c

**Figure 26: Area D5, Phase 9c (p08A-0159)**

## Phase 11

This phase includes the destruction layer of the Iron I house. All remains of this destruction at the northern side were already removed last season and all that was left this season were the lower parts of the robber trenches (L08D5-602, L08D5-605, L08D5-607 and L08D5-608) that were found last seasons.

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

## Phase 12

This phase includes two mud-bricks walls (w07D5-218 and W07d5-233, Fig. 27) and a mud-bricks collapse that were found below the walls of phase 11.



**Figure 27: D5 middle, looking east. R.T 08D5-627 and 08D5-628 cuts W07D5-233 and F08D5-633 from south and north. (p08D5-9025)**

While excavating the Robber trenches of phase 11 it was noticed that two they go deeper than the bottom of the only extant phase 11 wall (W08D5-730) and that at about the level of the bottom of this wall they get narrower than they used to be.

F08D5-633 is a thick mud floor reaching W07D5-233 from the west and cut by R.T 08D5-627 and L08D5-628 from the south and the north. R.T 08D5-627 cuts W07D5-233 from the south and W07D5-218 from the north.

All these seem indicate the presence of two sets of robber trenches one on top of the other. The upper one is wider, and robbed the walls of phase 11, while the lower one in narrower, and robbed

the walls of phase 12. The field stones that were found at the last day at the lower part of R.T 08D5-608 may be part of a phase 12 wall. It is unclear at this point whether the robbing of the two sets of walls happened at one stage or in two stages. It is possible that after the removal of the upper walls the tops of the lower ones were visible and the robbers dug farther down robbing them too

If this scenario is correct then the structure of phase 12 was constructed with both stone and mud walls.

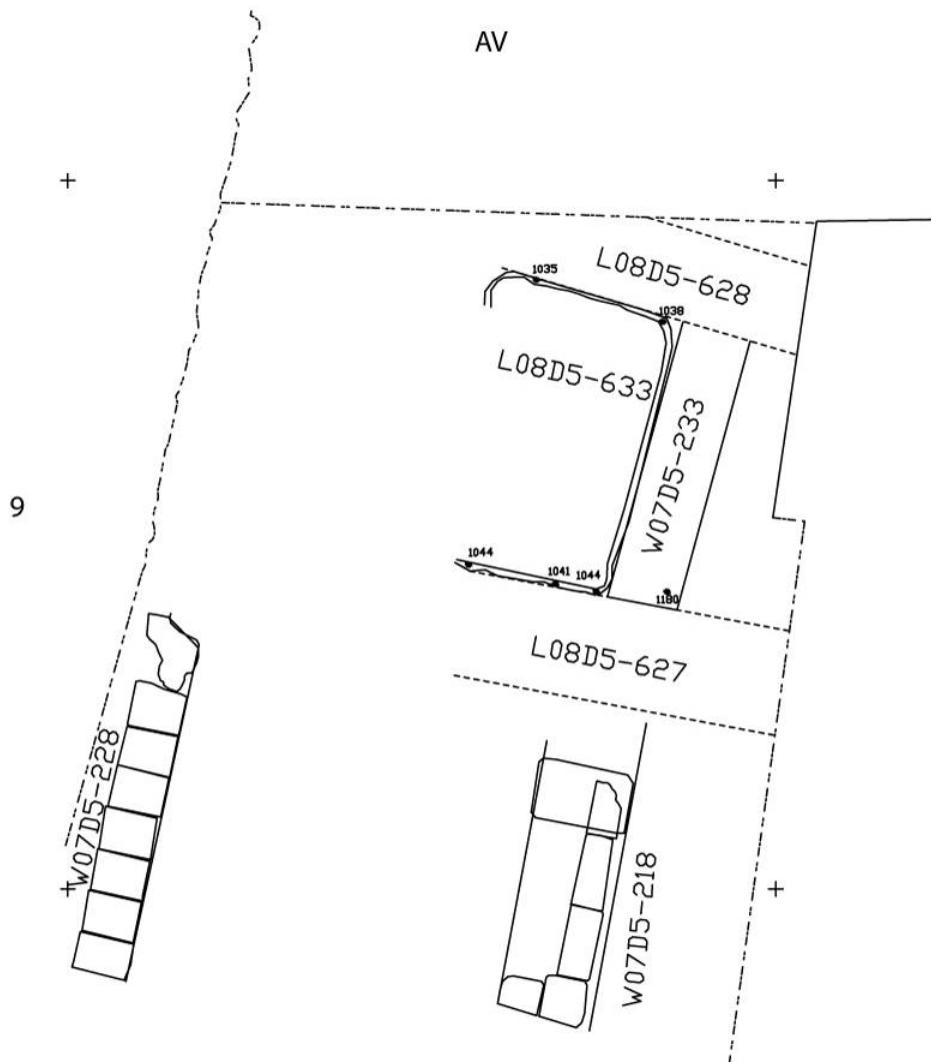


Figure 28: Area D5, Phase 12 (p08A-0160)



### *Special Finds*

#### Phase 11 :

- Complete Vessels – Multi-Handel Krater (Basket 08D5-6148) found the middle part of the robber trench 08D5-602
- Decorated bone plate (Basket 08D5-6145) found in the robber trench 08D5-602

### *Key Loci*

Phase 11 – L08D5-602 – southern robber trench (=08d5-604 and 08D5-629)

L08D5-605 – middle robber trench

L08D5-607 – northern robber trench

L08D5-608 – eastern robber trench

Phase 12 – L08D5-601 – sealed fill under F07D5-053

L08D5-633 – Fill above floor

L08D5-627 – robber trench south of F08D5-633