

Dor End of Season 2010 Area D2 Supervisor's Report

Preliminary Information / Credits

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Locus bank: 10D2-500 to 10D2-594

Basket bank: 10D2-5001 to 10D2-6445

Photo bank: beginning 10D2-9501

Image bank: d + v: beginning 10D2-5301 (SWM), 10D2-5701 (AEG), 10D2-5501 (EBS)

Volunteers: Marcus, Lia, Laurel, Mark, Scout, Chad, Katy, Genna, Natalie, Hannah, Jenny, Leslie, Midori, Franny, Jill, Daniel, Rob



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Overview

This season in Area D2, excavation concentrated on a Persian period structure and street (AO/11-12), a Iron IIa Lower City structure known as “Benny’s House” (AO-AN/14), and Iron Ia Upper City rooms abutting the Bastion Wall (AO/14-12).

Up on the “porch” (AO/11-12), the east-west fieldstone and ashlar wall W09D2-381 continues down as of the end of the season, with a massive olive press stone secondarily set on end in its eastern extent. To the south, the wall faces onto Persian period (L10D2-520, L10D2-568) street deposits and a second enigmatic red floor/basin (F10D2-520) below the initial surface uncovered last year (F09D2-379). To the north, the wall bounds an extensive fill layer rich in Attic and “East Greek” pottery (L10D2-529).

The Bastion Wall (W08D2-290) is the defining feature in the lower squares (AN-AO/12-14); it circumvallates the Iron Ia Upper City. In our excavation area, both Upper and Lower City walls abut this massive construction.

To the east of the Bastion Wall, outside and below in the Lower City, the Iron IIa “Benny’s House” utilized the Bastion Wall as a closing wall. Excavations in the 1990s uncovered the southern façade and one interior wall dividing the house into 2 rooms. We uncovered the continuation of the north-south fieldstone wall W15181 (W10D2-569) and 2 east-west fieldstone walls (W09D2-904, W10D2-570) creating one or possibly two new rooms. In the latest use of the area, after the interior walls W10D2-569 and W10D2-570 no longer rose above the surrounding area, the area served for metallurgical activity (F10D2-523=F10D2-584) as demonstrated by numerous slags, tuyères, pot bellows, crucible fragments, and intensive burning. Below the metallurgical activity, layers of clay filled the rooms providing an ideal environment for preservation of organics, phytoliths, and bones (F10D2-571, 10D2-585, F10D2-572). Much restorable pottery, a straw-filled bag(?), grain husks, unbaked clay items, and a complete curled up puppy were preserved on the superimposed surfaces of F10D2-571 and L10D2-585.

In the Upper City (to the west), walls with a stone socle and a mudbrick or pisée superstructure (W09D2-334, W08D2-258, W09D2-340, and possibly W10D2-591) divide the excavation area into three or four rooms. From south to north, the first room burned causing beams and bricks to collapse onto a floor devoid of remains (F10D2-556). The second room burned and collapsed with pottery and a wooden plank and branches preserved on the floor (F10D2-534). The third neither burned nor yielded contents (F10D2-536), and the fourth is still in the upper stages of the collapse with no signs of burning.

2010 Area D2 Phases and stages:

Phasing and staging elaborate the sequence established in 2009:

Phase 5: 5th c. architecture (only on the porch, AO/12-11)

Phase 6/stages *i* and *ii* (IrIIb-c): 8-7th c. pits

Phase 7/stage *iii* (late IrIIa): Taphat's Wall (W10606) and the extensive kurkar surfaces [kurkar surfaces also post-date W10606 so this should probably be 2 separate stages]

stage *iv* (mid IrIIa): intermediate stage between Phase 8 "Benny's House" and Phase 7 W10606

Phase 8a/stage *v* (early IrIIa and IrI/II transitional): "Benny's House" Metallurgical activity

Phase 8b/stage *vi* (early IrIIa and IrI/II transitional): "Benny's House" occupational remains

Phases 9-12/stage *vii* (late IrIa?/IrIb?/early IrIIa? – *IF stage *vi* is IrI/II transitional then how can stage *vii* be early IrIIa????): remains post-dating the IrIa site-wide destruction but pre-dating Benny's House

Phase 13/stage *viii* (IrIa): city-wide destruction

stage *ix*: pre-destruction and the Bastion Wall

Excavation Protocols:

In general, loci coming down onto room contents or floors (eg. "ceiling collapse") in the Iron Ia destruction were dry-sieved (10D2-562, 10D2-516). Productive floors and destruction loci were wet-sieved (10D2-534, 10D2-571, 10D2-572, 10D2-577, 10D2-585). We saved flint tools from all loci, but all flint including debitage only from occupational surfaces and restoration loci (of which we had many this year).

Conservation:

Roe Shafir, of the Ark-Zoology Project of Haifa University, undertook the challenge of conserving the eroding baulks of D2, Roe and his crew draped plasticized netting over the precipitous western baulk (p10D2-9519), and built sandbag buttresses against the northeastern and eastern baulks (p10D2-9564). For short-term conservation (hopefully only until the 2011 season), sandbags cover the tops of Taphat's Wall (W10606), the Bastion Wall (W08D2-290), and our pisée wall (W08D2-258).



p10D2-9564



p10D2-9519

Phase 5 (Persian Period, 5th c.)

Persian and Iron Age kurkar surfaces sandwich this year's finds on "the porch" (AO/12-11). The upper kurkar, F09D2-312, constitutes the original Phase 5 surface constructed with W09D2-381. The lower kurkar surface F10D2-589 runs below the wall and is likely associated with the large stones now surfacing and the wall robbed in trench 10D2-588. The intervening red surfaces are cut by the foundation trench for the Phase 5 W09D2-381 and cover the emerging ashlar and large stones attributed to Phase 7. Pottery dates the intervening red surfaces to the Persian Period and not the elusive Phase 6 late Iron Age.

The upper kurkar surface (F09D2-312) covers the entire excavation area north of W09D2-381 (Fig 1 Phase 5). As previously suggested, this kurkar may continue to the north as the Phase 5b surfaces F31101 and F30026 at approximately the same elevation. The kurkar also fills the very top of the foundation trench, demonstrating this was the original surface associated with the wall. Immediately below the kurkar, the grey clay fill 10D2-529 produced a rich assortment of "East Greek" and Attic pottery (*East Greek banded bowls) sealed below kurkar (10D2-506). To the south, the façade W09D2-381 fronts onto street 09D2-379.

Wall W09D2-381 exhibits a few peculiarities. An extremely large ashlar stands on end in the eastern extent of the exposed wall. While initially thought to be a horned altar and so dubbed "Abram's Altar," further excavation showed it to be an olive press stone with a spout leading off from the indented circular top and deep grooves on the bottom side. (p10D2-9592, p10D2-9593). A few stones on a slightly different

alignment protruding near the center on the north side of W09D2-381 remain for next year.

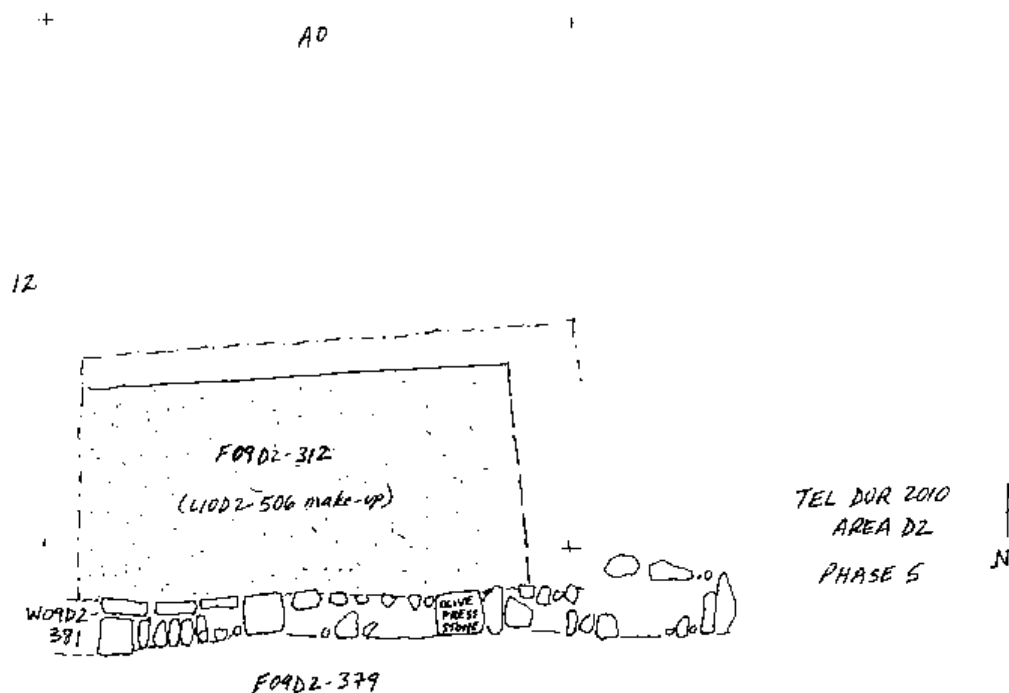


Fig. 1 Phase 5 (AO/12-11)



p10D2-9593 Olive press top



p10D2-9592 Olive press bottom

South of W09D2-381, its foundation trench (10D2-540) cuts through street deposits and the red surface(s) demonstrating they pre-date the wall (Figure 2, F09D2-379, F10D2-520). The band of red material (similar to burnt mudbrick) F09D2-379 forms a nearly continuous surface that slopes up slightly towards the southern baulk. Excavating below this surface, we encountered the familiar street deposit and then a

second extensive red surface (F10D2-520). This lower surface sloped up to the north and south to form a shallow basin. Whereas in its center the 2 surfaces were distinctive, as they rose to the north and south they joined together into a single surface. The foundation trench of W09D2-381 (10D2-540) clearly cut a single red surface that likely represents the convergence of the two resurfacings. Rather than assuming the street deposit was an intentional fill between red layers, more likely, the original surface went out of use, the area reverted to a street, and it was subsequently resurfaced with red material. The function of the red surface/basin(?) remains uncertain.



p10D2-9512 Red Surface cut by FT
of W09D2-381

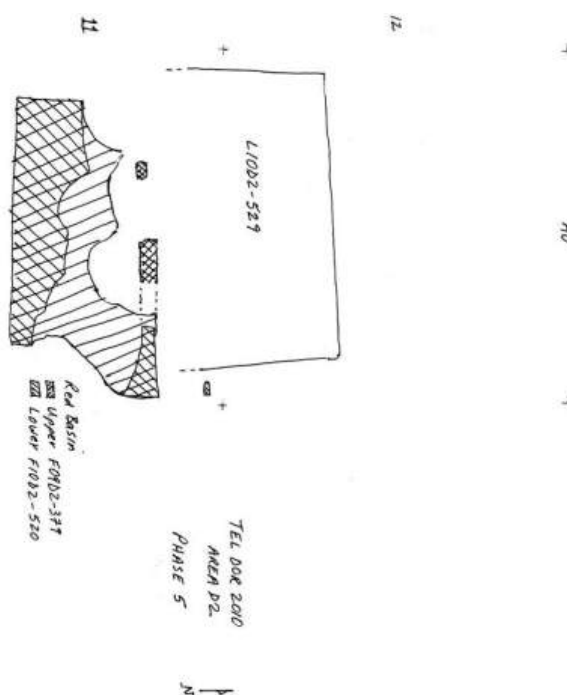


Fig. 2 Phase 5 Red surfaces/basin

The cobble pavement and underlying kurkar (F10D2-582, F10D2-589, F20D2-547) belong in Phase 7. North of the W09D2-481 line, at some point after this lower kurkar but before the upper kurkar, ashlar were robbed along a north-south line leaving the trench 10D2-588.

Key loci: 10D2-529 for “East Greek” (*banded bowls) and Attic pottery. Both 10D2-529 and 10D2-563 below contained PR and IrIic pottery
Special finds: core-formed glass fragments (10D2-507, 10D2-508)

Phase 6/stages i and ii (Iron IIb-c): “Sheol” and sherds

We descended to the very depths of the deep pit, “Sheol,” (05D2-517 = 10D2-532) to find a beautifully preserved, half cow mandible.

Up on “the porch,” mixed Iron IIc and Persian period pottery fills the pit 10D2-541, the foundation trench 10D2-522 and the large fills 10D2-529 and 10D2-563. No exclusively Phase 6 pits, trenches, or architecture have been identified.

Key loci: none

Phase 7/stage iii (late IrIIa): expansive kurkar surfaces and Taphat’s Palace Wall

On the porch, the cobble pavement and underlying kurkar (F10D2-582, F10D2-589, F20D2-547) continue the expansive pavement and kurkar uncovered in 2004 and 2005 (04D2-066, F05D2-012) (Figure 3). Pottery from this year’s loci immediately above the pavement and kurkar dates to IrIIa? (10D2-582, 10D2-589). This uppermost of multiple kurkar surfaces reaches the Phase 7 east-west line of ashlar W04D2-065 and covers the perpendicular “Taphat’s Palace Wall” W10606 (F06D2-109 – should be rechecked). Earlier kurkar surfaces, those preserved in the northern baulk of AN/14, meet the upper edge of W10606.

10D2-588, which cuts the kurkar 10D2-589 on a relatively straight line that aligns with a large ashlar in AO/11, is likely a robbers’ trench. Through squares AO/12-13, the edge of the kurkar aligns, more or less, with this proposed trench to suggest the presence of a now robbed wall once contemporary with the expansive cobble and kurkar surface.

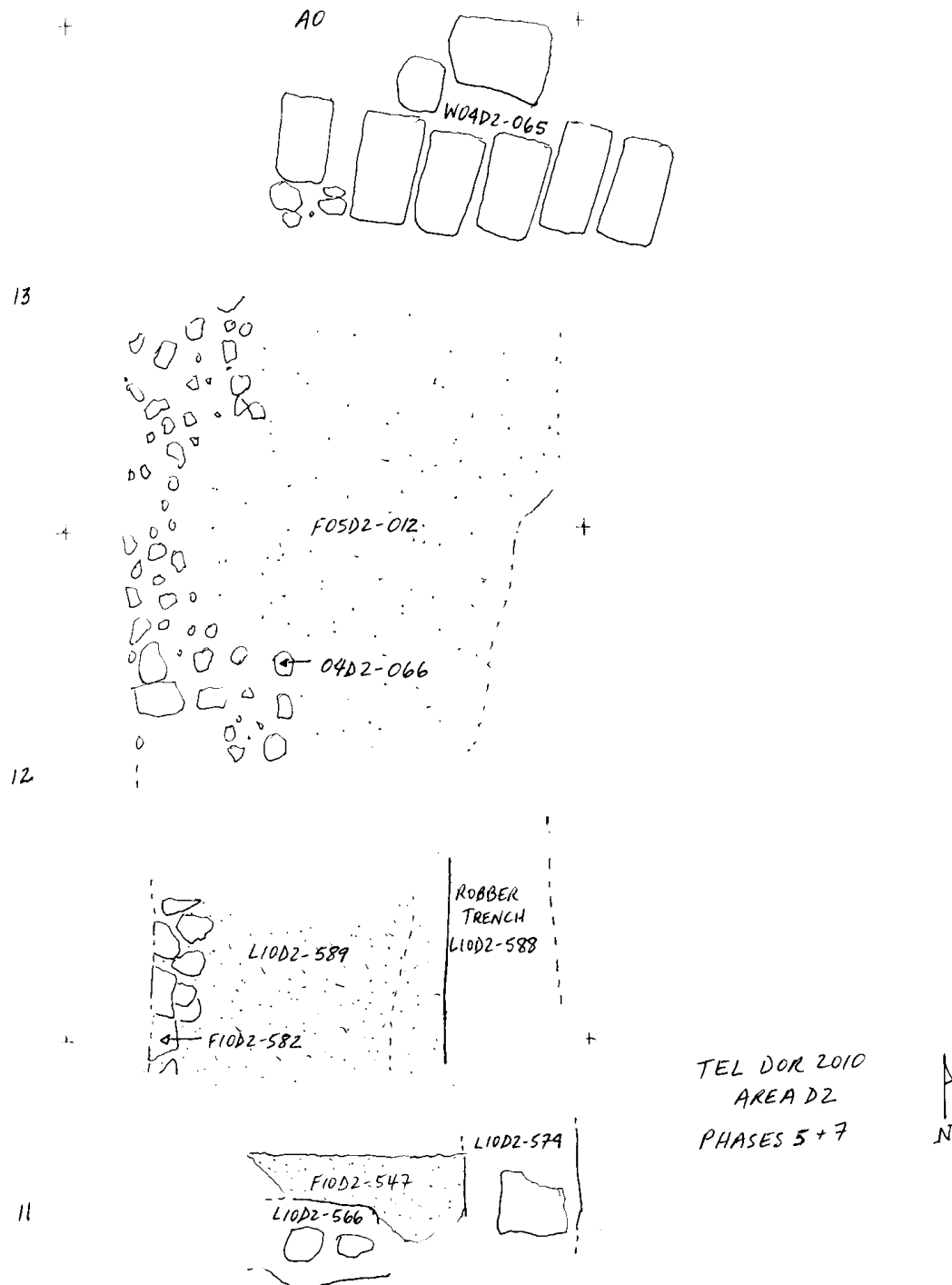


Figure 3. Phase 7/stage *iii* Cobble pavement and kurkar surfaces

We reached the bottom of “Taphat’s Palace Wall” W10606 along its western face. The foundation trench L10D2-527 cuts through the underlying walls of Benny’s House (W09D2-904, W10D2-569, and W10D2-570). Floors F10D2-571 and F10D2-572 within the house continue under W10606 and the north-south wall W10D2-569 emerges on the other side as W15181.

Key loci: none

Stage iv (between early and late Iron IIa, Intermediate stage between the Phases 7 kurkar surfaces and Phase 8 “Benny’s House”)

Robbing of the Bastion Wall post-dates Benny’s House (the trench cuts the western extent of W09D2-904) and pre-dates the expansive kurkar surface of Phase 7 that covers it (F06D2-072).

The 2009 excavation uncovered a series of clay layers rich in phytoliths and IrIIa pottery that covered “Benny’s House” and were cut by the foundation trench for W10606. They were considered transitional between Phases 7 and 8 and designated stage *iv*.

A sequence of surfaces that both covers Phase 8 “Benny’s House” and is cut by the foundation trench for the Phase 7 “Taphat’s Palace Wall” is neither Phase 8 nor Phase 7 but in the “twilight zone” between them.... The [clay] layers F08D2-255, F09D2-317 (dark brown clay over a phytolith layer) covered F09D2-360 (much pottery embedded in a grayish clay), which in turn covered L09D2-366 (grey clay with fist-sized cobbles) (p09D2-9514, p09D2-9527). Each of these loci yielded significant quantities of IrIIa pottery, with 09D2-366 designated a key locus. 09D2-317 produced a Cypriot White Painted closed vessel, Cypriot Black-on-Red and Cypro-Geometric III sherds, Phoenician Bichrome bowls, and Egyptian pottery. (2009 End of Season report)

This season we continued down through comparable deposits, clay layers rich in phytoliths, restorable pottery, and, in 10D2-523 and 10D2-533, evidence of metallurgical activity. The 2009 layers produced quantities of pottery, but none deemed restorable. This year’s layers yielded restorable pottery and evidence of *in situ* metallurgical activity. While the matrix and quantities of pottery are comparable between the two deposits, the standing walls and restoration pottery warrant assigning the 2010 loci to Phase 8 and leaving the 2009 loci with the transitional designation.

Phase 8/stages *v* and *vi* (Iron I/II and early IrIIa): “Benny’s House”

This year’s excavation adds a new wall, room(s), and floors to Benny’s House. The new east-west fieldstone wall (W10D2-570) in conjunction with north-south wall W10D2-569, which continues W15181, creates one and probably two new rooms. W10D2-570 abuts the earlier Bastion Wall, as would W09D2-904 if the Bastion Wall robber trench (09D2-342) hadn’t severed the connection. The north-south wall W10D2-569 abuts the east-west W09D2-904.

In Phase 8a, dirt and cobbles cover and obscure W10D2-570 leaving a single long room. By Phase 8b, W10D2-570 divides the Phase 8a expanse into two rooms with floors F20D2-571 and F10D2-572 in the north and south respectively. Phases 8a and 8b do not necessarily correlate with the earlier phasing in the house; they simply indicate superimposition.

Phase 8a or stage *iv* (transitional between Phases 7 and 8)??

The rocky ruins of Benny’s House serve as a locus for metallurgical activity (Figure 4, p10D2-9571). Multiple slags, square and round tuyères, a crucible fragment, portions of two bellows pots, and intense burning that generated much white, orange, and grey ash testify to metallurgical work in the rocky corner enclosed by the Bastion Wall to the west and W09D2-904 to the north (10D2-523, 10D2-533, F10D2-546, F10D2-584, 10D2-590, 10D2-593). To the south, the burning stops at the northern face of the still buried W10D2-570, so either the wall or dirt above it formed a barrier or ridge that bounded the burning area (p10D2-9610). To the east, the metallurgical activity generated ash found in pockets at the western edge of 10D2-533 but there was no clear activity surface. 10D2-523 was distinguished from 10D2-533 below by sandy spots and a change in cobble size and density, so F10D2-523 serves as the proposed continuation of the activity surface to the east. Both L10D2-523 and L10D2-533 are clay layers filled with sizeable protruding cobbles - not an ideal, flat, activity area. The metallurgists more likely worked in an abandoned, rocky space enclosed by the Bastion Wall and W09D2-904 than a rock-strewn house courtyard. If this is the case, then these deposits may shift to the intermediate stage *iv*, the period after Benny’s House ceased to function as a residence but before the building of W10606. The lack of restoration pottery, which was a consideration in the assignation of the 2009 clay layers to the transitional stage *iv*, supports the transitional designation (in retrospect,

the restorable pottery came from the corners of the room where underlying floors sloped up, so the pottery likely derives from those floors below).

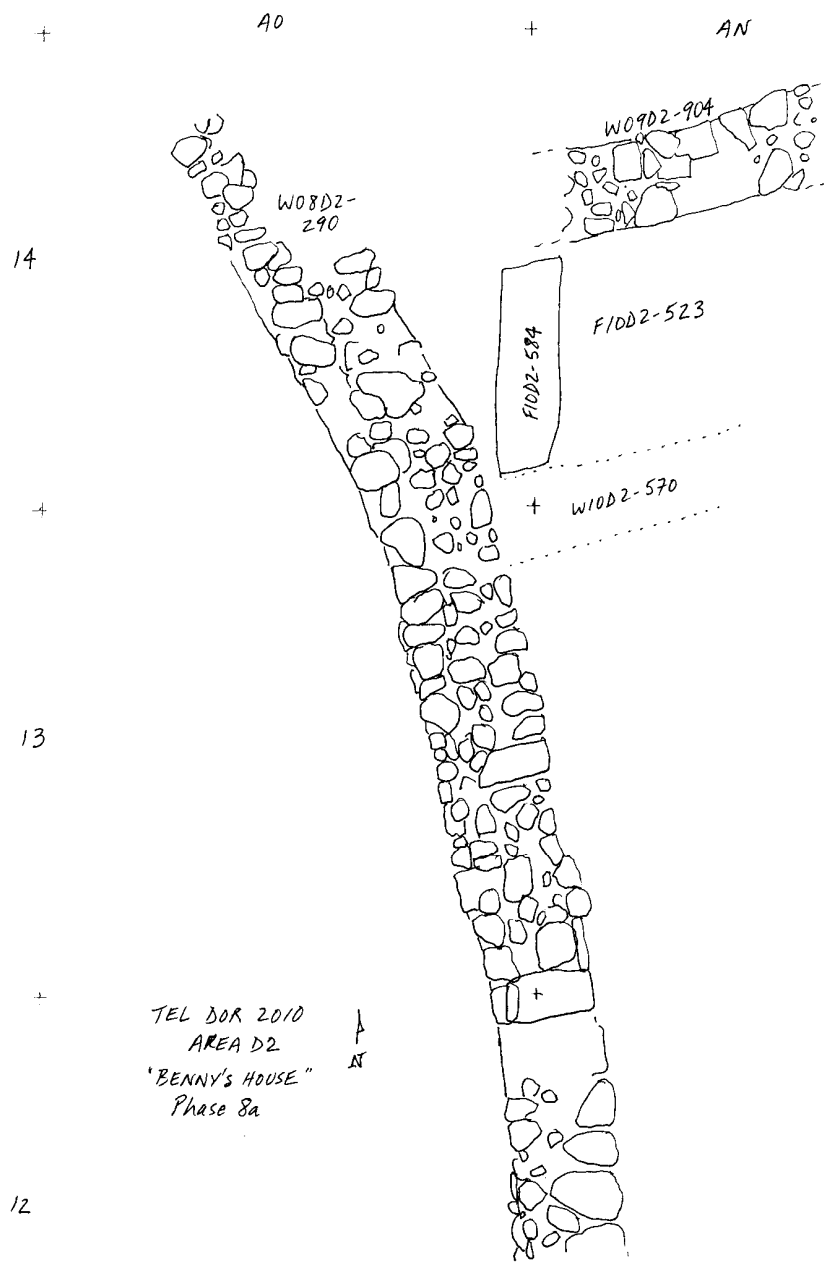


Figure 4. Phase 8a/stage v Metallurgical activity in “Benny’s House”

Key loci: 10D2-523 and 10D2-533 (clay and cobbles); F10D2-584, 10D2-590, 10D2-593 (burning and ash, all within the AO-AN/14 baulk)

Restoration loci:

R: 10D2-523, 10D2-533, with 10D2-584, 10D2-590, 10D2-593 (all with few sherds from the baulk)

R: 10D2-546 with 10D2-549 (=10D2-559) and 10D2-561 for bellows pieces, but do not mix.

Soil Samples/Material for Analysis taken: F10D2-584, 10D2-590, and 10D2-593 for Sarel Shalev (with a control from 10D2-571)

Special finds: a metallurgical assemblage with pot bellows, slags, tuyères, and a crucible fragment



p10D2-9610 Metallurgical burning and W10D2-570 (photo left)

p10D2-9571 Rocky surface of metallurgical activity area (L10D2-533) (photo right)

Phase 8b (or 8a)/stage *vi* or *v*

The addition of the east-west fieldstone wall W10D2-570 plus the north-south wall W10D2-569=W15181 creates two new rooms within Benny's House (Figure 5). Wall W09D2-904 to the north, the Bastion Wall (W08D2-290) to the west, W10D2-570 to the south, and W10D2-569 to the east enclose the room with the remarkably well-preserved build-up of occupational surfaces F10D2-571 (= F10D2-549). If W9D2-904 originally met the Bastion Wall, as did the other east-west house walls, the room measured approximately 3.5 x 2.0m with a possible post-hole near mid-width.

Successive layers of dense, moist clay provide an ideal environment for preservation of organic material, phytoliths, and bones. In addition to many restorable vessels including "Benny type jars" and the mini juglets of the 1990s excavation, a straw filled bag (?) (p10D2-9606), 10s of phytoliths (grain husks, p10D2-9607) an articulated puppy (identified by Lidar), reed phytoliths forming an approximately .30 m square square (p10D2-9577, square and dog bones), and an unbaked clay jar

stopper are preserved. Additional unbaked clay items are discernable but cracked and smushed beyond recognition. As expected in a domestic assemblage, boring bowls predominate with cooking pots, lamps, baking trays, jugs, jars, kraters, and saucers

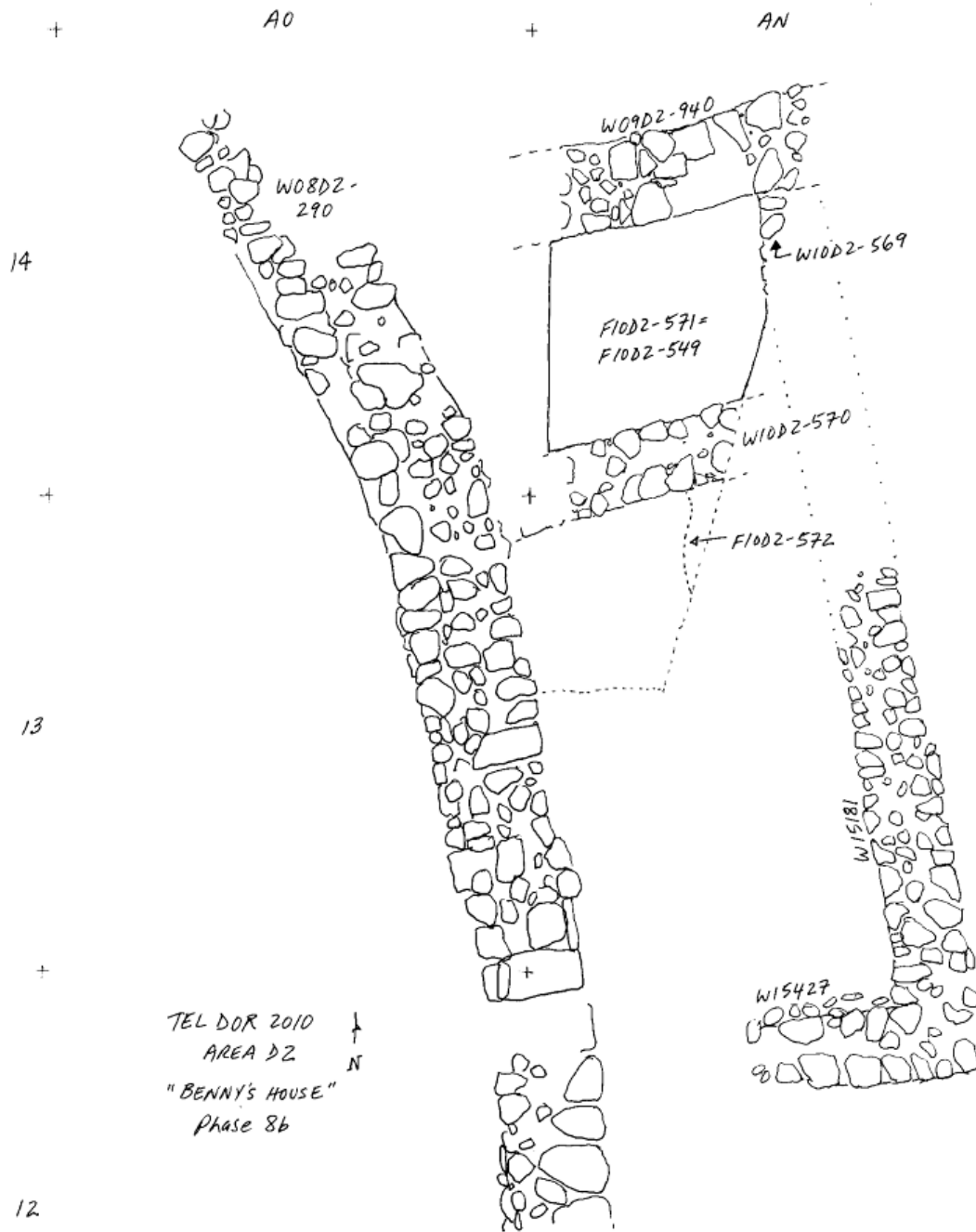


Figure 5. Phase 8b/stage vi "Benny's House" occupational phase

also represented (lack of storejars). Phoenician Bichrome and Egyptian pieces enhance the repertoire. Most of these items one expects to find in a domestic assemblage, but the articulated puppy is unexpected. With no obvious signs of a burial pit, the puppy's presence suggests these layers may be fills with discarded and dumped domestic items, or, tragedy struck the home such that it collapsed or was abandoned along with household goods and the family pet. We isolated F10D2-571 as a surface within the house, but it is only one (actually portions of several) of many superimposed surfaces. L10D2-585 below continues down through this build-up of superimposed surfaces.



p10D2-9606 straw (L10D2-585)



p10D2-9607 grain husks (L10D2-585)

Occupational surfaces are less well-preserved and far less extensive in the southern room framed by W10D2-570 to the north, the dirt under Taphat's Wall (W10606) to the east, our sandbag walkway to the south, and the Bastion Wall (08D2-290) to the west. The limited extent of F10D2-572 provides some restorable pottery but 10D2-587 below reveals the edges of occupational surfaces unfortunately also of limited extent. In both rooms, preservation improves as we near W10606, with earlier room contents sealed when the massive ashlar were set in place.

Key loci:

Northern room: 10D2-546, 10D2-549, 10D2-571, 10D2-585, 10D2-531 (2011)

Southern room: 10D2-572, 10D2-587

Restoration loci:

Northern room:

R: 10D2-549 (=10D2-559) with 10D2-571 but do not mix

R?: 10D2-585 with 10D2-549 and 10D2-571 but do not mix

R?: 10D2-531 (pending 2011 results)

Southern room: R? 10D2-572 with 10D2-587 (pending 2011 results)

Material for Analysis / Soil Samples taken:

Northern Room: 10D2-571 and 10D2-585 soil samples taken for controls

Elisabetta Boaretto took 5 samples from 10D2-585:

WIS 100: straw; WIS 101: grain husks; WIS 102: general sediment in post hole; WIS 103: straw around the post hole; and WIS 104: sediment between ceramic pieces

10D2-585 phytoliths of grain husks taken as a (broken) block for analysis

Special finds: spout of a zoomorphic vessel shaped as a horse's head with mane (10D2-549); scarab with a man holding a crocodile(?) by the tail (10D2-549); articulated puppy (10D2-571); bead from 10D2-585; straw (in a bag?) (10D2-585), 10s of grain husk phytoliths (10D2-585)

Phases 9-13/stages *vii-ix* (Iron Ia) Upper City

Phases 9-12/stage *vii* (late IrIa?/IrIb?/early IrIIa?): remains post-dating the IrIa site-wide destruction but pre-dating Benny's House

This stage encompasses remains that are later than the IrIa site-wide destruction *and* earlier than the IrIIa "Benny's House." However, "Benny's House" sits outside the Bastion Wall while destruction is confined to inside the Bastion Wall so no strictly stratigraphic attribution to this stage is possible. Dateable pottery is determinative.

Evidence of post-destruction activity is evident in the Upper City along the length of the Bastion Wall (Figure 6). The "Sikil Shrine" excavated in 2009 (F09D2-329), phytolith and ashy surfaces F10D2-510 and F09D2-907, and the trough-shaped installation/pit F10D2-564 attest to continued activity in the vicinity. The deep build-up of Iron I ashy surfaces in the northwest corner of AO/14 attests to continued activity following the city's destruction.

The phytolith and ashy surfaces F10D2-510 and F09D2-907, reaching walls W09D2-304 and W08D2-258 respectively, demonstrate that the walls or wall stubs still rose above the surrounding surface but that the area may have been open to the elements and grazing animals. Each of the surfaces slopes down precipitously to meet the Bastion Wall, following the slope of the underlying layers. There is a slight displacement of the wall in its northern exposure – it tilts outwards (p10D2-9640). This dislocation may, in part, explain why the surfaces slope down to meet the wall and why the matrix adjacent to the wall appears disturbed.

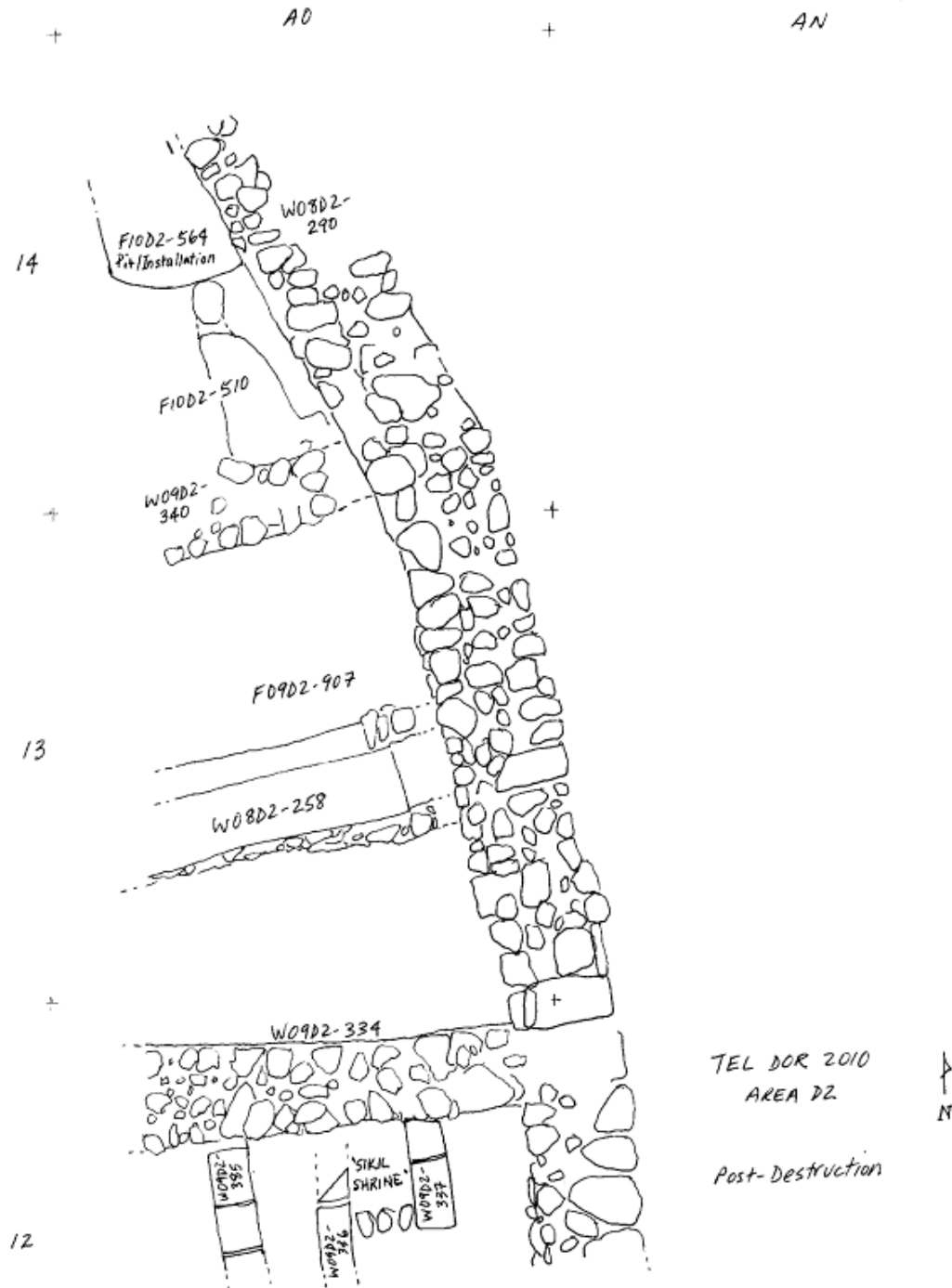


Figure 6. Phases 9-12/stage vii Post-destruction activity

Only in AO/14 is there an extensive build-up of Iron I remains following the initial post-destruction activity. An over one meter deep build-up of successive ashy, phytolith, sandy, and burning lenses, all dated by pottery to Iron I, overlie pit/installation F10D2-564. This trough-shaped pit/installation lies directly beneath those layers but separated by a thick layer of mudbrick detritus. If an ash-covered trough, either cut into mudbrick or constructed with a mudbrick frame, this

installation recalls those in Areas G and D4 (kneading troughs). The successive build-up and regularity of superimposed ashy layers above, each consistently 1-2 cm thick and flat, with blackened/burning lenses from localized burning, demonstrates these are occupational surfaces rather than fills in a pit. Such regular, fine layering typically occurs in bounded spaces (rather than open spaces) but no delimiting wall to the south is evident (this accumulation is bordered by the Bastion Wall to the east, and baulks to the north and west). [The pottery readings for the fill in this pit/installation (10D2-564) are consistently “Ir IA?/could be later”. Pottery from the overlying ashy-phytolith surfaces were Iron I (10D2-510 – IrI; 09D2-353 – IrI; 09D2-343 – IrI, probably Ia, with LB Cyp? and Myc?; and 08D2-237 - IrI, IrIa?, IrIb?).]

Key loci: none

Special finds: red bead (10D2-564)

Phase 13/stage *viii* (IrIa): city-wide occupation and destruction



IMG 6523 Iron Ia rooms abutting the Bastion Wall

This year's excavation added the contents of one and a half more rooms constructed against the Bastion Wall plus an additional mudbrick wall, W10D2-591, which, if it continued east to meet the Bastion Wall, would have created a fourth room in the sequence (Figure 7).

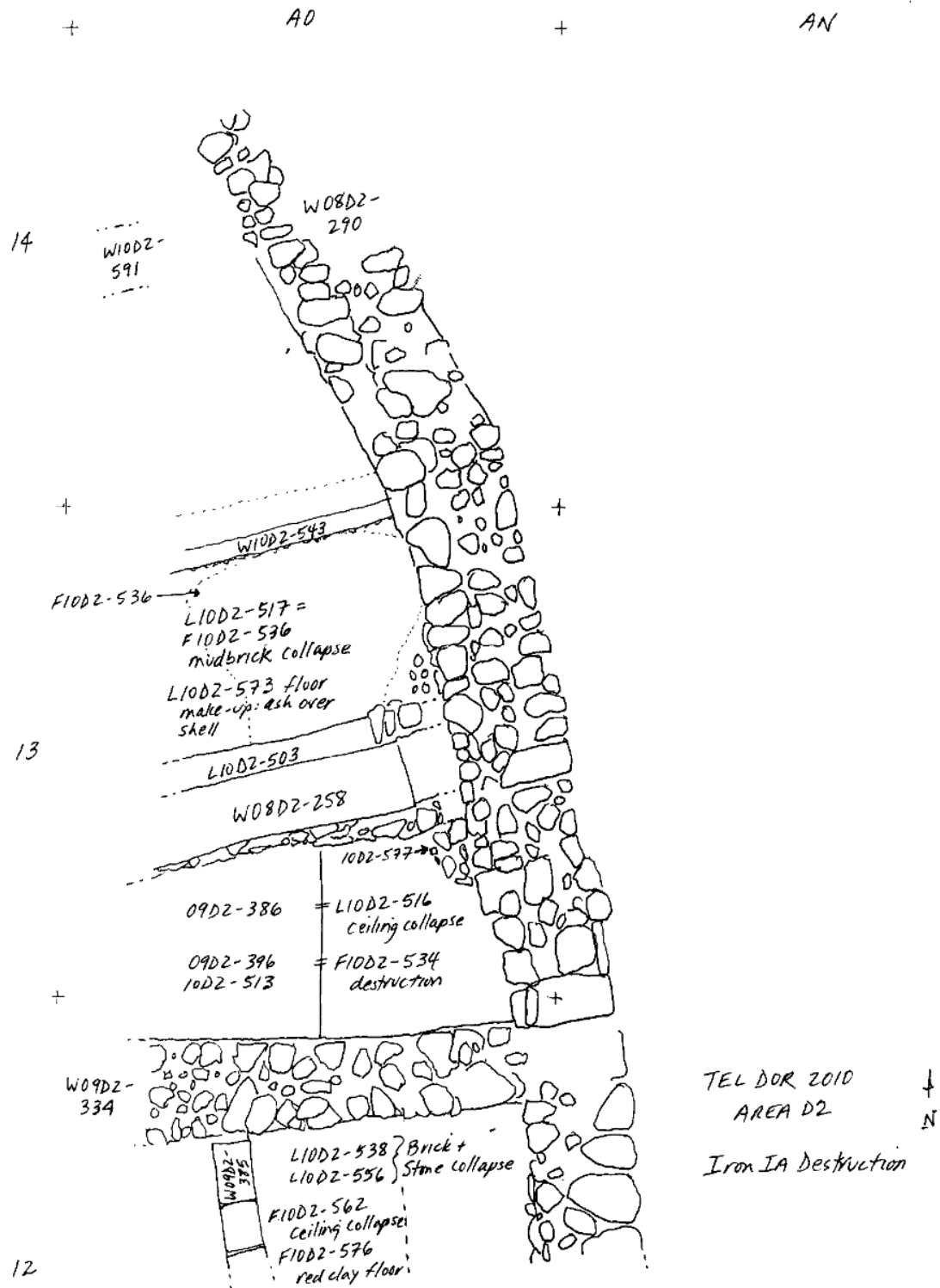


Figure 7. Phase 13/stage viii Destruction of the Iron IIA Upper City

Each of the walls framing the successive rooms is constructed differently (IMG 6523). From south to north, W09D2-334 had no bricks preserved above the stone socle, though red, orange, and yellow mudbricks collapsed into the adjacent rooms to the south and north. W08D2-258 consists of a surprisingly thin pisée wall (.6-.7 m wide) atop a wide stone socle (1.1-1.2 m wide). Burning on the face of the stone socle as well as on the pisée facing demonstrates the two walls contemporaneity. The socle now rises 6 courses, .70 m above the level of the shell-bedded flooring (F10D2-536). A 1-2 cm facing of a distinctive, pinkish-orange matrix is preserved on the northern face (a similar matrix faces W10D2-591). The southern face of W10D2-543 shows three courses of poorly preserved, light-brown, sandy bricks (each .08 m high) separated by thin grey mortar lines, all over a stone socle of small cobbles faced with a thin, grey spread (p10D2-9604). The northern face of W10D2-543 remains concealed below the post-destruction W09D2-340. The most northern of the walls, W10D2-591, consists of four courses of relatively well-preserved grey and brown bricks each measuring .09-.12 m high and .50 m long (p10D2-9601). This wall is clearly visible in the baulk; it protrudes only .04 m into the excavation area. The pinkish-orange coating on the south face (the northern face is less well-preserved), identical to the facing on the north side of W08D2-258, suggests this is a wall that was cut by the pit/installation F10D2-564 rather than part of the installation construction.



p10D2-9509 wall W08D2-258 with thin pisée superstructure over a wide stone socle



p10D2-9604 The mudbrick and stone socle W10D2-543 is directly below the stone wall W09D2-340. The locus number rests against the mudbricks of W10D2-543.



p10D2-9601 with mudbrick wall W10D2-591 in the baulk behind the locus number, Bastion Wall in the foreground, and W09D2-340 to the left.

From south to north, the rooms range in width. “Liz’s First Destruction (F10D2-534)” measures from 1.6-2.4 m wide (wider to the east); “Liz’s Second Destruction (F10D2-536)” measures a consistent 1.8 m wide; and the possible room/space to the north would measure over 2.3 m wide.

The height/depth of the walls raises a new question – how did one enter the rooms? If ground level rooms, the doorways must lie under the baulk to the west. Alternatively, if subterranean rooms or basements, one simply required an opening in the ceiling to climb a ladder. The piles of stones in the corners formed by W08D2-258 and the

Bastion Wall (10D2-577 and 10D2-504) may have collapsed into “Liz’s 1st and 2nd Destruction” rooms and onto the floors through just such an opening. In both cases, the jumble of stones sits on the floor, in the corner, amid the destruction debris.

We begin our tour of the rooms from the south. “Daniel’s Destruction” appears to follow the pattern of its neighboring room to the north. Burnt brick and stone collapse (09D2-905, 10D2-538, 10D2-556, clearly visible in the southern baulk in IMG 6523) cover the fallen ceiling, a distinctive brownish matrix with charred branches (10D2-562). Disappointingly, the ceiling collapsed onto a clean, thick, red clay floor (F10D2-576). Two bowls Type 23 and a complete profile of a “pre-boring bowl” secure an Iron Ia date for the city-wide destruction and alleviate some of the disappointment.

In the 2009 season, we excavated the western half of the second room, now nicknamed “Liz’s First Destruction” (sectors 1-3, north and south, p10D2-9526, p10D2-9615). The eastern half (sectors 4 and 5, north and south) replicate the sequence uncovered the previous year. Ceiling collapse 10D2-516 (= 09D2-386) with charred branches criss-crossing the room cover the destruction below (10D2-534=09D2-396=10D2-513, p10D2-9526). Complete vessels include a Dor Type 2 flask decorated with concentric circles, a Type 405 straight-shouldered “commercial” store jar, and one or two Type 3 pear-shaped, “non-commercial” store jars. Jar pieces display decoration - a red band on a rim and a splash of color on a body. Wet-sieving yielded a wealth of small finds – beads, multiple fragments of glass, gold (bead?), fish bones, and much flint debitage. Charred wood covers the floor (p10D2-9615). Patrick Geyer and Brita Lorentzen sampled the wood and floor deposits for dendrochronology samples and pollen analysis, respectively, and both took samples for species identification. The large plank of oak may have been a shelf that burned and fell onto the floor. The branches, probably roofing material but perhaps also furniture or other wooden objects include a second species tentatively identified by Brita as a conifer, possibly pine. Room contents suggest the space functioned as storage rather than a living space based on the lack of bowls and cooking pots and the prevalence of storejars.



p10D2-9526 fallen and smashed pottery of “Liz’s 1st Destruction” (L10D2-534)



p10D2-9615 charred wooden plank and branches (L10D2-534)

Unlike the previous two rooms, the room dubbed “Liz’s 2nd destruction” did not burn. Mudbricks (10D2-517, 10D2-536) fell onto a pale grey-ash covered sloping and undulating surface nearly devoid of material culture. The surface descends to the east to meet the Bastion Wall in a gully-shaped contour, rising to meet the walls to the north and south. An approximately .02-.04 m deep layer of glycimeris shells formed the bedding for the floor (F10D2-536, 10D2-573 floor make-up, p10D2-9619). The shells in conjunction with the gully contour suggest liquids being funneled or drained down towards the Bastion Wall. 10D2-517 and 10D2-536 yielded large and small flasks decorated with red concentric circles; a flint core, blade, and debitage; and tantalizing LBA sherds, but little else.



p10D2-9619 Shell-bedded floor F10D2-573

Key Loci:

“Daniel’s Destruction”: 10D2-538 and 10D2-556 (brick and stone collapse), 10D2-562 (ceiling collapse), F10D2-576 (red clay floor)

“Liz’s 1st Destruction”: 10D2-516 (ceiling collapse), 10D2-534 and 10D2-513 (destruction debris)

“Liz’s 2nd Destruction”: 10D2-517 and 10D2-536 (mudbrick collapse), 10D2-573 (shell floor make-up)

Restoration Loci:

“Daniel’s Destruction”:

R?: 10D2-538

R: 10D2-556 with 10D2-562, (a possible bowl mend with 576 but do not mix)

R: 10D2-576

2009: 09D2-384, 09D2-399, and 09D2-905, all with large sherds, have been registered as R? to be kept for possible restoration with loci excavated in the 2010 season.

“Liz’s 1st Destruction”:

R: 10D2-516, 09D2-386, 10D2-534, 10D2-577, 10D2-513

“Liz’s 2nd Destruction”:

R?: 10D2-517 with 10D2-536,

R?: 10D2-573 (to be determined)

Soil Samples/Material for Analysis: Brita Lorentzen for dendrochronology and species identification; Patrick Geyer for pollen and species identification (10D2-534)

Special Finds:

“Daniel’s Destruction”: Samaria Fine Ware Bowl (10D2-538), 2 examples of Irfa Bowl Type 23 (10D2-556), and a complete profile of a “pre-boring bowl” (10D2-562).

“Liz’s 1st Destruction”: handle of a Philistine jug (10D2-516); complete vessels, Philistine bell-shaped bowl, unbaked clay weight, flint sickle blade, multiple glass bits, multiple beads, gold (bead?), a grinding stone with pink residue (10D2-534)

“Liz’s 2nd Destruction”: Flint cores, debitage, and sickle blade with possible adhesive on back (10D2-536)

stage ix: Pre-destruction and the Bastion Wall

We reached pre-destruction levels in two rooms, “Daniel’s Destruction” and “Liz’s 2nd Destruction” (Figure 8). In both cases, the room walls and Bastion Wall continue down with no signs of foundation trenches. In the southernmost room, the red clay floor make-up (10D2-576) rests upon a surface rich in fish bones (identified in the field by Roe Shafir as small Denise). Isolated articulated scales, vertebrae, and fins hint at whole fish, but no complete skeleton was uncovered. The floor F10D2-536 in “Liz’s 2nd Destruction” room overlies a sandy matrix (10D2-578) comparable to the sandy matrix below the floor in “Liz’s 1st Destruction” room. Tantalizing Cypriot LBA sherds, few in number but of a Base Ring jug, milk bowls, and an undefined, wavy band pithos, elicited joy.

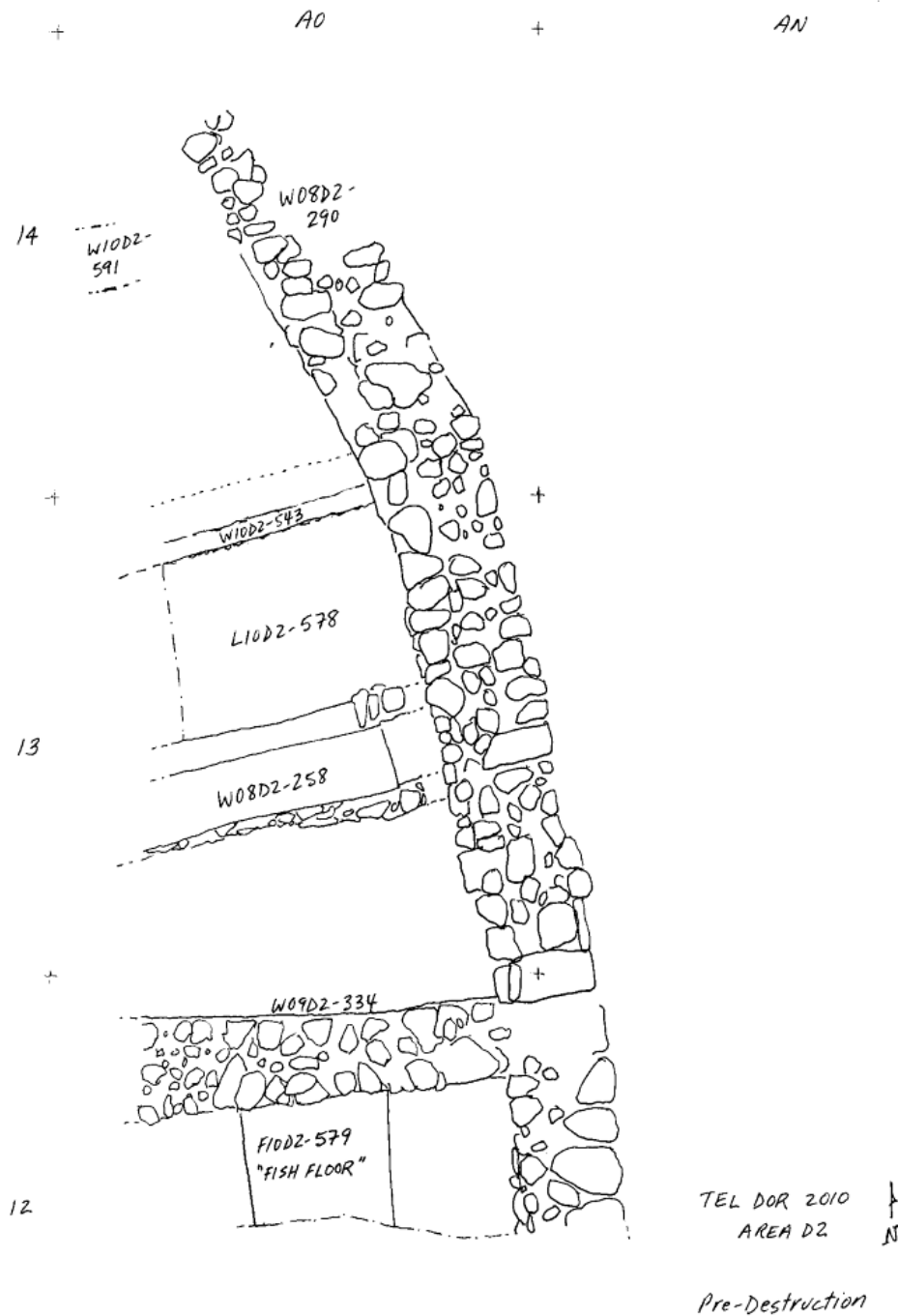


Figure 8. stage ix Pre-Destruction Iron Ia Upper City

Bastion Wall (W08D2-290=W17269):

This year's excavation exposed an additional 5.5 m of the Bastion Wall (AO/12, AO/14) for a total of approximately 12 meters. Seen in conjunction with the portions of the wall exposed in D2 lower as well as those visible in the sea cliff, the Bastion Wall is not straight but circumvallates the upper city (p10A-0080, p10D2-9640).



p10A-0080 (L) and p10D2-9640 (R) 2 views of the Bastion Wall circumvallating the Upper City

Construction of the wall varies from segment to segment. Throughout its exposed length in D2, the wall is pyramidal in section - narrow at the top and flaring slightly as it goes down. Different segments of the wall display differing building techniques. Preserved segments of the western face of the wall uncovered in AO/14 are bedded in thick, clean, orangish-brown clay (10D2-565). In Square AO/12 the western face of the wall was faced with small cobbles. Of the exposed portions of the wall, it has been robbed to its greatest depth in AO/14 and is most displaced, leaning out to the east, in AO/14.

Key loci: 10D2-579, 10D2-578

Restoration Loci:

R? (pending 2011 results): 10D2-578

R? (pending 2011 results): 10D2-579

Special finds: two-colored closed vessel, perhaps Philistine (10D2-579)