

## **Dor End of Season 08 Area D4 Supervisor's Report**

### **Preliminary Information / Credits**

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*Locus bank:* L08D4-301 – L08D4-390

*Basket bank:* 08D4-3000 – 08D4-4699

*Image bank:* d/v 08D4: 3001-3042 ; 3100-3143 ; 3500-3555

*Image bank:* p 08D4: 9000-9007 ; 9500-9516 ; 9700-9713

*Updated locus cards:* W04D1-050 ; W04D1-052 ; W04D1-067 ; W04D1-068 ; W04D1-105 ; W04D1-169 ; W04D1-180 ; W05D4-060 ; W07D4-040 ; W07D4-061 ; L07D4-077 ; W07D4-078 ; W07D4-100 ; W07D4-114

### **Overview**

The 2008 excavation in area D4 by the UW Seattle team continued on the same scale as in 2007, with total of nine squares excavated in full or in part: (AN/15 (W half); AN/16 (W half); AN/17 (W half); AO/15 (N half); AO/16; AO/17; AP/15 (N half) AP/16; and AP/17). Excavation in the area as a whole focused on the removal of the remaining structures associated with the Roman period industrial complex, and the continued exposure of the Hellenistic strata (at least some of which structures were reused in the Roman periods).

The architectural structure of the complex is such that it was excavated, and will be discussed in the report that follows, in terms of northern and southern “units,” each divisible into sub-units or “rooms” (cf. fig. 1). The northern unit (occupying the extent of AN-AP/16-17 and supervised by Ryan Boehler, henceforth RPB) consisted—as it had in 2007—of three large rectangular rooms, running on a north-south axis (see also 2007 report – note that we are using the same “room” designations as last year, but the “units” have changed due to the fact that last year the area was divided among more unit supervisors). For reasons of clarity, the following report will refer to the easternmost room as “Room A,” the middle room as “Room B,” and the westernmost as “Room C.” Whereas Rooms B and C are roughly the same size (ca. 3m x ca 5.5m), Room A (AN-AO/16-17) extends further to the south and—as its eastern limit has yet to be revealed—is perhaps considerably wider. The northern margins of each of these rooms contained one (Room A; L05D4-061) or more (Room B; L05D4-052 and L05D4-055 and C: L07D4-043 and L08D4-336) tabuns / kilns of as yet undetermined use. All tabuns date to the latest phases of the complex’s use in the Roman period.

Excavation of the tabuns in Rooms B and C has suggested that there were at least two phases of tabun construction, and it is likely that not all tabuns would have been in use simultaneously. Finally, bisecting all three rooms is a drain channel (L07D4-105), which runs east-to-west with a gentle but noticeable curve from the north to the south and back again (cf. fig. 1). This drain is earlier than all tabuns and belongs to Phase 2, as it was cut by two of the Phase 1 walls (W04D1-067 and W07D4-078).

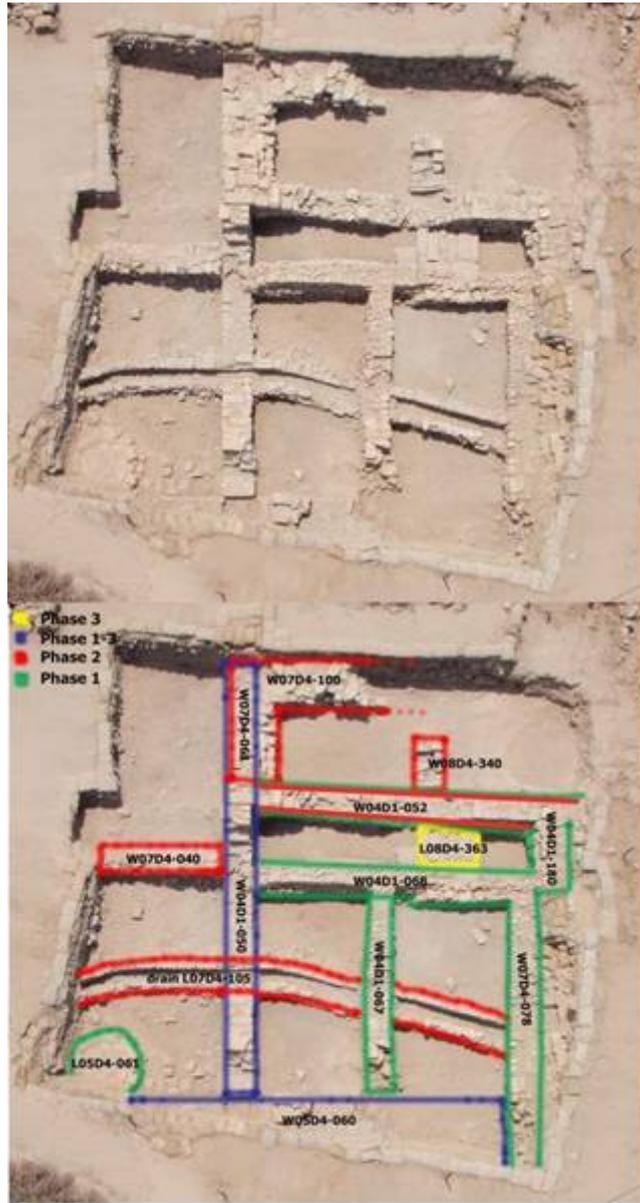
Excavation in the northern unit entailed the complete removal of the tabuns in Rooms B and C, the removal of the tabun superstructure in Room A, the removal of a Phase one “pavement” south of the drain in Room C (F07D4-036), the removal of the top courses of walls W04D-067 and W04D1-068, and the removal of the capstones of the drain in Room A (capstones in Rooms B and C were not preserved). Other than this, excavation in the northern unit consisted of the removal of pottery-rich fills and revealed lower courses of existing walls—the most notable of which are the lower courses of wall W05D4-060, an exceptionally well constructed header-stretcher wall, apparently in the ‘compartment building’ style typical of the Hellenistic period. Unfortunately, this wall appears to be separated by a foundation trench from fills alongside it – so it is possible that nothing remains of the superstructure of the building.

The southern unit, excavated by Colin McFeron (henceforth CAM), consisted of one well-defined room (Room D) directly to the south of Room A. To the east of it is a grouping of what were likely two small rooms (the wall between them largely robbed) with an east-west running a corridor to the north of them, between them and rooms B and C to the north (fig. 1).

Excavation in the southern unit entailed the removal of wall W04D1-105 (which originally formed the northern limit of Room D) and drain L07D4-050, as well as the removal of a considerable volume of hard-packed fill in the eastern “rooms” and “corridor.” Removal of the fill in the “rooms” revealed a short extent of a fairly poorly preserved Phase 2 wall (W08D4-340); excavation in the “corridor” revealed an enigmatic Phase 3 construction (L08D4-363), consisting of a square of masonry, built of large ashlar—either a massive pier, or a small podium, or a cover for an installation of some kind. The entire southwest corner of this unit consisted of a large sandy pit the limits of which are poorly defined.

The new features revealed this season include three Kurkar floors (F08D4-324, F08D4-360, and F08D4-385), one poorly constructed Phase 2 wall (W08D4-340), the lower courses of the fine ashlar wall (W05D4-060), probably of Phase 3, and the Phase 3 ashlar construction in the “corridor” of the southern unit. The latter two elements may well be part of the extensive Hellenistic public building which was also found over much of area D1 and some of D2, and which is the object of excavation in area D4. By the end of the season, pottery excavated in the fills of both northern and southern units indicated that we are firmly within the Hellenistic period, though many Roman foundations still remain to be removed.

## **Details**



**Figure 1 (from p08A-0005), aerial, looking south: End of season view on area D4.**

Excavation in the northern unit of D4 included, in addition to the removal of the tabuns and the capstones of drain L07D4-105 as noted above, the removal of a small “paving” (?) feature in room A (L07D4-102) as well as the diminutive wall (?) immediately adjacent to it (L07D4-103). As this “paving” feature (L07D4-103) existed at the same level as, and approximately adjacent to, tabun L05D4-061, it may point to a further Phase 1 tabun in this room, of similar construction to that of L05D4-061, of which no superstructure has survived (cf. stratigraphy section for further details). The fills to both the north and south sides of drain L07D4-105 were excavated in all three rooms (A, B, and C) to a level somewhat below the base of the side walls of the drain, thus “floating” the drain installation.

Along the northern periphery of the unit, the lower phase of wall W05D4-060 was exposed. As noted above, this phase exhibits the “classic” Hellenistic construction of the Tell with finely constructed header-and-stretcher ashlar. This wall comprises at least two courses built in this style, 6 meters in length and at least 1 meter in width; as

noted above, however, it seems likely that nothing of the superstructure of the building remains. Moreover, the meeting point of this wall with wall W04D1-050 was also exposed, and an even wider phase of the latter was revealed on the final day of excavation (cf. fig. 2).



**Figure 2 (p08D4-9712), looking NNW: The junction between W04D1-050 and W05D4-060.**

In the southern unit of D4, the eastern part of the upper drain (L07D4-050) was removed in between W07D4-040 and L04D1-105. As the removal of this drain resulted in the ‘floating’ of wall W04D1-105 on both north and south sides, this wall was removed as well.

In the corridor to the west, below a series of dirt fills, one of the more interesting features of the season was revealed (L08D4-363; cf. fig. 3). This feature consists of a square installation constructed of either complete or fragmentary ashlar, those on the periphery of the installation fairly complete, well-formed, and tightly fitting (and extending under wall W04D1-169 to the south and wall W0D4-068 to the north), and those in the center of the installation somewhat more fragmentary and with rather larger gaps between them. Initial investigation—via flashlight and tape measures—into the area in between the ashlar revealed what appear to be substantial hollow spaces beneath the “central” ashlar, at places up to at least 40cm in depth. While the purpose of this installation is yet impossible to determine—hypotheses range from some sort of pier or podium (although the hollow spaces and fragmentary nature of the central ashlar present difficulties to this thesis) to the (perhaps hastily constructed?) cover of an as yet unknown installation—we can establish that it is earlier than the two walls of the corridor (W04D1-068 and W04D1-069) and thus is to be identified as a Phase 3 installation in the southern unit of D4.



**Figure 3 (p08D4-9713), facing west: L08D4-363 and its surrounding features.**

To the south of this feature, on the other side of wall W04D1-169, we removed the remains of pavement L07D4-077 (= L04D1-181), the removal of which revealed a part of a small and poorly preserved wall (W08D4-340), which runs north-south and abuts wall W04D1-169 to the north. To the west of wall W08D4-340, excavation revealed two extremely fragmentary Kurkar floors (F08D4-324 and F08D4-385), the former located nearly directly above the latter and separated from it by a shallow layer of dirt fill. In the remaining two southern rooms (D and the “room” to the west of it), excavation removed only a series of dirt fills.



**Figure 4 (from p08D4-9001, p08D4-9006), the left image taken looking north, and the right looking east: The two floors that were found at the SW corner of the area D4: F08D4-324 and F08D4-385. Both of them were preserved for almost the same area.**

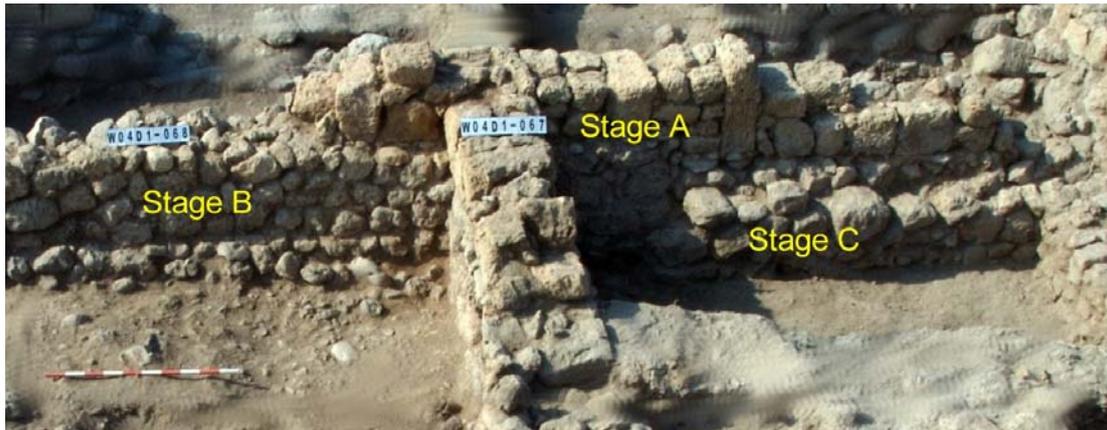
*The main considerations for the stratigraphic scheme*

As most of the excavation of D4 this season consisted of the removal of pottery-rich dirt fills, and revealed few architectural features, little information was added to the stratigraphical understanding of the area. Nevertheless, more thorough exposure of key walls clarified their relations, and helped us to understand more thoroughly the overall phasing of the complex (and thus the ways in which it relates to other areas of the complex as excavated to the east and southeast, in area D2 and part of D1, in prior seasons) as a whole.

Essentially, excavation of D4 in 2008 supported the preexisting picture of a large Roman-period public complex with two main phases (Phase 1 and Phase 2) and several sub-phases (Phase 1 a, b, and c; Phase 2 a and b). The differentiation between the two main phases is based on the architectural differentiations of the interior walls of the building; the definition of sub-phases was based on the observed relations of pipes, drain installations, tabun construction(s), and the superimposition of floors.

The square ashlar construction (L08D4-363), however, situated in the middle of a “corridor” and beneath the “corridor” walls, is completely contrary to the general plan of the Roman period building and thus constitutes the first architectural element that indicates Phase 3 in D4. It is likely that this construction was related to at least some of the walls that extend lower in the area, especially those (e.g. W05D4-060 in the northern unit, and likely the north-south wall W04D4-050 which, although it abuts W05D4-060, appears to belong to the same construction, cf. fig. 2) with typically ‘Hellenistic’ header-stretcher construction.

One of the walls on which we focused in the 2007 report, and to which we returned in 2008, is W04D1-068. This is the main east-west wall in the area, and marks the border between the northern and southern units of D4 (cf. fig. 1). Although the wall has yet to be fully excavated, a working hypothesis is that this wall was constructed in at least three sub-phases—or “stages”—of construction (A, B, and C: cf. Figure 5 below)

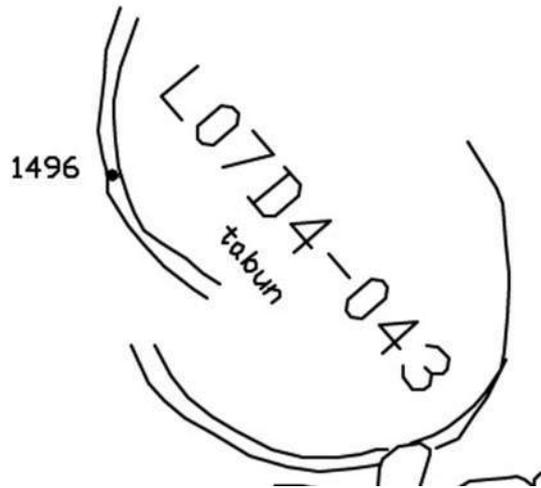


**Figure 5, looking south: Three constructive stages that were observed in W04D1-068 (the stage C construction was named W07D4-114).**

Stage A of wall W04D1-068 was removed at the start of the season; the question of the relation between stages B and C remains. The square ashlar feature (L08D4-363) may shed new light on these relations, as indicated by the aerial photographs taken at the end of the season (cf. fig. 1). As noted above, L08D4-363 may well relate to other Phase 3 features in this area, and it is certainly earlier than both wall W04D1-068 and, to the south, (Phase 1) wall W04D1-052 (=W04D1-169). The aerial photographs indicate that the otherwise somewhat puzzling eastern limit of stage C (= wall W07D4-114; again, cf. fig. 1) coincides closely to the eastern edge of L08D4-363.

As both stages B and C of wall W04D1-068 must constitute the foundations of a Roman-period superstructure, we may hypothesize that during the construction of the foundation trench of W04D1-068 the inhabitants of Dor may have reached installation L08D4-363, which may have proven too large, inconvenient, or otherwise undesirable for them to remove. We might thus surmise that these individuals left L08D4-363 in place and continued their construction following a foundation that is somewhat wider to the north (W04D1-068 stage C = W07D4-114: (cf Figure 1). This hypothesis may also help explain further relations in Room C, for which all walls are to be assigned only to Phase 1: wall W04D1-068 (together with its foundation or earlier stage, wall W07D4-114), and the two north-south walls that dovetail with it: W04D1-067 and (to the west) W07D4-078, both of which cut the Phase 2 drain, L07D4-105 (cf., e.g., photos p08D4-9701;p08D4-9704;p08D4-9705).

The removal of the tabuns in the northern unit similarly offered new insights into the sub-phases of the Roman period of this complex. First, the excavation of tabun L07D4-043 in Room C revealed two nearly contemporary phases of this installation—a classic example of horizontal stratigraphy, in which an earlier phase of a similarly-constructed tabun (L08D4-336) nearly intersects, in its preserved state, tabun L07D4-043. Fig. 6 shows both a photograph of the remains of these two tabuns as excavated this season, as well as the ashlar that likely destroyed the second of these constructions; compare to this the drawing of these installations—as a single tabun (L07D4-043), as made at the end of the 2007 season.



**Figure 6 (from p07D4-9304), looking west: L07D4-043 during the excavation (left) and as it was drawn last season as one tabun (right).**

We had observed during the 2007 season that the two tabuns in Room B (L05D4-052, to the west, and L05D4-055, to the east) had been constructed during two distinct stages; two of the roughly-hewn ashlar of wall W05D4-054, which appears to have been a partial wall separating these tabuns, cuts the clay walls of the eastern tabun (L05D4-055), thus indicating that L05D4-052 is the later construction (cf. Figure 7).



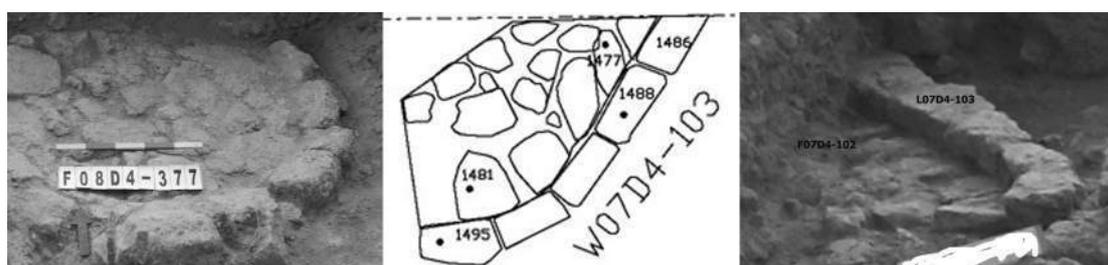
**Figure 7 (p07D4-9103), looking northwest: Two stones from W05D4-054 that cut the walls of tabun L05D4-055.**

The excavation of these tabuns in Room B revealed that feature (previously “wall”) W05D4-054 is almost certainly not a wall but rather part of the tabun installation of L05D4-052; larger field-stones on its upper course had given it the appearance of a wall, but the substructure of the feature proved such a designation impossible. Furthermore, the removal of the top-stones of W05D4-054 revealed a relatively thin

layer of fine grey fill (baskets 08D4-4210 – 08D4-4215); one hypothesis is that this fill originated from the content of the earlier tabun (L05D4-055), possibly deposited during or after the use of this tabun (and, therefore, prior to the construction of tabun L05D4-052). A systematic series of samples were taken along the entire section for future analysis.

Excavation in the northern unit, therefore, has revealed the following stratigraphic relations. In Room C, tabun L07D4-043 postdates—and intersects—tabun L08D4-336; tabun L07D4-043 is thus assigned to Phase 1, Stage A, and tabun L08D4-336 to Phase 1, Stage B. In Room B, tabun L05D4-052 postdates tabun L05D4-055; tabun L05D4-052 is thus assigned to Phase 1, Stage A, and tabun L05D4-055 to Phase 1, Stage B. In Room A, things may be slightly more complicated (or at any rate, somewhat less resolved at present).

Room A appears to contain only tabun L05D4-061—a large tabun, which had been predominantly intact, and of complex construction (indeed, of a construction unlike any of the other tabuns in this unit). The walls of this tabun were constructed of a series of clay courses, each approximately 18 cm in height and 2-3 cm in thickness, which must have been placed sequentially, while leather-hard, and then fired, *in situ*, on both sides. The exterior walls of the tabun were shored up by a “frame” of alternating layers of (reused) broken, square, hard-baked tiles, small kurkar ashlar fragments, and relatively clean dirt fill. A large terracotta pipe, supported above and below by ashlar, entered the tabun at floor level, from the southwest. The excavation of this tabun, however, may shed light on the stratigraphy of the room as a whole. The floor of this tabun consists of a layer of flat stones ringed by a circuit of fairly small ashlar extending above the level of the floor and providing the base for the tabun walls (cf. fig. 6, left). As noted above, last year’s excavation revealed what may be the foundations of a similar construction (L07D4-102 and L07D4-103: cf. fig. 7, right and center); the working hypothesis that we may have in Room A evidence of two tabuns, of similar construction and belonging to the same Phase but represent different stages thereof—cf. the situation in Rooms B and C—is suggestive.



**Figure 8:** Comparison of the bottom of the big tabun F08D4-377 (left; looking east) with two adjacent installations F07D4-102 and L07D4-103 (center and right; right photo looks east; note that L07D4-103 is erroneously labeled a wall), suggesting that they, too, were part of an earlier tabun.

And yet, this hypothesis presents some difficulties: first, the proportions of F07D4-102 and L07D4-103 are somewhat angular—or at any rate elliptical—in stark contrast to the circular proportions of F08D4-377; second, the circumference wall of this

installation (L07D4-103) has straight sides (cf fig. 8 above, photo to the left) as opposed to the clearly sloping perimeter of F08D4-102. At present, then, the two-tabun possibility for Room A may be retained for future excavation (especially to the north) and consideration; at present, however, we have left these two features on the separation plan of Phase 2 and rather than Phase 1, as with the rest of the tabuns in the complex.

The walls of the northern unit exist on two distinct grids (for all that follows, cf. fig. 1): the first grid consists of three dovetailing walls (W04D1-068 [east-west], W04D1-067 [north-south], and W07D4-078 [north-south]), all assigned to Phase 1, whereas the second grid consists of W04D1-050 (north-south) and W05D-060 (east-west), each of which is assigned to Phases 1 through 3. The independent wall W07D4-040 (the east-west wall at the southern limit of Room A) belongs only to Phase 2.

The considerations for this scheme are as follows: walls W04D1-067 and W07D4-078 cut the Phase 2 drain (L07D4-105), which is itself integrated with wall W04D1-050; both of these walls also dovetail with wall W04D1-068, which abuts wall W04D1-050. The latter wall appears to be of one construction with wall W05D4-060; at the one course at which they meet at present, however, wall W04D1-050 abuts wall W05D4-060 (cf. Figure 2 above). We have assigned these two walls to Phase 3 as well as to Phase 2 on the rationale that wall W07D4-040 abuts wall W04D1-050 from the east and was covered by the cement floor of Phase 1. Nevertheless, there are no significant floors in this unit that can be related to Phase 3 or indeed any that reach any of the walls (W04D1-050 and W05D4-060) assigned to this phase. This season's excavation revealed one patchy kurkar floor in Room B (F08D4-360); the floor was assigned to Phase 3, but as it failed to exhibit any solid relations with the walls of this Phase, this assignment is hypothetical and may well be revised in the future.

The southern unit appears to display no continuation of the grids defined for the Phase 1 walls in the northern unit of this area. The walls of the "corridor" (i.e., walls W04D1-052 [e-w; =W04D1-169] and W04D1-180 [n-s]) belong to Phase 1 (W04D1-180) and Phases 1-2 (W04D1-052 =W04D1-169); nevertheless, wall W04D1-180 is extremely small and fragmentary, and is difficult to define at present, especially as the western face of this wall has yet to be exposed. Wall W04D1-052 (=W04D1-169) is constructed partially on top of the square ashlar feature L08D4-363; it also abuts, at the foundation level, wall W04D1-050, and likely relates to the patchy wall W08D4-340, exposed this year. Taken together, these walls define the north and west boundaries of a small room containing F07D4-091 in Phase 2a (cf. separation for that Phase; for the room defined by these walls, cf. fig. 1). The removal of L07D4-077 (=W04D1-181; cf. 2004 report), a locus that had proven especially puzzling at the end of last season, revealed that it is part of a Phase 1 pavement that reaches W04D1-052 (=W04D1-169) and W02D4-340.

At the southern margin of this area (i.e., the southwest margin of the southern unit of D4) is wall W07D4-100, which dovetails, to the east, with W07D4-061 (cf. fig. 1). Although both walls are relatively wide for this area (ca. 1m) and were in use in Phase 2, W07D4-061 (the n-s wall) includes a narrower course also in use in Phase 1 (cf. separations for Phases 1 and 2). As we have yet to reach Phase 3 in this area of the southern unit, and have yet to reach the bottoms of these walls, future excavation will tell us whether these walls indeed extend, in their use, into Phase 3.

It remains only to discuss wall W04D1-105, a brief e-w wall that delineated the northern boundary of Room D in the southern unit (cf., e.g., the separation for Phase 1c). This wall, which was removed toward the end of the 2008 season, abutted wall W04D1-050 to the west; we have assigned this wall to Phase 1 alone, but its construction suggested what may have been a series of internal revisions or reconstructions, likely belonging to separate stages within that phase. Removal of the wall indicated two distinct types of construction: header-stretcher construction constituted the eastern (roughly) half of the wall, while the western (roughly) half of the wall consisted of the somewhat less impressive and more irregular, but typically “Roman” ashlar construction (cf. Figure 9). We do not yet understand why this wall was constructed as it was, but the distinctions are certainly worth noting, and the reasons for such may shed light on the staging of this phase in the future.



**Figure 9 (from p08D4-9004, p08D4-9007); left photo looking west; right photo looking east: W04D1-105 before and after its 'Roman' ashlar construction was removed.**

### *Phase Descriptions*

#### Phase 0

No new information.

#### Phase 1

As in 2007, this Phase is represented in D4 by three sub-stages (a, b, and c). As before, however, not every feature assigned to Phase 1 can be assigned with certainty to only one of the sub-stages; often, as before, the relations are either unclear or indirect. Walls W04D1-105, W04D1-068, W04D1-067, W05D4-060, W07D4-078, W07D4-114, W04D1-180, W04D1-181, and L07D4-077 are assigned to all three sub-

stages of Phase 1. Walls W04D1-050, W05D4-060, W07D4-061, W04D1-052 (= W04D1-169), similarly assigned to Phase 1, are reused from, and therefore are to be assigned to, Phase 2 and perhaps Phase 3 as well.

This season deepened our understanding of the sub-stages of the tabun constructions, as noted in the stratigraphy section. Thus tabun L05D4-055, which had been assigned to Phase 1a, has been found to predate the neighboring tabun L05D4-052 (both of Room B) and so has been reassigned to Phase 1b. Similarly, tabun L08D4-336, found to predate tabun L07D4-043 (both of Room C), has been reassigned to Phase 1b.

Finally, L07D4-077 was revealed to be a poorly preserved pavement and was thus assigned to Phase 1c, as was the pavement in the northern unit, Room C, F07D4-036.

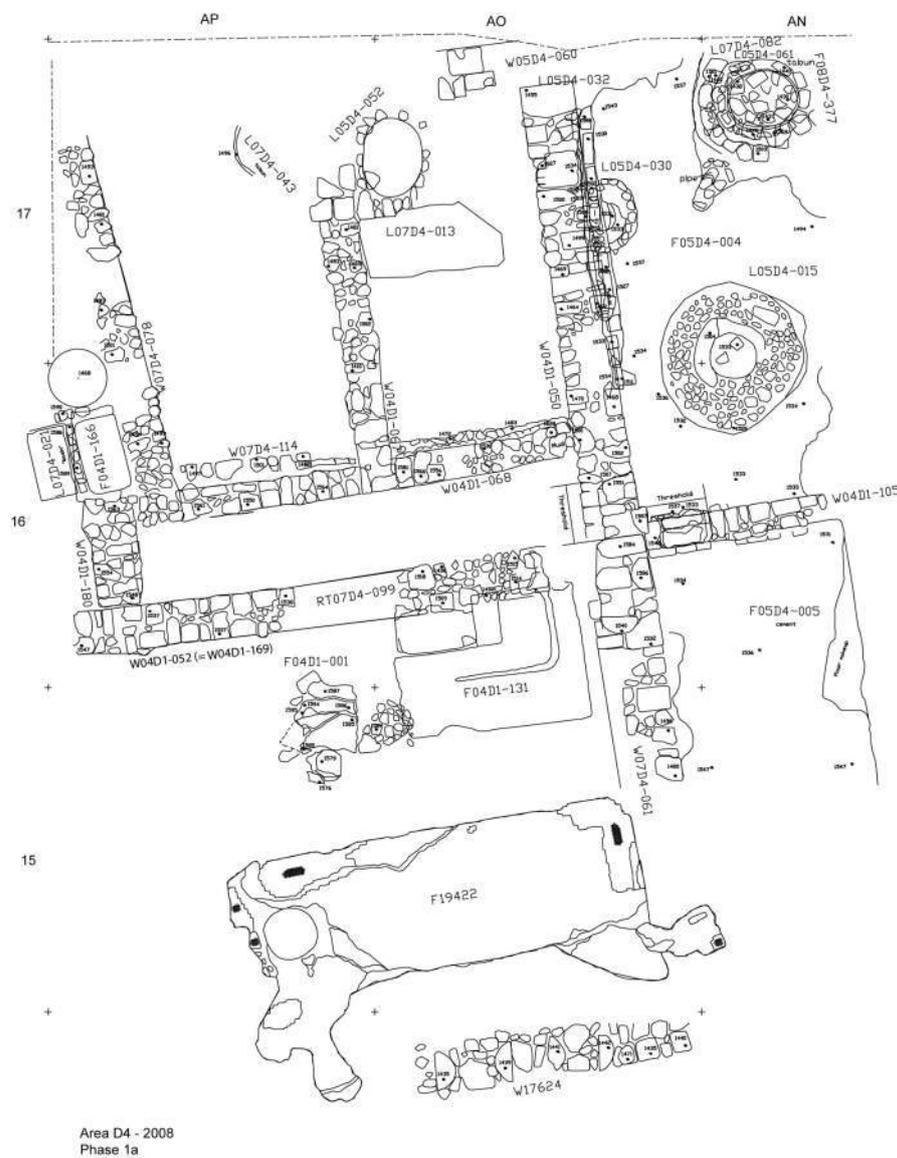
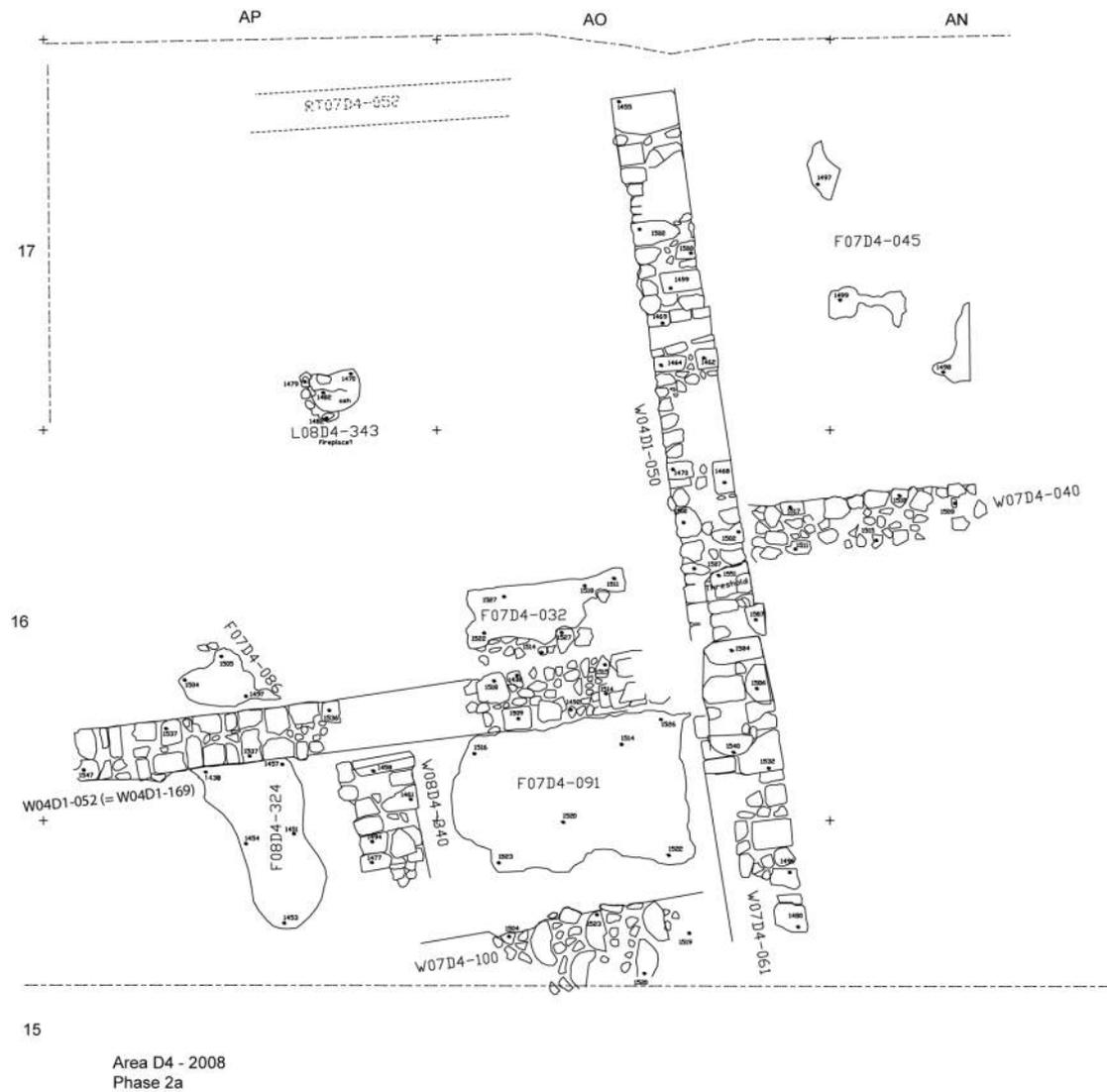


Figure 10: Phase 1a architectural plan.

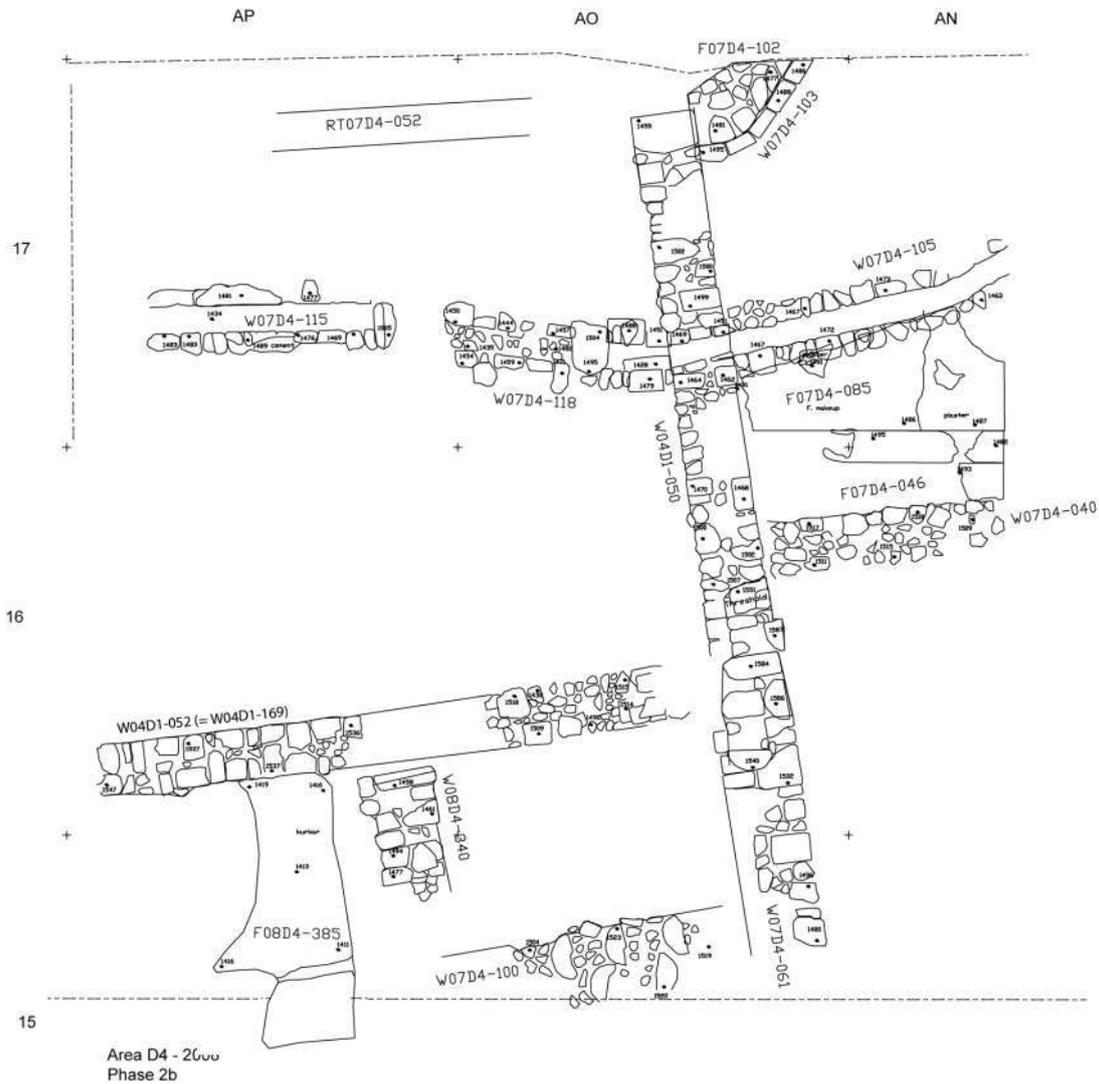




A final feature that was added to the plan of Phase 2a this season is that of the “campfire” L08D4-343 revealed during the baulk removal in Room C. Although there was no empirical evidence suggesting identification with a specific sub-phase of Phase 2, this installation (?) is assigned—somewhat loosely—to Phase 2a due to its situation beneath the pavement of Phase 1c, F07D4-036.



**Figure 13: Phase 2a architectural plan.**

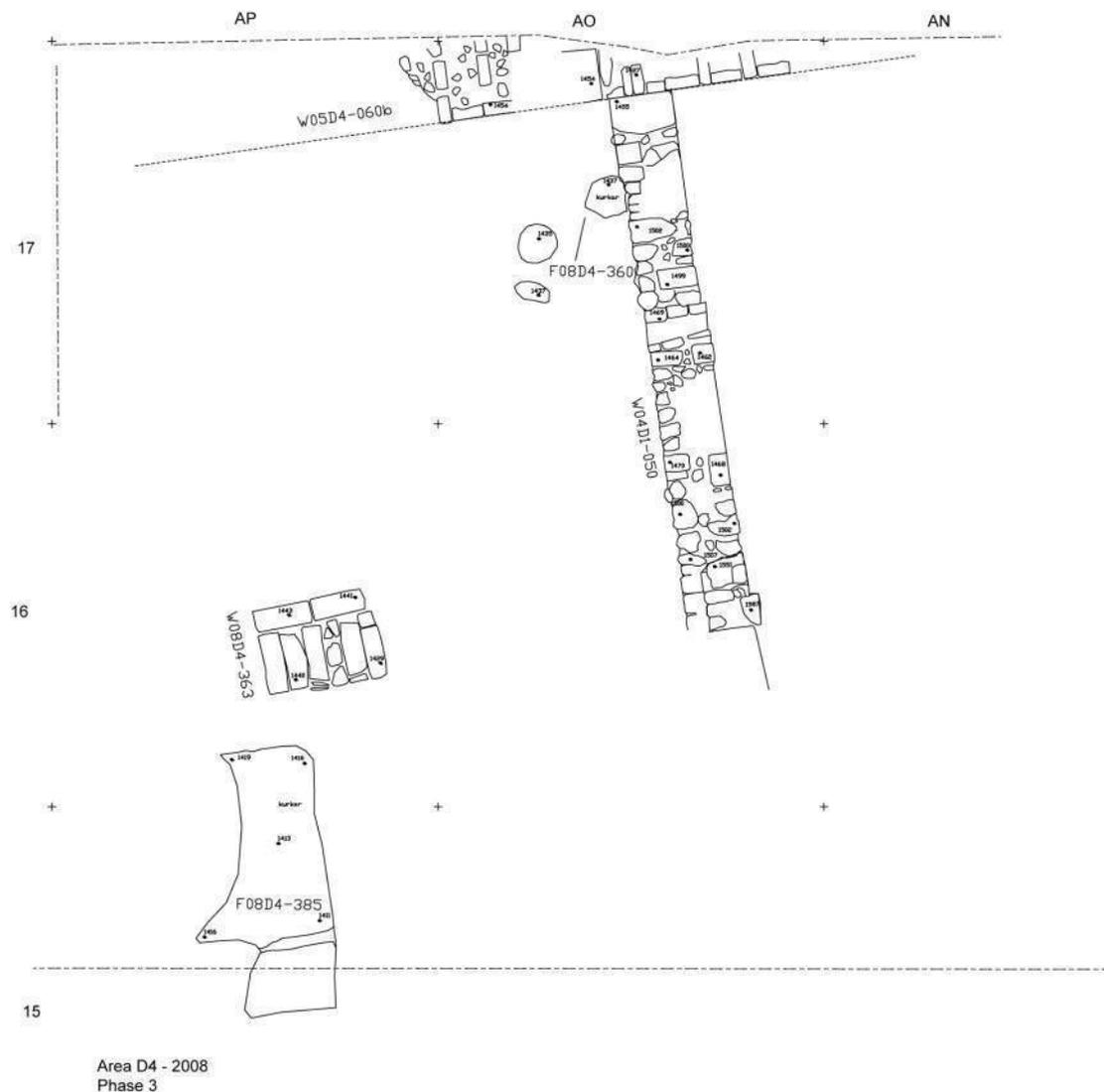


**Figure 14: Phase 2b architectural plan.**

### Phase 3

D4 Phase 3 is composed of two walls (W04D1-050 and W05D4-060), the square ashlar feature LO8D4-363, and one floor (L08D4-360). The overarching scheme of Phase 3 of this complex appears to differ significantly from that of Phases 1 and 2: while Phases 1 and 2 adhered more or less to a similar construction layout, with the “northern unit” comprising three rooms (Rooms A, B, and C) and the southern one well-defined room (Room D) and an east-west corridor, in Phase 3 the architectural shape of the area is somewhat different. LO8D4-363, the square ashlar installation built under walls W04D-068 and W04D1-052 (=W04D1-169) coincides not at all with the apparent plan of Phases 1 and 2 of this complex. First, its location in (and under) the middle of the south unit corridor disrupts entirely the later (Phase 1 and 2) architectural schemata of the area. Second, the walls of Phase 3 exhibit a construction method markedly different from those belonging exclusively to Phases 1 and 2; the Phase 3 walls are without exception wider (usually at least ca. 1 m), more stoutly built, and constructed almost exclusively of ashlar rather than field stones or an ashlar-field stone mix. It is at the same time worth noting, however, that the one floor

assigned to this Phase (F08D4-360) is extremely patchy and has not survived to any great degree.



**Figure 15: Phase 3 architectural plan.**

Key Loci:

As noted above, the 2008 excavation of D4 consisted of approximately 97% dirt fills (as calculated by loci), with very few primary or *in situ* finds. The pottery analysis resulting from all loci (save robber trenches and tabun removal) dated these fills to either the late or mid-Hellenistic periods. We have concluded, therefore, that all of the loci have equal value for chronological reconstructions. One locus alone, L08D4-318, which contained a cluster of seven coins and which constituted the removal of drain L07D4-050, may be worth special mention, as these coins were revealed below the western segment of the wall and may thus provide a *terminus post quem* for the drain construction.