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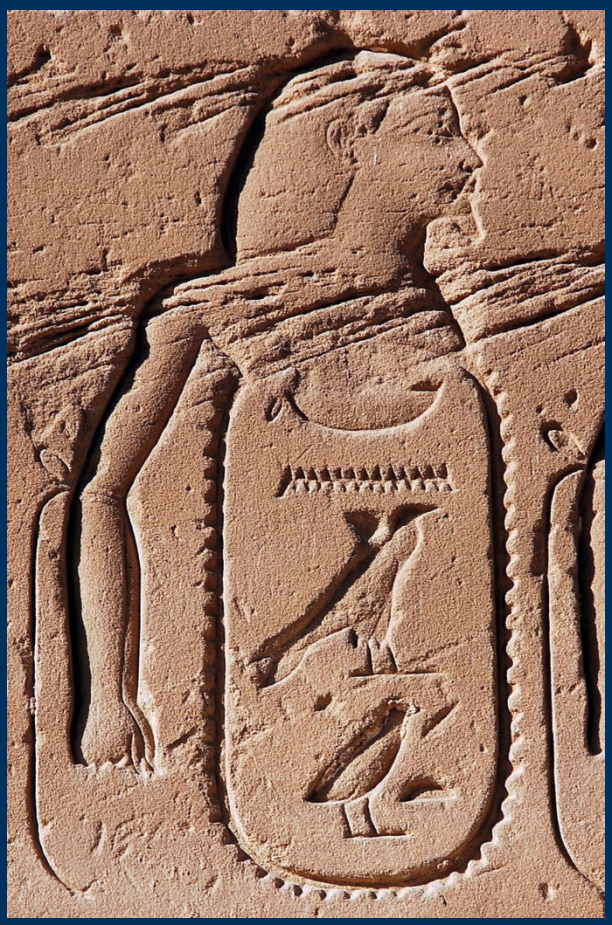
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ÄGYPTEN UND ALTES TESTAMENT 120



Kinneret II

Results of the Excavations at Tell el-ʿOrēme, 1994–2008

Vol. 1

The Bronze Age, Iron Age II, Post-Iron Age Periods, and Other Studies

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Band 120

Gegründet von Manfred Görg

Herausgegeben von Stefan Jakob Wimmer und Wolfgang Zwickel

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Cover illustration: A detailed view of the seventh pylon of the Temple of Amun at Karnak reveals the toponym Kinneret, portrayed in a stylized form resembling a captive. This depiction is part of the topographical list documenting Thutmose III's Asiatic campaign conducted during his 22nd–23rd regnal years. Captured in a photograph by Juha Pakkala; © Kinneret Regional Project.

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1.1. The Excavations: Goals, Organization, Documentation, and Conservation

JUHA PAKKALA

Introduction: Organization, Collaboration, Team Members, and Sponsors

This excavation report focuses on the results of the excavations at *Tell el-ʻOrēme* from 1994 to 2008. Finds relating to all periods except Iron Age I are published in this first volume, while Iron Age I will be published in a forthcoming separate volume.[1]

The excavations were directed by VOLKMAR FRITZ in 1994–1999 and 2001. After his retirement in 2002, the Kinneret Regional Project (KRP) was formed in order to continue his work and complete the goals for the excavations he set in the 1990s. The project was co-directed by STEFAN MÜNGER (University of Berne), JUHA PAKKALA (University of Helsinki), and JÜRGEN ZANGENBERG (Leiden University), and it was coordinated by the project coordinator WOLFGANG ZWICKEL (Johannes Gutenberg-University [JGU], Mainz). The Kinneret Regional Project excavated in 2003–2005 and 2007–2008.[2] The excavation campaigns of each year were co-directed by acting project co-directors. To be noted are also the project's excavations at *Ḫirbet el-Kūr/Ḥorvat Kūr* since 2008 (after a survey in 2007). These excavations had a different but also overlapping organization and institutional support.[3] Their excavation results will be published separately.

The following list contains the area supervisors in all excavation years from 1994 till 2008:

Area	*Supervisor (year)*
Area D	WOLFGANG ZWICKEL (2004)
Area E	SARAH JAPP (1994); VOLKMAR FRITZ (1995)
Area F	JÜRGEN ZANGENBERG (1994)
Area G	GUNNAR LEHMANN (1994); CORNELIS DEN HERTOG (1995, 1996, 1997)
Area H	KLAUS KOENEN (1994); THILO FITZNER (1995); STEFAN MÜNGER (1996, 1999); ALAIN BÜHLMANN (1999)
Area J	DIETER VIEWEGER (1995); URSULA BROSSEDER (1996); ANDERS KALIFF (1996); MICHAEL SCHEFZIK (1996)
Area K	PETER BUSCH (1995, 1996, 1997, 1998); JILL CARRINGTON-SMITH (1996) MARKUS SASSE (1997); THILO FITZNER (1997, 1998); ROLAND DEINES (1997, 1998)
Area L	CHRISTOPHER KÖNIG (1996)
Area M	STEFAN MÜNGER (1997)
Area N	ERNST AXEL KNAUF (1997, 1998, 1999); JULIA MÜLLER-CLEMM (1997, 1998, 1999); MARTTI NISSINEN (2005, 2007)
Area P	HANAA ABU AL UQSA (1996)
Area Q	STEFAN MÜNGER (1998)
Area R	MARKUS SASSE (1998); JÜRGEN ZANGENBERG (1998); MERJA ALANNE/KAARIO (1999); GABRIELE FASSBECK (1999); JUHA PAKKALA (2001, 2003, 2005, 2007); JUHANA SAUKKONEN (2001, 2003, 2005); VIRPI HOLMQVIST (2003) ELIOT BROWN (2004); MIKKO LAITINEN (2005); MARK VAN DER ENDEN (2007)
Area S	SWANTJE RÖHL (1999); DOMINIK HELBLING (1999); KATRI SAARELAINEN (2005, 2007, 2008)
Area T	SANNA ARO-VALJUS (2001); MERJA ALANNE/KAARIO (2001)
Area U	MERJA ALANNE/KAARIO (2003, 2004); KIRSI VALKAMA (2003, 2004, 2005, 2007)
Area W	VIRPI HOLMQVIST (2004); JUHANA SAUKKONEN (2004)

Table 1.1.1. List of the area supervisors

[1] With the exception of some chapters, such as the introductions and very short texts (report of area F), the individual reports in this publication have been peer-reviewed.

[2] The excavation had to be cancelled in 2006 due to the 2006 Lebanon War or 2006 Israel-Hezbollah War.

[3] For details, see https://kinneret-excavations.org/tel-kinrot/horvat-kur.

Here are listed all the specialists who took part in the excavations:[4]

Specialization	*Names (with years of participation)*
Administration/ Camp management	SIRPA ALARANTA/LATVA-NIKKOLA (2007, 2008), ASKO ALHONIEMI (2001, 2004, 2005), MARIANNE GERBER (1998), GIACOMO NETT (1998), ERICH SCHEURER (2003), OLAF WASSMUTH (1999)
Archaeobotany	MARLIES KLEE (2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008), MARLU KÜHN (2003, 2004, 2005)
Archaeological advisor	ELIOT BROWN (2004, 2005)
Archaeozoology	GUY BAR-OZ (2005, 2007), NOA RABAN-GERSTEL (2005), IRIS THOMSEN (2008)
Architect, construction survey	BERND DITSCHLER (1994), NAOMI FRITZ (1997), SABINE HENGSTER (1996, 1999), RICHARD HOLMGREN (1995), JAANA HYVÄRINEN (2001), AXEL MAURER (2004, 2005, 2007), OUTI NISKANEN (2001), BÄRBEL SCHÖNEWEISS-MEHRING (1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2010–2012 [study seasons]), ANNABELLE TRIPPEN (1998)
Conservation of architecture	ELIAKIM "KIMI" MAMAN (2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008)
Drawings	RONJA JACOB/KRATZ (2004, 2007), ELENA JURISSEVICH (1998, 1999), CHRISTA LENNERT (1994, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009 [study season], [2011–2017 study seasons], 2018–2021 [preparation of the excavation report]), MICHAEL MILES (1995, 1996, 1997, 1998), MARINA ZELTSER (1999), KRISTER KOWALSKI (2017–2021 [preparation of the excavation report])
Graphic artist	MEIKE RANGE (2007, 2008), DAVID STEINMANN (2007)
Landscape archaeology	STEFAN HÖHN (2008)
Photography	LUKAS BUTSCHER (2009–2011 [study seasons]), WALTER DIETRICH (1998), ALLESSANDRO FISCHER (1999), JULIA MÄNNISTÖ (2004), RUDOLF RYTZ (1997), PATRICK WYSSMANN (2005, 2007), ANDREAS ZINGG (2003)
Registration	CHRISTINE DEN HERTOG (1997), VIRPI HOLMQVIST (2001), INGA MÜLLER (2008), MYRIAM RÖTHLISBERGER (2013–2017 [study seasons]), ALISON SAUER (1999), IRIS THOMSEN (2008), TUULA TYNJÄ (2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2010 [study season]), ANKE WELZEL (1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999)
Restoration of finds	MATTHIAS BLANA (1999, 2001), ANKE ESTOR (1994), IRENA GUTTMAN (2008, 2009–2017 [study seasons]), SIMONE HARTNACK (2005), ORA MAZAR (1998), SARAH MITSCHING (2007), KIRSTEN REBENSBURG (1995, 1996, 1997), KERSTIN SCHIER (2004, 2007), REBEKKA-MARIA VORNKAHL (2004), LESLIE WEBER (2003)
Surveyor/3D-modeling	MAREIKE BECKMANN (2004), ALEXANDER GEORG (1997), VIRPI HOLMQVIST (2005), DAMIAN KESSI (2010–2015 [study seasons]), DANIEL LECHNER (2008), TATJANA LITKE (2005), CHRISTIAN MAYER (2007), TOBIAS RHIEL (2005), ANTON SCHERRER (1996), NATHALIE SCHMIDT (2007, 2008), THOMAS TRAUT (1997)
Assistants for the publication	FRANZISKA SCHNEIDER (2018), SAMIRA AILEEN BERG (2018–2019), NIKLAS PAUL HAHN (2019–2021), CHRISTOPHER JONES (2019–2021)
Administration	KATJA WEISS (2018–2021)

Table 1.1.2. Specialists working for the excavation

The hard excavation work or actual "digging" was conducted by volunteers, most of whom were students and PhD students from Europe and North America mainly studying at the participating universities of the dig, but they also included professionals of other fields and retired seniors.

The main institutional support for the excavations of the Kinneret Regional Project at *Tell el-'Orēme* was provided by the Universities of Berne, Helsinki, Leiden, and Mainz (JGU). A number of other universities and institutes have also collaborated with the Kinneret Regional Project and the *Tell el-'Orēme* excavations: The Zin-

[4] Note that some reports were written by specialists who did not take part in the excavation on site. They are mentioned separately below.

man Institute of Archaeology (University of Haifa), Weizmann Institute of Science (Rehovot), University of Bucharest, University of Tartu, Geocycles (Mainz), i3Mainz, Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum (Mainz), and Universität Basel (IPNA and Faculty of Theology).

The excavations under VOLKMAR FRITZ were conducted by the Deutsche Evangelische Institut für Altertumswissenschaft des Heiligen Landes in 1994–1999. In 1995–1996 the excavations were carried out in cooperation with the Kirchliche Hochschule Wuppertal (co-director in these years was DIETER VIEWEGER), in 1997–1999 in cooperation with the University of Berne, and in 2001 in cooperation with the University of Helsinki. The Evangelische Akademie Bad Boll was also a collaboration partner of the excavations.

Acknowledgements

The following have supported and funded the excavations: Auswärtiges Amt der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, The Finnish Institute in the Middle East, Finnish Cultural Foundation, Leon Levy Program for Archaeological Publications (Harvard University), Deutscher Verein vom Heiligen Lande (Köln), Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung (Bonn), Schröter Stiftung (Neustadt), Swiss National Science Foundation, UniBern Research Foundation (Bern), Dr. h.c. Emile Dreyfus-Stiftung (Basel), Leids Universiteits Fonds (Leiden), Romanian Cultural Institute Tel Aviv, and Evangelische Kirche im Rheinland. The publication of a study about the settlement history around the Sea of Galilee[5] was enabled by the Landesexzellenzcluster Archaeoscience, financed by the government of Rhineland-Palatinate. The publication of this volume was facilitated by two generous sponsorships for WOLFGANG ZWICKEL: The Seymour Gitin Distinguished Professorship granted by the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research (Jerusalem), and the Gutenberg Research Fellowship, granted by the Gutenberg Research College of JGU (Mainz). Also to be thanked is the Academy of Finland's Center of Excellence 'Changes in Sacred Texts and Traditions,' which funded JUHA PAKKALA's research periods related to the publication. The generous support of these institutions has made the publication possible.

The excavation team was housed in the Karei Deshe youth hostel/guest house. The warm hospitality and constant support of their staff significantly contributed to the success of the excavation campaigns. During the excavation seasons the finds and tools were stored in a metal container and in the Pilgrim House in Tabgha (*Pilgerhaus Tabgha*). Final storage of most published finds will be in the storerooms of the Israel Antiquities Authority. Some of the significant finds from the renewed excavations are presented in the museum of the Paulus House in Jerusalem (close to the Damascus gate), which is owned by the German Verein vom Heiligen Land (Köln). We thank the Deutsche Verein vom Heiligen Land, who owns the land where the *tell* is located as well as the Pilgrim House, and the staff of the Pilgrim House for their enduring interest, assistance, and support.

Our special thanks also go to all peer reviewers who, in the course of the work on the individual chapters of this excavation report, provided invaluable feedback and suggestions, and our native speakers CHRISTOPHER R. JONES and ROBERT M. WHITING, who improved the English version of the texts.

Last but not least, the excavations would not have been possible without the hundreds of volunteers who took part in the excavations in 1994–1999, 2001, 2003–2005, and 2007–2008.

Summary of Earlier Excavations

VOLKMAR FRITZ excavated on and around the acropolis in 1982–1985 and published the results in 1990.[6] The excavations in areas A–E primarily provided architectural remains from the Iron Age II period, while remains postdating and predating Iron Age II were isolated and fragmentary. He ascribed five strata to the Iron Age II period (strata I–V) and one to the Iron Age I period (stratum VI). Other remains were still too meager to designate as strata. On the basis of the excavations in the 1980s FRITZ established a stratigraphic chronology (Table 1.1.3.).[7]

Later excavations in the 1990s indicated that strata IV and V should be dated to the Iron Age I period and not to the Iron Age II period. Despite stray pottery from the Middle Bronze Age II and Late Bronze Age I periods, no architectural remains from these periods were found. Nonetheless, on the basis of written sources, FRITZ assumed that *Tell el-'Orēme* was a significant city during the Middle Bronze Age IIB and Late Bronze Age I periods, but this could not yet be confirmed by the excavations. Although it was evident already in the 1980s that *Tell el-'Orēme* had a notable habitation in the Early Bronze Age and architecture from this period was found in areas A and C, the remains were too scanty and scattered to be stratified. FRITZ assumed that there was an unwalled city

[5] ZWICKEL 2017.
[6] FRITZ 1990.
[7] FRITZ 1990, 18.

in Early Bronze Age I and a walled city in Early Bronze Age II, evidence for which was found in areas A and C. On the basis of stray pottery, the Early Bronze Age city was assumed to cover much of the mound.[8]

Stratum	Absolute chronology (BCE)	Description
	Late 3rd–2nd century	Building (farm?) in area D.
	Late 7th century, Persian	"Assyrian" palace in area E.
I	Late 8th to early 7th century	Walled settlement on the southwestern part of the acropolis (areas B_1 and B_2) and isolated buildings in areas A, C, D and E_2.
II	8th century to 733	Fortified and walled town extending over the acropolis. Domestic quarters in areas A, B_1, B_2 and C, a city gate and a tripartite pillared building in area D.
III	9th century	Small fortress in area A.
IV	Late 10th / early 9th century	Walled city covering much of the mound (extent uncertain). Isolated remains in areas A, B_1, C, D, and E.
V	Early 10th century	A poorly known walled city covering much of the mound. Assumed to be the largest city in the area. Isolated remains in areas A, C, and E.
VI	12th/11th century	Remains of the Early Iron Age in areas A and E. Sporadic settlement, perhaps a village.

Table 1.1.3. Stratigraphy according to the older excavations.

SHAN WINN and JAK YAKAR excavated seven areas on the eastern side of the mound (areas A^Y–G^Y) in 1982–1983. They did not establish a comprehensive stratigraphy, but they found evidence for a Chalcolithic/Early Bronze Age IA/B, Early Bronze Age IC, Early Bronze Age II, Middle Bronze Age II, Late Bronze Age I, and Late Bronze Age II habitation. WINN and YAKAR excavated a Middle Bronze Age II/Late Bronze Age I building in area B^Y which corroborated the assumption made on the basis of stray pottery from many areas that there was a permanent settlement during this time.[9] However, contrary to their assumption, a Late Bronze Age II habitation could not be substantiated by later excavations. WINN and YAKAR also excavated two walls of a large Early Bronze Age building in area G^Y, which was connected with a building excavated in area R in 2007.

Before the excavations by FRITZ and WINN/YAKAR, *Tell el-'Orēme* had already been studied in the early 20th century. PAUL KARGE conducted the earliest scientific exploration[10] and later the first excavation[11] of the site. His exploration was part of a larger investigation focusing on periods predating the Bronze Age, and he was one of the earliest researchers who studied these early periods in Palestine/Israel. On the basis of many flints found in the topsoil, he assumed that *Tell el-'Orēme* (or *Ḫirbet 'Orēme* as he called it) was the oldest and most important early site predating the Bronze Age close to the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. It was later established that the flints were produced much later than KARGE assumed, and therefore his conclusion of a large Neolithic site at *Tell el-'Orēme* cannot be substantiated. Nonetheless, Neolithic flints have been found at the site in later excavations as well,[12] which implies some activity during this period, but no evidence for a Neolithic settlement has been found so far.

[8] FRITZ 1990, 7–18.
[9] See WINN/YAKAR 1984; YAKAR 1982; YAKAR 1984a; YAKAR 1984b. Their excavations, evaluation of their work, and its connections with the more recent excavations will be discussed in more detail in chapter 1.7 of this volume.
[10] KARGE 1917, 172–177.
[11] This excavation remained unpublished due to his untimely death in the age of 41 in 1922. The finds from his excavations were sent to Europe, probably to his convent in Wrocław/Breslau in Poland. They appear to have been lost during the Second World War and/or during the reorganization of the Polish museum administration in the following years. We unsuccessfully tried to track these finds. For more about KARGE's work, see chapter 1.5.8. in this volume.
[12] See chapters 4.1 and 4.2. in this volume.

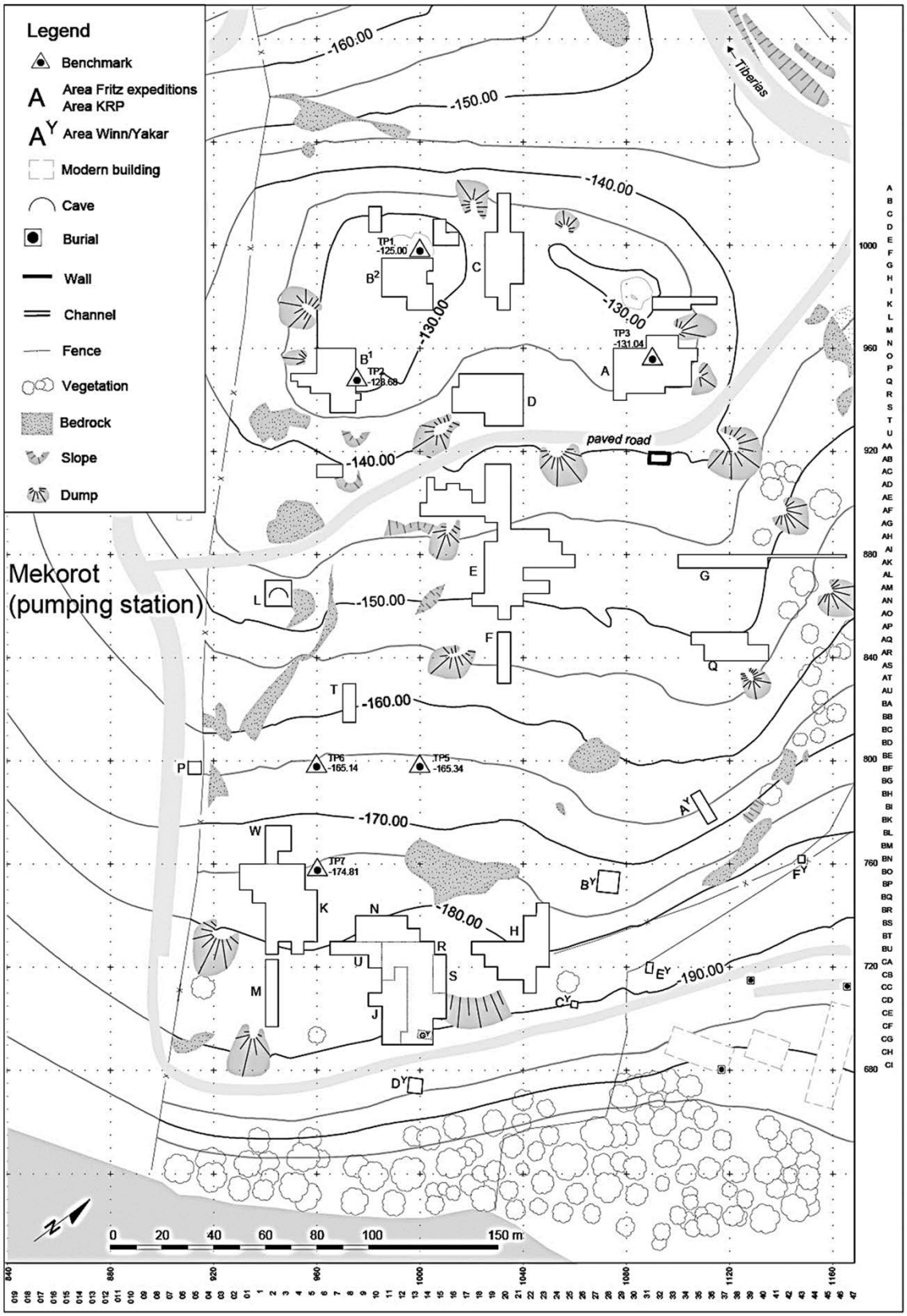


Fig. 1.1.1. The site and the excavation areas.

ANDREAS EVARIST MADER excavated 14 different locations in different parts of the mound in 1932, and he also exposed large structures. However, the published results are uninformative and unreliable. MADER found several sections of an "ancient Canaanite city wall," but it cannot be clearly connected with any of the city walls found in later excavations. The dating of the pottery found in all of MADER's areas was distributed as follows:

60% Late Bronze Age (dated by MADER to 1600–1200 BCE), 30% Roman, and 10% undetermined. Only three pottery sherds were identified as "Early Israelite," which he dated to 1200–800 BCE.[13] In view of the later excavation results, the distribution of pottery is unexpected. Although Roman pottery has been found over the entire mound, permanent habitation from this period has not been identified, and 30% Roman pottery of all pottery is considerably more than what has been found in any area of the later excavations. Moreover, the city extended over the entire mound during the Early Bronze Age and the Iron Age I period, which with the exception of the three Iron Age sherds find no match in MADER's pottery repertoire. Since six of MADER's excavation areas were on the acropolis, where FRITZ found extensive evidence for Iron Age II habitation, one would expect much more pottery from the Iron Age II period. It is therefore hard to avoid the conclusion that the excavators of 1932 were unfamiliar with the pottery they excavated. Some of the brief publications concerning the excavations also contain contradictions, and therefore one should be cautious about relying on the results of MADER'S excavations in 1932.[14]

ROBERT KÖPPEL, who had been in MADER's excavation team in 1932, resumed excavations at *Tell el-'Orēme* in 1939. He was accompanied by WOLFGANG DARSOW, who published some of the observations,[15] but no final publication appeared and the finds were not published. The results are nearly unusable for archaeological purposes, but some of the walls KÖPPEL and DARSOW excavated were still visible during FRITZ's excavation in 1982–85, whose area A is directly connected to their excavation area.[16]

New Excavations

After the excavations on the upper mound in 1982–1985 had been published in 1990, VOLKMAR FRITZ conducted renewed excavations in 1994–1999 and 2001. The original goals of these excavations were the following:

1) to determine the extent of the already discovered fortification system of the Iron Age II period (especially stratum II)
2) to investigate the still poorly known Iron Age I habitation on the mound
3) to explore the habitation of the Middle and Late Bronze Age, which was suggested by the pottery finds and written sources
4) to determine the nature and extent of the Early Bronze Age habitation.[17]

The first seasons of excavations in 1994 and 1995 already revealed notable remains from the Early Bronze Age in areas G, J, and K. Isolated architectural features from the Bronze Age had already been found in areas A and C in 1982–1995 and in area G^Y in 1982–1983, but the excavations in 1994–1995 corroborated that *Tell el-'Orēme* was a large city in the Early Bronze Age II period. Architectural remains assumed to be from the Middle Bronze Age were found in area G in 1994–1995,[18] and stray pottery from the Middle and Late Bronze Age was found in other excavation areas as well (areas H, J, and K).[19] Strata IV and V, which in the 1980s were taken to be from the Iron Age II period, were now dated earlier and assumed to be from the Iron Age I period. By 1997 the Iron Age I city wall had been detected in areas G, H, and J.[20] The following excavation seasons made it clear that *Tell el-'Orēme* was among the largest cities in the southern Levant during the Iron Age I period.[21] The extent of the Iron Age II city was now assumed to be much smaller than in the 1980s. Although there was some stray pottery from the Iron Age II period on the lower mound as well, the Iron Age II habitation was limited to three strata (I–III) on the acropolis. The multilayered habitation history of *Tell el-'Orēme* in the Bronze Age was slightly clarified in the following seasons, but the focus of the excavations in 1994–1999 was increasingly on the Iron Age I habitation.

Especially in the southeastern part of the mound, the Iron Age I strata were well preserved and close to the topsoil. Excavation areas were expanded and new ones were opened (areas J, K, M, N, R, and S) in this part of the mound to explore the Iron Age I habitation and to establish the connection of the domestic habitation with the city wall (this was especially the goal in area R). Excavations in other parts of the mound were more limited. A cave already detected in 1985 was excavated as area L in 1996. Area Q in the northeastern part of the mound was

[13] MADER 1932, 297.
[14] For a detailed description and evaluation of MADER's excavation in 1932, see chapter 1.6. in this volume.
[15] DARSOW 1940.
[16] During our research we found drawings of their pottery and the daily report of these excavations, which will be published in chapters 1.6.1. and 1.6.2. of this volume. Cf. also the interpretation of their work in chapter 1.6.
[17] See FRITZ/VIEWEGER 1996, 81.
[18] ZWICKEL has reinterpreted the stratigraphy of area G. According to him, the Middle Bronze Age fortification system assumed by FRITZ in area G would be from the Early Bronze Age.
[19] FRITZ/VIEWEGER 1996, 84.
[20] See FRITZ/VIEWEGER 1996, 83–87, and FRITZ 1999, 98–100.
[21] FRITZ 1999, 98–103.

excavated in order to excavate the city wall and to connect it with the domestic buildings inside the city, but the area was only excavated in 1998. Probes were made in the southwestern mound: area P, which consisted of one square only, was excavated by HANAA ABU AL UQSA as an excavation of the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) in 1996.[22] During his last excavation season in 2001 FRITZ opened area T in the middle of the mound. On the basis of all his excavations, FRITZ concluded that there were three Iron Age II strata (strata I, II, and III), three Iron Age I strata (strata IV, V and, VI), one Late Bronze Age I stratum (stratum VII), one Middle Bronze Age stratum (stratum VIII), and one Early Bronze Age II stratum (stratum IX).[23] Remains from the Hellenistic, Roman-Byzantine, Mameluke and Ottoman periods were isolated structures and were thus not attributed as strata.[24]

The Kinneret Regional Project continued the excavations in the southeastern part of the mound in 2003.[25] Its goals were to study the domestic habitation from the Iron Age I period and to refine the stratigraphy of the Bronze Age and Iron Age I periods. It was still unclear how the three Iron Age I strata related to each other. To attain these goals, areas N, R, and S were further expanded, and area U was opened. They all became a large interconnected excavation field called Field I. Areas M and K formed Field II, and it was also expanded by opening area W northwest of area K, but area W was only excavated in 2004. Since Iron Age I architecture was not removed, the Bronze Age remains could mainly be excavated in small test trenches under floors inside and between Iron Age I buildings. The main exception to this was the southeastern part of area R, where Bronze Age layers could be excavated in a larger space outside the Iron Age I domestic habitation and where the Iron Age I city wall was not preserved. This area provided the best overview of the Bronze Age habitation on the *tell*. In connection with their conservation in 2004–2005, in 2004 small excavations were also conducted in the Iron Age II gate complex and in the tripartite building on the acropolis in area D, which were originally excavated by FRITZ in 1982–1985. Table 1.1.4. summarizes the excavation areas and the years of excavation in each area.



Table 1.1.4. Overview of the yearly work in the excavation areas.

[22] Although the excavation was conducted by the IAA, the license was integrated into the excavations by FRITZ.
[23] During further work on the material, the final stratum numbers were changed.
[24] FRITZ/MÜNGER 2002, 7–8. After the excavations in 1997, only one Middle Bronze Age IIC/Late Bronze Age I stratum was assumed, but the excavations in 1998–1999 indicated that there was at least one Middle Bronze Age II stratum and one Late Bronze Age I stratum. See FRITZ 1999, 94.
[25] For preliminary summaries, cf. MÜNGER/ZANGENBERG/PAKKALA 2011; PAKKALA/MÜNGER/ZANGENBERG 2004.

In addition to archaeological goals related to *Tell el-ʻOrēme*, the Kinneret Regional Project aimed to train students, PhD students, and young scholars in archaeology. In collaboration with participating universities, the excavations were conducted as a field school with evening lectures and field trips to other archaeological sites in the area. With additional archaeological reading and assignments, university students were given ECTS study points for taking part in the field school. As a result, BAs, MAs, and doctoral theses related to *Tell el-ʻOrēme* or archaeology of Palestine/Israel were written by students and PhD students who took part in the excavations.[26]

Grid and Elevations

The local grid used by the Kinneret Regional Project follows the grid introduced by FRITZ in his 1982–1985 excavations.[27] The grid was roughly set according to the course of the lakeshore with the grid baseline on an absolute bearing of 037–217 degrees, the upper right corner of the squares thus pointing to 352 degrees. The grid used by WINN and YAKAR in their excavations in 1982–1983 differs from this grid by about eight degrees, their baseline thus being on an absolute bearing of 045 degrees and the upper right corner pointing to 0 degrees.

The elevations were measured from the peak of the *tell* (TP1, see Fig. 1.1.1.) at 32.870401 35.539360 (WGS84), which is -125.0 m below sea level. New fixed points were traced from the peak to the excavation fields at the beginning of each excavation season. To be noted is that all elevations in this excavation report are given from the peak of the *tell*. Therefore, -125.0 has to be added to the elevations of the report to calculate an elevation below sea level (for example, -65.50 m in this report would be -190.50 m below sea level).[28]

Documentation

The documentation of the excavations in 1982–1985 and 1994–1999 was made using conventional locus and basket cards on paper.[29] A database based on Microsoft Access was introduced in 2001 and it was used in conjunction with paper documentation in that year. In 2003 paper documentation was entirely abandoned, and the Kinneret Regional Project introduced a digital documentation and registration system, which was based on a Filemaker Pro database. This system, designed and developed by STEFAN MÜNGER, was thereafter used in all seasons from 2003 to 2008. In 2003 the excavations began recording finds and elevations with a tachymeter, the data of which was integrated into the Filemaker database. Leveling machines continued to be used in all seasons for daily verification of levels in the field.

In 2007, the project introduced GPS-surveying to measure locations with a LEICA TCR 705 total station and two paired LEICA GPS System 500 units. This project was conducted in cooperation with I3Mainz Institut für Raumbezogene Informations- und Meßtechnik of the Hochschule Mainz/University of Applied Sciences.[30] The measurements had an estimated accuracy of ±1.5 cm. The recorded data was integrated into the documentation system, which made the registration of finds fully digital. This allowed distribution maps based on GIS and georeferenced digital images. Architectural plans were first drawn by hand in the field, and they were later transferred to computer. The drawings have been adjusted to the tachymeter's survey data since 2003. Small objects have been digitally drawn since 2003, while in the earlier seasons they were drawn by hand.

The soil of stratified contexts was sieved during the excavations of the Kinneret Regional Project, but sieving was variably used in earlier seasons as well. All pottery sherds found during the excavations were collected, washed, and diagnosed in daily pottery reading. Diagnostic pottery was mostly kept and stored, but in the case of a large number of small sherds from the same locus and dated to the same period, only a sample of the diagnostic pieces was kept. All special sherds were kept and stored. Vessels were restored during the excavation campaigns. Stone objects were kept from all stratified loci. All bones and flints were collected and those from undisturbed and

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[26] Cf. SAARELAINEN 2007; SCHMIDT 2008; GRÜTTER 2009; THOMSEN 2011; BERKHEIJ-DOL 2012; CALI ERAZO 2016; TYNJÄ 2017; PAUKKONEN 2018.

[27] See FRITZ 1990, 5.

[28] The elevations are given from the peak of the mound in all season reports and earlier publications of the site by FRITZ and by the Kinneret Regional Project. However, the elevations in the publications by WINN and YAKAR are below sea level. There is a problem with coordinating the elevations of WINN and YAKAR with our elevations. Both excavated the same building (W9995 and W9996) – in our area R and in their area G^Y – but the elevations differ by almost exactly five meters: what we measured as -192.50 (-67.50 -125) corresponds to -187.50 in their measurements. Since the elevations were rechecked several times and in different years by the Kinneret Regional Project, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that there was a mistake of 5 m in the excavation by WINN and YAKAR in their area G^Y. Clearly, this mistake could be local and may not pertain to their other areas.

[29] The documentation is now stored at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Berne.

[30] NATALIE SCHMIDT was engaged in the cooperation, and she also wrote a Diploma thesis about her work, see SCHMIDT 2008; MAYER/SCHMIDT 2008.

stratified loci were stored for later analysis. In addition to the archaeozoologists who took part in the excavation season, some of the bones were analyzed by HENRIETTE OBERMAIER and ANGELA VON DEN DRIESCH at the Ludwig-Maximilian-University of Munich.[31] Bones found during the excavations of the Kinneret Regional Project were studied by GUY BAR-OZ and NOA RABAN-GERSTEL of the University of Haifa.[32] The Iron Age I bones were analyzed by IRIS THOMSEN (JGU Mainz/University of Haifa).[33] The flints from the excavations in 2001–2008 were analyzed by RON SHIMELMITZ at the Zinman Institute of Archaeology, University of Haifa, and those from earlier excavations in 1994–1999 were analyzed by RINA Y. BANKIRER and HAMOUDI KHALAILY. Paleobotanical samples from key loci have been taken since 2003. After floatation and preselection on site, the samples were analyzed by MARLIES KLEE and MARLU KÜHN at the University of Basel.[34] Samples for C-14 analysis were taken from key loci and were analyzed by ELISABETTA BOARETTO in the Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot. The finds that were kept are stored at the national treasures storerooms of the Israel Antiquities Authority at Bet Shemesh, Israel.

The Iron Age I pottery, which will be published in another volume of this excavations report, was studied by TUULA TYNJÄ in her PhD dissertation project for the university of Helsinki and by CARLOS DANIEL CALI ERAZO as an MA thesis at the University of Leiden.[35] The Bronze Age pottery was studied by JIHAD AL-DAIRE (University of Amman), supported by the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst. All seals were studied by STEFAN MÜNGER (University of Berne).[36] Figurines were studied as an MA thesis by KATRI SAARELAINEN (University of Helsinki).[37] Stone objects were studied by KIRSI VALKAMA (University of Helsinki) and her project was financed by the Academy of Finland.[38] The finds at *Tell el-ʿOrēme* were also discussed in light of the cultural and historical background of the region around the Sea of Galilee.[39]

Conservation

In collaboration with the Israeli Parks and Nature Authority (NPA), the Kinneret Regional Project began conserving and restoring excavated architectural features in 2003. The half of the two-chamber gate in area D which FRITZ excavated in 1982–1985 was restored in 2003–2004, and the interconnected tripartite-pillared building was conserved and partly restored in 2005. Iron Age I architecture excavated in the lower city was conserved in 2005–2007. The conservation and restoration were conducted by a team led by ELIAKIM MAMAN. Some architectural features and excavation trenches in the lower city were also backfilled in order to protect them from erosion and imminent collapse. This was especially the case with those squares of area R that focused on the Bronze Age (e.g., squares CE 12, CE 13, CF 13, and CF 14) and where the excavation trenches had become very deep. The backfilling was marked with modern items (such as bottles, marking tape, and modern coins) to help any future excavators distinguish our excavation spaces from unexcavated soil.

Overview of Areas, Squares, Loci and Baskets

Area	Years	Squares	Loci	Baskets
A	1982–1985	K 31, K 32, K 33, K 34, O 29, O 30, O 31, O 32, O 33, O 34, P 30, P 31, P 32, P 33, P 34, Q 30, Q 31, Q 32, Q 33, Q 34, R 30, R 31, R 32	1–199	1–299
B_1	1982–1985	P 6, Q 5, Q 6, Q 7, R 5, R 6, R 7, R 8, R 9	200–399	300–599
B_2	1982–1985	G 11, G 12, G 13, G 14, H 11, H 12, H 13, H 14, I 11, I 12, I 13, I 14, K 13, K 14	237, 238, 250 900–999, 1200–1212	2500–2699
C	1982–1985	E 19, E 20, E 21, F 19, F 20, F 21, G 19, G 20, G 21, H 19, H 20, H 21, I 19, I 20	400–599	600–699

[31] See chapter 4.10. in this volume, see also MANHART/VON DEN DRIESCH 2003; MANHART/VON DEN DRIESCH 2004.
[32] See chapter 4.11. in this volume.
[33] THOMSEN 2011; see also THOMSEN 2012. Cf. chapter 4.12. in this volume (reworked study of her thesis).
[34] See chapters 4.13. and 4.14. in this volume.
[35] TYNJÄ 2017; CALI ERAZO 2016.
[36] MÜNGER in KEEL (Ed.) 2017, 602–617; MÜNGER 2009; MÜNGER 2007.
[37] SAARELAINEN 2007. Her study will be published in another volume of this excavation report.
[38] Funding was provided by a Centre of Excellence "Changes in Sacred Texts and Traditions" and project "Galilee in Iron Age – Text, History, and Archaeology".
[39] Cf. FASSBECK et al. (Eds.) 2003; ZWICKEL 2017.

Area	Years	Squares	Loci	Baskets
D	1982–1985	Q 17, Q 18, Q 19, Q 20, Q 21, R 16, R 17, R 18, R 19, R 20, R 21, S 16, S 17, S 18, S 19, S 20, S 21, T 19, T 20, T 21	600–699 3801–3824	 13000–13130
D	2004	R 17, R 20, R 21, S 17, S 21	3800–3825	13000–13132
E_1	1982–1985	AC 19, AC 20, AD 14, AD 16, AD 19, AD 20, AE 14, AE 15, AE 16, AE 17, AE 19, AE 20, AF 14, AF 15, AF 16, AF 17, AF 18, AF 19, AF 20, AG 20	700–777	
E_2	1982–85	AH 20, AH 21, AH 22, AI 19, AI 20, AI 21, AI 22, AI 23, AK 19, AK 20, AL 19, AL 20, AL 21, AM 19, AM 20, AM 21, AM 22, AM 23, AN 18, AN 19, AN 20, AN 21	800–895	
E	1994–1995	AH 22, AH 23, AI 20/21, AI 21/22, AI 22/23, AI 23, AI 24, AI/AK 20, AI/AK 22, AK 19/20, AK 21, AK 22, AK 23, AK 24, AK 25, AL 20/21, AL/AM 20, AL/AM 21, AM 20/21, AM/AN 21	1200–1258	4000–4167
F	1994	AQ 20, AR 20, AS 20, AT 20	1800–1816	4800–4843
G	1994–1997	AK 34, AK 35, AK 36, AK 37, AK 38, AK39, AK 40, AK 41, AK 42, AK 43, AK 44, AK 45, AK 46	2000–2196	5000–5499
H	1994–1996, 1999	BR 23, BT 22, BT 23, BU 19, BU 20, BU 21, BU 22, BU 23, CA 19, CA 20, CA 21, CA 22, CB 20, CB 21, CB 22, CC 22	3000–3020 3022–3051 3053–3080 3100–3108	6000–6070 6071–6208 6209–6323 4200–4473
J	1995–1996, 1999	CC 11, CD 10, CD 11, CD 12a, CE 11, CE 12a, CF 11, CF 12a, CG 11, CG 12a	4000–4076 4079–4176	7000–7160 7175–7461
K	1995–1998	BN 1, BO 02, BO 01, BO 1, BO 2, BO 3, BO 4, BP 01, BP 1, BP 2, BP 3, BP 4, BQ 1, BQ 2, BQ 3, BQ 4, BQ 5, BR 2, BR 3, BR 4, BR 5, BS 2, BS 3, BS 4, BS 5, BT 2, BT 3, BT 4, BT 5, BU 2, BU 4	5000–5034 5035–5082 5083–5253 5254–5320	7500–7593 7600–7852 8000–8097 8101–8255 8450–8899
L	1996	AM 2, AM 3, AN 2, AN 3	5900–5909	8800–8856
M	1997	CA 2, CB 2, CC 2, CD 2, CE 2, CF 2	6000–6060	9000–9199
N	1997–1999, 2005, 2007	BS 9, BS 10, BS 11, BT 9, BT 10, BT 11, BT 12, BT 13, BU 11, BU 12, BU 13	3500–3563 3564–3634 3636–3699 3998–3999 3900–3974	6400–6525 6531–6717 6725–6882 10740, 11825 11860, 11862, 12200–12444, 14115
P	1996	BG 05	2900–2918	5800–5835
Q	1998	AQ 35, AQ 36, AQ 37, AR 36, AR 37, AR 38, AR 39, AR 40	2200–2250	5500–5662
R	1998, 1999, 2001, 2003–2005, 2007	CA 13, CB 12, CB 13, CC 12, CC 13, CD 12b, CD 13, CD 14, CE 12, CE 12b, CE 13, CE 14, CF 12, CF 13, CF 14, CG 13, CG 14	6100–6148 6151–6219 6251–6332 6400–6450 6460–6495 6600–6693 6751–6783 9878–9999	9200–9401 9402–9685 9700–9877 11219–11314 11500–11585 11753–14055 11397–11480
S	1999, 2004–2005, 2007–2008	BU 14, CA 13, CA 14, CA 15, CB 14, CB 15, CC 13, CC 14, CC 15	3700–3738 1701–1799 1822–1868 3740–3799	6927–7015 12662–14325 14316–14457 12500–12862
T	2001, 2004	AU 8, BA 8, BB 8	9000–9026 9030	10000–10166 14000–14004
U	2003–2005, 2007	BS 9, BS 10, BS 11, BT 9, BT 10, BU 7, BU 8, BU 9, BU 10, BU 11, CE 10	4200–4374	10200–10997 14101–14144
W	2004	BL 2, BL 3, BM 2, BM 3, BN 2	5400–5467	12000–12182

Table 1.1.5. Areas with years of excavation, loci and baskets.

According to Loci

Locus nos.	Area	Locus nos.	Area	Locus nos.	Area	Locus nos.	Area
100–199	A	2000–2041	G	3564–3634	N	5400–5467	W
200–399	B	2042–2110	G	3635–3699	N	5900–5915	L
400–599	C	2111–2133	G	3700–3795	S	6000–6060	M
600–699	D	2134–2196	G	3796–3799	S	6100–6224	R
900–999	B_2	2200–2251	Q	3800–3830	D	6250–6332	R
1200–1223	E	2900–2920	P	3900–3924	N	6400–6450	R
1224–1259	E	3000–3021	H	3925–3974	N	6460–6495	R
1701–1765	S	3022–3052	H	3998–3999	N	6600–6693	R
1766–1799	S	3053–3083	H	4000–4179	J	6751–6783	R
1800–1817	F	3100–3211	H	4200–4374	U	9000–9030	T
1822–1868	S	3500–3563	N	5000–5322	K	9878–9999	R

Table 1.1.6. Loci and corresponding areas.

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