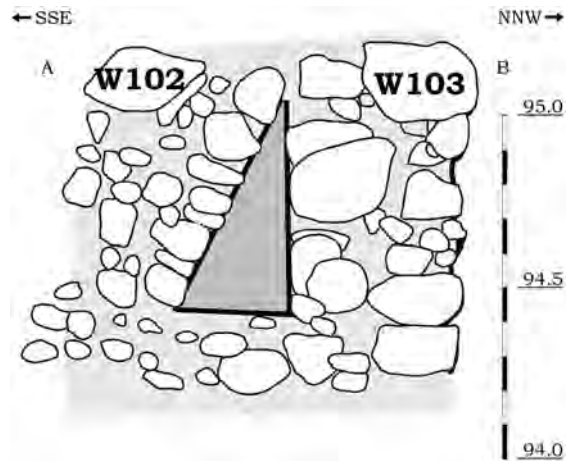


Figure 3. The different areas in the excavation, the Israel Antiquities Authority test excavation enclosed by the red frame.



**Figure 4.** Area A: Section photograph and drawing of the aqueduct at the point of disturbance.

and at a right angle to the aqueduct's base. In section it was revealed that the southern wall had fallen into the channel and rested at an average angle of  $61^\circ$  (Fig. 4). The cause of the collapse of the southern wall was the heavy, moisture-retaining, clayish alluvial soil of the area. The continued pressure of this heavy sediment forced the southern wall over to such an angle, and led to the channel being covered after it fell into disuse.

#### *The northern wall (W103)*

This wall was built with a technique similar to Wall W102: five courses of limestone and bonding material, with the four lowest courses made up of medium-sized fieldstones and the upper course from larger roughly-chiseled stones. Like its southern counterpart, the wall's height from the channel base was 1m, but at 0.50-55m wide was slightly narrower than W102. Yet despite this, the northern wall maintained its original shape and still stood vertical at a right angle to the aqueduct channel's base. This wall was the focus of later stone scavenging, by which a 3.1m section of the wall was robbed out entirely (Fig. 5). An approximate date was ascertained for the time of stone scavenging by studying the plaster remains in the missing section of the wall. There a layer of plaster without any stones was found on top of the channel's fill, 0.15m above the aqueduct's interior surface (Fig. 6). It was thus deduced that the stones were robbed after the channel had been abandoned and filled up with 0.15m of alluvium.



**Figure 5.** Area A, facing southeast: The foundation stones of the northern wall (W103) of the aqueduct in the stone robbery area.



**Figure 6.** Area A: Plaster remains over the aqueduct's fill in the area where the northern wall was removed.