

In some of the guardhouses jar handles from the Byzantine and Late Islamic periods were recovered. In all of these structures—which, again, we have interpreted as having been built to provide storage and shelter for those working the land—we saw Jewish National Fund tree seedling bags, indicating modern usage also.

Feature 57. Cup Mark

Location: 201238-619382

A cup mark – 0.5m in diameter and 0.4m deep.

Feature 68. Structure

Location: 201380-619451

This structure had an internal diameter of 2.7m, walls 0.6m thick and was preserved to a height of 0.7m. The entrance was on the south side.



Figure 15. Feature 155 before excavation.



Figure 16. Feature 155 after excavation.

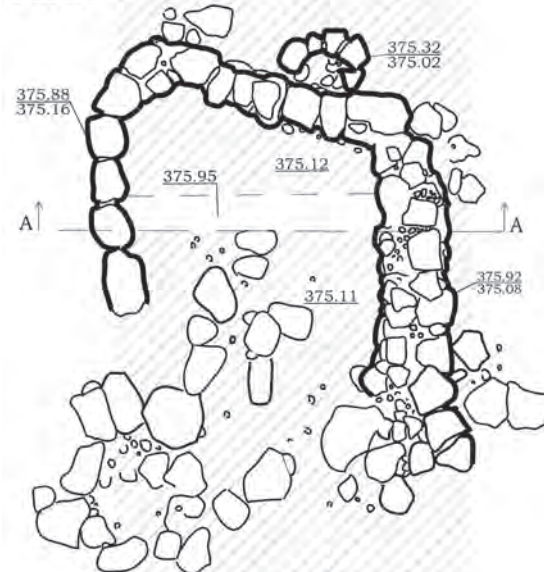
Feature 155. Structure (Figs. 15-17)

Location: 201350-618800

On a moderate slope and within a stand of pine trees we found a large pile of stones, ca. 5.0m in diameter. The feature appeared to consist of a large fieldstone perimeter and a center of smaller stones (Fig. 15).

Excavation began with surface cleaning and removal of non-*in situ* stones. A structure's outline became clear (Figs. 16-17). We then excavated the interior, leaving a north-south central baulk 0.5m wide in order to retain a section view of any stratigraphy. The walls' exterior façades were also investigated by the digging of a 1.5m-wide trench around the structure.

PLAN



SECTION (A-A)



Feature 155



Figure 17. Plan and section of the Feature 155 structure.



Figure 18. Feature 156 basin-type cup mark before excavation.



Figure 19. Feature 159, quarried feature.

Our investigation uncovered a small quadrangular building, measuring ca. 5.0 x 4.5m. The structure's large fieldstone walls were preserved to a height of two courses on the south and east sides, averaging 0.7m high. The west wall did not survive. Wall thicknesses varied, the east side being 3.0m wide and the south 1.0m. Despite this, the latter wall was the best preserved. Its exterior façade was built of large fieldstones, and the interior of medium-sized stones. This wall was constructed directly on bedrock.

Outside the east wall an annex was discovered (1.0 x 1.0 x 0.3m). This was walled using medium-sized stones, and was filled with smaller stones.

The entrance to the building was probably from the north, through an opening ca. 1.0m wide.

In places the excavation of the interior reached bedrock and in the remainder met with archaeologically-sterile subsoil. No indicative artifacts were found, but within the central baulk a thin ash layer was identified 0.1m above bedrock.

It can be assumed that after the building went out of use the small fieldstones of the upper walls and interior façades collapsed inward.

We identified three phases in this building's history. The first saw the construction of the building on bedrock and subsoil, and at least partially floored with stones. It is possible that during this initial phase the building was used as a guard house or for storage.

The second architectural phase included an interior deposit of fieldstones, perhaps to level the surface. In the northern part of the building the aforementioned accumulation of ash took place during this phase, and probably indicates repeated cooking.

The third phase involved the collapse of the walls and the filling of the entire building with dirt and fieldstones to a height of about 1.5m.

The pottery (Fig. 20:1-5) found in this structure indicate that it was in use during the Byzantine/Early Islamic periods (the one Hellenistic [Fig. 20:2] and one Iron Age [Fig. 20:5] artifact found here are probably not related to this feature).

Feature 156. Cup Mark (basin type) (Fig. 18)

Location: 201312-618810

This feature was cut into the exposed bedrock. The feature's eastern side was damaged. Its diameter was ca. 0.5m and its depth ca. 0.3m. No datable artifacts were found. The function of this feature remains unclear.

Feature 159. Quarried Feature (Fig. 19)

Location: 201307-618842

This feature was hewn into a boulder and measured ca. 3.0 x 2.0m. It included a small cup mark of 0.15m diameter, from the east side of which projected a number of shallow channels extending for 0.2m. These channels led to a larger groove which encircled

the cup mark and smaller channels (total diameter: 0.25m).

It is possible that this composite feature was used for small-quantity wine or oil pressing, with the channels serving to lead squeezed fluid into the cup mark.

Feature 174a. Cup Mark

Location: 201701-618593

0.17m in diameter and 0.09m deep, this feature was cut into a larger cup mark measuring 0.68m across and 0.33m deep.

Feature 174b. Cup Mark

Location: 201696-618661

0.6m in diameter and 0.35m deep.

Feature 174c. Cup Mark

Location: 201954-618655

0.6m in diameter and 0.3m deep.

Feature 174d. Cup Mark

Location: 201959-618656

A deep cup mark, of 0.62m diameter and 0.44m deep, west of which was another shallow cup mark of 0.54m diameter and 0.18m deep.

Feature 174e. Structure

Location: 201628-618542

This structure did not appear in the IAA survey map. Its interior diameter was 2.5m and its walls 0.5m thick. The structure was preserved to a height of only 0.2m. The state of preservation was poor due to damage caused by large plants, complicating identification of the entrance location. We believe this to have been on the northeast side, where we found a non-*in situ* stone.

Feature 176. Cup Mark

Location: 201637-618510

0.6m in diameter and 0.35m deep.

Feature 177. Cup Marks (basin type)

Location: 201612-618490

This feature included three basin-type cup marks cut in non-linear formation:

Western – 0.52 x 0.54m.

Eastern – 0.52 x 0.34m; the south side was damaged.

Southern – 0.65 x 0.45m; the entire feature was damaged by roots.

Feature 178. Cup Mark

Location: 201702-618521

A small cup mark (0.2 x 0.15m); this was not marked on the IAA survey map.

Feature 180. Cup Mark

Location: 201630-618475

0.6 x 0.2m.

Feature 181. Cup Mark and Quarried Feature

Location: 201635-618445

An unusual cup mark: 0.7 x 0.7m. Carved into the bedrock on the north side was a square-shaped feature measuring 1.2 x 1.16 x 0.04m.

Feature 182. Water Cistern

Location: 201660-618447

This Feature consisted of a water cistern with a roughly-quarried, elongated opening, and an upper interior section measuring 1 x 2.7m, connected to the main cistern chamber by an opening of 1.7m diameter. The main chamber's dimensions could not be measured due to safety hazards that prevented entry.

Feature 183. Cup Mark

Location: 201610-618425

A cup mark – 0.4m in diameter and 0.2m deep; its south and east sides were damaged.

Feature 184. Stone Mound

Location: 201578-618426

This was a mound covered by fieldstones and ringed by large stones. The mound measured 10.0 x 7.0m.

Feature 197a. Cup Marks

Location: 201705-618450

Found here were three cup marks which followed an east-west axis.

Western – 0.97m in diameter and 0.56m deep.

Central – 0.2m in diameter and 0.2m deep.

Eastern – 0.2m in diameter and 0.22m deep.

Feature 197b. Cup Mark

Location: 201676-618458

A cup mark – 0.7m in diameter and 0.35m deep; this does not appear in our survey map.

Feature 198. Clearance Material

Location: 201720-618460

This was a mound of sediment without related archaeological features or artifacts.

Feature 199. Cup Marks

Location: 201723-618475

Found here were two adjacent cup marks:

Western – 0.85m in diameter and 0.4m deep.

Eastern – 0.19m in diameter and 0.1m deep.

Feature 200. Cup Marks

Location: 201740-618512

Found here were two adjacent cup marks:

Western – 0.5m in diameter and 0.3m deep.

Eastern – 0.15m in diameter and depth; within this cup mark was another, 0.11m in diameter and 0.07m deep.

Feature 201. Cup Mark (basin type)

Location: 201760-618450

A basin – 0.65m in diameter and 0.2m deep.

Feature 291. Structure

Location: 201325-619415

This structure had an internal diameter of 3.0m, walls 0.5m wide, and was preserved to a height of 0.7m. The entrance was on the south side. This structure was built directly on bedrock, which also served as the structure's floor.

Northeast of the structure was a cuboid feature quarried from the bedrock, measuring ca. 2.3 x 1.7 x 0.1m. Northeast again of this feature was a cup mark, of diameter 0.3m and depth 0.1m.

THE FINDS

Achia Kohn-Tavor

The rather small ceramic assemblage from these Khirbet Butz features represents activities dating to

the Late Iron Age and Hellenistic, Early Islamic, and Mamluk periods. The assemblage includes domestic vessels, mainly bowls, kraters, storage jars and oil lamps.

Some of the late Iron Age vessels' dates are in doubt; of the three oil lamps (Fig. 20:11-13), the latter may be Persian in date. The more confidently-identified Iron Age vessels are a jar and krater (Fig. 20:5,18). Most of the vessels date to the Hellenistic era. Their ware is rather homogenous, suggesting manufacture at a single nearby workshop. Prominent are common storage jars. Later vessels—from the Late Byzantine and Early Islamic eras—are locally-manufactured storage jars and cooking pots. The bowls, on the other hand, are imported. Two glazed bowls from the Mamluk period were also found (Fig. 20:16,17), along with a glass bracelet (Fig. 21:4). Finally, a stray Ottoman-period smoking pipe was found at Feature 39 (Fig. 21:3). This corresponds to types found at Belmont Castle (Simpson 2000: Figs. 13.5:115-117,119,129; 13.6:124) and also at Zir'in (Simpson 2002: Figs. 1:8; 2:9)

The forms are common in this geographic location, with parallels found mainly in Jerusalem.

CONCLUSIONS

Most of the archaeological features found in this Khirbet Butz project were simple agricultural installations mostly dating to the Byzantine-Early Islamic period. Quantitatively predominant were a large number of cup marks and basins (n=29) cut into the exposed bedrock. We do not yet have evidence that would support a conclusive date for these features, or to indicate their functions. Provisionally, we have interpreted them as having served as fixed mortars for the grinding of seeds.

The circular structures (n=11) were built from dry stone walls of local fieldstones. These structures are often defined as 'guard houses' or 'watchman's huts' (*shomerot* in Hebrew). Such structures were probably used on a seasonal basis for pastoral purposes by a semi-nomadic population. Another structure type was also identified (Feature 155); this was more quadrilateral in form.

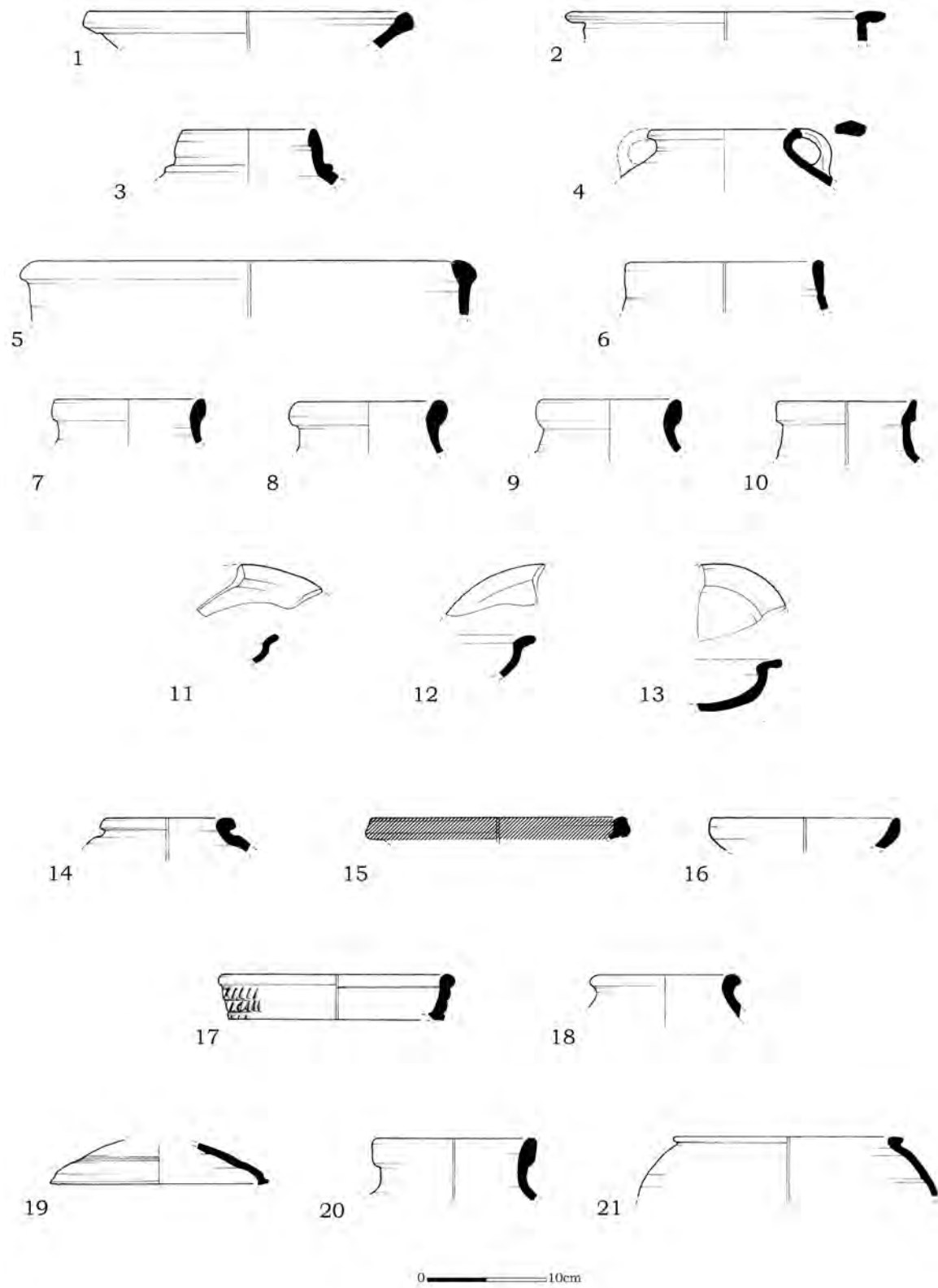


Figure 20. Ceramic finds.

Figure 20.

No.	Type	Feature no.	Locus	Reg. no.	Description	Date (centuries CE / period)	Parallels
1	Bowl	155	100	1000/1	Thin, red clay	Late 6 th	Hayes 1972: LR 10a
2	Krater	155	100	1000/2	Light clay, white grits	Hellenistic?	
3	Jar	155	100	1000/3	Light yellow clay, white grits	6 th -late 7 th	Magness 1993: storage jar form 4c
4	Cooking pot	155	101	1002/1	Orange clay, light gray core, black grits	5/6 th -7/early 8 th	Magness 1993: cooking-pot form 4c
5	Krater	155	103	1005/1	Gray clay, white grits	IA IIB	*De G and B-G 2012: Fig. 4.14:9
6	Krater	39	106	1077/1	Thin light clay, small black grits	Late 6 th -early 8 th	Magness 1993: storage jar 5a
7	Jar	39	106	1010/1	Pink clay, white grits	Hellenistic	*De G and B-G 2012: Fig. 2.6:20
8	Jar	39	106	1014/1	Pink clay, white grits	Hellenistic	*De G and B-G 2012: Fig. 2.6:20
9	Jar	39	106	1010/2	Pink clay, gray core, white grits	Hellenistic	*De G and B-G 2012: Fig. 2.6:20
10	Jar	39	106	1077/2	Pink clay, white grits	Hellenistic	*De G and B-G 2012: Fig. 2.6:7
11	Lamp	39	106	1014/2	Pink clay, white grits	IA II?	*De G and B-G 2012: Fig. 2.5:17
12	Lamp	39	106	1077/3	Pink clay, white grits	IA II?	*De G and B-G 2012: Fig. 2.5:17
13	Lamp	39	106	1077/4	Light clay, black grits	Persian?	*De G and B-G 2012: Fig. 3.7:1-4
14	Jar	39	107	1017/1	Pink clay, white grits	Hellenistic	
15	Bowl	39	108	1017/2	Thin, red clay; red slip	5 th -6 th	Hayes 1972: LRC3
16	Bowl	39	108	1017/4	Light gray clay; thick dark green burnish	Mamluk	Avissar and Stern 2005: monochrome glazed bowl type I.1.4.1
17	Bowl	39	108	1017/3	Light orange clay; green burnish; black strip below rim interior	Mamluk	
18	Jar	39	108	1076/1	Pink clay, white grits	IA II	*De G and B-G 2012: Fig. 2.2:1 ⁸
19	Lid	39	109	1016/2	Gray clay, pink exterior, black grits	Early Islamic	Magness 1993: lid form 1
20	Jar	39	109	1016/3	Light gray clay, white grits	Hellenistic	*De G and B-G 2012: Fig. 2.6:20
21	Cooking pot	39	109	1016/1	Thin, red clay	Early Islamic	

* De G and B-G 2012 = De Groot and Bernick-Greenberg 2012

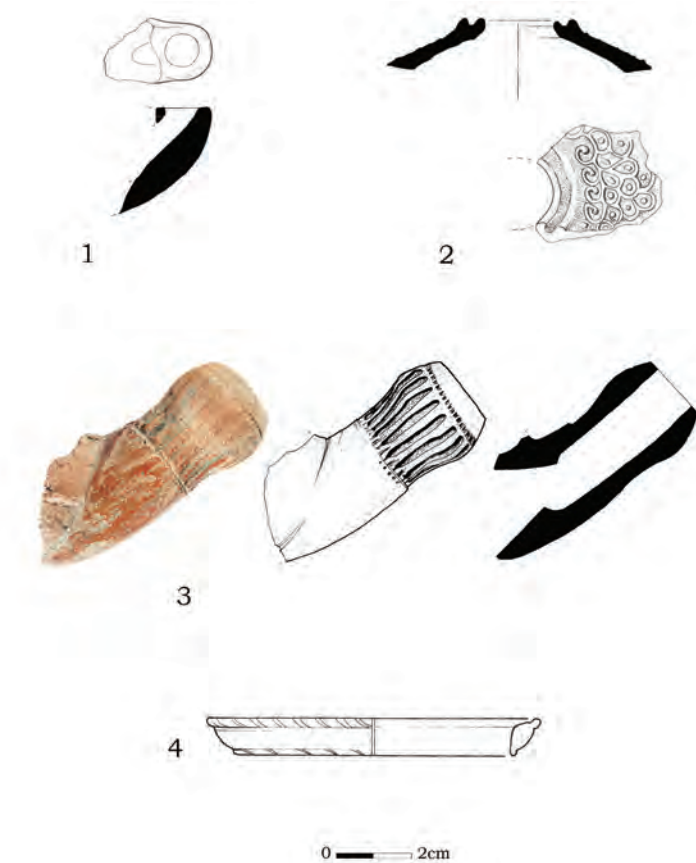


Figure 21. Lamps, pipe and bracelet.

No.	Type	Feature no.	Locus	Reg. no.	Description	Date (centuries CE / period)	Parallels
1	Lamp	39	106	1014/3	Thin, light clay; gray burnish	Hellenistic	
2	Lamp	39	109	1016/4	Thin, pink clay	Early Islamic	Hadad 2000: local clay lamps type 37
3	Pipe	39	108	1015/1	Orange/red clay; light exterior burnish	18 th -19 th	Simpson 2000: Figs. 13.5; 13.6
4	Bracelet	39	108	1017/5	Glass; light green	Mamluk	

We also identified:

- Two caves with evidence of occupation (like the ‘guard houses’, these caves were probably used by shepherds)
- Two rock-cut water cisterns
- Two quarried features
- Two stone mounds
- One wine press
- One wall
- One rock-cut channel
- One concentration of clearance material

Having excavated and recorded these features, we supported the release of the area for development. However, we recommended that Features 38 and 39 be further excavated and conserved.

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