Figure 13. Area B: pottery and plaster in the aqueduct interior.

Figure 14. Area C, facing northeast: W101 with the aqueduct excavated by the Israel Antiquities Authority in the background.

Figure 15. Area C, facing southeast: the stone surface.

The northern wall (W103)

This wall was identical to W103 and was also constructed from four courses of limestone. The three lower courses were built of medium-sized, bonded fieldstones. The upper course was built from larger semi-dressed blocks. The height of the wall from the base of the channel was only 0.55m and its thickness 0.55-60m.

The aqueduct interior

In this section of the aqueduct the interior width was 0.35m—slightly narrower than in the eastern section—and the interior depth ca. 0.25m, from the extant top of the walls to the base of the aqueduct which is much lower than in Area A.

In this area many pottery fragments were found incorporated with the plaster inside the aqueduct (Fig. 13).

Area C

Wall W101

In the IAA's test excavation a 0.6m-wide single-course wall was found projecting southwestward from the southern wall of the aqueduct at an angle of 42°. We excavated the wall and its immediate surroundings in order to expose any continuation or possible associated features. A further 3.4m section was found (Fig. 14). The wall survived to a single course, was 6.85m long and 0.6m wide. A 1.3m-long section of the feature had been damaged.

The stone surface north of the aqueduct

During the IAA test excavation a level area of stones was found projecting from the northern wall of the aqueduct. An area was opened in order to expose more of this feature (Fig. 15). We uncovered a stone surface which was triangular shape in plan, abutted the aqueduct's north wall and was constructed from a single layer of medium- and large-sized fieldstones. The entire area of this triangular feature was 9m^2. The lines of the triangle's edges also extended southeastward (Wall W005) and southwestward (Wall W101) on the other (south) side of the aqueduct (see Fig. 3).

Figure 16. Area C, facing northwest: the stone surface south of the aqueduct.

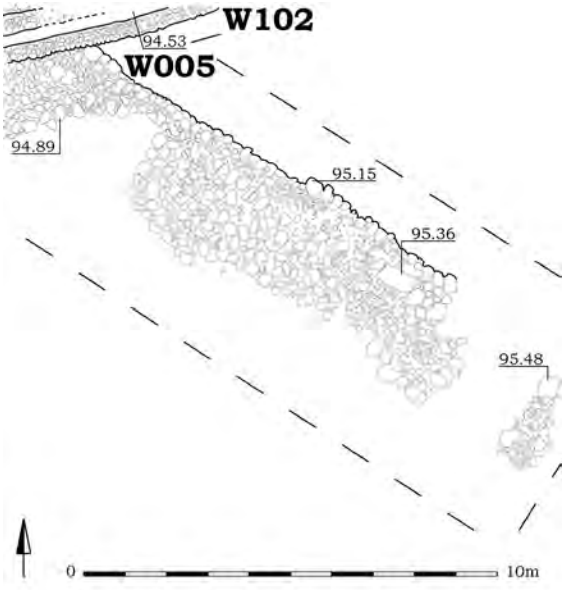

Figure 17. Area C: the stone surface revealed.

The stone surface south of the aqueduct

During the IAA's test excavation a one-course, 0.8m-thick wall (W005) was found projecting southeastward from the aqueduct's southern wall at a 48° angle. An excavation square was opened in order to expose the continuation of this wall. During the excavation another leveled stone area was discovered, this one measuring 10 x 3.5m. It was also constructed from a single course of medium-sized stones (Fig. 16). However, it is emphasized that this was not the full original extent of the feature. Near the edge of our excavation area a drainage pipe had cut the stone surface. It was possible to see in the baulk section that the feature continued to the east of the disturbance, running under a modern road (associated with the adjacent Route 6).

We decided to extend the limits of our excavation to the southeast in order to document the full extent of the stone surface and ascertain its function. The drainage pipe damage was 1.5m long; beyond it was an additional 2.3 x 1m surface of small stones (also including two large stones) which was again cut by a water pipe line (Fig. 17). We had extended the excavation in order to find out if the stone surface continued east of the first drainage pipe disturbance. It seems that the second pipe cut the edge of this surface.

The test sections in the stone surface

In order to better understand the nature and function of this feature it was decided to cut through it at two points (Fig. 18): the first where it met Wall W005 and the second through the leveled stone area itself.

Section 1 – In order to make this section, a meter-long cut into wall W005 was excavated to a depth of 0.45m (in order to reach the ground level on which the base of Wall W005 was laid). However, little additional information was learned about the function of either the wall or the stone surface. The section showed a course of medium-sized stones that were placed directly in the virgin soil, with W005 set 0.25m deeper than the stone surface feature (Fig. 19).

Section 2 – In this test section a 0.5m-wide area running southwest-northeast was excavated through the entire width of the leveled stone area (Fig. 20). No significant information was found that might shed further light on the feature's function. Section 2, however, does support what Section 1 indicated – that W005 is set 0.25m deeper into the earth than the relatively shallow single course of fieldstones that makes up the leveled stone area.