

Ein Mazruk (Abu Ghosh)

Nathan Ben-Ari

with a contribution by Gideon Suleimany

(Pp. 14-34*)*

This excavation was carried out adjacent to Arazim Street in Abu Ghosh (Permit No. A-6292; New Israel Grid: 210200-634450; Figs. 1, 2). Two areas (A, B) were excavated, prior to the construction of a road.

Area A. Here we exposed part of what we interpreted as a complex irrigation system: a stone-built channel (L135; Figs. 10-12) brought spring water to a storage installation (L149; Figs. 15, 16), from which it could flow down and across the hillside. L135 was also connected to Channel 137 (Figs. 12-14) which carried water across the slope, probably to another storage installation (L120; Figs. 8, 9).

This irrigation complex was later filled in and an agricultural terrace was built in the area.

Ceramic finds from the soil covering the irrigation features date mostly to the Hellenistic and Early Roman periods (Fig. 27), although some Late Iron Age and Late Roman – Byzantine sherds were also recovered (Fig. 26).

Area B. Here we uncovered parts of several walls (Figs. 23, 25) which we interpreted as agricultural in nature, i.e. serving to support terraces and optimize drainage.

Captions to Illustrations

Fig. 1. The site location.

Fig. 2. Satellite view of the site location.

Fig. 3. General view of the excavation areas.

Fig. 4. Area A.

Fig. 5. Area A, Section A-B.

Fig. 6. Area A, Section C-D.

Fig. 7. Area A, general view (facing northeast).

Fig. 8. Installation 120, general view (facing northwest).

Fig. 9. Installation 120 (facing southeast). Note the plaster remains on the south side of Terrace Wall 145.

Fig. 10. Channel 135 (facing south).

Fig. 11. Channel 135 (facing north).

Fig. 12. Intersection of Channels 137 (foreground) and 135 (facing east). Note the covering slabs over Channel 137.

Fig. 13. Channel 137 before the removal of the covering slabs (facing southwest).

Fig. 14. Channel 137 after removal of the walls (facing west).

Fig. 15. Installation 149 (facing north).

Fig. 16. Installation 149 (facing northwest). Surface 125 in the foreground.

Fig. 17. Channel 144 (facing southwest). Note the large stones overlying the channel.

Fig. 18. Channel 144 (facing southwest) after removal of the covering stones. Note Wall 131 standing above the channel, and the bedrock in which the latter was cut.

Fig. 19. Channel 144 after removal of the covering stones (facing northwest).

Fig. 20. Western section of Terrace Wall 145 (facing west), abutted by Wall 127 (foreground).

Fig. 21. Section view of Installation 149 fill (facing east).

Fig. 22. Square B2, plan and section.

Fig. 23. Square B2, Terrace 223 (facing north).

Fig. 24. Square B1, plan and section.

Fig. 25. Square B1 (facing northwest).

Fig. 26. Late Iron Age and Late Roman – Byzantine ceramic finds.

Fig. 27. Hellenistic and Early Roman ceramic finds.