

ḤORBAT ZEFAT 'ADI (EAST)

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Ḥorbat Zefat 'Adi (East) is situated on the eastern edge of the central 'Akko Plain, at 70–75 m above sea level, where the topography begins to rise toward the hills of the Misgav area of Lower Galilee. It is located within a heavily traversed triangular area formed by the Evlayim Junction, about 1 km west of the site, the city of Shefar'am, about 1 km to its south, and the village of I'billin, approximately 2 km to the east (Fig. 1). It is an extension of the larger site of Ḥorbat Zefat 'Adi, which sprawls along a hill above and to the west. The two sites are separated by the lower, eastern slope of Ḥorbat Zefat 'Adi, where no *sondage* or excavation has been carried out.

The site was visited in 1875 by Guérin (1985:284), who found it lying in ruins. It was surveyed in the early 1970s by Olami and Gal (2003:28*–29*) and appears in their survey report under three separate entries: Sites 34, 36, 37. Finds dating to the Neolithic, Early and Late Chalcolithic, Roman and Byzantine periods were recorded at Site 36 (Area IV in the present excavation),¹ while Site 37 (the present Areas I–III) consisted of rock-hewn

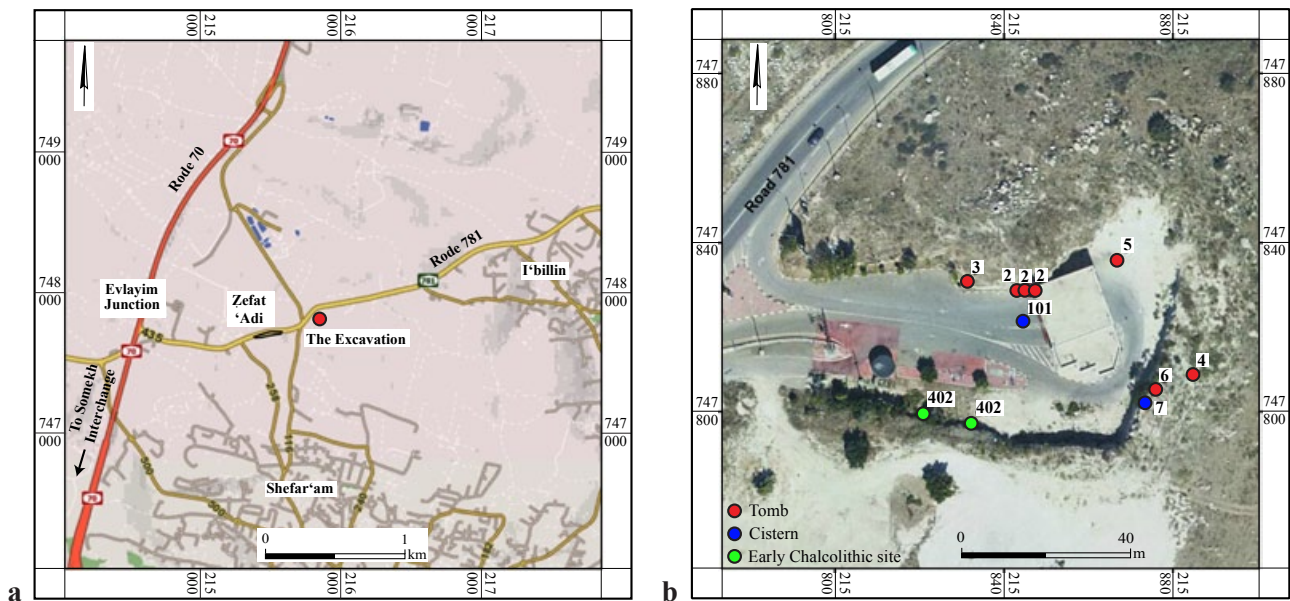


Fig. 1. (a) Location map; (b) Location of excavated and unexcavated features.

installations with scattered Byzantine-period pottery. There is no precise correlation between the surveyed sites and the excavated areas discussed in this report.

Previous excavations at Ḥorbat Zefat ‘Adi (Stern and Smithline 2004; Permit No. A-3122) have revealed an extensive occupation history that began in the Early Bronze Age I and continued to early in the Ottoman period, when the site was abandoned. The major occupations on the site are dated to the Byzantine, Early Islamic, Crusader and Mamluk periods. An interruption in settlement appears to have occurred during the Late Bronze Age and the Iron Age (Stern and Smithline 2004). The two segments of Ḥorbat Zefat ‘Adi are integrally related and maintained a symbiotic relationship. The soft limestone bedrock of Ḥorbat Zefat ‘Adi (East) and its short distance from the main settlement determined one of its functions as a burial ground. It also provided a source of water, as may be surmised from the adjacent Gil‘am spring and from the existence of cisterns such as the excavated cavity in Area I. In addition, Olami and Gal (2003:29*) reported the remains of two winepresses at the site.

The present excavation was undertaken in 2006, after an unauthorized earthmoving operation destroyed much of the site, as a large swath of earth and bedrock was cut out of the hill that rises 10–15 m to the south of the road leading from Evlayim Junction to I‘ibillin (Road 781). Thus, at the time of the excavation, the site was an area of bare, white, soft limestone, whose shallow soil cover (max. 1 m thickness) had been removed (Fig. 2). Remains of rock-hewn caves were evident in the stone detritus spread throughout the site. The piles of cracked and fractured stones and fragments of hewn walls were in a clear state of instability and were in danger of imminent collapse, for the most part preventing any further safe investigation.

This report discusses the few elements that survived the destruction. The excavation was undertaken in four separate areas (Table 1; Fig. 2).² In Area I, the remains of a cavity in the bedrock, most likely a ruined cistern,

Table 1. Excavated and Unexcavated Features

Area	Feature No.	Map Ref. (NIG; measured 26.06.2006)		Feature	
		E	N	Excavated	Unexcavated
I	101	215844.5	747821.4	Cistern(?)	
II	2	215844.6	747828.6	<i>Loculus</i> 202	
II	2	215846.0	747828.9	<i>Loculus</i> 204	
II	2	215846.1	747828.6	<i>Loculus</i> 205	
III	3	215831.3	747830.8	Plastered chamber, SE corner	
IV	4	215884.8	747808.9		Tomb(?) 600
IV	402	215832.1	747797.3	Early Chalcolithic section (Partially excavated)	
IV	402	215820.8	747799.4	Early Chalcolithic section (Partially excavated)	
	5	215866.8	747835.9		Tomb(?) 500
	6	215875.8	747705.2		Tomb(?) 700
	7	215873.4	747802.0		Cistern



Fig. 2. General view of the destroyed excavation area with illicit structure in foreground, looking west.

were dated to the late Byzantine period. In Area II, remnants of three *loculi* in the newly-cut bedrock wall were cleared. Area III comprised the southeast corner of a completely plastered chamber with two *arcosolia*. Area IV comprised the trimming of the section that was created by the illicit earthmoving operation on the southern edge of the excavated area, beyond which no further excavation was executed. The section yielded only Early Chalcolithic-period pottery sherds and a flint assemblage which was not as chronologically homogenous (Marder 2015).

AREA I

Area I comprised a small section cut in the bedrock by the earthmoving operation. All that remained was a small part (1.5–2.0 m long; Fig. 3) of a cavity that contained a layer (0.50–0.75 m) of sherds, small rocks, gravel and reddish brown earth. The cavity extended below a bedrock shelf (0.3 m thick) created by the earthworks. Based on the large quantity of Byzantine-period sherds that were covered with plaster and apparently lined the walls, it seems that these were the remains of a cistern. The destruction was so intense that it was impossible to enter the cavity.



Fig. 3. Area I, section of the cistern, looking north.

The Pottery (Fig. 4)

The pottery retrieved from the cavity presents a rather small and relatively chronologically homogeneous repertoire. Most vessel fragments date from the Late Roman period through the seventh century CE. Several types of imported bowls, enumerated according to Hayes' typology, were found in the fill: Phocaeen LRC 3E/F (Fig. 4:1) dated to the sixth century CE (Hayes 1972:337–338, Fig. 65:19–25); LRC 10A (Fig. 4:2) dated to the late sixth – early seventh centuries CE (Hayes 1972:346, Fig. 344:1–6); CRS 11 (Fig. 4:3) dated to 550–650 CE (Hayes 1972:383, Fig. 84:1, 2); ARS 107 (not illustrated) dated to the seventh century CE (Hayes 1972:171, Fig. 170:1, 2); and CRS 2 (Fig. 4:4) dated to the late fifth – early sixth centuries CE (Hayes 1972:375, Fig. 80, Form 2: Nos. 1, 2; Peleg 1989: Fig. 42:40; Aviam and Getzov 1998: Fig. 12:9). The last fragment was found covered with plaster containing a large amount of charcoal and ash, which had apparently fallen from the cistern wall. This find enables dating at least one phase of use of the cistern to no earlier than the sixth century CE.

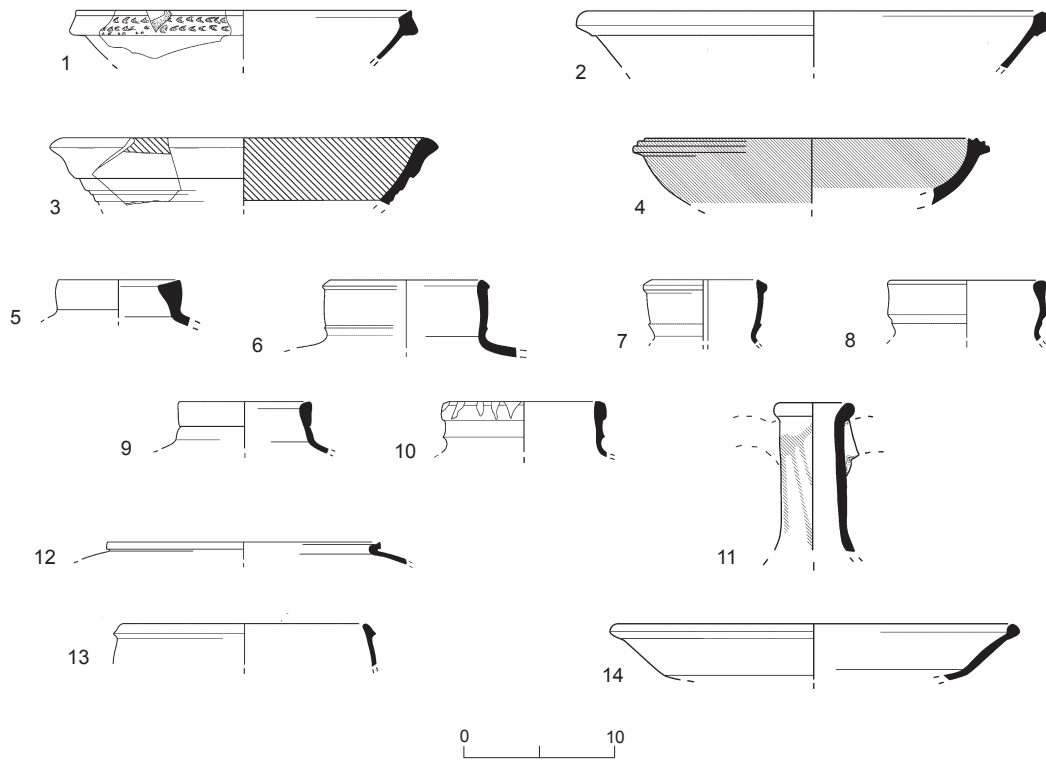


Fig. 4. Area I, Byzantine pottery from the cistern.

No.	Vessel	Loc	Basket	Comments
1	Bowl	100	1001/1	LRC 3E/F; sixth century CE
2	Bowl	100	1002	LRC 10A; late-sixth to early-seventh century CE
3	Bowl	100	1001/2	CRS 11; 550–650 CE
4	Bowl	101	1007/1	CRS 2; late-fifth to early-sixth century CE
5	Storage jar	102	1011/1	Red gravelly surface; red core
6	Storage jar	100	1002	Light red surface; gray core; fine white inclusions
7	Storage jar	101	1007/2	Gray surface; red core; large amount of small white inclusions
8	Storage jar	101	1007/3	Gray coarsely finished surface; red core; small white inclusions
9	Storage jar	103	1010/1	Gray exterior, reddish brown interior; red core; fine red and white inclusions
10	Storage jar	101	1006/1	Gray surface; dark red core; white paint on rim
11	Amphora	102	1009	Light buff coarsely finished surface; numerous small black inclusions; red painted decoration
12	Cooking pot	103	1010/2	Reddish brown surface; dark red core; small–medium white and gray inclusions; quartz
13	Cooking pot	101	1007/3	Reddish brown surface; small white inclusions
14	Pan	102	1009/2	Black burned surface; black core; numerous quartz and small gray inclusions

The most numerous vessels present in the cavity were storage jars of types common to the north of the country during the Late Roman period and the Byzantine period (Fig. 4:5–10). Jars possessing a relatively high neck with a ridge at the base and jars with a low neck and a folded rim were the two dominant types. The large quantity of

jars seems to support the assumption that the cavity functioned as a cistern. Similar jars are common in Byzantine assemblages unearthed at sites such as Tiberias, Caesarea, Bet She'an, Capernaum, Khirbat el-Shubeika and Ḥorbat 'Uza.

An imported amphora (Fig. 4:11) with a slightly rolled, everted rim and a high, narrow neck bearing decorative red markings was common in Mediterranean trade during the late Byzantine period (for references concerning the origin and distribution of these amphorae, see Landgraf 1980; Aviam and Getzov 1998:70; Amir 2004a:158). Amphorae of this type, dated from the fifth through the seventh centuries CE (Calderon 2000:134), are more common in the sixth–mid-seventh centuries (Aviam and Getzov 1998: Fig. 9:16; Amir 2004a:158). Adan-Bayewitz (1986:101, Fig. 2:4) dates them to the seventh century CE at Caesarea. Red markings, frequently found on these vessels, may be remnants of writing or tallying, or may be simply decorative applications (Fabian and Goldfus 2004:10*, Fig. 10:1, 2; Landgraf 1980:82–83, Fig. 26:3, 4).³ Incised graffiti on similar amphorae probably reflect another aspect of the same function (van Doorninck Jr. 1989). The parallels most closely resembling the Ḥorbat Zefat 'Adi amphora were found at Ḥorbat 'Aqav on Mount Carmel (Calderon 2000:133–135, Plate XX), although most lack the red decoration.

Only a few fragments of cooking vessel were found in the cistern. A neckless cooking pot with a flat narrow rim (Fig. 4:12) is dated to the sixth–seventh centuries CE (Avshalom-Gorni 2002:234, Fig. 22:2). A cooking pot with a nearly vertical triangular rim (Fig. 4:13) is paralleled by a vessel unearthed at Ḥorbat 'Ovesh (Aviam and Getzov 1998: Fig. 9:10). A less common find is a frying pan (Fig. 4:14) that possibly originates from Cyprus or the Greek islands (Calderon 2000:144, Fig. XXIII:60–62). This type of vessel dates from the fourth through the sixth centuries CE.

The evidence culled from the finds in the destroyed cistern indicates that it was filled during the latter part of the sixth century CE and no later than the early seventh century CE. No unmistakably Early Islamic material was among the finds.

AREA II

Nine meters north of and above the bedrock shelf overlying Area I, a sheer rock face (3.5–4.0 m high) was created by the removal of large sections of bedrock. Visible in this rock face were the northern ends of three *loculi* (Fig. 5; Table 2)—all that survived from a burial cave. The easternmost *loculus* (L204) and the middle *loculus* (L202) were rectangular, while the westernmost *loculus* (L205) was trapezoidal.

A vein of flint that ran through the limestone was not penetrated while hewing the *loculi*, thus determining the elevation of the *loculi* floors. On the bedrock surface, about 0.8 m below the base of the *loculi*, were pockets of soil containing Byzantine-period vessel fragments. These were the remnants of the large central chamber of the burial cave. The cave undoubtedly included additional *loculi*—their number could not be determined—that were removed by the illicit development work at the site. Little of the original length of the *loculi* was preserved (Table



Fig. 5. Area II, remains of the *loculi*, looking north.

Table 2. Dimensions of Remaining Loculi in Area II

Locus	Width (m)	Height	Preserved Length
202	0.65	0.96	0.96
204	0.65	1.07	0.50
205	0.7 (Bottom); 0.47 (Top)	1.04	0.90

2), and no relevant burial finds or human remains were evident. The *loculi* had been previously cleared, probably during the Crusader Period, which would account for the only consequential find being a complete saucer lamp (Fig. 6) retrieved from *Loculus* 202. The lamp is made of red cooking ware, with a slip-painted decoration under a green glaze, and is dated to the second half of the twelfth century and the thirteenth century CE (Avisar and Stern 2005:124, Fig. 52, Type III.1.1.2). A Crusader presence was already discerned in the excavation at Ḥorbat Zefat 'Adi to the west (Stern and Smithline 2004:7*).

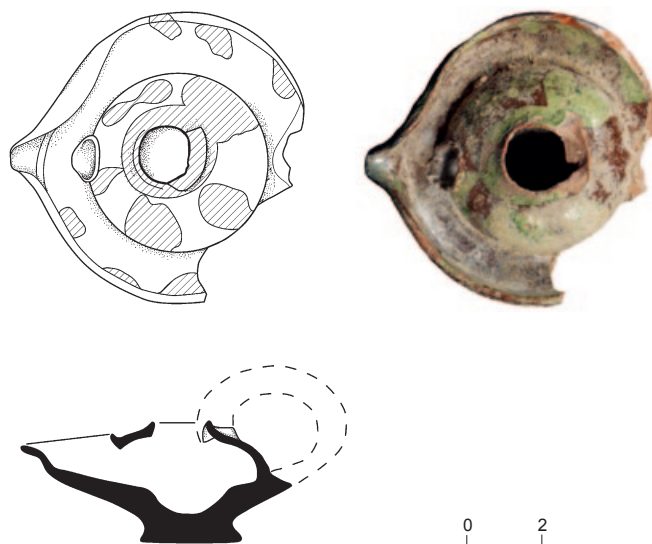
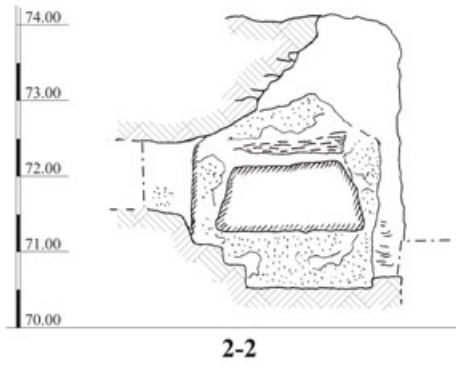
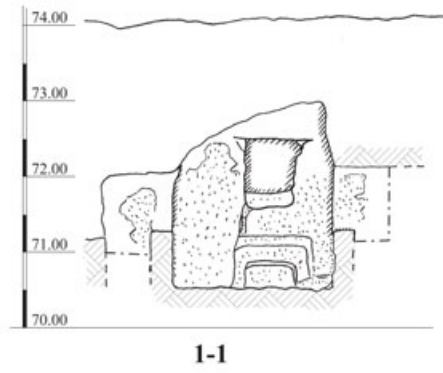
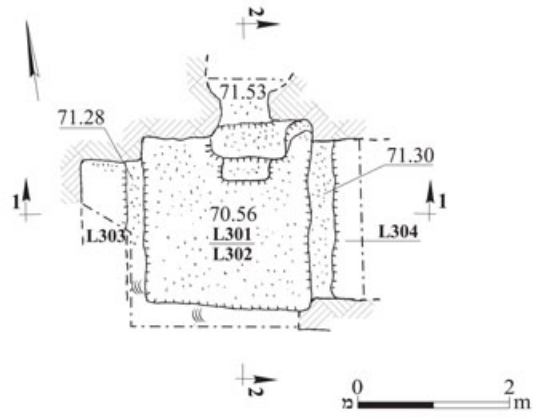


Fig. 6. Slip-painted oil lamp (L202).

AREA III (Plan 1; Fig. 7)

A hewn, plastered chamber (L302), discovered 12 m to the west of Area II, was partially excavated. The heavy equipment severely damaged a section of the roof, and destroyed the southwestern corner of the chamber and large sections of its southern and western walls. The chamber was filled with soil and a layer of gravelly silt covered the floor. The chamber, oriented along a north–south axis, consists of a square central cavity (2.15×2.15 m, c.2.5 m high) that was possibly utilized for burial. *Arcosolia* were hewn into both the eastern and western walls of the chamber. Their exact dimensions were impossible to determine, as their excavation was prohibited due to possible human remains. The western *arcosolium* (L303; Fig. 8) was heavily damaged. Three steps led up to a hewn doorway in the northern wall, nearly 1 m above the cave floor. The two lower steps were plastered, rectangular stones of differing sizes, whereas the third step was hewn in the bedrock. Due to the cessation of the excavation, it remains unknown whether the chamber comprised the entire burial unit, in which case the steps and threshold led to an anteroom that extended to the north and was entered from the surface via an entry shaft, or whether the excavated cave belonged to a larger burial complex, in which case the entrance may have led to additional chambers or *loculi* (cf. Kloner 1991: Plan 1).

The outstanding feature of the cave is its plastering, which covered the exposed walls and parts of the floor, as well as the steps leading down from the doorway. The well-preserved plaster consisted of finely ground raw material mixed with charcoal and pottery sherds that lent the plaster surface a light reddish tone. The plaster is hydraulic in nature and is appropriate for waterproofing cistern walls.



Plan 1. Area III, plastered chamber.



Fig. 7. Area III, Chamber 302, looking northeast.



Fig. 8. *Arcosolium* 304, looking east.

It was not a common practice to plaster burial caves in their entirety, although plastering often served as the base for painted decorations or inscriptions. However, no epigraphical remains were attested to on the plastered walls, nor was there any form of drawing or graffiti in evidence. A somewhat larger burial chamber possessing

a reminiscent plan and plain plastered walls was excavated by Barag (1974:81, Fig. 1) near Netiv Ha-Lamed He and dated from the mid-fifth to the early seventh centuries CE. In contrast, a comparable single-chamber burial cave was discovered at Kibbutz Lohame Ha-Geta'ot. Its walls were completely covered with white plaster, and a large portion of the plastered walls was decorated with intricate drawings. Foerster (1986) dates the cave from the mid-fourth to the mid-fifth centuries CE. An Early Roman-period cave complex at Giv'at Seled in the Shefelah, consisting of a main chamber with eight *loculi* and an inner chamber similar to the tomb at Horbat Zefat 'Adi, was nearly entirely covered with white plaster. The plaster, covering the western wall of the main chamber, was painted with linear and floral designs. The floor and the *arcosolia* of the inner chamber were covered with plain white plaster (Kloner 1991).

Due to the existence of a plaster layer, seen in the section cut into the bedrock, it was assumed that a cistern was being excavated. Only the eventual discovery of the *arcosolia*, the glass vessels (Gorin-Rosen 2015) and suspected human remains in the eastern *arcosolium* (L304) defined the cavity as a tomb.⁴ Since no decorative or epigraphic elements appear on the plastered walls, and in view of the poor nature of the hewn limestone, it seems appropriate to surmise that the plaster was applied for engineering purposes in an attempt to preserve and protect the tomb from destructive water seepage.

The Finds

Pottery.— Many Byzantine-period pottery sherds were set into the wall plaster, but the sole chronologically diagnostic sherd retrieved from the plaster is a fragment of a CRS 7 bowl (Fig. 9:1), dating from the second half of the sixth century to the early seventh century CE (Hayes 1972:379, Fig. 81, Form 7).

A single, complete ovoid-shaped oil lamp with a small conical handle was found on the floor of the chamber (Fig. 9:2). The wick hole is located at the end of a channel, which bears an impressed portrayal of a bird. It is ornamented by three laddered semi-circles, separated by three raised dots on each side of the lamp. Haddad (2002:82, No. 370) states that this lamp (Type 36) is the most common type of the Umayyad period. Similar lamps have been found at many sites, such as Tiberias (Stacey 2004:150–153, Figs. 6.3, 6.4) and Yoqne'am (Avisar 1996: Fig. XV.6:16), where they are dated to 725–875 CE. Fragments of several other Type 36 lamps with different decorative motifs were retrieved from the chamber. The decorations included linear designs (Fig. 9:3; Haddad 2002: No. 418; Stacey 2004: Fig. 6.1:1), a lattice pattern (Fig. 9:4; Haddad 2002: No. 365; Amir 2004b: Fig. 3.15:1; Peleg 1989: Fig. 70:11) and raised dots (Fig. 9:5; Haddad 2002: No. 374; Tiberias—Stacey 2004: Fig. 6.1:2; Khirbat el-Shubeika—Tacher 2002: Fig. 9:7, 8).

An uncommon find was a round ceramic plaque (10 cm diameter; Fig. 10:1) decorated with a series of raised chevrons that circumscribe its circumference. An inner circle has two parallel relief rings with the inner ring projecting higher above the surface. Within the projecting ring (4.2 cm in diameter) are traces of plaster that probably supported a mirror. The plaque was further decorated by an application of red paint, parallel alongside



Fig. 9. CRS 7 krater (1) and oil lamps (2-5).

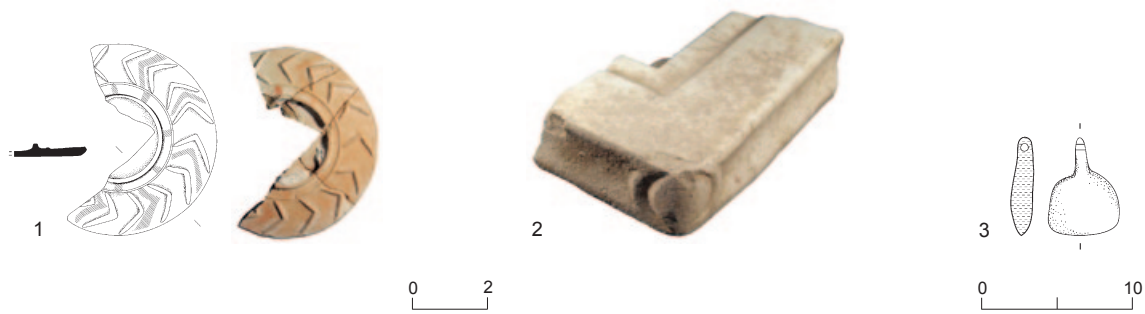


Fig. 10. Mirror plaque (1), marble tabletop (2) and a bone charm (3).

each chevron, as well as dabbed between the inner rings. It is nearly identical to plaques unearthed at Nessana (Baly 1962: Plate XXVI:9–11) and Yavne-Yam (Fischer and Saar 2007: Fig.1). The plaque belongs to a group of objects, all dating from the Byzantine period, that have been interpreted in a number of fashions: ritual pyxis, bread stamp or child's toy. The most convincing suggestion, however, is that they were frames for mirrors. Rahmani's (1964) suggestion that the mirrors served as apotropaic objects by protecting the owner from the evil eye appears to be generally accepted (Fischer and Saar 2007:85, and see further discussion and references therein).

Glass.— The Byzantine glass assemblage (see Gorin-Rosen 2015) unearthed in the chamber is especially important, as it is one of only a few Byzantine Galilean burial assemblages to have undergone study and publication. As determined by Gorin-Rosen, the glass finds reflect the period of the cave's utilization from the fifth through the seventh centuries CE.

Table Top.— A fragment (10 × 16 cm, 4 cm thick; Fig. 10:2) of a marble slab with a convex profile and a decorated corner was a random surface find from above the hewn chamber in Area III.

It appears to be a ritual table that served a Byzantine ecclesiastical function. A nearly identical marble slab was uncovered in the excavation of a church at Ḥorbat Tuweiri, in the northern 'Akko Plain (Smithline 2007: Fig. 11). There are indications that during the Byzantine period a church or a small chapel existed at Ḥorbat Zefat 'Adi, which could quite possibly be the original provenance of the table (Stern and Smithline 2004:7*).

Bone.— The sole bone item was a small bone charm with a pierced extension (Fig. 10:3).

Discussion

There is much similarity in plan between the plastered, Area III cave and numerous other caves hewn in the Roman and Byzantine periods. The lack of Roman-period finds, however, indicates its having been utilized during the Byzantine period. It appears that the use of the cave, based on the combined evidence of the ceramic and glass finds, may be limited to the fifth century CE through the Umayyad period. This does not imply, however, continuous use of the chamber. Possibly, the final Umayyad presence in the chamber reflects an intrusion not accompanied by a burial, as no human remains were uncovered within the chamber. The *arcosolia*, however, did possess possible human remains and hence remained unexcavated. The CRS 7 bowl fragment, dating from the second half of the sixth century to the early seventh century CE, which was found in the wall plaster, provides the date of the final layer of plastering.

AREA IV

An Early Chalcolithic occupation (Olami and Gal 2003:29*, Site 36) was unearthed on the boundary of the excavation area, 35 m to the south of Area III, on the southern edge of the development site. Since this part of the site was severely damaged, it could be examined only by trimming the section in which the occupation appeared; no further excavation was carried out. A single layer of Early Chalcolithic finds, adjacent to a wall remnant, was identified directly below a c. 0.5–1.0 m topsoil accumulation (Fig. 11). Without a formal excavation, little can be said concerning the Early Chalcolithic occupation.⁵

The area covered by the Early Chalcolithic presence appears to have been rather extensive. Evidence from the immediate vicinity of the excavated site indicates that the Early Chalcolithic occupation extended over the area which was destroyed and spread further north as well. In fact, the earth accumulation inside the plastered chamber (Area III) contained a sizeable quantity of Early Chalcolithic pottery fragments—nearly 30% of the total—that had apparently been swept into the chamber from the surface above.

The Pottery

The Early Chalcolithic assemblage is small and homogeneous. It does not reflect the size of the site nor the diversity of a typical Early Chalcolithic repertoire. It is sufficient, however, to demonstrate the existence of an Early Chalcolithic occupation at the site. A large quantity of Early Chalcolithic sherds was sorted from piles of earth that were removed from Area IV and remained heaped adjacent to the illicit earthworks. Three types of vessels predominated in the assemblage: bowls, holemouth jars and storage jars.

Bowls (Fig. 12:1–4).— Several fragments belonged to unadorned V-shaped bowls (Fig. 12:1) that appear throughout the Early and Late Chalcolithic periods in a variety of sizes. The prototype of the shallow carinated bowl (Fig. 12:2) with a reddish brown slip and burnish, may be traced to the Halafian culture (Garfinkel 1999: Fig. 72:C). Carinated bowls were the most common type uncovered at the site of Wadi Rabah (Kaplan 1958:154).



Fig. 11 Area IV, southern section.

Several types of large bowls can be enumerated. The large and thick-walled open bowl or basin (Fig. 12:3) with red slip and burnish both inside and out has, on its surface, impressions of twine or carelessly executed incisions that trace the circumference of the vessel. At Ḥorbat 'Uza, six similar burnished bowls without the surface incisions appear in Stratum 19 (Getzov 2009:27–30, Fig. 2.21:7, Type Bo.3). In Strata 17 and 16 of that site, nearly identical, though unburnished, large bowls (Type Ch.Bo.4) comprise a major element of the pottery repertoire (Getzov 2009:40–42, Figs. 2.25:6; 2.29:12; 2.32:5, 6). At Kabri they are also known in several phases of Stratum 12, identified with the Wadi Rabah culture (Scheftelowitz 2002: Fig. 5.2:1–3).

The large, everted-rim bowl (Fig. 12:4) has a rich, dark red slip and burnish on its two surfaces. It possesses an unusually thick wall, but its complete contour is indeterminable. It appears to be related to 'flowerpot-shaped' vessels found at Munḥata (Garfinkel 1992: Fig. 145:14), Dan (Gopher and Greenberg 1996: Fig.2.3:7), Ḥorbat 'Uza (Getzov 2009: Fig. 2.23:1) and in the Early Chalcolithic phase of the Peqi'in cave (Shalem, Gal and Smithline 2013: Fig. 2.7:12).

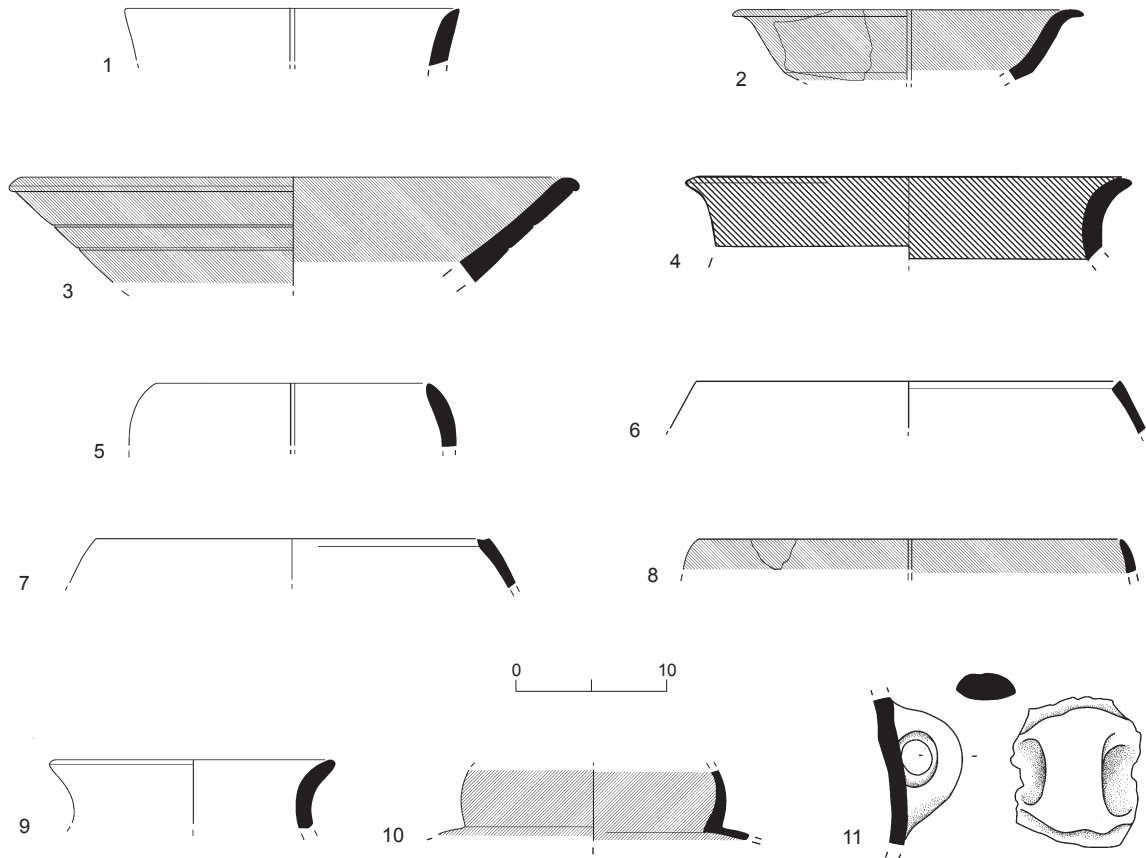


Fig. 12. Early Chalcolithic Pottery.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	401	4002/4	Buff surface; pink and tan sandwich core with med white and gray inclusions	Garfinkel 1999: Fig. 96
2	Bowl	401	4002/1	Burnished reddish brown slip; evenly fired; tan core; small white, black and quartz inclusions	‘Ein el-Jarba: Kaplan 1969: Fig. 4:4; Kabri: Scheftelowitz 2002: Fig. 5.1:3
3	Bowl	401	4001/1	Burnished red slip; light red and gray core; small white and med gray inclusions; quartz	Kabri: Scheftelowitz 2002: Fig. 5.2:1–3; Horbat ‘Uza: Getzov 2009: Figs.2.25:6; 2.29:12
4	Bowl	402	4003/1	Burnished red slip; light red core; small–medium white and gray inclusions	Dan: Gopher and Greenberg 1996: Fig. 5:3; Horbat ‘Uza: Getzov 2009: Fig. 2.23:1; Peqi‘in: Shalem, Gal and Smithline 2013: Fig. 2.7:12
5	Hole-mouth jar	402	4003/3	Light buff surface; buff core; medium–large white and gray inclusions	Garfinkel 1999: Fig. 82:8
6	Hole-mouth jar	401	4001/4	Smooth cream surface; pink and gray sandwich core; gray and quartz inclusions	Garfinkel 1999: Fig. 82:1
7	Hole-mouth jar	401	4002/5	Light red surface; light brown core; small gray and white inclusions	Garfinkel 1999: Fig. 82:7
8	Hole-mouth jar	401	4002/3	Burnished rich red slip; evenly fired; pink core; very small white inclusions	Kabri: Scheftelowitz 2002: Fig. 5.2:6
9	Storage jar	401	4002/2	Buff surface; black core; very numerous small white and gray inclusions	Garfinkel 1999: Fig. 86
10	Bow rim jar	402	4003/2	Brownish red slip on yellowish red surface; gray core; many med. gray and quartz and small white and brown inclusions	Kabri: Scheftelowitz 2002: Fig. 5.2:14
11	Strap handle	900	9001	Buff surface; gray core; medium–large white and gray inclusions	Garfinkel 1999: Fig. 111

Holemouth jars (Fig. 12:5–8).— The jars have a number of rim variations: a plain round rim, a squared rim and a beveled rim with a shallow channel. All of these vessels have parallels at Munḥata and numerous other sites (Garfinkel 1999: Fig. 82: 1, 2, 7, 8, 9). One sharp-rimmed, holemouth jar possessing a wide opening was covered with a rich, dark red slip and burnish (Fig. 13:8).

Storage jars (Fig. 12:9–11).— The two predominant jar types of the Early Chalcolithic period are characteristic of Ḥorbat Zefat 'Adi. The everted-rim jar is plain and unadorned (Fig. 12:9). The bow-rim jar is covered by a dark red slip that continues inside the neck (Fig. 12:10). The joining of the neck to the body is very carefully finished and smoothed. These vessels are one of the identifying elements of the Early Chalcolithic period (Getzov 2009: Fig. 2.22:1–7, and see additional references therein). The wide strap handle (Fig. 12:11) is the dominant Early Chalcolithic handle at Ḥorbat 'Uza (Getzov 2009:39, Figs. 2.24:4; 2.27:2; 2.30:10).

Flint

The flint assemblage (see Marder 2015) is more chronologically diverse than is the pottery repertoire. In addition to the Early Chalcolithic period that dominates the ceramic repertoire, the flint assemblage presents evidence of settlements dating to the Pre-pottery Neolithic and the EB II periods.

Discussion

The 'Akko Plain has been, until recently, *terra incognita* with regard to the Early Chalcolithic period. This is the first large Early Chalcolithic site identified on the eastern fringe of the plain. The nearest excavated site with a comparable material culture is located at Qiryat Ata, approximately 4 km to the southwest (Fantalkin 2000:29–31, Fig. 7; Khalaily 2003:220–221). The small pottery sample does not enable establishing a precise chronological framework for the occupation at Ḥorbat Zefat 'Adi. However, the total absence of typical Wadi Rabah incised and gouged sherds is significant, and suggests that the site was inhabited early in the post-Wadi Rabah phase of the Early Chalcolithic period.

SUMMARY

The destroyed area was apparently rich in ancient remains. Unfortunately, it was not possible to completely reconstruct the nature of the occupation at the site, and the full range of functions carried out by its ancient inhabitants remains largely unknown. The information uncovered to date indicates a presence of undetermined size during the Early Chalcolithic period and possibly during the Pre-pottery Neolithic and EB II periods as well. The relatively extensive spread of Early Chalcolithic ceramic fragments was traced throughout the destroyed land parcel, as well as in the agricultural land surrounding the excavated area. After an extended occupation gap, activity at the site was apparently renewed during the Late Roman period, and it continued throughout the Byzantine, Umayyad, Crusader, Mamluk and Early Ottoman periods. During these periods, the functions

performed at the site were varied, and in common with activities usually performed at the periphery of large sites: burials, water supply, use of agricultural installations, quarrying. In contrast, the center of domestic activity seems to have been the site of Ḥorbat Zefat 'Adi, located on the hill west of the excavation.

NOTES

- ¹ In the survey map, Site 36 is called Shefar'am (North) but it is actually part of Zefat 'Adi.
- ² The excavation (Permit No. A-4822), carried out in June 2006 on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority, was directed and photographed by the author with the assistance of Anastasia Shapiro (surveying, plans and GPS), Leea Porat (pottery restoration), Hagit Tahan-Rosen (pottery drawing), Yael Gorin-Rosen (glass study), Elizabeth Belashov and Natalia Zak (draughting and plans), Ofer Marder (flint analysis) Michael Smilansky (flint drawing) and Yossi Ya'aqobi (administration).
- ³ Numerous amphora fragments with similar red markings were found by the author in the excavation at Kabri (yet to be published).
- ⁴ Although it is stated that human remains were present in one of the unexcavated *arcosolia*, it was impossible to determine this unequivocally, nor to determine the quantity of bones present or their state of preservation.
- ⁵ Following the present excavation, an additional excavation, directed by N. Feig of the IAA (Permit No. A-4990), was undertaken approximately 150–200 m southeast of the early occupation recorded in Area IV. This renewed excavation exposed strata dated to the EB II, the Early Chalcolithic and the Pre-pottery Neolithic periods. I greatly appreciate her allowing me to mention this unpublished material.

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