

## GERMAN-ITALIAN EXPEDITION TO IRAQ

### Preliminary Report on the First Campaign of Excavations within the Saddam Dam Reservoir Archaeological Rescue Project (1984)

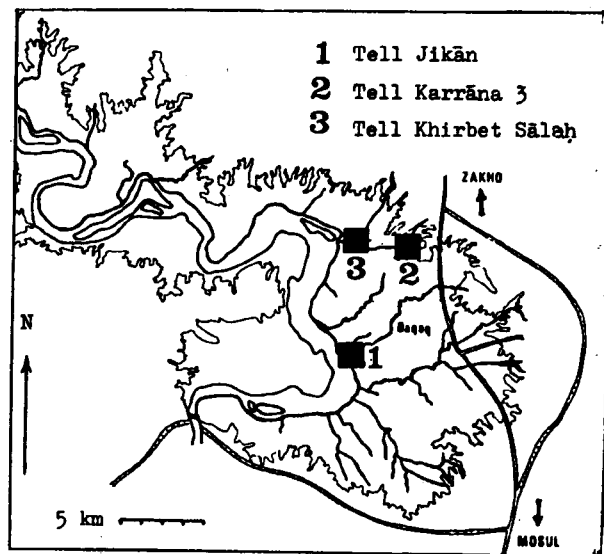
By:

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Gernot Wilhelm, Carlo Zaccagnini.

In the framework of a collaboration between the State Organization for Antiquities and Heritage of the Republic of Iraq and the German-Italian Expedition to Iraq, the latter participated to the archaeological rescue project in the area of the Saddam Dam basin, north of Mosul. The first campaign took place from Sept. 1 to Nov. 10, 1984. The archaeological team was directed by a board formed by Profs. Frederick Mario Fales, University of Venice; Sebastiano Tusa, University of Rome, field director; Gernot Wilhelm, University of Hamburg, executive director; Carlo Zaccagnini, University of Bologna. Assistant personnel was: Drs. resp. cand. phil. Barbara Brautlecht-Peacey, Simonetta Cinti Luciani, Maria Katia Gesuato, Ulrich Hartung, Marco Pacci, Elena Rova, and Volkmar Schön. Special consultants for topography were Drs. Marcello Guaitoli and Paolo Liverani of the University of Rome.

The campaign was effected thanks to the financial contribution of the Iraqi State Organization for Antiquities and Heritage - which also generously supplied the Expedition with housing facilities -, of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, of the Italian Ministry of Public Education (through the University of Bologna), and of the Ligabue Foundation (Venice). To all these institutions, and to the Iraqi

authorities and officials, the warmest thanks are due for support and aid. In particular, the Expedition wishes to express its deep gratitude to Dr. Mu'ayyad Sa'id Damerji, President of the State Organization, to Dr. Behnam Abu as-Sooif, Director-General for the Northern Region and to Mr. Hazim an-Najafi, Director of the Saddam Dam Project, for kind permission to take part in the rescue project, and for their generous and constant support and aid to the Expedition. Mr. Hikmet Bechir al-Aswad, the Inspector assigned to the Expedition, is to be thanked for his kind and efficient cooperation. We are grateful also to the constructor of the Saddam Dam, GIMOD J.V



for unbureaucratic help in critical moments.

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The 1984 campaign was devoted to the investigation of three sites within the Saddam Dam area, all on the left bank of the Tigris, in an area comprised between the present-day villages of Karrāna and Jikan: Tell Karrana 3 (ca. 13 kms. NE of the dam), Tell Khirbet Salāh (ca. 11 kms. NE of the dam), and Tell Jikan (ca. 8 kms. E-NE of the dam).

### Tell Karrāna 3

Tell Karrāna 3 (together with Karrāna 4 and 5, on which cf. below) is the southernmost of a group of tells aligned on a N-S axis within the valley formed by the Wadi Karrāna, to which the same toponomastical designation has been given. The site, 350 meters above sea level, consists of a natural elevation, on which the ancient settlement was located. The hill rises steeply on all sides, except towards the south, where a saddle links it to a further rise (Karrāna 4), and is encircled by a system of small wadis within the valley. Still further to the south, lies the smaller hill of Karrāna 5, with a vague morphological link to the previously mentioned ones.

The present shape of mounds Karrāna 3 and 4 derives from a heavy natural erosion, caused by wind and rain as well as by the action of river water. Both the steep slopes and the contour, ovoidal in a N-S alignment, point to a possible erosion caused by an ancient branch of the Tigris rather than by the seasonal action of the present-day wadis. It is thus to be surmised that the original settlement area

was noticeably larger than its present remnants, confined to the very summit of Karrāna 3 (approx. 1500 sq.m.); this view is supported by pottery and lithic findings on the valley slope W of the tell, i.e. beyond the bed of the western wadi. In any case, the erosion factor may be evaluated through the fragmentary state of the structural remains located to the margins of the settled area, as will be stated in detail below.

On Karrāna 4 and 5, soundings were carried out, on the basis of the presence of surface pottery and lithics. Only limited evidence of human occupation was detected in the thin surface layer directly above virgin soil, probably as a result of very heavy erosion; the few sherds did not allow chronological and cultural characterization.

Karrāna 3 was foremost investigated by means of an accurate surface survey: the entire area of the tell was split up in six sectors. The evaluation of the sherd statistics and typologies was functional in establishing the initial area of excavation within the tell. The geodetic grid used for the excavation was based on squares of 5 meters per side, with a N-S, E-W alignment. From the highest point of the tell (not far from its northern limit), down to its southernmost point, a trench of m. 35 x 4 was opened. Further, on the highest and central part of the elevation, a series of six squares was opened E of the trench. Another square was opened on the western limit of the tell: here a situation of virtually total erosion of the ancient structures was evident. The sum total of the excavated area amounted to 350 sq.m., i.e., approximately one fourth of the preserved extension of the ancient settlement. Above the sandy virgin soil, which descends reg-

ularly in a N-S direction, the depth of anthropic sediment was ca. 2 meters on the highest point of the tell, thinning rapidly down towards the edges.

The excavation revealed three main levels of inhabitation of the tell, all characterized by specific architectural features, and by slight changes in the associated material culture.

Level 1 of Karrāna is essentially represented by a structure with three parallel walls (AF 58, 53, and 57), found in the central-eastern sector of the tell. The walls are formed by a single layer of 15 x 30 x 15 cm. mud bricks, running from E to W: they show a similar length, similar height and different widths, AF 58 and 57 being wider (30 cm.) than the central wall (15 cm.). This difference is due to the alignment of the bricks within the walls themselves: while the N and the S walls have bricks laid on their long side, the central wall presents bricks laid on their short side. The interval between the walls is regularly 50 cm. The structure was placed on a very compact whitish floor. The area to the S of AF 58 was left unexcavated for the moment; it cannot be ruled out, therefore, that (a) further parallel wall(s) completed the structure towards S (cf. the similar structures in level 2).

Above the walls, traces of reed mattings, aligned at a right angle with the walls themselves, were detected. These traces suggest a covering of the entire area on top of the walls. The whole structure has been reasonably interpreted as a granary, not only on the basis of comparative evidence (for which see below), but also for the presence of a great quantity of seeds placed above the remains of the reed matting. According to the first re-

sults of the still lasting palaeo-botanic analysis by Dr. F. Feindt, University of Hamburg, the seeds predominantly comprises triticum spec., mixed with few hordeum spec. caryopsides.

The small parallel walls functioned as basis for the layer of reeds upon which cereals were stored, and assured enough ventilation for the safekeeping of the seeds. One major problem raised by this granary - and by the similar one(s) found in the subsequent level 2 - is the absolute uncertainty about the kind of superimposed architectural structures which might have formed the space for the storage: we do not have any trace whatsoever of walls raised above the small brick walls (and reed matting) and consequently we have no idea of what kind of structure this granary actually was (one or more rooms, and of what shape, openings, roofings, etc.)

In the space between AF 58 and AF 53 a tronco-conical bowl (Fig. 8,8) with low ring-base and bevelled rim was found. Its capacity was almost exactly one litre. Though different in shape and fabric from the well-known class of bevelled rim bowls, that are widely spread throughout the Near East during the second half of the IV millenium (cf. lastly A. Le Brun, *Les écuelles grossières. Etat de la question, in: L'archéologie de l'Iraq: perspectives et limites de l'interprétation anthropologique des documents*, Paris 1980, pp. 59-69, with previous bibliography), we can nevertheless hypothesize a functional relationship between the cereal contents of our granary and the vessel, which might have served as unit of measure for arids (see the figures collected by A.C. Johnson, *Local Exchange and Early State Development in Southwestern Iran*, Ann Arbor, Mi. 1973, pp. 129-

139, but cf. also the critical remarks of A. Le Brun, cit., pp. 64-66. Comparison with I.J. Gelb's reckonings of the Mesopotamian síla (JAOS 102, 1982, pp. 585-590, esp. p. 588: b-c) could be adduced, although their bearing on the interpretation of our bowl would not be conclusive).

Slightly N of the granary, in a pit dug in a compact deposit just above the virgin soil and partly below AF 44, an inhumation consisting of a cooking pot with the skeleton of a baby inside, was found. According to the osteologic report of Mr. P. Caselitz, University of Hamburg, the nearly complete skeleton is that of a fetus or neonatus between the beginning of the eighth and the end of the first half of the ninth fetal month. The size of the body can be estimated as 43 cm., the weight as  $1850 \pm 100$  g. No precise relationship between the inhumation and the architectural structure to which it referred was detected.

Traces of level 1 were also found in a sounding carried out in the southern part of the N-S trench: no architectural structures were detected, but well discernible rests of two very compact floors. Below them, the virgin soil was reached.

The structures of level 2 have the same orientation of those of level 1: the most outstanding feature of this phase of settlement is another granary of the same kind of that described above. The whole excavated area seems to have been structurally organized according to a system of four squares, centrally marked by the juxtaposition of the long wall AF 25 + 45 (running SW-NE and then turning W-E), the wall AF 41 (running SW-NE), and the walls AF 23 = 44 and AF 42 (running E-W). AF 25, which in its southern part had a stone base (AF 34) consisted in various layers

of bricks (measuring ca. 15 x 30 x 15 cm. each layer had a series of bricks laid on their long side, coupled by a series of bricks laid on their short side; the same system, but in inverted position, was used for each next layer. AF 45 consists of three parallel rows of bricks, the inner and the outer have bricks laid on their short side, the central being composed by a row of bigger square bricks. Parallel to AF 45 runs AF 23 = 44, which, together with AF 41, results of two layers of bricks (measuring ca. 35 x 20 x 20 cm.) laid on their long side.

In the space delimited by AF 41 and AF 42 four parallel brick walls were found: AF 19, 20, 16, and 21, all preserved for a length of 5.30 m. (they were all eroded away towards E), the width of the former three being 30 cm. and that of AF 21 being 60 cm. The interspace between the four walls is ca. 50 cm. They consist of a series of layers of bricks (measuring 15 x 30 x 15 cm.), alternatively formed by two rows of bricks laid on their short side and by one row of bricks laid on their long side; the arrangement of the bricks in AF 21 is less clear. Both sides of the walls were plastered with mortar. AF 19, 20, and 16 were raised right above three low walls: AF 19 and 20 are slightly adjectant towards N, while AF 16 stands exactly above the lower wall. The entire complex (including AF 21) was placed above a greenish clay floor, that stretched also in the space facing the walls themselves. On top of the lower walls and in the interspaces between them, traces of reed matting, aligned at a right angle with the walls, were detected, exactly as in the case of the granary of level 1. No seeds were however recovered, but only abundant ashes.

It is uncertain whether the upper part of

walls AF 19, 20, and 16 represent, together with AF 21, the actual space for the storage of cereals - which is possible but not thoroughly convincing, since we lack any parallel evidence for such superstructures in comparable granaries found in Mesopotamia and elsewhere, from the Hassuna to the ED I periods (see, e.g., S. Fukai - K. Horiuchi - T. Matsutani, *Tell el-Halathat, III*, Tokio 1974, pp. 18-25; R. Munchaev - N. Merpert - N. Bader: *Sumer* 32, 1976, pp. 30-31, 47 (Yarim Tepe); R. Killick - M. Roaf: *Sumer* 35, 1979, p. 541 (Tell Madhhur, with references also to Tell Gubba and Tell Abu Gassim); cf. possibly M. Roaf: *Iraq* 46, 1984, p. 155. Cf. further H.S. Vats, *Excavations at Harappā*, Delhi 1940, pp. 17-22).

If, on the contrary, we maintain that the extant structures only represent the basis for the layers of reeds (and the storage room(s)), we are led to the conclusion that we have here two distinct but immediately subsequent phases of the same granary: the former would include the lower sections of AF 19, 20, and 16, the latter would include the upper section of these walls and the northern enlargement AF 21. Again, we would have no clue as for the kind of superstructures that functioned as storage room(s).

W of wall AF 25, a small portion of a building was detected: the excavated area shows a courtyard with a fairly large oven formed by a circle of bricks laid on their short side (AF 36). Other brick walls were found in the area of the courtyard, but the relatively small dimensions of the excavation prevents any true understanding of this building. S of the courtyard, there was a stone drainage canal (AF 32), that cut AF 25: this structure could well belong to the following level 3. NW of AF 25, a stone foundation (AF 4) running SW-NE

was found, which has been tentatively assigned to level 2 also in consideration of its alignment, that strictly corresponds to that of AF 25.

Level 3 shows some alterations in the planimetric arrangement of Karrāna. There is no more trace of a partition in four squares, whereas the architectural structures still have a N-S alignment. A private dwelling, with traces of two quadrangular rooms, delimited by the walls AF 8 and 9, was detected; in the area of the oven (AF 36) rests of a brick wall that cut the oven itself (AF 37) and a stone fire-place (AF 35) were found.

Above the structures of level 3, there were various brick and stone walls, the planimetric interpretation of which is very dubious. In the northernmost part of the trench, a massive stone wall (AF 6 = 7) probably functioned as base for a large building, to which belonged a slabbed paving (AF 22) ending with an upright door sill at its southern end, on top of the brick wall AF 31.

Aside from these latter structures, which show patterns of settlement and architectural techniques rather different from those of periods 1-2-3, Tell Karrāna 3 displays a noticeable cultural and typological unity. What we are faced with is a progressive and continuous development of the same scheme of settlement, with no traces of significant destructions and subsequent gaps in the occupation of the site. The almost identical shape and orientation of the granaries, the absence of stratigraphic discontinuity and the persistence of the same (or closely similar) orientation of the main architectural structures, all bespeak a remarkable compactness in the phases of life of the site. Only the surface level(s) display

some interesting changes: the building techniques appear to be of different kind, with a consistent resort to stone blocks, also if mud bricks were still used. To all appearance, there are no traces of destruction at the end of the occupation of Karrāna, which must have been totally abandoned up to nowadays.

The same cultural compactness of the phases of settlement of Karrāna is significantly reflected in the pottery, that shows a slow development, without gaps between the various levels, which jointly participate to the repertoire of the Late Uruk - Early Ninevite 5 period. In accordance with the stratigraphic evidence, we can observe that in level 1 the Late Uruk wares are largely predominant; they decrease gradually in levels 2 and 3, where the majority of finds is of Nineveh 5 type. The youngest level offers very scarce exemplars of Late Uruk ware, a majority of painted Nineveh 5, and a few sherds of incised Nineveh 5 ware. The total absence of excised Nineveh 5 ware confirms the relatively early position of Karrāna within the Nineveh 5 sequence (for most recent discussion on this still very controversial topic see lastly M. Roaf: Iraq 46, 1984, pp. 150-154).

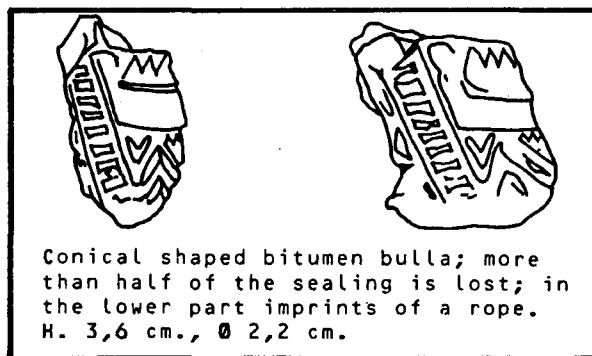
The Late Uruk assemblage is mainly represented by jars with nose pierced lugs, often with incised decoration (cross-hatched bands and triangles) on the shoulder, punctuated jar shoulders, spouted vessels, and by few specimens of painted ware. Also to be quoted is the tronco-conical bowl with long ring-base and bevelled rim, already mentioned.

Painted Nineveh 5 ware is mainly represented by small vessels: most frequent are round based, carinated bowls, often with beaded rims. Some pedestal bowls are

also present. Most characteristic is their painted decoration, reddish brown to dark brown: it mainly consists of geometric patterns (triangles, lozenges, ladders, chess-boards) disposed in horizontal bands on the upper part of the bowls, but some naturalistic elements (birds of various shapes and one instance of goats) are also present.

As said before, the appearance of a few fragmentary specimens of incised Nineveh 5 pottery marks the end of Karrāna.

In connection with the Late Uruk pottery, one seal impression on a bitumen bulla



should be mentioned, since it displays a typical Gemdet-Naṣr motive, characterized by two parallel registers filled with triangular elements, adjacent to a ladder element, a motive which is frequently attested in the glyptic of this period.

As concerns the lithic artifacts, it should be observed that no chronological development is for the time being discernible. Our finds are those characteristic of a rural settlement, the main tools being sickle blades. Some cores, rejuvenation flakes and hammerstones also occur, along with abundant blade fragments, complete blades and a few scrapers, as well as the fragment of a polished flint axe or adze. The material used for the production of these implements consists

mostly of flint and quartzite, but also a little amount of obsidian (Fig. 12 f) appeared. The many sickle blade segments show lustrous cutting edges and usually traces of bitumen, which points to their hafting in composite sickles. A preliminary selection deriving from different levels is shown in Fig. 12. They are mainly broad, trapezoidal and almost squared, truncated blades with denticulation (Fig. 12 a - e). But some variation in size and type exists, as they may also be triangular in section (Fig. 12 h), longer and narrow (Fig. 12 g - h), double-sided (Fig. 12 a, b, g), or even unretouched (Fig. 12 c), or may include the proximal end of the blade in the segment (Fig. 12 i). Frequently the specimens have been fractured by use (Fig. 12 a - e, g - i).

The extant finds are of no outstanding interest, also due to their limited quantity. Only to be mentioned are the abundant querns, mostly plano-convex in section, mainly in limestone, volcanic stone and local conglomerate.

### Tell Khirbet Sālah

At approx. 3 kms. to the SW of Tell Karrāna 3, the low elevation of Tell Khirbet Sālah faces the major site of Tell Fisna at a distance of no more than 500 meters from it and from the riverbank. The tell has an oval-shaped contour, with its main axis from E to W.

In this small tell the remains of a single extended complex were discovered. This main occupational phase of the site was apparently followed by a total obliteration of the ruins, since the tell was re-used as a burying-ground for nomadic tribes

or nearby inhabitants after a relatively short span of time: no major chronological difference, in fact, may be observed between the pottery of the overlying tombs and that of the building, both relevant to the late I millenium A.D. No earlier phase is attested, as proven by the presence of virgin soil.

The limited period of excavation on Tell Khirbet Sālah merely allowed the perception of the basic outline of the complex during the 1984 campaign. A clearing of 32 m. length from E to W was marked by symmetrical limiting structures, formed by four elements each: a quadrangular pillar linked to a semi-column, a single column, and the same two elements in inverse order, at regular intervals. This definition of the clearing was continued on the S side, but with a different type of enclosure: here three quadrangular pillars, accurately plastered and formed by medium-sized stones held together by mortar (similarly to the previously mentioned ones) limited the clearing at regular intervals, and were joined by mud-brick walls. A counterpart of this enclosure to the N was not found during the 1984 investigation. Within the clearing itself, which presented traces of gypsum-plastered flooring, a central quadrangular building (approx. 7,60 by 7,60 m.) stood, defined by stone walls covered with plaster. An entrance to the building was clear on the E side; possibly, a symmetrical entrance was present on the W side. From the SW corner of the central building, a brick wall, interrupted by a further quadrangular pillar, was built in a westernly direction, but formed a corner with another wall leading south. The relation of this fragmentary structure to the central building, and to the limiting columned and pillared area, was impossible to ascertain.

A close observation of the area outlying the tell itself showed the presence of remains of a wide enclosure of quadrangular shape, which perhaps constituted the original perimeter of the described complex.

From the data at present available, it may be suggested that the complex represented a public structure, perhaps connected to a specific cult form. The connected sherds were finely decorated by intricate and rich geometrical designs of floral inspiration, also by a few zoomorphic motifs; some examples of dark-green glazed ware were also found. The prevailing shapes were bowls and jugs, with a few amphorae and ovoidal jars: the mould was used to both fashion the body and to decorate the piece.

On the basis of this and related material, the columned complex may be dated to the period just following the rise of Islam in Mesopotamia, between the 9th and 10th centuries A.D. (Abbasid Period). Such a late date for the structure, in which no feature pointing to Islamic religion seems attested, leads us to surmise the persistence of a local Mesopotamian pre-Islamic cult - perhaps a fire cult - in an age in which the outlying environment had already fallen largely under Islamic influence. The relatively rapid abandon and decay of the columned complex could, in this light, be tied to a radical alteration of religious custom.

### Tell Jikān

In view of the possibility of short-term flooding in the southernmost part of the Saddam Dam basin, the German-Italian Expedition to Iraq chose to undertake ex-

cavations in the NE sector of Tell Jikān in the final weeks of the 1984 campaign. As is well known, Tell Jikān is in absolute the largest site in the Saddam Dam Rescue Project (ca. 750 m. from N to S, ca. 400 m. from E to W), and rises at the junction of the Baqāq river with the Tigris, dominating from its height of approx. 10-12 meters, the agricultural plain to the E and SE, and the river valley to the W. Since 1982, Iraqi and Japanese expeditions had carried out excavation work on various points of the vast tell, covered by a modern village in its upper/central part. The sector investigated by the German-Italian expedition corresponded to the NE slope of the mound - from the level of the surrounding plain to the topmost point of the tell itself, if one excludes the adjacent "peak" of the present-day Yazidi cemetery, to the W. Our sector thus ran in parallel with the trench excavated by the late Sd. Mahfudh Abdullah Najib on the north flank to the W of the named cemetery, at approx. 200 meters' distance.

The aim of the excavation was to obtain a full sequence of the occupational periods at Jikān, and to check the possibility that one or more structures of some importance could be hidden in this pre-eminent corner of the site. Both these aims may be said to have been achieved during the 1984 campaign.

Excavation was carried out in two sectors: on the summit of the tell itself, at a short distance from the slope, a square trench of approx. 80 sq.m. was opened. It revealed three occupational levels (7-5), characterized by distinct building phases. The two more recent phases should be dated in the Abbasid period, while the lower level, relatively poor in finds, was certainly pre-Islamic (cf. below). The ar-



chitectural remains, in relatively crude stone blocks, point to buildings of some public and/or strategic function in their dominance of the outlying territory, for levels 6 and 7.

On the steep slope of the mound, a long trench (approx. 9 m.) was excavated from a point just below the summit to the base of the tell. In this way, the entire stratigraphical sequence of the NE was obtained, since the lower level of the square trench on the summit corresponds to the highest on the long trench (= 5).

Level 5 on the lateral long trench was characterized by a large wall (2,50 m. in width) built in a SE-NW direction. It was formed by a stone base of shallow blocks, on which a 3-coursed, two layered brick structure, of square bricks (40 x 40 x 10 cms.) was laid. Quite probably, we have to deal here with a small portion of an extended structure of public function. Its pertinence to a town wall would seem ruled out by its absence in excavations carried out on other sides of Tell Jikān, for information on which the Iraqi and Japanese colleagues are to be warmly thanked. On the other hand, however, both the written reports and a first-hand observation of the close-by findings of the late Sd. Mahfudh Abdullah Najib bore witness to the existence of somewhat similar structures in the NW corner of the tell: structures which are described as "massive mud-brick walls probably dating to the Late Assyrian Period" (cf. Iraq 45, 1983, p. 213). Very little related evidence of value for dating was found in proximity to the stone and mud-brick structure (and on the corresponding level on the summit, as said above): on the basis of these scanty elements - among which, a peculiar heart-shaped juglet with an almost button-shaped base - a pertinence of this wall and of

the corresponding level to the Neo-Assyrian period may be tentatively suggested, but certainly not affirmed with any surety. The function of the wall could have been defensive, due to its location and size, in relation to a building of some extension and importance.

Beneath the level just described, the slope trench showed two levels belonging to the 2nd millenium B.C., and specifically to the period characterized by painted ware bearing dark brown stripes on a yellowish ground, called "Khabur ware". The lower of the two levels (= 3) presented architectural remains in good state of preservation: part of one room, with stone walls and an accurately prepared floor, linked to a further room through a stone threshold. Khabur levels were also present in other parts of the site, as we were kindly informed by members of other Expeditions operating in Jikān.

The Khabur period levels were followed by two more (= 2, 1) of the Akkadian period. The highest one showed the presence of remnants of massive tomb structures, built in large stone blocks, accurately cut, associated with skeletal remains and the typical thin ware with green slip, at times showing an almost vitrified surface. The same type of pottery was connected to the major structural element of the lower level (= 1): a small (approx. 90 cm. height) vaulted chamber built of stone blocks, quite well preserved in its essential "profile", into which access was gained by means of stone steps (five such steps became visible in the cleaning of the section), and which showed a consistent (ca. 80 cm.) lower layer of ashes, with plentiful sherds, traces of bitumen, and a copper needle. A small furnace, or an oven, would at present seem to be the

most plausible interpretations for this structure.

Virgin soil was reached beneath level 1: at least as regards the NE side of Tell Jikān, a hillock of approx. 1,50 m. in height above the outlying plain constituted the sole landmark prior to the first occupational levels. That the latter were earlier than the Akkadian period, was already known from kind information supplied by the neighbouring Expeditions: but first-hand data were also brought to light, in the form of sparse Halaf sherds, retrieved both in the Akkadian levels as in the Islamic ones on the summit of the tell, among which a fine example with adjacent bucraniums stands out. On the other hand, no identifiable Ninevite 5 pottery turned up on the NE slope - not even out of stratigraphic context like the Halaf sherds -, while it was known to be present to some extent elsewhere on the site. And certainly, the vastness of the mound itself accounts for a certain degree of variation both in period attestations, and in the relevant statistical

counts, such as will undoubtedly be evidenced in the future excavation reports of the different Expeditions.

The German-Italian excavation on Tell Jikān, despite the brevity of the period at its disposal on this site, also attained the result of checking the presence of a defensive structure - a ditch - which ran along the perimeter of the tell. This ditch had been clearly evidenced in the excavation carried out on the E side of the mound by the Japanese Expedition. On the NE side, the ditch was retrieved in its steep-sloping inner (S) side, dug into the surface of the natural elevation described above. Its depth and its overall width were left unchecked during the 1984 campaign, due to the time factor. However, the reappearance of this structure in a further spot beneath the mound is a datum of interest in itself: and the exclusive presence of pottery of the Akkadian period in the filling may be viewed as a useful clue for the dating of this extended defensive element.

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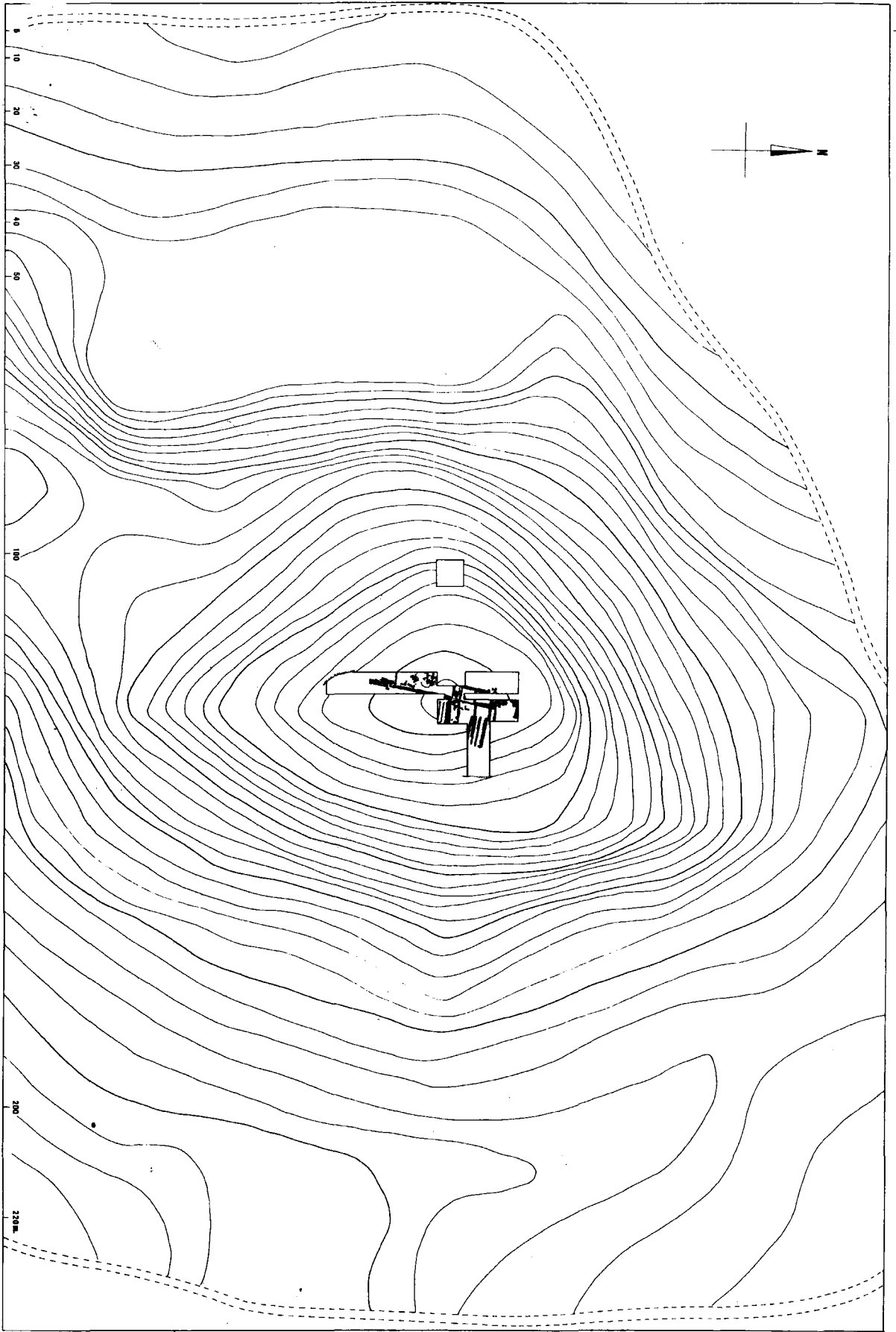


Fig. 1 : Tell Karrāna 3 : General topography.

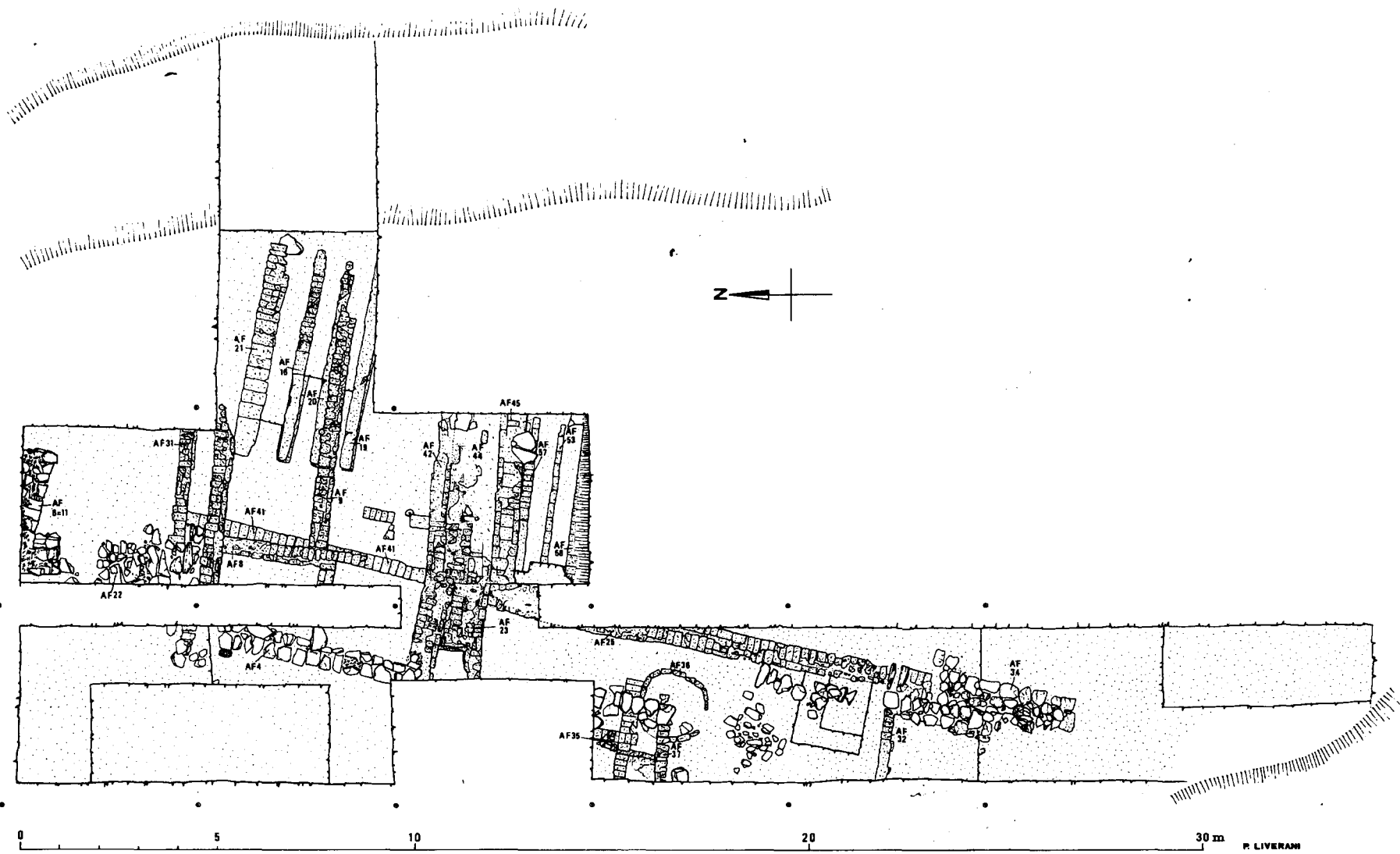
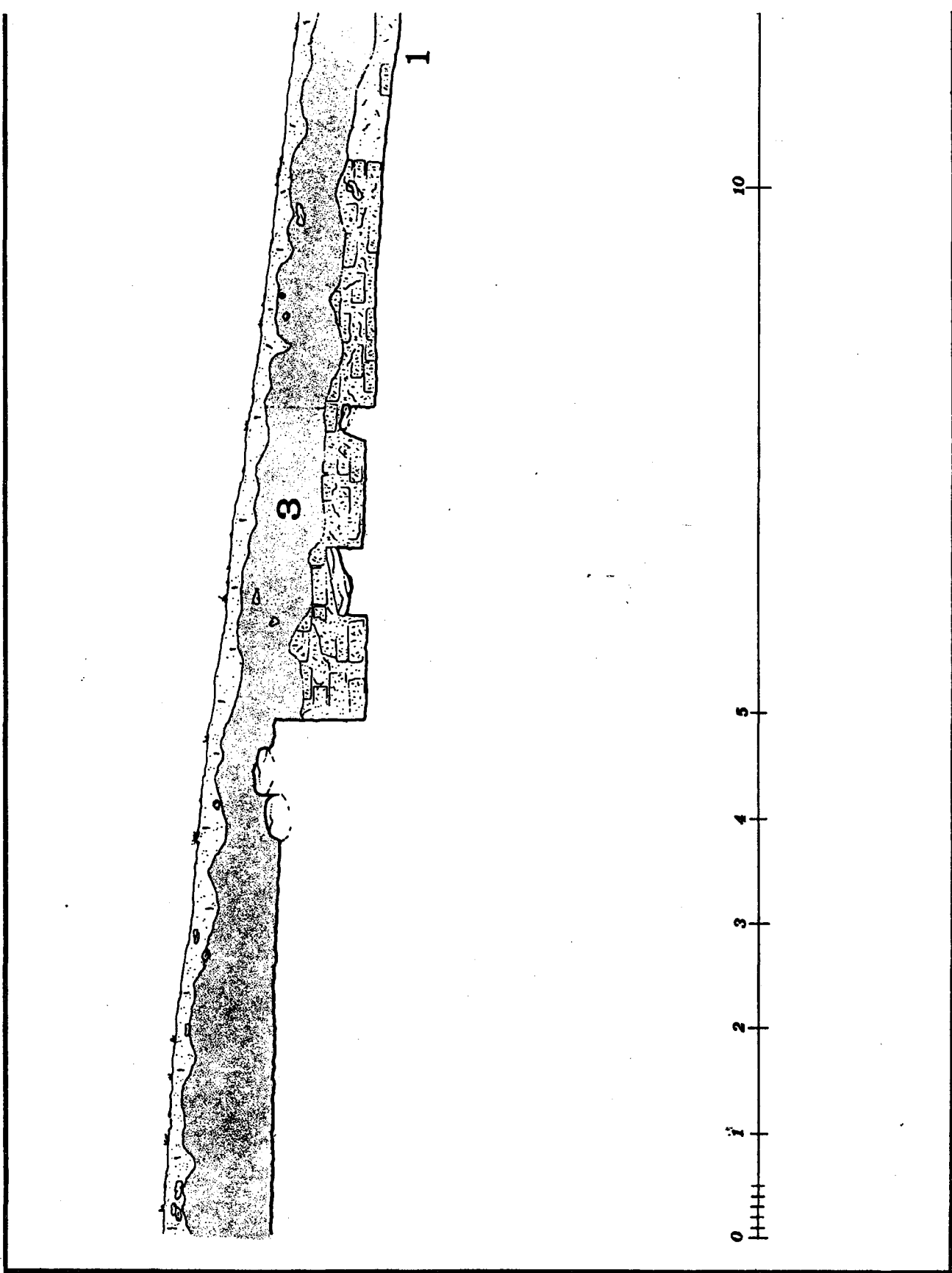


Fig. 2: Tell Karrāna 3: General plan of excavated area.



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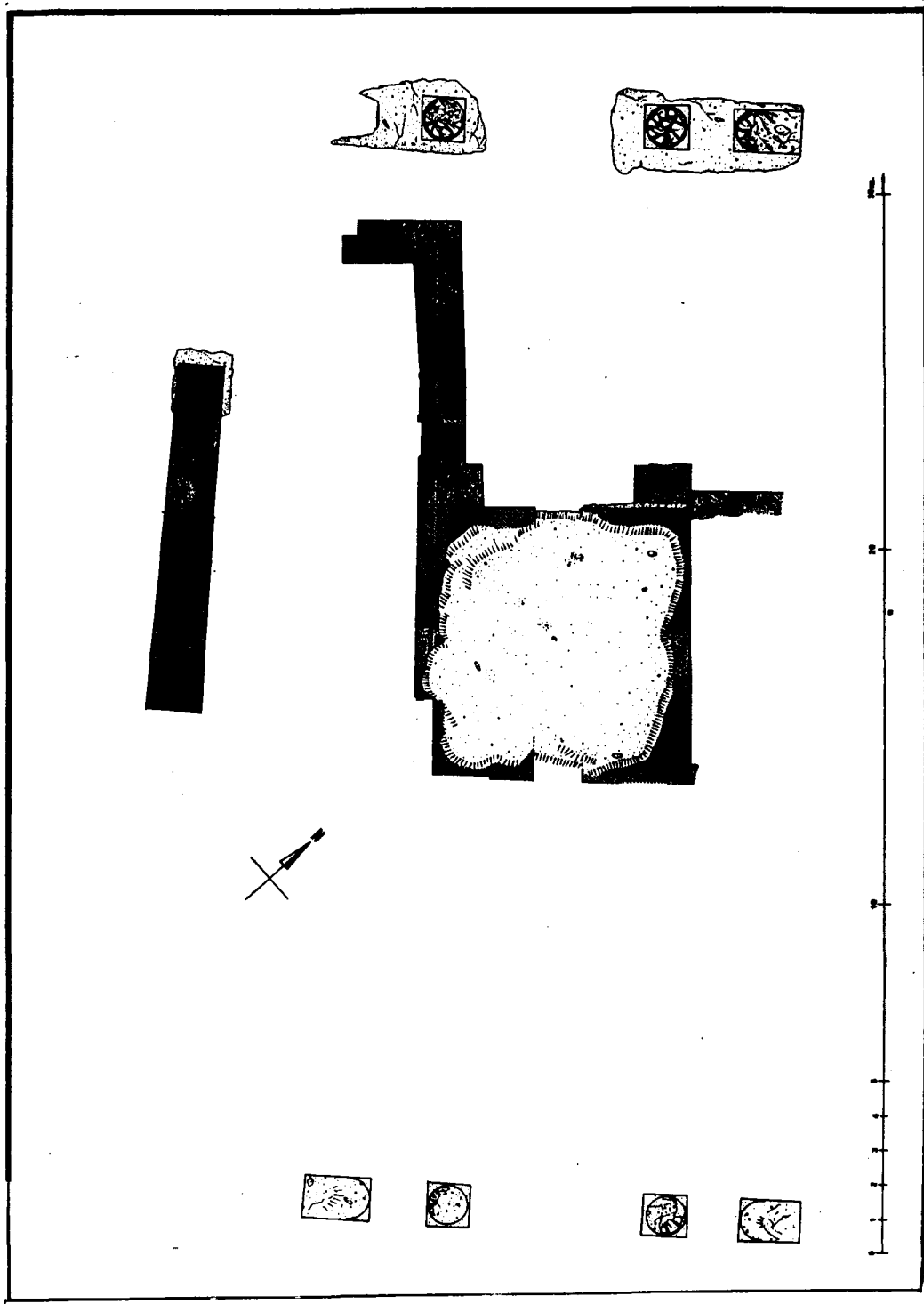
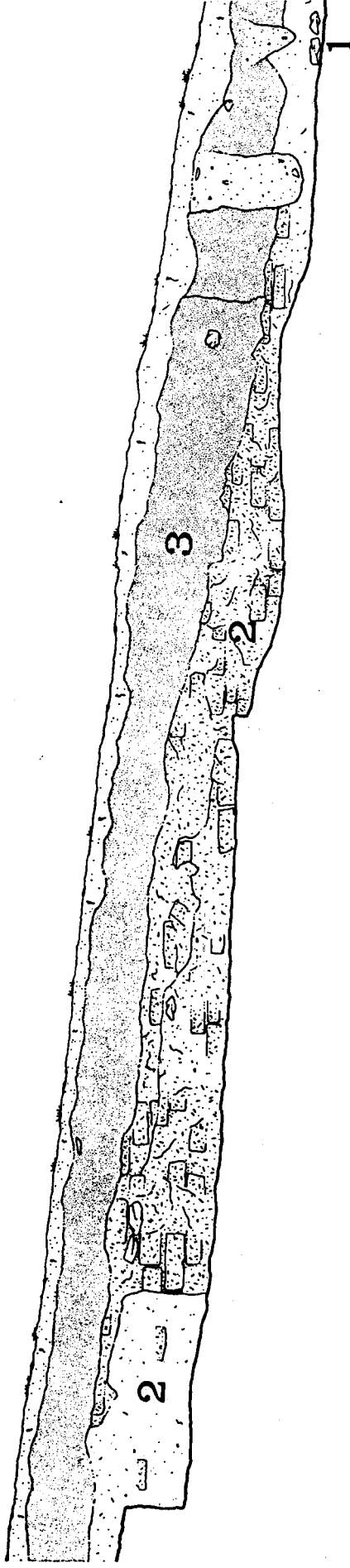
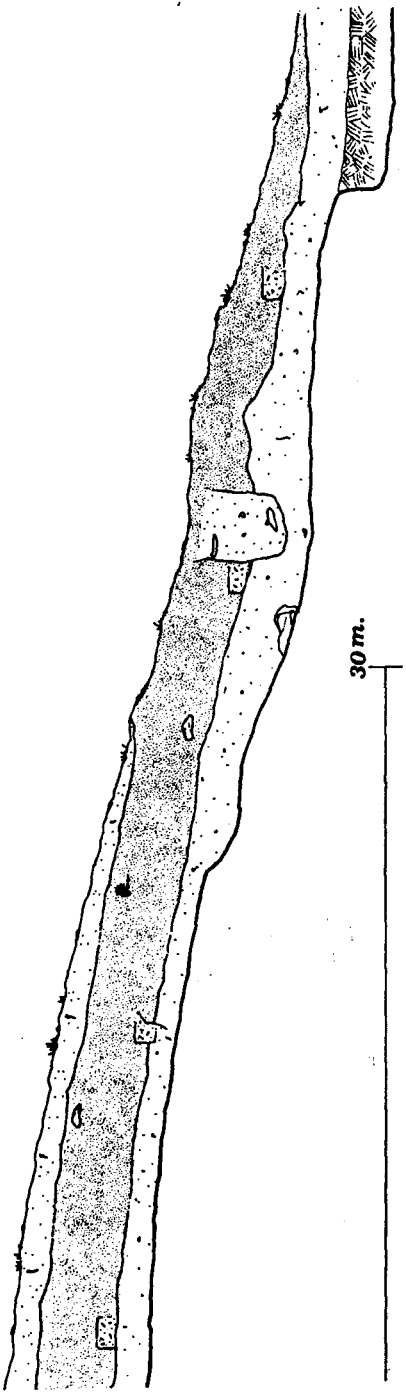


Fig. 4: Tell Khirbet Sālah: General plan of excavated area.



20



30 m.



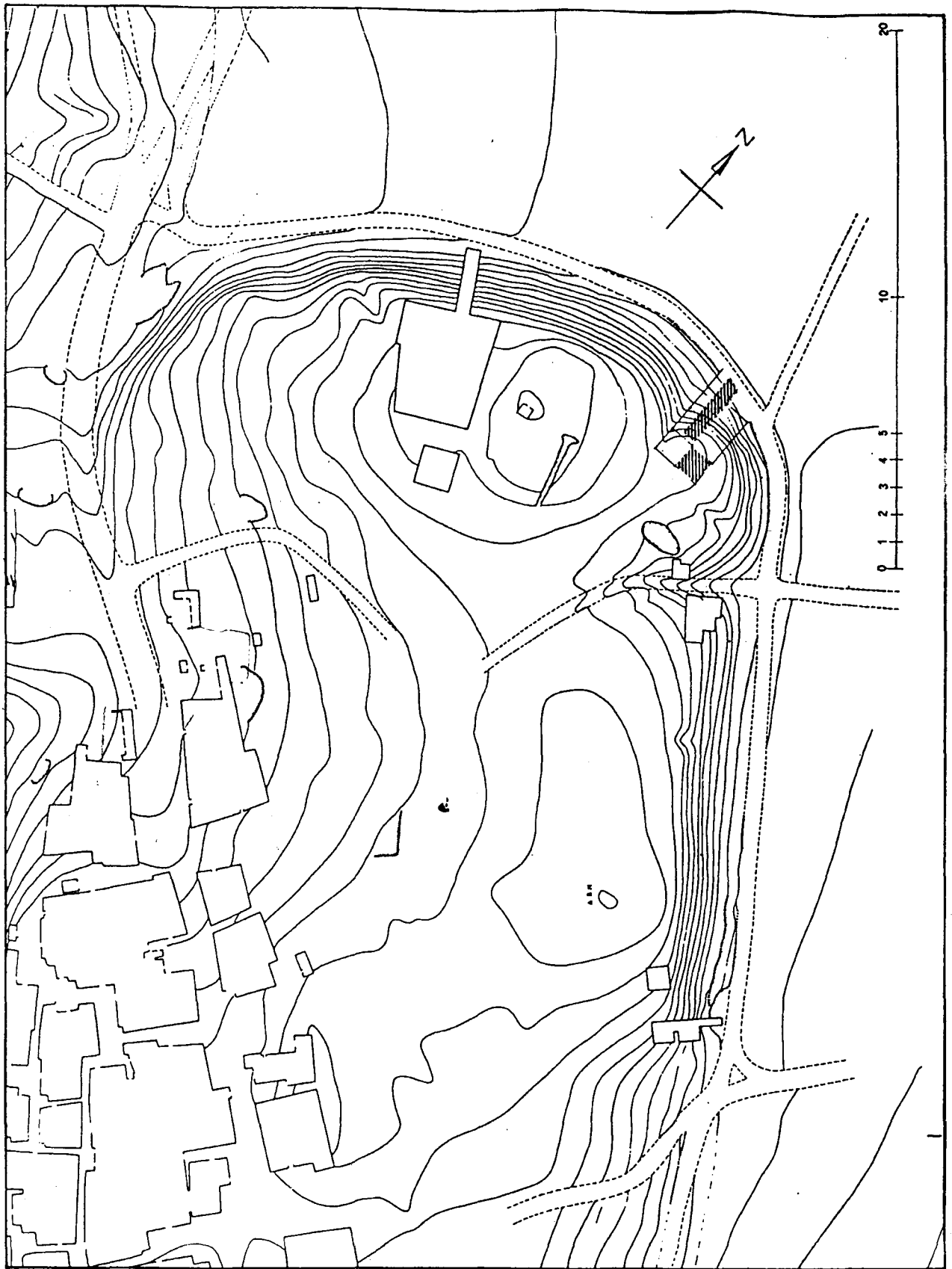


Fig. 5: Tell Jikān: General topography of North-East corner.

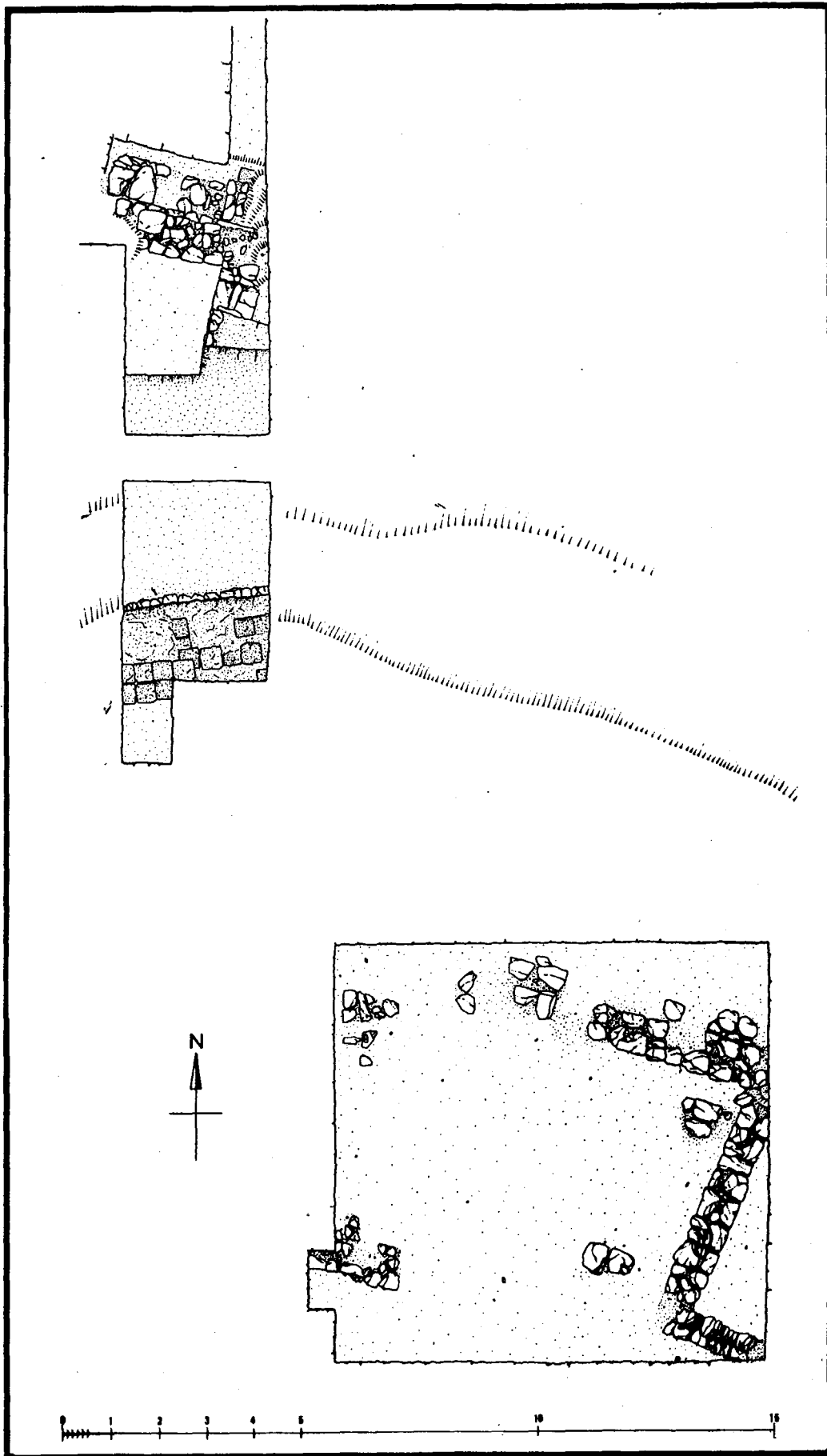


Fig. 6: Tell Jikān: General plan of excavated area.

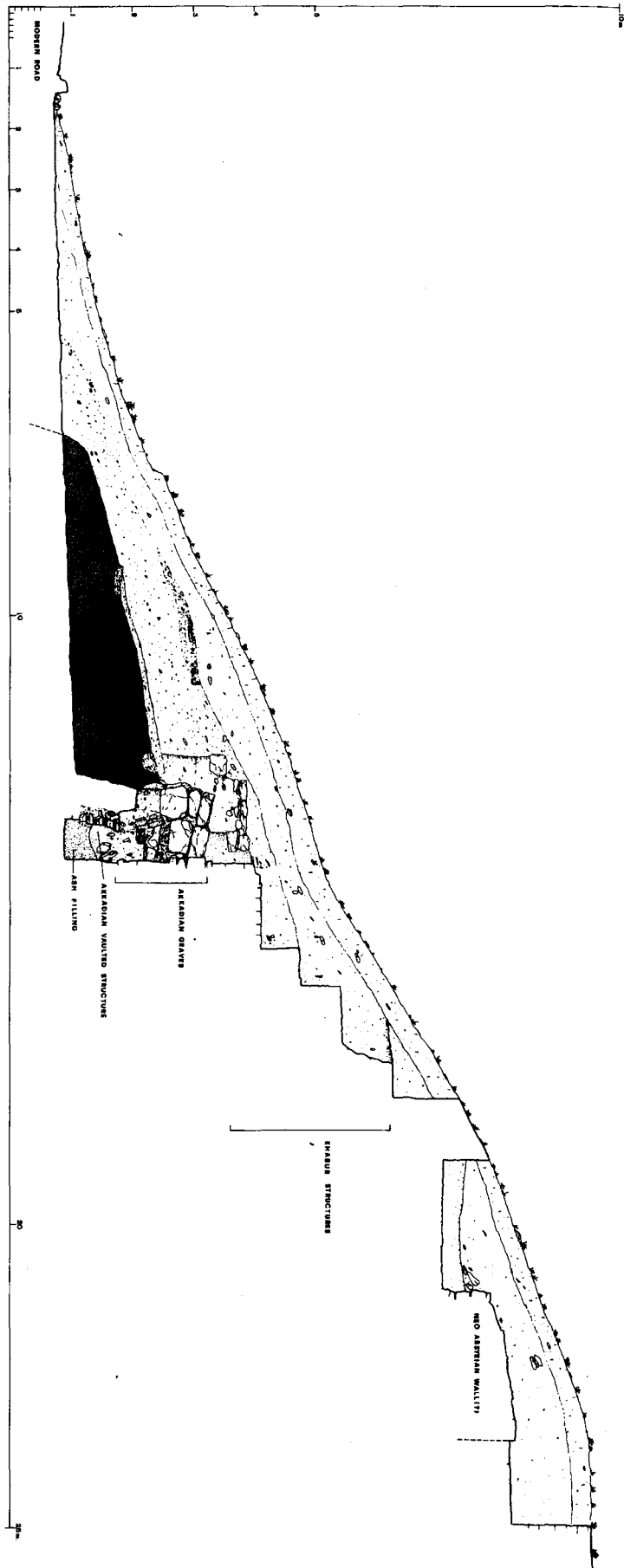


Fig. 7: Tell Jikān:  
 Section of  
 the trench.

FIGURE 8:

- 1 Inv. KR 5 (SU 47): Pear shaped goblet. Plain rim, almost vertical wall, slight carination, low ring base. Two parallel grooves on the upper part of the body. Two couples of symmetric holes just below the rim were used either for hanging or for closing a lid. Ø rim 8, h. 9,5.
- 2 SU 36/26: Everted thickened rim of globular jar, reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6) chalky straw-tempered fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) smoothed surface. One incised horizontal line at the base of the neck and band of horizontal slanting segments crossed by a horizontal line on the shoulder. h. 9,4, w. 8,7.
- 3 SU 27/61: Fragment of a tronco-conical spout, red (5YR 5/8) heavily gritty chalky fabric, pink (7.5YR 7/4) encrusted surface. h. 4, w. 4,1.
- 4 SU 46/35+48+50: Part of carinated bowl. Slightly everted, sharpened rim, carination at about half of the body, rounded base. Reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) sandy chalky, straw-tempered fabric, pink (7.5YR 8/4) slipped(?) surface. 3 fragments joined. Ø 12, h. 6,5, w. 8,3.
- 5 SU 27/53: Beaded rim of a deep bowl. Light red (2.5YR 6/8) gritty, chalky fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/8) smoothed surface with red (10R 4/8) painted decoration: row of adjacent solid triangles, overlined. Ø 11, h. 3,2, w. 4,3.
- 6 SU 47/18: Everted rim and part of the shoulder of a jar. Reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) heavily gritty, chalky fabric with micaceous inclusions, pink (7.5YR 7/4) badly slipped surface with impressed decoration: row of "commas". Traces of ancient breaking repaired with bitumen. 3 fragments joined. Ø rim 18, h. 7, w. 26.
- 7 SU 27/65: Vertical neck and almost horizontal shoulder of suspension jar, with three pierced nose lugs. Reddish yellow (5YR 6/8) slightly sandy fabric with micaceous inclusions, pink (7.5YR 8/4) badly slipped surface, decorated by two sharp concentric rope mouldings. 3 fragments joined. Ø mouth 11,5.
- 8 Inv. KR 7 (SU 46): Conical bowl (fragmentary). Bevelled rim, slightly curved sides, low ring base. Reddish yellow (7.5YR 6/8) sandy fabric with micaceous inclusions, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) wet-smoothed surface. 9 fragments joined. Ø rim 18,2, h. 9,8.
- 9 SU 47/13: Plain rim of big pot with horizontal crescent lug. Yellowish red (5YR 5/6) heavily sandy and chalky fabric; badly fired, hand made cooking-pot ware; reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) surface. h. 19,5, w. 10,7.
- 10 SU 48/1: Globular pot. Plain rim, two small lugs on the border of the rim, rounded base. Very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) sandy fabric, badly fired, hand-made cooking-pot ware; red (2.5YR 4/6) fire-blackened burnished surface. 7 fragments joined. Ø rim 27, h. 27. Used as a child grave.

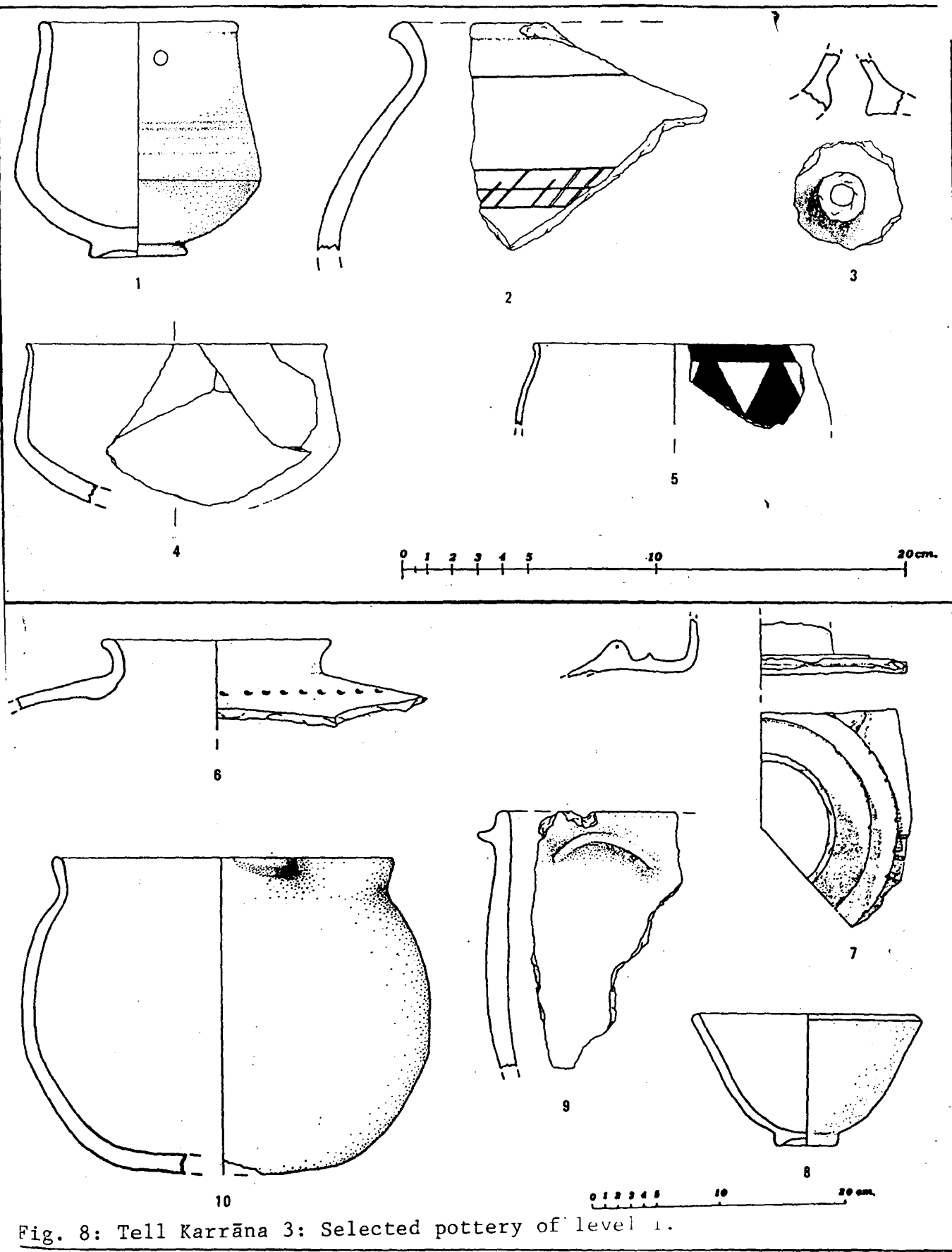
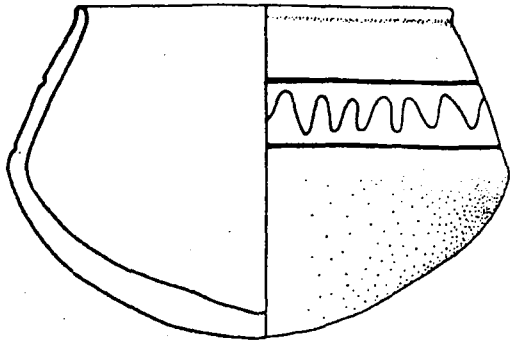


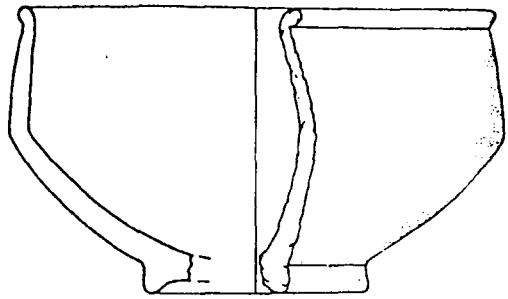
Fig. 8: Tell Karrāna 3: Selected pottery of level 1.

FIGURE 9:

- 11 Inv. KR 4 (SU 42): Deep round-based carinated bowl. Slightly everted sharpened rim, carination at about half of the body. Light red (2.5YR 6/8) gritty, chalky fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) badly slipped surface with incised decoration: wavy line over- and underlined on the upper part of the body, crossed segments on the carination. Ø rim 10,5, h. 8,8.
- 12 SU 35/59: Deep carinated bowl (fragmentary). Beaded rim, sharp carination, ring-base. Light red (2.5YR 6/6) gritty, chalky straw-tempered fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) smoothed surface, partially blackened. Ø rim 13, h. 8.
- 13 SU 41/68: Beaded rim of deep bowl. Red (2.5YR 5/8) sandy, chalky fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/6) wet-smoothed surface with red (10R 4/8) painted decoration: slanting herringbone overlined. h. 3,7, w. 3,5.
- 14 SU 35/95: Beaded rim of carinated bowl. Reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) slightly chalky sandy fabric, pink (5YR 7/4) smoothed surface with dark red (10R 3/6) painted decoration: row of adjacent cross-hatched triangles under a cross-hatched band. 3 fragments joined. Ø 10, h. 5, w. 6,9.
- 15 SU 30/23+24: Sharpened rim of carinated bowl. Reddish yellow (7.5YR 8/6) fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) smoothed surface with dark red (2.5YR 3/6) painted decoration: reticulated band over- and underlined. 2 fragments joined. Ø 12, h. 4,5, w. 4,8.
- 16 SU 30/14: Conical spout. Reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) sandy fabric, pink (5YR 8/4) smoothed surface. Ø 1,8, h. 4,4, w. 3,6.
- 17 SU 26/61: Fragment of jar shoulder with pierced nose lug. Light red (2.5YR 6/8) sandy chalky fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) surface, slipped on both sides, with incised decoration: reticulated band and triangles filled with slanting lines. h. 6,1, w. 6,3.
- 18 SU 26/19: Beaded rim of carinated bowl, pink (5YR 7/4) sandy, chalky fabric, pinkish white (7.5YR 8/2) slipped surface decorated by an incised cross. Ø 16, h. 4,5, w. 6,8.
- 19 SU 25/28: Plain rim and part of body of a globular pot with knob lug. Reddish yellow (5YR 6/8) heavily chalky, straw- and gravel-tempered fabric, badly fired, hand made cooking-pot ware; pink (5YR 7/4) fire-blackened surface. Ø 14.
- 20 SU 29/48: Thickened, rounded rim of large storage jar. Reddish yellow (5YR 6/8) heavily sandy, chalky, straw-tempered fabric, hand-made, pink (5YR 7/4) very encrusted surface. Ø 42, h. 12,5, w. 27.



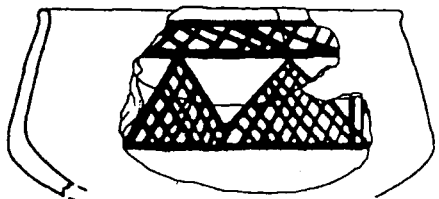
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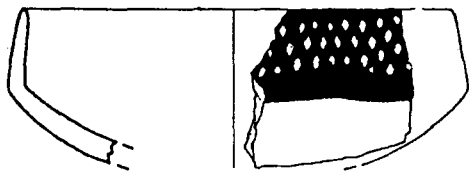
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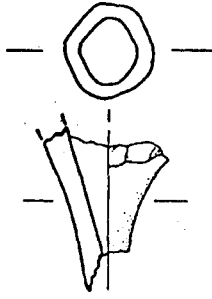
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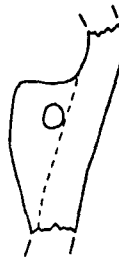
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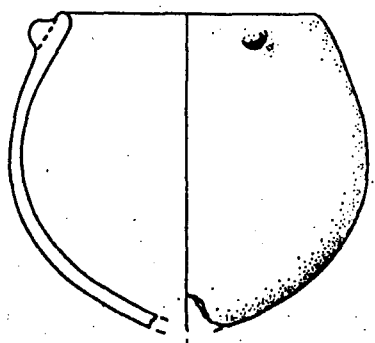
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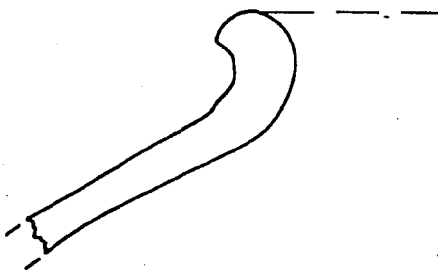
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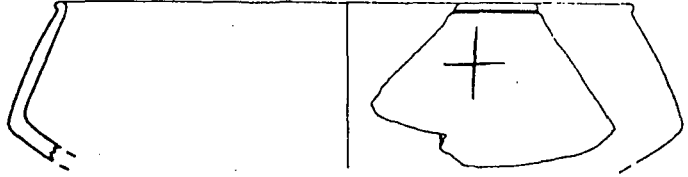
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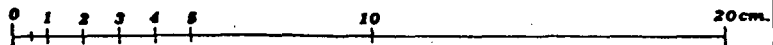
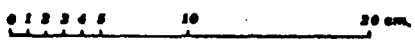


Fig. 9: Tell Karrāna 3: Selected pottery of level 2.

FIGURE 10:

- 21 Inv. KR 3 (SU 29): Deep carinated low-stemmed bowl. Slightly thickened, flattened rim, rounded carination. Reddish-yellow fabric, wet-smoothed surface with reddish painted decoration between rim and carination: band composed by lozenges alternated with vertical up-sharpened bands. 5 fragments joined. Ø rim 17,5, h. 9.
- 22 SU 25/29: Beaded rim of low-carinated bowl. Pink (7.5YR 7/4) slightly sandy fabric, pink (7.5YR 8/4) smoothed surface with reddish yellow (7.5YR 6/6) painted fugitive decoration: from left: slanting herring-bone ladder, two very thin triangles, two parallel slanting ladders crossed by another one, overlined. 2 fragments joined. Ø 8,5, h. 5,6, w. 9.
- 23 SU 26/31: Beaded rim of bowl, reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) gritty, chalky fabric, reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) smoothed surface, with red (10R 4/6) painted decoration: horizontal line and vertical herring-bone under the rim. Ø 12, h. 3,9, w. 4,6.
- 24 SU 40/11: Small beaded rim of bowl. Pink (7.5YR 7/4) sandy, chalky fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) wet-smoothed surface decorated by three thin horizontal ropings.
- 25 SU 29/23: Beaded rim of carinated bowl. Pink (5YR 7/4) sandy straw-tempered fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) slipped surface with light red (2.5YR 6/8) painted decoration: horizontal broad lines bordering a row of birds. h. 4,2, w. 4,3.
- 26 SU 32/25: Vertical pierced lug, yellowish red (5YR 5/6) chalky fabric, pinkish white wet-smoothed surface, decorated by cross-hatched incised lines. h. 6,3, w. 3,3.
- 27 SU 35/76: Slightly sharpened rim of carinated bowl, light gray (5YR 7/1) slightly sandy, chalky fabric, white (10YR 8/1) wet-smoothed surface, deep incised horizontal lines. Ø 12, h. 4,9, w. 7,4.
- 28 SU 33/4: Slightly carinated pot (fragmentary). Plain rim, carination in the upper part of the body, flat irregular base. Light red (10R 6/6), heavily gritty chalky straw-tempered fabric. Badly fired, hand-made cooking-pot ware. Light red (10R 6/8) fire-blackened surface. 6 fragments joined. Ø rim 29, h. 20,2.
- 29 Inv. KR 8 (SU 40): Squat ovoid jar. Flattened rim, short vertical neck, rounded base. Red (10R 5/8) gritty, chalky straw-tempered fabric, light red (2.5YR 6/6) surface. Various fragments joined. Ø rim 15, h. 19,5.



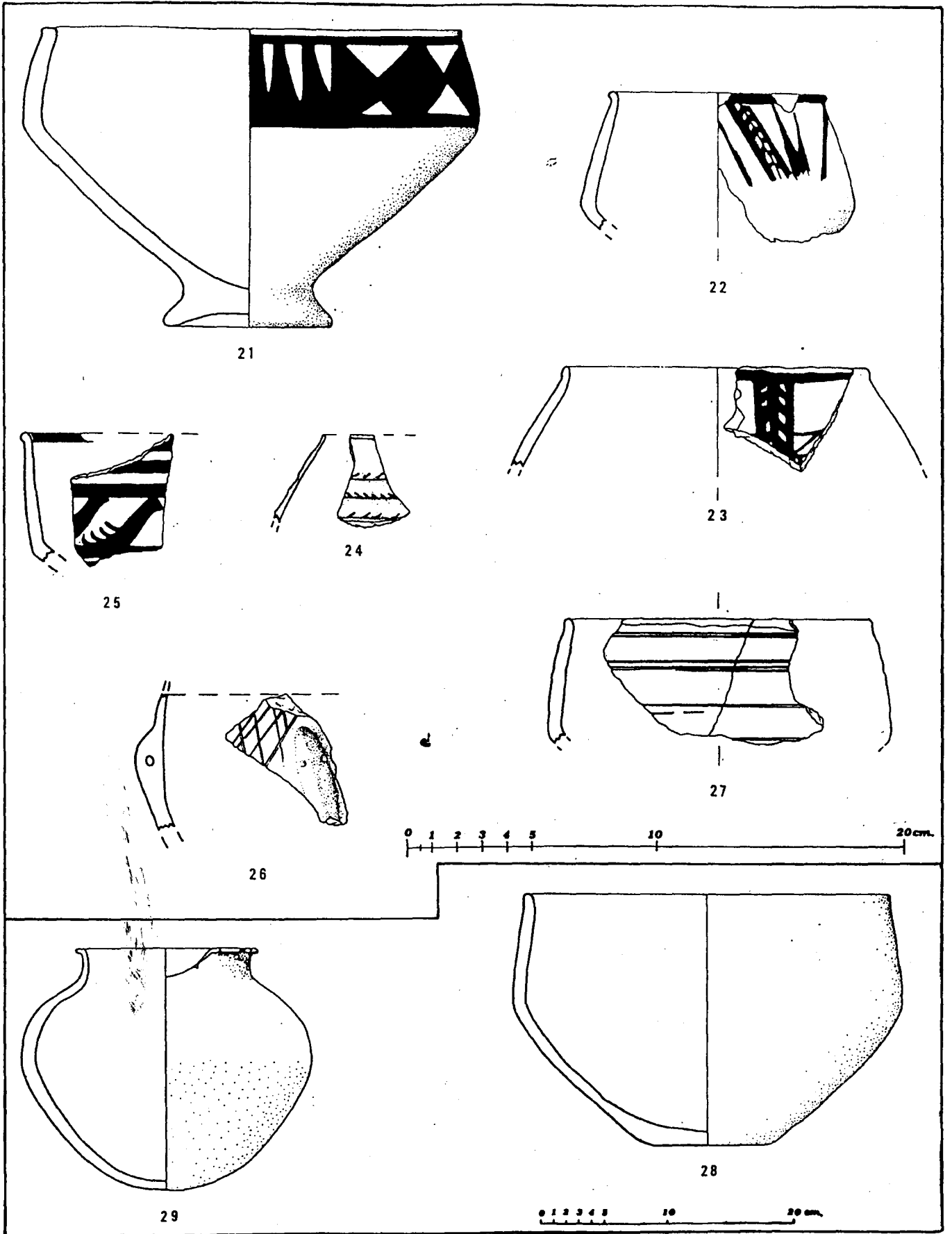


Fig. 10: Tell Karrāna 3: Selected pottery of level 3.

FIGURE 11:

- 30 SU 7/74: Deep carinated bowl (fragmentary). Beaded rim, carination at about half of the body, rounded base. Reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) slightly sandy straw-tempered fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/4) slipped surface. 6 fragments joined. Ø 9, h. 6,5.
- 31 SU 5/36: Beaded rim of deep bowl. Light red (2.5YR 6/6) chalky fabric, pinkish white (7.5YR 8/2) slipped surface with yellowish red (5YR 5/8) painted decoration: vertical gridded band and horizontal lines bordering a panel with two birds standing one on the back of the other. Ø 11, h. 5,8, w. 6.
- 32 SU 5/32: Small beaded rim of deep bowl, reddish yellow (5YR 7/8) chalky fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/4) slipped surface with red (2.5YR 4/6) painted decoration: vertical lines, ladders and row of adjacent solid lozenges overlined. Ø 9, h. 5,9, w. 5,7.
- 33 SU 15/14+56: Beaded rim and part of the body of deep carinated bowl, very pale brown (10YR 7/3) slightly sandy fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/4) smoothed surface, brown (10YR 5/3) painted decoration: alternately arranged slanting segments in pannelled pattern, over- and underlined. 3 fragments joined. Ø 9.
- 34 SU 20/1: Body fragment. Very pale brown (10YR 7/4) sandy fabric, very pale brown (10YR 7/4) slipped surface, dusky red (10R 3/4) painted decoration: two four-legged animals staying one above the other, in pannelled pattern. h. 7,2, w. 5,5.
- 35 SU 15/36: Beaded rim of bowl, very pale brown (10YR 7/4) chalky fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) wet-smoothed ribbed surface. Ø 6, h. 2,8, w. 3,9.
- 36 SU 16/17: Body fragment. Brown (7.5YR 5/4) sandy chalky fabric, pale brown (10YR 6/3) smoothed surface with incised decoration: irregular slanting row of dots over horizontal lines. h. 3,4, w. 3.
- 37 SU 4/75: Foot of a stemmed bowl. Pink (7.5YR 8/4) gritty fabric, very pale brown (10YR 8/3) slipped surface with dark brown (10YR 4/3) painted decoration: two horizontal lines. Ø 4,6, h. 2,2.
- 38 SU 4/63: Beaded rim of carinated bowl, white (2.5Y 8/2) chalky fabric, pinkish white (7.5YR 8/2) slipped surface with dark reddish brown (2.5YR 3/4) painted decoration: semicircular concentric lines over- and underlined. h. 4, w. 3,2.
- 39 SU 3/12: Body fragment. Reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) slightly chalky, sandy straw-tempered fabric, pink (5YR 8/4) smoothed surface with incised band of hatched triangles. h. 5, w. 3,7.
- 40 SU 15/5: Fragment of carinated bowl(?). Light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) chalky, sandy fabric, white (5Y 8/2) slipped surface with incised decoration: crossing lines and bands forming a geometrical pattern. h. 5,4, w. 3,9.
- 41 SU 13/9. Fragment of stand, with cylindrical ribbed body, cave inside. Blackened chalky straw-tempered fabric, yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) covered by a very pale brown (5YR 2.5/2) painted decoration: horizontal bands.
- 42 SU 13/8: Foot of stemmed bowl, cave inside. Reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) sandy, chalky, straw-tempered fabric, pink (5YR 7/4) smoothed surface. Ø 8,1, h. 5,5.
- 43 SU 5/3: Ring base of hemispherical bowl, red (10R 5/8) chalky fabric, light red (10R 6/8) wet-smoothed surface. Ø 5,3, h. 3,4.

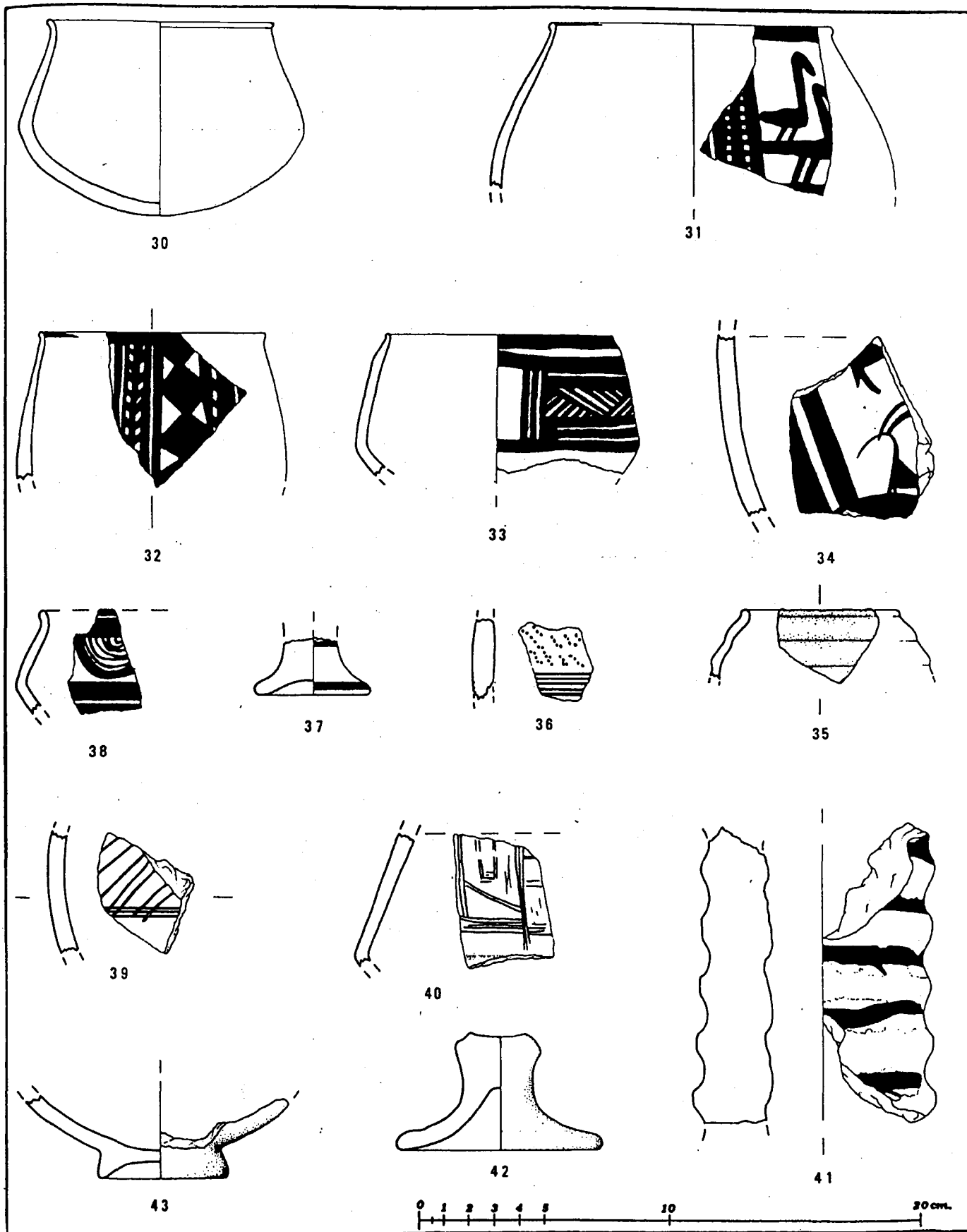
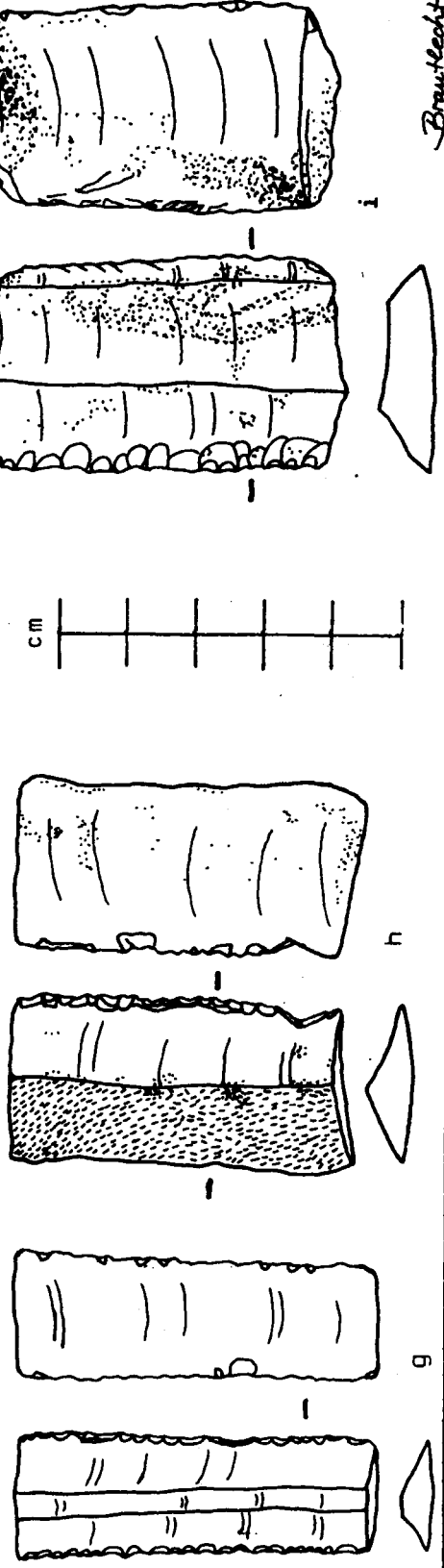
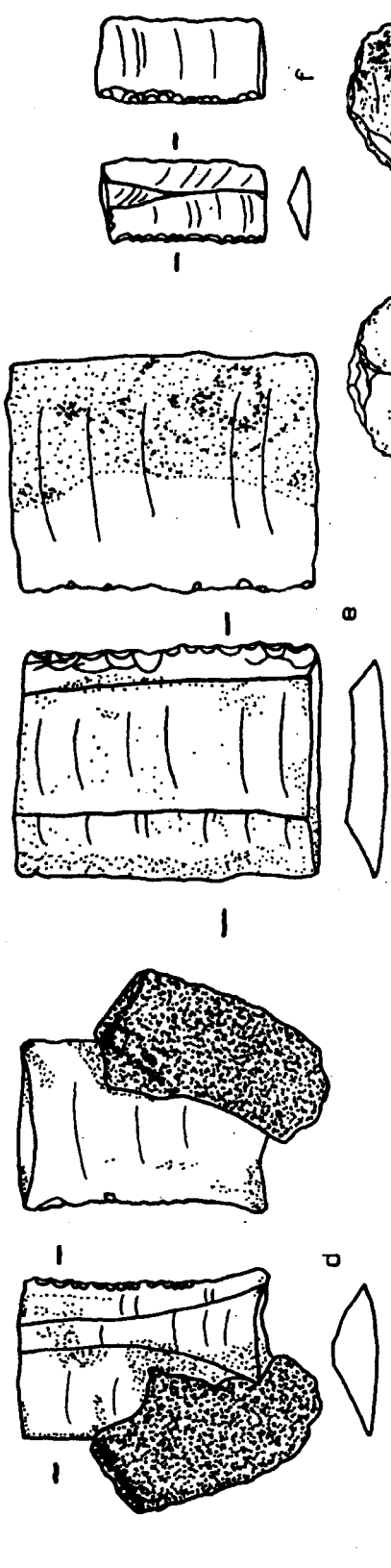
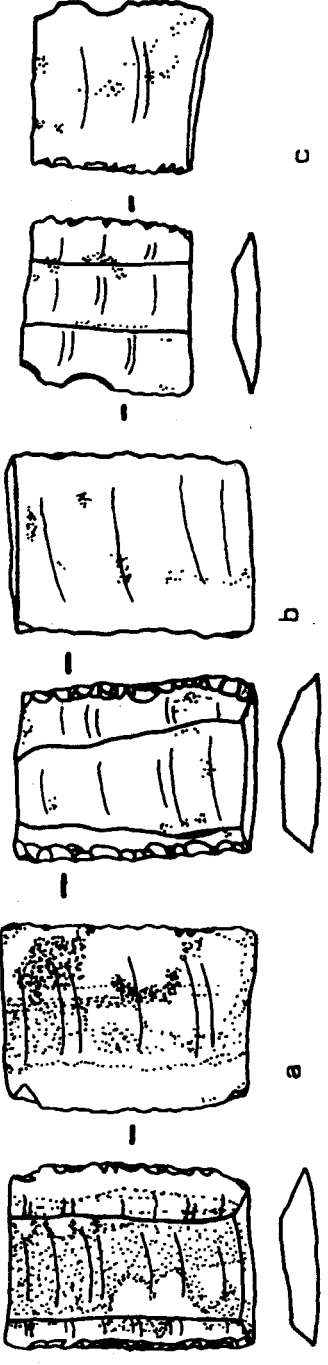


Fig. 11: Tell Karrāna 3: Selected pottery of superficial level(s).

Tell Karrāna-3,  
 selection of  
 sickle blades  
 from different  
 levels (except  
 f).

bitumen  
 traces  
 cortex



*Braunleucht*



Fig. 13: Tell Karrāna  
3: granary of level 2  
from NW.

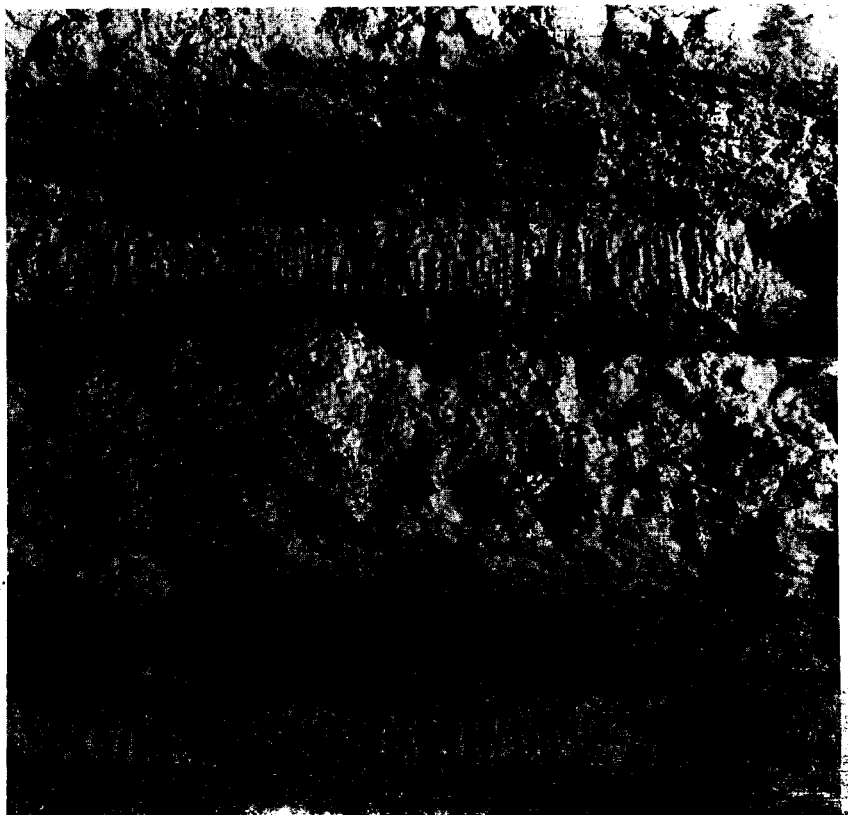


Fig. 14: Tell Karrāna  
3: walls of granary  
of level 2 with traces  
of reed matting.



Fig. 15: Tell Khirbet Sālah after excavation from NW:

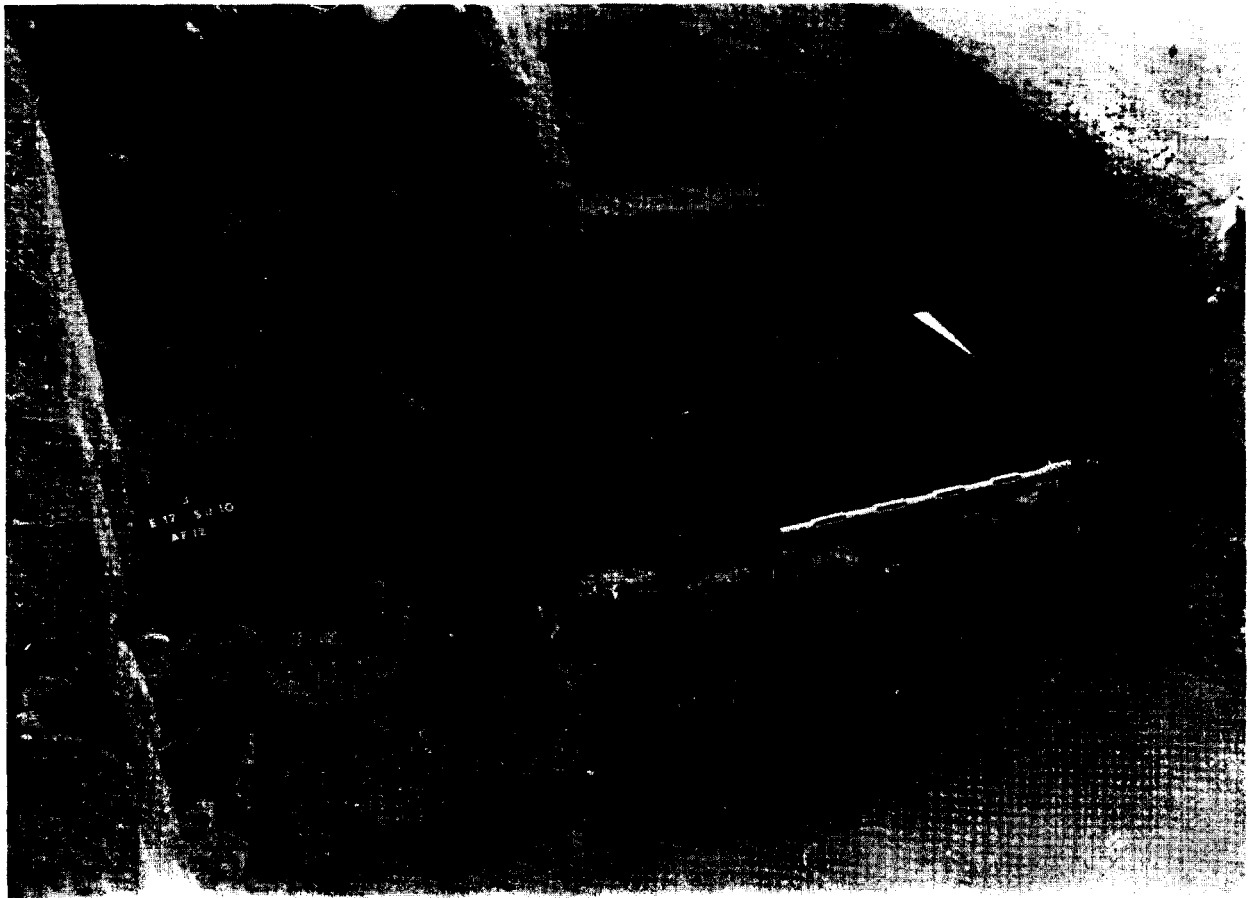


Fig. 16: Tell Jikān, wall of level 5 from NE.