

# Dhiban Excavation and Development Project (DEDP)

ARKY 3400 - Archaeology of Jordan

ARKY 3000 - Analysis of Jordanian Material Culture

ARKY 3300 - Archaeological Field Work: Jordan

Summer Session I

May 1 – June 21, 2025

# Archaeological Field School

- ▶ Excavation Project Overview
- ▶ Excavation Schedule
- ▶ Application Procedure
- ▶ Course Requirements
- ▶ Costs
- ▶ Student Loans and Funding Possibilities
- ▶ Risks, Safety and Responsibility
- ▶ Website:  
<https://www.ulethbridge.ca/artsci/geography/tall-dhiban-archaeological-field-school>



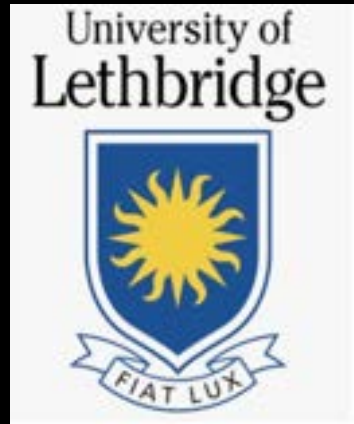
Dr. Bruce Routledge



Dr. Kevin McGeough



Dr. Shawn Bubel



Tall Dhiban, Jordan

# Middle East

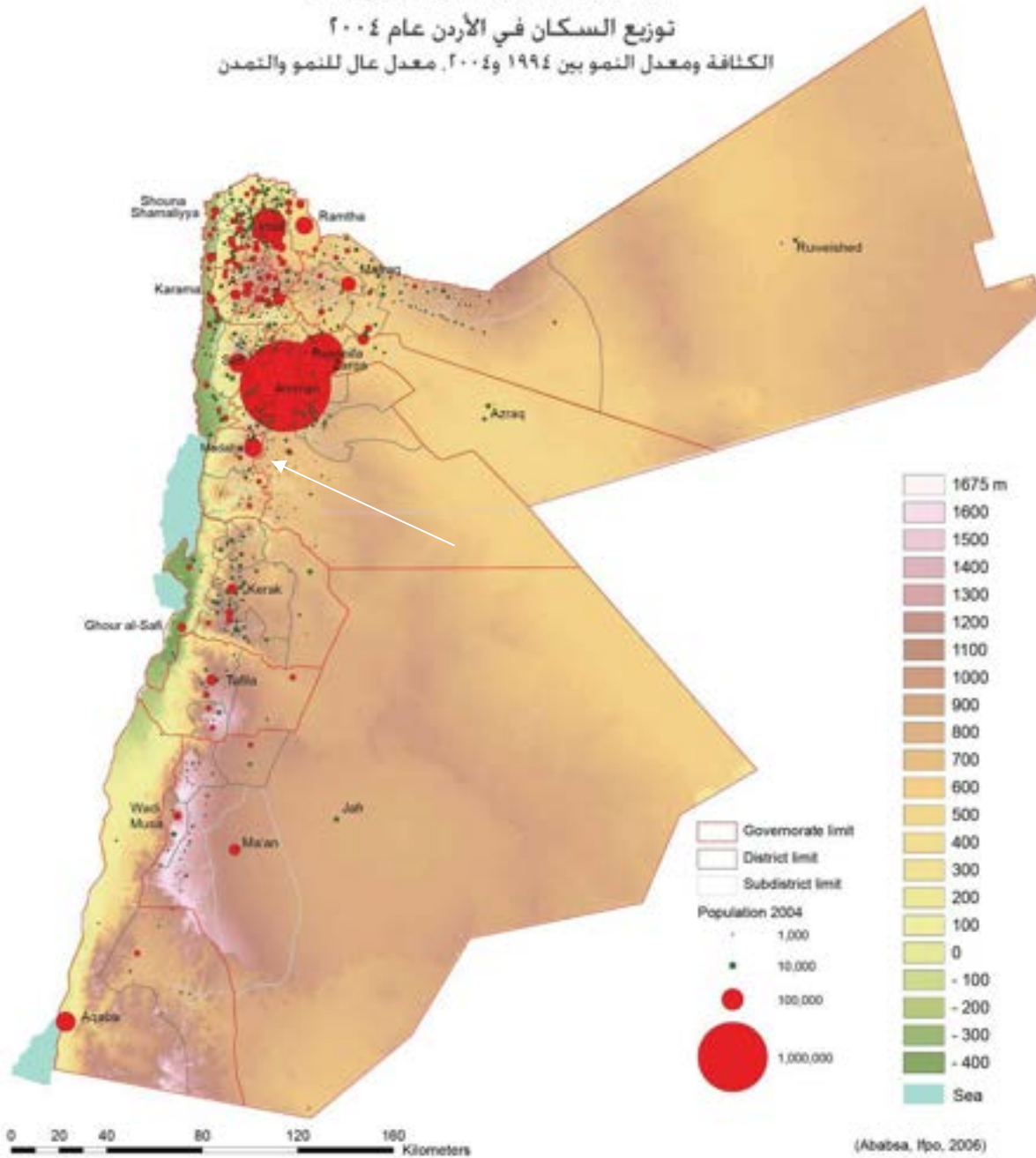


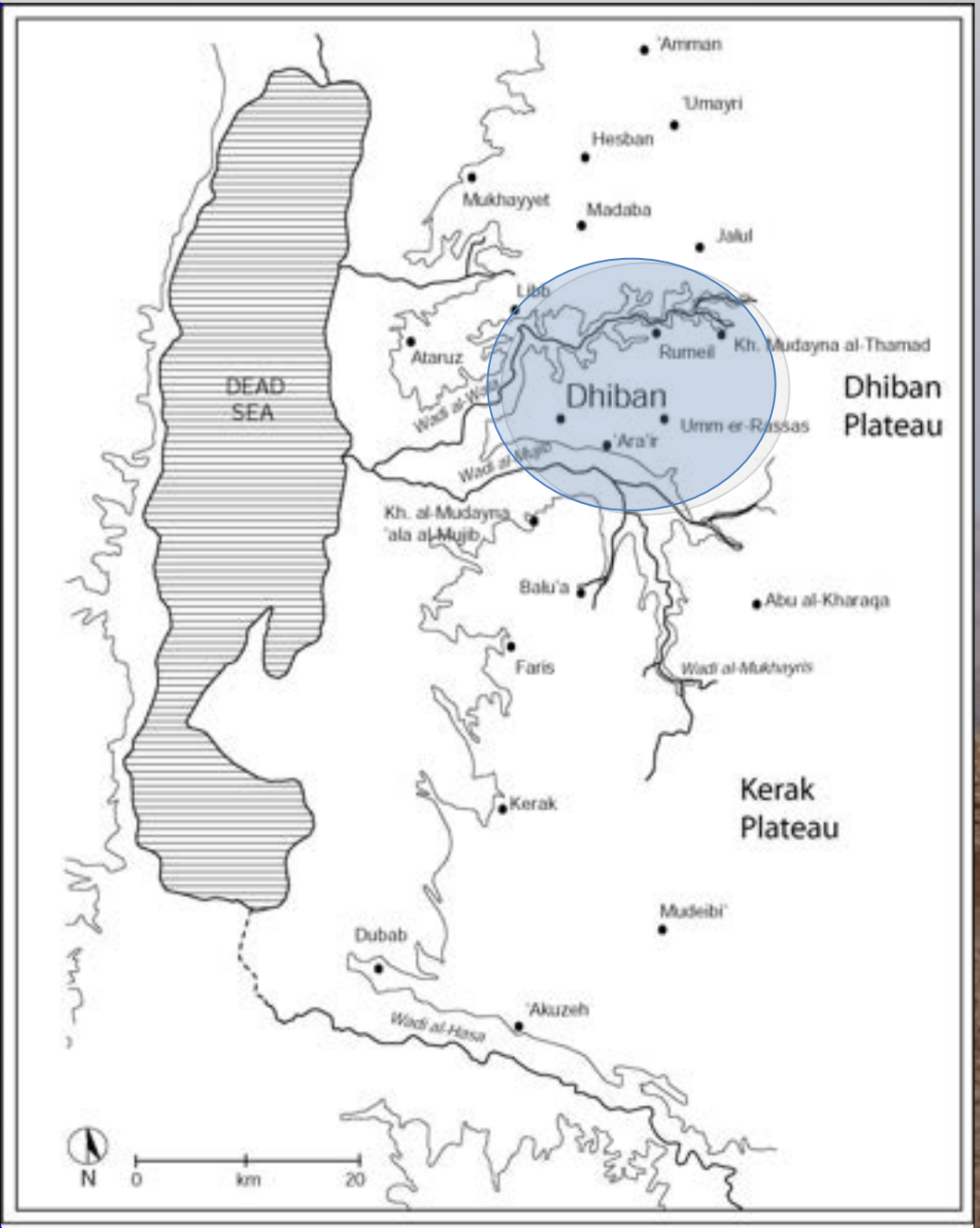
# Jordan Population Distribution in 2004

Density and Growth Rate between 1994 - 2004

توزيع السكان في الأردن عام ٢٠٠٤

الكثافة ومعدل النمو بين ١٩٩٤ و٢٠٠٤. معدل عال للنمو والتضخم







Wadi Mujib Lookout - 2 km south of Dhiban





# Dhiban, Jordan

- About 70 km south of Amman
- Town population around 15,000 people
- Settled by Bani Hamida Tribe post-1940.
- Primary income sources are agriculture, military, government, and remittance payments.



# Tall Dhiban

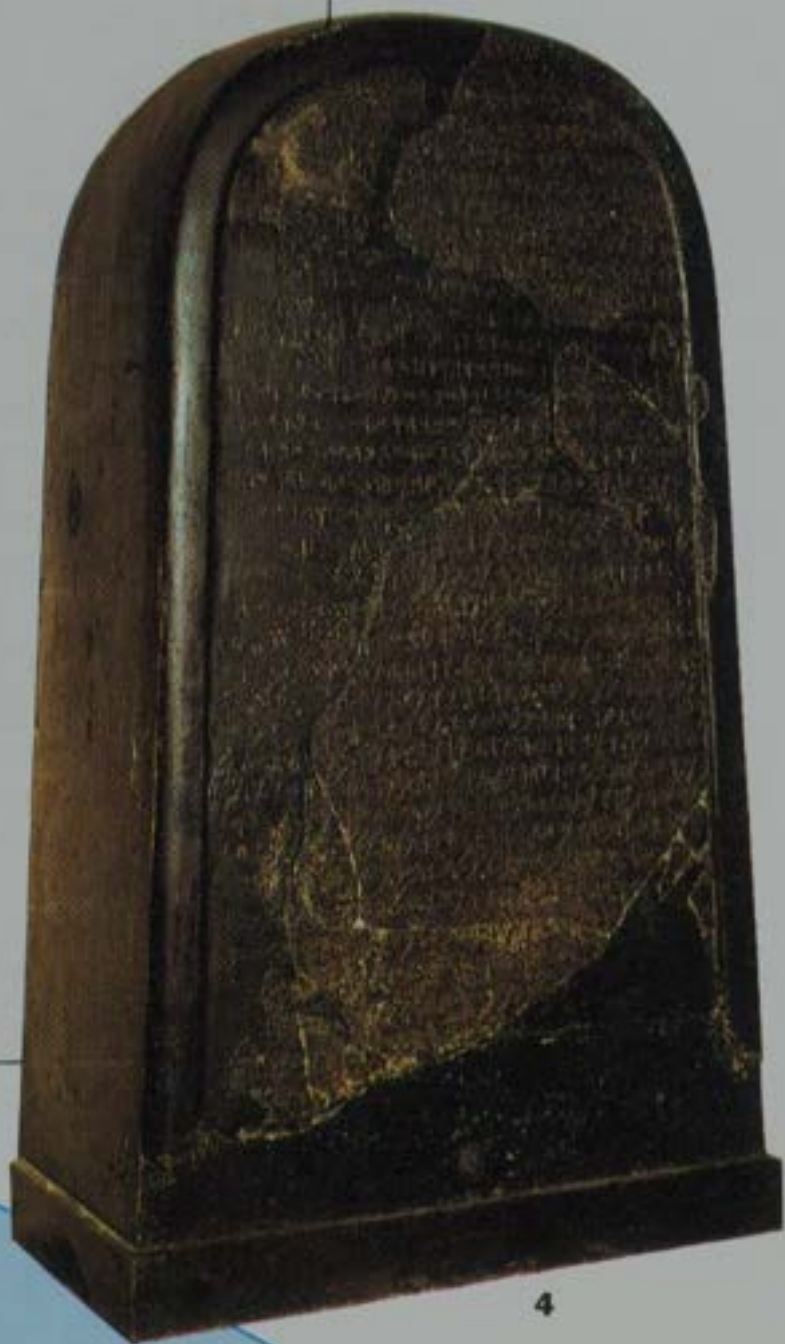
- Artificial mound adjacent to town
- Occupied intermittently from the Third Millennium BCE to the end of the 14th Century CE
- 12.5 hectares - 40 metres high



# MESHA!!!

## 2 Kings 3:4-27





## Mesha Inscription (ca. 840 BC)

*“I am Mesha, King of Moab  
the Dibonite...*

*Omri, King of Israel oppressed  
Moab many days for Kemosh was  
angry with his land”*

*“Now Mesha of Moab was a sheep  
Breeder who used to deliver to the  
King of Israel...But when Ahab died  
The king of Moab rebelled...”*  
*2 Kings 3:4-5*



Clermont-Ganneau

## Mesha Inscription

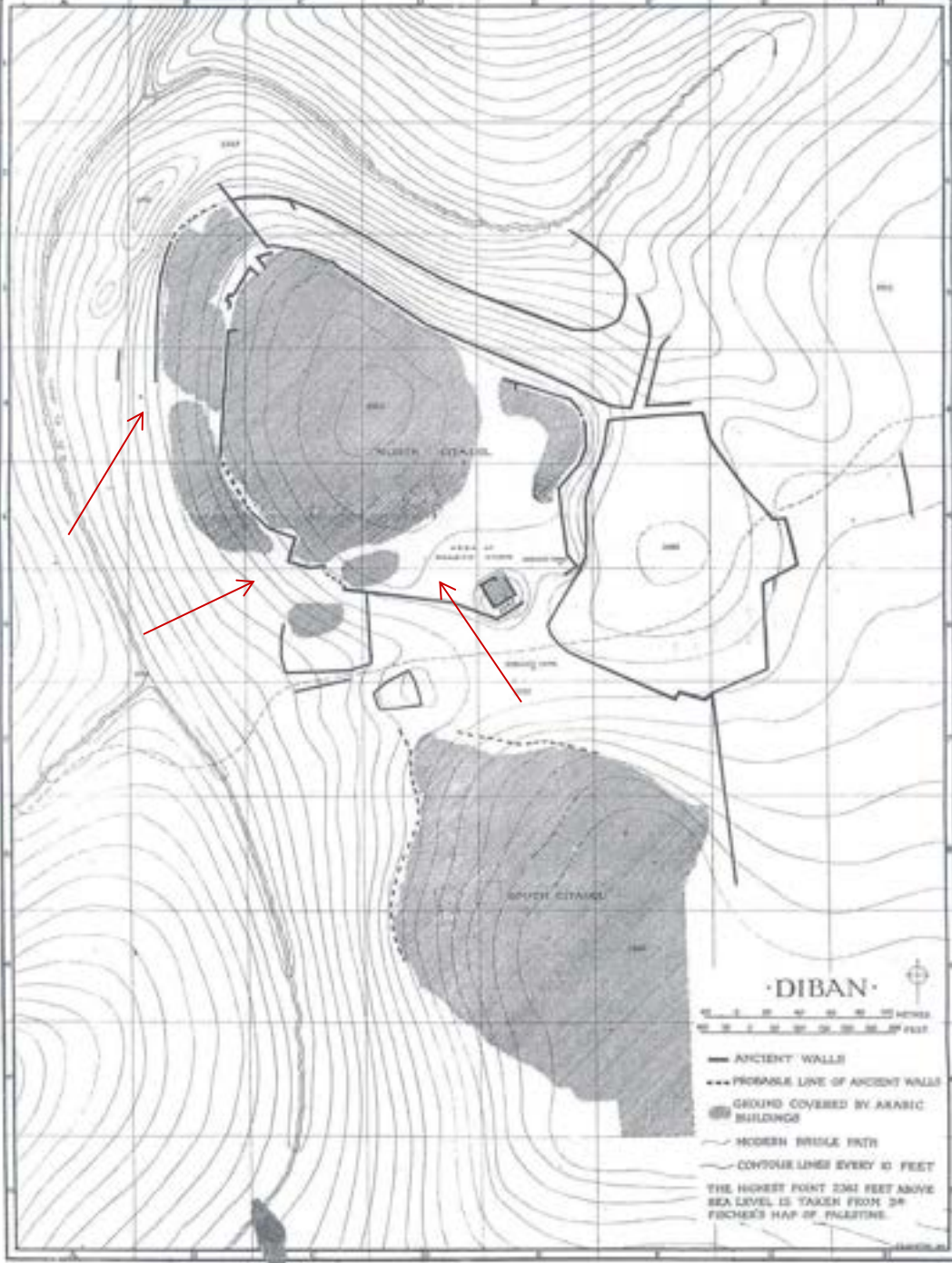


Warren



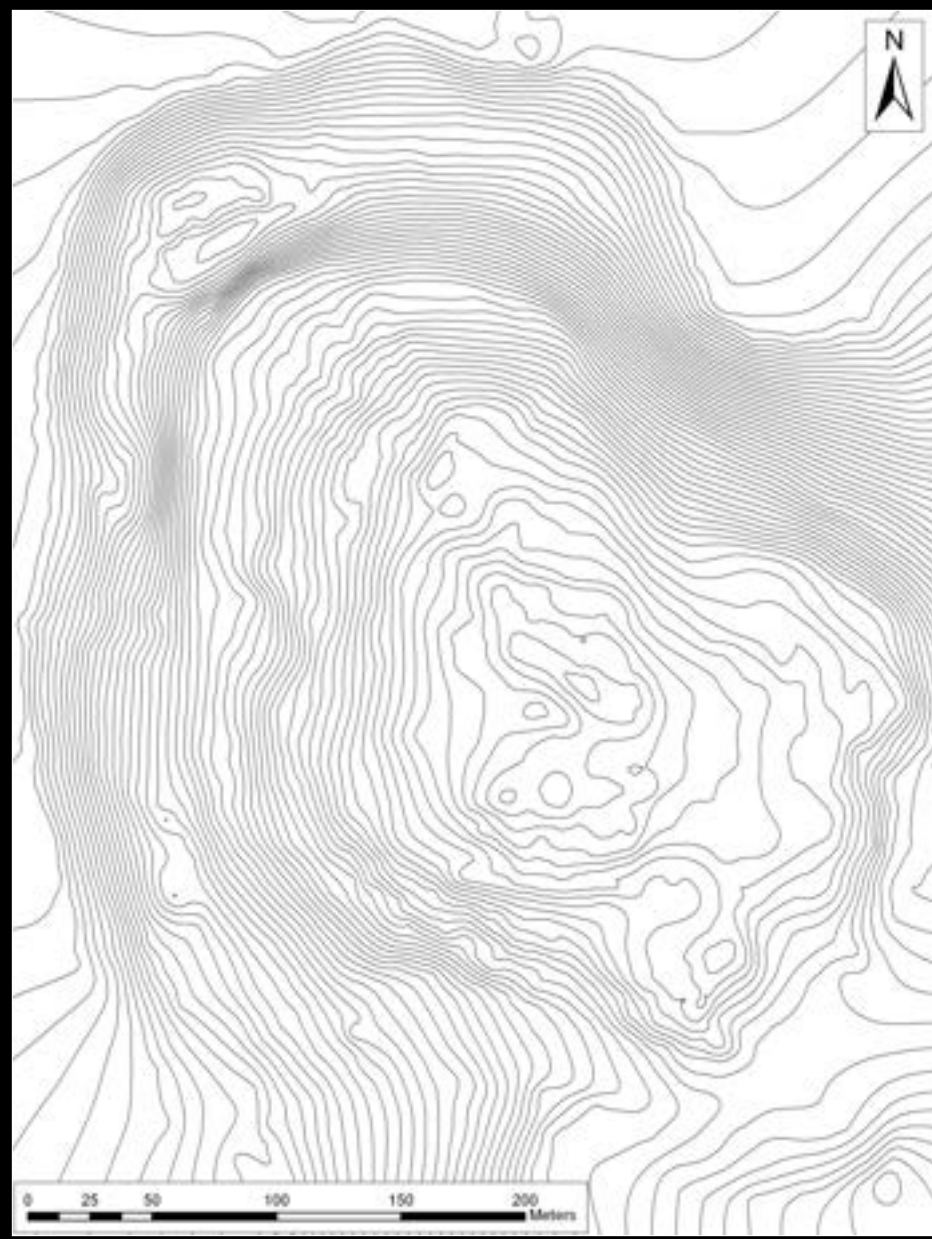


Plan of Dhiban –  
Palestine Exploration Fund  
1910





# Tall Dhiban: Topography and Site



# Tall Dhiban

'Nabataean Temple'

Field S

Field L

Field W  
Note Karstic Depression  
&  
Slope Collapse



# Jordan in the Holocene

Natufian	(10,500 – 8,500 BCE)
PPNA	(8,500 – 7,600 BCE)
PPNB	(7,600 – 5,500)
Pottery Neolithic	(5,500 – 4,500 BCE)
Chalcolithic	(4500 – 3500 BCE)
<b>Early Bronze Age</b>	<b>(3500 – 2000 BCE)</b>
Middle Bronze	(2000 – 1550 BCE)
Late Bronze	(1500 – 1200 BCE)
<b>Iron</b>	<b>(1200 – 539 BCE)</b>
Persian	(539 – 322 BCE)
Hellenistic	(322 – 63 BCE)
<b>Nabataean</b>	<b>(63 BCE – 106 CE)</b>
<b>Roman</b>	<b>(106 – 400 CE)</b>
<b>Byzantine</b>	<b>(400 – 630 CE)</b>
Early Islamic	(700 – 1000 CE)
<b>Middle Islamic</b>	<b>(1000 – 1450 CE)</b>
Ottoman	(1450 – 1918 CE)
Hashemite	(1923 – present CE)

# Tall Dhiban

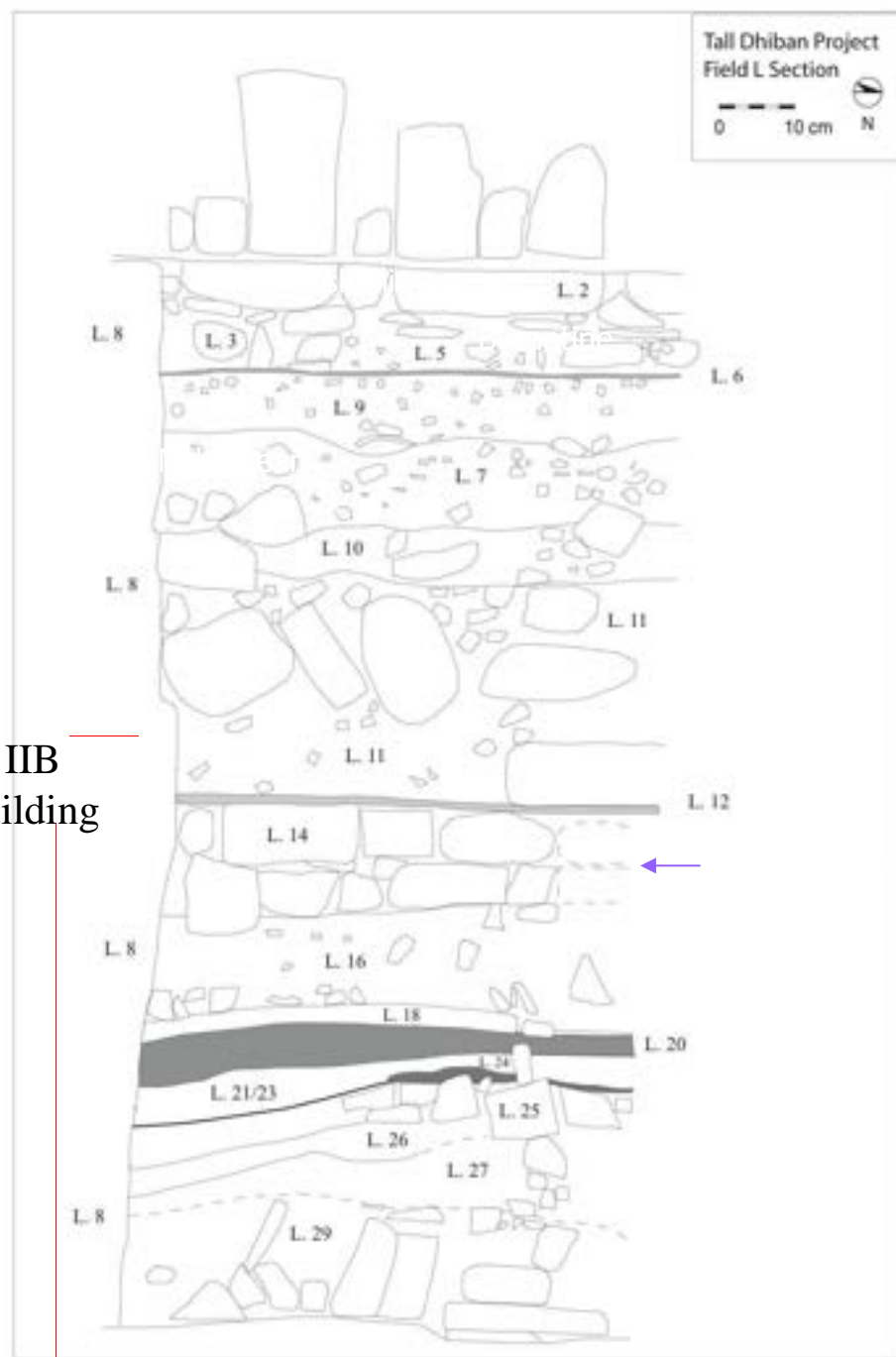


Field L





IR IIB  
Building

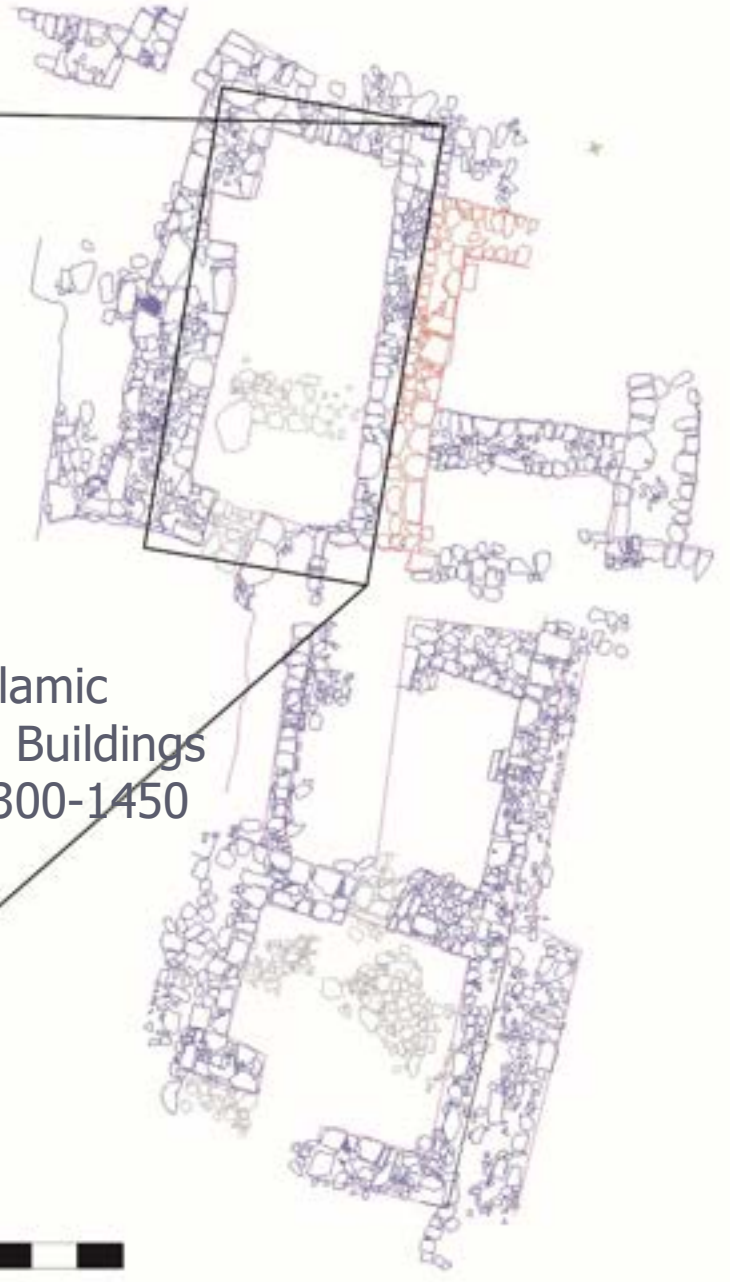


Mamluk Village

Byzantine Era Houses



Middle Islamic  
Domestic Buildings  
c. A.D. 1300-1450







Middle Islamic  
Transverse-arch  
House  
Dhiban

Early phase no bin

Later phase bin

Eroded  
edge of  
1956 trench

Cistern

Animal  
Burrows

Pit cut post-  
abandonment  
1440-1490 cal CE  
(2 $\sigma$ )



Proactive 10"



Size: 1,318,375 vertices: 173,682

Building from Tell Dhiban documented using digital photogrammetry, 2019.

# Iron Age Moabite Palace





# Field L "Palace" Early Phase: Modified After Section Cleaning

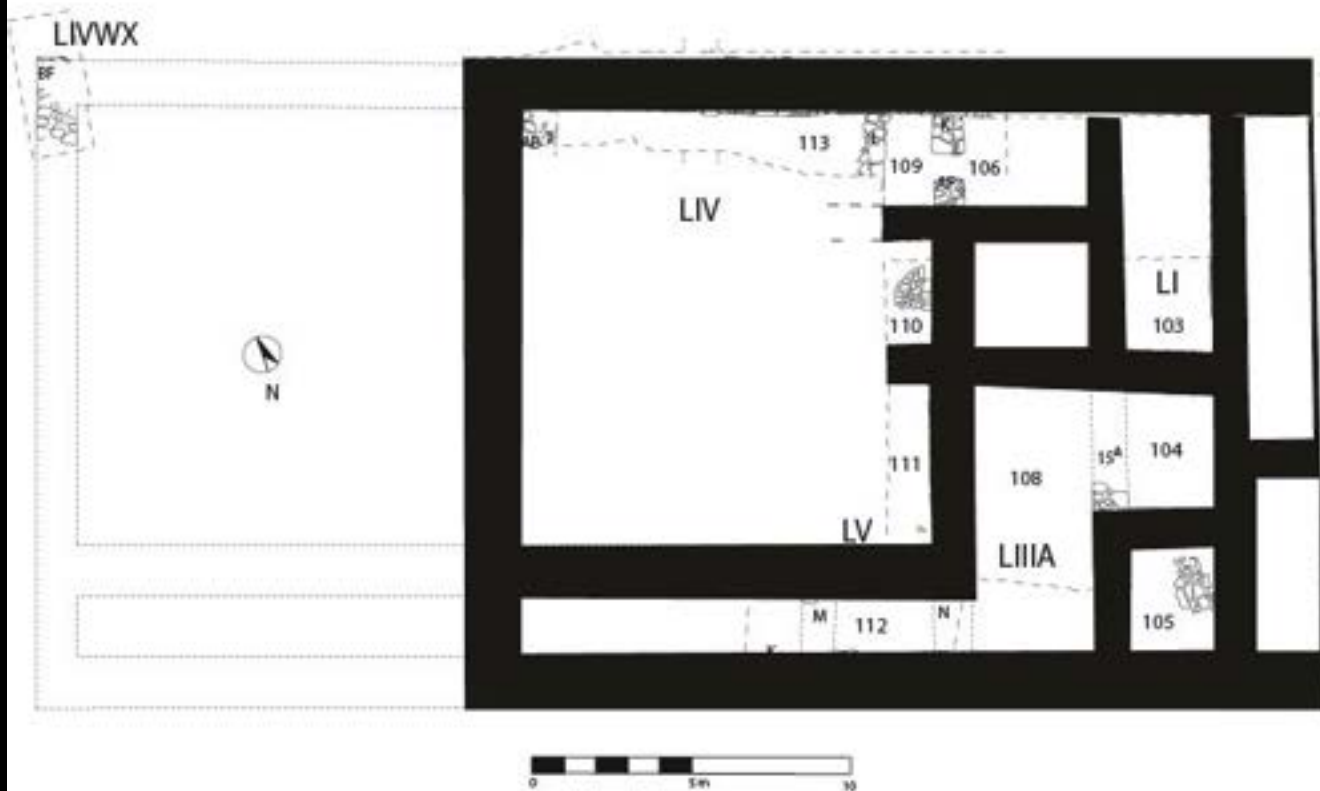
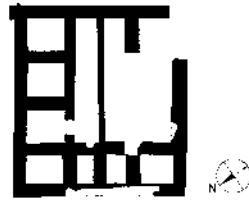


Figure 8.1. Dhiban, Area L, "palace 1."

# Central Hall Tetra-Partite Buildings



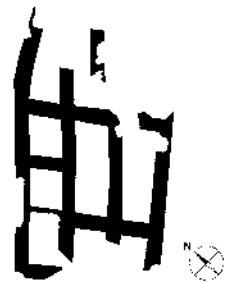
Hazor Str. VIII-V "Citadel"



Megiddo Str. VA/IVB "Palace 6000"



Lachish Str. IV "Palace A"

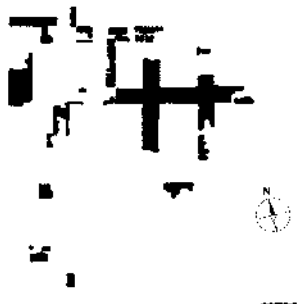


Jericho, Iron Age Building  
on the hill overlooking the spring

0 15 m



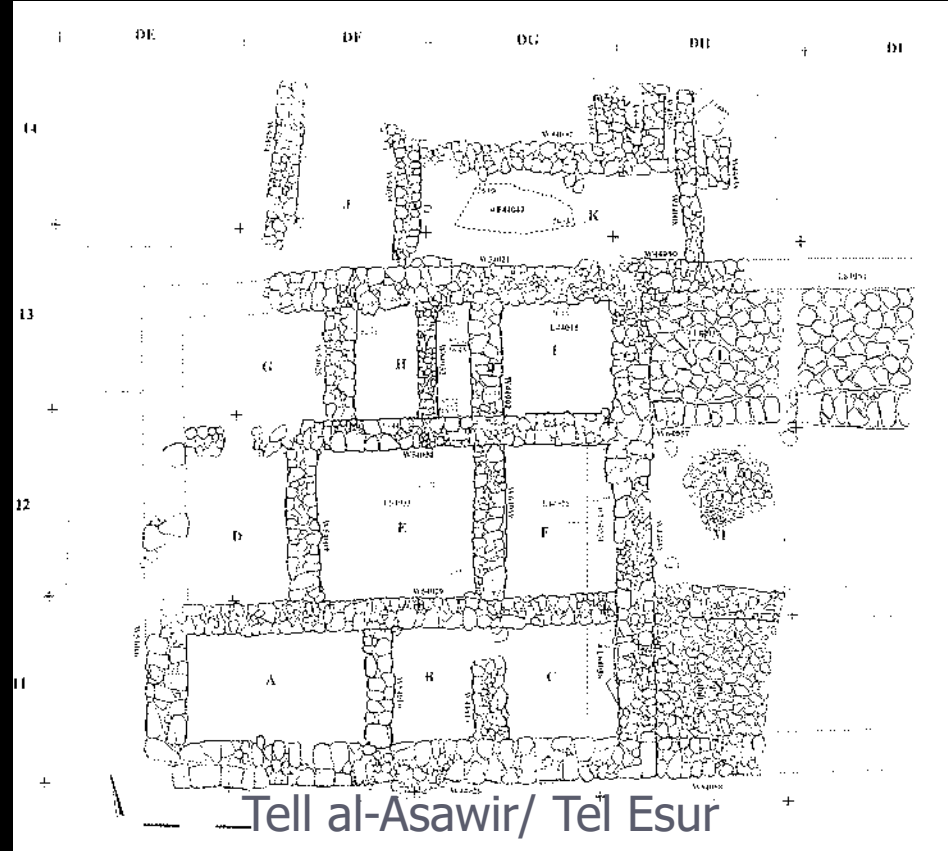
Jezreel NE Tower



Samaria Building Period I "Palace of Omri"



Jezreel SE Tower



Tell al-Asawir/ Tel Esur





Dhiban



Mudayna ath-Thamad



Balu'a



al-Mashad



Mudayna ath-Thamad ?



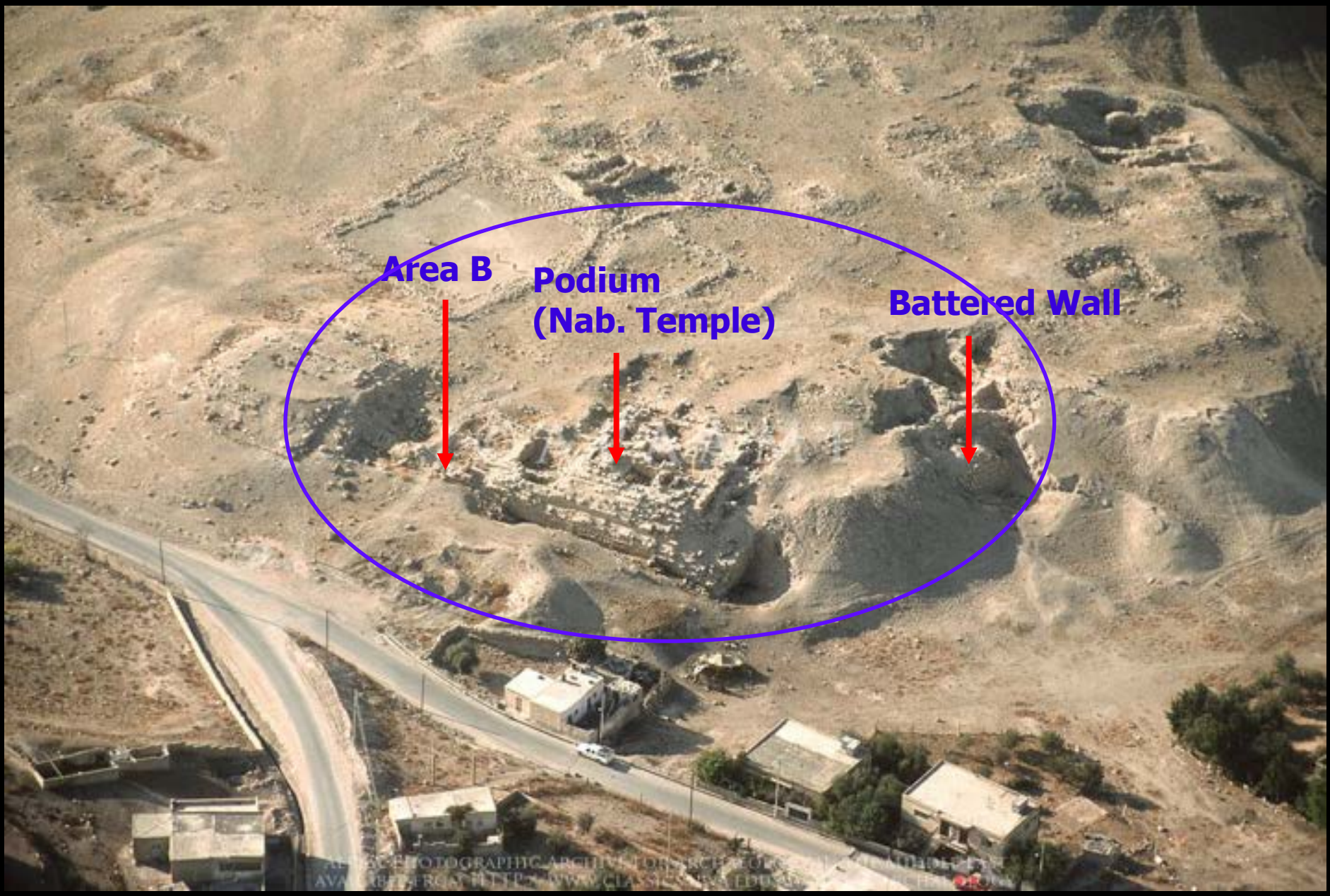
Karak



# Tall Dhiban

'Nabataean  
Temple'





**Area B**

**Podium  
(Nab. Temple)**

**Battered Wall**

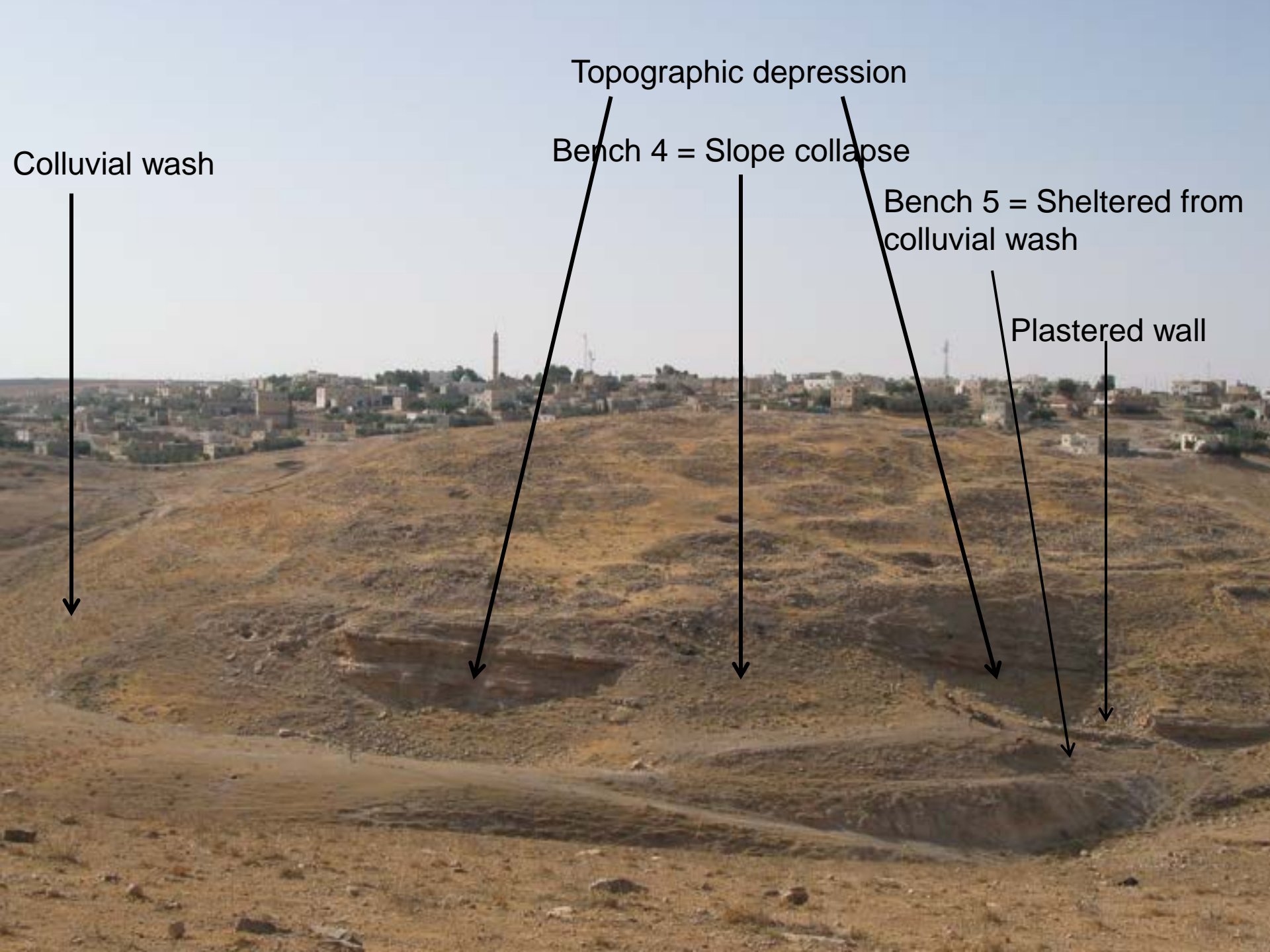




# Tall Dhiban



Field W  
Note Karstic  
Depression  
&  
Slope Collapse



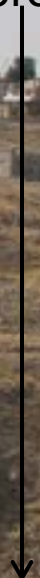
Topographic depression

Bench 4 = Slope collapse

Bench 5 = Sheltered from colluvial wash

Plastered wall

Colluvial wash



Slope  
Collapse



Reservoir Wall



Karstic Depression



Iron Age  
Dump



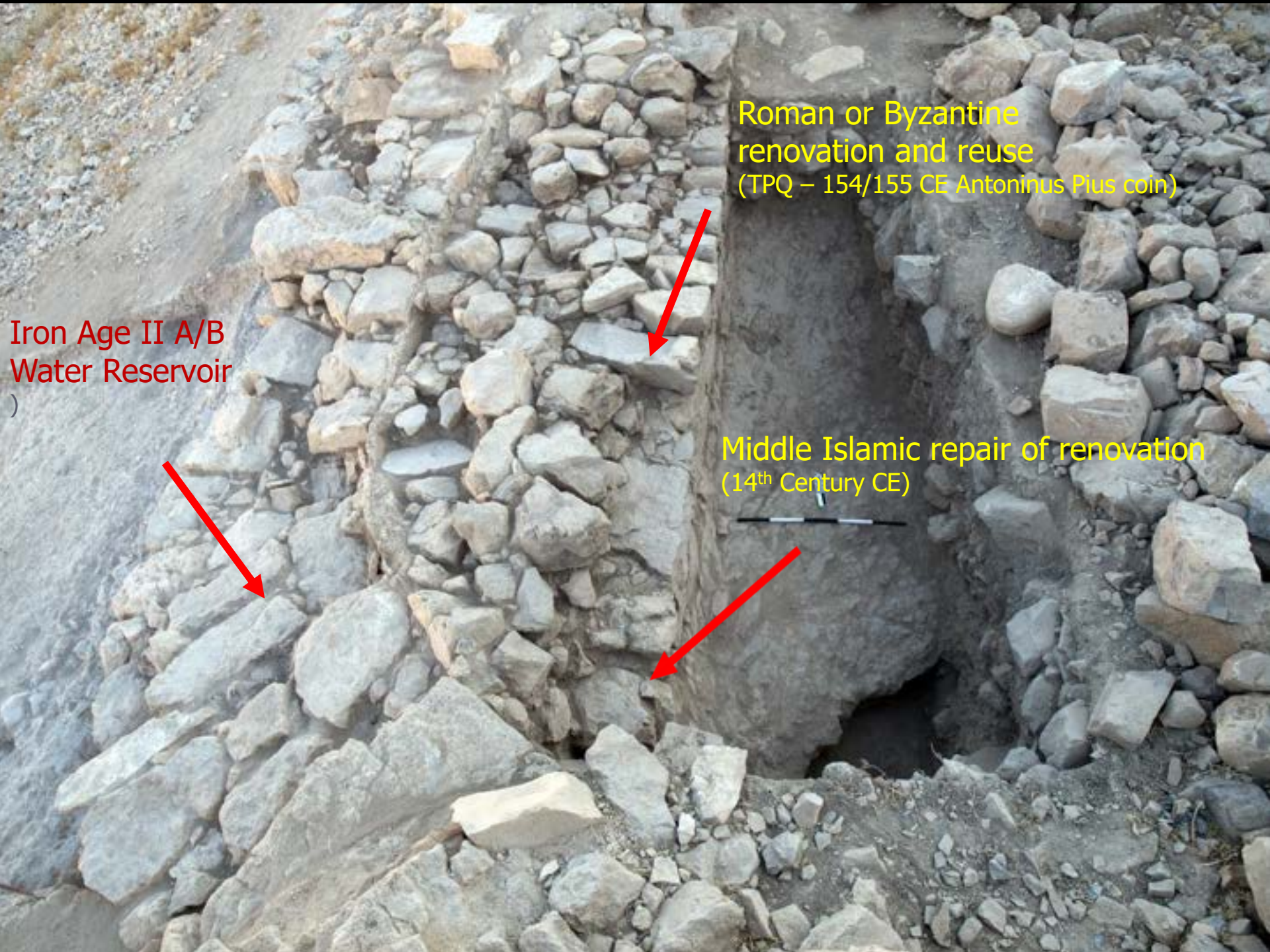
IRON AGE RESERVOIR



Iron Age II A/B  
Water Reservoir  
)

Roman or Byzantine  
renovation and reuse  
(TPQ – 154/155 CE Antoninus Pius coin)

Middle Islamic repair of renovation  
(14<sup>th</sup> Century CE)





Antonius Pius – Year 18 (154/ 155 CE)/ Alexandria





# Site Preservation and Presentation



Conservation and Cleaning of  
Architecture

– Training and Implementation



# Site Preservation and Presentation



Backfilling Old Excavation Areas

# Site Preservation and Presentation



Sustainable Pathways and Signs











Fig. 1. — DIRÂN. Tombe du cheikh Sâlem eben Mişlah.

19<sup>th</sup>-century sheikh's tomb removed without documentation  
by **the CANADIAN** archaeologist Fred Winnett in 1950



Madaba



[www.atamy.com](http://www.atamy.com) - EEM4BA



"As **Guest** you stay,  
as **Friend** you leave."

Madaba – Regional urban centre  
With touristic infrastructure  
32 km north of Dhiban.













# Mount Nebo









# ARKY 3400: Archaeology of Jordan

Online, beginning May 1 until departure for Jordan  
(May 16-17)

- ▶ History and Archaeology of Jordan
  - ▶ Neolithic - Bronze Age
  - ▶ Iron Age Kingdoms
  - ▶ Greco-Roman Era
    - ▶ Nabataean
  - ▶ Byzantine
  - ▶ Islamic Eras
- ▶ Biblical, Assyriological, and Classical Studies Related to Jordan
- ▶ History of the Modern Middle East
- ▶ Islam and Society
- ▶ Very Very Rudimentary Arabic

# An Average Day at the Site

May 18 – June 14

Saturday – Thursday (6 workdays per week)

- ▶ 4:00 Rise and shine
- ▶ 4:45 Leave for the site on our bus
- ▶ 5:15 Arrive at the site, begin the day
- ▶ 9:00 Second breakfast
- ▶ 9:30 Back to work
- ▶ 13:00 Bus back to the Madaba
- ▶ 14:00 Lunch
- ▶ 14:30 Break (shower)
- ▶ 16:00 Pottery washing and lab work
- ▶ 18:00 Evening Lecture / workshop
- ▶ 19:00 Dinner
- ▶ 21:30 Quiet time; lights out



# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel/Tall Site



Excavating using Wheeler-Box method.

# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel/Tall Site



Excavating using the larger tools.

# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel/Tall Site



Excavating using the larger tools.

# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel/Tall Site



Excavating using smaller tools for 'detailed' work.

# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel/Tall Site



Excavating – sometimes we need a jackhammer.

# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel/Tall Site



Excavating – sometimes we move rocks whole.

# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel/Tall Site



Excavating – screening the excavated sediment.

# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel/Tall Site



Excavating – moving a lot of sediment.



# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel/Tall Site



Excavating – preparing for photographs.

# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel/Tall Site

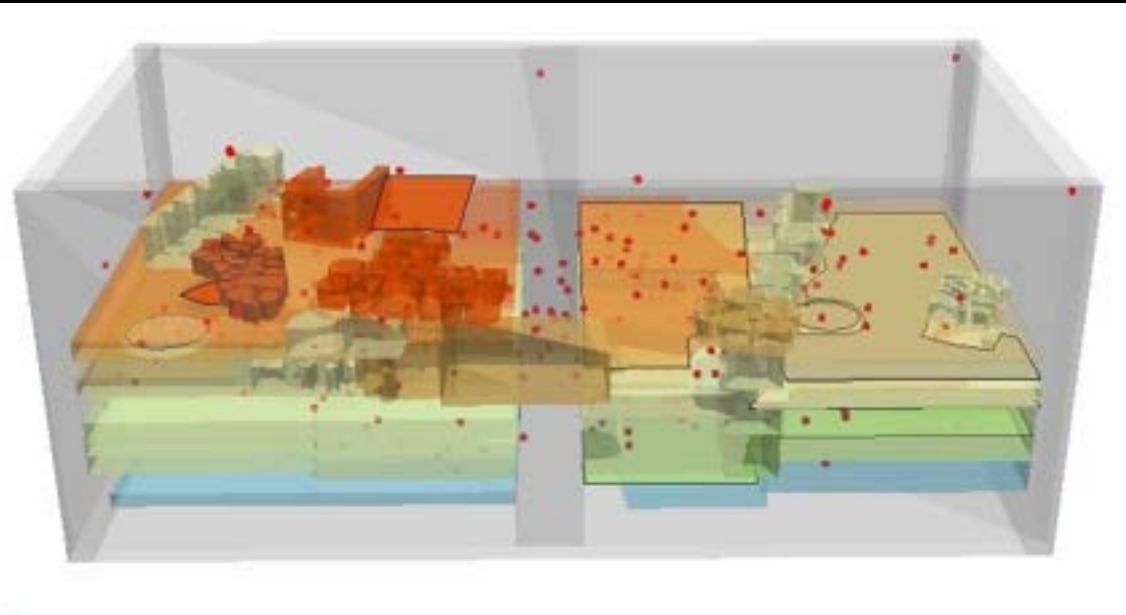


Excavating – Recording the excavations.

# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel/Tall Site



Measuring the exact location of the archaeological remains with a Total Station.



# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel/Tall Site



Excavating – photographs.

# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel/Tall Site



Excavating – drawing stratigraphic profiles.

# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel/Tall Site



Excavating – drawing stratigraphic profiles.

# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel/Tall Site



Excavating – Teamwork!

# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel Site



Excavating – Teamwork!



# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel/Tall Site



Excavating – Getting Dirty!

# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel/Tall Site



Animals!

# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel/Tall Site



Appropriate Clothing!

# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel/Tall Site



Second Breakfast – Finally!

# Excavating in the Near East at a Tel/Tall Site



Our lab apartment

# Afternoon Laboratory Work



Pottery Washing



# Afternoon Laboratory Work



Pottery Reading





# Afternoon Laboratory Work



Pottery Marking / Drawing

# Afternoon Laboratory Work



Artifact Cataloguing, Faunal Analysis, and More.

# Tessera / Tesserae stone and glass





# Afternoon Laboratory Work



Sediment analysis – floatation

# Afternoon Laboratory Work



Sediment analysis – floatation

# Afternoon Laboratory Work



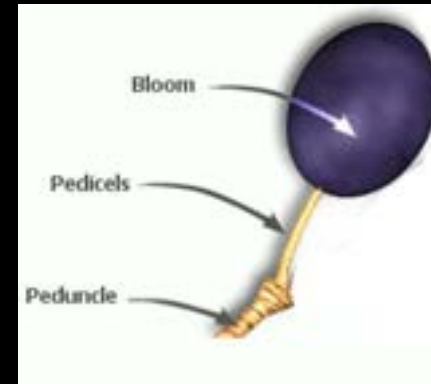
Sediment analysis – coarse fraction



# Afternoon Laboratory Work



Sediment analysis – coarse fraction



Evidence of Agricultural Production and Practice:  
Grape Pedicels

# Afternoon Laboratory Work



Artifact photography

# Camp Life



Rumman Hotel

# Camp Life



# Camp Life



# Camp Life



# Camp Life



# Camp Life





# Field Trips



**Madaba, Jordan**



**Madaba Map**

# Field Trips



Mosaic at Mt Nebo

# Field Trips



The Dead Sea

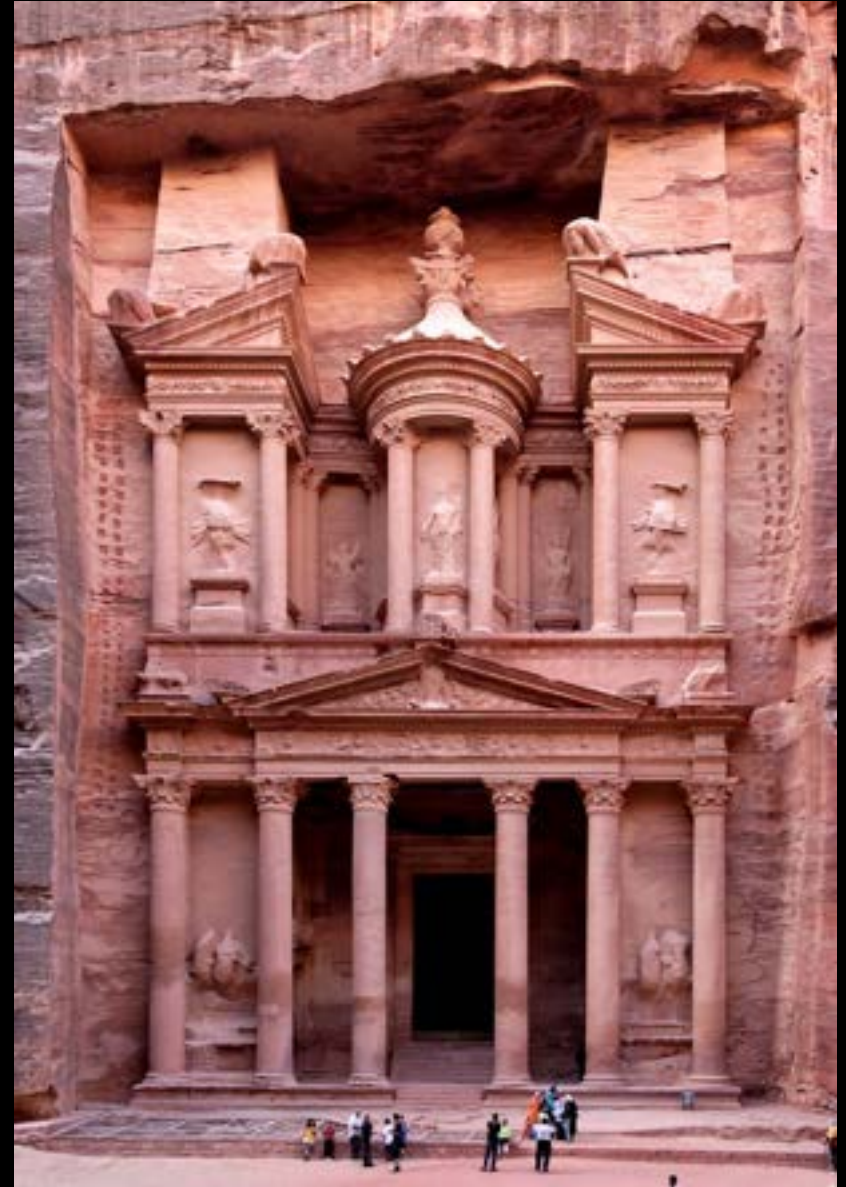
# Field Trips



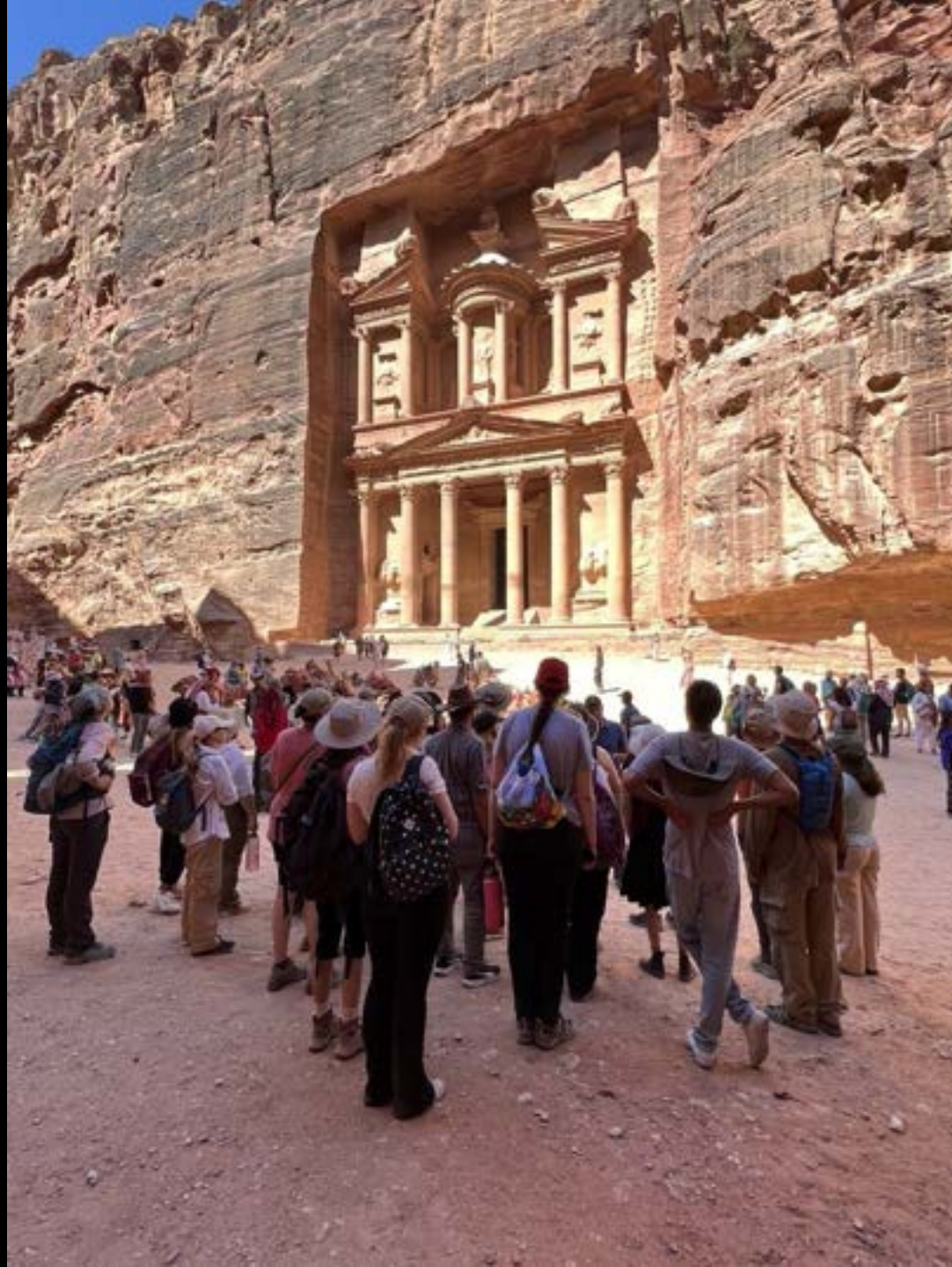
Jerash

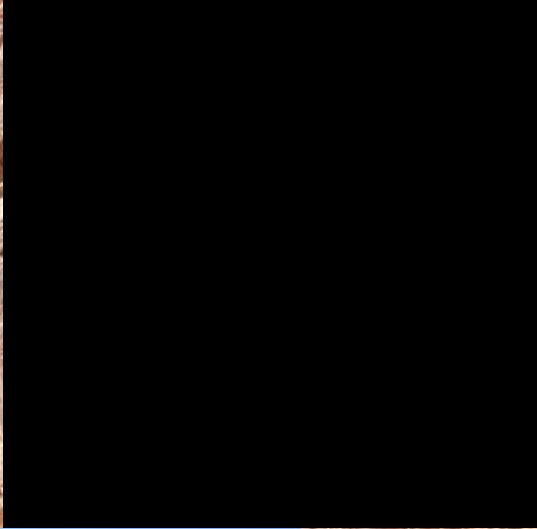


# Field Trips



Petra







# Field Trips



“Desert Castles” – Umayyad 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Centuries CE (Qasr Kharana)



# Field Trips



Adventures in the Wadi Rum

# Field Trips



# Application Procedure

- ▶ Those interested in the field school must fill out an application and provide the following by Feb. 7:
  - General application form (<https://www.ulethbridge.ca/artsci/geography/tall-dhiban-archaeological-field-school>)
  - Medical form (included with the application form)
  - Essay on why you wish to participate in the project
  - Transcripts
  - Letter of reference (form is included with the app. form)
  - \$200 Application Fee (to be deducted from the course fee)
- ▶ The team will be selected by February 12, 2025.

# Course Requirements

- ▶ ARKY 1000 (and preferably a 3000-level ARKY course)
- ▶ Registration
  - The instructors of the field school will register the students for ARKY 3400, 3000, and 3300
- ▶ Grade assessments for the courses are based on your participation, the quality of your field work, notebooks, assignments, and examinations
- ▶ Hard work and teamwork is a must!

# Costs (Estimated)

## ▶ Tuition

- Three courses (Arky 3000, 3300, & 3400) = +/- \$2400 CAN

## ▶ Airfare

- Calgary/Amman/Calgary = +/- \$2300 CAN

## ▶ Room and Board

- Accommodations and Meals in Madaba = +/- \$2800 CAN

## ▶ Field trips

- Accommodations, half board, site entrance fees = +/- \$850 CAN

## ▶ Spending Money

- +/- \$300

## ▶ Total Estimated Costs = +/- \$5950 (plus \$2400 tuition and spending money)

# Student Loans and Funding

## ▶ Student Loans

- Alberta student loans: Students can apply for student loans for the tuition for the field school courses (3 courses over 7.5 weeks).
- A portion of your airfare, field trip fees, living costs and supplies can also be covered by Alberta student loans.
- Please visit the Student Finance office for help with your application forms.
  - ▶ Ask for Janet Macdonald

## ▶ Scholarships and Grants (Chinook Travel Award and others – you apply for these)

## ▶ Other Sources of Funding

- Fundraising – start asap



# Risks, Safety, and Responsibility

## ▶ Excavation risks

- Hot and dry
- Scorpions, spiders, snakes
- Large stones and baulks
- Sharp equipment
- Steep slopes
- General risks

## ▶ International travel risks

- General travel
- Unrest in Jordan

▶ Students are responsible for their own personal safety

▶ Students must conduct themselves accordingly and respect the local laws and customs of Jordan

▶ Students must complete the Risk and Safety online course.

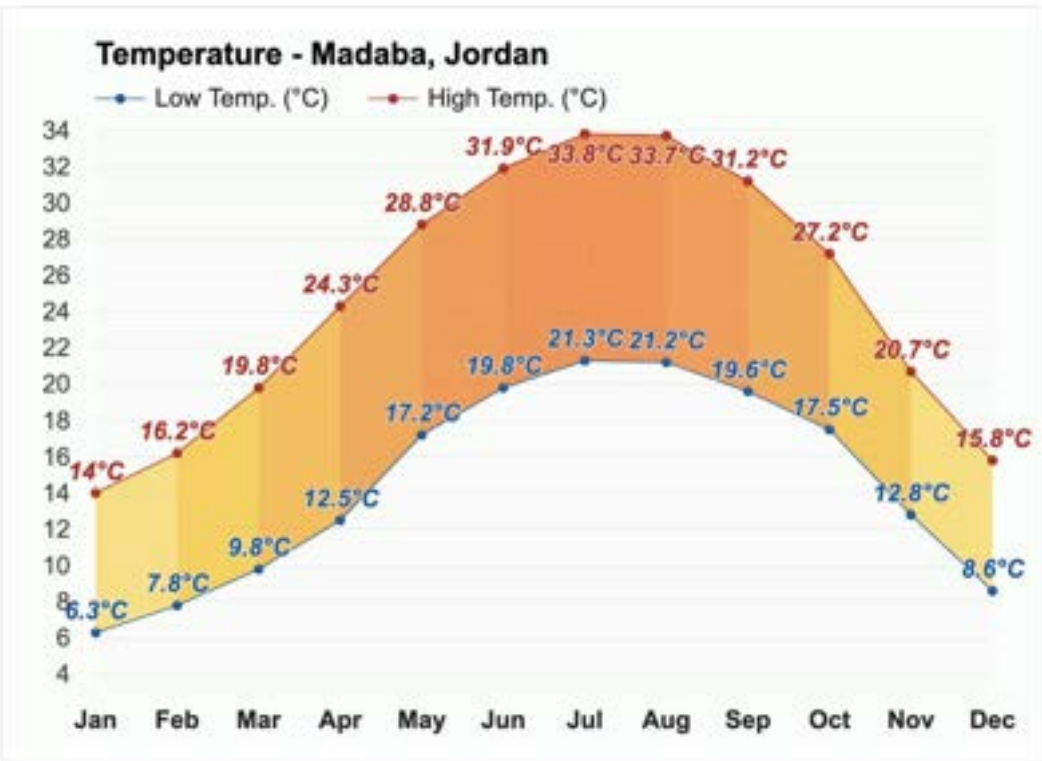
# Hazards Living and Excavating in the Near East



'Friends' you meet while excavating.

# Temperature and Modesty

Average temperature Madaba, Jordan



Average high temperature in January: 14°C  
Average high temperature in February: 16.2°C

Average high temperature in July: 33.8°C  
Average high temperature in August: 33.7°C



# Start Arranging Now

- ▶ Application Package (Due Feb. 7, 2025)
- ▶ Deposit (\$200)
- ▶ Passport
  - Pick up an application at the post office or complete the online form
  - New requirements
- ▶ Health Insurance (Blue Cross)
- ▶ Student Loan Application
- ▶ After the field school travel?

# Fun and Adventure

- ▶ Working at an archaeological site is a lot of work but it is also a lot of fun!
- ▶ You will:
  - Learn how to excavate, survey and process the archaeological remains
  - Discover the past
  - Work outside and be active
  - Work as part of a team
  - Explore another country
  - Experience another culture

It is an experience you will never forget!



**Friends for Life!**

# 2023 Field School Students



**2025 Field School Team???**