Final Report

Tel Kedesh

5/26/99 – 7/14/99

CB4.7

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The 1998 magnetometry survey revealed a large building occupying the majority of the southeastern portion of Tel Kedesh. Examination of the magnetometry showed the northwest corner contained a circular area that may have been associated with a tower or other structure. For this reason, trench CB4.7 was opened in order to determine whether there was a structure of this sort associated with the building and, if not, to reveal the exterior Northwest corner.

CB4.7 measures 10 x 10 meters and is 20 meters West of the center line. The topography is highest at the northeast corner and slopes down to the south and west approximately one meter over the 10-meter space. The only topographical feature is a roughly rectangular pit that is located along the North balk 2.1 meters from the West balk and 3.3 meters from the East balk and is 2.4 meters wide. It averages 20 centimeters in depth and is most likely a shovel probe from an earlier test season.

CB4.7 was quadrated into 5 x 5-meter sections, and excavation began with the removal of the topsoil of the southwest quadrant. Topsoil CB47000 is a homogenous dark blackish-brown and is a very hard, dry soil with abundant roots, insect burrows, and pupating insects. The latest datable material found in all the units comprising this locus was Arabic. Initially, CB47000 included only the topsoil from the southwest quadrant, but as excavation was expanded, any other excavated units of topsoil that shared these characteristics were grouped in locus CB47000.

Immediately below CB47000 is subsoil CB47008. Overall, it is a light yellow-brown soil that is generally of a medium compaction. It dates to the Arab period due to the ceramics found in the locus. A Turkish pipe was also found in this locus. On
average, the locus is approximately 20 cm deep. Distinct deposits and architectural features begin to surface below this layer.

In order to discuss the soil loci, it is necessary to outline the architectural features with which they are associated. Loci were assigned to four walls, a rubble fill associated with the eastern wall, a plaster floor and an installation within the floor. Six of these features make one large room that occupies the majority of the excavated area, and CB47004 comprises the southern wall for another room west of the large main room.

There are three walls for this first and largest room, western wall CB47001, eastern wall CB47002, and northern wall CB47003. Rubble fill CB47005 abuts wall CB47002 at its northern limit and appears to have the same north-south orientation. These walls were in place before the plaster floor CB47006 was laid, as a small plaster lip also covers the stones of the walls. Lastly, pit installation CB47007 lies within the floor itself, sharing the same plaster matrix as floor CB47006.

While it is probable that there is a southern wall for this large room, suggested by evidence of a large upright jar within the south balk, this area has not been excavated. It should be noted that the only architectural locus not directly associated with this room, CB47004, is a wall that is also visible in the south balk and which runs east to west. If the line of this wall is continued to the east, it is likely the unexcavated jar is placed against this wall.

All four walls utilize the same pier and rubble construction. The piers are approximately 60 cms wide and 25 cms deep. They are evenly spaced and the fill is composed of small to medium rubble. The large amount of decayed mudbrick throughout the excavated area suggests that the stone walls were the foundation for pise
walls. The width of the room also supports the hypothesis that wooden beams were used as roofing materials.

Within the room, soil locus CB47009 is made up of various soil types that appear randomly deposited. These include areas of decayed mudbrick, dark and light ash deposits, a reddish brown soil mixed with the ash which includes abundant root growth, and some bright orange hard-packed soil and the largest soil type found is a brown to brownish-grey medium silt. The LDM for the mixed soils in the room is Early Roman: a KH4A rim was found at the lowest elevations of installation CB47007. Soil locus CB47009 also completely encompasses the in situ vessels within the room (CB47020, jars one through thirteen and a Phoenician semi-fine juglet, CB4.7.081. The large vessels are positioned against walls CB47001 and CB47003. Because of their fabric and shape, they are datable to the third or second century BCE. All vessels contained a moderate amount of soil fill that also dated no later than 3-2 BCE. The soil is considered part of in-situ vessels locus CB47020.

In general, the walls are in good condition and remain intact with almost no decay. There are, however, robbing episodes that occur where walls CB47001 and CB47002 meet wall CB47003, disturbances CB47010 and CB47019 respectively. In the southwest and northeast corners, the stones have been removed down to an elevation roughly equal to the plaster floor CB47006. Below disturbance CB47010 at the northwest corner, though, the stones of wall CB47001 that continue below CB47010 are large and smooth, very unlike the pier and rubble construction. These stones seem to continue below floor CB47006, as larger stones are visible through the holes in the
plaster. While there is no concrete date for these architectural features, these stones most likely signify an earlier construction upon which these features were founded.

At the southern extent of wall CB47001, there is another potential robbing episode (CB47011) where the stones of the wall are absent and only exist at the level of the plaster floor. The placement of large jar #8 on the eastern side of the opening suggests that the installation of large flat stones does not represent a threshold.

Situated in the northwest corner of the room, jars #4 and #9 and the associated Rhodian amphora immediately to their south were cut through from east to west by robber trench CB47010, and restorable fragments for these vessels were present within the fill. Two conclusions can be drawn from this evidence: the robbing episodes occurred some time after the room had been filled with soil due to the clearly defined soil changes in the north balk, and the jars did not collapse because of the intrusion but were supported by soil CB47009. This implies that CB47009 had been in place before robber trench CB47010, making CB47010 postdate the LDM for the soil within the large room. The same is also true for robber trench CB47019 in the northwest of the large room.

Located in the approximate area of the southwest corner for the large room, locus CB47011 not only includes the possible robbing of wall CB47001 but also extends west into the next room. In general, this room may be separated into two rough areas, the mudbrick deposit in the north and the mixed ashy soil to the south. Both areas begin with disturbed loci immediately below the subsoil.

In the south, disturbance CB47011 stretches from the stones of wall CB47001 that it covers to approximately 2.75 m north, covering the mudbrick deposits. It is a hard-packed light yellow brown soil at the higher elevations that is mixed with ash and a
packed brown soil at lower elevations. It contains many articulated sherds, including an amphoriskos and most of a Rhodian amphora. Unlike the jars in situ, these sherds are oriented horizontally, which suggested that they were part of a trash heap. While he Rhodian amphora and amphoriskos date to the occupation period around the second century BCE, they were most likely redeposited at the earliest during the Early Roman period due to the presence of KH4A within the ceramic assemblage. This makes locus CB47011 roughly contemporaneous with disturbances CB47010 and CB47019.

The leading northern edge of CB47011 partially covers CB47012, an area of disturbed pink mudbrick in the north of the west room. Where the two areas appear to merge, there is a softer brownish pink that may be decayed mudbrick or evidence of disturbance. There are large chunks of mudbrick that run throughout this locus as well as small rocks and some medium-sized rubble, perhaps from walls CB47001 and CB47003. The LDM for CB47012 is 150-100 BCE due to the presence of ESA

Immediately below this disturbed mudbrick are rubble layers CB47013 and CB47014. CB47013 is composed of small- to medium-sized rubble and stretches along nearly all of the entire north-south length, and sometimes stretches from wall CB47001 to the west balk, particularly in the south. CB47013 is immediately below disturbance CB47011. The LDM for CB47013 is Roman cookware, which raises the date of the disturbed pink mudbrick CB47012 as Roman also.

CB47014 is also made of small- to medium-sized rubble with the addition of small plaster fragments. It rests directly against the northwest face of wall CB47001 and is approximately 30 cms deep and 15 cms wide. CB47014 is Hellenistic and contains a
very fine base of an impressed BSP bowl. CB47013 initially covered CB47014 and thin brownish silt less than 1 cm thick separated them.

Beneath these layers of rubble lie the undisturbed soils that contain the amhoriskoi deposit CB47016 in the south and the bullae deposit CB47017 in the north. CB47016 begins at 465.34, 11 cms higher than CB47017. No floor for this room has been excavated as yet.

The amhoriskoi deposit CB47016 is a mixed brownish-grey and ash that becomes a dark greyish-brown with little change almost immediately. The deposit slopes from its highest point at the south balk to the north, where it covers CB47017 and CB47017.1. The soil consistency is coarse silt and feels mealy to the touch. The soil surface was between 3 and 8 cms deep before the actual amhoriskoi were uncovered. The deposit is at least two courses deep in the south while the northern limits are only one course. In the north of this deposit, the largest vessel measuring approximately 40 cms was uncovered. The ceramic assemblage also includes some imported Italian finewares. The LDM is no later than 2 BCE.

The bullae deposit CB47017 is most likely associated with the amhoriskos deposit as some seals are found within the ashy soil where the two loci meet. The soil matrix in general is a bright pink mudbrick at the highest elevation, which becomes a slightly sandy medium brown and then slightly ashy. The lowest elevations return to a more compacted medium-brown. CB47017 is no more than 21 cms deep at any point. It is covered by CB47016 at its southern edge and meets robber trench CB47010 at its northeast corner. It also abuts wall CB47001 and the west balk. The majority of the 1,832 seals are concentrated against the west balk approximately 2.4 m from the north.
balk. They are found in limited quantities throughout the soil, with a small concentration at the northeast corner of the locus against the north balk. The seals from range in size from .50 cms to 2 cms in length and are made of unfired clay. Most have figural motifs and some have writing. While the impressions are largely Hellenistic motifs, some show Phoenician influence through the epigraphy and representations of the goddess Tanit.

A large assortment of imported ceramics was associated with deposit CB47017, including one rim of Roman cookware. This sherd was found in CB4 7.135, the removal of the arbitrary section unit created to keep the deposits of amforiskoi and bullae separate. It is entirely possible that this Roman material is associated with the disturbances of CB47011, CB47013 or CB47012. No other late material has been found in these deposits. If the Roman cookware were to be disregarded, the LDM for both the amforiskoi and bullae deposits would be 2 BCE. CB47017.1, the soil fill below the bullae deposit, had a ceramic assemblage like that of CB47017 that included a large number of restorable vessels and imported pieces where nothing was datable later than 2 BCE.

There are seven phases for the excavated areas of CB4 7. The latest phase dates to the modern and Arabic period represented by topsoil CB47008 and subsoil CB47008. Next, there is evidence of some Byzantine activity in the northeast based on several sherds in CB47016. These are physically close to wall CB47002 and disturbance CB47019, which may account for their presence. Because of their relatively small quantity, it is difficult to determine the extent of Byzantine activity on this site.

The third phase includes disturbed areas CB47011, CB47012, CB47019, and rubble area CB47005 and postdates the Early Roman period, which is the fourth phase.
After the large room was filled with soil (CB47009, LDM 50 BCE), these robber pits were dug into the room, cutting through the large jars #4 and #9 and the handle of Rhodian amphora #10 while leaving the jars themselves in place. Therefore, it is logical to believe that the robbing episodes of CB47011, CB47012, CB47019 and CB47005 occurred later than the Early Roman soil deposits CB47009, CB47012, CB47013 and CB47014.

Phase five encompasses the amphoriskoi deposit CB47016 and bullae deposit CB47017. The objects themselves were fabricated during the period of occupation. It seems likely that the amphoriskoi fell from their storage place above wall CB47004 and, while still whole, settled downwards after the abandonment or possible destruction. Since no floor for this room has been exposed, it may only be assumed that these fills postdate the occupation phase but predate the Early Roman phase immediately above them.

CB47020 comprises phase six, the occupation phase. Both the jars and the Rhodian amphorae date to 2 BCE, but the small Phoenician Semi-fine juglet dates to the second half of the second century BCE. This would place the date of the jars at approximately the last period of use around the date of the possible destruction.

The seventh and final phase is the construction of the architectural features. Because these features were not excavated, it is only possible to ascertain that they predate the occupation phase, although neither an exact date nor relative dating for the features may be determined at this time. It is logical to assume that the walls date to the same time because of similar pier and rubble construction technique. Likewise, plaster floor CB47006 and installation CB47007 share the same plaster matrix and were surfaced
at the same time. Holes through the plaster floor reveal the presence of large stones. This implies that there is an earlier surface underneath. These stones are similar to the stones left under disturbance CB47010, which appear to continue beneath the plaster floor.

CB4.7 did not reveal the large tower that the magnetometry suggested nor did it reveal the exterior northwest corner of the large building. The corner is located in CB4.8, and North wall CB47003 appears to be oriented on the same line as the north wall in CB4.8. Two rooms were identified within CB4.7. The large room contained massive storage jars of a local fabric as well as imported Rhodian amphorae and the western room contained smaller vessels associated with the production of unguents as well as a great number of bullae. The presence of both imported and local materials together with the bullae does suggest that Kedesh was indeed a bureaucratic center during the Hellenistic period.
Area CB.4.8 was selected for excavation based on the results of the magnetometry search. The search showed what would appear to be the northwestern corner of a large building falling within the boundary of CB.4.8. Another reason for CB.4.8's excavation was to try to reach the street-level outside the main building, thereby determining the preservation of the buildings walls.

Four main periods of occupation were found in CB.4.8. Hellenistic material, with assorted Persian and pre-Persian material, forms the earliest occupation uncovered this session. The Hellenistic period accounts for nearly all of CB.4.8's walls, including the meter-thick walls of the "large building" apparent in the magnetometry. The Hellenistic remains account for the majority of the excavated material.

The next main era of occupation is Roman. The Roman material lies, for the most part, directly above the Hellenistic remains. The exception to this is an area of rubble in the NW corner of the excavated area. This rubble extends vertically downward through the Hellenistic remains only in that area of the trench. There are no walls or other architecture associated with the Roman occupation.
The next era of occupation is Byzantine. Byzantine material was found sealed underneath wall CB48001 in the SW corner of the trench. The Byzantine material continues vertically upward to the topsoil of the trench on the southern side of the trench only. The northern side of the trench has no Byzantine remains whatsoever. Strangely, the wall CB48001, while close in proximity to wall CB48002 (Hellenistic), does not rest against this wall. There is a space of roughly 15cm. between the two walls.

The final occupation determined to be present in the trench is modern. A roughly circular pit, lined with rubble, is present in the NE section of the trench. The pit extends vertically roughly 35cm. through the roman remains in the northern section of the trench. A few pieces of Arab pottery were discovered within the pit fill.
## LOCUS SUMMARY

<table>
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<th>Locus #</th>
<th>Stratum</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>LDM</th>
<th>Pottery Total Wt.</th>
<th>Highest Elevation</th>
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<th>Over Loci</th>
<th>Under Loci</th>
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Introduction

Excavations in WB 3.1 consisted of work in the northeast and southeast quadrants of the 10 x 10m square. Each of these quadrants was 5 x 5m square. Work was first begun in the southeast quadrant as a continuation of the test unit excavated by the Minnesota/Michigan team in 1997. This test unit comprised the first twenty three units assigned in the area and revealed the presence of a substantial wall and floor deposit dating to the second century BC. Further excavation expanded upon this same structure and area.

Locus WB 31001

This locus is a topsoil deposit 28 cm deep on average. The topsoil was a dark black loam which contained a large amount of rubble and modern artifacts. The deposit was patchy and also contained small pockets of ash which were related to the area’s use by later Arab villagers. Arab occupation resulted in a consistent deep disturbance of the soil due to excavation related to possible house construction or animal penning. Artifact dates ranged from pre-classical to modern. However, Ras al Fukra ware, modern metal objects and Turkish pipes attest to the heavy use of this area by later occupants.

Locus WB 31002

This locus is attached to a well-built wall running approximately N/S. The wall begins in the southernmost half of the SE quadrant and extends to the border between the NE and SE quadrants. It is .75-.80m wide and preserved at its greatest height to four courses. It has two faces of polished stone fitted together without mortise and no core. Some large stones span the width of the wall but most of the stones are much smaller. The wall is bonded to a E/W continuation, locus 31008, and to a rectangular cooking (?) installation on its Eastern side (locus 31012). Excavation has reached the founding level of this wall. This wall breaks off completely and irregularly at its southern end and ends regularly adjacent to the plaster floor to its north.

Locus WB 31004

This locus is a floor deposit located to the west of the N/S wall in the SE quadrant. Its depth is, on average, 25 cm. This floor level is defined by the presence of a series of whole and partially preserved vessels which occurred throughout the 25 cm range of the deposit. The absolute floor level is determined by the founding level of the wall which defines it (locus 31002). The deposit seems to have accumulated over a period of time and to have been open to the wind and drifting sediments. This level contained very little mud-brick in comparison to the levels above it. This locus represents the wind-blown soils and objects deposited in the structure immediately after its abandonment. Artifact dates range from pre-classical to Roman. However, the Roman TPQ for this locus may be explained by the presence of spill from later
occupation which was dumped in this area during the re-use of the wall which forms its northern boundary (locus 31008).

**Locus WB 31005**
This locus is a fill deposit of bricky yellow-brown soil which appeared after the removal of the heavy rubble layer from across the NE and SE quadrants. This layer only appeared in the areas to the east and west of 31002, over the eventual “floor” areas. The rubble in this layer was less substantial than that in the layer above it. This rubble may be related to the destruction of the walls but doesn’t appear to contain the heavy rubble from an episode of later re-use. Artifact dates in this level ranged from pre-classical to Arab.

**Locus WB 31006**
This locus is a fill deposit of bricky yellow-brown soil much like that above it (31005) but containing patches of mud-brick. This layer is the first which contains the debris from the intact walls and the collapsed rubble of the Hellenistic buildings. The average depth is 17 cm. This layer occurs on both sides of 31002 and covers the area above the floors of the structure. Artifact dates range from pre-classical to 1st century CE (Kfar Hananya). The TPQ of this layer suggests that the total collapse of the mud-brick walls may be related to the re-use of this area during the Kfar Hananya period. The fact that this area was undergoing construction changes is indicated by the later E/W wall on top of 31008.

**Locus WB 31007**
This locus is a fill deposit located beneath 31006 and to the west of 31002, over the floor deposit 31004. It is a silty, very fine loess with an average depth of 13 cm and some mud-brick inclusions. Artifacts were notably sparse in this deposit and those which did appear were well preserved. This layer is a part of the series of depositions over the floors which only occurs over 31004 and not over 31020. This shows that these two spaces were used in different ways after the initial abandonment of the building. The fact that floor 31004 is covered by this silty deposit suggests that the floor lay open to wind-blown sediment which was not removed in a later re-user of the space. 31020 lacks this deposit which might indicate that the space was re-claimed before this layer had time to accumulate or this layer was removed from the floor in a later period.

**Locus WB 31008**
This locus designates an E/W wall bonded to 31002. It extends out from 31002 to the limits of the excavation in the West. This wall is preserved only to the height of 1 course. The line of the wall is interrupted by a niche lined with plaster. The wall is covered by a later wall which uses 31008 as a foundation course. 31008 represents the original north wall for the structure which 31002 is part of and which includes the floor deposit 31004. This wall is also partially covered by the deposits associated with the construction of 31009--locus 31021.
**Locus WB 31009**

This locus designates the “later” wall founded upon 31008 and also running E/W. This wall is preserved to the height of two courses and is 1 m wide on average. It is composed of two faces of larger stones with a substantial rubble core. Construction is less solid and sloppier than that of 31002 and 31008. This wall extends from the west balk to the plaster floor and then picks up again on the eastern side of the plaster floor, intersecting the eastern balk. The western portion is well-preserved while the eastern half is largely robbed out. The relationship of this wall to the heavy rubble of the NE quadrant is unclear. This rubble (31024) abuts the northern face of the wall and obscures all but the uppermost course. This wall is associated with the fill deposit 31021 and is largely covered by it. This wall seems to have been constructed while the floor areas 31004 and 31020 were still partially exposed.

**Locus WB 31010**

This locus is associated with the N/S wall located in the NE quadrant. This wall is preserved at its highest point to four courses and is 80 cm wide on average. The wall extends from the NE corner of the NE quadrant to the edge of the plaster floor, where it breaks off cleanly. It is composed of large stones which form two faces and a core of small stones. The wall is only approximately aligned with 31002 although it resembles it closely in its construction and size. Their relationship is unclear. 31010 is bordered to the west by 31024, which also partially covered it. It was also covered by 31021-the later fill deposit associated with wall 31009.

**Locus WB 31011**

This locus designates the wall suggested by one remaining pier situated above the earlier phase in the southern quadrant. This pier (60 cm wide) is situated running E/W at right angles to 31010. It does not appear to be bonded to 31010 and its relationship to the other walls is unclear. However, it is probable, based upon its situation that is related to the same phase as 31010 and makes a corner with that wall. No other portions of the wall are preserved.

**Locus WB 31012**

This locus refers to a rectangular stone installation bonded to the eastern side of 31002 and abutting 31009 to the north. The installation is 100 cm x 40 cm and built of stones placed in loose association with one another to form a rough outline of the rectangle. It is possible that this represents the lowest portion of a much more substantial construction which was robbed out. The function of this installation is unclear but the fact that it encloses the corner of the room and was built as part of the wall suggests a storage or cooking function. This installation, along with 31013 and 31014 indicated the absolute level of the floor in 31020. They all sit at the same level and were associated with the substantial deposits which characterize the room debris. However, no artifacts were found in direct use association with this feature.

**Locus WB 31013**

This locus refers to another stone installation located on the floor of 31020, to the east of 31002 and abutting the north wall of the room, 31009. This installation is not
bonded to either wall and is shaped like a rough circle. It is formed by regular stones placed in loose association with one another. This installation has also probably been disturbed and robbed out. No artifacts were found in use association with this feature.

**Locus WB 31014**

This locus refers to the last of the floor installations associated with 31020. This stone feature is located to the east of 31002 and approximately 1 m north of the southern limit of the excavation. It is a very rough square composed of an irregular group of stones placed together. This installation held the remains of a Hellenistic gritty cook pot turned on its rim. This installation also sits on the absolute floor level of 31020.

**Locus WB 31015**

This deposit consisted of the topsoil layers of the NE quadrant. This dark black loamy layer was 45 cm deep on average. This topsoil deposit was given a separate locus from the topsoil of the SE quadrant because this deposit lacked the deep disturbance associated with Arab occupation in the south. Although this occupation clearly resulted in the deposit of some later materials, such as the Arab coin, the proportions of modern to ancient materials was much different. Also, the materials were much better preserved on average than in the south. Both these phenomena can be explained by a less intensive use of this area in later periods. This deposit extended across the whole of the NE quad and covered the transition layer—locus 31017. The artifact dates ranged from pre-classical to modern.

**Locus WB 31016**

This locus was assigned to the layer composed of mottled yellow and black loam which signaled the transition from the topsoil deposits to the intact fills associated with the ancient debris. This layer covered the whole of the SE quadrant. It contained some rubble and a large number of artifacts associated with the later Arab occupation. Preservation was very poor and many of the artifacts were burned. This locus was clearly impacted by the Arab occupation and may be grouped with the topsoil of the SE quadrant as part of the impact of modern use. Average depth was 19 cm.

**Locus WB 31017**

This locus refers to the transition layer of the NE quadrant. Just as the topsoil of the NE quadrant was marked by less disturbance and better preservation, this yellow/brown loam was mixed with less topsoil and contained a much smaller proportion of modern to ancient artifacts. The fill did contain some later artifacts but by and large was indicative of less disturbance and occupation in later periods. Some rubble was present in this layer. Average depth was 37 cm. This fill was covered by the topsoil (31015) and covered 31018, a heavy rubble deposit.

**Locus WB 31018**

This locus encompasses the units of a heavy rubble deposit which extended across both the NE and SE quadrants. This layer was composed of stone varying in size and clearly associated with the destruction and robbing of the walls which would appear beneath it. This layer does not seem to be the remains of the re-used stone, but is
actually part of the decay of the ancient buildings. The average depth of the deposit was 20 cm. The removal of this layer exposed the majority of the identifiable walls and features in both quadrants. For example, this layer covered the wall 31002, the beginning of the series of deposits over the floor (layer 31005), the uppermost levels of the pit/dump (31019) and the heavy rubble in the NE quadrant (31024). Also, the fact that this extends across both quadrants suggests that this is the limit of the Arab disturbance in the SE quadrant. Artifact dates range from pre-classical to Arab. Preservation was good.

**Locus WB 31019**

This locus refers to a deposit of rubble, soil and few artifacts which was located along the western balk in the SE quadrant. The deposit was approximately 70 cm in diameter and 73 cm deep. It seemed to be roughly circular throughout. The deposit seems to have been a pit or dump of stone on the floor (31004) west of 31002. Very few artifacts were included in the fill and the little soil, for that matter. The little ceramics which were present were well-preserved. The deposit was covered by 31018 and ended at floor level (31004).

**Locus WB 31020**

This locus refers to the floor deposit east of 31002 and south of 31009. It was 16cm deep on average and consisted of a series of deposits throughout this range. These deposits consisted of articulated, partially preserved vessels and the three stone installations which mark the absolute floor level (31012, 13 & 14). The floor extended from 31009 to the north, 31002 to the west and to the limits of the excavation in the east and south. Floor level corresponds roughly to the layer just above the floor deposits of 31004. This suggests that this area was in use after 31004 was abandoned, as does the presence of the stone installations. Artifact dates range from pre-classical to Roman. The Roman TPQ suggests that the re-use of this room may have been associated with the construction of 31009.

**Locus WB 31021**

This fill deposit consists of a crumbly brown soil containing very little rubble. This deposit covered the later wall (31009) and extended northward from this wall approximately 2 m. This fill slumped over onto the floor (31004) south of 31009 and onto 31008. It also covered walls 31010 and 31011. It also covered the fill over the plaster floor (31022). This deposit is pivotal in understanding the relationship between the earlier and later phases in this area. The fact that it covers the later wall, plaster floor and slumps over onto 31008 and 31004 suggests that the re-use of these areas and the deposition of this material happened relatively quickly. The fact that 31008 and 31004 were still open to receive this material narrows the time-gap between their abandonment and the construction of 31009. However, this fill contained some contamination from later periods (Ras al Fukra) which raises some questions about the TPQ. Average depth of this deposit was 44 cm.

**Locus WB 31022**

This locus refers to a very hard, powdery fill over the plaster floor in the NE quadrant. This fill appeared after the removal of the later fill 31021 and its removal
revealed the plaster surface of the floor. This fill contained very few artifacts. Artifact dates ranged from pre-classical to Roman. Preservation was good. This deposit seems to be associated, at least in date, to the later wall and phase in the NE quadrant.

Locus WB 31023
This locus refers to the plaster floor located in the intersection between the walls 31002, 31008/9 and 31010. The floor is irregular, rough and patchy. It abuts each of the four walls quite closely and appears to have been laid down with the intention of filling this space precisely. The relationship between the floor and the rubble deposit (31024) is not clear, however, since the excavators were not able to determine whether or not the floor continues underneath the rubble.

Locus WB 31024
This locus designates the very dense rubble deposit which was only partially removed in the NE quadrant. This fill consists of a very large amount of well-preserved ceramics and other objects, including the bronze arrowhead. Very little soil is present and the fill appears to be solid rubble mixed with pockets of artifacts. This suggests that the rubble may be the remains of fallen walls or perhaps an area between buildings which was used as dump for stone and other objects. Artifact dates range from pre-classical to Arab, which is problematic since it is unclear how this deposit would be associated with later occupation. This may be another case of contamination since the majority of artifacts are, by far, Hellenistic. This locus was only partially excavated and was left intact as a means for protecting the features beneath the rubble. Average depth of material removed was 55 cm.

Conclusion
This area appears to present the excavator with two occupation phases. The deposits associated with the earlier, second century Hellenistic phase include the walls 31002 and 31008 and the floor deposit 31004. All other deposits and features seem to be dated to a second phase of occupation which is characterized by a re-use of the floor and space to the east of 31002 and by the construction of the later wall atop 31008, 31009. This later wall and occupation also seem to be associated with the plaster floor and its related deposits, as well as the dump/pit deposit (31019). The date of this later occupation seems to be keyed in to the presence of Kfar Hananya ceramics, which date the deposits to the early Roman period. The walls 31010 and 31011 present another problem since their relationship to the earlier and later phases is unclear. Further excavation is necessary to determine their date.
Kedesh 1999 WE32
Final Report

The second session of the 1999 excavations at Tel Kedesh gave rise to the opportunity for an “experimental” trench to be excavated on the northwestern edge of the project’s permit. I say “experimental” because neither magnetometry nor resistivity were conducted in this area and thus there were no preconceived notions concerning what might be found within the square. WE32 was staked and cleared. The 5 X 5 sloped to southwest, two courses of a wall extending from the west balk to the southeast, about a meter in length beconked exploration. On 22 June excavations began. This report will give a summary of each locus as well as some possible interpretations of what was excavated. The season was short, three and one half weeks, the stratigraphy was quite confusing, and the slope on which the trench was located only added to this confusion. What is offered in this report are suggestions which will hopefully act as points of reference as this project continues and as excavations progress up the north slope of this project’s permit.

WE32000 - topsoil - It took eight separate units over seven days to remove WE32’s topsoil. WE32000 was a relatively soft, silty gray soil stretching the extent of the 5 X 5. On the third day of excavating, a paved area in the northeastern part of the square was exposed; a triangular area of flat stones which ran into both the north and east balks. Included in this “pavement” was “Upper N-S Wall” WE32020. The removal of the topsoil also exposed WE32011 (subsoil), and partially exposed WE32002 (Lower N-S Wall) and WE32003 (E-W Wall).

WE32001 - pavement/floor - Roughly 13 flat stones of varying sizes, a small area of poured plaster, and three stones which were a part of “Upper N-S Wall” WE32020 made up this “pavement/floor” exposed on the third day of excavations beneath topsoil. The area was pedestalized until 8 July when all but WE32020 was excavated. The little amount of dirt in and around the stones had no datable material, however, a 10 cm pass beneath the pavement produced one kilogram of pottery with a latest datable rim sherd dated to the Arab period (see below).

WE32001.1 - This 10 cm pass below the pavement provided what was identified as a 13th century Arab rim sherd. It is of interest to note that within the small area of plaster, WE3.2.040 as well as the 10 cm pass below the plaster, WE3.2.041, the LDM was Roman. Combined, these two units provided less than 20 liters of sievable material which produced 220 grams of pottery. Of that, there were only two diagnostic pieces. The plaster, however, did continue into the north balk. If excavations continue northward, this may be of some interest. As mentioned before, the level at which the paved area was constructed coincides with the top of “Upper N-S- Wall”. This suggests the use of “Upper N-S Wall”, WE32020, as part of this pavement. With what was exposed, it appears as though this paved area was an outdoor pavement, perhaps a street, however, excavations should be continued both north and east of WE32 in order to better understand what WE32001 was.

WE32002 - Lower N-S Wall - Of the walls extant within WE32, this wall appears to be best constructed. From the south where only one course was exposed, the wall runs northeastward, exposing two full courses. The wall averages 85 cm in width, constructed of two rows of large uncut facing stones 22-25 cm cubed between which is a rubble core. The wall was partially exposed below topsoil and fully exposed beneath subsoil. “Unexcavated Cobble Floor” (WE32007) abuts this wall, as does “E-W Wall” (WE32003). Upon removing “Lower Plaster Floor” (WE32005) on the last day of excavations, it appeared as though the cobble foundation of the floor was built into both “Lower N-S Wall” (WE32002) and “E-W Wall” (WE32003). If this was indeed the case, based on the LDM from WE32005.1, this wall would have a latest date of the 12th century.

WE32003 - E-W Wall - Constructed similar to WE32002, “E-W Wall” runs from the west balk at a right angle to WE32002. Although similar in construction, WE32003 appears less sturdy and of lesser quality. The facing stones as well as the rubble core are constructed with smaller stones. Furthermore, the wall is less regular, varying in width between 65 and 75 cm. Despite the fact that WE32003 abuts WE32002 and
seems to be of lesser quality, it appears as though both walls are contemporaneous. As before mentioned, on the last day of excavations, when “Lower Plaster Floor” (WE32005) was excavated, it looked as though the floor was built into each wall. This only appeared on the last day of excavations, and would need to be further explored to show definitely that this was the case. However, accepting this observation as true, this would provide a latest date of the 12th century. On the south side of “E-W Wall” where it abuts “Lower N-S Wall” a large “paver” was exposed. Left unexcavated, this “paver” is built directly into WE32003 and dives eastward at a relatively steep angle. All that really can be said concerning this “paver” is that it appears to have been a purposeful installation.

WE32004, WE32004.1, WE32019, WE32008, WE32008.1, WE32005, and WE32005.1 - Plaster Floors - I have chosen to discuss these three plaster floors and their related loci as a whole. These are by far the most confusing and problematic loci within WE32. Three distinct flooring areas existed: WE32004, “Upper Plaster Floor” (WE32004), “Intermediate Plaster Floor” (WE32008), and “Lower Plaster Floor” (WE32005). I can only discuss these floors and the manner in which they were excavated, for I have little clue to why they exist as the did.

Roughly circular in shape, WE32004 was a relatively well constructed floor, plaster laid over a cobbled foundation, however, the area which it covered was very small, about 80 cm. This floor lay 6 cm below the bottom of “Big Rock,” the large cut stone which is the southern-most stone of “Upper N-S Wall” (WE32020). WE32004 and the sealed material below, WE32004.1 produced only 80 grams of pottery, less than 10 grams was Pre-Persian, the rest was unidentifiable. Following the excavation of both WE32004 and WE32004.1, a cleaning pass was conducted WE32019 = WE32050. The soil of this pass was far from uniform. This pass extended northward beyond what was beneath WE32004.1 to the north balk. Only 30 liters of soil were removed, yielding identifiable pottery ranging from Pre-Persian to Median. It is important to note that the soil type was not uniform, the pass at its greatest depth was three cm. This pass which extended further north than what lay between WE32004.1 and WE32008 should be identified as a cleaning/heavy-scrape/identifying locus which allowed for a clearer understanding of the loci below.

WE32008, “Intermediate Plaster Floor” consisted of two units, WE3.2.054 and WE3.2.056, which were removed separately then phased together, the former being less dilapidated than the latter. This floor ran parallel to WE32020 and along WE32002, beginning roughly 50 cm south of the north balk extending about 1.7 meters along both “Upper” and “Lower N-S Walls”. Trapezoidal in shape, at its northern most extent, it was 60 cm in width, becoming wider as it ran to the southwest widening to 1.25 meters. Very little datable material was found within WE3.2.054, however, WE3.2.056 produced pottery dated to the Islamic period. The 10 cm passes below WE32008 also produced pottery dated to the Islamic period. It is interesting to note that the unit excavated beneath WE3.2.054 was a uniform brown soil, while the area excavated beneath WE3.2.056 was far less uniform, a gray-brown soil, somewhat streaky and compact. Also of note, the plaster in the area where WE32016 (WE3.2.049) appeared to be attached to WE32008 (see below) was extremely thick.

Partially exposed during the second week of excavating, WE32005 was not fully exposed until the final day of the 1999 season. Somewhat triangular in shape, “Lower Plaster Floor” ran along “E-W Wall” WE32003 and “Lower N-S Wall” WE32002. It northern most point lay parallel to the northwestern corner of “Big Rock” (see Top Plan 7/14/99). From this point, the floor bulged southwestward, creating an almost arching hypotenuse of a right triangle (the other sides being defined by WE32002 and WE32003). Most of the floor was well constructed, plaster laid over a very tightly packed cobbled foundation. The cobbles were especially well packed in the southeastern corner moving out from this corner along both walls and, as mentioned before, it appeared as though these cobbles were built directly into both walls. The removal of the floor itself produced very little datable pottery, however, the pass below the floor, WE32005.1, yielded pottery datable to the Crusader period.

PLASTER FLOORS - SUMMING UP - Concerning the plaster floors and the loci directly associated with them, all that can be said with certainty is that the latest datable material associated with this/these levels of occupation is/are 12th century. As mentioned before, when WE32005 was removed, it appeared as though
the floor was built directly into, that is was a part of both WE32002 and WE32003. However, this should be explored before it is stated with certainty. It seems obvious that these floors at one time must have extended further than what was extant when exposed, but if this was indeed the case, there was no evidence within WE32. I believe only through continued excavations might a better understanding of this area be discerned.

WE32006 - New Wall - Four pairs of stones running parallel to both N-S Walls made up “New Wall.” Fully exposed with the removal of WE3.2.043 and WE3.2.044, “New Wall” was not excavated until WE3.2.048 was removed (fill within what might have been the foundation trench for “New Wall”). One course of WE32006 was extant with relatively small stones, dirt and pottery filling the spaces between the two rows of stones. 30 liters of soil were removed from in and around the stones producing 360 grams of pottery, 40 grams of which provided the latest pottery dating to the Abassid period.

WE32006.1 - WE3.2.058, WE3.2.059, and WE3.2.060 were phased together to make up the sealed material beneath WE32006. WE3.2.058 and WE3.2.059 were excavated as separate units due to their difference in soil composition, while WE3.2.060 was the remnant of WE3.2.058 which had not been completely excavated the previous day. WE32006.1 produced LDM dated to the Crusader period, although it is interesting to point out that WE3.2.058 and WE3.2.060, both much more brown than WE3.2.059, produced latest datable pottery dating to the Byzantine period. It is of equal importance to note, however, that these two units were dated based on a limited amount of pottery, and the LDM’s were body sherd. It is also important to note that WE3.2.059 produced two body fragments of the newly named “shallow bowl with inturnd rim.”

WE32007 - Unexcavated Cobble Floor - WE32007 was exposed below subsoil east of WE32002. WE32007 is composed of cobbles similar to those which were used as the foundation for “Lower Plaster Floor” WE32005. The cobbles run along WE32002 and create a perpendicular to this wall at the floors southern-most extent. Not only does this construction look similar to WE32005, but also the floors elevations are roughly the same as WE32005.

WE32009 - rubble on paver/installation - West of “Lower Plaster Floor” and south of “E-W Wall is WE32010, a large paver/installation (see below). WE32009 was the removal of a large amount of rubble and the fill around this rubble which lay on top of WE32010. Little can be said concerning this locus. Only 620 grams of pottery were removed from which the LDM consisted of three Roman cook ware fragments.

WE32010 - paver/installation - WE32010 is a large flat stone built into/as a part of WE32003 which dives eastward at a relatively steep angle. When first exposed, it was suggested that the large stone was a paving stone, however, since it does not lay flat, nor does it appear to have ever lay flat, this seems improbable. Since it appears to be built into WE32003, however, it does seem to be a purposeful installation. The installation remains unexcavated, as does the area surrounding it, therefore there is no datable material directly associated with the installation. However, if indeed this installation was constructed with the wall, as “Lower Plaster Floor” WE32005 appears to have been, then it may be suggested that this installation also shares a latest date of the 12th century. This can not be stated with certainty until further excavations have been conducted.

WE32011 - subsoil - A grey soil of varying compaction, walls WE32002 and WE32003 were fully exposed as were many other units/loci. The LDM of this locus was Arab.

WE32012 - WE32012 was excavated below 32001.1. WE3.2.026 was phased with WE3.2.042, WE3.2.043, and WE3.2.044 during locusiing based on soil composition. Although little datable material was found in WE3.2.026, WE3.2.044 produced an Abassid jar neck and rim providing the locus's latest date. A question remains concerning WE3.2.042. Within this unit was found a piece of what we called “crayola ware.” Two sherds were found in WE32, however, we were never able to identify this piece of pottery. It is quite possible that this sherd could provide a latest date for the locus, but until this type of pottery is positively identified, the latest date for this locus will remain Abassid.
WE32013 - WE32013 was the fill around WE32006, “New Wall.” WE3.2.048 was phased with WE3.2.026 and WE3.2.031. Not much in the way of pottery was found in the two former units, however, WE3.2.048 produced a large amount of Mefjar as well as an Early Islamic cookpot rim. It was suggested that WE3.2.048 was fill within WE32006’s foundation trench. It is important to note, concerning the excavations around WE32006, based on soil composition, what was just west of WE32006 was dug with what was east of the wall. This may have been a mishap in excavating. In that the area just west of WE32006, between it and WE3.2.06 already might have been original fill from the time when WE32006 was constructed and not later fill. This may be confirmed if excavations to the north continue as “New Wall” WE32006 continued into the north balk.

WE32014 - WE32014 was an obvious pit dug through “Red” WE32015 (see below). There was very little pottery within this locus, latest dateable dating to the Islamic period. Questions arise concerning this pit and WE32015, however, the excavation of this pit did not help in understanding what was happening in this area.

WE32015 - Red - Probably the second most confusing area within WE32 was WE32015 “Red.” What seems to have once been a mound of fine red soil with stones had a pit dug through it. This mound sat on a ‘platform’ of loosely placed relatively flat lying stones set in a compact grey soil. The first bit of confusion lay in the way in which “Red” was deposited. On two occasions a portion of “Red” was excavated out of phase; once as a lens within WE3.2.011 and a second time as its own unit WE3.2.013. Note - both of these units added to units WE3.2.024 and WE3.2.025 made up what is referred to “Western Red” while WE3.2.061 is referred to as “Eastern Red.” These two “Reds” at no point touched within WE32. Pit WE32014 appears to have been dug through “Red” to platform, WE32017 part of which was removed (discussed below), on which “Red” sat. It was not until the removal of WE3.2.013 that the relationship between “Western Red” and the soil around it was fully understood, that is, diving steeply both to the west and to the east. When both “Western Red” and WE32014 were excavated, the sealed material, the platform on which “Western Red” was deposited was excavated providing latest dateable dating to the Crusader period. “Eastern Red” was excavated after the sealed material below WE32006 was removed, since, it appeared to have been cut with the construction of that wall. However, no dateable material was within this unit and the season ended before any material below it could be excavated. What was WE32015? Perhaps it was remnants of some local production pottery? brick? This question and the question of why this “Red” seems to rest on some sort of platform could possibly be answered if excavations continued to the north.

WE32016 - 2 stones - Puzzling were two stones that lay parallel to and at the same elevation as “New Wall” WE32006. This was made more puzzling when upon the removal of the stones, one of the two appeared to be attached to “Intermediate Plaster Floor” WE32008.

WE32017 - ‘platform’ - WE32017 is a ‘platform’ on which “Western Red” rested. A compact grey with loosely set, relatively flat palm sized stones, this ‘platform’ was excavated prematurely. With the excavation of WE3.2.061, a greater extent of this ‘platform’ begins to take shape. Although excavated prematurely, WE32017 provided LDM for WE32015 and was, in a sense a fortuitous mistake. What purpose did WE32017 serve? Since a great deal more of this platform was exposed during the final days of the 1999 season, this question may be addressed with further excavations in seasons to come.

WE32018 - pedestal - WE32018 is not so much confusing as it is problematic. Due to the necessity to excavate the plaster floors before season’s end, and so as to not risk contamination within this area, it was necessary to pedestal around the plaster floors. By doing this, however, within each unit of this locus, at least three units were combined into one. Therefore, it is extremely difficult to place this locus into context with other loci with which it was related. It does, however, explain some possible problems concerning relative dates within WE32. (For a full explanation, see locus sheet).

WE32020 - Upper N-S Wall - Consisting of 3 large stones, the largest resting on top of WE32002, this wall seems to be a continuation of that wall. However, since its construction was radically different to
WE32002, it was assigned a separate locus. Little can be said concerning this wall, other than its top elevations were equal to that of WE32001. Much like the rest of WE32, a great deal more might be understood concerning this wall, if excavations were to continue to the north.

**WE32000.1 cleaning** - *WE3.2.017* and *WE3.2.037* both wall cleanings of walls WE32002 and WE32003 compose this locus.
Because of the confusion in and around the plaster floors, it is difficult to suggest phases of occupation. The latest datable material from the earliest occupation levels in WE32 were dated to the Crusader period. I submit the following summary of relative dating to at least serve as a guide to better understand WE32. Pavement WE32001 is later than “Red” WE32015 which is later than the plaster floors. “New Wall” WE32006 is also later than “Red” WE32015, as it was obviously constructed in a foundation trench dug through WE32015. Furthermore, based on the similarity in both size and elevation of WE32016 “2 stones” to WE32006, I suggest that these were contemporaneous. Because one of the two stones that made WE32016 was attached to “Intermediate Plaster” WE32008, this would suggest the same relative date. Hopefully this report has made the excavation of WE32 understandable and will serve as a reference as excavations continue up the north slope of the project's permit.