

## C2. Excavating trench NT1 2024 in the New Town of Assur

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### C2.1 The relative stratigraphy

The trench NT1 (**Fig. C2.1.1**) comprises nine stratigraphic phases between the topsoil and the virgin soil. These were designated with progressive numbers following the label NT1 2023 for phases identified in the 2023 campaign or NT1 2024 for those identified during the 2024 campaign. Overall, the identified stratigraphic phases range from phase NT1 2023 Phase 9, dated to the modern period, down to NT1 2023 Phase 1, dated to the Late Bronze Age.<sup>50</sup>

During the 2024 campaign, we continued the exploration of NT1 2023 Phases 9, 8, 7, 5 and 4. Phase 8 was subdivided into two new phases, referred to as NT1 2024 Phase 8b and NT1 2024 Phase 8a. The latter contained graves dated to the Parthian period, while the former contained pits that had damaged these graves and the structures of Building A (NT1 2023 Phase 5). The table below summarises the relative stratigraphy of the 2023 and 2024 campaigns combined, with the phases discussed in the present book in *italics*.

Stratigraphic phases / periods / absolute dates <sup>51</sup>	Main features
Topsoil	Soft brown soil
<i>NT1 2023 Phase 9</i> Modern	2023: Looting pit and looted Grave 2 2024: Pit 8 and Pit 17
<i>NT1 2024 Phase 8b</i> Between the Parthian and Early Islamic periods	2024: Pits 1 to 6, Pits 9 to 15 and Pit 18.
<i>NT1 2024 Phase 8a</i> Chamber tomb: 83-215 calAD Grave 9: 130-236 calAD	2023: Chamber tomb (Grave 1) 2024: Graves 6, 7, 8, 9, 11
<i>NT1 2023 Phase 7</i> Parthian period (?)	2023: Architecture (wall) 2024: Pit 7 and stone installations
<i>NT1 2023 Phase 6</i> 159/158 BC (Grave 3) <sup>52</sup>	2023: Grave 3 and Grave 4
<i>NT1 2023 Phase 5</i> 173-53 calBC 176-52 calBC 341-57 calBC <sup>53</sup>	2023: Building A (Rooms 1, 2 and 3)  2024: Building A (Rooms 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, Courtyard 10 and "Room 5")
<i>NT1 2023 Phase 4</i> 778-551 calBC	2023: Building B (Outdoor Area 4) 2024: Building B (Room 11)
<i>NT1 2023 Phase 3</i> 770-542 calBC 775-545 calBC	2023: Grave 5
<i>NT1 2023 Phase 2</i> Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age	2023: Architecture (walls)
<i>NT1 2023 Phase 1</i> 1506-1440 calBC	2023: Deep sounding (no architecture)
Virgin soil	Hard reddish soil

<sup>51</sup> 95.4% probability for calibrated radiocarbon dates.

<sup>52</sup> Date from alphabetic inscription on Grave 3, see Gzella 2024.

<sup>53</sup> Three additional and older radiocarbon dates obtained from seeds collected from the floors of Building A have been omitted in this table. The presence of older seeds in the floor deposits of Building A may be due to the reuse of cultural debris as construction material for the floors, or the collapse of mudbricks containing older seeds in their matrix, see also Radner/Squitieri 2024b, 100.

<sup>50</sup> Kreppner/Rohde/Squitieri 2024, 93.



**Fig. C2.1.1:** Trench NT1, delimited by a white dash line, and the SBAH trench “New Town 4” of 2002, overlaid by the excavation grid. Orthophoto by Jens Rohde, prepared by Andrea Squitieri.

## C2.2 The stratigraphic table

The complete relative stratigraphy of the trench NT1, combining the 2023 and the 2024 excavation results, is shown in **Table C2.1**. This table is organised as follows:

- The rows are ordered chronologically from the most recent to the oldest phases;
- The columns refer to spaces such as rooms;
- Roughly contemporary deposits and archaeological features are organised horizontally;
- The cells contain a short description of each locus;
- The most relevant background colours are yellow, which indicates occupation and use of floors and installations; brown, which indicates post-occupation periods; and grey, which indicates graves.

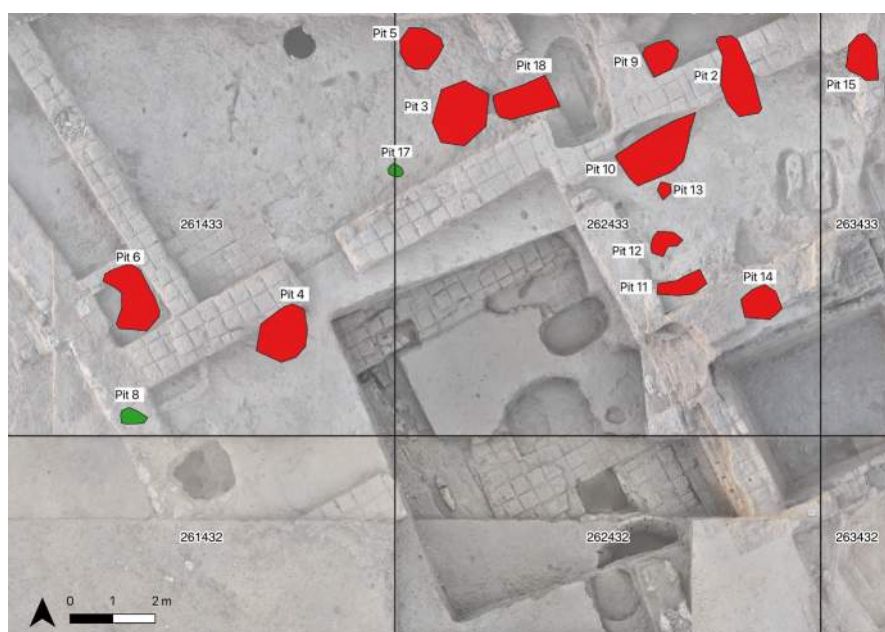
Each occupation phase (yellow rows) is divided into the following sub-phases:

- First Construction: construction of walls and their foundations;
- Construction: construction of floors and installations;
- Occupation: use of floors and installations;
- End of occupation: destruction and/or abandonment of floors and installations.

The sections below describe the archaeological features in stratigraphic order, from the youngest to the oldest.

## C2.3 NT1 2023 Phase 9

Pits 8 and 17 were assigned to NT1 2023 Phase 9, ascribed to the modern period (**Fig. C2.3.1**). The former was a shallow oval pit, about 55 × 33 cm in diameter, located in the southwestern part of the excavation area. The fill, excavated to a depth of c. 15 cm, consisted of greyish brown soil containing bones, a modern green glass bottle fragment, and a tin can. Towards the northeast, Pit 17 was



**Fig. C2.3.1:** Pits of NT1 2023 Phase 9 (green) and NT1 2024 Phase 8b (red). Orthophoto by Jens Rohde, prepared by Andrea Squitieri.



**Fig. C2.4.1:** Honeycomb decorated jar AS 261433:036:005 from Pit 4, dated to the Early Islamic period. Photo by Marco Wolf.

identified as an animal burrow. Both pits damaged the structures of Building A (§C2.8).

#### C2.4 NT1 2024 Phase 8b

The NT1 2024 Phase 8b is composed of several pits (**Fig. C2.3.1**) that damaged Grave 9 (NT1 2024 Phase 8a) as well as the architecture of Building A (NT1 2023 Phase 5). The pits did not contain any chronological diagnostic finds, with the notable exception of Pit 4, which included a complete water jar with a honeycomb decoration typical of the Early Islamic period (AS 261433:036:005, see §D1.3).

Based on the pits' stratigraphic position and the vessel's date in Pit 4, we may suggest that NT1 2024 Phase 8a pits were dug between the Parthian and the Early Islamic period.

Pit 4, located in the southwestern part of the excavation area, partially damaged wall Wo4 belonging to Building A (NT1 2023 Phase 5). It was c. 60 cm deep and had a diameter between 1 and 1.3 m. Its fill consisted of a crumbly, brown clayey soil mixed with reddish-brown clay, yielding fragments of gypsum plaster, pottery sherds, bones, and brick fragments. The pit accommodated the jar AS 261433:036:005, which was found in a complete state of preservation lying on its side, with its opening facing slightly downwards (**Fig. C2.4.1**). The jar was oriented

in a southwest-northeast direction, and some brick fragments and stones were in front of the vessel's mouth. This could indicate that the vessel had been deliberately laid into the pit and sealed. The jar was almost empty, except for some very loose dark-brown clayey soil (registered as Locus:261433:045) mixed with small pottery sherds, fragments of bones, and pebbles. A concentration of bitumen could be observed at the bottom of the vessel. As shown in §D1.3, this jar can be dated to the Early Islamic period based on parallels found in Iraq. A very similar jar (AS 262433:021:007, see §D1.3) was found in 2023 in a complete state of preservation within the structures of the Parthian-period chamber tomb (Grave 1).<sup>54</sup> Though not directly related to a looting pit, this jar can now be assigned to NT1 2024 Phase 8b. It most likely belonged to the looting events that targeted the chamber tomb in antiquity.

#### C2.5 NT1 2024 Phase 8a

NT1 2024 Phase 8a consists of the Parthian-period chamber tomb (Grave 1) unearthed in 2023 and removed in that year,<sup>55</sup> as well as five looted graves (Graves 6, 7, 8, 9, and 11)

<sup>54</sup> Kreppner/Richter/Squitieri 2024, 141-142.

<sup>55</sup> Kreppner/Rohde/Squitieri 2024, 105-118. Note that in Kreppner/Rohde/Squitieri 2024, the chamber tomb (Grave 1) had been assigned to the NT1 2023 Phase 8. After the results of the 2024 excavations, this phase was subdivided into Phases 8a and 8b. The chamber tomb has now been assigned to Phase 8a, along with the other Parthian graves excavated in 2024.



**Table C2.1 (Part 1.A):** The relative stratigraphy of the trench NT1. Prepared by F. Janoscha Kreppner.

Assur New Town trench NT1: 2023 and 2024 (cont.)	Room 1	Courtyard 10	Room 2	Room 3	Building A Room 7	Room 8	Room 9	"Room 5"	
NT1 2023 Phase 5: POST-OCCUPATION	A02-001-01 (locus:261433-003) mudbrick debris A02-001-02 (locus:261433-004) mudbrick debris A02-001-03 (locus:261433-005) brownish silt soil with mudbrick debris A02-001-04 (locus:261433-037) loose silt and well sorted soil with a yellowish-brown colour (locus:261433-058) A02-001-05 (locus:261433-058) mudbrick debris southern part	A09-10-001-01 brownish mudbrick debris (locus:262433-104)  A10-01-01 mudbrick collapse (locus:261433-032) A09-10-001-02 (locus:261433-048) A09-10-001-03 (locus:261433-051) A10-01-02 (locus:261433-056) A10-01-02 (locus:261433-059) loose silt and well sorted soil with a yellowish-brown colour (locus:261433-063) (locus:261433-058)	A02-001-01 silt soil (locus:262433-008) (locus:262433-009)  A02-001-02 mudbrick debris (locus:261432-007, locus:261433-017, locus:261433-021 and locus:261433-024) A02-001-03 (locus:261433-025) loose silt and well sorted soil with a yellowish-brown colour (locus:261433-029)	A03-001-01 greyish mudbrick debris (locus:262432-051)  A03-001-02 greyish mudbrick debris (locus:262432-051)  A07-02-01 brownish mudbrick debris (locus:262433-101)  A07-02-01 brownish mudbrick debris (locus:262433-101)  A09-10-001-01 brownish mudbrick debris (locus:262433-101) (locus:262433-102, locus:262433-101, locus:262433-143) A09-10-02 light brown, loose dry soft silt soil with mudbrick fragments and pebbles (locus:262433-144)	A08-001-01 brownish mudbrick debris (locus:262433-101) (locus:262433-101, locus:262433-143) A08-001-02 brownish mudbrick debris with some bones, beaked brick fragments pebbles (locus:262433-144)	A08-002-01 soft, greyish-brown soil with a few pottery sherds, pebbles, mudbrick debris, and some bones (locus:262433-107, locus:262433-102)	A09-10-001-01 brownish mudbrick debris (locus:262433-101, locus:262433-102, locus:262433-143) A09-10-02 light brown, loose dry soft silt soil with mudbrick fragments and pebbles (locus:262433-144)	Sondage 01-05-001-01 soft, greyish-brown silt soil with sherds, pebbles, mudbrick debris (locus:262432-056, locus:262433-004), Sondage 01-05-001-02 light brown loose soil (locus:262433-115, 262433-104), Sondage 01-05-01-03 reddish loose soil with mudbrick fragments, ashes and bones (locus:262433-137), Sondage 01-05-01-04 ash (locus:262433-139), Sondage 01-05-001-05 fragments of soft ash (locus:262433-140), Sondage 01-05-001-06 soil with chunks of red brick (locus:262433-140), Sondage 01-05-001-06 (loose ashes with mudbrick fragments, ashbriq inclusions (locus:262433-141), Sondage 01-05-001-07 reddish silt soil with mudbrick fragments, ashes with white traces (locus:262433-142), Sondage 01-05-001-08 soft loose ashes with white traces and some mudbrick fragments (locus:262433-148, locus:262433-016), Sondage 01-05-001-09 reddish soil with mudbricks (locus:262433-155)	
	A01-002-01 (locus:261433-005) and locus:261433-040 brownish silt soil with ceramics and some ash) A01-002-02 (locus:261433-037) local ashes)	A10-002-01 greyish brown and moderately sorted silt soil, with some sherds and some bones, few ashes and pebbles (locus:261433-067, locus:262433-136)	A02-002-01 greyish-brown, dry soft, poorly sorted, silt soil with abundant sherds, some pebbles and some mudbrick debris, few bones, few charcoal sample, (locus:261432-011 (C14 sample), locus:261433-020 (C14 sample), locus:261433-046, locus:262433-105), A02-002-02 yellowish-brown sandy soil, mixed with mudbrick fragments and remains of pottery sample, (locus:262433-068, C14 sample)	A07-02-01 soft, greyish-brown soil with a few pottery sherds, pebbles, mudbrick debris, and some bones (locus:262433-110)	A08-002-01 soft, greyish-brown soil with a few pottery sherds, pebbles, mudbrick debris, and some bones (locus:262433-107, locus:262433-102)	A08-003 door blocking installation (locus:262433-159)			Sondage 01-05-002-01 dry soft, well sorted, brown silt soil with few sherds, few bones and some charcoal and few ashes (locus:262432-066, two C14 samples), Sondage 01-05-002-02 patches of soft ashly and harder reddish silt moderately sorted soil (locus:262433-156, locus:262433-017)
	NT1 2023 Phase 5: OCCUPATION	W-03 (locus:261433-009, locus:261433-063), A10-11 mudbrick installation (locus:261433-062), A10-11a brick wall (locus:261433-066), A02-01 (locus:261433-073) floor	W-03 (locus:261433-009, locus:261433-063), A10-11 mudbrick installation (locus:261433-062), A10-11a brick wall (locus:261433-066), A02-01 (locus:261433-073) floor	A02-01 mudbrick installation (locus:261433-052), A02-02 (locus:261433-052), A02-03 (locus:261433-052), A02-04 (locus:261433-052), A02-05 (locus:261433-052), A02-06 (locus:261433-052), A02-07 (locus:261433-052), A02-08 (locus:261433-052), A02-09 (locus:261433-052), A02-10 (locus:261433-052), A02-11 (locus:261433-052), A02-12 (locus:261433-052), A02-13 (locus:261433-052), A02-14 (locus:261433-052), A02-15 (locus:261433-052), A02-16 (locus:261433-052), A02-17 (locus:261433-052), A02-18 (locus:261433-052), A02-19 (locus:261433-052), A02-20 (locus:261433-052), A02-21 (locus:261433-052), A02-22 (locus:261433-052), A02-23 (locus:261433-052), A02-24 (locus:261433-052), A02-25 (locus:261433-052), A02-26 (locus:261433-052), A02-27 (locus:261433-052), A02-28 (locus:261433-052), A02-29 (locus:261433-052), A02-30 (locus:261433-052), A02-31 (locus:261433-052), A02-32 (locus:261433-052), A02-33 (locus:261433-052), A02-34 (locus:261433-052), A02-35 (locus:261433-052), A02-36 (locus:261433-052), A02-37 (locus:261433-052), A02-38 (locus:261433-052), A02-39 (locus:261433-052), A02-40 (locus:261433-052), A02-41 (locus:261433-052), A02-42 (locus:261433-052), A02-43 (locus:261433-052), A02-44 (locus:261433-052), A02-45 (locus:261433-052), A02-46 (locus:261433-052), A02-47 (locus:261433-052), A02-48 (locus:261433-052), A02-49 (locus:261433-052), A02-50 (locus:261433-052), A02-51 (locus:261433-052), A02-52 (locus:261433-052), A02-53 (locus:261433-052), A02-54 (locus:261433-052), A02-55 (locus:261433-052), A02-56 (locus:261433-052), A02-57 (locus:261433-052), A02-58 (locus:261433-052), A02-59 (locus:261433-052), A02-60 (locus:261433-052), A02-61 (locus:261433-052), A02-62 (locus:261433-052), A02-63 (locus:261433-052), A02-64 (locus:261433-052), A02-65 (locus:261433-052), A02-66 (locus:261433-052), A02-67 (locus:261433-052), A02-68 (locus:261433-052), A02-69 (locus:261433-052), A02-70 (locus:261433-052), A02-71 (locus:261433-052), A02-72 (locus:261433-052), A02-73 (locus:261433-052), A02-74 (locus:261433-052), A02-75 (locus:261433-052), A02-76 (locus:261433-052), A02-77 (locus:261433-052), A02-78 (locus:261433-052), A02-79 (locus:261433-052), A02-80 (locus:261433-052), A02-81 (locus:261433-052), A02-82 (locus:261433-052), A02-83 (locus:261433-052), A02-84 (locus:261433-052), A02-85 (locus:261433-052), A02-86 (locus:261433-052), A02-87 (locus:261433-052), A02-88 (locus:261433-052), A02-89 (locus:261433-052), A02-90 (locus:261433-052), A02-91 (locus:261433-052), A02-92 (locus:261433-052), A02-93 (locus:261433-052), A02-94 (locus:261433-052), A02-95 (locus:261433-052), A02-96 (locus:261433-052), A02-97 (locus:261433-052), A02-98 (locus:261433-052), A02-99 (locus:261433-052), A03-001-01 greyish mudbrick debris (locus:262432-051)  A03-001-02 greyish mudbrick debris (locus:262432-051)  A07-02-01 brownish mudbrick debris (locus:262433-101)  A07-02-01 brownish mudbrick debris (locus:262433-101)  A09-10-001-01 brownish mudbrick debris (locus:262433-101) (locus:262433-102, locus:262433-101, locus:262433-143) A09-10-02 light brown, loose dry soft silt soil with mudbrick fragments and pebbles (locus:262433-144)					
NT1 2023 Phase 5: CONSTRUCTION	W-01 (locus:262433-010) W-02 (locus:262433-064) W-03 (locus:262433-068) W-04 (locus:262433-078) locus:262433-126, locus:262433-127, locus:262433-128, locus:262433-129, locus:262433-128)	W-04 (locus:261433-077) 							

Assur New Town trench NT1: 2023 and 2024 (cont.)		282432	282433
		Building B	
		Unroofed Area 4	Room 11
Iron Age	NT1 2023 Phase 4: POST-OCCUPATION	Locus 262433:071 soft greyish soil, Locus 262432:031-033 fls, Locus 262432:034 fls, Locus 262433:055 fls, Locus 262433:057 fls Locus 262432:047 mudbrick collapse, Locus 262433:051 fls, Locus 262433:061 fls, Locus 262432:067 fls, Locus 262433:152 and Locus 262433:069 mudbrick debris, Locus 262432:065 mudbrick debris	B11-001-02 fls with mudbrick collapse (Locus 262433:120, Locus 262433:131 and Locus 261433:078, Locus 262433:133 and Locus 261433:079 and Locus 261433:089)
	NT1 2023 Phase 4: END OF OCCUPATION		B11-002-02 fls with ash (Locus 261433:080, Locus 262433:161), B11-002-02 fls with white incense and ashes (Locus 262433:158) (C14 sample), B11-02-01 fls of installation B11-02 (Locus 262433:160)
	NT1 2023 Phase 4: OCCUPATION	Locus 262433:059 pit cut with fls Locus 262432:062, pit cut with fls Locus 262432:063, Locus 262433:052 fls cut with fls Locus 262433:053, Locus 262433:081 pit cut, Locus 262433:062 fls, Locus 262433:063, Locus 262432:060 and Locus 262432:064 fls, Locus 262433:064 mudbrick installation, Locus 262433:071 white plaster installation with fls Locus 262433:070, Locus 262432:048 pit cut with brick lining Locus 262432:050 and fls Locus 262432:049	B11-03 brick and stone installation (Locus 261433:087), B11-P2 top of floor package (Locus 261433:086, Locus 262433:130), B11-02 mudbrick installation (Locus 262433:154) with floor (Locus 262433:167), second phase of the entrance (Locus 262433:166)
	NT1 2023 Phase 4: CONSTRUCTION	Locus 262432:068 and Locus 262433:080 beaten earth floor, Locus 262432:061 and Locus 262432:073 substruction of floor	B11-P3 beaten earth floor, B11-10 entrance
	NT1 2023 Phase 4: FIRST CONSTRUCTION	W-11 (Locus 262433:056) wall, Locus 262433:077 construction pit cut with fls Locus 262433:071, W-12 (Locus 262432:079) wall	W-10 (Locus 261433:081, Locus 262433:162), W-11 (Locus 262433:054), W-12 (Locus 262433:163)
NT1 2023 Phase 3		Grave 5: Locus 262432:060 pit cut with Locus 262433:070 (C14 sample) and Locus 262432:071	
Late Bronze Age	NT1 2023 Phase 2: POST-OCCUPATION	Locus 262433:072 fls with stones and burnt brick fragments, Locus 262432:067 fls, Locus 262433:074 fls, Locus 262432:068 fls	
	NT1 2023 Phase 2: END OF OCCUPATION	Locus 262433:075 fls, Locus 262433:076 reddish-brown fls	
	NT1 2023 Phase 2: OCCUPATION	Locus 262433:074 row of zones, grain (?)	
	NT1 2023 Phase 2: CONSTRUCTION	Locus 262432:082, Locus 262432:083 southern walls, Locus 262432:084 and Locus 262432:085 northern walls	
	NT1 2023 Phase 2: FIRST CONSTRUCTION	Locus 262432:076 soft greyish and well sorted mud residential with larger and smaller stones, lots of shreds, Locus 262432:086 and Locus 262432:087 beaten earth floor (?)	
NT1 2023 Phase 1		Locus 262432:078 pit cut with fls Locus 262432:079	
VIRGIN		Locus 262432:077	

Table C2.1 (Part 2): The relative stratigraphy of the trench NT1. Prepared by F. Janoscha Kreppner.





**Fig. C2.5.1:** The chamber tomb (Grave 1), as excavated in 2023, and the graves of NT1 2023 Phase 8a. Orthophotos by Jens Rohde, prepared by Andrea Squitieri.



**Fig. C2.5.2:** The skeleton of Grave 6, with the jug AS 261433:031:002 (1) and the miniature aryballos AS 261433:031:003 (2) next to the head. Photo by Marco Wolf.

discovered in 2024 (**Fig. C2.5.1**). These graves were also dated to the Parthian period based on their relative stratigraphy, the sarcophagi from Graves 8, 9, and 11, and the radiocarbon dates from Grave 9. Graves 6 and 7 were pit graves cutting the upper fills of Building A (§C2.8). Graves 8, 9, and 11, also cutting the structures of Building A, contained tub sarcophagi similar to those previously excavated at Assur by Andrae, which had been in use during the Parthian period.<sup>56</sup> Finally, a tooth sample from Grave 9 was radiocarbon dated to 130–236 calAD, a date range falling within the Parthian period (§C1.2). It is not sure if Graves 6, 7, 8, 9, and 11 were installed at the same time as the chamber tomb (Grave 1), from which a tooth sample was radiocarbon dated to 83–215 calAD.<sup>57</sup> In this respect, it is worth noting that the graves did not

cut the chamber tomb but were located around it, which seems to indicate that they were roughly contemporaneous with it. The radiocarbon dates from the chamber tomb and Grave 9 would allow this possibility.

Below is a description of Graves 6, 7, 8, 9, and 11. A discussion of the human remains retrieved from them is provided in §H, while the sarcophagi from Graves 8, 9, and 11 are discussed in §E1.1.

### C2.5.1 Pit graves

Grave 6 was located in the southwestern part of the excavation area and was identified as the burial of an infant of about 2 years old (**Fig. C2.5.2**, see also §H2.4). The grave pit had an oval shape measuring c. 82 × 32 cm. The fill had a depth of c. 20 cm and consisted of greyish loose and very soft silty soil, yielding some loose animal and human bones but no pottery sherds. It seems that the skeleton had been laid directly on the soil. Directly next to the skull, an almost complete jug (AS 261433:031:002), with the handle broken, and a white glazed aryballos (AS 261433:031:003) were found (**Figs. C2.5.3–4**). The jug has a possible parallel from Seleucia, reconstructed with a loop handle, dated to the 2nd century AD.<sup>58</sup> The miniature aryballos seems to

<sup>56</sup> In German: *Wannensarkophag*, see Andrae/Lenzen 1933, 93.

<sup>57</sup> Radner/Squitieri 2024b, Table D1.1.

<sup>58</sup> Valtz 2024, pl. 4:59.



**Fig. C2.5.3:** Jug AS 261433:031:002 from Grave 6. Photo and drawing by Andrea Squitieri (drawing generated in GigaMesh from the 3D model).



**Fig. C2.5.4:** Aryballos AS 261433:031:003 from Grave 6. Photo and drawing by Andrea Squitieri (drawing generated in GigaMesh from the 3D model).



**Fig. C2.5.5:** The skeleton of Grave 7, with the globular jar AS 262433:096:003 (1) near the head. Photo by Marco Wolf.

take inspiration from small Hellenistic oil jugs (also called gutti), such as those from the agora of Athens.<sup>59</sup>

Grave 7, situated in the southeastern corner of the excavation area, was partially excavated in 2023 (**Fig.**

**C2.5.5**). At that time, the lower limbs of the skeleton were excavated. In the 2024 campaign, we could define the grave's limits and expose the rest of the skeleton (discussed in §H2.5). The skeleton was north-south oriented and lying in the supine position. Next to the skull, an almost complete jar with a globular body was found (AS 262433:096:003, **Fig. C2.5.6**).

Grave 6 finds		
AS number	Short object description	Fig.
AS 261433:031:002	Jug with globular body, cylindrical neck and broken handle	<b>C2.5.3</b>
AS 261433:031:003	Miniature aryballos with white glaze	<b>C2.5.4</b>
Grave 7 finds		
AS number	Short object description	
AS 262433:096:003	Jar with globular body	<b>C2.5.6</b>

## C2.5.2 Graves with sarcophagi

Grave 8, looted in antiquity, was in the eastern part of the excavation area. It cut the floor of Building A Room 8 (**Fig. C2.5.7**). Its fill yielded fragmented potsherds and disarticulated human bones belonging to at least four individuals (described in §H2.6). The grave contained a relatively well-preserved tub sarcophagus measuring 1.38 × 0.52 × 0.38 m (§E1, no. 299.), whose contents had also been looted.

Grave 9 was located to the northwest of Grave 8. It, too, had been targeted by a looting pit (Pit 18), which had also damaged wall Wo6 of Building A (**Fig. C2.5.8**). The grave cut the floor of Building A's Room 9 and part of the wall Wo4, which also belonged to Building A. As mentioned, a tooth collected from the grave fill was radiocarbon dated to 130-236 calAD (§C1.2). The grave consisted of a partially preserved mudbrick structure with a rectangular shape

<sup>59</sup> Rotroff 1997, pl. 83.1138-41. Thanks to Alessandra Cellerino and Enrico Foietta for pointing out the parallels of the jug and the aryballos from Grave 6.



measuring c.  $2.5 \times 1.5$  m, covered with plaster (Fig. C2.5.9). Inside the mudbricks, a bone shaft was found (§E1, no. 438). This structure housed a tub sarcophagus (§E1, no. 300) measuring  $1.85 \times 0.60 \times 0.39$  m, which contained disarticulated bones belonging to at least two individuals (discussed in §H2.7). A hollowed bronze tube and two glass beads (§E1, nos. 396, 315, 316) were found in the sarcophagus. Some fragments of the sarcophagus lid (§E1,

no. 301) were found lying on top of the sarcophagus (Fig. C2.5.9), while others were scattered in the surrounding fill. In the grave fill, a fragment of an terracotta animal figurine was found (§E1, no. 368).

Grave 11, also targeted by looting, was situated next to Grave 8 and was parallel to it (Fig. C2.5.10). The two graves seemed to have been installed at different times because Grave 11 was partially cut by Grave 8. Grave 11

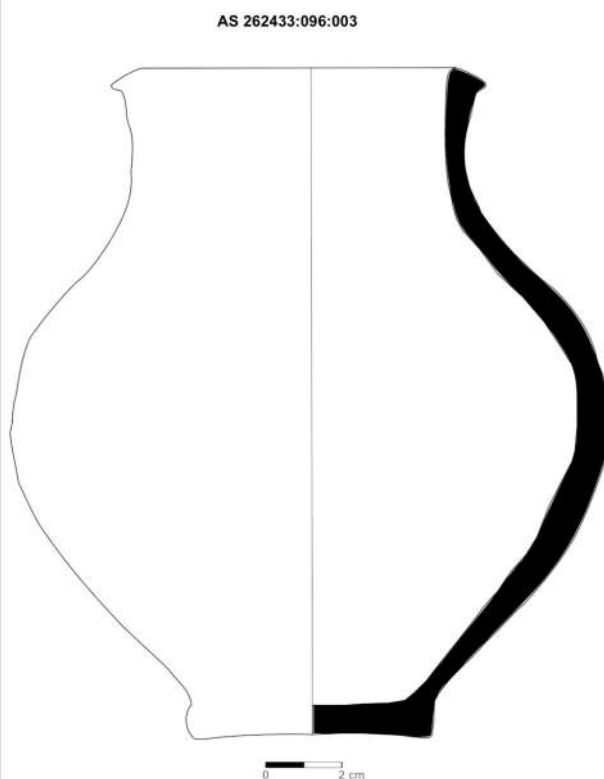


Fig. C2.5.6: Jar AS 262433:096:003 from Grave 7. Photo and drawing by Andrea Squitieri (drawing generated in Gigamesh from the 3D model).



Fig. C2.5.7: The tub sarcophagus of Grave 8, with traces of plaster along the cracks on the long side, indicating an ancient repair. Photo by Alessio Palmisano.



Fig. C2.5.8: The tub sarcophagus of Grave 9. The grave's mudbrick architecture is visible towards the southeast. Photo by Jens Rohde.

contained an almost wholly preserved tub sarcophagus measuring  $1.35 \times 0.50 \times 0.39$  m (§E1, no. 302), set parallel to that of Grave 8. The fill inside the sarcophagus contained some loose animal bones and pottery sherds.



**Fig. C2.5.9:** In situ remains of the lid of Grave 9's tub sarcophagus. Photo by Jens Rohde.



**Fig. C2.5.10:** The tub sarcophagus of Grave 11, next to that of Grave 8. The traces of plaster on the cracks along the base of the sarcophagus indicate ancient repairs. Photo by Jens Rohde.

Grave 8 finds			
AS number	Short object description	Context	§E1, no.
AS 262433:092:003	Tub sarcophagus	Grave fill	299
Grave 9 finds			
AS number	Short object description	Context	§E1, no.
AS 262433:094:003	Hollowed bronze tube	Sarcophagus fill	396
AS 262433:094:004	Bead, probably glass	Sarcophagus fill	315
AS 262433:094:005	Glass bead	Sarcophagus fill	316
AS 262433:090:003	Tub sarcophagus	Grave fill	300
AS 262433:090:004	Sarcophagus lid fragments	Grave fill	301
AS 262433:090:006	Terracotta animal figurine	Grave fill	368
AS 262433:111:003	Bone shaft	Mudbrick structure	438
Grave 11 finds			
AS number	Short object description	Context	§E1, no.
AS 263433:009:003	Tub sarcophagus	Grave fill	302

## C2.6 The entrance shaft of the chamber tomb (Grave 1)

NT1 2024 Phase 8s also includes the Parthian-period chamber tomb (Grave 1) that was excavated in 2023 and removed during that campaign to investigate the struc-



**Fig. C2.6.1:** The steps leading to the entrance of the chamber tomb (Grave 1), carved into the older wall Locus:262433:075. Photo by Jens Rohde.



tures below.<sup>60</sup> During the 2024 campaign, we completed the excavation of the fill of the entrance shaft leading to the chamber tomb, which had been only partially excavated in 2023 as Locus:262433:017. The remaining fill was removed in 2024 as Locus:262433:117.

Glazed and decorated ceramic fragments (§E1, no. 298) were recovered from this fill. They were identified as belonging to sarcophagi, which were destroyed during ancient looting.

After removing the fill, the stepped entrance to the chamber tomb was uncovered (Fig. C2.6.1). The entrance, approximately 1.4 m wide, comprised five steps (recorded as Locus: 262433:154). These steps were cut into the earlier wall Locus: 262432:075 (excavated in 2023 and belonging to Building B, §C2.9). Traces of white plaster were still visible on the surface of the steps, with the bottom step consisting of a row of stones also coated in plaster.

## C2.7 NT1 2023 Phase 7

NT1 2023 Phase 7 is positioned stratigraphically below NT1 2024 Phase 8a and above the structures of Building A (NT1 2023 Phase 5). This phase was already identified in 2023 as consisting of two features: the scanty remains of a wall (Locus:262432:017), cut by the chamber tomb to the southeast, and a partially excavated stone installation (Locus:261433:024), located in the northwestern part of the excavated area, which had damaged the wall

Wo2 of Building A.<sup>61</sup> In 2024, we uncovered additional features belonging to this phase, namely three stone installations (Locus:261433:033, Locus:261433:054, and Locus:261433:057), the Pit 7, and a mudbrick installation (Locus:262433:103) (Fig. C2.7.1).

The three stone installations (Locus:261433:033, Locus:261433:054, and Locus:261433:057) were unearthed in the northern part of the excavation area. They had been badly eroded since they were found only 10–15 cm beneath the modern site surface. Nevertheless, it was possible to observe that they aligned in a northeast-southwest direction, spaced approximately 2.3 m apart, and showed a similar construction technique.

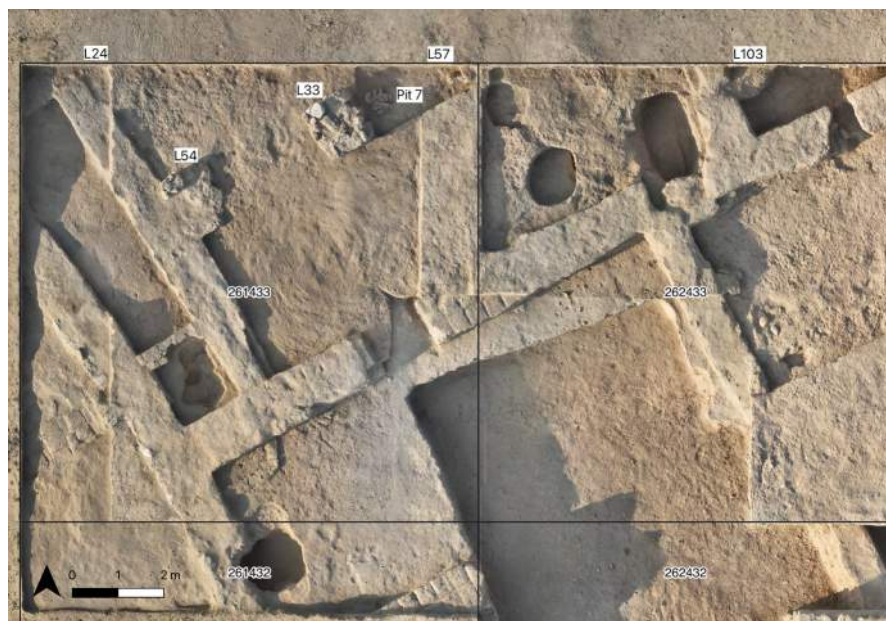
The best-preserved installation, Locus:261433:033, was located between the other two (Fig. C2.7.2). It had a square plan of 1.2 × 1.2 m and a maximum height of 35 cm. It was made of gypsum and river stones, placed somewhat irregularly to form two courses. The gap between the stones was filled with smaller gypsum stones and baked brick fragments.

The installation Locus:261433:054, located to the southwest of Locus:261433:033, despite being much more eroded, was similar to Locus:261433:033 in shape and orientation. Only one gypsum stone (measuring 47 × 54 × 25 cm) was preserved, but the remains of the installation's foundation, made of mudbrick fragments, were still visible on the ground (Fig. C2.7.3).

The third installation, Locus:261433:057, situated northeast of Locus:261433:033, was found in a very poor state of preservation, with only two gypsum stones remaining (Fig. C2.7.4). Part of it continued under the northern limit of the excavation area. Its orientation and location suggest it originally had a structure similar to the previous two installations.

The fill between the installations Locus:261433:033 and Locus:261433:054, designated as Locus:261433:055, contained many stones, fragments of baked bricks and plaster, which were most likely the result of the installations' erosion.

The function of these three installations is unclear. Given their alignment and construction technique, it is tempting to suggest that they are the remains of an architectural structure that has since been eroded.



**Fig. C2.7.1:** The remains of NT1 2023 Phase 7 below the Parthian-period burials of Phase 8a and above the structures of Building A of NT1 2023 Phase 5. The labelled features belong to Phase 7. Orthophoto by Jens Rohde, annotations by Andrea Squitieri.

60 Kreppner/Rohde/Squitieri 2024, 105–118.

61 Kreppner/Rohde/Squitieri 2024, 118.





**Fig. C2.7.2:** The stone installation Locus:261433:033. Photo by Marco Wolf.



**Fig. C2.7.3:** The stone installation Locus:261433:054. Photo by Marco Wolf.

To the northeast of installation Locus:261433:033, we uncovered Pit 7. This pit cut the floor of Building A Courtyard 10. It was marked by a circular stone capping with a diameter of c. 65 cm, made of stones mixed with a few pottery sherds and gypsum fragments (**Fig. C2.7.5**). The pit cut had a diameter of c. 65 cm, increasing to 85 cm at a depth of 70 cm. The fill consisted of brown and soft soil with some ashes. It yielded many pottery sherds, bones, larger stones, and fragments of baked bricks, which had probably been exposed to fire. Small finds of various materials were also recovered from this fill (see table below). At a depth of 20 cm, a large quantity of mudbrick debris was found mixed with a considerable number of pottery sherds, including the neck of a green glazed amphora (registered as oo-oo-Jo6, **Fig. C2.7.6**), datable to the Parthian period, and the fragments of a globular pot with two handles (registered as oo-oo-Jo7, **Fig. C2.7.6**). The pit



**Fig. C2.7.4:** The stone installation Locus:261433:057. Photo by Marco Wolf.



**Fig. C2.7.5:** The stone capping of Pit 7. Photo by Veronica Hinterhuber.

was excavated to a depth of c. 2.7 m, without reaching the bottom.

Finds from Pit 7 fill		
AS number	Short object description	§E1, no.
AS 261433:061:002	Simple handstone	413
AS 261433:061:005	Perforated stone	414
AS 261433:061:006	Ceramic stilt	445
AS 261433:061:007	Ceramic object (part of foot or handle)	463
AS 261433:061:008	Two fragments of a bronze shaft	385
AS 261433:061:010	Bead, probably glass	318
AS 261433:061:011	Carnelian bead	304
AS 261433:061:016	Bead, probably glass	319



**Fig. C2.7.6:** The green-glazed amphora (AS 00-00-J06) and the globular vessel (AS 00-00-J07) from Pit 7. Photos and LAP drawings by Poppy Tushingham.

Finally, a mudbrick installation, registered as Locus: 262433:103, was also assigned to NT1 2023 Phase 7. It was identified in the northeastern portion of the excavated area, where it cut wall Wo7 of Building A (see **Fig. C2.7.1**). The original shape and function of this installation are not clear.

## D2.8 NT1 2023 Phase 5: Building A and “Room 5”

The excavation of Building A started in 2023 when we partially exposed three rooms, named Rooms 1, 2, and 3 (**Figs.**

**C2.8.1-2**).<sup>62</sup> The building was assigned to the stratigraphic phase NT1 2023 Phase 5. Soon after the 2023 campaign, we obtained radiocarbon dates from the floor deposits of these rooms that ranged between 341 calBC and 52 calBC (95.4% probability).<sup>63</sup> During the 2024 campaign, we resumed excavations in Rooms 1 and 2 and uncovered additional rooms belonging to Building A, namely Rooms 7, 8, and 9, along with the remains of an open area named

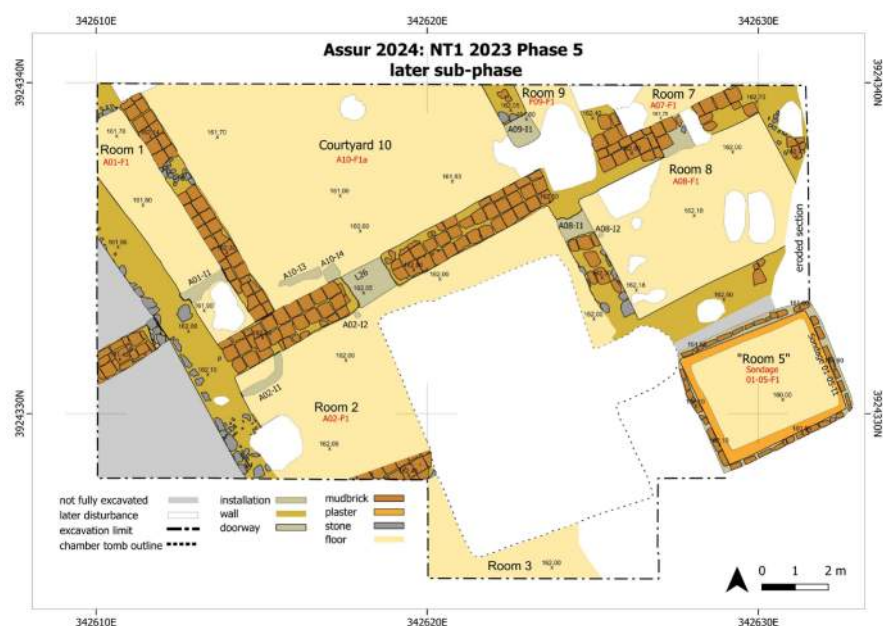
<sup>62</sup> Kreppner/Rohde/Squitieri 2024, 122-126.

<sup>63</sup> Radner/Squitieri 2024, Table D1.1.





**Fig. C2.8.1:** Building A and its features, with the white-coloured squares covering older features. Created by Jens Rohde, annotated by Andrea Squitieri.



**Fig. C2.8.2:** Plan of the later sub-phase of Building A (NT1 2023 Phase 5). Plan and annotations generated in QGIS by Adrian Westermann.

Courtyard 10. A significant outcome of the 2024 campaign was the discovery that the unit called “Room 5,” which was partially excavated in 2023 within the baulk between our trench and the 2002 SBAH trench (“Sondage 1”, see §C1.1),<sup>64</sup> belonged, in fact, to Building A and was originally designed as an underground structure, identified as a

silo. The following sections discuss the remains uncovered in the rooms and courtyard of Building A, with “Room 5” presented in §C2.8.7.

### C2.8.1 Room 1

Room 1 is in the northwestern part of the excavated area of Building A, to the west of Courtyard 10 (Figs. C2.8.1-2). In 2023, c. 5 m<sup>2</sup> of this room was uncovered; in 2024, an additional 6 m<sup>2</sup> was exposed. The room is bounded to the northwest by wall Wo2, northeast by wall Wo3, southwest by wall Wo1, and south-east by wall Wo4. The latter is a long wall of about 17 m that crosses Building A in an east-west direction, shared by Room 1, Courtyard 10, Room 9, Room 7 to the north, and Room 2 and Room 8 to the south. The 2024 investigations established that Room 1 belonged to a later architectural sub-phase of Building A. Room 1 did not exist in the earlier sub-phase when Courtyard 10 occupied a much larger space. In the later sub-phase, Wall Wo3 was erected, thus creating Room 1.

Walls Wo1 and Wo2, bordering Room 1 to the southwest and northwest, respectively, were already uncovered in 2023 and badly preserved. Their stone foundations were still visible, but almost no mudbrick was distinguishable. Wo2, moreover, had been damaged by a younger installation, assigned to NT1 2023 Phase 7 (§C2.7).<sup>65</sup>

Wo3, bordering Room 1 to the northeast, extended for about 7.7 m, and it was thinner than all the other walls of Building A. It had a width of 65 cm, corresponding to one and a half mudbricks, measuring 38 × 39 cm and 38 × 20 cm, respectively (Fig. C2.8.3). This wall did not bind with walls Wo2 and Wo4, indicating a later construction. The faces of Wo3 were covered with plaster, particularly well preserved on

<sup>64</sup> Radner/Squitieri/Rohde 2024, 138-139.

<sup>65</sup> Kreppner/Rohde/Squitieri 2024, 118-119.





**Fig. C2.8.3:** Walls W2 and W3 bordering Room 1 of Building A. Photo by Veronica Hinterhuber.



**Fig. C2.8.4:** The installation A01-I1, separating Room 1 into two spaces. Photo by Veronica Hinterhuber.

the western side of the wall, approximately 3 cm thick, and made of brownish-red clay with inclusions. As the plaster on the east side was damaged, we could observe that the wall was built on a series of stones 20 to 25 cm in diameter. These stones were located approximately 25 cm above the older floor of Courtyard 10 (§C2.8.6), confirming the wall's construction in a later building phase. No entrance leading to Room 1 could be identified. Upon examination,

a disturbance in the northern segment of wall W03 proved not to be a doorway. A square ceramic object was found within this damaged portion of W03 (§E1, no. 462).

At some point after its creation, Room 1 was divided into two smaller spaces by a narrow installation named A01-I1, which was approximately 1.5 m long and c. 30 cm wide (Fig. C2.8.4). The resulting two spaces measured c. 9 m<sup>2</sup> to the north and 2 m<sup>2</sup> to the south. This installation was constructed using baked bricks mixed with stones to form four courses and reached a maximum height of 30 cm above the floor level. The baked bricks varied in size, with the largest on the uppermost course measuring 33 × 28 × 7 cm. Sparse remains of plaster were also noted. The installation was partially disturbed by the younger Pit 6, belonging to phase NT1 2024 Phase 8b (§C2.4).

The floor of Room 1 was better preserved to the north of the installation A01-I1, where it consisted of a greyish beaten earth surface with some white inclusions, ashy spots, and embedded pottery sherds and small pebbles. The floor deposit, A01-Do2-01, consisted of light brown silty soil with charcoal pieces, many pottery sherds, bones, and pebbles. Seven beads and a circular bronze item were collected from this deposit (§E1, nos. 320-325, 337, 393). To the south of installation A01-I1, the room floor and the floor deposit above it had been badly damaged by Pit 6 (§C2.4).

The upper fills of Room 1 (registered as A01-Do1-01 to A01-Do1-05) contained mudbrick debris and baked brick fragments embedded in greyish-brown soil, which yielded pottery sherds and bones. Loom weights, stone, metal, and ceramic items were collected from this fill (see table below).

Room 1 finds			
AS number	Short object description	Context	§E1, no.
AS 261433:037:003	Ceramic stilt	Upper room fill	443
AS 261433:037:004	Iron ring	Upper room fill	344
AS 261433:037:005	Bronze open ring	Upper room fill	345
AS 261433:037:007	Loom weight	Upper room fill	425
AS 261433:037:008	Bronze ring	Upper room fill	346
AS 261433:037:009	Loom weight	Upper room fill	426
AS 261433:037:011	Stone weight or polisher	Upper room fill	411
AS 261433:040:008	Circular bronze item	Floor deposit	393
AS 261433:040:009-014	Six glass beads	Floor deposit	320-325

Room 1 finds			
AS number	Short object description	Context	§E1, no.
AS 261433:040:015	Coral bead	Floor deposit	337
AS 261433:063:001	Rectangular ceramic object	From inside wall Wo3	462

### C2.8.2 Room 2

Room 2 is southeast of Room 1 and south of Courtyard 10 (Figs. C2.8.1-2). It was partially excavated in 2023 when it was established that a large portion of it had been obliterated by the construction of the chamber tomb (Grave 1) in the Parthian period (NT1 2023 Phase 8a). In 2024, we exposed the remaining portions of Room 2. If one considers the portion cut by the chamber tomb, Room 2 originally had an area of about 47 m<sup>2</sup>. The room was bordered to the north by wall Wo4, to the east by wall Wo6, to the south by wall Wo5, and to the west by wall Wo1.

Wall Wo1 was not well preserved as it was damaged by Pit 8 and by the looted Grave 2 (Locus:261432:012: NT1 2023 Phase 9), already identified in 2023 (§C2.1).<sup>66</sup>

Wall Wo4 was constructed on a foundation of stones measuring 16 to 35 cm in diameter. The mudbricks were laid on top in a pattern consisting of two full-sized bricks and one half-sized brick (measuring c. 38 × 38 × 8 cm and 38 × 20 × 8 cm, respectively). A gap of about 1.2 m in wall Wo4 constituted the passage (registered as Locus: 261433:026) connecting Room 2 to Courtyard 10. To the west of the passage, and up to the corner with wall Wo1, wall Wo4 was preserved to a height of 38-58 cm above the floor; it had a width of c. 1 m and a length of c. 4.5 m. To the east of the passage and up to the corner with wall Wo6, wall Wo4 had a preserved height of 45-55 cm above the floor, a width of about 1 m, and a length of c. 5 m. The wall plaster, preserved on the southern face, was made of brownish-red clay with white inclusions. It had a thickness of 3-4 cm.

The floor of Room 2, designated as Ao2-F1, consisted of a greyish-brown beaten clay surface with white inclusions and some ashy spots. Some pottery sherds, pebbles, and animal bones were embedded in it.

In the northwestern corner of Room 2, we found the installation Ao2-I1, set on top of the floor (Fig. C2.8.5). It consisted of a row of mudbricks enclosing a small area measuring c. 1.5 × 0.5 m. Another installation, Ao2-I2, was found next to the passage Locus:261433:026 (Fig. C2.8.5).

It consisted of a hole that may have accommodated a door socket, which was not found in the excavation.

The deposit right above the floor of Room 2, named Ao2-Do2-01, consisted of crumbly, greyish-brown silty soil mixed with pottery sherds, animal bones, pebbles, mudbrick debris, and charcoal fragments. A carnelian bead (§E1, no. 305) and an obsidian blade (§E1, no. 377) were collected from this deposit.

The upper fill of Room 2, Ao2-Do1-02, was made of light-brown soil with a soft consistency. The material was a mix of pottery sherds, pebbles, animal bones, and mudbrick debris. A small bronze disc (§E1, no. 397) was found in this deposit, which may be a very corroded and now unrecognisable coin. It is worth mentioning that a bronze fibula was found while cleaning the upper deposit of Room 2 in the area excavated in 2023 (§E1, no. 343).

Room 2 finds			
AS number	Short object description	Context	§E1, no.
AS 261433:046:012	Carnelian bead	Floor deposit	305
AS 261433:046:015	Obsidian blade	Floor deposit	377
AS 262433:098:003	Bronze disc	Upper room fill	397
AS 261432:007:008	Bronze fibula	Upper room fill	343

### C2.8.3 Room 7

Room 7 is located east of Room 9 and north of Room 8 (Figs. C2.8.1-2). Only 2.5 m<sup>2</sup> of this room was exposed, as the rest extended below the northern excavation limits. Wall Wo7 delimits the room to the west, and wall Wo4 to the south.

Wall Wo4, damaged by Pit 2 (§C2.4), was preserved to 50-60 cm above the room's floor. Wall Wo7 had a preserved width of about 1 m and was exposed over a length of c. 1 m. In its northernmost part, it had been cut by the later installation Locus:262433:103, belonging to NT1 2023 Phase 7 (§C2.7). In the southern part of the wall, it was possible to see that it was preserved to a height of c. 70 cm above the floor level and had a base composed of stones of diameters ranging from 15 to 20 cm. The wall was covered by plaster, approximately 1-2 cm thick, which was only preserved on the eastern side and consisted of brownish-red clay with pebbles and white inclusions.

The floor of Room 7, registered as Ao7-F1, consisted of a greyish-coloured beaten earth surface with some pottery sherds, pebbles, and stones embedded in it. It was

<sup>66</sup> Kreppner/Rohde/Squitieri 2024, 105.



**Fig. C2.8.5:** Room 2, bordered to the north by wall W04, with installations A02-I1 and A02-I2. Photo by Veronica Hinterhuber.

covered by the deposit Ao7-02-01, which consisted of soft, greyish-brown soil with a few pottery sherds, pebbles, mudbrick debris, and some bones.

The upper fill of Room 7, Ao7-01-01, consisted of brown soil with a soft consistency, containing a few potsherds. Notably, a bronze coin (registered as AS 262433:101:002, discussed in §E2), dating to the reign of either Antiochus VIII (r. 125-96 BC) or Antiochus XII (r. 87-82 BC), was discovered within this deposit. As it came from the upper fill of the room, the coin cannot be directly related to the building's use period.

Room 7 finds		
AS number	Short object description	Context
AS 262433:101:002	Seleucid bronze coin (§E2) (Antiochus VIII or Antiochus XII)	Upper room fill

#### D2.8.4 Room 8

Room 8 is located south of Rooms 7 and 9 and east of Room 2 (Figs. C2.8.1, C2.8.2). Approximately 22 m<sup>2</sup> of this room was exposed. The eastern portion of the room had been damaged by Pit 15 (§C2.4) and by the erosion of the western section of the 2002 SBAH trench (Fig. C2.8.2). The room is bordered by wall Wo4 to the north, Wo6 to the west, Wo8 to the south, and Wo9 to the east.

Wall Wo4, excavated over a length of about 4 m, had been damaged by Pit 2 of the NT1 2023 Phase 8b (§C2.4). This pit also damaged the passage between Room 8 and Room 7; nevertheless, it was possible to observe that this passage underwent two phases. While it was open in the earlier phase, it was blocked later by extending wall Wo4 towards the east by adding two and a half mudbricks, which were set differently from the rest of the wall's bricks. These added bricks that blocked the passage have been registered as installation Ao8-I3.

Wall Wo6 was excavated over a length of c. 4.5 m and was about 90 cm wide. The northern section of the wall reached a height of 60 cm above the floor level, while the southern portion was preserved to a height of 20 cm. At the base of the wall, one course of stones could be observed, varying in diameter from 15 to 25 cm. The plaster, approximately 2-3 cm thick, was partially preserved on both sides of the wall. In wall Wo6, the passage between Room 8 and Room 2 was located. This was marked by a door socket (Ao8-I2) and a threshold (Ao8-I1), about 60 cm wide, consisting of a slightly elevated and more reddish beaten earth surface, with pottery sherds lying flat on it.

Wall Wo8 had a preserved width of about 1 m and was exposed over a length of about 5 m. It was severely damaged by the construction of the Parthian-period chamber tomb to the west and by the cut of Pit 14 (§C2.4). As a result, only the stone base of the wall had survived. This



was composed of stones of different sizes, with dimensions ranging from 6 to 15 cm, and larger stones 30 cm long and 15 cm wide.

Wall Wo9 was poorly preserved because it had been damaged by Pit 15 (§C2.4) and by the erosion affecting the western section of the 2002 SBAH trench. As a result, the wall's preserved part had a length of about 65 cm and a height of less than 40 cm. Only four incomplete mudbricks of this wall were discernible. This wall appears bound to the northern wall Wo4, indicating a contemporaneous construction.

The floor of Room 8 (Ao8-F1) consisted of a greyish-coloured beaten earth surface with pottery sherds, pebbles, and stones embedded in it. Unfortunately, it was not well preserved due to severe damage caused by later disturbances, namely the installation of Graves 8 and 11 and Pits 10, 11, 12, and 13 (§C2.4-5).

The floor deposit of Room 8, named Ao8-Do2-01, was made of soft, greyish-brown soil containing a few pottery sherds, pebbles, bones, and charcoal. A terracotta bird head fragment (§E1, no. 369), a stone pounder/polisher (§E1, no. 416), and a carnelian bead (§E1, no. 309) were collected from this deposit. This deposit was, in turn, covered by the upper fill Ao8-Do1-01, containing mudbrick debris and additional small finds, including a terracotta human head (§E1, no. 354) (see table below).

Room 8 finds			
AS number	Short object description	Context	§E1, no.
AS 262433:107:005	Stone pounder/polisher	Floor deposit	416
AS 262433:107:008	Carnelian bead	Floor deposit	309
AS 262433:107:012	Terracotta bird head	Floor deposit	369
AS 262433:102:003	Terracotta human head	Upper room fill	354
AS 262433:102:004	Stone tool, possibly a pestle	Upper room fill	418
AS 262433:102:005	Bead, possibly carnelian	Upper room fill	307
AS 262433:102:006	Bronze shaft	Upper room fill	388

### D2.8.5 Room 9

Room 9 is between Courtyard 10 and Room 7 (Figs. C2.8.1-2). Only 2.5 m<sup>2</sup> of this room has been exposed as it continued under the northern limit of the excavation area. This room had a narrow, elongated shape, with the excavated area measuring 1.6 m in width and 2.3 m in length.

To the west, it was delimited by wall Wo6, to the east by wall Wo7, and to the south by wall Wo4. The southern part of wall Wo6 was poorly preserved due to the damage caused by the construction of Grave 9 and Pit 18 (§C2.4-5).

Nevertheless, it was possible to identify a passage within this wall connecting Room 9 to Courtyard 10. This passage was marked by the threshold Ao9-I1, made of a beaten earth surface, slightly more elevated than the room's floor, with pottery sherds lying flat. Room 9's floor (Ao9-F1) was poorly preserved due to the disturbance caused by Grave 9 and Pit 18, which also damaged the grave. These disturbances also made distinguishing a distinct deposit above the floor impossible. The upper room's mudbrick debris fills were named Ao9-Do1-02 and Ao9/10-Do1-01 (the latter also covered the doorway leading to Courtyard 10).

### C2.8.6 Courtyard 10

Courtyard 10 is located east of Room 1 and north of Room 2 (Figs. C2.8.1-2), with about 48 m<sup>2</sup> of this space uncovered. It was delimited to the southwest by the wall Wo4, which accommodated the passage Locus:261433:026 connecting the courtyard to Room 2. As mentioned above when describing Room 1, the courtyard underwent two construction phases. In the earlier phase, it was bordered to the west by wall Wo1, as Room 1 did not yet exist. In the later phase, wall Wo3 was constructed parallel to wall Wo1. This reconfiguration created Room 1 and led to a significant reduction in the courtyard's size.

The structural changes that Courtyard 10 underwent can also be observed in the sequence of superimposed floors identified in the courtyard. In the southwestern courtyard area, where we excavated to investigate the structures below Building A, we identified the construction surface, A10-I5, of Courtyard 10's older floor (Fig. C2.8.6). It consisted of beaten earth with a greyish colour, with some stones and pebbles embedded in it. Directly above it, there was a 10 cm thick deposit, named A10-Do3-01, consisting of a brownish and very crumbly clayey soil mixed with mudbrick debris, pottery sherds, bones, and a ceramic disc (§E1, no. 456).

On the construction surface A10-I5 and embedded in the deposit A10-Do3-01, the installations A10-I3 and A10-I4 had been built (Fig. C2.8.7). The installation A10-I3 consisted of baked bricks extending over 3 × 1.2 m. It was made of three rows of 10 baked bricks measuring c. 25 × 23 × 5 cm, with a trapezoid shape, which was bordered to the north by larger baked bricks measuring c. 33-35 × 36 × 6 cm. This installation extended to the west under wall Wo3, confirming its stratigraphic relation to the ear-

lier construction phase of Courtyard 10. The installation A10-I4, located immediately north of A10-I3, consisted of one row of 10 mudbricks measuring c. 40 × 40 cm, set in

a northeast-southwest orientation, with the westernmost bricks continuing under wall W03.

The courtyard's earlier floor, A10-F1b, extended around these two installations and was exposed over the entire excavated area of Courtyard 10. This floor abutted wall W04 to the south and the installations A10-I3 and A10-I4 and wall W06 to the east. Towards the west, it went below the later wall W03, while to the north, it was limited by the trench borders. This floor was made of a beaten earth surface of a greyish colour with some white spots and ashy spots, containing only a few embedded pottery sherds and bones. It had been severely damaged by wall collapse and numerous animal burrows.

Adjacent to the passage Locus:261433 :026 was the installation A10-I2 (Fig. C2.8.8), located directly on top of floor A10-F1b and abutting wall W04. This installation consisted of a single mudbrick,



**Fig. C2.8.6:** Excavation below the older floor of Courtyard 10, in which the construction surface A10-I5 was uncovered. Photo by Veronica Hinterhuber.



**Fig. C2.8.7:** The installations A10-I2 and A10-I4 in the southwestern corner of Courtyard 10, which belong to the courtyard's older construction phase. Photo by Veronica Hinterhuber.



**Fig. C2.8.8:** Installation A10-I1 in the southwestern corner of Courtyard 10, which belongs to the courtyard's younger construction phase, and installation A10-I2, which belongs to both the older and the younger construction phases. Photo by Veronica Hinterhuber.





**Fig. C2.8.9:** The younger floor of Courtyard 10 with the installation A10-I1 in the background. Photo by Veronica Hinterhuber.

measuring c. 42 × 42 cm, with a circular mark on the top. The mudbrick was covered with two layers of plaster, each about 1 cm thick. Interestingly, the upper layer of plaster extended to the later floor of Courtyard 10, indicating that the installation's use was related to both the earlier and the later floor of Courtyard 10.

Above floor A10-F1b, we encountered the younger floor of Courtyard 10, registered as A10-F1a (**Fig. C2.8.9**). It consisted of a beaten earth surface of a greyish colour with only a few embedded pottery sherds, bones, and pebbles. This floor abutted walls Wo2, Wo3, and Wo4 and covered the previously mentioned installations A10:I3 and A10:I4. This floor was visible towards the western and southern edges of the courtyard; however, towards the middle of the courtyard, it was challenging to distinguish it from the older floor A10-F1b.

On top of floor A10-F1a, the installation A10-I1 was found in the corner between walls Wo4 and Wo3 (**Figs. C2.8.8-9**). It was made of a row of half-sized mudbricks measuring c. 30 × 16 cm, with a total length of 1.8 m and a width of 70 cm, covered with plaster. The deposit within the installation consisted of very soft, greyish soil with a noticeable concentration of ashes. The installation's fill yielded a bone ring (§E1, no. 348) and a loom weight (§E1, no. 427).

The courtyard's younger floor, A10-F1a, was covered by a deposit designated as A10-Do2-01. This deposit was made of greyish-brown soil with a few ashy spots. Only a few pottery sherds, bones, and tiny bronze fragments were collected from this deposit. Above A10-Do2-01, we identified three superimposed deposits: A10-Do1-01, A10-Do1-02, and A09/10-Do1-01, with the latter also covering the adjacent Room 9. Various items were collected from these upper deposits, listed in the table below. The most notable among them is a bronze fibula dated to the 7th/6th century BC (§E1, no. 342), which, given its context and chronology, cannot be related to the use period of Building A.

Courtyard 10 finds			
AS number	Short object description	Context	§E1. no.
AS 262433:104:004	Carnelian bead	Upper fill	309
AS 262433:104:003	Polisher	Upper fill	415
AS 261433:048:002	Bronze shaft with braid decoration	Upper fill	384
AS 261433:048:003	Carnelian bead	Upper fill	306
AS 261433:056:004	Glass bead	Upper fill	327



Courtyard 10 finds			
AS number	Short object description	Context	§E1. no.
AS 261433:058:006	Bronze needle	Upper fill	381
AS 261433:058:007	Possibly a ceramic spindle whorl	Upper fill	436
AS 261433:058:003	Flat bronze object	Upper fill	395
AS 261433:058:012	Bronze fibula	Upper fill	342
AS 261433:058:014	Conic ceramic object	Upper fill	461
AS 261433:058:016	Stone tool	Upper fill	417
AS 261433:058:017	Egyptian blue bead	Upper fill	334
AS 261433:058:018	Lapis lazuli pendant	Upper fill	314
AS 261433:058:021	Bronze applique	Upper fill	394
AS 261433:058:022	Polisher	Upper fill	412
AS 261433:058:023	Glass bead	Upper fill	328
AS 261433:058:024	Glass bead	Upper fill	329
AS 261433:058:025	Snail shell, possibly a bead	Upper fill	340
AS 261433:058:026	Ceramic stilt	Upper fill	444
AS 261433:062:002	Bone ring	Installation A10-I1	348
AS 261433:062:004	Loom weight	Fill A10-I1	427
AS 261433:074:003	Ceramic disc	Fill A10-Do3-01	456

### C2.8.7 “Room 5”

The unit “Room 5” was partially excavated in 2023 within a separate sounding area, Sondage 1, between the 2023 trench NT1 and the 2002 SBAH trench (see §C1). At the very start of the 2023 excavations, it was possible to see the fills of “Room 5” along the western section of the SBAH trench (Fig. C2.8.10). These fills resembled those of a pit, as they formed a deep concave depression containing thick layers of ashes. During the 2023 excavations, we reached the southern and western portions of the floor of “Room 5” and exposed an area of about 1.5 m<sup>2</sup>.<sup>67</sup>

At that time, a charcoal sample and a seed were collected from the deposit right above the floor and sent for radio-carbon dating. The first was dated to 1416-1278 calBC, with 95.4% probability, while the second was dated to 771-545 calBC, with 95.4% probability.<sup>68</sup> These two contrasting dates



**Fig. C2.8.10:** Photo of the western section of the 2002 SBAH trench, taken at the start of the 2023 excavation campaign, showing the fills of “Room 5” before excavation. Photo by Jens Rohde.

were also at odds with the evidence from the pottery coming from the fills, which suggested a Hellenistic/Parthian date.<sup>69</sup>

This discrepancy in dating prompted us to resume investigations in “Room 5”. During the 2024 campaign, we identified the borders of “Room 5”. We established not only that this unit belonged to Building A but also that it constituted an underground unit without a doorway, akin to a silo (Figs. C2.8.1-2).

#### C2.8.7.1 The architecture and fills of “Room 5”

The main characteristic of “Room 5” is that it was not bound by walls but rather by a lining (registered as Sondage 01-05-I1) made of a row of half mudbricks, measuring 36 × 16 × 12 cm (Fig. C2.8.11). These mudbricks were set in 13 preserved courses and were covered by plaster, still partially preserved. The lining narrowed down towards the bottom so that at the top, “Room 5” measured about 15 m<sup>2</sup>, while it measured about 10 m<sup>2</sup> at the bottom. The height of the lining was c. 2.3 m, thus defining a preserved volume of c. 20 m<sup>3</sup>.

Another characteristic of “Room 5” is that its floor, registered as Sondage 01-05-F1, was about 2.3 m lower than the floors of the other rooms of Building A. It was a greyish-whitish hard surface covered with plaster, directly connected to the plaster covering the room’s lining. Some stones were embedded in the floor, which may indicate the existence of a stone substructure beneath it.

Right above the floor, we identified a deposit of hard, reddish, silty-clayey soil mixed with patches of soft and

<sup>67</sup> Radner/Rohde/Squitieri 2024, 138-139.

<sup>68</sup> Radner/Squitieri 2024b, Table D1.1.

<sup>69</sup> Kreppner/Richter/Squitieri 2024, 149.



**Fig. C2.8.11:** “Room 5” at the end of the 2024 excavation. The white lines show the gap between the unit’s mudbrick lining and the surrounding structures. Photo by Jens Rohde.

ashy soil (registered as Sondage 01-05-Do2-01). From this deposit, the rim fragment of a frit vessel was collected (§E1, no. 376). Above the floor deposit, we encountered a thick sequence of fills containing mudbrick debris mixed with abundant ashes. These fills, along with the room’s mudbrick lining, were, in turn, covered by the deposit registered as Sondage 01-05-Do1-02.

### C2.8.7.2 Stratigraphic relations of “Room 5” and its function

Because of the peculiar architecture of “Room 5” among the other structures of Building A, it is worth offering additional detail about its stratigraphic relations and an interpretation of its function. As we have seen above, “Room 5” was surrounded not by walls but rather by a mudbrick lining. To the east, this lining cut the Iron Age walls excavated by the SBAH team in 2002 (Figs. C2.8.12). Towards the south, the lining was against the wall Locus:262432:089, excavated in 2023, which separated “Room 5” from another unit, also excavated in 2023, and called Room 6 (the latter yielded charcoal samples on its floor dated to the Iron Age)<sup>70</sup> (Figs. C2.8.12). The stone base of wall Locus:262432:089 sat on top of a row of mudbricks likely belonging to an older wall, which was also cut by the construction of “Room 5”. Towards the west, the lining of “Room 5” was set against the wall Locus:262432:075, excavated in 2023, which constituted the eastern border of Building B Unroofed Area 4, dated to the Iron Age (§C2.9) (Figs. C2.8.12). Finally, to the north,

the lining of “Room 5” was set against a partially excavated wall located just beneath the wall Wo8, belonging to Building A (Fig. C2.8.13).

These observations indicate that the construction of “Room 5” damaged parts of the surrounding Iron Age architecture; therefore, we can rule out a construction date before the Iron Age. This makes the Middle Assyrian radiocarbon date, obtained from the charcoal piece collected in 2023, irrelevant to the construction date of “Room 5”. This charcoal piece was presumably part of the mudbrick remains that had collapsed on the floor.

Another relevant observation is that the mudbrick lining of “Room 5” was covered by the deposit named Sondage 01-05-Do1-02 (Fig. C2.8.14), which had been cut by Grave 7 (NT1 2024 Phase 8a). As this grave was dated to the Parthian period (§C2.5), this period represents the *terminus ante quem* for the construction of “Room 5”, further suggesting that this unit belonged to Building A.



**Fig. C2.8.12:** The walls cut by “Room 5”: W8 of Building A (north), L75 of Building B (west) and L89 (south). Photo by Jens Rohde.



**Fig. C2.8.13:** The mudbrick lining of “Room 5” leaning against wall W08 of Building A. Photo by Jens Rohde.

<sup>70</sup> Radner/Squitieri/Rohde 2024, 137.





**Fig. C2.8.14:** The deposit 01-05-D01-02, covering the mudbrick lining of “Room 5” and cut by Grave 7. Photo by Jens Rohde.

Concerning its use, we interpret “Room 5” as an underground silo used for storing food resources.<sup>71</sup> This interpretation is based on its significantly lower floor level than the other floors of Building A and the plaster covering its lining and floor (see also a discussion in §12.4.1). After the abandonment of Building A, “Room 5” appears to have gradually filled with waste material and ashes. This is also suggested by the wide range of artefacts recovered from the fills, including textile tools, stone tools, figurines, weapons, beads, and metal production waste.

“Room 5” finds		
AS number	Short object description	§E1, no.
AS 262433:148:003	Fragment of a mortar bowl	421
AS 263433:016:004	Carnelian bead	311
AS 263433:016:006	Two fragments of pottery slag	473
AS 263433:016:007	Fragment of an ‘Assyrian clay hand’	372
AS 262433:141:003	Bone shuttle fragment	432
AS 262433:141:004	Blue glass fragment	330
AS 262433:141:005	Bone shuttle fragment	433
AS 262433:141:006	Loom weight	428
AS 262433:141:007	Loom weight	429
AS 262433:140:003	Carnelian bead	310
AS 262433:139:003	Bronze ring fragment	349
AS 262433:139:004	Bent lead item	398
AS 262433:137:003	Bronze nail shaft	379
AS 262433:137:004	Iron rod fragment	389

<sup>71</sup> Such underground silos are commonly used in the region until today, as Sakhar Mohammad Ajaj (SBAH Sherqat) explained to us in detail, emphasising the cooling and the protection against pests this architecture provides. For the palaeobotanical view on the matter, which supports the identification, see §12.4.1.4.

AS 262433:137:006	Spearhead	391
AS 262433:137:007	Spindle whorl	437
AS 262433:135:003	Perforated pottery sherd	450
AS 262433:135:004	Bronze arrowhead	390
AS 263433:017:004	Fragment of a vessel rim made of frit	376

## C2.9 NT1 2023 Phase 4: Building B

Building B, assigned to the NT1 2023 Phase 4, was partially exposed in 2023. At that time, we uncovered two walls, namely W11 to the north and Locus:262432:075 to the southeast, which defined an open space dubbed Unroofed Area 4, measuring about 44 m<sup>2</sup>. In 2024, we uncovered a space north of wall W11, named Room 11 (Figs. C2.9.1–2). A seed collected through flotation from the floor deposit of Room 11 was radiocarbon dated to 778–551 calBC (§C1.2).

### C2.9.1 Room 11

Room 11 is bordered to the south by wall W11, which also separates this unit from the Unroofed Area 4 (Figs. C2.9.1–2). The room is further defined by wall W10 to the north and, possibly, by wall W12 to the east. The room’s



**Fig. C2.9.1:** Building B and its features. White-coloured areas serve to cover up older structures. Created by Jens Rohde, annotated by Andrea Squitieri.





**Fig. C2.9.2:** Plan of Building B. Plan and annotations generated in QGIS by Adrian Westermann.



**Fig. C2.9.3:** Room 11 with the installations B11-I1 (threshold) and B11-I3. The white dashed line indicates the mudbricks used to block, or narrow, the entrance. Photo by Veronica Hinterhuber, annotated by Andrea Squitieri.

western portion could not be investigated as it continued under the structures of Building A. Building A's wall W<sub>04</sub>, occupying the middle of the room, was not removed; hence, only 13 m<sup>2</sup> of Room 11 could be exposed. Despite being only partially excavated, Room 11 is notable for its size as it has an excavated length of c. 7 m and a width of about 4 m.

The wall W<sub>10</sub> (Fig. C2.9.3) was exposed over a length of c. 7.5 m, it had a maximum width of c. 60 cm and a preserved height ranging from 65 to 95 cm from the floor

level. It was found in very poor condition, thus making it difficult to delineate the single mudbricks. The mortar between the bricks was made of greyish-brown clay with a dry and crumbly consistency. The wall plaster, up to 4 cm thick and preserved only in some spots, was made of reddish-brown clayey soil with white inclusions.

Within wall W<sub>10</sub>, we identified a doorway marked by the stone threshold B11-I1 (Fig. C2.9.3). Based on the threshold structure, we determined that the doorway underwent three phases. In the latest phase, the doorway had been completely sealed off with mudbricks, found lying directly on the threshold (Fig. C2.9.3). In the intermediate phase, the passage was clear, and the threshold, made of multiple stone slabs, was c. 85 cm wide and c. 45 cm high (Fig. C2.9.4). A stone step, approximately 50 cm long, was added directly in front of the threshold to accommodate this height. Finally, in the oldest phase, the threshold was 1.3 m wide and only about 35 cm high, thus eliminating the need for a step. The threshold's oldest phase could be reconstructed because the stone slabs belonging to this phase protruded into the wall masonry (Fig. C2.9.4).

Wall W<sub>12</sub>, only partially exposed, had been severely damaged by the later construction of Building A in the Hellenistic period and the installation of Grave 9 in the Parthian period. It likely served as the eastern boundary of Room 11, though this is difficult to confirm for two main reasons. Firstly,

the connection between W<sub>12</sub> and walls W<sub>10</sub> and W<sub>11</sub> could not be identified. Secondly, the bricks of W<sub>12</sub>, measuring 33 × 33 cm, are smaller than those of W<sub>10</sub> and W<sub>11</sub>, which measure 36–38 × 36–38 cm. Hence, further investigation is needed to clarify the eastern limit of Room 11.

The floor of Room 11 (registered as B11-F1) consisted of a package of closely superimposed earth surfaces that had been laid out throughout the period of use. The uppermost floor of the package represents the last floor used (B11-F2). Room 11's floor (registered as B11-F1) was a brown,



**Fig. C2.9.4:** The older phase of threshold B11-I1, indicated by the white arrow. Photo by Veronica Hinterhuber, annotated by Andrea Squitieri.



**Fig. C2.9.5:** The installation B11-I2 in the western portion of Room 11. Photo by Veronica Hinterhuber, annotated by Andrea Squitieri.

beaten-earth surface with pottery sherds, charcoal fragments, and pebbles embedded in it. Some parts showed burnt traces, which were reddish, black, and white. The floor abutted W10 to the north and W11 to the south.

On the floor and west of the entrance B11-I1, we found the installation B11-I3 (**Fig. C2.9.3**). It was made of one baked brick, measuring 35 × 35 cm, placed on top of stones and two reused fragments of grinding stones (**§E1, nos. 406, 407**), for a total size of 55 × 45 cm. The function of this installation is not clear.

In the easternmost part of Room 11, a mudbrick installation named B11-I2 (**Fig. C2.9.5**) was identified. It comprises a severely preserved row of five half mudbricks, aligned north-south. The room's floor abutted the west-ern side of this installation.

Room 11's floor deposit was excavated in two portions: B11-Do2-01 to the west and B11-Do2-02 to the east. In the western part, the floor deposit consisted of brown clayey soil, including mudbrick debris from the wall collapse,

mixed with ashes, charcoal fragments, pottery sherds, animal bones, and bronze fragments. In the eastern part, the floor deposit was made of hard brown clayey soil with 2-10 mm white inclusions, loose ashes, and chunks of charcoal up to 3 cm in size.

The floor deposit yielded various items, including a spherical lead weight, beads, and grinding stone fragments (see table below). The upper room's fill (B11-Do1-01) was a reddish brown, hard clayey soil. It contained mudbrick debris and various small finds, including the torso of a human terracotta figurine (**§E1, no. 353**).

Room 11 finds			
AS number	Short object description	Context	§E1, no.
AS 261433:080:003	Lead weight	Floor deposit	392
AS 261433:080:005	Glass bead	Floor deposit	332
AS 261433:080:006	Grinding stone fragment	Floor deposit	405
AS 261433:080:007	Carnelian bead	Floor deposit	312
AS 261433:080:008	Spherical bead	Floor deposit	335
AS 261433:080:011	Perforated pottery sherd	Floor deposit	449
AS 262433:161:004	Grinding stone fragments	Floor deposit	408
AS 262433:161:005	Loom weight	Floor deposit	431
AS 261433:087:001-2	Grinding stone fragments	Installation B11-I3	406, 407
AS 261433:079:004	Ceramic disc	Upper room fill	457
AS 261433:079:008	Bronze shaft	Upper room fill	386
AS 261433:079:011	Bronze needle with a hook	Upper room fill	387
AS 261433:079:015	Human clay figurine (torso)	Upper room fill	353
AS 261433:085:003	Weaving shuttle	Upper room fill	434
AS 261433:085:004	Loom weight	Upper room fill	430
AS 261433:085:005	Drilled shell, probably a bead	Upper room fill	341
AS 261433:085:007	Ceramic disc	Upper room fill	458
AS 262433:150:003	Lead wire	Upper room fill	399
AS 262433:150:004	Bead, probably glass	Upper room fill	331

Room 11 finds			
AS number	Short object description	Context	§E1, no.
AS 262433:150:008	Metal fragment, probably lead	Upper room fill	400
AS 262433:153:004	Bronze nail	Upper room fill	380
AS 262433:153:005	Fragments of a small lead tube	Upper room fill	401