

IMTO – Italian Mission to Oman

University of Pisa

SUMHURAM

Preliminary Report

February - March 2018 (SUM18A)



PRELIMINARY REPORT (SUM18A)

February - March 2018

The first IMTO's campaign of 2018 (SUM16A), under the direction of prof. A. Avanzini, started on February 4th and ended on March 29th 2018.

Excavations were performed in two areas:

Area B.

Area F.

Excavations were conducted on the field by dr. Cleto Carbonara, dr. Giulia Buono. Mr. Said Al-Mashani was also present on the site. All the archaeological works were carried on under the supervision of the Prof. Alexander V. Sedov and dr. Vittoria Buffa.

Dr. Cleto Carbonara and dr. Giulia Buono were responsible for documentation of pottery finds and objects.

Arch. Alessandro Massa was responsible for the architectural survey, the CAD digitalization and the updating of the plans of the city.

Architects Michele Chimienti and Francesco Mummolo, under the supervision of Arch. Stefano Bizzarri, were responsible for the restoration activities carried on in the site.

The work of IMTO has been possible thanks to the collaboration of the Office of the Adviser of His Majesty the Sultan for Cultural Affairs in Salalah and in Muscat, in particular Ghanem al Shanfari, Said al Mashani, Ali al Kathiri, Said al Amri, Said al Salmi, Hassan al Jabri. We thank them all, together with all the Museum's team, for their kind helpfulness.

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Archaeological Report

Excavation in Area B: Room A213 and A280, Rooms A288 and A293, Rooms A294 and A297, and new rooms A307, A308, A309 and A310. (trench supervisor: Cleto Carbonara)

The excavations in Area B started on February 4th. The main goal of the operations was to provide a precise plan for the structures below the ruins of BB3 and below the rooms A288 and A293, partially unearthed in the previous campaigns SUM13C, SUM17B and SUM17C, through the removal of the later structures delimited by the walls M862, M588, M868, M847 and M846. (Fig. 1).

Room A294 and A297

The later room, named A294 (Fig. 2-3), was individuated during the campaign SUM17C, but it was left unexcavated. A294 is a rectangular room oriented North-South, located to the South-West of A288. It leans on the wall M862 and it was built on the southern part of the room A213. It could be connected with a later use of the area. A294 is delimited by the walls M858 to the North, M867 to the East, M862 to the West, and it is closed to the South by the city-wall.

In A294, US1013 was excavated. It is a collapse thick 0.55 m *circa* composed by limestone and sandstone blocks medium and big in size, mixed with a greyish loam very loose in consistence. A more compact level without stones was found at the elevation of 29.64 m. It was preserved only in the western part of the room. It was greyish in color with some fragments of plaster. US1013 covered a rough preserved wall, M869, oriented East-West, which divides the space in two parts: A294 to the North and A297 to the South.

The same situation can be observed in the southern room A297. A collapse made of limestone and sandstone blocks big in size covered a not well preserved floor greyish in color, compact in consistence and levelled with mudbricks. It was found at the elevation of 29.63 m. On the floor was found a bronze coin (Co1138).

The collapse in A294 and A297 returned a total of 40 pottery shards: 35 storage; 3 table; 2 kitchen. Only one diagnostic fragment: Ring base of a South Arabian straw tempered jar (type III.1.4.1)¹.

Removal of the later rooms A288 and A293

From the results of the last campaign SUM17C, it is clear that the two rooms A288 and A293 (Fig. 3) were built above more ancient structures after a levelling of the area. The foundations of the walls M588 and M847, which respectively close the two rooms to the North and to the South, were found at the elevations of 29.40 m and 29.15 m. Below M588, an earlier wall with the same orientation was found. Now it is numbered as M885 and its higher elevation is fixed to 28.99 m. Below M847, M860 was found. It is running North-south and its higher elevation is fixed to 28.75 m.

In order to understand the plan of the earlier structures it was decided to remove the walls delimiting A288 and A293. The following walls were removed:

M862, M588, M868, M847, M846.

Together with the removal of the walls, the deposit inside the rooms was excavated. In A288, the excavation carried out during SUM17C reached the level of US1007 floor, found at the elevation of

¹ Pavan 2017

29.82 m. It is a hard packed soil light brown in color and below it, a layer made of limestone chips, very small stones and crumbled mudbricks was excavated. It was interpreted as the preparation for US1007 floor. Below US1007 floor and its preparation, US1022 was excavated. It is a thick accumulation layer made of very loose loam with a sandy consistence and reddish brown in color. Very few small stones were found in it. A very large amount of animal bones and shells comes from US1022. No floor is related with this layer, which it was excavated until the elevation of 29.45 m. At this point of the excavations, the top of M831 starts to emerge. US1022 returned a good amount of pottery shards: 60 total divided in 41 storage; 13 table; 6 kitchen. Below US1022, to the East of M831, US1026 was excavated. It is archeologically related to US988 and US1014. It is an accumulation layer about 0.45 m thick, made of loam reddish brown in color and loose in consistence, with few stones small in size and a large amount of big-sized animal bones. It covered US991 and returned a bronze nail (MB1038) and a total of 31 pottery shards (21 storage, 7 table, 3 kitchen).

In A293, below US1010 floor, the same preparation made of limestone chips, small stones and crumbled mudbricks was found. It covered a 0.90 m thick accumulation layer, US1024, which shows the same peculiarities of US1022. US1024 is made of loam reddish brown in color with sandy consistence and it covered the western face of M831. US1024 was excavated until the elevation of 29.02 m. It returned a large amount of animal bones big in size and shells, together with a quartz crystal (S3064), a whetstone (S3068), a mortar (S3069), a handstone (S3070), a clamp (MB1037) and a shall bead (Sh858). A total of 334 pottery shards come from US1024: 262 storage; 49 table; 23 kitchen. The same situation was observed during the removal of the later room of BB3, A202. Below its floor (US569 floor), US996 was excavated and it has consistence of US1022 and US1024. So it is very probable that the area was leveled to permit the construction of the building BB3 and of the rooms A288, A289 and A293.

Removal of A294 and A297, New room A307 and Southern part of A213

The walls delimiting the rooms A294 and A297 were imposed on the level of US1013 floor and US1017 floor at the elevation of 29.64 m, and they were removed in order to excavate the southern part of A213. M867, the eastern wall of the rooms, has a lower foundation and its upper part was removed too.

Together with the removal of the later walls, US1014 was excavated. It is an accumulation layer made of loam reddish-brown in color and medium compact in consistence covered by the floors of A294 and A297. US1014 has a clayish matrix and fragments of mudbricks, charcoals a few small stones have been found in it. It could be related with US988 excavated in the northern part of the room. US1014 returned a part (paw) of bronze ibex figurine (MB1032), an iron nail (MI345), a hammerstone (S3057), a bone handle (B117) and a bronze coin (Co1141). Regarding the pottery, US1014 returned a total of 55 shards: 43 storage; 7 table; 5 kitchen. Type II.6.3; Type I.2.4.5; Eastern Sigillata B.

US1014 was excavated until the elevation of 29.58 m. At this level a wall oriented East-West which closes the room A213 to the South. This wall was denoted as M881 (Fig. 4) and it has a door at its eastern end, which it looks has been closed with mudbricks. Its western part was covered by the later wall M862.

A307

The space located to the South of the new wall M881 was denoted as A307 (Fig. 4). Here, below US1014, US1021 was excavated. It is an accumulation layer made of medium compact loam with a clay matrix and a reddish brown in color. Few calcareous stones and limestone chips have been noted in it. US1021 has a more compact consistence in the northern part of the room, where there are a lot of crumbled mudbricks. US1021 returned a large amount of animal bones and shells together with a total of 162 pottery shards (89 storage, 43 table, 30 kitchen). Two bronze coins (Co1148-1149), an incense burner (S3089), a pestle (S3091), a pipe?(Cl86), a probable animal figurine (MB1042) and a bronze hook (MB1043) were found in US1021. US1021 was excavated till the elevation of 28.64 m. After its complete removal, the foundation of M867 to the east is now completely unearthed. It was found at the elevation of 29.11 m. It was imposed on an earlier wall with the same orientation North-South, M883. It is made of mudbricks and it leans on M611 to the North, and on the city-wall to the South. US1021 covered a flat rectangular stone in the north-western corner of the room, placed between M881 and M884. It marked the entrance to A307 from West.

Below US1021, US1028 was excavated. It is an accumulation layer made of very loose reddish brown loam. It has a clay matrix with several limestone blocks small and medium in size. The layer was also characterized by a large amount of limestone chips and charcoals. A lot of fragments of plaster were found during the excavation of US1028, which probably covered the walls of A307. US1028 covered a earth-packed soil light brown in color interpreted as floor. It was found at the elevation of 28.07 m. US1028 returned a lot of animal bones, two bronze coins (Co1150-1151) and a bronze hook (MB1046). A total of 36 pottery shards was found in US1028 (17 storage, 5 table, and 14 kitchen). After the removal of US1028 it is clear that A307 is delimited by the walls M881 to the North, M883 to the East, M884 to the West and the city-wall to the South. It has two entrances. The first to the North, through M881, which linked the room to A213. Door in M881 was later closed by mudbricks. The second one is in the North western corner of the room, through a staircase (M882) made of three limestone steps (Fig. 5).

A213

To the North of the wall M881, the southern part of the room A213 was excavated. It is the long rectangular room located immediately to the west of the southern part of the storehouses complex of Sumhuram. Only the northern part of the room was excavated during the previous campaigns SUM17B and SUM17C, because of the presence of the later walls, M558, M862 and the walls delimiting the rooms denoted as A294 and A297. US991 is an accumulation layer already partially excavated in the previous campaign SUM17B and SUM17C. made of loam very loose in consistence and dark brown in color. Its western part was covered by US1026. Some lenses of ash and burnt loam have been noted in it. US991 covered a structure made of mudbricks (M872). It consist of a mudbricks alignment oriented North-South and other three mudbricks alignments which lean on it to the West and on M611 to the East, and which close the door in M881. US991 covered a concentration of stones set to form a squared structure of small dimensions, which could be interpreted as a staircase well related with M882 in A307 (Fig. 6).

US991 returned a bronze broche (MB1040), a clamp (MB1050) and a crucible (Cl87), together with 82 pottery shards (56 storage; 10 table; 16 kitchen).

Area to the South of A280 and new rooms A308, A309 and A310

After the removal of the later rooms A288 and A293 and their perimeter walls, the area to the South of A280 is delimited by the walls M831 to the East and M861 to the West (Fig. 7).

Here US1029 was excavated. It is an accumulation layer about 0.20 m thick made of loam loose in consistence and grayish in color. It is characterized by the presence of a large amount of calcareous stones small in size and charcoals. US1029 covered a wall oriented East-West, M885, which closes the room A280 to the South. It has a length of 1.73 m and it was found at the elevation of 28.99 m. US1029 returned a large amount of animal bones together with 436 pottery shards (286 storage, 43 table, 107 kitchen), two bronze coins (Co1152-1153) and a fragment of soft-stone vessel (S3093).

Below US1029, US1030 was excavated. It is an accumulation layer about 0.25 m thick made of loam medium compact in consistence and reddish brown in color, with several limestone blocks small and medium in size, traces of burnt with several fragments of charcoal, and fragments of plaster. US1030 returned a lot of animal bones and marine shells, two bronze coins (Co1154-1155), a bronze container (MB1048), an incense burner (S3094), and a decorated shell boss (Sh861).

US1030 has been excavated till the elevation of 28.62 m and here, the top of the walls M860 and M888 starts to emerge. They are parallel with a North-South orientation and divide the area in three new rooms: A308 to the East, A309 in the centre, and A309 to the West.

A308

Is the easternmost of the three rooms unearthed after the removal of the later structures to the South of A280. It is delimited by the walls M885 to the North, M831 to the East and M888 to the West (Fig. 8). At this moment it is impossible to determinate the real extension of the room to the South. The southern part of the area is occupied by a huge collapse (US1008), partially excavated during the previous campaign SUM17C, and the western wall of the room, M888, is preserved only for the length of 0.94 m. From the shape of the northern part of the room, the only one still preserved, it is possible to assume that A308 was a narrow and long room oriented North-South. The entrance is placed in the north-eastern corner and connected A308 with A309 through an unusual passage 1.42 m wide. The deposit filling A308 was left unexcavated.

A309

It is located to the West of A308 and it is delimited by the walls: M885 to the North, M860 to the West and M888 to the East (Fig. 8). It has two entrances. The first to the North, through M885, which connects A309 to A280. It is 0.86 m wide. The second one to the East, placed between M885 and M888, which leads to A308. It is not clear if the room A309 leans on the city-wall. Its extension southward is unknown because the southern part of the walls M860 and M888 collapsed, and because of the presence of the collapse US1008, already partially excavated in the previous campaign.

In A309 US1032 was excavated. It is an accumulation layer made of loam with a clay matrix reddish brown in color and medium compact in consistence. A lot of small stones and charcoals were found in US1032 and crumbled mudbricks were concentrated along the wall M888. US1032 was completely excavated only to the South, where it has been reached the elevation of 28.11 m. In the northern part of the room the excavation stopped at the elevation of 28.31 m. US1032 returned a good amount of animal bones and 93 pottery shards (63 storage, 11 table, 19 kitchen).

A310

It is located to the west of A309 and it is a long and narrow rectangular-shaped corridor. A309 is delimited by the walls M860 to the East, M889 to the North, M861 to the West, and by a segment of the city-wall to the South (Fig. 8). No doors connecting A310 with other rooms were found. Maybe the entrance to this room was located at its south-eastern corner, but because of the collapse of the southern part of M860, it is only possible to suppose it.

US1031 was excavated in A310. It is an accumulation layer made of loam with a clay matrix, medium compact in consistence and light brown in color. A lot of limestone chips and limestone blocks small in size were found in it, together with few scattered medium-sized blocks and mudbricks. A rounded-shaped fireplace is located close to M861 in the southern part of the room. US1031 was excavated till the elevation of 28.00 m and it has a light slope from the South to the North. US1031 returned a large amount of animal bones and shells and 148 pottery shards (88 storage, 17 table and 43 kitchen).

Conclusions

Removal of later structures in Area B, A203 in SUM13C and SUM17B, A202 in SUM17C, and A288 and A293 in SUM18A, permitted to unearth a more ancient building leaning to the city-wall located immediately to the West of the southern part of the storehouses complex of Sumhuram.

It has an almost squared plan and its main entrance is located on its northern side, from the square A74. It was delimited by the walls M618 to the North, M611 to the East and M365 to the West. The southern side of the city-wall closed the building to the South. Its north-eastern corner was already unearthed during the campaign SUM13C.

It is possible to recognize at least two constructional phases of the new building, after the excavations carried out during the campaigns SUM17C and SUM18A:

1st Constructional Phase: (Fig. 9) The building has a very articulated plan. Its perimeter was described above. The main entrance located on the north-eastern corner of the building led to a long corridor (A213) located on the eastern side of the structure. From here a passage to the South permitted to enter A307. Another door, located on the western side of A213 led to the western side of the building. It is divided in five rooms: A280 and A311 to the North and the other three rooms to the South, A308, A309 and A310.

The southern part of the new building already collapsed in antiquity. As already told above, the southern part of the walls M365, M860, M888, M831, and M611 was destroyed. The western part of M881, oriented east-west and dividing A213 from A307, collapsed. Because of the great collapse found in the southern part of the building is not clear if the steps in A307 are part of a staircase leading to the second floor, or they are simply part of the passage which from A307 led to the western part of the building. It looks that the southern part of the perimeter walls of the structure was repaired with two mudbrick walls, M861 to the West and M883 to the East.

2nd Constructional Phase: (Fig. 10) Probably because of collapses the building was renewed during the second phase. The entrance to the building was always on the northern side and its outer perimeter remained unchanged. The eastern side of the structure is always occupied by A213 to the North and A307 to the South. These two rooms were not connected by the passage through M888 because the door was walled up with mudbricks. The staircase in the north-western corner of A307

was covered by US1021. Only the higher step was visible and it worked as threshold in the second phase.

The bigger changes took place in the western part of the building. The room A280 was always in use during this phase, but the space to the South of it was occupied by a single L-shaped room, A189, connected with A307 through a passage on its eastern side.

Excavation in Area F: squares I-5, I-6 and I-7 (trench supervisor: Giulia Buono)

The main purpose of this campaign concerning the Area F was to clarify the layout of the area delimited by the building BA13 to east, the building BF7 to the north and all the excavated structures closed to the Monumental Building 2 to the west.

Room A292

The works started from room A292, scarcely excavated in the past campaign SUM17C during which only the top layer US680, connected with the phase of abandonment of the area was removed.

A very compact *stratum* (US1012), light brown in colour, was detected at an elevation of 29.88 in the south-west corner of the room, close to the wall M857. It could be interpreted as a sort of floor, unfortunately not preserved everywhere in the room. In relation of it, two large limestone slabs with the function of covering, were placed on a series of small sandstones that delimited a pit (US1015). The pit (depth 36 cm) had a quite oval shape and it was filled by loose brown loam (US1016). In the proximity of the pit's bottom, scarce traces of ash were preserved (figs 11-12). The most interesting fact is represented by the findings: a fragmented bronze inscribed plaque in ASA writing (MB1034), bronze hooks (MB1033) and two coins (Co1139, Co1140) with some iron scraps and fragments of *soft-stone* vessels (fig. 13). The idea is that, after the abandonment of the area during which occasional scattered occupations occurred, these bronze objects were stored with the intention to be melted again. Pottery shards were scarce; only one diagnostic fragment, represented by a base of a small vessel with grey fabric was detected (US1016, 1).

US1012 covered the layer named US682, previously identified during SUM14A in the eastern part of the room. This layer was made of sand mixed with a large amount of small sandstone slabs and it could be related with the phase of abandonment that covered the last phase of use of the room, marked by the US682 floor. The floor, made of hard packed soil with significant traces of ash, was detected at an elevation that ranged from 29.78 m (in the northern part of the room) to 29.48 m (in the southern part). The findings from US682 are represented by fragments of *soft-stone* vessels (S3061, S3063) including some with remains of iron (collected as samples), 3 kg of iron slags and some samples of vitrified clay. Pottery was scarce.²

The US682 floor covered a loose layer (US689), reddish brown in colour with a large quantity of ash, 3 kg of iron slags, bronze objects (MB1036) and fragment of *soft-stone* vessels (S3065, S3071, S3072) including some with remains of iron (S3066).³ In total 27 pottery shards were collected, including one with diagnostic shape (Type III.1.2.2).

The removal of US689 brought to light US316 floor, the same surface left *in situ* in room A291 during SUM17C campaign. Moreover, the northern and western walls of room A292 were built on US316 floor; this means that room A291 was divided at the time of this layer, maybe to diversify the metal working activities.⁴

² Presence of not diagnostic shard belonging to Type III.1.1. See Pavan, A. 2017, *A cosmopolitan city on the Arabian coast. The imported and local pottery from Khor Rori. Khor Rori Report 3*, Roma.

³ For the interpretation of *soft-stone* vessels with remains of iron see below.

⁴ The walls M853, M854, M855, M856 and M857 were removed during this campaign.

Room A291

Before starting the excavation was necessary to remove the *lapidarium* and a modern wall arranged in the western half of room A291.⁵

The excavation started finishing to dig the remaining part of US680 (partially excavated during SUM17C campaign), a layer made of medium compact loam with a large amount of limestone blocks, medium-big in size, fallen from the surrounding walls. Shells, bones and iron slags were collected and taken as samples.

At the level of US316 floor, the room A291 was a large open space used for production activities. Below it, the accumulation layer US443 and its related floor, previously identified during SUM11A, were recognized.⁶ The accumulation above the floor consisted of reddish-brown loose loam with a large amount of ash found everywhere. The floor, detected at an average elevation of 28.95 m, showed a consistence that changed in relationship to the presence of many pits discovered. In these cases the consistence of the floor was very hard and it presented a reddish colour. We could interpret the pits as the traces of kilns for the iron smelting. As a matter of fact, the accumulation above the floor was rich in iron slags (15 kg) and reused walls of *soft-stone* vessels with remains of iron (5 kg). The *soft-stone* vessels were resized giving them a rectangular shape with a small central hole (d. 2.3). The iron crusts are mainly restricted to the area surrounding the hole and to the concave surface of the wall's vessel; it means that this part was in close contact with the inner side of the furnace (fig. 14). These objects could be interpreted as "tuyère plates" placed above the ground floor, at the lower part of the kiln.⁷ In addition to the objects previously mentioned, the following findings were collected from the layer US443: remains of vitrified clay, a fragment of crucible (CI85), bronze and iron scraps, bronze objects (needle: MB1039; nail: MB1045; *varia*: MB1041), iron objects (handle: MI347; tip: MI348; nails: MI349, MI350, MI345; *varia*: MI352, MI353), a flint (S3075), a polisher (S3084), a significant quantity of *soft-stone* vessels including 12 fragments with diagnostic shape (S3077-S3083, S3085-3088, S3090), 3 beads (Sh857, G258, S3074)⁸ and 5 coins (Co1143-Co1147). Pottery collected from US443 was characterized by the 73% of storage vessels, the 22% of table vessels and the 5% of kitchen vessels.

The US443 floor was completely exposed all over the room A291 and left *in situ*.

The removal of US443 and US316 permitted to expose a series of walls and structures that delimit the room along its southern and western sides. A long wall named M657 (covered by US443), starting from the south-west corner of building BA13, runs westward until the midpoint of the room. Leaned to it, a small wall (M873) has a north-south orientation. They could be related with an earlier structure obliterated by the later occupational phases.

Spaces at the west-south limit of Room A291 (square I-6)

At the west-south limit of room A291 two small spaces (for the moment left unnamed in order to clarify the situation during the next campaign) were discovered below US316. The eastern one is delimited by two mud brick walls with two rows of sandstones set close to them (M879 to the north

⁵ The *lapidarium* was rearranged in square A300, next to the city wall.

⁶ See Street A80 section in SUM11A preliminary report (<http://arabiantica.humnet.unipi.it>).

⁷ See for comparison Jouttijärvi, A. and Voss, O. 2011. The oldest iron smelting furnaces in Denmark, pp 55-64 in Hošek J. *et alii* (eds), The archaeometallurgy of iron. Recent developments in archaeological and scientific research, Prague (ISBN 978-80-87365-41-0).

⁸ Sh857: disc bead (Type A); G258: cylindrical disc beads (Type B) and cylindrical beads (Type G); S3074: badly preserved to assign a type. For the typology see Lischi, S. 2018. Macroscopic analysis of the bead assemblage from the South Arabian port of Sumhuram, Oman (seasons 2000-2013), *AAE*, 00: 1-28.

and M880 to the east). In this space, the layer US1034 was detected at an elevation of 29.27 m and it was made of compact loam, reddish brown in colour. It was cut by a small fireplace delimited by a row of small stones. In the second space, delimited by the walls M877 to the north and M878 to the west, a medium compact layer (US1025), light brown in colour was recognized at an elevation of 28.93 m.

Area west of Room A291 (squares I-5 and I-6)

All this area was covered by US700 (identified during the previous campaigns), a layer characterized by sand and stones collapsed from the walls that marked the phase of abandonment of the structures closed to the Monumental Building 2. The removal of it revealed parts of several walls that belong to different constructional phases as occurs, for instance, in the southern part of the area in question (fig. 15). The walls M886 and M887 belonged to a later phase and were built on earlier walls (M890 and M891) that delimited a layer made of mud bricks (US1035).

A structure composed of three limestone slabs was discovered between the walls M876 and M877 and could be interpreted as a staircase landing, not longer in use at the time of US443 floor.⁹

Finally, the room A306 was just exposed. The room is placed south of room A305 and it is delimited by the walls M876 (to the south), M874 (to the north) and M875 (to the east), with an entrance from room A291.

⁹ It was preferred to not name this area without a more in-depth excavation.

Excavation at area F: building BF7, rooms A162, A290, A304 and A305 (trench supervisor: Giulia Buono)

The decision to make a shallow excavation, just to expose the walls, had the purpose to understand the general arrangement of the southern part of building BF7, considering a deeper excavation during the next mission.

At the current state of research, the building shows an irregular plan: a series of rooms (A290, A304 and A305) seem to be added in a later phase to a central core (room A162).¹⁰ The excavation in room A291 permitted to reveal the access to the building from the south side, a staircase (M871) made of limestone steps, partially exposed during this campaign (fig. 16).

Room A162

The room is delimited by the walls M377 and M465 to the north, M464 to the east, M466 to the south and M339 and M848 to the west.

The top layer, US1027 (=US434) was made of medium compact loam with a huge quantity of medium-big stones originated from the collapse of the walls.¹¹ A bronze object (MB1044) and some bones and shells, including two *Chlamys Townsendi* shells used as oil lamp (Sh859) and two *Tutufa Bardeyi* (Sh860) were collected.

Room A290 and A304

The room A290 is an anteroom through which is possible to enter in rooms A162 and A304.

The layer US1019 was recognized in rooms A290 and A304. It was composed of medium compact loam with medium-large stone blocks fallen from the walls. A limestone basin (S3058) was discovered in the south-west corner of room A290. The basin (measures: l. 68 cm; w. 47 cm; h. 38 cm) was filled by US1020, a layer made of very compact loam, light brown in colour. In room A304, the layer US1019 covered a staircase (M870) with a north-south orientation. The layer US1019 wasn't totally removed.

Room A305

The room A305 is delimited by M660 to the north, M659 to the east, M874 to the south and M384 to the west. The access to the room is along M659 from room A304.

The layer US1023 was made of sand and collapsed stones. It was partially removed reaching the elevation of 29.35 m. A fragment of *soft-stone* vessel (S3073) was collected from the layer.

¹⁰ The walls M466 and M464 were built directly on the bedrock (bedrock elevation 26.93 m).

¹¹ US434 was excavated during SUM10C in a sounding made close to the wall M464.



Fig. 1: Area B before excavation



Fig. 2: A294 and A29 before excavation.



Fig. 3: Area B after excavation of A294 and A297.



Fig. 4: Discovering the Southern wall of A213 and new room A307.



Fig. 5: A307 after excavation.



Fig. 6: A213 and A307 after excavation.

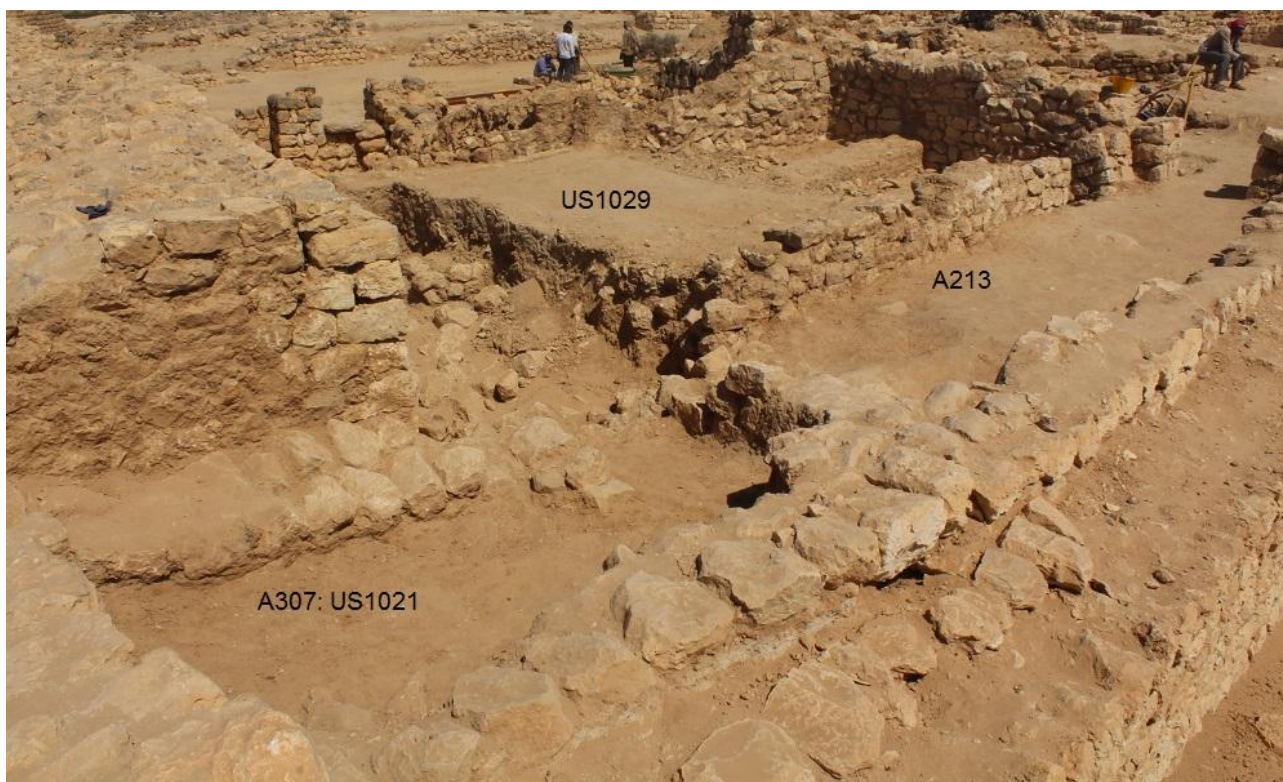


Fig. 7: Area B after removal of A288 and A293



Fig. 8: Area to the South of A280 after excavation.

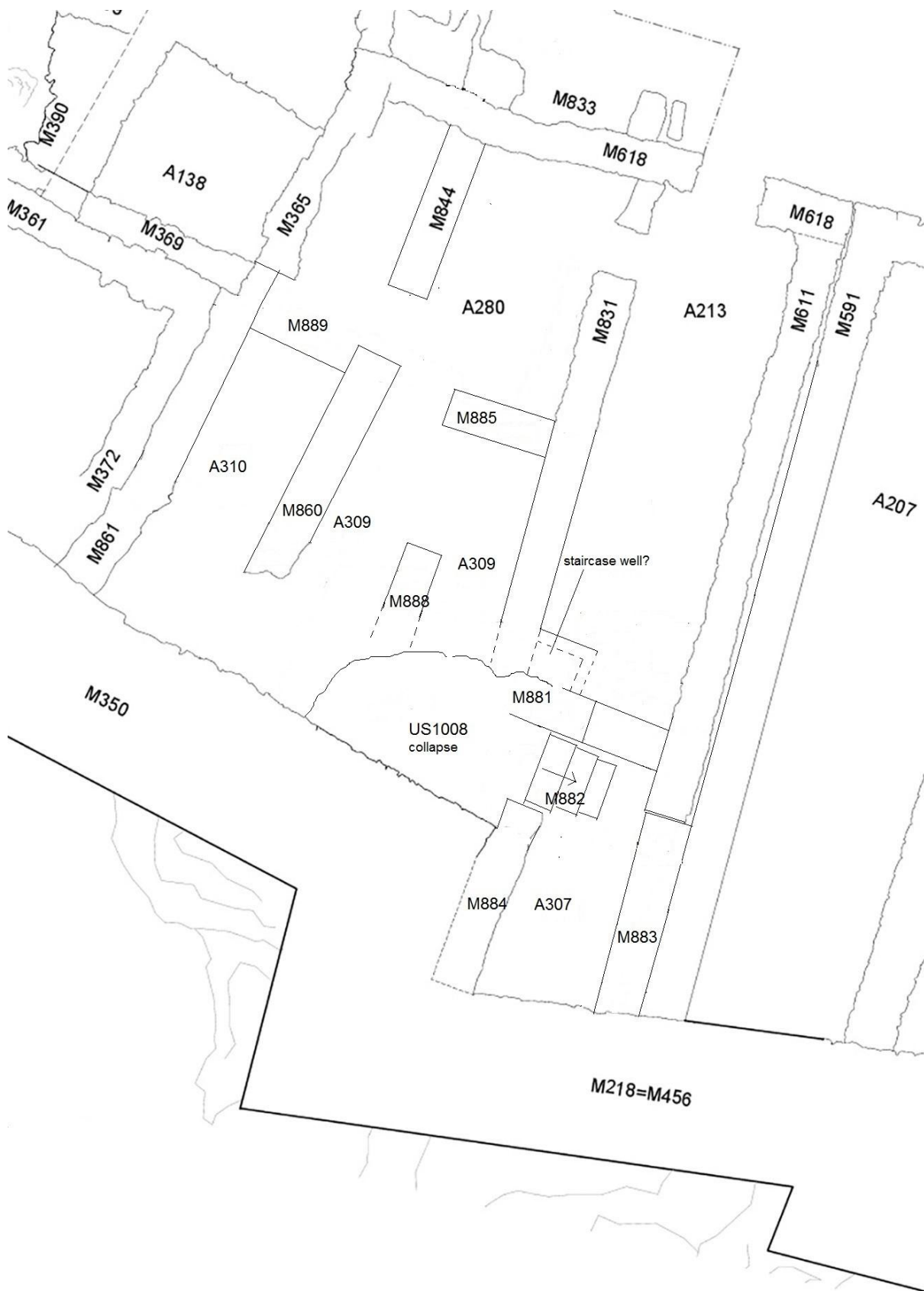


Fig. 9: hand sketch of the 1st constructional phase

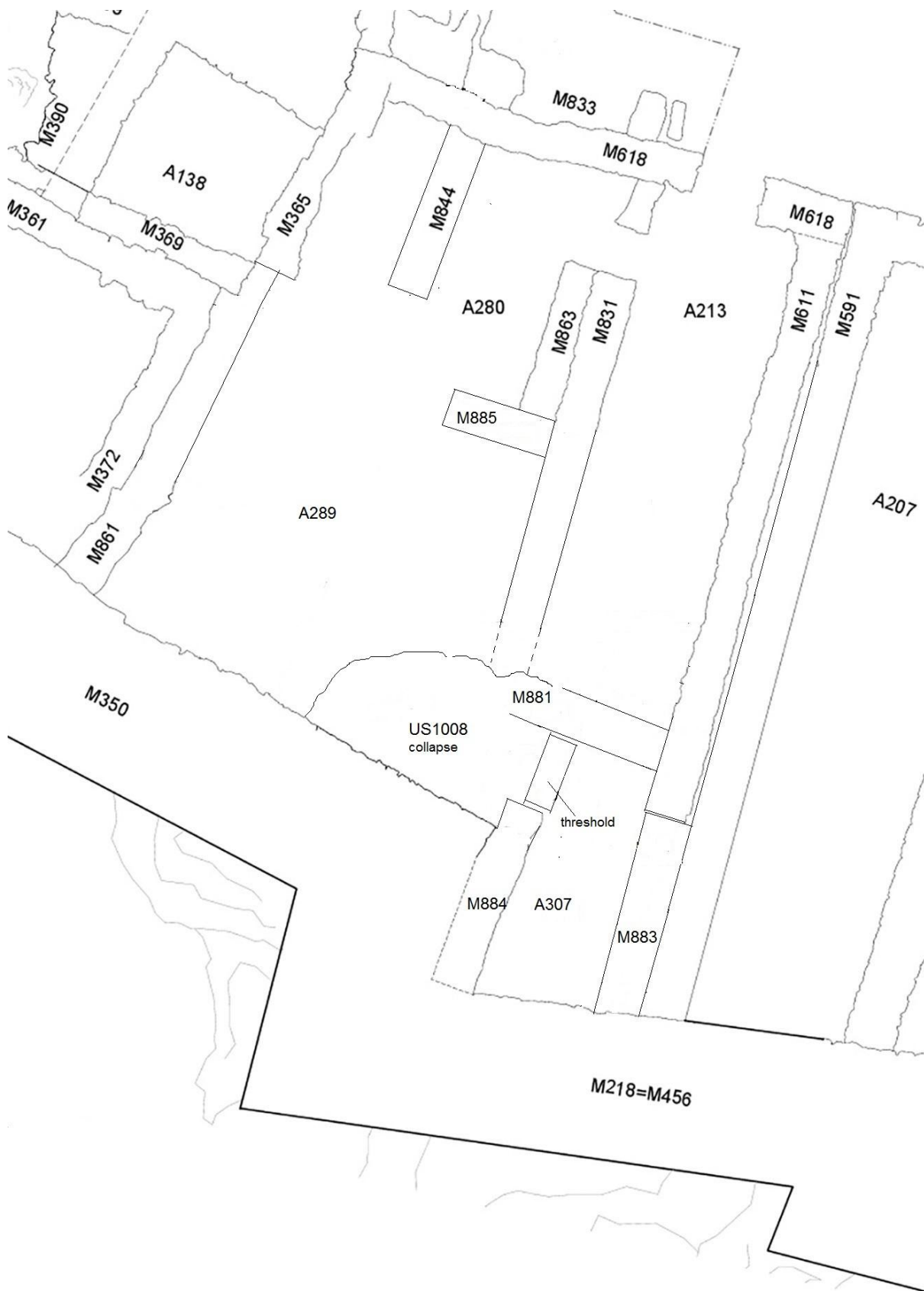


Fig. 10: hand sketch of the 2nd constructional phase.



Fig. 11: Room A291. Limestone slabs that covered the pit (US1015)



Fig. 12: Room A292. US1015 after excavation

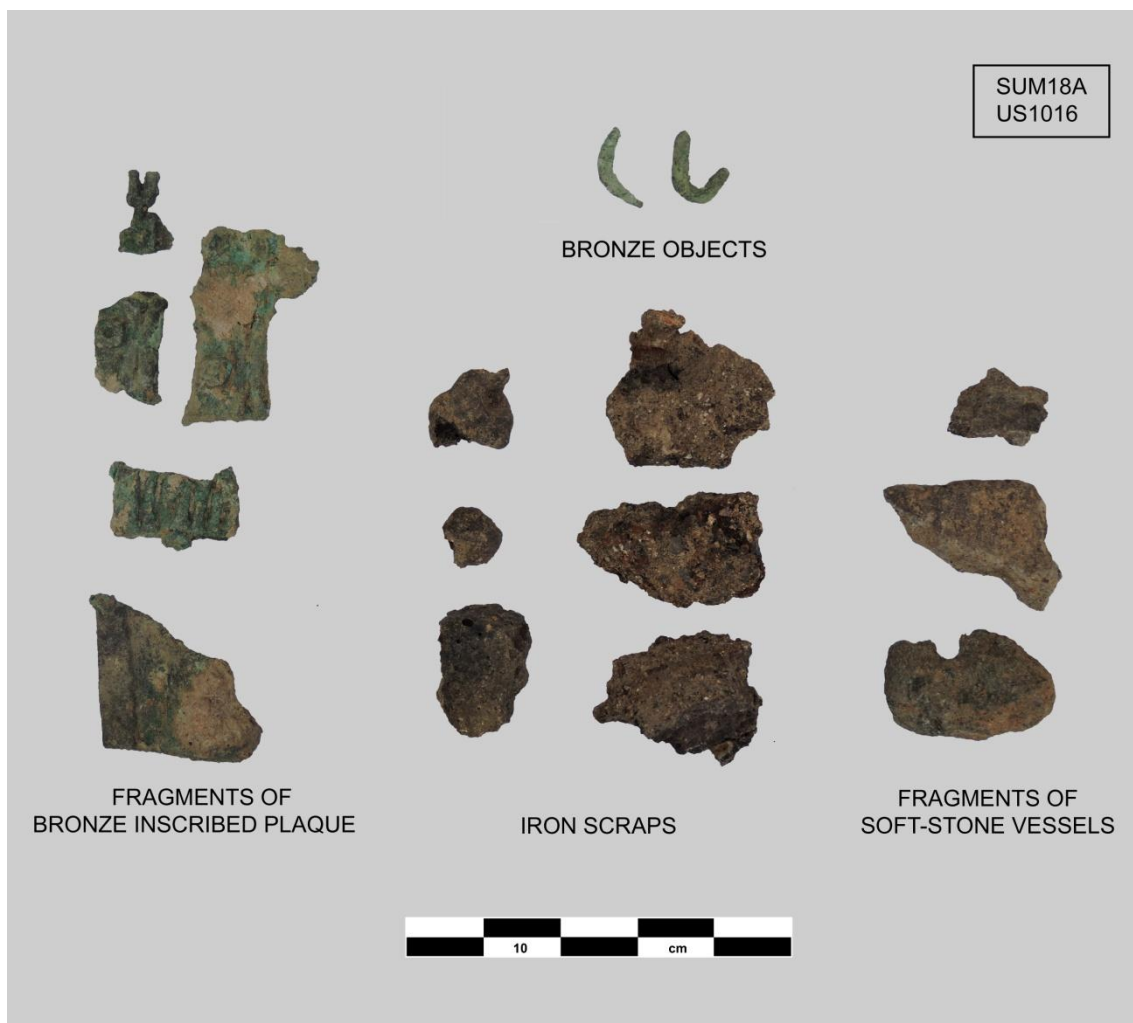


Fig. 13: Findings from US1016



Fig. 14: Reused walls of soft-stone vessels with remains of iron (US443)



Fig. 15: Square I-5. Walls M886, M887, M890 and M891 (south-east view)



Fig. 16: Building BF7 (north-east view)



Fig. 17: Area F before excavation (north-west view)

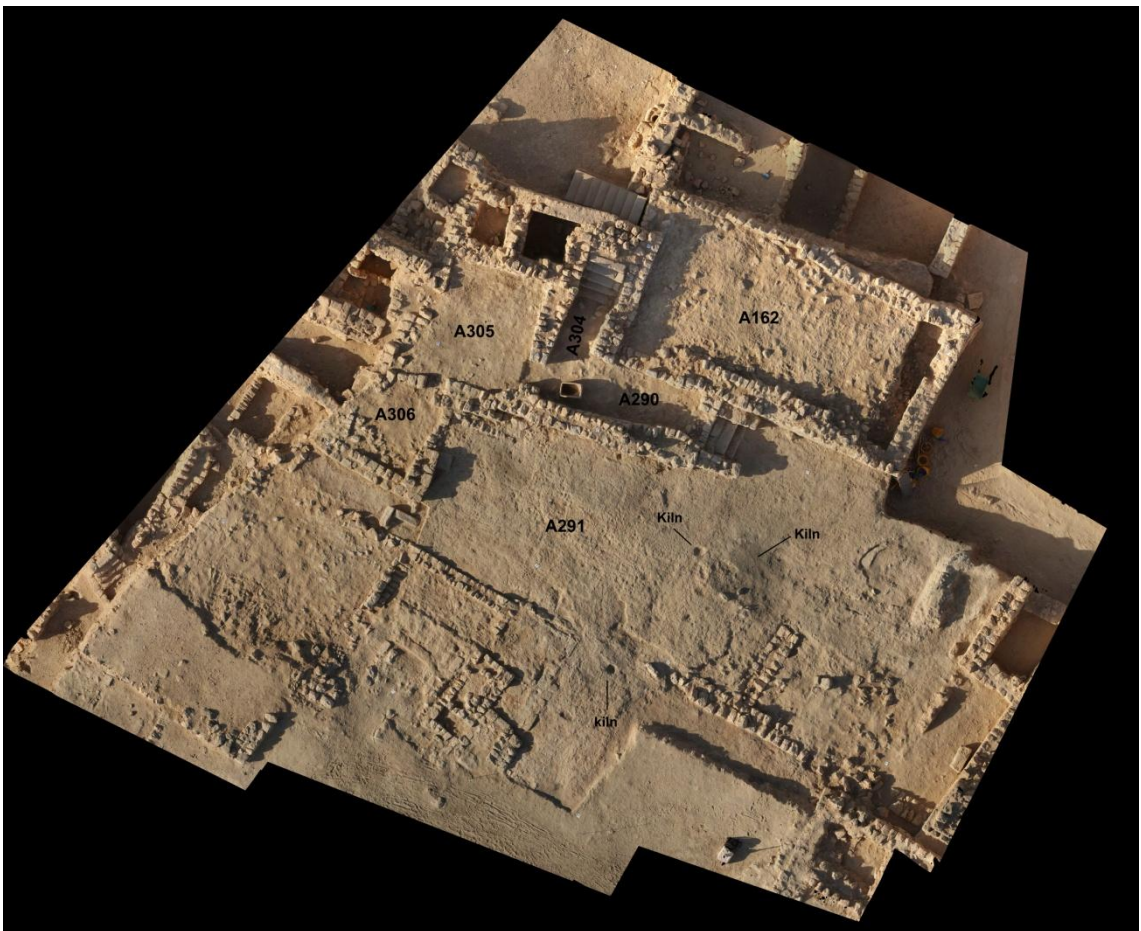




Fig. 18: Area F after excavation (south view)


Object Index Card

Registration Nr. SUM18A, US1021,2 S3089			
Provenance Area B, A307			
Drawing code Nr.			
Definition Incense burner Type III.2	State of preservation Good	Measures l. w. h. 6.6 th. diam. 12.4	
Material Limestone	Preserved part Complete	Shape Circular	
Description <p>Complete circular limestone incense burner with flat smoothed base and straight external wall. The cavity on the top is circular (diam. 8.5; depth. 2) with a slightly trapezoidal section. Internal wall is slightly oblique. The bottom of the cavity is flattened with pointed chisel marks along the internal wall and light traces of burnt. The rim is squared and flattened (th. 1.7).</p> <p>The whole external surface is decorated with a geometric pattern. The top of the rim is decorated with a register of rectangles set in a horizontal way. The register is delimited by two incised lines. Rectangles 1 cm high don't have the same width. It changes from 1.1 cm to 2.3 cm. Rectangles are coloured with a red paint and they are separated by carved vertical spaces. The decoration on the external wall is divided in three registers. The upper one, 1.1 cm high, is made of a row of rectangles (w. 1 to 1.5 cm) set in a horizontal way and separated by carved vertical spaces. All the rectangles are coloured with red paint. The central register is 3 cm high. It is made of a row of vertical red coloured rectangles (w. 1.1 to 1.9 cm) separated by narrower carved vertical spaces. The lower one is 1.1 cm high. It shows the same pattern of the upper register. The three registers are delimited at the top and at the bottom by horizontal stripes 0.4/0.5 cm high coloured with a red paint.</p>			
Responsible C.C.		Date 17/03/18	

Object Index Card

Registration Nr. SUM18A, US443,32 G258			
Provenance Area F, A291			
Drawing code Nr.			
Definition beads	State of preservation Good	Measures l. w. h. th. 0.2 diam. 0.5	Shape rounded
Material glass	Preserved part complete		Section
Description Set of 11 rounded Indo-Pacific beads with a through hole in the centre (diam. hole: 0.1 cm).			
Responsible C.C.		Date 16/03/2018	

Object Index Card

Registration Nr. SUM18A, US1030,6 Sh861			
Provenance Area B			
Drawing code Nr.			
Definition Shell boss	State of preservation Good	Measures l. w. h. 3.2 th. diam. 8.8	Shape rounded
Material shell	Preserved part complete		Section
Description Complete shell boss. The upper surface of the shell is decorated with geometric and figurative elements. It is divided in four registers: 1 st register: Row of incised triangles. The internal area of the triangles is decorated by crossed incised lines forming a motif of lozenges. 2 nd register: Row of pomegranates in bas-relief. The space among the pomegranates is decorated with crossed incised lines forming a motif of squares. 3 rd register: Row of triangles with lozenges inside. 4 th register: Two rows of small incised triangles. In the centre of the lower surface there are three holes connected among them to fix the boss to a dress with a wire.			
Responsible C.C.		Date 28/03/2018	