File Name: 1108.pdf **UNESCO Region:** EUROPE AND NOARTH AMERICA

SITE NAME: **The Biblical Tels – Megiddo, Hazor, Beer Sheba**

DATE OF INSCRIPTION: 15th July 2005

STATE PARTY: ISRAEL

CRITERIA: C (ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)

DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE:
Excerpt from the Decisions of the 29th Session of the World Heritage Committee

Criterion (ii): The three tels represent an interchange of human values throughout the ancient near-east, forged through extensive trade routes and alliances with other states and manifest in building styles which merged Egyptian, Syrian and Aegean influences to create a distinctive local style.

Criterion (iii): The three tels are a testimony to a civilisation that has disappeared –that of the Cananean cities of the Bronze Age and the biblical cities of the Iron Age-, manifest in their expressions of creativity: town planning, fortifications, palaces, and water collection technologies.

Criterion (iv): The biblical cities exerted a powerful influence on later history through the biblical narrative.

Criterion (vi): The three tels, through their mentions in the Bible, constitute a religious and spiritual testimony of outstanding universal value.

BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS

Tels, or pre-historic settlement mounds, are characteristic of the flatter lands of the eastern Mediterranean, particularly Lebanon, Syria, Israel and Eastern Turkey. Of more than 200 tels in Israel, Megiddo, Hazor and Beer Sheba are representative of tels that contain substantial remains of cities with biblical connections. The three tels also present some of the best examples in the Levant of elaborate Iron Age, underground water collecting systems, created to serve dense urban communities. Their traces of construction over the millennia reflect the existence of centralized authority, prosperous agricultural activity and the control of important trade routes.

1.b State, Province or Region: Megido, Upper Galilee and Beer Sheba regions

1.d Exact location: N32 35 50.0 E35 10 56.0

Israel National Commission for UNESCO

State of Israel

THE BIBLICAL TELS AND ANCIENT WATER SYSTEMS - MEGIDDO, HAZOR, BEER SHEBA

PROPOSED WORLD HERITAGE SERIAL NOMINATION BY THE STATE OF ISRAEL

DECEMBER 2003

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

ISRAEL NATURE AND PARKS AUTHORITY

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

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Acknowledgments

The dossier: "The Biblical Tels and Ancient Water Systems – Megiddo, Hazor Beer Sheba" was prepared by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA) in cooperation with the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University (TAU): The 'Megiddo Expedition' and Tel Beer Sheba excavations; and the Institute of Archaeology of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJ): The Tel Hazor archaeological expedition.

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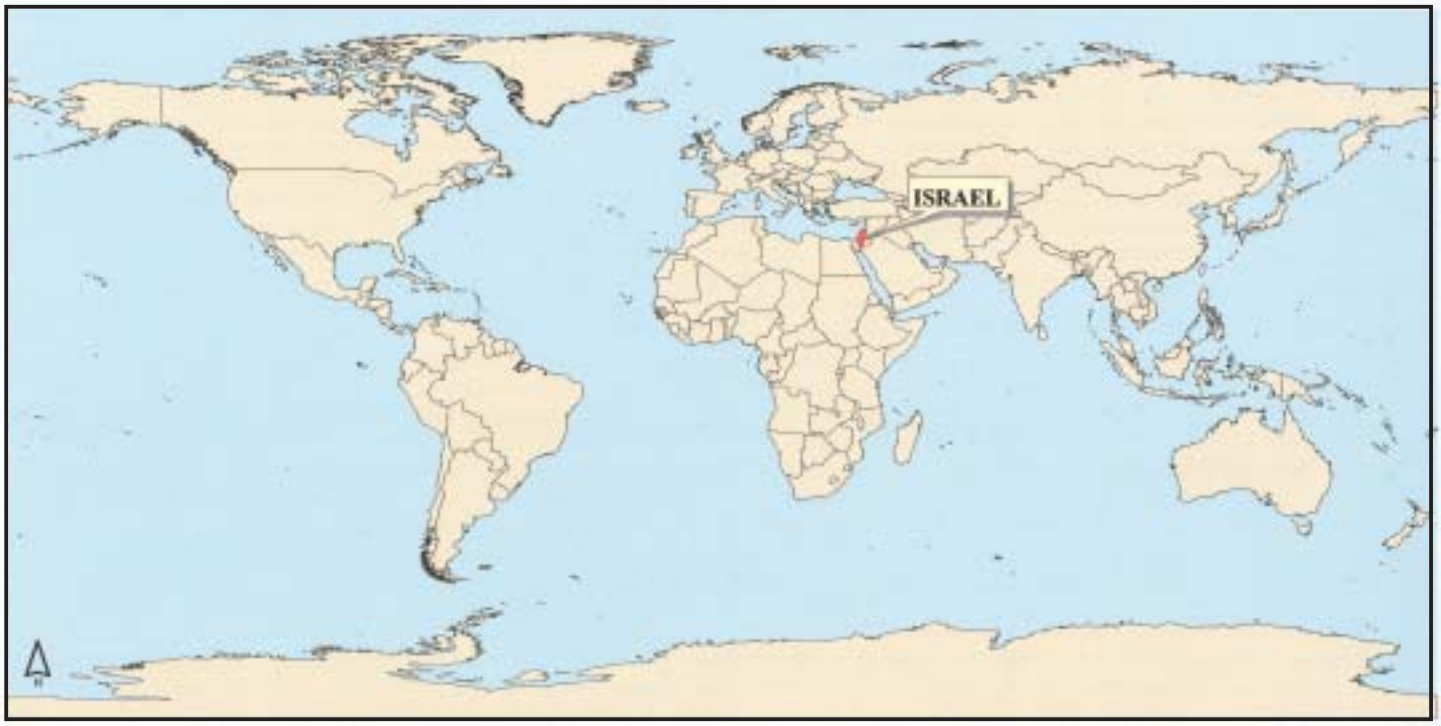
Location of the State of Israel



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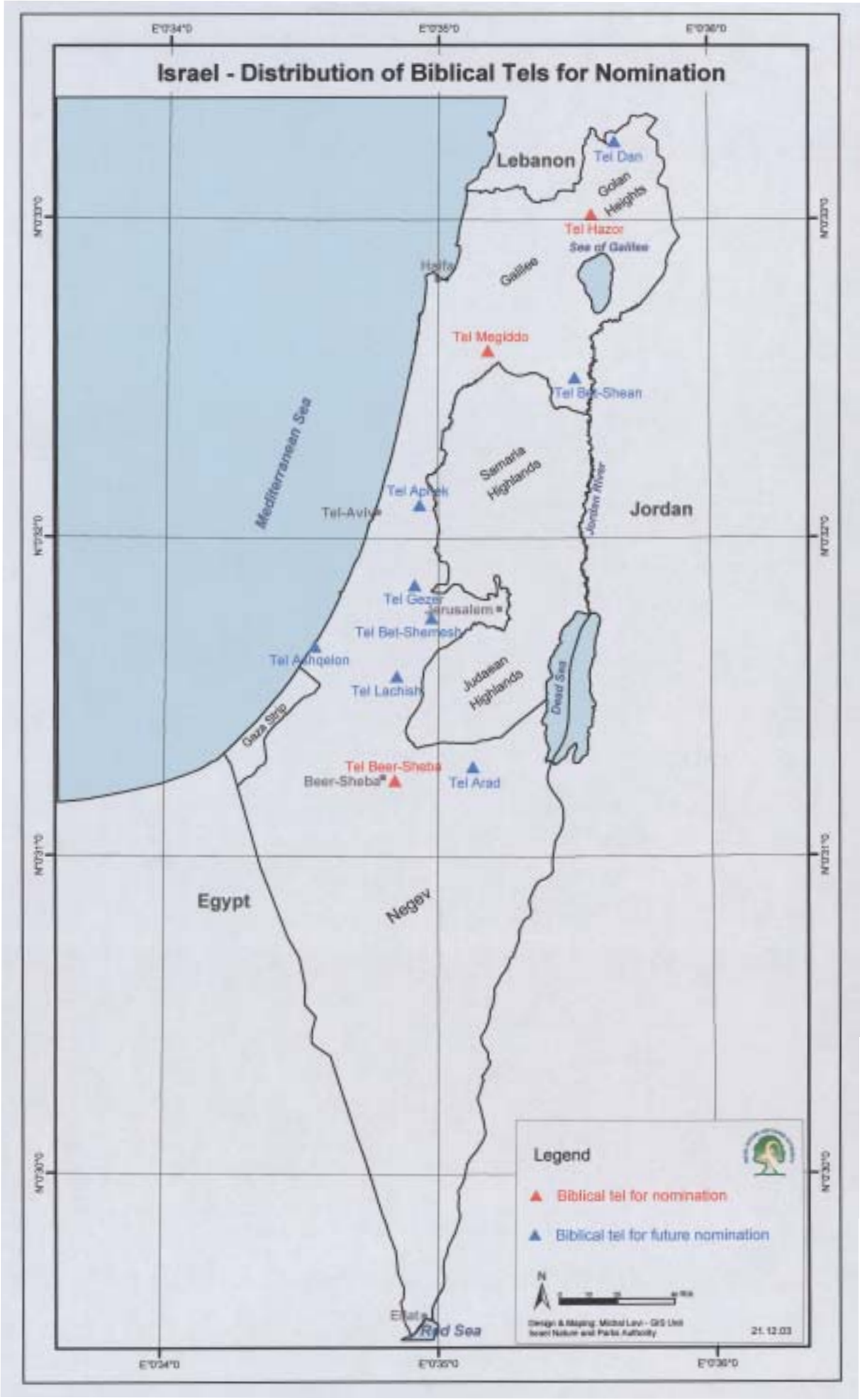
Israel - Distribution of Biblical Tels for Nomination
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E°0'35"0
E°0'36"0
N°32'0
N°31'0
N°30'0
Lebanon
Tel Dan
Golan Heights
Tel Hazor
Sea of Galilee
Haifa
Galilee
Tel Megiddo
Tel Bet-Shean
Mediterranean Sea
Samaria Highlands
Tel Aphek
Tel-Aviv
Jordan River
Jordan
Tel Gezer
Jerusalem
Tel Bet-Shemesh
Tel Ashqelon
Tel Lachish
Judaean Highlands
Dead Sea
Gaza Strip
Tel Beer-Sheba
Beer-Sheba
Tel Arad
Egypt
Negev
Eilat
Red Sea
Legend
Biblical tel for nomination
Biblical tel for future nomination
N
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Israel Nature and Parks Authority
21.12.03

1. Identification of Property

Id No C 1108	Tel Name	Location	Area(ha)	Buffer Zone(ha)	Coordinates	Map Annex
001	Megiddo	Jezreel Valley	16.05	7.1	Latitude 32° 35' 5'' Longitude 35° 10' 56''	Attached
002	Hazor	Upper Galilee	76.9	119.2	Latitude 33° 01' 00'' Longitude 35° 34' 01''	Attached
003	Beer Sheba	Southern District	3.09	11.9	Latitude 31° 14' 41'' Longitude 34° 50' 27''	Attached

1.a. Country

The three sites are located in the State of Israel.

1.b. Region

Tel Megiddo (001): in the Northern District, Jezreel Valley, Megiddo Regional Council.
Tel Hazor (002): in the Northern District, the Upper Galilee Regional Council.
Tel Beer Sheba (003): Southern District, Beer Sheba region, Beer Sheba Local Council (Beer Sheba Municipality).

1.c. Name of Property

The Biblical Tels and Ancient Water Systems – Megiddo, Hazor, Beer Sheba

The Biblical Tels and their Ancient Water Systems presented in this dossier, are located in:
001: Megiddo Antiquities National Park.
002: Tel Hazor National Park.
003: Beer Sheba National Park.

1.d. Exact Location on the Map

For coordinates of the three sites – see table above.

The Exact Locations:
Tel Megiddo is located on road 66, northwest of the Megiddo Junction. New Israel Grid Coordinates: 217500/721200.
Tel Hazor is located 14 km. north of the Sea of Galilee, west of Kibbutz Ayelet ha - Shahar. The Iron Age II Water system (New Israel Grid): Coordinates 253400/769100. The Late Bronze Age system (New Israel Grid): Coordinates 253500/769200.
Tel Beer Sheba is located east of the city of Beer Sheba, on a spur that rises above the junction of the Beer Sheba and Hebron Streams. Coordinates: 184800/572650 (New Israel Grid).

1.e. Maps

Maps are included (in the next pages), with the exact location of the property and the buffer zone marked.

1.f. Area of Site and Buffer Zone

Tel Megiddo

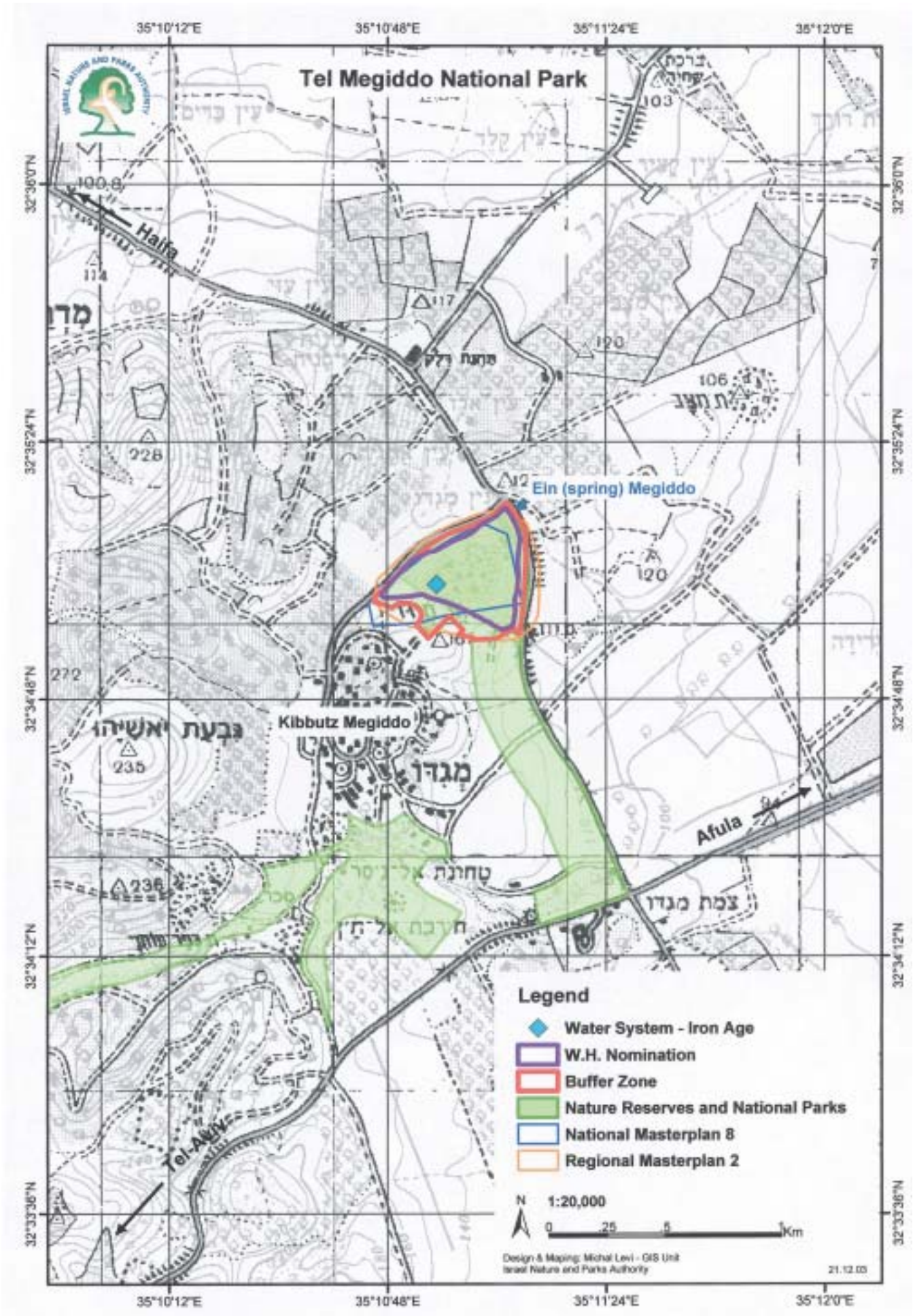
Area of the property: 16.05 ha.
Area of the Buffer zone: 7.1 ha.

Tel Hazor

Area of the property: 76.9 ha.
Area of the Buffer zone: 119.2 ha.

Tel Beer Sheba

Area of the property: 3.09 ha.
Area of the Buffer zone: 11.9 ha.


Tel Megiddo National Park
35°10'12"E
35°10'48"E
35°11'24"E
35°12'0"E
32°36'0"N
32°35'24"N
32°34'48"N
32°34'12"N
32°33'36"N
Haifa
Ein (spring) Megiddo
Kibbutz Megiddo
Afula
Tel-Aviv
Legend
Water System - Iron Age
W.H. Nomination
Buffer Zone
Nature Reserves and National Parks
National Masterplan 8
Regional Masterplan 2
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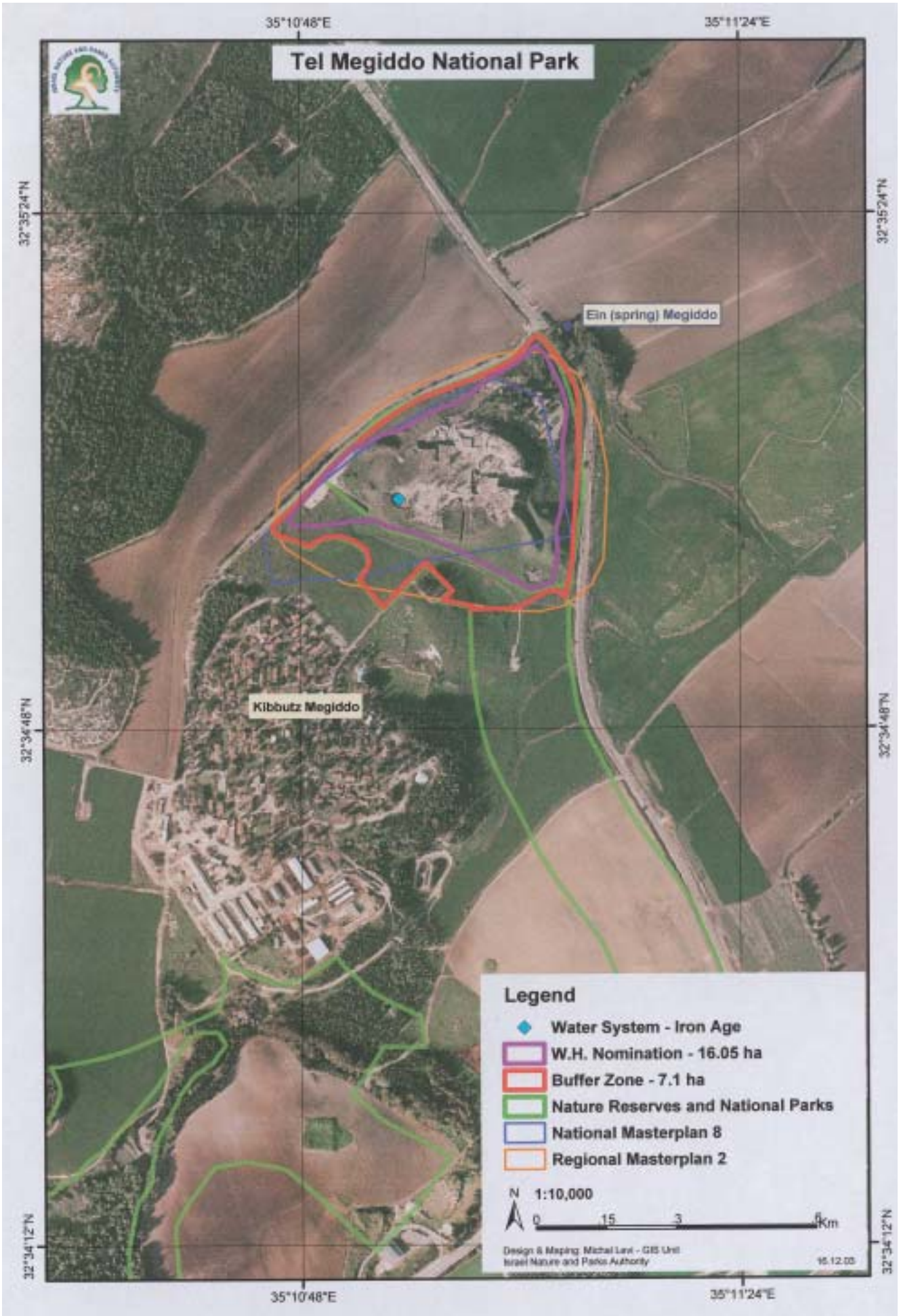
Israel Nature and Parks Authority
21.12.03


Tel Megiddo National Park
35°10'48"E
35°11'24"E
32°35'24"N
32°34'48"N
32°34'12"N
Ein (spring) Megiddo
Kibbutz Megiddo
Legend
Water System - Iron Age
W.H. Nomination - 16.05 ha
Buffer Zone - 7.1 ha
Nature Reserves and National Parks
National Masterplan 8
Regional Masterplan 2
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Design & Maping: Michal Lavi - GIS Unit
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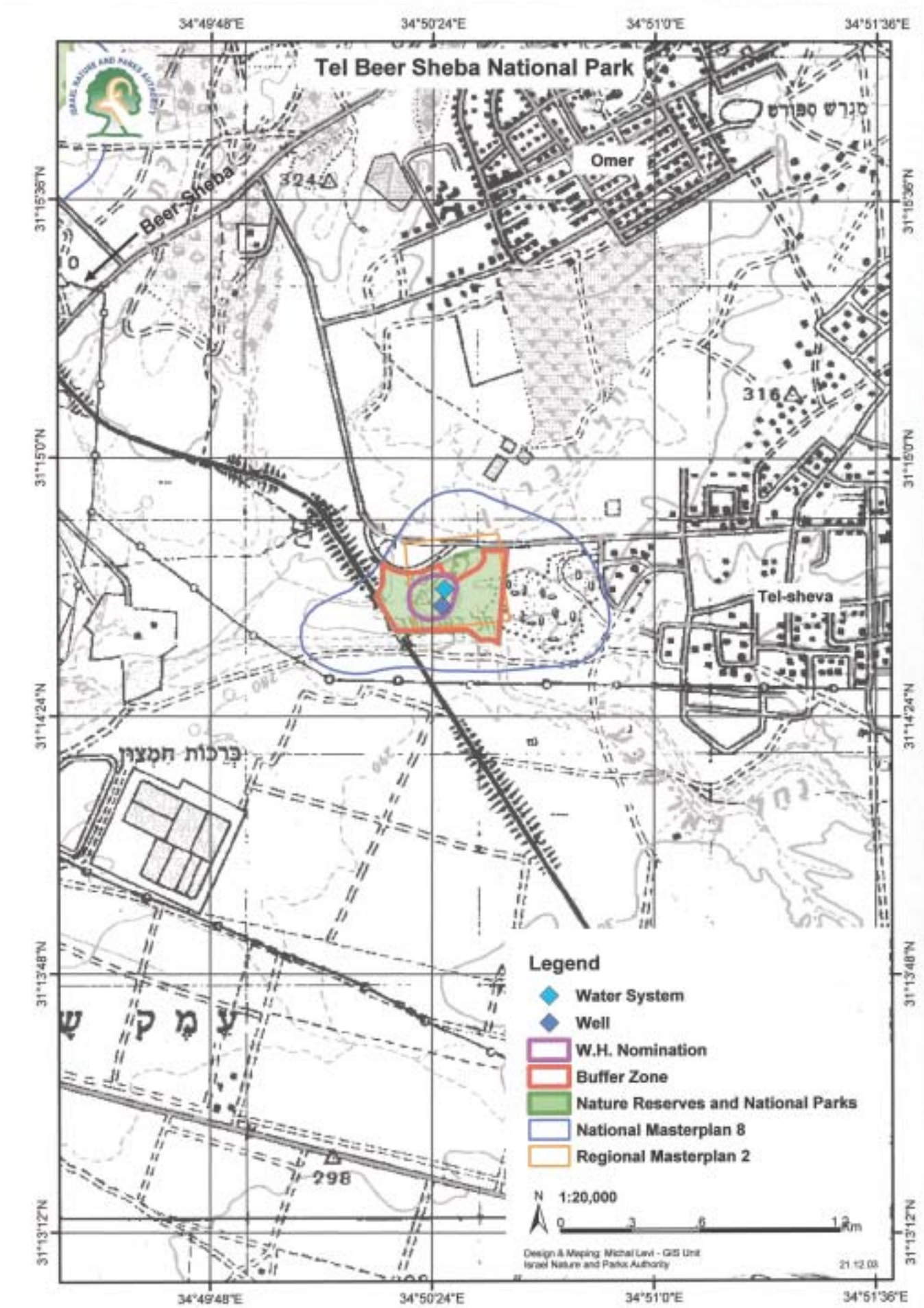
Tel Beer Sheba National Park
Omer
Beer-Sheba
324
316
298
Tel-sheva
34°49'48"E
34°50'24"E
34°51'0"E
34°51'36"E
31°15'36"N
31°15'0"N
31°14'24"N
31°13'48"N
31°13'12"N
Legend
Water System
Well
W.H. Nomination
Buffer Zone
Nature Reserves and National Parks
National Masterplan 8
Regional Masterplan 2
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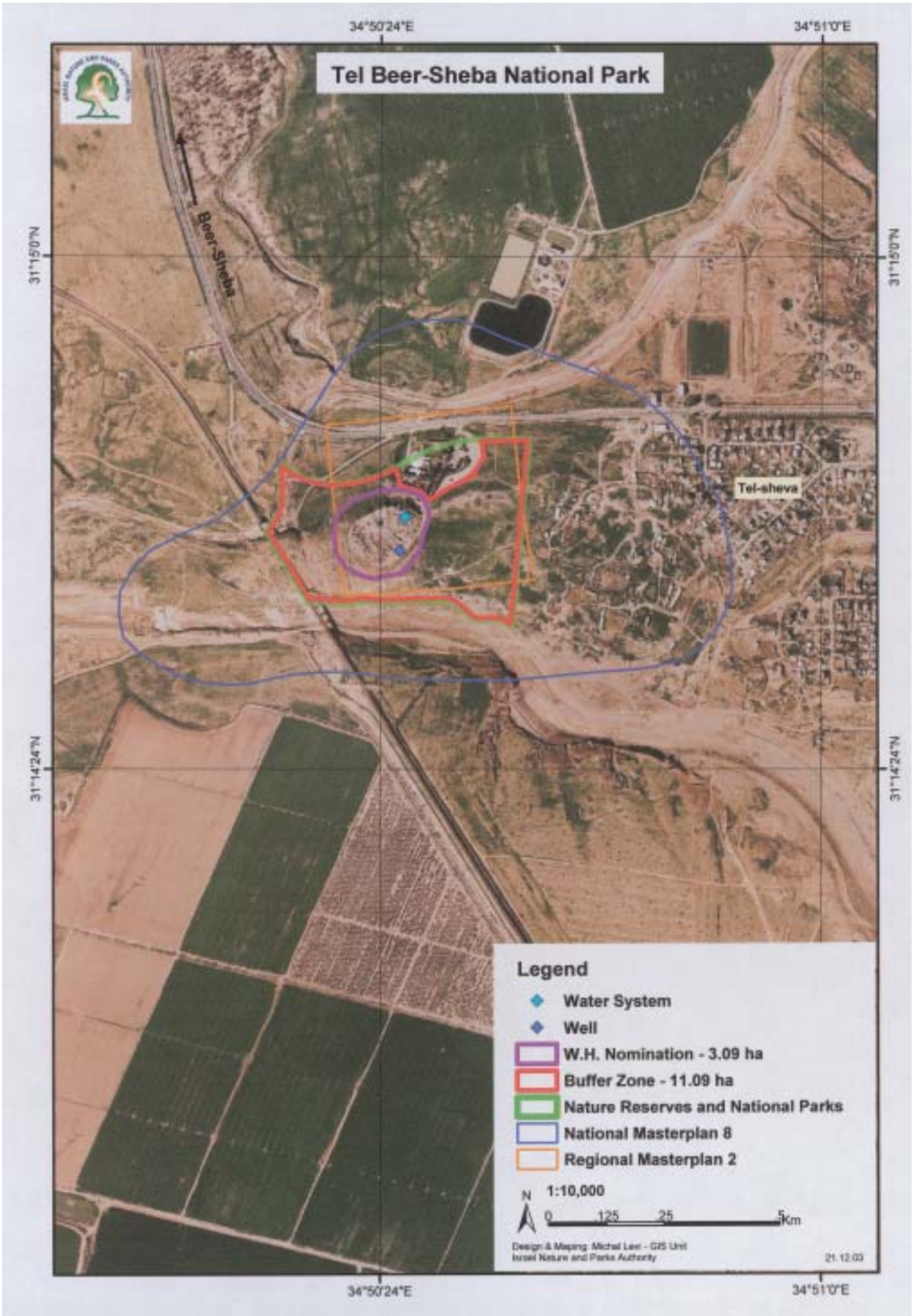
Km
Design & Maping: Michal Lavi - GIS Unit
Israel Nature and Parks Authority
21.12.09


Tel Beer-Sheba National Park
34°50'24"E
34°51'0"E
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31°14'24"N
Beer-Sheba
Tel-sheva
Legend
Water System
Well
W.H. Nomination - 3.09 ha
Buffer Zone - 11.09 ha
Nature Reserves and National Parks
National Masterplan 8
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Design & Maping: Michal Lavi - GIS Unit
Israel Nature and Parks Authority
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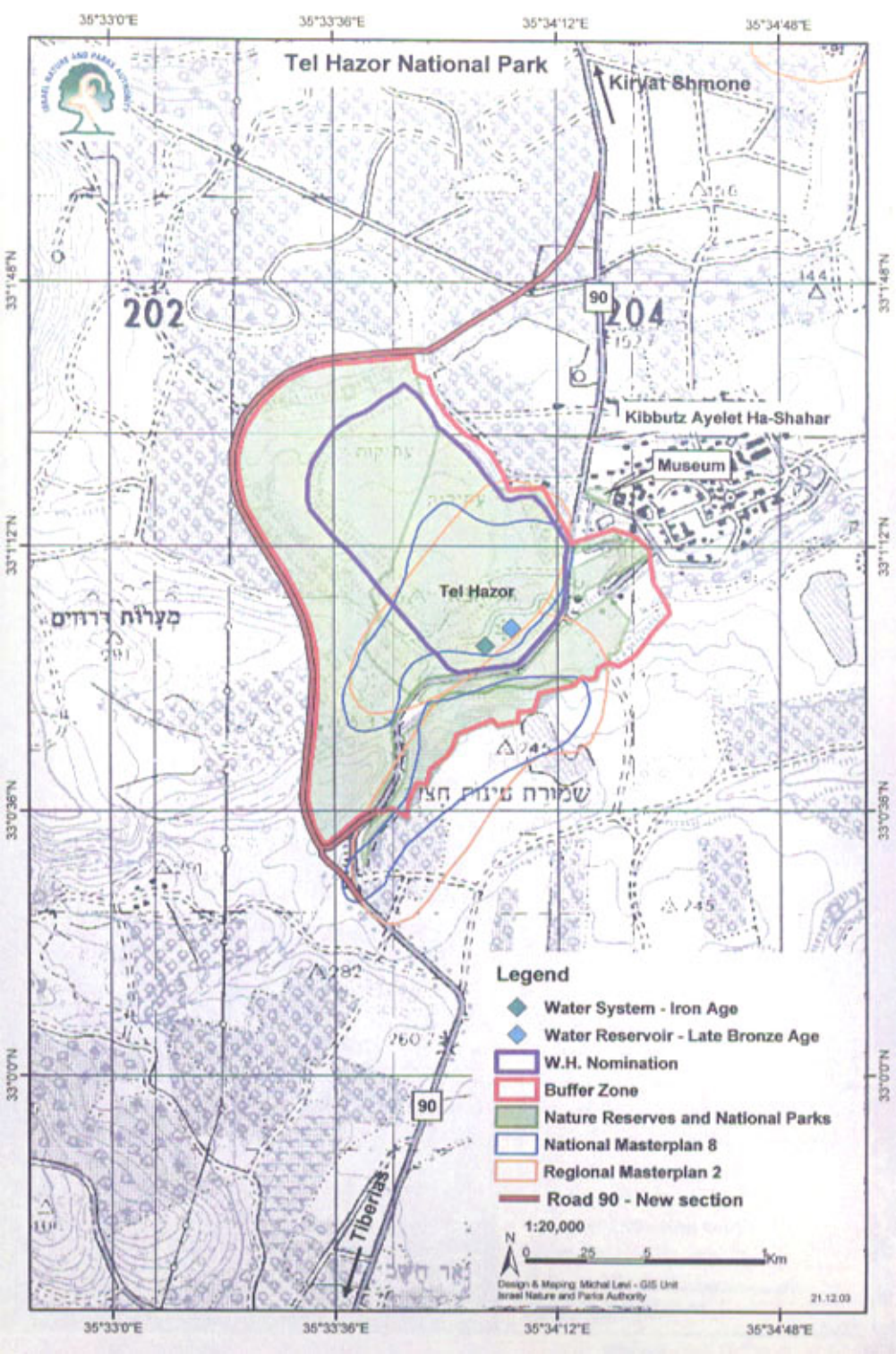
Tel Hazor National Park
Kiryat Shmone
202
204
90
Kibbutz Ayelet Ha-Shahar
Museum
Tel Hazor
מערות דרוזים
שכונת מגורים חצור
Legend
Water System - Iron Age
Water Reservoir - Late Bronze Age
W.H. Nomination
Buffer Zone
Nature Reserves and National Parks
National Masterplan 8
Regional Masterplan 2
Road 90 - New section
1:20,000
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Design & Maping: Michal Levi - GIS Unit
Israel Nature and Parks Authority
21.12.03
Tiberias
35°33'0"E
35°33'36"E
35°34'12"E
35°34'48"E
33°1'48"N
33°1'12"N
33°0'36"N
33°0'0"N

2. JUSTIFICATION FOR INSCRIPTION

2.a. Statement of Significance

The Tel, or Tell ("mound" in Hebrew and Arabic respectively) was the dominant landmark in the landscape of the biblical lands, and is still a prominent feature governing the archaeological landscape of Israel in particular, and the entire Levant in general.

The Tel represents an accumulation of several settlements – one on top of the other – in one spot, forming an artificial elevated hill. Some of the Tels are low in profile, but the main Tels have a trapezoid outline, with steep slopes and flat top, rising twenty meters and more above the surrounding area.

Tels were created because in the Bronze and the Iron Ages people in the Levant tended to build their settlements in advantageous locations, mainly hills (which provided topographical protection) located near springs and dominating arable land. When such settlements were destroyed in the course of wars, the ancient people tended to return to them time and again, for these same advantages.

Many of the main Tels had first been settled in Neolithic or Chalcolithic times, and remained continuously inhabited until the Persian period. They consist of twenty or more consecutive settlements, built one on top of the other. The conditions which brought about the formation of Tels changed dramatically in the Hellenistic and Roman periods. First of all, technological innovations made it possible to construct aqueducts, which carried fresh water over long distances and opened the way to settling in places with no immediate water sources in their vicinity. Second, the rule of imperial powers improved security and enabled people to settle in open, relatively unprotected areas. Third, the development of a much different urban life called for vast spaces, far beyond the limited scope of the mounds. As a result of all this, most Tels were abandoned after the Persian period.

As mentioned above, some of Tels had a long settlement history, covering several millennia. Others were settled for shorter periods of time. In some Tels, archaeological investigation traced continuous activity, while in others occupational gaps were detected.

There are about 200 Tels in Israel. The largest number of Tels, and the largest Tels, can be found in the lowlands, in fertile valleys and near large springs. The western margin of the Jezreel Valley, for example, features three important mounds – Taanach, Megiddo and Yokneam, all identified with important biblical places – along a distance of ca. 20 kms. The Tels vary in size, from small ones

measuring 1 hectare, such as Beer Sheba, through large ones covering an area of ca. 10 hectares or more, such as Megiddo, and ultimately to huge Tels, covering an area measuring up to almost 100 hectares, such as Hazor. The latter are mainly characteristic of the Syrian landscape.

The remains of all famous biblical cities and settlements are found in Tels. Suffice is to mention (from south to north) Beer Sheba in the south; Ashkelon, Ashdod, Dor and Acco on the coast; Gezer and Lachish in the Shephelah; the City of David in the highlands; and Megiddo, Beth Shean, Hazor and Dan in the northern valleys. The Tel is therefore the best representative of the biblical epoch. And the major Tels in Israel – with their impressive remains – are the cradle in which the world of the Bible was born.

Tel Megiddo

From the fourth millennium BC through the 7th c. BC, Megiddo was one of the mightiest cities in Canaan and Israel. Megiddo's importance was undoubtedly due to its role as a crossroads on the *Via Maris,* the major international military and trade route of antiquity, connecting Egypt to Syria, Anatolia, and Mesopotamia. Dominating a bottleneck where this road emerges from the narrow 'Aruna Pass' into the fertile Jezreel Valley, the city controlled the international traffic for over 6,000 years. In ancient and modern times alike, epic battles that decided the fate of western Asia were fought at this strategic location.

Beyond its crucial significance as an historical and archaeological site, Tel Megiddo represents a cornerstone in the evolvement of the Judeo-Christian civilization. Its central place in the biblical narrative (from the Conquest of the Land through the periods of the United and the Divided Monarchy and finally to the Assyrian domination); its symbolic role in the formation of eschatological and messianic beliefs (cf. below, 2. d. Criterion VI); and the fact that it is the most impressive archaeological Tel in the Levant, confer upon Tel Megiddo a universal value.

Megiddo in the Bible – From Megiddo to Armageddon

Megiddo is mentioned no less than eleven times in the Old Testament, and once in the New Testament, as Armageddon:

The book of Joshua lists the king of Megiddo among the Canaanite rulers defeated in the Conquest of the Promised Land (Josh. 12:21). Megiddo is mentioned among the cities and territories distributed among the Tribes of Israel (Josh. 17,11), the city being in the share of Manasseh (1 Chr. 7,29). According to

the site of the last battle between the Forces of Good and the Forces of Evil (cf. below, 2.d. 'Criteria Under which Inscription is Proposed'):
“The sixth angel poured his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. And I saw issuing from the mouth of the dragon and from the mouth of the beast and from the mouth of the false prophet, three foul spirits like frogs; for they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. (“Lo, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is he who is awake, keeping his garments that he may go naked and be seen exposed”). And they assembled them at the place which is called in Hebrew Armageddon”. (Revelation 16, 12-16).

Tel Megiddo – A Biblical Tel

Megiddo is widely regarded as the most important biblical period Tel in Israel, with remains dating from the seventh millennium BC (Pre Pottery Neolithic B period) through to the 5th or 4th c. BC (the Persian period). It is also the most excavated Tel in the whole Levant (cf. Scientific Value - Study and Research). The archaeological mound, created over more than 6000 years of almost uninterrupted occupation, constitutes an exceptional archaeological legacy. Its basic stratigraphy of twenty major strata containing the remains of ca. thirty cities, was established by the excavations carried out by the University of Chicago Oriental Institute (cf. Study and Research). It continues to serve as the foundation for the stratigraphy of all archaeological sites in the Levant.

The area around Megiddo was blessed with all the advantages necessary for a settlement: abundant water (two main sources, 'Ein le Kubi at the NE and a spring at the SW), the fertile ground of the Jezreel valley (Jezreel in Hebrew meaning 'God will sow seed') and a strategic position.

Megiddo began to dominate the surrounding countryside as early as the 4th millennium BC (ca. 3500) – at the dawn of urbanization in the Levant. In the late 4th, 3rd and 2nd millennia BC, Megiddo was one of the most powerful city-states in Canaan. When the Canaanite city-states revolted against Pharaonic attempts at hegemony, it was at Megiddo that they assembled to do battle. Pharaoh Thutmose III's decisive victory enabled him to incorporate Canaan as a province into the empire of the New Kingdom. Various artifacts discovered in the course of excavations - such as the magnificent ivories showing Aegean, Egyptian, Hittite and Canaanite influences, or the fragment of a tablet containing a passage from the Gilgamesh epic – attest to the city’s wealth, status and broad cultural contacts throughout the Late Bronze period, until its destruction by the 'Sea People' in the 12th.c BC.

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In the Early Israelite period (Iron Age), Megiddo was a prominent administrative and economic center in the Northern Valleys region. In the course of a military campaign meant to renew the Egyptian foothold in Canaan, Pharaoh Shoshenq I (biblical Shishak) took Megiddo, in 925 BC. The Egyptian ambition, however, was short-lived, for Sheshonq died one year later. In the 9th and 8th centuries BC Megiddo was a main center in the powerful Northern Kingdom of Israel, ruled by great kings such as Ahab and Jeroboam II. The city's prosperity, military might and political importance were ensured by a well-established horse-trade and a reputation as a center for chariot-training. The military value of the horses and chariots of the Israelite Kingdom is amply attested to in Assyrian records. This was Megiddo's heyday.

In 732 BC, the Assyrian King Tiglath-pileser III took over the region, and Megiddo became the capital of the Assyrian province of 'Magiddu'. When the Assyrians withdrew from this area, in the 7th c. BC, Megiddo and the northern region fell once again under Egyptian rule. The latter days of Megiddo, under Babylonian then Persian rules, left but few remains on the Tel. The place was finally abandoned in the late 5th or in the early 4th c. BC.

Tel Hazor

telmap.htmHazor is the largest biblical period site in Israel, covering an area of 80 ha. The site comprises two distinct sections: The Upper City (the acropolis) and the Lower City (the fortified enclosure), lying close to the north. Hazor's population in the second millennium BC is estimated to have been about 20,000, making it one of the most important cities in the entire region. The size of Tel Hazor, its strategic location on the route connecting Egypt and Babylon, and the magnificent finds unearthed there make it worthy of the designation "the head of all those kingdoms" (Joshua 11:10).

Hazor was inhabited from the end of the third millennium BC, the Early Bronze Age, until the 2nd century BC, the Hellenistic period. It is situated in a strategic location at a major crossroads, dominating the main trade and military routes that connected the land of Israel to Phoenicia, Syria and Anatolia to the north, Mesopotamia to the east and Egypt to the south. The fertile Hula plain, the basis for Hazor’s wealth throughout the periods, served as a field of several battles recorded in the history of the site.

Hazor in the Bible

The main references to Hazor in the Old Testament fall into two distinct groups. The first relates to Hazor's role in the Israelite tribes' settlement process, and constitutes one of the most controversial subjects in the study of Ancient Israelite history, and in the basic approach to understanding the biblical narrative (especially the books of Joshua and Judges). Jos. 11: 10-13 contains a detailed description of the battle against the northern Canaanite league and Jabin the king of Hazor: "And Joshua turned back at that time, and took Hazor, and smote the King thereof with the sword; for Hazor beforetime was *the head of all those kingdoms*… and he burnt Hazor with fire…but for the cities that stood on their mounds Israel burned none of them save Hazor only; that did Joshua burn!". Hazor's supremacy in the Bronze Age is vividly reflected in this paragraph. Judges 4 and 5 are the prose version of Deborah's war. Jabin king of Hazor (now referred to as king of whole Canaan) is mentioned again in these chapters, as the Israelites' main opponent "And the Lord sold them into the hands of Jabin king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose host was Sisera which dwelt in Haro'sheth of the Gentiles… So God subdued on that day Jabin the king of Canaan before the children of Israel. And the hand of the children of Israel prevailed more and more against Jabin king of Canaan". The apparent contradiction between the two sources is at the very heart of the debate concerning the nature and chronology of the Israelite settlement process.

The second group of references consists of brief historical references to Solomon's building activities, and to the conquest of the Galilee by Tiglath Pileser III. These two events mark respectively the beginning of the United Monarchy, traditionally dated to the Tenth century BC, and the end of the Kingdom of Israel in the Eighth century BC. 1 Kings 9: 15 refers to the forced labor conscripted by Solomon to build "the wall of Jerusalem, Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer". These three cities, located in strategic positions and dominating the main lines of communications, were probably the key to the whole defense-system of the entire country. The similar fortification systems uncovered in these sites, consisting of a six-chambered gate and a casemate (i.e. multi-roomed) wall, were taken by Yadin as a corroboration of the biblical reference (although this view is hotly debated today). 2 Kings 15: 29-30 indicate that Hazor fell to the Assyrians in 732 BC, together with most of the northern part of Israel: "In the days of Pekah King of Israel came Tiglath Pileser King of Assyria, and took Ijon, and Abel-beth-maccah, and Janoah, and Kedesh, and Hazor, and Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and he carried them captive to Assyria". This Assyrian campaign marks the last days of the independent kingdom of Israel. A decade later, in 722/1 BC, the Assyrians conquered Samaria , its capital, and this once prosperous kingdom

came to its end. Thus, Hazor bears witness to the rise and fall of the Israelite independent kingdom in northern Israel.

Tel Beer Sheba

Beer Sheba in the Bible

Beer Sheba's importance is reflected in the biblical traditions surrounding the Patriarchs' wanderings throughout the Holy Land. One should note, in particular, God's appearance to the Patriarchs in Beer Sheba (Gen. 26, 24-25; 46, 1-4) ,the struggle with the Philistines over the right to dig wells and draw their water (Gen. 21, 24-34; 26, 15-33) and the passage explaining the origins of the name Beer Sheba itself (derived from Shevua [oath], (Gen. 21, 31); or from 'the water they called Shibah' (Gen. 26, 33). In the Old Testament city lists, Beer Sheba heads the list of cities assigned to the tribe of Simeon (Josh. 19, 2; I Chr. I 4, 28) and is even included in the cities of the Negev allotted to the tribe of Judah (Josh. 15, 28). At the times of the Judges and later under the United Monarchy, Beer Sheba marks the land's southernmost border: "from Dan even to Beer Sheba" (Judges 20, 1; I Sam. 3, 20; II Sam. 3, 10; 17, 11; 24, 2, 15; I Kg., 5, 4). In Chronicles, the cities are listed in a reversed order: "From Beer Sheba even to Dan" (I Chr. 21, 2; II Chr. 30, 5). Beer Sheba is also mentioned as the southern border of the kingdom of Judaea: "from Geba to Beer Sheba (2 Kgs. 23, 8) or "from Beer Sheba to mount Ephraim" (2 Chr. 19, 4). Prophet Elijah stopped at "Beer Sheba which belongeth to Judah" on his way south, from Jezreel to mount Horeb (1 Kgs. 19, 3). Amos mentions Beer Sheba in his prophecies as the southernmost city in a continuum of settlements associated with ritual practices and ceremonies: Dan – Bethel – Gilgal – Beer Sheba (Amos 5, 5; 8, 14). Even in the days of the Return to Zion, Beer Sheba was still the southernmost settlement: "from Beer Sheba unto the valley of Hinnom" (Nehm. 11, 30).

Most scholars and researchers accept the identification of Tel Beer Sheba with biblical Beer Sheba. The centrality of the settlement in Tel Beer Sheba, as well as the absence of any other fortified city which could have served as the administrative center of the area, reinforce even further the identification of the Tel.

Tel Beer Sheba – A Biblical Tel

Tel Beer Sheba (Tel es-Saba') is located east of the modern city of Beer Sheba, at the heart of the Beer Sheba valley. The ancient city that evolved on the mound is situated at a crossroads of the roads leading northwards to mount Hebron,

eastwards to the Judaean desert and the Dead Sea, westwards to the coastal plain, and southwards to the Negev Heights and the Red Sea.
Tel Beer Sheba was excavated for four seasons, between 1969 and 1975, by the Tel Aviv University Institute of Archaeology, directed by the late Prof. Yohanan Aharoni, and in 1976, following his death, by Prof. Zeev Herzog. In 1993-1995, during the development work carried out by the Nature and Parks Authority, the two water systems – the well and the water reservoir - were fully excavated. In the course of the excavations, which were part of the 'Beer Sheba Valley Regional Research Project', the excavators sought to expose wide, consecutive areas of the site, so as to determine its stratigraphy and analyze the building remains it contained. The excavations unearthed some two thirds of the last Iron Age city (stratum II).

The earliest remains of human habitation are the Chalcolithic (4th millennium BC) shards found dispersed in the soil used as an earth-fill in various parts of the mound. Tel Beer Sheba remained abandoned throughout the entire Bronze Age (one should note that during the Early Bronze period, urban culture flourished east of Beer Sheba, in nearby Arad, whereas during the Middle Bronze period, settlements surrounded with earth ramparts were founded in Tel Malhata and Tel Massos). Having remained uninhabited for two thousand years, the Tel was settled anew during the 11th century BC, with the founding of the Iron Age I settlement (strata IX-VIII). The settlement's vicissitudes and its relations to the neighboring mounds of Arad, Massos and other settlements founded south of Tel beer Sheba, in the "wilderness of Beer Sheba," are among the most interesting chapters in the site's history. The next settlement (stratum VII) is the one preceding the Monarchy period, and apparently came to its end in 925 BC, with Egyptian Pharaoh Shishak's campaign.

The first administrative center (stratum V – 9th century BC) was founded during the Judahite monarchy, the main period represented in the mound, and then rebuilt three more times (strata IV-II) until its final and total destruction at the end of the 8th century BC. The very last Israelite city (stratum II) was destroyed in a fierce conflagration during the Assyrian king Sennacherib's campaign in Judaea, and the brief attempts to restore it had all failed.
As the Beer Sheba valley has no springs or water sources, the issue of water supply was of cardinal importance to the early settlers, and a fascinating subject of research to the archaeologists working in the region. A water well, some 70 meters deep, was discovered on the mound's south-eastern slope, whereas inside the city the excavators found a water system dating to the Iron Age – both remained in use until the end of the 1st century BC (for discussion, see below).

Tel Megiddo Aerial View from SE.
Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition'
of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.

Aerial photo of Tel Hazor
(from the north)
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the
HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Aerial view of Tel Beer Sheba and the
expedition camp. Courtesy of Beer Sheba
Expedition of the TAU Institute of Archaeology

Values Attesting the Importance of the Three Sites

Scientific Value – Archaeology and History

Tel Megiddo

As civilizations came and went, succeeding settlements at ancient Megiddo were built one on top of the other, each leaving remains of unique archaeological and architectural value.

Monumental temples and elaborate burial chambers; impressive fortifications and lavish palaces; extensive stable complexes and remarkably engineered water systems attest to Megiddo's might in ancient times. Moreover, several of the remains in Megiddo are singular in character: The 'Sacred Compound' encompassing at least five Canaanite temples (Early Bronze I - Iron I periods), the earliest of which is apparently unique in the whole Levant in its monumental dimensions and the thousands of sacrificial animal bones found in and around it; a corbelled tomb (Late Bronze II), whose exceptional size and workmanship suggest that it was built for a member of Megiddo's royal family, is unparalleled in Israel, and in fact the whole Levant. The vast palaces, sophisticated water system and fortifications of Israelite Megiddo are among the most elaborate Iron Age architectural remains unearthed in the Levant. The excavations also revealed two large Iron II horse-stable complexes, at both the northern and southern edges of the Tel. In scope and elaboration, they are outstanding in the entire ancient Near East. No less valuable are the Assyrian remains. Megiddo's Assyrian palaces are the largest and most sophisticated provincial Assyrian palaces built anywhere outside Assyria. The orthogonal layout, usually known as 'hippodamian' and attributed to the 5thc. BC Greek town planner Hippodamus of Miletus, appears in fact for the first time in Western Asia, in the 7th c. BC Assyrian city of Megiddo.

As for its historical value, it should be pointed that Megiddo is the only site in Israel mentioned by every great power in the ancient Near East: Egypt, the Hittite Empire and Assyria. The first fully-recorded battle in history, in which Pharaoh Thutmose III's army faced a coalition of Canaanite kings, took place here in 1479 BC. Megiddo's name is connected with many historical events, some of them decisive turning points in the fate of the ancient Near East. It was here that the Egyptians took their first steps toward empire-building, when in the 15th century BC Pharaoh Thutmose III conquered Canaan; it was from here also that Assyria staged its deportation of the people of the Northern Kingdom of Israel; and it was here that Josiah—the last righteous king of the lineage of David—was killed by Pharaoh Necho II, opening the way for centuries of messianic yearnings (cf.

below, Criterion VI). After centuries of oblivion, during World War I, British Field-Marshal Edmund Allenby won decisive battles over the Turks in the vicinity of Megiddo, using tactics similar to those employed by Thutmose III, over 3000 years earlier. His victory played a major role in the outcome of the war, and consequently, Field-Marshal Allenby was awarded the honor of adding the title "Viscount of Megiddo" to his cognomen.

Tel Hazor

The important role played by Hazor in its Near Eastern context is vividly reflected in the references to the site in various ancient sources. Canaanite Hazor is first mentioned in the Egyptian Execration texts dating to the 19th century BC. Hazor is the only Canaanite site mentioned in the archive discovered in palace of Mari (18th century BC). At least 14 Mari documents refer to Hazor, clearly illustrating the importance and wealth of Hazor and its far-reaching commercial ties with other Semitic polities to its north. The name of the king of Hazor, Ibni-Adad, appears several times in the Mari archive, and was also found on one of the cuneiform tablets found at Hazor itself. The city of Hazor is further mentioned in the records of the military campaigns conducted by the Egyptian Pharaohs Thutmose III, Amenhotep II and Seti I during the 15th - 14th centuries BC. In the 14th c. BC Amarna archive are several references to Hazor, whose ruler Abdi-Tirshi is the only Canaanite vassal referring to himself as "king". Hazor's special status among her Canaanite peers is reflected in the complaint letters of her neighbors, Ashtaroth in the Bashan and Tyre on the coast. The latest Egyptian reference to Hazor is in Papyrus Anastasi I, a satirical letter attributed to the reign of Ramses II (13th century BC).

According to the biblical narrative, Hazor was conquered and burnt by Joshuah (cf. above). Evidence of the violent destruction of Canaanite Hazor was discovered in various areas of excavation at the site. The first Israelite settlement was then limited to the Upper City. Meager remains, the most noteworthy of which is a cultic high place, represent sporadic occupation during the time of the Judges. According to 1 Kings 9:15 the city was rebuilt and fortified (by a six-chambered gate and casemate wall) by King Solomon, whose reign is dated to the 10th century BC. During this period, only the western part of the Upper City was occupied. In the 9th century BC, most probably under King Ahab, the city expanded. The eastern part of the Upper City was fortified by a solid wall, and various important buildings such as the storehouses, citadel and the water system were erected.

Hazor suffered repeated destructions as a result of both the Aramean and Assyrian invasions. It was finally destroyed by the Assyrian King Tiglath-Pilesser

III, who, in 732 BC conquered the entire Galilee (2 Kgs, 15:29), in a campaign that marked the end of the Northern Kingdom of Israel as an independent entity. Hazor was doomed never to regain its importance. During the 7th - 2nd century BC settlement was confined only to the citadels erected in the western extremity of the Upper City. The last historical reference to Hazor is to be found in the book of Maccabees (I Macc. 11:67). Here we are told that Jonathan fought against Demetrius (147 BC) in the "plain of Hazor".

Tel Beer Sheba

Town planning:

Archaeologically, Beer Sheba's importance stems from the fact that the site contains the complete (and so far only) evidence enabling us to restore a planned Israelite city (for detailed discussion, see below 'Architectural Value'). Beer Sheba's advantage, as a site selected to research urban planning, is its limited size, some 1.1 hectare, compared, for example, to 6-7 ha. in Megiddo and Gezer. Due to its smaller size, a concentrated excavation managed to unearth some two thirds of the city's area. In strata III-II, the wide scope of the excavations enabled the archaeologists to bring to light extensive parts of the city. Consequently, we now have a detailed plan of a pre-planned Israelite city, the first and so far only such city excavated to such an extent in an archaeological excavation in Israel. Therefore, the results of the excavation and an analysis of its findings are of the utmost importance to the study of the history of urban planning in the ancient Land of Israel. Essentially, the basic features of the plan already appear as early as the city's first stage, dating to the 9th century BC (stratum V). Other sections, excavated within the city's bounds, attest to the fact that the city was already well-planned at stratum V, much like the cities excavated in later strata (strata IV-II). The abundant data relating to the Israelite city plan collected at Beer Sheba enable us to reconstruct the city's character and nature. The effort invested in the planning, construction and maintenance of the administrative buildings attests to the city's important status in the Judahite kingdom's administration. It seems that unlike modern cities, the ancient city was not apparently a residential center for a sizable part of the population, but rather a center for state officialdom, state buildings and for the royal treasure. The planned state city was designated to serve as a regional capital, and thus contained the administrative, military, economic and religious functions. For that particular purpose, the central administration was willing to invest the efforts and professional manpower required to construct the planned city of Israelite Beer Sheba.

Beer Sheba as a Gateway Community in the Long Distance Trade:

The Israelite city of Beer Sheba was located on one of the most important trade routes in the ancient Near East. The exotic raw materials (especially myrrh and frankincense), the mainstay of the trade with southern Arabia, were sought after throughout the Near East. The varied findings in Beer Sheba stratum II originating in the west (the Philistine coast and Egypt) and in the east (Edom, Assyria and southern Arabia) attest to Beer Sheba's role as a caravan station in the trade with the Arabian peninsula, one of whose routes crossed the Beer Sheba valley. In this trade system, rather than being the final destination for the caravans (traveling to the sea ports), Beer Sheba, supplied the necessary services required from a road station.

Scientific Value – Study and Research

Tel Megiddo

Archaeological Excavations and Countryside Survey

Due to the unique continuity of its occupation and the scope of its excavations, Tel Megiddo is considered the 'cradle' of biblical archaeology and the 'laboratory' of modern research methods. Megiddo has been excavated three times in the past. These three first stages of excavations at Megiddo laid the foundations for the entire discipline of biblical archaeology.

The first excavations at the site were conducted by Gottlieb Schumacher from 1903-1905, on behalf of the German Society for Oriental Research. At the turn of the 20th c., and especially in Germany, the 'Babel und Bibel' controversy had been sparked off by suggestions that parts of the Bible had been borrowed from Egyptian and Babylonian sources. All sides were eager to see excavations of a major biblical site shed new light on the fierce debate. Gottlieb Schumacher chose Megiddo, for besides the biblical references, the site was also known from extra-biblical sources dating to Canaanite times (such as the el-Amarna letters) as an important center.

In 1925, excavations at Megiddo were renewed by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. This large-scale undertaking, financed by John D. Rockefeller Jr. and directed successively by Clarence Fisher, P.L.O. Guy and Gordon Loud, went on until the outbreak of World War II in 1939. These thorough excavations, made possible by year-round field work, revealed twenty javascript:show('chicago.jpg');major levels of occupation ,covering the entire history of the site .The excavators exposed the 'Sacred Compound', the monumental

fortifications and gates, the impressive water systems, various palaces, and the so-called ‘Solomonic Stables’.

Seeking to clarify the complicated stratigraphic problems related to the Iron Age remains at the site, Yigael Yadin undertook, in the 1960s and early 1970s, a few short seasons of excavation at Megiddo on behalf of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Yadin's excavations partially uncovered the monumental Palace 6000, which he attributed to King Solomon.

Archaeological methods, however, were still in their infancy, and nearly every layer and major architectural feature has since become the focus of fierce scholarly dispute. Megiddo was therefore chosen by The 'Megiddo Expedition' (co- directed by David Ussishkin and Israel Finkelstein from Tel Aviv University and Baruch Halpern from Pennsylvania State University, within a vast consortium of American and European academic institutions) for putting new hypotheses to the test. This fourth archeological mission has been digging at the site every other year since 1994 - with a minor dig in 1992 - reinvestigating previously excavated remains and opening new areas. The surgically precise digging and soundings by the current Tel Aviv-led expedition are supported by state of the art multi-disciplinary research (zoo-archaeology, archaeo-botanics, paleo-tectonics, vulcanology, C14 dating checks, etc…). Megiddo and its stratigraphy are therefore at the core of the two most relevant debates in Biblical and Ancient Near East archaeology today: the debate about the absolute chronology of the Iron Age strata (cf. Addenda, Finkelstein’s article in *Levant,* 1996) and that concerning the extent and grandeur of the 'United Monarchy' of King Solomon, versus the might and prestige of the Omride dynasty of the Israelite Kingdom, at the time of the so-called 'Divided Monarchy'.

Another achievement of the 'Megiddo Expedition' is the Survey of the Megiddo Countryside, directed by Israel Finkelstein (TAU), Baruch Halpern (Pennsylvania State University), and Michael Niemann (Rostock University). The goal of this survey is to shed light on the economy, society and demography of Megiddo’s hinterland in ancient times, in relation to the information gathered from the mound. The systematic investigation of the Jezreel Valley and gathering of all available data helps to draw a comprehensive picture of the settlement history of the region. The designated area covers the Valley itself and the hills surrounding it, to a distance of ca. 3 km. from the edge of the Valley (approximately 450 sq. km). It includes some of the most important Bronze and Iron Age sites in the country: Megiddo, Tel Shimron, Jezreel, Yoqne’am and Ta’anach.

Tel Hazor

Hazor was first excavated in 1928 by John Garstang, on behalf of the British Mandate Department of Antiquities. The results of Garstang's sounding on the Upper Tel and in the Lower City, although never published in detail, hinted at the density of the archaeological remains and the importance of the site.
Extensive excavations were carried out on the site in the 1950's, and since then Hazor has maintained a place of honor in the history of modern Israeli Archaeology. The expedition to Hazor, led by the late Yigael Yadin of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, was the largest and most important archaeological excavation undertaken by the young state of Israel. Between 1955 and 1958, and then again in 1968, Yadin's team employed hundreds of workers spread over the Upper and Lower Cities. Fourteen excavation areas were explored during these seasons. Most of today's senior Israeli archaeologists worked under Yadin at Hazor. Here, more than at any other site in the country, the next generation of Israeli archaeologists was trained.

Excavations at Hazor were renewed in 1990, as a joint project of the Hebrew University and the Israel Exploration Society, together with other international institutions. The renewed excavations, focusing on two major areas on the upper Tel, are directed Amnon Ben-Tor. Two main objectives were defined: First, checking the stratigraphy on which Yadin based his chronological and historical conclusions, and re-examining them in view of the advances in archaeological knowledge and methodology made in the many years since. The second objective was to explore several issues left unresolved by Yadin's expedition. These include, among others, the nature and borders of the "Solomonic" city, the chronology and ethnic affiliation of the early Israelite (=Iron I) settlement, the dating and characteristics of Canaanite Hazor's destruction and the nature of Hazor in the middle Bronze Age. The renewed excavations tackled most of these issues, and the relevant archaeological finds are now in the process of analysis. Some of these were already published and discussed in detail, as they have direct bearing on current debates concerning the nature and chronology of the Israelite settlement of Canaan, the United and the Divided Monarchy periods. Hazor plays a crucial role in these debates, and the rich archaeological finds from the site dated to these periods are unparalleled in any other Tel in Israel.

Therefore, Hazor finds itself at the very center of the scientific debate involving archaeologists, historians and bible scholars and the general public, concerning the historical value of the biblical narrative.

Hundreds of volunteers from all over the world participated in the dig throughout the last 14 seasons of the renewed excavations at Hazor. Some of them keep

returning to Israel summer after summer (in some cases, for seven or eight consecutive years!), just to take part in the excavations and help uncover the remains of the Israelite and Canaanite cities.

Tel Beer Sheba

The excavation at the site of Tel Beer sheba was conducted as part of a regional survey. In the 1960's, the late Prof. Aharoni initiated a regional study of the Beer Sheba valley, a project that continued after his death in 1976. The survey focused on excavating the mounds of Arad, Beer Sheba, Tel Malhata, Tel Massos and Tel Ira. The concept behind this regional study was to target a specific geographic region, fully cover the studied area and present a comparative analysis of all sites found. The regional survey enables us to study not only the history of each settlement, but to reconstruct the settlement processes in a specific geographic area, and determine the underlying factors for the foundation of settlements or for gaps in their history. This kind of archaeology, known as “archaeology of settlement’” is eminently suited to the Beer Sheba valley, synonymous to the biblical “Negev” (or “ Judaean Negev”), which in antiquity, was a frontier area compared to the northern parts of the country. Settlement in the Beer Sheba valley was, more often than not, the result of external pressures (military, commercial of demographic), rather than any appeal of the region itself.

Regarding the role of the activity in Tel Beer Sheba as a “field school” of training conservation workers, see paragraph 3d.

Architectural Value

Tel Megiddo

Megiddo's foremost and most specific 'architectural value' could be designated as **"The Serial Effect".** Excavations have exposed complete sets of monuments representing all main historical periods present at the site: a 'series' of temples (from the EB to the Iron I periods); a 'series' of palaces (from the MB, LB, Iron II and Assyrian periods); and a 'series' of city-gates and fortifications (from the MB, LB, Iron II and Assyrian periods). In this respect, Megiddo constitutes a sort of show-case for the architectural history of Biblical Lands, where one can study the evolution of building traditions and general planning for each and every type of monument.

The following variety of parameters fulfilled by Megiddo's monuments demonstrates its preeminence in terms of architectural value (for details on the monuments, cf. below, 3.a, 'Description of the Property'):

1 - Quality of workmanship: Palace 6000 is one of the best preserved examples of monumental ashlar masonry in Israel; Palace 1723 yielded some of the largest proto-aeolic[1] capitals ever found in the country, as well as massive ashlar blocks with mason marks (the only other example being the blocks found at the Omride palace of Samaria).

2 – Monumentality: the vast stone-built multi-chambered city-gates; the dimensions of the recently discovered EB I temple - unprecedented in the entire Levant; the Late Bronze and Israelite palaces; the elaborate and technologically advanced water system.

3- Magnitude: the 'Sacred compound' covers a large part of the eastern side of the mound; the Northern and Southern horse-stable complexes, which comprised altogether 17 units and could accommodate up to 450 horses at one time, extended over a large part of the Stratum IV city.

4- Novelty: the use of ashlar masonry for construction appeared in Canaan for the first time in Megiddo's Late Bronze city-gate and temple; the use of corbelling domes appears in Canaan for the first time in Megiddo's Royal tomb; the orthogonal, so-called 'hippodamian' – layout appeared for the first time in the Levant in Megiddo's Assyrian city.

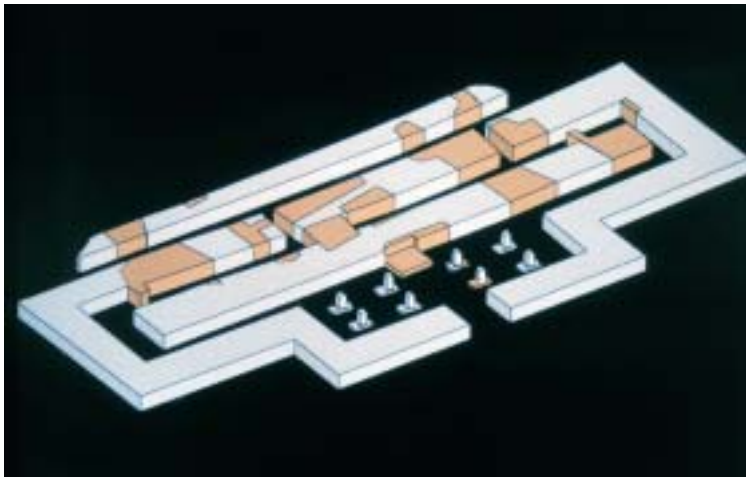
5- Technical prowess: is clearly manifest in two major construction projects: the horse-stables and the water system (cf. Technological value, below). In the case of the water system, technical prowess was augmented by highly sophisticated engineering skills, which included planning, calculating gradients and forces, water volumes and flows, quarrying in a slanted direction, and building huge retaining walls.

6- Cultural influences: the Egyptian influence displayed in the Late Bronze palace of Stratum VII A; the Aegean-type Royal tomb; the Israelite (Iron II) palaces 6000 and 1723 influenced by the plan of the *bit-hilani*[2] palaces from Northern Syria.

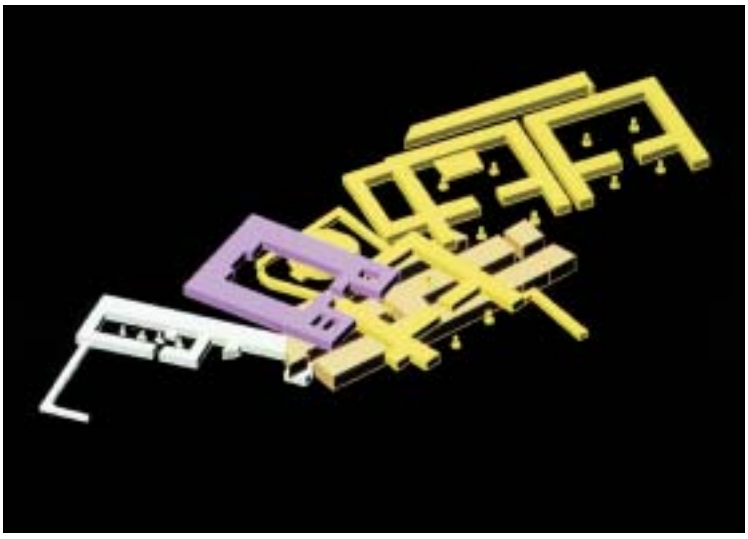
[1] Type of stone capital ornamented with a central triangle separating two rising volutes. From the late 10th and 9th c BC onwards they were an important element of ashlar construction. They are found at Megiddo, Hazor, Dan, Samaria, Ramat Rahel and Jerusalem.

[2] A distinctive type of Iron Age palace, consisting of a monumental entrance and rows of small chambers surrounding a large reception hall, which appeared for the first time in Northern Syria in the early 9th c. BC.

Tel Megiddo - Aerial View of the 'Sacred Compound'.
Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.



Tel Megiddo - Computer generated plan of the J4 level huge temple in the 'Sacred Compound'.
Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.



Tel Megiddo - Computer generated plans of the temples in the 'Sacred Compound'
(EB through Iron I periods).
Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.

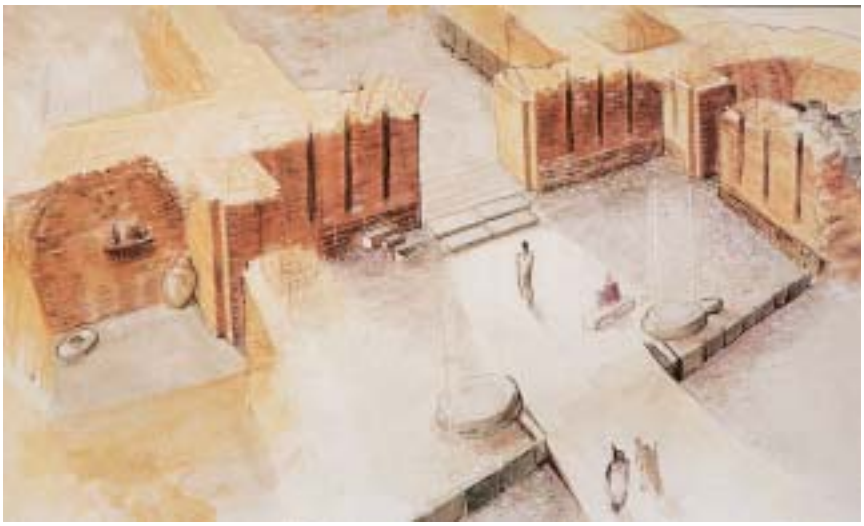
Tel Hazor

Monuments and Workmanship

Hazor was a thriving and densely built city throughout most known phases of its existence. Several of its architectural monuments merit, however, special attention.

Sometime in the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC, the whole enclosure of the Lower City to the north of the Tel was encircled by earthen ramparts, measuring as wide as 90 meters and as high as 15 meters. The construction method employed for these huge ramparts was very sophisticated, and adapted to both topographical and tactical requirements. At the heart of the rampart was a massive bricks-built core, against which the numerous earthen layers forming the sloping rampart were thrown. It was therefore necessary to dig a deep, wide moat on the western side. The soil from the moat was removed to create embankments on the west and north. The slopes of the eastern side were reinforced and fortified with a glacis. In this way, a well-fortified enclosure was created. Similar examples are known in Syrian sites such as Qatna, Ebla, Alalakh and Carchemish. At least two monumental gates were incorporated within the rampart, providing a well protected entryway into the Bronze Age city. The gates are of the “Syrian” direct axis type, with three pairs of pilasters flanking the entrance. The entire enclosure within the rampart was densely built and well planned throughout most of the second millennium BC.

During the Middle and the Late Bronze Ages, several monumental buildings, interpreted as palaces and temples, were erected in both the Upper and the Lower City. Some of these structures (i.e. the “Orthostat Temple” in the Lower City, the “Podium Complex” on the northern slope of the Upper Tel, and the “Canaanite Palace” on the acropolis of the Tel) were built on top of huge earthen podiums, intended to level the ground in preparation for the building activities. Bronze Age buildings at Hazor are built in a north Syrian architectural tradition, and show a high level of workmanship, seldom attested in other contemporaneous sites in Israel. Most of these buildings share common architectural features, such as the use of well-dressed basalt orthostats for lining the walls, the huge rounded basalt column bases defining the entrance, and the incorporation of wooden (=cedar of Lebanon) beams in the walls and maybe also the floors. Noteworthy examples are the “Double Temple” (area F) and “Orthostat Temple” (area H) in the Lower City, the “Podium Complex” (area M) on the northern slope of the upper Tel, and the “long-room Temple” and “Canaanite Palace” (area A) on the acropolis of the Tel. Indeed, Hazor is the southernmost site where these foreign architectural features are found in monumental buildings.



Isometric reconstruction of the entryway to the Late Bronze Age Canaanite Palace in the Upper City of Hazor Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology and M. T. Rubiato

Hazor: The spacious (40 x 40 foot) throne room of the Canaanite Palace Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Hazor: The orthostats (smoothly chiseled slabs of basalt) lining the lower facade of the Canaanite Palace Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Hazor: A large basalt orthostat with a crouching lion relief (typical to the Canaanite masonry tradition), found in secondary use in an Israelite building Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

The first Israelite fortified city, attributed by Yadin to the time of king Solomon, is represented by a six-chambered gate and a casemate wall encircling the western half of the upper Tel. The construction of the massive stone gate was preceded by enormous leveling operations. Yadin emphasized the similarity, in plan and building technique, between this gate and other gates, at Gezer and Megiddo, in his interpretation of the gates as a part of Solomon's wide ranging building activities, related in the bible (1 Kgs. 9:15). In the following centuries, under the kingdom of Israel, Hazor flourished once again. A wide solid city wall, built in the well-known "offsets and insets" technique, was built all around the upper Tel. Several large administrative buildings were erected throughout the city, most of which employed rows of large monolithic stone columns to separate their inner halls from one another. A large citadel was built on the westernmost part of the Tel, a position controlling the road leading north, located at the foot of the Tel. Several features found within the citadel, such as the proto-aeolic capitals adorning its monumental entrance, are characteristic of the Israelite architectural traditions known from other sites in the Northern Kingdom. The most noteworthy element in the overall plan of this prosperous administrative city is the water system, built to supply the city's needs under siege (see below, Technological Value).

Tel Beer Sheba

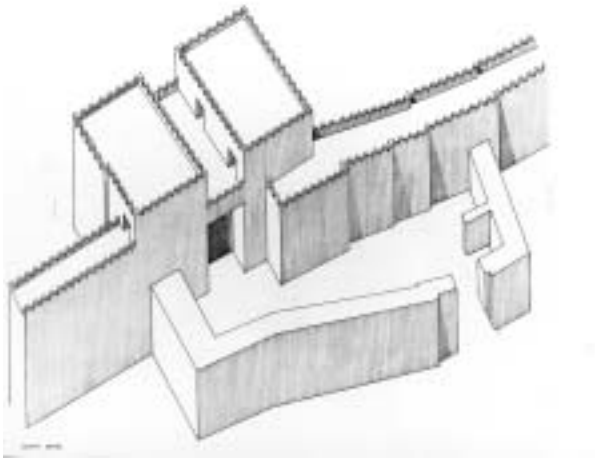
The Israelite city of Tel Beer Sheba was a pre-planned city rather than the result of gradual evolution. This plan, unearthed almost in its entirety during the excavations, affords an insight into city planning in the period. The public buildings of this city are also of great architectural value.

- City Plan: The outer outline of the city is oval, suggesting an intention to adapt to the natural topography of the hill. A wall was built along the city’s perimeter, with a gate at the south. The peripheral streets, dividing the city into three parallel blocks, were laid parallel to the wall. The streets’ width, continuous route and the uniform size of the residential quarters, all plainly suggest that the city was built according to a premeditated plan, which was meticulously adhered to, without any deviations. In addition to the peripheral streets there was another, perpendicular street, which crosses the city and facilitates access to the areas farthest from the gate. All streets lead to a rectangular space on the inner side of the gate that served as the city’s main square. The gate itself served both to defend the entrance into the city and as a seat for the city’s elders. The cells of the gate, equipped with plastered benches, along with the nearby square, were intended for the daily use of the townspeople, and were probably used by local leaders and

merchants. The elaborate drainage system unearthed underneath the city streets is an equally telling manifestation of urban planning. This system, comprising of plastered gutters that collected rainwater along house walls, as well as main and secondary channels – carried the rainwater outside through a central channel that was constructed underneath the gate. These drainage channels were built to remove rainwater as fast as possible from within the city's perimeter, and prevent them soaking the ground and dissolving the plaster holding together the stone foundations of the houses. The main channel's course led outside the city, to the ancient water well, where the water was collected. Due to its excellent planning, the city's founders managed to incorporate in it some 75 residential units (housing some 300 people), in addition to the administrative structures. The built area in the site takes up about 90% of the site's entire area, whereas in unplanned cities of the same period, such as Tel Bet Mirsim, only some 50% of the given area was built up.

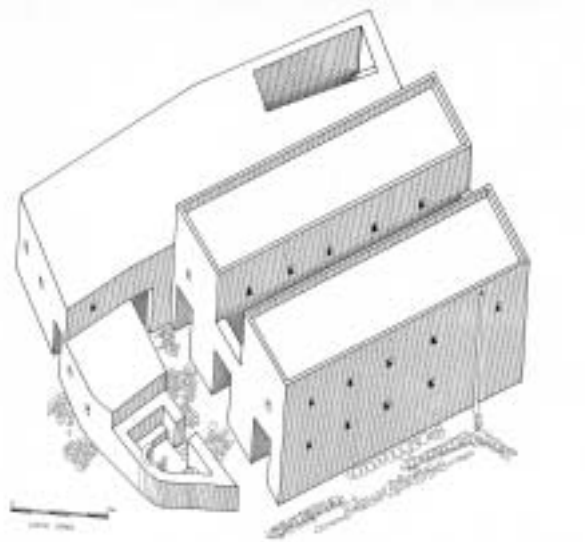
- Public Administrative Structures in the City: Besides the ordinary dwellings, the city contains structures designated for specific purposes. These include the city gate and the wall, built for defense; the storehouses; two exceptionally large buildings (palaces); the water system which provided a regular water supply that enabled the city to withstand a prolonged siege (For detailed discussion See below Technological Value**). The storehouses** were built on an area of 600 square meters, at the south-eastern part of the mound, near the city gate. The structure includes three large units, each divided into three elongated halls by two rows of stone pillars, which, in the suggested reconstruction, had supported an elevated ceiling. The hundreds of pottery vessels, discovered in the destruction layer (stratum II) serve as an important source of information on how the storehouses had been organized. Apparently, each of the six storage halls contained every type of vessel, and therefore – every kind of food. Thus, the halls could be functioning separately, and each of them fulfilled every need. Besides storage vessels, the halls were found to contain other vessels, used in the preparation, cooking and measuring out of food. Therefore, these were apparently "active storehouses" where, food, besides being stored, was also processed, measured and prepared for delivery. The grinding stones and mortars found within the storehouses attest, among other things, to the processing of food done inside. The central halls in every storehouse, where no vessels were found, had served as passages for the transportation of supplies. Interestingly enough, the evidence to that are the holes drilled deliberately into several corners of the stone pillars. These were used to tether beasts of burden (donkeys, mules) waiting to be loaded or unloaded, who could meanwhile be fed and watered in the trough-like installations built in the spaces separating the pillars. In the state administration

Beer Sheba - The Entrance Gate and the Drainage Channel
Courtesy of Beer Sheba Expedition of the TAU Institute of Archaeology



Beer Sheba - Isometric drawing of the City Gate in Stratum V (Iron Age)
Courtesy of Beer Sheba Expedition of the TAU Institute of Archaeology

Beer Sheba - The Governor Palace (Iron Age)
Courtesy of Beer Sheba Expedition of the TAU Institute of Archaeology



Isometric drawing of the Governor Palace (Iron Age)
Courtesy of Beer Sheba Expedition of t
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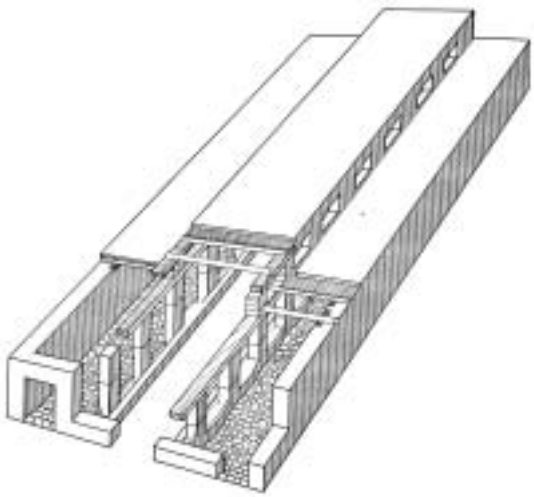
Beer Sheba - The Storehouses after reconstruction
Courtesy of Beer Sheba Expedition of the TAU Institute of Archaeology



Isometric drawing of Beer Sheba Storehouses (Iron Age)
Courtesy of Beer Sheba Expedition of the TAU Institute of Archaeology

system, the storehouses served as the economic foundation for the administrative and military organization of the area, which had depended on a regular food supply to army units and other officials relying on the state's stores for their needs. An exceptionally large building, located near the square, was probably used as a residence for the governor, who in the Israelite period was designated "ruler of the city". This **Governor's Palace** includes a formal wing, consisting of three elongated halls, a service wing containing a kitchen and a storage room, and a residential wing. The structure was built in stratum III. The stones of a **horned altar** - the largest (each side measuring some 1.6 m**.)** and most elaborate of all altars so far discovered in Israel - were found in incorporated into one of the storehouse walls, in a secondary use. This intentional dismantling of the altar, and the fact that the temple itself was not discovered, suggest a reform in ritual practices in Beer Sheba. Such a religious reform, appearing in the Bible for the first time in the reign of Hezekiah (II kings, 18), was initiated to eliminate worship in smaller towns and to centralize religious ritual solely in Jerusalem. This change marks the end of stratum III and the beginning of stratum II, the last in the city's existence. **A** building, exceptional in measurements and plan, was named by the archaeological expedition the **"Cellar House"** since two of its rooms were sunk to a depth of some 2.5 m. below floor level. The structure was built in stratum II, and during its construction all previous remains were dismantled down to bedrock level. Presumably this structure too was used for administrative purposes, and the cellars may have been used for wine storage.

Technological Value

Tel Megiddo

Tel Megiddo's horse-stables and water system highlight the site's technological value.

a- The Horse-Stables

Ever since their discovery by the University of Chicago's expedition, the seventeen pillared buildings at Megiddo have been the subject of a fierce controversy. Founding his interpretation on two biblical verses – one mentioning King Solomon's building activity at Megiddo (1 Kgs. 9:15) and the other Solomon's city of chariots and horsemen (1 Kgs. 9: 19), P.L.O. Guy interpreted them as horse-stables dating to Solomon's reign. This interpretation was challenged in the 1970's and 1980's, after the discovery of pillared building containing a wealth of pottery vessels at Tel Beer Sheba. Ever since, some scholars offered to see the pillared buildings either as store houses, army barracks or market places. During

the 1998 and 2000 seasons of excavations, the occupation levels of one pillared building in the northern sector of the Tel have been exposed. This discovery sheds new light on the issue.

Despite the similarity in their general layout, Megiddo's pillared buildings are quite different from the buildings remains of Tel Beer Sheba, in terms of monumentality, location in the city, quality of construction and presence of a large courtyard in front of the southern complex. A recent study by an equine specialist tends to revive the 'horse-stables' interpretation (cf. Addenda: D. Cantrell and I. Finkelstein's article, courtesy of the editors of the forthcoming Megiddo IV, final report).

Remains of stables were found in other parts of the ancient Near East (such as Bastam in Urartu, or in the Nile Delta). Nowhere do they constitute a main feature of the site, whereas at Megiddo horse-stables occupy a large portion of the Stratum IV city (cf. below, History of the Site). A recent study of their building techniques and characteristics shows that they fit all the basic requirements of horse management, from breeding to training:

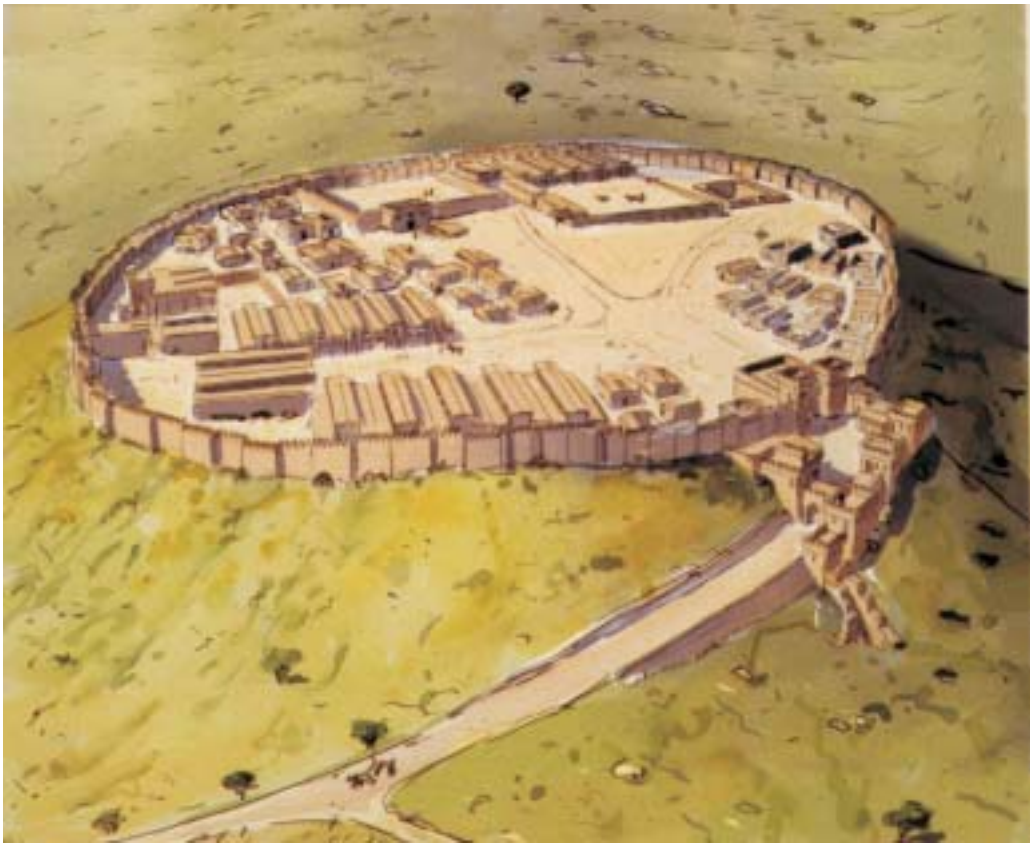
--The troughs used for feeding the horses with grain and hay.

--The pillar dividers between the troughs, used both to support the roof and block the sight of the neighboring horse while feeding, thus preventing horses from fighting over the food.

--The cobbled stone paving of the stall area, similar to that considered ideal by the Greek cavalry commander Xenophon (ca. 400 BC). Paving the stall area with stones keeps the horses from slipping and helps harden their hooves. In fact, the Megiddo stall areas, with their paving made of stones imbedded in dirt and covered with straw bedding would have been the optimal solution for keeping the hooves properly trimmed and clean.

--The Tethering holes found on some of the pillars, between the troughs. These were used to tie the horses during the daily grooming process and veterinary treatment.

--The 55 m. square training courtyard at the southern complex, plastered with a smooth lime coating and providing a flat surface, ideally suited for chariot-training. The plastered surface prevented the area from becoming rutted by the chariot wheels and ground into dust by sharp hooves. The builders of the southern courtyard took great care to ensure a smooth, almost level surface, using arduous ground-fill techniques (up to 4 m thick), extensive mud-brick retaining walls, and drainage systems to facilitate water drainage. The gentle slope toward the north provided a slight incline, which would have given the horses the simulated training benefit of pulling against the yoke on undulating terrain.



Tel Megiddo- Artistic Rendering of the Stratum IVA 'City of Stables'.
Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.

Tel Megiddo- Aerial View of the southern Stables. Looking south.
Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.

--**Proper Ventilation,** essential for preventing the stables from becoming a hotbed of bacteria (due to urine, water and grain decomposition), which in turn could decimate the horse population. One solution available at the Megiddo stables was to leave all or part of the center aisle unroofed.

While the southern complex was characterized by a large courtyard, the northern one seemed to have had only a small paddock. This may point to a difference in their use: the southern for training - the northern for breeding. The ancient architects gave considerable thought to stable design, including the safety of the horses and the stables' personnel. The presence of the nearby grain silo and water system (cf. chapter 3. b, 'Description of Property') allowed the stabling of up to 450 horses at one time at the site. Horse-breeding and training were apparently the major economic activity of the Stratum IV city. Therefore, the architects and builders of the stables paid considerable attention to protecting the valuable animals, providing abundantly for their maintenance and maximizing their performance. Many features present in the Megiddo stables - the center aisle, the troughs, the pillar dividers - are still in use in modern barns, 2800 years later.

b- The Water System

During the Iron II period, water systems reached their zenith in terms of numbers and variety. Technical and technological progress allowed engineers to provide each site with a water system adapted to its specific terrain and geological characteristics.

The problem of supplying water to large cities, a serious issue even in times of peace, could become acute in times of siege, especially when, as at Megiddo, the main water source was located beyond the fortifications. The evolution of Megiddo's water economy is attested by the archaeological excavations: it can be traced from the simplest use of the spring - located at the SW foot of the mound - to the construction of a sophisticated water-system aiming at ensuring access from within the city. The water source may have been in use as far back as the Late Bronze period. Then, the city's inhabitants simply walked to it from the city to draw water. As time passed, the output of the spring decreased. The solutions envisaged by the city's inhabitants to reach the spring, situated 35 m below the surface, follow three main stages:

1 – A well is hewn in a cave, reached through a hidden stone-built slanted 'gallery', roofed and concealed, passing beneath the city-wall, making the spring accessible only from within the city.

2-. A vertical square shaft is dug inside the city, from the surface of the mound through layers of debris and bedrock to the level of the cave. The bottom of the

shaft is then connected to the cave by a tunnel. The shaft ends in an inclined passage with rock-cut stairs, from which a horizontal tunnel cut in the rock leads to the spring. The outside entrance to the cave is then sealed off by a wall, whose outer face is concealed by earth filling, while the 'gallery' is blocked.
3 – The tunnel is extended eastwards, its gradient reversed, converting it into an aqueduct, carrying the water from the spring to the bottom of the vertical shaft. The rock-cut steps in the inclined passage are quarried away. Henceforth, water could be drawn from within the city, through the shaft, using ropes and buckets. In a late stage, masonry steps may have been built in the inclined passage, once again providing access to the tunnel.

Megiddo's water system is one of the most impressive in the ancient world. The whole monumental enterprise required not only technical know-how, but also the capacity to invest large financial resources, to deploy manpower and to coordinate general planning. Its great technological innovation, the hewing of the 80 m. long tunnel, represented the apex of technology of the period.

Tel Hazor

Canaanite and Israelite Water Systems

The water systems at Hazor attest to the vast technological knowledge possessed by the city's ancient inhabitants, who constructed them based on their knowledge of the surroundings, of geology, hydrology and engineering, their construction skills as well as their ability to plan and to implement. The construction of the water systems could not have been carried out without methodical work plans and organizational capabilities.

Water systems reflect the peak of technological progress in the relevant periods. The city engineers and architects utilized the accumulated knowledge available at the time and applied it amazingly well, using strategic thinking to ensure the water system would withstand siege. Where the Hazor and other water systems are concerned, advanced technology was drafted into the service of a survival need.

The most noteworthy technological achievements at Hazor are:

1- The network of channels dating to the Middle Bronze Age.
2- The trefoil-shaped, plastered Bronze Age water system, the only one of its kind is Israel (no other reservoirs as old as this one are known.)
3- The sophisticated Iron Age water system, independent of any outside water source.

1- The Middle Bronze Age channels (in the Lower City)

A subterranean system of channels, parts of which were discovered to the northeastern part of the Tel (Area N), drained water from the city and irrigated the surrounding fields. Several arteries drained the city's rainwater (and perhaps sewage as well), using the lower areas of the gates as an outlet for the channels. The dating of these channels to the Middle Bronze Age makes them one of the earliest irrigation systems in Israel. It thus may be assumed that this amazing network was built under the influence of similar irrigation and drainage systems common in Mesopotamia.

2- The Late Bronze Age Water Reservoir

The Late Bronze Age water reservoir at Hazor, located to the south of the Bronze Age temple in Area A of the Upper City consists of a 30 m. long descending tunnel, hewn out of the rock and ending in a trefoil-shaped cave, and a vaulted corridor with stairs leading into the tunnel. The channel reaches the rock level at a depth of 3 m and from that point on is cut into the rock. The reservoir was discovered intact, including its roof. The constructed portion of the channel is barrel-shaped and built using the corbelling method (reminiscent of "Mycenaean" construction such as the tomb at Megiddo). The quarried segment continues westwards for about 30 m. at a sharp angle and a depth of 8.5 m. The tunnel, approximately 2 m wide, ends with an elongated cross-shaped or cloverleaf-shaped reservoir. The space of the reservoir is thus divided into three containment chambers. The entire tunnel was covered with a layer of plaster. The long tunnel served as a water reservoir, and not as means to reach underground water. This is attested by its plastered walls, by the channel leading into it and by the fine basalt inlet built into its inner walls. This reservoir must have served the occupants of the Bronze Age palatial precinct on the acropolis of the Tel.

3- The (Israelite) Iron Age II Water System

The system is located west of the acropolis of the Tel (Area L), close to the southern slope, just opposite the natural springs in Nahal (Wadi) Hazor, at the foot of the mound. Yadin's excavations proved that the water system reached groundwater level within the confines of the city, and did not, as originally assumed, draw its water from the springs outside the Tel. It seems that the water system’s engineers knew, or at least imagined, that the level of the water feeding the springs outside the city could also be found inside the city. This water system was therefore even more protected than the one at Megiddo, since it was entirely enclosed within the city.

The building of the system is dated to the ninth century BC (stratum VIII, the reign of King Ahab). The water system continued to function until the last days of the kingdom of Israel and the Assyrian conquest of 732 BC (Stratum V). The

dating of the water system to the first half of the ninth century BC, like the water system at Megiddo, permits the assumption that, with increased threats against Israel from its enemies Aram and Assyria from the beginning of the ninth century onwards, defensive efforts were intensified. These included the erection of fortifications systems that could withstand prolonged siege, and the building of subterranean water systems within the confines of the Israelite and Judahite cities.

The Hazor Iron Age II water system consists of four parts:

a-The entrance: At the southeastern corner, two ramps made of crushed limestone led to the entrance structure, shaped as an open-ended rectangle, at the top of the shaft. The entrance was meant to diminish the gradient and shorten the length of the slope leading from city level to the top of the shaft. The entrance and exit of the structure were built of huge ashlar blocks and a large basalt orthostat was placed in one of the doorposts.

b-The shaft: The vertical, rectangular shaft is 20 m. long up to the point where it reaches the tunnel. The top of the shaft was quarried at a height of 222 m above sea level and it is approximately 10 m lower than the top of the Tel. The shaft consists of two parts: the upper part, dug through previous strata to a depth of 10 m., and the lower part, quarried into the rock to an average depth of approximately 10 m.

The upper part of the shaft is supported by huge retaining walls. The retaining walls are well preserved, mainly at the corners, to a height of 4 m. The wide dimensions of the shaft allowed the quarrying of five flights of 3 m wide steps. The sloping tunnel begins at the end of the last steps. The moderate gradient of the steps, and their width, allowed for two-way traffic.

c-The Sloping Tunnel: The tunnel slopes downward to the point where the steps end in the tunnel's ceiling. The tunnel's length is 25 m. and the height differential is 10 m., with the lower part reaching the water level. The tunnels' ceiling is gabled (like the one at Megiddo), and its average height is 4 meters, as is the width of the opening. On the wall of the tunnel one can see signs of quarrying made by two kinds of tools, wide and narrow. The tunnel's 80 steps were cut into the soft chalk and plastered to protect them, except for the last 7 steps, reached by the water, which were made out of basalt and broken pieces of the orthostats put to secondary use.

d-The Water Source: Ground water in the vicinity provided the water that collected in this (5 X 2.2 m) pool, at the end of the tunnel.

Tel Beer Sheba

Since there are no springs in the Beer Sheba valley, the water supply to the mounds in the region became a matter of survival to the ancient settlers. The ancient city of Beer Sheba had two water supply facilities – on the south-eastern slope, a 70 m. deep well, and within the city, a water system (a reservoir). Both facilities were built during the Iron Age and were in use up to the end of the 1st century BC. Both installations represent different solutions to the water supply problem: at peacetime, the well enabled the city dwellers to draw the underground water, whereas the large water storage system was intended to sustain them during siege and prevent the enemy from compromising the water source.

-The Well: outside the city's fortifications, at roughly 2 m. under the surface, the excavators found a well, 1.8 m. in diameter. The upper part of the well, down to 5 m., was dug into the conglomerate levels and lined with dressed limestone. The lower part of the well was cut into chalk. When found, the well was filled with refuse dating to the Hellenistic period. This was cleared down to underground water level, currently at 69 m. The excavators dug 1 m. more underwater, still not reaching the bottom of the hewn well. The well served as a source of water for both the city dwellers and travelers from the Iron Age up to the end of the Hellenistic period. It fell into disuse when its top part collapsed into the shaft, apparently as a result of an earthquake during king Herod's reign. After the collapse the well was deliberately filled up.
Drawing water that flow 69 m. below the surface is hard work. Ethnographic analogies suggest that this was done by beasts of burden, usually a donkey. Once the rope had been put down and the vessel filled with water, the animal pulled the rope to a distance of 70 m. Based on these assumptions, the National Parks Authority (now INPA) built an installation comprising of a bucket, a rope and a pulley, that can be operated manually or using a donkey. A trough into which the drawn water may be poured was built near the well.

-The Water System: the remains of the water system, unearthed by the excavators, were extraordinarily well preserved and form a most impressive part of the ancient remains at Tel Beer Sheba. The water system included a network of channels that collected the water and carried it into a subterranean reservoir. The descent into the reservoir was from within the city, through a deep shaft equipped with stairs. The water itself was flood water flowing in the Hebron wadi, which a dam diverted into the channels and through them to the reservoir pools. The construction of the water system required meticulous planning. First, the architects had to bring into account the level at which the water would flow into the reservoir and employ gravity to ensure the flow. The north-eastern edge of the hill was selected as the location for the water system mainly for its proximity to the

Hebron wadi streambed, and the existence of a natural terrace in the hill – a saddle connecting it to the eastern hill. However, since the water system was incorporated into the city's fortification system, its construction here required its builders to erect an enormous glacis, built with the earth removed in the construction of the water system, and supported and stabilized by retaining walls. The water system was built in stratum V, along with the first fortified city, and was encompassed by the city wall. In the north-eastern corner of the mound, the wall was reinforced with a salient tower, overlooking the access way to the city gate on one side, and the entry to the water system on the other. The water system apparently served the local population up to the Hellenistic period, when it collapsed in the 31 AD earthquake, and fell into disuse.

2. b. Comparative Analysis

Each of the three Tels under discussion is of crucial cultural, historical and biblical significance.

Megiddo is a principal icon in western tradition. It is mentioned many times in the Bible, in relation to important figures such as Joshua, King Solomon and King Josiah, and is the place of Armageddon of the Book of Revelations. It is the only site in Israel which is mentioned in texts from all the great empires of the ancient Near East as well as the the Bible. Megiddo, excavated for a century, has become the cradle of Biblical Archaeology and a laboratory for methods of excavating ancient Tels. Furthermore, the site yielded an unparalleled series of Bronze and Iron Age monuments – palaces, gates, temples, water systems etc. Megiddo is the ideal site to see biblical monuments and experience biblical atmosphere.
Hazor is the largest Tel in Israel. The Biblical reference that "Hazor formerly was the head of all those kingdoms" (Joshua 11, 10) reflects the memory of its preeminence in the Bronze Age. The remains of the Late Bronze palace at Hazor, the largest and best preserved in the entire Levant, manifest the Canaanite culture of the second millennium BC better than any other monument in the region. The destruction of the palace in a terrible fire provides a unique glimpse into the great turmoil that afflicted Western Asia at the end of the Bronze Age. Hazor also features in important biblical references, mainly the story of the conquest of Canaan by Joshua and the building activities of King Solomon.
Beer Sheba had a shorter history, mainly in the Iron Age. Its main importance lies in the fact that large parts of it were excavated and the biblical town of the 8th century BC exposed. It affords visitors a unique, unprecedented opportunity to view an entire Judahite town, with all its components: fortifications, gate, store houses, plaza, streets, private houses and a water system.

The three sites under discussion represent significant, in many instances unparalleled phenomena in Israel and the entire Levant.

The Early Bronze 'Sacred compound' at Megiddo has no parallel anywhere in the Levant in the number of temples, their monumentality and the continuity of the cult activity. The Early Bronze I monumental temple is the best manifestation of the first urbanization process in the Levant. It also features the only record of the actual ritual activity in an ancient Near Eastern temple – the remains of the offerings brought, sacrificed, and disposed off.

The Middle Bronze fortifications (ramparts) at Hazor are a beautfully preserved example of earthen ramparts, known in the area which stretches from southern Turkey in the north to the Negev (in Israel) in the south. Hazor, together with Qatna in western Syria, provide the best examples for such earthen ramparts.
The Late Bronze palace of Hazor is the most elaborate and best preserved edifice of its kind in Israel, and one of the best preserved in the entire Levant. Comparable monuments were excavated at Alalach in southern Turkey and Megiddo, but the palace in the latter was removed in the course of excavation in the 1920s.

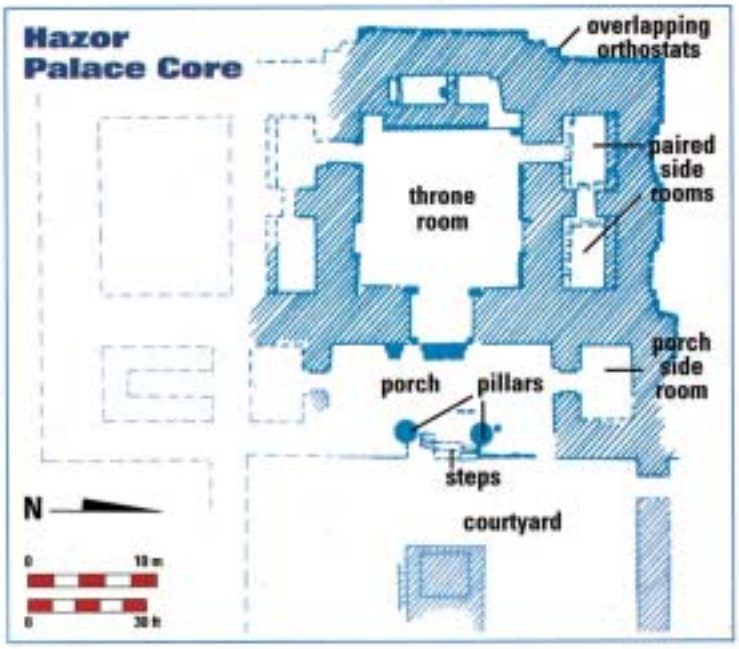
The Late Bronze corbelled tomb at Megiddo is unique in its construction technique (false vault) and monumentality. Somewhat similar tombs were found in Ugarit on the Syrian coast.

The Iron Age water systems of Megiddo, Hazor and Beer Sheba are superb examples of this technical innovation of the first millennium BC. They can be compared to the "Hezekiah Tunnel" in the City of David in Jerusalem, and to the water systems at Gezer (a site located half-way between Tel Aviv and Jeusalem) and Gibeon, north of Jerusalem. The well at Beer Sheba is the deepest well excavated for the Iron I period in ancient Israel. The huge well – 70 m. deep – has no parallels until the Byzantine period.

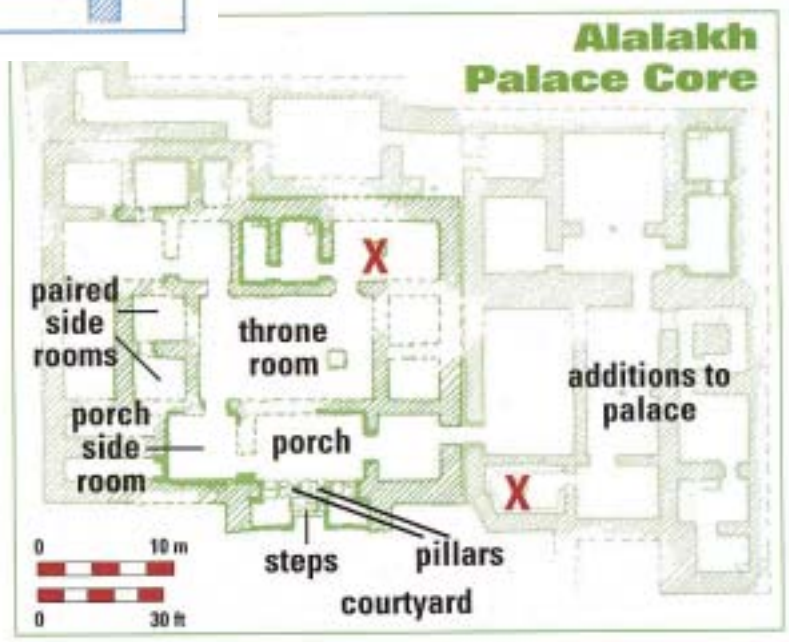
The Iron Age palaces at Megiddo are considered among the best examples of the monumental architecture of biblical times in Israel. They may be compared to the palace of Samaria, in the highlands, and to monuments excavated in north Syrian sites, such as Tel Halaf.

The Iron Age stables at Megiddo remain unparalleled in both their number and in the role they fulfill in the layout of the 8th century BC city. The only place which deserves to be mentioned in this regard is the single, much smaller 8th century BC stable excavated in the site of Bastam in Urartu (in today Azerbaidjan).
The late Iron Age (7th century BC) orthogonal city plan of Megiddo, is the first appearance of a layout, which will become the plan of the 'classical' cities of the Hellenistic and Roman worlds under the name of 'hippodamian' plan.

The Iron Age town plan at Beer Sheba is also unique. Somewhat similar plans,



Hazor: The Canaanite Palace core plan
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ
Institute of Archaeology



The Palace of Alalakh (plan and photo),
which bears striking similarities to the
Hazor's Canaanite Palace
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ
Institute of Archaeology

though less well-preserved, were traced at Beth-shemesh and Tel Beit Mirsim in Judah.

2. c. Authenticity/ Integrity

The archaeological remains in the three sites presented in this dossier are in full accordance with the required standards of authenticity and integrity.

Tel Megiddo

All remains are located within the confines of the Megiddo Antiquities National Park and are therefore protected by law from any change or damage. The National Park staff supervises the site on a daily basis and records any deterioration in the site's condition.
Tel Megiddo has fortunately kept its authentic character, despite its long history of excavations. The upper part of the Tel remains free of modern architecture; its vegetation consists of the natural wild flora of the Near East, and requires no irrigation. In fact, the ancient remains seem to enhance the urban character of the place, with its administrative, defensive, cultic and economic functions, and reinforce the visitors' impression of having 'entered', so to speak, a biblical city.

Certain problems do exist, however, since methods and ethics were not as clearly defined in early excavations as they are today, in terms of how much to dig and/or leave for future generations to study; whether or not to remove entire complexes so as to reach lower strata; whether or not to conserve and stabilize the remains during the excavations. Thus, for instance, while digging, the University of Chicago often had to wrestle with the dilemma whether to remove, entirely of partially, architectural complexes such as the Late Bronze palace, the late Bronze-Iron I temple 2048, part of the Northern Stables and palace 1723. In some instances, their decision led to the exposure of 'new' monuments belonging to lower strata (ex: the EB III and EB I temples). In other cases, unfortunately, the loss was not compensated by the discovery of earlier monuments. Scholars would be able to understand and evaluate those vanished structures through scientific literature; wider public - through appropriate presentation means. This is one of the main goals of the site's presentation program (cf. below, 3.e Policies and Programs Related to Presentation and Promotion of the Property).

Ever since the end of the University of Chicago's excavations, the site underwent few physical changes, which have neither disfigured the site nor affected its authenticity. Most interventions were intended to prevent the deterioration of the remains, and add to the comfort of visitors while preventing

them from damaging ancient structures. A visitors' trail complete with concrete stairs to the water tunnel and wooden stairs to the 'Solomonic' gate, takes visitors around the site. Balustrades and railings were set in dangerous spots along the edge of the Tel, or above deep sections. Two look-outs built at the northeastern and southeastern edges of the Tel allow visitors to contemplate the biblical landscape surrounding Megiddo. No 'brutal' intervention, such as ceiling-high or 'Disneyland' type of restoration, was ever attempted at the site. A few walls were strengthened with concrete, fallen stones re-set in their original locations and one or two retaining walls added to contain the damages that erosion of the sections can cause archaeological features. When, in 1993, the National Park Authority decided to partially reconstruct the LB city gate (cf. below), the work was carried out under the supervision of archeologists and conservation specialists, using stones from the fallen part of the gate, with a clear 'Restoration line' separating ancient remains from the modern addition.

The main reconstruction work was done at the water system in the 1990's. A number of installations were added: concrete steps, a 'floating' walkway, railings and lightings. These installations do not compromise the general appearance of the water system, but were necessary to protect the original components of the structure, ensure visitors' safety and allow a greater understanding of the structure's functioning. For visitors' convenience, the walk through the tunnel is one-way, which triggered the piercing of the ancient blocking wall. At the entrance complex, in the tunnel and at the water source, all authentic parts of the structure can clearly be differentiated from the modern intervention. The work was done in accordance with the international conventions for conservation, without damaging the original remains.

Architect Daniel Abuhatzera, one of the leading conservation-planning architects in Israel, was appointed to head the conservation and reconstruction section of the project. His conservation master plan for the Tel is enclosed in this dossier.

Tel Hazor

The site of Hazor has a great touristic and educational value. From the very beginning of the current excavations, one of the main aims of the expedition was to make the site comprehensible to archaeologists as well as tourists, to Israeli as well as foreign visitors, to adults as well as school children. The state of the archaeological finds, exposed to the elements from the moment of their discovery, necessitated basic means of preservation and restoration. These were supplied by both the Excavation team and the Nature and Parks Authority. Major important remains, representing most of the occupation periods of the site, were preserved

or partially restored in order to both protect them from the elements and make them accessible to the general public. In special cases, such as the Iron Age storehouse and the 'four-room' house, whole structures were meticulously drawn and mapped and then relocated to another spot on the Tel. This was done in order to enable the continuation of archaeological excavation to earlier strata. A major concern was to keep the authenticity of the original finds and treat the Tel as a whole, maintaining its integrity as a site.

The Hazor expedition has been very fortunate to have as one of its key members Ms. Orna Cohen, one of Israel's most outstanding conservators. Ms. Cohen has accompanied the works from the first day, and is constantly in the field, during every day of the season, and many days in between seasons, taking care of the important architectural relics uncovered at Hazor. Her work is done at the highest professional level, and annual detailed reports are submitted to the conservation department of the Israel Antiquity Authority. The expedition engaged surveyor Ruhama Bonfil, to prepare he various plans of the archaeological remains. Samples of both professionals' work are enclosed in this dossier. Another key partner in this effort is The Israel's Government Tourist Corporation.

Whenever additions or repairs of architectural features are necessary, materials that will not affect the overall authenticity of the finds are used. Thus, for instance, sun-dried mudbricks, prepared from the Tel's soil in ancient techniques and tools, were used to reconstruct the "Canaanite Palace" walls. The "restoration line" is clearly seen wherever restoration was done.

The Israelite water system at Hazor is one of the most authentic systems to have survived. The need for it and its function may be understood in a real and authentic manner. It should be noted, however, that several additions were necessary. A new flight of steps located within a metal tower was added. A spiral metal staircase was built in the shaft, with separate ascending and descending stairways to regulate visitor traffic. This was done for two purposes: (1) Protection of the original, soft stone steps from erosion by the constant contact with visitors' feet. (2) Comfort and safety of the visitors. For the same reasons, the roof and walls of the shaft are supported by wood, metal and concrete. Above the spiral staircases, transparent roofs were built to protect visitors from falling stones and soil. The water system has undergone some conservation and minimal scientific reconstruction, which remained true to the original and did not compromise the original remains. The reconstructed parts are clearly marked for the visitor.

The Late Bronze Age reservoir is closed to the public at present, for conservation reasons. Because of the ideal state of its preservation and protection no work has been carried out in the reservoir and no modern additions were

made. Evidently, the reservoir meets the definition of complete authenticity and integrity in an exceptional manner.

Tel Beer Sheba

Since Beer Sheba Stratum II represents the final destruction layer, its remains are much better preserved than those of other strata. That was the reason why the excavators preferred to conserve and reconstruct extensive parts of the city dating to this period, and refrained from dismantling the walls belonging to stratum II. Conservation began concurrently with the excavations.
As the reconstruction on site seeks to show the city in ruins, the walls have been only partially restored, none were rebuilt to their original height, and none of the ceilings and upper stories were restored. The walls were covered with baked bricks, preserving the remains and emphasizing the demarcation (restoration) line – visitors can easily tell the original bricks from the new. Unlike the original walls, the reconstructed walls were left bare of plaster. The ancient mud-plaster did not survive, and thus the conservators preferred to avoid covering the walls with new plaster, so as not to leave the original parts exposed and display the construction technique used to build the walls. The original construction technique was maintained, foundations of field-stones cemented together with mud and topped by courses of sun dried mud bricks.
The restoration and conservation, faithful to the original construction techniques, give visitors a clear idea of what the city looked like in its heyday.

Regarding the discussion of the water systems: All the water systems presented in this dossier meet the criteria of authenticity and integrity. All have been fully excavated, the plan of every one of them is known, and all have been found intact – with all parts preserved. They have all had minimal restoration and stabilization work done, and very little reconstruction work. Parts like stairs, handrails and lighting were added for the safety of visitors, without compromising the original parts. Visitors to the water system can easily tell the difference between the original and the reconstructed parts, and understand the way these installations were operated.

General Policy regarding the Three Tels

The policy of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA), responsible for all the three sites, is to preserve the site's original character. However the INPA is also responsible for the safety of visitors, and so must ensure adequate provisions for a safe and comfortable visit. This policy is achieved by a two-pronged approach:

the non-addition of structures on the site, in order to protect the authenticity of the ancient remains, and, a minimalist approach to adding elements such as steps, railings and lighting for the safety of visitors. The same policy applies to the three Tels: Hazor, Megiddo and Beer Sheba. Reconstruction work – always faithful to the original construction – is also being done at the sites, in small extent, and for two main purposes: to make the complex understood to the ordinary visitor; to stabilize the structure for better preservation.

2. d. Criteria Under which the Inscription is Proposed

Note: The Biblical Tels fit the three criteria described in detail below. This dossier also deals with the water systems found on these mounds. The water systems' special characteristics sometimes fit criteria not relevant to the mounds themselves. Therefore, once the criteria for the 'Biblical Tels' are described in detail, the criteria relating to their water systems will be detailed separately.

A- The Biblical Tels

Criterion II – Important Interchange of Human Values Over the Span of Time or within a Cultural Area of the World, on Developments in Architecture or Technology, Monumental Arts, Town-Planning or Landscape Design

The three mounds presented in this dossier are an outstanding example of interchange of the human values of knowledge, economics and culture, such as existed throughout the ancient Near East, from Egypt in the south to Anatolia and Mesopotamia in the north.

Megiddo and Hazor, as shown in the various chapters of this dossier, were extremely important, large, strong and rich city-states, influencing their environs and influenced by it. Both were founded on international trade-routes, and doubtlessly, the trade was accompanied by a bilateral movement of cultural influences, both spiritual and material. Besides, all the large empires vying for control of the region sought to capture them, since the control of these cities would have given them an important hold over a prominent strategic crossroads, in the area separating Mesopotamia, Syria and Asia Minor from Egypt. With conquest and control also came cultural influences.

Thus, Megiddo and Hazor existed within the Egyptian sphere of influence on one side, and the northern and eastern kingdoms on the other. This is seen clearly in the finds, both small and large, unearthed in them ,as well as in the

written sources such as the biblical prophets' exhortations to the people of Israel, and their protests against the influences infiltrating from the surrounding region. Another aspect of the Israelite kingdom's close ties with its neighbors which the biblical text illustrates with ample clarity, is the involvement in the international politics of the period. The Bible tells us of alliances made or reinforced, among other things through marriage ties between royal houses (for instance, the marriage of Ahab and Jezebel).

As already mentioned, the fact that Megiddo and Hazor were an integral part of the surrounding region is reflected in the finds unearthed in excavations (and, conversely, in finds excavated in neighboring countries). The interchange of human values is manifest in most cultural spheres, and mainly:

-In **Architecture –** Megiddo shows Egyptian influences (i.e. the Late Bronze Age palace in stratum VIIA), Aegean influences (the corbelled vaulted royal tomb), North-Syrian influences (in the Iron Age II palaces built along a *Bit Hilani* plan) and Assyrian influences in the construction of the Stratum III administrative palaces on the mound. In Hazor, the most prominent influences originate in the northern region, and mainly northern Syria, and are seen in the Canaanite ramparts, gates, temples and palaces. Hazor is the most southern site at which orthostats (attesting to Hittite and North Syrian influences) were found. At Hazor and Megiddo, the northern impact is also seen in the basalt used as building material and in the use of wooden beams, some of which were imported cedars from Lebanon.

-In the **City Plan –** here one should make special note of the orthogonal, hippodamian city plan, in 7th century BC Megiddo – reflecting a clearly Assyrian influence, as well as the plan of Hazor's Lower City, divided into living quarters, each with an area set aside for a temple for one deity or for other public edifices – a plan known in Syrian sites (such as Ebla).

-In the **Small Finds –** the small finds included imported objects from all kingdoms in the regions north and south of Israel, as well as locally made objects, showing the influence of the art and craft of ancient Near Eastern peoples (i.e., an assemblage of locally made Early Bronze pottery vessels imitating an Egyptian style and found in the Megiddo temple area; the Bronze Age ivory collection found in Megiddo, and representing a variety of styles, from the Hittite world in the north to the Egyptian world in the south; a fragment of a tablet inscribed with the epic of Gilgamesh in Akkadian, and discovered in Megiddo; Akkadian texts dating to the Middle and Late Bronze ages found in Hazor, and so on).

-In the world of **Religion and Ritual –** influences of neighboring cultures and the Canaanite background can be seen in temples and the finds within them, dating mainly to the Early to Late Bronze Ages and the Iron Age I. The kind of

Tel Megiddo- Impression of a seal bearing the inscription 'to Shema' servant of Jeroboam'. Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.

Tel Megiddo Ivory object from the Late Bronze Palace Treasury. Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.

Tel Megiddo - Ivory plaque from the Late Bronze Palace Treasury. Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.

Tel Megiddo - Ivory decorative element from the Late Bronze Palace Treasury. Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.

Tel Megiddo - Ivory decoration from the Late Bronze Palace Treasury. Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.

Tel Megiddo - Ivory box from the Late Bronze Palace Treasury. Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.

Tel Megiddo - Ivory fragment from the Late Bronze Palace Treasury. Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.

Hazor: A carved ivory box with the head of the goddess Hathor in relief and jewelry beads and cylinder seals found surrounding the box (the Canaanite Palace). Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Hazor: Remains of a black stone statue of a Pharaoh and a proposal of reconstruction of the original staue
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Hazor: A Canaanite statue of a seated king (?) *in situ* (the statue was behead and the head lies behind the figure's highbacked chair). Found near the "Stele Temple" in the Lower City
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

religion and cult – to Baal and Asherah, especially -, may be inferred from these temples and their contents, and from the recurrent condemnations by biblical prophets, such as Elijah in the northern kingdom and Jeremiah in the southern kingdom.

Tel beer Sheba, on the other hand, represents another facet of the biblical culture, since the settlement in the mound was merely a branch of the central government of the Judahite kingdom. Nevertheless, Beer Sheba, too, was strategically located – which is why it was selected as an administrative center. Its strategic advantages included its proximity to a crossroads connecting the farthest reaches of the Near East and the Mediterranean coast. Beer Sheba's inhabitants had trade connections with both Egypt and south Arabia, ties which naturally exposed them to other cultures and to reciprocal influences between themselves and the caravans of many nations that passed through the city. The small finds in Tel beer Sheba evinces numerous influences: Egypt, southern Arabia (contemporary Yemen). Edom and Moab (the Transjordan), and a local industry imitating forms and/or patterns derived from these sources.

In conclusion, the above mentioned ties, whether at peacetime through economy, trade and diplomatic relations, or through war and conquests, were extensive. They are reflected in both material finds and written sources: the Bible as well as external texts. Nevertheless, in each of the settlements (Megiddo, Hazor and Beer Sheba), the different influences were combined with unmistakably local elements: Canaanite during the Bronze Age, Judahite (in Beer Sheba) and Israelite (in Megiddo and Hazor) during the Iron Age. Thus, unique cultures and lifestyles, representing the material and spiritual manifestations of the various facets of the "Biblical world", evolved in each of the sites. While the material elements of these cultures changed tremendously through the ages, following political changes (the Hellenistic and later Roman conquests, Byzantine rule, the Arab, Crusader and Turkish conquests and finally the British Mandate), the spiritual aspects never ceased to influence the entire Western civilization, to this very day.

Criterion III – Unique or Exceptional Testimony to a Cultural Tradition or to a Civilization which is Living or which has Disappeared

Paradoxically, the three biblical mounds of Megiddo, Hazor and Beer Sheba form both an 'Exceptional Testimony to a Cultural Tradition Which has now Disappeared' and an 'Exceptional Testimony to a Living Civilization .'

Hazor: A bronze figurine of a smiting god that may depict Baal, the Canaanite storm god (the Canaanite Palace courtyard) Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Hazor: An Egyptian amulet in the form of crouching lion found in the Canaanite Palace. Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Hazor: A bronze peg figurine, a common offering to the gods in Canaanite cult sites, found in the Canaanite Palace's courtyard Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Hazor: An ivory plaque with a winged sphinx (9th c.) Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Hazor: A seal impression showing a cultic scene found in the Canaaite Palace
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

A bronze statue of a ruler, found in the Canaanite Palace.
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Hazor: An ivory plaque found in the Canaanite Palace. Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Hazor: Two pieces of clay tablets with cuneiform texts (Bronze Age). Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Beer Sheba - Vessels from one of the storehouses rooms (Iron Age)
Courtesy of Beer Sheba Expedition of the TAU Institute of Archaeology

Beer Sheba - An Assyrian Impression Seal (Iron Age)
Courtesy of Beer Sheba Expedition of the TAU Institute of Archaeology

Beer Sheba - Krater with incised letters "QDS" (holy, holiness) (Iron Age)
Courtesy of Beer Sheba Expedition of the TAU Institute of Archaeology

Beer Sheba - A small incense altar
made of stone (Iron Age)
Courtesy of Beer Sheba Expedition of the
TAU Institute of Archaeology

Beer Sheba - Cult objects (Iron Age). Courtesy of Beer Sheba Expedition of the TAU Institute of Archaeology

Beer Sheba - A tabun (oven) with a cooking pot (Iron Age). Courtesy of Beer Sheba Expedition of the TAU Institute of Archaeology

I- An 'Exceptional Testimony to Cultural Traditions which have now Disappeared

a- The long gone Canaanite culture and the particular culture of the Northern Kingdom:

Many of the biblical mounds in Israel, including Megiddo and Hazor, also contain remains of the Canaanite period (the Bronze Age), which preceded the biblical period (the Iron Age). Tel Beer Sheba, on the other hand, was uninhabited during the Canaanite period. For more concrete examples relating to the mounds this dossier represents, suffice it to mention “the Sacred Compound” in Megiddo, where ritual traditions whose roots can be traced back to the Early Bronze age I were preserved up to the Iron Age I; the gates and palaces of Tel Megiddo and Hazor; various Canaanite structure in the Upper City of Hazor – the largest Canaanite city in the Levant – which remained in use throughout the Iron Age. These strata in the mounds of Megiddo and Hazor form an extraordinary testimony to the architectural, religious, lifestyle and artistic traditions of the Canaanite culture, which did not survive as an independent culture, and yet was partially preserved in various strata of the succeeding Israelite and Judahite cultures. The kingdom of Israel – the northern kingdom - whose capital was at Samaria and where Megiddo and Hazor were important economic and administrative centers, was destroyed in the Assyrian conquest of the northern part of the Land of Israel (732 BC). Folk tradition maintains that with the destruction of the kingdom of Israel, ten of the twelve tribes of Israel “vanished”: some were exiled to Assyria, some assimilated into foreign populations brought to the region, and some emigrated to Judah. A certain part of their traditions and material culture had indeed vanished, whereas another was doubtlessly incorporated into Judahite and biblical traditions and culture.

b- The“ Tel”, as a specific type of settlement:

The biblical mounds, formed by the accumulation of habitation levels of settlements (in Megiddo, for instance, 30 different cities!) one on top of the other, are the most prominent landmark in the archaeological landscape of Israel and the Levant, and are unique to this part of the world. Many generations of human beings had elected to continue living in those mounds, despite periods of violent destruction, and preserved thus not only the location, but in many instances the original layout of the city. The “Tel” as an expression of a form of settlement on a given area has indeed disappeared, at the end of the biblical period (see chapter 2. b.), in the aftermath of conquests by foreign peoples and the influence of their own civilizations. These settlements ceased to exist at the end of the Iron Age, following the events that had brought about the end of the independent kingdoms of Israel (the Assyrian conquest of 723 BC) and Judah (the Babylonian conquest

of 586 BC). Most of the mounds were abandoned during the Persian period, as they no longer suited the changed reality of the period. The developing urban life required much wider spaces than those afforded by the mounds, whereas technological advances (and the aqueduct in particular) meant that the settlement no longer had to be located next to a water source. In addition to that, the relative safety during the Hellenistic period, and even more so under Roman rule, cancelled the need for naturally defended locales.

II- An 'Exceptional Testimony to a Living Civilization'

a- Very vivid Cultural Traditions – the“ Biblical Values”:

The greatness and uniqueness of the heritage left by the people who had settled in the land of Israel and their biblical tradition are not necessarily rooted in the material remains left behind on the Tels, but rather in the continuation of this tradition, incarnated after many metamorphoses and developments in a still living and breathing tradition. This living tradition incorporates values that evolved from the Ten Commandments and the social and individual laws set down in the Bible. This world has also yielded some of the dominant concepts of the western world: the monotheistic belief; a theological view of history – as a process that has meaning, “direction”, a beginning and an end (through “salvation”) – that no culture before ever had, and more. It was in the cities of Israel and Judah, among them Megiddo, Hazor and Beer Sheba (as well as Jerusalem and other cities), that this world of thought and values came into being.

b-A Living Civilization - The Judeo-Christian Civilization:

Megiddo, Hazor and Beer Sheba, all are sheer examples of the biblical period in Israel, both by their material remains and by the many times they are mentioned in the biblical narrative: from the story of the conquest of the Land of Canaan, on to the United Monarchy under Saul, David and Solomon, the schism into two kingdoms, the northern kingdom of Israel (containing Megiddo and Hazor) and the southern kingdom of Judah (containing Beer Sheba), up to the exile to Assyria and Babylon. In each of the two kingdoms a unique culture evolved, a culture manifest in a different urbanism, as seen in the research of the material remains (for a description, chapter 3). Megiddo, Hazor and Beer Sheba reached a zenith of development and prosperity under the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, respectively. The different cities represent national construction projects and building traditions prevalent in both Israel and Judah, combined with influences from the surrounding regions, and manifest the cultural and religious traditions of a well integrated society. The general ensemble of material remains, both the architectural complexes and the objects they contained, when combined with the

written sources, draw a full picture of the cultural life of the people who had built and inhabited them. Since these three mounds are often mentioned in the Bible, they form both a tangible and spiritual testimony to the historical events and/or stories that had helped build the world of views and thought that is unique to the Bible. Therefore, Megiddo, Hazor and Beer Sheba are without doubt a one of a kind testimony to a civilization that is still in existence today: the monotheistic Judeo-Christian civilization, a prominent – perhaps the main – source of influence on the western world, as well as the inspiration for the Islamic monotheism (see criterion VI).

Criterion IV – An Outstanding Example of a Type of Building or Architectural or Technological Ensemble or Landscape which illustrates a Significant Stage in Human History

Each of the habitation levels in the Biblical Tels presented in this dossier contains urban architectural ensembles typical of that level. They teach us what life must have been like in that particular period. Although all three mounds share many similarities, each is an entity by itself. The following paragraphs will present examples of architectural ensembles which were built as part of an overall urban planning.

Tel Megiddo

Many of the monuments and/or monumental ensembles in Tel Megiddo indeed constitute “an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates a significant stage in human history.” The monuments are described, and their importance to the understanding of biblical archaeology and the history of Israel and the entire Levant region stressed, in chapters 2a, 3a and 3b. Firstly, one should note the 'serial effect' (see chapter 2a): Megiddo has examples of every type of monument (temple, palace, fortifications etc.) dating to every one of the pertinent periods. Thus, the development of styles and building traditions, as well as periodical influences, can be studied. As mentioned above (Chapter 2. a.) Tel Megiddo is widely considered the 'cradle' and 'laboratory' of biblical archaeology. No other site, in Israel in particular and the Levant in general, has an ensemble that is even remotely similar to Megiddo’s. Furthermore, some of these ensembles are unique in size or technological sophistication: the stables and the water system, for example (see chapters 2a, 3a and 3b). For size, extent and quality of construction, the Megiddo stables remain unequal in the entire world. The Megiddo water system is unique in the preservation of the various stages and the development from a “simple gallery” to a sophisticated water system. All 30 cities

built on the Tel were meticulously planned. The two main cities dating to biblical times are known: the city of stratum V and that of stratum IV. Each has a characteristic monument typifying the city's designated role at the period. Stratum V, where 3 palaces were excavated, and designated 'the City of Palaces', was apparently an administrative center, while Stratum IV, 'the City of Stables', was probably built to raise and train war-horses for war-chariots. Another example attesting to the unique nature of Megiddo is the "orthogonal city plan" dating to the Assyrian period (7th century BC), the most ancient example of this type of urban planning in the entire ancient Near East. In later periods, mainly the Hellenistic and Roman periods, this type, known as "Hippodamian planning" (see chapter 2. a), became the indubitable "classic" urban planning throughout the Mediterranean region.

Tel Hazor

In the Canaanite period, the settlement in Hazor (as of the Middle Bronze IIb Age) was in the Upper and Lower City, and was characterized by urban planning and continuity throughout the entire period. Unlike the naturally defensible Upper City, the Lower City in Hazor was fortified with earth ramparts which turned it into a separate and delimited compound. The rampart, built in the Middle Bronze, formed an integral part of the city up to its destruction at the end of the Late Bronze age. The plan of the city built within this compound can be reconstructed with reasonable clarity, even though the area was not excavated in its entirety. The city is divided into residential quarters, each containing dwelling houses and public buildings, usually a temple dedicated to a particular deity (the moon god, the thunder god) and/or a palace or a mansion. The Hazor temples are unique monumental edifices, combining Syro-Mesopotamian influences with local architectural traditions. The various structures are separated by lanes and streets. The plan reflects a northern influence (see criterion II). The Upper City, or acropolis, also illustrates continuity within the Bronze Age.

Israelite Hazor (dating to the Iron Age) was a fortified, walled city, whose size changed from time to time. The city of that period boasts comprehensive urban planning, with a division to streets and lanes, although this plan was not strictly adhered to. The city plan during the 9th century BC is better known – this city was larger than its predecessor, covered the entire acropolis area and was surrounded on all sides by a solid, massive wall. This plan distinguishes between organized and planned **public areas** – containing the water system in the center of the acropolis, as well as storehouses and a citadel at the western end of the mound - and **private areas** containing dwellings. These houses were planned along the classic Israelite "four-room house" plan, first appearing during the Iron Age I and

prevalent during the Iron Age II. Although there are some attempts to connect the "four-room house" with Jewish purification and impurity laws, this research is still at its infancy.

Tel Beer Sheba

Beer Sheba was pre-planned, and had a relatively shorter life span. Since its few inhabitants were state officials, their way of life was not representative of the life of an ordinary urban community. Nevertheless, it does tell of the life of the provincial elite in the Judahite kingdom. Tel Beer Sheba contains extraordinary evidence to an architectural ensemble illustrating a significant stage of human history. The excavations in the mound brought to light the complete, and so far the only, evidence enabling a reconstruction of a planned Judahite city dating to the Iron Age. The wide extent of the excavations, together with the mound's relatively small size, enabled the excavators to expose large parts of the city (some two thirds of its area) in strata II-III. Therefore, the results of the excavation and the analysis of its findings are of the highest importance to the study of ancient urban planning in the land of Israel. Presumably, Beer Sheba was not the only pre-planned settlement in the country – in other mounds, however, the areas excavated were not large enough, or the early buildings were disturbed by later strata. Chronologically, the urban planning prior to construction, attributed to the central government in Judah, preceded the urban planning of the classical period (stratum II was destroyed at the end of the 8th century BC).

The city's basic plan was established when it was first founded, at the 9th century BC (stratum V). (Cf. Description in chapters 3. a and 3. b). The excellent planning enabled the city founders to include some 75 housing units (for some 300 inhabitants) besides the administrative buildings. Some 90% of the site's area were used, compared to unplanned cities of the period, such as Tel Beit Mirsim, where only 50% of the area were used.

Criterion VI - Association with Events or Living Traditions, with Ideas or with Beliefs, with Artistic and Literary Works of Outstanding Universal Significance

The three great monotheistic religions are based on the Bible, or inspired by it. The Bible is the Jewish people's holiest book and as The Old Testament, an important part of the Christian Scriptures. It is also deemed a fundamental source in Islam, since the Koran regards the prophet Mohammad, as the last of the prophets after Moses and Jesus. The broad spectrum of the Bible's contents – history, beliefs, thought, ethics and moral values, makes it pertinent to believers and non observant alike, as well as a highly important instrument of research.

The biblical mounds are located in the Holy Land, and form the background for the events described in the Bible. They also complement the biblical narrative and add to it the visual and material aspect, and in doing so contribute to our perception of little understood events: they permit us a three-dimensional experience of the region in which these events had taken place, the space in which the ways of life, spirituality and values characteristic to the world of the Bible, had evolved. The obvious connection between the Bible – that all-important Holy Writ - and the Biblical Tels (cf. detailed descriptions in chapters 2 and 3 of this dossier), justifies the assignation of criterion VI to these mounds. Here we present a more detailed and specific account of the link between each of the mounds and the Bible in regard of criterion VI.

Tel Megiddo

As stated above (cf. 2.a. Statement of significance, 'Megiddo in the Bible') Megiddo was remembered both as the site of crucial battles, and as the place where the Judahite King Josiah was murdered by Pharaoh Necho. As such, the site of Megiddo became directly linked to the development of two main concepts in the Jewish and Christian faith: the Eschatological beliefs and the Messianic Restoration.

The memory of the murder of the last 'Righteous' Judahite King, Josiah, the great Reformer of the monotheistic faith and a scion of the house of David, seemed to have endured, transmitted from one generation to the next, for centuries after the event. This memory associated the destiny of the Davidic dynasty with the fate of the kingdom of Judah. It fueled the longing for a Restoration, reached through divine intervention. Unlike what happened *hic et nunc* - that is the murder of the Righteous king and the end of territorial independence -, at the End of Days the forces of Good, represented by the Rise of a king of the Davidic dynasty, will defeat the forces of Evil and restore past grandeur and independence, in an ultimate demonstration of transcendental Justice.

All these expectations, fueled by the terrible trauma of the Exile, appear already in the oracles of the prophet Zechariah (Zech. 12 and 13). This text, dating to sometime in the late Persian or the Hellenistic era, evokes the restoration of Davidic Jerusalem. In it YAHWEH promises to gather to Jerusalem the hosts of "all the nations of the earth" (Zech 12, 3). The themes, metaphors and allegories used by Zechariah are widely considered as the precursor of St. John's visions in Revelations 16, especially those concerning Armageddon (a Greek corruption of the name Har-Megiddo = the Mound of Megiddo) in Revelations 16, 16.

At another level, the text of Zechariah also links Megiddo to the idea of Messianic Restoration through the triumph of the Monotheistic idea. "The mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rim'mon in the plain of Megiddo. The land shall mourn, each family by itself; the family of the house of David by itself " (Zech 12: 11-12), "And on that day, says the Lord of hosts, I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, so that they shall be remembered no more" (Zech. 13, 2). The sole mention of Megiddo, being used here to assign a location to a ritual (the cults of false gods), as opposed to Jerusalem and the Monotheistic cult in its Temple, evokes the idea that the Messianic Restoration, so longed for after the trauma of the Exile, will only be possible through the eradication of pagan beliefs.

Today, in many languages, the word 'Armageddon' still suggests the idea of a Terrible Battle announcing the End of Days. The symbolism of Megiddo-Armageddon has pervaded the circles of popular culture through many web-sites, movies, video-games and even a best-selling novel by James A. Mitchener, whose title, 'The Source", says it all.

Because of Megiddo's great significance for both Christians and Jews, the site was chosen as the symbolic venue for the historic encounter between Pope Paul VI and Israel's president, Zalman Shazar in 1964. It was the first visit ever of a pope to the Holy Land.

Tel Hazor

Hazor is mentioned in a central event in the Bible – Joshua's conquest of the land of Canaan (Jos. 11: 1-13, 12: 19). The mound of Hazor represents the largest and most important Canaanite city in Israel, and one of the most important cities in the Near East in general ("for Hazor beforetime was the head of all those kingdoms"). The findings at Hazor do, indeed, attest to its past greatness, as well as its disappearance.

The conquest of Hazor is one of the most significant symbols of a transition from one period to the next in Israel and its surrounding region - the transition from the Bronze Age (the Canaanite period) to the Iron Age (the Israelite period, in terms of local archaeology). The biblical narrative clearly indicates the importance attached to the capture and control of Hazor. Of all the Canaanite cities captured by Joshua, Hazor alone was burnt, further proof of its prominent position and the symbolic meaning attributed to its total destruction.

Besides the Conquest stories, Hazor is mentioned in several chapters of the Bible narrative. In the days of the judges Deborah and Barak (Jud. 4, 17); in the days of the United Monarchy, as one of the cities built by King Solomon together

with Megiddo and Gezer (1 Kgs. 9: 15); in the episode describing the end of the Divided Monarchy (2 Kgs. 15: 29-30) and the Assyrian conquest .The Bible indicates that Hazor fell to the Assyrians in 732 BC, together with most of the northern part of Israel. The Assyrian campaign marks the last days of the independent and prosperous kingdom of Israel. Hazor thus bears witness to the rise and fall of the Northern Kingdom.

To this day, together with Megiddo and other biblical mounds, Hazor figures prominently in the multi-disciplinary research of the history of ancient Israel, based to a large degree on a comparison of the link between the biblical narrative and the archeological evidence unearthed in the biblical mounds.

Tel Beer Sheba

Before the Judahite kingdom came into being, there were, besides the official cult center in Jerusalem, various other ritual centers and temples where other gods were worshipped and fertility rites took place. As the monotheistic faith gathered momentum, the prophets and monarchy came to view these temples as obstacles and strove to eliminate them. The biblical tradition tells how King Hezekiah (8^{th} century BC) (2Kgs. 18: 3-7) destroyed the high places and prohibited the worship of foreign deities. The question whether the biblical description of Hezekiah's religious reform does indeed reflect a historical reality is still unresolved. Beer Sheba may supply us with evidence of this reform, an early stage in an immensely significant theological transformation.

Since the very beginning of the excavations in the site, the excavators of Beer Sheba have been preoccupied with the problem of the location of the ancient cult place mentioned in the Bible (Gen. 21, 26, 46, and especially Amos 5:5, 8:14). The discovery of the Israelite temple in nearby Arad imparted special significance to the issue. Aharony (who directed excavations in both sites) thought that Arad and Beer Sheba both had border-temples consecrating the kingdom's borders.

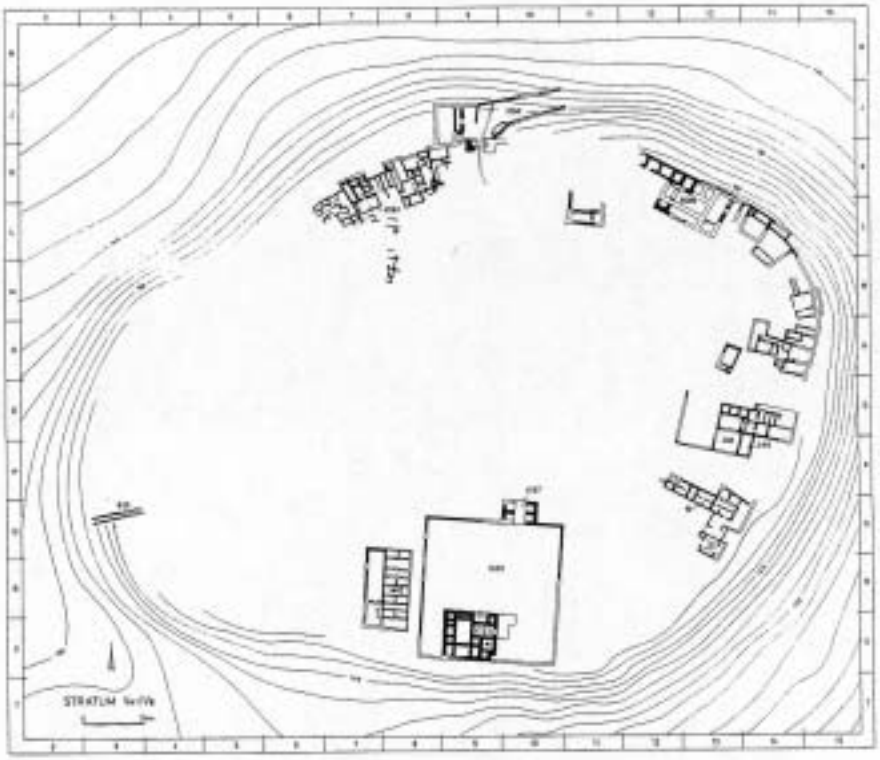
The evidence for the existence of a cult place in Beer Sheba was found during the fifth season of excavations. The ashlar stones of a large horned altar were found imbedded in a wall of one of the storehouses. For the first time ever, a horned altar resembling in shape the small, domestic incense-altars was found in an excavation. The extensive excavations in the site never did find the temple. Nevertheless, Aharony assumed that an early cult place had existed on the Tel, and that during the Monarchic period a temple was built there. In his opinion, the temple was dismantled in the course of the ritual reform initiated by Hezekiah, king of Judah, and therefore disappeared without a trace, with the sole exception of the altar, whose dismantled stones were incorporated into the storehouse walls.

Tel Megiddo - The Iron Age water system - entrance
Courtesy of Israel Nature and Parks Authority

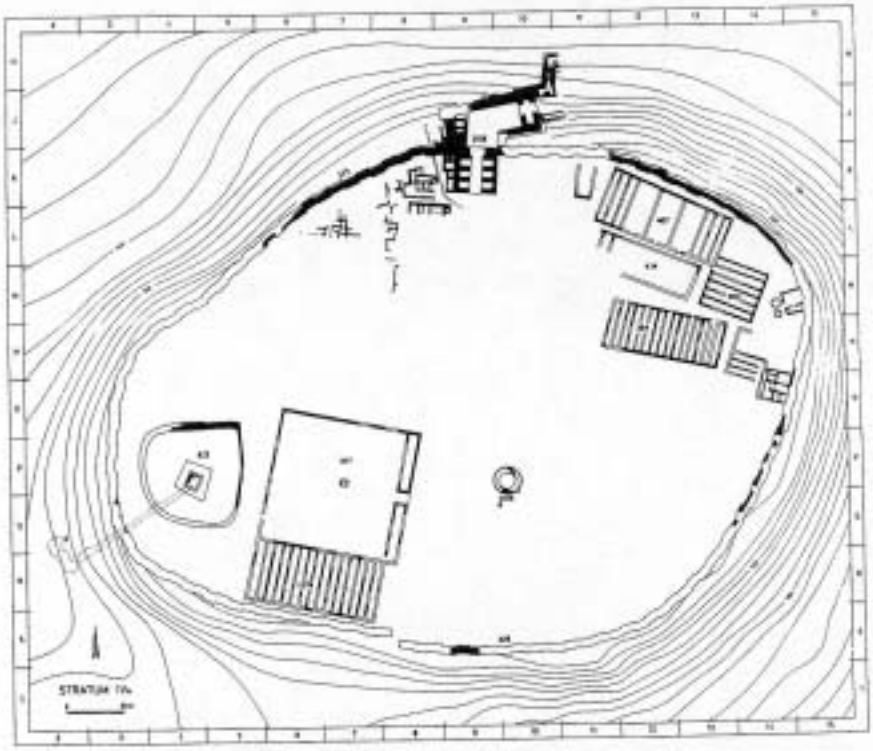
Tel Megiddo - The Iron Age water system -
Courtesy of Israel Nature and Parks Authority

Tel Megiddo - "Gallery 629"
Courtesy of Israel Nature and Parks Authority

Megiddo - Plan of Stratum VA - IVB - "Gallery 629"



Megiddo - Plan of Stratum - IVA - Iron Age Water System



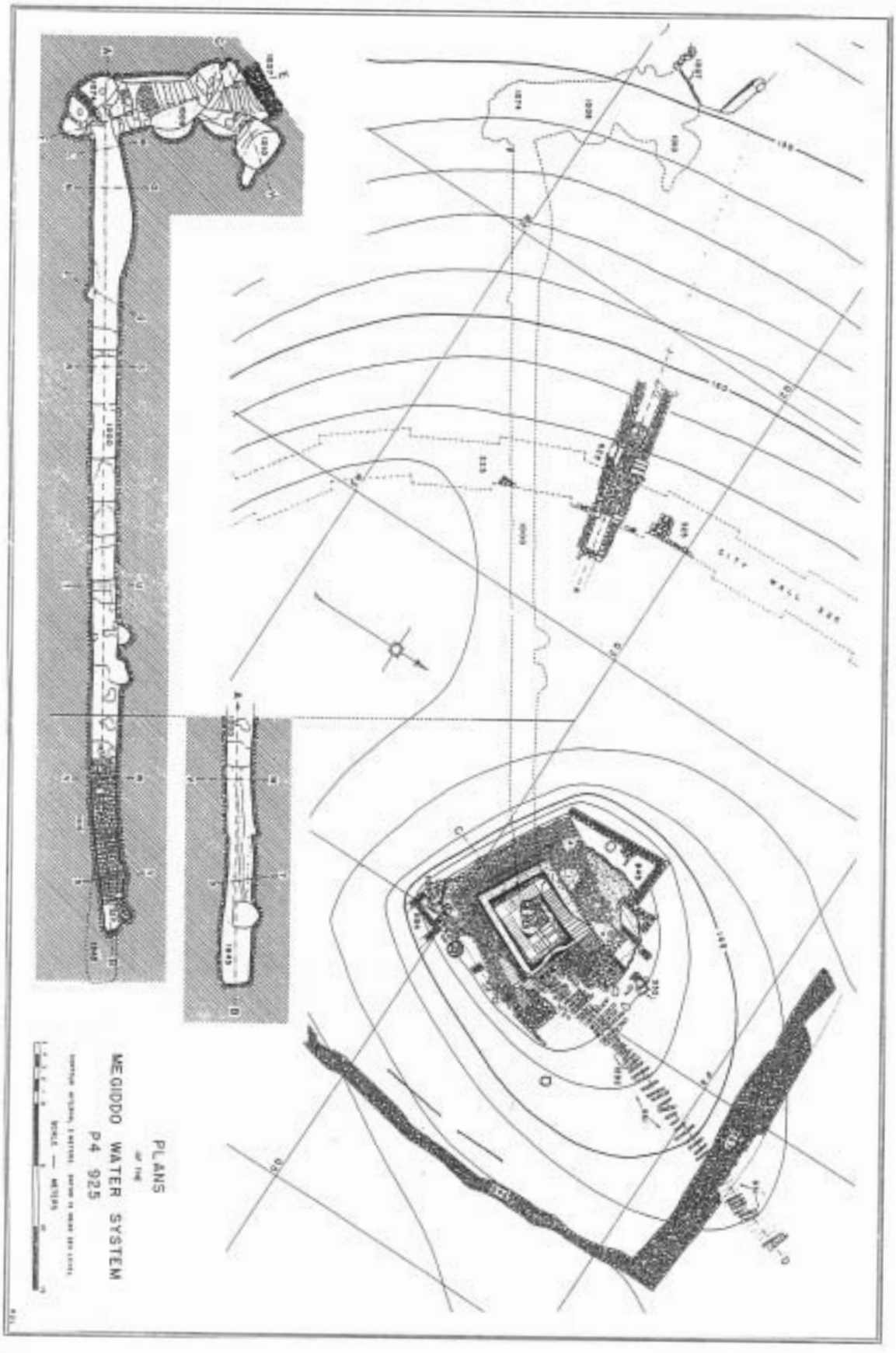
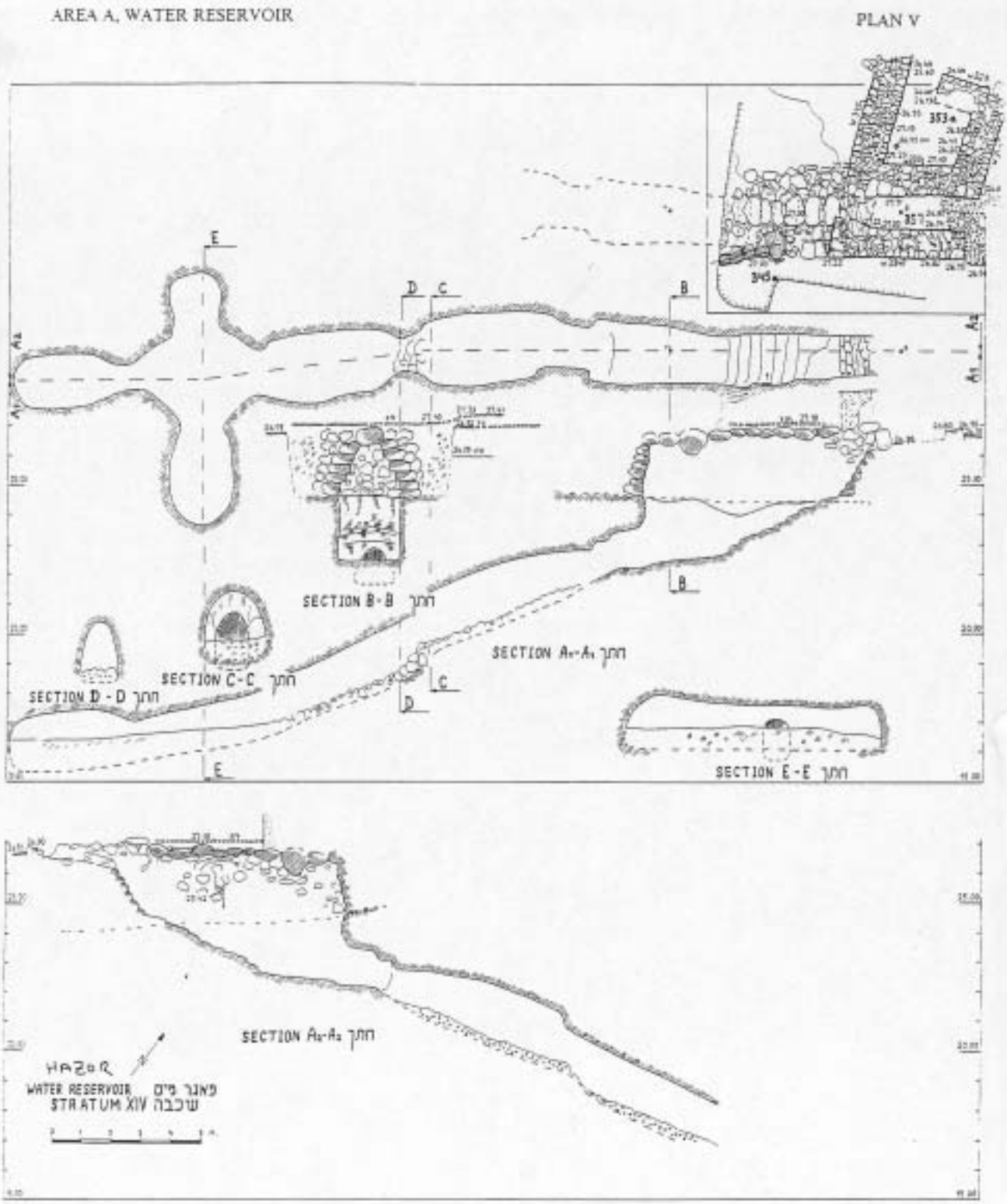


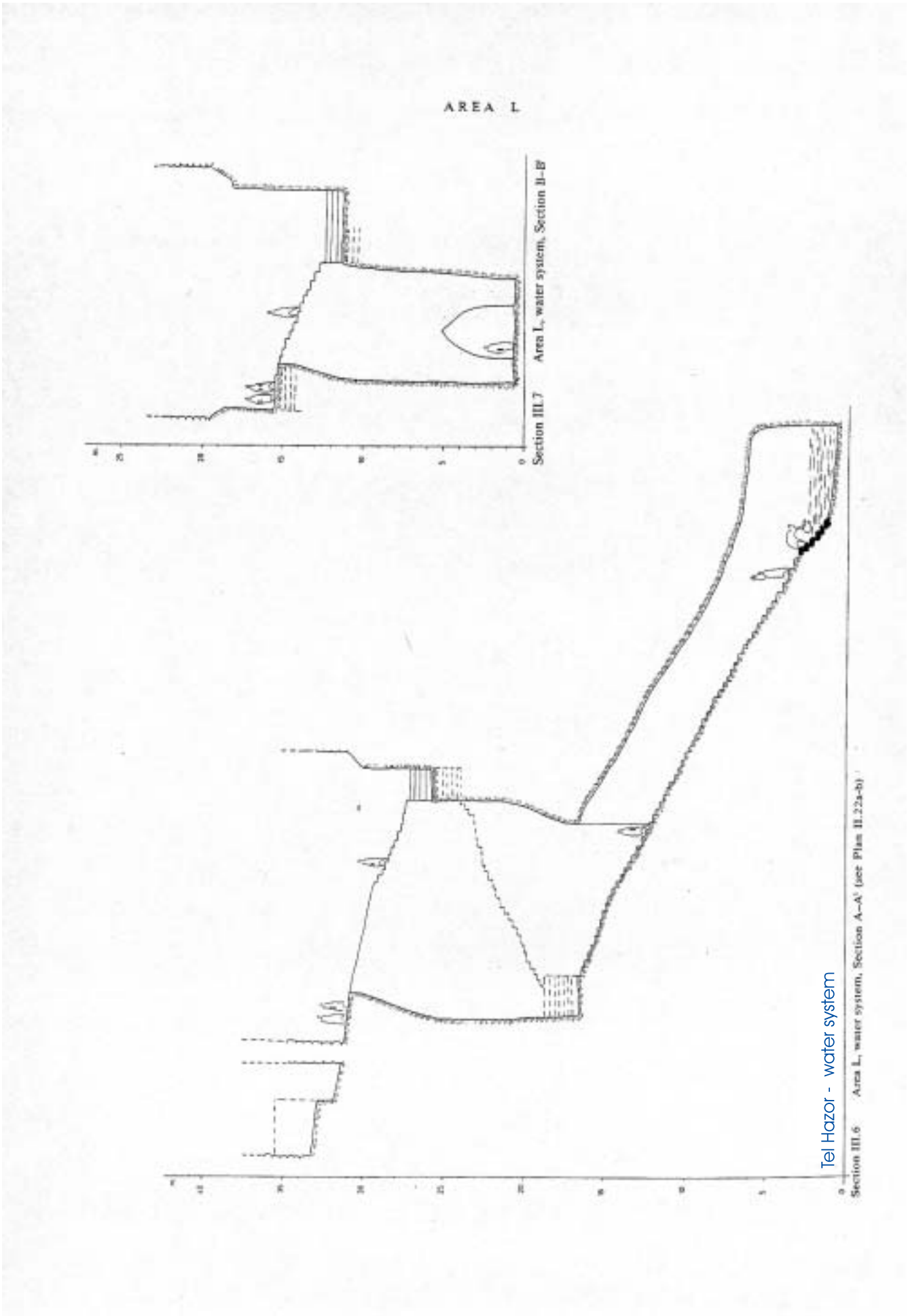
Fig. 21.2. Cross-sections of the water system. Scale 1:500 (after Lamon 1935: Fig. 3; Courtesy of The Oriental Institute of The University of Chicago).

Tel Hazor - Late Bronze Age water reservoir - the plastered tunnel
Courtesy of Israel Nature and Parks Authority

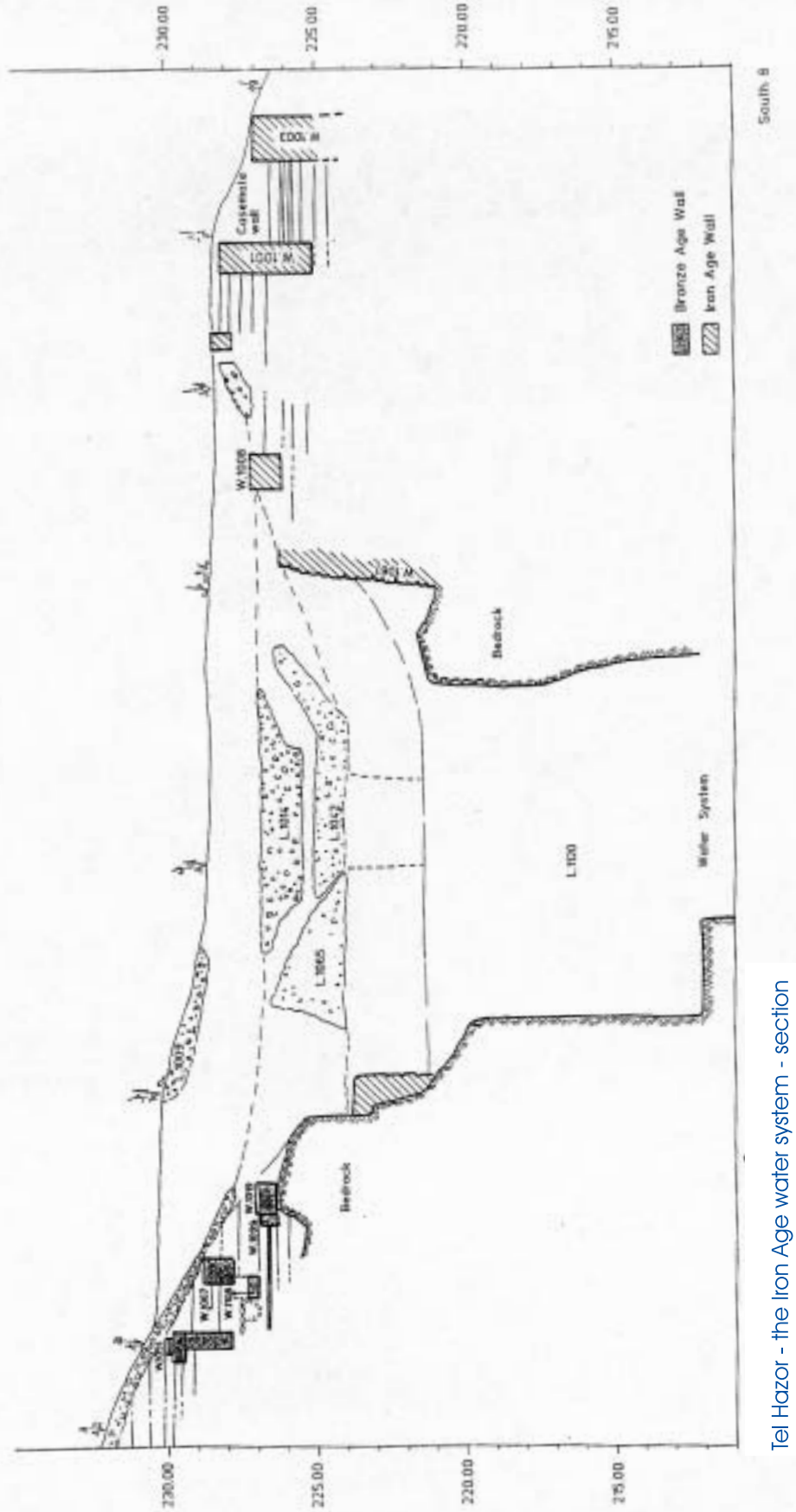
Tel Hazor - Aerial photo of the Iron Age II water system
Courtesy of Israel Nature and Parks Authority

Tel Hazor


AREA A, WATER RESERVOIR
PLAN V
SECTION B-B
SECTION A₁-A₁
SECTION C-C
SECTION D-D
SECTION E-E
SECTION A₂-A₂
HAZOR
WATER RESERVOIR
STRATUM XIV



Tel Hazor - water system



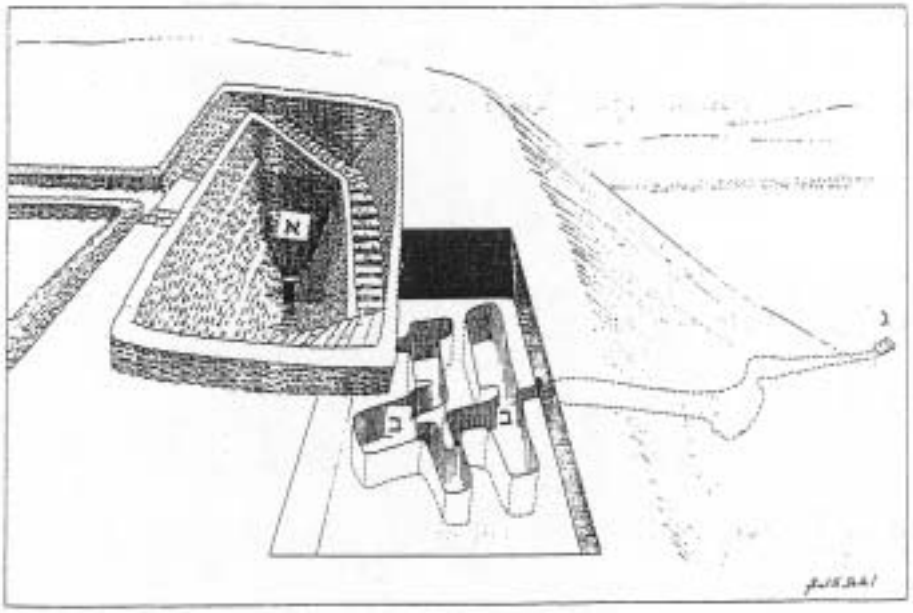
Tel Hazor - the Iron Age water system - section

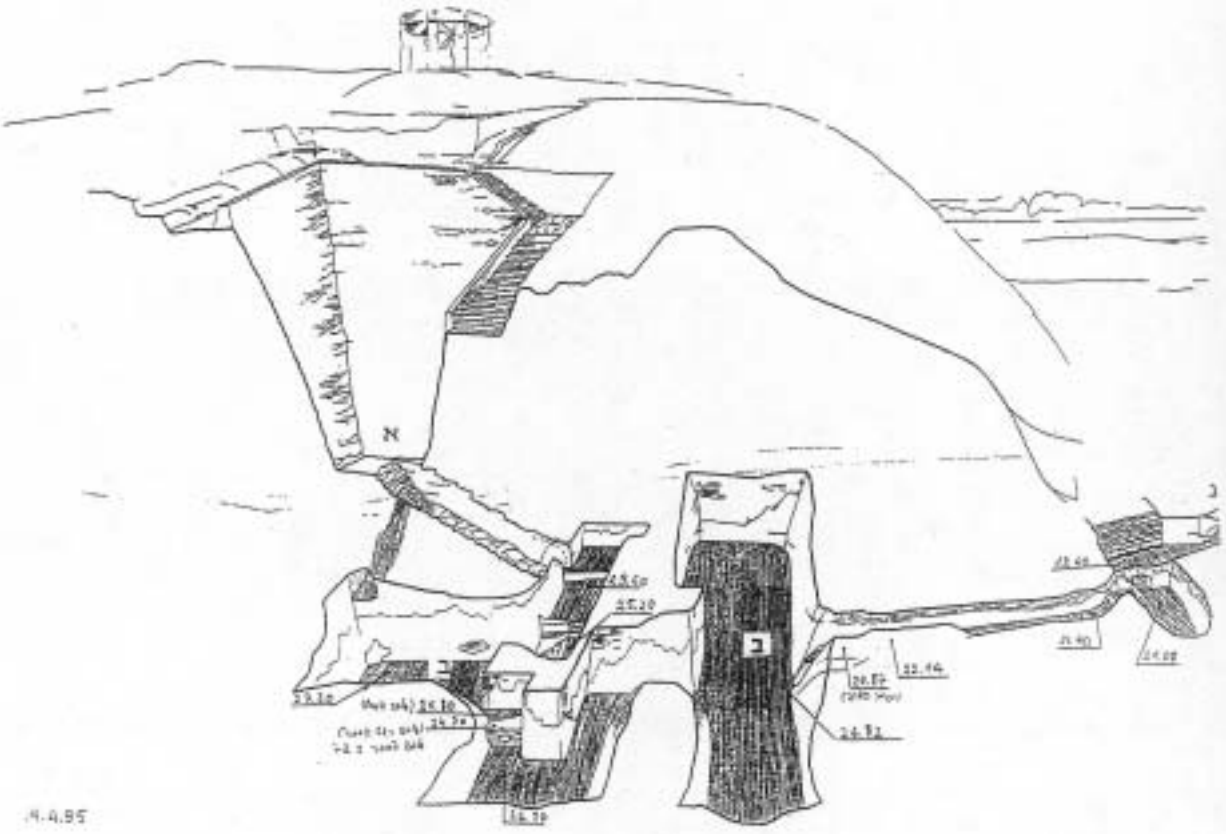
Tel Beer Sheba - Entrance
to the water reservoir
Courtesy of Israel Nature and Parks Authority

Tel Beer Sheba - The well
Courtesy of Israel Nature and Parks Authority

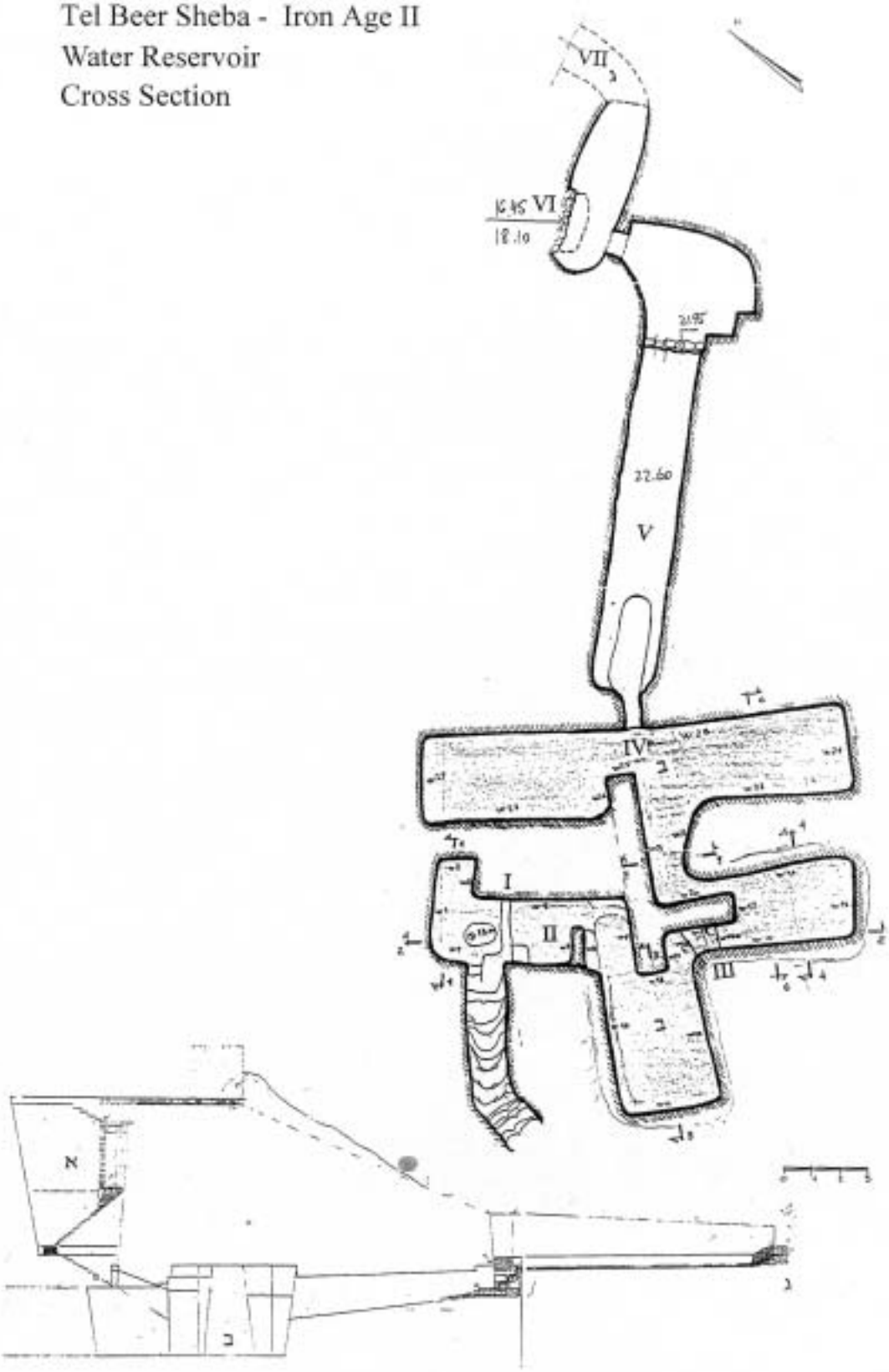
Tel Beer Sheba - The middle part of the well
Courtesy of Israel Nature and Parks Authority

Tel Beer Sheba - Iron Age Water Reservoir Isometric Plan





Tel Beer Sheba - Iron Age II
Water Reservoir
Cross Section



B- Ancient Water Systems

Note: As mentioned above, the water systems dug at the three Biblical Tels of Megiddo, Hazor and Beer Sheba, are discussed separately in the following paragraph, since they often fit different criteria than those generally fulfilled by the Biblical Tel as a whole.

Introduction

Climatic conditions and the lack of water in Israel caused its inhabitants to seek ways of developing water installations and water systems. The neighboring countries differ from Israel in their climate, and most significantly in their hydrological patterns - Egypt and Mesopotamia for instance, possess enormous rivers – so that water was readily available. In Israel, however, water from rivers and wadi beds was limited, so it became necessary to find additional sources. Thus, through the evolution of technologies and techniques, Israel became one of the ancient world leaders in the field of water system implementation, in the Iron Age.

The Main Types of Man-Made Water Installations – Definitions

There were four main types of water installations dating to the second and first millennia BC: wells and water systems (for reaching groundwater) on the one hand, and cisterns and water reservoir (for collecting surface water, from rain or overflows) on the other. They differ in both technology and scope:

- The Well is a hole quarried into the ground or the rock to reach the level of the groundwater, which would then seep in through the bottom of the well. Wells can range in depth from 2-3 m to 60-70 m. and their circumference vary from 50-70 cm. to approximately 5 m. The flow of the well depends on the quantity of water and the height of the groundwater level. Plastering is not necessary.[3]
- The Water System Quarried to the Water Table: When the well is not only quarried vertically, but also includes diagonal tunneling, steps, and a very large quarried containment space, it may be defined as a water system quarried to the water table. This is a complex and sophisticated system designed to allow many users to

[3] The first wells in Israel are known as far back as the Pre-pottery and Pottery Neolithic periods, dating to the beginning of the sixth millennium BC. These wells are the earliest and the simplest of water systems. The labour investment in quarrying a well is not great; which may explain the advantages of a well and its prevalence among water systems in all periods.

descend simultaneously and fill vessels manually, directly from the water source. Descent is via a flight of steps, which becomes progressively narrower as it approaches the water source, until it forms a tunnel reaching the water table. The investment in the quarrying of a water system is much greater than the quarrying of a well, and requires central planning.

- The Water Cistern is an installation that includes a drainage basin, channels, a sediment settling basin, a water-drawing apparatus, watering troughs, and a plastered space, the cistern itself. These elements are not always all present. The water in the cistern is limited, as opposed to the well, which continuously renews itself and where therefore the quantity of water, in general, is unlimited. The cistern must be maintained and its opening protected, channels must be cleaned, the plaster must be reapplied and flotsam that has penetrated the cistern must be removed. The size of the cistern is usually in proportion to the needs of its users. Cisterns hewn into imprevious rock, such as marl, require no plastering. Sometimes, when the cistern is cut into soft rock, it is lined with stones in order to prevent collapse. When the cistern is hewn from above, and the opening from which the water is drawn is vertical, the feeder channel connects to the well from the side. The architects usually looked for a point of contact between two rock layers, a hard layer that would serve as the ceiling of the cistern, and a softer layer into which the cistern itself would be hewn.
- Underground Reservoirs: Underground reservoirs are large cisterns, whose dimensions are greater than those of an ordinary cistern. For the purposes of this dossier, an underground reservoir is defined as an installation comprising a ceiling, with a large plastered inner space intended for water storage. By this definition, the distinction between a water cistern and a reservoir is arbitrary. A cistern whose opening is greater than 100 cubic meters will be called a public water cistern, and defined as a water reservoir .The cistern’s capacity depends on its supply source, be it surface runoff, floods, or springs. The size of the reservoir is determined by natural conditions and the needs of the residents.

Iron Age Water Systems in Israel

During the Iron Age, and especially the Iron Age II, water system technology reached its apex in Israel and the entire region. This period is characterized by a large population, and by numerous, large, and well-planned cities, advanced technology, monumental architecture, and very extensive water systems.
The sophisticated water system technology of the period was a product of all the technological advances and accumulated knowledge of the preceding periods, combined with innovations and improvements characteristic of the Iron Age II.

It should be noted that the water systems in Israel are outstandingly unique, not only when seen against the background of the immediate environment during the periods in question. Nowhere else in the world were such sophisticated water systems found at such an early period of history – the Bronze and the Iron Ages. Here and there, one may find a lone example of an advanced and complex water system, whereas in Israel it is a common phenomenon, with every community of medium size or larger maintaining a sophisticated water system that could withstand siege.

One should also note the extended information available regarding the research of the water systems, due both to the quality of the excavations at the archaeological sites where water systems were discovered, and to the degree of preservation of these installations. In a way, the information on water systems, associated with other archaeological and historical data, helps us to understand and reconstruct the history of the societies and political entities in ancient Israel.

Criterion I – A Masterpiece of Human Creative Genius

The development of technology designed to extract water, and the ability to devote additional attention given to the defense of the water, in order to ensure a continuous supply, clearly manifests the basic human concern for existence and survival. This process was especially important in Israel, because of its arid climate, meager single-season rainfall, and limited number of water sources producing negligible quantities of water.

Water systems attest to the genius and inventiveness of human beings in situations where natural conditions actually forced them to find solutions to existential needs. Water systems allowed populations to disperse and settle even in places where water was not readily accessible. The defense and protection of the water system in times of war or siege, the possibility that the water source would be captured, stopped, poisoned or even used to penetrate the city were

problems ancient populations had to face, and indeed, the sophisticated solutions reached required a great deal of thought, know-how and creativity.

Those solutions stemmed from the combination of technological know-how with the capability to adjust methods and thoughts to specific, local conditions. Populations learned how to exploit nature and devise methods of channeling water to the places of their choosing, demonstrating high planning, engineering and implementation skills. Prior to the construction and operation of every water system, the following steps were required: locating water at the base of the hill on which the city was built, and deciding to channel it into the confines of the city walls; recognizing the “behavior” of water in order to know how to transport it and how to extract it.; constructing the installations to contain the water without seepage; calculating forces and volumes (of the water and soils). The construction itself required the marshalling and organizing of a sufficient workforce; the quarrying of what amounted in most cases to thousands of cubic meters of rock. After the construction and throughout its use, meticulous maintenance of the structure was required.

The water systems presented in this dossier are typical of Iron Age Israel. They did supply city dwellers with water on a permanent basis during the Biblical period (Late Bronze and Iron Ages), and often represent a main feature of Biblical Tels. Solutions varied according to location; At Megiddo, the water system was camouflaged so that it looked like a part of the natural landscape, while the water itself was brought into the city via a concealed underground tunnel. At Hazor the water was channeled into the city. Another solution, at Beer Sheba, was a simultaneous use of two water sources: one - the well, a permanent water source, was outside the city walls and was intended for use in peace time, while the other -the reservoir within the walls, could be utilized both in peace and war time. At Beer Sheba, the opening made during construction was sealed off when the water system was completed, while the water channel that brought floodwaters from Nahal (Wadi) Hebron was too narrow for anyone to pass through.

The structure of the water systems is not a fixed pattern that merely repeats itself, unchanged, in each of the sites. In each place, a specific technology, appropriate to the specific conditions of that particular location, was applied. This attests to human flexibility, ability to meet challenges in the face of difficult environmental conditions, and to find novel technological solutions that are without equal anywhere in the world. In all places, the main objective, to guarantee water supply for the city in unpredictable conditions, was achieved. In this regard, the water systems developed in Israel, especially during the Biblical

period (Late Bronze to Iron II periods) represent masterpieces of human genius. They demonstrate, in both their great number and variety, a cultural development associated with a 'vision': the discovery of the most successful way to provide a water system suitable for every community.

Criterion II – Interchange of Human Values Over the Span of Time with Respect to the Development of Technology

The water systems in Israel represent a major stage in the development of technology over the span of time, regarding methods of extracting and utilizing water. Later developments, especially the invention of the plastered cistern, and finally the aqueduct, made it possible to either conserve water without seepage, or to transport it from afar. Thus, they enabled populations to expand the area of their settlement to places with new advantages, such as a strategic location, better climate, and fertile soil, moving farther and farther away from easily accessible water sources. In Israel, the abandonment of the “Tel” for other forms of settlement expresses this universal process. (cf. above, Comparative Analysis).

The stage-by-stage development of water production which formed the cultural tradition is demonstrated in the description of the three Tels (cf. above, chapters 3. a, and 3. b).

At Tel Megiddo - The first water system at Megiddo obviously continues earlier usage of an existing water source. The spring, which had served the city in its natural state, gradually and through several stages of development, became an impressive water system, so complex that it is difficult to date with certainty.

At Tel Hazor – The trefoil-shaped, plastered Bronze Age reservoir is the only one of its kind in Israel. Its structure augured well for the future of water systems and their increasing sophistication. The plastering of water installations with impermeable material – a technological innovation – commenced, as mentioned above, a tradition that would continue long after. The sophisticated water system of the Iron Age is a completely intact example of a cultural tradition well founded in the Iron Age II, with its roots firmly established in a previous period and influence that would be felt for ages to come.

At Tel Beer Sheba - The Iron Age I well represents an existing and well-founded cultural tradition. However, its extraordinary depth – 70 meters – is unique and for hundreds of years afterwards. To a certain extent, the well's location, on the slope near the top of the hill, is also unusual: the inhabitants preferred to invest a

mighty, singular effort in digging such a deep well, and thus avoided the daily descent downhill followed by difficult ascent with heavy loads.

While all this attests to a gradual development in technology and techniques passed down from generation to generation, at a local level, other testimonies, such as the inscription of the Mesha stele, show interchange with neighboring countries. The Mesha Stele, discovered in Dibbon in Jordan and now housed in the Louvre, may also attest to the building prowess of the ancient Israelites, as well as to a sort of (however coerced) interchange of human values in Mesha's time. The inscription on the stele dates to the ninth century BC. In it, Mesha, king of Moab, tells how he freed himself from the yoke of the king of Israel (Omri is mentioned), describing his victories, the captives that he took, and the water system that he quarried using "prisoners of Israel". These words attest to the fact that the Israelites had made a name for themselves as knowledgeable and skillful builders of water systems. It is likely that Mesha took advantage of the knowledge and technology found mainly in the kingdom of Israel. Thus, the water installations technology developed in Israel during the biblical periods appears to have been a model for other countries.

Criterion III – Unique Testimony to a Cultural Tradition or to a Civilization

From a social perspective, the construction of water systems reflects the ability to organize well, as many people were required to work simultaneously in the quarrying and construction, and later to maintain the installation. Most scholars agree that projects of this magnitude could only have been organized and carried out by a central authority. As such, they attest to the evolution of complex and sophisticated urban societies in this part of the ancient Near East. They reflect the historical reality of the period of their construction, confirming and complementing known historical and archaeological sources.

The unique testimony of a cultural tradition of water systems presented in this dossier is expressed in a number of ways:

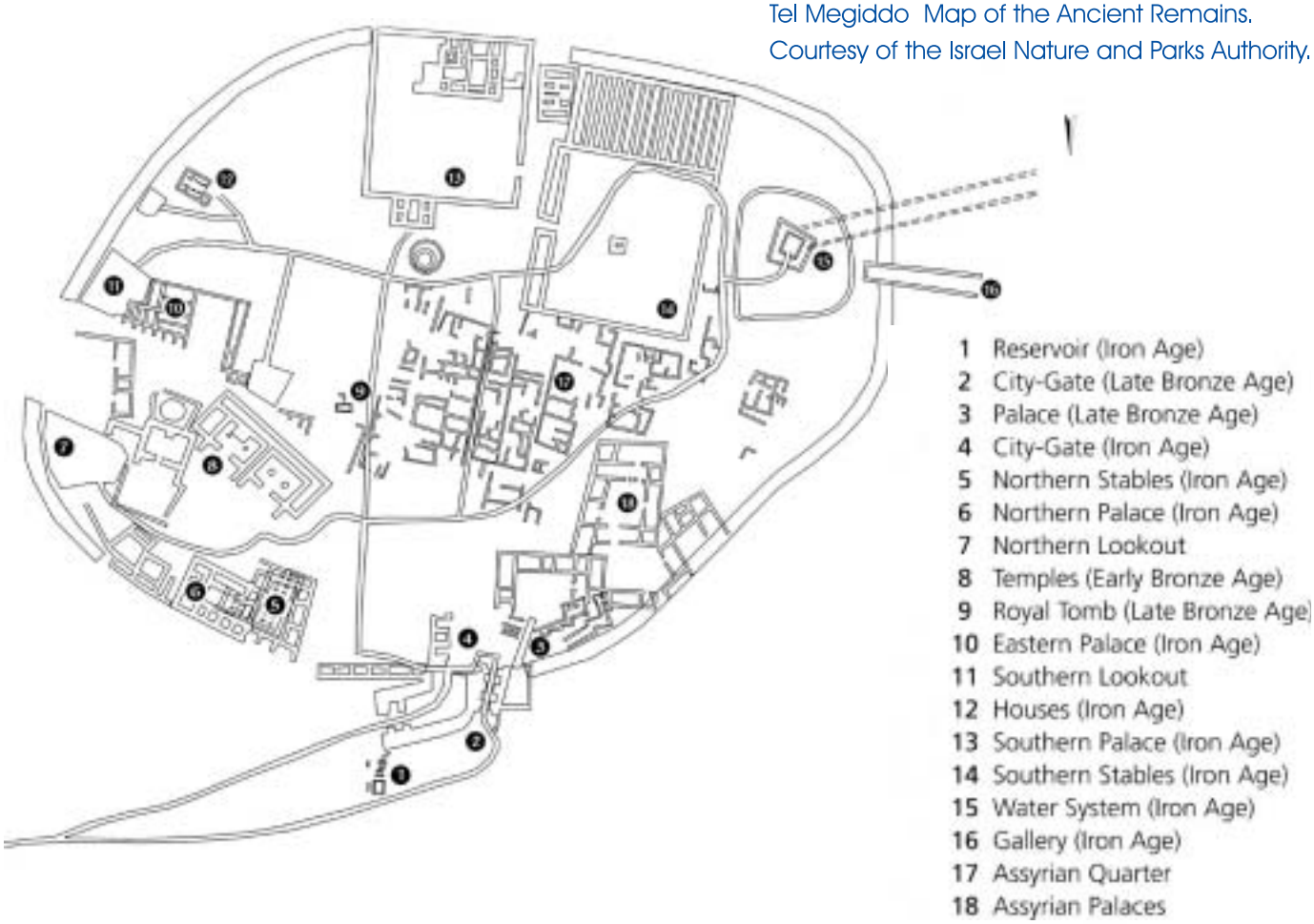
- The plastered water installations in Hazor are the first of their kind in the world, and the beginning of a long-lasting tradition.
- The well in Beer Sheba reflects a tradition that predates its quarrying and continued afterwards. Its singularity is its extraordinary depth.
- The standardization of the construction of water

systems represents a general phenomenon and is one of the characteristics of the urbanism in Israel and Judah in the Iron Age period.

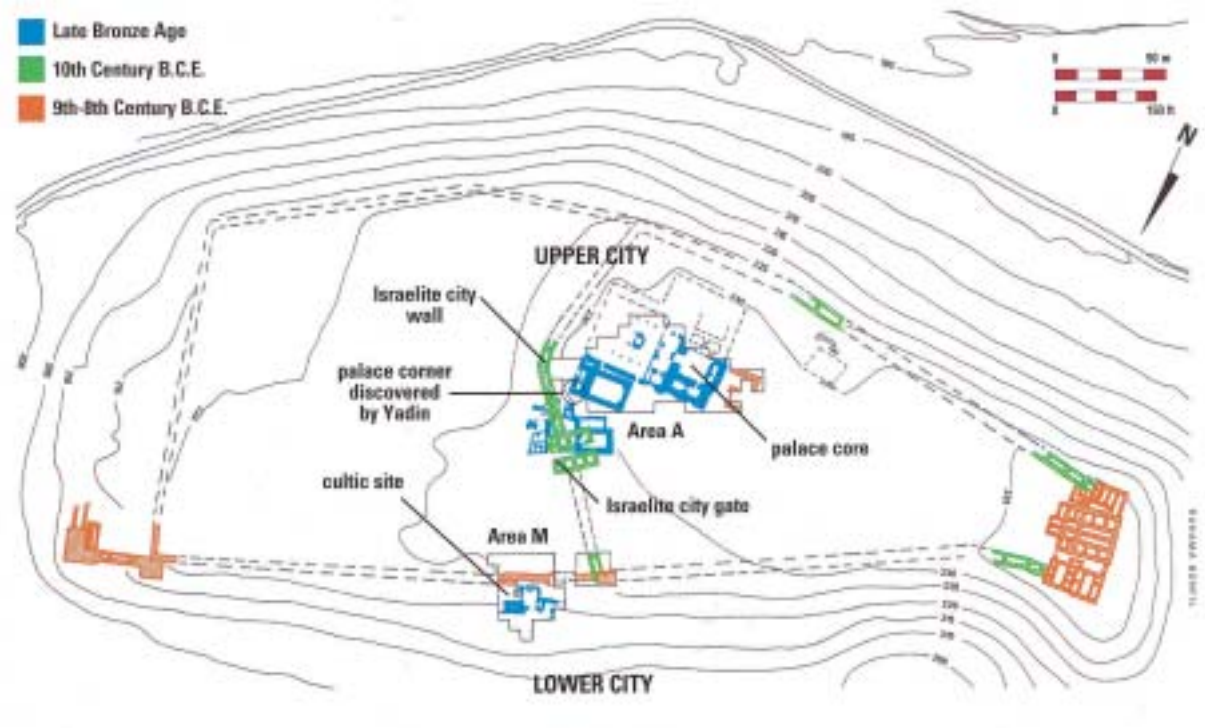
However, this variety of water installation did not persist, and in later periods were abandoned in favor of water systems for carrying water over distances – aqueducts. After the Biblical periods, the new rulers - the Persians - who eventually took over in 538 BC, showed no interest in implementing water installations. As of the Hellenistic period (332-63 BC), other, different water systems began to appear: aqueducts channeling water from distances, which arrived in Israel together with other traits of the Hellenistic culture and knowledge.

Therefore, the selection of Iron Age II water systems, presented in this dossier, constitutes a unique testimony to a cultural tradition, at the final and most highly developed stage of its evolution. This tradition goes back to the most ancient times and knew many transformations, from unplanned immediate use to the stage of planning the carrying water, then to that of organizing water-supplies, and finally to the implementing of complex structures which allowed reaching the water table, controlling water sources and protecting them from enemies. This tradition evolved over millennia, from the dawn of history - in the simplest act of individuals or small communities, to the undertaking of sophisticated installations by centralized regimes in complex, highly-skilled and organized societies.

Tel Megiddo Map of the Ancient Remains.
Courtesy of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority.



1 Reservoir (Iron Age)
2 City-Gate (Late Bronze Age)
3 Palace (Late Bronze Age)
4 City-Gate (Iron Age)
5 Northern Stables (Iron Age)
6 Northern Palace (Iron Age)
7 Northern Lookout
8 Temples (Early Bronze Age)
9 Royal Tomb (Late Bronze Age)
10 Eastern Palace (Iron Age)
11 Southern Lookout
12 Houses (Iron Age)
13 Southern Palace (Iron Age)
14 Southern Stables (Iron Age)
15 Water System (Iron Age)
16 Gallery (Iron Age)
17 Assyrian Quarter
18 Assyrian Palaces



Plan of the Upper City of Hazor (Late Bronze Age to 8th Century BC)
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Tel Beer Sheba - City Plan (Iron Age)

L E G E N D

1. Front city gate
2. Well
3. Drainage channel
4. City gate
5. City square
6. Streets
7. Governor's residence
8. Excavated section of a road
9. Casemate wall
10. Dwellings encompassed in city wall
11. Basement house
12. Observation tower
13. Storehouse
14. Water system

3. Description

3. a. Description of Property

Tel Megiddo

The description below only concerns the remains visible today. It will follow the visitor's path from the entrance to the National Park through to the exit via the Water Tunnel. The stratigraphic relationship, general layout and historical context of the remains will be dealt with in Chapter 3.b. 'History and Development'[4].

Tel Megiddo's landscape is very distinctive. Any visitor will remember the tall palm-trees profiled on the skyline, the rounded 'hills' formed by the dumps of archaeological debris on its SE and NW sides, and the deep section cutting through the 'bowels' of the mound. The top of Tel Megiddo, roughly delimited by the line of the ancient fortifications, measures ca. 300 X 230 m. and covers an area of ca. 5.5 ha.

Visitors enter the National Park of Megiddo through the stone buildings built by the expedition of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, lavishly funded by Rockefeller. Today, after a partial reconstruction, they house the offices of the National Parks Authority Northern District, the entrance hall, a museum wing and other tourist facilities. These buildings, together with the 'tennis court' of the Oriental Institute expedition are worthy of conservation by their own right, for they bear evidence of the very beginnings of the history of biblical archeology, as the 'Romantic' age of archaeology.

Throughout antiquity, the successive cities of Megiddo were reached from a gate located on the north of the city's layout, where the approach was easier. The remnants of **five successive city-gates** (from the Middle Bronze, the Late Bronze, the late Iron I-early Iron II, the Iron II and the Assyrian periods) have been excavated by the various expeditions. They were built one on top of the other or in very close proximity. Near the Late Bronze gate stood the remains of vast and lavish palaces (end of Middle Bronze and Late Bronze periods), almost completely removed during the University of Chicago excavations, in order to reach lower levels. Today, visitors enter the city through the impressive four-chambered Late Bronze city-gate, partly reconstructed in 1993, and reach the so-called 'Solomonic' six-chambered gate of the Iron II period. Only the eastern half of the inner gatehouse is preserved today. The western half was removed during

[4]The same way of presenting paragraphs 3a and 3b is applied to Tel Hazor and Tel Beer Sheba .

the University of Chicago excavations, in order to expose earlier phases of construction. On top of the 'Solomonic' gate, partly filled, stand the remains of the two-chambered gate of the Assyrian city.

Going eastwards, one passes the well-preserved remains of a **large Late Bronze administrative edifice** and reaches the area of the Iron II **horse-stables and 'Solomonic' palace 6000**. Of the vast complex of horse-stables situated at this north-eastern part of the mound, only a few units remain. Most of them were removed in the course of the University of Chicago excavations. During the renewed excavations of this area by the 'Megiddo Expedition', one almost complete unit of stables was exposed, including its habitation levels. Each unit of stable was divided into three parallel areas by two rows of alternating pillars and troughs. The central area was apparently an open-air passage and working area, while the two aisles served as stalls (cf. details in Technological Value). Of the rectangular Palace 6000, situated below these stables, mostly the monumental foundations made of beautiful ashlar blocks and the northeastern wing living floor remain. The ceremonial palace was probably entered through a porticoed entrance and a large central hall. Beyond the palace and horse-stables, at the northeastern edge of the Tel, stand the remains of the Iron II city-wall destroyed by Tiglath-plileser III, King of Assyria, (who captured the city in 732 BC) and restored in the Assyrian period. At the eastern edge of the Tel are located a 'northern' and a 'southern' lookouts. From these lookouts one can contemplate the landscape of the Jezreel Valley, and identify mounts, sites, or cities mentioned in the Bible: the Carmel ridge, Mt. Gilboa, Mt. Tabor, Nazareth, etc. From the shady area of the northern lookout, one also has a panoramic view over the **'Sacred Compound'**, where the University of Chicago and the new expedition dug the remains of no less than five temples, built from the fourth to the second millennia. Bordering the 'Sacred Compound', on the south, rises a 15 m. deep archaeological section, displaying the complete stratigraphy of Megiddo down to bedrock. For size, archaeological and methodological value, this section is matchless in the whole Levant. It has become a landmark of the site, providing a unique glimpse at the history of the Tel, throughout its 6 millennia of occupation.

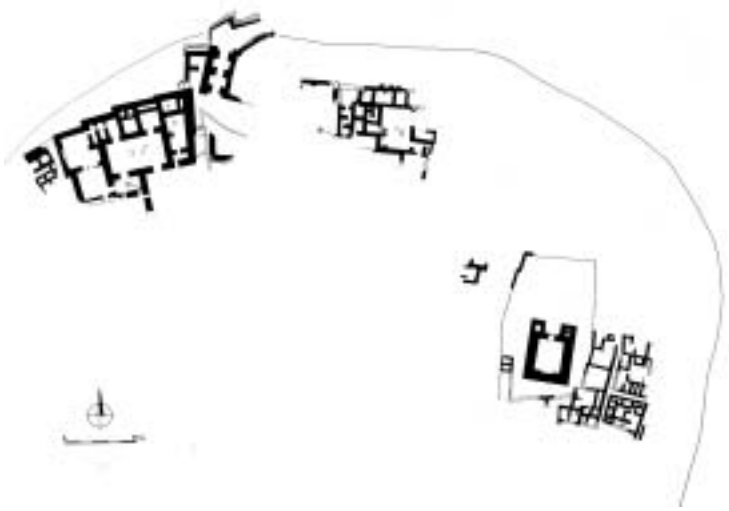
Returning toward the center of the mound, one notices the long and narrow trench dug by Schumacher across the whole site, from north to south. Near the center of the mound, Schumacher's trench exposed the remains of several elaborate buildings, which he, and scholars after him, described as Middle Bronze palaces - the ***Mittelburg*** and the ***Nordburg***. Among the areas excavated by Schumacher is **the corbelled tomb,** today closed to the public for reasons of safety and conservation. Its conservation, as planned in the Development Program for the site (cf. 3. e. Policies and Programs), will hopefully allow visitors inside the tomb. The 'Megiddo Expedition', which checked the *Nordburg* and the

tomb, has re-dated them to the Late Bronze period. On the western side of the path and extending throughout the central, south-eastern and south-western areas of the mound, one can identify the remains of residential houses mostly belonging to the **Assyrian city and Persian town**, and organized along an **orthogonal layout** (cf. above, 'Architectural Value'). Reaching the southeastern edge of the mound, one passes more remains of the mud brick-built Iron II city-wall. Nearby, one discovers the vestiges of **Palace 338,** built at the highest spot of the city. Cultic objects uncovered in one room of the palace - two steles, altars, offering stands, model shrines, etc. – indicate that at least part of it served as a shrine, and attest to the continuity of local Canaanite rituals, as late as the 8th c. BC. In the 7th c. BC, an unusual structure (fortress? called ***Tempelburg*** by Schumacher) was built around the carefully buried shrine. Its remains were removed during the University of Chicago's excavations.

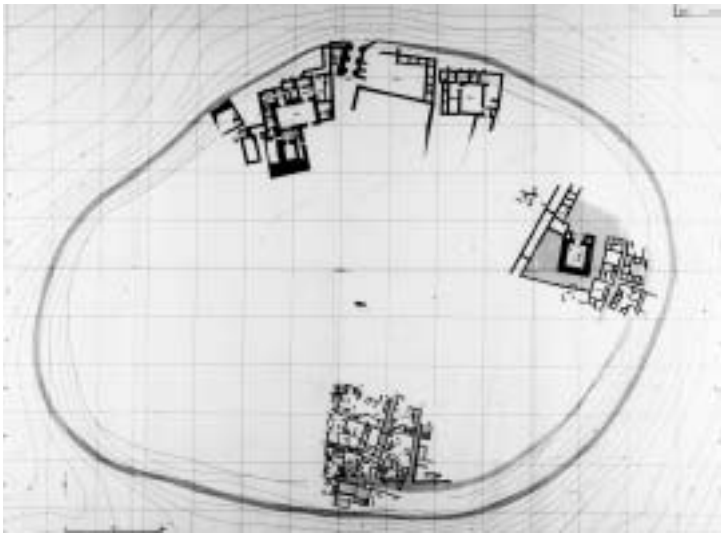
Two rounded mounds, formed by the debris removed in the course of the University of Chicago's extensive excavations, face the eastern edge of the Tel. At the edge of the Tel and on the slope, a few metallic structures belonging to the dirt-removing apparatus demonstrate the scope of the University of Chicago's enterprise. Under the shed of the southern lookout, overlooking the valley, large ashlar stones bearing 'mason marks' are displayed. They belong to Iron II Palace 1723.

Returning westward, through the remains of **recently excavated Iron II domestic areas**, the path leads to the compound of Megiddo's **largest Iron II palace (1723),** almost entirely removed during the University of Chicago's excavations. The ashlar- built palace, square in plan, stood at the rear of a spacious lime-paved courtyard, entered through a monumental gate. Today, only part of the gate and of the enclosure wall are still visible. At the southeastern end of the enclosure, some massive walls of Schumacher's **Southern *Burgtor*** can still be identified near the slope of the mound. Right in front of the monumental gate of Palace 1723 stands a huge public **grain silo,** which either served to stock up grain and hay for the horses bred and trained in the Iron II city's stables, or to store extra supply of grain from the agricultural hinterland.

Continuing westward, one reaches the large compound of the **southern stables**, with its large chariot-training courtyard and central water reservoir (cf. Technological Value). North of the southern stables lie the intricate remains of **Assyrian and Persian residential quarters**, and the large compounds of the two **Assyrian palaces.** The smaller palace was removed by the University of Chicago, but the foundations and clear layout of the more majestic one are still visible, and were checked anew by the current 'Megiddo Expedition'. Finally, at the western edge of the Tel one reaches the entrance of the **large water-system**,



Tel Megiddo- Plan of Stratum VIII (Late Bronze period). Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.



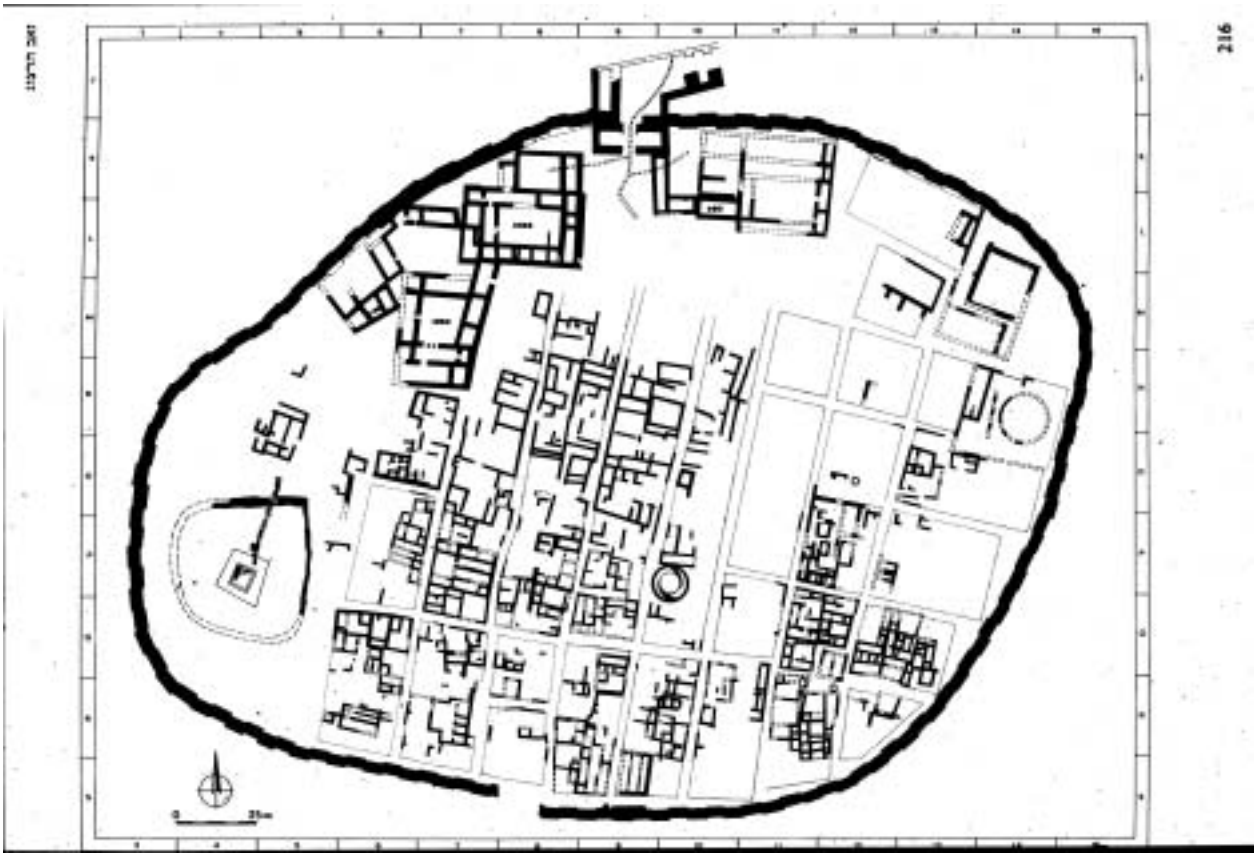
Tel Megiddo- Plan of the Late Bronze period of Stratum VIIA. Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.

Tel Megiddo - The Late Bronze (Canaanite) City-gate after partial restoration. Looking south. Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.

Tel Megiddo - Proto-aeolic Capital (Iron Age). Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.

Tel Megiddo - Palace 6000 (so-called 'Solomonic' palace). Looking NW. Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.

Tel Megiddo - The Israelite (so-called 'Solomonic') City-gate. Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.



Tel Megiddo- Plan of the Assyrian City (Stratum III).
Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.

Tel Megiddo - The large Assyrian Palace (Stratum III). Looking north.
Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.

which, in the late Iron II period, replaced the earlier **'gallery'** that led to the water spring situated beyond the city wall. (cf. Technological Value).

When leaving the site, visitors can chose between two possible exitways: either through the water tunnel, descending the stairs built around the shaft, following the long tunnel to the spring and exit, or back towards the city-gates. Choosing the former, they will be able to observe the remains of the Middle Bronze period fortifications along the northern slopes of the Tel; choosing the latter, they will observe the remnants of the **last city-gate,** belonging to the Assyrian period**,** on top of the so-called 'Solomonic' gate.

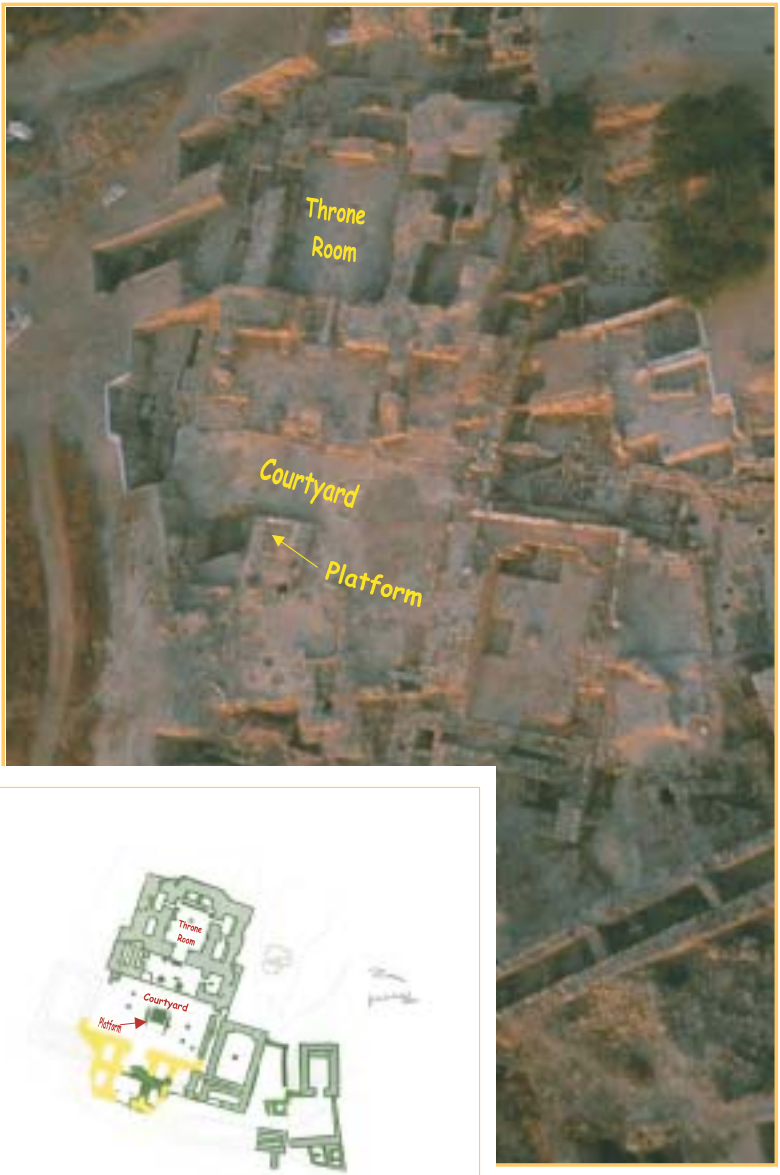
Tel Hazor

The visit at Hazor begins at the foot of the Tel, as the visitor leaves the modern road leading north, a road that probably follows the same route that crosses the Hula Valley and was used for millennia. During the climb to the upper Tel, the remains of the Israelite city's fortifications can be seen to the right of the main pathway. Halfway up the Tel, the Nature and Parks Authority erected a convenient shaded area and platform. These provide a clear view of the Acropolis of the Tel to the south, and the huge enclosure of the Lower City to the north of the Tel. One should note the huge earthen rampart guarding the western side of the Lower City, and the still visible remains of the "Stele Temple" (Area C) dug into the foot of this rampart.

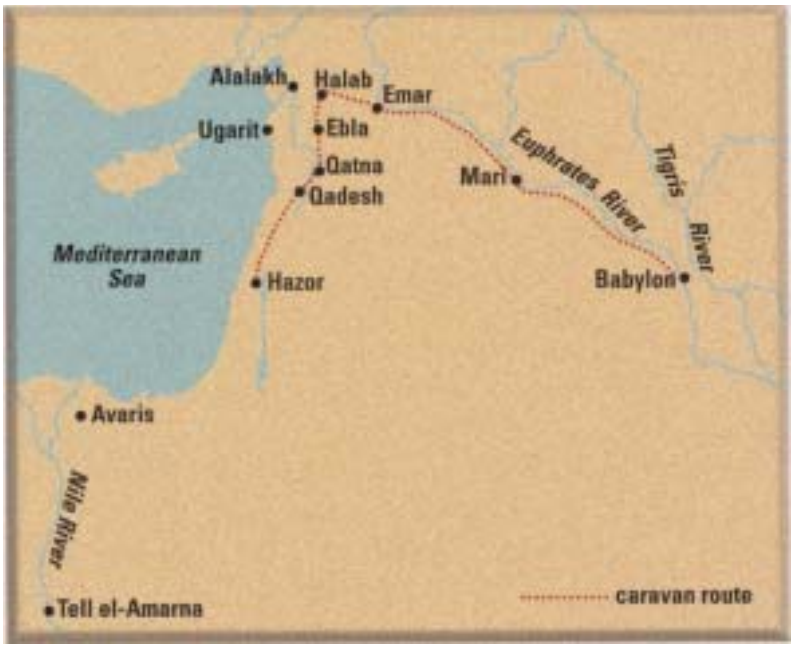
To the right of the main pathway, visitors may enjoy a bird's-eye view of the monumental Late Bronze Age complex uncovered on the northern slope of the Tel. This complex must have been a part of a palatial building extending to the south, and its remains attest to cult activities that took place in its entrance. The room, paved with basalt-orthostats, and the basalt podium in its center are unique in Canaan, and point to Hazor's ties to the Syro-Mesopotamian cultural sphere.

When one is standing on the raised platform to the left of the main pathway, the various remains excavated in Area A can be seen. These include the restored "Solomonic" six-chambered gate and casemate wall in the foreground, with the remains of the earlier Bronze Age temple, the orthostat threshold, sealed by these later fortifications. The huge Bronze Age religious and palatial complex covers the rest of area A to the south and the west. This complex consists of the immense "Canaanite Palace" and its courtyard. The large ashlar-built podium located in the middle of the pebble-paved courtyard, on the axis of the "Palace" entrance, is clearly visible. The "Palace" itself, with its protective roof, restored mudbrick walls lined with basalt orthostats, dominates the area in its monumental splendor. To its north, another monumental temple with ashlar-lined walls forms the northern border of the impressive complex. Thanks to the meticulous preservation of the

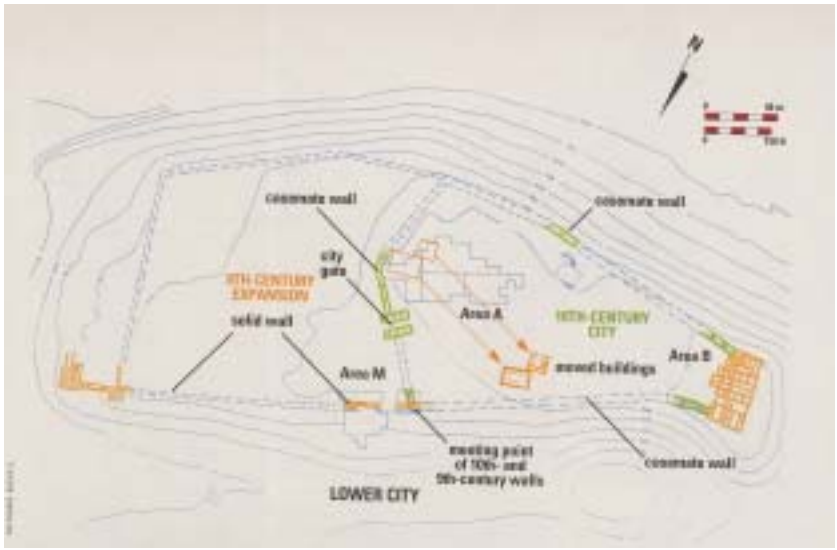
Hazor: The reconstructed pillared administrative building and four-room domestic house (9th-8th c.) in their new location. Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology



Hazor: Aerial view and plan of the Canaanite Palace. Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology



The caravan route that connected Canaan and Hazor to the north: Phoenicia, Syria and Mesopotamia
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology



Hazor: Plan of the Upper City during the Iron Age
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Hazor: The Iron Age ("Solomonic") City gate and walls. Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Hazor: Aerial photo of Area A on the Upper City (from the north-east)
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Hazor: Plan of the six-chambered gate and other remains (the Canaanite remains are marked in blue; the first Iron Age remains - 10th c. are marked in green and the later periods, 9th-8th c. are marked in orange)
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Hazor: The watch-tower built on the eve of the Assyrian conquest (8th c.) with an illustration of a warrior demonstrating the original function of the watch-tower.
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

"Canaanite Palace" and its surrounding, groups of visitors can walk within the confines of this amazing complex and appreciate its sheer size and the high quality of architectural workmanship.

Continuing to the west, the visitor can enter the two Iron Age buildings that were removed from their original place in area A and relocated in an open area to the right of the pathway. The two buildings, a public columned storehouse and a private dwelling, were restored and rebuilt in their new location. The olive press restored in the latter is actually in working order.

The Iron Age water system at Hazor is located along the pathway to the left, on the southern slope of the Tel. The large basin can be seen from above, but visitors are encouraged to climb down the system and reach the water level. The descent and ascent to and from the water system is made easier by the addition of modern flights of steps.

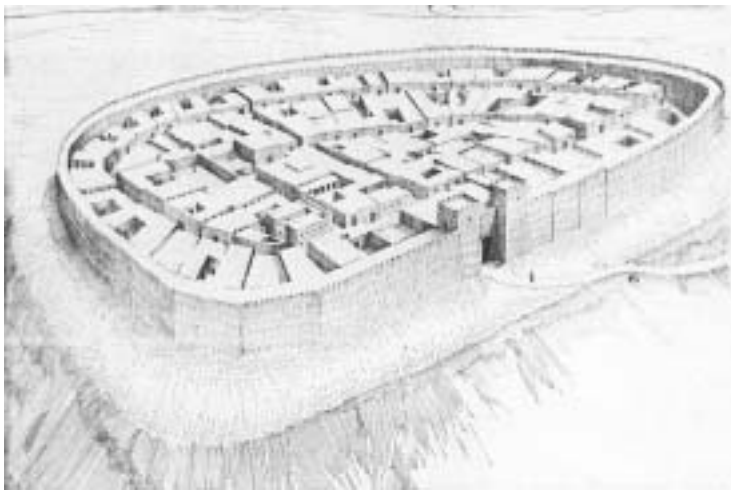
On the western tip of the Tel, at its most strategic point, is the Iron Age citadel, controlling the northern route at the foot of the Tel. The various rooms and courtyards forming this building can be seen from the platform. The impressive watchtower straddling the slope of the Tel was restored, and can also be seen from the road approaching the Tel from the south. Special attention should be given to the restored cultic "high-place" attributed to the first Israelite settlement after the destruction of the Canaanite city (11th century BC). This "Bamah", with its standing basalt stone ("Massebah"), attached pavement and benches, was recently restored.

Any visit to Hazor should also include a visit to the near-by museum in Kibbutz Ayelet-ha-Shahar, were many finds from the excavations are on display.

Tel Beer Sheba

The access road into the site leads to the entrance gate. The deep well used daily by the ancient locals and passers by is located outside the gate. One enters the city through the gate in use at the city's earlier stages (strata V-IV). On the way to the main gate, visitors pass by the drain that had carried rainwater outside the city. At one section, the earlier occupation levels had been preserved: one of the dwelling pits used in strata IX-VIII, as well as the walls of a room dating to the enclosed settlement of stratum VII. From this area one proceeds to the main city gate. Two different stages of the gate had been observed on both sides of the passage: on the left, the gate used through strata I-II-III, and on the right the earlier gate, dating to strata V-IV. Plastered benches can be seen in one of the gate chambers. Beyond the gate's passageway, a rectangular open space may have served as a marketplace. The city's streets radiate from this space. Turning left, one passes into the peripheral street, passing by the governor's palace, and

Aerial view of Tel Beer Sheba after reconstruction
Courtesy of Beer Sheba Expedition of the TAU
Institute of Archaeology



Isometric drawing of the town of Beer Sheba
in Strata III and II (Iron Age)
Courtesy of Beer Sheba Expedition of the
TAU Institute of Archaeology

Beer Sheba - Excavating the casemate-wall
rooms in a domestic quarter
Courtesy of Beer Sheba Expedition
of the TAU Institute of Archaeology

Beer Sheba - The reconstructed
Horned Altar. Courtesy of Beer
Sheba Expedition of the TAU
Institute of Archaeology

onwards between the dwelling houses lining the street. Here one reaches a section where the excavators had gone deeper into the ground and unearthed the earlier street of stratum V, built along an identical route. To the right there are several dwellings belonging to stratum V. The visitors' path goes on to the "Cellar House" where the underground chambers and the passage going through them can be seen. Further on, one reaches the western quarter's dwelling houses, and behind them the casemate wall surrounding the city. Here one climbs on to an observation tower, from which the visitor can see the site and its surroundings, as well as features of the city layout. From the tower one can turn back to the peripheral street, pass by the dwellings of the northern quarter and eventually reach the observation point over the shaft leading down into the water system. Alternatively, one can turn south, pass by the remains of the Roman and early Islamic fort, and proceed between the dwellings on both sides of the inner street, towards the pillared structures that had served as storehouses. At the bottom of the mound there is a replica of the horned altar, whose stones were discovered incorporated in one of the storehouse walls.

3. b. History and Development

Tel Megiddo

As a result of the archaeological excavations, we may now distinguish four major historical stages of settlement at Megiddo: the Early Settlements, the Canaanite City of the 2nd Millennium BC, the Israelite City (the biblical period city) and the Later Phases. The site is comprised of a Lower City (dating from the Early Bronze I period to the end of the Iron I period), and an Upper City (dating from the Early Bronze I period to the Persian period). Beneath agricultural fields beyond the eastern boundaries of the National Park, lies an additional settled area, covering 50 ha. This area, protected under the Antiquities Law, constitutes a huge settlement, which has not been excavated yet. Its investigation by the archeological survey has dated it to the Early Bronze period, mainly EB I.

A-The Early Settlements:

Pre-Pottery Neolithic B, Neolithic and Chalcolithic (Stratum XX)

Stratum XX represents the beginning of the settlement on bedrock. It consists of several caves on the slopes and meager remains of walls, occupational floors and pits.

Early Bronze (EB) I (Strata XIX-XVIII)

The EB I (Strata XIX-XVIII) settlement extended to a large area east of the Tel. It revealed **two 'apsidal' buildings,** and a massive **stone-built wall** (a city-wall?) which did not entirely surround the site. In area BB, a **temple compound (4050)** - a rectangular building faced by a courtyard was excavated. This temple was built on the remains of an earlier EB I temple. Another temple (called the **J-4b level temple),** whose complete layout and dimensions are yet to be determined, was recently discovered. Judging by its monumental dimensions and the amount of sacrificial remains discovered in and around its corridors, this temple is clearly unique in its kind in the whole Levant. The huge walls of the J-4b temple are fractured in several places, and the eastern part of the building is tilted eastward. According to paleo-tectonics studies, both may be signs of a powerful earthquake that occurred at the end of the Early Bronze I. After the earthquake, the site was abandoned for a short period at the end of the EB I period, then reoccupied. In the EB II period, the site was deserted.

Early Bronze (EB) III (Strata XVII to XV)

In Stratum XVII, a large, stone-built **circular altar (altar 4017)** surrounded by an enclosure wall was erected on the location of the first temple of Stratum XIX. In Stratum XV: **three temples (4040, 5192, 5269)** were built near the altar. They all have a similar plan, consisting of a rectangular cella entered through a porticoed porch. The three temples were probably dedicated to three different deities. This impressive 'Sacred Compound', formed by the round altar and the three temples, undoubtedly demonstrates that Megiddo was at that time a great urban and cultic center.

Early Bronze (EB) IV (Stratum XIV)

A few poorly built structures suggest that, in this era, the settlement, although in decline, still existed. Temple 4040 was still in use, but its proportions were reduced. A number of rock-cut tombs were found on the SE slope of the Tel.

B- The Canaanite city of the 2nd Millennium BC: (Strata XIII to VIIA)

The Middle Bronze (MB) period (Strata XIII-X)

The beginning of the Middle Bronze period, in the 20th c. BC, marks the rebuilding of Megiddo (Stratum XIII) as an urban, fortified center. This Canaanite city-state lasted without interruption until its destruction by the 'Sea People' at the end of the Late Bronze, in ca. 1130 BC. The Egyptian presence and interests directly influenced political developments in Canaan and Syria. Some finds from the site, together with the fact that Megiddo is not mentioned in the Egyptian

'Execration Texts', may indicate that in the Middle Bronze Megiddo was under Egyptian domination.

The MB city is characterized by **massive brick and stone walls fortifications,** built in various phases of Strata XIII and XII. In areas AA, BB and CC, the remains of a buttressed wall, a city-gate and an earthen glacis were discovered. In Stratum XI, a new city-wall was built with inner buttresses and a glacis on the outside. **A new temple (2048)** was built in the 'Sacred Compound'. This temple, named the 'tower temple' after the two towers flanking its impressive entrance, constituted the main cultic venue in the Middle Bronze, Late Bronze and Iron I (Stratum VIA) periods. Near the city-gate (area AA) a **palace** (Stratum X) was erected. **Fine stone-built tombs**, - full of rich finds and probably belonging to the social elite of Megiddo- were uncovered by Schumacher in his north-south excavation trench. Their stratigraphy was recently checked by the new 'Megiddo Expedition" and subsequently they were re-dated to the very latest phase of the MB or the beginning of the Late Bronze period.

The Late Bronze (LB) period (Strata IX – VIIA)

The expulsion of the Hyksos from Egypt and Paraoh Ahmose's campaign to Canaan (ca. 1550 BC) mark the renewal of Egyptian influence in the country. No data indicate that Megiddo was destroyed during this campaign. It is only in 1479 BC, during the first Asian campaign of Thutmose III, that the city is conquered. A coalition of Canaanite kings, led by the king of Kadesh in Syria gathered at Megiddo. After a fierce battle and a seven-month siege, the city fell, thus allowing the establishment of Egyptian dominion over Canaan and Megiddo. The Egyptian annals do not mention the destruction of the city, and actually no such sign was ever discerned in archaeological excavations. The domination of Megiddo was a prerequisite for Egyptian hegemony in Canaan. Megiddo endured as an important city-state 'vassal' of the Egyptians, as testified by the letters sent by its king, Biridiya to his overlord, the pharaoh of Egypt in the 14th c. BC and found in the el-Amarna archives.

A **large city-gate** was built (Stratum X or IX) which was used until the end of the LB period. This monumental three-entry city-gate, approached by a wide roadway, seems to have been incorporated into the earlier MB fortifications. **Three super-imposed palaces** (Strata IX to VIIA) were uncovered on the remains of the MB palace in area AA, near the city-gate. **Another palatial complex**, with a large central courtyard, was uncovered to the east of the gate (area DD); it belongs to strata VIII to VIIA. In the 'Sacred Compound', **temple 2048, modified**, continued to be the main cultic venue. In the center of the city, near the fine stone-built tombs, a **large public edifice** (Schumacher's ***Nordburg)*** was built. A particularly **fine corbel-vaulted burial chamber** was incorporated into this building. This

tomb, found empty, seems to have been prepared for a royal burial. Unique in the entire Levant, this vault's building technique recalls corbelled burials from Ugarit.

All structures of Stratum VIIA show a cultural continuity with the previous stratum. The **temple (2048)** was rebuilt, as was the **palace**, larger and more decorated than its predecessors. Its very well preserved remains – 3 m. high walls with fragments of fresco decoration, were removed by the University of Chicago's excavations. The hoard of 382 ivory objects found in the 'treasury' of the palace constitutes the largest assemblage of ivories ever found in the ancient Near East, and the richest in terms of cultural influences (manifesting Hittite, Egyptian, Aegean and Canaanite motifs). A statue base of Ramses VI, found in a pit in area CC, suggests that the Egyptian rule continued until the 12th c. BC. The destruction of stratum VIIA, attributed to the 'Sea People' dated to ca. 1130 BC, tolled the knell of the Late Bronze city. The city, including the royal palace and the temple, was destroyed by a violent fire.

A few generations after the destruction, a poor settlement was established (Stratum VIB, 11th c. BC), soon to be replaced by a larger and richer city (Stratum VIA, early 10th c. BC). Both were still 'Canaanite' in terms of material culture. The remains of Stratum VIA, mostly **dwellings** and **domestic areas**, were built of brick on stone foundations. One large structure, probably a palace, **(building 2072)** was built near the northern edge of the city. This city came to an end in a terrible conflgaration sometime in the 10th c. BC. The supporters of the Low Chronology suggest that it could have been at the hands of Pharaoh Shishak, who took the city in the second half of the 10th c. BC.

C- The Israelite City: (Strata VB – IVA)

These strata are of the utmost importance, for they represent the core of the 'biblical' phase of Megiddo's history. Due to the absence of monumental remains of this period in Jerusalem, Megiddo's Iron Age strata (particularly the dating of the city-gate, palaces and horse-stables) are at the center of the most significant scholarly debate (cf. chapter 2.a, 'Scientific value – Study and Research', and Finkelstein's article in *Levant* in the Addenda). Above all, the date of the construction and destruction of Stratum VA-IVB reflects on the entire reconstruction of the history of the Levant in the Iron Age, and on the understanding of the Biblical narrative regarding the United Monarchy of David and Solomon on the one hand, and the Divided Monarchy (the kingdom of Judah in the south and the kingdom of Israel in the north), on the other hand.
-Stratum VB revealed mostly remains of domestic structures in various parts of the site, and those of a larger building, probably a **trapezoidal fort** surrounded by

a casemate wall, at the NE edge of the Tel. Megiddo was apparently a small unfortified settlement at the time (end of 10th c.- beginning of the 9th c. BC).

In Stratum VA-IVB, the city was entered through a **small two-chambered gatehouse**. The main features of this stratum are **three palaces (1723, 6000 and 338),** built respectively at the southern, northern and eastern edges of the site. All of them opened into spacious courtyards, facing the center of the city. Ashlar masonry was lavishly used in the construction of the palaces, and their monumental entrances were adorned with proto-aeolic[5] capitals. The layout of palaces 6000 and 1723 seems to derive from North Syrian palaces of the so-called *bit-hilani*[6] type. Palace 338 was associated to a **shrine**, which yielded several altars and cultic objects. An elaborate administrative **building (1482)** adjoined the southern palace 1723. Several domestic buildings were uncovered along the eastern and northern edges of the city. A **sanctuary (building 2081),** excavated at the NNW edge in area AA, was removed by the University of Chicago excavations. Cult objects and structures were associated with it. A postern '**gallery 629',** built on the western side of the mound, led to the spring located outside the city. Stratum VA-IVB was destroyed by fire. Scholars supporting the High Chronology suggest that it was destroyed by Paharaoh Shishak in 925 BC, while the advocates of the Low Chronology attribute the destruction to Hazael, King of Damascus, ca. 835 BC.

The Stratum IVA city, ' The City of Stables', totally differs from the previous one. The remains of the Stratum VA-IVB palaces were dismantled, and their ashlar blocks reused. Apparently, Megiddo was then a garrison city, and remarkably, very few residential quarters were found. Megiddo, now a fortified stronghold and an important economic center for the breeding of horses and training of chariots, was surrounded by a **thick city-wall (325) typically built in insets and offsets**. A monumental **complex entrance**, still on the north of the city, included an outer gatehouse, opening on a large courtyard leading to a six-chambered massive inner gate. During excavations, extension cracks, probably caused by earthquake-related horizontal tremors, were noted on the Stratum IV six-chambered gate. Yet, the Assyrian city gate (cf. below), built on top of it in Stratum III, was intact. This detail allowed to attribute these cracks to a major earthquake, referred to in the Bible (Amos 1, 1) in the time of Jeroboam II (ca. 760 BC). The most characteristic features in this stratum are the **horse-stables**. Although remains of horse stables were found at various sites and in various periods (cf. Chapter 2. b Comparative Analysis), nowhere do they occupy such a large proportion of the site. Megiddo's Stratum IVA city seems to have been all dedicated to the horse economy. Both chariot and cavalry horses were of primary importance in the ancient Near

[5] Cf, Chapter 2. Architectural Value, footnote 1.
[6] Cf. Chapter 2. Architectural Value, footnote 2.

Eastern warfare. As attested in Assyrian records, the Israelite Kingdom's chariots and horses were much appreciated by the Assyrian kings. Very significantly, three stone troughs – carrying an inscription identifying them as 'troughs' - were found *in situ* at Nebi Yunus, near Nineveh, a mustering compound and army headquarters used by the armies of three Assyrian kings – Sennacherib, Esarhaddon and Ashurbanipal. Their dimensions were identical to those of the Megiddo troughs: 1.2 m. long and 60 cm. high. The **massive water system and the 7 m. deep grain silo** also belong to this Stratum IVA city. Large amounts of water, grain and hay were necessary to feed the horses. Among the famous finds attributed to this Stratum IVA city, is the 'Lion seal' of Shema', a high official of king Jeroboam II, which has become the emblem of the site.

D – The Later Periods (Strata III-I)

In 732 BC the Assyrian King Tiglath-pileser III conquered the northern parts of the kingdom of Israel and annexed them to Assyria. Megiddo became the capital of the Assyrian province of *Magiddu,* and Stratum III dates to this period. A **new city-gate** was built on top of the six-chambered gatehouse and connected to the Iron II city-wall 325. To the west of the city-gate, **two Assyrian administrative palaces** were erected. Large parts of the **residential quarters** of the Assyrian city were uncovered throughout the site, including houses and streets organized in an orthogonal layout.

The 7th c. Stratum II consists mainly of residential quarters similar to those of Stratum III, and follows the same street layout, although city wall 325 had now fallen into disuse. A **large building (a fortress?)** was built at the eastern edge of the Tel, on top of the shrine of Palace 338, which had been carefully and ceremoniously buried. It is probably in one of the Assyrian palaces, reused by the Egyptians in the 7th c., that Pharaoh Necho killed King Josiah of Judah (cf. 2. a. Megiddo in the Bible). The last period of settlement, in the Babylonian and Persian periods (Stratum I) is represented by few remains of **small houses and domestic buildings** and several **stone-built cist tombs.** Megiddo was finally abandoned at the end of the 5th or the beginning of the 4th c. BC.

In Roman times, the settlement concentrated in the plain, at a Jewish village, Kefar Othnay. At the end of the 2nd c. AD, the Roman army established there a military camp. The village was renamed Legio and served as the center of an administrative district. Its name is perpetuated by the name of the Arab village of 'Lajjun'.

Tel Hazor

The results of the excavations at Hazor enable us to reconstruct the history of the site and the nature of settlement in the various phases. A sequence of twenty-three strata of occupation, beginning in the middle of the third millennium BC (Early Bronze Age) and ending in the last third of the first millennium (Hellenistic period), is represented in the Upper City of Hazor. The Lower City was settled only during the second millennium BC, from its foundation in the Middle Bronze Age (in the mid-18th c. BC), until its violent destruction in the Late Bronze Age (in the 13th c. BC).

In the third millennium BC a flourishing city was probably confined to the upper Tel. After a gap, the site was settled again at the end of the third millennium (Middle Bronze Age I). The nature of the site during this period is still unknown, but finds from the renewed excavations hint to the existence of a rather large settlement during this time of general decline throughout the country.

The great turning point in the development of Hazor took place during the Middle Bronze IIB period (mid-18th c. BC), when the great Lower City was founded. Excavation throughout the Lower City proved that the entire area was built up and fortified by new settlers, for whom the Upper City was too small. It can be assumed that the Hazor mentioned in the Mari documents is the "large" Hazor consisting also the Lower City. Excavations' results can utilize this theory to help support the Late Chronology, which dates the Mari documents to the end of the 18th c. BC. Thus, the findings at Hazor contribute to the archaeology of the entire region of Israel-Syria.

The Lower City continued to exist throughout the Middle and the Late Bronze Ages, a long period during which it was periodically destroyed and rebuilt. Hazor reached the height of its development in the 14th c. BC, during the Amarna period. Major building activities were carried out during this period in both parts of the city, attesting to Hazor's status as largest Canaanite city-state in the land of Canaan. The final destruction of Caananite Hazor, both of the Lower and Upper Cities, occurred as the result of a huge conflagration that took place during the 13th c. BC. Who destroyed Hazor - whether the Israelite tribes, Egyptian Pharaohs or other elements - is still a central question in scholarly debate.

After a gap in the settlement following the violent destruction of the Canaanite city, remains of a meager occupation, dated to the 11th-12th c. BC and attributed to the settlement of the Israelites, were discovered on the upper Tel.

Only from the 10th c. BC, the period of Solomon, did Hazor return to some extent to its former splendor. The Iron Age city on the upper Tel consisted of massive fortifications, large administrative buildings, public areas - such as the water system and the granaries - and domestic quarters. These remains were

alternately destroyed, by human actions or by natural forces such as earthquakes. The city was rebuilt and reconstructed several times by its inhabitants, until its final destruction by the troops of the Assyrian king Tiglath-Pileser III (in 732 BC).

It probably remained mostly uninhabited thereafter, except for occasional temporary occupations that served as lonely forts overlooking the Hula Valley and the important highways passing through it.

Tel Beer Sheba

The earliest habitation remains date to the Chalcolithic period (4th millenium BC). It is attested by pottery sherds and small finds.

The inhabitants of the first Iron Age settlement (stratum IX) dug pits, 4-5 m. in diameter and with an average depth of 3 m, into the rocky hillside. These were used both as domestic and storage facilities (probably for grain). Huts used for dwelling were presumably built near the rock cut pits. The first settlement probably served a semi-nomad population. The stone dwellings, appearing for the first time at the next stage of settlement (stratum VIII), suggest an increased tendency for permanence in the settlement. Both strata can be dated, based on the pottery finds, to the 11th and first half of the 10th centuries BC. The deep water well, found on the eastern slope of the hill, was presumably dug in this early stage.

The foundation of the stratum VII settlement marks a turning point in the organization and the socio-economic structure of the community. The hilltop was leveled, and a permanent settlement made up of a ring of joined dwellings surrounding a large enclosure was built on it. This 'enclosed settlement' constitutes the first stage in the city planning. The houses themselves were built along the typical, Israelite period “four roomed house” plan, and the planning is seen in the arrangement of the houses in a defensive circle, where the back, lateral room of each house faced outside. The entrance to the settlement was unearthed in the southern corner. It was shaped like a rather long corridor and defended by two salient towers. This type of settlement attests to the inhabitants’ wish to protect their lives and property, and at the same time enables them to gather their livestock in a large, central enclosure. The settlement was 1 acre (1/2 ha) in size, and probably ceased to exist at the time of Pharaoh Shishak’s campaign, in 925 BC.

In stratum VI, some of stratum VII’s 'enclosed settlement' was deliberately dismantled, some of the houses abandoned, others were still in use. A large (70 square m) structure, consisting of 3 rooms and stairs leading to the roof or a second storey, was built. Part of the city area was taken up by a camp for the builders preparing the site for the construction of the first fortified city (stratum V).

Stratum VI existed very briefly. Since it did not come to a violent end, some scholars have suggested it may have been a transitional phase.
The first fortified settlement was built in stratum V. It was pre-planned and included fortifications, public buildings and dwelling houses. Remains of the city were unearthed in four strata (V-II), of which the lower two (V-IV) were surrounded by a full and massive wall, and the upper two (III-II) by a casemate wall. Of the four strata, only the latest (top), the main focal point of the excavations, was excavated in its entirety.

The massive nature of the Beer Sheba fortification is set off by the rather small dimensions of the city itself. In wall thickness and size of gates, these fortifications equal those of other cities of the period, more than five times the size of Beer Sheba. The gate consists of a wide passageway, with two chambers on each of its sides. The gate was entered through another structure, the outer gate. Besides the walls and the gate, Beer Sheba was also surrounded by a huge earth rampart, the largest of all Iron Age ramparts unearthed in Israel. Stratum V is also characterized by the construction of the water system. This structure comprised of four parts:

1-The shaft and stairs. A square shaft (12X12 m. and ca. 15 m. deep) was dug into the conglomerate. As this type of rock tends to crumble, the side of the shaft had to be lined with sloping retaining walls that would support the stairs. Five stairways, spiraling along the walls, descend into the shaft. At the outer side of the stairs was a stone parapet, necessary at such a deep shaft.

2-The water reservoir. The subterranean part includes a water reservoir, made up of 5 water chambers dug into the chalk. The reservoir was found intact, just as it was when abandoned some 2000 years ago. Its walls were covered with a thick layer of plaster, about 10 cm. thick.

3-A channel system for filling up the reservoirs. The total length of the channels carrying water into the reservoir is approximately 50 m.

4-An opening used in the construction of the water system was blocked when work was completed. The opening, located at the northern part of the water system was dug as part of the construction work and was used to remove the debris. When the system was complete, the opening was blocked with a wall and a thick layer of earth, to prevent discovery and penetration of the water system from outside. During the excavations, the wall blocking the opening was dismantled, and the newly opened aperture enables visitors to exit at the bottom of the water system.

Stratum V was destroyed in a tremendous conflagration, leaving a wealth of finds discovered among the ruined dwellings. When the city was rebuilt after its destruction (stratum IV), the wall and gate were again put into use. The dwellings were also rebuilt, floor levels were significantly raised and other changes made in

the structures. The cause of the destruction is uncertain, and may be the 760 BC earthquake mentioned in the Bible (Amos 1, 1).

The city was rebuilt yet again in stratum III. This time, Beer Sheba was surrounded by a new type of city wall: a casemate wall, built of two thick parallel walls, with the space between them divided by walls into narrow, elongated rooms. A new gate, resembling its predecessor in plan and also consisting of a wide passageway and two large chambers on both sides, was affixed to the casemate wall. The outer gate was no longer in use, and its foundations support the earth rampart, which was renewed, raised and now encompassed the front of the gate itself. To compensate for the elimination of the outer gate, the builders thickened the outer walls of the main gate, turning them into frontal towers. The transition from stratum III to II was not destructive, but was mainly characterized by a restoration of existing buildings and new habitation levels. These two last Israelite strata (III-II), are comprised of public buildings (for details, see above) and residential quarters. The nature of the dwelling houses and their relation to the fortifications indicate that these dwellings were intended for inhabitants associated with the city's administration. A typical dwelling consists of three or four rooms. In some of these houses the entrance is through a front room, where, judging by the hearths found inside, food preparation, baking and cooking took place. This room led to the other rooms in the house. In the dwellings adjacent to the casemate wall, the back rooms were incorporated into the wall itself.

Stratum II was destroyed as a result of the Assyrian king Sennacherib's campaign, in 701 BC. The destruction was intense – in every single building, a thick burnt layer and evidence of collapsed walls were found. The ceramic finds dating to the violently destroyed stratum II form one of the largest ceramic assemblages ever unearthed in Israel in a single habitation level. The hundreds of vessels found there form a basis for the typology of Judahite pottery. Stratum II also contained wealth of other varied finds: human and animal figurines, cult objects, limestone incense burners, bone implements, various stone vessels and iron weapons. Among the finds were also several inscriptions in ancient Hebrew writing, as well as vessels with incised inscription, including a bowl incised with the letters: "*QDS*" (which means in Hebrew: holy, holiness).

An attempt to rebuilt the city was made, and its traces were unearthed in several parts of the mound (stratum I). It seems the restoration was never finished, and no floors or other evidence of a proper settlement attributed to this stage were found.

The Beer Sheba mound remained abandoned for 250 years, until a settlement (or a fort) was built on it in the Persian period (4th century BC). This was replaced by a fort with an adjacent temple dating to the Hellenistic period (3rd-2nd centuries BC), and later still by a large Herodian palace (1st c. BC) and a Roman fort (2nd-3rd

centuries AD), which formed a part of the Roman road system ("*Limes Palaestina*"). From then on the mound was left uninhabited for five centuries, until the Early Islamic period (8th-9th centuries AD), when the ruins of the fort were used as a caravansary. From then on the site remained abandoned.
In World War I, until its capture by the ANZAC New Zealand cavalry, in 1917, the mound served as an outpost of the Turkish army.

3. c. Form and Date of Most Recent Records of Site

Tel Megiddo

A- Archaeological Data: Gottlieb Scumacher's and The University of Chicago's excavations were published (Final Reports, cf. Bibliography). Yadin only published a Preliminary Report of his dig.
The most recent recording of the site's remains has been established by "The Megiddo Expedition", currently excavating at the site. The recording can be divided into three categories: the registration of the data compiled during field work (excavations and survey), their publication in Final Reports, and their mention in Newsletters, scholarly articles and an internet site.

1-The Registration of the Data:

The registration method of the Megiddo Expedition is based on a three-tier hierarchy, from the locus through the pottery bucket and four categories (artifact, vessel, laboratory item and flint item). Walls are registered separately and are given a locus number when excavated. The locus number consists of three components: season, area, and sequential number. Finds registration includes the locus number with the addition of two letters indicating the category. Loci are marked on plans in regular font, walls in italics, and groups of loci taken together as a unit are given a unit designation which is underlined. All data is computerized and connected to Geographic Information system (GIS) for full mapping. Plans are drawn by hand on site and then computerized through the AUTOCAD system. Systematic photographic record is made during excavations, and at the end of the excavations. Photographs are kept in the archives of the Photo Lab of the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University.

2-Final Reports:

The policy of the Megiddo Expedition is to publish a full report after every two or three seasons of field-work. The Final Reports present the results on remains that have been fully excavated. The publication of other remains is postponed until their excavation has been completed. Changes required as the result of new excavations or checking are to be reported in the succeeding volume of publication.

To this date, the Final Report of seasons of 1992 through 1996 has been published (cf. Bibliography). The Final Report of the seasons 1998 through 2002, including the survey (1995-1999) is in preparation. It will be published in the course of 2005.

3-Newsletters, scholarly articles and web-site:

The Megiddo Expedition publishes once or twice a year a Newsletter - "Revelations from Megiddo" – of which eight issues have already been published. This Newsletter brings to the attention of the reader specific discoveries, special events, and scholarly discussions and interpretations, before their scientific publication in the Final Report.

Due to the major importance of Megiddo's stratigraphy (cf. Scientific Value – Study and Research), the data yielded by its excavations constitute the base of countless scholarly articles, published in international and Israeli archaeological journals (a sample is provided in the Bibliography, cf. chapter 7.c). They either deal with particular topics, or with broad archaeological theories and interpretations.

A summary of most information regarding the site, its history, its excavations, its conservation and its presentation is also available at the Megiddo web-site: http://megiddo.tau.ac.il

B-Conservation Treatment: Within the framework of the present archaeological excavations, taking place at Tel Megiddo every other year since 1994, conservation is carried out during the dig. A professional conservator, Mr. Kimy Maman, whose services were engaged by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, is in charge of the conservation work and submits regular reports of his interventions, including documentation and planning, to INPA and to IAA.

Regarding the future planning, the development program for Megiddo includes a conservation master plan annex, prepared in the frame of the thorough Development Plan for the site (see further details in paragraph 3.e "Policies and Programmes" and paragraph 6.a).

Tel Hazor

A-Archaeological Data: Yadin's Excavations at Hazor were duly published in a series of four volumes (Yadin et. al. in Bibliography – 7.c). This series was completed by the publication of the text volume "Hazor III-IV", edited by Amnon Ben-Tor (Ben-Tor et. al. 1989, cf. Bibliography). The results of the 1968 excavation season were published as volume V in the Hazor series (Ben-Tor and Bonfil 1997, cf. bibliography). All these are detailed excavation reports, including stratigraphic and architectural discussions accompanied by plans and sections, ceramic and typological discussions accompanied by pottery plates and discussions of various other finds, written by experts in their fields.

The renewed excavations at the site, now entering their fifteenth season, will be published in Hazor VI and VII, planned to be in the same format of the whole Hazor series. The analysis and preparation of the finds for publication is currently underway at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, by members of the Hazor staff.

B-Conservation Treatment: The conservation and reconstruction treatment being implemented by the Hazor's archaeological expedition is documented according to all the rules prevailing in this discipline (see further details in paragraph 6a regarding Hazor).

Tel Beer Sheba

A - Archaeological data: The Beer Sheba excavators developed, during the excavations, registration methods and forms based on their experience in previous excavations, such as Arad, Ramat Rachel and Hazor. The registration method developed by the team in the late 1960's was utilized successfully throughout the excavation seasons. Registration was a daily process, carried out independently by area directors in each area, and included a daily basket list, a graphic recording sheet and locus cards – so that the registration system encompassed all data found at the dig, recorded and described both verbally and graphically. These records are the basis for the final reports, written when the excavation has ended[7].

In the 1990's, a new software based on the ACCESS software was developed especially for the Beer Sheba excavations, and all existing data was loaded into it. The database is easy to use and enables the user to integrate all data, as well as

[7]Information about this registration method is to be found in: Aharoni, Y. Herzog, Z. Kochavi, M. Moshkovitz, S. and Rainey, A.F. 1973. Methods of Recording and Documenting. In Aharony, Y. ed. *Beer-Sheba I. Excavations at Tel Beer-Sheba 1969-1971 Seasons*. Tel Aviv:119-132.

create “cross-sections” according to different variables. In 2000, this software was further equipped with a GIS software, enabling users to create site maps with distribution of finds according to the different variables required.

B - Conservation treatment: Documentation connected with conservation and reconstruction plans and implementation is available at the site, at IAA - conservation department and at architect Belkin; part of it is attached to this dossier. Methodical documentation of the fieldwork in the water reservoir exists, with plans and photographs.

Regarding reports and articles about the excavations and conservation work, see the bibliography in paragraph 7c of this dossier.

3. d. Present State of Conservation

Tel Megiddo

Tel Megiddo, one of the first National Parks to be established in Israel, is visited every year by a large number of visitors, both Israeli and foreign. The various remains suffer from almost one century-long exposure. The Nature and Parks Authority personnel checks the site on a daily basis and fixes minor damages due to climatic conditions. Yet, no large-scale conservation work has been done at the site. The most sensitive issues are the conservation of the deep archaeological sections, and the stabilization of the soil in 'holes' created by the removal of ancient structures during the University of Chicago excavations.

At the initiative of the National Parks Authority and the Israel Government Tourist Corporation a program was recently adopted for the development, heritage presentation and management of the Tel Megiddo National Park (cf. below, Policies and Programs). This plan ascribes a large place to a comprehensive Conservation Program, including survey, documentation, planning and implementation.

In the past, a number of *ad hoc* interventions were carried out by the National Parks Authority. Among them, the strengthening of the Iron Age inner city-gate to prevent its collapse, and the restoration of the upper edge of the grain silo. At the entrance of the water system, the surrounding retaining walls were strengthened with reinforced concrete to prevent their collapse. In the 1950’s and 1960’s, a cement roof was built over the entrance to the water system and concrete steps were constructed on top of the original stairs of the shaft, in order to allow

passage and at the same time protect the authentic steps. For the safety of visitors, metal railings were set around the opening of the shaft. Inside the water system, a wooden walkway was built, including railings and lighting, and metal steps were constructed to lead visitors up and out. These were partly replaced or improved in 1996. In 1993, the Tel Aviv-led Megiddo Expedition helped the Israel Nature and Parks Authority to prepare the Late Bronze Gate, excavated by the University of Chicago team in the 1930s, as the main entrance to the site. To that end, the Expedition had finished excavating the original floor of the gate and then supervised restoration work. Today, most visitors enter the site through this monumental and exceptionally well-preserved monument. Ancient wooden beams were replaced and tagged as restored, and clear 'Restoration lines' distinguish the authentic remains from modern restoration.

Within the framework of the current excavations, conservation work is carried out in the area of the northern stables and Palace 6000. A professional conservator, Mr. Kimy Maman, assisted by two to three workers from a back-to-work welfare program, is in charge of the operation under the supervision of the Conservator Architect, head of the Development Department of the Nature and Parks Authority. In order to help protecting the site, the current archaeological expedition has committed itself to follow clear procedures in the field-work: a- Excavation debris is dumped in a way which does not affect the general appearance of the site. b- Excavations areas are back-filled after termination of field-work, if no restoration for public presentation is necessary.

The Megiddo Expedition is also committed to assist on-going conservation work, when undertaken, by providing data - such as plans, sections, measurements - retrieved during field-work.

Tel Hazor

Hazor has, among its many attractions, a great educational value. The archaeological expedition has, therefore, put much effort into Conservation and Restoration at the site, in order to make it "speak" not only to archaeologists, but to all visitors, adults and children alike (in addition to the obvious reason - the need to preserve the exposed architectural relics). Restoration of at least one of each period major architectural complexes will not just be an essential part of their preservation, but will make them better understood for the non-professional. In all relevant cases, restoration is clearly indicated by a 'restoration line'.

The main architectural assemblages that have so far been taken care of are the following:

- A watchtower of the 8th c. BC situated at a strategic point on the western edge of the Upper City.
- A dwelling of the 9th-8th c.BC. An olive-oil press located within the courtyard of this building has been restored so that it can be put to use.
-A public storehouse of the 9th - 8th c. BC.

These last two structures have been re-located to a nearby location, some 100 meters from their original location. This was done in order to prevent additional damage, place them on safer grounds, and enable further restoration in the future. Meanwhile, they are already accessible to the public.

- The 10th c. BC six-chambered city gate (the “Solomonic” gate) and the defensive wall associated with it.
- A 11th c. BC cultic high place (supposedly, the period of the Judges).
- The entrance to a Canaanite temple, located under the “Solomonic” gate. A "window" left open in one of the rooms of this gate enables the visitor to see the underlying entrance to the temple. The western extremity of that same temple, which extends beyond the “Solomonic” gate, has also been treated and partially restored.
- A cultic installation located on the northern slope of the site, at the junction between the Upper and Lower City.
- The expedition has invested the larger part of its efforts in the conservation and partial restoration of the “Canaanite palace”, dated to the 14th -13th c BC. Work on the construction of a protective roof, spanning the Late Bronze Age palace, began immediately after the close of the season of 2002. The roof, measuring approximately 1250 sq. m., is a joint undertaking of the Hazor Expedition, the Israel Government Tourist Corporation and the Nature and Parks Authority. The roof construction work was halted during the season of excavations, but is about to be resumed now, so that the main part of the job can be done before the rainy season begins. Orna Cohen, the expedition conservator supervises the work. During the season, preservation work on the palace’s mud-brick walls continued. Wooden beams that originally separated (and also joined) the orthostat-covered stone foundations as well as the mud-brick superstructure were also partially re-inserted into the walls.

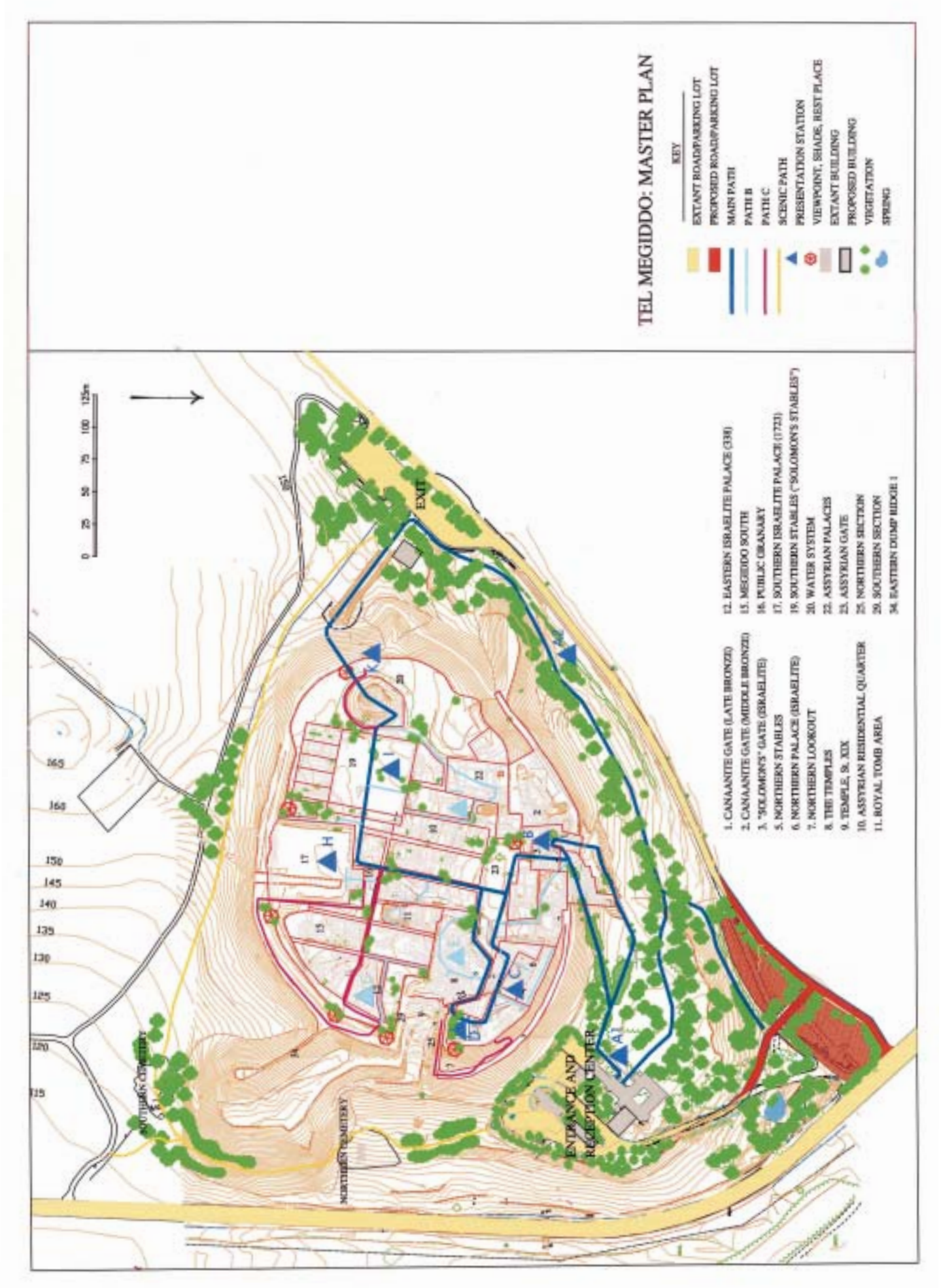
This has been, and still is, an on-going task. The size of the building, the fact that it is built of mud-bricks (which are notoriously difficult to preserve) and the wooden beams which were originally incorporated into the walls - all these make it a difficult, yet challenging enterprise. Some of the walls have already been treated, and the protective roof covering the entire structure is almost finished.

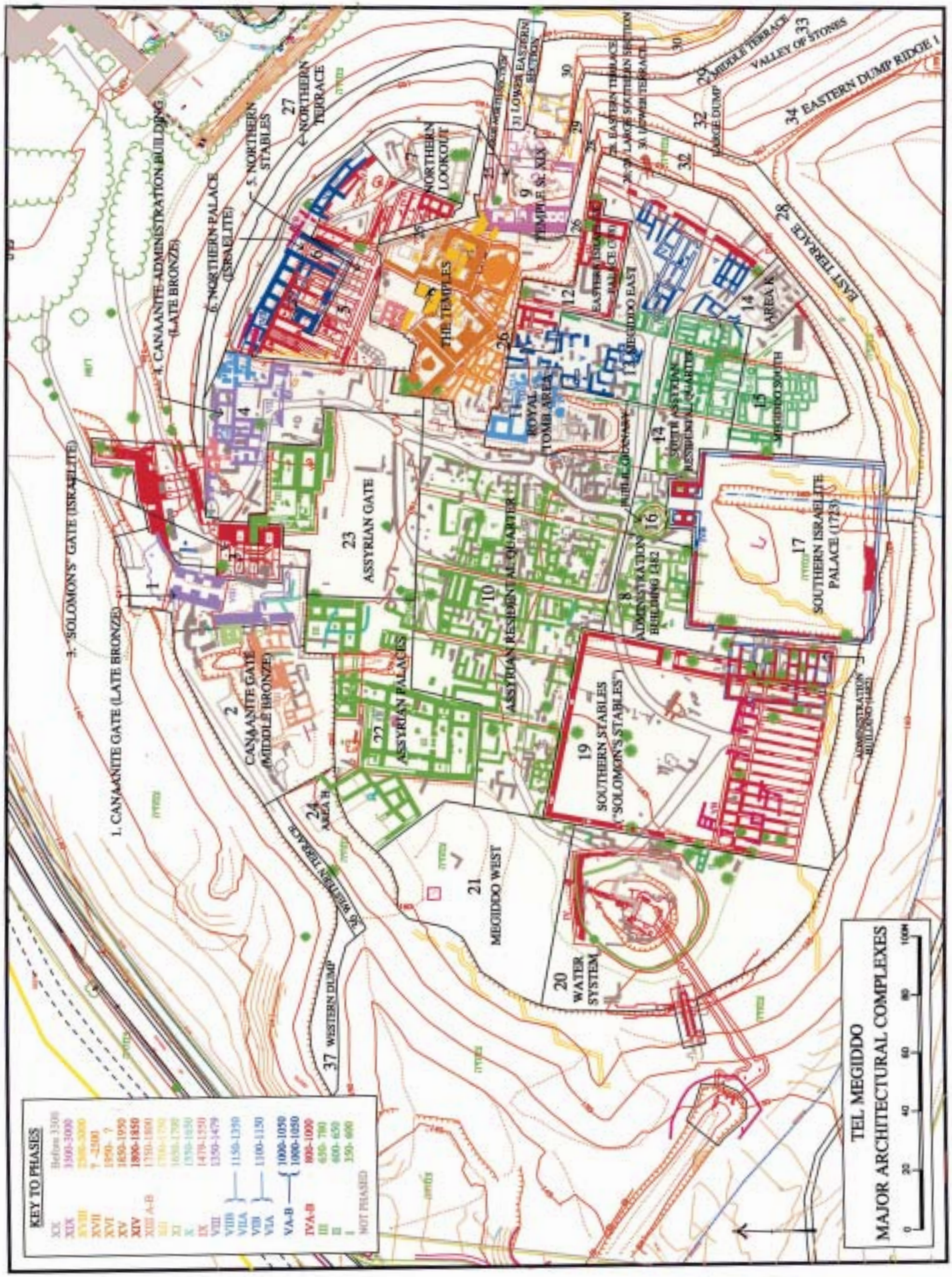
Tel Beer Sheba

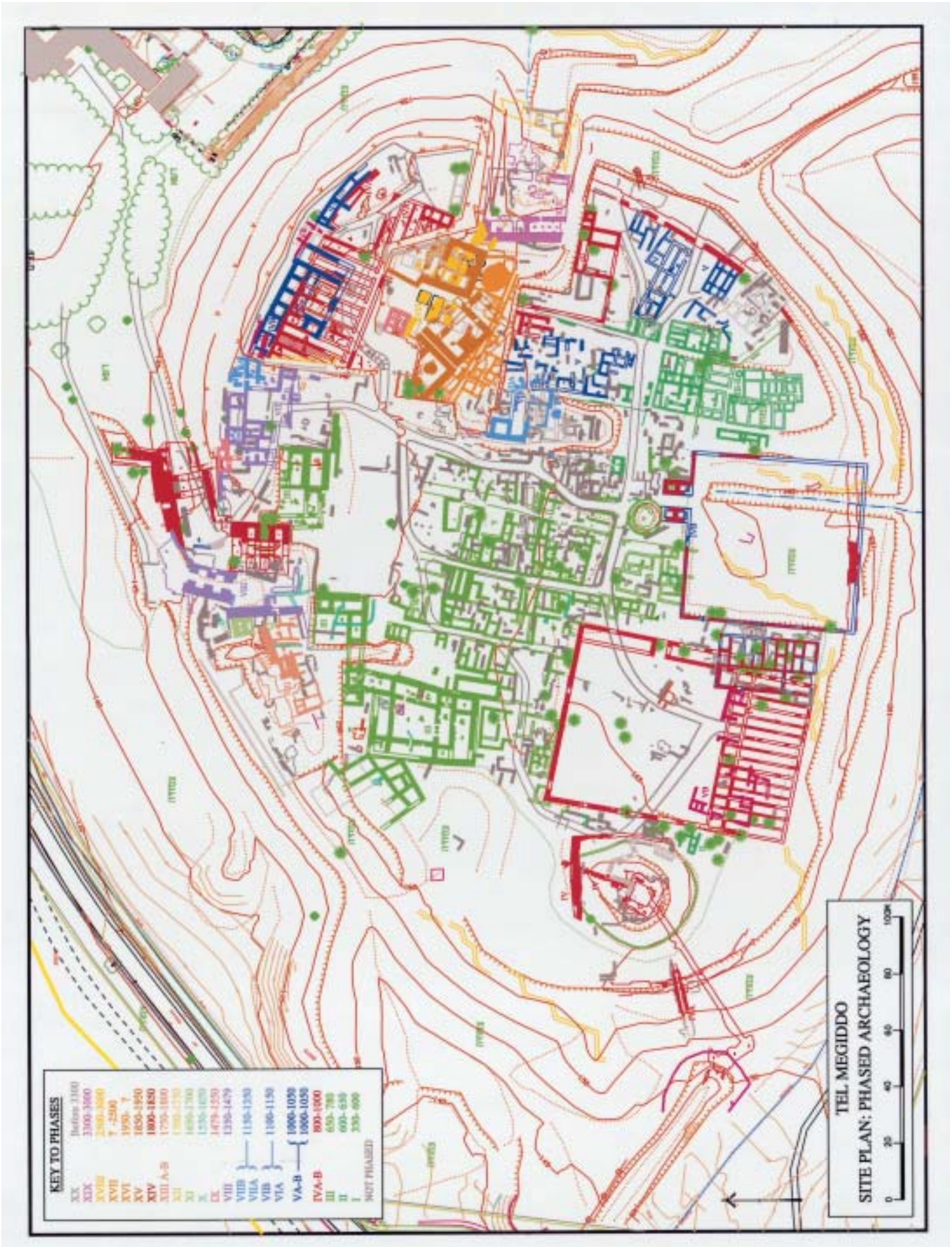
The archaeological excavations carried out in Tel Beer Sheba at the mid 1970's, began when the science of archaeology already had professional scientific implements and facilities, and an awareness of the importance of conservation. In Tel Beer Sheba, the excavations were meticulously recorded from the start; thus, when the site was being developed and prepared for visitors, this record served to restore and conserve the mound according to all scientific standards, with the aid of various professionals from different fields of expertise. A team of conservators, which was trained on site in the restoration process of mud brick walls, as well as the restoration and stabilization of the plastered water reservoir, now applies its skills to other archaeological sites.

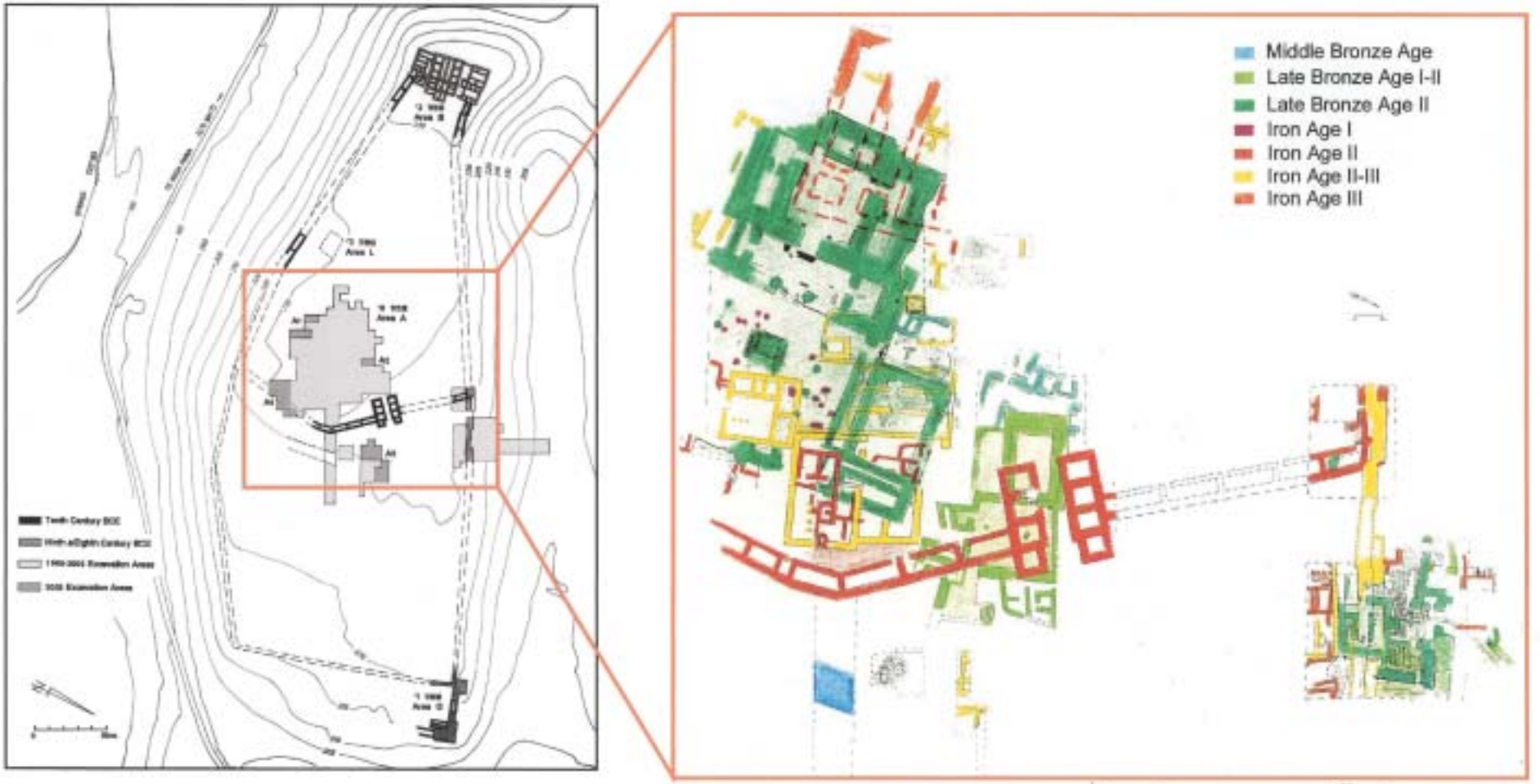
Tel Beer Sheba was prepared for visits by the public by the National Parks Authority, which, in 1998 was renamed the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA). Throughout the conservation and reconstruction works, the stone foundations of numerous structures were strengthened, the overlying mud bricks were reconstructed and the street routes were emphasized. An observation tower, enabling visitors to view the principles of town planning in ancient Beer Sheba, was built at the central part of the mound. The well's rim, which was slightly damaged, was restored and the preservation and reinforcement work at the water reservoir were completed lately. One should note that both the well and the water reservoir are exceptionally well preserved and both hardly required any restoration work.
The present conservation does not include the main gate, a part of the mound where work will need to be completed.

The Antiquities Authority's conservation department experts, headed by Mr. Jacques Negar, director of the Art Conservation Section, consulted on-site, assisted by the conservator Ms. Olga Finkelstein. The first work group consisted of Antiquities Authority personnel who trained the park's workers and instructed them in plaster conservation (and see further details in paragraph 6a regarding Beer Sheba).


TEL MEGIDDO: MASTER PLAN
KEY
EXTANT ROAD/PARKING LOT
PROPOSED ROAD/PARKING LOT
MAIN PATH
PATH B
PATH C
SCENIC PATH
PRESENTATION STATION
VIEWPOINT, SHADE, REST PLACE
EXTANT BUILDING
PROPOSED BUILDING
VEGETATION
SPRING
1. CANAANITE GATE (LATE BRONZE)
2. CANAANITE GATE (MIDDLE BRONZE)
3. "SOLOMON'S" GATE (ISRAELITE)
5. NORTHERN STABLES
6. NORTHERN PALACE (ISRAELITE)
7. NORTHERN LOOKOUT
8. THE TEMPLES
9. TEMPLE, St. XIX
10. ASSYRIAN RESIDENTIAL QUARTER
11. ROYAL TOMB AREA
12. EASTERN ISRAELITE PALACE (338)
15. MEGIDDO SOUTH
16. PUBLIC GRANARY
17. SOUTHERN ISRAELITE PALACE (1723)
19. SOUTHERN STABLES ("SOLOMON'S STABLES")
20. WATER SYSTEM
22. ASSYRIAN PALACES
23. ASSYRIAN GATE
25. NORTHERN SECTION
29. SOUTHERN SECTION
34. EASTERN DUMP RIDGE I
EXIT
ENTRANCE AND RECEPTION CENTER
0 25 50 75 100 125m
165
160
150
145
140
135
130
125
120
115

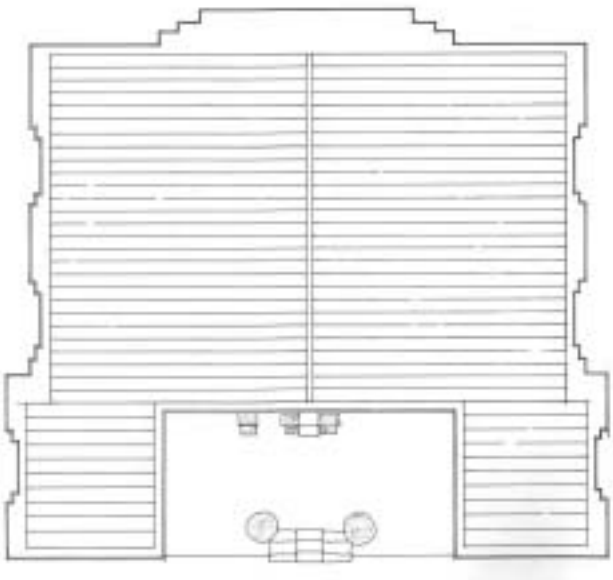

TEL MEGIDDO
MAJOR ARCHITECTURAL COMPLEXES
KEY TO PHASES
1. CANAANITE GATE (LATE BRONZE)
2 CANAANITE GATE (MIDDLE BRONZE)
3. "SOLOMON'S" GATE (ISRAELITE)
4. CANAANITE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (LATE BRONZE)
5. NORTHERN STABLES
6. NORTHERN PALACE (ISRAELITE)
NORTHERN TERRACE
NORTHERN LOOKOUT
THE TEMPLES
ASSYRIAN GATE
ASSYRIAN PALACES
ASSYRIAN RESIDENTIAL QUARTER
ROYAL TOMB AREA
PUBLIC GRANARY
MEGIDDO EAST
SOUTH ASSYRIAN RESIDENTIAL QUARTER
MEGIDDO SOUTH
AREA K
EAST TERRACE
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 1482
SOUTHERN ISRAELITE PALACE (1723)
SOUTHERN STABLES ("SOLOMON'S STABLES")
MEGIDDO WEST
WATER SYSTEM
WESTERN TERRACE
WESTERN DUMP
MIDDLE TERRACE
VALLEY OF STONES
EASTERN DUMP RIDGE I


KEY TO PHASES
XX
XIX
XVIII
XVII
XVI
XV
XIV
XIII A-B
XII
XI
X
IX
VIII
VIIB
VIIA
VIB
VIA
VA-B
IVA-B
III
II
I
NOT PHASED
TEL MEGIDDO
SITE PLAN: PHASED ARCHAEOLOGY

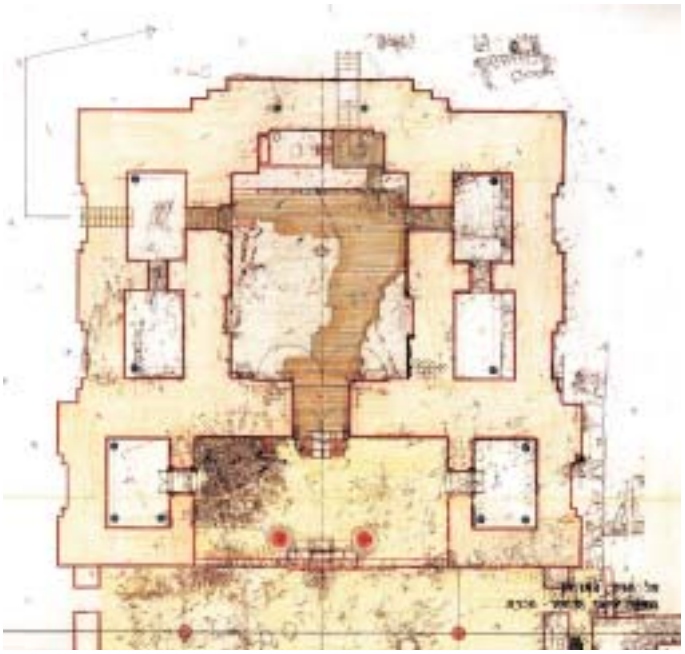


Tel Hazor: The main remains on the Upper City. Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Tel Hazor - the Canaanite Palace - isometric view
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology



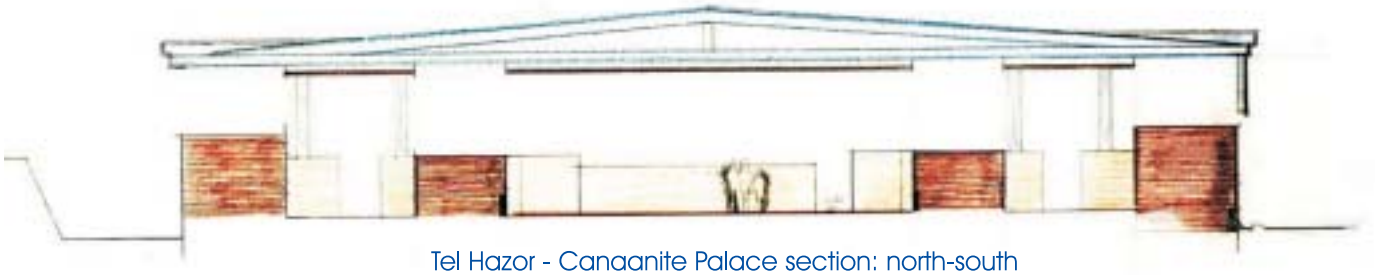
Tel Hazor - the Canaanite Palace: roof - view from above
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology



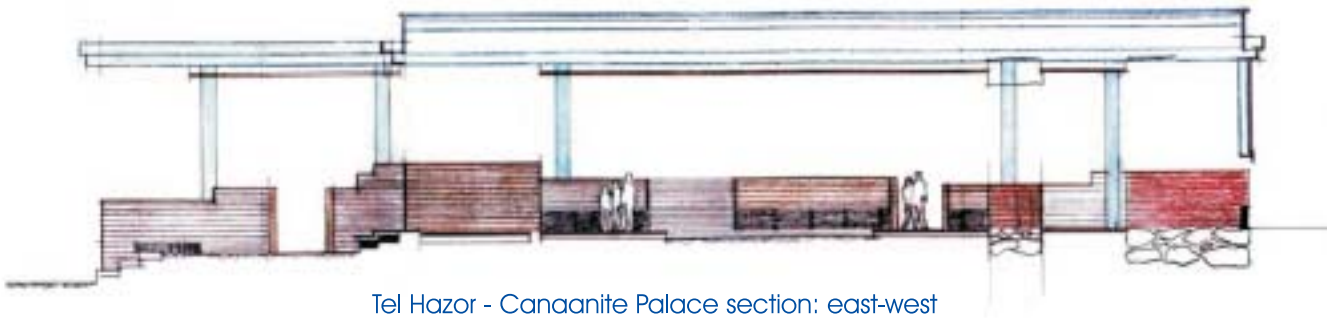
Tel Hazor - the Canaanite Palace - plan
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Tel Hazor - Northern wall of throne room (Canaanite Palace) after partial restoration. Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

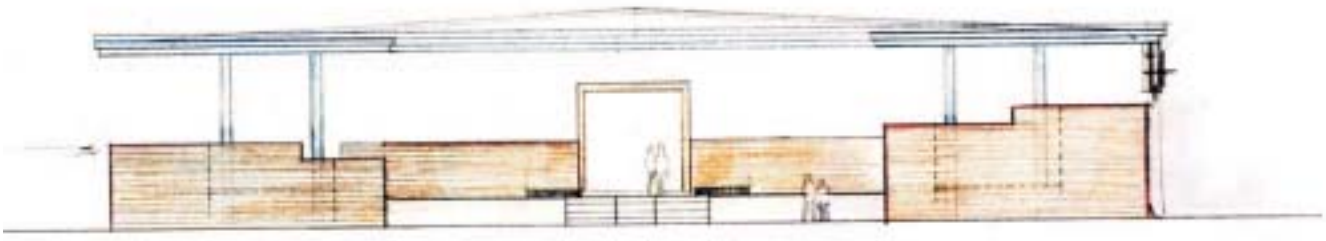
Tel Hazor - Northern wall of throne room (Canaanite Palace) before partial restoration. Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology



Tel Hazor - Canaanite Palace section: north-south
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology



Tel Hazor - Canaanite Palace section: east-west
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology



Tel Hazor - Canaanite Palace - eastern facade
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Tel Beer Sheba National Park

Existing State (1999)
of the Water Reservoir Surrounding

מצב קיים
גן לאומי תל באר שבע

13/7/99
לורנס בלקין, אדריכל
LAWRENCE BELKIN, ARCHITECT
חפרדס 69 הוד השרון 45225
HAPARDES 69 HOD HASHARON 45225
TEL/FAX. 09-7417136 ,טלפקס

Tel Beer Sheba National Park

The Iron Age Water Reservoir
Key Plan for the reconstruction of a part of the buttress wall near the shaft
Existing State (1995)

חזית: מעלב קיים

לורנס בלקין, אדריכל
LAWRENCE BELKIN, ARCHITECT
רח' מגיני עבודה 5, הרצליה
MEGENAY AVODA 5, HERZLIA
TEL. טל. 052-552652

גן לאומי תל באר שבע

מפגל הקדים הברזל: עיתוד
קטע של קיר תמך סמוך ל"פיר"
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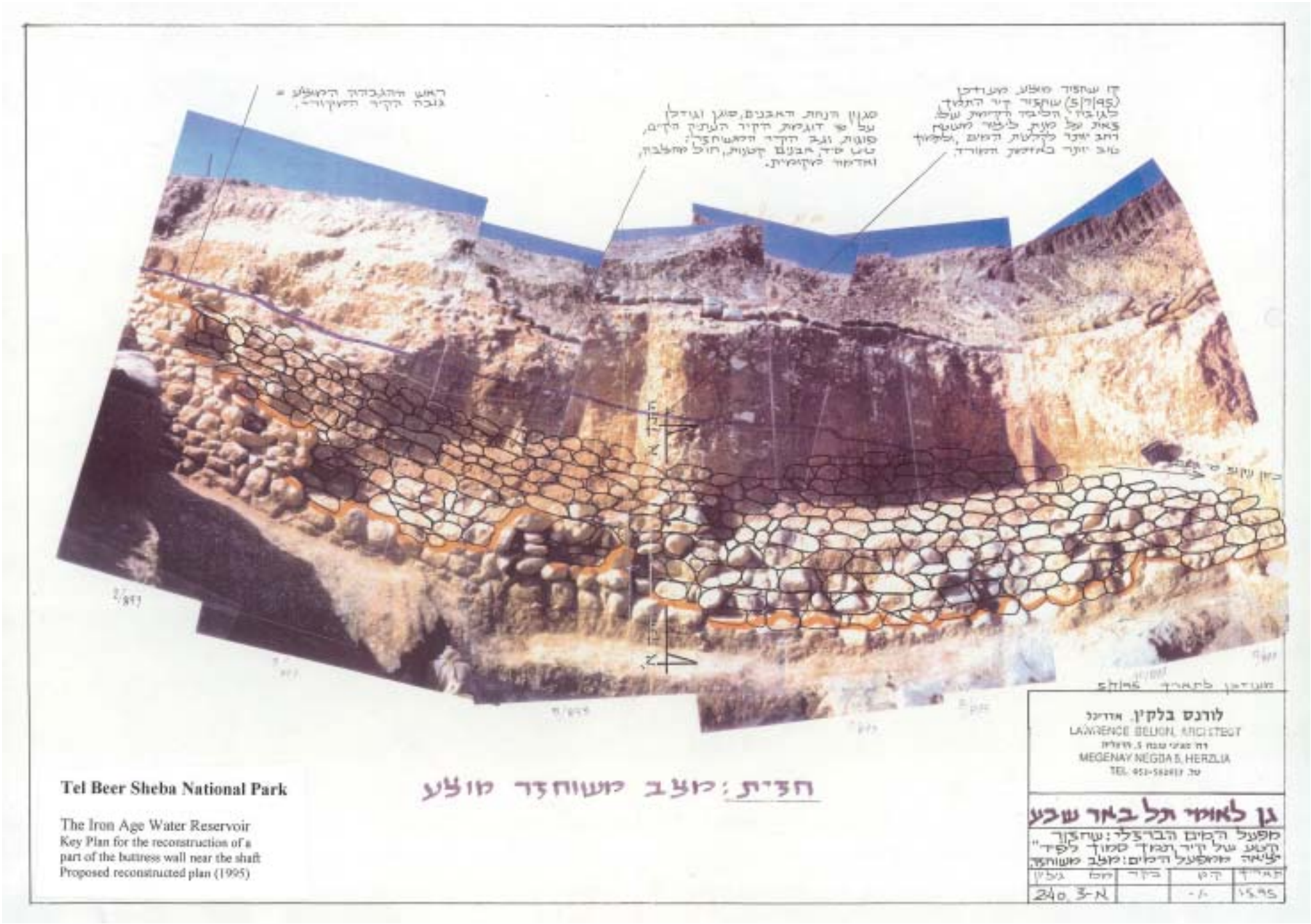
Tel Beer Sheba National Park
The Iron Age Water Reservoir
Key Plan for the reconstruction of a part of the buttress wall near the shaft
Proposed reconstructed plan (1995)
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לורנס בלקין, אדריכל
LAWRENCE BELKIN, ARCHITECT
MEGENAY NEGDA 5, HERZLIA
גן לאומי תל באר שבע
מפעל המים הברזלי: שחזור
קטע של קיר תמוך סמוך לפיר
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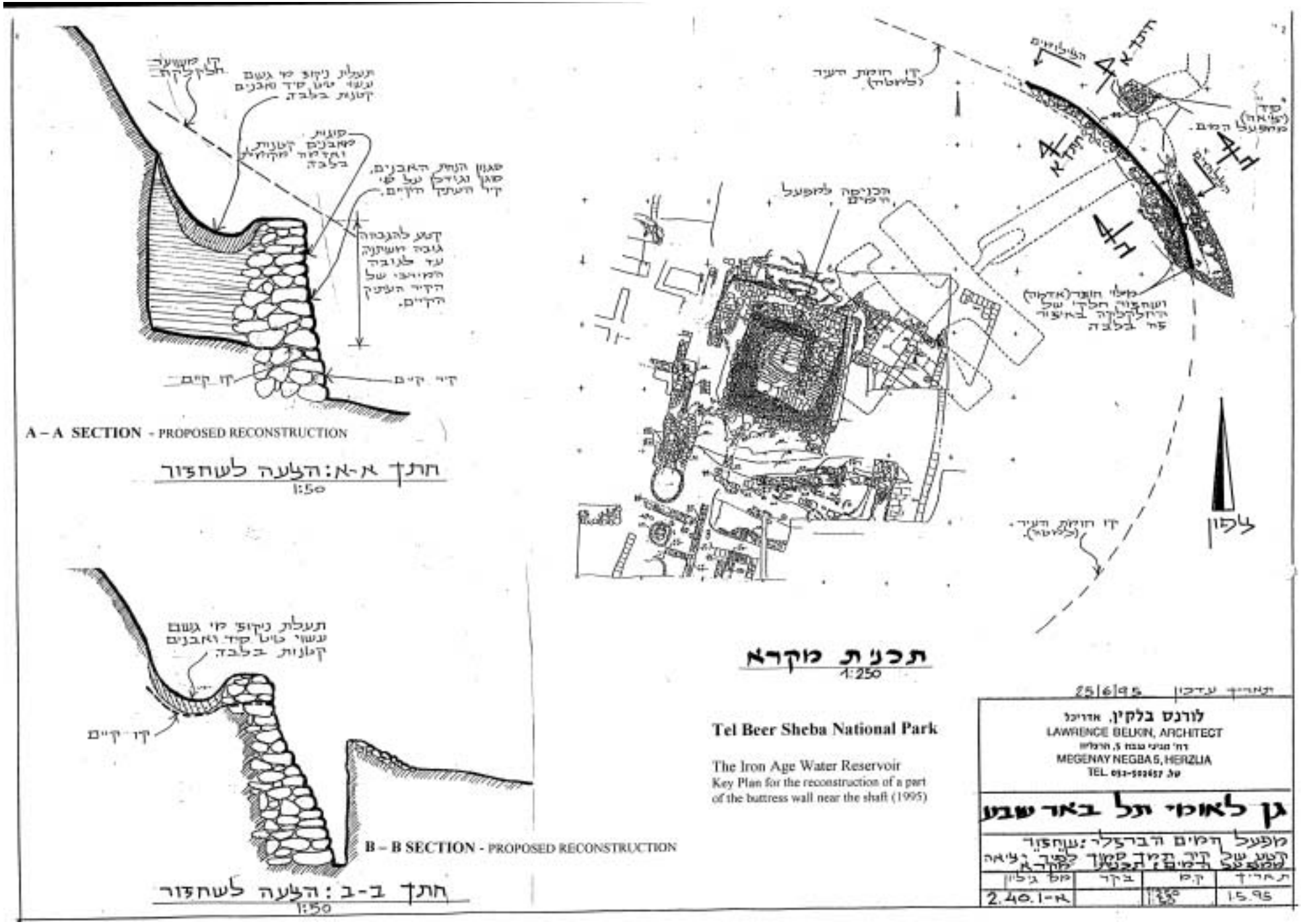
A – A SECTION - PROPOSED RECONSTRUCTION
חתך א-א: הצעה לשחזור
1:50
B – B SECTION - PROPOSED RECONSTRUCTION
חתך ב-ב: הצעה לשחזור
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תכנית מקרא
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Tel Beer Sheba National Park
The Iron Age Water Reservoir
Key Plan for the reconstruction of a part of the buttress wall near the shaft (1995)
לורנס בלקין, אדריכל
LAWRENCE BELKIN, ARCHITECT
MEGENAY NEGBA 5, HERZLIA
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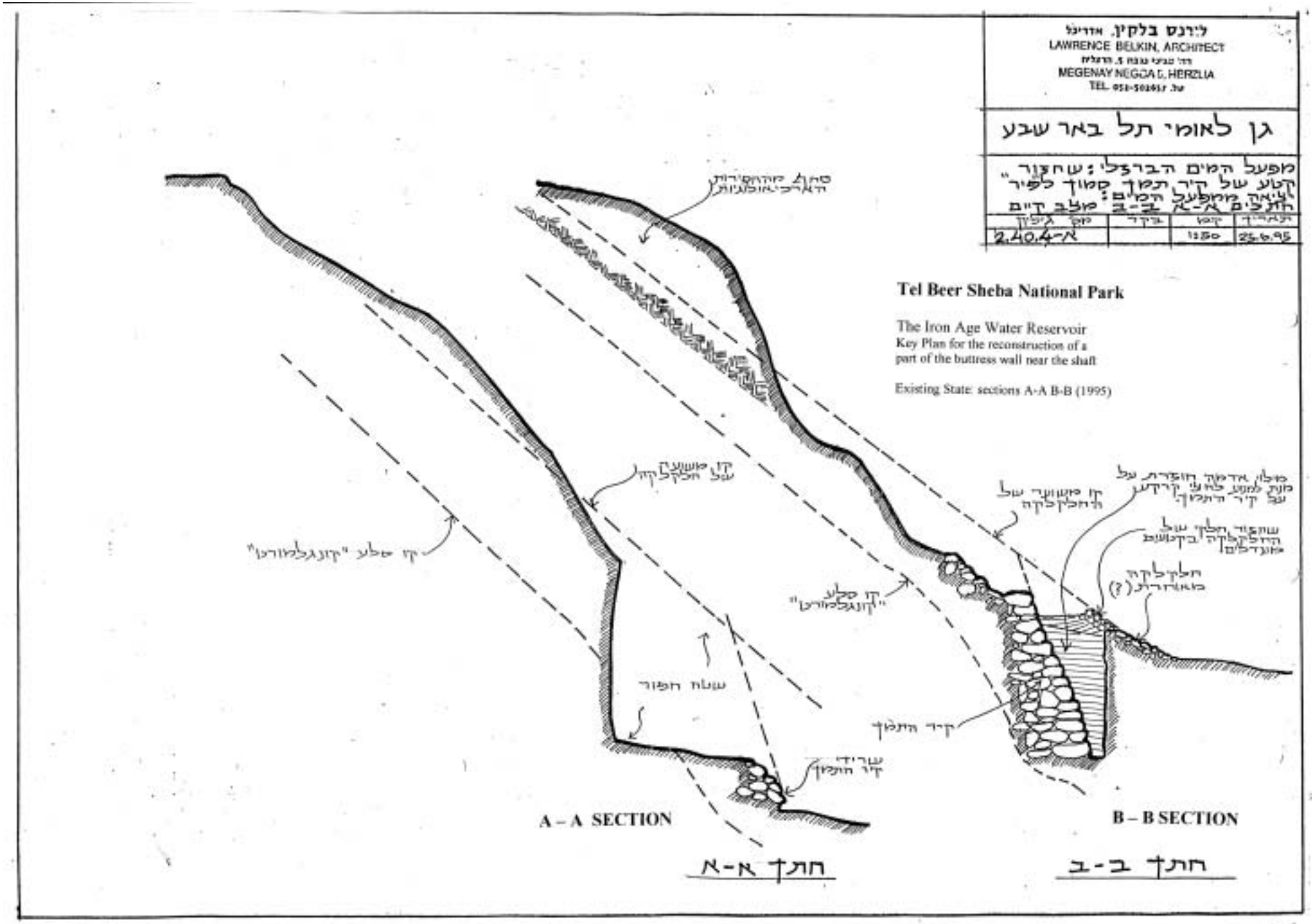
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MEGENAY NEGGA D, HERZLIA
גן לאומי תל באר שבע
מפעל המים הברזלי: שחזור
קטע של קיר תמך סמוך לפיר
ציור מפעל המים: חתכים א-א ב-ב מצב קיים
Tel Beer Sheba National Park
The Iron Age Water Reservoir
Key Plan for the reconstruction of a part of the buttress wall near the shaft
Existing State: sections A-A B-B (1995)
A – A SECTION
B – B SECTION
חתך א-א
חתך ב-ב

3. e. Policies and Programs Related to Presentation and Promotion of the Property

Tel Megiddo

The development of Tel Megiddo National Park has recently been placed high on the agenda of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority and the Israel Government Tourist Corporation. A program for the Development of the site has recently been submitted. It includes the planning of services and facilities; the revamping of the entrance complex; the establishment of several trails on and around the mound; the conservation of architectural remains and archaeological sections, including minimalist restoration of specific architectural features; and the implementation of a comprehensive presentation program. This program will be implemented in several stages over the next years; each stage, when completed, will help upgrade the site's physical state while enhancing visitors' experience.

The Presentation Program, prepared by Joelle Cohen Finkelstein, focuses on nine main "stories", combines a "vertical" (or chronological) approach, highlighting the site's various cultures and periods, together with a "horizontal" (or multi-faceted) approach, including public, cultural and economic issues, as well as daily life and environmental aspects. Ten 'visitors' stations' located on the mound, together with museum space in the entrance complex and various spots along the trails, are planned. The presentation means are comprised of a broad range of interpretative techniques - such as traditional 2-D sign-posting with updated information and illustrations; isometric plans and reconstruction drawings; 3-D models and limited reconstruction; renewed museum displays – including the exhibition of photographs prepared for the Megiddo Centennial (the ceremony commemorating one hundred years of excavations at Tel Megiddo, which took place on 1st of April 2003 at the site); a new video film and computer interactive posts. The latter, as well as any "high tech" presentation means, will be confined to the entrance complex, in order to respect the tranquil atmosphere prevailing on the Tel, its unique natural setting and the authenticity of its remains.

A few years ago, a "Contemplation Corner" was established in the Southern Lookout, overlooking the magnificent Jezreel Valley, with its numerous biblical sites. Many visitors stop there to pray, chant psalms or simply pause to contemplate Armageddon, individually or in groups. In April 2003, in conjunction with the celebration of the Megiddo Centennial, a "First Aid" program was launched, which consisted of twelve interpretation signs at main points of interest across the Tel. Several direction signs and maps were also posted, from the entrance area to the exit of the water tunnel. The interpretation signs are comprised of explanatory texts in Hebrew and English, vintage photographs taken

by previous expeditions (Schumacher's, the University of Chicago's and Yadin's), as well as up-dated isometric plans and artists' renderings. In most cases, biblical verses or excerpts of historical sources are engraved in the lower part of the stone plate. These "First Aid" signs are but the beginnings of the large-scale project, which will hopefully start being implemented in the coming year (2004-2005).

Tel Hazor

Plans are currently being made, in conjunction with the Israel Government Tourist Corporation, to build new pathways, and install presentation signs and a variety of audio-visual media. These will enable the visitor to make the most of his visit to the site. The museum of Hazor, located at near-by Kibbutz Ayeleth-ha-Shahar, was recently renovated and is now more accessible to the public. All in all, the expedition has so far spent nearly $700,000 on conservation and restoration. With the financial aid provided by the Israel Government Tourist Corporation, expenditure so far is estimated at close to $1,000,000.

Tel Beer Sheba

Much of the restoration work at Tel Beer Sheba was done with the original building material, mud-brick, used for restoring mud-brick structures. This was done to help visitors experience what an ancient city looked like, based on the excavation finds. Work on the water reservoir is nearing completion, after extensive stabilization, reinforcement and conservation work. The opening ceremony will be held on March 2004, and presumably the water system would be the crowning glory of the whole visit at the site.

Once the water system has been rehabilitated and opened to the public, additional means for improving the presentation of the site will be considered; including the introduction of replicas of original objects used by the ancient inhabitants, and improved presentation and direction signposts.

4. Management

4. a. Ownership

The area of the properties proposed for inscription and their buffer zones are owned by the State of Israel.

4. b. Legal Status

The properties proposed for inscription and their buffer zones are within the confines of National Parks. National park status provides the property with protection under the National Parks, Nature Reserves, Heritage and National Sites Law, 1998 (attached). As these are antiquities sites, they are protected by the Antiquities Law, 1978 (attached).

Megiddo Antiquities National Park was declared a national park on January 27, 1966 in Regulations Book 1830. The 18.6-hectare national park is subject to national and local master plans (as detailed in section f of this chapter).

Tel Hazor National Park was declared a national park on November 9, 1967 in Regulations Book 2131.
The 76.1 hectare Hazor National Park is subject to national and local master plans (as detailed in section f of this chapter).

Tel Beer Sheba National Park was declared a national park on December 18, 1986 in Regulations Booklet 4989. The site was opened to the public in 1992. The 18-hectare Beer Sheba National Park is subject to national and local master plans (as detailed in section f of this chapter).

4. c. Protective Measures and Means for Implementing Them

Common to all the sites

The Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA) operates each of the sites as a national park and antiquities site, according to the relevant laws.

The Planning and Development Forum of the director general of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, which includes professionals and senior

administrative staff, approves all significant plans regarding activities in the national park. Its decisions are taken after the issue at hand has been presented for consideration by the INPA relevant district's staff. The plan presented is prepared by the relevant professionals, among them independently contracted consultants and planners, in coordination with the Israel Antiquities Authority.

Within the framework of the above laws, activities that would effect any change in the character of the site are prohibited. Modern additions necessary for the comfort of visitors are installed at the professional discretion of architectural and conservation planners of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority.

The above-mentioned laws ensure complete legal and practical protection of the property and the buffer zone.

The entire site in the three parks is being checked regularly, at least once a day by the site's staff. Visitors in the site are usually accompanied by one of the staff members. The reasons for the checks are threefold: a-looking after the site (water faucets, first aid problems, cleaning the paths and the signs, etc.); b-general security and safety; c-conservation. The staff checks the site as a whole, and the archaeological monuments in particular. The checks are especially thorough on rainy days or when floods occur, since these may damage the site and bring about collapses. If such a thing happens, the staff takes the necessary steps to correct the damage or to stabilize the loose part.

Signs on the sites guide the public as to appropriate behavior (when the need arises), and site personnel draw visitors' attention to the signs and politely advise them to change their behavior (i.e. – not to climb on walls).

Some specifications on each site

Within the operational framework of the national park, on-going monitoring and maintenance work is carried out in the whole site on a regular basis (see also paragraph 6a). The procedure at the water systems is as follows:

Tel Megiddo - The Iron Age water system is gated, with locks at the entrance and exit. The system is checked at least twice a day by site personnel, at opening and closing time. Lighting is checked on morning rounds, and turned off with the closing of the site.

Tel Hazor - The Iron Age water system is checked at least twice a day. The person who carries out this check turns on the lights at the bottom of the system

and turns them off at closing time. The Late Bronze Age water reservoir is closed to the public and is well protected by its location beneath the Late Bronze Age palace.

Tel Beer Sheba - Park operation involves on-going monitoring and maintenance of the whole site, including the cleaning of the well from time to time. The Iron Age water reservoir is checked at least twice a week during the period when no work is being carried on it. Once it is open to the public it will be checked at least twice a day, every day.

4. d. Agency with Management Authority

Under the “Parks Authority Law”, the Israel Nature and Parks Authority is the body that is legally responsible for management of all national parks, their declaration as such, and law enforcement within their confines.

Therefore, by law, the properties proposed for inscription are entirely operated by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, as are their buffer zones.

In the case of Tel Megiddo, the areas around the buffer zone are agricultural and rural and pose no threat to the property or its buffer zone.

In the case of Tel Hazor, the areas around the buffer zone are included in the national and local master plans, and protection is enforced by the Ministry of the Interior and the Upper Galilee Local Council.

In the case of Tel Beer Sheba, the areas around the buffer zone are included in the national and local master plans, and protection is enforced by the Ministry of the Interior and the Southern District / Beer Sheba Region and Beer Sheba Municipality.

4. e. Level at which Management is Exercised

Tel Megiddo
The director of the site is Mr. Ahmed Agbariyyeh. The address of the site is: Megiddo Antiquities National Park, Rural Post Megiddo, 19230. Telephone: 972 -4-6522167.
The home address of the site director is: POB 172, Kfar Zalfa. Home telephone: 972-4-6522273, mobile phone 972-57-762098.

The site maintains a staff of three - the site director, the cashier, and a cleaner. In actual fact, all staff carries out all functions as needed. Another employee, a maintenance worker, was laid off as a result of cutbacks.

In addition, ten people are employed on the site, in maintenance work, as part of a back-to-work welfare program. They work for 8 months, are then laid off, and are rehired to maintain their status as temporary employees (Currently they are laid off and their employment will be renewed in February 2004). During excavations, another 30 to 60 people are employed through a back-to-work welfare program.

Tel Hazor

Park staff includes one permanent and two temporary employees. The permanent director, Mr. Hussein el-Heib, manages the site and the museum. He may be reached by mobile phone 972-57-762138, or at the site's telephone, 972-4-6937290. His home address is Kfar Tuba, Rosh Pina Mail, POB 89, 12310. His home phone number is 972-4-6934188. The address of the national park, is: Hazor National Park, Kibbutz Ayelet ha-Shahar, 12200.

The two temporary workers are employed in the maintenance of the park and the surrounding areas during opening hours. The park director is usually to be found in the cashier's booth. When he is busy with other tasks, one of the temporary workers takes over there.

Tel Beer Sheba

Site staff includes 5 persons, one of whom is permanent (the director of the site), and 4 temporary workers who have been employed on the site for approximately 6-7 years. The temporary workers deal with various tasks such as receiving the public, on-going maintenance, cleaning the water reservoir, reconstruction, etc. They are very skilled at their work due to the long term of their employment. Recently, 5 seasonal workers have been laid off and instead, a conservation crew from Masada National Park (about 8 members) is currently working in the site. While archaeological excavations were underway at the site, 30 more persons were employed, through a back-to-work welfare program.

The director of the national park is Mr. Eliyahu Even Haim, who has been an Israel Nature and Parks Authority employee for 30 years, and director of the Beer Sheba National Park since it opened in 1992. Eliyahu was brought to the site from Masada during the Aharoni excavations, as an expert in the reconstruction of

mud-brick houses. Eliyahu did not attend the course for site directors and attained his skills on the job.

He can be reached at the following numbers: Beer Sheba National Park, 972-8-6467286; mobile phone 972-57-762175. His home address is: 2 Martin Buber Street, Beer Sheba, Tel 972-8-6411653.

4. f. Agreed Plans Related to Property (e.g., Regional, Local, Conservation, Tourism, and Development Plans)

Above and beyond the professional plans connected to the archaeological excavations, conservation, restoration, conservation maintenance and on-going maintenance of the three national parks, these parks are covered by the following Ministry of Interior master plans:

Tel Megiddo:

- National Master plan 8 (*TAMA* 8) – Covering nature reserves, national parks, and landscape reserves.
- National Master plan 31 (*TAMA* 31) – Designated uses of all areas, including nature reserves, national parks, and landscape reserves.

Tel Hazor:

- National Master plan 8 (*TAMA* 8) – Covering nature reserves, national parks, and landscape reserves.
- National Master plan 31 (*TAMA* 31) – Designated uses of all areas, including nature reserves, national parks, and landscape reserves.
- Regional Master plan 2 *(TAMAM* 2) – The master plan covering designated land use in the northern region including nature reserves, national parks, and landscape reserves.

Tel Beer Sheba:

- National Master plan 8 (*TAMA* 8) – Covering nature reserves, national parks, and landscape reserves.
- National Master plan 31 (*TAMA* 31) – Designated uses of all areas, including nature reserves, national parks, and landscape reserves.

Sites' Plans

Attached in the Addenda are plans regarding the status of the three sites as national parks. These plans are a supplement to this section (4f) and are as follows:

Tel Megiddo

1. A copy taken from the 'site manual' which contains all the details regarding the Minister of the Interior's declaration of Tel Megiddo as a national park, that was published in regulations digest 1830 dated January 27, 1966.
2. Plans of the "town planning scheme" no. 645/c for the Megiddo National Park: 1. The detailed town planning scheme; 2. The town planning scheme confines within the surrounding area.

Tel Hazor

1. Interior Ministry decision of June 20, 1966 to present the detailed "town planning scheme" 753 for Hazor National Park for public scrutiny, and the decision to publish the plan in its digest of publications on November 3, 1966.
2. The declaration of Hazor as a national park by the Minister of the Interior as published in regulations digest 21313 dated October 16, 1967.
3. Plans of the "town planning scheme" for the Hazor National Park.

Tel Beer Sheba

1. A copy taken from the 'site manual' which contains all the details regarding the Minister of the Interior's declaration of Tel Beer Sheba as a national park, that was published in regulations digest 3263 dated October 30, 1986.
2. Plans of the "town planning scheme" no. 171/03/5 for Tel Beer Sheba National Park confines within the surrounding area.

4. g. Sources and Levels of Finance

The Israel Nature and Parks Authority finances the on-going operation and maintenance of its sites, including conservation maintenance (such as: replacing the steps, painting the railings, landscaping, spraying, cleaning, etc.) and emergency conservation work, regardless of the revenues from the site.

Other operations are financed by organizations or institutions that are interested in this or another activity (after meeting all the demands and having all the needed authorizations).

Budgets per annum of the INPA parks in which the nominated properties are located (including staff salaries and operational expenses):
Tel Hazor: $62,000
Tel Megiddo: $105,000
Tel Beer Sheba: $71,000

These budgets do not include special projects and excavations, which are budgeted separately (see more details below).

In addition, the INPA plans, markets and administrates all the parks through a centralized management.

Tel Megiddo

Professional staff that is not part of park personnel carries out the professional work, archaeological excavation, conservation, and reconstruction. Financing for that is provided by Tel Aviv University, universities from Europe and the US, and private donors.

Tel Hazor

Renewed archaeological excavation of the site since 1990 has been financed by the Zeltz Foundation (New York), the Berman Foundation (The Hebrew University), and the Rothschild Foundation (Yad Hanadiv).

Tel Beer Sheba

The excavations to completely uncover the well and the water system have been financed by the National Parks Authority and the Negev Tourism Development Administration. These bodies have financed the conservation and development work on the site as well. The excavations, directed by Tel Aviv University archaeologists, were carried out by a team of workers of the Tel Beer Sheba National Park, headed by Eliyahu Even Haim with the assistance of workers provided by a back-to-work welfare program. The Beer Sheba Municipality aided in financing other reconstruction work on the Tel, including the reconstruction of the mud-brick construction.

4. h. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

Tel Megiddo

As mentioned before, within the framework of the present excavations taking place at Tel Megiddo every other year since 1994, conservation is carried out during excavation. A professional conservator, Mr. Kimy Maman, whose services were engaged by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, is in charge of conservation. The Israel Nature and Parks Authority has also provided the conservator with 2-3 workers from a back-to-work welfare program. The conservator operates through the director of the Development Department at the Israel Nature and Parks Authority headquarters, architect Zeev Margalit, who has

taken a conservators' course in Italy. The conservator works at the site according to international conventions.

As mentioned above, a senior conservation planning architect, Daniel Abuhatsera, who is well familiar with the international conventions in this field, is engaged by the Development Program for the site. Site personnel carry out maintenance at the site. When a serious problem arises, an outside engineer or other professional is called in. The 'Megiddo Expedition' comprising archaeologists from Tel Aviv University and a Consortium of American and European universities, carry out archaeological excavations.

Tel Hazor

Conservation is handled by the archaeological expedition under the direction of a professional conservator, Ms. Orna Cohen, who works according to the international conventions and supervises the other conservation staff. Some of the conservation workers are professionals and others are not. The non-professionals carry out simple tasks such as refuse removal. The conservation documentation and implementing plans are done by a professional surveyor. The independently contracted architectural conservation planner consults and prepares plans for the entire site, and is employed by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority. The conservator operates through the director of the Development Department at the Israel Nature and Parks Authority headquarters, architect Zeev Margalit, who has taken a conservators' course in Italy.

In 1995, the site director participated in a course for site directors held by the Israel National Parks Authority; he is also certified in first aid.

When a maintenance or engineering problem that site staff cannot solve themselves arises on site, an outside expert is invited.

The site director has long been warning of the dangers of entering and exiting the access road to the site via road 90. The INPA demanded that the delineation of the road be changed, and consequently this problem is being solved these very days. A new bypass road circumventing the site (including its Lower City), is being built on the site's west side, while the existing road 90 will become an inner road leading only to Tel Hazor and to kibbutz Ayelet ha-Shahar. The entrance to the site itself, in the area of the cashier's booth, is beautifully maintained by site staff.

Tel Beer Sheba

Site architect, Lawrence Belkin, who has accompanied all stages of the excavation during the 1990s, has planned the conservation work and supervised the reconstruction and development at the Tel. The work of conserving the plaster

in the water system was carried out under the guidance of conservator Olga Finkelstein, of the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA). Geological experts from the Rock Mechanics Laboratory at the Ben Gurion University of the Negev gave additional professional advice in issues relating to rock conservation and the stability of the reservoir.

Conservation in the entire site is carried out by the professional conservators from the IAA, who, when necessary, direct the work of non-professional laborers. The conservation was done in accordance with the international conventions. From time to time, the professional conservation team of Masada National Park carries out conservation and conservation-maintenance work at Tel Beer Sheba.

The management techniques employed by the director of the are based both on his vast experience and knowledge of the site and on the directives and supervision received from the Southern District of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority and the authority's senior staff. When problems of management or maintenance that cannot be solved by the site director on his own arise, outside experts are called in according to the type of problem.

The archaeological excavations, as stated, were conducted by archaeologists of Tel Aviv University – the late prof. Yohanan Aharoni and his successor, Prof. Zeev Herzog. Archaeologists of University of North Carolina, University of Melbourne and Brigham Young University, Utah, took part in the excavations.

4. i. Visitors Facilities and Statistics

The relevant data for each of the sites presented in this dossier are detailed separately, since each of them has different characteristics of its own.

Tel Megiddo

In an average year, approximately 170,000 people visit the site, among them approximately 20% Israelis. In recent years, the number of visitors decreased due to the general security situation in Israel (59,000 visitors in 2001; 24,000 visitors in 2002 and about 20,000 visitors in the 9 first months of 2003). Many of the tourists from abroad are devoted Christians, who come to visit the site so significant to Christianity. Most of the Israeli visitors are schoolchildren and on holidays, families.

At the entrance to the site is a cashier's desk where tickets are bought and the following interpretive items are available:

- A pamphlet about Megiddo in Hebrew or English (enclosed).
- A 10-minute video (enclosed) about the history of the site (in Hebrew, English, French, and German). The film is now being updated and it will be shown in a special hall.
- The site operates an exhibit hall where visitors can see an interactive model of the Tel as well as photographs, a large map of the Near East and explanatory panels about the finds and the history of the site.
- A self-guided tour of the site, which contains interpretive signs in Hebrew and English where some monuments have been restored, permitting greater understanding of the site. In 2003, as a first stage of Megiddo's presentation plan, new, decorative signage has been installed, throughout the site.

On April 1, 2003, an impressive event was held at the site to mark the centennial of excavations at Megiddo. Among the speakers were the President of the State of Israel, the German Ambassador to Israel, the President of Tel Aviv University, the Directors of the 'Megiddo Expedition' and the Directors of the INPA and IAA. The event was marked by an exhibition of vintage photographs, "One Hundred Years Through the Camera Lens" and lectures on the four expeditions that excavated Megiddo. Guests were taken on a guided tour of the site, during which they could enjoy the newly installed signage. (see also paragraph 3. e regarding the Development Program for Megiddo).

Marketing and Public Relations

Marketing of the site is carried out by the Head Office Marketing Department of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority. Within this framework, among other activities, the office contacts schools who send their students here. The office also signed an agreement with nearby kibbutzim Megiddo and Ramat Hashofet, giving guests at their country-style accommodations a 25% discount on the entrance fee to the national park.

Guided tours of the site are implemented by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority Information Center (located at the Tzippori National Park), and from time to time, especially during holidays and sometimes on Saturdays or by special arrangement, guided tours of the site are offered by the information center. The guided tour takes about one and a half hours and takes the following route: The Canaanite gate, the "Solomonic" gate, the sacred compound, the two observation

lookouts, the public granary, the palaces, the southern stables, and the water system (see also paragraph 3. a regarding Tel Megiddo). The tour ends at the water system and visitors exit the site through it. At this point, buses await their groups, while individual visitors return on foot along a prepared path, roughly a fifteen-minute walk, to their cars, parked in the main parking lot of the site.

The Tzippori Information Center also initiates activities for children, including "Excavations" (an "archaeological dig" where the children "find" items previously hidden), and pottery-making.

In the years up to the year 2000, the site was intensively marketed in order to encourage tourism from abroad in honor of the millennial year. Thanks to the site international fame as Armageddon, and its centrality in the most pertinent scholarly debates, numerous media teams from abroad have visited Megiddo, filming and interviewing archaeologists and historians on-site.

Additional Services at the Site

- A restaurant (the King Solomon Restaurant).
- A factory outlet jewelry shop (Tel Megiddo Antiquities Jewelry).
- A souvenir shop (selling INPA's products, located next to the cashier's stand).

The restaurant and the shops are operated by the site's commercial franchisee.

The site offers a parking lot for approximately 15-20 busses, a separate lot for approximately 100 private cars, and handicapped parking.

There are lavatories adjacent to the entrance with:
10 stalls for women
5 stalls for men and urinals
1 handicapped stall (for both men and women)

Search and Rescue services include:

- An on-site first-aid kit.
- PA system and hand-held megaphone.
- Fire-fighting equipment is located throughout the park.
- Two generators.

cashier's booth. There are 3 stalls for women, 2 for men, 3 urinals, and 1 handicapped toilet for men and women. Three water fountains and one water cooler are placed on site for the convenience of visitors. Some of the site's visitors' paths are suitable for wheelchairs.

Search and Rescue Services: The site maintains a hand-held megaphone (There is no PA system). There is a first aid kit, and the site director has passed a first aid course. If an ambulance is necessary, it is called from adjacent Kibbutz Ayeleth ha-Shahar.

The area of the Tel is sprayed regularly against weeds. Workers (contracted through a back-to-work welfare program) pull up by hand and by mechanical weeder any plants unaffected by the weed spray. The site maintains fire-fighting equipment.

Interpretive Facilities at the site:

A pamphlet is provided with explanations about the site, the museum, and the tour route. The pamphlet (enclosed), published in Hebrew, English and German, is distributed with the purchase of an entrance ticket at the cashier's booth. The person staffing the cashier's booth will answer questions and provide additional information (see also paragraph 3. e, for future plans regarding Tel Hazor).

Explanatory signs in Hebrew and English have been installed next to the various monuments on the site, and two structures have been reconstructed (the 'four-room' house and storehouse). On the watch-tower a metal illustration of an ancient warrior was placed. (see also paragraph 3.d regarding Tel Hazor).

The Museum and Information Center:

The visit to the museum of Tel Hazor, located at the foot of the Tel, is included in the entrance fee to the site. On display at the museum are charts of the stratigraphy of the site, maps depicting the region and the trade routes in ancient times, finds from the excavations that are displayed chronologically and accompanied by signs and explanatory panels, and photos of the Yadin expedition and of VIPs who have visited the site. The museum had been renovated recently.

The information center of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority's Northern District is located next to the museum. The director of the center and museum curator is archaeologist Yael Sela. The information center offers guided tours of the site, as well as various other activities. Special activities for children initiated by the information center have included "archaeological excavation" (of items that

had been concealed prior to the activity), pottery making, and the manufacture of mud bricks of the type found at Hazor. When the instruction center adjacent to the Hazor Museum initiates activities on holidays, and occasionally at other times during the year, prior publicity is given on radio and in newspapers. The site is also publicized through various means (newspapers, Internet, information centers), including updates on scheduled guided tours.

Tel Beer Sheba

In an average year, approximately 20,000 people visit the site, over half of them tourists from abroad. In the record tourism year of 1995, 26,623 people visited the site. Visitors have decreased in number in recent years, due to the security situation in Israel (the number was about 15,000 in 2001, 43% of them tourists; 7,500 in 2002, 30% of them tourists; 7,100 in the first 11 months of 2003, 45% 0f them tourists). Hopefully, the new attraction at the site - the water reservoir which is soon to open to the public, will bring about an increase in the number of visitors.

General Facilities:

Access to Beer Sheba National Park is signposted. The site is well-maintained, organized, and kept in good condition. A path leads from the parking lot to the cashier's booth and the entrance to the site. The entrance in the direction of the cashier's booth was built to imitate an Iron Age mud-brick gate. At the entrance to the park are parking lots (including parking for the handicapped near the entrance) that can accommodate numerous buses and private cars. Toilets (2 stalls for men, 3 stalls for women, and 1 handicapped stall) are located near the entrance. There are two water faucets in the national park (at the 'amphitheater' and at the children's activity center).

The site maintains a first aid kit and a stretcher, and an ambulance can be called from the nearby town of Beer Sheba. There is no PA system on the site, however a megaphone is maintained.

Interpretive Facilities:

With the purchase of a ticket visitors receive a pamphlet (in Hebrew or English) containing information about the site and the touring route (attached). Next to the cashier's booth hang maps of the Negev that represent different periods: the biblical, the Nabatean, the Roman, the Byzantine, the conquest of Beer Sheba in World War I, the War of Independence, and the present. Beyond the cashier's

booth, right at the entrance to the site, there is a large waiting and teaching area known as the “amphitheater”.

The horned altar placed next to this area is a replica of the horned altar reconstructed from stones discovered in various locations at the site. From the ‘amphitheater’ the walking path ascends to the well and next to it, the city gates. From the gates, a circular touring route passes by the important structures in the city. At the center there is a modern lookout tower from which the entire site and its buildings can be seen, and beyond it the Beer Sheba Valley with its various communities. From the tower, the touring route continues to a point where the water reservoir can be seen from above (at the moment). Afterwards, visitors return to the city gates and back to the parking lot. The tour takes approximately one hour (see also paragraph 3a regarding Tel Beer Sheba). The paths are well maintained and marked, and parts of them are suitable for wheelchairs. The monuments are signposted in Hebrew and English.

The tour, which at present does not include the reservoir, will take longer once the reservoir opens to the public. The inauguration ceremony of the reservoir and its formal opening to the public is due on 22nd March 2004.

The site has a children’s activity center that attracts many school groups from the region. The site is connected to the Southern District Information Center of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority at Mitzpeh Ramon. The activity center is built in the style of ancient mud-brick construction and is roofed with palm branches. It contains a blackboard and worktables. Among the activities carried out are: pita (flat-bread) baking, making mud-bricks, painting clay vessels, making flutes out of reeds, brewing herbal tea. The activities mainly take place during holidays or by advance reservation. Activities are advertised in the local media.

4. j. Site Management Plan and Statement of Objectives

Common Management Forum for All Sites

The national parks of Israel are administrated centrally, allowing the presentation of common objectives and the definition of common values.

Nineteen of the sites on Israel’s tentative list for nomination, among them Masada and other sites to be nominated in the coming years, are INPA (Israel Nature and Parks Authority) sites. The INPA has therefore established an internal forum for the management of World Heritage sites.

Forum members include directors of the sites where the nominated biblical Tels are located, appropriate regional directors, and directors at INPA headquarters. The forum is headed by the INPA's director of the archaeology and heritage department, Dr. Tsvika Tsuk. The forum meets once every three months to discuss progress and special treatment for these sites.

Common Administrative Mechanisms

The biblical Tels and their ancient water systems presented in this dossier already share quite a few common elements. In addition to the common elements noted in the dossier already, one should also mention the state laws and the INPA regulations applying to the Tels.

Laws Pertaining to the Sites

All the nominee sites presented in the dossier, as well as their buffer zones, are protected by the laws of the state of Israel and are included in national or regional master plans. The main laws pertaining to the status of these sites (complete or summarized versions of these laws are included in the Addenda section), are:

1. The Antiquities Law, 1978.
2. The Antiquities Authority Law, 1989.
3. The Planning and Building Law, 1965, Amendment 31 (fourth addition), 1991 – plan for site conservation.
4. The National Parks, Nature Reserves, National, and Commemoration Sites Law, 1992.

INPA Regulations

List of Safety, Rescue, and Emergency Procedures at INPA Sites:

- Up-to-date safety protocols.
- Possible emergency situations, areas of responsibility, and required actions in case of emergency.
- General preparedness of the site in terms of safety and security.
- Directives for regular safety preparedness.
- Definition of functions and chain of command in principle in case of emergency.
- Instructions for producers of events at the site.
- Emergency Protocols: Damage and nuisance protocol, Fire protocol, Natural disaster/incident protocol, Visitor evacuation,

Visitor search/incident, Reporting, Protocol for calling in outside assistance.

- Trail Marking:
- Safety in reserves/national parks/learning centers
- Guidelines for determining sites to be permitted for rappelling and cliff-climbing
- Exceptional permission to hike an unmarked trail
- Reporting incidents and activities
- Fire prevention
- Diving
- Guidelines for supervision and enforcement

Site Management and Statement of Objectives for each Tel, particularly

Tel Megiddo

Site manual dossier - Megiddo Antiquities National Park has a Hebrew language operations manual written by Mr. Nissim Yehoshua and Mr. Ahmed Agbariyyeh. The manual dossier is being updated and amended from time to time. An English version of the list of the components of the Megiddo National Park site manual is detailed in paragraph 7. b of this dossier.

Plans for the Future:

The INPA envisions Megiddo as a central project over the next decade. Already a joint team, consisting of INPA personnel, archaeologists of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of Tel Aviv University's Institute of Archaeology, the Ministry of Tourism, The Israel Government Tourist Corporation, and external planners, has begun to formulate plans, including the Conservation and Heritage Presentation of the site's monuments.(See paragraph 3. e).

In the course of the changes generated by the implementation of the new plan, the manual dossier will be updated accordingly.

Handicapped Entrance to the Water System

An additional part of the planning will create wheelchair access to the water system. Access, funded and advised by Israel's National Insurance Institution, will be ready by the month of April 2004 (the works began in December 2003). Wheelchair access will be via the exit of the water system. The main elements of the plan involve:

- The replacement of the metal stairs at the exit from the water system with new stairs and a wheelchair elevator, that will enable wheelchair users to reach the water source and the tunnel of the water system.
- The path leading to the water system from the parking lot will be refurbished and areas of seating and shade will be created along it.
- The original stairs and impressive water system will not be damaged in the least.

Tel Hazor

Site Manuel Dossier - At present, rather than a dossier, there is a group of directives and instructions that regarding all park operations at Hazor National Park. Preparation of a site manual dossier will begin in the near future, under the direction of the new INPA Northern Region director. Mr. Yigal Weiner. Meanwile, the dossier's preparation is delayed due to budget difficulties.

Tel Beer Sheba

Site Manual Dossier - Tel Beer Sheba has a very organized operation manual, written in Hebrew, dating from 28.8.97 and updated regularly.

The manual contains, among the other subjects: a description of the park and its sites, the history, a map of the site, opening and closing hours, the history of Beer Sheba, the statutory status, licenses, building plans, detailed plans, business licenses, insurance policy, the number of employees, agreements regarding the site, reports on annual visitor statistics, annual income, procedures, the main maintenance issues regarding the operation of the site, table of electricity meter readings, information about the close vicinity, communities, nature reserves, KKL-JNF land, a cross-section of the population living close to the site, various forms and reports used by the site, a inventory of equipment, a list of tasks performed regularly, issues relating to safety and security, marketing, and public relations.

4. k. Staffing Levels (Professional, Technical, Maintenance)

Tel Megiddo

The site director, Mr. Agbariyyeh, has held his present position for about four years, before which he was site cashier. Employed at the site since 1975, he acquired his skills on the job. He did not attend the course for site directors, given by the Israel National Parks Authority in 1995, as he was not in his present

position at that time. The other permanent and temporary members of staff at the site are non-professionals. As mentioned in the “miscellaneous” section, the office of the director of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority Northern District is close-by and he is available to assist whenever necessary.

Site personnel carry out maintenance at the site. When a serious problem arises, an outside engineer or other professional is called in. Professionals unconnected with the permanent site staff carry out archaeological excavations and conservation.

Tel Hazor

As noted above, the site has a permanent director, Mr. El-Heib, who has worked at Tel Hazor since 1975 and taken the 1995 National Parks Authority sponsored site directors’ course.

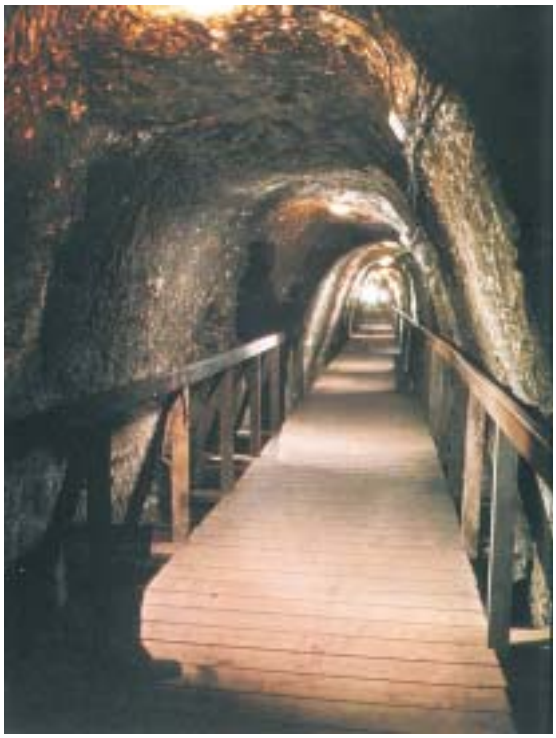
The two temporary workers, who have been on staff for about eight years, have acquired skills on the job, are very familiar with work procedures and operate accordingly. These workers assist in excavation, cleanup, and maintenance. They also fill in at the cashier’s office and augment the staff on weekends and holidays. Professionals who are not part of the permanent staff of the site carry out the archaeological excavations, conservation, and reconstruction. The Israel Nature and Parks Authority, with all of its departments and sections both at headquarters and in the Northern District, are involved in the operation of the park and the decisions taken regarding it.

Tel Beer Sheba

Not all site personnel are professionals, but they are all skilled and experienced in their work. The director of the site is a highly experienced self-made conservator / reconstruction worker who carries out all the maintenance work on the site. The professional work, archaeological excavation, conservation and reconstruction, is done by professional, or under their supervision.

Tel Megiddo A 'First aid' Presentation sign at the entrance of the Water System. Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.

Tel Megiddo - A 'First aid' Presentation sign at the Israelite City-Gate. Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.



Tel Megiddo - The wooden walkay installed in the tunnel of the Water System. Courtesy of 'The Megiddo Expedition' of the TAU Institute of Archaeology.

Hazor -A plan of the suggested tourist route throughout the Upper City.
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

Hazor - Children's educational activity
Courtesy of Hazor Expedition of the HUJ Institute of Archaeology

5. Factors Affecting the Site

All three biblical Tels are affected by different factors, detailed below.

Tel Megiddo

5. a. Development Pressures

This problem is almost non-existent in the area Tel Megiddo, except for a cultivated field between the Tel and Kibbutz Megiddo. The kibbutz people are aware of the antiquities at the site (which is declared as antiquities area) and are careful not to harm them. There is no big city or industrial enterprise nearby.

5. b. Environmental Pressures (Air Pollution, Climate Changes)

This problem does not exist at all at the site, because it is located in a rural-agricultural environment. Weather conditions in the area are very temperate and there are no sudden or extreme changes.

5. c. Natural Disasters and Preparedness

During the winter, the Megiddo area receives a great deal of rain in relatively large concentration. In order to prevent flood damage, the site has been equipped with a drainage system, which improvements are planned with the implementation of the Development Program. During especially serious flooding, large amounts of water may enter the water system tunnel (as occurred in the winter of 1998). Site personnel then work to channel the water out so that it does not destroy the water system.

A great deal of vegetation flourishes in this area, especially in winter. Constant weeding is part of the on-going maintenance work at the site.

The slopes of the Tel are at risk of fire, especially in summer. Site personnel are aware of this and in order to prevent it, the slopes of the Tel are constantly weeded and sprayed, to prevent any fire from spreading upward to the antiquities at the top of the Tel. This maintenance work is carried out in cooperation with professionals from the Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael-Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF) (forestry professionals), and fire brigades in the adjacent towns of Afula and Yokne'am.

5. d. Visitor / Tourism Pressures

There is usually no visitor pressure at the site, although it can occur at certain times of the year. Visitor pressure is manifest mainly at the water system. (On one

particular day there were 1200 visitors at the water system, resulting in a long line at the entrance to the tunnel.) When a long line of visitors is waiting to enter the tunnel, it is always composed of groups, whose guides maintain order. The concern in this case is vandalism (the carving of graffiti, for example), and not the site's ability to withstand the number of visitors or any risk of damage to the site's infrastructure. The entrance and exit to the water system are convenient and safe. The flow of visitors is steady because the entrance and exit are at two different locations.

5. e. Number of Residents within the Property and the Buffer Zone

There are no residents on the Tel or in the national park. The nearest communities are the town of Afula, Moshav Hayogev, Kibbutz Megiddo at the foot of the Tel, Kibbutz Givat Oz, and Megiddo Junction. Few people live in these communities, except for Afula, which is far enough away not to have a detrimental influence on the site.

Tel Hazor

5. a. Development Pressures

There is some agriculture in the area of the Lower City (declared by law as an antiquities area), which does not harm the antiquities. There are no large cities or industrial enterprises that could harm the Tel in the vicinity. The new delineation of road 90, being built in these days, bypasses the site.

5. b. Environmental Pressures (Air Pollution, Climate Changes)

There are no environmental pressures in the area of the site. The Tel is located in a rural/agricultural environment, and there are no industrial enterprises that could pollute the air. From a climatic point of view, The Tel is in a "predictable" area and, although winters can be hard in Israeli terms, there are no sudden climatic changes, storms, etc.

5. c. Natural Disasters and Preparedness

Tel Hazor is situated in the region of the Syrian-African Rift and may be affected from time to time by earthquakes common in the vicinity of the rift. These earthquakes have so far not affected the site. Fires are hardly known to occur in this area.

Because of the relatively large amount of rainfall in this area of northern Israel, floods might occur. In order to prevent flood damage, drainage channels have

been dug to channel floodwater away from the excavations. The channels are checked by site staff and maintained in working order. In addition, natural erosion may occur from rain, wind, and sun. Park staff does monitor the situation and carry out maintenance as required.

5. d. Visitor/Tourism Pressures

At no point did visitor pressure reach the limits of the site's visitor capacity. The problem of visitor pressure does not exist at Hazor National Park or in its water system, because of the normally small number of visitors to the site, even reduced in the wake of the Intifada that broke out in October 2000.

In the 1970s, right after the opening of the Iron Age water system to the public, there was great visitor pressure, with many groups waiting in line to go down. At that time, visitors entered and left the water system at the same point. As a result of this experience, improvements were initiated. Concrete steps were added and later replaced with metal steps. The shaft has a spiral staircase with separate flights for visitors going up and down. Transparent roofing and lighting were also added. Consequently, visitor flow became smoother and safer.

5. e. The Number of Residents Within the Property and the Buffer Zone

There are no people living on the site or in the immediate vicinity. Kibbutz Ayelet ha-Shahar, located at the foot of the Tel and hosting within its confines the Hazor Museum, is the closest community to the Tel. Its residents are highly aware of the Tel and the need to conserve it. The museum is sponsored, among other bodies, by Kibbutz Ayelet ha-Shahar and the Upper Galilee Regional Council (as well as by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, the Ministry of Education and Culture, and a private donor).

Nearby are a number of small communities Moshav Sde Eliezer, Moshav Mishmar Hayarden, Kibbutz Mahanayim (all having a few hundred residents) and the town of Hazor Haglilit (with a few thousand residents), nearby is also a small airfield.

The people who live near the Tel have an affinity for it and for the Hazor Museum. The members of the national park staff also live nearby .

Tel Beer Sheba

5. a. Development Pressures

A large area around the national park is inhabited by Bedouins, some of whom break occasionally into the park offices and storerooms, vandalizing and stealing property. The robbery and vandalism do not affect the antiquities. Other than this, there is no big city or industrial enterprise near the Tel. The site is guarded.

5. b. Environmental Pressures

There are no negative climatic influences at the site. The water reservoir experiences some slight disintegration of the ceiling (in the form of powder that sloughs off, as a result of the weather), but inside it is free of humidity.

5. c. Natural Disasters and Preparedness

Occasional floods occur as the result of rainfall. When they do, the water is channelled into drainage channels and pipes (which had been improved lately) and the flow controlled and diverted with sandbags.

The upper part of the well collapsed (in antiquity) into the bottom, apparently as the result of an earthquake, and a similar collapse was also seen in the shaft of the water reservoir within the city. Consequently, one may assume that the area is prone to earthquakes.

5. d. Visitor / Tourism Pressures

The site has experienced no particular visitor pressures in the last years, due to the drastic decline in tourism to Israel in the wake of the Intifada. The well, with its upper part partially reconstructed out of stone, is open for visits by the public.

The water reservoir, as has been reported above, was completely excavated. Serious stabilization and conservation efforts have been made and a walkway, railings and lightening have been installed for visitors. According to present numbers of visitors to the site, no problem of visitor pressure is predicted even with the opening of the reservoir (in March 2004), especially since the visitors will be entering the reservoir from one end and exiting from the other.

5. e. The Number of Residents Within the Property and the Buffer Zone

There is no one living on the site itself. Bedouin live in the very close vicinity. The nearest communities are: Beer Sheba (a city of approximately 180,000 people) where the Southern District offices of the INPA are located, Tel Sheba, a Bedouin town, and Omer, a high-income suburb of Beer Sheba, where the Southern Region offices of the IAA are located.

6. Monitoring

6. a. The Key Indicators for Measuring the State of Conservation

Introduction: Key Indicators of the State of Conservation with Regard to the Declaration of Significance

The Biblical Tel

As stated above (Introduction to chapter 2. a) The Tel is the dominant landmark in the landscape of the biblical lands and still governs the archaeological landscape of Israel, since there are about 200 Tels in Israel.

The Tel represents an accumulation of several settlements – one on top of the other – in one spot, combining to create an artificial elevated hill. These artificial hills were created because in antiquity, people tended to build their settlements in advantageous locations, therefore to return, time and again to the same locations. Most Tels were abandoned after the Persian period, as the conditions which brought about their formation changed dramatically in the Hellenistic and Roman periods.

The major Tels in Israel – with their impressive remains – are the cradle in which the world of the Bible was born, as they contain the remains of all the famous biblical cities. The Tel is therefore the best representative of the biblical epoch and are the representative of a phenomenon unique in Israel and the entire Levant.

Thus, the preservation of these highly significant relics is important and accorded top priority.

The Water Systems

The water systems were a widespread phenomenon in Iron Age Israel. In terms of variety and numbers, they reached their peak during this time. Although planned according to similar principles, each water system was suited to local conditions. Thus, they show a high level of creativity and of know-how in different fields: geology, hydrology, quarrying, construction, and engineering. In addition to knowledge, their construction also required a central organization of the workforce required in the implementation and maintenance. In all three cities, the water systems played also a role in the defense of the city. They allowed water to be drawn from within the city in case of war, although the water source was outside the city walls. All of the systems were camouflaged to protect them from sabotage by the enemy.

The following key indicators for examining the state of conservation may help in choosing the best conservation and preservation options, now and in the future.

A -The Key Indicators for Measuring the State of Conservation of the Three Biblical Tels

General to all Tels

Park staff, in the three sites, is capable of carrying out maintenance work. Conservation issues, both ongoing and acute, are identified immediately and taken care of as required. If the problem can be solved by the site's personnel, e.g. fallen stones that need to be put back in place - it is done. If not, the appropriate expert is called to do the job. In any case, conservators and conservation planning architect check each of the sites few times a year, on a regular basis, not only when problems arise.

Furthermore, archaeological excavations, on-going at the sites of Megiddo and Hazor since 1990's, are accompanied by conservation as well as partial reconstruction (for the purpose of conservation as well as presentation for the public) sponsored by the archaeological expeditions. Tel Beer Sheba underwent a professional treatment of conservation and of partial reconstruction from the very beginnings of its excavation.

All sites are continuously supervised by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority at various levels: a-site staff, taking care of any defect discovered, b-the Northern or Southern District INPA staff, c-the INPA senior staff in Jerusalem headquarters. All conservation activities, starting at the planning stage, are overseen by experts from the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) conservation department, and independent planners and consultants in engineering and conservation.

Tel Megiddo

The master plan for the development project of Tel Megiddo Antiquities national park (see paragraph 3e), financed by the Ministry of Tourism through the Israel Government Tourist Corporation, includes a conservation master plan annex, prepared by the conservation architect of the site, Mr. Dani Abuhatzera. This master plan will be the basis for the logistics of monitoring (enclosed hereby a copy of the conservation master plan).

Whithin the framework of the Development programme, a conservation outline scheme was written, emphasizing 'priority' conservation of about 20 monuments, and a few others which play an important role in the visit at the Tel.

The conservation and architectural evaluation of the monuments, divided to sub-projects, served as guidelines for a survey of conservation (including graphic documentation), prepared by the conservation department of IAA. Its conclusions and recommendations are included in the general Development Program. This survey identified the problematic issues in the conservation of the remains on the Tel, as well as the various monitoring needs required. They include:

- Drainage of run-off rain water.
- The stability of the ground in the stratigraphical sections, as well as the Tel's outer and inner slopes (the drainage basin of the water system in particular).
- The stability of the walls, especially those excavated by the first two archaeological expeditions. In this framework, the stability of the foundations, the inner part of the walls including the mortar and the coping, will be examined. Currently, the walls are maintained and stabilized as a need arises.
- Floors – there are various sorts of floors in the Tel which are affected by climatic conditions and by the present drainage system.
- Vegetation – Vegetation can damage the relics. In Tel Megiddo there are palm trees (which apparently grew from palm seeds that the Egyptian workers of the first two expeditions threw away), which the site's staff take care of along with the weeds (see paragraph 5. c).
- Animals, especially rodents, favor the ground sections as a suitable site for their burrows, and cause damage to the sections and to archaeological premises.
- Visitors' effect – Although the carrying capacity of Tel Megiddo presents no problem, there is the need to prevent people from entering certain places, so as to avoid damage and ensure safety. Much of this has been done already, including installations for the convenience of visitors and signage with instructions for proper behavior.

Tel Hazor

A conservator is an integral part of the Hazor excavation team. Monitoring the site is a regular task, performed as a part of the maintenance of the antiquities. Parameters for the monitoring, are:

- Construction materials (mortar)
- Monuments - walls structure, foundations, floors
- Weather effects (wind, rain and water run-off)
- Vegetation growth
- Animals nesting (mainly birds and voles)

- Visitors' effect

In order to understand better the decay processes, an experimental mud- bricks wall was built at the site. Monitoring this mud structure and comparing it to the ancient structures helps develop conservation treatments. The national park's director inspects the site's monuments on a daily basis.

The monitoring of the state of conservation are dealt with on two levels:
a. "First aid" and continuous attention.
b. Preparing detailed conservation plans based on priorities.

The three main partners involved in the conservation activities are the archaeological expedition, the INPA and IAA (Israel Antiquities Authority) professionals. Each major conservation plan is submitted to IAA for approval. IAA inspectors check the conservation implemented at the site every now and then. At the end of each excavation season, a conservation report is submitted to IAA and filed in its archive.

Tel Beer Sheba

Concurrently with the excavations, and towards the opening of the site to the public in 1992, conservation and partial restoration of the mud-brick monuments were carried out. As mentioned above (see paragraph 4.e), the director of the national park was brought to the site from Masada, already in the first seasons of Aharoni's excavations, as a reconstruction expert of mud-brick buildings. The architect responsible for planning the national park, Lawrence Belkin, was working in cooperation with the INPA and Conservation Department in the IAA, for whatever conservation and reconstruction activity.

The key indicators for the monitoring are:

- Drainage of run-off water.
- Stability of the built remains, including the reconstructed ones, especially after bouts of bad weather conditions.
- Vegetation and animals' effect.
- Visitors' effect.
- Cleaning the ancient remains and their surrounding area.

B - The Key Indicators for Measuring the State of Conservation at the Three Biblical Tels Water Systems

In the case of Hazor and Megiddo, the key indicators for Measuring the state of conservation of the water systems are similar, because both sites are dug into the rock and not plastered, and were excavated dozens of years ago (Hazor in1968 and Megiddo in 1938). The principal works were carried out after the archaeological excavations have ended and need maintenance, follow-up, and treatment of damage.

Key indicators for Tel Beer Sheba are different, because the reservoir is plastered, was excavated relatively recently, by modern means, and received from the start, an up-to-date professional treatment.

Therefore, the key indicators for the water systems at Hazor and Megiddo are presented together while those of Beer Sheba are presented separately.

Tel Megiddo and Tel Hazor

The following are the key indicators for measuring the state of conservation of the water systems:

- The status of the rock in the water systems (And, from time to time, the status of the plaster in the Late Bronze Age reservoir of Hazor).
- The state of disintegration of constructed elements in the water system, retaining walls, for example (done on a regular basis).
- Drainage and drainage systems (daily in the winter).
- The presence of silt, pebbles, and dirt that accumulate in the system (daily in winter) and their cleaning.
- Acts of Vandalism, such as, graffiti, carving on the walls, or other (regular monitoring).
- Possible damage done by visitors in the area around the systems (daily).
- Possible natural damage, for example by root intrusion or animals in and around the water systems (every few days).
- The quality of the water and the damp parts of the system in terms of organic or biological pollution, microorganisms' growth and the presence of animal activity (daily).
- The integrity of modern elements - safety of cement walkways, railings, steps, roofing, the electrical system, etc.

Tel Beer Sheba

As noted, work has been carried out recently in the Beer Sheba water system to prepare it for opening to the public. This work included conservation of the plaster in the reservoir, filling of cracks and erecting constructional supports for the sides

and the ceiling. The work was carried out by INPA and IAA professionals who had at their disposal consultation and guidance.

Key indicators for the conservation status that are examined in the Tel Beer Sheba water system will be published in the maintenance report to be produced by the conservation staff of the IAA, the body that is responsible for implementation of the conservation plan. The maintenance report will include detailed directives for examination of conservation status and for visitor management, that will prevent damage to the site. In the meantime, routine maintenance instructions were given to the site's staff for the on-going follow up and treatment.

The opening of the reservoir to public will necessitate a new kind of daily monitoring for Tel Beer Sheba. Checkups will be carried out daily and periodically, in keeping with the directives of the conservation and maintenance reports, side by side with the manuals on safety and managing the visitors.

The following are the key indicators for measuring the state of conservation of the Tel Beer Sheba Water Reservoir:

- The status of the floor plaster (new plaster)
- The plaster on the walls and ceiling
- All cracks
- Ceiling and sides reinforcement
- The bonding of modern elements to the various parts of the reservoir and the electrical system
- Inclines
- Drainage in the reservoir (mobile pump is already available on site)
- Water diversion and settling basins outside the reservoir
- Ancient constructed elements in the reservoir
- The steps leading to the reservoir
- Constructed elements above and around the reservoir
- Possible damage from both natural and human sources in and around the reservoir
- The quality of water in the reservoir (when it accumulates) for possible damage to the reservoir and for pollution.
- Possible accumulation of silt, pebbles, and dirt and their cleaning.

With regard to the well - the area around it is being checked every day.

6. b. Administrative Arrangements for Monitoring the Property

In all three sites a pamphlet is provided with explanations about the site and the recommended tour route. The pamphlet is distributed free of charge at the cashier's booth with the purchase of an entrance ticket, and includes instructions for appropriate behavior and specific information on each site. The person staffing the cashier's booth is able to answer questions and provide additional information.

During the visitors' stay at each of the sites, at least one of the site's staff members is present in their vicinity and available to solve any problems which may occur and to make sure that they are not causing any damage to the relics.

Standard directives for the care and maintenance of all the water systems were established as a result of a conservation survey carried out by the IAA, and which included administrative arrangements. Additional administrative procedure specific to each site is, as follows:

Tel Megiddo – The whole site is fenced. The gates are opened each morning and are locked at the end of each day. Gates equipped with locks have been installed at both ends of the water system, making it impossible to enter the water system without the knowledge of site personnel. The general condition of the site and of the water system is checked when the gates are opened, including the condition of the railings, the presence of loose stones, collapse of rocks as the result of rain, etc. As for the water system, if a risk is apparent, the system is not opened to public until the appropriate professional has been called in and has taken care of the problem. (In the winter of 2001, a wall collapsed and a protective wall had to be constructed. In the rainy winter of 2002 the water system was flooded and closed).

Tel Hazor – The Lower and the Upper City are fenced. Two gates, one at the foot of the Tel on the road, and one at the Upper Tel, are locked at night by the national park staff. Every day, the entire site, including the water system are checked. During this daily check, a staff member turns on the lighting in the water system in the morning and turns it off at the end of the day. If a dangerous situation occurs, the water system is closed to public. Park personnel also carry out maintenance and cleaning.

Tel Beer Sheba – The site is fenced and guarded and its gates are locked at night. The whole site and reservoir are checked at least twice a week and

maintenance is carried out as needed. In winter times, when floods fill the reservoir with water, the extra water is being pumped out by the site's personnel. Once the reservoir opens to the public, the administrative arrangements will be changed completely and the monitoring of the reservoir and of the visitors' flow will be the main concern.

6. c. Results of Previous Reporting Exercises

At the three Tels, site personnel maintain the various monuments according to the conclusions and guidelines of the experts who worked at the site, in terms of identifying problems, look after the property and maintain it. These experts are invited from time to time to examine the situation and advise on continued maintenance.

Tel Megiddo and Tel Hazor

Conservation accompanying excavation was conducted at both Megiddo and Hazor only since the 1990's, when the current archaeological expeditions began to dig these sites. This stage is well documented and the various conservation reports, including final reports and maintenance, are available (at the archaeological expeditions and at IAA).

However, regarding the former expeditions, both at Megiddo and Hazor, the only available information is to be looked for in the excavations reports. For, in the beginning of the 20th c and up to the mid-70's, the concept of archaeological conservation had not yet evolved. Therefore, there are no conservation records to lean on, neither for the sites nor for their water systems.

At the present time, the INPA and, in particular, the park's staff are well aware of the principles of maintaining archaeological remains and operate according to INPA and IAA directives, based on the international conventions, in terms of stabilization of the remains, visitors' safety, respecting and ensuring the authenticity and integrity of the sites monuments. As stated above, most sites' staff gained know-how and skills though years of hands-on experience.

Tel Beer Sheba

The case of Beer Sheba is different than those of Megiddo and Hazor, as the first excavations at the site began in 1970's, when there was already an awareness of the need for preservation and conservation. Conservation work at Beer Sheba was done, right from the start, concurrently with the excavation. An expert specializing in the manufacture of mud bricks, with general conservation know-how was brought from Masada (and later became the director of Beer

Sheba national park) to take part and teach other workers how to work in this field. A lot of effort was invested in the conservation and partial reconstruction of the site. As already mentioned, the whole treatment was done professionally and reports are available.

The findings from previous exercises are detailed in the various articles published on the conservation work carried out at the water system (cf. Bibliography). These articles refer to the 1995 conservation plan, the staff training, the1998-2003 implementation by the IAA (including supervision, observation, and documentation, with work carried out by graduates of an IAA conservation course).

Additional work was also carried out to prepare for the opening of the water reservoir to the public, including the addition of steps, railings, wooden platforms, electric lighting, drainage, and means of water collection. A detailed report on this work will be soon published, including operational instructions.

7. Documentation

7. a. Photographs, Slides, Film/Video

Photographs of the three sites are included in the dossier and slides of all have been inserted at the end. In addition, the video shown at the entrance to the site of Tel Megiddo has been included.

7. b. Copies of Property Management Plans and Extracts of Other Plans Relevant to the Property

Tel Megiddo

The site manual of the Megiddo National Park contains (*inter alia*) details of the national park – statutory details and map; description of the park; building plans; reports on annual visitor statistics; the opening and closing hours; the staff and its tasks; vegetation and gardening; safety; fire fighting means; equipment and storage first aid; tours and marketing; signage; site presentation; museum; business agreements with site's commercial franchisee, samples of forms.
The site manual is written in Hebrew, and therefore is not attached hereby.
Other plans are available in the Addenda or at the addresses detailed in paragraph 7.d.

Tel Hazor

There are different kinds of forms used by the site staff for its regular management. These forms are not yet assembled in a single site manual. The preparation of the operation manual of Tel Hazor National Park is in its planning stages. The manual will be prepared according to the standard operation manual guidelines of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority.

In preparing the manual, plans (such as conservation, maintenance, management, archaeology, etc) that are now found in different authority locations will be assembled, together with the different forms that are being used at the site.
Other plans are available in the Addenda or at the addresses detailed in paragraph 7.d.

Tel Beer Sheba

The site manual (in Hebrew) is well organized and can be seen at the site. Its main components are detailed in paragraph 4. j of this dossier.
Other plans are available in the Addenda or at the addresses detailed in paragraph 7. d.

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7. d. Addresses Where Inventory and Archive Records are Held

INPA web-site: www.parks.org.il

Tel Megiddo

Operations Manual located in the offices of the Megiddo Antiquities National Park, Mobile Post Megiddo Region 19230, and at the Northern District headquarters located in the same complex and address.

Archaeological Excavation Reports located in Tel Aviv University, "The Megiddo Expedition" Laboratory room and at the Library of the Institute of Archaeology, Ramat Aviv, 69978, and at all other academic libraries in Israel.

Conservation Reports and Documentation:

- Israel Antiquities Authority, POB 586, Jerusalem, 91004;
- The Israel Nature and Parks Authority head office in Jerusalem (Address: 3 Am Ve'olamo St., Jerusalem, 95463), and the Archives in Jaffa; the Israel Nature and Parks Authority offices at Tel Megiddo the Northern District offices at the above address of the Megiddo Antiquities National Park;
- Tel Aviv University Institute of Archaeology;

- Architect Daniel Abuhatzera, telephone numbers: 972 -55 – 222048, 972 – 3 – 5334489. E-mail address: baronn@post.tau.ac.il

Tel Hazor

Operations manuals - The material relating to the operation of the site is at the site (Address: Hazor National Park, Kibbutz Ayelet ha-Shahar,12200), at the Israel Nature and Parks Authority Northern District (Address: Megiddo Antiquities National Park, Mobile Post Megiddo Region 19230), and at the Israel Nature and Parks Authority head office (Address: Israel Nature and Parks Authority, 3 Am Ve'olamo St., Jerusalem, 95463).

Archaeological excavations - All material relating to the archaeological excavations is found at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem/The Hazor Expedition. Address: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Institute of Archaeology, Hazor Expedition, Mount Scopus, Jerusalem, 91905.

Additional scientific material is found at the Information Center at Hazor Museum, Kibbutz Ayelet Hashachar, at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Institute of Archaeology, and at every academic library in Israel.

Conservation and Documentation Reports:

- The Israel Antiquities Authority. (Address: The Rockefeller Museum, POB 586, Jerusalem, 91004.)
- The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Institute of Archaeology, Hazor Expedition, Mount Scopus, Jerusalem, 91905
- The Israel Nature and Parks Authority head office, and Archives in Jaffa. The Israel Nature and Parks Authority Offices – Northern District.
- Conservator Orna Cohen, telephone numbers: 972 – 2 – 5826471, 972 – 51 – 302899. E-mail address: c_orna@hotmail.com

Tel Beer Sheba

Operations manuals - Operation of the site at the Beer Sheba National Park, Southern District offices of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority and at the authority's head office in Jerusalem.

Archaeological Reports and documentation: Tel Aviv University, The Beer-Sheba excavations of the Institute of Archaeology, Ramat Aviv, Tel Aviv, 69978 and at every academic library in Israel.
Finds from the excavation are on display at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

Conservation reports and documentation:

- The Israel Antiquities Authority, Rockefeller Museum, POB 586, Jerusalem, 91004;
- The Israel Nature and Parks Authority's Head Office in Jerusalem and the Archives in Jaffa and in the Southern District offices, 19 Haavot St., Beer Sheba, 84215 (mail to the Beer Sheba National Park arrives via the Southern District offices.)
- Architect Lawrence Belkin, can be reached at the following E-mail address: belkinla@shentel.net

8. Signature on Behalf of the State

Addenda Contents

Laws of the State of Israel

Antiquities Law, 5738 - 1978

Antiquities Authority Law, 5749 – 1989

Planning and Building Law (Amendment No. 31) (Site Preservation Scheme), 1991

National Parks, Nature Reserves, and Memorial Sites Law, 1992 (Summary)

Copies of “town planning schemes” plans of the Megiddo. Hazor and Beer Sheba National Parks.

General Studies

“Megiddo,” “Hazor” and “Tel Beer Sheba” in: *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy-Land.* Jerusalem, 1993.

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Slides

The slides of the three sites are enclosed in the Addenda volume.

List of Slides

(included in the Addenda volume)

Tel Megiddo

1. Aerial photo of Tel Megiddo looking east
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3. Megiddo – Aerial photo of the Sacred Compound (the Early Bronze Age to the Iron Age I)
4. Megiddo – The Royal Corbelled Tomb, in 'Schumacher's Trench' (the Late Bronze Age)
5. Megiddo – The City Gates area: on the left - the Late Bronze gate, on the right - the Iron Age so-called 'Solomonic gate'
6. Megiddo – The Late Bronze Gate
7. Megiddo – the Iron II (so-called 'Solomonic') Palace 6000 and Northern Horse Stables
8. Megiddo – The Iron II Public Granary
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Tel Hazor

11. Aerial photo of Tel Hazor looking south-east
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16. Hazor – An 'Israelite' warrior in the north-western Watchtower (Illustration)
17. Hazor – Two Iron Age buildings, removed from their original location to allow further excavations
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19. Hazor – A 9th c. BC Administrative Building (or storehouse?)
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Tel Beer Sheba

21. Beer Sheba – The Town's Gate
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30. Beer Sheba – The Central Retaining Wall inside the Water Reservoir

The slides and the pictures are published with the courtesy of:

- Tel Aviv University / The Institute of Archaeology / Megiddo Expedition
- Tel Aviv University / The Institute of Archaeology / Beer Sheba Expedition
- The Hebrew University of Jerusalem / The Institute of Archaeology / Hazor Expedition
- The Israel Nature and Parks Authority

Note: Slides of the water systems in the three sites and video of Megiddo were sent to WHC with the former version of the dossier (***"Ancient Water Systems in the Biblical Tell"***, updated December 2002) and they should be added to the present dossier.

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(No. 27)

ANTIQUITIES LAW, 5738 — 1978 *

Chapter One : Interpretation

1. In this Law — Definitions.

"antiquity" means —
(1) any object, whether detached or fixed, which was made by man before the year 1700 of the general era, and includes anything subsequently added thereto which forms an integral part thereof ;
(2) any object referred to in paragraph (1) which was made by man in or after the year 1700 of the general era, which is of historical value, and which the Minister has declared to be an antiquity ;
(3) zoological or botanical remains from before the year 1300 of the general era ;

"antiquity site" means an area which contains antiquities and in respect of which the Director has made a declaration under section 28 (a) ;

"land" includes any part of any sea, lake, river or other water and the bottom thereof ;

"excavation" or "digging" includes a search for antiquities and a trial digging ;

"collection" means an assemblage of antiquities, other than antiquities in the possession of a dealer in antiquities as trading stock ;

"collector" means a person who collects antiquities otherwise than for the purpose of trading therein ;

* **Passed by the Knesset on the 23rd Shevat, 5738 (31st January, 1978) and published in *Sefer Ha-Chukkim* No. 885 of the 3rd Adar Alef, 5738 (10th February, 1978), p. 76 ; the Bill and an Explanatory Note were published in *Hatza'ot Chok* No. 1250 of 5736, p. 314.**

"museum" means any permanent exhibition of antiquities open to the public and any institution keeping a collection and exhibiting it for purposes of research, education or entertainment;

"the Department" means the Department of Antiquities and Museums of the Ministry of Education and Culture;

"the Council" means the Archaeological Council;

"the Director" means the Director of the Department;

"the Minister" means the Minister of Education and Culture.

Chapter Two: State Ownership of Antiquities

State ownership of antiquities.

2. (a) Where an antiquity is discovered or found in Israel after the coming into force of this Law, it and the area in which it is discovered or found and which is required for its preservation, shall within boundaries fixed by the Director become the property of the State.

(b) A person who alleges that any antiquity was discovered or found before the coming into force of this Law shall bear the onus of proof.

Notification of discovery of antiquity.

3. A person who discovers or finds an antiquity otherwise than in an excavation under a licence pursuant to this Law shall notify the Director within fifteen days of the discovery or find.

Request for delivery.

4. The Director may in writing request a person in possession of an antiquity referred to in section 2(a) to deliver it up to him, and he may reward the deliverer if he considers that the circumstances justify his doing so.

Request for loan of antiquity.

5. The Director may in writing request any person in possession of an antiquity to give it to him for the purpose of inspection or any other purpose for a period not exceeding ninety days.

Discontinuance of work after discovery of antiquity.

6. (a) Where a person carrying out any works on land, whether his own land or the land of another, discovers an antiquity thereon, he shall notify the Director as provided in section 3 and shall discontinue the works until the expiration of fifteen days from

the date of delivery of the notification unless during that period he receives permission from the Director to continue the work.

(b) Within fifteen days from the date of delivery of notification as aforesaid, the Director may notify the owner and the occupier of the land, in writing, of the conditions for continuation of the work or may direct its permanent discontinuance.

Compensation.

7. (a) A person affected by a notification of the Director under section 6 (b) shall be entitled to compensation for the damage caused to him.

(b) A demand for compensation shall be submitted to the Director in the manner and at the time prescribed by regulations.

(c) Where the demand of the person affected is not accepted, wholly or in part, the Court shall decide.

Waiver of rights of State.

8. The Director may waive State ownership of an antiquity in writing, and upon his doing so the antiquity shall cease to be the property of the State.

Chapter Three : Excavations

Excavation licence.

9. (a) No person shall dig on any land, or otherwise search, for antiquities, including the use of a metal detector, or gather antiquities, unless he has obtained a licence to do so from the Director (hereinafter referred to as an "excavation licence") and in accordance with the conditions of the licence.

(b) When deciding upon an application for an excavation licence, the Director shall consult with the Council and shall make the scientific and financial ability of the applicant his prime consideration.

(c) An excavation licence shall define the area in which digging is permitted.

(d) The issue of an excavation licence shall not by itself confer on its holder the right of entry to land in another's domain.

Right of entry.

10. (a) No person shall enter any land for which an excavation licence has been issued unless he is the occupier thereof or has been authorised on behalf of the occupier and subject to the consent of the holder of the licence.

(d) During the excavation, no person, other than the Director or a person empowered by him, shall photograph, paint, draw or

otherwise depict the excavation or the antiquities discovered in it, save with the permission of the holder of the licence.

Safety measures.

11. (a) The holder of an excavation licence shall, both during the excavation and thereafter, until the expiration of the period stipulated in the licence, take all measures required —

(1) to ensure the well-being of workers and visitors at the place of the excavation and the fencing off of such place;

(2) to protect, and ensure the preservation of, the place of the excavation and the antiquities discovered thereat;

(3) to prevent all damage or nuisance to neighbouring property.

(b) Where the holder of a licence does not comply with the provisions of subsection (a), the Director may, without prejudice to the provisions of section 13, after warning the holder of the licence in writing, take the required measures in his stead and collect from him the expenses involved.

Particulars and publications relating to excavation.

12. (a) At the dates prescribed by the Director, but not less than once a year from the date of commencement of the excavation, the holder of an excavation licence shall deliver to the Director in writing —

(1) a report as detailed as possible of the excavation, including sketches, plans and photographs of the work carried out;

(2) particulars of the antiquities discovered in the excavation, including photographs and other pictures.

(b) The holder of a licence shall have an exclusive right of publication in respect of the excavation for ten years from the termination thereof. Publication in contravention of this subsection shall be a civil wrong under the Civil Wrongs Ordinance (New Version) [1]).

(c) Within five years from the date of termination of the excavation, the holder of the licence shall bring out an appropriate scientific publication concerning the findings and results of the excavation and shall deliver two copies of the same to the Director; he shall also deliver to the Director two copies of every other publication brought out by him concerning the findings and results of the excavation.

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[1]) *Dinei Medinat Yisrael (Nusach Chadash)* No. 10, p. 268; *NV* vol. II, p. 5.

13. Where the holder of an excavation licence infringes any of the provisions of this Law or the regulations made thereunder or any of the conditions of the licence, the Director may revoke or suspend the licence or attach further conditions thereto; and where he infringes the provision of section 12 (c), the Director may refrain from granting him another excavation licence until he complies with the said provision. Revocation and withholding of excavation licence.

14. The Director may, after consultation with the Council, enter into an agreement with the holder of an excavation licence concerning a waiver of the rights of the State in antiquities discovered in the excavation and concerning the apportionment of such antiquities between the State and the holder of the licence. Waiver by agreement.

Chapter Four: Dealing in and Export of Antiquities

15. A person may only deal in antiquities if he is in possession of a licence therefor from the Director and in accordance with the conditions of the licence, which shall be prescribed by regulations. Licence.

16. (a) A licence to deal in antiquities shall indicate the place of business. It shall only be valid for that place and shall be displayed there in a conspicuous position. Place of business of dealer.

(b) A person shall not exhibit a licence which has expired.

17. A dealer in antiquities shall keep an inventory in the manner prescribed by regulations. Duty to keep inventory.

18. (a) The Director may revoke a licence to deal in antiquities permanently or suspend it for a period prescribed by him if the holder is convicted of an offence under this Law or the regulations made thereunder. Revocation of licence.

(b) A dealer whose licence has been revoked or suspended shall be treated as a collector.

19. (a) The Director may in writing notify the owner or possessor of an antiquity that the antiquity is of national value. Antiquity of national value.

(b) Within three months of notification under subsection (a), the Director may request that the antiquity be sold to the State.

(c) (1) Where a person wishes to sell or otherwise transfer an antiquity of national value, he shall give advance notice to the Director.

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(2) Within three months of receipt of notice under paragraph (1), the Director may request that the antiquity be sold to the State. If the Director does not so request, the owner of the antiquity may sell or otherwise transfer it after he or the possessor thereof has, in writing, communicated to the Director the name and addreess of the purchaser or transferee.

(d) Where the antiquity is an integral part of a group of antiquities, the Director may only request as provided in subsection (b) or (c) in respect of the group as a whole.

(e) Where the Director and the owner or possessor of the antiquity do not reach agreement as to the consideration, the court shall decide the matter.

Presumption of knowledge.

20. Where a dealer in antiquities offers any article for sale as an antiquity, his plea that he did not know that the article was not an antiquity shall not be heard.

Restriction as to replica or composite.

21. (a) A person shall not sell or display for sale a replica or imitation of an antiquity without indicating thereon, in the manner prescribed by regulations, that it is not a genuine antiquity.

(b) A person shall not sell an antiquity consisting of parts of different antiquities — whether with or without supplements or additions — without indicating the composite character in the manner prescribed by regulations.

Restrictions on export of antiquities.

22. (a) A person shall not take out of Israel an antiquity of national value save with the written approval of the Minister.

(b) A person shall not take out of Israel any other antiquity save with the written approval of the Director.

Chapter Five: Collectors of Antiquities

Notice to Director.

23. A collector shall communicate to the Director, at his request, particulars prescribed by regulations in consultation with the Committee on Education and Culture of the Knesset concerning antiquities in his posseession and shall permit the Director or a person empowered by him in writing to make a photograph or sketch or a cast, priat or other reproduction thereof.

Antiquity of particular scientific importance.

24. (a) The Director or a person empowered by him may notify a collector that an antiquity in his possession is of particular scientific importance (any such antiquity hereinafter referred to as a "special antiquity").

(b) The Director or a person empowered by him shall keep a record of special antiquities and of the particulars, photographs and sketches obtained or made under section 23 which shall be open to inspection by the public as he shall prescribe.

Transfer of special antiquity.

25. (a) Where a collector wishes to sell or otherwise transfer a special antiquity, he shall give advance notice to the Director.

(b) Within twenty-one days of receiving the notice, the Director may request that the antiquity be sold to the State. Where the antiquity is an integral part of a group of antiquities, the Director may only request as aforesaid in respect of the group as a whole.

(c) Where the Director and the collector do not reach agreement as to the consideration, the court shall decide the matter.

Chapter Six : Museums

Removal of antiquity from control of museum.

26. (a) Where the owner or director of a museum wishes to sell or otherwise transfer an antiquity which is in the museum or in the museum's collections or to dispose of one of the museum's collections, he shall give advance notice to the Director.

(b) Within twenty-one days of receiving the notice, the Director may request that the antiquity or collection be sold or transferred to the State, as the case may be.

(c) Where the Director and the owner or director of the museum do not reach agreement as to the consideration to be paid for the antiquity or collection, the court shall decide the matter.

Notice to director.

27. The provision of section 23 shall apply to the owner or director of a museum in respect of the antiquities in the museum and in its collection.

Chapter Seven : Antiquity Sites

Antiquity site.

28. (a) The Director may declare a particular place to be an antiquity site. The declaration shall be published in *Reshumot*.

(b) Where the Director declares as aforesaid, a note to such effect shall be entered in the Land Register and notice shall be given to the owner and the occupier of the place, if their identity

or addresses are known, and to the District Planning and Building Commission.

Prohibition of operations on antiquity site.

29. (a) A person shall not carry out, or allow to be carried out, any of the following on an antiquity site, save with the written approval of the Director and in accordance with the conditions thereof:

(1) building, paving, the erection of installations, quarrying, mining, drilling, flooding, the clearing away of stones, ploughing, planting, or interment;

(2) the dumping of earth, manure, waste or refuse, including the dumping thereof on adjoining property;

(3) any alteration, repair or addition to an antiquity located on the site;

(4) the dismantling of an antiquity, the removal of part thereof or the shifting thereof;

(5) writing, carving or painting;

(6) the erection of buildings or walls on adjoining property;

(7) any other operation designated by the Director in respect of a particular site.

(b) Notice of the designation of an operation under paragraph (7) of subsection (a) shall be published in *Reshumot*.

(c) Where an antiquity site is used for religious requirements or devoted to a religious purpose, the Director shall not approve digging or any of the operations enumerated in subsection (a) save with the approval of a Committee of Ministers consisting of the Minister as chairman, the Minister of Religious Affairs and the Minister of Justice.

Saving of Law.

30. The provisions of this Law shall not derogate from the requirement of a permit under the Planning and Building Law, 5725 — 1965 [1]).

Restoration to previous condition.

31. A person who has carried out one of the operations specified in section 29 without approval or in contravention of the conditions of the approval, shall take action, in accordance with the directions of the Director, to restore the antiquity site or the antiquities situated thereon to its or their former condition; but the Director may, after giving the person written notice, himself take all the steps required for that purpose and recover from him the expenses incurred.

[1]) *Sefer Ha-Chukkim* of 5725, p. 307; *LSI* vol. XIX, p. 330.

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Chapter Eight : Expropriation

Power to expropriate.

32 (a) The Minister may expropriate —

(1) an antiquity site the expropriation of which is, in his opinion, required for purposes of conservation and research ;

(2) any land the expropriation of which is, in his opinion, required in order to enable digging thereon.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to an antiquity site used for religious requirements or devoted to a religious purpose and owned by a religious institution :

Provided that a Committee of Ministers consisting of the Minister, the Minister of Religious Affairs, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Foreign Affairs may, with the approval of the Committee on Education and Culture of the Knesset, make it applicable thereto with or without restriction.

Mode of expropriation.

33. Expropriation shall be in accordance with the Land (Acquisition for Public Purposes) Ordinance, 1943 [1]), and for this purpose the Minister shall, *mutatis mutandis*, have all the powers and functions of the Government under that Ordinance.

Chapter Nine : Archaeological Council and Objection Committee

Archaeological Council.

34. (a) The Minister shall appoint an Archaeological Council and shall by regulations prescribe its composition and period of tenure and procedure for its deliberations and work.

(b) The Council shall advise the Minister and the Director on matters of archaeology and antiquities they may bring before it and shall carry out the functions assigned to it by this Law.

(c) The Council may delegate powers to committees from among its members.

Objection Committee.

35. There shall be established by the side of the Council an Objection Committee of three members, two of them appointed by the Council otherwise than from among its members and one a Judge, or person qualified to be a Judge, appointed by the Minister of Justice to be chairman of the Committee.

[1]) *P.G.* of 1943, Suppl. I, p. 44 (English Edition).

Powers of Objection Committee.

36. (a) A person who considers himself aggrieved by any of the following decisions of the Director may object thereto before the Objection Committee, but without the filing of objection voiding the decision:

(1) the fixing of the boundaries of an area referred to in section 2 (a);
(2) a second or subsequent request for delivery of an antiquity under section 5;
(3) a refusal to grant, the revocation or suspension of, or the attachment of conditions to, an excavation licence.
(4) a refusal to grant, or the revocation or suspension of, a licence to deal in antiquities;
(5) a refusal to grant a permit under section 22 (b);
(5) notification that a particular antiquity is of national value;
(7) notification to a collector that an antiquity in his possession is a special antiquity;
(8) notification that a particular antiquity is or is not an integral part of a group of antiquities;
(9) refusal to grant approval under section 29.

(b) In an objection proceeding, the Objection Committee may give any decision the Director is competent to give under this Law.

(c) An Objection Committee shall have all the powers vested in a committee of inquiry within the meaning of the Commissions of Inquiry Law, 5729 — 1968 [1].

Chapter Ten: Offences and Penalties

Offences and penalties.

37. (a) A person who wilfully injures or, in any manner, wilfully defaces any antiquity or antiquity site or contravenes any of the provisions of section 9 (a) is liable to imprisonment for a term of three years or a fine of 150,000 pounds.

(b) A person who contravenes any of the provisions of section 6 is liable to imprisonment for a term of two years or a fine of 150,000 pounds.

(c) A person who contravenes any of the provisions of sections 3, 15, 19 (b), 21 or 29 is liable to imprisonment for a term of two years or a fine of 100,000 pounds.

1) *Sefer Ha-Chukkim* of 5729, p. 28; *LSI* vol. XXIII, p. 32.

(d) A person who contravenes any of the provisions of section 11(a) is liable to imprisonment for a term of one year or a fine of 30,000 pounds.

(e) A person who contravenes any other provision of this Law or the regulations thereunder is liable to imprisonment for a term of six months or a fine of 30,000 pounds.

Presumption.

38. If a person is found on an antiquity site with digging implements in his possession or nearby with which it must be supposed digging has recently been done on that site or is found with a metal detector in his possession or nearby, he shall, unless he proves otherwise, be presumed to have intended to discover antiquities.

Chapter Eleven : Miscellaneous

Certificate by Director to be *prima facie* evidence.

39. A certificate by the Director that some particular land contains antiquities or that some object is an antiquity shall be *prima facie* evidence thereof.

Powers of entry and examination.

40. The Director or a person empowered by him in that behalf in writing may at any reasonable time enter upon any land to examine whether the provisions of this Law or the regulations made or conditions of any certificate issued thereunder have been complied with thereon or to examine any antiquity discovered or found thereon and to make a sketch or photograph or a cast, print or other reproduction thereof.

Delegation of powers.

41. Subject to any regulation, the Director may, by notice in *Reshumot*, delegate any of his powers under this Law, other than his powers under sections 8, 13 and 14.

Controlled places.

42. (a) In this section, "controlled place" means —

(1) land in the possession of the Department;

(2) an antiquity site.

(b) A police officer or a person authorised in that behalf by the Director in writing may remove from a controlled place any person who contravenes therein any of the provisions of this Law or the regulations thereunder.

(c) The Minister may by regulations enact provisions as to visits to controlled places and the behaviour of visitors therein, fees for admission thereto, the protection thereof and the protection of the antiquities, accessories and furniture situated therein.

Application of Law in military area.

43. (a) The following provisions shall apply in a military area:

(1) no person shall enter it for purposes of this Law save with the prior approval of a person empowered in that behalf by the Minister of Defence;

(2) no act shall be done therein on behalf of the Director save with the consent of the Minister of Defence;

(3) no antiquity shall be dealt with therein on behalf of a military body save with the approval of the Director.

(b) For the purposes of this section, "military area" means any land occupied by the Defence Army of Israel or any other branch of the Defence Establishment approved by the Minister of Defence, and includes an area used for military exercises.

Inapplicability.

44. The Minister may, in consultation with the Council and with the approval of the Committee on Education and Culture of the Knesset, prescribe, by order, that any of the provisions of this Law or the regulations thereunder shall not apply to antiquities, museums, excavations and antiquity sites defined in the order.

Saving of validity.

45. This Law shall add to, and not derogate from, any obligation imposed or power conferred by another enactment

Implementation and regulations.

46. (a) The Minister is charged with the implementation of this Law and may make regulations as to any matter relating to its implementation, including the collection of fees for licences issued under it.

(b) The Minister of Justice may make rules of procedure for proceedings under this Law by the Objection Committee established under section 35.

Applicability to State.

47. (a) For the purposes of this Law, the State shall be treated like any person.

(b) The provision of subsection (a) shall not derogate from the provision of section 8 of the Civil Wrongs (Liability of the State) Law, 5712 — 1952 [1]).

Repeal.

48. There are hereby repealed —

(1) the Antiquities Ordinance [2]);

(2) the Antiquities (Enclosures) Ordinance, 1935 [3]).

[1]) *Sefer Ha-Chukkim* of 5712, p. 339; *LSI* vol. VI, p. 147.
[2]) *Laws of Palestine* vol. I, p. 28 (English Edition).
[3]) *P.G.* of 1935, Suppl. I, p. 147 (English Edition).

49. (a) A licence issued under the Antiquities Ordinance which was in force immediately before the coming into force of this Law shall be deemed to have been issued under this Law. Transitional provisions.

(b) The schedules of historical monuments and sites published under the Antiquities Ordinance which were in force immediately before the coming into force of this Law shall be deemed to have been published under section 28 of this Law.

50. This Law shall be published in *Reshumot* within fifteen days of the date of its adoption by the Knesset. Publication.

MENAHEM BEGIN
Prime Minister

ZEVULUN HAMMER
Minister of Education and Culture

EFRAYIM KATZIR
President of the State

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Authority

ANTIQUITIES LAW, 5749-1989*

Chapter One: Interpretation

Definitions and Interpretations

1. (a) In this Law -

"Antiquities Law" refers to the Antiquities Law, 5738-1978[1];

"site" refers to an antiquities site as it is defined in the Antiquities Law;

"the Council" refers to the Council appointed in accordance with paragraph 6;

"the Director" refers to the Director of the Council;

"the Law" refers to the Law resulting from this legislation;

"the Minister" refers to the Minister of Education and Culture.

(b) All other terminology will have the connotation that they have in accordance with the Antiquities Law, unless they have been accorded a different meaning in this Law.

Chapter Two: The Law and Its Foundations

Paragraph One: Establishment of the Authority and Its Functions

Establishment of the Authority

2. The Antiquities Authority is established as a result of this Law.

The Authority - Corporation

3. The Authority is a corporation.

The Authority - a State-controlled Body

4. The Authority is a State-controlled body as defined in paragraph 9(2) of the State Comptroller Law, 5718-1958 [consolidated version][2].

Functions of the Authority

5. (a) The [primary] function of the Authority is to attend to all antiquities affairs in Israel, including underwater antiquities.

(b) The Authority may, with respect to the antiquities and sites, undertake any activity to discharge its functions, including -

(1) the uncovering and excavation of sites;

(2) the preservation, restoration and development of sites;

(3) the administration, maintenance and operation of sites and their supervision;

(4) the preservation and restoration of antiquities;

(5) establishing supervision over archaeological excavations;

(6) the administration of the State's treasures of antiquities, their supervision and control;

(7) setting in motion supervision with respect to offences under the Antiquities Law;

(8) preparing archaeological investigations and their advancement;

(9) the administration and maintenance of a scientific library of the archaeological history of Israel and her neighbours;

(10) the centralization, documentation and cataloguing of archaeological data;

(11) the establishment and advancement of educational activities and explanation in the field of archaeology;

(12) the establishment of international, scientific contacts in the field of archaeology.

(c) The administration, maintenance and operation of a site located within the boundaries of a supervised national park or national reserves shall, notwithstanding that which is stated in subsection (b)(3), form part of the National Parks Authority or the Natural Reserves Authority, this in cooperation with the Authority, unless otherwise mutually agreed to. For these purposes, "national park", "natural reserves", "National Parks Authority" and "Natural Reserves Authority" are to understood in their context under the National Parks, Natural Reserves and National Sites Act, 5723-1963[3].

Paragraph Two: The Authority Council

The Composition of the Council

6. (a) The Authority shall have a Council comprised of sixteen members as follows:

(1) government representatives who are employees of the State -

(a) the Director General of the Ministry of Education and Culture;

(b) the Head of Cultural Administration in the Ministry of Education and Culture;

(c) the Director of Economic and Budgetary Administration in the Ministry of Education and Culture;

(d) the officer-in-charge of budgets in the Ministry of Finance;

(e) the Accountant General;

(f) the Director of Planning in the Ministry of the Interior;

(g) the Director of the Planning and Economics branch in the Ministry of Tourism;

(h) the representative of the Minister of Agriculture to be appointed by the Minister of Agriculture.

(2) two representatives with archaeological background from two of the institutions of higher learning detailed below, each from a different institution, to be appointed after having had consultations with the Minister:

(a) the Hebrew University in Jerusalem;

(b) Tel-Aviv University;
(c) Haifa University;
(d) Bar-Ilan University;

(e) the Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

(3) one member from among the members of the Israeli National Academy of Sciences, to be appointed by the Minister after consultations with the Academy, who will serve as the Council Chairman;

(4) the heads of two local municipalities to be appointed by the Minister after consultations with the chairman of the local central government, as well as the head of the regional council, to be appointed by the Minister;

(5) the director of the museum that will display the antiquities to be appointed by the Minister after consultations with the Chairman of the Museums Council, in accordance with the Museums Act, 5743-1983[4];

(6) representatives from the Ministry of Religious Affairs to be appointed by the Minister of Religious Affairs.

(b) The government representative, mentioned in subsection (a)(1) (a) to (g), may appoint an alternate who, like himself, is employed by the State to participate in Council meetings.

(c) Any Council member who is not an employee of the State may appoint a permanent alternate in the same manner as a Council member is appointed.

(d) The Minister may appoint one of the Council members to deputize as the Council Chairman.

Term of Office

7. (a) The term of office of a Council member who is not a government representative shall be for a period of four years; however, he may be reappointed for additional terms of office.

(b) A Council member whose term of office has ended shall continue his appointment until he is either re-elected or until the appointment of another member in his stead.

Guidelines for the Appointment of a Council Member

8. The following shall not be appointed as a Council member:

(1) anyone charged with a shameful offence or who has been incarcerated prior to the passing of the period of limitation according to its meaning in the Criminal Registration Act and the measure for the benefit of repentant offenders, 5741-1981[2];

(2) anyone who has a conflict of interest with respect to his business affairs and his membership in the Council; however, there will not be a conflict of interest where the actual appointment of an individual to the Council comes as a result of his responsibility.

Reimbursement of Expenses

9. The Council Chairman, his deputy and any Council member shall not accept any remuneration from the Authority for services rendered as part of their duties in the Council; however, they may claim coverage for reasonable expenses incurred as part of their duties in the Council, in an amount established by the Authority.

Expiration of a Term of Office

10. (a) A Council member who is not a government representative shall terminate his term of office to the appointed time if:

(1) a letter of resignation is tendered to the Council Chairman;

(2) any of the conditions cited in paragraph 8 are breached;

(3) he is unable, on a consistent basis, to discharge his duty and the Minister, after consultation with the Council Chairman, will remove him from his position through written notification;

(4) he retires from the position for which he was appointed.

(b) The Council Chairman shall provide to the Minister the letter of resignation, as mentioned in subsection (a)(1), within 96 hours of receiving [said letter]. The force of resignation ceases 48 hours after handing over the letter of resignation to the Minister, except where the Council member retracts his resignation in writing to the Minister.

(c) A Council member who is not a government representative, or a representative who is an employee of the State who was appointed to participate permanently in the sittings of the Council as mentioned in subsection 6(b), and who is absent for an unjustifiable reason from four consecutive Council meetings, may be removed from his position in the Council by the Minister after consultation with the Council Chairman, or his appointment may be nullified, according to the circumstance, through written notification.

The Duty Rosters of the Council

11. (a) The Council shall establish for itself its own work routines and the administration of its deliberations inasmuch as these have not been established by this Law or pursuant to it.

(b) The legal quorum for Council meetings is at least seven members. If there was no legal quorum at the commencement of the meeting, the Council Chairman may postpone the meeting by thirty minutes. After this time has passed, the meeting shall be considered to be in session if there are at least five participating members, the Council Chairman or his deputy being counted among them.

(c) Once the meeting has duly commenced in accordance with subsection (a), the meeting shall duly continue with as many members as there are present.

(d) The Director, or whomever has been deputized in his place, may be present at Council meetings.

Deliberation on a Given Subject

12. If the Minister or five Council members wish to table a certain topic, the topic should be made part of the order paper for the next Council meeting.

Appointing a Subcommittee

13. The Council may appoint members to form a subcommittee, to establish a Chairman as part of its authority, to lessen the authority to establish general Council policy and the authority to approve its budget.

Authority

14. A decision of the Council or one of its subcommittees shall not be disqualified except where the seat of the Council member or the subcommittee member was vacant, for whatever reason, at the time that the decision was made.

Council Duties and Authorities

15. The Council, without detracting from its other duties, shall -

(1) establish the general [operating] policies of the Authority in the area of duties;

(2) approve the budget of the Authority;

(3) follow up on the continuity of policy implementation, the programs and budgets of the Authority;

(4) deliberate over the financial reports provided to it by the Director.

General Council Rules

16. The Council, with the approval of the Minister, shall establish general rules for the operation of the sites, their administration and supervision.

Report

17. The Council shall provide to the Minister, at least once a year, a report on the activities of the Authority, and shall likewise provide to him, at his request, any knowledge of its activities.

Chapter Three: The Director of the Authority and Its Employees

The Director of the Authority

18. (a) The Council shall appoint, based on the advice of the Minister and with the approval of the government, a Director of the Authority. The Council may, based on the advice of the Minister, appoint a deputy Director.

(b) The elections subcommittee, as stated in subsection (a), shall be published in Reshumot.

The Authority of the Director

19. (a) The Director is responsible for the uninterrupted administration of the Authority's dealings in accordance with the decisions of the Council.

(b) Subject to the directives [outlined] in this Law, as well as the decisions of the Council, the Director shall have all of the authority necessary for the administration of the Authority, including the authority to represent the Authority in any of its duties, to sign agreements or other documents in the name of the Authority.

(c) The directives in this Law do not detract from the authority and duties granted to the Director by the Antiquities Law or any other enactment.

(d) The Director may, according to this Law, delegate some of his authority to an employee of the Authority and to authorize this employee to sign any document in the name of the Authority.

Appointing the Director

20. (a) The Director shall be appointed for a period of five years (hereafter: term of office). The Council, with the approval of the Minister and the government, may re-elect the Director for an additional term of office at the conclusion of the current term.

(b) The term of the Director shall terminate with one of the following:

(1) the Director resigns through a letter that he presents to the Minister through the agency of the Council;

(2) the Minister, after consultation with the Council and with the approval of the government, establishes that the Director cannot, in a permanent manner, discharge his duties;

(3) the Minister, after consultation with the Council and with the approval of the government, decides to remove him from his position for reasons that shall be detailed.

The Employment of Workers

21. (a) the Authority may engage workers to implement its duties;

(b) the conditions of employment of Authority workers, remuneration, service lists and methods of selection for work shall be the same as those of government employees, with those changes that have been set by the Authority with the approval of the Minister and the Minister of Finance.

Terms of the Director's Employment

22. The remuneration for the Director and the terms of his employment shall be set by the Minister with the approval of the Minister of Finance.

Chapter Three: Budget and Finance

Budget

23. (a) The Director shall prepare, at an interval set by the Council, a budgetary proposal for the activities of the authority and shall present it for approval to the Council.

(b) The budget for the Authority shall be presented to the Minister and requires the approval of both the Minister and the government.

(c) The Minister of Finance may direct the Authority with any matter that relates to the preparation of the Authority's budget.

Financing and Capital

24. (a) The budget of the Authority shall be financed from the treasury of the State, as well as from revenue from fees and other payments to be paid to the Authority in accordance with the Antiquities Law.

(b) So that the Authority can discharge its duties, the Authority may accept donations and may likewise establish research funds.

Chapter Four: Supervision Authority

The Appointment of Inspectors

25. (a) The Council shall appoint inspectors from among Authority employees, from among those who have been legally appointed as inspector or an individual who has been appointed as an inspector through the force of an enactment for the purpose of supervising the implementation of the Antiquities Law. The appointment shall be in writing.

(b) It is understood that the inspector shall have the authority to conduct investigations concerning offences against the Antiquities Law. It is understood that in using this authority -

(1) the inspector shall have the authority of a police officer in accordance with paragraph 2 of the Criminal Code (Arrest and Search) [New Version], 5729-1969[6].

(2) the inspector may utilize all of the authority allocated to a police officer at the rank of inspector in accordance with paragraph 2 of the Order of Criminal Procedures (Testimony)[7], and paragraph 3 of the aforementioned Order shall be effective [ ] registered as a result of this authority.

The Authority of the Inspector

26. (a) Should the inspector have a probable basis upon which to assume that the matter requires him to operate under the authority assigned to him, he has the authority to -

(1) stop any vehicle and conduct a search;

(2) enter any place and conduct a search; however, he may not enter a place that serves as a place in which people live provided there is a search warrant from an authorized court, and paragraphs 24 and 26-29 of the Order of the Criminal Code (Arrest and Search) [New Version], 5729-1969, will be in effect, with the necessary changes, with respect to a search conducted according to this clause;

(3) seize any object if the inspector has a probable basis to assume that an offence that violates the Antiquities Law was committed with it, and he may seize packing material or documents which, in his judgement, may be entered as evidence in a trial for an offence noted above.

(b) Insofar as this chapter is concerned, "object" includes any vehicle of conveyance.

Chapter Five: Transferring Employees, Assets, Privileges and Obligations

Transferring Employees

27. (a) Employees of the State who are employed on the eve of the commencement of this Law in the Antiquities and Museums Department in the Ministry of Education and Culture (hereafter: the Department) shall be transferred to serve as employees of the Authority under terms of service that are not worse than those in effect prior to the Law being in force.

(b) The benefits of Authority employees that have been transferred and those that stem from their work as employees of the State, as mentioned in subsection (a), shall be considered as benefits that stem from work in the service of the Authority.

(c) Settlements regarding the entitlement of the Authority to disbursement amounts that shall be transferred to its service shall be allowed and will be set within one year of the commencement of this Law in an agreement between the Authority and the government.

Transferring of Assets

28. Assets of the State that were, prior to the commencement of this Law, maintained by the Department, shall be transferred to the Authority. In this paragraph, "assets of the State" refer to real estate, moveables, entitlements and vested interests of every manner, with the exception of antiquities and sites. Conditions of transfer shall be set in an agreement between the Authority and the government.

Chapter Six: Various Directives

Taxes

29. The law of the Authority has the same force as the law of the State with respect to the remittance of taxes, the stamp tax, fees [for government or other public services], property taxes, levies and other mandatory payments.

Damage Liability

30. The law of the Authority has the same force as the law of the State with respect to the Law of Civil Damages (Liabilities of the State), 5712-1952[8].

Rules Governing Council Members and Employees of the Authority

31. (a) The law for employees of the Authority has the same force as the law for employees of the State with respect to the following enactments:

(1) Knesset Elections Act [New Version], 5729-1969[9];

(2) State Service Act (Classification of Party Activities and Fundraising), 5719-1959[10];

(3) Public Service Act (Gratuities), 5740-1979[11];

(4) Public Service Act (Restrictions at Retirement), 5729-1969[12];

(5) Penalties Act, 5737-1977[13] - directives pertaining to public employees;

(6) Testimonies Order [New Version], 5731-1971[14];

(7) Damages Order [New Version][15];

(b) The State Service Act (Discipline), 5723-1963[16], shall apply to employees of the Authority as though they were employees of the State. In this regard, the Minister of Education and Culture is synonymous with the Minister wherever Minister is mentioned in this Law, and the Director is synonymous with the Director General wherever Director is mentioned in this Law.

Implementation and Regulations

32. The Minister is appointed to implement this Law and he may, after consultation with the Director and the Council, enact regulations with respect to implementation.

Amendments to the Antiquities Law

33. In the Antiquities Law -

(1) In paragraph 1 -

(a) after the definition of "sites of antiquities" should come:

""The Authority" - the Antiquities Authority as understood in the Antiquities Authority Law, 5749-1989";

(b) in the definition of "collector" read "who has a collection" instead of "who collects";

(c) strike the definition of "the Department";

(d) in place of the definition of "the Director" read ""the Director" - Director of the Authority";

(2) in paragraph 8, after "the Director" read "with the approval of the Minister";

(3) in paragraph 14, instead of "after consultation" read "with the approval of the Minister and after consultation";

(4) in paragraph 15, instead of "the Director" read "the Minister" and at the conclusion read: "The Minister may authorize the Director or any other employee of the Authority regarding the issue raised in this paragraph";

(5) in paragraph 18(a), in place of "the Director" read "the Minister or an individual who has been authorized in accordance with paragraph 15";

(6) in paragraph 34(b), after "to the Minister" comes "to the Director and to the Council of the Authority";

(7) in paragraph 36 -

(a) in subsection (a), in place of "from the decisions of the Director" read "from the Director";

(b) in place of subsection (b) read: "(b) the appeal board may decide to accept an appeal, defer it or decide with respect to any other decisions";

(8) in paragraph 42, in subsection (a)(1) in place of "the Department" read "the Authority" and in subsection (c) after "the Minister", read "according to the suggestion of the Authority";

(9) in paragraph 44, in place of "in the Council" read "with the Director, with the Council of the Authority and with the Council";

(10) in paragraph 46(a), after "may" read "after consultation with the Director and the Council of the Authority" and after "licences" read "approvals, permits or services";

(11) after paragraph 46 read:

"**Revenues Accruing to the Authority**

46a. Fees and other revenues, with the exception of fines, collected as a result of this Law, shall be paid to the treasury of the Authority".

Amendment to the [ ] Order

34. In the [ ] Order[17] -

(1) in paragraph 2, in place of the definition for "an historical site" read:

""an historical site" - a site of antiquities as it is understood in the Antiquities Law, 5738-1978";

(2) in paragraph 8(1)(a)(2), in place of "the Director of the Antiquities Department" read "the Director as understood in the Antiquities Authority Law, 5749-1989".

Observance of the Law

35. Subject to paragraph 5(c), the directives in this Law cannot detract from the directives in the National Parks, National Reserves and National Sites Act, 5723-1963.

Transition Directives

36. (a) Anyone appointed as Director of the Department prior to the commencement of this Act shall be considered as if he were appointed as Director according to the Act for a term of office as at the day that the Act came into force.

(b) The government shall pass to the Authority all of the amounts budgeted for in the Budget Act for the current fiscal year for those activities of the Department whose implementation was passed to the Authority and for which there has not been an expenditure until this Act came into force. Until the end of the current fiscal year, the budget of the activities of the Authority will be in accordance with the budget passed to the Authority, as previously stated, with changes stemming from the establishment of the Authority. In this case, "the current fiscal year" refers to the fiscal year in which this Act comes into force.

Publication

37. This Act will be published in Reshumot within 30 days of its acceptance.

Chaim Herzog	Yitzhak Shamir	Yitzhak Navon
President of the State	Prime Minister	Minister of Education and Culture

Footnotes

* passed by the Knesset on the 21st day of Tammuz (July 24, 1989); the Bill and an Explanatory Note were published in Hatza'ot Chok 1926 of 7 Nisan 5749 (April 12, 1989), p. 67.

1. Sefer Ha-Chukkim 5738, p. 76.
2. Sefer Ha-Chukkim 5718, p. 92.
3. Sefer Ha-Chukkim 5723, p. 149; 5742, p. 34.
4. Sefer Ha-Chukkim 5743, p. 113.
5. Sefer Ha-Chukkim 5741, p. 322.
6. Laws of the State of Israel, New Version 12, p. 284.
7. [ ], Vol. I, p. 439.
8. Sefer Ha-Chukkim 5712, p. 339.
9. Sefer Ha-Chukkim 5729, p. 103.
10. Sefer Ha-Chukkim 5719, p. 190.
11. Sefer Ha-Chukkim 5740, p. 2.
12. Sefer Ha-Chukkim 5729, p. 114.
13. Sefer Ha-Chukkim 5737, p. 226.
14. Laws of the State of Israel, New Version 10, p. 421.
15. Laws of the State of Israel, New Version 5, p. 266.
16. Sefer Ha-Chukkim 5723, p. 50.
17. [ ], Vol. II, p. 910.

Planning and Building Law (Amendment No. 31)

(Site Preservation Scheme), 1991

Addition of section E1 to

1. Following section 76 of the Planning and Building Law, 1965 hereafter - the main law) will be stated:

Section E1: Site Preservation Scheme

Site preservation Scheme

76a The provisions of the fourth addition will be applicable to a scheme for site preservation.

Correction to the third schedule

2. The end of section 13 of the third schedule shall state, "including expenses for preservation of the site or its expropriation, according to the fourth schedule".

Correction to the third schedule

3. Following the schedule of the law shall be stated:

Fourth Schedule
(Section 76a)

Definitions

1. In this schedule, 'site' - a building or group of buildings or part thereof, including their near surroundings, which, in the opinion of the planning institution, are of historical, national architectural of archaeological importance.

Preservation scheme

2.a. A site preservation scheme shall be treated like a local outline scheme (hereafter-a preservation scheme).
b. A preservation scheme may be prepared by a Local Commission or by interested parties, subject to section 3.

Preservation scheme proposed by interested parties

3.a. A Local Commission may adopt, with or without alterations, a preservation scheme proposed to it by an owner of real estate or by a local authority within whose boundaries the site is located, or by any organization approved generally or specifically by the Minister of the Interior for this purpose (in this section- a preservation scheme by interested parties).

b. The Local Commission shall decide on the adoption of a preservation scheme prepared by interested parties within six months after the day on which it was proposed; should the Commission not decide within that period, the applicant may submit the scheme to the District Commission.

c. If a person deems himself injured by the rejection of the preservation scheme by interested parties or by changes made to it, he is entitled to appeal to the District Commission within thirty days after the day on which he was informed of the rejection.

Provisions for the interim period

4 When a preservation scheme has been submitted to a Local Commission, or when the Commission has decided on the preparation of such a scheme, then the Commission may issue instructions on the prohibition and restriction of activities at the site included or to be included in the scheme, which are liable to damage the objectives of the preservation, for as long as the scheme is under the planning authorities' consideration (hereafter - a site intended for preservation); the provisions of sections 77, 78,and 79 regarding publication of the decision to prepare a preservation scheme, on prohibitions and restrictions during the period of its preparation and waiving obligatory payments, shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to a decision according to this section; however, the prohibitions and restrictions shall not be imposed for a period beyond one year from publication of the notice; the Local Commission, may, with the permission of the District Commission, extend the said period for an additional period which shall not exceed one year; for this purpose, the 'preparation period', from the day on which notice of the decision to prepare a preservation scheme was published until its deposition, or until the prohibitions and restrictions according to this section have lapsed.

Notification

5. Should the District Commission decide to deposit a preservation scheme, it shall notify the owners and possessors of real estate within the bounds of the scheme; such notification shall be delivered or sent by registered mail to the known addresses of the owners and the possessors.

6. A preservation scheme may included provisions on permitted uses of the site, including additional construction, and determine rules pertaining to the relationship between these provisions and those of schemes pertaining to the site.

7. a. The owner, or the possessor of a site to be preserved, who wishes to alter or use the site, may do so only in accordance with the provisions of the preservation scheme.

b. In this section, 'change' is any act needing a permit according to section 145 of the Law, including 'internal change', if stated specifically in the preservation scheme.

Lack of source for paying compensation

8. a. If a Local Commission is sued for payment of compensation under sections 197 and 198 for real estate included in the preservation scheme, and if the Local Commission realizes it has no source to finance such a claim, then the Local Commission may, on its own initiative or at the request of the local authority in whose domain the real estate is located, initiate an alteration to, or cancel, the preservation scheme, at any stage during hearings on the claim, and even after judgement thereon.

b. If compensation has not been paid, according to sub-section (a) and the real estate was restored to the use prescribed for it prior to the preservation scheme, the person who had rights in the real estate when the preservation scheme was approved, or when it was cancelled or changed, shall not be obliged to pay any appreciation levy because of the cancellation or because of the alteration to the preservation scheme.

Tax exemption

9. a. If real estate within the bounds of the preservation scheme be affected, as mentioned in section 197, and if under section 200 compensation was not paid to the injured party, then the provisions of section 5 of the Municipal and Government Taxes (Exemptions) Ordinance 1938 (hereafter the Ordinance) shall apply to that real estate, subject to the provisions of sub - sections (b) and (c); the person injured as mentioned, as long as he is so injured, is entitled to exemption according to the Ordinance.

b. If the real estate was a source of income due to its commercial use, then a person authorized by the Minister of the Interior may determine the rate of exemption and its duration, considering the injury to the real estate as a source of income.

c. A person so authorized by the Minister of the Interior may, at the request of the relevant local authority, reduce the rate of the exemption, considering the extent of the prejudicial effect to the real estate and the duration of the exemption.

Preservation committee

10. Every local authority shall establish a Preservation Commission, which shall include:

1. In a local authority, which is also the Local Commission, according to section 18 of the law - the head of the authority or the chairman of the planning and building sub - committee, and in a local authority located in a local planning area according to section 19 of the law - the head of the local authority or one of his deputies, who shall be the chairman;

2. Three members of the authority council, selected by the authority;

3. An employee of the authority familiar with planning and building issues, appointed by the head of the authority;

4. A person qualified for the preservation of settlement sites and buildings, selected by the authority council, and he shall be of an advisory capacity.

Invitations

11. The engineer of the local authority and the District Planner of the District in which the Site Preservation Commission functions - or their representatives - shall be invitec to every session of the Commission.

List of sites for preservation

12. a. A Site Preservation Commission shall prepare, within two years of its establishment, a list of sites in its boundaries, which, in its opinion, should be preserved (hereafter the list of sites).

b. The list of sites shall specify the reasons for preserving a site, the extent to which it can be developed, details of site ownership and holders of other tights, and other details as the Site Preservation Commission deems appropriate.

c. The list of sites shall serve the Site Preservation Commission and the planning authorities.

d. The Site Preservation Commission may alter the list of sites whenever it deems fit.

e. The provisions of Chapter 2, article 6 of the law shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the Site Preservation Commission, as if it were a planning authority.

The functions of the Site Preservation Commission 13. In addition to its functions and powers according to sections 12, 14, and 15, a Site Preservation Commission shall advise the local authority and the Local Commission, whose planning areas include the local authority's area of jurisdiction, on any issue pertaining to the preservation of sites, and it is may also advise the District Commission if so requested by it.

Maintenance 14. a. Should the Site Preservation Commission be convinced that the site to be preserved faces a real danger of damage or that the site's preservation will be prejudicially affected to an extent liable to negate the purposes of its preservation, as based on the expert opinion of the local authority's engineer, the Site Preservation Commission may, through the local authority engineer, demand of the owners to perform maintenance work on the site within a period of time to be determined by it; should there be a real danger of damage to the site, and if the owners did not execute the work, the local authority may perform the work essential to prevent damage to the site, and the owners shall be liable to repay the said expenses, if the local authority did not decide to bear part or all of these expenses.

b. Should the site, as mentioned in sub -section (a) be real estate held by a protected tenant, under the Tenant Protection Law, 1972 (hereafter, protected tenant), then the Preservation Commission may, through the local authority engineer, demand of the tenant to perform maintenance work on the site within a period to be determined by it, and the provisions of section 70 of the above mentioned law shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the said work..

c. The said demands shall specify the division of expenses between the owner of the real estate and the protected tenant, as prescribed by the head of the local authority, after examining a written expert opinion by the local authority's engineer and by its legal advisor, concerning the real estate to be repaired and other circumstances.

d. Should the work not be executed and there is real danger of damage to the intended site, then the local authority shall be entitled to execute whatever work is necessary to prevent damage tot he site, and the cost of the work shall be defrayed according to the division set under sub-sections(a), (b), and (c).

e. A person appointed by the Site Preservation Commission may enter the site and perform the necessary examinations in order to inspect it and assess the need for maintenance work, and shall, for this purpose, hold the authority as prescribed in section 257 of the law.

Expropriation and compensation

a. If the maintenance work on the site is not executed by those responsible within the time allotted by the Site Preservation Commission, as mentioned in section 14, and if, based on the opinion of the local authority engineer, the Commission is convinced that the site will be damaged in a manner liable to negate the objective of its preservation, then the local authority within whose jurisdiction the site is located may expropriate the site or part of it.

b. A site shall not be expropriated, as mentioned in sub-section (a) unless the District Commission has given consent after providing the property owner with the opportunity to present his case before the Site Preservation Commission and before the District Commission.

c. The site's development potential, had it not been slated for preservation, shall not be considered for the purposes of compensation for the expropriation, as mentioned in sub-section (a).

d.1. If a site was expropriated under this section, then the local authority may sell or lease it, subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) on the condition that the sale or lease assures the site's preservation

2. If, within five years of its expropriation, the site is put up for sale or for lease, as stated in paragraph (1), for a period in excess of five years, then the person from whom it was expropriated may purchase or to lease it, as the case may be, within 60 days of the date on which the local authority informed him of its intentions to sell or to lease the said site, provided that the sale or lease price be no less than the price set by the Chief Government Land Assessor or his representative;

3. A sale or lease under this section is subject to the approval of the Minister of the Interior or his representative.

e. If no specific instructions were stated in this schedule, the expropriation shall be executed under to the Land Order (Expropriation for Public Purposes) Ordinance 1943 as if the local authority, within whose jurisdiction the site is located has been authorized to exercise the authority and to perform the functions of the Government or the Attorney General, according to the said Ordinance in regard of the real estate to be expropriated, dependent on notification in Reshumot.

Value

16. a. If a person deems himself injured by the decisions taken under sections 9,14 or 15(a) he may contest them before an appeals committee comprising three members to be appointed by the Minister of Justice for this purpose; the committee chairman shall be an attorney with at least three years of professional experience.

b.1. An appeals committee which considers a contestation under section 9, may cancel the exemption that has been granted or to alter the rate of exemption and its duration

2. An appeals committee that discusses a contestation under section 14, may cancel or alter the demand of the Site Preservation Commission, order who shall execute the work stated in that section, and determine a different division of expenses between the real estate owner, the protected tenant and the local authority, dependent on the issue.

3. An appeals committee that discusses a contestation under section 15 (a),may cancel a decision to expropriating a site or part of it.

c. If a person deems himself injured by a decision of the appeals committee,he may appeal to the District Court, where a single judge will hear the appeal.

d. The District Court judgement under sub - section (c) can be appealed before the Supreme Court after receipt of permission from the President of the Supreme Court.

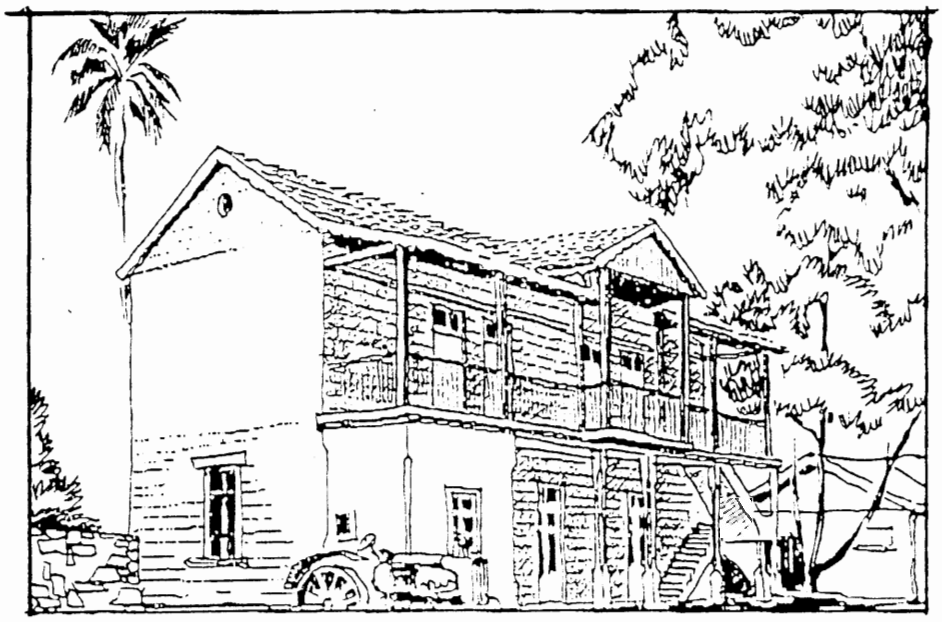
Preservation of laws 17. The provisions of this Schedule are in addition to the provisions of any other law and do not detract from them.

Yitzhak Shamir
Prime Minister

Arieh Deri
Minister of the Interior

Chaim Herzog
President of the State of Israel

Dov Shilanski
Speaker of the Knesset



Ein - Shemer - the Old courtyard

National Parks, Nature Reserves, Memorial Sites and National Sites Law, 1992

(Summary)

A National Parks, Nature Reserves and National Sites Council ("The Council"), nominated by the Minister of the Environment, is established by this Law to advise the Ministers of the Interior and Agriculture as to any matter relating to the implementation of this Law.

National Parks

* National parks are areas meant for "the public enjoyment of nature or for the preservation of areas of historic, archeological, or architectural importance."

* The Minister of the Interior, after consulting with the Minister of the Environment, may declare an area to be a national park after the following conditions have been met:

-- All local authorities in whose jurisdiction the park will be located must be granted an opportunity to provide input as to the nature and use of the park.

-- If the area of the park includes a holy place or an historical site, the Minister of the Interior must comply with the requirements of the Minister of Religious Affairs or the Minister of Education and Culture, to ensure the protection of the holy or historical site, respectively.

-- If the area of the park is a nature reserve, the Minister of the Interior must consult with the Minister of Agriculture.

-- If the area of the park includes a military area, or is nearby a military area, the Minister of the Interior must meet the requirements of the Minister of Defense. Prohibitions and regulations imposed under this law do not apply to the Israeli Army in a military area.

An area designated as a national park may not be changed, or its designation as such revoked, unless the Interior Minister cancels his declaration. No building work or other activity will be permitted unless it has been approved by the National Parks Authority. The Minister may not cancel the declaration of a national park without the approval of the Minister of the Environment, The Council, the local authority in which the park is located, and the Interior and Environmental Committees of the Knesset.

* A National Parks Authority, appointed by the Minister of the Environment, will manage the national parks and report to the Minister on matters relating to national parks. The Authority will be composed

of "government officials, local officials, members of scientific organizations and members of the public concerned with improvement and preservation of the Israeli landscape, development of vacation and natural sites, and the preservation of areas of historical and national importance."

Nature Reserves

* Following consultation with the Minister of the Agriculture, the Minister of the Interior may declare an area of scientific or educational interest to be a nature reserve. A nature reserve is "an area in which animals, plants, inanimate objects, soil, caves, water and landscape are protected from changes in their appearance, biological makeup, and natural development."

* The Minister of the Agriculture shall appoint a Nature Reserves Authority to manage the affairs of nature reserves. The eleven member authority is to be made up of government officials, members of scientific and public bodies, and representatives of the public. Among the responsibilities of the Nature Reserves Authority are "to initiate and plan the establishment of nature reserves, to manage and develop the reserves and to protect natural assets..."

* Following consultation with the Israel Academy of Science, the Minister of Agriculture shall appoint a professional committee of zoologists, botanists, geographers, ecologists, and planners to advise the Nature Reserves Authority.

* The Nature Reserves Authority may set rules for the use of nature reserves, following consultation with the local authority in whose jurisdiction the reserve lies, and with the permission of the Minister of Agriculture.

Protected Natural Assets

* A "protected natural asset," as defined by this Law, means "any thing or class of things in nature, whether animal, vegetable or mineral, whose preservation, in the opinion of the Minister of Agriculture is of value." The Minister of Agriculture may declare, after consultation with The Council, any natural asset to be a protected natural asset throughout Israel or any specific part of it.

* A person may not damage, destroy, pick, uproot, poison or otherwise change a protected natural asset except with the permission of the Director of the Nature Reserves Authority.

* Selling protected natural assets is prohibited except with the permission of the Nature Reserves Authority. A person may not own a protected natural asset unless he receives permission from the Nature Reserves Authority.

* The Minister of Agriculture may promulgate regulations to protect natural assets from damage.

National Sites and Memorial Sites

* The Minister of the Interior, following consultation with The Council, may declare a place to be a "national site." As is the case with national parks, the Minister must also consult with those in whose jurisdiction the site lies. National sites are protected from damage or alteration. The Minister of the Environment may promulgate regulations delineating the means of preservation and protection of a national site. When a national site carries special local importance, the Minister of the Environment may give the local authority the authority to manage the site.

* A "Memorial Sites Council" will be appointed by the Government upon the recommendation of the Ministers of Defense, Labor, and the Interior. The Council is authorized to advise the Ministers of the Interior and Defense as to all issues concerning memorial sites. The Minister of the Interior, following consultation with the local authority and the Memorial Sites Council, may declare an area a memorial site. Upkeep and maintenance of memorial sites is the responsibility of the local authority in whose jurisdiction the site lies. The Minister of the Interior, after consulting with the Minister of Defense, is authorized to promulgate regulations concerning memorial sites.

Bylaws and Regulations. The Ministers of the Environment, the Interior, Agriculture and Defense may promulgate regulations as to the implementation of this law, each according to his area of authority.

פרטים כללים:

מס' גן לאומי: 280 שם גן לאומי: תל-מגידו מחוז: צפון גן פעיל בחמ"א8 : ג/23/2

תאור הגן: תל קדום מהחשובים בא"י,החולש על מבואות עמק יזרעאל,ובו שרידי מגידו ההסטוריה,שהיתה עיר מבצר על "דרך הים" העתיקה.צומת דרכים חשובה וזיר ת קרבות בכל הדורות.מגידו היתה מערי הרכב של שלמה ושל אחאב.פה נפל ב קרב יאשיהו מלך יהודה.ב-1918 ניצחו כאן הבריטים את התורכים.

אופי הגן:

מחכנן אחראי: שטח כולל : 186.0 דונם

תאור מגבלות צה"ל : נ.צ. : 167000/221000

חתומי שיפוט: מצב סטטוטורי: מוכרז מספר קובץ תקנות : 1830

בעל קרקע : תאריך פרסום בקובץ : 27/01/66

: הסכם הרשאה :

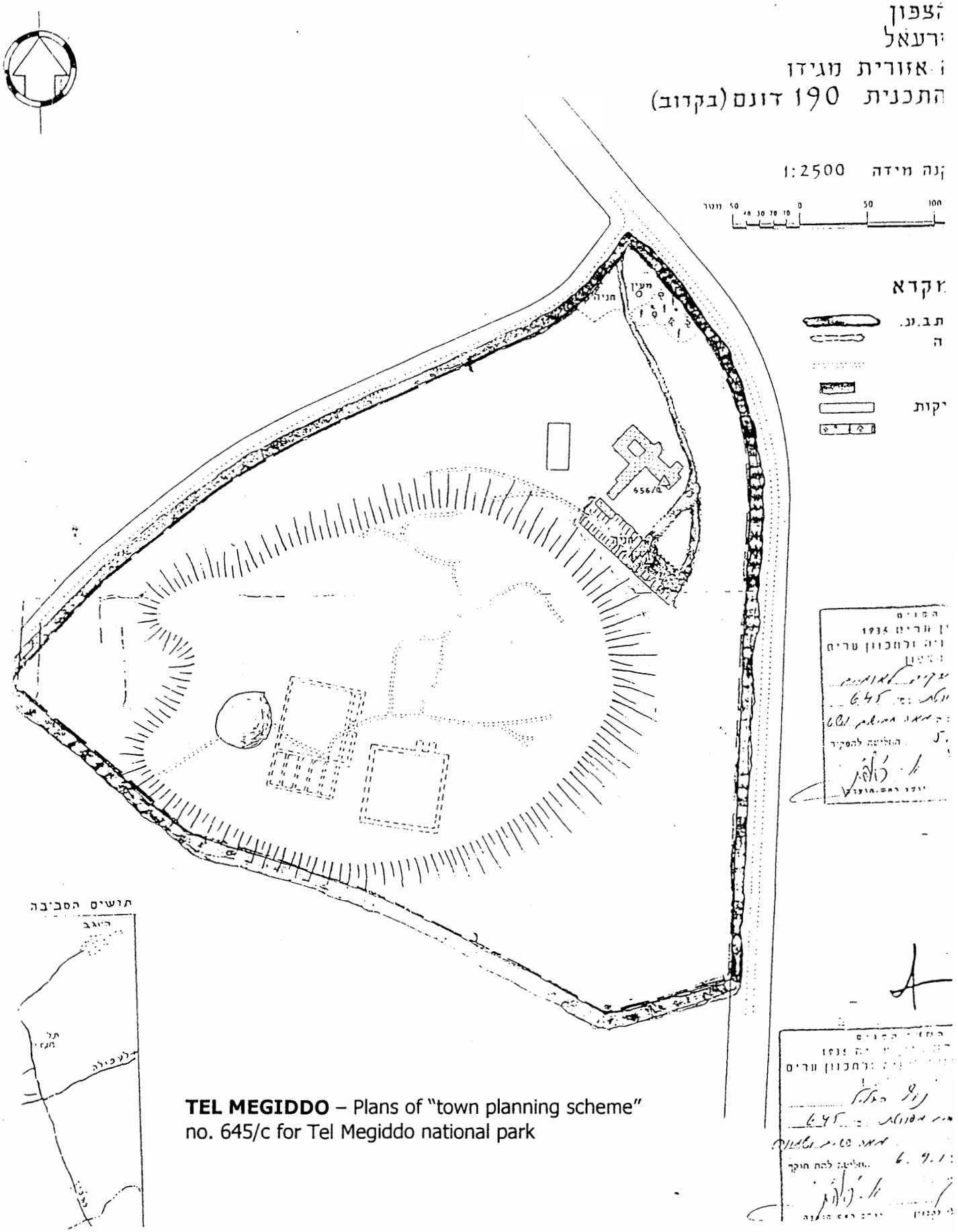
שותף : תאריך תחילת תכירה :

סוג שותפות : תאריך סיום תכירה : 01/01/94

פרטי תוכניות לגן לאומי:

מספר תכנית	סטטוס תכנית	תאריך סטטוס	מספר ילקוט פרסומים	ה ע ר ו ת
תב"ע ג/645				אושרה בועדה המחוזית להפקדה ב-5.10.64. ב-6.9.65 החליטה הועדה המחוזית לתת תוקף.

TEL MEGIDDO - Details regarding the declaration of the Interior Minister of Tel Megiddo as a national park, published in regulations digest 1830, 27 January, 1966



TEL MEGIDDO – Plans of "town planning scheme" no. 645/c for Tel Megiddo national park

Emblem UNESCO Emblem WH Emblem-the State of Israel

"The Biblical Tels – Megiddo, Hazor, Beer Sheba"
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Supplementary material to the dossier (C 1108) submitted to UNESCO - World Heritage Centre (December 2003): "The Biblical Tels – Megiddo, Hazor, Beer Sheba"

JUNE 2005

Emblem TAU Emblem INPA Emblem HUJ

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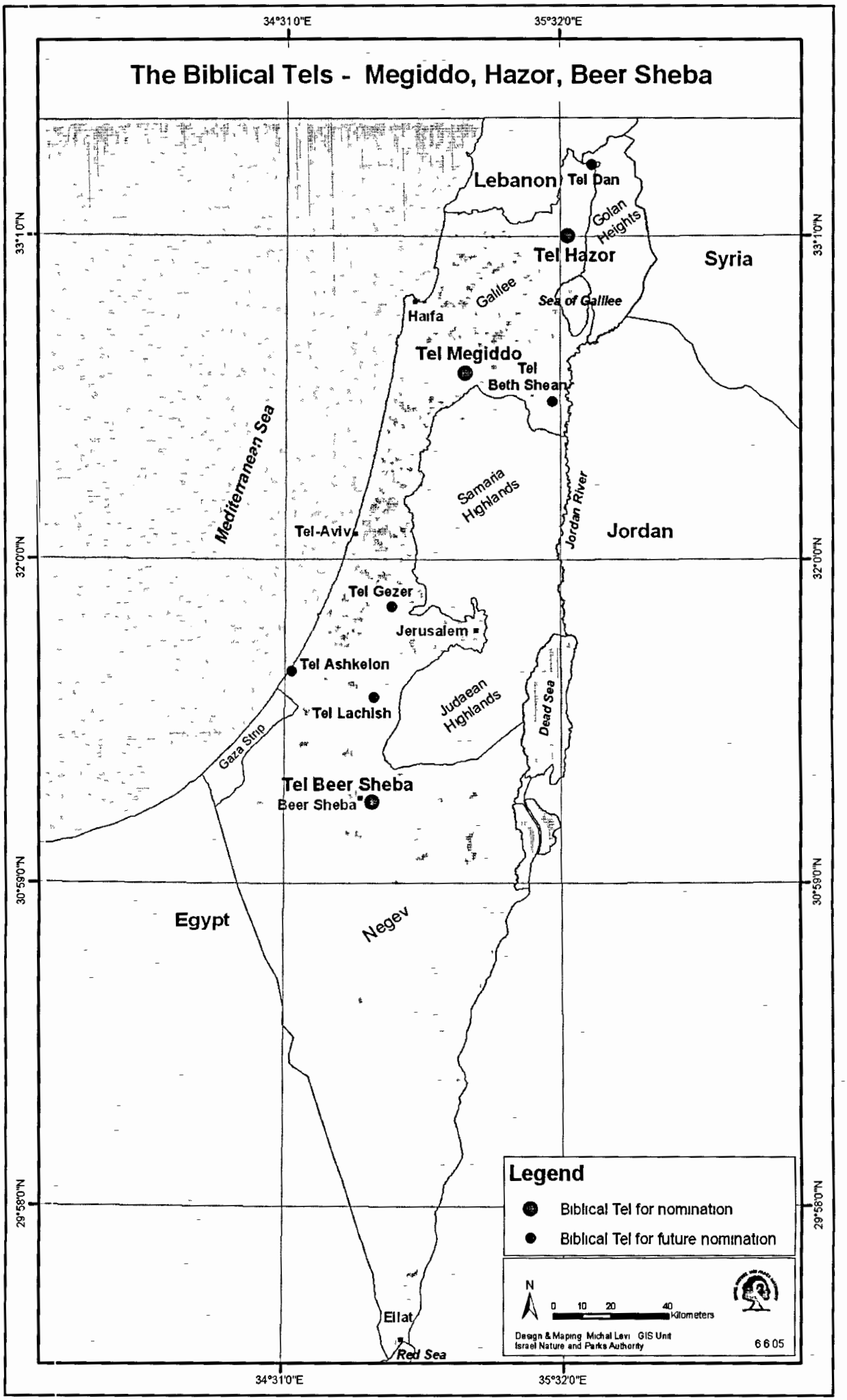
The dossier "The Biblical Tels – Megiddo, Hazor, Beer Sheba– Management Plan" was prepared by INPA under the guidance of Dr Tsvika Tsuk, Director of INPA's Archaeology and Heritage Department, Mr Daniel Bar-Eli, Secretary General of the Israel National Commission for UNESCO, and Prof, Michael Turner, chairman of the Israel World Heritage Committee

The data was assembled, updated, written and edited by **Esti Ben Haim**, based on the "The Biblical Tels – Megiddo, Hazor, Beer Sheba" (2003) dossier and on the contribution of INPA's individual professionals and of consultants, including the directors of Tel Megiddo, Tel Hazor and Tel Beer Sheba archaeological expeditions


The Biblical Tels - Megiddo, Hazor, Beer Sheba
34°31'0"E
35°32'0"E
33°1'0"N
32°0'0"N
30°59'0"N
29°58'0"N
Lebanon
Tel Dan
Golan Heights
Tel Hazor
Syria
Galilee
Sea of Galilee
Haifa
Tel Megiddo
Tel Beth Shean
Mediterranean Sea
Samaria Highlands
Jordan River
Jordan
Tel-Aviv
Tel Gezer
Jerusalem
Tel Ashkelon
Tel Lachish
Judaean Highlands
Dead Sea
Gaza Strip
Tel Beer Sheba
Beer Sheba
Egypt
Negev
Eilat
Red Sea
Legend
Biblical Tel for nomination
Biblical Tel for future nomination
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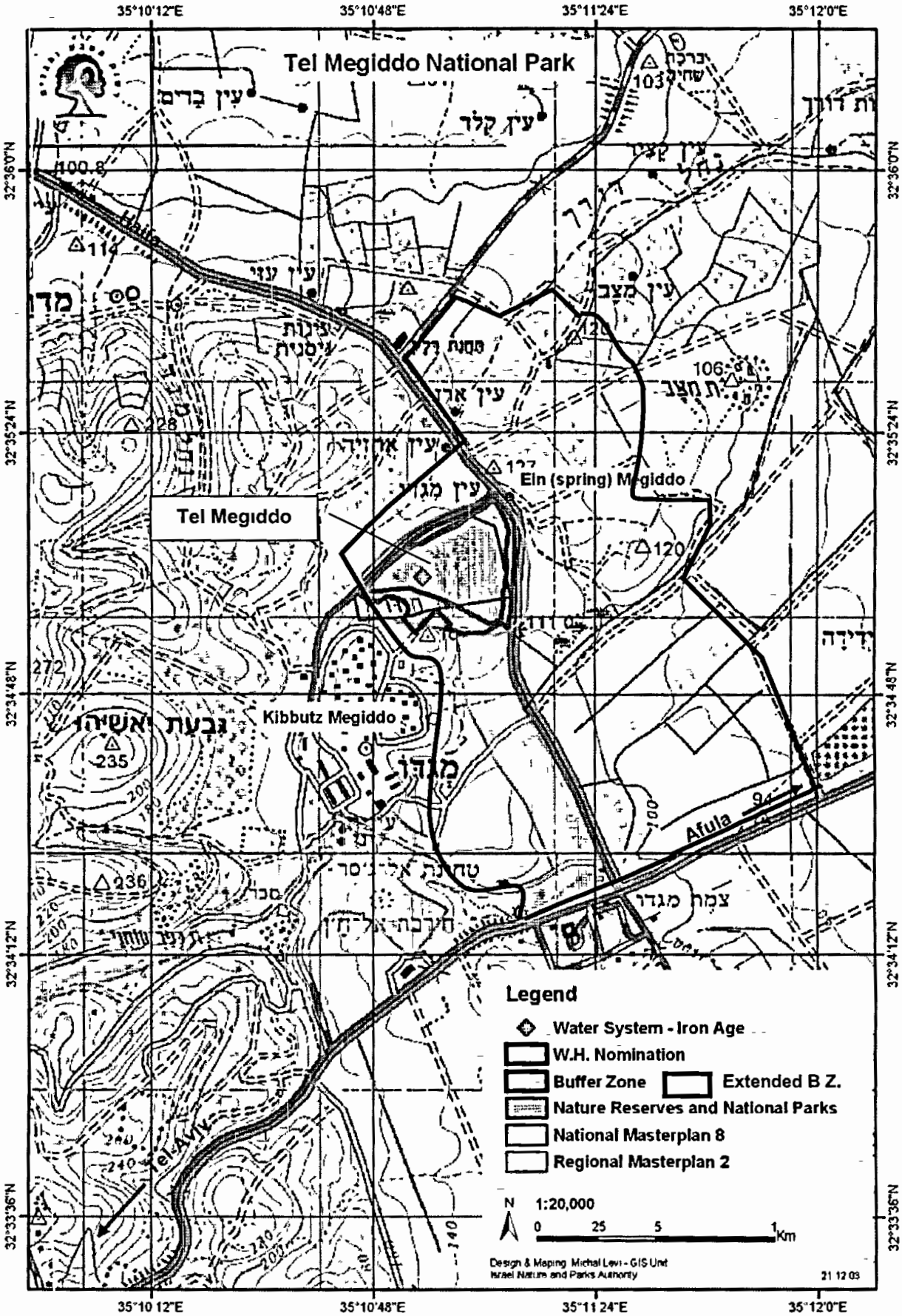
0 10 20 40 Kilometers
Design & Maping Michal Levi GIS Unit
Israel Nature and Parks Authority
6605


Tel Megiddo National Park
Tel Megiddo
Ein (spring) Megiddo
Kibbutz Megiddo
Afula
Tel Aviv
35°10'12"E
35°10'48"E
35°11'24"E
35°12'0"E
32°36'0"N
32°35'24"N
32°34'48"N
32°34'12"N
32°33'36"N
Legend
Water System - Iron Age
W.H. Nomination
Buffer Zone
Extended B Z.
Nature Reserves and National Parks
National Masterplan 8
Regional Masterplan 2
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Israel Nature and Parks Authority
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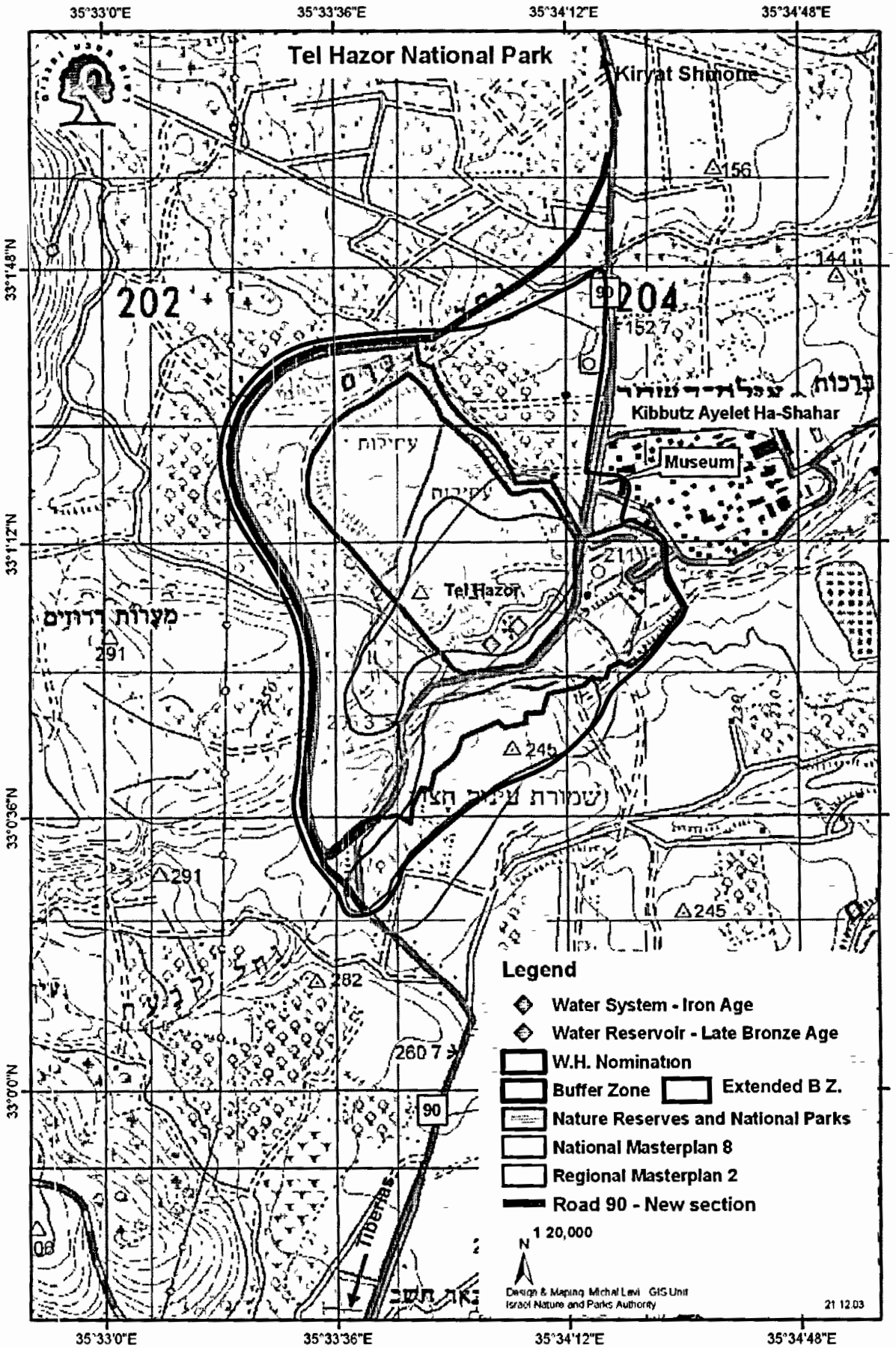
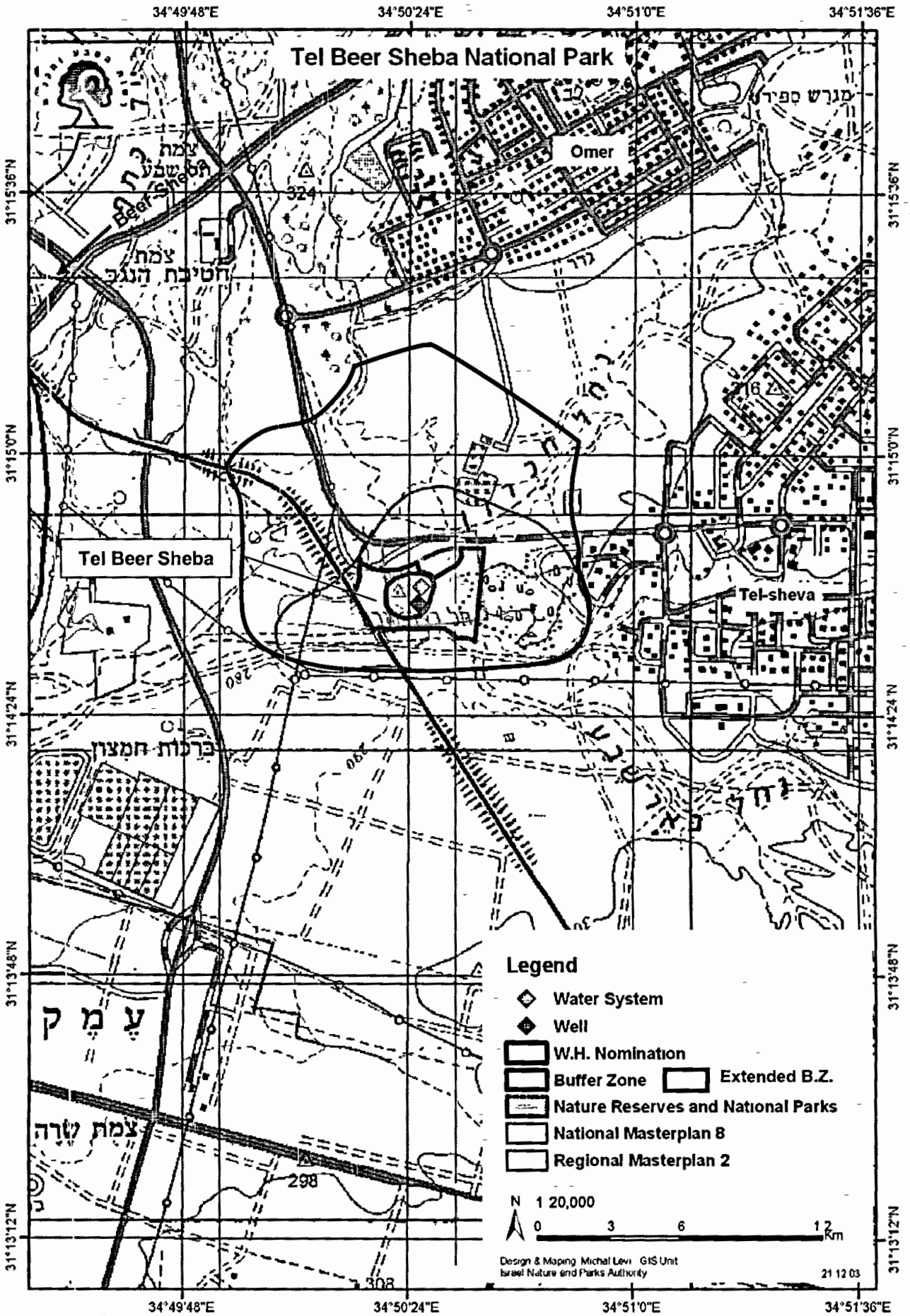

Tel Hazor National Park
Kiryat Shmone
Kibbutz Ayelet Ha-Shahar
Museum
Tel Hazor
35°33'0"E
35°33'36"E
35°34'12"E
35°34'48"E
33°1'48"N
33°1'12"N
33°0'36"N
33°0'0"N
Legend
Water System - Iron Age
Water Reservoir - Late Bronze Age
W.H. Nomination
Buffer Zone
Extended B Z.
Nature Reserves and National Parks
National Masterplan 8
Regional Masterplan 2
Road 90 - New section
1 20,000
Design & Maping Michal Levi GIS Unit
Israel Nature and Parks Authority
21.12.03


Tel Beer Sheba National Park
34°49'48"E
34°50'24"E
34°51'0"E
34°51'36"E
31°15'36"N
31°15'0"N
31°14'24"N
31°13'48"N
31°13'12"N
Omer
Tel Beer Sheba
Tel-sheva
Beer-Sheba
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Legend
Water System
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Nature Reserves and National Parks
National Masterplan 8
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Israel Nature and Parks Authority – General Background

The Israel Nature and National Parks Protection Authority (INPA) formed, in 1998, by the merging of two separated organizations – the Nature Reserves Authority and the National Parks Authority

Rapid urban development, economic progress and increasing transportation needs in Israel, together with the steep growth in population, have amplified the threat posed to the country's natural wonders, landscapes, green and open spaces and historical sites This situation has made it imperative for the authorities in charge of protecting nature and cultural heritage in Israel to combine forces, making a stronger and more efficient entity

The union of the two authorities, legislated in April of 1998, constituted an effective framework for enforcement and conservation, dedicated to developing, protecting and promoting Israel's natural, historical and recreational sites

The INPA develops and manages a wide variety of national parks and nature reserves A nature reserve is intended primarily to protect the wildlife, vegetation, geological formations and other natural wonders in their natural state National parks are more oriented towards preserving the environment and sites, while developing these for the pleasure of the visitors

National parks are divided into several categories, as the following

Archaeological and historical national parks – These parks are focused on an important archaeological or historical site Scientific work and preparation of the site for admission of visitors are carried out simultaneously Site development, reconstruction and excavation occur together with visitor tours and the necessary services for visitor safety and convenience

Nature and landscape national parks - These parks are focused on sites with special landscape and other features fit for recreational activity

Sites of national significance - These parks are focused on sites bearing national meaning like war sites, Ben-Gurion's burial site or the city wall of Old Jerusalem

Parks that combine archaeology with outstanding views,

Protected beaches;

Water sources national parks;

Open spaces.

Legal Status

The INPA acts under the Law of the National Parks, Nature Reserves, National Sites and Memorial Sites of 1998 The powers vested in INPA are also anchored in the Wildlife Protection Act of 1955, the Antiquities Authority Act of 1989 and the Planning and Building Act of 1965, and in additional legislation

Purposes and Goals

The law presents the INPA with three main goals

1 To preserve the biological diversity, the ecosystems and the landscape of the country in the national parks, nature reserves and open spaces
2 To preserve and promote, for the general public, nationally significant historical sites in national parks and nature reserves
3 To educate and inform the public with regards to conservation of nature, heritage and scenery, and to heighten public awareness of these subjects

The INPA takes a number of steps to achieve these goals, among which as the following

a Preserve, manages, operates and supervises nature reserves and national parks
b Enforces the law by informing, supervising and punishing INPA's wardens throughout the country are empowered by law to fine, search, arrest or otherwise bring to justice violators of those laws the INPA entrusted to enforce
c Initialize legislation regarding nature and environment conservation
d Participates in the capacity of a company or an observer in committees operating under the Planning and Building Act on issues of development, when committee decisions could harm nature, the environment, natural reserves, green spaces or historical, archaeological, national or architectural sites
e Informs and educates Projects are carried out in the reserves and parks, as well as in schools, community centers, youth movements and military bases, and through local and national media
f Locates streams and water sources and exposes the presence of toxins Initiates and performs scientific research and assists university staff in relevant research

g Participates in global effort to protect the environment together with national and international organizations The INPA initiates national and international conventions and participates in international forums regarding these topics

Organizational Structure and Budget of INPA

The INPA is a legal corporation subject to the Ministry of Environment The major portion of its budget is self-financed through revenue resulting mainly from the admission fees to the nature reserves and national parks The remaining part originates from the government budget and from contributions

The INPA divides its activity throughout Israel into five districts, each one having control over the national parks and nature reserves in that region Regional wardens, park managers and nature reserve staff are employed in each region The *Green Patrol* is an additional arm of INPA This unit supervises the open spaces and is responsible, among other things, for the prevention of illegal takeover of governmental land and open spaces
The management at INPA headquarters is in charge of national activities and supplies logistic, administrative, scientific and educational services The headquarters is comprised of the following units

- Science Division – It is in charge of the scientific aspects of nature and heritage conservation and is headed by the chief scientist of INPA
- Enforcement Division – It is responsible for law enforcement for the purpose of protecting all natural wonders, but particularly to protect wildlife and prevent illegal trade and uncontrolled hunting
- Planning and Development Division – It is in charge of planning and building new sites, infrastructure and development in existing sites, landscape planning and preservation, conservation and rehabilitation of antiquities The division takes an active part in the processes of preparation and official declaration of spaces intended to be nature reserves and national parks, and is an active partner in supervising national development plans that could have an effect on nature conservation, the open spaces and historical and cultural values
- Administration and Finance Division – It handles the administrative, logistical and financial aspects of the INPA

- Human Resources Division – It deals with INPA's manpower issues, including training

Note The full INPA's organizational structure is given below at this chapter's end

A special board has been appointed by the government at the recommendation of the Minister of Environment The main task of this board is to determine the INPA's financial policy and the course of action, to pass the budget and to see that the policy is carried out, and to deliver guidelines to INPA's director general The director general, being appointed by the government, is responsible to see that the guidelines presented by the board are followed

The board includes 19 members, 7 of them are government representatives, 7 of them are of the scientific community (from the disciplines of zoology, botany, ecology, archaeology, geology, geography, history, economics, landscaping and preservation), 4 others are public representatives (from the 'Jewish National Fund', 'Society for the Protection of Nature' and 2 civic-minded individuals), The nineteenth member is a municipal representative or a member of the local councils organization

Education and Information

Educating and informing the public are perhaps the more important and influential long-term goals of the INPA Without heightening the awareness of the general public in Israel on topics of conservation of nature, heritage and the environment, the INPA's action is bound to fail in the long run Population growth and rapid development intensify the risk to the reserves and parks, landscape, wildlife and vegetation, and historical and archaeological sites Deeper understanding of the issues, effective education and the attitude of respect towards our environment and culture on the part of each citizen and tourist would assure the survival of these values and assets

The legislator was well aware of the importance of education regarding nature conservation, protecting the environment and preserving our heritage The law therefore specifically instructs the INPA to "initiate, hold and encourage educational activities and training in the fields of conservation of nature, natural wonders and heritage, including activities intended to heighten

awareness in these areas within the general public and among youth in particular".

The newly formed (1998) Authority is expanding and enhancing its training and educational activities, directing them towards various populations, especially school children and young adults The main activities of this aspect are including as the following

- Professional instruction within the reserves and the parks,
- Compilation and distribution of pamphlets and booklets, and the publication of a journal,
- Joint projects with schools and other public institutions,
- Holding conferences and courses and offering special classes for teachers,
- Operating training centers and visitors centers,
- Working with young women soldiers who spend their time in military service teaching and instilling values regarding nature, cultural heritage and environment in children, youth and adults,
- Organizing national informative activities such as 'nature conservation week',
- Heightening public awareness regarding the conservation of nature, heritage and environment through articles, interviews and surveys via local and national media,
- Producing television films about nature and heritage in Israel, for national and foreign networks

(Excerpts – updated 2005 - from 'A Profile', The Israel Nature and National Parks Protection Authority, 1998)

Protective Means of INPA's Sites

The INPA's sites enjoy several levels of protection ranging from the state legal level up to the every day's routine doings within the site's confines The protective means which are common to all INPA's sites are detailed below, with an emphasis given on those prevailing in the national parks where the nominated biblical tels are located

The State Laws Level

The areas of the national parks are owned by the State of Israel and are administrated by the Israel Lands Authority The nominated sites are declared national parks – a status which provides them with protection under the National

Parks, Nature Reserves, Heritage and National Sites Law, 1998 As these are antiquities sites too, they are protected by the Antiquities Law, 1978
Thus, the sites of the biblical tels which are located in national parks are protected by the laws of the state of Israel and are included in national, regional or municipal master plans The master plans are detailed in the nomination dossier as well as in the management plan of each of the nominated sites The declaration documents and the sites' plans are presented in the Addenda section of the nomination dossier The main laws pertaining to the nominated sites' status as national parks, partly mentioned above, are*

a) The Planning and Building Law, 1965, Amendment 31 (fourth addition), 1991 – plan for site conservation
b) The Antiquities Law, 1978
c) The Antiquities Authority Law, 1989
d) The National Parks, Nature Reserves, National, and Commemoration Sites Law, 1998

**Complete or summarized versions of these laws are included in the Addenda section of the "The Biblical Tels - Megiddo, Hazor, Beer Sheba" nomination dossier*

Within the framework of the above laws, activities that would effect any change in the character of the site are prohibited Modern additions necessary for the comfort of visitors are installed at the professional discretion of architectural and conservation planners of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority

The above-mentioned laws ensure complete legal and practical protection of the ancient remains within the nominated areas and their buffer zones

The INPA Procedures and Regulations Level

Under the "Parks Authority Law", the INPA is the body that is legally responsible for management of all national parks, their declaration as such, and law enforcement within their confines Therefore, by law, the three nominated sites, Tel Megiddo, Tel Hazor and Tel Beer Sheba, are entirely operated by the INPA The INPA operates these tels as national parks and antiquities sites, according to the relevant laws Most of the areas around these tels are agricultural and rural and pose no threat to the tels

Common Management Forums for All Sites

The national parks of Israel are administrated centrally, allowing the presentation of common objectives and the definition of common values The INPA operates the national parks and the nature reserves under its auspices according to the state laws, as mentioned above, and according to procedures stem from these laws and from the specific professional needs and issues regarding the inventory maintenance and protection as well as the visitors' needs The operating mechanism is manifested, among other things, by the INPA's headquarters and districts organizational structures (see below, at the end of this chapter)

The following forums are counted among the main INPA management bodies

The Planning and Development Forum of the director general of the INPA, which includes professionals and senior administrative staff, approves all significant plans regarding activities in the national park Its decisions are taken after the issue at hand has been presented for consideration by the INPA relevant district's staff The plan presented is prepared by the relevant professionals, among them independently contracted consultants and planners, in coordination with the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) All the professional plans connected to the archaeological excavations, conservation, restoration, conservation maintenance and on-going maintenance are being prepared according to scientific methods and the guidelines of international conventions

The World Heritage Sites/Nominations Management Forum - Nineteen of the sites on Israel's tentative list for nomination, among them Masada and other sites to be nominated in the coming years, are INPA sites The INPA has therefore established an internal forum for the management of World Heritage sites (declared or nominated)

Forum members include directors at INPA headquarters and regions and directors of nature reserves and national parks where the nominated sites are located The forum, headed by the INPA's director general, Elli Amitay, and by the director of the archaeology and heritage department, Dr Tsvika Tsuk, meets once every three months to discuss progress and special treatment for these sites

Common Administrative Mechanisms - INPA regulations

INPA regulations are applying to all the national parks in addition to the state laws and are being implemented in each park in regard to its inventory and conditions

INPA Regulations - List of Safety, Rescue, and Emergency Procedures at INPA Sites

- Up-to-date safety protocols
- Possible emergency situations, areas of responsibility, and required actions in case of emergency
- General preparedness of the site in terms of safety and security
- Directives for regular safety preparedness
- Definition of functions and chain of command in principle in case of emergency
- Instructions for producers of events at the site
- Emergency Protocols Damage and nuisance protocol, Fire protocol, Natural disaster/incident protocol, Visitor evacuation, Visitor search/incident, Reporting, Protocol for calling in outside assistance
- Trail Marking
- Safety in reserves/national parks/learning centers
- Guidelines for determining sites to be permitted for rappelling and cliff-climbing
- Exceptional permission to hike an unmarked trail
- Reporting incidents and activities
- Fire prevention
- Diving
- Guidelines for supervision and enforcement

Level of General Practice at Site

The specific practice operated in each of the nominated biblical tels is fully detailed in the 'management plan – site manual' of the specific national parks where they are located (given below) Partial details are given as well in the nomination dossier of "The Biblical Tels – Megiddo, Hazor, Beer Sheba", including its Addenda section

Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA) Organizational Structure

INPA's Headquarters (Jerusalrm)

INPA Board of Directors
Director General
Deputy Director General
Chief Scientist
Spokesman
Legal Adviser
Department of International and Public Relations
Education Department
Computer Department
Public Relations Department

Science Division
Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology Department
Physical and Environment Department
Scientific Information and GIS Department

Enforcement Division
Claims and Authorization Department
Enforcement Department
Safety and Security Department
Trips Supervision Unit

Planning and Development Division
Sites Development Department
Statutory Department
Open Spaces Department
Environmental Monitoring Unit
Archaeology and Heritage Department

Administration and Finance Division
Finance and Budget Department
Logistics Department
Marketing and Economy Department

Human Resources Division

Manpower Department

Personnel Training

Northern, Central, Southern, Eilat, Judea and Samaria – Districts, Green Patrol

The INPA Northern District Organizational Structure

District Office (Megiddo)

District Director, District Deputy Director, Education and Public Relation, District Ecologist, Regional Planner, Researcher, Enforcer

District Regions

Caesarea, Golan Region, Upper Galilee Region, Carmel Region, Lower Galilee Region

District's National Parks, Nature Reserves and Information / Education Centers

The INPA Central District Organizational Structure

District Office (Afeq)

District Director, District Deputy Director, Visitors, Community, Education and Public Relation, District Ecologist, Regional Planner, Development, Enforcer

District Regions

Judea Hills and Jerusalem Region, Shfela (Highlands) and Coastal Plain Region, Sharon Plain Region

District's National Parks, Nature Reserves and Information / Education Centers

The INPA Southern District Organizational Structure

District Office (Beer Sheva)

District Director, District Director Deputy, District Biologist, Conservation Anchor Person, Site Developer, Regional Planner, Researcher, Education and Public Relation, Maintainer, Coordinator - IDF (the Israeli army)

District Regions

Masada Region, Arava Region, Mount Negev Region, North Negev Region

District's National Parks, Nature Reserves and Information / Education Centers

Biblical Tells - General Background

The Tel, or Tell ("mound" in Hebrew and Arabic respectively) was the dominant landmark in the landscape of the biblical lands and is still a dominant landmark in the archeological landscape of Israel in particular and the entire Levant in general

The Tel represents an accumulation of several settlements – one on top of the other – in one spot, which created an artificial elevated hill Tel Megiddo, Tel Hazor and Tel Beer Sheba are part of the main tels, rising above their surrounding area in the typical appearance of trapezoid profile with steep slopes and flat top

Tels were created because in the Bronze and the Iron Ages people in the Levant tended to build their settlements in advantageous locations, mainly hills (which provided topographical protection) located near springs and dominating arable land When such settlements were destroyed in the course of wars, the ancient people tended to continuously return to them because of their values

Many of the main tels had first been inhabited in Neolithic or Chalcolithic times and were continuously inhabited until the Persian period They consist of large number of settlements, built one on top of the other, as happens to be in the cases of the Tels under discussion that had a long settlement history with continuous activity as the archaeological evidence and the research show

The conditions which brought about the creation of tels changed dramatically in the Hellenistic and Roman periods due to combination of few factors Technological innovations made it possible to construct aqueducts which carried fresh water to long distances and opened the way to settle in places with no immediate spring in their vicinity The rule of imperial powers improved security and enabled people to settle in open areas without natural protection and the development of a much different urban life called for vast spaces, far beyond the limited areas of the mounds As a result of all this, most tels were abandoned after the Persian period

There are about 200 tels in Israel The remains of all famous biblical places are found in tels The tel is therefore the best representative of the biblical epoch and a tel with a sophisticated water system within the ancient city walls is one of the best samples of the biblical city at its prime The monuments, finds and written sources are telling us the story of the ancient cities located in the biblical tels and constitute their values according to our conception and understanding today The major tels in Israel – with their impressive remains – are the cradle in which the world of the Bible was born

Site Manuals

TEL MEGIDDO NATIONAL PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Site Manual

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3.	Cultural Values of Tel	Pp. 22-30
4.	Contemporary Values	Pp. 31-33
5.	Stakeholders	Pp. 34-35
6.	Protective Means of Tel Megiddo	Pp. 36-37
7.	Economic Aspects	P. 38
8.	Manpower	Pp. 39-40
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12.	Visitors' Management	Pp. 51-57
13.	Potential Endangering Factors and Site's Preparedness	Pp. 58-59

(1) The Site's Boundaries Definition

Coordinates Latitude 31^0 40' 56", Longitude 35^0 10' 58"

Site's names Tel Megiddo National Park (in Arabic Tell el-Mutesellim)

Site's location and boundaries Tel Megiddo is located in northern Israel, at the western end of the Jezreel Valley, on road 66 (leading to Haifa), northwest of the Megiddo Junction, southeast of the modern city, Haifa The Tel is also close to road 65 leading to Nazareth, Tiberias and the north of Israel

The site belongs to the Regional Council Megiddo, Sub-District Yizre'el of the Northern District of the Ministry of Interior

Area of site and buffer zone
Area of the property 16 05 ha
Area of the buffer zone 290 85 ha

Note A map with the exact location of the nominated site and its buffer zone marked is enclosed with this paper

(2) Description and Definition of Tel Megiddo

Geographical Background

From the fourth millennium BC through the 7th c BC, Megiddo was one of the mightiest cities in Canaan and Israel and Tel Megiddo is one of the most important city mounds in Israel The mound rises about 40 to 60 m above the surrounding plain and covers an area of about 15 a (60 dunams) This area was enlarged in various periods by a lower city

Megiddo's importance was undoubtedly due to its role as a crossroads on the *Via Maris,* the major international military and trade route of antiquity, connecting Egypt to Syria, Anatolia, and Mesopotamia Controlling a bottleneck where this road – going through Nahal Iron (known in Arabic as Wadi Ara) - emerges from the narrow Aruna. Pass into the fertile Jezreel Valley, the city – situated at the western end of the Jezreel Valley - dominated the international traffic for over 6,000 years In ancient and modern times, epic battles that decided the fate of western Asia took place on this strategic location, astride the most important of the country roads

The area around Megiddo was blessed with all the advantages necessary for a settlement abundant water – two main sources, 'Ein el Kubi at the NE and a spring at the SW - fertile ground in the Jezreel valley (Jezreel in Hebrew meaning 'God saw') and a strategic position

Historical Background

Megiddo is widely regarded as the most important biblical period Tel in Israel, with remains dating from the seventh millennium BC (Pre Pottery Neolithic B period) through to the 5th or 4th c BC (the Persian period) It is also the most excavated Tel in the whole Levant The archaeological mound, created through over 6000 years of almost uninterrupted occupation, constitutes an exceptional archaeological legacy The bases of its stratigraphy, comprised of twenty major strata containing the remains of ca thirty cities, were established by the excavations led by the University of Chicago Oriental Institute It continues to serve as the foundation for the stratigraphy of all archaeological sites in the Levant

Megiddo began to dominate the surrounding countryside in the 4th millennium BC (ca 3500) – at the dawn of urbanization in the Levant In the late 4th, 3rd and 2nd millennia BC Megiddo was one of the most powerful city-states in Canaan When the

Canaanite city-states revolted against Pharaonic attempts at hegemony, it was at Megiddo that they assembled to do battle in the year 1479 BC Pharaoh Thutmose III's decisive victory enabled him to incorporate Canaan as a province in the empire of the New Kingdom Various artifacts discovered in the course of excavations - such as the magnificent ivories showing Aegean, Egyptian Hittite and Canaanite influence, or the fragment of a tablet containing a passage from the Gilgamesh epic - bear evidence of the city's wealth, stateliness and broad cultural contacts throughout the Late Bronze period, until its destruction by the 'Sea People' in the 12th c BC

In the Early Israelite period (Iron Age), Megiddo was a prominent administrative and economic center in the Northern Valleys region In the course of a military campaign meant to renew the Egyptian foothold in Canaan, Pharaoh Shoshenq I (biblical Shishak) took Megiddo, in 925 BC However, the Egyptian ambition was short-lived, for one year later Sheshonq died In the 9th and 8th centuries BC Megiddo was a main center in the powerful Northern Kingdom of Israel ruled by great kings such as Ahab and Jeroboam II The city's prosperity, military might and political importance were ensured by a well-established horse-trade and renowned chariot-training The military value of the horses and chariots of the Israelite Kingdom is amply attested in Assyrian records These were the heydays of Megiddo

In 732 BC, the Assyrian King Tiglath-pileser III took over the region Megiddo became the capital of the Assyrian province of 'Magiddu' When the Assyrians withdrew from this area in the 7th c BC Megiddo and the northern region fell once again under Egyptian rule The latter days of Megiddo, under Babylonian then Persian rules, left but few remains on the Tel The place was finally abandoned in the late 5th c BC, or in the early 4th c B C

The History of Archaeological Research

Megiddo has been excavated three times in the past These three first stages of excavations at Megiddo laid the foundations for the entire discipline of biblical archaeology The fourth expedition has been digging at the site every other year since 1994 The expeditions worked at Megiddo, are

1 1903 – 1905 - The first excavations at the site were conducted by Gottlieb Schumacher on behalf of the German Society for Oriental Research. At the turn of the 20th c , and especially in Germany, the 'Babel und Bibel' controversy, had been sparked off by suggestions that part of the Bible had been borrowed from Egyptian and Babylonian sources All sides were eager

to see excavations of a major biblical site shed new light on the fierce debate Schumacher chose Megiddo, for besides the biblical references, the site was also known from extra-biblical sources dating already to Canaanite times (such as the el-Amarna letters) as an important center

2 1925 – 1939 - Excavations at Megiddo were renewed by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago This large-scale undertaking, financed by John D Rockefeller Jr and directed successively by Clarence Fisher, P L O Guy and Gordon Loud, went on until the outbreak of World War II in 1939 These thorough excavations, made possible by year-round field work, revealed twenty major levels of occupation, covering the entire history of the site

3 1960, 1961, 1966, 1967, 1971 - Yigael Yadin undertook a few short seasons of excavation at Megiddo on behalf of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

4 1992/1994 and on, every second year - The 'Megiddo Expedition', co-directed by David Ussishkin and Israel Finkelstein from Tel Aviv University and Baruch Halpern from Pennsylvania State University, within a vast consortium of American and European academic institutions, chose Megiddo for putting new hypotheses to the test of fierce scholarly dispute regarding Megiddo and its stratigraphy, which are at the core of the two most relevant debates in Biblical and Ancient Near East archaeology today
(a) The debate about the absolute chronology of the Iron Age strata,
(b) The debate concerning the extent and grandeur of the 'United Monarchy' of King Solomon, versus the might and prestige of the Omride dynasty of the Israelite Kingdom, at the time of the so-called 'Divided Monarchy'

Archaeological Excavations Reports located in Tel Aviv University, "The Megiddo Expedition" Laboratory room and the Library of the Institute of Archaeology, Ramat Aviv, 69978, and at all other academic libraries in Israel

The Main Components of Tel Megiddo - Description

The description below only concerns the remains visible today It will follow the visitor's path from the entrance of the National Park through to the exit from the Water Tunnel

Tel Megiddo's landscape is very distinctive Any visitor will remember the tall palm-trees profiled on the skyline, the rounded 'hills' constituted by the dumps of archaeological debris on its SE and NW sides, and the deep section cutting through

the 'bowels' of the mound The top of Tel Megiddo, roughly delimited by the line of the ancient fortifications, measures ca 300 X 230 m and covers an area of ca 5 5 ha

Visitors enter the National Park of Megiddo through the entrance complex (cf chapter 12) and end the regular tour at the water system where they exit the site through it

Throughout antiquity, the successive cities of Megiddo were reached from a gate located on the north of the city's layout, where the approach was easier The remnants of **five successive city-gates** (from the Middle Bronze, the Late Bronze, the late Iron I - early Iron II, the Iron II and the Assyrian periods) have been excavated by the various expeditions They were built one on top of the other or in the very close vicinity of one another Near the Late Bronze gate stood the remains of vast and lavish palaces (end of Middle Bronze and Late Bronze periods), almost completely removed during the University of Chicago excavations in order to reach lower levels Today, visitors enter the city through the impressive four-chambered Late Bronze city-gate, partly reconstructed in 1993, and reach the so-called 'Solomonic' six-chambered gate of the Iron II period Only the eastern half of the inner gatehouse is preserved today The western half was removed during the University of Chicago excavations, in order to reveal earlier phases of construction On top of the 'Solomonic' gate, partly filled, stand the remains of the two-chambered gate of the Assyrian city

Going eastwards, one passes the well-preserved remains of a **large Late Bronze administrative edifice** and reaches the area of the Iron II **horse-stables and 'Solomonic' palace 6000** Of the vast complex of horse-stables situated at this north-eastern part of the mound, only a few units remain Most of them were removed in the course of the University of Chicago excavations During the renewed excavations of this area by the 'Megiddo Expedition', one almost complete unit of stables was exposed, including its living levels Each unit of stable was divided into three parallel areas by two rows of alternating pillars and troughs The central area was apparently an open-air passage and working area, while the two aisles served as stalls Of the rectangular Palace 6000, situated below these stables, mostly the monumental foundations made of beautiful ashlar blocks and the northeastern wing living floor remain The ceremonial palace was probably entered through a porticoed entrance and a large central hall Beyond the palace and horse-stables, at the

northeastern edge of the Tel, stand the vestiges of the Iron II city-wall destroyed by Tiglath-pileser III, King of Assyria, who captured the city in 732 BC and restored in the Assyrian period

From the lookouts at the eastern edge of the Tel one can contemplate the landscape of the Jezreel Valley, and identify mounts, sites, or cities mentioned in the Bible the Carmel ridge, Mt Gilboa, Mt Tabor, Nazareth, etc From the northern lookout, one also has a plunging view over the **'Sacred Compound'**, where the University of Chicago and the new expedition dug the remains of no less than five temples, built from the fourth to the second millennia Bordering the area of the 'Sacred Compound', on the south, rises a 15 m deep archaeological section, displaying the complete stratigraphy of Megiddo down to bedrock By its size, archaeological and methodological value, this section is unparalleled in the whole Levant It has become a landmark of the site, providing a unique glimpse at the history of the Tel, throughout its 6 millennia of occupation

Returning toward the center of the mound, one notices the long and narrow trench dug by Schumacher across the whole site, from north to south Near the center of the mound, Schumacher's trench exposed the remains of several elaborate buildings, which he and scholars after him, described as Middle Bronze palaces - the ***Mittelburg*** and the ***Nordburg*** Among the areas excavated by Schumacher is **the corbelled tomb,** today closed to the public for reasons of safety and conservation Its conservation will allow visitors inside the tomb The 'Megiddo Expedition', which checked the *Nordburg* and the tomb, has re-dated them to the Late Bronze period On the western side of the path and extending throughout the center, south-eastern and south-western areas of the mound, one can identify the remains of residential houses mostly belonging to the **Assyrian city** and **Persian town**, and organized along an **orthogonal layout** Reaching the southeastern edge of the mound, one passes more remains of the mud brick-built Iron II city-wall Nearby, are found the vestiges of **Palace 338,** built at the highest spot of the city Cultic objects uncovered in one room of the palace - two steles, altars, offering stands, model shrines, etc – indicate that at least part of it served as a shrine, and attest to the continuity of local Canaanite rituals, as late as the 8th **c** BC An unusual structure (fortress? called ***Tempelburg*** by Schumacher) was built around the carefully buried shrine, in the 7th c BC Its remains were removed during the University of Chicago's excavations

Two rounded mounds, formed by the debris removed in the course of the University of Chicago's extensive excavations, face the eastern edge of the Tel At

the edge of the Tel and on the slope, a few metallic structures belonging to the dirt-removing apparatus demonstrate the scope of the University of Chicago's enterprise Under the shed of the southern lookout, over-viewing the valley, large ashlar stones bearing 'mason marks' are displayed They belong to Iron II Palace 1723

Returning westward, through the remains of recently excavated **Iron II domestic areas**, the path leads to the compound of Megiddo's largest **Iron II palace (1723),** almost entirely removed during the University of Chicago's excavations The ashlar-built palace, square in plan, stood at the rear of a spacious lime-paved courtyard, entered through a monumental gate Today, only part of the gate and of the enclosure wall are still visible At the southeastern end of the enclosure, some massive walls of Schumacher's **Southern *Burgtor*** can still be identified near the slope of the mound Right in front of the monumental gate of Palace 1723 stands a huge public **grain silo,** which either served to stock up grain and hay for the horses bred and trained in the Iron II city's stables, or to store extra supply of grain from the agricultural hinterland

Continuing westward, one reaches the large compound of the **southern stables,** with its large chariot-training courtyard and central **water reservoir** North of the southern stables lie the intricate remains of **Assyrian and Persian residential quarters**, and the large compounds of the two **Assyrian palaces.** The smaller palace was removed by the University of Chicago, but the foundations and clear layout of the more majestic one are still visible and were checked anew by the current 'Megiddo Expedition' Finally, at the western edge of the Tel one reaches the entrance of the **large water-system**, which, in the late Iron II period, replaced the earlier **'gallery'** that led to the water spring situated beyond the city wall

For exiting the site, visitors can chose between two possibilities either go through the water tunnel, descending the stairs built around the shaft, following the long tunnel to the spring and exit, or return towards the city-gates Choosing the former, they will be able to observe the remains of the Middle Bronze period fortifications along the northern slopes of the Tel, choosing the latter, they will observe the remnants of the **last city-gate,** belonging to the Assyrian period, on top of the so-called 'Solomonic' gate

(3) Cultural Values of Tel Megiddo

The most important values of Tel Megiddo are presented below, yet, the contents of the general background regarding the Biblical Tels (cf p 13), valid to Tel Megiddo as well and should be kept in mind

Scientific- archaeological Value

As civilizations came and went, succeeding settlements at ancient Megiddo were built one on top of the other, each leaving remains of unique archaeological and architectural value

Monumental temples and elaborate burial chambers, impressive fortifications and lavish palaces, extended stable complexes and remarkably-engineered water systems attest of Megiddo's might in ancient times Moreover, several of Megiddo's remains are unique in their kind The 'Sacred Compound' encompassing at least five Canaanite temples (Early Bronze I - Iron I periods), the earliest of which is apparently unique in the whole Levant for its monumentality and for the thousands of sacrificial animal bones found in and around it, a corbelled tomb (Late Bronze II), whose exceptional size and workmanship suggest that it was built for a member of Megiddo's royal family, is unique in its kind in Israel and in fact in the Levant The vast palaces, sophisticated water system and fortifications of Israelite Megiddo are among the most elaborate Iron Age architectural remains unearthed in the Levant The excavations also revealed two large Iron II horse-stables complexes which are outstanding in the entire ancient Near East, both by their scope and elaboration No less valuable are the Assyrian remains Megiddo's Assyrian palaces are the largest and most sophisticated Assyrian provincial palaces built anywhere outside Assyria The orthogonal layout usually known as 'hippodamian' and attributed to the 5th c BC Greek town planner Hippodamus of Miletus, appears in fact for the first time in Western Asia in the 7th c BC Assyrian city of Megiddo

Scientific- historical Value

As for its historical value, it should be pointed that Megiddo is the only site in Israel to be mentioned by every great power in the ancient Near East Egypt, Hatti and Assyria Megiddo's name is connected with many historical events, some of them decisive turning points in the fate of the ancient Near East It was here that the Egyptians took their first steps toward empire-building when Pharaoh Thutmose III, in the 15th century BC, conquered Canaan, it was from here also that Assyria staged its

deportation of the people of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and it was here that Josiah—the last righteous king of the lineage of David—was killed by Pharaoh Necho II, opening the way for centuries of messianic yearning

After centuries of oblivion, during World War I, British Field-Marshal Edmund Allenby won decisive battles over the Turks in the vicinity of Megiddo, using tactics similar to those of Thutmose III over 3000 years earlier His victory contributed to the outcome of the war and Field-Marshal Allenby, was awarded the honor of adding the title "Viscount of Megiddo" to his cognomen

Scientific Value – Study and Research

Due to the unique continuity of its occupation and the scope of its excavations, Tel Megiddo is considered the 'cradle' of biblical archaeology and the 'laboratory' of modern research methods The excavations at Megiddo laid as mentioned, the foundations for the entire discipline of biblical archaeology

Four archaeological expeditions have dug at Tel Megiddo during the twentieth century, some of them from abroad (cf p 17), The history of Tel Megiddo research reflects the development and historical-geographical research in Israel When the first excavations were carried out, the science of archaeology and its tools were not as developed as today Therefore, archaeologists returned to Megiddo in later generations, among other reasons, to check the conclusions of their predecessors Using more sophisticated tools and greater information, they found that some of the conclusions of the first excavators had been mistaken A great deal of new research has therefore been published

In this context, seeking to clarify the complicated stratigraphic problems related to the Iron Age remains at the site, Yigael Yadin undertook, in the 1960s and early 1970s, a few short seasons of excavation at Megiddo, Yadin's 1966 excavation sought to check Lamon's 1935 conclusions regarding the water system and it's dating

The current excavations implemented by the Tel Aviv led 'Megiddo Expedition' are intended to test Megiddo and its stratigraphy in the light of the mentioned dispute It is done by surgically precise digging and soundings - reinvestigating previously excavated remains and by opening new areas and are supported by state of the art multi-disciplinary research Another achievement of the 'Megiddo Expedition' is the Survey of the Megiddo Countryside, directed by Israel Finkelstein (TAU), Baruch Halpern (Pennsylvania State University), and Michael Niemann (Rostock University)

The goal of this survey is to shed light on the economy, society and demography of Megiddo's hinterland in ancient times, in relation to the information gathered from the mound The systematic investigation of the Jezreel Valley and gathering of all available data helps to draw a comprehensive picture of the settlement history of the region The designated area covers the Valley itself and the hills surrounding it, to a distance of ca 3 km from the edge of the Valley (approximately 450 sq km) It includes some of the most important Bronze and Iron Age sites in the country Megiddo, Tel Shimron, Jezreel, Yoqne'am and Ta'anach

The great richness that Tel Megiddo offers is a never-ending source of archaeological research in Israel

Architectural Value

Megiddo's foremost and most specific 'architectural value' could be designated as **"The Serial Effect".** Excavations have exposed complete sets of monuments representing all main historical periods present at the site a 'series' of temples (from the EB to the Iron I periods), a 'series' of palaces (from the MB, LB, Iron II and Assyrian periods), and a 'series' of city-gates and fortifications (from the MB, LB, Iron II and Assyrian periods) In a way, the evolution of the water system, starting in the same spot of the natural spring and developing to a complicated and sophisticated water system may indicate to the same phenomenon In this respect, Megiddo constitutes a sort of show-case for the architectural history of Biblical Lands, where one can study the evolution of building traditions and general planning for each and every type of monument

The large water system was an outstanding element, a monument in its own right in the city of Megiddo Although much of the system is subterranean and therefore not visible in a plan of the city, the entrance shaft creates an impressive presence in the city It is an important element in daily use that cannot be ignored

The following variety of parameters fulfilled by Megiddo's monuments, the intact water system in particular, demonstrates its preeminence in terms of architectural value

1 - Quality of workmanship: Palace 6000 is one of the best preserved examples of monumental ashlar masonry in Israel, Palace 1723 yielded some of the largest proto-

aeolic[1] capitals ever found in the country, as well as massive ashlar blocks with mason marks (the only other example being the blocks found at the Omride palace of Samaria), The water system that was in use still many generations after its construction and may even be put in use at present time

2 - Monumentality: the vast stone-built multi-chambered city-gates, the dimensions of the recently discovered EB I temple - unprecedented in the entire Levant, the Late Bronze and Israelite palaces, the elaborate and technologically advanced water system

3 - Magnitude: the 'Sacred compound' covers a large part of the eastern side of the mound, the Northern and Southern horse-stable complexes, which comprised altogether 17 units and could accommodate up to 450 horses at one time, extended over a large part of the Stratum IV city, The water system is large, and the amount of quarrying involved attests to the great magnitude of the project, which could only be organized and implemented by a central authority

4 - Novelty: the use of ashlar masonry for construction appeared in Canaan for the first time in Megiddo's Late Bronze city-gate and temple, the use of corbelling domes appears in Canaan for the first time in Megiddo's Royal tomb, the orthogonal, so-called 'hippodamian' – layout appeared for the first time in the Levant in Megiddo's Assyrian city

5 - Technical prowess: is clearly manifest in two major construction projects the horse-stables and the water system (cf Technological value, below) In the case of the water system, technical prowess was augmented by highly sophisticated engineering skills, which included planning, calculating gradients and forces, water volumes and flows, quarrying in a slanted direction, and building huge retaining walls

6 - Cultural influences: the Egyptian influence displayed in the Late Bronze palace of Stratum VII A, the Aegean-type Royal tomb, the Israelite (Iron II) palaces 6000 and 1723 influenced by the plan of the *bit-hilani*[2] palaces from Northern Syria The water system seems to reflect local Israelite capability

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[1] Type of stone capital ornamented with a central triangle separating two rising volutes From the late 10th and 9th c BC onwards they were an important element of ashlar construction They are found at Megiddo, Hazor, Dan, Samaria, Ramat Rahel and Jerusalem

[2] A distinctive type of Iron Age palace, consisting of a monumental entrance and rows of small chambers surrounding a large reception hall, which appeared for the first time in Northern Syria in the early 9th c BC

Technological Value

Tel Megiddo's horse-stables and water system highlight the site's technological value

A - The Horse-Stables

Remains of stables were found in other parts of the ancient Near East such as Bastam in Urartu, or in the Nile Delta Nowhere do they constitute a main feature of the site, whereas at Megiddo horse-stables occupy a large portion of the Stratum IV city. A recent study of their building techniques and characteristics shows that they fit all the basic requirements of horse management, from breeding to training *The troughs*, *The pillar dividers between the troughs* (used both to support the roof and block the sight of the neighboring horse while feeding), *The cobbled stone paving of the stall area* (Paving the stall area with stones keeps the horses from slipping and helps harden their hooves and keep them trimmed and clean), *The tethering holes*, *The 55 m square training courtyard* at the southern complex (plastered with a smooth lime coating and providing a flat surface, ideally suited for chariot-training The plastered surface prevented the area from becoming rutted by the chariot wheels and ground into dust by sharp hooves Among the other features of the courtyard were extensive mud-brick retaining walls and drainage systems to facilitate water drainage), *Proper ventilation* (essential for preventing the stables from becoming a hotbed of bacteria which in turn could decimate the horse population Ventilation was created by leaving all or part of the center aisle unroofed)

While the southern complex was characterized by a large courtyard, the northern one seemed to have had only a small paddock This may point to a difference in their use the southern for training - the northern for breeding The ancient architects gave considerable thought to stable design, including the safety of the horses and the stables' personnel The presence of the nearby grain silo and water system allowed the stabling of up to 450 horses at one time at the site Horse-breeding and training were apparently the major economic activity of the Stratum IV city

B - The Water System

During the Iron II period, water systems reached their zenith in terms of numbers and variety Technical and technological progress allowed engineers to provide each site with a water system adapted to its specific terrain and geological characteristics

The Iron Age water system is a complete example of a water system at its best It was built with extraordinary professional skill, demonstrating engineering know-how, and geological and hydrological knowledge It is therefore a sophisticated and advanced technological complex Its well-preserved remains also show the quality of the quarrying and the construction

The Mesha Stele, discovered in Dibbon in Jordan and now housed in the Louvre, may also attest to the building prowess of the ancient Israelites, as well as to a sort of (however coerced) interchange of human values in Mesha's time The inscription on the stele dates to the ninth century BC In it, Mesha, king of Moab, tells how he freed himself from the yoke of the king of Israel (Omri is mentioned), describing his victories, the captives that he took, and the water system that he quarried using "prisoners of Israel" These words attest to the fact that the Israelites had made a name for themselves as knowledgeable and skillful builders of water systems It is likely that Mesha took advantage of the knowledge and technology found mainly in the kingdom of Israel Thus, the water installations technology developed in Israel during the biblical periods appears to have been a model for other countries

The problem of supplying water to large cities, a serious issue even in times of peace, could become acute in times of siege, especially when, as at Megiddo, the main water source was located beyond the fortifications The evolution of Megiddo's water economy is attested by the archaeological excavations it can be traced from the simplest use of the spring - located at the SW foot of the mound - to the construction of a sophisticated water-system aiming at ensuring access from within the city The water source may have been in use as far back as the Late Bronze period Then, the city's inhabitants simply walked to it from the city to draw water As time passed, the output of the spring decreased The solutions envisaged by the city's inhabitants to reach the spring, situated 35 m below the surface, follow three main stages

1 – A well is hewn in a cave, reached through a hidden stone-built slanted 'gallery', roofed and concealed, passing beneath the city-wall, making the spring accessible only from within the city

2 - A vertical square shaft is dug inside the city from the surface of the mound to the cave's level The bottom of the shaft is then connected to the cave by a tunnel The shaft ends in an inclined passage with rock-cut stairs, from which a horizontal tunnel

cut in the rock leads to the spring The outside entrance to the cave is then sealed off by a wall, whose outer face is concealed by earth filling, while the 'gallery' is blocked 3 – The tunnel is extended eastwards, its gradient reversed, converting it into an aqueduct, carrying the water from the spring to the bottom of the vertical shaft The rock-cut steps in the inclined passage are quarried away Henceforth, water could be drawn from within the city, through the shaft, using ropes and buckets In a late stage, masonry steps may have been built in the inclined passage, once again providing access to the tunnel

Megiddo's water system is one of the most impressive in the ancient world The whole monumental enterprise required not only technical know-how, but also the capacity to invest large financial resources, to deploy manpower and to coordinate general planning Its great technological innovation, the hewing of the 80 m long tunnel, represented the apex of technology of the period

Spiritual Value

Various facets featuring Tel Megiddo are to be found behind the title of 'spiritual value', and are mostly derived from Megiddo's connection to the Bible and to the Old Testament These features, creating the spiritual value of Tel Megiddo, belong to a great extent to the domains of Jewish and Christian religions and faiths as detailed below and they also grant the site its symbolic significance in western civilization

The three great monotheistic religions are based on the Bible, or inspired by it The Bible is the Jewish people's holiest book and as The Old Testament, an important part of the Christian Scriptures It is also deemed a fundamental source in Islam, since the Koran regards the prophet Mohammad, as the last of the prophets after Moses and Jesus The broad spectrum of the Bible's contents – history, beliefs, thought, ethics and moral values, makes it pertinent to believers and non observant alike, as well as a highly important instrument of research

The biblical mounds are located in the Holy Land, and form the background for the events described in the Bible They also complement the biblical narrative and add to it the visual and material aspect, and in doing so contribute to our perception of little understood events they permit us a three-dimensional experience of the region in which these events had taken place, the space in which the ways of life, spirituality and values characteristic to the world of the Bible, had evolved The obvious

connection between the Bible – that all-important Holy Writ - and the Biblical Tels grant these tells with a special spiritual value

Beyond its crucial significance as an historical and archaeological site, Tel Megiddo represents a cornerstone in the establishment of the Judeo-Christian civilization It has a central place in the biblical narrative (from the Conquest of the Land through the periods of the United and the Divided Monarchy and to the Assyrian domination), it has a symbolic value in the formation of eschatological and messianic beliefs, and it is one of the most impressive archaeological tells in the Levant

Megiddo is a principal icon in western tradition It is mentioned many times in the Bible, in relation to important figures such as Joshua, King Solomon and King Josiah, and is the place of Armageddon of the Book of Revelations

Megiddo was remembered both as the site of crucial battles, and as the place where the Judahite King Josiah was murdered by Pharaoh Necho As such, the site of Megiddo became directly linked to the development of two main concepts in the Jewish and Christian faith the Eschatological beliefs and the Messianic Restoration The memory of the murder of the last 'Righteous' Judahite King, Josiah, the great Reformer of the monotheistic faith and a scion of the house of David, seemed to have endured, transmitted from one generation to the next, for centuries after the event This memory associated the destiny of the Davidic dynasty with the fate of the kingdom of Judah It fueled the longing for a Restoration, reached through divine intervention Unlike what happened hic et nunc - that is the murder of the Righteous king and the end of territorial independence - at the End of Days the forces of Good, represented by the Rise of a king of the Davidic dynasty, will defeat the forces of Evil and restore past grandeur and independence, in an ultimate demonstration of transcendental Justice

All these expectations, fueled by the terrible trauma of the Exile, appear already in the oracles of the prophet Zechariah (Zech 12 and 13) This text, dating to sometime in the late Persian or the Hellenistic era, evokes the restoration of Davidic Jerusalem In it YAHWEH promises to gather to Jerusalem the hosts of "all the nations of the earth" (Zech 12, 3) The themes, metaphors and allegories used by Zechariah are widely considered as the precursor of St John's visions in Revelations 16, especially those concerning Armageddon (a Greek corruption of the name Har-Megiddo = the Mound of Megiddo) in Revelations 16, 16

At another level, the text of Zechariah also links Megiddo to the idea of Messianic Restoration through the triumph of the Monotheistic idea "The mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rim'mon in the plain of Megiddo The land shall mourn, each family by itself, the family of the house of David by itself " (Zech 12 11-12), "And on that day, says the Lord of hosts, I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, so that they shall be remembered no more" (Zech 13, 2) The sole mention of Megiddo, being used here to assign a location to a ritual (the cults of false gods), as opposed to Jerusalem and the Monotheistic cult in its Temple, evokes the idea that the Messianic Restoration, so longed for after the trauma of the Exile, will only be possible through the eradication of pagan beliefs

Today, in many languages, the word 'Armageddon' still suggests the idea of a Terrible Battle announcing the End of Days The recollection of the murder of King Josiah, along with the memories of the great battles fought at Megiddo and Zechariah's words probably constituted the bases for the idea in the Book of Revelations (16 16) that Armageddon (a Greek corruption for Har-Megiddo = Mound of Megiddo) would at the end of days be the site of the last battle between the Forces of Good and the Forces of Evil

(4) Contemporary Values

Material heritage is valued for the connection it provides to the past Those connections and the ways in which they are manifested speak to a multiplicity of values, such as aesthetic, religious, economic, political and so on

Tel Megiddo, an archaeological site that bears material heritage – manifested in cultural built remains and small finds, demonstrates in the modern era some of these important values Among the main nowadays values that may be ascribed to the remains in the Tel, are

The Value of Conservation

"Social groups are embedded in certain places and times and, as a matter of routine, use things (material heritage) to interpret their past and their future In this sense, **conservation is not merely about saving the physical remains of the past; it is about telling something about ourselves to present and future generations** – what is important to us, what we value about our history Conservation provides a benefit to society The physical products and remains of our past serve as an important reminder of who we are, from where we came, and who we want to be In essence, conservation of our cultural heritage provides us with a greater understanding of our identity, of the continuity of humanity, and of our place in the world and in time Cultural heritage conservation has the potential to bring us together as communities, and ultimately to make us better citizens Archaeological sites constitute an important form of cultural heritage They offer, among other things, a window to the distant past that enhance our understanding of human, social, and technological development For professionals, academics, and the public at large, archaeological sites provide valued information and experiences - information and experiences that most of us hope to keep available to future generations as well "

(Excerpt from 'Background paper A Methodological Approach for Conservation Planning', The Getty Conservation Institute, 2000)

The above cited paragraph regarding the value or essence of conservation is well fitting to the state of affairs of Tel Megiddo The value of conservation embraces, as may be understood by this paragraph, other values as historical, research, social, civic ones, sustainability for the future generations, and the like

The Spiritual – Religious Value

Due to the mentioning of Megiddo = Armagaddon as the venue of the last battle between the Forces of Good and the Forces of Evil in the End of the Days, it is a site of interest for Christian pilgrims Pilgrims visit to the site, usually in groups, to see the place of Armageddon of the Book of Revelations They hold ceremonies there including prayers and religious songs

Today, in many languages, the word 'Armageddon' still suggests the idea of a Terrible Battle announcing the End of Days The symbolism of Megiddo-Armageddon has pervaded the circles of popular culture through many web-sites, movies, video-games and even a best-selling novel by James A Mitchener, whose title, 'The Source', says it all

Because of Megiddo's great significance for both Christians and Jews, the site was chosen as the symbolic venue for the historic encounter between Pope Paul VI and Israel's president, Zalman Shazar in 1964 It was the first visit ever of a pope to the Holy Land This visit inspired many other Christian believers to come to this site

The Value of Tourism

Tel Megiddo has well established tourist value The various values involved with the site stimulate different kinds of people to visit the site There are values that appeal to the local population (pupils and students, academicians, hikers and the like) as well to foreign tourists, Christian pilgrims in particular Tel Megiddo appeals specially to multi-disciplined researchers and cultural tourists

In this regard it is worthwhile to mention that the nearby area is rich with various interesting sites that attract, during the whole year and mainly in weekends and holidays, different sectors of visitors, most of them are local Israelis Information and details about these sites, including the region's map, is available in the "Master-plan of development and preservation of National Park Tel Megiddo", October 2003 (in Hebrew) and in guidebooks Among the sites are included heritage sites, local and regional museums, groves with picnic, sports and trails facilities, nature resorts, tourist enterprises and the like

The Value of Education

Tel Megiddo was for more than one hundred years in the core of archaeological excavations, conservation treatment, partial reconstruction and interpretation and presentation efforts These activities, emphasizing the built heritage of the site and

make it easily understood, along with the site's historical background and the spiritual virtues mentioned above – make Tel Megiddo an educational focal point

The value of education applies first of all to the local population in Israel who, by getting acquainted with the different aspects of its past, percepts the importance of the past's heritage to our life today and the importance of its preserving for present and future generations The same may be applied to foreign visitors as well

Guided tours at site - including the ancient remains and the visitors' center, and activities - for children in particular implemented by the Tzippori Information Center of INPA along with the theoretical studies regarding Megiddo in class – altogether create a comprehensive picture of the site Such a picture provides better understanding and increased valuing of the site and its heritage This practice contributes, beyond the informative knowledge, to educating people It makes them being cooperative with the idea of site's preservation and the need of its protection This insight makes people being aware of the same values at other sites too

The Economic Value

Cultural heritage site like Tel Megiddo that has been excavated, conserved and reconstructed and has visitors' facilities, including presentation and interpretation, is also a source of economic benefit Besides of the incomes originate from the visitors, part of which in foreign currency – so important to the state's treasury, the site employs people who live in its locality and earn their living there

Other Values

The values associated with Tel Megiddo stem from its heritage and create a comprehensive framework that has implications on the site's contemporary values which only the main of them had been mentioned There are still other values suffice to mention – the aesthetic / visual / environmental values of the Tel itself and the observed landscape, the biblical landscape of the Jezreel Valley, the Carmel, Tabor and Gilboa mountains, the Arruna Pass and the ancient road nearby All these are reminders of the Tel's biblical history and its unique role in the Christian world of faith

Tel Megiddo is situated in a central location in one of the most beautiful landscapes in Israel between the Jezreel Valley and Menashe Highlands, composed of reach combination of man-planted forests and natural groves, open spaces, cultivated areas, springs and streams The settlements around keep on maintaining their rural character and contribute to the pastoral appearance of the whole region (cf Master-Plan of the Development Program, October 2003 [in Hebrew])

(5) Stakeholders

The stakeholders who may have interest in Tel Megiddo are divided to several categories, as the following

- Governmental ministries and authorities Ministries of Interior, Tourism, Environment, Education, Foreign Affairs, Religious Affairs and Agriculture, Israel Nature and Parks Authority, Israel Antiquities Authority, Israel Lands Authority
- Regional / Municipal establishments Megiddo Regional Council, Sub-District Yizre'el of the Ministry of Interior Northern District, inhabitants and settlements nearby (kibbutz Megiddo, adjacent to Tel Megiddo, in particular)
- State and public establishments JNF (Jewish National Fund) – The JNF for instance, initiates, in cooperation with the Megiddo Regional Council, a move of declaring the Menashe Highlands as a biosphere reserve under the auspices of UNESCO in order to preserve the special nature of the region ; Society for the protection of nature in Israel
- Countrywide tourism industry (tours, guides, accommodation) Israel Tourism & Travel Agents Association, Israeli Tourism Associations (Union of Local Authorities in Israel) , Israel Tour Guides Association, Israel Hotel Association, Kibbutz Hotels Chain, Israel Youth Hostels Association, Israel Travel News

  Valleys Tourist Board (Tel Megiddo's area is part of this Board which markets the entrepreneur-economic activity of the settlements of the area Details are available in the web site www emekyizrael org il),
- Tourism and economic enterprises by private, usually local-regional entrepreneurs and land owners Among these are included resort and heritage sites, regional museums, sports and navigation clubs, amusement parks and the like and rural accommodation guest houses, guest rooms known as 'zimmers' (including BB in kibbutz Megiddo), restaurants, coffee-houses, art galleries etc [details are available in every tourist information center and also in the "Master-plan of development and preservation of National Park Tel Megiddo", October 2003 (in Hebrew)]
- Visitors – local Israelis, overseas tourists, pilgrims in particular

- Academicians and researchers including students, especially in the fields of archaeology, history, bible, art, biology, botany, architecture, conservation, ecology and environment
- Worldwide Jewish organizations, like the "Partnership 2000" program - in Hebrew 'Shutafut 2000' - of the Jewish Agency for Israel / United Jewish Communities / Keren Ha Yesod – United Israel Appeal / The Israel Department Within this framework the Yokneam Megiddo region in Israel was adopted by the Atlanta, St Louis 'Diaspora Community', look at www partner org il As a result the "unit for regional development of Yokneam – Megiddo" was founded and it assists in planning, know-how and finance recruitment to business and enterprises in the fields of tourism and industry
- International organizations UNESCO / world heritage center, ICOMOS, IUCN and the like

(6) Protective Means of Tel Megiddo

Tel Megiddo national park enjoys several levels of protection, those of the state legislation and the INPA's regulations are detailed above in the "INPA - General Background" section of this paper The protective means of the site's routine practice, especially within the site's confines, are detailed below

The State Laws Level

Megiddo Antiquities National Park was declared a national park on January 27, 1966 in Regulations Book 1830 The 18 6-hectare national park is subject to national and regional master plans

Tel Megiddo is covered by the following Ministry of Interior plans

- National Master plan 8 (*TAMA* 8) – Covering nature reserves, national parks, and landscape reserves
- National Master plan 31 (*TAMA* 31) – Designated uses of all areas, including nature reserves, national parks, and landscape reserves
- Regional Master plan 2/9 *(TAMAM* 2) – The master plan covering designated land use in the northern region including nature reserves, national parks, and landscape reserves

Note The region of Tel Megiddo is being related to in other national master plans like, for example, no 22 (forest and foresting) or 12 (tourism) and others The other master plans are not detailed here as they are not referring directly to Tel Megiddo

Site's Plans

Plans regarding the status of Megiddo Antiquities National Park are enclosed with the Addenda section of the nomination dossier, and are as follows

- A copy which contains all the details regarding the Minister of the Interior's declaration of Tel Megiddo as a national park, that was published in regulations digest 1830 dated January 27, 1966
- Plans of the "town planning scheme" no 645/c for the Megiddo National Park
  1 The detailed town planning scheme, Tel Megiddo is plot no 20278
  2 The town planning scheme confines within the surrounding area

Level of General Practice at Site

Within the routine practice of Tel Megiddo's staff the INPA procedures and regulations are being kept thoroughly The entire site is being checked regularly, at least once a day by the site's staff Visitors in the site are usually accompanied by one of the staff members The reasons for the checks are threefold

- Looking after the site (water faucets, first aid problems, cleaning the paths and the signs, etc),
- General security and safety,
- Conservation

The staff checks the site as a whole, and the archaeological monuments in particular. The checks are especially thorough on rainy days or when floods occur, since these may damage the site and bring about collapses If such a thing happens, the staff takes the necessary steps to correct the damage or to stabilize the loose part

Signs on the site guide the public as to appropriate behavior and site personnel draw visitors' attention to the signs and politely advise them to change their behavior (i e – not to climb on walls)

Within the operational framework of the Megiddo Antiquities national park, on-going monitoring and maintenance work is carried out at the whole site on a regular basis (cf chapter 9) The Iron Age water system is gated, with locks at the entrance and exit and a routine procedure is being practiced there The system is checked at least twice a day by site personnel, at opening and closing time, Lighting is checked on morning rounds, and turned off with the closing of the site

Site operation manual dossier - Megiddo Antiquities National Park has a Hebrew language operations manual, being updated from time to time and located in the national park's offices, Mobile Post Megiddo Region 19230, and at the Northern District headquarters located in the same complex and address

The site manual contains (*inter alia*) details of the park – description, statutory details and map, building plans, reports on annual visitor statistics, the operating hours, the staff and its tasks, vegetation and gardening, safety, fire fighting means, equipment and storage first aid, tours and marketing, signage, site presentation, museum, business agreements with site's commercial franchisee, samples of forms In the course of the changes generated by the implementation of the new development plan, the manual dossier will be updated accordingly

(7) Economic Aspects

Sources and Levels of Finance The INPA finances the on-going operation and maintenance of its sites, including conservation maintenance (such as replacing the steps, painting the railings, landscaping, spraying, cleaning, etc) and emergency conservation work, regardless of the revenues from the site INPA budget per annum of Tel Megiddo including staff salaries, maintenance and operational expenses is about $105,000 In addition, the INPA plans, markets and administrates all the parks through a centralized management

The income sources of Tel Megiddo, besides the INPA financing, are the visitors' entrance fee and the rental paid by the shop and the restaurant which serves also as parties' reception place at evenings and nights (regarding the operating of parties' reception place see also in chapter 12 of this dossier)

Tel Megiddo was profitable till the year of 2000, when the Intifada broke out and the place's profits are subjected since then to fluctuations caused by the general security condition in Israel and not always the revenues cover the expenses

The detailed figures regarding the income and expenses data are available at the offices of Tel Megiddo national Park and INPA northern district and INPA head office

The INPA budgets do not include special projects and excavations, which are budgeted separately. Other operations are financed by organizations or institutions that are interested in this or another activity after meeting all the demands and having all the needed authorizations

Professional staff that is not part of park personnel carries out the professional work, archaeological excavation, conservation, and reconstruction Financing for the archaeological excavations is provided by Tel Aviv University, universities from Europe and the US, and private donors

A program for the development of the Tel, with a cost estimate of about $10 million, has been submitted ("Master-plan of development and preservation of National Park Tel Megiddo", October 2003 [in Hebrew]) This program, to be mainly financed by the Israel Government Tourist Corporation, is planned to be implemented in several stages over the next years However, due to lack of finance, the program has not been yet implemented (except of new signage)

(8) Manpower

Tel Megiddo's routine operation is executed by the site's regular staff and by professionals who come from time to time to carry out certain defined works in a definite time – as detailed below

At the same time, the site's operation is also guided, on the one hand, and supervised, on the other hand, by the managing and professional levels of the INPA (cf chapter 6), including the people on duty in the INPA northern district

Site's staff

The site maintains a staff of three - the site director, the cashier, and a cleaner (as a matter of fact, there are 3 5 jobs at the site's strength 1- director, 1 5 cashier, 1 – general maintenance worker) In actual fact, all staff carries out all functions as needed Another employee, a maintenance worker, was laid off as a result of cutbacks

In addition, ten people are employed on the site, in maintenance work as cleaning and gardening, as part of a back-to-work welfare program They work for 8 months, are then laid off, and are rehired to maintain their status as temporary employees During excavations, another 30 to 60 people are employed through a back-to-work welfare program

The site director, Mr Ahmed Agbariyyeh, has held his present position for about five years, before which he was site cashier Employed at the site since 1975, he acquired his skills on the job He did not attend the course for site directors, given by the Israel National Parks Authority in 1995, as he was not in his present position at that time

The other permanent and temporary members of staff at the site are non-professionals Site personnel carry out maintenance at the site When a serious problem arises, an outside engineer or other professional is called in Professionals unconnected with the permanent site staff carry out archaeological excavations and conservation

The director of the site is Mr Ahmed Agbariyyeh The address of the site is Megiddo Antiquities National Park, Rural Post Megiddo, 19230 Telephone

972 -4-6522167 The home address of the site director is POB 172, Kfar Zalfa Home telephone 972-4-6522273, mobile phone 972-57-7762098

The INPA northern district offices are located at the entrance complex of Tel Megiddo, in the same compound of the national park's offices The northern district head office employs about 20 people, who are available to assist the park's staff whenever necessary At high seasons or at time of need workers of INPA's manpower are being 'drafted' as well to assist the park's staff

Evaluation published within "The master plan for development and preservation of Tel Megiddo national park" concludes that the small annual budget, the small number of staff members and their skills - are not sufficient for satisfying fulfillment of the site's operation and its complicated needs for the long run

Professional staff

The 'Megiddo Expedition' comprising archaeologists from Tel Aviv University and a Consortium of American and European universities, carry out archaeological excavations

As mentioned above, within the framework of the present excavations taking place at Tel Megiddo every other year since 1994, conservation is carried out during excavation A professional conservator, Mr Kimy Maman, whose services were engaged by the INPA, is in charge of conservation The INPA has also provided the conservator with 2-3 workers from a back-to-work welfare program The conservator operates through the Development Department's director at the INPA headquarters, architect Zeev Margalit, who has taken a conservators' course in Italy The conservator works at the site are carried out according to international conventions

A senior conservation planning architect, Daniel Abuhatsera, who is well familiar with the international conventions in this field, is engaged by the Development Program for the site Another senior conservation planning architect, Ilan Kedar, is engaged by the INPA Planning and Development Division, especially for the planning of disabled people accessibility into the ancient water system The last mentioned project is implemented according to guidelines of the National Insurance Institute experts' consultancy and engineers skilled in this field

(9) State of Conservation

Tel Megiddo, one of the first National Parks to be established in Israel, is visited every year by a large number of visitors, both Israeli and foreign The various remains suffer from almost one century-long exposure The INPA personnel check the site on a daily basis and fixes minor damages due to climatic conditions Yet, no large-scale conservation work has been done at the site The most sensitive issues are the conservation of the deep archaeological sections, and the stabilization of the soil in 'holes' created by the removal of ancient structures during the University of Chicago excavations

At the initiative of the INPA and the Israel Government Tourist Corporation (GTC) a program was recently adopted for the development, heritage presentation and management of the Tel Megiddo National Park (cf chapter 11) This plan ascribes a large place to a comprehensive conservation program, including survey (which had already been implemented, see below in this chapter), documentation, planning and implementation

Main Interventions

In the past, a number of *ad hoc* interventions – conservation, reconstruction and architectural and or safety rendering - were carried out by the National Parks Authority Among them, were as the following

- The strengthening of the Iron Age (Israelite) inner city-gate in order to prevent its collapse
- The restoration of the upper edge of the grain silo
- Several actions were made at the Iron Age water system, at the entrance of the water system, the surrounding retaining walls were strengthened with reinforced concrete to prevent their collapse for conservation and safety purposes In the 1950's and 1960's, a cement roof was built over the entrance to the water system and concrete steps were constructed on top of the original stairs of the shaft, in order to allow passage and at the same time protect the authentic steps For the safety of visitors, metal railings were set around the opening of the shaft Inside the water system, a wooden walkway was built, including railings and lighting, so that passage through the tunnel would be safe and visually impressive Metal steps were constructed at the exit near the source to lead visitors up and out These were partly replaced or

improved in 1996, when lighting in the tunnel was changed to a more pleasant type (lighting was installed beneath the hand railings instead of the previous ceiling lighting), the steps descending to the tunnel were improved, the whole iron safety railing was replaced with an aluminum one, and the wooden bridge was replaced with a new one

A project of accessibility for disabled people into the water system is currently under work (cf chapter 12) which makes the water system being under even more thorough inspection

Other interventions were carried out in later phases, the main ones amongst, were

- Conservation and reconstruction of the Late Bronze Age (Canaanite) Gate - In 1993, the TAU-led Megiddo Expedition helped the INPA to prepare the LB Gate, excavated by the University of Chicago team in the 1930s, as the main entrance to the site To that end, the Expedition had finished excavating the original floor of the gate and then supervised restoration work Today, most visitors enter the site through this monumental and exceptionally well-preserved monument Ancient wooden beams were replaced and tagged as restored, and clear 'Restoration lines' distinguish the authentic remains from modern restoration Photographic documentation of this work is available at the site's director office
- Within the framework of the current excavations, conservation work for the plaster floor's borders was carried out in September 2001in the area of the northern stables and Palace 6000. A professional conservator, Mr Maman, was in charge of the operation under the supervision of the head of the Development Department of the INPA, architect Zeev Margalit (The final report is available, among other places, at Margalit's office in Jerusalem)
- Rendering the corbelled tomb compound – The fine corbel-vaulted burial chamber has been re-dated by the 'Megiddo Expedition' to the Late Bronze period The tomb, unique in its construction technique (false vault) and monumentality, is closed today to the public for reasons of safety and conservation Its conservation is being currently implemented as recommended by the "conservation inventory survey" and as planned by the development program for the site The works are carried out by the INPA and include consolidation and reinforcement of the tomb structure and rendering

the descent to the tomb and the accessibility to observation point for the visitors

Regular conservation maintenance

Park staff in Tel Megiddo is capable of carrying out maintenance work Conservation issues, both ongoing and acute, are identified immediately and taken care of as required In this aspect, a lot of attention is specifically given to the water system as it is visited by most of the site's visitors If the problem can be solved by the site's personnel, e g fallen stones that need to be put back in place - it is done If not, the appropriate expert is called to do the job In any case, conservators and conservation planning architect check the site few times a year, on a regular basis, not only when problems arise

The site is continuously supervised by the INPA at various levels
a-site staff, taking care of any defect discovered,
b-the Northern District INPA staff,
c-the INPA senior staff in Jerusalem headquarters
All conservation activities, starting at the planning stage, are overseen by experts from the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) conservation department, and independent planners and consultants in engineering and conservation

Furthermore, archaeological excavations, on-going at the site of Megiddo since 1992/4, are accompanied by conservation as well as partial reconstruction for the purpose of conservation as well as presentation for the public sponsored by the archaeological expedition
In order to help protecting the site, the current archaeological expedition has committed itself to follow clear procedures in the field-work
a- Excavation debris is dumped in a way which does not affect the general appearance of the site
b- Excavations areas are back-filled after termination of field-work, if no restoration for public presentation is necessary

The Megiddo Expedition is also committed to assist on-going conservation work, when undertaken, by providing data - such as plans, sections, measurements retrieved during field-work

Conservation objectives in the framework of development project

The master plan for the development project of Tel Megiddo Antiquities national park, financed by the Ministry of Tourism through the Israel GTC, includes a conservation master plan annex, prepared by the conservation architect of the site, Mr Daniel Abuhatzera, the principals of which are listed below This master plan, assisted by the "conservation inventory survey" (see below) will be the basis for the logistics of monitoring

Within the framework of the Development Program, the conservation outline scheme is emphasizing 'priority' conservation of about 20 monuments, and a few others which play an important role in the visit at the Tel

The conservation and architectural evaluation of the monuments, divided to sub-projects, served as guidelines for a survey of conservation (including graphic documentation), prepared by the conservation department of IAA Its conclusions and recommendations are included in the inclusive development program

Conservation inventory survey

As mentioned above, a comprehensive and inclusive conservation inventory survey implemented in June 2003 at Tel Megiddo, headed by Mr Yoram Sa'ad from IAA / conservation department, published in July 2003

Architect Daniel Abuhatzera instructed the guidelines for implementing the survey, financed by the Israel GTC within the framework of the joint development project shared by the GTC and INPA

The survey aimed to identify and analyze the condition of the ancient remains, erosion and destruction factors, and defining the conservation demands in the archaeological elements at the site

This survey identified the problematic issues of the remains' conservation on the Tel, as well as the various monitoring needs required The main issues include

- Drainage of run-off rain water
- The stability of the ground in the stratigraphical sections, as well as the Tel's outer and inner slopes (the drainage basin of the water system in particular)
- The stability of the walls, especially those excavated by the first two expeditions In this framework, the stability of the foundations, the inner part of the walls including the mortar and the coping, will be examined Currently, the walls are maintained and stabilized as a need arises

- Floors – there are various sorts of floors in the Tel which are affected by climatic conditions and by the present drainage system
- Vegetation – Vegetation can damage the relics In Tel Megiddo there are palm trees (which apparently grew from palm seeds that the Egyptian workers of the first two expeditions threw away), taken care of by the site's staff along with the weeds
- Animals, especially rodents, favor the ground sections as a suitable site for their burrows, and cause damage to the sections and to archaeological premises
- Visitors' effect – Although the carrying capacity of Tel Megiddo presents no problem, it is needed to prevent people from entering certain places, so as to avoid damage and ensure safety Much of this has been done already, including installations for the convenience of visitors and signage with instructions for proper behavior

The output of the survey is available (in Hebrew) in digital media, the CD of which is enclosed hereby. The reference to each surveyed monument / compound includes architectural summary, state of preservation, factors and causes of destruction and erosion, recommendations for conservation treatment, photos and plan outlining the sub-survey's boundaries, the spots where the photos were taken from and priority for the treatment needed

Maintenance of the Water System

The water system at Tel Megiddo is dug into the rock and not plastered because it was used to collect ground water and not surface runoff water Therefore, there was no need to conserve plaster in this system The water system was first excavated many years ago, in 1938, and the principal works were carried out after the archaeological excavations have ended The water system needs maintenance, follow-up, and treatment of damage

The following are the principal activities being implemented for measuring the state of conservation of the water system

- The status of the rock in the water system
- The state of disintegration of constructed elements in the water system, retaining walls, for example (done on a regular basis)
- Drainage and drainage systems (daily in the winter)

- The presence of silt, pebbles, and dirt that accumulate in the system (daily in winter) and their cleaning
- Acts of Vandalism, such as, graffiti, carving on the walls, or other (regular monitoring)
- Possible damage done by visitors in the area around the system (daily)
- Possible natural damage, for example by root intrusion or animals in and around the water system (every few days)
- The quality of the water and the damp parts of the system in terms of organic or biological pollution, microorganisms' growth and the presence of animal activity (daily)
- The integrity of modern elements - safety of cement walkways, railings, steps, roofing, the electrical system, etc

Conservation Reports and Documentation are available, at:

- Israel Antiquities Authority, POB 586, Jerusalem, 91004,
- The Israel Nature and Parks Authority head office in Jerusalem (Address 3 Am Ve'olamo St , Jerusalem, 95463), and the Archives in Jaffa, the Israel Nature and Parks Authority offices at Tel Megiddo the Northern District offices at the above address of the Megiddo Antiquities National Park,
- Tel Aviv University Institute of Archaeology,
- Architect Daniel Abuhatzera, telephone numbers 972 -55 - 222048, 972 - 3 - 5334489 E-mail address baronn@post tau ac il

(10) Maintenance and Monitoring

Maintenance and monitoring – the general rule

Maintenance and monitoring of the ancient remains at Tel Megiddo are operated in several levels, partly detailed in other chapters of this dossier

As mentioned (cf chapter 6) the site has an operation manual, being updated and amended from time to time, which contains details of the national park, among them the staff and its tasks with detailed directives concerning the frequency and the nature of the antiquities' checks

With the realization of the development program for Tel Megiddo the level of the maintenance and monitoring is expected to be considerably upgraded due to the better organized state of the whole site and the treated ancient monuments in particular

The regular monitoring and maintenance activities implemented in Tel Megiddo and especially in its water system are detailed in chapter 9 Standard directives for the care and maintenance of the water system were established as a result of a conservation survey carried out by the IAA, which included administrative arrangements too

As a whole, the basic work is carried out by site's personnel members who maintain the various monuments according to the conclusions and guidelines of the experts who worked at the site They identify problems, look after the property and maintain it

The principal current activities regarding site's maintenance and monitoring in the different levels, are as the following

- Routine maintenance and monitoring activities carried out by the site's staff according to partition of daily, seasonal, random, emergency and so on (for details, see chapters 6, 8 and 9)
- Routine (several times a year for advice on continued maintenance) and ad hock (per calling when a problem or emergency case occurs) checks done by professionals (for details, see chapters 6, 8 and 9)
- Supervision and guiding being carried out by the senior ranks of the INPA headquarters and northern district personnel, assisted occasionally by IAA or other experts When a new development project takes place at the antiquities site the supervision and monitoring is much tighter

- Assistance and accompanying by the Megiddo Expedition for conservation treatment and for protecting the site by activities associated with the archaeological excavations and by assisting the on-going conservation work at site (for details, see chapter 9)
- Visitors' management – The visitors' management plays an important role in the maintenance of the site especially in the aspect of preventing damages, or alternatively, the immediate taking care of damaged elements Among the acts which are counted in this regard, are

  a A pamphlet, provided free of charge at the cashier's booth with the purchase of an entrance ticket, includes instructions for appropriate behavior and specific information on the site and the recommended tour route The person staffing the cashier's booth is able to answer questions and provide additional information

  b During the visitors' stay at the site, at least one of the site's staff members is present in their vicinity and available to solve any problems which may occur and to make sure that they are not causing any damage to the relics

Besides the above mentioned levels of maintenance and monitoring, it should be noted that there are still additional administrative arrangements and procedure at the site as the follows

At the site The whole site is fenced, The site's gates are opened each morning and are locked at the end of each day

At the water system Gates equipped with locks have been installed at both ends of the water system, making it impossible to enter the water system without the knowledge of site personnel, The general condition of the site and of the water system is checked when the gates are opened, including the condition of the railings, the presence of loose stones, collapse of rocks as the result of rain, etc , If a risk is apparent, the system is not opened to public until the appropriate professional has been called in and has taken care of the problem In the winter of 2001, a wall collapsed and a protective wall had to be constructed In the rainy winter of 2002 the water system was flooded and closed

(11) Development Programs and Research Plans

Development programs in archaeological sites are generally composed of investigation and research work in which partnership of archaeologists, involved with the site's excavations, is desirable The interaction is made both ways The archaeologists may assist and contribute a lot to such programs On the other hand, when talking about research plans – the archaeologists may be assisted by on going enterprises at the site – since development made at archaeological site is generally has to be supported by the archaeological knowledge Sometimes the archaeologists have to increase the extent of the diggings in order to enable tourist or safety development to be made In this way each of these 'disciplines' - development programs and research plans - assists, supports and enriches the other one and therefore their presentation here is combined together.

This is the case of Tel Megiddo, in which the archaeological expedition is deeply involved with the development program to be mentioned below

Development Program

The development of Tel Megiddo National Park has recently been placed high on the agenda of the INPA and the Israel Government Tourist Corporation The GTC is the main financer body for the program's implementation The program, for the development and preservation of Tel Megiddo, has been submitted in October 2003 It includes the planning of services and facilities, the revamping of the entrance complex, the establishment of several trails on and around the mound, the conservation of architectural remains and archaeological sections, including minimalist restoration of specific architectural features, and the implementation of a comprehensive presentation program

This program is planned to be implemented in several stages over the next years, each stage, when completed, will help upgrade the site's physical state while enhancing visitors' experience At the moment the project's budget (estimated to $10 million), is frozen, and as a result no timetable for the program's implementation is available

The program is available at the INPA's office of the director of planning and development department, at the INPA's northern district director and at some other offices (The program's title, in Hebrew, is "Master plan for the development and

preservation of the national park Tel Megiddo")

The Presentation Program, prepared by Joelle Cohen Finkelstein, focuses on nine main "stories", combines a "vertical" (or chronological) approach, highlighting the site's various cultures and periods, together with a "horizontal" (or multi-faceted) approach, including public, cultural and economic issues, as well as daily life and environmental aspects Ten 'visitors' stations' located on the mound, together with museum space in the entrance complex and various spots along the trails, are planned The presentation means are comprised of a broad range of interpretative techniques - such as traditional 2-D sign-posting with updated information and illustrations, isometric plans and reconstruction drawings (a certain portion of them were posted already in the site as "first aid" on the occasion of the Megiddo Centennial ceremony) , 3-D models and limited reconstruction, renewed museum displays – including the exhibition of photographs prepared for the Megiddo Centennial (the ceremony commemorating one hundred years of excavations at Tel Megiddo, which took place on 1st of April 2003 at the site), a new video film and computer interactive posts The latter, as well as any "high tech" presentation means, will be confined to the entrance complex, in order to respect the tranquil atmosphere prevailing on the Tel, its unique natural setting and the authenticity of its remains

Research Plans

Tel Megiddo is being currently excavated by the 'Megiddo Expedition' This archeological mission has been digging at the site every other year since 1994 - with a minor dig in 1992 - reinvestigating previously excavated remains and opening new areas The expedition publishes a scientific report after each excavation season and articles dealing with professional issues with regard to the finds The expedition is also involved, as mentioned, with the development program of the site and the work of conservation and reconstruction

At the moment, it seems that the existing pattern of research will go on archaeological excavations with the subsequent demanded publications, conservation and minor reconstruction works, either in the framework of the INPA initiatives or by partly implementation of the development project Together with it, it is quite possible that Megiddo's finds will keep on fueling the research of the biblical, historical and other disciplines (cf. chapter 3)

(12) Visitors' Management

The INPA envisions Megiddo as a central project over the next decade A joint team, consisting of INPA, 'The Megiddo Expedition', the Ministry of Tourism, The Israel GTC, and external planners, already formulated plans – the Development Program – including, besides the conservation and heritage presentation of the site's monuments, the improvement of the site's facilities and the upgrading of the whole visiting experience at the site

Tel Megiddo, as mentioned above, is one of the first national parks in Israel It was prepared and opened to the public in the mid-1960's, according to the tourist standards of that time The majority of the site's facilities and presentation means are old and not adapted to nowadays tourist demands, although they are still in use and meet, in general, at least, the minimal requirements of safety and tourist services

The components of visitors' management in Tel Megiddo

Visitors' characteristics

In an average year, approximately 170,000 people visit the site (the maximal number was in 1996 – 211,000 visitors), among them approximately 80% overseas tourists and 20% Israelis In recent years, the number of visitors decreased due to the general security situation in Israel (59,000 visitors in 2001, 24,000 visitors in 2002, 30,500 visitors in 2003 and 53,000 in 2004) As security situation improves – the total number of visitors and respectively the proportion of overseas tourists – increase (overseas tourists percentage was 55% in 2003 and 66% in 2004)

Many of the tourists from abroad are devoted Christians, who come to visit the site of Armageddon so significant to Christianity About 60% of them are coming within the framework of groups and spend about one hour only at the site – in a short tour and praying ceremonies A few years ago, a "Contemplation Corner" was established in the Southern Lookout, overlooking the magnificent Jezreel Valley, with its numerous biblical sites Many visitors stop there to pray, chant psalms or simply pause to contemplate Armageddon, individually or in groups

Most of the Israeli visitors are schoolchildren and on holidays, families An analysis made by the development program writers aimed to examine why the Israelis' proportion is so law in the total number of visitors at Tel Megiddo (besides the religious motive) According to this preliminary check, the site is not attractive for the Israeli visitor due to the following main reasons

- The touring route at the site is physically difficult,
- The condition of the ancient remains is bad and the visitors don't understand what they see,
- The absence of presentation and interpretive means makes the understanding of the antiquities even more difficult

Note, that the development program aims, among other objectives, to upgrade the presentation of Tel Megiddo by various means in order to increase the number (and the proportion) of the Israeli visitors to the place

Note also, that the regions adjacent to Tel Megiddo – the Jezreel Valley and Menashe Highlands in particular – are very popular tourism areas for Israelis Tel Megiddo is not sharing this tourist activity with the neighboring region – a situation that the development program wishes to change by the planned improvements of the site and by its adapting it to Israeli public Another proposed means to combine Tel Megiddo in the region's tourism is the cooperation with local tourism industry organizations

Access and Parking

Tel Megiddo is reached via Road 66 by an access way turning in an acute and dangerous angle from the main road and leading to the entrance complex of the national park

The site offers a parking lot, located near the entrance complex at the foot of the tell, for approximately 15-20 busses, a separate lot for approximately 50 private cars, and handicapped parking The parking lots are used by the INPA northern district personnel too

The development program proposes to upgrade the entrance layout so that the access way turning from Road 66 would be safe and less dangerous and enlarging the parking capacity, including special solutions for outnumbered vehicles in relation to the ordinary parking capacity

Accessibility and traffic, including for persons with disabilities

The accessibility to the Tel and throughout it is by visitors' tracks made of local beaten earth and signposted along the paths with direction signs

There is no lighting at the Tel as it is not open to public by nights The entrance complex is illuminated in order to enable evening and night activity The water system is illuminated during the operation hours of the park for enabling visitors see its sub-terrain dark parts and for safety reasons For the same reasons, steps, decks and handrails were installed inside the water system

Two shade facilities are located at the eastern edge of the Tel in the 'northern' and a 'southern' lookouts

Two drinking water facilities are available on the Tel, but toilets - not yet

A considerable part of the tracks, going among the ancient monuments, are adapted to people with mobility difficulties, especially while they are accompanied with helpers

A project of adapting the water system for people with mobility disabilities is being implemented these days (the works began in December 2003) by creating wheelchair access to the water system Access is funded and advised by Israel's National Insurance Institution Wheelchair access will be via the exit of the water system The main elements of the plan involve

- The replacement of the metal stairs at the water system's exit with new stairs and a small wheelchair lift (being installed these days), that will enable wheelchair users to reach the water system's water source and tunnel The original stairs and impressive water system will not be damaged in the least
- The path leading to the water system from the parking lot (at the exit of the site) and the parking lot has been refurbished Areas of seating had been created, new plantation was added along and shade will be created soon

The Entrance and Exit Complexes

Visitors enter the National Park of Megiddo through the stone buildings built by the lavish Rockefeller funded expedition of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago Today, after being partly reconstructed, they enclose the offices of the National Parks Authority Northern District, the entrance hall, a museum wing and

other tourist facilities These buildings, together with the 'tennis court' of the Oriental Institute expedition are bearing evidence of the very beginnings of the history of biblical archeology, as the 'Romantic' age of archaeology

The regular tour ends at the water system and visitors exit the site through it At this point, buses await their groups, while individual visitors return on foot along a prepared path, roughly a fifteen-minute walk, to their cars, parked in the main parking lot of the site

The development program proposes to improve both the entrance and exit complexes At the entrance, it suggests to improve the orientation between the parking lots to the Tel in order make it much clearer for the visitors At the exit it suggests to improve the appearance of the complex and its operation in a way that it would look as part of the tourist site and improve the rendering of the prepared path by adding vegetative shade (as mentioned, this section has been mostly implemented)

The park's director has over 20 years of experience on the site From this perspective, the physical proximity of the district offices and the national park is a great advantage

Interpretative facilities

At the entrance to the site is a cashier's desk where tickets are bought and the following interpretive items are available

- A pamphlet about Megiddo in Hebrew or English
- A 10-minute introductory video that explains the history of the site (in Hebrew, English, French, and German) The film is now being updated and it will be shown in a special hall
- The site operates an exhibit hall where visitors can see an interactive model of the Tel as well as photographs, a large map of the Near East and explanatory panels about the finds and the history of the site
- A self-guided tour of the site (its route is described in the paragraph "The Main Components of Tel Megiddo – Description" in chapter 2 in this dossier) which contains interpretive signs in Hebrew and English where some monuments have been restored, permitting greater understanding of the site In 2003, as a first stage of Megiddo's presentation plan, new, decorative signage has been installed,

throughout the site (see below)

Signage

In April 2003, in conjunction with the celebration of the Megiddo Centennial, a "First Aid" program was launched, which consisted of twelve interpretation signs at main points of interest across the Tel Several direction signs and maps were also posted, from the entrance area to the exit of the water tunnel The interpretation signs are comprised of explanatory texts in Hebrew and English, vintage photographs taken by previous expeditions (Schumacher's, the University of Chicago's and Yadin's), as well as up-dated isometric plans and artists' renderings In most cases, biblical verses or excerpts of historical sources are engraved in the lower part of the stone plate These "First Aid" signs are but the beginnings of the large-scale project, planned within the frame work of the development program

The new style signage is more contemporary and when it will fully posted at the tell it will also set up a clearly defined touring route

The texts of all the signs are available at the Signage and Interpretation Department of the INPA head office

Marketing and Public Relations

Marketing of the site is carried out by the Head Office Marketing Department of the INPA Within this framework, among other activities, the office contacts schools who send their students here The office also signed an agreement with nearby kibbutzim Megiddo and Ramat Hashofet, giving guests at their country-style accommodations a 25% discount on the entrance fee to the national park

The INPA northern district has a function of marketing, education and public relations, the person in charge of it is Atti Curriat-Aharon One of her more important duties is the strengthening of the contacts between Tel Megiddo (and the other national parks of the district) with the community, the neighboring community in particular A lot of activities are being done in this aspect with regard to organizations and individuals, adults and children as well

Guided tours of the site are offered from time to time by the INPA Information Center, located at the Zippori National Park, especially during holidays and sometimes on Saturdays or by special arrangement The guided tour takes about

one and a half hours and takes the following route The Canaanite gate, the "Solomonic" gate, the sacred compound, the two observation lookouts, the public granary, the palaces, the southern stables, and the water system

The Zippori Information Center also initiates activities for children, including "Excavations" (an "archaeological dig" where the children "find" items previously hidden), and pottery-making

In the years up to the year 2000, the site was intensively marketed in order to encourage tourism from abroad in honor of the millennial year Thanks to the site international fame as Armageddon, and its centrality in the most pertinent scholarly debates, numerous media teams from abroad have visited Megiddo, filming and interviewing archaeologists and historians on-site

Commercial Services at the Site

The commercial services at the site are

- A restaurant (the King Solomon Restaurant)
- A factory outlet jewelry shop (Tel Megiddo Antiquities Jewelry)
- A souvenir shop (selling INPA's products, located next to the cashier's stand)

The restaurant and the shops are operated by the site's commercial franchisee

Evening activities

Evening activities occasionally take place at the site, in the lawns of the entrance complex only, located at the northeastern slope of the Tel A member of the park staff is always on duty during evening activities

As mentioned in chapter 7, the restaurant, located within Tel Megiddo's offices compound, serves also as parties – weddings, bar-mitzvas and the like – reception place This kind of activity is being held on evenings and nights, after the closing hours of the national park The parties take place in the restaurant and the garden next to it only and not in the antiquities area The parties' operators have to fulfill fierce conditions while activating the various events, such as not to hold the event outside the restaurant and the garden's boundaries, not to erect any installations in the garden, etc and they have to sign a form listing all the INPA's conditions

The master plan of development program recommends to improve the appearance of the restaurant's hall and garden in order to better integrate it within the appearance of the surrounding area and within the park's entire operation

Toilets

There are lavatories adjacent to the entrance with

10 stalls for women

5 stalls for men and urinals

1 handicapped stall (for both men and women)

Search and Rescue services

The equipment available at the site, includes

- An on-site first-aid kit
- PA system and hand-held megaphone
- Fire-fighting equipment is located throughout the park
- Two generators

Safety

A great deal of care is taken regarding safety at the site Areas which may be dangerous for visitors are fenced off and signposted with warning signs In topographical problematic points at the site stairs and handrails were installed (cf chapters 6, 9 and 10)

In the water system, all railings are standard, the steps to the tunnel and the water system are clean and intact, and the lighting in the tunnel is checked daily
It should be noted that arrangements for visiting the water system allow visitors to safely walk through the system and enjoy its authentic appearance It should also be noted that, in terms of rescue and evacuation, the stainless steel gate at the exit of the water system, consists of both a one-way revolving door and a wing door that can be opened for stretcher evacuation (This type of gate was installed after an accident in the tunnel that required stretcher evacuation) Arrangements have also been made that allow ambulance access to the water system's entrance (cf chapter 9 – the maintenance of the water system)

(13) Potential Endangering Factors and Site's Preparedness

The ancient monuments at Tel Megiddo national park are protected – as detailed in this dossier, by treatment of conservation and restoration, by other physical means as fences and lockable gates, by the site's personnel and by different levels of laws and regulations The safety of the visitors is ensured by various means as mentioned too in the other chapters Plans and programs have been prepared in order to promote and improve the site in various aspects, the great deal of which unfortunately has not yet been materialized due to lack of budgets

Nevertheless, there are still endangering factors regarding the site, the principal of which are the follows

Natural elements affect on the ancient remains

Weather conditions in the area are, in general, very temperate and there are no sudden or extreme changes

As mentioned, the various archeological remains of Tel Megiddo are subject almost one century-long to exposure to forces of nature including erosion The development program ascribes a large place to a comprehensive conservation program, including conservation inventory survey which had already been implemented, documentation, planning and implementation

The survey's finds regarding the main problematic issues at the Tel include (cf chapter 9) drainage, stability of sections, slopes, walls and floors, damages caused by vegetation, animals and visitors The most sensitive issues are the conservation of the deep archaeological sections, and the stabilization of the soil in 'holes' created by the removal of ancient structures during the University of Chicago excavations

These issues are taken care of within the routine maintenance of the site's staff by looking after the existing drainage channels, fixing fallen stones, weeding etc Yet, a comprehensive conservation is still in urgent need to be carried out

Floods

During the winter, the Megiddo area receives a great deal of rain in relatively large concentration In order to prevent flood damage, the site has been equipped with a drainage system, the improvements of which are planned by the implementation of the development program During especially serious flooding, large amounts of water may enter the water system tunnel (as occurred in the winter of 1998) Site personnel then work to channel the water out so it does not harm the water system

Vegetation and Fires

A great deal of vegetation flourishes in this area, especially in winter Constant weeding is part of the on-going maintenance work at the site Except of the damage that could be caused by the vegetation to the ancient relics, it may, when becomes dried, turn into burning material

The slopes of the Tel are at risk of fire, especially in summer Site personnel are aware of this and in order to prevent it, the slopes of the Tel are constantly weeded and sprayed, to prevent any fire from spreading upward to the antiquities at the top of the Tel This maintenance work is carried out in cooperation with professionals from the Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael-Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF) (forestry professionals) and fire brigades in the adjacent towns of Afula and Yokne'am

Visitors' effect

There is usually no visitor pressure at the site, although it can occur at certain times of the year Visitor pressure is manifest mainly at the water system (On one particular day there were 1200 visitors at the water system, resulting in a long line at the entrance to the tunnel) When a long line of visitors is waiting to enter the tunnel, it is always composed of groups, whose guides maintain order

The concern in this case may be vandalism (the carving of graffiti, for example), and not the site's ability to withstand the number of visitors or any risk of damage to the site's infrastructure The entrance and exit to the water system are convenient and safe The flow of visitors is steady because the entrance and exit are at two different locations

Although the carrying capacity of Tel Megiddo presents no problem, there is the need to prevent people from entering certain places, so as to avoid damage and ensure safety Much of this has been done already, including installations for the convenience of visitors and signage with instructions for proper behavior

Development

The issue of development endangering is almost non-existent in the area Tel Megiddo, except for a cultivated field between the Tel and Kibbutz Megiddo, located SW to the Tel The kibbutz people are aware of this declared antiquities area, and are careful not to harm it The IAA is always involved while dealing with this issue

Within the park's confines, any physical change is under control The restaurant's operator is aware of the limitations valid at site, although the functions take place at the offices' compound and not on the Tel – and he fully meets these limitations

TEL HAZOR NATIONAL PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Site Manual

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(1) The Site's Boundaries Definition

Coordinates Latitude 33^0 01' 00" , Longitude 35^0 34' 01"

Site's names Tel Hazor National Park (Tell el-Qedah, also called Tell Waqqas)

Site's location and boundaries Tel Hazor is located in northern Israel, in the eastern Upper Galilee, on Road 90 (leading northward to Kiryat Shmona and southward to Tiberias) some 14 km north of the Sea of Galilee Kibbutz Ayelet ha-Shahar lies at the foot of the mound

The site belongs to the Regional Council Galil Elyon, local council – Zefat, Sub District – Zefat of the Northern District of the Ministry of Interior

Area of site and buffer zone
Area of the property 76 9 ha
Area of the buffer zone 204 6 ha

Note A map with the exact location of the nominated site and its buffer zone marked is enclosed with this paper

(2) Description and Definition of Tel Hazor

Geographical Background

Ancient Hazor was situated in a strategic location at a major crossroads, controlling the main trade and military routes that connected the land of Israel to Phoenicia, Syria and Anatolia to the north, Mesopotamia (Babylon) to the east and Egypt to the south The fertile Hula plain, which formed the basis for Hazor's wealth throughout the periods, was the locus of several battles recorded in the history of the site The location of the ancient site, its fertile soil and the springs in nearby Hazor Stream together with the magnificent finds unearthed, all combined in making Hazor the largest and the most important city in the land of Canaan, as demonstrated by its biblical name, "the head of all those kingdoms" (Josh 11 10)

Historical Background

Hazor was occupied from the end of the third millennium BC, the Early Bronze Age, until the 2nd century BC, the Hellenistic period

A sequence of twenty-three strata of occupation, beginning in the middle of the third millennium BC (Early Bronze Age) and ending in the last third of the first millennium (Hellenistic period), is represented in the Upper City of Hazor The Lower City was settled only during the second millennium BC, from its foundation in the Middle Bronze Age (in the mid-eighteenth century BC), until its violent destruction in the Late Bronze Age (in the thirteenth century BC) The population of Hazor in the second millennium BC is estimated to have been about 20,000, making it one of the most important cities in the entire region

The results of the excavations at Hazor enable us to reconstruct the history of the site and the nature of settlement in the various phases In the third millennium BC (Early Bronze Age) a flourishing city was probably confined to the upper Tell After a gap, the site was settled again in the end of the third millennium (Middle Bronze Age I) The nature of the site during this period is still unknown, but finds from the renewed excavations hint to the existence of a rather large settlement during this time of general decline throughout the country

The great turning point in the development of Hazor took place during the Middle Bronze IIB period (mid-eighteenth century BC) when the great Lower City was founded Excavation throughout the Lower City proved that the entire area was built up and fortified by new settlers, for whom the Upper City was too small It can be

assumed that the Hazor mentioned in the Mari documents is the "large" Hazor consisting also the Lower City. Excavations' results can utilize this theory to help support the Late Chronology, which dates the Mari documents to the end of the eighteenth century BC Thus, the findings at Hazor contribute to the archaeology of the entire region of Israel-Syria

The Lower City continued to exist throughout the Middle and the Late Bronze Ages, a long period during which it was periodically destroyed and rebuilt Hazor reached the height of its development in the fourteenth century BC, during the Amarna period Major building activities were carried out during this period in both parts of the city, thus creating largest Canaanite city-state in the land of Canaan The final destruction of Canaanite Hazor, both of the Lower and Upper Cities, occurred as the result of a huge conflagration that took place during the thirteenth century BC The identity of Hazor destroyers, whether the Israelite tribes, Egyptian Pharaohs or others, is still a matter of debate among scholars After a gap in the settlement following the violent destruction of the Canaanite city, remains of a meager eleventh-twelfth century BC occupation attributed to the Israelites were discovered on the upper Tel

Only from the tenth century BC (Iron Age I or the Israelite Period), the period of Solomon, did Hazor return to some extent to its former splendor The Iron Age city on the upper Tel consisted of massive fortifications, large administrative buildings, public works such as the water system and the granaries and domestic quarters These remains were alternately destroyed, by human actions or by natural forces such as earthquakes Several times the city was rebuilt and reconstructed by its inhabitants, until its final destruction by the troops of the Assyrian king Tiglath-Pileser III (in 732 BC) It probably remained mostly uninhabited thereafter, except for occasional temporary occupations that served as lonely forts overlooking the Hula Valley and the important highways passing through it

The History of Archaeological Research

Hazor has been excavated since the beginning of the twentieth century The expeditions worked at Hazor, are

1. Hazor was first excavated in 1928 by John Garstang, on behalf of the British Mandate Department of Antiquities
2 Extensive excavations were carried out on the site in the 1950's, led by the late Yigael Yadin of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem The excavations were carried out between 1955 and 1958, and then again in 1968

3 Excavations at Hazor were renewed in 1990, as a joint project of the Hebrew University and the Israel Exploration Society, together with other international institutions The renewed excavations are directed Amnon Ben-Tor

Archaeological Excavations Reports and all material relating to the archaeological excavations are found at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem/The Hazor Expedition Address The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Institute of Archaeology, Hazor Expedition, Mount Scopus, Jerusalem, 91905

Additional scientific material is found at the Information Center at Yesod Ha Ma'ala, at Hazor Museum in Ayelet ha-Shachar, at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Institute of Archaeology, and at every academic library in Israel

The Main Components of Tel Hazor - Description

Hazor is the largest site of the biblical period in Israel, covering an area of 80 ha The site comprises of two distinct sections The Upper City on the mound (the acropolis) rising about 40 m above the surrounding plain and the rectangular Lower City (the fortified enclosure) lying close to the north On the west the Lower City is protected by a huge rampart of beaten earth and a deep fosse, on the north by a rampart alone and on the east by a steep slope reinforced by supporting walls and a glacis On the south, a deep fosse separates the Lower City from the mound

The visit at Hazor begins at the foot of the Tel, as the visitor leaves the modern road (road 90) leading north, a road that probably follows the same route that passed through the Hula Valley and was used for millennia Ascending the upper Tel, the remains of the **Israelite city's fortifications** can be seen to the right of the main pathway. These provide a clear view on the **Acropolis** of the Tel to the south and the huge enclosure of the **lower city** to the north of the Tel Noteworthy is the **huge earthen rampart** guarding the western side of the Lower City, and still visible are the remains of the **"Stele Temple"** (Area C) dug into the foot of this rampart

To the right of the main pathway, a bird's-eye view of the monumental **Late Bronze Age complex** uncovered on the northern slope of the Tel is possible This complex must have been a part of a **palatial building** extending to the south, and its remains attest to cultic activities that took place in its entrance The **basalt-orthostat paved room** and the **basalt podium** in its center are unique in Canaan and point to the relation of Hazor to the Syro-Mesopotamian cultural sphere

Standing on the raised platform to the left of the main pathway, the various remains excavated in Area A can be seen These include the restored **"Solomonic" six-chambered gate** and **casemate wall** in the foreground, with the remains of the earlier **Bronze Age temple**, the orthostat threshold, sealed by these later fortifications The huge **Bronze Age religious** and **palatial complex** covers the rest of area A to the south and the west This complex consists of the immense **"Canaanite Palace"** and its **courtyard** The large ashlar-stones podium located in the middle of the pebble-paved courtyard, in the axis of the "Palace" entrance, is clearly visible The "Palace" itself, with its protective roof, restored mud-bricks walls and linings of basalt orthostats, controls the area in its monumental splendor To its north, another **monumental temple** with ashlar-lined walls forms the northern border of the impressive complex Thanks to the meticulous preservation of the "Canaanite Palace" and its surrounding, groups of visitors can walk within the confines of this amazing complex and appreciate its sheer size and high quality of architectural workmanship

Continuing to the west, the visitor can enter the **two Iron Age buildings** that were removed from their original place in area A to an open area to the right of the pathway The two buildings, **a public columned storehouse** and **a private dwelling** (a typical four-roomed Israelite house, 8th century BC) were restored and rebuilt in their new location The olive press restored in the latter can actually be put to use

The **Iron Age water system** of Hazor is found along the pathway to the left, on the southern slope of the Tel The large basin can be seen from above, but visitors are encouraged to climb down the system and reach the level of the water The descent and ascendance into the water system is made easier by the flights of modern steps added to it

Before the start of excavations, at the upper level of the water system, **a silt-filled hollow** was visible in which late pottery from the Persian, Hellenistic, Byzantine, and Late Arab periods were found The hollow thus may have been used in the Persian and Hellenistic periods as a pool to collect surface runoff Beneath it, installations almost round in shape were discovered, constructed with undressed stones around the center of the depression Yadin believed that water jars were placed in these installations while they were being filled with water They can be dated to strata III-IV (the end of the Iron Age, after the destruction of the city) or to strata II-III (the Persian period)

The western tip of the Tel consists of the **Iron Age citadel** occupying its most strategic point, controlling the northern route at the foot of the Tel The various rooms and courtyards forming this building can be seen from the platform The impressive **watchtower** straddling the slope of the Tel was restored and can be seen also from the road approaching the Tel from the south Special attention should be given to the restored **cultic "high-place"** attributed to the first Israelite settlement after the destruction of the Canaanite city (11th century BC) This "Bamah", with its standing basalt stone ("Massebah"), attached pavement and benches, was recently restored

(3) Cultural Values of Tel Hazor

The most important values of Tel Hazor are presented below, yet, the contents of the general background regarding the Biblical Tels (cf p 13), valid to Tel Hazor as well and should be kept in mind

Scientific- historical and archaeological Value

The important role played by Hazor in its Near Eastern context is vividly reflected in the references to the site in various ancient sources Much of these references was established and completed by the important archaeological finds at Tel Hazor, part of which described in chapter 2 of this dossier

Canaanite Hazor is first mentioned in the Egyptian Execration texts dating to the 19th century BC Hazor is the only Canaanite site mentioned in the archive discovered in palace of Mari (18th century BC) At least 14 Mari documents refer to Hazor, clearly illustrating the importance and wealth of Hazor and its far-reaching commercial ties with other Semitic polities to its north The name of the king of Hazor, Ibni-Adad, appears several times in the Mari archive, and was also found on one of the cuneiform tablets found at Hazor itself The city of Hazor is further mentioned in the records of the military campaigns conducted by the Egyptian Pharaohs Thutmose III, Amenhotep II and Seti I during the 15th - 14th centuries BC In the 14th c BC Amarna archive are several references to Hazor, whose ruler Abdi-Tirshi is the only Canaanite vassal referring to himself as "king" Hazor's special status among her Canaanite peers is reflected in the complaint letters of her neighbors, Ashtaroth in the Bashan and Tyre on the coast The latest Egyptian reference to Hazor is in Papyrus Anastasi I, a satirical letter attributed to the reign of Ramses II (13th century BC)

According to the biblical narrative, Hazor was conquered and burnt by Joshuah (cf above) Evidence of the violent destruction of Canaanite Hazor was discovered in various areas of excavation at the site The first Israelite settlement was then limited to the Upper City Meager remains, the most noteworthy of which is a cultic high place, represent sporadic occupation during the time of the Judges According to 1Kings 9 15 the city was rebuilt and fortified (by a six-chambered gate and casemate wall) by King Solomon, whose reign is dated to the 10th century BC During this period, only the western part of the upper city was occupied In the 9th century BC, most probably under King Ahab, the city expanded The eastern part of the upper city

was fortified by a solid wall, and various important buildings such as the storehouses, citadel and the water system were erected

Hazor suffered repeated destructions as a result of both the Aramean and Assyrian invasions It was finally destroyed by the Assyrian King Tiglath-Pilesser III, who, in 732 BC conquered the entire Galilee (2 Kgs, 15 29), in a campaign that marked the end of the Northern Kingdom of Israel as an independent entity

Hazor was doomed never to regain its importance During the 7th - 2nd century BC settlement was confined only to the citadels erected in the western extremity of the Upper City The last historical reference to Hazor is to be found in the book of Maccabees (I Macc 11 67) Here we are told that Jonathan fought against Demetrius (147 BC) in the "plain of Hazor"

The mud-brick Canaanite palace, the Israelite water system and city gate, the rare archaeological collection of finds from Tel Hazor displayed in Hazor museum – are considered, in the site's "I D card" (see in chapter 6, paragraph "Site operation manual dossier") as the most important heritage values of Tel Hazor

Scientific Value – Study and Research

Hazor was excavated many times throughout the twentieth century and the beginning of the 21st c as detailed in the paragraph of "The History of Archaeological Research" In the process of these excavations the scientific foundations of the discipline of archaeology science in Israel were laid The principal study and research aspects stem from these excavations are

- Garstang's excavations - Garstang's sounding results on the Upper Tel and in the Lower City, although never published in detail, hinted at the density of the archaeological remains and the importance of the site
- Yadin's excavations - Since Yadin's excavations Hazor has maintained a place of honor in the history of modern Israeli Archaeology The expedition to Hazor, led by the late Yigael Yadin of the Hebrew University, was the largest and most important archaeological excavation undertaken by the young state of Israel Yadin's team employed hundreds of workers spread over the Upper and Lower Cities Fourteen excavation areas were explored during these seasons Most of today's senior Israeli archaeologists worked under Yadin at Hazor Here, more than at any other site in the country, the next generation of Israeli archaeologists was trained
- Ben Tor's excavations - The renewed excavations since 1990's, focusing on two major areas on the upper Tel and two main objectives were defined for them

1 - Checking the stratigraphy on which Yadin based his chronological and historical conclusions, and re-examining them in view of the advances in archaeological knowledge and methodology made in the many years since
2 - Exploring several issues left unresolved by Yadin's expedition These include, among others, the nature and borders of the "Solomonic" city, the chronology and ethnic affiliation of the early Israelite (=Iron I) settlement, the dating and characteristics of Canaanite Hazor's destruction and the nature of Hazor in the middle Bronze Age

The renewed excavations tackled most of these issues, and the relevant archaeological finds are now in the process of analysis Some of these were already published and discussed in detail, as they have direct bearing on current debates concerning the nature and chronology of the Israelite settlement of Canaan, the United and the Divided Monarchy periods Hazor plays a crucial role in these debates, and the rich archaeological finds from the site dated to these periods are unparalleled in any other Tel in Israel Therefore, Hazor finds itself at the very center of the scientific debate involving archaeologists, historians and bible scholars and the general public, concerning the historical value of the biblical narrative

Hundreds of volunteers from all over the world participated in the dig throughout the last 14 seasons of the renewed excavations at Hazor Some of them keep returning to Israel summer after summer just to take part in the excavations and help uncover the remains of the Israelite and Canaanite cities

To this day, together with Megiddo and other biblical mounds, Hazor figures prominently in the multi-disciplinary research of the history of ancient Israel, based to a large degree on a comparison of the link between the biblical narrative and the archeological evidence unearthed in the biblical mounds

Architectural Value

Hazor was a thriving and densely built city throughout most known phases of its existence Several of its monuments merit, however, special attention for their architecture and workmanship, as described below according to the periods

Early Bronze (Canaanite) Age – **Ramparts and Gates** in the Lower City - The whole enclosure of the Lower City to the north of the Tel was encircled in the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC by earthen ramparts, measuring as wide as 90 meters and as high as 15 meters The construction method employed for these huge

ramparts was very sophisticated, and adapted to both topographical and tactical requirements At the heart of the rampart was a massive bricks-built core, against which the numerous earthen layers forming the sloping rampart were thrown It was therefore necessary to dig a deep, wide moat on the western side The soil from the moat was removed to create embankments on the west and north The slopes of the eastern side were reinforced and fortified with a glacis In this way, a well-fortified enclosure was created Similar examples are known in Syrian sites such as Qatna, Ebla, Alalakh and Carchemish At least two monumental gates were incorporated within the rampart, providing a well protected entryway into the Bronze Age city. The gates are of the "Syrian" direct axis type, with three pairs of pilasters flanking the entrance The entire enclosure within the rampart was densely built and well planned throughout most of the second millennium BC

Middle and the Late Bronze (Canaanite) Ages - **Palaces and Temples** in both the Upper and the Lower City - Several monumental buildings, interpreted as palaces and temples, were erected Some of these structures (i e the "Orthostat Temple" in the Lower City, the "Podium Complex" on the northern slope of the Upper Tel, and the "Canaanite Palace" on the acropolis of the Tel) were built on top of huge earthen podiums, intended to level the ground in preparation for the building activities Bronze Age buildings at Hazor are built in a north Syrian architectural tradition, and show a high level of workmanship, seldom attested in other contemporaneous sites in Israel Most of these buildings share common architectural features, such as the use of well-dressed basalt orthostats for lining the walls, the huge rounded basalt column bases defining the entrance, and the incorporation of wooden (=cedar of Lebanon) beams in the walls and maybe also the floors Noteworthy examples are the "Double Temple" (area F) and "Orthostat Temple" (area H) in the Lower City, the "Podium Complex" (area M) on the northern slope of the upper Tel, and the "long-room Temple" and "Canaanite Palace" (area A) on the acropolis of the Tel Indeed, Hazor is the southernmost site where these foreign architectural features are found in monumental buildings

The Iron (Israelite) Age - **Israelite Architecture** in the Upper City - The first Israelite fortified city, attributed by Yadin to the time of King Solomon, is represented by a six-chambered gate and a casemate wall encircling the western half of the upper Tel The construction of the massive stone gate was preceded by enormous leveling operations Yadin emphasized the similarity, in plan and building technique, between this gate and other gates, at Gezer and Megiddo, in his interpretation of the

gates as a part of Solomon's wide ranging building activities, related in the bible (1 Kgs 9 15)

In the following centuries, under the kingdom of Israel, Hazor flourished once again A wide solid city wall, built in the well-known "offsets and insets" technique, was built all around the upper Tel Several large administrative buildings were erected throughout the city, most of which employed rows of large monolithic stone columns to separate their inner halls from one another A large citadel was built on the westernmost part of the Tel, a position controlling the road leading north, located at the foot of the Tel Several features found within the citadel, such as the proto-aeolic[3] capitals adorning its monumental entrance, are characteristic of the Israelite architectural traditions known from other sites in the Northern Kingdom

The most noteworthy element in the overall plan of this prosperous administrative city is the water system, built to supply the city's needs under siege The large water system was an outstanding element, a monument in its own right in the city of Hazor Although much of the system is subterranean and therefore not visible in the plan of the city, the entrance shaft creates an impressive presence in the city

Technological Value

The problem of supplying water to large cities, a serious issue even in times of peace, could become acute in times of siege, especially when, as at Hazor, the main water source was located beyond the fortifications

During the Iron II period, water systems reached their zenith in terms of numbers and variety. Technical and technological progress allowed engineers to provide each site with a water system for daily use adapted to its specific terrain and geological characteristics Water installations unearthed at Hazor also manifest somewhat the former advanced stages in water systems evolution

Tel Hazor's Canaanite and Israelite Water Systems highlight the site's technological value These systems attest to the vast technological knowledge possessed by the city's ancient inhabitants, who constructed them based on their knowledge of the surroundings, of geology, hydrology and engineering, their construction skills and their ability to plan and to implement The construction of the water systems could not have been carried out without methodical work plans and organizational capabilities

[3] Type of stone capital ornamented with a central triangle separating two rising volutes From the late 10th and 9th c BC onwards they were an important element of ashlar construction They are found at Megiddo, Hazor, Dan, Samaria, Ramat Rahel and Jerusalem

Water systems reflect the peak of technological progress in the relevant periods The city engineers and architects utilized the accumulated knowledge available at the time and applied it amazingly well, using strategic thinking to ensure the water system would withstand siege Where the Hazor water systems are concerned, advanced technology was drafted into the service of a survival need

The Mesha Stele, discovered in Dibbon in Jordan and now housed in the Louvre, may also attest to the building prowess of the ancient Israelites, as well as to a sort of (however coerced) interchange of human values in Mesha's time The inscription on the stele dates to the ninth century BC In it, Mesha, king of Moab, tells how he freed himself from the yoke of the king of Israel (Omri is mentioned), describing his victories, the captives that he took, and the water system that he quarried using "prisoners of Israel" These words attest to the fact that the Israelites had made a name for themselves as knowledgeable and skillful builders of water systems It is likely that Mesha took advantage of the knowledge and technology found mainly in the kingdom of Israel Thus, the water installations technology developed in Israel during the biblical periods appears to have been a model for other countries

The most noteworthy technological achievements at Hazor are

1- **The network of channels dating to the Middle Bronze Age** in the Lower City

A subterranean system of channels, parts of which were discovered to the northeastern part of the Tel (Area N), drained water from the city and irrigated the surrounding fields Several arteries drained the city's rainwater (and perhaps sewage as well), using the lower areas of the gates as an outlet for the channels The dating of these channels to the Middle Bronze Age makes them one of the earliest irrigation systems in Israel It thus may be assumed that this amazing network was built under the influence of similar irrigation and drainage systems common in Mesopotamia

2- **The trefoil-shaped, plastered Bronze Age water system**, the only one of its kind is Israel (no other reservoirs as old as this one are known)

The Late Bronze Age water reservoir at Hazor, located to the south of the Bronze Age temple in Area A of the Upper City consists of a 30 m long descending tunnel, hewn out of the rock and ending in a trefoil-shaped cave, and a vaulted corridor with stairs leading into the tunnel The channel reaches the rock level at a depth of 3 m and from that point on is cut into the rock The reservoir was discovered intact, including its roof The constructed portion of the channel is barrel-shaped and built

using the corbelling method (reminiscent of "Mycenaean" construction such as the tomb at Megiddo) The quarried segment continues westwards for about 30 m at a sharp angle and a depth of 8 5 m The tunnel, approximately 2 m wide, ends with an elongated cross-shaped or cloverleaf-shaped reservoir The space of the reservoir is thus divided into three containment chambers The entire tunnel was covered with a layer of plaster The long tunnel served as a water reservoir, and not as means to reach underground water This is attested by its plastered walls, by the channel leading into it and by the fine basalt inlet built into its inner walls This reservoir must have served the occupants of the Bronze Age palatial precinct on the Tel's acropolis

3- **The sophisticated Iron Age II water system, independent of any outside water source**

The water system is located west of the Tel's acropolis (Area L), close to the southern slope, just opposite the natural springs in Hazor Stream, at the foot of the mound Yadin's excavations proved that the water system reached groundwater level within the confines of the city, and did not, as originally assumed, draw its water from the springs outside the Tel It seems that the water system's engineers knew, or at least imagined, that the level of the water feeding the springs outside the city could also be found inside the city This water system was therefore even more protected than the one at Megiddo, since it was entirely enclosed within the city

- The building of the system is dated to the ninth century BC (stratum VIII, the reign of King Ahab) The water system continued to function until the last days of the kingdom of Israel and the Assyrian conquest of 732 BC (Stratum V) The dating of the water system to the first half of the ninth century BC, like the water system at Megiddo, permits the assumption that, with increased threats against Israel from its enemies Aram and Assyria from the beginning of the ninth century onwards, defensive efforts were intensified These included the erection of fortifications systems that could withstand prolonged siege, and the building of subterranean water systems within the confines of the Israelite and Judahite cities

The Hazor Iron Age II water system consists of four parts

1 - The entrance At the SE corner, two ramps led to the entrance structure, shaped as an open-ended rectangle, at the top of the shaft The entrance was meant to diminish the gradient and shorten the length of the slope leading from city level to the top of the shaft The structure's entrance and exit were built of huge ashlar blocks and a large basalt orthostat was placed in one of the doorposts

2 -The shaft The vertical, rectangular shaft is 20 m long up to the point where it reaches the tunnel The shaft's top was quarried at a height of 222 m above sea level and it is approximately 10 m lower than the top of the Tel The shaft consists of two parts the upper part, dug through previous strata to a depth of 10 m , and the lower part, quarried into the rock to an average depth of approximately 10 m The upper part of the shaft is supported by well preserved, 4 m height, huge retaining walls The shaft's wide dimensions allowed the quarrying of five flights of steps
The sloping tunnel begins at the end of the last steps The moderate gradient of the steps, and their width (3 m), allowed for two-way traffic
3 -The Sloping Tunnel The tunnel slopes downward to the point where the steps end in the tunnel's ceiling The tunnel's length is 25 m and the height differential is 10 m , with the lower part reaching the water level The tunnels' ceiling is gabled (like the one at Megiddo), and its average height is 4 m , as is the width of the opening On the tunnel's wall one can see signs of quarrying The tunnel's 80 steps were cut into the soft chalk and plastered to protect them, except for the last 7 steps, reached by the water, which were made out of basalt and broken pieces of the orthostats
4 -The Water Source Ground water in the vicinity provided the water that collected in this (5 X 2 2 m) pool, at the end of the tunnel

Biblical Heritage Value

The three great monotheistic religions are based on the Bible, or inspired by it The Bible is the Jewish people's holiest book and as The Old Testament, an important part of the Christian Scriptures It is also deemed a fundamental source in Islam, since the Koran regards the prophet Mohammad, as the last of the prophets after Moses and Jesus The broad spectrum of the Bible's contents – history, beliefs, thought, ethics and moral values, makes it pertinent to believers and non observant alike, as well as a highly important instrument of research

Tel Hazor is one of the biblical mounds which are located in the Holy Land, and form the background for the events described in the Bible They also complement the biblical narrative and add to it the visual and material aspect, and in doing so contribute to our perception of little understood events they permit us a three-dimensional experience of the region in which these events had taken place, the space in which the ways of life, spirituality and values characteristic to the world of the Bible, had evolved The obvious connection between the Bible – that all-important

Holy Writ - and the Biblical Tels, grant these tells with a special spiritual value

The link between Tel Hazor and the Bible

The main references to Hazor in the Old Testament fall into two distinct groups The first one considers Hazor's role in the Israelite tribes settlement process This group constitutes one of the most controversial subjects in the study of Ancient Israelite history and in the basic approach to understanding the biblical narrative (especially the books of Joshua and Judges) The second group consists of brief historical references to Solomon's building activities and the conquest of the Galilee by Tiglath Pileser III These mark the beginning of the United Monarchy traditionally attributed to the Tenth c BC and the end of the Kingdom of Israel in the Eighth c BC

Hazor is mentioned in a central event in the Bible – Joshua's conquest of the land of Canaan (Jos 11 1-13, 12 19) The mound of Hazor represents the largest and most important Canaanite city in Israel and one of the most important cities in the Near East in general ("for Hazor beforetime was the head of all those kingdoms") The findings at Hazor attest to its past greatness, as well as its disappearance

As for the Conquest stories, the conquest of Hazor is one of the most significant symbols of a transition from one period to the next in Israel and its surrounding region - the transition from the Bronze Age (the Canaanite period) to the Iron Age (the Israelite period, in terms of local archaeology) The biblical narrative clearly indicates the importance attached to the capture and control of Hazor Of all the Canaanite cities captured by Joshua, Hazor alone was burnt, further proof of its prominent position and the symbolic meaning attributed to its total destruction

As for the later biblical references, Hazor is mentioned in several chapters of the Bible narrative In the days of the judges Deborah and Barak (Jud 4, 17), in the days of the United Monarchy, as one of the cities built by King Solomon together with Megiddo and Gezer (1 Kgs 9 15), in the episode describing the end of the Divided Monarchy (2 Kgs 15 29-30) and the Assyrian conquest The Bible indicates that Hazor fell to the Assyrians in 732 BC, together with most of the northern part of Israel A decade later, in 722/1 BC, the Assyrians conquered Samaria , the capital, and thus came the end of this once prosperous kingdom The Assyrian campaign marks the last days of the independent and prosperous kingdom of Israel and Hazor thus bears witness to the rise and fall of the Northern Kingdom

(4) Contemporary Values

Material heritage is valued for the connection it provides to the past Those connections and the ways in which they are manifested speak to a multiplicity of values, such as aesthetic, religious, economic, political and so on

Tel Hazor, an archaeological site that bears material heritage – manifested in cultural built remains and small finds, demonstrates in the modern era some of these important values Among the main nowadays values that may be ascribed to the remains in the Tel, are

The Value of Conservation

"Social groups are embedded in certain places and times and, as a matter of routine, use things (material heritage) to interpret their past and their future In this sense, **conservation is not merely about saving the physical remains of the past; it is about telling something about ourselves to present and future generations** – what is important to us, what we value about our history Conservation provides a benefit to society The physical products and remains of our past serve as an important reminder of who we are, from where we came, and who we want to be In essence, conservation of our cultural heritage provides us with a greater understanding of our identity, of the continuity of humanity, and of our place in the world and in time Cultural heritage conservation has the potential to bring us together as communities, and ultimately to make us better citizens Archaeological sites constitute an important form of cultural heritage They offer, among other things, a window to the distant past that enhance our understanding of human, social, and technological development For professionals, academics, and the public at large, archaeological sites provide valued information and experiences - information and experiences that most of us hope to keep available to future generations as well "

(Excerpt from 'Background paper A Methodological Approach for Conservation Planning', The Getty Conservation Institute, 2000)

The above cited paragraph regarding the value or essence of conservation is well fitting to the state of affairs of Tel Hazor The value of conservation embraces, as can be understood by this paragraph, other values as historical, research, social, civic ones, sustainability for the future generations, and the like

The Value of Tourism

Tel Hazor has well established tourist value The various values involved with the site stimulate different kinds of people to visit the site There are values that appeal to the local population (pupils and students, academicians, hikers and the like) as well to foreign tourists, including Christian pilgrims who are interested in the Land of the Bible's ancient sites due to its connection to the Old and New Testament Tel Hazor appeals specially to multi-disciplined researchers and cultural tourists

In this regard it is worthwhile to mention that the nearby area, the northern part of Israel, is rich with various sites with interest for all sectors of visitors Among the sites are included heritage sites, local and regional museums, groves with picnic, sports and trails facilities, water sources, nature resorts and nature reserves, national parks, tourist enterprises and the like The Jordan Valley sites, the snowy Mount Hermon, the Golan Heights, the Lake of Galilee and Hula reserve, Zefat, Tiberias, Rosh-Pina – are only a few of many sites in the close vicinity of Tel Hazor

The Value of Education

Tel Hazor was for almost eighty years in the core of archaeological excavations, which were followed to a certain extent by conservation treatment, partial reconstruction and interpretation efforts These activities, emphasizing the built heritage of the site and make it better understood, along with the site's historical background and the other virtues mentioned above – make Tel Hazor an educational focal point

The value of education applies first of all to the local population in Israel and the surrounding inhabitants in particular, who, by getting acquainted with the different aspects of its past, percept the importance of the past's heritage to our life today and the importance of its preserving for present and future generations The same may be applied to foreign visitors as well

Guided tours at site's ancient remains, and activities – especially for children, implemented by the INPA / Galil Elyon Information Center and assisted by Tel Hazor's personnel, along with the theoretical studies regarding Hazor in class – altogether create a comprehensive picture of the site (see also chapter 9, the paragraph of "Present state of conservation") The understanding of Hazor and its history is enriched by Hazor finds displayed at Hazor Museum, located at the foot of the Tel The all in all experience provides increased valuing of the site and its heritage This practice contributes, beyond the informative knowledge, to educating

people It makes them being cooperative with the idea of the site's preservation and the need of its protection This insight educates people to be aware of the same values in other sites too (See also in chapter 9 'Present State of Conservation')

The Economic Value

Cultural heritage site like Tel Hazor that has been excavated, conserved and reconstructed and has visitors' facilities, including interpretation, is also a source of economic benefit Besides of the incomes originate from the visitors, part of which in foreign currency – so important to the state's treasury, the site employs people who live in its locality and earn their living there

Other Values

The values in relation with Tel Hazor listed in this chapter stem from the site's heritage and create a comprehensive and inclusive framework that has implications on the contemporary values of the site, which only the main of them had been mentioned There are still other values associated with the site that come from the site and its values, suffice to mention among them – the aesthetic / visual / ecological / environmental values of the Tel itself and the observed landscape, the marvelous landscape of the Upper Galilee and Hermon mountains, the Jordan Valley and Hula Plain, the Golan Heights and the ancient road nearby All these are also reminders of the Tel's biblical history

As mentioned in the "The Value of Tourism" paragraph, the neighboring area of Tel Hazor is abundant with numerous natural sites and resort places The inhabitants around keep on maintaining the rural character of their settlements and contribute to the pastoral appearance of the whole region

(5) Stakeholders

The stakeholders who may have interest in Tel Hazor are divided to several categories, as the following

- Governmental ministries and authorities Ministries of Interior, Tourism, Environment, Education, Foreign Affairs, Religious Affairs and Agriculture, Israel Nature and Parks Authority, Israel Antiquities Authority, Israel Lands Authority
- Regional / Municipal establishments the Regional Council Galil Elyon (Upper Galilee), Local Council – Zefat, Sub District – Zefat of the Northern District of the Ministry of Interior, nearby inhabitants and settlements, especially Kibbutz Ayelet ha-Shahar (that lies at the foot of the mound and hosts within its confines the Hazor museum) The town of Hatzor Haglilit, which was founded in the 1950's and named after the ancient site, Hundreds of its habitants took part in Yadin's expedition excavations and its present mayor is devoted for enhancing the connections between the town's population, the youth in particular, with Tel Hazor's heritage
- State and public establishments (aiming to preserve the special nature of the region) JNF (Jewish National Fund) – The JNF operates forests and recreation sites in the nearby region and the "Agmon Hula" – a bird-watching center, Society for the protection of nature in Israel
- Countrywide tourism industry (tours, guides, accommodation) Israel Tourism & Travel Agents Association, Israeli Tourism Associations (Union of Local Authorities in Israel) , Israel Tour Guides Association, Israel Hotel Association, Kibbutz Hotels Chain, Israel Youth Hostels Association, Israel Travel News

  Upper Galilee Tourist Board, Go Galilee Forum, ZHR – Zefat, Hatzor, Rosh Pina (founded in March 2000 by the three local authorities and operates in cooperation with the Jewish Agency – see below – and operates, among other activities, an information center for visitors in this area)
- Tourism and economic enterprises by private, usually local-regional entrepreneurs and land owners Among these are included resort and heritage sites, regional museums, sports and navigation clubs, amusement parks and the like and rural accommodation guest houses (including the guest house in kibbutz Ayelet ha-Shachar), guest rooms known as 'zimmers'

(including guest rooms in the town of Hatzor Haglilit), restaurants, coffee-houses, art galleries etc (details are available in every tourist information center or guidebook)

Also included in this framework the Tzahar (Zefat-Hatzor-Rosh Pina-Tuba-Zangariya) Galilee industrial park with its enterprises, which has been granted the status of "National Priority Zone A" by the government of Israel The industrial park, enjoys rural atmosphere and proximity to state transportation arteries and its management is interested in and initiating the region's development in all fields, including tourism

- Visitors – local Israelis, overseas tourists, pilgrims in particular
- Academicians and researches including students, especially in the fields of archaeology, history, bible, art, biology, architecture, conservation, ecology & environment
- Worldwide Jewish organizations, like the "Partnership 2000" program (in Hebrew 'Shutafut 2000') of the Jewish Agency for Israel / United Jewish Communities / Keren Ha Yesod – United Israel Appeal / The Israel Department Within this framework the Galilee Panhandle region in Israel was adopted by the Canadian and San Francisco 'Diaspora Communities', look at www partner org il) and the Tzahar (ZHR) Region is adopted by USA / Palm Beach County
- International organizations UNESCO / world heritage center, ICOMOS, IUCN and the like

(6) Protective Means of Tel Hazor

Tel Hazor national park enjoys several levels of protection, those of the state legislation and the INPA's regulations are detailed above in the "INPA - General Background" section of this paper The protective means of the site's routine practice, especially within the site's confines, are detailed below

The State Laws Level

Tel Hazor National Park was declared a national park on November 9, 1967 in Regulations Book 2131 The 76 1 hectare Hazor National Park is subject to national and local master plans

Tel Hazor is covered by the following Ministry of Interior plans

- National Master plan 8 (*TAMA* 8) – Covering nature reserves, national parks, and landscape reserves
- National Master plan 31 (*TAMA* 31) – Designated uses of all areas, including nature reserves, national parks, and landscape reserves
- Regional Master plan 2 *(TAMAM* 2) – The master plan covering designated land use in the northern region including nature reserves, national parks, and landscape reserves Tel Hazor is plot no 13815

Note The region of Tel Hazor is being related to in other national master plans like, for example, no 22 (forest and foresting) or 12 (tourism) and some others The other master plans are not detailed here as they are not referring directly to Tel Hazor

Sites' Plans

Plans regarding the status of Tel Hazor National Park are enclosed with the Addenda section of the nomination dossier, and are as follows

Interior Ministry decision of June 20, 1966 to present the detailed "town planning scheme" 753 for Hazor National Park for public scrutiny, and the decision to publish the plan in its digest of publications on November 3, 1966

The declaration of Hazor as a national park by the Minister of the Interior as published in regulations digest 21313 dated October 16, 1967

Plans of the "town planning scheme" for the Hazor National Park

The areas around Tel Hazor are agricultural and rural and pose no threat to Tel Hazor These areas are included in the national and local master plans, and protection is enforced by the Ministry of the Interior and the Upper Galilee Local Council

Level of General Practice at Site

Within the routine practice of Tel Hazor's staff the INPA procedures and regulations are being kept thoroughly. The entire site is being checked regularly, at least once a day by the site's staff Visitors in the site are usually accompanied by one of the staff members The reasons for the checks are threefold

- Looking after the site (water faucets, first aid problems, cleaning the paths and the signs, etc),
- General security and safety,
- Conservation

The staff checks the site as a whole, and the archaeological monuments in particular The checks are especially thorough on rainy days or when floods occur, since these may damage the site and bring about collapses If such a thing happens, the staff takes the necessary steps to correct the damage or to stabilize the loose part

Signs on the site guide the public as to appropriate behavior and site personnel draw visitors' attention to the signs and politely advise them to change their behavior (i e – not to climb on walls)

Within the operational framework of the Tel Hazor, on-going monitoring and maintenance work is carried out in the whole site on a regular basis (see also chapter 9 of this dossier) A routine procedure is being practiced at the water system The Iron Age water system is checked at least twice a day The person who carries out this check turns on the lights at the bottom of the system and turns them off at closing time The Late Bronze Age water reservoir is closed to the public and is well protected by its location beneath the Late Bronze Age palace

Site operation manual dossier - At present, rather than a dossier, there is a group of directives and instructions that regarding all park operations at Hazor National Park The dossier includes an "I D card" of the site which contains data as statutory details, the park's objectives, nature, landscape and heritage values of the site, management principles, development guidelines

Among the park's objectives listed in the "I D card, are

- Conservation of the site's monuments and finds,
- Imparting and fostering the biblical heritage values of the site to the visitors,
- Supporting the continuation of the scientific archaeological-historical research of the site

Preparation of a site manual dossier is at its beginning, under the direction of the INPA northern district director Mr Yigal Weiner and the site's director, Mr Hussein el-Heib This paper would serve, together with the other written and oral directives and procedures, as a basis for the preparation of the site's full manual dossier

The material relating to the operation of the site is available, at

- Tel Hazor national park (Address Hazor National Park, Kibbutz Ayelet ha-Shahar,12200),
- The Israel Nature and Parks Authority Northern District (Address Megiddo Antiquities National Park, Mobile Post Megiddo Region 19230),
- The Israel Nature and Parks Authority head office (Address Israel Nature and Parks Authority, 3 Am Ve'olamo St , Jerusalem, 95463)

(7) Economic Aspects

Sources and Levels of Finance

The Israel Nature and Parks Authority finances the on-going operation and maintenance of its sites, including conservation maintenance (such as replacing the steps, painting the railings, landscaping, spraying, cleaning, etc) and emergency conservation work, regardless of the revenues from the site

INPA budget per annum of Tel Hazor including staff salaries, maintenance and operational expenses is about $62,000

In addition, the INPA plans, markets and administrates all the parks through a centralized management

The income sources of Tel Hazor, besides the INPA financing, are the visitors' entrance fee only, which was 54,000 NIS (about $12,500) in 2004

Hazor museum is sponsored by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, the Ministry of Education and Culture, Kibbutz Ayelet ha-Shahar, the Upper Galilee Regional Council and a private donor

The INPA budgets do not include special projects and excavations, which are budgeted separately Other operations are financed by organizations or institutions that are interested in this or another activity after meeting all the demands and having all the needed authorizations These operations of professional work, archaeological excavation, conservation, and reconstruction are carried out by professional staff that is not part of park personnel

Renewed archaeological excavation of Tel Hazor since 1990 has been financed by the Zeltz Foundation (New York), the Berman Foundation (The Hebrew University), and the Rothschild Foundation (Yad Hanadiv)

All in all, Hazor expedition has so far spent nearly $700,000 on conservation and restoration With the financial aid provided by the Israel Government Tourist Corporation, expenditure so far is estimated at close to $1,000,000

(8) Manpower

Tel Hazor's routine operation is executed by the site's regular staff and by professionals who come from time to time to carry out certain defined works in a definite time – as detailed below

At the same time, the site's operation is also guided, on the one hand, and supervised, on the other hand, by the managing and professional levels of the INPA (cf chapter 6), including the people on duty in the INPA northern district

Site's staff

Park staff includes one permanent and two temporary employees The permanent director, Mr Hussein El-Heib, manages the site and the museum The two temporary workers are employed in the maintenance of the park and the surrounding areas during opening hours

The park director is usually to be found in the cashier's booth - selling entry tickets, receiving the visitors, answering questions and informing about the site When he is busy with other tasks, one of the temporary workers takes over there The park director is involved with the excavations operating while they take place and throughout the year he is involved with routine maintenance and conservation works

The two temporary workers, who have been already on staff for about nine years, are non-professionals and have acquired skills on the job They are very familiar with work procedures and operate accordingly These workers assist in excavation, cleanup and maintenance They also fill in at the cashier's office and augment the staff on weekends and holidays At high seasons or at time of need workers of INPA's manpower are being 'drafted' to assist the park's staff

As noted above, the site has a permanent director, Mr El-Heib, who has worked at Tel Hazor since 1975 and taken the 1995 National Parks Authority sponsored site directors' course and other additional training courses He is also certified in first aid

Mr, El-Heib may be reached by mobile phone 972-57-7762138, or at the site's telephone, 972-4-6937290 His home address is Kfar Tuba, Rosh Pina Mail, POB 89,

12310 His home phone number is 972-4-6934188 The address of the national park, is Hazor National Park, Kibbutz Ayelet ha-Shahar, 12200

When a maintenance or engineering problem that site staff cannot solve themselves arises on site, an outside expert is invited

Professionals unconnected with the permanent site staff carry out archaeological excavations and conservation

Professional staff

Professionals who are not part of the permanent staff of the site carry out, as mentioned, the archaeological excavations, conservation, and reconstruction The Israel Nature and Parks Authority, with all of its departments and sections both at headquarters and in the Northern District, are involved in the operation of the park and the decisions taken regarding it (cf chapter 6)

The renewed excavations in Hazor, since 1990, are directed Amnon Ben-Tor of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and it is a joint project of the Hebrew University and the Israel Exploration Society together with other international institutions, Complutense University of Madrid in particular

Conservation is handled by the archaeological expedition under the direction of a professional conservator, Ms Orna Cohen, who works according to the international conventions and supervises the other conservation staff Some of the conservation workers are professionals and others are not The non-professionals carry out simple tasks such as refuse removal The conservation documentation and implementing plans are done by a professional surveyor The independently contracted architectural conservation planner consults and prepares plans for the entire site, and is employed by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority The conservator operates through the director of the Development Department at the Israel Nature and Parks Authority headquarters, architect Zeev Margalit, who has taken a conservators' course in Italy

The last major project in this context, took place during the years 2002 to 2004, was the reconstruction of the Canaanite Place's walls and the construction of a protective roof over it (cf chapter 9)

(9) State of Conservation

Conservation accompanying excavation was conducted at Hazor only since 1990, when the current archaeological expedition began to dig the site This stage is well documented and the various conservation reports, including final reports and maintenance, are available (at the archaeological expeditions and at INPA and IAA) However, regarding the former expeditions the only available information is to be looked for in the excavations reports For, in the beginning of the 20th c and up to the mid-70's, the concept of archaeological conservation had not yet evolved Therefore, there are no conservation records to lean on

At the present time, the INPA and, in particular, the park's staff well aware of the principles of maintaining archaeological remains and operate according to INPA and IAA directives, based on the international conventions, in terms of stabilization of the remains, visitors' safety, respecting and ensuring the authenticity and integrity of the sites monuments As stated above, most of site's staff gained know-how and skills through years of hands-on experience

The three main partners involved in the conservation activities at Tel Hazor are the archaeological expedition, the INPA and IAA (Israel Antiquities Authority) professionals The conservation work is made in close cooperation with INPA and each major conservation plan is submitted to IAA for approval IAA inspectors check the conservation implemented at the site every now and then At the end of each excavation season, a conservation report is submitted to IAA and filed in its archive

Regular conservation maintenance

At Tel Hazor, site personnel – as mentioned - maintains the various monuments according to the conclusions and guidelines of the experts who worked at the site, in terms of identifying problems, look after the property and maintain it The experts are invited from time to time to examine the site and advise on continued maintenance

Park staff in Tel Hazor is capable of carrying out maintenance work Conservation issues, both ongoing and acute, are identified immediately and taken care of as required If the problem can be solved by the site's personnel, e g fallen stones that need to be put back in place - it is done If not, the appropriate expert is called to do the job In any case, conservators and conservation planning architect check the site few times a year, on a regular basis, not only when problems arise

The site is continuously supervised by the INPA at various levels
a- site staff, taking care of any defect discovered,
b- the Northern District INPA staff,
c- the INPA's senior staff in Jerusalem headquarters

All conservation activities, starting at the planning stage, are overseen by experts from the IAA conservation department, and independent planners and consultants in engineering and conservation

Furthermore, archaeological excavations, on-going at the site of Hazor since 1990, are accompanied by conservation as well as partial reconstruction These works, aimed for the purpose of conservation as well as presentation for the public, are sponsored by the archaeological expedition The expedition assists on-going conservation work, when undertaken, by providing data - such as plans, sections, measurements retrieved during field-work
Yet, an overall conservation program for Tel Hazor is required

Principles of Conservation Work at Tel Hazor

Conservation is "built-in" component of Hazor's expedition and a conservator is an integral part of the Hazor excavation team Monitoring the site by the professional conservator member team is a regular task, performed as a part of the antiquities' maintenance (see also chapter 8 of this dossier) Parameters for monitoring , are

- Construction materials (mortar)
- Monuments - walls structure, foundations, floors
- Weather effects (wind, rain and water run-off)
- Vegetation growth
- Animals nesting (mainly birds and voles)
- Visitors' effect

In order to better understand the decay processes, an experimental mud- bricks wall was built at the site Monitoring this mud structure and comparing it to the ancient structures helps develop conservation treatments The national park's director inspects the site's monuments on a daily basis

The monitoring of the conservation state is dealt with on two levels a "First aid" and continuous attention b Preparing detailed conservation plans based on priorities

Present State of Conservation

Hazor has, among its many attractions, a great educational value The archaeological expedition has, therefore, put much effort into conservation and restoration at the site, in order to make it "speak" not only to archaeologists, but to all visitors, adults and children alike, in addition to the obvious reason - the need to preserve the exposed architectural relics Restoration of at least one of each period major architectural complex will not just be an essential part of its preservation, but will make it better understood for the non-professional In all relevant cases, restoration is clearly indicated by a 'restoration line'

The main architectural assemblages that have so far been taken care of are

- A watchtower of the 8th c BC situated at a strategic point on the western edge of the Upper City
- A dwelling of the 9th-8th c BC An olive-oil press located within the courtyard of this building has been restored so that it can be put to use
- A public storehouse of the 9th - 8th c BC
  These last two structures have been re-located to a nearby location, some 100 meters from their original location This was done in order to enable further digging in their original location, to prevent additional damage, place them on safer grounds, and enable further restoration in the future Meanwhile, they are already accessible to the public
- The 10th c BC six-chambered city gate (the "Solomonic" gate) and the defensive wall associated with it
- A 11th c BC cultic high place (supposedly, the period of the Judges)
- The entrance to a Canaanite temple, located under the "Solomonic" gate A "window" left open in one of the rooms of this gate enables the visitor to see the underlying entrance to the temple The western extremity of that same temple, which extends beyond the "Solomonic" gate, has also been treated and partially restored
- A cultic installation located on the northern slope of the site, at the junction between the Upper and Lower City
- The expedition has invested the larger part of its efforts in the **conservation and partial restoration of the "Canaanite palace"**, dated to the 14th -13th c BC Work on the construction of a protective roof, spanning the Late Bronze Age palace, began immediately after the close of the season of 2002

The roof, measuring approximately 1250 sq m , is a joint undertaking of the Hazor Expedition, the Israel GTC and the INPA Orna Cohen, the expedition conservator supervised the work The palace's mud-brick walls were preserved and wooden beams that originally separated (and also joined) the orthostat-covered stone foundations as well as the mud-brick superstructure were also partially re-inserted into the walls

This has been, and still is, an on-going task The size of the building, the fact that it is built of mud-bricks (which are notoriously difficult to preserve) and the wooden beams which were originally incorporated into the walls - all these make it a difficult, yet challenging enterprise Some of the walls have already been treated, and the protective roof covering the entire structure was finished and celebrated in a ceremony held at the palace in July 2004

Enclosed is a CD regarding the conservation at Tel Hazor, prepared by the expedition's conservator Ms Cohen The CD contains as the following

A Conservation Report – Season 2000 (November 2000)

It is an example of the regular reports published on each excavation season's end and is submitted, among other institutions, to IAA This particular report, includes

(1) The Canaanite palace plan

(2) Hazor – Conservation Report – Season 2000 (background)

The Palace (Area A) & 18 photos demonstrating the different stages of the treatment and the look of the treated elements (before, during and after the treatment)

(3) Altar complex – (Area M) – Background and a photo of the restored corner

(4) Northern Temple – (Area A) – Background & photos demonstrating the treatment

(5) The Tower – (Area B) – Background

(6) Olive-oil press – (Beit Yael) – Background + photo of the improved oil-press

B Conservation at Tel Hazor

As mentioned, conservation activity was carried out at Tel Hazor ever since the renewed excavations started in the year 1990, by the Hazor Expedition conservator At present, a master-plan of the public management at the Upper City is being under preparation The general outlines of the touring-paths, explanation signposts and other facilities for visitors have been designed The presentation and interpretation master-plan includes conservation and reconstruction paragraphs

The main stages of conservation and reconstruction work implemented at the site are being counted by the excavation seasons and depicted alongside with photos in the enclosed CD, as the following

1993 – Relocation of two buildings of the 9th-8th c BC to a new setting (+ an aerial photo of the Tel with the indications of the above mentioned locations)

1994 – Conservation of the 11th BC cultic high place, Treatment and partial restoration of the 'Solomonic' gate

1995 – Conservation works at the Canaánite palace (14th-13th BC) began immediately after the walls' exposure, Restoration of basalt elements Study of mud bricks, the main construction material of the palace walls, An experimental wall was built on site

1996 – Conservation of the Canaanite cultic installations on the northern slope towards the Lower City

1997 – Restoration of an olive-oil press

1998 – Restoration of mud bricks in the Canaanite palace (the start)

1999 – Reconstruction of a watch-tower (9th-8th c BC)

2000 – Restoration of wood into the Canaanite palace's wall (the start) The wood was an integral part of the original walls It was burnt when the palace went off in flames and left gaps The restored wood helps to support the walls and illustrates the original building techniques

2001 – Preparation of 12 foundation pits for the supporting posts of the protective roof in the Canaanite palace

2002 – 2004 – Construction of the protective roof concurrently with conservation treatment of the walls in the Canaanite palace

2004 – A restored wooden floor in the Canaanite palace replacing the original burnt wooden floor

Maintenance of the Water Systems

The Iron Age II water system was not treated by the conservation professionals of the archaeological expedition began its work since 1990 The principal works at the water system, excavated in 1968/9, were carried out immediately after the completion of its unearthing Still, the park's staff is regularly maintaining this water system The maintenance work is mainly cleaning, including silt especially after the rainy season, and fixing fallen stones When safety problem arises – the professional man is called to handle the problem

The main works at Iron Age II water system – little conservation and reconstruction and adding facilities for visitors – were made, as mentioned, pre the 1990's excavations These works included, as the following

The Iron Age II Water System

Excavations in the Israelite water system ended in 1969 Principle maintenance activities carried out after excavation were

- In 1969, at the close of excavations, portions of the retaining walls of the shaft's upper section were restored in order to protect them and prevent their collapse after exposure by the excavation
- In 1974/5, a team of 80 workers cleaned the pool (the water source) thoroughly
- The 1970s – Concrete steps for visitors were constructed alongside the original steps With time, the concrete steps deteriorated and became unsafe Engineers and architects then determined that they should be replaced
- In 1976 conservation work was carried out in the water system, involving both the retaining walls in the entrance complex around the shaft, and the steps in the tunnel At that time, metal steps, roofs, and supports in the tunnel were also built, and minimal lighting was installed in order to ensure safe and comfortable visits The metal steps "float" above the central portion of the original steps and are intended to preserve the original steps by preventing deterioration On both sides of the metal steps, the original steps can be seen
- 1989/1990 - A spiral metal staircase was built in the shaft with separate up and down stairways to regulate visitor traffic Above the spiral staircases, transparent roofs were built to protect visitors from falling stones and earth
- The roof of the tunnel had been shored up with wooden beams, which had deteriorated because of the humid air in the tunnel The beams were taken down in 1990 It was decided that there was no need to replace them because the tunnel appeared to be in its original condition and that is the status quo at present
- Thorough cleaning of the water system takes place once a year and other cleaning activities are carried out as required

The Late Bronze Age Water Reservoir

The upper section of the water reservoir was excavated in its entirety, making it possible to reach the water source and to study the whole plan of the reservoir and the tunnel leading to it However the reservoir was not excavated all the way to the bottom The reservoir is known to be intact and meanwhile, the unexcavated part near the bottom continues to be well preserved The plaster on the reservoir and tunnel walls also appears to be in good condition

No conservation work was carried out in the reservoir Although it is closed to the public and underground, it is advisable to carry out plaster conservation Periodic cleaning (the responsibility of the park director) is performed in order to remove the small amount of silt that accumulates within

The addition of various supports is unnecessary, as the constructed and quarried sections of the reservoir are gabled, and completely stable

If in the future the excavation of the water reservoir is completed and it is decided to open it to visitors, certain elements may need to be added, such as railings and hand holds, walkways, and lighting At that point, of course, visitor capacity of the reservoir will be examined, in terms of the conservation and monitoring of the property

Conservation and Documentation Reports are available at :

- The Israel Antiquities Authority. (Address The Rockefeller Museum, POB 586, Jerusalem, 91004)
- The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Institute of Archaeology, Hazor Expedition, Mount Scopus, Jerusalem, 91905
- The Israel Nature and Parks Authority head office, and Archives in Jaffa The Israel Nature and Parks Authority Offices – Northern District
- Conservator Orna Cohen, telephone numbers 972 – 2 – 5826471, 972 – 5 – 7302899 E-mail address c_orna@hotmail com

(10) Maintenance and Monitoring

Maintenance and monitoring – the general rule

Maintenance and monitoring of the ancient remains at Tel Hazor national park are operated in several levels, mostly detailed in other chapters of this dossier As mentioned (cf chapter 6) the site has a group of directives and instructions which functions as an operation manual and contains, among other things, the staff's tasks The detailed directives are concerning the frequency and the nature of the antiquities' checks and are being updated and amended from time to time In the beginning of each year a work-plan for the following year is published – written by the site's director and approved by the INPA northern district and headquarters

The regular monitoring and maintenance activities implemented in Tel Hazor are detailed in chapter 9 Standard directives for the care and maintenance of the water system were established as a result of a conservation survey carried out by the IAA, which included administrative arrangements too

As a whole, the work is carried out by site's personnel members who maintain the monuments according to the conclusions and guidelines of the experts who worked at the site They identify problems, look after the property and maintain it

The principal current activities regarding maintenance and monitoring of the site in the different levels, are as the following

- Routine maintenance and monitoring activities done by the site's staff according to partition of daily, seasonal, random, emergency and so on (for details, see chapters 6, 8 and 9)
- Routine (several times a year for advice on continued maintenance) and ad hock (per calling when a problem or emergency case occurs) checks done by professionals (for details, see chapters 6, 8 and 9)
- Supervision and guiding be done by the senior ranks of the INPA headquarters and northern district personnel, assisted occasionally by IAA or other experts When new development project takes place at the antiquities site, like the construction of the protective roof over the Canaanite Palace, the supervision and monitoring is much tighter
- Main conservation and reconstruction works are performed by the Hazor archaeological expedition which assists and consults the on-going maintenance of conservation work at site (for details, see chapter 9)

- Visitors' management – The visitors' management plays an important role in the maintenance of the site especially in the aspect of preventing damages, or alternatively, the immediate taking care of damaged elements Among the acts which are counted in this regard, are a A pamphlet is provided free of charge at the cashier's booth, it includes instructions for appropriate behavior and specific information on the site and the recommended tour route The cashier is able to answer questions and provide additional information
  b During the visitors' stay at the site, at least one of the site's staff members is present in their vicinity and available to solve any problems which may occur and to make sure that they are not causing any damage to the relics

Besides the above mentioned levels of maintenance and monitoring, there are additional administrative arrangements and procedure at the site as the follows
The site The whole site is fenced The gates are opened each morning and are locked at the end of each day The general condition of the site and of the water system is checked as an integral part of the opening and closing of the site
The Iron Age II water system The water system's installations - including the condition of the railings, the presence of loose stones, collapse of rocks as the result of rain, etc are checked in the occasion of the daily check
If a risk is apparent, the water system is not opened to public until the appropriate professional has been called in and has taken care of the problem

Work Plan for the year of 2005

The main objectives of the yearlong work-plan for 2005 defined by Tel Hazor national park's director, Mr El-Heib, are as follows

1. Maintenance, supervision and tightly follow up of the archaeological remains especially in winter time
2. Paving new paths at the site especially at the Canaanite palace's surroundings and keep on maintaining all the paths
3. Spraying the weeds (twice at least during the year) among the ancient remains and weeding the entire Tel's area by mechanical means throughout the year
4. Post new direction and explanation signs
5. Renovation and maintenance of the Hazor museum
6. Build a place for picnics and barbecue

(11) Development Programs and Research Plans

Development programs in archaeological sites are generally composed of investigation and research work in which partnership of archaeologists, involved with the site's excavations, is desirable The interaction is made both ways The archaeologists may assist and contribute a lot to such programs On the other hand, when talking about research plans – the archaeologists may be assisted by on going enterprises at the site – since development made at archaeological site is generally has to be supported by the archaeological knowledge Sometimes the archaeologists have to increase the extent of the diggings in order to enable tourist or safety development to be made In this way each of these 'disciplines' - development programs and research plans - assists, supports and enriches the other one and therefore their presentation here is combined together

This is the case of Tel Hazor, in which the archaeological expedition is deeply involved with the designing of a development program The program is at the moment in its starting point preliminary conceptual planning, as detailed below

Development Program

Plans are currently being made by the INPA and the Hazor expedition in conjunction, including financing, with the Israel GTC to build new pathways, and install presentation signs and a variety of audio-visual media These will enable the visitor to make the most out of his visit to the site The plans' general outlines have been prepared and awaiting to their working out The museum of Hazor, which is considered as an integral part of the whole visit's experience to the Tel, was recently renovated and is now more accessible to the public (when it is opened to public by specific request – cf. chapter 12)

The plans aim to create a better arranged touring route The route will take in the Solomonic Gate, the Late Bronze Age reservoir*, the Canaanite palace and shrine (now at the final stages of excavation) and the Iron Age water system As part of this project, the Hebrew and English signage throughout the site will be replaced

** The opening of the LB reservoir to public is subject to future consideration It is thought to complete one day the excavation all the way to the reservoir's bottom, and then evaluate whether it can be opened to the public without damaging it*

The planned development program – additional data

The Hazor expedition's planning team for the development program is composed of the conservator, Ms Cohen, the conservation planning architect, Mr Abuhatzera and a concept designer, Ms Sivan The INPA is an integral partner of the planning and its future implementation Due to the high costs of the program's implementation and in order to promote the site's presentation, the following guidelines were outlined

- Instead a visitors' center a 3-D model depicting the Tel's structures plan will be prepared and be posted next to the 'Solomonic' gate This model will be used as a focal point for the visitors and the start point of the tour route
- New pathways will be created and the tour route of the site will be modified according to the new rationale of the site's explanation
- The conservation master-plan will be modified according to the tourist priority, Monuments located on the new tour route will gain high priority, yet, emergency and maintenance conservation will be on implemented as usually
- Conservation maintenance report will be prepared
- The first stage for program's realization will be the posting new set of signage, the Hazor expedition will be in charge of the interpretation signs and the INPA - of the direction signs This plan's implementation ensures that at least one stage, relatively cheap, will create a new feature in the site's presentation

The park's director, Mr El-Heib, has a wishful thinking of turning the site to be again a thriving and attractive visited site as it was in the 1970's He proposes

- To prepare the reconstructed Canaanite Palace as a location for receptions
- To reopen the Hazor museum after its display refreshed by recently dug finds
- To erect a Bedouin tent at the site's entrance for the public reception
- To build an observation point looking northward

Research Plans

At the moment, there are no specific research plans regarding Tel Hazor, except for the continuation of the archaeological excavations and the conservation programs and their publications Achieving research's budgets may change this state of affairs

Still, it should be noted that Hazor finds, those already unearthed and those to be revealed in future, shed an important light on crucial issues of the biblical, historical and other research issues being in these disciplines' core It is quite possible that Hazor's finds will keep on fueling the research in these fields (cf chapter 3)

(12) Visitors' Management

Tel Hazor is one of the first national parks in Israel It was prepared and opened to public in the 1960's, according to the tourist standards of that time The majority of the site's facilities and presentation means are old and not adapted to nowadays tourist demands, although they still in use and meet, in general, at least the minimal requirements of safety and tourist services

The need to upgrade the various components of the site is strongly agreed by all the bodies affiliated to it Therefore, three of these bodies – the INPA, the Hazor expedition and the GTC (The Israel Government Tourist Corporation of the Ministry of Tourism) have been joined for a co-program of improving the site's facilities – its physical services and its interpretation and presentation means (as partly detailed in chapter 11) Hopefully, a development project will be soon come out of it

The components of visitors' management in Tel Hazor

Visitors' characteristics

The average number of visitors per "normal" year is approximately 20,000, (In the year 2000, there were 25,191 visitors) of which approximately 70% are tourists from abroad and the other 30% are Israelis Due to the security situation in Israel, the number of visitors decreased in the last years to about 10,000 per annum (In 2003 the total number of visitors was 8214, 24% of which were overseas tourist, in 2004 the total number was 11300, 44% of which were overseas tourists) As security situation improves – the total number of visitors and respectively the proportion of foreign tourists – increase

All visitors make an overall tour of the site to see the popular attractions, and all of them see the Iron Age water system, its entrance complex, and the top of the shaft, but not everyone descends into the water system itself

Access and Parking

Tel Hazor is reached via Road 90 by a way turning in an acute and dangerous angle from the main road and leading to the entrance cashier booth of the national park The site's director has long been warning of the dangers of entering and exiting the access road to the site via road 90 The INPA demanded that the delineation of the road be changed, and consequently this problem is being solved these very days A new bypass road circumventing the site (including its Lower City), is being built on the site's west side, due to be completed in 2007, while the existing road 90 will

become an inner road leading only to Tel Hazor and to kibbutz Ayelet ha-Shahar The new outline of this part of the road (marked on the map enclosed with this dossier) will decrease to a great extent the risks presented today in the entry and the exit of visitors by using this road

The entrance to the site itself, in the area of the cashier's booth, is beautifully maintained by site staff

A parking lot for approximately 15 busses and 50 private cars is located near the entrance of the Tel

Accessibility and traffic, including for persons with disabilities

The accessibility to the Tel and throughout it is by visitors' tracks made of local beaten earth and signposted along the pathways with direction signs
There is no lighting at the Tel as it is not open to public by nights and evening activities are not taken place there The entrance complex is illuminated The water system is illuminated during the park's operation hours for enabling visitors see its sub-terrain dark parts and for safety reasons For the same reasons, steps, decks and handrails were installed inside the water system
Some of the site's visitors' paths are suitable for wheelchairs The water system is not adapted for people with mobility disabilities

The Entrance and Exit Complexes

The 'entrance complex' of Tel Hazor national park is very modest and simple and includes the cashier's booth, toilets and a small open spot with benches used for having some rest or organizing

As mentioned, at the cashier's booth the visitors purchase entrance tickets and receive a pamphlet with explanations about the site, published in Hebrew, English and German The person staffing the cashier's booth will answer questions and provide additional information Visitors are heading from the entrance booth, a distance of about 250 meters either by walking or by driving, up to the Tel's top
It's quite possible that by the implementation of the development program the site's entrance facilities will be upgraded including the improvement of pathway leading to the Tel

There is no commercial activity at the site excluding selling some souvenir postcards and booklets at the cashier's stand

Toilets, as remarked, are located at the entrance to the site near the cashier's booth There are 3 stalls for women, 2 for men, 3 urinals, and 1 handicapped toilet for men and women

Three water fountains and one water cooler are placed on site for the convenience of visitors

Interpretive Facilities at the site

The site's interpretive facilities except of the pamphlet, mentioned above, are as follows

Signage - Explanatory signs in Hebrew and English have been installed next to various monuments on the site These signs are still the blue old ones and are supposed to be changed into new ones (for details, see chapter 11) The texts of all the signs are available at the Signage and Interpretation Department of the INPA head office

Tour route – The regular tour route includes the Upper City only and is going through the excavated areas in a circular course that ends at the starting point There are several observation points on the Tel, looking at the Lower City and the surrounding landscape The tour route is going among reconstructed signposted monuments Guided tours are offered by the Galil Elyon Information Center especially during holidays and sometimes on Saturdays or by special arrangement, from time to time the site's director too guides tours

Restored Monuments – Restoration of buildings on the site has been carried out to allow them be better understood by visitors, the highlights of which, are The basalt High Place in Area M, the Solomonic Gate in Area A, Two buildings, the four-room house and the storehouse, which have been moved from the site of their original discovery to the area known as A-B They have been completely reconstructed in order to preserve them while continuing to excavate beneath their original location From these two structures on display, visitors can learn about the ancient building types of the city, An Israelite tower in the wall has been reconstructed and a metal silhouette statue of an ancient warrior has been placed on it, Most recently, work has been carried out on the walls of the Late Bronze Age palace to conserve them and to reconstruct mud-brick and orthostats, including the construction of a protective roof over the palace (cf chapter 9)

The Hazor Museum - The visit to the Hazor Museum, located at the foot of the Tel, is included in the entrance fee to the site On display at the museum are charts of the

stratigraphy of the site, maps depicting the region and the trade routes in ancient times, finds from the excavations that are displayed chronologically and accompanied by signs and explanatory panels, and photos of the Yadin expedition and of VIPs who have visited the site

The museum is closed by now due to shortage of manpower A notice on its doorway directs people interested in visit to the place to call Tel Hazor's director Then he comes and guides a tour inside

The Education, Instruction and Information Center of the INPA /northern district / Galil Elyon (Upper Galilee) branch was located till 2004 next to the museum and then was transmitted to nearby Yesod Hama'ala

The Center offers guided tours of the site, as well as various other activities Special activities for children initiated by the Center have included "archaeological excavation" (of items that had been concealed prior to the activity), pottery making, and the manufacture of mud bricks of the type found at Hazor

Other Services at the Site

Up on the Tel's top are available a convenient shaded area and platform and drinking water spot that were erected by the INPA

Toilettes are not available on the Tel

Marketing and Public Relations

Marketing of the site is carried out by the INPA's head office Marketing Department Within this framework, among other activities, the office contacts schools who send their students here

The INPA northern district has a function of marketing, education and public relations, the person in charge of it is Atti Curriat-Aharon One of her more important duties is the strengthening of the contacts between Tel Hazor (and the other national parks of the district) with the community, the neighboring community in particular A lot of activities are being done in this aspect with respect to organizations and individuals, adults and children as well

When the Instruction Center initiates activities on holidays, and occasionally at other times during the year, prior publicity is given on radio and in newspapers The site is also publicized through various means (newspapers, Internet, information centers) including updates on scheduled guided tours

Safety, Search and Rescue Services

A great deal of care is taken regarding safety at the site Areas which may be dangerous for visitors are fenced off and signposted with warning signs
In topographical problematic points at the site stairs and handrails were installed (see also chapter 6 for protective means)

In the water system, all railings are standard, the steps to the tunnel and the water system are clean and intact, and the lighting in the tunnel is checked daily
It should be noted that arrangements for visiting the water system allow visitors to safely walk through the system and enjoy its authentic appearance (see also chapter 9 – the maintenance of the water systems)

The equipment available at the site includes

- The site maintains a hand-held megaphone (There is no PA system)
- There is a first aid kit, and the site director has passed a first aid course If an ambulance is necessary, it is called from adjacent Kibbutz Ayeleth ha-Shahar
- The area of the Tel is sprayed regularly against weeds Workers pull up by hand and by mechanical weeder any plants unaffected by the weed spray
- The site maintains fire-fighting equipment

(13) Potential Endangering Factors and Site's Preparedness

The ancient monuments at Tel Hazor national park are protected – as detailed throughout this paper by treatment of conservation and restoration, by other physical means as fences and lockable gates, by the site's personnel and by different levels of laws and regulations The safety of the visitors is ensured by various means mentioned above Plans and programs have been prepared in order to promote and improve the site's different aspects, the majority of which unfortunately has not yet been materialized due to lack of budgets

Nevertheless, there are still endangering factors regarding the site, the principal of which are the follows

Natural elements affect on the ancient remains

There are no specific environmental or natural pressures in the area of the site The Tel is located in a rural agricultural environment and from a climatic point of view, the Tel is in a "predictable" area, although winters can be hard in Israeli terms, there are no sudden climatic changes Natural erosion may occur from rain, wind, and sun Park staff does monitor the situation and carry out maintenance as required

On the other hand, Tel Hazor is situated in the region of the Syrian-African Rift and may be affected from time to time by earthquakes common in the vicinity of the rift These earthquakes have so far not affected the site

Stabilization and consolidation of the ancient remains has been done through the conservation and reconstruction works and monuments' maintenance which, to a certain extent, may help to withstand earthquakes' effect

Floods

Because of the relatively large amount of rainfall in this area of northern Israel, floods might occur In order to prevent flood damage, drainage channels have been dug to channel floodwater away from the excavations These channels are surrounding the Iron Age II water system all around and are thoroughly checked and cleaned up during the year and especially in winter time and after flood occurrences The channels are checked by site staff and maintained in working order

Vegetation and Fires

A great deal of vegetation flourishes in this area, especially in winter Constant weeding is part of the on-going maintenance work at the site (cf chapter 12) Except for the damage may be caused by the vegetation to the ancient relics, while dries it may become a burning material, although fires are hardly known to occur in this area

Visitors' effect

At no point did visitor pressure reach the limits of the site's visitor capacity The problem of visitor pressure does not exist at Hazor national park because of the normally small number of visitors at the site, even reduced in the wake of the Intifada that broke out in October 2000

In the 1970s, right after the opening of the Iron Age water system to public, there was great visitor pressure, with many groups waiting in line to go down At that time, visitors entered and left the water system at the same point As a result of this experience, improvements were initiated Concrete steps were added and later replaced with metal steps The shaft has a spiral staircase with separate flights for visitors going up and down Transparent roofing and lighting were also added (cf chapter 9) Consequently, visitor flow became smoother and safer

In the rare occasions that visitor pressure occurs it still manifests mainly at the water system When a long line of visitors is waiting to enter the tunnel, it is always composed of groups, whose guides maintain order and the concern in this case may be vandalism (the carving of graffiti, for example), and not the water system's – or the whole site's - ability to withstand the number of visitors or any risk of damage to the site's infrastructure

Although the carrying capacity of Tel Hazor presents no problem, there is the need to prevent people of entering certain places, so as to avoid damage and ensure safety Much of this has already been done, including installations for the visitors' convenience and signage with instructions for proper behavior (cf chapter 12)

Development

The issue of development endangering is almost non-existent as to Tel Hazor The surrounding areas are open or cultivated ones and their owners are aware of the declared antiquities area nearby, and are careful not to harm them The IAA is always involved in dealing with this aspect, including the new delineation of road 90 which bypasses the site Kibbutz Ayelet ha-Shahar, hosts within its confines the Hazor museum and partly finances its maintenance The Kibbutz is the closest community to the Tel, its members are highly aware of the Tel's preservation

There are no commercial enterprises within the park's confines and any kind of activity, like archaeological excavations, conservation or development work, is carried out only by the permission of INPA and is supervised by the site's director, who is well acquainted with the rules valid in antiquities area Thus, any physical change is not possible without the permission of INPA

TEL BEER SHEBA NATIONAL PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Site Manual

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(1) The Site's Boundaries Definition

Coordinates Latitude 31^0 14' 41" , Longitude 34^0 50' 27"

Site's names Tel Beer Sheba National Park (Tell es-Saba')

Site's location and boundaries Tel Beer Sheba is located in the Northern Negev, about 9 km east of the modern city of Beer Sheba (Be'er Sheva), and can be reached via Road no 60 (leading southwards to Be'er Sheva and northwards to Hebron and Jerusalem) by turning southeast at the Shoket Junction on Road no 60 onto the access way leading to the southern entrance of Omer (distant about 3 km of Tel Beer Sheba) and the Bedouin settlement of Tel Sheva (which is very close to the Tel)

Tel Beer Sheba is included within the Be'er Sheva municipal boundaries The site belongs to the Sub District Be'er Sheva of the Southern District of the Ministry of Interior

Area of site and buffer zone
Area of the property 3 09 ha
Area of the buffer zone 108 53 ha

Note A map with the exact location of the nominated site and its buffer zone marked is enclosed with this paper.

(2) Description and Definition of Tel Beer Sheba

Geographical Background

Tel Beer Sheba is situated on a hill overlooking the Beer Sheba and Hebron valleys, along the northern banks of the Beer Sheba Wadi's, close to its joining point with Hebron Wadi Due to the present of water springs along the Beer Sheba Valley, a number of settlements developed in the area, among it Tel Beer Sheba, first settled in the Iron Age, and, to a limited extent, from the Persian to the Early Arab periods

Beer Sheba Valley together with the Arad Valley forms a large plateau of loess soil and both valleys separate the Judean Hills in the north from the Sinai and Negev mountains in the south Tel Beer Sheba is situated in the heart of Beer Sheba Valley, whose rich alluvial soil is suitable for cultivation

Beer Sheba Valley is a transitional area on the periphery of the desert, which extends to the south and to the east of the Valley, and the cultivated area to its north It has very little precipitation – the average annual rainfall in the region is 200 mm

The mound of Tel Beer Sheba rises to over 300 m above sea level and ancient town's remains cover an area of about 1 1 a (11 dunams)

Due to its moderate geographical formation the Beer Sheba Valley served as a convenient transportation corridor The riverbeds served as the main thoroughfares of the region both because they were suitable for walking and because they were a source of water The city that developed at Tel Beer Sheba in the Iron Age is located at an important crossroads to mount Hebron in the north, to the Judean Desert and the Dead Sea in the east, to the Coastal Plain in the west, and to the Negev hills, Kadesh-Barnea and Elath in the south

Historical Background

Different peoples settled in Beer Sheba Valley during the Biblical period the tribe of Judah in the north, the Edomites in the southeast, the desert tribes (the Amalekites and Kenites) in the south and in the east, and the Philistines in the west Beginning in the Iron Age, various rulers sought to turn the site into the area's administrative and military center The entire Beer Sheba valley was completely abandoned for a period more than one thousand years, from the Arab conquest in the seventh century AD until the nineteenth century

The earliest habitation remains at Tel Beer Sheba date to the Chalcolithic period (4th millennium BC) It is attested by pottery sherds and small finds

The inhabitants of the first Iron Age settlement (stratum IX) dug pits, 4-5 m in diameter and with an average depth of 3 m, into the rocky hillside These were used both as domestic and storage facilities (probably for grain) Huts used for dwelling were presumably built near the rock cut pits The first settlement probably served a semi-nomad population The stone dwellings, appearing for the first time at the next stage of settlement (stratum VIII), suggest an increased tendency for permanence in the settlement Both strata can be dated, based on the pottery finds, to the 11th and first half of the 10th centuries BC The deep water well, found on the eastern slope of the hill, was presumably dug in this early stage

The foundation of the stratum VII settlement (the 'enclosed settlement') marks a turning point in the organization and the socio-economic structure of the community The hilltop was leveled, and a permanent settlement made up of a ring of joined dwellings surrounding a large enclosure was built on it This 'enclosed settlement' constitutes the first stage in the city planning The houses themselves were built along the typical, Israelite period "four roomed house" plan, and the planning is seen in the arrangement of the houses in a defensive circle, where the back, lateral room of each house faced outside The entrance to the settlement was unearthed in the southern corner It was shaped like a rather long corridor and defended by two salient towers This type of settlement attests to the inhabitants' wish to protect their lives and property, and at the same time enables them to gather their livestock in a large, central enclosure The settlement was 1 acre (1/2 ha) in size, and probably ceased to exist at the time of Pharaoh Shishak's campaign, in 925 BC

In stratum VI, some of stratum VII's 'enclosed settlement' was deliberately dismantled, some of the houses abandoned, others were still in use A large (70 square m) structure, consisting of 3 rooms and stairs leading to the roof or a second storey, was built Part of the city area was taken up by a camp for the builders preparing the site for the construction of the first fortified city (stratum V) Stratum VI existed very briefly Since it did not come to a violent end, some scholars have suggested it may have been a transitional phase

The first fortified settlement was built in stratum V It was pre-planned and included fortifications, public buildings and dwelling houses Remains of the city were unearthed in four strata (V-II), of which the lower two (V-IV) were surrounded by a full

massive wall, and the upper two (III-II) by a casemate wall Of the four strata, only the latest (top), the main focal point of the excavations, was excavated in its entirety

The massive nature of the Beer Sheba fortification is set off by the rather small dimensions of the city itself In wall thickness and size of gates, these fortifications equal those of other cities of the period, more than five times the size of Beer Sheba The gate consists of a wide passageway, with two chambers on each of its sides The gate was entered through another structure, the outer gate Besides the walls and the gate, Beer Sheba was also surrounded by a huge earth rampart, the largest of all Iron Age ramparts unearthed in Israel Stratum V is also characterized by the construction of the water system

Stratum V was destroyed in a tremendous conflagration, leaving a wealth of finds discovered among the ruined dwellings When the city was rebuilt after its destruction (stratum IV), the wall and gate were again put into use The dwellings were also rebuilt, floor levels were significantly raised and other changes made in the structures The cause of the destruction is uncertain, and may be the 760 BC earthquake mentioned in the Bible (Amos 1, 1)

The city was rebuilt yet again in stratum III This time, Beer Sheba was surrounded by a new type of city wall a casemate wall, built of two thick parallel walls, with the space between them divided by walls into narrow, elongated rooms A new gate, resembling its predecessor in plan and also consisting of a wide passageway and two large chambers on both sides, was affixed to the casemate wall The outer gate was no longer in use, and its foundations support the earth rampart, which was renewed, raised and now encompassed the front of the gate itself To compensate for the elimination of the outer gate, the builders thickened the outer walls of the main gate, turning them into frontal towers The transition from stratum III to II was not destructive, but was mainly characterized by a restoration of existing buildings and new habitation levels These two last Israelite strata (III-II), are comprised of public buildings and residential quarters The nature of the dwelling houses and their relation to the fortifications indicate that these dwellings were intended for inhabitants associated with the city's administration A typical dwelling consists of three or four rooms In some of these houses the entrance is through a front room, where, judging by the hearths found inside, food preparation, baking and cooking took place This room led to the other rooms in the house In the dwellings adjacent to the casemate wall, the back rooms were incorporated into the wall itself

Stratum II was destroyed as a result of the Assyrian king Sennacherib's campaign, in 701 BC The destruction was intense – in every single building, a thick burnt layer and evidence of collapsed walls were found The ceramic finds dating to the violently destroyed stratum II form one of the largest ceramic assemblages ever unearthed in Israel in a single habitation level The hundreds of vessels found there form a basis for the typology of Judahite pottery Stratum II also contained wealth of other varied finds human and animal figurines, cult objects, limestone incense burners, bone implements, various stone vessels and iron weapons Among the finds were also several inscriptions in ancient Hebrew writing, as well as vessels with incised inscription, including a bowl incised with the word "*QDS*" (means in Hebrew holy)

An attempt to rebuild the city was made, and its traces were unearthed in several parts of the mound (stratum I) It seems the restoration was never finished, and no floors or other evidence of a proper settlement attributed to this stage were found

The Beer Sheba mound remained abandoned for 250 years, until a settlement (or a fort) was built on it in the Persian period (4th century BC) This was replaced by a fort with an adjacent temple dating to the Hellenistic period (3rd-2nd centuries BC), and later still by a large Herodian palace (1st c BC) and a Roman fort (2nd-3rd centuries AD), which formed a part of the Roman road system ("*Limes Palaestina*") From then on the mound was left uninhabited for five centuries, until the Early Islamic period (8th-9th centuries AD), when the ruins of the fort were used as a caravansary. From then on the site remained abandoned

In World War I, until its capture by the 'ANZAC' New Zealand cavalry, in 1917, the mound served as an outpost of the Turkish army

The History of Archaeological Research

The excavation at Tel Beer Sheba was conducted as part of a regional survey In the 1960's, the late Prof Yochanan Aharoni initiated a regional study of the Beer Sheba valley, a project that continued after his death in 1976 The survey focused on excavating the mounds of Arad, Beer Sheba, Tel Malhata, Tel Massos and Tel Ira The concept behind this study was to target a specific geographic region, fully cover the studied area and present a comparative analysis of all sites found The regional survey enables us to study not only the history of each settlement, but to reconstruct the settlement processes in a specific geographic area, and determine the underlying factors for the foundation of settlements or for gaps in their history This kind of archaeology, known as "archaeology of settlement'" is eminently suited to the Beer

Sheba valley, synonymous to the biblical "Negev", or "Judaean Negev", which in antiquity, was a frontier area compared to the northern parts of the country Settlement in the Beer Sheba valley was, more often than not, the result of external pressures (military, commercial, demographic), rather than appeal of the region itself

Tel Beer Sheba was excavated in two different courses of time by expeditions of Tel Aviv University, the Institute of Archaeology, as the following

1) 1969 – 1976 – Eight successive excavating seasons, the first seven of them under the direction of Yochanan Aharoni's and the eighth one under the direction of Ze'ev Herzog

2) 1990 – 1996 – About four sporadic excavating seasons were carried out during this time under the direction of Ze'ev Herzog The Israelite water system was unearthed by this expedition (from the end of 1994 to the beginning of 1996) The expedition placed an emphasis on revealing large sections of the last city that existed on the site (stratum II) and the city served as prototype for studying Israelite city planning

Archaeologists of University of North Carolina, University of Melbourne and Brigham Young University, Utah, took part in the excavations

Since a great extent of the last city's remains was exposed, there is no planning, at the moment, to continue the diggings at the site

Archaeological Reports and documentation Tel Aviv University, The Beer-Sheba excavations of the Institute of Archaeology, Ramat Aviv, Tel Aviv, 69978 and at every academic library in Israel

Finds from the excavation are on display at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem

The Main Components of Tel Beer Sheba - Description

The description below only concerns the remains visible today It follows the visitor's path from the national park's entrance through the monuments at the Tel and back to the exit from the same point of the entry to the site

The access road into the site leads to the **entrance gate** The **deep well** used daily by the ancient locals and passers by is located outside the gate One enters the city through the **gate** in use at the city's earlier stages (strata V-IV) On the way to the main gate, visitors pass by the **drain** that had carried rainwater outside the city At one section, the earlier occupation levels had been preserved one of the **dwelling pits** used in strata IX-VIII, as well as the walls of a room dating to the enclosed settlement of stratum VII From this area one proceeds to the **main city gate** Two different stages of the gate had been observed on both sides of the passage on the

left, the gate used through strata I-II-III, and on the right the earlier gate, dating to strata V-IV Plastered benches can be seen in one of the gate chambers Beyond the gate's passageway, **a rectangular open space** may have served as a marketplace **The city's streets radiate from this space** Turning left, one passes into the peripheral street, passing by the **governor's palace**, and onwards between the **dwelling houses** lining the street Here one reaches a section where the excavators had gone deeper into the ground and unearthed the earlier street of stratum V, built along an identical route To the right there are several dwellings belonging to stratum V The visitors' path goes on to the **"Cellar House"** where the underground chambers and the passage going through them can be seen Further on, one reaches the western quarter's dwelling houses, and behind them the **casemate wall** surrounding the city Here one climbs on to an **observation tower**, from which the visitor can see the site and its surroundings, as well as features of the city layout From the tower one can turn back to the peripheral street, pass by the dwellings of the northern quarter and eventually reach the **observation point over the shaft leading down into the water system** The water system's structure comprised of

1 - The shaft and stairs A square shaft (12X12 m and ca 15 m deep) was dug into the conglomerate, the side of which was lined with sloping retaining walls that would support the stairs Five stairways, spiraling along the walls, descend into the shaft At the outer side of the stairs was a stone parapet, necessary at such a deep shaft

2 - The water reservoir The subterranean part includes a water reservoir, made up of 5 water chambers dug into the chalk The reservoir was found intact Its walls were covered with a thick layer of plaster, about 10 cm thick

3 - A channel system for filling up the reservoirs (its total length is about 50 m)

4 - An opening at the northern part of the reservoir used in the construction of the system to remove the debris and was blocked when work was completed Then it was blocked with a wall and a thick layer of earth, to prevent discovery and penetration from outside During the excavations, the wall blocking was dismantled, and the newly opened aperture enables visitors to exit at the bottom of the reservoir

Alternatively, one can turn south, pass by the remains of the **Roman and early Islamic fort**, and proceed between the dwellings on both sides of the inner street, towards the pillared structures that have served as **storehouses** At the bottom of the mound there is **a replica of the horned altar**, whose stones were discovered incorporated in one of the storehouse walls

(3) Cultural Values of Tel Beer Sheba

The most important values of Tel Beer Sheba are presented below, yet, the contents of the general background regarding the Biblical Tels (cf p 13), valid to Tel Beer Sheba as well and should be kept in mind

Scientific Value – the Archaeological-Historical aspect

Town planning

Archaeologically, Beer Sheba's importance stems from the fact that the site contains the complete (and so far only) evidence enabling us to restore a planned Israelite city (see below 'Architectural Value') Beer Sheba's advantage, as a site selected to research urban planning, is its limited size, some 1.1 hectare, compared, for example, to 6-7 ha in Megiddo and Gezer Due to its smaller size, a concentrated excavation managed to unearth some two thirds of the city's area In strata III-II, the wide scope of the excavations enabled the archaeologists to bring to light extensive parts of the city Consequently, we now have a detailed plan of a pre-planned Israelite city, the first and so far only such city excavated to such an extent in an archaeological excavation in Israel

Therefore, the results of the excavation and an analysis of its findings are of the utmost importance to the study of the history of urban planning in the ancient Land of Israel Essentially, the basic features of the plan already appear as early as the city's first stage, dating to the 9th century BC (stratum V) Other sections, excavated within the city's bounds, attest to the fact that the city was already well-planned at stratum V, much like the cities excavated in later strata (strata IV-II) The abundant data relating to the Israelite city plan collected at Beer Sheba enable us to reconstruct the city's character and nature The effort invested in the planning, construction and maintenance of the administrative buildings attests to the city's important status in the Judahite kingdom's administration

It seems that unlike modern cities, the ancient city was not apparently a residential center for a sizable part of the population, but rather a center for state officialdom, state buildings and for the royal treasure The planned state city was designated to serve as a regional capital, and thus contained the administrative, military, economic and religious functions For that particular purpose, the central administration was willing to invest the efforts and professional manpower required to construct the planned city of Israelite Beer Sheba

Beer Sheba as a Gateway Community in the Long Distance Trade

The Israelite city of Beer Sheba was located on one of the most important trade routes in the ancient Near East The exotic raw materials (especially myrrh and frankincense), the mainstay of the trade with southern Arabia, were sought after throughout the Near East The varied findings in Beer Sheba stratum II originating in the west (the Philistine coast and Egypt) and in the east (Edom, Assyria and southern Arabia) attest to Beer Sheba's role as a caravan station in the trade with the Arabian Peninsula, one of whose routes crossed the Beer Sheba valley In this trade system, rather than being the final destination for the caravans (traveling to the sea ports), Beer Sheba, supplied the necessary services required from a road station

Scientific Value – Study and Research

Regional Survey

As mentioned above (cf "The History of Archaeological Research") the excavations at the site of Tel Beer Sheba were conducted as part of a regional survey The survey enabled to study the history of each of the settlements and to reconstruct the settlement processes in the surveyed area Thus the survey revealed that settlement in the Beer Sheba valley was, in many of the cases, the result of external pressures, rather than any appeal of the region itself

"Field school" of training conservation workers

The archaeological excavations carried out in Tel Beer Sheba at the mid 1970's, began when the science of archaeology already had professional scientific implements and facilities, and an awareness of the importance of conservation In Tel Beer Sheba, the excavations were meticulously recorded from the start, thus, when the site was being developed and prepared for visitors, this record served to restore and conserve the mound according to all scientific standards, with the aid of multidiscipline professionals A team of conservators, which was trained on site in the restoration process of mud brick walls, as well as the restoration and stabilization of the plastered water reservoir, now applies its skills to other archaeological sites

Archaeological data registration methods

The Beer Sheba excavators developed, during the excavations in the late 1960's, registration methods and forms based on their experience in previous excavations This registration method was utilized successfully throughout the excavation seasons Registration was a daily process, carried out independently by area

directors in each area, and included a daily basket list, a graphic recording sheet and locus cards – so that the registration system encompassed all data found at the dig, recorded and described both verbally and graphically These records are the basis for the final reports, written when the excavation has ended[4]

In the 1990's, a new software based on the ACCESS software was developed especially for the Beer Sheba excavations, and all existing data was loaded into it The database is easy to use and enables the user to integrate all data, as well as create "cross-sections" according to different variables In 2000, this software was further equipped with a GIS software, enabling users to create site maps with distribution of finds according to the different variables required

Architectural Value

The Israelite city of Tel Beer Sheba was a pre-planned city rather than the result of gradual evolution This plan, unearthed almost in its entirety during the excavations, affords an insight into city planning in the period The public buildings of this city are also of great architectural value The city plan and its main buildings are detailed below

City Plan The outer outline of the city is oval, suggesting an intention to adapt to the natural topography of the hill A wall was built along the city's perimeter, with a gate at the south The peripheral streets, dividing the city into three parallel blocks, were laid parallel to the wall The streets' width, continuous route and the uniform size of the residential quarters, all plainly suggest that the city was built according to a premeditated plan, which was meticulously adhered to, without any deviations In addition to the peripheral streets there was another, perpendicular street, which crosses the city and facilitates access to the areas farthest from the gate All streets lead to a rectangular space on the inner side of the gate that served as the city's main square The gate itself served both to defend the entrance into the city and as a seat for the city's elders The cells of the gate, equipped with plastered benches, along with the nearby square, were intended for the daily use of the townspeople, and were probably used by local leaders and merchants The elaborate drainage

[4]Information about this registration method is to be found in Aharoni, Y Herzog, Z Kochavi, M Moshkovitz, S and Rainey, A F 1973 Methods of Recording and Documenting In Aharony, Y ed Beer-Sheba I Excavations at Tel Beer-Sheba 1969-1971 Seasons Tel Aviv 119-132

system unearthed underneath the city streets is an equally telling manifestation of urban planning This system, comprising of plastered gutters that collected rainwater along house walls, as well as main and secondary channels – carried the rainwater outside through a central channel that was constructed underneath the gate These drainage channels were built to remove rainwater as fast as possible from within the city's perimeter, and prevent them soaking the ground and dissolving the plaster holding together the stone foundations of the houses The main channel's course led outside the city, to the ancient water well, where the water was collected Due to its excellent planning, the city's founders managed to incorporate in it some 75 residential units (housing some 300 people), in addition to the administrative structures The built area in the site takes up about 90% of the site's entire area, whereas in unplanned cities of the same period, such as Tel Bet Mirsim, only some 50% of the given area was built up

Public Administrative Structures in the City Besides the ordinary dwellings, the city contains structures designated for specific purposes These include the city gate and the wall, built for defense, the storehouses, two exceptionally large buildings (palaces), the water system which provided a regular water supply that enabled the city to withstand a prolonged siege.

The storehouses were built on an area of 600 square meters, at the south-eastern part of the mound, near the city gate The structure includes three large units, each divided into three elongated halls by two rows of stone pillars, which, in the suggested reconstruction, had supported an elevated ceiling The hundreds of pottery vessels, discovered in the destruction layer (stratum II) serve as an important source of information on how the storehouses had been organized Apparently, each of the six storage halls contained every type of vessel, and therefore – every kind of food Thus, the halls could be functioning separately, and each of them fulfilled every need Besides storage vessels, the halls were found to contain other vessels, used in the preparation, cooking and measuring out of food Therefore, these were apparently "active storehouses" where, food, besides being stored, was also processed, measured and prepared for delivery The grinding stones and mortars found within the storehouses attest, among other things, to the processing of food done inside The central halls in every storehouse, where no vessels were found, had served as passages for the transportation of supplies Interestingly enough, the evidence to that are the holes drilled deliberately into several corners of the stone

pillars These were used to tether beasts of burden waiting to be loaded or unloaded, who could meanwhile be fed and watered in the trough-like installations built in the spaces separating the pillars In the state administration system, the storehouses served as the economic foundation for the administrative and military organization of the area, which had depended on a regular food supply to army units and other officials relying on the state's stores for their needs

An exceptionally large building, located near the square, was probably used as a residence for the governor, who in the Israelite period was designated "ruler of the city" This **Governor's Palace** includes a formal wing, consisting of three elongated halls, a service wing containing a kitchen and a storage room, and a residential wing The structure was built in stratum III

The stones of a **horned altar** - the largest (each side measuring some 1 6 m) and most elaborate of all altars so far discovered in Israel - were found incorporated into one of the storehouse walls, in a secondary use

A building, exceptional in measurements and plan, was named by the archaeological expedition the **"Cellar House"** since two of its rooms were sunk to a depth of some 2 5 m below floor level The structure was built in stratum II, and during its construction all previous remains were dismantled down to bedrock level Presumably this structure too was used for administrative purposes, and the cellars may have been used for wine storage

The large **water reservoir** (cf chapter 2) was an outstanding element, a monument in its own right in the city of Beer Sheba Although much of the reservoir is subterranean and therefore not visible in a plan of the city, the entrance shaft creates an impressive presence in the city

Technological Value

During the Iron II period, water systems reached their zenith in terms of numbers and variety Technical and technological progress allowed engineers to provide each site with a water system adapted to its specific terrain and geological characteristics

The problem of supplying water to cities, a serious issue even in times of peace, could become acute in times of siege, especially when, as at Beer Sheba, the main water source was located beyond the fortifications

The Mesha Stele, discovered in Dibbon in Jordan and now housed in the Louvre, may also attest to the building prowess of the ancient Israelites, as well as to a sort of

(however coerced) interchange of human values in Mesha's time The inscription on the stele dates to the ninth century BC In it, Mesha, king of Moab, tells how he freed himself from the yoke of the king of Israel (Omri is mentioned), describing his victories, the captives that he took, and the water system that he quarried using "prisoners of Israel" These words attest to the fact that the Israelites had made a name for themselves as knowledgeable and skillful builders of water systems It is likely that Mesha took advantage of the knowledge and technology found mainly in the kingdom of Israel Thus, the water installations technology developed in Israel during the biblical periods appears to have been a model for other countries

Since there are no springs in the Beer Sheba valley, the water supply to the mounds in the region became a matter of survival to the ancient settlers The ancient city of Beer Sheba had two water supply facilities – on the south-eastern slope, a 70 m deep well, and within the city, a water reservoir Both facilities were built during the Iron Age and were in use up to the end of the 1st century BC Both installations, detailed below, represent different solutions to the water supply problem at peacetime, the well enabled the city dwellers to draw the underground water, whereas the large water storage system was intended to sustain it during siege and prevent the enemy from compromising the water source

The Well Outside the city's fortifications, at roughly 2 m under the surface, the excavators found a well, 1 8 m in diameter. Its upper part, down to 5 m , was dug into the conglomerate levels and lined with dressed limestone Its lower part was cut into chalk When found, the well was filled with refuse dating to the Hellenistic period This was cleared down to underground water level, currently at 69 m The excavators dug 1 m more underwater, still not reaching the bottom of the hewn well The well served as a source of water for both the city dwellers and travelers from the Iron Age up to the end of the Hellenistic period It fell into disuse when its top part collapsed into the shaft, apparently as a result of an earthquake during king Herod's reign After the collapse the well was deliberately filled up
Ethnographic analogies suggest that the well's water was drawn by beasts of burden Once the rope had been put down and the vessel filled with water, the animal pulled the rope to a distance of 70 m

The Water System the remains of the water reservoir, unearthed by the excavators, were extraordinarily well preserved, just as it were when abandoned some 2000 years ago It forms a most impressive part of the ancient remains at the Tel The water system included a network of channels that collected the water and carried it into a subterranean reservoir The descent into the reservoir was from within the city, through a deep shaft equipped with stairs The water itself was flood water flowing in the Hebron Wadi, which a dam diverted into the channels and through them to the reservoir pools The construction of the water system required meticulous planning First, the architects had to bring into account the level at which the water would flow into the reservoir and employ gravity to ensure the flow The north-eastern edge of the hill was selected as the location for the water system mainly for its proximity to the Hebron Wadi streambed, and the existence of a natural terrace in the hill – a saddle connecting it to the eastern hill However, since the water system was incorporated into the city's fortification system, its construction here required its builders to erect an enormous glacis, built with the earth removed in the construction of the water system, and supported and stabilized by retaining walls

The reservoir was built in stratum V, along with the first fortified city, and was encompassed by the city wall In the north-eastern corner of the mound, the wall was reinforced with a salient tower, overlooking the access way to the city gate on one side, and the entry to the reservoir on the other The water system apparently served the local population up to the Hellenistic period, when it collapsed in the 31 AD earthquake, and fell into disuse

Biblical Heritage Value

The three great monotheistic religions are based on the Bible, or inspired by it The Bible is the Jewish people's holiest book and as The Old Testament, an important part of the Christian Scriptures It is also deemed a fundamental source in Islam, since the Koran regards the prophet Mohammad, as the last of the prophets after Moses and Jesus The broad spectrum of the Bible's contents – history, beliefs, thought, ethics and moral values, makes it pertinent to believers and non observant alike, as well as a highly important instrument of research

Tel Beer Sheba is one of the biblical mounds which are located in the Holy Land, and form the background for the events described in the Bible They also complement the biblical narrative and add to it the visual and material aspect, and in doing so contribute to our perception of little understood events they permit us a

three-dimensional experience of the region in which these events had taken place, the space in which the ways of life, spirituality and values characteristic to the world of the Bible, had evolved The obvious connection between the Bible – that all-important Holy Writ - and the Biblical Tels, grant these tells with a special spiritual value

Beer Sheba in the Bible

Beer Sheba's importance is reflected in the biblical traditions surrounding the Patriarchs' wanderings throughout the Holy Land One should note, in particular, God's appearance to the Patriarchs in Beer Sheba (Gen 26, 24-25, 46, 1-4) , the struggle with the Philistines over the right to dig wells and draw their water (Gen 21, 24-34, 26, 15-33) and the passage explaining the origins of the name Beer Sheba itself (derived from Shevua [oath],(Gen 21, 31), or from 'the water they called Shibah' (Gen 26, 33) In the Old Testament city lists, Beer Sheba heads the list of cities assigned to the tribe of Simeon (Josh 19, 2, I Chr I 4, 28) and is even included in the cities of the Negev allotted to the tribe of Judah (Josh 15, 28) At the times of the Judges and later under the United Monarchy, Beer Sheba marks the land's southernmost border "from Dan even to Beer Sheba" (Judges 20, 1, I Sam 3, 20, II Sam 3, 10, 17, 11, 24, 2, 15, I Kg , 5, 4) In Chronicles, the cities are listed in a reversed order. "From Beer Sheba even to Dan" (I Chr 21, 2, II Chr 30, 5) Beer Sheba is also mentioned as the southern border of the kingdom of Judaea "from Geba to Beer Sheba (2 Kgs 23, 8) or "from Beer Sheba to mount Ephraim" (2 Chr 19, 4) Prophet Elijah stopped at "Beer Sheba which belongeth to Judah" on his way south, from Jezreel to mount Horeb (1 Kgs 19, 3) Amos mentions Beer Sheba in his prophecies as the southernmost city in a continuum of settlements associated with ritual practices and ceremonies Dan – Bethel – Gilgal – Beer Sheba (Amos 5, 5, 8, 14) Even in the days of the Return to Zion, Beer Sheba was still the southernmost settlement "from Beer Sheba unto the valley of Hinnom" (Nehm 11, 30)

Most scholars and researchers accept the identification of Tel Beer Sheba with biblical Beer Sheba The centrality of the settlement in Tel Beer Sheba, as well as the absence of any other fortified city which could have served as the administrative center of the area, reinforce even further the identification of the Tel

Possible evidence in Tel Beer Sheba's finds to the biblical tradition

Before the Judahite kingdom came into being, there were, besides the official cult center in Jerusalem, various other ritual centers and temples where other gods were worshipped and fertility rites took place As the monotheistic faith gathered momentum, the prophets and monarchy came to view these temples as obstacles and strove to eliminate them The biblical tradition tells (2Kgs 18 3-7) how King Hezekiah (8th century BC) destroyed the high places and prohibited the worship of foreign deities The question whether the biblical description of Hezekiah's religious reform does indeed reflect a historical reality is still unresolved Beer Sheba may supply us with evidence of this reform, an early stage in an immensely significant theological transformation

Since the very beginning of the excavations in the site, the excavators of Beer Sheba have been preoccupied with the problem of the location of the ancient cult place mentioned in the Bible (Gen 21, 26, 46, and especially Amos 5 5, 8 14) The discovery of the Israelite temple in nearby Arad imparted special significance to the issue Aharony (who directed excavations in both sites) thought that Arad and Beer Sheba both had border-temples consecrating the kingdom's borders

The evidence for the existence of a cult place in Beer Sheba was found during the fifth season of excavations The ashlar stones of a large horned altar were found imbedded in a wall of one of the storehouses For the first time ever, a horned altar resembling in shape the small, domestic incense-altars was found in an excavation The extensive excavations in the site never did find the temple Nevertheless, Aharony assumed that an early cult place had existed on the Tel, and that during the Monarchic period a temple was built there In his opinion, the temple was dismantled in the course of the ritual reform initiated by Hezekiah, king of Judah, and therefore disappeared without a trace, with the sole exception of the altar, whose dismantled stones were incorporated into the storehouse walls

This intentional dismantling of the altar, and the fact that the temple itself was not discovered, suggest a reform in ritual practices in Beer Sheba Such a religious reform, appearing in the Bible for the first time in the reign of Hezekiah (II kings, 18), was initiated, as mentioned, to eliminate worship in smaller towns and to centralize religious ritual solely in Jerusalem This change marks the end of stratum III and the beginning of stratum II, the last in the city's existence

(4) Contemporary Values

Material heritage is valued for the connection it provides to the past Those connections and the ways in which they are manifested speak to a multiplicity of values, such as aesthetic, religious, economic, political and so on
Tel Beer Sheba, an archaeological site that bears material heritage – manifested in cultural built remains and small finds, demonstrates in the modern era some of these important values Among the main nowadays values that may be ascribed to the remains in the Tel, are

The Value of Conservation

"Social groups are embedded in certain places and times and, as a matter of routine, use things (material heritage) to interpret their past and their future In this sense, **conservation is not merely about saving the physical remains of the past; it is about telling something about ourselves to present and future generations** – what is important to us, what we value about our history
Conservation provides a benefit to society The physical products and remains of our past serve as an important reminder of who we are, from where we came, and who we want to be In essence, conservation of our cultural heritage provides us with a greater understanding of our identity, of the continuity of humanity, and of our place in the world and in time Cultural heritage conservation has the potential to bring us together as communities, and ultimately to make us better citizens
Archaeological sites constitute an important form of cultural heritage They offer, among other things, a window to the distant past that enhance our understanding of human, social, and technological development For professionals, academics, and the public at large, archaeological sites provide valued information and experiences - information and experiences that most of us hope to keep available to future generations as well "
(Excerpt from 'Background paper A Methodological Approach for Conservation Planning', The Getty Conservation Institute, 2000)

The above cited paragraph regarding the value or essence of conservation is well fitting to the state of affairs of Tel Beer Sheba The value of conservation embraces, as can be understood by this paragraph, other values as historical, research, social, civic ones, sustainability for the future generations, and the like

Moreover, the reconstruction made in Tel Beer Sheba and the lookout tower built in order to have a comprehensive sight of the site give a clear understanding of how the ancient city was planned and looking like In this regard Tel Beer Sheba is quite unique as the last planned stratum (II) was excavated to a great extent

The Value of Tourism

Tel Beer Sheba has well established tourist value In 1990, the National Parks Authority carried out large scale reconstruction work on the Tel with the assistance of the Administration for the Development of Negev Tourism The reconstructed planned city of Beer Sheba is easily understood by visitors and it is pleasant to stroll in its streets The landscape of the ancient city and that of the Beer Sheba valley is well visible from the Tel and especially from the observation tower erected on the Tel

Since the beginning of the year 2004, when the ancient water reservoir was opened to the public, an important tourist attraction has been added to the site Due to the site's virtues local and overseas tourists are evenly interested in visiting Tel Beer Sheba as the statistics shows

The region surrounding Tel Beer Sheba could also be of interest for tourist, for the foreign ones in particular Among the other attractions in this region are the desert landscapes oases and the Bedouin population, part of which is still living in the traditional way of life – tents, camel and sheep flocks, ethnic cloths and the like

The Value of Education

The archaeological remains, their conservation and reconstruction, along with the interpretative signposts placed in Tel Beer Sheba, are emphasizing the built heritage of the site and make it easily understood

Additional educational means at the site, all in regular use, as the 'amphitheater', the children's activity center, the pamphlet distributed at the site and the booklet of the Ministry of Education for teaching the site outdoors – all make Tel Beer Sheba an educational focal point in an interdisciplinary way

The site has a children's activity center that attracts many school groups from the region The site is connected to the Southern District Information Center of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority at Mitzpeh Ramon

The added value of education applies first of all to the local population in the region of Beer Sheba and the south of Israel who arrive in organized groups to site's activity In this way they become acquainted with the different aspects of the site and its past, percept the importance of the past's heritage to our life today and the importance of its preserving for present and future generations The same may be applied to overseas visitors as well

The all in all impression visitors acquire at the site make them understand it better and value it more The increased awareness of the site's heritage contributes, in turn, for educating people to be cooperative with the site's preservation This reflects on the broader scope by causing people being aware of the same values in other sites

The Economic Value

Cultural heritage site like Tel Beer Sheba that has been excavated, conserved and reconstructed and has visitors' facilities, including interpretation, is also a source of economic benefit Besides of the incomes originate from the visitors, part of which in foreign currency so important to the state treasury, the site employs people who live in its close vicinity and earn their living there

Tel Beer Sheba national park is included within the boundaries of a large scale development project of Nahal (Wadi) Be'er Sheva, directed by several public organizations, and is considered as one of the sites that may assist the reinforcement of the metropolis of the modern city of Be'er Sheva (cf chapter 12)

Other Values

The values in regard with Tel Beer Sheba listed in this chapter derive from the site's heritage These values create a comprehensive framework reflecting on the contemporary values of the site Only the main contemporary values of the site had been mentioned There are still other values connected with the site stem from these main values Suffice to mention among them – the aesthetic / visual / ecological / environmental value of the Tel itself and the visible landscape, the biblical landscape of the Beer Sheba Valley, the Beer Sheba and Hebron Wadis and the skirts of the Negev, the southern part of the Land of Israel All these are reminders of the biblical history of the Tel

(5) Stakeholders

The stakeholders who may have interest in Tel Beer Sheba are divided to several categories, as the following

- Governmental ministries and authorities Ministries of Interior, Tourism, Environment, Education, Foreign Affairs, Religious Affairs and Agriculture, INPA, Israel Antiquities Authority, Israel Lands Authority
- Regional / Municipal establishments The Municipalities of Beer Sheba (that Tel Beer Sheba is included within its municipal boundaries), Omer and Tel Sheva, Inhabitants nearby, Negev Tourism Forum
- State and public establishments JNF (Jewish National Fund) and the Drainage Authority / the administration for the development of Nahal Be'er Sheva, Society for the protection of nature in Israel,
- Countrywide tourism industry (tours, guides, accommodation) Israel Tourism & Travel Agents Association, Israeli Tourism Associations (Union of Local Authorities in Israel) , Israel Tour Guides Association, Israel Hotel Association, Kibbutz Hotels Chain, Israel Youth Hostels Association, Israel Travel News
- Tourism and economic enterprises by private, usually local entrepreneurs and land owners Among these are included resort and heritage sites, regional museums, sports and navigation clubs, amusement parks and rural accommodation guest houses, restaurants, coffee-houses, art galleries etc
- Visitors – local Israelis, overseas tourists, pilgrims in particular
- Academic institutes – Ben Gurion University of the Negev and its research branch at kibbutz Sde-Boker, in particular Researchers and students especially of the disciplines of archaeology, history, bible, geology, ancient art, architecture and town planning, conservation, environment & ecology etc
- Worldwide Jewish organizations, like the "Partnership 2000" program (in Hebrew 'Shutafut 2000') of the Jewish Agency for Israel / United Jewish Communities / Keren Ha Yesod – United Israel Appeal / The Israel Department Within this framework the city of Beer Sheva and regional council Bnei Shimon region in Israel were adopted by the Montreal and Sweden 'Diaspora Community' (look at www.partner.org.il)
- International organizations UNESCO / world heritage center, ICOMOS

(6) Protective Means of Tel Beer Sheba

Tel Beer Sheba national park enjoys several levels of protection, those of the state legislation and the INPA's regulations are detailed above in the "INPA - General Background" section of this paper The protective means of the site's routine practice, especially within the site's confines, are detailed below

The State Laws Level

Tel Beer Sheba National Park was declared a national park on December 18, 1986 in Regulations Booklet 4989 The site was opened to the public in 1992 The 18-hectare Beer Sheba National Park is subject to national and local master plans

Tel Beer Sheba is covered by the following Ministry of Interior plans

- National Master plan 8 (*TAMA* 8) – Covering nature reserves, national parks, and landscape reserves
- National Master plan 31 (*TAMA* 31) – Designated uses of all areas, including nature reserves, national parks, and landscape reserves
- Town Planning Scheme - no 171/03/5 of the city of Be'er Sheva, plot no 39729

Note The region of Tel Beer Sheba is being related to in other national master plans like, for example, no 22 (forest and foresting) and some others The other master plans are not detailed here as they are not referring directly to Tel Beer Sheba

Site's Plans

Plans regarding the status of Tel Beer Sheba National Park are enclosed with the Addenda section of the nomination dossier, and are as follows

- A copy (to be found in the 'site manual' at the park and at the INPA / southern district) which contains all the details regarding the Minister of the Interior's declaration of Tel Beer Sheba as a national park, that was published in regulations digest 3263 dated October 30, 1986
- Plans of the "town planning scheme" no 171/03/5 for Tel Beer Sheba National Park confines (plot no 39729) within the surrounding area (The park is located within the confines of the municipality of city of Be'er Sheva, which its town planning scheme - no 171/03/5 - is the same as that of Tel Beer Sheba)

Level of General Practice at Site

Within the routine practice of Tel Beer Sheba's staff the INPA procedures and regulations are being kept thoroughly The entire site in the Tel is being checked regularly, at least once a day by the site's staff Visitors in the site are usually accompanied by one of the staff members The reasons for the checks are threefold

- Looking after the site (water faucets, first aid problems, cleaning the paths and the signs, etc),
- General security and safety,
- Conservation

The staff checks the site as a whole, and the archaeological monuments in particular The checks are especially thorough on the rare occasions of rainy days or when floods occur, since these may damage the site and bring about collapses If such a thing happens, the staff takes the necessary steps to correct the damage or to stabilize the loose part

The whole park is fenced since the year of 2000 Signs on the sites guide the public as to appropriate behavior, and site personnel draw visitors' attention to the signs and politely advise them to change their behavior (i e – not to climb on walls)

Within the operational framework of the Tel Beer Sheba, on-going monitoring and maintenance work is carried out in the whole site on a regular basis, including the cleaning of the well from time to time

The Iron Age water reservoir is checked at least twice a day, every day, since it was opened to the public in March 2004 (cf chapter 9)

Site Manual Dossier - Tel Beer Sheba has a very organized operation manual, written in Hebrew, dating from 28 8 97 and updated regularly The manual contains, among the other things the park's description, history & map, operation hours, Beer Sheba's history, the statutory status, licenses, building plans, detailed plans, business licenses, insurance policy, the number of employees, agreements regarding the site, reports on annual visitor statistics, annual income, procedures, the main maintenance issues, table of electricity meter readings, information about the close vicinity, communities, nature reserves, KKL-JNF land, a cross-section of the population living close to the site, forms and reports used by the site, a inventory of equipment, a list of tasks performed regularly, issues relating to safety and security, marketing, and public relations

(7) Economic Aspects

Sources and Levels of Finance

The INPA finances the on-going operation and maintenance of its sites, including conservation maintenance (such as replacing the steps, painting the railings, landscaping, spraying, cleaning, etc) and emergency conservation work, regardless of the revenues from the site INPA budget per annum of Tel Beer Sheba including staff salaries, maintenance and operational expenses is about $71,000

In addition, the INPA plans, markets and administrates all the parks through a centralized management

The income sources of Tel Beer Sheba, besides the INPA financing, are the visitors' entrance fee and fee paid for the children's activity (cf chapter 12)

Having a small scale commercial activity at the park, like a kiosk and a souvenir shop, is by now at its first checking stages – the getting of business license

The INPA budgets do not include special projects and excavations, which are budgeted separately Other operations are financed by organizations or institutions that are interested in this or another activity after meeting all the demands and having all the needed authorizations

Professional staff that is not part of park personnel carried out the archaeological excavation, the financing of which was provided by Tel Aviv University However, the excavations to completely uncover the well and the water system have been financed by the National Parks Authority and the Negev Tourism Development Administration These bodies have financed the conservation and development work, started in 1990, on the site as well The excavations, directed by TAU archaeologists, were carried out by a team of workers of the Tel Beer Sheba national park, headed by Eliyahu Even Haim with the assistance of workers provided by a back-to-work welfare program Architect Lawrence Belkin designed the plans for the reconstruction and the observation tower assisted by the archaeological advice of Ze'ev Herzog

The Be'er Sheva Municipality aided in financing other reconstruction work on the Tel, including the reconstruction of the mud-brick construction Besides partly financing the excavations, conservation and reconstruction works, the Municipality, aided the archaeological expedition in its first arrangements at site by partly financing its camp construction and by connecting it to water, sewage and electricity systems

(8) Manpower

Tel Beer Sheba's routine operation is executed by the site's regular staff and by professionals who come from time to time to carry out certain defined works in a definite time – as detailed below

At the same time, the site's operation is also guided, on the one hand, and supervised, on the other hand, by the managing and professional levels of the INPA (cf chapter 6), including the people on duty in the INPA southern district

Site's staff

Site staff includes 3 persons, one of whom is permanent (the director of the site), and 2 temporary workers who have been employed on the site for approximately 8 years (The total number of 5 persons working at the site has been recently reduced due to INPA's financial difficulties) The temporary workers deal with various tasks such as receiving the public, on-going maintenance, cleaning the water reservoir, reconstruction, etc Although not all site personnel are professionals they are very skilled at their work due to the long term of their employment

The site's director is a highly experienced self-made conservator-reconstruction worker who carries out all the maintenance work on the site The professional work, archaeological excavation, conservation and reconstruction, is done by professional, or under their supervision

The director of the national park is Mr Eliyahu Even Haim, has been an INPA employee for 30 years, and director of the Beer Sheba National Park since it opened in 1992 Eliyahu was brought to the site from Masada during the Aharoni excavations, as an expert in the reconstruction of mud-brick houses Eliyahu did not attend the course for site directors and attained his skills on the job

The management techniques employed by the director of the park are based both on his vast experience and knowledge of the site and on the directives and supervision received from the Southern District of the INPA and the authority's senior staff When problems of management or maintenance arise that cannot be solved by the site director by his own, outside experts are called in according to the type of problem

Mr Even Haim can be reached at the following numbers Beer Sheba National Park, 972-8-6467286, mobile phone 972-57-7762175 His home address is 2 Martin Buber Street, Beer Sheba, Tel 972-8-6411653

Professional staff

The archaeological excavations, as stated, were conducted by archaeologists of Tel Aviv University – the late prof Yochanan Aharoni and his successor, Prof Zeev Herzog Archaeologists of University of North Carolina, University of Melbourne and Brigham Young University, Utah, took part in the excavations
While archaeological excavations were underway at the site, 30 more persons were employed, through a back-to-work welfare program

Site architect, Lawrence Belkin, who has accompanied all stages of the excavation during the 1990s, has planned the conservation work and supervised the reconstruction and development at the Tel The work of conserving the plaster in the water system was carried out under the guidance of conservator Olga Finkelstein, of the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) Geological experts from the Rock Mechanics Laboratory at the Ben Gurion University of the Negev gave additional professional advice in issues relating to rock conservation and the stability of the reservoir

Conservation in the entire site is carried out by the professional conservators from the IAA, who, when necessary direct the work of non-professional laborers The conservation was done in accordance with the international conventions From time to time, the professional conservation team of Masada National Park carried out conservation and conservation-maintenance work at Tel Beer Sheba This team became lately the southern district's conservation team

As mentioned, outside engineer or other professional is called in when a specific problem arises which site's staff can't handle it

(9) State of Conservation

The archaeological excavations carried out in Tel Beer Sheba at the mid 1970's, began when the science of archaeology already had professional scientific implements and facilities, and an awareness of the need and importance of conservation and preservation In Tel Beer Sheba, the excavations were meticulously recorded from the start, thus, when the site was being developed and prepared for visitors, this record served to restore and conserve the mound according to all scientific standards, with the aid of various professionals from different fields of expertise Tel Beer Sheba underwent a professional treatment of conservation and of partial reconstruction from the very beginnings of its excavation

Conservation work at Beer Sheba was done, right from the start, concurrently with the excavation An expert specializing in the manufacture of mud bricks, with general conservation know-how was brought from Masada (and later became the national park's director, cf chapter 9) to take part and teach other workers how to work in this field A lot of effort was invested in the conservation and partial reconstruction of the site As mentioned, the whole treatment was done professionally and reports are available A team of conservators was trained on site in the restoration process of mud brick walls and the restoration and stabilization of the plastered water reservoir

Regarding the methods of archaeological data and conservation registration see chapter 3, the paragraph of 'Scientific Value – Study and Research' in this dossier

Regular conservation maintenance

At Tel Beer Sheba, site personnel – as mentioned - is capable of carrying out maintenance work and its members maintain the various monuments according to the conclusions and guidelines of the experts who worked at the site they identify problems, look after the property and maintain it These experts are invited from time to time to examine the situation and advise on continued maintenance

The Park's personnel check the site on a daily basis and fixes minor damages due to climatic conditions As mentioned, the park's director was brought to the site already in the first seasons of excavations, as a reconstruction expert of mud-brick buildings Conservation issues, both ongoing and acute, are identified immediately and taken care of as required If the problem can be solved by the site's personnel,

e g fallen stones to be put back in place - it is done If not, the appropriate expert is called to do the job In any case, conservators and conservation planning architect check the site few times a year, on a regular basis, not only when problems arise

The site is continuously supervised by the INPA at various levels
a- site staff, taking care of any defect discovered,
b- the Southern INPA staff,
c- the INPA senior staff in Jerusalem headquarters

The site is also assisted and supervised by external professionals
a- The architect responsible for planning the national park, Lawrence Belkin, was working in cooperation with the INPA and Conservation Department in the IAA, for whatever conservation and reconstruction activity
b- All conservation activities, starting at the planning stage, are overseen by experts from the IAA conservation department The latter's experts, headed by Mr Jacques Neguer, director of the Art Conservation Section, consulted on-site and assisted by the conservator Ms Olga Finkelstein The first work group consisted of IAA's personnel who trained the park's workers, instructing them in plaster conservation IAA's conservation staff was responsible for the conservation plan's implementation
c- A geomechanical-engineering research of the water system's stability carried out by Dr. Yossi Hazor and Ron Benary of the Negev Laboratory for Rock Mechanics, Department of Geology and Mineralogy, the Ben Gurion University The research's conclusions, submitted in 1995, were used as the base for the stabilization and reinforcement works at the reservoir
d- Independent planners and consultants in engineering and conservation

Principles of Conservation Work at Tel Beer Sheba

Tel Beer Sheba is one of the archaeological sites of INPA's southern district and as such it is regularly and ordinarily maintained by the site's director, Mr Even-Haim, who has acquired conservation skills in field for many years up to now, as well as by the conservation team of the southern district led by Orit Bortnik, the conservation anchor person of the district since May 2004, when this office was created

The current regular work includes activities of various kinds, as detailed below (cf chapter 10, 'Maintenance of the ancient site's buildings, city walls and the other installations')

The ancient remains at the Tel are, in general, in an excellent state of preservation, the result of the efforts invested in the site and the profound awareness to the importance of antiquities conservation of the site's director, a skilled conservator

Maintenance of the Water System

Great efforts were invested in conserving the reservoir The conservation work, took place from 1996 to 2000, begun after cleaning the fill from within the reservoir It included mainly conservation of the reservoir's plaster and filling cracks

The next stage was the carrying out of constructive reinforcement of the reservoir's ceiling and the arrangement of the entrance and the exit for visitors

The works were financed by the INPA, the Israel GTC of the Ministry of Tourism and the Beer Sheba Stream Rehabilitation Administration

The maintenance of the water system of Tel Beer Sheba occupies a great deal of the conservation maintenance activity at the site The system was unearthed in the mid-1990's by modern means and received from the start an up-to-date professional treatment It was undergone a thorough conservation and development process

Present State of Conservation

Tel Beer Sheba was prepared for visits by the public by the National Parks Authority Concurrently with the excavations, and towards the opening of the site to the public in 1992, conservation and partial restoration of the mud-brick monuments were carried out Throughout the conservation and reconstruction works, the stone foundations of numerous structures were strengthened, the overlying mud bricks were reconstructed and the street routes were emphasized An observation tower, enabling visitors to view the principles of town planning in ancient Beer Sheba, was built at the central part of the mound The well's rim, which was slightly damaged, was restored and the preservation and reinforcement work at the water reservoir were completed later. One should note that both the well and the water reservoir are exceptionally well preserved and both hardly required any restoration work
The present conservation does not include the main gate, a part of the mound where work will need to be completed

Much of the restoration work at Tel Beer Sheba was done with the original building material, mud-brick, used for restoring mud-brick structures This method, based on

the excavation finds, was used in order to enhance visitors' experience and help them to conceive how the ancient city was looking like.

Work on the water reservoir included extensive stabilization, reinforcement and conservation work. As these works were completed and the water system had been rehabilitated it was opened to the public in March 2004 and additional means for improving the presentation were added. Since its opening to public, the water system is the crowning glory of the whole visit at the site.

The well and the water reservoir have undergone some restoration faithful to the original for the purposes of conservation. There was no need to carry out restoration for interpretive or explanatory purposes, since the good state of the preservation, especially that of the reservoir's, clearly reveals its function for interpretive purposes.

Still some modern supplements had to be added, as the following:

- The Well: A number of stone courses were reconstructed on the ruined original top part of the well, and a railing was added around it. An electricity line has been added with a projector that illuminates the bottom of the well and is operated by a switch on the spot.

- The water reservoir: reinforcement of the reservoir's walls and conservation of the plaster has been completed. Descent to the water system is via steps made out of flint stone, some are original and some are reconstructed. A plastic-coated safety railing has also been installed.

Activities carried out in the water reservoir – in detail

The water system, and its inner plastered parts in particular, is subject to current regular monitoring and supervision by the southern district conservation anchor person. Maintenance is being made on regular basis as well. All kinds of the work are being professionally documented. The large scale treatment was implemented in the water system since and concurrently with its excavation. The treatment was composed of several stages, especially in the last years and included plaster conservation, stabilization and consolidation, reinforcement and development, as described below.

The principal treatments were as follows:

A. Preparatory stages

A comprehensive plaster conservation project was implemented in the water system during its unearthing in the years 1994 to 1996 This project included

1 An inclusive materials' survey and the plaster's physical state of the preservation
2 Photographic and drawing documentation of all the facades
3 Analysis of the plaster components by laboratory tests
4 Final report of the plaster's physical condition and recommendations for a comprehensive conservation of the whole water system's plaster

Concurrently with the preparation of the 1995 conservation plan, the staff was trained and later, during the years1998-2003, implementation was carried out by the IAA (including supervision, observation, and documentation, with work carried out by graduates of an IAA conservation course)

B. Conservation treatment

An extensive conservation treatment was implemented in the water system's plaster in a cooperated project of INPA ad IAA The mortar used in this conservation treatment is lime-based and without the use of cements and glues, compatible to the original one The treatment was composed of

- Filling gaps existing within the different layers of the plaster and between the plaster and the natural rock of the reservoir
- Filling cracks and lacunas existing in the plaster's surface
- Closing the borders of plaster fragments
- Consolidation and stabilization of the plaster's surface

A detailed report of the documentation project of the water system's plaster is available at the INPA southern district office

C. Stabilization

Another stage of the conservation project was the stabilization of the water system's walls and ceiling by engineering professionals

All the works described enabled the preparing the water reservoir for additional work aimed for the opening of the water reservoir to the public

D. Development works in the water system

Development works were carried out inside the water system prior to its opening to public in March 2004 in order to enable a safe and enjoyable visit The works were done with a special attention for the protecting of the water system's original parts

The main development activities and added elements were

- Floating decks (wooden platforms) were installed above the original plastered floor, which was covered by a layer of new protective plaster on lime basis
- Steps and hand railings were added for safe and comfortable passing between the different inner levels of the reservoir
- Artistic soft electric lighting system was fitted in order to enable the visitors get oriented in the dark space inside the reservoir and be impressed of it
- Preparations were made for a new interpretation and presentation system, several new signposts have already been erected at site
- Infrastructure for future closed-circuit camera has been prepared
- The reservoir's ceiling has been reinforced
- The visitors have to wear helmets while visiting inside the reservoir for safety reasons, helmets are provided free of charge at the entrance of the reservoir
- Drainage and means of water collection were arranged in order to prevent floods' damages

Enclosed hereby a CD containing plans and sections regarding the conservation carried out in the water reservoir and a variety of the site's monuments photos

Conservation and Documentation Reports are available at :

- The Israel Antiquities Authority / conservation department, Rockefeller Museum, POB 586, Jerusalem, 91004,
- The Israel Nature and Parks Authority's Head Office in Jerusalem and the Archives in Jaffa and in the Southern District offices, 19 Haavot St , Beer Sheba, 84215 (mail to the Beer Sheba National Park arrives via the Southern District offices) and at Tel Beer Sheba
- Architect Lawrence Belkin, can be reached at the following E-mail address belkinla@shentel net

(10) Maintenance and Monitoring

Maintenance and monitoring – the general rule

Maintenance and monitoring of the ancient remains at Tel Beer Sheba national park are operated in several levels part of which are detailed throughout this paper

As mentioned (cf chapter 6) the site has an operation manual, being updated and amended from time to time, which contains details of the national park, among them the staff and its tasks with detailed directives concerning the frequency and the nature of the antiquities' checks

The regular monitoring and maintenance activities implemented in Tel Beer Sheba are detailed below (cf chapter 9) Standard directives for the care and maintenance of the water system were established as a result of a conservation survey and its implementation carried out by the IAA, which included administrative arrangements too

As a whole, the basic work is carried out by site's personnel who maintain the various monuments according to the conclusions and guidelines of the experts who worked at the site The personnel members identify problems, look after the property and maintain it

The principal current activities regarding maintenance and monitoring of the site in the different levels, are as the following

- Routine maintenance and monitoring activities done by the site's staff according to partition of daily, seasonal, random, emergency and so on (cf chapters 6, 8 and 9)
- Routine (several times a year for advice on continued maintenance) and ad hock (per calling when a problem or emergency case occurs) checks done by professionals (cf chapters 6, 8 and 9)
- Supervision and guiding are done by the senior ranks of the INPA headquarters and southern district personnel, assisted occasionally by IAA or other experts When new development project takes place at the antiquities site the supervision and monitoring is much tighter
- Assistance and accompanying the conservation works by the archaeological expedition (cf chapter 9)
- Visitors' management – The visitors' management plays an important role in the maintenance of the site especially in the aspect of preventing damages,

or alternatively, the immediate taking care of damaged elements (cf chapter 12 of this dossier) Among the acts which are counted in this regard, are

a A pamphlet is provided free of charge at the cashier's booth, it includes instructions for appropriate behavior and specific information on the site and the recommended tour route The cashier is able to answer questions and provide additional information

b During the visitors' stay at the site, at least one of the site's staff members is present in their vicinity and available to solve any problems which may occur and to make sure that they are not causing any damage to the relics

Besides the above mentioned levels of maintenance and monitoring, it should be noted that there are additional administrative arrangements and procedure at the site The site is fenced and its gates are locked at night The whole site is checked daily at least twice and maintenance is carried out as needed In winter times, when floods fill the reservoir with water, the extra water is being pumped out by the site's personnel (further details are listed below)

Maintenance of the ancient site's buildings, walls and other installations

The regular maintenance comprises all the main - ancient and modern - elements of the site, and the principal activities are as the follows

- Daily monitoring and ordinary supervision checks of all the site's components
- Daily monitoring and supervision carried out by the site's director in order to identify conservation problems caused by erosion or due to vandalism
- General conservation inspection of all the site's components is being done always after visits of numerous people, usually in holidays, in order to identify damages caused to the monuments by visitors
- General conservation inspection is being implemented at site before the rainy season each year, in order to pinpoint built-elements with special need of conservation reinforcement In such inspections, walls, wall heads, wall foundations, as well as delicate elements as plastered pools, mud-brick walls, drainage systems inside the buildings and among then – are being checked
- In the rainy season, and especially after flood occurrences, the whole site is thoroughly being checked in order to identify spots being damage by floods When any damage is found, conservation treatment is immediately being implemented

The above mentioned monitoring aims to check as the following main conditions

- Drainage of run-off water
- Stability of the built remains, including the reconstructed ones, especially after bouts of bad weather conditions
- Vegetation and animals' effect
- Visitors' effect
- Cleaning the ancient remains and their surrounding area

As noted, work has been completed in the Beer Sheba water system to prepare it for opening to the public in 2004 The work included conservation of the plaster in the reservoir, filling of cracks and erecting constructional supports for the sides and the ceiling The work was carried out by INPA and IAA professionals who had at their disposal consultation and guidance Routine maintenance instructions for daily and periodically monitoring and checkups were given to the site's staff immediately after finishing the work Thus, the staff was able to manage the on-going follow up and treatment in keeping with the conservation directives and maintenance reports, side by side with the manuals regarding the safety and the managing the visitors.

Key indicators for measuring the state of conservation of the water reservoir

- The status of the floor plaster (new plaster)
- The plaster on the walls and ceiling
- All cracks
- Ceiling and sides reinforcement
- The bonding of modern elements to various parts of the reservoir and the electrical system
- Inclines
- Drainage in the reservoir (mobile pump is available inside)
- Water diversion and settling basins outside the reservoir
- Ancient constructed elements in the reservoir
- The steps leading to the reservoir
- Constructed elements above and around the reservoir
- Possible damage from natural & human sources in and around the reservoir
- The quality of water in the reservoir (when it accumulates) for possible damage to the reservoir and for pollution
- Possible accumulation of silt, pebbles, and dirt and their cleaning

(11) Development Programs and Research

Programs regarding Tel Beer Sheba

Tel Beer Sheba is quite a small site which was excavated, as mentioned, in the 1970's and in the 1990's, with modern tools of the archaeological discipline The digs were accompanied, since the beginning, with a thought given to the preparing of the site to public visits This idea, common to several bodies that also assisted in financing, determined the work plan As a result, specific decisions were taken and carried out, like uncovering to a great extent the last thriving city's layer at the site or reconstructing mud brick walls in order to enhance the understanding of the city plan The whole implementation, including conservation works, took place with the deeply involvement of the archaeological expedition that operated at the site

It seems that the principal archaeological and development works at Tel Beer Sheba had been already carried out thanks mainly to the small scale of the site In the research point of view, so far the archaeological expedition doesn't plan to go on excavating the site, as most of it has already been unearthed However, as already mentioned, the excavations' director, Prof Zeev Herzog, and the other expedition's members are available anytime for the site's service

In the development point of view, after the fulfillment of the 'water system project' – digging, conservation, reinforcement and preparing it to public visits – there's not much remained to be done Towards the ceremony of opening the water system to public visits, took place on 22nd March 2004, a part of the site's old blue signage was changed into new, desert-colored, signs There are still some other old-style signposts in good state that are planned to be change either. These signs will be taken care of by the INPA's Signage and Interpretation Department, consulted by the Tel's excavator Some other minor improvements in the presentation of the site are required and probably will be later implemented

Conservation plans and conservation maintenance are integral part of the site's management and its work plan and will be always on going (cf chapters 9 and 10) When need arises, the conservation coordinator of the INPA's southern district is assisted by all other professionals – mainly those of INPA, IAA and architect Lawrence Belkin

Conservation and reconstruction at water system's entrance shaft

The next planned treatment – conservation and reconstruction of the water system's entrance shaft is being started these days (March 2005) A briefing background regarding the shaft's state and the work to be implemented there is as the follows

- Most of the shaft's walls are original Their reconstructed parts are easily noticed
- The survey of the preservation state revealed focal points in the shaft's walls where the original soil mortar has been crumbled and was washed away of the walls' stones This state risks the completeness of the whole walls
- The shaft's walls were documented and a conservation plan for all the walls' pointing with hydraulic lime mortar was prepared
- The access to the shaft's walls will be made on a hanging scaffold that has been fitted in February 2005
- The shaft's walls conservation is being carried out these days by the southern district conservation team and the park's director according to the guidelines of the district conservation anchor person and with her accompaniment
- A final report – summarizing the special conservation works at the shaft's walls together with a monitoring and supervision recommendations report will be published after completing the conservation works

The integration of Tel Beer Sheba in regional development plan

Although the development within Tel Beer Sheba seems to be extracted, the national park is included in a regional park development plan as a tourist center compound

A "Master-plan for the development of Beer Sheva Stream Park", a co-project common to several bodies, was published in October 2002 The project's stirring committee members are KKL (JNF), the Beer Sheva municipality, the Ministry of Environment, Israel Lands Administration, Shikma-Besor Drainage Authority, and the Rehabilitation and Development Beer Sheva Stream Administration The project has a planning team and it is connected to many state and public organizations, among which is the INPA, and to private entrepreneurs The plan's objectives are

- To rehabilitate the Beer Sheva Stream

- To render the Beer Sheva Stream
- To develop recreation, sports and tourist centers in the Beer Sheva Stream whilst in keeping with the preservation of nature, landscape, heritage and archaeological values located within the planning area confines

The Shikma-Besor Drainage Authority was founded in 1997 and immediately after started the works of rehabilitating and rendering the Beer Sheva Stream and designing the infrastructure for the future Park, the length of which is 8 km and the area 450 ha (4500 dunams) As many of the planned focal points of the Park are already existing as functioning sites (with different degrees of development needs) the completion of the Park's implementation will take but a few years

The creating of the Park is regarded as an important stimulus for the development and the reinforcement of the city of Beer Sheva and its surroundings on one hand and for the preservation of the open spaces in the vicinity, on the other hand

Tel Beer Sheba as well as the joining point of the Beer Sheva and Hebron Streams is included within the Park's planning confines at its eastern edge Thus, Tel Beer Sheba is frequently mentioned throughout the various components of the development plan Among other themes, Tel Beer Sheba is planned as a part of one of the main entrances to the Park, as one of its tourist and heritage centers, and as a station of the "wells and water systems route".

(12) Visitors' Management

Tel Beer Sheba National Park is relatively a small-scale site that was excavated and treated by modern means and according to nowadays concepts Within this framework the archaeological excavations were accompanied since their very beginning by professional conservation and reconstruction works as well as by the site's adaptation to public visits These actions and marketing efforts made the site to become popular for visitors

The components of visitors' management in Tel Beer Sheba

Visitors' characteristics

In an average year, approximately 20,000 people visit the site, over half of them overseas tourists In the record tourism year of 1995, 26,623 people visited the site In recent years visitors have decreased in number, and within the number - the proportion of overseas tourists has decreased, due to the security situation in Israel (the number was about 15,000 in 2001, 43% - tourists, 7,500 in 2002, 30% - tourists, 7,880 in 2003, 35% - tourists and 15,350 in 2004, 52% - overseas tourists)

Hopefully, the new attraction at the site - the water reservoir (opened in 2004) and improved security, will bring about an increase in visitors' total number and the proportion of overseas tourists respectively The figures already show that visitors' number at the Tel in 2004 was almost double than the this of 2003, an increase (including in the proportion of tourists) which is ascribed to the reservoir's opening

Most of the visitors are coming in the framework of groups and spend about one hour or less at the site in a short tour The tour usually includes visit to the well, entry through the city gate, a walking through the ancient city's perimeter street, a watch from the observation tower and the highlight – the visit in the water reservoir When school or children activity takes place, the tour and activity, last about 3 - 4 hours

The majority of the overseas tourists are coming in groups Many of them are Christians with deep religious feelings, acquainted with the Old and New Testament, connecting the site to the biblical accounts and therefore are satisfied of the visit

Most of the Israeli visitors are schoolchildren from the nearby settlements, organized groups - mainly of retired people or students (of archaeology, biblical studies, history, architecture and the like) and on holidays - families

An analysis implemented by "Rotem" marketing consultants in response to the National Parks Authority request in 1994, about two years after the park's opening, aimed to examine the park's attractiveness issue The checks were based on tour guides and travel agents The conclusion was that the site was not attractive enough for visitors due to the following main reasons

(1) The site is not a "main attraction" and is being visited as a part of the group's tour in Beer Sheva region or as a stop on the way Eilat

(2) Domestic travel agencies are hardly aware of the site or claim that it is not attractive enough due to

a Domestic tourists prefer sports and active activities and not 'intellectual' ones

b Most of the domestic tourists are not interested in visits to archaeological sites

c The costs involved in hiring a guide, bus and entrance fee

d The whole region of Beer Sheva is not attractive for domestic tourists

As a result of these finds the "Rotem" consultants proposed a marketing program in the recommendations of which were among other things, to develop unique elements and attractive visit plan to Tel Beer Sheba In course of time passed since then the state of affairs at the site has been changed a lot – attractions were added, the marketing is more aggressive, the awareness of the site's existence has been increased and the visitors' number has been increased respectively

Access and Parking

Tel Beer Sheba is reached via Road no 60 by an access way turning south, leading to the southern entrance of Omer and to Tel Beer Sheba and to the Bedouin settlement of Tel Sheva The access way to Beer Sheba National Park is signposted

The site is well-maintained, organized, and kept in good condition A path leads from the parking lot to the site offices which include the cashier's booth and the to the site's entrance, all are located at the base of the Tel The entrance in the direction of the cashier's booth was built to imitate an Iron Age mud-brick gate At the entrance to the park are parking lots (including parking for the handicapped near the entry point) that can accommodate numerous buses and private cars

It should be noted that the entrance complex, including the parking lot, site's offices, site's fence, signage and children's activity center - all were built anew during the year of 2000 under the direction of the site's director

Accessibility and traffic, including for persons with disabilities

The accessibility to the Tel and throughout it is by visitors' tracks made of local beaten earth and signposted along the paths with direction signs The paths are well maintained and marked, and parts of them are suitable for wheelchairs The monuments are signposted in Hebrew and English There is no lighting at the Tel as it is not open to public by nights The entrance complex is illuminated The water system is illuminated during the operation hours of the park for enabling visitors see its sub-terrain dark parts and for safety reasons For the same reasons, steps, decks and handrails were installed inside the water system

Shade facilities are available on the Tel – next to the well and in the observation tower (in addition to the children's activity center near the site's entrance)

A considerable part of the tracks, going among the ancient monuments, are adapted to people with mobility difficulties As a matter of fact, they are able to visit the great majority of the site, except of the water reservoir

The Entrance and Exit Complexes

The 'entrance complex' of national park includes the cashier's booth, toilets and few other components, like 'amphitheater' and children's activity center (cf 'Interpretive Facilities' below) The exit of the park is through the same complex

At the cashier's booth the visitors purchase entrance tickets and receive a pamphlet with explanations about the site, published in Hebrew and English The person staffing the cashier's booth will answer questions and provide additional information Visitors are walking from the entrance complex in a short pathway up to the ancient remains on the Tel's top

Toilets are located near the entrance and include 2 stalls for men, 3 stalls for women, and 1 handicapped stall

Toilets are not available on the Tel, but due to the small size of the site – when the need arises to use it visitors easily may walk down to the toilets location

There are two water faucets in the national park's entrance area, at the 'amphitheater' and at the children's activity center and one another is located within the observation tower on the Tel

There is no commercial activity at the site excluding selling some postcards and hats at the cashier's stand

Interpretive Facilities

Tel Beer Sheba's interpretative facilities are as the following

Pamphlet - As mentioned above, with the purchase of a ticket visitors receive a pamphlet containing information about the site and the touring route

Maps display - Next to the cashier's booth hang maps of the Negev that represent different periods the biblical, the Nabatean, the Roman, the Byzantine, the conquest of Beer Sheba in World War I, the War of Independence, and the present

Amphitheater - Beyond the cashier's booth, right at the entrance to the site, there is a large waiting and teaching area known as the 'amphitheater'

Horned altar - The horned altar placed next to this area is a replica of the altar reconstructed from stones discovered in various locations at the site (The original altar is to be found on display at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem)

Tour route – The tour route is a ring-footpath that starts and ends at the entrance complex of the site From the 'amphitheater' the walking path ascends to the well and next to it, the city gates From the gates, a circular touring route passes by the important monuments in the city At the center there is a modern observation tower from which the entire site and its buildings can be seen, and beyond it the Beer Sheba Valley with its various communities From the tower, the touring route continues to the water reservoir Afterwards, visitors return back to the parking lot The tour takes approximately one hour

Besides the preparing of the water reservoir to public visits, already discussed, it should be mentioned that the well too was treated in the presentation point of view Drawing water that flow 69 m below the surface is hard work Ethnographic analogies suggest that this was done by beasts of burden, usually a donkey Once the rope had been put down and the vessel filled with water, the animal pulled the rope to a distance of 70 m Based on these assumptions, the National Parks Authority (now INPA) built an installation comprising of a bucket, a rope and a pulley, that can be operated manually or using a donkey A trough into which the drawn water may be poured was built near the well

Children's activity center - The site has a children's activity center that attracts many school groups from the region The activity center is built in the style of ancient mud-brick construction and is roofed with palm branches It contains few rooms with a blackboard and worktables Among the activities carried out are pita (flat-bread) baking, making mud-bricks, painting clay vessels, making flutes out of reeds, brewing herbal tea The activities mainly take place during holidays or by advance reservation

Signage – As mentioned, the site of Tel Beer Sheba is signposted with direction and explanation sign The sign at the water reservoir is accompanied with an elaborated illustration All the signs are in good condition (cf chapter 11)

The texts of all the signs are available at the Signage and Interpretation Department of the INPA head office

Marketing and Public Relations

Marketing of the site is carried out by the Head Office Marketing Department of the INPA Within this framework, among other activities, the office contacts schools who send their students here

The INPA southern district has a function of marketing, education and public relations, the person in charge of it is Sas (Sarah) Fialco One of her more important duties is the strengthening of the contacts between Tel Beer Sheba (and the other national parks of the district) with the community, the neighboring community in particular A lot of activities are being done in this aspect with respect to organizations and individuals, adults and children as well

The site is connected to the Southern District Ramon Information Center of the INPA at Mitzpeh Ramon which initiates the activities for children as detailed above This activity is published in the Center's information pamphlet and is matching to the elementary schools' curriculum especially in the fields of bible and history studies From time to time, especially during holidays and sometimes on Saturdays or by special arrangement, guided tours of the site are offered by the information center These activities are advertised in the local media

Commercial Services at the Site

As mentioned, there is no commercial activity within the park's confines.

Evening activities

Evening activities, like wedding and bar-mitzvah parties and schools' celebrations occasionally take place in a function place designed as a Bedouin tent near the site's entrance complex These activities are being held after the national park's operation hours and they never pass into to the park's area neither cause any harm to the park's property It should be noted that in the past the function place and the national park shared a common entrance complex, however, within the framework of renovating the entrance complex in 2000, the park's director had changed the whole complex and built a partition wall which separates between the two compounds

The park has no any financial benefit out of the function place operation, although a gateway was built between the two complexes for future optional enterprise like a kiosk or the like

Search and Rescue services

The equipment available at the site, includes

- The site maintains a first aid kit and a stretcher, and an ambulance can be called from the nearby town of Beer Sheva
- The site maintains fire-fighting equipment
- There is no PA system on the site, however a megaphone is maintained

Safety

A great deal of care is taken regarding safety at the site Areas which may be dangerous for visitors are fenced off and signposted with warning signs In topographical problematic points at the site stairs and handrails were installed (cf chapter 6)

In the water system, all railings are standard, the steps in the entrance shaft are clean and intact, and the lighting in the reservoir is checked daily
It should be noted that arrangements for visiting the water system allow visitors to safely walk through the system and enjoy its authentic appearance (cf chapter 9 – the maintenance of the water system)

(13) Potential Endangering Factors and Site's Preparedness

The ancient monuments at Tel Beer Sheba national park are protected – as detailed in this dossier - by treatment of conservation and restoration, by other physical means as fences and lockable gates, by the site's personnel and by different levels of laws and regulations The safety of the visitors is ensured by various means as mentioned too in the other chapters

The ancient monuments at the site, especially the delicate elements of the water system and the mud-bricks, might be deteriorating due to not being maintained properly in the conservation aspect In order to prevent it – the site's monuments and the water system in particular, are being maintained and monitored constantly by the site's director and the south district conservation team The conservation maintenance work plans are available at the site and at the southern district offices situated in the nearby modern city of Beer Sheva

Nevertheless, there are still endangering factors regarding the site, the principal of which are the follows

Natural elements affect on the ancient remains

There are no negative climatic influences at the site The water reservoir experiences some slight disintegration of the ceiling (in the form of powder that sloughs off, as a result of the weather), but inside it is free of humidity
Stabilization and consolidation of the ancient remains has been done through the conservation and reconstruction works, with emphasis on the water reservoir, which together with the monuments' maintenance help to a certain extent to withstand the minor climate effects

The upper part of the well collapsed (in antiquity) into the bottom, apparently as the result of an earthquake, and a similar collapse was also seen in the shaft of the water reservoir within the city Consequently, one may assume that the area is prone to earthquakes

In addition, natural erosion may occur from rain, wind, and sun Park staff does monitor the situation and carry out maintenance as required
Fires are hardly known to occur in this area as the vegetation is scarce at this region

Floods

Occasional floods and penetration of rains' water into the water system occur as the result of rainfall

This potential risk is being dealt with preparedness in advance which is carried out before each winter – the rainy season The rains' water is channeled into drainage channels and pipes (which had been improved lately) and the flow controlled and diverted with sandbags Sand bags are also being put in the reservoir's first room in order to stop the water in a case of penetration A water pump and containers are prepared in case the sand bags are not efficient enough Then the water is emptied out by being pumped and poured into the containers which are being brought out the reservoir

Visitors' effect

The site has experienced no particular visitor pressures in the last years, due to the normally small number of visitors which at no point did reach the limits of the site's visitor capacity According to present numbers of visitors to the site, and even with the anticipated increase of their number, no problem of visitor pressure is predicted, including in the water reservoir, especially since the visitors are entering the reservoir from one end and exiting from the other

The well, with its upper part partially reconstructed out of stone, is open for visits by the public The water reservoir, as has been reported above, was completely excavated, seriously stabilized and conserved and was prepared for safe visit of people (walkway, stairs, railings and lightening have been installed)

Although the carrying capacity of Tel Beer Sheba presents no problem, there is the need to prevent people from entering certain places, so as to avoid damage and ensure safety Much of this has already been done, including installations for the convenience of visitors and signage with instructions for proper behavior (cf chapter 12)

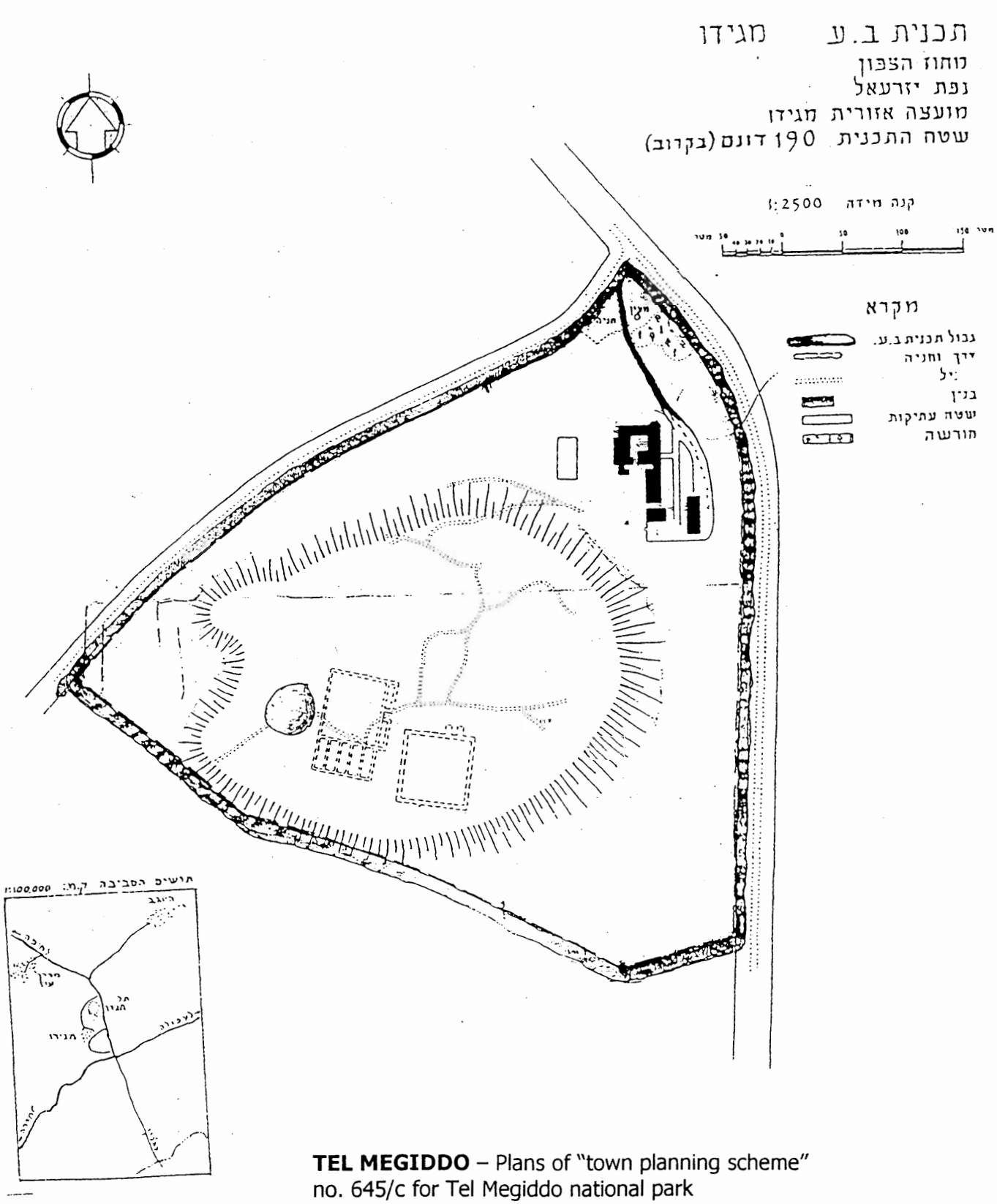
Visitors as well as antiquities robbers may damage ancient and modern elements at site A night guard is posted in the national park everyday after the park's staff is leaving, for the whole night, in an effort to prevent such things

The site's director checks, among other subjects in his daily patrol, vandalism cases too If he comes across any damage of this kind or another, he takes care of it either by himself or by fulfilling a 'damage report' and care for the follow up

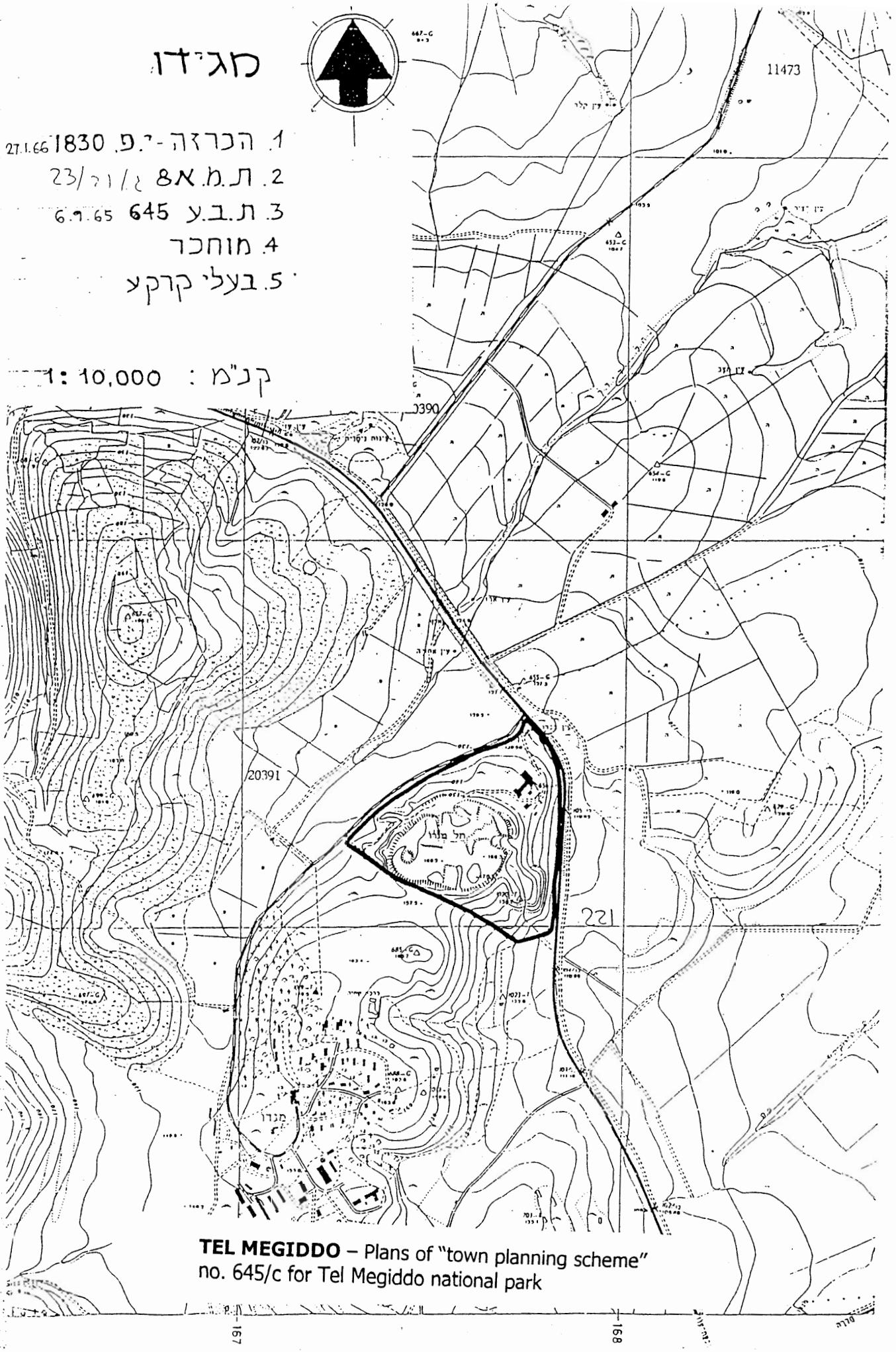
Development

There is no big city or industrial enterprise near the Tel and there is no one living on the site itself The areas surrounding the Tel are open or cultivated areas Some of the Bedouin who live in the very close vicinity, in Tel Sheva, break occasionally into the park offices and storerooms, vandalizing and stealing property The robbery and vandalism do not affect the antiquities The site, as mentioned, is guarded

As mentioned, there are no commercial enterprises within the park's confines, and therefore, no physical change may occur there without the permission of INPA Any kind of activity, like archaeological excavations, conservation, development elements etc is carried out only by the permission of INPA and is supervised by the site's director, who is well aware of the rules valid for the antiquities area preservation



TEL MEGIDDO – Plans of "town planning scheme" no. 645/c for Tel Megiddo national park



TEL MEGIDDO – Plans of "town planning scheme" no. 645/c for Tel Megiddo national park

תכנית בנין עיר מפורטת מס. 753

TEL HAZOR – Interior Ministry decision of June 20, 1966, to present the detailed "town planning scheme" 753 for Hazor national park for public scrutiny and the decision to publish the plan in its digest of publications on November 3, 1966.

מחוז	:	הצפון
נפה	:	צפת
שטח בנין עיר	:	ו.ב.ע. סומכי, ו.ב.ע. גלילית.
יוזם התכנית	:	רשות הגנים הלאומיים.
גבולות התכנית	:	כמסומן בקו כחול על התסריט.
שטח התכנית	:	ועדת בנין עיר סומכי 537 דונם בקרוב ועדת בנין עיר גלילית 761 דונם בקרוב סה"כ 1298 דונם בקרוב
בעל הקרקע	:	מינהל מקרקעי ישראל ואחרים.

א. **מטרת התכנית:**

1. ליעד את השטח כגן לאומי בהתאם לסעיף 69 של חוק התכנון והבניה תשכ"ה–1965 וחוק הגנים הלאומיים ושמורות טבע תשכ"ב – 1963.
2. להכין מתקנים לבקורי סמיילים ותיירים ולמחקר מדעי (היסטורי ארכיאולוגי).

ב. **הציון בתסריט:**

כחול	גבול התכנית
בהוב	שטח עתיקות חשוף ומכוסה חלקי
ירוק	שטח עתיקות בלתי חשוף

ג. **א ז ו ר י ם:**

אזור:	השימוש:
1. שטח התל	1. שמורות עתיקות וסיקומם 2. תפירות ארכיאולוגיות 3. מחקר ולמוד 4. מבנים דרבים וסדורים הקשורים לתכניות הנ"ל 5. סידורים הסמייעים למבקרי המקום.
2. שטח עתיקות בלתי חשוף:	1. שטח כוגן על פי פקודת העתיקות. השמוש החקלאי בשטח יימשך. 2. כל בניה אסורה.

כל בניה בשטח המוסמך בהתאם לתכניות בנוי מאושרות על ידי ו.ב.ע. מוסמכות בהסכמת רשות הגנים הלאומיים.

חתימת המתכנן: _____

רשות הגנים הלאומיים
רחוב איחסר בן אבי 9, תל-אביב

חתימת יוזם התכנית: _____

משרד הפנים
חוק התכנון והבניה תשכ"ה-1965
מחוז ..... מרחב תכנון מקומי .....
תכנית ..... מס' 753
הוועדה המחוזית בישיבתה ה .....
מיום 20.6.1966 החליטה להפקיד את התכנית לעיל.
סגן מנהל מקרקעי לתכנון

תכנית מס' 753 פורסמה להפקדה בילקוט הפרסומים בס' 1315 עמוד 3.11.66 מיום

TEL HAZOR חוק גנים לאומיים ושמורות טבע, תשכ"ג—1963

אכרזה על גן לאומי

בתוקף סמכותי לפי סעיפים 1 ו־6 לחוק גנים לאומיים ושמורות טבע, התשכ"ג—1963[1], אני מכריז לאמור:

אכרזה על גן לאומי

1. השטח, שמדרום־מערב לאילה־השחר, שגבולותיו מסומנים בקו כחול בתשריט מס' ג/21/24, הערוך בקנה מידה 1:5,000 והחתום ביום י"ב בתשרי התשכ"ח (16 באוקטובר 1967) בידי שר הפנים, הוא גן לאומי.

הפקדת התשקים של התשרים

2. התשקים מהתשריט האמור בסעיף 1, מופקדים במשרד הפנים, ירושלים, ובמשרדי הממשלה על שתו הצפון, בצרה־עליה, וכל המעונין בדבר רשאי לעיין בהם ביום ובשעות כתשרדים האמורים פתוחים לקהל.

השם

3. לאכרזה זו ייקרא „אכרזה על גן לאומי (הצור), תשכ"ח—1967".

י"ב בתשרי התשכ"ח (16 באוקטובר 1967)
(חס 78570)

חיים משה שפירא
שר הפנים

[1] ס"ח 404, תשכ"ז, עמ' 149.

תקנות לשמירת הסביבה

תקנות המועצות המקומיות

(תיקון תוספת הראשונה)

בתוקף סמכותי לפי סעיפים 1 ו־2 לתקנות המועצות המקומיות[1], אני מצווה לאמור:

תיקון פרט (כב) בתוספת הראשונה

1. בתוספת הראשונה לצו המועצות המקומיות (מועצות אזוריות), תשי"ח—1958[2], בפרט (כב) —

(1) סם הישוב „מוצאר־תחתית" בטור א' והשטח המתואר לצדו בטור ב' — ייבחקו;

(2) מתחת לקו, במקום „פרט לאותם שטחים המסומנים במספרים 1 עד 21, 23 עד 29, 32 עד 52" יבוא „פרט לאותם שטחים המסומנים במספרים 1 עד 21, 23, 24, 26 עד 29, 32 עד 52".

השם

2. לצו זה ייקרא „צו המועצות המקומיות (מועצות אזוריות) (מטה־יהודה, תיקון), התשכ"ח—1967".

י"ג בתשרי תשכ"ח (17 באוקטובר 1967)
(חס 5001)

חיים משה שפירא
שר הפנים

[1] דיני מדינת ישראל, נוסח חדש 9, תשכ"ה, עמ' 256.
[2] ס"ח 797, תשי"ח, עמ' 1256; ס"ח 1990, תשכ"ז, עמ' 1313.

TEL HAZOR – The declaration of Hazor as a national park by Interior Minister as published in regulations digest 21313 dated October 16, 1967.

תכנית ב.ע. ~~600~~

גן לאומי חצור

מחוז: הצפון
נפה : צפת
מועצה מקומית: ראש פנה
מועצה אזורית: גליל עליון
~~שטח בנין עיר סומכי: 537 דונם (בקרו~~
שטח בנין עיר גלילית 761 דונם (בקרו
בעל הקרקע: מנהל מקרקעי ישראל ואחרים
היוזם: רשות הגנים הלאומיים
המתכנן: ארכ' א.דביר

קנה מידה 1:5000

מקרא

גבול שטח התכנית
גבול שטח בנין עיר
גבול גוש
שטח התל
שטח עתיקות בלתי חשוף

תיקונים

25.12.69 תקון גבולות לפי תכנית מתאר אילת השחר
23.6.66 תקון גבולות ושטח (חצאת חלקי גושים 13806, 13809 מתוות הגן)

הוכרז ע"י שר הפנים ופורסם
בקובץ התקנות מס' 2131

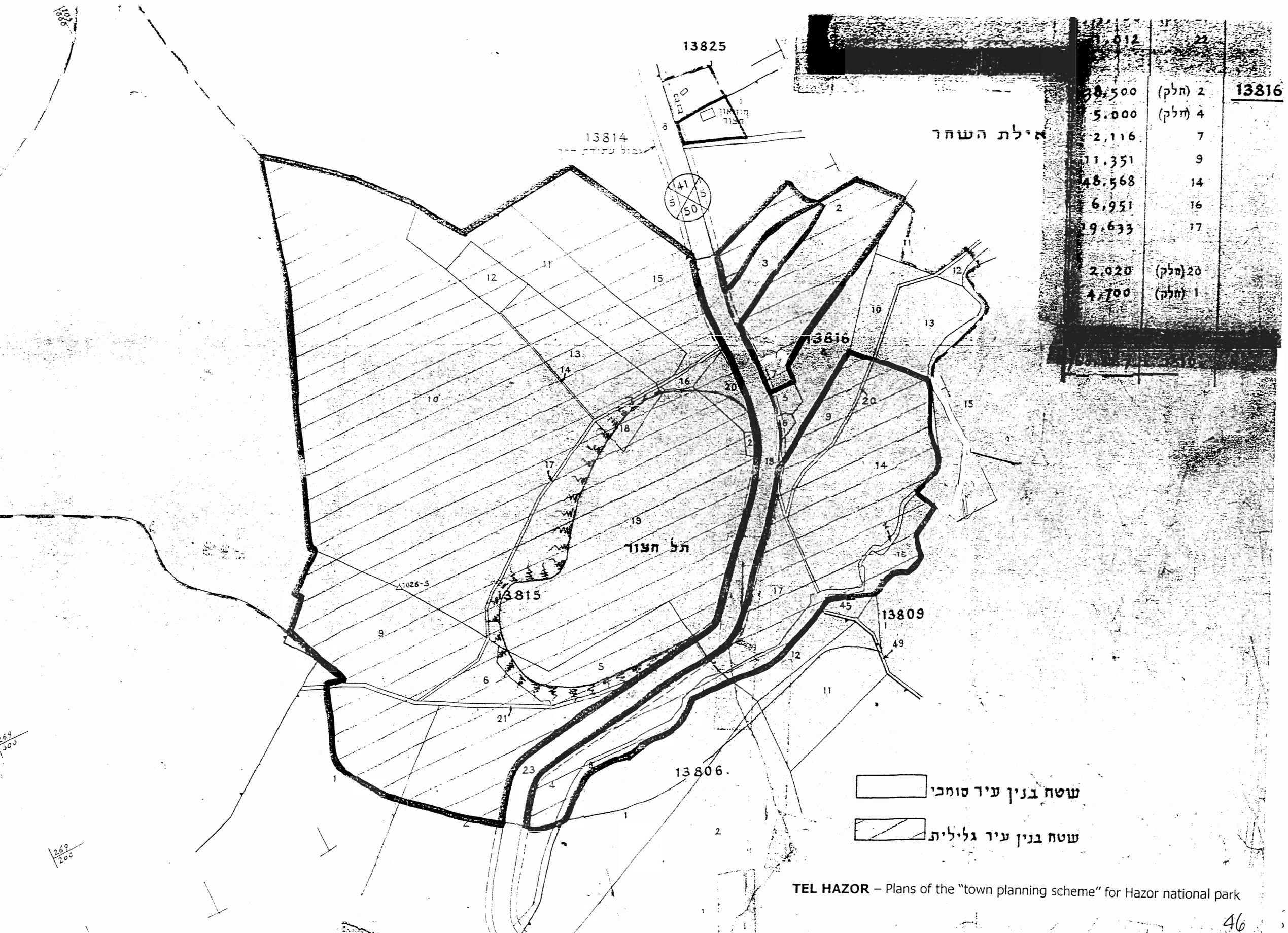
תרשים הסביבה

1:250,000 ק.מ.

רשות הגנים הלאומיים - 8.11.65

TEL HAZOR – Plans of the "town planning scheme" for Hazor national park

4



TEL HAZOR – Plans of the "town planning scheme" for Hazor national park

פרטים כלליים:

מס' גן לאומי: 750	שם גן לאומי: תל-באר-שבע	מחוז: דרום	גן כריל בהמ"א 8 : 92/5/1

שם הגן: אתר הכנסת לגד העיר באר שבע.בהפירות במקום והשפה עיר מתוכננת מתקופ
ת המקרא והכולנה הומות,שערים,ביכנים,ובנני ציבור ועוד ותשפה במקו
ם באר סיום המזרח עם באר של אברהם אבינו.

אזורי הגן: עתיקות

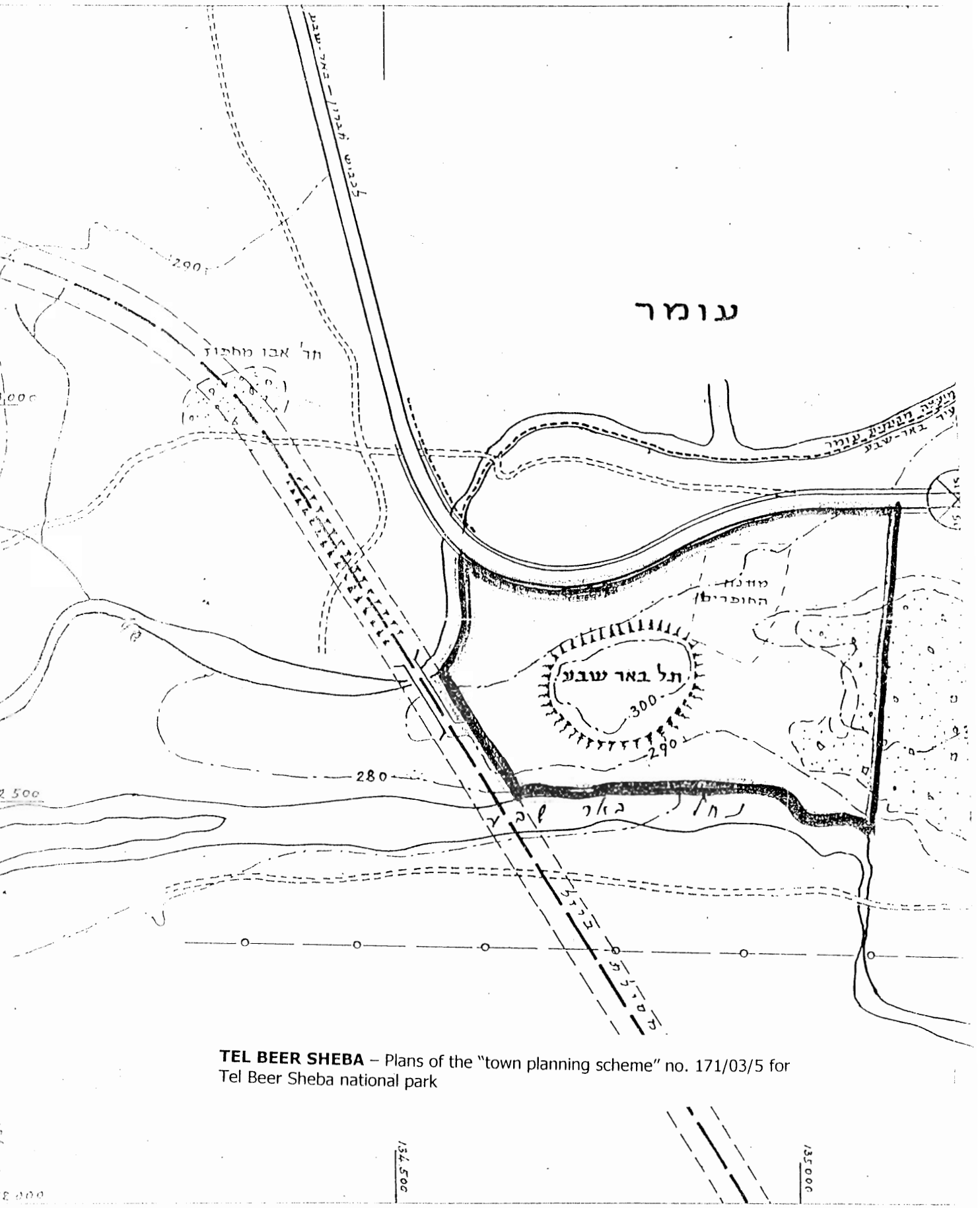
מתכנן אחראי: בלקין לארי	שטח כולל : 160.0	דיום	
	האיר מגבלות צה"ל :	נ.צ. : 135000/072000	

החומי שיפוט:	מצב סטטוטורי: מוכרז	מספר קובץ התקנות : 3263
	בעל קרקע :	תאריך פרסום בקובץ : 30/10/86
	:	הסכם הרשאה :
	שותף :	תאריך תחילת תכירה : 31/12/91
	סוג שותפות :	תאריך סיום תכירה : 31/12/98

פרטי תוכניות לגן לאומי:

מספר הכנית	סטטוס הכנית	תאריך סטטוס	מספר ילקוט פרסומים	ה ע ר ו ת
171/03/5				הופקדה בועדה מחוזית ב-26.6.78. פורסמה להפקדה ב-8.10.78 י.פ. 2471. ב-25.10.82 הוחלט בועדה המחוזית לתת תוקף.

TEL BEER SHEBA - Details regarding the declaration, of the Interior Minister of Tel Beer Sheba as a national park, published in regulations digest 3263, dated to 30 October , 1986.



TEL BEER SHEBA – Plans of the "town planning scheme" no. 171/03/5 for Tel Beer Sheba national park

ISRAEL NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO
اللجنة الإسرائيلية لليونيسكو

WHC REGISTRATION
Date 30.06.05
Id N° 1108
Copy 1 Item 13

Mr Francesco Bandarin
Director,
World Heritage Centre
UNESCO
Paris

26 June 2005

Dear Francesco

Re: Israel Comments on the ICOMOS Evaluation.
The Biblical Tels.
#1108

Further to the decision of the previous session of the World Heritage Committee, we hereby submit our comments regarding the ICOMOS evaluation to the above mentioned nomination and correct 'factual errors' which include certain oversights or omissions in the final text with updated information and in order to prevent any misinterpretations of the evaluation. As there is currently no mechanism for receiving the comments directly from the Advisory Bodies or the Centre, we are dependent on the World Heritage website with all the accompanying restrictions. We hasten to add that Israel has full confidence in the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS evaluation process.

The comments are given according to the pages in the ICOMOS evaluation document and focus on the operational heading.

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- The INPA has established a Forum for World Heritage Sites (inscribed and tentative) headed by the Director-General and coordinated by the Chief Archaeologist. This Forum meets regularly, receives reports and discusses all related issues.

- In addition, there is legal protection through the Israel Antiquities Law, 1978, protecting all man-made remains prior to 1700 AD.

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Ministry of Education, Culture & Sports, Jerusalem 91911 Tel. 972-2-5603746/7 Fax: 972-2-5603745
e-mail: barelid@int.gov.il / unescoil@int.gov.il :דוא"ל
Web Site. www.education.gov.il/unesco :אתר אינטרנט

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- Megiddo:
  The general conservation plan has been supplemented with a detailed management plan. The sub-forum of INPA guarantees the implementation.

- Hazor:
  The general conservation plan has been supplemented with a detailed management plan. Conservation plans have been prepared for the remaining buildings.

126 right

- Beersheba:
  In the framework of the comprehensive management plan and based on the ICOMOS evaluation the reconstructed sections will be minimized and further interventions stopped.

- Management:
  The files are continually being updated and the latest edition (with English summary) has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

  The organizational structure of the INPA allows for the employment of seasonal staff as needed. At peak-times the staff is supplemented.

- Buffer zones:
  Due to the changes recommended in the ICOMOS evaluation, all three sites have new and extended buffer zones according to the attached table and maps.

- The proposed estate has not been approved and is to be rejected by the planning commissions on the basis of the definition of the new buffer zone

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e-mail: barelid@int.gov.il / unescoil@int.gov.il :דוא"ל
Web Site: www.education.gov.il/unesco :אתר אינטרנט

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127 left

- Annual visitors' data (2004)

Hazor	11,000
Beer Sheba	15,000
Megiddo	50,000

- Megiddo:
  The demands for accessibility and safety for the handicapped and children is paramount, and the steps and balustrade now allow for a small chairlift.

- Hazor:
  The two structures that underwent removal and conservation have ensured the representation of as many periods as possible while allowing the continuation of the excavation of earlier periods.

- Beer Sheba:
  A clear distinction has been made between the conservation and other contemporary works in the interests of safety.

128 right

- Israel welcomes the ICOMOS recommendation of the possibility of adding further tels to widen the serial nomination and in the form of 'harmonization of sites in the same geo-cultural region' and will initiate an experts meeting with the World Heritage Centre.

Thanking you for your assistance,
Yours sincerely

Michael Turner

Professor Michael Turner
Chair, Israel World Heritage Committee

Copies: HE Jacques Revah, Israel Ambassador to UNESCO
Mr. Daniel Bar-Elli, Secretary-General, Israel National Commission for UNESCO
ICOMOS –International

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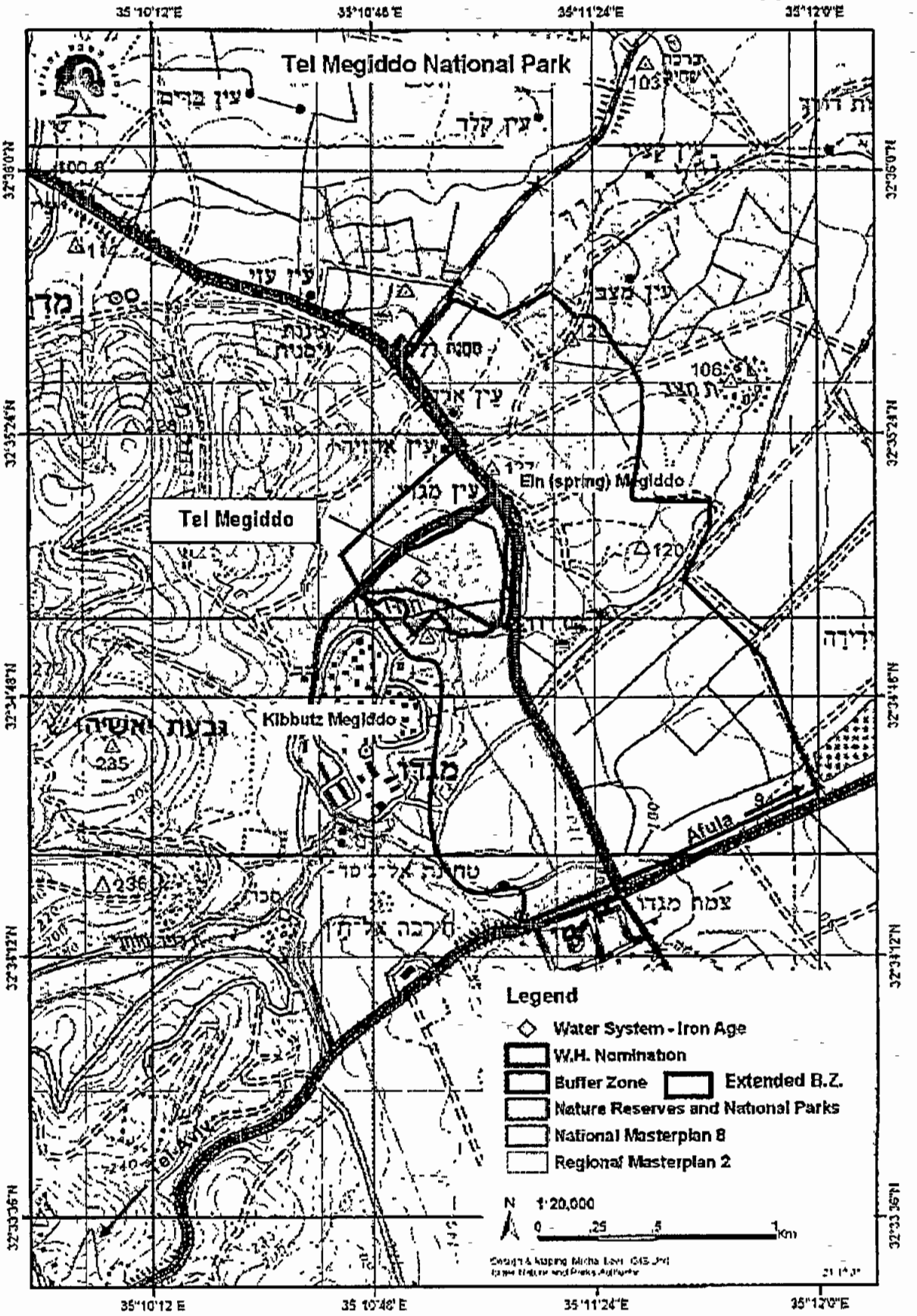
e-mail barelid@int.gov.il / unescoil@int.gov.il :דוא"ל
Web Site: www.education.gov.il/unesco אתר אינטרנט

Identification of Property

We extended the Buffer Zone to new Buffer Zone. It is the black line on the enclosed maps and the measurements are in the table below.

Id No C 1108	Tel Name	Location	Area(ha)	Buffer Zone(ha)	Coordinates	New Buffer Zone(ha)
001	Megiddo	Jezreel Valley	16.05	7.1	Latitude 32° 35' 5" Longitude 35° 10' 56"	290.85
002	Hazor	Upper Galilee	76.9	119.2	Latitude 33° 01' 00" Longitude 35° 34' 01"	204.6
003	Beer Sheba	Southern District	3.09	11.9	Latitude 31° 14' 41" Longitude 34° 50' 27"	108.53


Tel Megiddo National Park
Tel Megiddo
Ein (spring) Megiddo
Kibbutz Megiddo
Afula
35°10'12"E
35°10'48"E
35°11'24"E
35°12'0"E
32°36'0"N
32°35'24"N
32°34'48"N
32°34'12"N
32°33'36"N
Legend
Water System - Iron Age
W.H. Nomination
Buffer Zone
Extended B.Z.
Nature Reserves and National Parks
National Masterplan 8
Regional Masterplan 2
N
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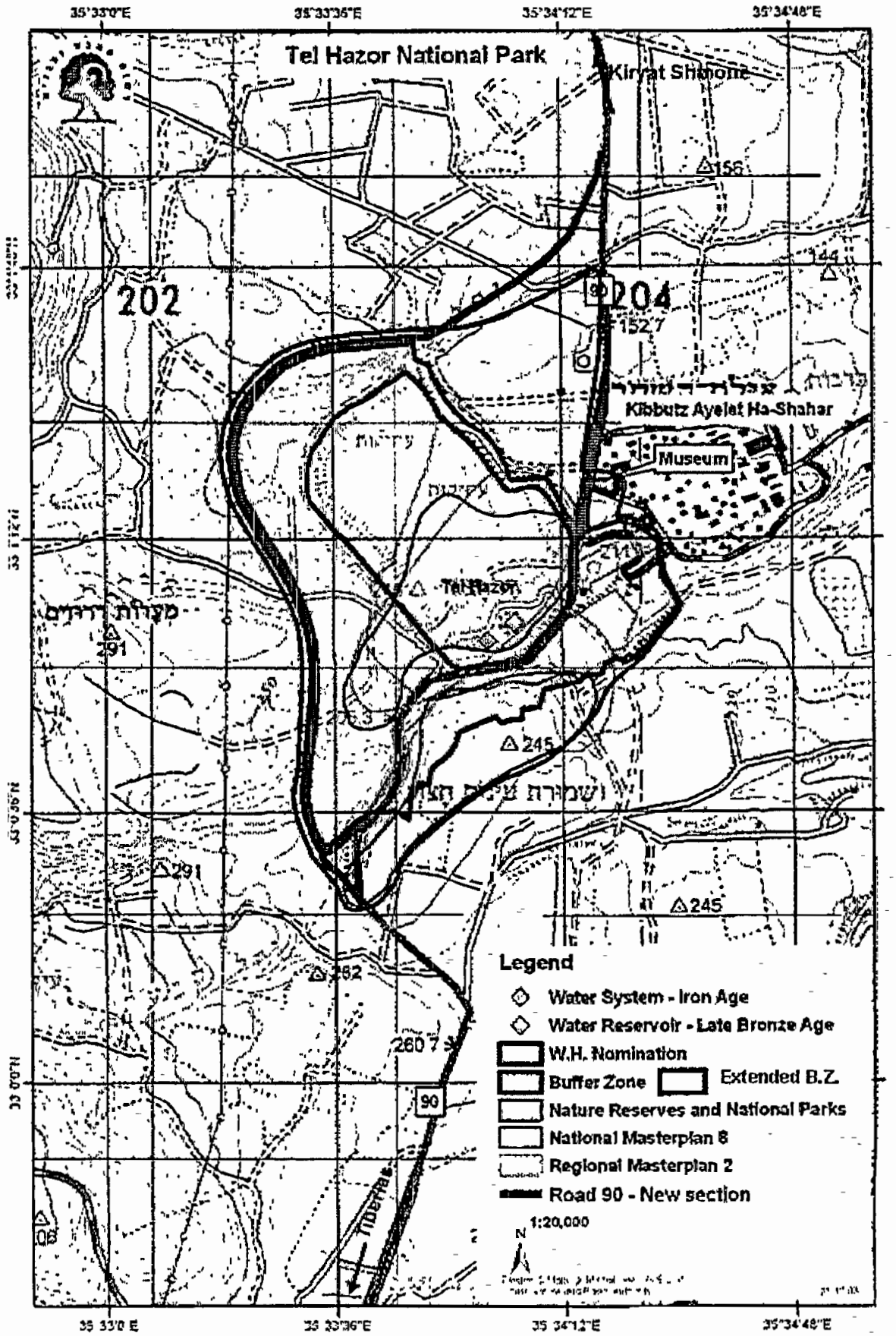
0 .25 .5 1 Km


Tel Hazor National Park
Kiryat Shmona
Kibbutz Ayelet Ha-Shahar
Museum
Tel Hazor
202
204
152.7
260.7
90
Legend
Water System - Iron Age
Water Reservoir - Late Bronze Age
W.H. Nomination
Buffer Zone
Extended B.Z.
Nature Reserves and National Parks
National Masterplan 6
Regional Masterplan 2
Road 90 - New section
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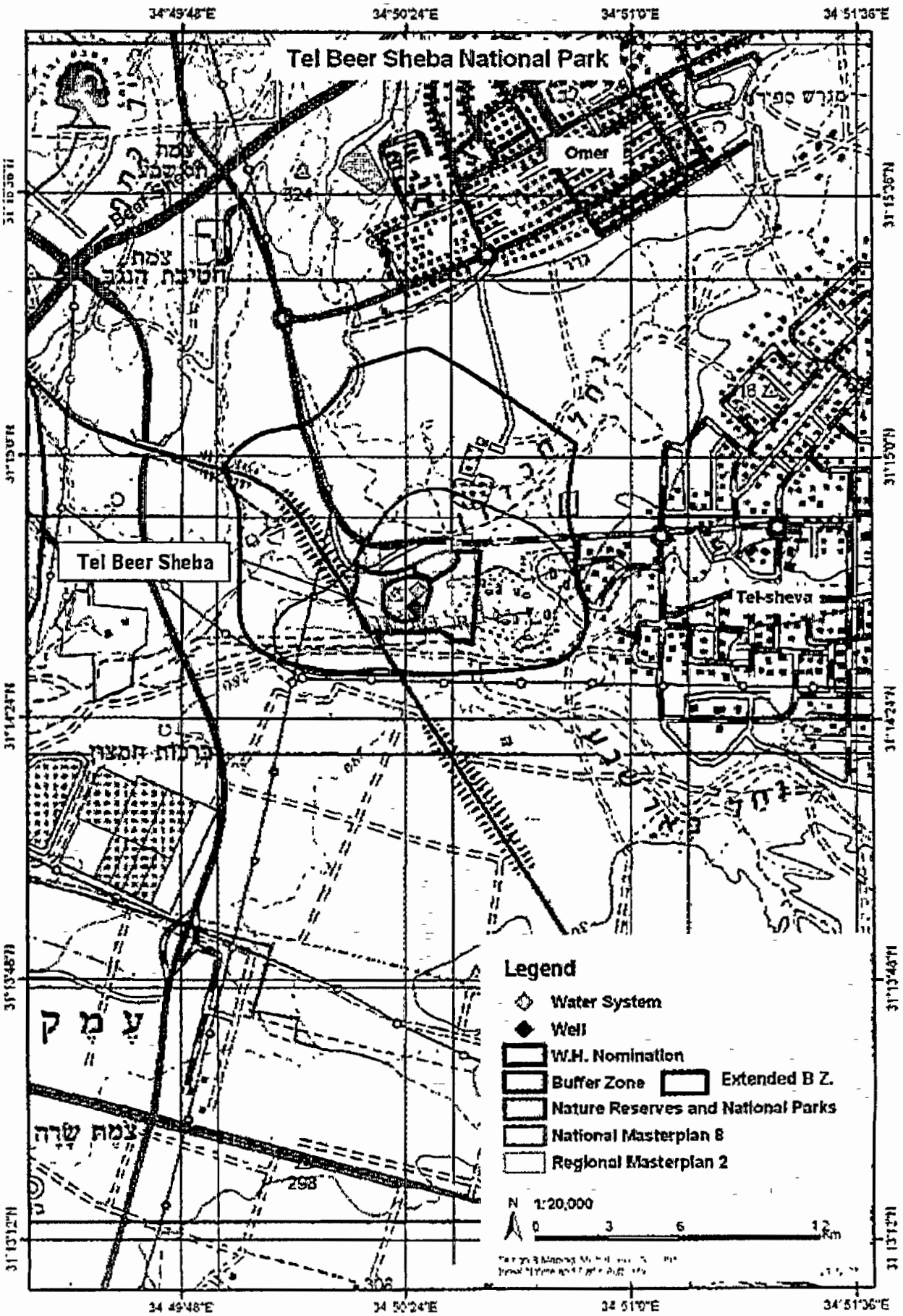
Tel Beer Sheba National Park
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Tel-sheva
34°49'48"E
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34°51'36"E
31°15'36"N
31°15'0"N
31°14'24"N
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31°13'12"N
Legend
Water System
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Buffer Zone
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Nature Reserves and National Parks
National Masterplan 8
Regional Masterplan 2
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BUFFER ZONES

The definition of buffer zones. .

17. Whenever necessary for the proper conservation of a cultural or natural property nominated, an adequate "buffer zone" around a property should be provided and should be afforded the necessary protection. A buffer zone can be defined as an area surrounding the property which has restrictions placed on its use to give an added layer of protection, the area constituting the buffer zone should be determined in each case through technical studies. Details on the size, characteristics and authorized uses of a buffer zone, as well as a map indicating its precise boundaries, should be provided in the nomination file relating to the property in question

The core area needs to be legally established and give long-term protection to the landscapes, ecosystems and species it contains It should be sufficiently large to meet these conservation objectives As nature is rarely uniform and as historical land-use constraints exist in many parts of the world, there may be several core areas in a single biosphere reserve to ensure a representative coverage of the mosaic of ecological systems Normally, the core area is not subject to human activity, except research and monitoring and, as the case may be, to traditional extractive uses by local communities.

The Inscribed site is legally established to give long-term protection to the declared values of the site

A buffer zone (or zones) which is clearly delineated and which surrounds or is contiguous to the core area. Activities are organized here so that they do not hinder the conservation objectives of the core area but rather help to protect it, hence the idea of "buffering". It can be an area for experimental research, for example to discover ways to manage natural vegetation, croplands, forests, fisheries, to enhance high quality production while conserving natural processes and biodiversity, including soil resources, to the maximum extent possible. In a similar manner, experiments can be carried out in the buffer zone to explore how to rehabilitate degraded areas It may accommodate education, training, tourism and recreation facilities In buffer zones, emphasis is on sustainable use of the natural resources for the benefit of local communities

A buffer zone can be defined as an area surrounding the property which has restrictions placed on its use to give an added layer of protection: the area constituting the buffer zone should be determined in each case through technical studies including size, characteristics and authorized uses.

An outer transition area, or area of co-operation extending outwards, which may contain a variety of agricultural activities, human settlements and other uses. It is here that the local communities, conservation agencies, scientists, civil associations, cultural groups, private enterprises and other stakeholders must agree to work together to manage and sustainably develop the area's resources for the benefit of the people who live there. Given the role that biosphere reserves should play in promoting the sustainable management of the natural resources of the region in which they lie, the transition area is of great economic and social significance for regional development.

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Mr Francesco Bandarin
Director, World Heritage Centre
UNESCO
Paris
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
France

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rec'd 27/3
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Dir WHC
rec'd

March 12, 2006
FB-12

Dear Mr. Bandarin

Re **The Biblical Tels – C1108 (Megiddo, Hazor, Beer Sheba)**

Follwing your letter (WHC/74/ISR) we re-submit the buffer zone for the 3 tels The first submission was to the WHCenter was in accoradance with Icomos Int'l evaluation.

Please update the nomination file accordinly.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel Bar-Elli
Secretary General
Israel National Commission for UNESCO

Cc: Professor Michael Turner, Chairman, Israel World Heritage Committee

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e-mail: barelid@int.gov.il / unescoil@int.gov.il :דוא"ל
Web Site: www.education.gov.il/unesco :אתר אינטרנט

ISRAEL, NATURE AND PARKS AUTHORITY
Division of Planning and Development - Department of Archaeology & Heritage
3 Am Ve'Olamo St., 95463 Jerusalem, ISRAEL, Tel. 972-2-5005425, Fax. 972-2-5005471
e-mail: tsuk@npa.org.il

20/2/06

Dear Mr. Bareli,

According to the letter of Mr. Bandarin (Ref.: WHC/74/ISR/CD/MR/NR) I have to clarify that the buffer zones of the Biblical Tels are different.
The buffer zone of the 3 Tels: Meggido, Hazor and Beer-Sheba were enlarged due to the evaluation of ICOMOS and their request.
The new maps were delivered to UNESCO before 31/12/2004 and this is the material which was brought to the Committee in Durban.

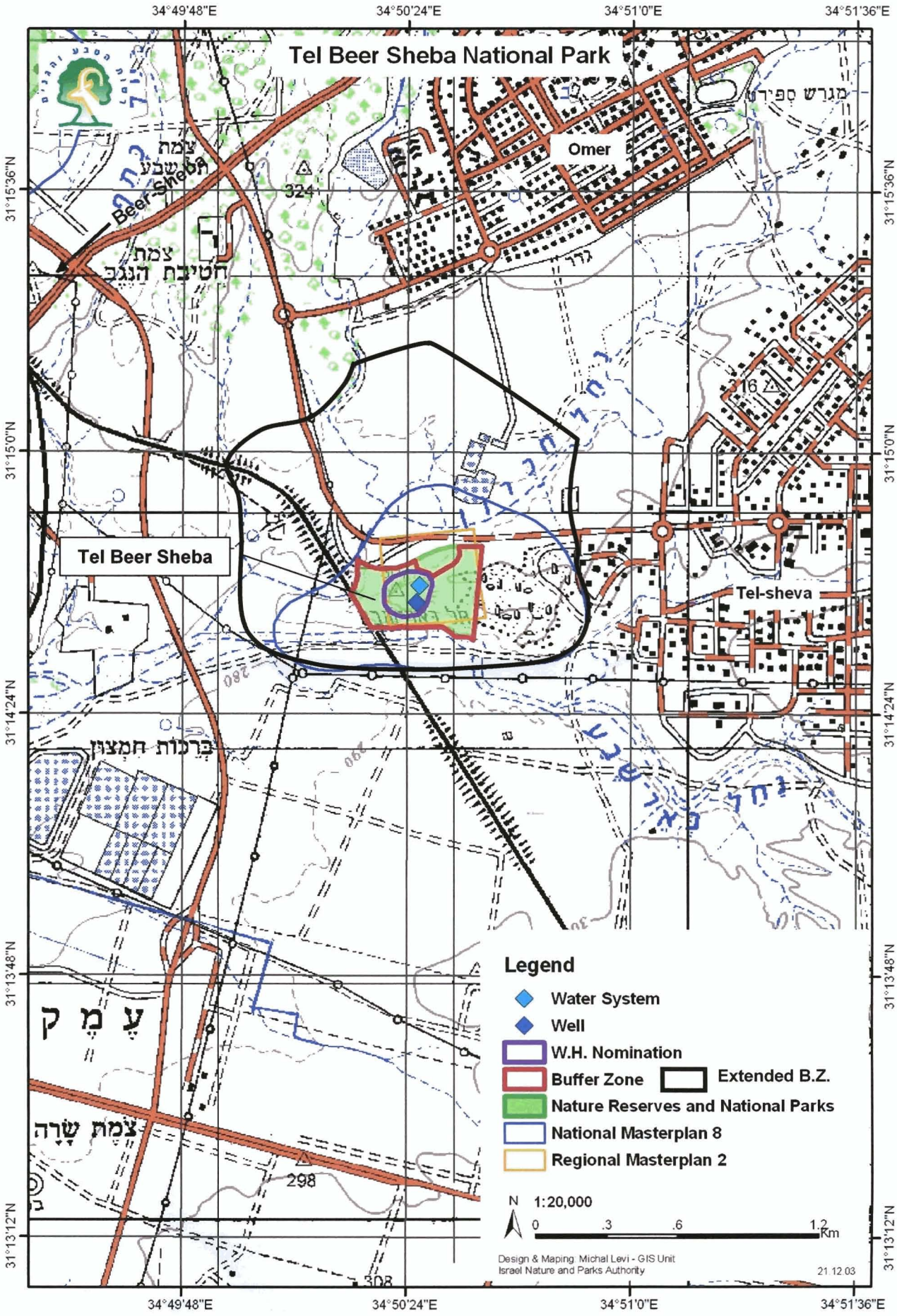
I deliver here again the new maps with the new buffer zones and the calculation of the areas.
Please deliver the material to UNESCO to correct this mistake.

Thank you,

Yours

Dr. Tsvika Tsuk
Chief Archaeologist

Cc: Prof. Mike Turner


Tel Beer Sheba National Park
Omer
Beer-Sheba
Tel Beer Sheba
Tel-sheva
Legend
Water System
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Buffer Zone
Extended B.Z.
Nature Reserves and National Parks
National Masterplan 8
Regional Masterplan 2
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Design & Maping: Michal Levi - GIS Unit
Israel Nature and Parks Authority
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34°51'36"E
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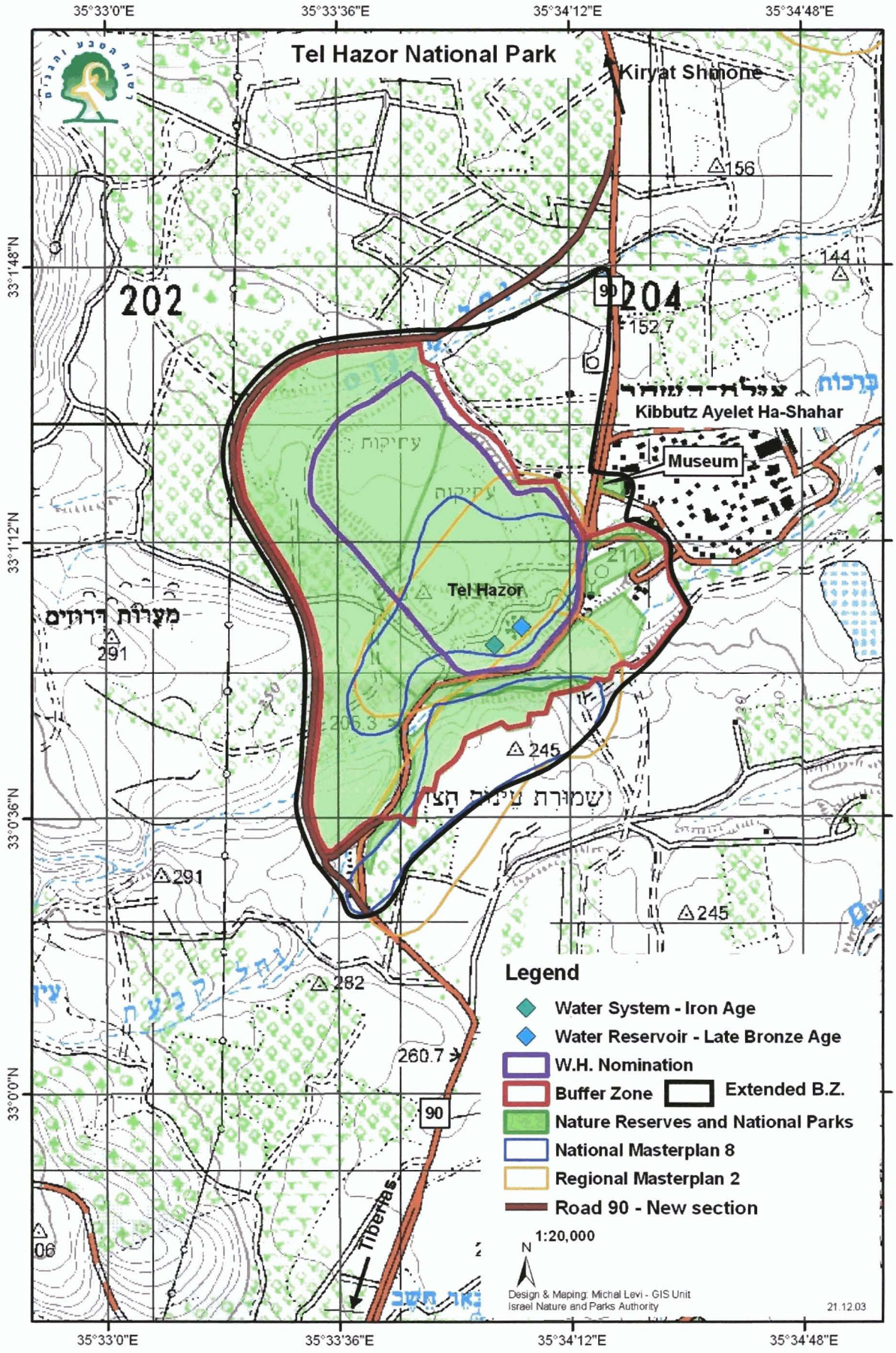
Tel Hazor National Park
Kiryat Shmone
Kibbutz Ayelet Ha-Shahar
Museum
Tel Hazor
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35°33'36"E
35°34'12"E
35°34'48"E
33°1'48"N
33°1'12"N
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Buffer Zone
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Nature Reserves and National Parks
National Masterplan 8
Regional Masterplan 2
Road 90 - New section
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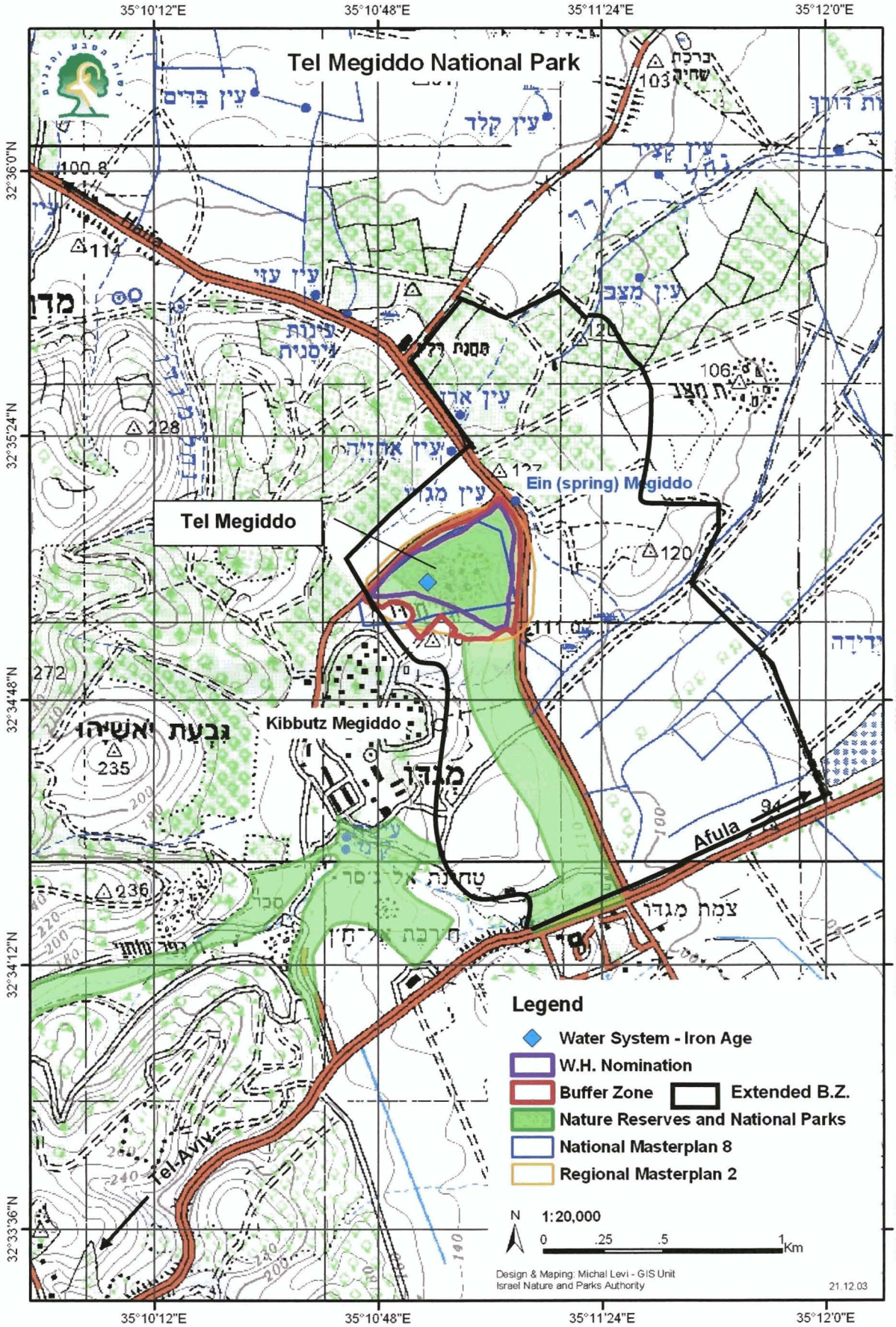
Design & Maping: Michal Levi - GIS Unit
Israel Nature and Parks Authority
21.12.03


Tel Megiddo National Park
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Kibbutz Megiddo
Afula
Haifa
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35°10'12"E
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35°11'24"E
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32°36'0"N
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32°34'12"N
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Legend
Water System - Iron Age
W.H. Nomination
Buffer Zone
Extended B.Z.
Nature Reserves and National Parks
National Masterplan 8
Regional Masterplan 2
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Design & Maping: Michal Levi - GIS Unit
Israel Nature and Parks Authority
21.12.03

Identification of Property

Id No C 1108	Tel Name	Location	Area(ha)	Buffer Zone(ha)	Coordinates	Map Annex
001	Megiddo	Jezreel Valley	16.05	290.85	Latitude 32° 35' 5" Longitude 35° 10' 56"	Attached
002	Hazor	Upper Galilee	76.9	204.6	Latitude 33° 01' 00" Longitude 35° 34' 01"	Attached
003	Beer Sheba	Southern District	3.09	108.53	Latitude 31° 14' 41" Longitude 34° 50' 27"	Attached

Biblical Tels (Israel)

No 1108

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: State of Israel

Name of property: The Biblical Tels and Ancient Water Systems – Megiddo, Hazor, Beer Sheba

Location: Megiddo, Megiddo Region

Hazor, Upper Galilee Region

Beer Sheba, Beer Sheba Region

Date received: 26 January 2004

Category of property:

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, these are *sites.* Together they form a *serial nomination.*

Brief description:

Tels, or pre-historic settlement mounds, are characteristic of the flatter lands of the eastern Mediterranean, particularly Lebanon, Syria, Israel and Eastern Turkey. Of more than 200 tels in Israel, Megiddo, Hazor and Beer Sheba are representative of tels that have substantial remains of cities with biblical connections. The three tels also present some of the best examples in the Levant of elaborate, Iron Age, underground water collecting systems, created to serve dense urban communities, reflecting centralised authority, based on prosperous agriculture and control of important trade routes.

2. THE PROPERTY

Description

The three nominated tels are scattered across the State of Israel. Tel Hazor is in the north, 14km north of the Sea of Galilee; Tel Megiddo is just north of where the Qishon river reaches its northernmost point, south-east of Haifa; Tel Beer Sheba is east of the city of Beer Sheba, to the north of the Negev Desert in the south of Israel.

The tels are three out of over 200 tels in the State of Israel. Tels are pre-historic settlement mounds, which form a distinctive and prominent feature of comparatively flat landscape areas of the Levant – Israel, Syria, Lebanon, and Eastern Turkey. Many of the mounds are both extensive and tall, representing large, multi-layered settlements, which persisted for several millennia. The tels have a characterise shape, being conical in profile with a flattish top. Some extend up to 20 metres above the surrounding countryside.

Tels reflect nucleated settlements, which continued over time in one place, often because of the strategic advantages of the site in terms of communications, and more crucially the availability of water supplies, in what were fairly arid areas at certain times of year.

In Israel, the tels vary in size from small ones covering around a hectare, such as Beer Sheba, to large ones extending to around 10 hectares, such as Megiddo. There are also a few notably extensive sites such as Hazor, which covers almost 100 hectares. Similar large tels are found in Syria.

A considerable number of the tels are the remains of cities and settlements mentioned in the Old Testament bible, a book revered by both Jews and Christians, and acknowledged in Islam as a fundamental source. They are therefore referred to as 'biblical' tels. The three nominated tels are put forward as representative of biblical cites in Israel. A further eight tels are listed in the nomination, which, it is implied, might in the future be put forward as an extension to this serial nomination.

The Old Testament, as a historical source document, refers to events in the period from roughly 1700 BC to the second century BC. The tels do, however, for the most part have a far longer history, in some case stretching back 6,000 years BP. The nomination is therefore reflecting mainly the association of that part of their history, which aligns with events portrayed in the Old Testament.

Old Testament history is principally concerned with the religious history of Israel in Canaan. The land known as Canaan was situated in the territory of the southern Levant, in what is now Israel, the Palestine Authority, Jordan, Lebanon and southwestern Syria. Throughout time, many names have been given to this area including Palestine, Eretz-Israel, Bilad es-Shem, the Holy Land and Djahy. The earliest known name for this area was "Canaan".

The inhabitants of Canaan were never ethnically or politically unified as a single nation. They did, however, share sufficient similarities in language and culture to be described together as "Canaanites." Israel refers to both a people within Canaan and later to the political entity formed by those people. To the authors of the Bible, Canaan is the land, which the tribes of Israel conquered after an Exodus from Egypt and the Canaanites are the people they deposed from this land.

The biblical history starts in the 17th century BC with the Patriarchs of the Jewish people, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, leading nomads, the Israelites, from Mesopotamia to settle in the mountains of Canaan. Famine forced the Israelites to migrate to Egypt. They then spend years wandering in the wilderness until around 1250 BC Moses led the exodus to return to the Promised Land. The Israelites conquered the mountains of Canaan, while the Philistines took the plains.

The first King of a centralised Israel was Saul c1023-1004 BC. His adopted son, David, conquered Jerusalem, making it his capital and installing the Ark of the Covenant, which it is believed, contained the stones on which the 10 Commandments were written. His son was King Solomon, whose building works are celebrated in the

Old Testament Books of Proverbs, Ecclesiasticus and the Song of Songs, which he is believed to have written. Solomon's reign is often seen as Israel's golden era. After Solomon's death, the kingdom was split into two, becoming Israel and Judah.

The independent Kingdom of Israel ended in the 8th century BC with conquest by the Assyrians, who largely destroyed the tel towns. Both Beer Sheba and Hazor were immediately abandoned; some settlement persisted at Megiddo until the early 4th century, when it, too, was finally abandoned.

The three tels are also nominated for the impressive remain of their underground water catchments systems, which reflect sophisticated, and geographically responsive, engineering solutions to water storage. These seemed to have reached their zenith in the Iron Age.

The three tels are considered in turn:

- *Tel Megiddo*
- *Tel Hazor*
- *Tel Beer Sheba*

Tel Megiddo

Megiddo is one of the most impressive tels in the Levant. Strategically sited near the narrow Aruna Pass overlooking the fertile Jezreel Valley and with abundant water supplies, from the 4th millennium BC through to the 7th century BC, Megiddo was one of the most powerful cities in Canaan and Israel, controlling the Via Maris the main international highway connecting Egypt to Syria, Anatolia and Mesopotamia. Epic battles that decided the fate of western Asia were fought nearby.

Megiddo also has a central place in the Biblical narrative, extending from the Conquest of the Land through to the periods of United and then Divided Monarchy and finally Assyrian domination. It is mentioned eleven times in the Old Testament in connection with, amongst other events, the cities distributed amongst the Tribes of Israel, and the construction work of Solomon. It is also mentioned once in the New Testament as Armageddon. (a Greek corruption for Har-Megiddo = mound of Megiddo)

Megiddo is said to be the most excavated tel in the Levant. Its twenty major strata contain the remains of around 30 different cities.

Megiddo rose to prominence in the 4th millennium BC. In the late 4th, 3rd and 2nd millennium BC, Megiddo became one of the most powerful cities in Canaan. With other Canaanite cities, it was incorporated into Egypt, as a province of the New Kingdom, by the Pharaoh Thutmose III. Excavations have revealed much evidence of its wealth, such as carved ivories, which persisted until it was destroyed by the Sea People in the 12th century BC.

In the Iron Age, Megiddo became an economic centre and in 925 BC was once again conquered by Egypt for a short while. In the 9th and 8th centuries BC Megiddo was the main centre for the Northern Kingdom of Israel when its prosperity was based on the horse trade and it had a reputation for chariot racing. This was Megiddo's heyday.

In 732, the Assyrians took over the region and the city became the capital of the Assyrian province of Megiddo. In the 7th century BC, Megiddo once again fell under Egyptian rule. Before it was finally abandoned in the late 5th to early 4th century BC, it had come under first Babylonian and then Persian rule.

Settlement on Tel Megiddo covers four main periods. The earliest settlement during the Neolithic period is revealed by pottery finds in caves, and habitation sites within stonewalls. In the early Bronze Age there is evidence of a massive stone-built town wall that partly encircled the site and also a temple compound, both destroyed by an earthquake. When the town was re-built, three porticoed rectangular temples, and a round altar were constructed in what has been described as a sacred compound, the monumentality of which has no parallel in the Levant. It features the only record of ritual activity in an ancient near eastern temple. The complex is a also a very early manifestation of the urbanisation process.

In the middle Bronze Age, around the 12th century BC, the town was rebuilt as an urban fortified centre, part of the Canaanite city-state. After its destruction by "sea peoples" in c 1130 BC, the city was destroyed by a violent fire. It was then rebuilt as an Israelite City in the Iron Age. This city had palaces, which are considered the best examples in Israel, comparable to Samaria, and to the monuments excavated in northern Syria such as Tel Halaf. There were also large pillared buildings somewhat similar to the storehouse at Beer Sheba (below), but here considered to be horse stables with an associated training yard.

During the Iron Age the water systems at Megiddo reached their most sophisticated phase. The water came from a spring at the foot of the mound, accessed by a concealed passageway from within the city under the city wall. As the town grew and rose, the journey to collect water increased. In its final manifestation, the water system consisted of a cave hewn round the well, with an 80 metre long aqueduct carrying water to the bottom of a vertical shaft in the city. This system is one of the most impressive in the ancient world and reflects the capacity to organise manpower and invest huge resources.

Tel Hazor

Tel Hazor is the largest biblical site in Israel, covering an area of almost 100ha. It is strategically sited at a major cross roads, dominating the trade and military routes that connected the land of what became Israel to Phoenicia, Syria and Anatolia to the north, Mesopotamia to the east and Egypt to the south. The surrounding fertile Hula plain was the basis for Hazor's wealth, and the site of several battles.

Hazor's population in the second millennium BC is estimated to have been around 20,000, making it one of the most important cities in the region. Hazor was inhabited from the end of the third millennium, the Early Bronze Age, until the 2nd century BC.

The references to Hazor in the Old Testament fall into two main categories. The first relate to Hazor's role in the settlement of the tribes of Israel, and the second to Solomon's building activities and the end of the Kingdom of Israel when it was overrun by the Assyrians in the 8th century BC.

The first references are regarded as one of the most controversial subjects in the study of Ancient Israelite history, as the two main references which detail the battle of the children of Israel against Jabin, King of Canaan, are contradictory in claiming different outcomes.

The second, too, is not clear cut, as reference to Solomon building the walls of Jerusalem, Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer is hotly debated as to whether these are the excavated walls that can be seen.

Hazor was a thriving city throughout most of its existence. Several monuments deserve mention. In the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC the whole enclosure of the lower city was enclosed by earthen ramparts, 9 m high of a brick core and earthen outer skin and protected by a deep moat. There were at least two monumental gates with "Syrian" pilasters flanking the entrance. The whole Bronze Age enclosure was similar to contemporary Syrian towns such as Qatna.

During the Middle and Late Bronze Ages, several palaces and temples were erected in both the upper and lower city. Some of these were built on huge earthen podiums, with well-dressed basalt stone for lining the walls, round basalt column bases defining the entrances, and cedar wood beams for walls and floors. Hazor is the southernmost site where these Syrian architectural features were found. The palace is the most elaborate and one of the best preserved of its time in the Levant.

In the first Israelite city, attributed to the time of King Solomon, there is a massive six chambered stone gate within a casemate wall encircling the western half of the tel. In the following centuries a wide wall was built all round the tel and large administrative buildings created with stone pillars separating their inner halls from one another.

A noteworthy element, in the overall plan of this prosperous city, is the water system built to supply the city's needs under siege. The system consists of a network of channels dating to the Middle Bronze Age, a plastered Late Bronze Age water reservoir, the oldest of its kind in Israel, and a later Iron Age water system.

The Late Bronze Age system consists of a 30 metre descending, partly rock-hewn, and partly corbelled, tunnel leading to a trefoil shaped cave and a vaulted corridor with stair leading to the tunnel. The entire tunnel was covered in plaster to allow it to store water. This system seems to have served a palace.

The Iron Age system drew water from beneath the city. It is dated to 9th century BC. It consists of a 20 metre vertical shaft, and a sloping 25 metre tunnel with steps and a pool.

Tel Beer Sheba

Tel Beer Sheba is at the intersection between roads leading north to mount Hebron and eastwards to the Judean desert and the Dead Sea, Westwards to the coastal plain, and southwards to the Negev Heights and the Red Sea.

Although, the earliest remains from the tel date to the 4th millennium BC, Beer Sheba remained abandoned during the Bronze Age. Having remained uninhabited for some two thousand years, the tel was re-settled during the 11th century BC in the early Iron Age. This phase of settlement came to an end in 925BC when the site was conquered by the Egyptians.

The main period represented in the tel was founded in the 9th century BC by the Judahite monarchy and then rebuilt three more times until its final destruction at the end of the 8th century. This very last Israelite city was destroyed in a fierce fire during the Assyrian campaign.

Biblical references to Beer Sheba detail the Patriarchs' wandering throughout the Holy Land and God's appearance to them in Beer Sheba, as well as the struggle with the Philistines over the right to dig wells. They indicate variously that the city was allocated to the tribe of Simeon and also to the tribe of Judah, and refer to it as the southernmost city of Judea.

Beer Sheba was a planned city rather than one that evolved gradually. The Iron Age plan has been unearthed almost in its entirety. The outline is oval, encircled by a wall and gate to the south. The city was divided into three blocks by peripheral streets and the residential quarters were of uniform size. All streets lead to a main city square. Beneath the city streets was an elaborate drainage system of plastered gutters that collected water from houses and channelled under the outer wall to a water cistern, outside the city.

Notable structures were six storehouses, covering an area of around 600 square metres and providing space for the storage and preparation of a wide range of food for the administrative and military functionaries, and the Governor's Palace of three elongated halls and ancillary rooms.

Beer Sheba had two water systems: a well outside the city wall and, within the city, a reservoir for times of siege. Both were built in the Iron Age and were in use until the end of the 1st century BC. The well water was some 69 metres below the surface. The upper part was lined with dressed limestone; the lower part cut into chalk. This deep well has no parallels until the Byzantine period.

Inside the city, the water system consisted of a network of channels that collected water into a subterranean reservoir, accessed by a deep shaft equipped with stairs. The water was flood water from the Hebron wadi, diverted into the channels.

History

The early history for each of the three cities is covered above.

Tel Megiddo

Tel Megiddo has been excavated three times. The first work was from 1903-5 on behalf of the German Society for Oriental Research, the first major excavation of a biblical site. In 1925 the work was renewed by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. This major work persisted until 1939 and revealed most of the Iron Age site. In the 1960s and early 1970s a series of short excavations were carried out by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and since 1994 Tel Aviv University has been working there in alternate years, led by Professors Israel Finkelstein and David Ussishkin, reinvestigating former work to inform debates about the chronology of the Iron Age strata and the extent of King Solomon's kingdom.

Tel Hazor

The earliest excavation at Tel Hazor was carried out in 1928 by the Department of Antiquities of the British Mandate, but it was in the 1950s that the major excavation campaign was carried out under the leadership of Yigael Yadin of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Excavations were resumed in 1990 as a joint project of the Hebrew University and the Israel Exploration Society, with the object of identifying the extent of Solomon's city and checking earlier chronology.

Tel Beer Sheba

Tel Beer Sheba was excavated as part of a regional study in the 1960s, which continued until the 1970s. This excavation focused on Beer Sheba as part of a frontier area, which consisted of a collection of tels in the biblical "Negev".

Management regime

The three tels that make up this serial nomination are owned by the State of Israel and are designated National Parks, administered by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA). Tel Megiddo and Tel Hazor come within the Northern District of INPA and Tel Beer Sheba in the Southern District.

The Planning and Development Forum of the Director General of INPA approves all significant plans regarding activities in the National Parks. Additionally, there is an internal forum under the chairmanship of the Authority's Director of Archaeology and Heritage, which is concerned, with the management of actual and potential World Heritage sites.

Legal provision:

All three sites have bee designated as National Parks. This status provides protection under the Heritage and National Sites Law, 1998.

Resources:

The Israel Nature and Parks Authority finances on-going running and maintenance of the sites and emergency conservation work. Special projects are funded separately by drawing in funds from relevant institutions.

Justification by the State Party (summary)

The tels are considered to be of outstanding universal value for their association with biblical history and, in particular:

Tel Megiddo, as the most impressive tel in the Levant, represents a cornerstone in the evolvement of the Judeo-Christian civilisation through its central place in the biblical narrative, its formative role in messianic beliefs, and for its impressive building works by King Solomon.

Tel Hazor as the largest biblical site in Israel relates to evidence of the Israelite tribes' settlement processes in Canaan and to Solomon's building activities.

Tel Beer Sheba reflects biblical traditions surrounding the Patriarchs' wanderings in the Holy Land and to God's appearance to the Patriarchs in Beer Sheba.

The water cisterns are considered to be of outstanding universal value for their size and sophistication, and for their reflection of technical know-how, the capacity to invest large financial resources, and the administrative systems to plan and deploy substantial manpower.

3. ICOMOS EVALUATION

Actions by ICOMOS

An ICOMOS Mission visited the three sites in October 2004.

ICOMOS has also consulted its International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management.

In response to a request from ICOMOS, in March 2005 the State Party asked for the nomination to be considered for its biblical associations and not for both biblical associations and water systems. The State Party further submitted a more detailed comparative analysis to justify the choice of the three sites for their biblical associations.

Conservation

Conservation history:

Tel Megiddo

The present-day appearance of Tel Megiddo to a considerable extent reflects the history of its investigation for the last century. A striking feature of the site is the long, narrow trench dug by the German Society for Oriental Research in 1903–5, which cuts right through the

ancient town. This, however, is less obtrusive than that dug by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago during its long-term excavations.

The quality of the conservation work is in general satisfactory. There has been a good deal of reconstruction of walls, the level to which the original structures survive being delineated by means of a raised band of lime mortar. Care has been taken in the selection of conservation materials, and replacement mud-bricks are made on site. It was necessary in the interests of safety and stability to use modern materials at certain points, such as the Inner Gate, the upper edge of the grain silo, and, in particular, the entrance to the water system. None of these interventions may be considered to be obtrusive or misleading.

The nomination dossier records that there is a conservation master plan prepared by the architect to the site. However, this appears to have been very general in its approach, and it is uncertain to what extent it is being implemented. The key indicators are set out on p. 106 of the nomination dossier and constitute a viable monitoring system for the conservation of the site.

At the present time, work is in progress on the reorientation of the paths traversing the site on the lines of the original road layout, instead of crossing walls and other features without reference to the archaeological evidence. Experimental work is being carried out to select the best surfacing material for the new paths.

Tel Hazor

The quality of the conservation at Tel Hazor is broadly comparable with that at Tel Megiddo.

The conservation work at Tel Hazor is of a high order, thanks to the involvement of one of the top site conservators in Israel. The so-called 'Canaanite Palace,' which is protected by a simple but effective overhead structure, is the location of some sophisticated conservation techniques, which as well as protecting the structures are yielding a great deal of scientific information of considerable importance in the interpretation of the site.

Whilst some of the conservation work is of outstanding quality, there are, however, a number of excavated buildings where conservation has not been completed. The excellent annual conservation reports that have been produced for some years demonstrate that the limited resources are used for the conservation of a small number of more important structures. There is a regular monitoring programme, and the key indicators are to be found on pp. 106–7 of the nomination dossier. Nonetheless, it would be desirable for an overall conservation plan to be drawn up, in order to achieve a comparable standard across the entire site, with short-, medium-, and long-term objectives.

Tel Beer Sheba

This tel is smaller (3.09 ha) than the other two in this serial nomination. Some 60% of its area has been excavated and most of the excavated buildings and other structures have been conserved. On the whole, the conservation has been carried out satisfactorily so far as the choice of materials and techniques are concerned.

In places, and notably at the main gate, there has been considerable reconstruction of walls, and in particular the upper, mud-brick, portions. This gives a somewhat spurious impression of completeness, the more so since in some cases the walls have been reconstructed to an equal height. A different policy would be appropriate in future.

Management:

There are a number of detailed procedures relating to risk-preparedness, safety, fire prevention, supervision, enforcement, safety, rescue, and emergency that are in force at all INPA sites.

Tel Megiddo and Tel Beer Sheba have compendious site manuals, which are continuously updated (see paragraph 7.b of the nomination dossier). These are all available only in Hebrew, but a study of the dossiers during the mission, with the help of INPA officials, demonstrated the degree of detail that they contain.

At Tel Hazor there is at the present time only a collection of general directives and instructions relating to all INPA properties. However, there are plans to create a full dossier comparable with those at the other two sites; these are held up at the present time owing to funding problems. Once the Tel Hazor manual has been produced, this provision may therefore be deemed to conform to the requirements of the World Heritage Committee regarding management mechanisms.

At Tel Megiddo, a programme for the development of the site has been prepared by the INPA and the Government Tourist Corporation. This provides for the planning of services and facilities, revamping of the entrance complex, the establishment of trails round the tel, conservation of architectural remains, and a comprehensive presentation programme.

At both Tel Megiddo and Tel Hazor the complement of staff is considered to be too small for the visitor numbers and the size of the site.

Buffer zones:

At Megiddo, the nominated property covers 16.05ha, and the buffer zone 7.1ha. The latter is considered to be too small to protect the setting of the tel. At Hazor, the proposed buffer zone, which covers 119.2ha, in the north-east is too close to the boundary of the nominated property. And could do with enlargement. At Beer Sheba the buffer zone is not large enough to prevent the development of houses, which impact on the site.

Risk analysis:

Development and environmental pressures are said to be non-existent. However the construction of estate of "ranch-style" houses in open land to the south-east of the Beer Sheba tel points to considerable pressures.

Floods

Floods are a risk and improvements are planned to the drainage system.

Fire

Fire is a potential problem in the summer months and steps are taken to minimise the threat.

Visitor pressure

Overall this is not a problem at the sites, but access to the water cisterns is restricted and measures are taken to control the flow of visitors.

Authenticity and integrity

Authenticity:

Tel Megiddo

The authenticity of the ruins on Tel Megiddo is incontestable. Scientific excavations have revealed evidence of human occupation over many centuries and the excavated remains have been carefully conserved for display to visitors. There has been a certain degree of restoration of walls and other structures, but this has been executed with attention to the choice of materials and technique.

It might be argued that the water system lacks some measure of authenticity. To make it accessible to visitors, has necessitated, primarily for reasons of safety, some additions using modern materials. In order to demonstrate how the system operated, certain alterations have also been made below ground. However, these modern modifications may be justified in view of the outstanding technological achievement of the ancient engineers.

Tel Hazor

Overall, Tel Hazor has an acceptable level of authenticity. It is, however, the site of a somewhat unconventional conservation activity.

Two Iron Age buildings (a storehouse and a residential building) that had been excavated in the 1950s and had remained exposed to deterioration for some four decades on an ”island” as excavation proceeded to lower levels around them. After considerable discussion and negotiations with the Israel Antiquities Authority, it was agreed that the two buildings should be dismantled and rebuilt elsewhere on the site. This action may be justified in that it permitted excavation of earlier archaeological layers beneath the two Iron Age buildings.

As at Tel Megiddo, certain interventions, in the interests of safety and interpretation, have been made to the water system. None seriously impacts the authenticity of the overall system.

Tel Beer Sheba

With the exception of the over-restoration of some of the walls, Tel Beer Sheba has considerable authenticity.

As at the other two sites, some modifications have been necessary to the impressive water system, to ensure stability in the underground structure and in the interests of the safety of visitors.

Integrity:

The integrity of the individual sites appears to be intact.

Comparative evaluation

The comparative analysis given in the dossier states that the three tels are an “unparalled phenomenon in Israel and the entire Levant”.

In detail, it is said that there are no parallels for the number of temples in the early Bronze Age compound at Megiddo, the continuity of cult activity and the record of ritual activity.

At Hazor, the ramparts are said to be the best example in the area from southern Turkey to the north of the Negev in Israel and the Late Bronze Age Palace the most elaborate in Israel, and one of the best in the Levant.

For the Iron Age remains, the town plan of Beer Sheba, the orthogonal plan of Megiddo, the stables and palaces at Megiddo and the water systems of the three tels are said to have few parallels in the Levant. The revised comparative analysis provides a thorough comparison of the three nominated tels with other tels in Israel and the surrounding region under three main headings which reflect their association with the bible and their physical remains in terms of buildings and technology:

Archaeological heritage

- Monuments, fortification and gate systems
- Palaces
- Temples

Technological properties

- Water systems
- Fortification and gate systems

Symbolic properties

- Prominence in the Bible

This analysis shows that overall the three nominated tels together reflect the key stages of urban development in the region and also are strongly associated with events portrayed in the bible. Hazor manifests the great Bronze Age fortifications and palaces; Megiddo exhibits many Bronze and Iron Age monuments and Beer-Sheba displays the only highly elaborate town-planning of a Biblical town in the Levant. Together they provide significant insights into biblical civilisation.

Outstanding universal value

General statement:

The three tels together have the following qualities which when combined give the serial nomination outstanding universal value: *t*he three tels reflect the wealth and power

of Bronze and Iron Age cities in the fertile biblical lands, based on centralized authority which allowed control of trade routes to the north east and south, connecting Egypt to Syria and Anatolia to Mesopotamia, and the creation and management of sophisticated and technologically advanced water collection systems.

The three tels reflect occupation of single sites for more than three millennia until between the 7th century and 2nd century BC; they particularly reflect in their final flowering the formative stages of biblical history from c1200-332 BC.

The three tels, with their impressive remains of palaces, fortifications and urban planning, are the key material manifestations of the biblical epoch.

Evaluation of criteria:

The biblical associations of the three tels are nominated on the basis of criteria ii, iii, iv and vi.

The water systems were originally separately nominated on the basis of criteria i, ii, iii. These criteria were subsequently withdrawn and so will not be considered.

Biblical tels:

Criterion ii: The tels are seen as an outstanding example of the interchange of human values throughout the ancient near East, from Egypt in the south to Anatolia and Mesopotamia in the north. Megiddo and Hazor were large, important city-states founded on international trade routes, which brought them in to contact with Egypt and kingdoms to their north and east. The bible gives evidence of ties with neighbours as well as of alliances with other royal houses. Architectural styles also reflect Egyptian, Syrian and Aegean influences. But these influences were merged with local ones to create a unique local style.

Criterion iii: The tels reflect both a testimony to a cultural tradition that has died, the Bronze Age Canaanite towns and the Iron Age biblical cities, and to one that is still living – the values that have evolved from the Ten Commandments, the social and other laws set out in the Bible.

Criterion iv: It is suggested that the excavated remains form outstanding examples of urban planning; they also offer outstanding structures such as the Megiddo stables, the Hazor temples and the three water systems. Perhaps more pertinent would be the influence of the biblical cities through the biblical narrative on subsequent history.

Criterion vi: The three mounds, through their mentions in the Bible, form a ritual and tangible testimony to historical events and are a testimony to a civilisation that still exists today.

4. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation for the future

The title of the original nomination, "The Biblical Tels and Ancient Water Systems – Megiddo, Hazor, Beer Sheba" - brought together two concepts, that of the Biblical tel and that of ancient water systems. This was reinforced by the fact that two sets of criteria were offered for the two concepts.

The revisions offered by the State Party have now focused on only one of these aspects: that of biblical tels.In order to reflect this change, the title of the nominated sites needs to be changed to: "The Biblical Tels – Megiddo, Hazor, Beer Sheba".

Although the revised comparative analysis has shown that the three nominated tels can represent the complex and sophisticated development of biblical tels in the area, the possibility of adding further tels to widen the serial nomination in the future should not be excluded, and the State Party should be encouraged to explore this possibility.

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the World Heritage Committee adopt the following draft decision:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-05/29.COM/8B,

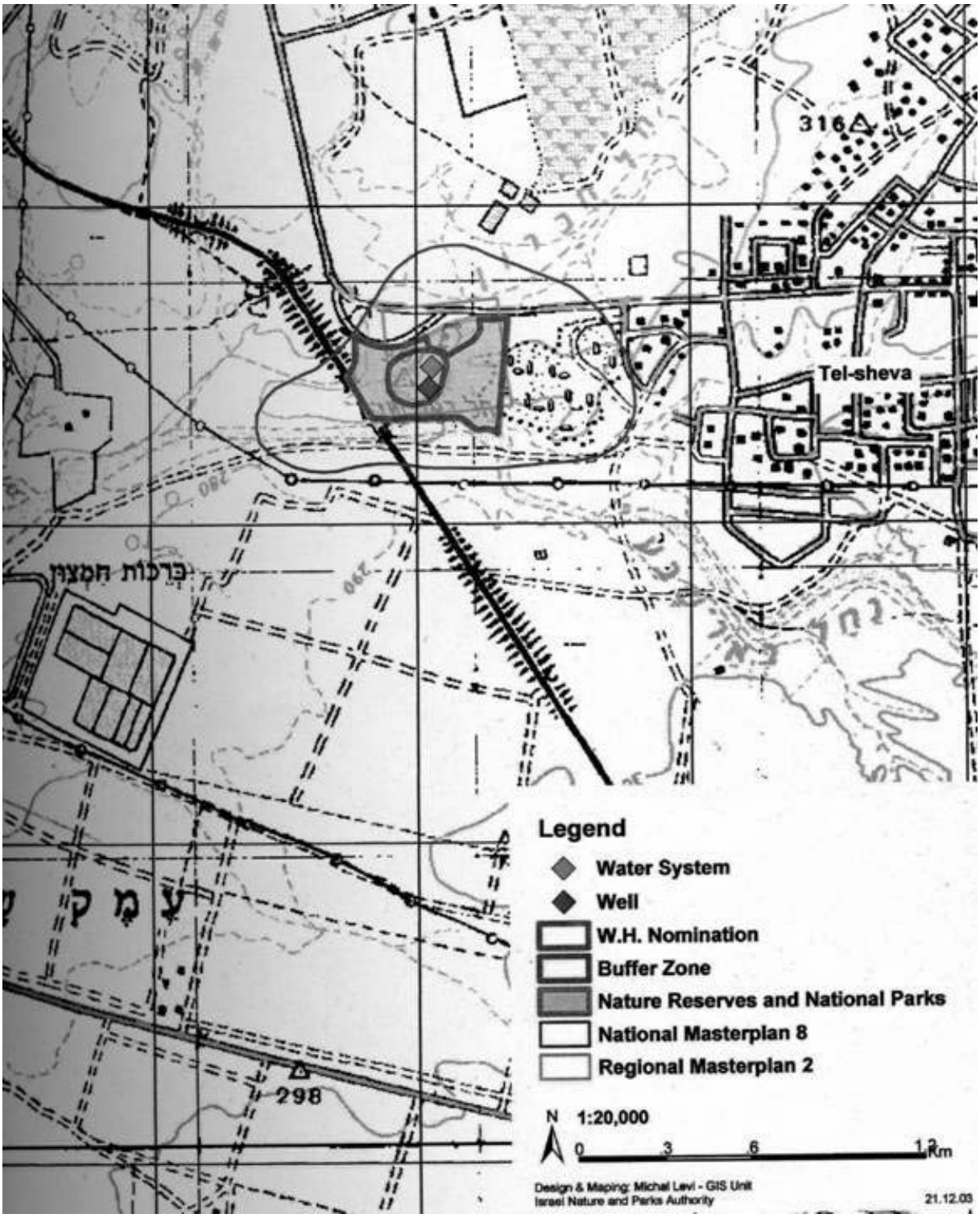
2. Inscribes the property on the World Heritage List on the basis of ***criteria ii, iii, iv and vi***:

> ***Criterion ii***: The three tels represent an interchange of human values throughout the ancient near-east, forged through extensive trade routes and alliances with other states and manifest in building styles which merged Egyptian, Syrian and Aegean influences to create a distinctive local style.
>
> ***Criterion iii***: The three tels are a testimony to a civilisation that has died – the Bronze and Iron Age biblical cities – manifest in their expressions of creativity: town planning, fortifications, palaces, and water collection technologies.
>
> ***Criterion iv***: The biblical cities exerted a powerful influence on later history through the biblical narrative.
>
> ***Criterion vi***: The three mounds, through their mentions in the Bible, form a ritual and tangible testimony to historical events and are a testimony to a civilisation that still exists today.

3. Notes the changing of the name of the property which becomes: "The Biblical Tels – Megiddo, Hazor, Beer Sheba".

4. Encourages the State Party to explore the possibility of adding further tels to widen the serial nomination in the future.

ICOMOS, April 2005



Map showing the boundaries of Tell Beer Sheba

Aerial view of Tell Megiddo

Tell Hazor Water System

Tells bibliques (Israël)

No 1108

1. IDENTIFICATION

État partie : État d'Israël

Bien proposé : Les tells bibliques et les anciens systèmes d'adduction d'eau – Megiddo, Hazor, Beer-Sheba

Lieu : Megiddo, région de Megiddo
Hazor, région de Haute Galilée
Beer-Sheba, région de Beer Sheba

Date de réception : 26 janvier 2004

Catégorie de bien :

En termes de catégories de biens culturels, Telles qu'elles sont définies à l'article premier de la Convention du Patrimoine mondial de 1972, il s'agit de *sites*. Ils forment une *proposition d'inscription en série*.

Brève description :

Les tells, des tertres préhistoriques de peuplement, sont caractéristiques des plaines de la Méditerranée orientale, notamment du Liban, de la Syrie, d'Israël et de l'est de la Turquie. Sur plus de 200 tells en Israël, Megiddo, Hazor et Beer-Sheba sont représentatifs de ceux qui abritent d'importants vestiges de cités aux associations bibliques. Ces trois tells présentent également quelques-uns des plus beaux exemples dans le Levant de systèmes d'adduction des eaux souterraines datant de l'âge du fer, très élaborés et créés pour desservir de denses communautés urbaines, reflétant une autorité centralisée, basées sur une agriculture prospère et le contrôle de routes commerciales importantes.

2. LE BIEN

Description

Les trois tells proposés pour inscription sont disséminés dans tout l'État d'Israël. Le tell Hazor se trouve au nord, à 14 km au nord de la mer de Galilée, le tell Megiddo au nord du point le plus septentrional de la rivière Qishon, au sud-est de Haïfa, le tell Beer-Sheba à l'est de la ville de Beer Sheba, au nord du désert du Néguev, dans le sud d'Israël.

Ces trois tells s'inscrivent parmi les plus de 200 tells que compte l'État d'Israël. Les tells sont des tertres préhistoriques de peuplement, qui forment un trait distinctif et bien visible des paysages relativement plats du Levant – Israël, Syrie, Liban et Turquie orientale. Bien des tertres sont à la fois vastes et hauts, représentant de grands peuplements avec plusieurs niveaux, qui ont perduré sur plusieurs millénaires. Les tells ont une forme caractéristique, avec un profil conique et un sommet plat. Certains s'étendent jusqu'à 20 m d'altitude au-dessus du paysage environnant.

Les tells reflètent des peuplements groupés, qui ont perduré au fil du temps en un seul lieu, souvent du fait des avantages stratégiques du site en termes de communications et, plus crucial encore, de la disponibilité de ressources en eau dans des régions parfois assez arides à certaines périodes de l'année.

En Israël, la taille des tells varie, des petits tells couvrant un hectare environ, comme celui de Beer-Sheba, aux plus grands, s'étendant sur une dizaine d'hectares, comme celui de Megiddo. Il y a également quelques rares sites beaucoup plus vastes, comme celui de Hazor, qui couvrent quasiment 100 hectares. On trouve de grands tells similaires en Syrie.

Un grand nombre des tells sont les vestiges des villes et peuplements mentionnés dans l'Ancien Testament, livre révéré tant par les Juifs que par les Chrétiens, et reconnu dans l'Islam comme une source fondamentale. C'est ce qui leur vaut leur appellation de tells « bibliques ». Les trois tells proposés pour inscription sont représentatifs des cités bibliques d'Israël. La proposition d'inscription en énumère huit autres et laissent supposer qu'ils pourraient être suggérés comme extension de la présente proposition d'inscription en série.

L'Ancien Testament, en tant que document source historique, fait référence à des événements entre 1700 av. J.-C., environ, et le deuxième siècle av. J.-C. L'histoire de la plupart des tells s'étend cependant sur une période historique bien plus longue, qui remonte dans certains cas jusqu'à 6 000 ans av. J.-C. La proposition d'inscription reflète donc principalement la période de leur histoire associée aux événements décrits dans l'Ancien Testament.

L'histoire de l'Ancien Testament porte essentiellement sur l'histoire religieuse d'Israël du pays de Canaan. La terre connue sous le nom de Canaan se trouvait dans le territoire du sud du Levant, dans ce qui est aujourd'hui Israël, l'autorité palestinienne, la Jordanie, le Liban et le sud-ouest de la Syrie. Au cours de l'Histoire, bien des noms lui ont été donnés, entre autres Palestine, Eretz-Israël, Bilad es-Shem, Terre Sainte et Djahy. Mais Canaan est son plus ancien nom connu.

Les habitants de Canaan n'ont jamais constitué une unité nationale ethnique ou politique. Ils présentaient cependant suffisamment de similitudes linguistiques et culturelles pour être collectivement dénommés les « Cananéens ». Israël fait référence à la fois à un peuple de Canaan et, plus tard, à l'entité politique formée par ce peuple. Pour les auteurs de la Bible, Canaan est la terre que les tribus d'Israël conquirent après l'exode d'Égypte et les Cananéens les peuples qu'ils dépossédèrent de cette terre.

L'histoire biblique commence au XVIIe siècle av. J.-C. avec les patriarches du peuple juif, Abraham, Isaac et Jacob, menant les Israélites nomades de la Mésopotamie

aux monts de Canaan. La famine força les Israélites à migrer vers l'Égypte. Ils passèrent ensuite des années à errer, jusqu'à ce qu'en 1250 av. J.-C., Moïse conduise l'exode du retour jusqu'à la Terre promise. Les Israélites conquirent les montagnes de Canaan, tandis que les Philistins occupèrent les plaines.

Le premier roi d'un Israël centralisé fut Saül, vers 1023-1004 av. J.-C. Son fils adoptif David conquit Jérusalem, en fit sa capitale et installa l'Arche de l'Alliance, qui contenait, dit-on, les tables de pierre où furent inscrits les Dix Commandements. Son fils était le roi Salomon, dont le Livre des Proverbes, l'Ecclésiaste et le Cantique des Cantiques, qu'il aurait lui-même écrits et qui figurent dans l'Ancien Testament, célèbrent les constructions. Le règne de Salomon est souvent considéré comme l'âge d'or d'Israël. Après la mort de celui-ci, le royaume fut divisé en deux, Israël et Juda.

Le royaume indépendant d'Israël prit fin au VIIIe siècle av. J.-C., avec la conquête par les Assyriens, qui détruisirent une grande partie des villes des tells. Beer-Sheba et Hazor furent immédiatement abandonnés ; un peuplement persista à Megiddo jusqu'au début du IVe siècle, époque à laquelle il fut finalement abandonné.

Les trois tells sont également proposés pour inscription pour les impressionnants vestiges de leurs systèmes de captage des eaux souterraines, qui reflètent des solutions d'ingénierie élaborées et adaptées à la géographie du lieu en matière de stockage des eaux. Ils semblent avoir atteint leur apogée à l'âge du fer.

Les trois tells sont considérés les uns après les autres :

- Tell Megiddo
- Tell Hazor
- Tell Beer-Sheba

Tell Megiddo

Megiddo est l'un des plus impressionnants tells du Levant. Stratégiquement situé près du passage d'Aruna, en surplomb de la vallée fertile de Jezréel et doté d'abondantes ressources en eau, Megiddo fut du IVe millénaire au VIIe siècle av. J.-C. l'une des plus puissantes cités de Canaan et d'Israël, contrôlant la Via Maris, la principale route internationale reliant l'Égypte à la Syrie, l'Anatolie et la Mésopotamie. Des batailles épiques où se joua le sort de l'Asie occidentale furent livrées à proximité.

Megiddo tient également une place centrale dans la narration biblique, allant de la conquête de la terre jusqu'à la période de la monarchie unifiée puis divisée, et enfin jusqu'à la domination assyrienne. Il est mentionné onze fois dans l'Ancien Testament, en rapport entre autres avec les villes distribuées au sein des tribus d'Israël, et avec les travaux de construction de Salomon. Il est également mentionné une fois dans le Nouveau Testament, sous le nom d'Armaggeddon (corruption grecque de Har-Megiddo, tertre de Megiddo).

On dit que Megiddo est le tell du Levant qui a fait l'objet du plus grand nombre de fouilles. Ses vingt strates principales contiennent les vestiges d'une trentaine de villes différentes.

Megiddo s'est imposé au IVe millénaire av. J.-C. À la fin du IVe millénaire, au IIIe millénaire et au IIe millénaire av. J.-C., Megiddo devint l'une des plus puissantes villes de Canaan. Avec d'autres villes cananéennes, elle fut intégrée à l'Égypte, en tant que province du nouveau royaume, par le Pharaon Thoutmosis III. Des fouilles ont révélé des preuves de sa grande richesse, par exemple des ivoires sculptés, qui a persisté jusqu'à sa destruction par le peuple de la mer au XIIe siècle av. J.-C.

À l'âge du fer, Megiddo devint un centre économique et, en 925 av. J.-C., fut à nouveau conquise pendant quelque temps par l'Égypte. Aux IXe et VIIIe siècles av. J.-C., Megiddo fut le principal centre du royaume du Nord d'Israël ; à l'époque, sa prospérité reposait sur le commerce des chevaux, et elle était réputée pour ses courses de chars. Ce fut la grande époque de Megiddo.

En 732, les Assyriens prirent la région et la ville devint la capitale de la province assyrienne de Megiddo. Au VIIe siècle av. J.-C., Megiddo retomba sous le joug égyptien. Avant d'être finalement abandonnée, de la fin du Ve siècle au début du IVe siècle av. J.-C., elle était tout d'abord tombée aux mains des Babyloniens, puis des Perses.

Le peuplement du Tell Megiddo couvre quatre grandes périodes. Le plus ancien peuplement, à l'époque néolithique, est révélé par des vestiges de poteries dans des grottes, et des sites d'habitation au sein d'enceintes de pierre. On trouve les vestiges d'un mur de pierre massif du début de l'âge du bronze, qui encerclait partiellement le site, ainsi que ceux d'un temple, tous deux détruits par un tremblement de terre. Quand la ville fut reconstruite, trois temples rectangulaires à portiques et un autel rond furent construits dans ce qu'on décrit comme un ensemble cultuel, dont le caractère monumental est sans rival dans le Levant. C'est la seule activité rituelle répertoriée dans un ancien temple du Proche-Orient. L'ensemble est également une très ancienne manifestation de l'urbanisation.

Au cours de l'âge du bronze moyen, aux alentours du XIIe siècle av. J.-C. la ville fut reconstruite comme un centre urbain fortifié, appartenant à la ville-État cananéenne. Après sa destruction par les « peuples de la mer » aux environs de 1130 av. J.-C., la ville fut détruite par un violent incendie. Elle fut à nouveau rebâtie comme cité israélite à l'âge du fer. La ville comptait des palais, qui sont considérés comme les plus beaux exemples d'Israël, comparables à Samarie, et aux monuments fouillés dans le nord de la Syrie, comme le tell Halaf. Il y avait également de grands bâtiments à piliers assez similaires à l'entrepôt de Beer-Sheba (ci-dessous), mais on pense qu'il s'agit d'écuries, avec un manège associé.

À l'âge du fer, les systèmes d'adduction d'eau de Megiddo parvinrent à leur phase la plus sophistiquée. L'eau venait d'une source au pied du tertre, à laquelle on accédait par un passage secret partant de l'intérieur de la ville et passant sous les murs d'enceinte de celle-ci. Au fur et à mesure que la cité grandit et s'éleva, le trajet pour

recueillir l'eau devint plus long. Dans sa dernière manifestation, le système se composait d'une grotte taillée autour du puits, avec un aqueduc de 80 mètres acheminant l'eau jusqu'au pied d'un puits vertical dans la ville. Ce système est l'un des plus impressionnants du monde antique, et reflète la capacité d'organisation de la main d'œuvre et d'investissement d'immenses ressources.

Tell Hazor

Tell Hazor est le plus grand site biblique d'Israël, couvrant presque 100 hectares. Il est stratégiquement situé sur un important carrefour, dominant les routes marchandes et militaires qui reliaient la future terre d'Israël à la Phénicie, la Syrie et l'Anatolie au nord, la Mésopotamie à l'est et l'Égypte au sud. La plaine fertile de Hula fut la source de la prospérité de Hazor et le site de plusieurs batailles.

On estime à environ 20 000 habitants la population de Hazor au deuxième millénaire av. J.-C., ce qui en faisait l'une des plus importantes cités de la région. Hazor fut habitée à partir de la fin du troisième millénaire, au début de l'âge du bronze, jusqu'au IIe siècle av. J.-C.

Les références à Hazor dans l'Ancien Testament se décomposent en deux grandes catégories : la première concerne le rôle de Hazor dans l'établissement des tribus d'Israël, et la deuxième les activités de construction de Salomon et la fin du royaume d'Israël, quand elle fut prise par les Assyriens au VIIIe siècle.

La première catégorie de références est considérée comme l'un des sujets les plus controversés de l'étude de l'histoire israélite antique. Elle comprend deux références principales détaillant la bataille des enfants d'Israël contre Jabin, roi de Canaan, qui sont contradictoires et racontent des issues différentes.

La deuxième catégorie de références qui associe Salomon à la construction des murs de Jérusalem, de Hazor, de Megiddo et de Gezer et qui fait l'objet d'un vif débat quant à savoir si ce sont bien les murs découverts que l'on peut voir, n'est pas non plus très claire.

Hazor fut une ville prospère pendant la majeure partie de son existence. Plusieurs monuments méritent d'être mentionnés. Au début du IIe millénaire av. J.-C., toute la ville basse était enceinte dans des remparts de terre, 9 m de haut, avec une structure interne en briques et l'extérieur en terre, et protégée par des douves profondes. Il y avait au moins deux portes monumentales, avec des pilastres « syriens » flanquant l'entrée. L'enceinte de l'âge du bronze était similaire à celle des villes syriennes contemporaine comme Qatna.

Au cours de l'âge du bronze moyen et tardif, plusieurs palais et temples furent érigés à la fois dans la ville basse et dans la ville haute. Certains d'entre eux furent construits sur de grandes plates-formes de terre, avec des pierres taillées en basalte pour revêtir les murs, des bases de colonnes rondes en basalte marquant les entrées, et des poutres en cèdre pour les murs et les sols. Hazor est le site le plus au sud où l'on trouve ces caractéristiques architecturales syriennes. Le palais est le plus élaboré et l'un des mieux préservés de son époque dans le Levant.

Dans la première ville israélite, attribuée à l'époque du roi Salomon, on trouve une porte massive en pierre, à six chambres, dans un mur de casemate encerclant la partie occidentale du tell. Dans les siècles qui suivirent, un large mur fut construit tout autour du tell, et de grands bâtiments administratifs créés, avec des piliers en pierre séparant les salles intérieures.

Élément remarquable dans le plan global de cette ville prospère, le système d'adduction d'eau construit pour alimenter la ville pendant les sièges. Il se compose d'un réseau de canaux datant de l'âge du bronze moyen, d'un réservoir recouvert d'enduit de la fin de l'âge du bronze, le plus ancien de ce type en Israël, et d'un système d'adduction d'eau postérieur, datant de l'âge du fer.

Le système de la fin de l'âge du bronze comprend un tunnel descendant sur 30 mètres, pour partie taillé dans la pierre et pour partie en encorbellement, conduisant à une grotte trilobée et à un couloir à voûtes, avec des escaliers menant au tunnel. Le tunnel tout entier a été recouvert d'un enduit pour lui permettre de stocker l'eau. Ce système semble avoir desservi un palais.

Le système de l'âge du fer puisait l'eau en-dessous de la ville. On le fait remonter au IXe siècle av. J.-C. Il se compose d'un puits vertical de 20 mètres, et d'un tunnel en pente de 25 mètres de long, avec des marches et un bassin.

Tell Beer-Sheba

Tell Beer-Sheba se trouve à l'intersection de routes menant au nord vers le mont Hébron, à l'est vers le désert de Judée et la Mer Morte, à l'ouest vers la plaine côtière, et au sud vers les hauteurs du Néguev et la Mer Rouge.

Bien que les plus anciens vestiges du tell datent du IVe millénaire av. J.-C., Beer-Sheba resta abandonné au cours de l'âge du bronze. Après être demeuré inhabité pendant quelques deux mille ans, le tell fut peuplé à nouveau au XIe siècle av. J.-C., au début de l'âge du fer. Cette phase de peuplement arriva à sa fin en 925 av. J.-C., avec la conquête du site par les Égyptiens.

La principale période représentée dans le tell fut fondée au IXe siècle av. J.-C. par le royaume de Juda, puis reconstruite trois fois, jusqu'à sa destruction finale à la fin du VIIIe siècle. Cette toute dernière cité israélite fut détruite par un incendie violent pendant la campagne assyrienne.

Les références bibliques à Beer-Sheba racontent l'errance des patriarches en Terre Sainte et l'apparition de Dieu devant eux à Beersheba, ainsi que le combat avec les Philistins pour le droit de creuser des puits. Elles indiquent que la cité fut offerte à la tribu de Siméon, mais aussi à la tribu de Juda, et en font la ville la plus au sud de Judée.

Beersheba fut une ville planifiée plutôt qu'une cité qui évolua de façon progressive. Le plan de l'âge du fer a été découvert dans sa quasi intégralité. Son tracé est ovale et il est fermé par des remparts avec une porte au sud. La ville était divisée en trois quartiers par des rues périphériques, et les quartiers résidentiels étaient de taille uniforme. Toutes les rues menaient à une place au centre de la ville. Sous les rues circulait un système élaboré d'évacuation des eaux,

fait de caniveaux recouverts d'enduit qui recueillaient les eaux usées des maisons et les canalisaient sous les remparts extérieurs jusqu'à une citerne à l'extérieur de la ville.

Parmi les structures notables, six entrepôts, couvrant environ 600 m² d'espace de stockage et de préparation des denrées destinées aux fonctionnaires administratifs et militaires, et le palais du gouverneur, avec ses trois salles oblongues et ses annexes.

Beersheba possédait deux systèmes d'adduction d'eau : un puits à l'extérieur des remparts et, à l'intérieur de la ville, un réservoir pour les temps de siège. Tous deux furent construits au cours de l'âge du fer et utilisés jusqu'à la fin du I^{er} siècle av. J.-C. Le puits d'eau était à 69 mètres sous la surface. La partie supérieure était revêtue de pierre calcaire taillée, la partie inférieure était taillée dans le calcaire. Ce puits profond ne connut pas de pareil jusqu'à la période byzantine.

À l'intérieur de la ville, le système d'adduction d'eau se composait d'un réseau de canaux qui recueillaient l'eau dans un réservoir souterrain, auquel on accédait par un puits profond muni d'escaliers. L'eau venait des crues du wadi de Hébron, détournée dans les canaux.

Histoire

L'histoire ancienne de chacune des trois villes est décrite ci-dessous.

Tell Megiddo

Le tell Megiddo a fait l'objet de fouilles à trois reprises. Les premières furent conduites de 1903 à 1905 pour le compte de la Société allemande de recherche orientale ; il s'agissait des premières grandes fouilles sur un site biblique. En 1925, l'Institut oriental de l'université de Chicago relança les travaux. Cette importante campagne dura jusqu'en 1939 et révéla la majeure partie du site de l'âge du fer. Dans les années 1960 et au début des années 1970, une série de fouilles courtes furent menées par l'université de Jérusalem et, depuis 1994, l'université de Tel-Aviv y travaille en alternance. Les professeurs Israël Finkelstein et David Ussishkin conduisent ces fouilles sur les anciens travaux pour faire la lumière sur les débats concernant la chronologie des strates de l'âge du fer et l'étendue du royaume du roi Salomon.

Tell Hazor

Les premières fouilles du tell Hazor furent conduites en 1928 par le département des Antiquités du mandat britannique, mais ce n'est que dans les années 1950 que la plus grande campagne de fouilles fut menée, sous la direction de Yigael Yadin, de l'université de Jérusalem. Les fouilles reprirent en 1990, comme projet conjoint de l'université et de la Société d'exploration d'Israël, dans le but d'identifier l'étendue de la cité de Salomon et de vérifier la chronologie antérieure.

Tell Beer-Sheba

Le tell Beer-Sheba fut fouillé dans le cadre d'une étude régionale des années 1960, qui se poursuivit jusque dans les années 1970. Ces fouilles se concentrèrent sur Beer-Sheba comme partie d'une zone frontière, composée d'un ensemble de tells, dans le « Néguev » biblique.

Politique de gestion

Les trois tells composant cette proposition d'inscription en série appartiennent à l'État d'Israël et sont classés parcs nationaux, confiés à l'administration de l'INPA (autorité d'Israël en charge de la nature et des parcs). Tell Megiddo et Tell Hazor tombent sous la responsabilité du district nord de l'INPA, et Tell Beer-Sheba du district sud.

Le Forum de planification et de développement du Directeur Général de l'INPA approuve tous les plans significatifs concernant les activités dans les parcs nationaux. En outre, il existe un forum interne, sous la présidence du directeur de l'Archéologie et du Patrimoine de l'Autorité, qui s'occupe de la gestion des sites du Patrimoine mondial, effectifs ou potentiels.

Dispositions légales :

Les trois sites ont été classés parcs nationaux. Ce statut assure la protection aux termes de la Loi de 1998 sur le patrimoine et les sites nationaux.

Ressources :

L'INPA finance la gestion et l'entretien des sites, ainsi que les travaux de conservation d'urgence. Les projets spéciaux sont financés à part, en levant des fonds auprès des institutions compétentes.

Justification émanant de l'État partie (résumé)

Les tells sont considérés comme ayant une valeur universelle exceptionnelle pour leur association à l'histoire biblique. Plus particulièrement :

Tell Meggido, le plus impressionnant tell du Levant, représente un site majeur pour l'évolution de la civilisation judéo-chrétienne par son rôle central dans la narration biblique, son rôle formateur dans les croyances messianiques, et pour les impressionnants travaux de construction qui y furent réalisés par le roi Salomon.

Tell Hazor, le plus grand site biblique d'Israël, est associé aux témoignages des processus d'établissement des tribus d'Israël en Canaan et aux activités de construction de Salomon.

Tell Beer-Sheba reflète les traditions bibliques liées à l'errance des patriarches en Terre Sainte et à l'apparition de Dieu devant eux à Beersheba.

Les citernes sont considérées comme d'une valeur universelle exceptionnelle pour leur taille et leur complexité, et pour leur illustration du savoir-faire technique, de la capacité à investir d'importantes

ressources financières et des systèmes administratifs pour planifier et déployer une main d'œuvre substantielle.

3. ÉVALUATION DE L'ICOMOS

Actions de l'ICOMOS

Une mission de l'ICOMOS s'est rendue sur les trois sites en octobre 2004.

L'ICOMOS a également consulté son Comité scientifique international sur la gestion du patrimoine archéologique.

En réponse à la demande faite par l'ICOMOS en mars 2005, l'État partie a demandé que la proposition d'inscription soit examinée sous l'angle de ses associations bibliques et non pas à la fois pour ses associations avec la Bible et les systèmes d'adduction d'eau. L'État partie a donc soumis une analyse comparative plus fouillée pour justifier le choix des trois sites en fonction de leurs associations bibliques.

Conservation

Historique de la conservation :

Tell Megiddo

L'aspect actuel de Tell Megiddo reflète dans une large mesure l'histoire de ses fouilles au siècle dernier. Un trait marquant du site est la longue et étroite tranchée creusée par la Société allemande de recherches orientales en 1903-1905, qui traverse de part en part l'ancienne cité. Elle est cependant moins gênante que celle creusée par l'Institut oriental de l'université de Chicago durant ses longues fouilles.

La qualité des travaux de conservation est en général satisfaisante. Les murs ont en grande partie été reconstruits ; le niveau jusqu'auquel les structures d'origine subsistent est délimité par une bande de mortier de chaux en relief. Les matériaux de conservation ont été sélectionnés avec soin, et les briques de terre de remplacement sont fabriquées sur place. Il s'est avéré nécessaire, dans l'intérêt de la sécurité et de la stabilité, d'utiliser en certains points des matériaux modernes, comme pour la porte intérieure, le bord supérieur du silo à grains et plus particulièrement l'entrée du système d'adduction d'eau. Aucune de ces interventions ne peut être considérée comme gênante ou prêtant à confusion.

Le dossier de proposition d'inscription indique que l'architecte du site prépare un plan directeur de conservation. Il semble cependant que celui-ci s'appuie sur une approche très générale, et on ne sait pas très bien dans quelle mesure il est effectivement mis en œuvre. Les principaux indicateurs sont précisés à la page 106 du dossier de proposition d'inscription, et constituent un système de suivi viable pour la conservation du site.

Actuellement, des travaux sont en cours en ce qui concerne la réorientation des chemins traversant le site d'après le tracé original des routes, au lieu de les laisser traverser les remparts et autres éléments du site sans aucun rapport avec les témoignages archéologiques. Des travaux expérimentaux sont en cours pour sélectionner les meilleurs matériaux de revêtement des nouveaux chemins.

Tell Hazor

Globalement, la qualité des travaux de conservation de Tell Hazor est largement comparable à celle de Tell Megiddo.

Les travaux de conservation de Tell Hazor sont d'une qualité élevée, grâce à l'implication de l'un des plus éminents conservateurs de site en Israël. Le « palais cananéen », protégé par une structure simple mais efficace, fait l'objet de certaines techniques de conservation élaborées qui, non seulement protégent les structures mais donnent également beaucoup d'informations scientifiques précieuses quant à l'interprétation du site.

Si certains des travaux de conservation sont d'une qualité exceptionnelle, d'autres ne sont pas terminés, et ce sur plusieurs des édifices fouillés. Les excellents rapports annuels de conservation rédigés depuis quelques années montrent que les ressources limitées sont consacrées à la conservation d'un petit nombre de structures importantes. Il existe un programme de suivi régulier, et les principaux indicateurs se trouvent pages 106-107 du dossier de proposition d'inscription. Néanmoins, il serait souhaitable d'élaborer un plan global de conservation pour obtenir un niveau standard comparable dans tout le site, avec des objectifs à court, moyen et long terme.

Tell Beer-Sheba

Ce tell est plus petit (3,09 ha) que les deux autres de la proposition d'inscription en série. Environ 60 % de cette zone a fait l'objet de fouilles, et la plupart des bâtiments et autres structures mises au jour ont fait l'objet de travaux de conservation. Dans l'ensemble, ceux-ci ont été réalisés de façon satisfaisante, en ce qui concerne le choix des matériaux et des techniques.

En certains endroits, et notamment à l'endroit de la porte principale, les murs ont été considérablement reconstruits, et notamment les parties supérieures, en briques de terre. L'ensemble donne une impression quelque peu illusoire de murs complets, et ce d'autant plus que, dans certains cas, les murs ont été reconstruits à la même hauteur. À l'avenir, une politique différente serait plus appropriée.

Gestion :

Il existe plusieurs procédures détaillées relatives à la préparation aux risques, à la sécurité, à la prévention des incendies, au contrôle, à la mise en application, à la sécurité, au sauvetage et aux urgences, en vigueur sur tous les sites de l'INPA.

Tell Megiddo et Tell Beer-Sheba possèdent des manuels détaillés concernant le site, actualisés en permanence (cf. paragraphe 7.b du dossier de proposition d'inscription). Ils ne sont disponibles qu'en hébreu, mais l'étude de ces dossiers pendant la mission, avec l'aide des officiels de l'INPA, a fait la preuve de leur degré de détail.

À Tell Hazor, il n'existe actuellement qu'un recueil de directives générales et d'instructions relatives à tous les biens de l'INPA. Toutefois, il y a actuellement des plans pour créer un dossier complet comparable à ceux des deux autres sites, mais ils sont actuellement en suspens, du fait de problèmes de financement. Une fois le manuel de Tell Hazor produit, cette disposition pourra donc être jugée conforme aux exigences du Comité du patrimoine mondial concernant les mécanismes de gestion.

À Tell Megiddo, l'INPA et la Société touristique d'État ont préparé un programme de développement du site. Celui-ci prévoit la planification des services et des installations, la rénovation du complexe d'entrée, l'établissement de pistes autour du tell, la conservation des vestiges architecturaux et un programme exhaustif de présentation.

À Tell Megiddo comme à Tell Hazor, le complément de personnel est jugé insuffisant pour le nombre de visiteurs et la taille des sites.

Zones tampon :

À Megiddo, le bien proposé pour inscription couvre 16,05 hectares et la zone tampon 7,1 hectares. Cette dernière est jugée trop petite pour protéger l'environnement du tell. À Hazor, la zone tampon envisagée, qui couvre 119,2 hectares, au nord-est est trop proche de la limite du bien proposé pour inscription, et une extension de celle-ci serait nécéssaire. À Beer-Sheba, la zone tampon n'est pas assez grande pour empêcher le développement des maisons, ce qui a un impact sur le site.

Analyse des risques :

Les pressions liées au développement et à l'environnement sont déclarées inexistantes. Toutefois, la construction de maisons de style « ranch », sur de grands terrains au sud-est du Tell Beer-Sheba représente au contraire des pressions considérables.

Crues

Les crues sont un risque, et des améliorations du système d'évacuation des eaux sont prévues.

Feu

Le feu est un problème potentiel en été, et des mesures sont prises pour minimiser cette menace.

Pressions liées aux visiteurs

Globalement, ce n'est pas un problème sur les sites, mais l'accès aux citernes est restreint, et des mesures sont prises pour contrôler le flux de visiteurs.

Authenticité et intégrité

Authenticité :

Tell Megiddo

L'authenticité des ruines de Tell Megiddo est incontestable. Des fouilles scientifiques ont révélé des traces d'occupation par l'homme sur plusieurs siècles, et les vestiges mis au jour ont fait l'objet d'une conservation soigneuse, en vue de la présentation aux visiteurs. Les murs et autres structures ont fait l'objet de certains travaux de conservation, exécutés cependant avec soin quant au choix des matériaux et des techniques.

On pourrait dire que le système d'adduction d'eau manque dans une certaine mesure d'authenticité. Pour le rendre accessible aux visiteurs, on a en effet dû procéder à certains ajouts à l'aide de matériaux modernes, essentiellement pour des raisons de sécurité. Pour faire la démonstration du fonctionnement du système, certaines modifications ont également été apportées sous la surface. Toutefois, elles peuvent se justifier au vu de l'extraordinaire réussite technologique des ingénieurs de l'époque.

Tell Hazor

Globalement, Tell Hazor présente un niveau d'authenticité acceptable. Des travaux de conservation assez peu conventionnels y ont cependant eu lieu.

Deux bâtiments de l'âge du fer (un entrepôt et un bâtiment résidentiel) fouillés dans les années 1950 restèrent exposés et subirent une détérioration pendant une quarantaine d'années, sur un « îlot », au fur et à mesure que les fouilles descendaient plus bas autour d'eux. Après des discussions et des négociations considérables avec l'Autorité israélienne des antiquités, il a été convenu que les deux bâtiments devraient être démontés et reconstruits ailleurs sur le site. Cette action peut se justifier en ce qu'elle permit les fouilles de couches archéologiques antérieures sous les deux édifices de l'âge du fer.

Comme à Tell Megiddo, certaines interventions, dans l'intérêt de la sécurité et de l'interprétation, ont été réalisées sur le système d'adduction d'eau. Aucune n'a eu d'impact grave sur l'authenticité du système dans son ensemble.

Tell Beer-Sheba

À l'exception de la restauration excessive de certains des remparts, Tell Beer-Sheba possède une authenticité considérable.

Comme sur les deux autres sites, quelques modifications de l'impressionnant système d'adduction d'eau ont été nécessaires pour assurer la stabilité de la structure souterraine et la sécurité des visiteurs.

Intégrité :

L'intégrité individuelle des sites semble intacte.

Évaluation comparative

L'analyse comparative donnée dans le dossier de proposition d'inscription énonce que les trois tells constituent un « phénomène sans pareil en Israël et dans tout le Levant ».

En détail, on dit qu'il n'existe aucun parallèle pour le nombre de temples que compte l'ensemble du début de l'âge du bronze de Megiddo, la continuité du culte et l'enregistrement de l'activité rituelle.

À Hazor, les remparts sont censés être le meilleur exemple dans la région, du sud de la Turquie au nord du Néguev, en Israël, et le palais de la fin de l'âge du bronze le plus élaboré d'Israël, et l'un des plus beaux du Levant.

Pour ce qui est des vestiges de l'âge du fer, le plan de la ville de Beer-Sheba, le plan orthogonal de Megiddo, les écuries et les palais de Megiddo et les systèmes d'adduction d'eau des trois tells sont déclarés comme ayant peu d'équivalent dans le Levant. L'analyse comparative révisée propose une comparaison précise des trois tells avec d'autres tells en Israël et la région environnante dans le cadre de trois chapitres principaux qui reflètent leur association avec la bible et leurs vestiges physiques, à savoir les constructions et les technologies.

Patrimoine archéologique

- Monuments, systèmes de fortifications et portes des cités
- Palais
- Temples

Biens technologiques

- Systèmes d'adduction d'eau
- Systèmes de fortifications et portes des cités

Biens symboliques

- Importance dans la Bible

Cette analyse montre que, globalement, les trois tells proposés pour inscription reflètent les étapes principales du développement urbain dans la région et qu'ils sont également étroitement liés à des événements décrits dans la Bible. Hazor présente les grandes fortifications et les palais de l'âge du bronze ; Megiddo possède de nombreux monuments de l'âge du bronze et de l'âge du fer ; Beer-Sheba est le seul exemple d'urbanisme élaboré parmi les villes bibliques du Levant. Ensemble, les trois tells offrent un riche aperçu de la civilisation biblique.

Valeur universelle exceptionnelle

Déclaration générale :

Ensemble, les trois tells possèdent les qualités suivantes, qui, lorsqu'elles sont associées, confèrent à la proposition d'inscription en série une valeur universelle exceptionnelle. Les trois tells reflètent l'opulence et la puissance des villes de l'âge du bronze et de l'âge du fer dans les terres bibliques fertiles, basées sur une autorité centralisée qui permettait le contrôle des routes marchandes vers le nord-est et le sud, reliant l'Égypte à la Syrie et l'Anatolie à la Mésopotamie, et la création et la gestion de systèmes d'adduction d'eau sophistiqués et technologiquement avancés.

Le trois tells reflètent l'occupation de sites particuliers sur plus de trois mille ans, ayant perduré entre le VIIe siècle av. J.-C. et le IIe siècle av. J.-C. Ils témoignent, en particulier à l'époque de leur plein épanouissement, des étapes cruciales et formatrices de l'histoire biblique entre 1200 et 332 av. J.-C.

Le trois tells, avec leurs vestiges impressionnants de palais, de fortifications et d'urbanisation, sont des représentations exceptionnelles de l'époque biblique.

Évaluation des critères :

Les associations bibliques des trois tells sont proposées pour inscription sur la base des critères ii, iii, iv et vi.

À l'origine, les systèmes d'adduction d'eau étaient proposés pour inscription de façon séparée sur la base des critères i, ii et iii. Ces critères ayant été retirés par la suite ne seront pas pris en considération.

Tells bibliques :

Critère ii : Les tells sont considérés comme un exemple exceptionnel d'échange des valeurs humaines dans tout le Proche-Orient antique, de l'Égypte au sud à l'Anatolie et la Mésopotamie au nord. Megiddo et Hazor étaient d'importantes cités-états fondées sur des routes marchandes internationales, qui les mirent en contact avec l'Égypte et les royaumes au nord et à l'est. La Bible donne des preuves de liens avec leurs voisins, ainsi que d'alliances avec d'autres maisons royales. Les styles architecturaux reflètent également des influences égyptiennes, syriennes et égéennes. Mais elles ont fusionné avec les influences locales pour créer un style unique.

Critère iii : Les tells témoignent d'une tradition culturelle disparue, les cités cananéennes de l'âge du bronze et les cités bibliques de l'âge du fer, et d'une autre qui perdure – les valeurs nées des Dix Commandements, les lois sociales et autres énoncées dans la Bible.

Critère iv : Il est suggéré que les vestiges mis au jour constituent d'exceptionnels exemples d'urbanisme ; ils offrent également des structures remarquables, comme les écuries de Megiddo, les temples de Hazor et les trois systèmes d'adduction d'eau. Plus pertinente encore serait l'influence des sites bibliques sur l'histoire au travers des récits bibliques.

Critère vi : Par le fait qu'ils sont mentionnés dans la Bible, les trois tells constituent un témoignage rituel et tangible des événements historiques et d'une civilisation qui existe toujours aujourd'hui.

4. RECOMMANDATIONS DE L'ICOMOS

Recommandations pour le futur

Le titre de la proposition d'inscription originale, « Les tells bibliques et les anciens systèmes d'adduction d'eau – Megiddo, Hazor, Beer-Sheba », rassemblait deux concepts, celui de tell biblique et celui des anciens systèmes d'adduction d'eau. Ceci était encore renforcé par les deux ensembles de critères proposés pour les deux concepts.

Les révisions apportées au dossier par l'État partie se sont orientées exclusivement sur l'un des aspects des tells : leurs associations bibliques. Afin de refléter ce changement, le nom des sites proposés pour inscription devrait être modifié pour : « Les tells bibliques – Megiddo, Hazor, Beer-Sheba ».

Bien que l'analyse comparative révisée ait montré que les trois tells proposés pour inscription représentent le développement complexe et élaboré des tells bibliques dans la région, on ne saurait écarter la possibilité d'ajouter à l'avenir d'autres tells pour élargir la proposition d'inscription en série. L'État partie devrait d'ailleurs être encouragé à explorer cette possibilité.

Recommandation concernant l'inscription

L'ICOMOS recommande que le Comité du patrimoine mondial adopte le projet de décision suivant :

Le Comité du patrimoine mondial,

1. Ayant examiné le Document WHC-05/29.COM/8B,

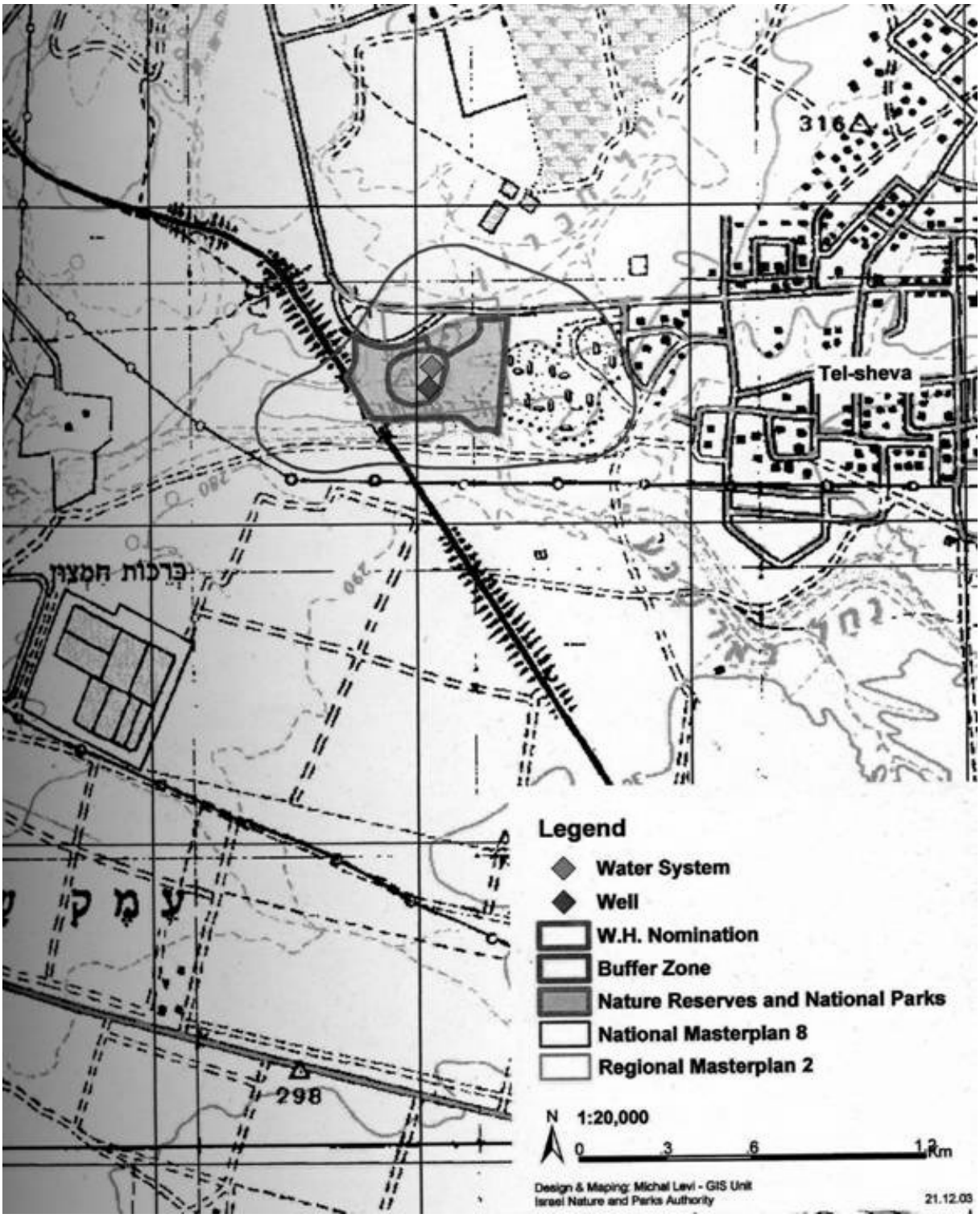
2. Inscrit le bien sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial sur la base des ***critères ii, iii, iv et vi.***

> ***Critère ii*** : Les trois tells représentent un échange de valeurs humaines à travers tout le Moyen-Orient grâce aux grandes routes marchandes et aux alliances avec d'autres États ; ces échanges se manifestent par les styles des constructions qui ont intégré des influences égyptiennes, syriennes et égéennes pour créer un style local particulier.
>
> ***Critère iii*** : Les trois tells témoignent d'une civilisation qui a disparu, celle des villes bibliques de l'âge du bronze et de l'âge du fer, qui se manifeste par l'expression de leur créativité : urbanisme, fortifications, palais et technologie des systèmes d'adduction d'eau.
>
> ***Critère iv*** : Les villes bibliques ont eu une influence considérable sur le cours de l'histoire au travers du récit biblique.
>
> ***Critère vi*** : Les trois tells, par le fait qu'ils sont mentionnés dans la Bible, constituent un témoignage rituel et tangible des événements historiques et témoignent d'une civilisation qui existe toujours aujourd'hui.

3. Note le changement du nom du bien qui devient : « Les tells bibliques – Megiddo, Hazor, Beer-Sheba ».

4. Encourage l'État partie à explorer la possibilité d'ajouter à l'avenir d'autres tells pour élargir la proposition d'inscription en série.

ICOMOS, avril 2005



Plan indiquant les délimitations du tell Beer Sheba

Vue aérienne du Tell Megiddo

Système d'adduction d'eau du Tell Hazor