

## EXPANDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE ḤESBÂN REGION

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For the third consecutive season the Andrews University expedition included an archaeological survey team to continue exploring the vicinity of Tell Ḥesbân. The 1976 survey team was composed of three basic members plus one or another of the photographers from the main staff.<sup>1</sup> The pottery was read by James Sauer. The unregistered pottery was deposited at the Tell Ḥesbân pottery dump. The basic map for the survey was the 1:25,000 series of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (1958).

During the first two seasons<sup>2</sup> 125 sites were located within the target area, roughly a ten-kilometer radius around Tell Ḥesbân (see map, Fig. 21). For 1976 it was decided to expand the survey northeastward toward Amman, beyond the Naʿur to Umm-el-Hanafish highway. It was felt that this would help link Ḥesbân and its environs with Amman. It was also hoped that traces of Trajan's *via nova* might be found within the new sector.<sup>3</sup>

The team did not succeed in covering all the terrain to Amman. It covered the territory from the road between Naʿur and Umm el-Hanafish to a line between Umm es-Summaq (map

<sup>1</sup> The cartographer was Carl Wheat; the guide/translator was Arif Abul-Ghannim of the Department of Antiquities; and the supervisor was Robert Ibach, Jr. Photographic responsibilities for the survey were shared by Loren Calvert, Andrew Kramer, and Kaye Barton.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary reports: S. Douglas Waterhouse and Robert Ibach, Jr., "Heshbon 1973: the Topographical Survey," *AUSS* 13 (1975): 217-233; and Ibach, "Heshbon 1974: Archaeological Survey of the Ḥesbân Region," *AUSS* 14 (1976): 119-126.

<sup>3</sup> A milestone of the *via nova* at Khirbet es-Suq was reported in Peter Thomsen, "Die römischen Meilensteine der Provinzen Syria, Arabia und Palaestina," *ZDPV* 40 (1917): 47.

ref. 2310.1436) and Khirbet es-Suq (2375.1420). Three small segments within this territory could not be examined because of military installations.

Although bounded by busy modern highways the interior of the selected region is quite isolated and probably was so in antiquity as well. There are no topographically convenient travel routes that pass through the region. The rolling hills, while not rugged or high, are jumbled and are not aligned in a pattern that would expedite travel. The shallow wadis in this area flow toward the southeast—exactly crosswise to the direction of most traffic which would run from Amman toward Madaba and south. Much of the land here is cultivated and some sectors are covered with young forests.

The team located 30 sites<sup>4</sup> in the new zone, bringing the total for three seasons to 155 sites. In the following characterizations of the archaeological periods it should be borne in mind that only the 1976 discoveries—sites 126 to 155—are reported.

### *Islamic Periods*

None of the sites in the 1976 survey had Ottoman pottery, but the Ayyūbid/Mamlūk period was represented at seven sites and dominant at three.

Site 130 (2304.1407) was an Ayyūbid/Mamlūk village sprawled over a natural hill,<sup>5</sup> where there were numerous mounds and depressions created by vaulted rooms, some collapsed, others still intact.<sup>6</sup> Site 134 (2311.1396) was a modern village called Dubaiyan, but the pottery there was dominantly Ayyūbid/Mamlūk. There were to be seen many caves, cisterns and, as at Site 130, vaulted rooms, one still in use as a barn. Rather different

<sup>4</sup> Isolated installations such as winepresses, mills, buildings (towers?) and tombs were recorded but were not designated as sites (see note 17 below for examples).

<sup>5</sup> Apparently this is the site Conder calls Khirbet Keshrum, "an old site of some importance" (C. R. Conder, *Survey of Eastern Palestine* [London, 1889], p. 149).

<sup>6</sup> Such an undulating ground surface may be seen at many Ayyūbid/Mamlūk sites. See Ibach, "Archaeological Survey," p. 120.

was Site 145 (2349.1402) because it actually resembled a *tell*. In the sharply undulating ground surface one could see many caves and cisterns. Fragments of small grinding mills were found, and a possible two-course perimeter wall at the northwest corner. The pottery was predominantly Ayyūbid/Mamlūk, but included 'Abbāsīd, Umayyad, a few Early Roman, and Iron II/Persian items.

Another site with familiar mounds, depressions and considerable architecture was Umm es-Summaq, Site 154 (2313.1435).<sup>7</sup> The pottery was not predominantly Ayyūbid/Mamlūk; there was also Umayyad, Byzantine, Late Roman, and Early Roman in moderate quantity.

Other sites with Ayyūbid/Mamlūk pottery were 140, 142, and 143.

The 'Abbāsīd period was represented at four sites: 132 (2315.1398), 143 (2365.1395), 144 (2351.1397), and 145 (2349.1402). Site 144 was a small site with two well-plastered cisterns, a cave with architecture inside, several architectural fragments (one lintel with a rosette), and many tesserae. The latest pottery here was 'Abbāsīd, but there was also Umayyad, Byzantine, Late Roman, and a few Iron II/Persian sherds.

Fifteen sites were occupied in the Umayyad period—remarkable since only 17 of the initial 125 sites surveyed had any Umayyad pottery. At Site 139 (2335.1403) the latest pottery found was Umayyad. Yet a number of ruined buildings still stood to a height of about two meters with walls plastered and painted on the inside. There were cisterns, a winepress, and a tank with steps leading down into it with sides coated with textured plaster.

Other Umayyad sites were 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 142-146, 148, 150, 154, 155.

### *Byzantine Period*

That the Byzantine period witnessed the greatest population density has been shown in all three seasons of the Heshbon

<sup>7</sup> Conder, *Eastern Palestine*, pp. 250-251.

survey. Twenty-five of the 30 sites found in 1976 were occupied in the Byzantine Period.

Sites 126 (2296.1416) and 127 (2303.1414) had predominantly Byzantine pottery.<sup>8</sup> The former site, at 946 m. above sea level, was strewn with hundreds of fragments of coral fossils. The latter site, heavily cultivated, had some architecture, a large plastered pool (5.00 x 5.00 m.), cisterns, caves, tombs, and a basalt grinding mill. Sherds of Early Roman, Iron II/Persian, and Middle Bronze II forms were also found.

Sites 126 (2296.1416) and 127 (2303.1414) had predominantly there was no great depth of debris but much evidence of ancient occupation. There were several large cisterns, numerous caves, and a possible perimeter wall two rows wide, which was traced for 192.00 m. on the north and east sides. There were two tower-like structures, the north one measuring 6.60 x 7.50 m., the south one 7.20 x 5.70 m. Early Byzantine pottery was dominant but there was also Early Roman and Iron II/Persian material.

At Site 138 (2331.1410) illicit excavation had revealed a complex of walls with excellent masonry (see Pl. XVI:A). Many tesserae were found, as well as two patches of mosaic floor *in situ*. Inside a structure measuring 6.00 x 3.00 m. there was an apsidal wall oriented toward the east, but its inside diameter was barely 2 m. There are two tombs also within the structure, one with a well-carved entrance. There are two cisterns and an underground vault which can be entered at three points and which measures 6.20 x 1.90 m. Pottery here includes Modern, Umayyad, Late Byzantine, Early Byzantine, and Iron II/Persian samples.

One kilometer to the west-northwest was Site 142 (2321.1412), a hilltop in the center of a long ridge. Architectural fragments were strewn all over this site, some suggesting monumental structures. There were also tombs, caves, and cisterns. This may be the site Conder calls Khirbet Umm Rummaneh.<sup>9</sup> Besides

<sup>8</sup> These sites seem to be the ruins Conder calls Rujm Belath and Khirbet Belath (*ibid.*, pp. 206, 147).

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 157.



Early and Late Byzantine sherds, the pottery here also included Ayyūbid/Mamlūk, Umayyad, and possible Hellenistic samples.

Byzantine pottery was dominant at Site 150 (2346.1421), el-ʿUmeiri.<sup>10</sup> Although many terraces, gardens, and orchards were maintained here, there was abundant evidence of ancient architecture. Many cut blocks have been built into stone fences; there were cisterns, caves with architecture inside, and a circular installation—possibly a lime kiln. Other pottery here included Umayyad, Late and Early Roman, Iron II/Persian, and Iron I material.

On a tall hill overlooking Naʿur is the small Site 155 (2301.-1437). Among many visible walls the most distinctive was a two-row wide wall traceable in an oval 95.00 m. long and 35.00 m. wide. There was little here to indicate domestic dwellings; the strategic location, plus the enclosure wall, suggested a military installation—rather unusual for the Byzantine period. Yet the only pottery besides Byzantine and Umayyad was a few questionable Roman sherds.<sup>11</sup>

Other sites bearing Byzantine pottery were 128-130, 132-134, 136, 137, 139-141, 143, 144, 146-149, 151, 154.

### *Roman Period*

At 19 of the 30 sites, or 63%, Roman pottery was found, but was not dominant.<sup>12</sup> No site was distinctively Roman.

According to Peter Thomsen, a milestone of Trajan's *via nova*, which led from Amman to Heshbon, was found at Khirbet es-Suq.<sup>13</sup> The team was unable to find this milestone or any trace of the *via nova* between Khirbet es-Suq and Umm el-Hanafish

<sup>10</sup> Conder mentions this site with the spelling el-ʿAmeireh (ibid., p. 19).

<sup>11</sup> This site may be Conder's Aweilet Umm es-Semmak (ibid., p. 88). It may also be Richard Hentschke's Site 9, placed 700 m. southeast of our Site 155 ("Ammonitische Grenzfestungen südwestlich von ʿAmman," *ZDPV* 76 [1960]: 114-115).

<sup>12</sup> The sites with Roman pottery were 126, 127, 131-134, 136, 137, 141, 143-145, 147-150, 153-155.

<sup>13</sup> "Meilensteine," p. 47.

(presumably ancient Minnith/Maanith), one of the towns along the highway.<sup>14</sup>

### *Hellenistic Period*

The Hellenistic period was represented at seven sites, or 23% of the 30 sites located.<sup>15</sup>

### *Iron Age*

Of the 30 sites found in 1976, 25 or 83% were occupied in the Iron Age (compared to 73% found in the first two seasons). The Iron Age sites could be grouped into three categories: small towers, large towers, and occupational sites.

Small towers were sometimes isolated and sometimes associated with other remains. Some were on hilltops, others on lower vantage points. Though they are generally thought of as watch-towers because of their locations and their sturdy walls, their function was not clear. There were two towers at Site 131 (2304.1397), measuring 6.60 x 7.50 m. and 5.70 x 7.20 m. and associated with other remains as described above (under "Byzantine"). Since Iron Age pottery was well attested here they may date to that period.

Site 133 (2311.1402) was represented by a light scattering of sherds and the poorly preserved foundations of a building measuring 5.00 x 5.40 m. These are the only remains that could be found at the location of Georg Fohrer's Site B.<sup>16</sup>

Site 136 (2331.1400) was unusual in two respects: it was strongly built and survived to a height of three courses; it was on an insignificant slope, not a hilltop. The building measured 4.50 x 3.80 m. and the sixteen sherds were dated Umayyad, Early Roman, and Iron II/Persian.

<sup>14</sup> Eusebius *Onomastikon*, ed. Erich Klostermann (Hildesheim, 1904), p. 132.

<sup>15</sup> The sites with Hellenistic pottery were 129, 130, 132, 139, 141, 142, 149.

<sup>16</sup> "Eisenzeitliche Anlagen im Raume südlich von Nā'ūr und die Südwestgrenze von Ammon," *ZDPV* 77 (1961): 59. Fohrer called it a fortified Ammonite settlement measuring 100 x 100 m. His map reference was 2311.1401, about 100 m. south of our Site 133. His pottery was the same as ours, Iron Age, Roman, and Byzantine, with the addition of Arabic.

Several other possible towers were found but, pottery being almost non-existent, were not designated as sites.<sup>17</sup>

The larger towers were more likely true Ammonite watch-towers. Site 135 (2328.1398) dominated the highest hill in at least a two-kilometer radius. Here a building measuring 21.00 x 19.00 m. survived two courses high; the walls were two rows wide and were made of large boulders. Several interior walls were observed. There were caves and a large cistern nearby. Except for some modern pottery the 132 sherds were exclusively Iron II and possible Iron I.<sup>18</sup>

Site 147, Rujm el-Fahud (2371.1411)<sup>19</sup> provided a vantage point from which one could see the es-Samik tower to the south, the police post at Na<sup>c</sup>ur to the west, and the outskirts of Amman to the north. Here was a well-built tower, 14.00 x 14.00 m. in size,<sup>20</sup> that survived at least five courses high (see Pl. XVI:B). Within the tower there were four openings leading into rooms that were still roofed over with long stone beams. Outside the tower was a perimeter wall, which made the whole complex about 90.00 x 75.00 m. A small winepress and a cistern were also noted. The pottery here was a few Byzantine, Early Roman, Iron II/Persian, and Iron I sherds.

Site 148 (2359.1420) was on a low hill surrounded by higher land. A tower here 18.10 x 17.80 m. was visible four courses high (see Pl. XVII:A), and a possible perimeter wall was on the west side. Pottery included a few Umayyad, Byzantine, Late Roman, and Iron II/Persian samples.

<sup>17</sup> At 2326.1395 a square building, 5.00 x 5.00 m.; at 2328.1390 a square building, 4.00 x 6.00 m. (this is probably Fohrer's Site F, which he places at 2332.1389; *ibid.*, p. 60); at 2342.1384 a square building, 9.00 x 8.50 m.; and at 2326.1397 a circular building, 6.00 m. in diameter.

<sup>18</sup> This is clearly Fohrer's Site D, which he places at 2330.1400 (*ibid.*). The inaccuracy of his map references is no doubt due to his use of the 1:100,000 South Levant Series maps. He reported Byzantine and Roman as well as Modern and Iron Age sherds here.

<sup>19</sup> See Henning Graf Reventlow, "Das Ende der ammonitischen Grenzbefestigungskette?" *ZDPV* 79 (1963): 127-137.

<sup>20</sup> The size and construction were reminiscent of the towers at es-Samik: (Site 101, ref. 2318.1346), which was 14.00 x 14.00 m., and at <sup>c</sup>Ayun Musa (Site 108, 2201.1319), which was 15.50 x 16.20 m.

In the category of occupational sites were included those with substantial Iron Age pottery and abundant architecture (but without an obvious tower).

Site 132 (2315.1398) was an example, though a rather small one. The architecture here ranged from small fragments, possibly domestic, to lengthy walls using stones with marginal drafting, which could have been public buildings. Column fragments indicated that some of the architecture belonged to later periods. Also evident were caves, cisterns and tombs, one of which contained arches and supporting pillars. Besides the Iron II/Persian pottery at this site were a few 'Abbāsid, Umayyad, Byzantine, a few Early Roman, Hellenistic, and three Middle Bronze/Late Bronze sherds. This site may be the same as C. R. Conder's el-Bueida and Fohrer's Site C.<sup>21</sup>

Site 143 was el-Yaduda (2365.1395) a high landmark near the Amman-Madaba highway. A cluster of modern buildings at the summit, enclosed by a wall measuring about 120 x 95.00 m., and other modern structures no doubt concealed many antiquities. Yet ancient architecture was visible, plus many caves, cisterns, tombs, and a huge walled reservoir. The large quantities of pottery included Ayyūbid/Mamlūk, 'Abbāsid, Umayyad, Byzantine, Roman, Iron II/Persian, and Iron II pieces.<sup>22</sup>

Site 146 (2368.1406) was Jebel el-Fahud, being 650.00 m. south-southwest of Rujm el-Fahud. It was a small site on a natural hill with much Iron Age pottery (few Umayyad, few Byzantine, Iron II/Persian, Iron II, and Iron IA, B, dominant). A two-row-wide wall of large stones enclosed a low "acropolis" measuring about 50.00 x 56.00 m. This was surrounded by a terrace (76.00 x 124.00 m.) defined by an outer perimeter wall of small stones.

<sup>21</sup> Conder, *Eastern Palestine*, pp. 92-93; Fohrer, "Eisenzeitliche Anlagen," p. 59. The latter placed it at 2319.1397, 400.00 m. east of our reference, and mentioned an 8.00-m. round tower which we could not locate.

<sup>22</sup> Nelson Glueck visited el-Yaduda and said, "It seems likely that it was occupied in the Bronze Age or in the Iron Age. No sherds from these periods could be discovered, however . . ." (*Explorations in Eastern Palestine [AASOR 14; Philadelphia, 1934], 1:6*).

Through shallow debris, bedrock was seen at several points. Some quarrying also was noted.

Site 149, the most significant site found, was Tell el-ʿUmeiri (2342.1420),<sup>23</sup> on a natural hill (see Pl. XVII:B) that rises steeply on all sides except the west, where it joins a ridge. An outcrop of bedrock could be seen about halfway up the hill, and a spring, providing water for local residents, lay immediately at the foot of the northern slope.

The debris was found spread over approximately 16 acres. Considerable evidence of architecture was to be seen, especially on the summit, which though irregular, was fairly flat, dropping off abruptly on all sides along a scarp that strongly suggested a line of defensive wall.

Huge quantities of sherds were found over the whole surface of the site. Sherds totaling 1,037 were collected and dated as follows: a few Byzantine, a few Late Roman, Early Roman Hellenistic, Iron II/Persian, Iron II, Iron I, a few Late Bronze, Middle Bronze, Early Bronze, and Early Bronze/Chalcolithic. Two localized collections were made in 10.00 x 10.00 m. Squares; at the summit Iron II/Persian pottery was dominant, but on the lower east slope Early Bronze.

To the northeast of Site 149, opposite the spring, was Site 150 (2346.1421, see above p. 205), also called el-ʿUmeiri. While the later periods were dominant there, Iron II/Persian and Iron I pottery was also collected.

The sites that yielded Iron Age pottery were 126-129, 131-141, 143-151, 153.

### *Late Bronze Age*

Late Bronze pottery, scarce in the new territory just as in the first two seasons of survey,<sup>24</sup> was found at only two sites. Site 128 (2299.1408), an almost barren hill with a large plastered cistern,

<sup>23</sup> Apparently previously unreported. Conder (*Eastern Palestine*, p. 19) mentioned the spring at el-ʿAmeireh but was unable to visit it because of tribal hostilities.

<sup>24</sup> Ibach, "Archaeological Survey," p. 124.

had one Late Bronze sherd among the 95 sherds collected there.

At Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri (Site 149, see preceding section) three of the four pails of pottery contained a "few" Late Bronze sherds. Since the Late Bronze debris was superseded by very heavy Iron Age occupation, even these few sherds may be taken as an indication that Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri was one of the few sites in this part of Transjordan to have been occupied in the Late Bronze Age.<sup>25</sup>

At Site 132 (see above, under "Iron Age") three sherds were dated as possibly Middle Bronze/Late Bronze Age.

### *Middle Bronze Age*

Middle Bronze II sherds were found in small quantity at four sites. Site 127 was a heavily-cultivated natural hill that yielded predominantly Byzantine pottery. Site 140 (2336.1372), possibly a village site, was heavily occupied in Early Bronze Age but yielded, in all three pails of sherds taken there, some Middle Bronze II pottery.

Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri, Site 149 (see p. 209, above) had Middle Bronze pottery in two of the four pails of sherds collected there. Being a large tell with a spring and Late and Early Bronze pottery, Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri promises to add much to our knowledge of Bronze Age Transjordan.

Site 153 (2317.1434) was a small knoll 500 m. east of Umm es-Summaq. The site had a strange appearance, being covered by fist-sized rocks, but there was no architecture. Besides the Early Roman and Iron II pottery found, there were four Middle Bronze II sherds.

<sup>25</sup> Other sites with Late Bronze material include Tell Ikhtanu, Tell Jalul (see Ibach, "Archaeological Survey," pp. 124-125) and Sahab (see Moawiyeh M. Ibrahim, "Second Season of Excavation at Sahab, 1973," *ADAJ* 19 [1974]: 60-61). A Late Bronze/Iron Age tomb at Madaba has been dated 1250-1150 B.C. (G. Lankester Harding, "Four Tomb Groups from Jordan," *PEF Annual*, 6 [1953]: 27-28).

### *Early Bronze Age*

Early Bronze pottery was found at only three sites—quite a contrast to the zone to the west, where more than one-third of the sites had Early Bronze sherds. Site 139 (see above, p. 203) had just one Early Bronze IV sherd.

Site 140 (2336.1372), northeast of Umm el-Hanafish (or, Umm el-Basatin), was spread over a broad hillside facing a fertile plain that is presently under cultivation. The soil was shallow over the site, and the sherds were widely scattered; yet 362 sherds were collected, with Early Bronze IV dominant (other pottery included a few Ayyūbid/Mamlūk, Byzantine, a few Iron II/Persian, and a few Middle Bronze II items). In a building with crude walls, measuring 4.70 x 7.50 m., were found three Early Bronze ledge handles.

The only other site with Early Bronze material was Tell el-ʿUmeiri (Site 149, see above, p. 209), where Early Bronze pottery was encountered virtually everywhere on the tell. A 10.00 x 10.00 m. Square, laid out on the east side near the bottom of the slope, was exhaustively surface sherded. The pottery here was dominantly Early Bronze, especially Chalcolithic/Early Bronze and Early Bronze III and IV (the only other sherds were some Early Roman and Iron II/Persian pieces).

### *Chalcolithic Period*

This period was almost unrepresented in the 1976 survey area. A few questionably Chalcolithic sherds were picked up at two barren and insignificant sites, Site 128 (2299.1408) and Site 129 (2304.1409); two pails of pottery from Tell el-ʿUmeiri (Site 149) contained sherds designated as Chalcolithic/Early Bronze.

### *Summary*

In the expanded sector of the Ḥesbân Archaeological Survey the later periods—especially Roman, Byzantine and Ayyūbid/Mamlūk—were less significant than in the original zone of the

survey. On the other hand, Iron Age and Middle and Late Bronze Age sites were more significant especially because of Jebel el-Fahud (Site 146), Rujm el-Fahud (Site 147) and Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri (Site 149).

Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri was not in a strategic location. Indeed, its isolation may account for its having escaped notice until this time. However, because of its large size and great amount of debris, it will have to be considered along with el-<sup>c</sup>Al, Ḥesbân, Madaba, Umm el-ʿAmad, Jalûl, and Sahab as the history of central Transjordan is refined.

The Ḥesbân Survey, during its three seasons, has included two major topographical zones: the *wadi* system to the west where the land plunges sharply down toward the Jordan Valley, and the plateau land to the east. The dividing line may be the highway that comes from Amman to Naʿur, then south to Ḥesbân and Madaba. The following table shows the number of sites attested for each period and distinguishes the sites located in the *wadi* system from those on the plateau. It includes all 155 sites located by the Ḥesbân Survey.

PERIOD	WADI		PLATEAU		Total Sites
	Sites	%	Sites	%	
Islamic	42	52	39	48	81
Byzantine	79	59	54	41	133
Roman	54	54	45	46	99
Hellenistic	11	52	10	48	21
Iron	64	56	52	44	116
Late, Middle Bronze	5	33	10	67	15
Early Bronze	38	76	12	24	50
Chalcolithic	8	73	3	27	11
TOTAL	96	62	59	38	155

Table 1. Distribution of 155 Sites by Period and Location.

It can be seen that occupation was very light in three periods: Hellenistic, Chalcolithic, and Late/Middle Bronze. It may also be noteworthy that there is an irregularity in the pattern of distribu-



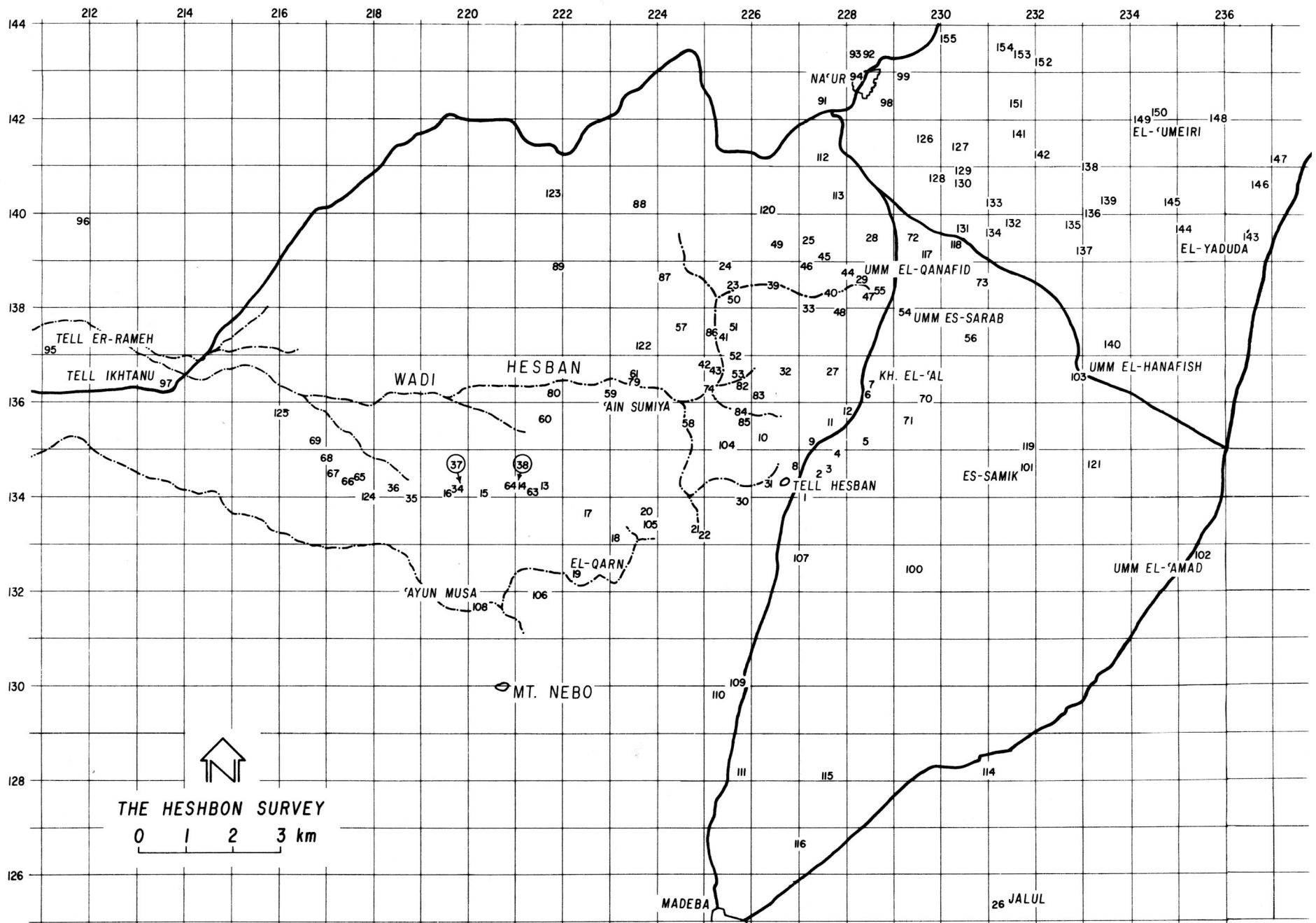


Fig. 21. Location of the 155 archaeological sites within a 10 km. radius of Tell Hesbân, surveyed in 1973, 1974, and 1976. Cartographer: Robert Ibach, Jr.

tion for the Late/Middle Bronze Age, unlike all other periods: The majority of sites were on the plateau instead of in the *wadi* system.

The fifteen sites with Late/Middle Bronze sherds will only slightly modify the picture of Transjordan that has prevailed since Nelson Glueck's survey.<sup>26</sup> One site, Tell Ikhtanu (Site 97), is in the Jordan Valley and thus would not affect Glueck's hypothesis. Three sites (82, 85, 91) are specifically Middle Bronze I and thus prior to the decline of sedentary occupation posited by Glueck. At one site (47) the evidence was questionable ("one possible Middle Bronze sherd") and may be excluded. Middle Bronze and/or Late Bronze pottery was found at eight sites (54, 98, 101, 127, 128, 132, 140, 153) that are barely large enough to qualify as villages, and the MB/LB pottery was usually "few" or only three or four sherds. The remaining two sites, Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri (149) and Tell Jalûl (26), are town or city sites with Middle and Late Bronze pottery firmly attested.

<sup>26</sup> *Explorations in Eastern Palestine* (AASOR 25-28; New Haven, 1951), 4:423. See also chapter five of both editions of his *Other Side of the Jordan* (New Haven, 1940; Cambridge, Mass., 1970).



A. Site 138. View to northwest. Complex of walls within which were patches of mosaic, an apsidal wall, and two tomb entrances. Photo: Paul H. Denton and Andrew Kramer.



B. Site 147, Rujm el-Fahud. View to northwest. The human figures indicate two corners of a tower. Inside the walls were rooms roofed over with stone beams. Photo: Paul H. Denton and Kaye Barton.



A. Site 148. View to northeast. Typical Iron Age tower, about eighteen meters square. Photo: Paul H. Denton and Kaye Barton.



B. Site 149, Tell el-Umeiri. View to southwest. A Bronze and Iron Age site covering sixteen acres. The human figure and sheep mark location of spring. Photo: Paul H. Denton and Kaye Barton.