

Tell Fadous-Kfarabida (Lebanon): Excavation Project

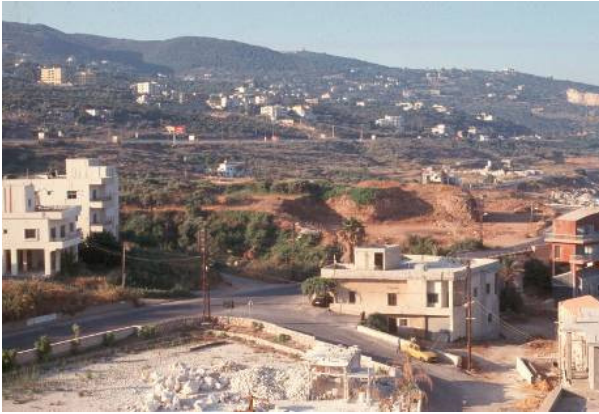
Description

The archaeological site of Tell Fadous-Kfarabida is situated 2 km south of Batroun in the village of Kfarabida directly on the Mediterranean coast. The site offers a unique chance to investigate an Early and Middle Bronze Age settlement (3rd and early 2nd millennia BC) on the Lebanese coast. As archaeological sites are rapidly disappearing due to modern construction work, especially along the coast, this will be one of the last chances to investigate a coastal site from the Bronze Age. This period is crucial for the history of the region because it witnesses the appearance of the first cities as well as the growing importance of sea trade.

Five seasons of work at the site undertaken so far by a team from the Department of History and Archaeology of AUB led by Profs. Hermann Genz and Helen Sader (2004, 2005, 2007 and 2008) and H. Genz (since 2009) have established the high scientific importance of the site.

The earliest occupation (Phase I) at the site is represented by two child burials, which are comparable to the burials from the *Énéolithique récent* at Byblos and should be dated to the Chalcolithic or the Early Bronze Age I. In the Early Bronze Age II (Phases II and III), the site develops into a small urban community, attested by remarkably well preserved domestic dwellings and a fortification wall with a monumental stairway leading up to a yet unexcavated city gate. Despite the site's small size of only 1.5 hectares, the architectural elements and the layout of the settlement with densely spaced buildings separated by narrow streets clearly show that we are dealing with an urban settlement. In the Early Bronze Age III (Phase IV) the layout of the settlement changed considerably, with larger buildings spaced farther apart from each other. Yet the construction techniques as well as the pottery types suggest a strong continuity from the previous phase.

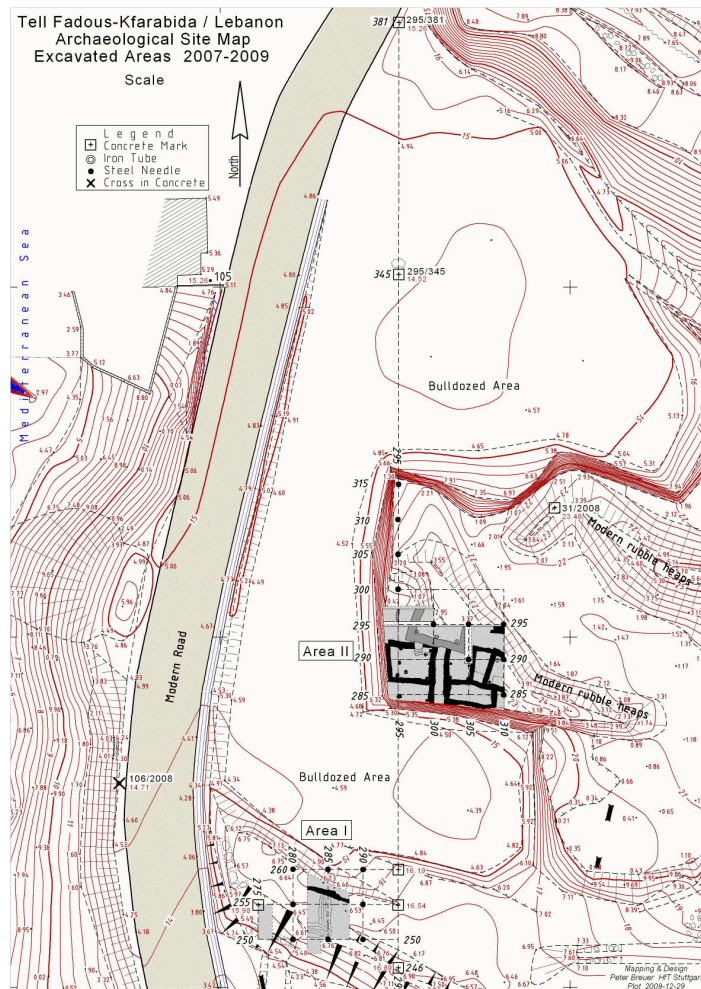
The Early Bronze Age IV (Phase V) is so far only represented by pits, which seems to indicate a decline of the settlement. The same is true for the Middle Bronze Age (Phase VI), where in addition to pits one burial was discovered. No later periods of settlement are attested.



View of the site from the north



The excavation team of the 2009 season



Topographic plan showing the areas excavated between 2007 and 2009 and the main architectural remains from the Early Bronze Age (courtesy P. Breuer)



A well-preserved room from the Early Bronze Age II



Early Bronze Age II vessels *in situ* in room 2 of Building 1



Early Bronze Age cylinder seal impression on a storage jar



A Middle Bronze Age burial

Collaborators:

Kamal Badreshany, MA (University of Chicago): Petrography
Dr. Canan Çakırlar (University of Tübingen): Archaeozoology
Alison Damick, MA (CBRL Amman): Groundstone Artifacts
Dr. Simone Riehl (University of Tübingen): Archaeobotany
Dr. Corinne Yazbeck (Lebanese University Beirut): Flint Artifacts

Publications:

Badreshany, K. and Genz, H.
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Badreshany, K., Genz, H. and Sader, H., with contributions by P. Breuer, C. Çakırlar, K. Deckers, B. Jungklaus, F. Nader, S. Riehl, D. Rokitta and S. Yanni

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