



The 2024 Excavation Campaign at Kani Shaie: New Data on the Earliest Early Bronze Age and the Hellenistic-Parthian Occupations

Steve Renette¹ , André Tomé² , Michael P. Lewis³ , Zana Abdulkarim Qadir⁴

1. Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom (Corresponding Author). **Email:** sr2095@cam.ac.uk

2. CEAACP - Centro de Estudos de Arqueologia, Artes e Ciências do Património, Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal.

Email: andgtome@uc.pt

3. CEAACP - Centro de Estudos de Arqueologia, Artes e Ciências do Património, Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal.

Email: michael.philip.lewis@gmail.com

4. Slemani Directorate of Antiquities, Slemani, Kurdistan Region of Iraq. **Email:** zana.karimqadir@gmail.com

Article Info	Abstract
Pp: 203-227	Kani Shaie is an important archaeological site in the Sulaymaniyah Province of Iraqi Kurdistan. Sitting in the center of the Bazyan Valley, it is located on a major communication axis that connects northern Mesopotamia via Kirkuk with the central Zagros Mountains of western Iran. Its main occupation spans the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age, from ca. 6000 to 2000 BCE. Later occupation of the Late Bronze Age, Neo-Assyrian period, and the Hellenistic-Parthian period is also well-represented in the lower mounded area of the site. Throughout these millennia, Kani Shaie was a major focus of settlement within the Bazyan Valley. While never reaching more than 3ha in size, occupation in each period attests to the settlement's function as a local center that was connected within the exchange networks of southwest Asia. As such, Kani Shaie is of particular importance to connect the archaeology of western Iran with the Mesopotamian world. In this article, we present the excavation results of the 2024 season when two impressive architectural complexes were investigated. The first dating to the beginning of the Early Bronze Age, ca. 3000 BCE, in the aftermath of the collapse of the Uruk exchange network. The second belonging to the Hellenistic-Parthian period and likely connected to the southern expansion of the Adiabene kingdom.
Article Type: Research Article	
Article History:	
Received: 19 November 2024	
Revised form: 23 November 2024	
Accepted: 13 December 2024	
Published online: December 2024	

Keywords:

Campaign Exploration
2024, Kani Shah,
Early Bronze Age,
Hellenistic-Parthian,
Hellenistic.

Cite this The Author(s): Renette, S., Tomé, A., P. Lewis, M. & Abdulkarim Qadir, Z., (2024). "The 2024 Excavation Campaign at Kani Shaie: New Data on the Earliest Early Bronze Age and the Hellenistic-Parthian Occupations". *Journal of Archaeological Studies*, 16(2): 203-227.

<https://doi.org/10.22059/jarcs.2025.388979.143331>



Publisher: University of Tehran Press.

Homepage of this Article: https://jarcs.ut.ac.ir/article_100324.html?lang=en

1. Introduction

Provides critical insight into the transition from the Late Chalcolithic (LC; ca. 4500-3100 BCE) to the Early Bronze Age (EBA; ca. 3100-2000 BCE). The site occupies a strategic location between the Mesopotamian plains and the Zagros Mountains, positioning it as a central point for the exchange and interaction between these regions (Fig. 1). The Kani Shaie Archaeological Project (KSAP) has conducted multiple excavation seasons, uncovering a rich stratigraphic sequence that spans several millennia of occupation (Fig. 2) (Ahmad & Renette 2023; Renette 2016; 2018; 2024; Renette *et al.*, 2021; Renette *et al.*, 2023; Renette *et al.*, 2024; Tomé *et al.*, 2016).

Kani Shaie's significance lies not only in its stratigraphy, which covers the Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age periods, but also in its role as a hub within the regional socio-economic networks. The site's architectural, ceramic, and material culture provides key evidence for understanding the dynamics of settlement development, regional trade, and cultural interactions in the broader Near Eastern context. The 2024 excavation campaign was aimed at furthering these understandings, particularly focusing on the ceramic assemblage and the architectural phases spanning the transition from the LC to the EBA.

This article synthesizes the findings from the 2024 excavation season, highlighting the key results from both the stratigraphic layers and the material culture, particularly ceramics. During the 2024 season, excavations revealed three phases of occupation within a large, circular enclosure wall (so-called EBA "Round Building": Renette 2009; Heil 2011). These findings are placed within the broader framework of regional developments during the final stages of the LC and opening centuries of the EBA, shedding light on the nature of cultural exchanges, and the local adaptations that occurred in the northern Mesopotamian and Zagros regions.

In addition, we include a separate discussion of the late 1st millennium BCE occupation in the Lower Town of Kani Shaie. While separated in time, major results in excavation in this area (Area D) similarly demonstrate the importance of Kani Shaie as a small, yet central location within the Bazyan Valley and by extension in a crucial corridor connecting the Transtigridian plains of Erbil, Kirkuk, and Chemchemal with the western Zagros Mountains. This *longue durée* continuity of centrality within the Kani Shaie sequence attests to an enduring approach to the landscape of the Sulaymaniyah region despite major historical transformations.

2. Excavation Strategy and Results

The 2024 excavation campaign at Kani Shaie focused on expanding our understanding of the site's complex stratigraphy and architectural developments, particularly in Area A, which has been the primary focus of excavations over the past several years (Fig. 3). Building upon the findings of 2023, the primary objective of this season was to explore the earlier levels, especially Levels 8 and 9, which correspond to the earliest Early Bronze Age (EBA) occupations at the site, which also contained residual Late Chalcolithic 5 (LC5)/Uruk-period material culture and ceramics. Whilst not directly related to the EBA levels, these residual LC5 sherds provide important clues for further excavation seasons regarding the Late Uruk/LC5 occupation at Kani Shaie. The 2024 fieldwork was designed to address key stratigraphic and architectural ambiguities while continuing to unearth crucial material evidence for the transitions between the LC5 and EBA.

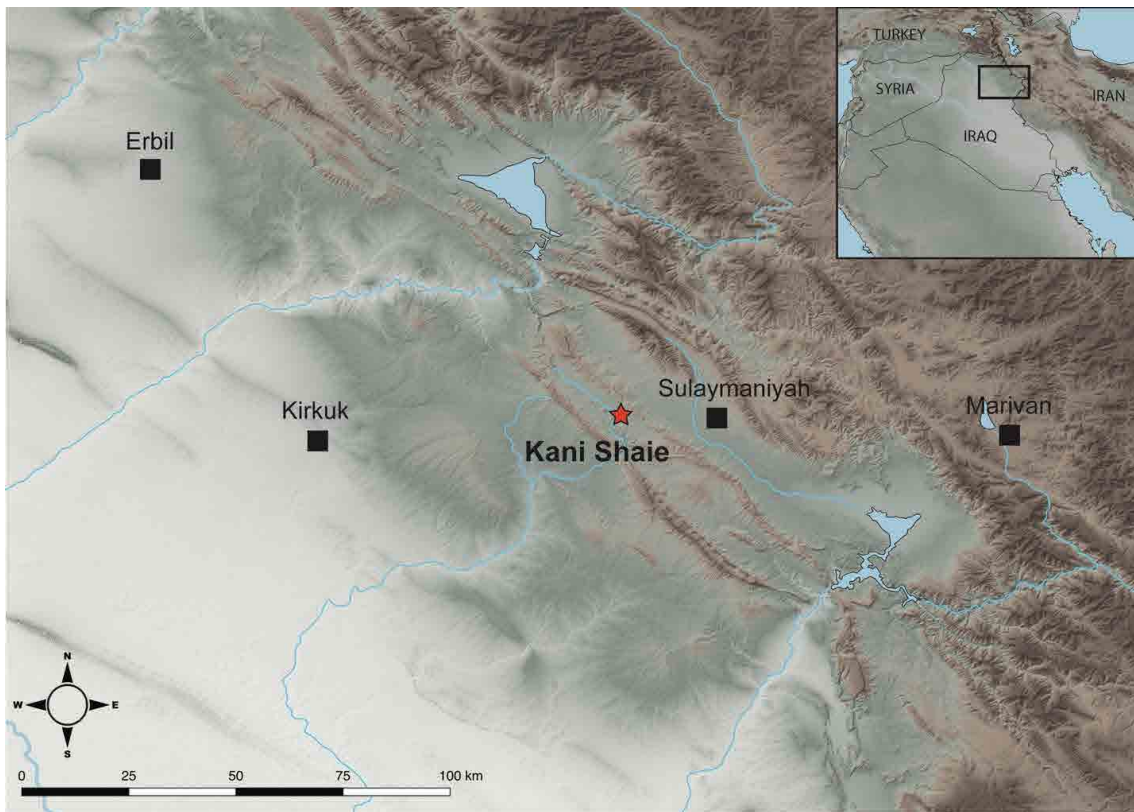


Fig. 1: Map of Sulaymaniyah region in Iraqi Kurdistan showing the location of Kani Shaie (map by S. Renette).



Fig. 2: Overview of the site of Kani Shaie (KSAP).

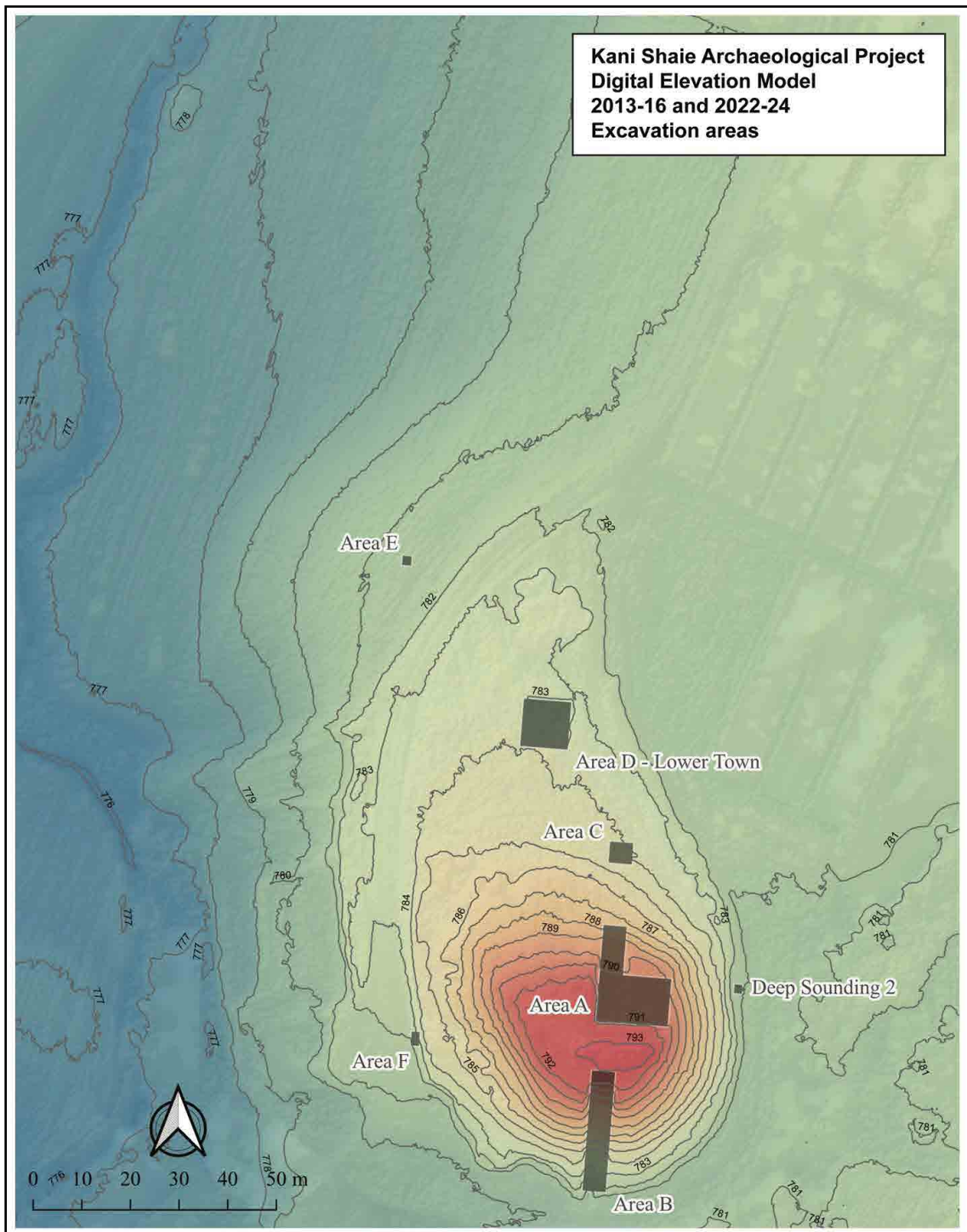


Fig. 3: Digital Elevation Model of Kani Shaie with the location of the excavation areas (DEM by H. Naccaro).

Simultaneous work in the lower mounded area of the site continued a 10x10m trench in Area D. Excavation of this trench was started in 2023 with the two-fold purpose of documenting in better detail the late occupation at the site and to determine whether the EBA settlement extended over a lower town or was restricted to the Main Mound. Given the significant 2024 results that exposed an important Hellenistic-Parthian occupation, the aims for Area D have necessarily been adjusted to a multi-year plan to document

the large-scale stone architecture of that period. The Hellenistic-Parthian occupation of the Sulaymaniyah region has not yet been studied in great detail and early survey work struggled with identifying sites of this period due to poor chronological knowledge of its ceramic typology (Altaweel *et al.*, 2012). In recent years, the Parthian- to Sassanian-period occupation of the region has increasingly become a focus of major investigation. This new work at Kani Shaie promises to contribute significant information to this frontier in archaeological fieldwork in Sulaymaniyah.

3. Area A – Trenches 4500 and 6500

In 2024, the excavation of Area A continued in Trenches 4500 and 6500, focusing on the transition from the Uruk period to the Early Bronze Age, a period that remains poorly documented throughout the region. Building upon the excavation in 2023, where Level 7 was fully explored, we began by revisiting the earlier levels, particularly Level 8, which was anticipated to represent the earliest Early Bronze Age occupation on the mound, dating to approximately 2950 BCE. Furthermore, we were particularly interested in the underlying occupation layers, which we hypothesized to be part of the Uruk period (LC5).

Level 8 consists of three phases of occupation associated with a large, circular enclosure wall (Fig. 4). The preservation conditions of the EBA levels at Kani Shaie present a serious challenge. Such difficult conditions have been observed at sites throughout this region (e.g., Matthews *et al.*, 2020). As a result, separation of subphases of occupation is often frustratingly difficult during excavation. Nevertheless, based on careful stratigraphic analysis, we identified three distinct occupation phases that are characterized by significant rebuilding activities within the enclosure wall. The final plans for these phases are still in progress as the analysis of contexts and stratigraphy is ongoing. We present here an abbreviated summary of each level, followed by a discussion of our interpretations.

3.1 Level 8a

The excavation strategy for 2024 in Trench 4500 involved exposing the architectural layout of Level 8, which had become visible in the previous season. Our primary goal was to understand the arrangement of walls and features in this level, including the identification of space fills and the spatial organization of the area. However, the excavation of the southern part of the trench revealed unexpected findings, particularly a substantial reorganization of the space. Particularly, a ca. 3m wide mudbrick wall followed the northern and eastern contour of the edge of the mound in Area A. This curving wall can be projected beyond the excavated area and has been encountered in a stratigraphic sounding on the southern slope (Area B) in 2016. This enclosure wall can be estimated to be ca. 30m in diameter.

Level 8a remains, consisting of the uppermost deposits from activity near the end of the lifespan of the enclosure wall, were however poorly preserved. The major rebuilding in level 7 leveled and erased part of 8a occupation. Within the remaining deposits, significant new wall construction already indicate that the enclosure wall had fallen in disrepair and was gradually transformed to contain new spaces built into the wall itself and against its exterior.

3.2 Level 8b

Level 8b was primarily characterized by a large rectangular food storage and processing



Fig. 4: Vertical Photograph of Area A during excavation in 2024. The large enclosure wall is highlighted. (KSAP).

installation, which was marked by a notable bin feature. This rectangular bin, which was filled with large quantities of burnt botanical remains—including grains, legumes, and pulses—was an important discovery, as it suggests that food storage was a central activity during this phase. Adjacent to the bin, we uncovered numerous clay sealings bearing cylinder seal impressions, including a steatite seal with a geometric design, which were indicative of administrative practices or storage regulation. These sealings were likely used to mark the contents of the storage bin, pointing to an early form of organization and control over food resources.

Within the open area of Level 8b, we also identified a circular oven, or “tannur”, which was cut into an earlier wall. This oven was associated with a small bin installation, suggesting that this space was also used for food preparation, further corroborating the interpretation of Kani Shaie as a center of food production and storage during the early part of the Early Bronze Age. The architectural layout in this area indicated that Level 8b was characterized by substantial rebuilding, possibly following a destruction of earlier structures.

3.3 Level 8c

The excavation of Level 8c revealed additional complexities. This layer was marked by

an open area in the southwestern quadrant of Area A, which showed evidence of frequent cooking-related fire activities. The space was filled with black ash and stamped earth surfaces, suggesting repeated use for food processing or communal activities. The rest of Area A in this phase consisted of a built-up area with several rooms, which collapsed at the end of the occupation, leaving behind mudbrick rubble and complete vessels.

3.4 Level 9

The deepest layer reached in 2024, Level 9, is hypothesized to represent the earliest Early Bronze Age occupation on the Main Mound of Kani Shaie, dating to approximately 3000 BCE. This level remains largely unexcavated, with the focus of the 2024 season being to establish its stratigraphic relationship with the overlying levels. The presence of kilns and other ceramic production features in the strata associated with Level 9 also hints at craft production at the site during this phase. The continuation of this work in future seasons will be crucial for understanding the social, economic, and political dynamics of Kani Shaie during the initial EBA settlement phase and crucially, in understanding the transition from the LC Uruk levels to the EBA.

3.5 Complex Architectural Development and Social Organization

The stratigraphy across Levels 8 and 9 highlights a series of architectural and social transformations at Kani Shaie. The continuous occupation across these levels, with frequent reconstructions and spatial reorganizations, suggests a dynamic settlement that adapted to changing needs and social conditions of its inhabitants. In particular, the shift from large, communal structures in Level 8 to more specialized and compartmentalized spaces in Level 7 indicates a move towards greater social differentiation and a more complex form of organization.

In Level 7, we observed a major social shift, as larger-scale storage and food production activities were relocated to dedicated rooms, with restricted access and greater regulation of space. The presence of a large grill-based storage structure in Level 7 further indicates the importance of food distribution and management during this phase. The collapse of this structure, likely caused by a conflagration, marks the abrupt end of this phase of occupation, followed by a hiatus that was potentially marked by further changes in social organization and material culture.

3.6 The Role of Food Storage and Economic Practices

Throughout the excavation of Level 8, food storage and production were clearly central to the site's function. The discovery of multiple grain storage bins, including the large rectangular bin in Level 8b and additional bins in Level 8c, provides evidence for the management of food resources at Kani Shaie. These storage features, along with the associated sealings, suggest that the inhabitants of the site engaged in both the production, storage and distribution of surplus food, likely for local consumption by the local inhabitants.

The lack of grinding stones found in association with the storage bins is particularly notable. This absence raises questions about the purpose of the stored grains—whether they were intended for long-term storage, transport, or possibly as commodities in trade, or perhaps that the grain processing took place in other, as yet unexcavated areas of the site. The continued excavation of these areas will be essential for understanding the

broader economic role of Kani Shaie in the Early Bronze Age and its connections to other settlements in the region.

The dedicated storage and food production installations of Level 8 within a large, communal building were relatively small. In Level 7, the architectural layout and scale of occupation changed dramatically, but the principle focus of activity remained on storage and food production. The large enclosure wall and its internal architecture were deliberately filled in with clay packing and occasionally mudbricks to create a platform area to support the construction of a multi-room architectural complex and an associated, large storage structure with a grill foundation consisting of at least four parallel rows of mudbricks. Circulation and access within this complex were restricted through a series of small spaces and limited doorways. Access to the large storage structure was from within this complex and controlled by repeated closing and sealing the doorways. Remains of door sealings were found in a narrow corridor that connected the storage structure and a large rectangular room that could only be reached through a single door and beyond a series of small, restricted spaces.

Throughout the early centuries of the EBA, we can trace at Kani Shaie a development of communal strategies to store food surplus, consisting mainly of grain (barley and emmer) and pulses (chickpeas, lentils, peas). Initially, a large enclosure wall contained dedicated storage and food preparation areas. Deposits in this “Round Building” accumulated rapidly and necessitated a rebuilding (Level 8b). A final occupation (Level 8a) re-used the enclosure wall by adding spaces. Eventually, a radically new design was implemented that significantly increased the size of the storage facilities, concentrated storage within a single large structure, and implemented much more restriction of access. The communal storage aspect of the Level 8 enclosure became replaced by administrative control over food staples that necessitated new forms of spatial organisation.

3.7 Preliminary Summary of the Early Bronze Age Ceramics

The primary goal for the 2024 season at Kani Shaie was continuing the complete documentation of the pottery from the Early Bronze Age strata at the site which had been initiated in prior seasons (2022, 2023).^[17] Processing the ceramics excavated this season was straightforward and directly continued from the procedure initiated in 2022. This process involved washing and sun-drying all the sherds before full counting of all sherds from a specific context. Almost 12,500 ceramic sherds were processed from the 2024 excavations. Full documentation of the pottery was completed using an Excel spreadsheet with around 700 sherds individually catalogued from 2024, with a further c.700 sherd from EB contexts of other excavation seasons also added to the database, giving a total of 4300 sherds now fully documented from the EB at Kani Shaie. All important features of the individual sherds were noted and classified, including form type, ware group, inclusions, forming techniques, dimension, photo/drawing numbers etc. In addition, over 100 pages of A4 drawings were completed during 2024 and await digitization. Finally, in continuity with 2023, photomicrographs were taken of every documented sherd using a Dino-Lite USB microscope to aid in directing the future sampling strategy for archaeometric analysis and enable more precise fabric groupings. Whilst specific conclusions and discussion of the data obtained through analysis of the EBA are not yet possible as the data is subject to ongoing analysis, a number of preliminary conclusions are possible: It is possible to notice differences in the ceramic assemblage from the 2023 season and those of 2024.

Firstly, the material excavated in 2023 and the earlier excavated contexts of 2024 (that is, chronologically later), feature a higher quantity of painted designs, and, in general, the painted decorations are more simplistic in the chronologically earlier phases. Also noteworthy is the quantity of coarse wares and undiagnostic sherds seems to be much higher within the 2024 excavated contexts. It remains to be seen whether this relates to chronological subdivisions, though, given the changing nature of the archaeology, and the more industrial functionality of the earlier EB phases, it may indeed relate to functionality and differing use of spaces within the structures excavated.

Much of the painted wares relate closely to the so-called LC-EB Transitional types, and date quite closely within the ETG2 ARCANE Chronology with close comparatives noted particularly from sites of the Eski Mosul region of north-western Iraq, with Tell Karana 3 and Tell Fisna providing particularly close comparatives (Numoto 2003; Rova, 2003; Fig. 4). Characteristic vessels include small painted cups and medium sized jars with geometric designs arranged in single registers to the upper body of the vessels (e.g., Fig. 5 m, o). Limited quantities of vessels feature triangular motifs with internal cross-hatching, closely matching LC-EB transitional vessel types noted at Nineveh (e.g., Gut 1995; Tafel 71.1085). The assemblage from Kani Shaie Level 9 is dominated by small cups and bowls, often with simple tapered or beaded rims, with additional variants featuring somewhat carinated shoulders. Plain, unpainted variants of these same forms are also noted, with comparatives to several sites of northern Mesopotamia and western Iran including those of the Eski Mosul region such as Tell Thuwajj (e.g., Numoto 2003: Fig. 22) along the Lesser Zab and toward the southern shores of Lake Urmieh including Rick Abad Tepe (Binandeh 2023; Fig. 5), Gird Morvan (Aghalary *et al.*, 2024; Fig. 17) and Tepe Silveh, Piranshahr (Abedi *et al.*, 2020: Fig. 2)

Generally, the painted designs of these earlier vessels are much more simple than those of the subsequent EB phases (such as those excavated in 2023, see for example Tomé *et al.*, 2016; Fig. 4; Lewis 2024). Sherds from these earliest EBA levels (Level 9) feature very simple painted designs usually consisting of horizontal bands to the vessel rim, thick horizontal stripes or in some cases, paint covering much of the whole vessel exterior (e.g., Fig. 5 r,s,t,u) with close comparatives noted at Barveh Tepe along the Lesser Zab, (Sharifi and Helwing 2023; Fig. 11) and Gird Morvan, Piranshahr (Aghalary *et al.*, 2024 Fig. 17.E) whilst additional comparatives from Iraqi Kurdistan include those from Girdi Lashkir phase 3-4 (Moliš *et al.*, 2019: Fig. 6.5-7) and the Upper Greater Zab Survey (Kolinski 2024: Fig. 5). Other common motifs include alternating horizontal bands interspaced with chevrons or variants of this (Fig. 5 m). One vessel, a thin walled bowl with beaded rim, features a cream slip and unusual polychrome decoration compares very well to examples from Tell Fisna level 6 dated to the ETG2b (Fig. 5 o. See Numoto 2003: Fig. 8.57). Quadruped painted designs appear to be more common in Level 9 than in subsequent levels of Level 8-7 (Fig. 5 g, h, i, j, k, l) and within Level 9 are often found depicted alongside geometric designs (Fig. n), whilst later cups from Levels 8-7 solely featured these painted quadruped designs. Stylistically, the design of these quadruped vessels varies from incredibly schematic (e.g., Fig. j, n) to somewhat more “realistic” (Fig. 5 h, i). It is unclear as yet if this represents a chronological subdivision, or elements of individual stylistic choice by the potters. General comparatives to the painted wares are noted from within Iraqi Kurdistan including Satu Qala (Pappi and Coppini 2024: Fig. 5) and the western Sulaymaniyah Survey (Lucian, 2024: Fig. 6. 2; 7.8-9), and along the

Lesser Zab and Lake Urmieh region of north-western Iran; Tepe Se-Girdan (Binandeh 2014; Sohrabi and Ebrahimi 2015, cited in Ebrahimi *et al.*, 2021), Kul Tepe Ajabshir (Ebrahimi *et al.*, 2021) and Ali Abad Tepe (Faraji *et al.*, 2015). Paint colour of these small cups varies, though is generally either a red or red-brown, or black in colour with fabrics featuring fine mineral temper.

What is noted is that the earliest EB levels at Kani Shaie (Level 8-9) feature a higher quantity of painted jars than in subsequent phases, again featuring simple horizontal, red-brown-red painted band(s) to the vessel upper body and rim, with some featuring a thin pale buff-brown slip to the exterior surface (Fig. 5 v,w,x). Fabrics of these jars are characterised by a vegetal temper. Comparatives are noted primarily from the Eski Mosul region, particularly from Tell Fisna (e.g., Numoto 2003: Fig. 9.65, 66) and date to the Transitional Ninevite 5 period or ETG2.

Pedestal bases are common within Level 8, and though unsure which vessel they were from, it is deemed likely they were from chalices or jars with globular bodies based on comparatives from the early EBA in northern Mesopotamia and north-western Iran: Those examples from Kani Shaie often (though not always) feature horizontal bands of paint, and are commonly noted at early Ninevite 5 sites of northern Mesopotamia, again primarily the Eski Mosul Region such as Tell Kutun (Bachelot 2003: Fig. 26.4, 26.11, 27.4) and Rijim (Bielinski 2003: Fig. 13.2, 4) but also from Nineveh (Gut 1995: Tafel 84.1186-1187) and the western Sulaymaniyah Survey, Iraqi Kurdistan (e.g., Luciani 2024: Fig.8.1)

Hasan Ali Ware (Fig. 5 a,b,c) marks a substantial proportion of the painted corpus in these phases at Kani Shaie, though seems from initial observations to belong to Level 7-8 (based on radiocarbon dating of 2897-2877 BCE 68%; Renette *et al.*, 2023: Table 3). The Hasan Ali Wares are marked by more complex geometric painted designs, most commonly including bands of lozenges with alternating dots, cross-crosses and painted lozenge bands. Additional painted motifs include complex square designs with internal elements (6713-1; with comparatives at Barveh Tepe (Sharifi 2020; Fig. 13. PN.44) whilst other examples feature these alternating lozenges alongside this square design, with close comparatives to extant Hasan Ali Ware from the Lake Urmieh Region (e.g., Kroll 2005; 2017)

Black on Orange Wares are another notable ceramic type commonly found within Level 7-8, and also it seems from Level 9. These sherds (e.g., Fig. 5 e) are primarily from small cups with simple or narrow tapered rims and are found curiously within the same levels (and sometimes contexts) as the Hasan Ali Ware (contra Helwing and Neumann 2014; 53). Black on Orange Ware is characterised, as name would suggest via a deep orange fabric and thick, dark black paint. Common motifs include ladder designs and sometimes horizontal registers of chevrons interspaced with black painted rectangles (e.g., Barkaram Tepe, Piranshahr (Bodaqi *et al.*, 2021; Fig. 7). Rare examples feature bichrome red paint alongside the black painted designs (Fig. 5 f)

Scarlet Ware (Fig. 5 d) is also present within these lower EBA levels, and whilst mostly body sherds, several rim sherds are present allowing further discussion. The primary form so far noted from Kani Shaie Level 9(-8) are squat globular jars with simple tapered rims featuring red painted bands to the rim with thin black painted geometric designs below, commonly including chevrons, “bow-ties” and linear bands. Comparisons are noted from Bani Surmah (Haerinck and Overlaet 2006; Fig. 11) and Kalleh Nisar, Pusht-i

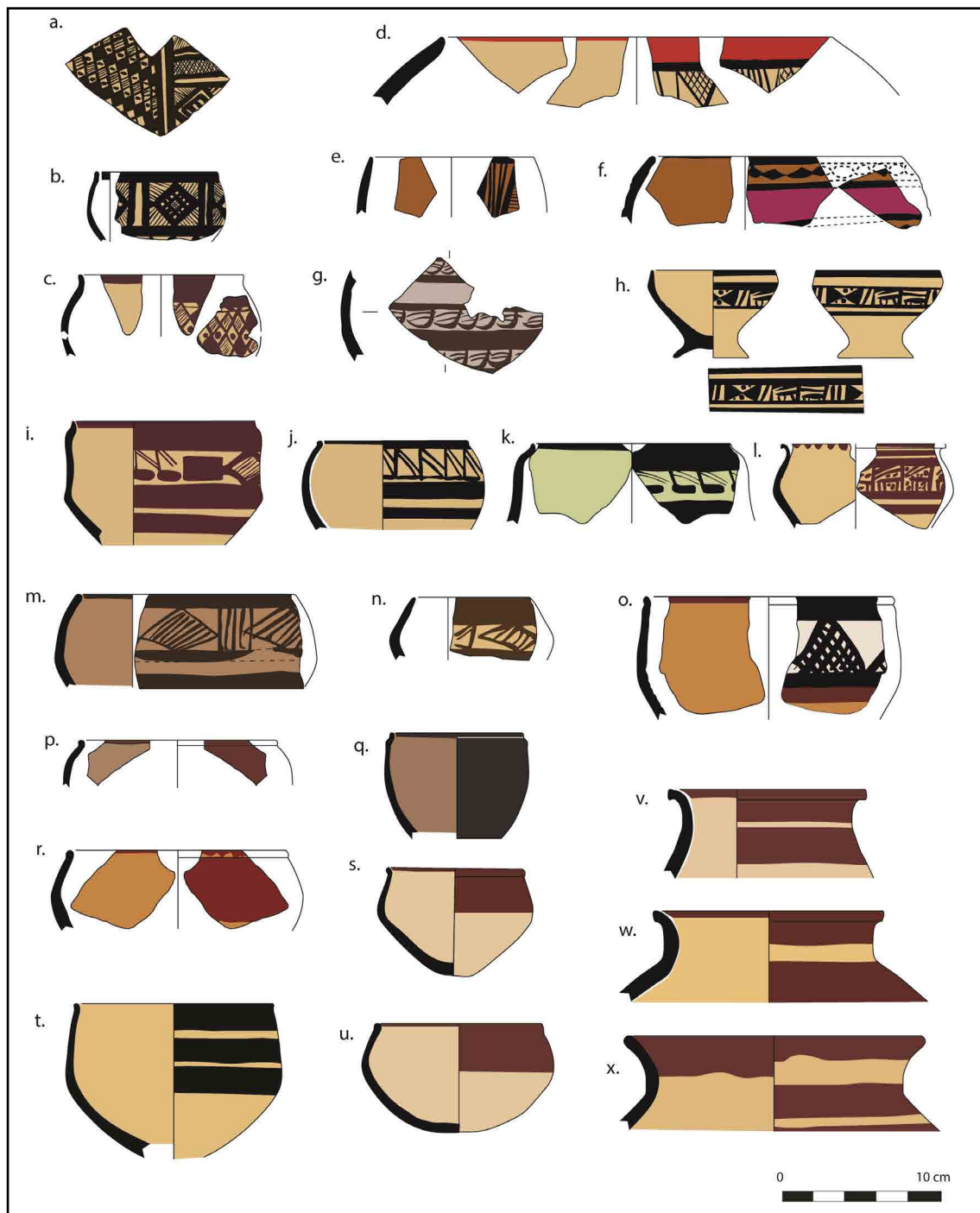


Fig. 5: Selection of early EBA painted wares of Area A level 8 (drawings by M.P. Lewis).

Kuh (Haerinck and Overlaet 2008; Fig. 12-13) and Tell Gubba (Fujii 1981; Fig. 17.1-3; Ii 1993). The designs of these vessels and indeed of all Scarlet Ware vessels from Kani Shaie are limited to the upper shoulder panel, and completely absent from below the shoulder carination and are exclusively limited to geometric designs, with no examples of zoomorphic or anthropomorphic motifs, as are common in south-central Iraq and western Iran (e.g., Del Bravo 2014).

Plain wares are dominated by holemouth jars with applique knobs, strap handles, or inverted crescent lugs (e.g., Fig. 6 e,f,g,h) a widespread cooking pot form from the northern Mesopotamian EBA observed from Leilan period IIIb (Schwartz 1988: Fig. 45) and Raqai level 4 (Schwartz and Chomowicz 2015; Fig. 4.23) the Eski Mosul region at Karrana 3 (Wilhelm and Zaccagnini 2003: Pl.XLI), Fisna (Numoto 2003: Fig. 14. 124-126) also Satu Qala, Iraqi Kurdistan (Pappi and Coppini 2024: Fig. 10c). Also noted are large square profile vessels with internal applique lugs (Fig. 6 i), perhaps functioning as a pot stand or for holding other vessels. Other vessels characteristic of these lower EB phases include jars with thickened, sometimes flattened or everted rims, and long sloping shoulders (Fig. 6 a). Given their size and oft vegetal temper, it is deemed likely they were used for liquid storage. Flat ceramic discs in thick, coarse clay are also noted (Fig. 6 d), and seem to have been used either as pot stands/trays, or as lids, and though relatively uncommon, they are another very widespread early EB/Ninevite 5 ceramic form noted across northern Mesopotamia, with examples observed at sites of the Khabur of northeastern Syria including Tell Raqai level 4 Fig. 4.24) and Leilan period IIIb (Schwartz 1988: Fig. 45). Remaining plain ware jars are dominated by jars with simple, everted rims (Fig. 6 b,c) and broadly compare to those from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and north-western Iran including Tepe Silveh, Piranshahr (Abedi *et al.*, 2020). Exact parallels for the plains wares of these early phases of the EB have been more difficult as yet to establish, given the over-emphasis in publications on the painted wares of the opening centuries of the EBA. Full publication therefore of the plain wares from the EB phases at Kani Shaie in the near future is expected to contribute a significant amount to this lacuna, and aid in further identification of plain wares from this period.

Other typical undecorated vessels include “slosh proof jars” with their characteristic inward flange, and sometimes featuring thick handles (Fig. 6 k, l). The presence of these vessels within these early levels is interesting, and considerably earlier than those from Godin III:6 (e.g., Henrickson 1984; Fig. 72.1-2). Whilst no handles have been found attached to the examples from Kani Shaie, it is likely that the tubular handles found as separate sherds were originally part of these same slosh-proof jars (e.g., Henrickson 1984; Fig. 72.1) Finally, jars with pierced bases, perhaps used in brewing or such like were noted from the earliest EB phases at Kani Shaie with comparative examples from Karrana 3 (Wilhelm and Zaccagnini 2003; Pl. XLIV.522).

Another common form of these earliest EB levels at Kani Shaie are BRBs (Fig. 6 j). These vessels are of course eponymous with the mid-late LC and the Uruk Phenomenon, and have been found throughout almost all phases at Kani Shaie (e.g., Tomé *et al.*, 2016; Renette *et al.*, 2021). They were also documented in chronologically later phases throughout much of the EB strata at Kani Shaie, though in small quantities and likely represent residual sherds. It seems then, that it is only these very earliest EB levels (in addition of course to the LC levels) where BRBs were used as vessels. This very much agrees with discussions by Rova (Rova 2014; 2) and others from the Tigridian region more generally where these conspicuous vessels indeed continue to be produced in post-Uruk levels. It remains to be seen however it is also possible that small quantities of typically Uruk ceramics may also continue to be produced in these earliest EB levels.

Whilst the excavations in 2024 did not reach in-situ LC5 levels, moderate quantities of a wide range of characteristic LC5 ceramic forms were present from EB levels including band rim bowls, triangle incised designs on jars, nose lugged jars, cooking pots with

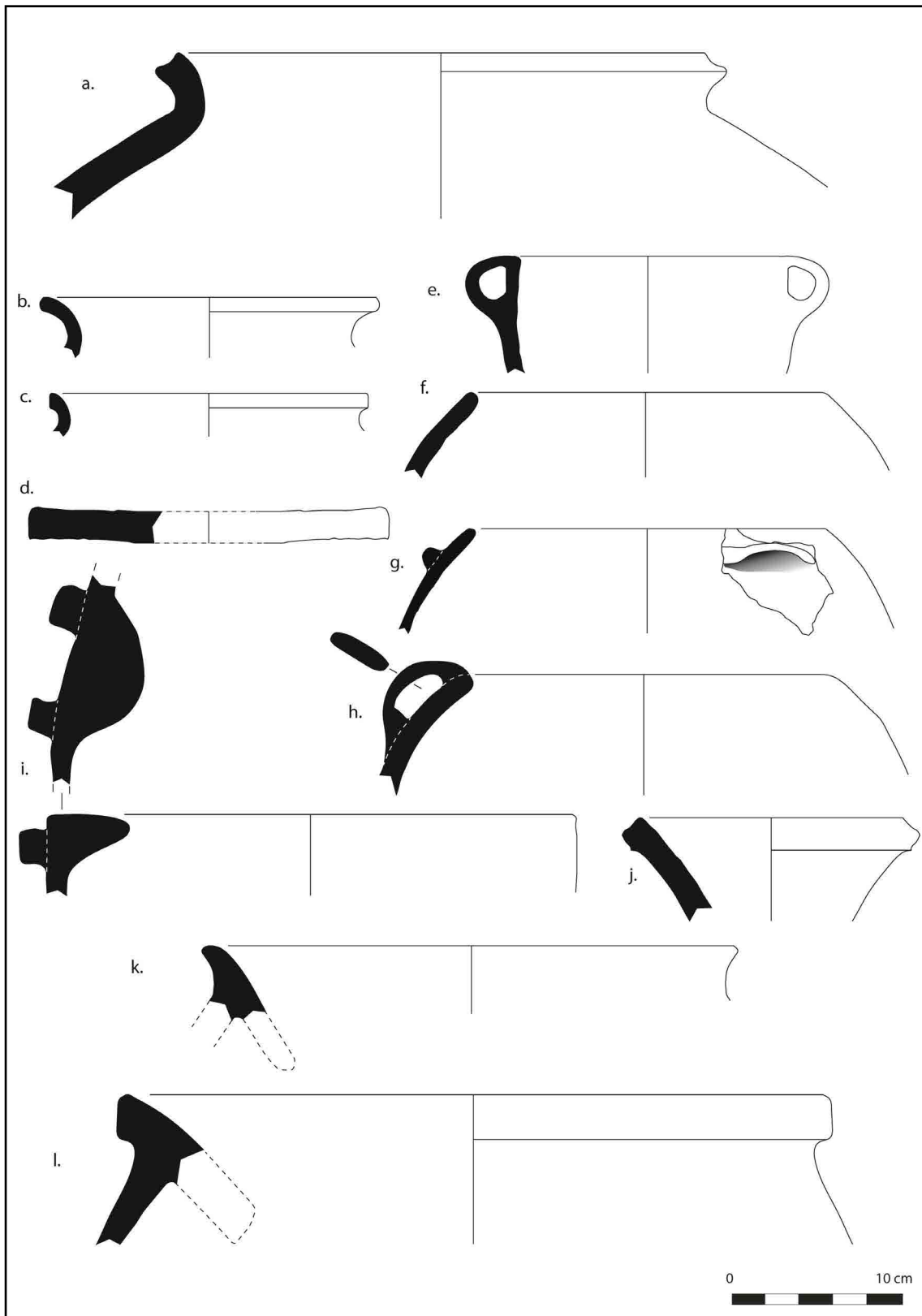


Fig. 6: Selection of early EBA plain wares of Area A level 8 (drawings by M.P. Lewis).

extended, often incised lugs, torpedo jar necks, Uruk trays, reserved slip decoration, and drooping spouts. Fabrics of these LC5 sherds primarily appear to feature a mixed vegetal-mineral temper.

4. Area D – LT-1000 – The Lower Town Trench

In 2024, the excavation of Trench LT-1000 (10x10m) in the Lower Town of Kani Shaie focused on gaining a better understanding of the later periods of occupation at the site, particularly the Neo-Assyrian and Parthian periods (1st millennium BCE). While the ultimate goal was to reach the underlying Early Bronze Age (EBA) occupation in the lower mounded area to determine the extent of a lower town, the late Iron Age occupation proved to be more substantial than anticipated. The focus of the excavations in the low mounded area has now shifted to investigate this significant later occupation in more detail.

The trench was initially opened in 2023. Immediately below the surface, part of a large building was immediately uncovered, with only the stone foundations remaining. The associated deposits, all within the upper 0.5m of the trench, were heavily disturbed by plowing, pits, eroded remnants of human activity, and animal burrows and large roots. In fact, the density of large, deep roots in the southern part of the trench, all of which were severely burnt, indicate that this part of the lower mound was covered by trees in the relatively recent past, and that a fire had resulted in their removal. Still in the 2023 season, a sounding in part of the trench was excavated to determine the underlying stratigraphy, which would guide the excavations of the following year. In this sounding, more large-scale stone architecture foundations were discovered.

The 2024 excavation continued to focus on stratigraphic reliability and contextual information to better understand both the later and earlier periods of the site's history. Careful excavation across the entire 10x10m trench allowed the partial documentation of the same type of large pits that disturbed so much of the EBA occupation on the Main Mound. Even though these pits in the lower mounded area are largely devoid of artifacts, the occasional Middle Islamic cooking pot sherd provides support for assigning the pits to the same chronological range as those on top of the mound. Despite these disturbances, through careful excavation, poorly preserved remains of small-scale architecture and pottery kilns could be traced. Based on associated pottery, these remains date to the Parthian period. However, the main focus of the excavations was on the underlying post-Assyrian occupation (tentatively dated based on ceramics to the Achaemenid-Hellenistic period). This lower level consists of substantial stone foundation architecture that once supported adobe architecture, although it remains unclear whether this consisted of mudbrick or pisé. Within the excavated area, the architectural complex formed by these stone foundations contained a courtyard, a small staircase entrance and small rooms. The main spaces of the complex lay outside the trench and will be targeted in future fieldwork seasons.

4.1 Level 1: Surface Remains

Level 1 of Trench LT-1000 contained the foundations of large stone walls running north-south, marking the remains of a much larger building. These walls, situated immediately below the surface, were partially disturbed, due to intensive deep plowing in the past decades. The stone foundations consist of well-laid, exterior-facing large stones and small

stone filling. Given its presence close to the surface, the date of this structure remains difficult to determine with certainty. Pottery from the same upper level is very mixed, with mainly Parthian-period pottery as well as Middle and Late Islamic sherds, and occasional LC and EBA sherds (possibly slope wash from the Main Mound and spread over the lower mounded area by plowing). Given the predominance of Parthian period pottery, our first inclination was to date the structure to this period and consider later pottery as intrusive from ephemeral activity at the site. No clear architectural remains of the Middle or Late Islamic period have been as yet discovered at Kani Shaie, but the site was clearly regularly used by local people in the last few centuries for agricultural activities, as camp site, or possibly small-scale ephemeral occupation that has completely eroded away. In the 2024 season, further supporting evidence was obtained to date this structure much later, to the Ottoman period. A couple of the Middle Islamic period pits (ca. 11th-12th c. CE; Ahmed & Renette 2023) appear to be covered by the stone wall foundation, rather than the pits cutting the wall, although it must be emphasized that pit edges and cuts are very difficult to identify in the upper levels at Kani Shaie due to intensive processes of soil formation. If correctly interpreted, this then provides a *terminus post quem*, with the walls being constructed any time in the past 700 years. We favour an Ottoman date, possibly 18th or 19th century, based on the numerous finds of pipe fragments of this period and few finds of pottery that can be dated as such. This might fit with the regional control of the Baban Principality during this period, or possibly with the Ottoman attempt to reestablish dominance in this region in the later 19th century (Jwaideh 2006). In the final week of excavations, a geomagnetic survey was carried out, which provided an initial map of the building's plan, though detailed results are still being processed. Due to heavy disturbances in the upper deposits due to agricultural activities, large amounts of scrap metal discarded in fields throughout the region, and a high density of large stones up to 1 meter deep across the site, geomagnetic survey has proven only minimally productive at Kani Shaie. Nevertheless, this data will be crucial for clarifying the building's chronological placement and function in the context of the Lower Town's occupation.

4.2 Level 2: Middle Islamic Pits

Beneath the stone foundations of Level 1, a thick 0.5m layer of deposits were slowly excavated but no clear associated architecture could be identified. Given the absence of Sasanian or Early Islamic material, a hiatus of activity at the site for ca. 1,000 years is evident. During this time, any surface features would have eroded and non-substantial architecture (small mudbrick or pisé structures) in the upper meter would have undergone soil formation processes due to consistent rain and snow percolation, animal activity, and plant roots. Additionally, the nearby Main Mound underwent heavy erosion, especially on its northern slope, from where soil washed down over the low mounded area during centuries of abandonment.

By the Middle Islamic period, bell-shaped pits reaching ca. 2m deep were dug both on the Main Mound and across the lower mounded area. The exact purpose of these pits remains unclear. A few of the pits on the Main Mound contained large amounts of pottery, along with pieces of glass and metal, all of which had clearly broken and were discarded as trash. Lower in several of these pits, concentrated deposits of organic trash (animal bones and plant remains) were capped by layers of stone. In a recent publication,

we postulated that these pits might have originally be dug to serve as food storage and subsequently used to discard of trash. Given the complete absence of architectural remains of this period anywhere on the site, we interpret this activity to be the result of annually recurring occupation by a group of nomadic households (Ahmed & Renette 2023). However, the large number and incredible density of such pits across the site remains difficult to understand. The pits in the excavated trench in the lower town contain very little artifactual material and are filled with medium to large stones. Consistent finds of small numbers of Middle Islamic pottery (especially easily recognisable cooking ware) and occasional pieces of glass confirm their date as well as their ubiquity throughout the trench despite difficulties with clearly delineating their cuts.

4.3 Level 3: Transitional Features

Level 3 encompasses the 0.5m of gradual deposits in which the Middle Islamic pits were dug (but they reach even deeper through Levels 4 and 5). In this gradual accumulation of deposits, cooking installations (“tannurs”) and small ashy traces of fire activities were identified at different elevations. Small pits were also dug down from this level, cutting into the underlying levels. No associated architecture was present, or had been completely eroded away. The pottery from Level 3 contains many clearly identifiable Parthian types of pottery, including yellow, green, blue, and black glazed sherds, and several so-called “fish plates”. Additionally, a residual find of a partially worn Neo-Assyrian frit cylinder seal, most likely from pit fill, attests to Kani Shaie’s importance during the Iron Age. Neo-Assyrian occupation has so far only been explored in two small soundings in 2016 where substantial stone foundation walls were identified.

4.4 Level 4: Parthian and Pre-Parthian Features

At the bottom of Level 3 a clearly separate stratum of deposit is visible in the sections. This Level 4 contains poorly preserved remains of small-scale architecture, pottery kilns, and small pits that can be securely dated to the Parthian period (a more precise date within this period remains to be determined through detailed ceramic analysis and forthcoming radiocarbon dates). The kilns, including a relatively large installation in the southeast corner of the trench, were partially dug down into the lower level 5. Pottery slag, as well as iron slag, became a frequent find in level 4, but the kilns themselves were too poorly preserved and mostly empty to allow a reliable identification of their specific purpose. Nevertheless, they attest to a significant craft production at Kani Shaie during the Parthian period that will hopefully become better defined with additional excavation in the future. The small-scale architecture consisted, as much as could be identified, of single row mudbrick walls without stone foundations. In at least two instances, interior spaces contained surface made of irregularly laid small stones.

Below the Level 4 architecture, large, oval-shaped pits were dug out, targeting the underlying stone architecture of Level 5 (see below). These pits were dug down from Level 4 but before the construction of the architecture and kilns in this area. Ruins of the Level 5 architecture might have still been visible at the surface during this period considering that the top of stone foundations and a stone slab pavement from that earlier level already became visible during excavation. Probably this part of the mound was not occupied immediately, but instead stones were dug up for construction elsewhere, either in another part of Kani Shaie or in another location in the Bazyan Valley. In this

context, it is interesting to note that there are remains of stone foundation architecture in the uppermost level of the Main Mound that might be associated with Parthian pottery (although the top level there is too disturbed by Middle Islamic pits and Ottoman graves to be certain).

4.5 Level 5: Hellenistic to Early Parthian Architecture

The lowest level reached in 2024, and which will remain the focus of excavations in this part of the site, showed a marked difference in ceramics and architectural features from the later levels. The architecture in this level consists of substantial, multi-course stone foundations (Fig. 7). Walls were consistently ca. 1m wide with well-constructed flat exterior stone faces, oriented southwest-northeast (the prevailing orientation of architecture in all periods at Kani Shaie). At least three layers of stones form these foundations, but in many locations the bottoms have not yet been reached and it could not yet be ascertained whether these were partially dug in or fully standing above ground. Where these stone wall foundations were fully preserved, the top was intentionally made horizontal to support an adobe superstructure. The decay of this superstructure resulted in a thick deposit, but nothing of it remains. Since no trace of mudbricks have so far been detected anywhere in the trench, the use of pisé for the superstructure appears the most likely.

Most of the trench is occupied with a rectangular courtyard and an exterior space in the northwestern quadrant. In that exterior space, a large, smashed storage jar was discovered. Two more such storage jars were also found in an adjoining sounding in 2016. Despite being in-situ, collapse from the superstructure caused their destruction. Otherwise, this space was largely disturbed by cuts from Middle Islamic pits, including large stones in their fill. The courtyard area was equally disturbed by later pits, but throughout its central axis a pebble pavement was constructed that led toward a small staircase and entrance with door socket. In the southwestern quadrant of the trench, the edge of a building was exposed. The floor of this building was higher and constructed with a stone slab pavement (again disturbed by several pits). A small room, ca. 1.5m wide, could be reached by a descending staircase. In future seasons, we plan to expand this excavation area to expose more of the building.

The exact date of this building is not yet fully ascertained but falls within the post-Assyrian period. The appearance of red-slipped wares support an Iron Age date earlier than the Parthian period occupation of Level 4. The upper deposits of Level 5 contain pottery that suggests a Hellenistic date, such a “dog tooth” decoration and “fish plates”. However, the length of the use of the Level 5 building might have been substantial as there are indications of alterations and use of the architecture after the courtyard pavement was already covered by deposits. Currently, we hypothesize two phases of use, one being the primary use in the years following the initial construction and a secondary phase when the building was falling in disrepair but continued to be inhabited and adjusted for new needs. This later phase likely falls within the Hellenistic (Seleucid or early Parthian) period, but the initial construction could have been as early as the Achaemenid period. The chronology of post-Assyrian pottery remains unresolved and hindered by a conservative ceramic assemblage that remained largely unchanged from the 6th to 3rd centuries BCE. One challenge in the coming years at Kani Shaie will be to build a detailed ceramic chronology for the different occupation levels, tied to radiocarbon dates, in an attempt to



Fig. 7: Vertical Photograph of Area D during excavation in 2024. Main walls are highlighted in dark yellow with preserved pavement and staircases in light yellow. (KSAP).

detect small changes in vessel shapes or frequencies in the overall assemblages.

5. Conclusion

The 2024 excavation season at Kani Shaie achieved two major breakthroughs in the archaeology of the Sulaymaniyah region of Iraqi Kurdistan. First, the previously undocumented transition of ca. 3100-2900 BCE from the Late Chalcolithic (“Uruk”) to the Early Bronze Age was investigated in significant detail. During this transition,

the settlement at Kani Shaie underwent major architectural transformation with the construction of a large, circular enclosure wall that encompassed dense food storage and production areas. This interior space accumulated very rapidly as a result of continuous activities, including those entailing fire. The interior courtyard area was repeatedly filled with black ash. These spaces were rarely cleaned out, and instead excavations documented an uninterrupted accumulation of various surfaces, ad hoc activity areas, and at least three rebuildings of interior spaces. This type of Early Bronze Age architectural complex is by now well documented across northern Mesopotamia, from the Middle Khabur in the Jezirah to the Hamrin Valley on the Diyala/Sirwan River (Heil 2011; Renette 2009; Schwartz 2015). Kani Shaie is the first confirmed construction of this type further east at the foot of the Zagros Mountains. These “Round Buildings” clearly were part of a widespread practice of communal storage within remarkably similar small settlements, despite highly regionalized ceramic traditions. Communities from the Jezirah steppelands to the Zagros foothills shared closely related socioeconomic organization while adoption distinct cultural practices of visual expression and potentially food consumption, as visible in the painted ceramic record. This challenges earlier assumptions of fairly isolated communities within separated regional cultural traditions (Akkermans & Schwartz 2003: 211-232; Ristvet 2017; Rova & Weiss 2003; Schwartz 1985). The origins of the interaction sphere that encompassed these dispersed communities needs to be sought in the aftermath of the collapse of the long-distance, directional networks of the Uruk world of the late fourth millennium BCE. At a time when southern Mesopotamia turned inward, disconnecting itself from trade networks or at least no longer attempting to gain direct control over the flow of resources, the communities across northern Mesopotamia and the northern Zagros Mountains developed new, bottom-up exchange networks that were no longer governed by growing urban centres. Instead, small settlements took on increasingly central roles as places of gathering for dispersed communities and the organisation of large-scale communal storage of food staples. Such storage might have served for the purpose of large feasting events to facilitate social relationships that were essential for the maintenance of exchange networks. Alternatively, or additionally, collective storage and production of food staples could have been organized to deal with the surpluses of production left behind in the aftermath of network collapse and turned toward new purposes such as risk management. The constant availability of collective surpluses could have sustained communities in their continued production of specialized goods or other endeavours, preventing a need to return to a subsistence-level economy.

The second major contribution is the discovery of a substantial architectural complex of the post-Assyrian period. Recent archaeological work in Sulaymaniyah is rapidly demonstrating the importance of this region. The Rabana-Merquly fortification and cultic complex at Mount Piramagrun has tentatively been identified as the ancient city of Natounia, summer residence of the kings of Adiabene (Aziz Zamua 2011; Brown *et al.*, 2022). The complex controlled the important Tanjaro Plain that connected the Erbil region with the agriculturally productive Shahrizor Plain where excavations at Yassin Tepe and survey in the Shahrizor Plain have also identified significant Parthian-period occupation (Altaweel *et al.*, 2012: 26; Miglus *et al.*, 2013; Mühl & Fassbinder 2016). Preliminary results from survey in the Bazyan Valley identified a high density of occupation during both the Parthian and Sassanian period. Excavations at Kani Shaie have now confirmed that the Bazyan Valley was fully integrated in the economic development and growth

in political importance of the Sulaymaniyah region during these periods. While the exact nature of the architectural complex at Kani Shaie remains to be determined, the scale of the stone wall foundations and the layout with courtyard into a raised building exceed regular domestic structures and potentially are part of an administrative outpost or substantial elite mansion.

Work at Kani Shaie will continue at least until 2026 with expansion of excavation area and a detailed investigation of the Late Chalcolithic Uruk settlement. Simultaneously, survey of the Bazyan Valley will resume. LC and EBA material has been rare in previous survey work, suggesting that Kani Shaie might have served as the main demographic centre in this small valley in an otherwise sparsely populated landscape. As such it might have served as main stopping point or gathering place connecting communities from the Chemchemal region to the west and the Tanjaro-Shahrizor Plains to the east. In contrast, during the Hellenistic, Parthian, and Sassanian periods, the valley became densely occupied and exploited. However, the survey will also target other periods of occupation that have as yet remained poorly investigated in this region, with particular focus on the Neolithic and the Middle to Late Bronze Age.

References

- Abedi, A., Emami, M., Rahmani, P. & Razani, M., (2020). "Archaeometry Studies of the Bronze Age Pottery and Ceramics of Tepe Silveh Piranshahr, NW Iran". *IJCSE*, 9: 99-120.
- Aghalary, B., Norasi, H., Ebrahimipour, S. & Salimi, S., (2024). "Archaeological Research of Kani Shinka Dam Basin; Piranshahr City". *Payām-E Bāstānshenās*, 16: 49-76.
- Ahmad, M. & Renette, S., (2023). "Middle Islamic Rural Occupation at Kani Shaie in Iraqi Kurdistan". *Bulletin of ASOR*, 389: 35-64.
- Akkermans, P. M. M. G. & Schwartz, G.M., (2003). *The Archaeology of Syria: From Complex Hunter-Gatherers to Early Urban Societies (c. 16,000-300 BC)*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Aziz Zamua, D. M. & Amedi, A.M., (2011). "The Rock Reliefs of Merquly and Rabana: An Analytic-Comparative Study". *Subartu Journal*, 4-5: 230-239.
- Bachelot, L., (2003). "Tell Kutan". in: E. Rova and H. Weiss (eds.), *The Origins of North Mesopotamian Civilization: Ninevite 5 Chronology. Economy, Society*. Brepols: Turnhout: 153-192.
- Bielinski, P., (2003). "Ninevite 5 Burials at Tell Rijim". in: E. Rova and H. Weiss (eds.), *The Origins of North Mesopotamian Civilization: Ninevite 5 Chronology, Economy, Society*. Brepols: Turnhout, 493-512.
- Binandeh, A., (2023). "The Bronze Age of the Little Zab Basin in the Light of the Excavation of Rick Abad Tepe". *Persica Antiqua*, 3: 3-14.
- Bodaqi, E., Sattarnejad, S. & Parvin, S., (2021). "Excavation at Barkamran Tepe (Piranshahr) north-western Iran, 2019. First preliminary report". *Studia Praehistoriae*, 18: 161-171.
- Brown, M. Raheem, K. R. & Abdullah, H. H., (2022). "Rabana-Merquly: A Fortress in the Kingdom of Adiabene in the Zagros Mountains". *Antiquity*, 96/388: 920-936.
- Del Bravo, F., (2014). "'Scarlet Ware': Origins, Chronology and Developments". in: M. Lebeau (ed.), *Arcane Interregional I: Ceramics*. Brepols: Turnhout: 131-148.

- Ebrahimi, Q., Rezaloo, R., Danti, M., Javanmardzadeh, A. & Abedi, A., (2021). "The Hasanlu VII Culture in the southern Lake Urmia basin, northwest Iran: A new archaeological outline". *Journal of Archaeological Studies*, 12: 1-22.
- Faraji, N., Zadeh, Y. H. & Mahadevaiah, M., (2015). "Reconnaissance of the Bronze Age Site in the Southern Lake Urmia Basin, Northwest of Iran: Ali Abad Tape". *Asian J. Res. Soc. Sci. Humanit*, 5: 320-343.
- Fujii, H., (1978). "Preliminary report of excavations at Gubba and Songor". *Al-Rafidan*, 2: 1-246.
- Gut, R. V., (1995). *Das Prähistorische Ninive: Zur Relativen Chronologie der Frühen Perioden Nordmesopotamiens, Baghdader Forschungen 19*. Mainz am Rhein: Zabern.
- Haerinck, E. & Overlaet, B., (2006). *Bani Surmah: An Early Bronze Age Graveyard in Pusht-i Kuh, Luristan*. Leuven: Peeters Publishers.
- Haerinck, E. & Overlaet, B., (2008). *The Kalleh Nisar bronze age graveyard in Pusht-i Kuh, Luristan*. Leuven: Peeters.
- Heil, M., (2011). "Early Dynastic Round Buildings". in: P. A. Miglus and S. Mühl (eds.), *Between the Cultures: The Central Tigris Region from the 3rd to the 1st Millennium BC, Heidelberger Studien zum Alten Orient 14, Heidelberg: Heidelberger Orientverlag*: 37-45.
- Helwing, B. & Neumann, G., (2014). "Local Painted Ceramics in Western Iran". in: M. Lebeau (ed.), *Arcane Interregional 1: Ceramics*. Turnhout: Brepols: 41-82.
- Henrickson, R. C., (1984). "Godin Tepe, Godin III and Central Western Iran c. 2600-1500 B.C.". Unpublished PhD dissertation. University of Toronto, Department of Near Eastern Studies.
- II, H. (1993). *Catalogue of the Pottery from Tell Gubba: Level VII*. Al-Rāfidān 209-266.
- Jwaideh, W., (2006). *The Kurdish National Movement: Its Origins and Development, Contemporary Issues in the Middle East*. Syracuse: Syracuse University.
- Koliński, R., (2024). "The Area of the Upper Greater Zab Archaeological Reconnaissance (UGZAR) Project in the 3rd Millennium BCE". in: B. Couturaud (ed.), *Early Bronze Age in Iraqi Kurdistan*. Beyrouth: Presses de l'Ifpo: 51-70.
- Kroll, S., (2017). "Early to Middle Bronze Age Transition in the Urmia Basin". in: Rova, E., Tonussi, M. (eds.), *At the Northern Frontier of Near Eastern Archaeology: Recent Research on Caucasia and Anatolia in the Bronze Age / An Der Nordgrenze Der Vorderasiatischen Archäologie: Neue Forschung Über Kaukasien Und Anatolien in Der Bronzezeit*. Publications of the Georgian-Italian Shida Kartli Archaeological Project 2, Turnhout: Brepols: 203-211.
- Kroll, S., (2005). "Early Bronze Age settlement patterns in the Orumiye Basin". *Archäologische Mitteilungen Aus Iran und Turan*, 37: 115-121.
- Lewis, M. P., (2024). "Regionalized Trajectories and Social Change in the Early Bronze Age Zagros Piedmont. A Case Study from Kani Shaie, Iraqi Kurdistan" in: B. Couturaud (ed.), *Early Bronze Age in Iraqi Kurdistan*. Beyrouth: Presses de l'Ifpo: 253-268.
- Luciani, M., (2024). "The 3rd Millennium Evidence from the North Western Sulaymaniyah Survey (NWSS). A Preliminary Assessment". in: B. Couturaud (ed.), *Early Bronze Age in Iraqi Kurdistan*. Beyrouth: Presses de l'Ifpo, 85-106.
- Matthews, R., Matthews, W., Raheem, K. R. & Richardson, A., (2020). *The Early*

Neolithic of the Eastern Fertile Crescent: Excavations at Bestansur and Shimshara, Iraqi Kurdistan, Central Zagros Archaeological Project 2. Oxford: Oxbow Books.

- Miglus, P. A., Bürger, U., Fetner, R. A., Mühl, S. & Sollee, A., (2013). "Excavation at Bakr Awa 2010 and 2011". *IRAQ*, 75: 43-88.

- Moliš, M., Breu, A., Sisa, J., Alcántara, R., Cruells, W., Arnaiz, R., Gómez-Bach, A., Saña, M., Bradosty, Z., Douché, C., Mylona, P. & Zebari, A. M., (2019). "New data on the 4th-3rd millennia in Northern Mesopotamia: The ancient occupations at Gird Lashkir in their archaeological contexts". *Paléorient*, 191-206.

- Mühl, S. & Fassbinder, J., (2016). "Magnetic Investigations in the Shahrizor Plain: Revealing the unseen in survey prospections". in: K. Kopanias and J. MacGinnis (eds.), *The Archaeology of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and Adjacent Regions*, Oxford: Archaeopress: 241-248.

- Numoto, H., (2003). "Ninevite 5 Pottery from Tells Fisna and Thuwajj and its Relative Chronology". in: E. Rova and H. Weiss (eds.), *The Origins of North Mesopotamian Civilization: Ninevite 5 Chronology, Economy, Society*. Turnhout: Brepols: 83-152.

- Pappi, C. & Coppini, C., (2024). "The Plain of Koi Sanjaq/Koya (Erbil, Iraq) in the 3rd Millennium BCE. History, Chronologies, Settlements, and Ceramics". in: B. Couturaud (ed.), *Early Bronze Age in Iraqi Kurdistan*. Beyrouth: Presses de l'Ifpo: 71-84.

- Renette, S., (2009). "A Reassessment of the Round Buildings in the Hamrin Valley (Central Iraq) during the Early 3rd Millennium BC". *Paléorient*, 35/2: 79-98.

- Renette, S., (2016). "Traders of the Mountains: The Early Bronze Age in Iraqi Kurdistan". *Expedition* 58/1: 16-23.

- Renette, S., (2018). "The Early Bronze Age Zagros Interaction Sphere: A View from Kani Shaie". in: M. H. A. Kharanaghi, M. Khanipour and R. Naseri (eds.), *Proceedings of the International Congress of Young Archaeologists 2015*, Tehran: Iranology Foundation: 90-102.

- Renette, S., (2024). "Sealings and Seal Impressions from Kani Shaie". in: B. Couturaud (ed.), *Early Bronze Age in Iraqi Kurdistan, Bibliothèque Archéologique et Historique 226*, Beyrouth: Presses de l'Ifpo: 179-194.

- Renette, S., Abu Jayyab, K., Gibbon, E., Lewis, M. P., Abdullkarim Qadir, Z., Cabral, R. & Tomé, A. G., (2021). "Late Chalcolithic Ceramic Development in Southern Iraqi Kurdistan: The Stratigraphic Sounding at Kani Shaie". *IRAQ*, 83: 119-166.

- Renette, S., Lewis, M. P., Wencel, M. M., Farahani, A. & Tomé, A. G., (2023). "Establishing and Absolute Chronological Framework for the Late Chalcolithic to Early Bronze Age in Iraqi Kurdistan: Radiocarbon Dates from Kani Shaie". *Radiocarbon*, 65/1: 209-231.

- Renette, S., Catanzariti, A., Tomé, A. G. & Tanaka, T., (2024). "Rural and Small, yet Connected and Complex: Early Bronze Age Occupation at Kani Shaie and Ban Qala in the Bazyan-Qara Dagh Corridor of Southern Iraqi Kurdistan". in: B. Couturaud (ed.), *Early Bronze Age in Iraqi Kurdistan, Bibliothèque Archéologique et Historique 226*, Beyrouth: Presses de l'Ifpo: 135-153.

- Rištvét, L., (2017). "Assyria" in the Third Millennium BCE". in: E. Frahm (ed.), *A Companion to Assyria*, London: Wiley & Sons Ltd.: 36-56.

- Rova, E., (2014). "Bevelled Rim Bowls". in: M. Lebeau (ed.), *Arcane Interregional I: Ceramics*. Turnhout: Brepols: 31-40.

- Rova, E. & Weiss, H., (2003). *The Origins of North Mesopotamian Civilization:*

Ninevite 5 Chronology, Economy, Society, Subartu IX, Turnhout: Brepols.

- Schwartz, G. M., (1985). "The Ninevite V Period and Current Research". *Paléorient*, 11/1: 53-70.

- Schwartz, G. M., (1988). *A ceramic chronology from Tell Leilan: Operation I*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

- Schwartz, G. M., (2015). *Rural Archaeology in Early Urban Northern Mesopotamia: Excavations at Tell al-Raqa'i*, *Monumenta Archaeologica* 36. Los Angeles: Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Press.

- Schwartz, G. M. & Chomowicz, P., (2015). "Chapter 4: Ceramics". in: Schwartz, G.M. (ed.), *Rural Archaeology in Early Urban Northern Mesopotamia: Excavations at Tell al-Raqa'i*. Los Angeles: Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Press: 193-296.

- Sharifi, M., (2020). "Excavations at Barveh Tepe: New Insights into the Early Bronze Age in Northwest Iran". *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, 79: 287-303.

- Sharifi, M. & Helwing, B., (2023). "Absolute (14C AMS) and Relative Chronologies of Barveh Tepe in the Upper Lesser Zab Basin and a Study of Painted Bronze Age Ceramics (Based on the Second Season Excavation) Season Excavation". *Journal of Archaeological Studies*, 15: 133–153.

- Tomé, A., Cabral, R. & Renette, S., (2016). "The Kani Shaie Archaeological Project". in: K. Kopanias and J. MacGinnis (eds.), *The Archaeology of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and Adjacent Regions*, Oxford: Archaeopress: 427-434.

- Wilhelm, G. & Zaccagnini, C., (1993). *Tell Karrana 3, Tell Jikan, Tell Khirbet Salih*. Mainz am Rhein: Philipp von Zabern.

گزارش کاوش ۲۰۲۴ در کانی شائی: داده‌های جدید دربارهٔ اوایل عصر مفرغ و سکونتگاه‌های هلنیستی-پارتی

استیورنه^۱، آندره تومه^۲، مایکل پی. لوئیس^۳، زانا عبدالله کریم قادر^۴

۱. گروه باستان‌شناسی دانشگاه کمبریج، لندن، کمبریج، انگلستان (نویسندهٔ مسئول). **رایانامه:** sr2095@cam.ac.uk
۲. دانشگاه کویمبرا، دانشگاه کالج لندن، دانشگاه کمبریج، انگلستان. **رایانامه:** andgtome@uc.pt
۳. دانشگاه کویمبرا، دانشگاه کالج لندن، دانشگاه کمبریج، انگلستان. **رایانامه:** michael.philip.lewis@gmail.com
۴. مدیریت باستان‌شناسی سلیمانیه، اقلیم کردستان، عراق، دانشگاه کالج لندن، دانشگاه کمبریج، انگلستان. **رایانامه:** zana.karimqadir@gmail.com

چکیده	تاریخچه مقاله
کانی‌شائی یکی از مهم‌ترین استقرارگاه‌های باستان‌شناسی مهم در استان سلیمانیهٔ اقلیم کردستان عراق است. این مکان در مرکز درهٔ بازیان واقع شده و در محور ارتباطی اصلی قرار دارد که شمال میان‌رودان را از طریق کرکوک به رشته‌کوه‌های زاگرس مرکزی در غرب ایران متصل می‌کند. دورهٔ اصلی این محوطهٔ باستانی به دورهٔ مس‌وسنگ و اوایل دورهٔ مفرغ (مفرغ قدیم)، از حدود ۶۰۰۰ تا ۲۰۰۰ پ.م. برمی‌گردد. دوره‌های بعدی نیز به عصر مفرغ جدید، دورهٔ آشور نو و دورهٔ هلنیستی-پارتی مربوط می‌شود. در طول این هزاره‌ها، کانی‌شائی به‌عنوان یک مرکز مهم سکونت در درهٔ بازیان شناخته می‌شد؛ هرچند که هرگز بیشتر از ۳ هکتار وسعت نداشت، سکونت در هر دوره نشان‌دهندهٔ عملکرد این سکونتگاه به‌عنوان یک مرکز محلی بود که در شبکه‌های تبادل جنوب‌غرب آسیا ارتباط داشت. به‌همین دلیل، کانی‌شائی اهمیت ویژه‌ای در پیوند باستان‌شناسی غرب ایران و دنیای میان‌رودان دارد. در این پژوهش، نتایج کاوش‌های فصل ۲۰۲۴ م. را ارائه می‌دهیم که در آن دو مجموعهٔ معماری چشمگیر مورد بررسی قرار گرفت. اولین مجموعه به آغاز دورهٔ مفرغ قدیم، حدود ۳۰۰۰ پ.م.، پس از فروپاشی شبکهٔ تبادل اوروک تعلق دارد. دومین مجموعه به دورهٔ هلنیستی-پارتی مربوط می‌شود و احتمالاً با گسترش جنوبی پادشاهی آدیابنه مرتبط است.	صص: ۲۲۷-۲۰۳ نوع مقاله: پژوهشی تاریخ دریافت: ۱۴۰۳/۰۸/۲۹ تاریخ بازنگری: ۱۴۰۳/۰۹/۰۳ تاریخ پذیرش: ۱۴۰۳/۰۹/۲۳ تاریخ انتشار: ۱۴۰۳/۰۹/۳۰
کلیدواژگان: کاوش ۲۰۲۴، کانی‌شائی، عصر مفرغ قدیم، هلنیستی-پارتی، هلنیستی.	

ارجاع به مقاله: رنه، استیو؛ تومه، آندره؛ لوئیس، مایکل پی.؛ و عبدالله کریم قادر، زانا، (۱۴۰۳). «گزارش کاوش ۲۰۲۴ در کانی‌شائی: داده‌های جدید دربارهٔ اوایل عصر مفرغ و سکونتگاه‌های هلنیستی-پارتی». *مطالعات باستان‌شناسی*، ۱۶ (۲): ۲۰۳-۲۲۷. <https://doi.org/10.22059/jarcs.2025.388979.143331>

