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### Tall Jalul

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Fig. 46. Square B4 Probe, showing the Upper (Locus 5), and Lower (Locus 10) Pavements, and revetment wall (Locus 13)

## TALL JALUL

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Andrews University

The 2016 and 2017 seasons of excavation at Tall Jalul were conducted in May and June 2016 and June and July 2017 by faculty and students from Andrews University. The excavations were directed by Paul Gregor, along with co-directors Constance Gane and Paul Ray.

Field B, on the eastern edge of the tell, was originally opened in 1992. Two superimposed flagstone pavements were found, with the lower of the two pavements initially dated to the early 9th century B.C., and the upper pavement to the 9th/8th century B.C.

The purpose of these two seasons in Field B was to clarify the stratigraphy between the upper and lower pavements in order to provide a firmer date for their construction. Two large probes were opened in Squares B2 and B6, in 2016, with a third (in B4) in 2017, each supervised by Robert Bates. In two probes (B2 and B4), sections of the upper pavement were removed, and the soil excavated until the lower pavement was found. In the probe in Square B6, the lower pavement was removed, as its upper counterpart had been robbed in antiquity. In each probe, excavation revealed sections of a previously discovered revetment wall.

Due to the optical illusion of working on the side of the slope, and some occasional flat-lying stones, it was thought at the end of the 2016 season that there were at least three phases of



Fig. 47. Square B6 Probe, Jacob Moody, standing on Lower Pavement, operating camera on top of wonder pole with iPad app

pavement on the northern end of Field B. Further south, the probe in Square B6 underneath the lower pavement yielded considerable ceramic finds, but no evidence for additional pavements.

Between seasons it was discovered that the lower pavement, examined in the probes in Squares B2 and 6 were the same, being on a 6.5 degree (11% grade) slope, and that the lower pavement in Square B2 was located 0.40 m below the revetment wall, instead of sealing against it, as in Square B6. With the third pavement idea ruled out, a new probe, in Square B4, was opened in 2017 to help provide answers to this problem.

In the process of excavation, it was discovered that one of the stones of the upper course of the revetment wall was not fully supported by the course below, and was offset laterally, outward by 0.10–0.15 m, only supported by soil and chink stones. When the supporting soil was excavated, it was found that revetment wall changes direction by ca. 10 degrees east, resulting in its passing over the lower pavement in Square B2.

As in Square B6, it was found that the section of the lower pavement in Square B4 seals against the revetment wall, suggesting their contemporaneous construction. It also suggests a later phase of construction, with the revetment wall being diverted from its original path, over, rather than parallel, to the lower pavement in Square B2. The ceramic evidence suggests that the lower flagstone pavement was built in Early Iron II, a date consistent with the material found previously.

Field W was opened in the 2010 season in order to explore the nature and function of a channel and reservoir discovered earlier. Seventeen squares have been opened and excavated between 2010 and 2017, with parts of the eastern, southern, and western walls and the floor of the reservoir exposed. On the basis of the ceramic evidence from where the eastern wall of the reservoir cuts the floors of an earlier building, it would appear that the structure was constructed during the 10th century B.C., with the earliest material on the reservoir floor indicating that it went out of use during the last part of 7th century B.C.