Archaeological Reflections of Identity in the Late Assyrian period Remains at Bestansur, Kurdistan

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Map of the Sulaymaniyah province of Kurdistan, showing the location of Bestansur (map by L. Welton)
Shahrizor Plain (Sulaymaniyah Province) with location of Bestansur (circled in red)
Mound of Bestansur, with locations of Trench 10 and 14
(Image by Lynn Welton)

Trench 14
Exploring Social-Cultural Identities at Bestansur:

**Foodways** - ascertaining food processing and food consumption behaviours through the collection and analyses of animal bones and paleobotanical samples, in combination with study of cooking facilities and pots.

**Pottery Technology** - Technological and microscopic analysis of ceramics, to reconstruct the ways in which specific groups manufactured their pottery and the local and exotic resources they used.

**Built Environment** – “Integrated Approach” which combines access analysis, considerations of non-verbal communication (i.e. information communicated through fixed and semi-fixed features such as walls, doors, hearths and storage jars, and portable artifacts such as furnishings and tools), and visibility analysis (which addresses what can be seen and experienced within a built space), to determine the kinds of movements, social interactions and daily activities carried out in the houses at Bestansur.
Photogrammetry in Trench 14
Photogrammetry in Trench 14
Screen capture of Agisoft Photoscan Professional user interface showing photogrammetric 3D model of Trench 14 (image by Sheri Pak).
Orthophoto of Space 37, Trench 14, Bestansur (image by Sheri Pak)
Orthophotograph of Trench 14
Bestansur (Image by Sheri Pak)
In situ smashed jars in Space 32 (2013)
In situ smashed vessels in Space 32 (2017)
In situ smashed vessels in Space 32 (2013)
In situ smashed vessels in Space 37 (2013)
Pebbled surface found under smashed storage vessel in Space 32
Pebbled surface found under smashed storage vessel in Space 32
Ceramic fragments placed along base of wall in Space 32

Curved fire installation in Space 31
Serving vessels *in situ* in Space 37
Clusters of smashed cooking pots in Space 65
Sasanian period remains on top of earlier Assyrian materials

Clusters of smashed cooking pots in Space 65
Assyrian Empire, 8th-7th Centuries BCE
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