RECENT RESULTS FROM ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT HELAWA, SOUTHWEST ERBIL PLAIN, IRAQI KURDISTAN

AGNESE VACCA - LUCA PEYRONEL - VALENTINA OSELINI
Systematic and Intensive Surface Collection

- **2013 and 2015:** Intensive surface collection
- **2016-2017:** Excavation in Areas B and D
VII MILLENNIUM BC

Hassuna

Halaf

Northern Ubaid

V MilleNNIUM BC

IV MILLENNIUM BC

LC 1-2

LC 3

II MILLENNIUM BC

MB II/LB I

MB-LB pottery distribution on the surface (%)
AREA D: Phase 2 (Mitannian I – LB I)

Phase 3 (Late MB – LB I)

Grey Ware

Late Khabur Ware

98 20

Tot: 118

Area D Helawa

PlainW PKW
Area D – Phases 4.A-B (early LC 3)
Filling of P.1: cartridge cases and a pack of Business Club cigarettes, produced and traded since 1999 (*terminus post quem*).
Area B - Step Trench (East Section, 2016)
Area B - Step Trench
Area B - Phase 2 (late LC 2/LC3 transitional)

Particular of W.3 (Ph. 2.B) which leans against W.4 (Ph. 2.C). From S-E

Particular of W.9 (Ph. 2.B) which covers Ph. 2.C layers. From S.

Particular of W.3 (Ph. 2.B) which leans against W.4 (Ph. 2.C). From S-E

Particular of W.9 (Ph. 2.B) which covers Ph. 2.C layers. From S.
Area B - Phase 2.C (late LC 2/LC3 transitional)
Area B - Phase 2.C: Room L.5 (LC 2 late/LC 3 transitional)

N=140

Closed Shapes 26%
Open shapes 74%

N=103

Gawra B (late LC2) (Rothman 2002: 7: l-f)

Graph showing distribution of Wide Flower Pot, SW bowls, Grey W. bowls, PSW bowls.
Silos S.15 cutting into silos S.29

2016 Excavations - Phase 3 (early/late LC 2)
Atmospheric data from Reimer et al (2013); OxCal v3.10 Bronk Ramsey (2005); cub r:5 sd:12 prob usp[chron]

**LTL17210A : 5289±45BP**

68.2% probability
- 4227BC (13.2%) 4200BC
- 4169BC (37.8%) 4090BC
- 4080BC (17.2%) 4045BC

95.4% probability
- 4240BC (95.4%) 3989BC

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**Dates BC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates BC</th>
<th>Northern Mesopotamia</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5300-4800/4500</td>
<td>Early Ubaid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4800/4500–4200</td>
<td>Late Ubaid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4200–3850</td>
<td>LC 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3850–3600</td>
<td>LC 2 early</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3600–3400</td>
<td>LC 2 late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3400–3100</td>
<td>LC 3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Phase 3 (LC 2) – Silos S.15
Area B - Phase 4 (early LC 2)
Area B - Phase 4: Rooms L.26 and L.30 (early LC 2)
Area B - Phase 5 (LC1/2)
Area B – Phase 6 (Late Ubaid)
Tepe Gawra (Rothman 2001, 2002)

Nineveh (Gut 1995, 2002).
Between the Upper and Lower Zab

**UZGAR: Upper Greater Zab Archaeological Reconnaissance** (Rafal Koliński, University UAM, Poznań)

**EPAS: Erbil Plain Archaeological Survey** (Jason Ur, Harvard University)
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5800–5300</td>
<td>Halaf</td>
<td>Ubaid 2</td>
<td>E. Ubaid</td>
<td>Ninevite 2c</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>5300–4800/4500</td>
<td>Early Ubaid</td>
<td>Ubaid 3</td>
<td>E. Ubaid</td>
<td>XIX-XV</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>c-i</td>
<td>XII-VIII</td>
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<tr>
<td>4800/4500–4200</td>
<td>Late Ubaid</td>
<td>Ubaid 4</td>
<td>L. Ubaid</td>
<td>XIII-XIIIA</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>a-b</td>
<td>VII-VI</td>
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<tr>
<td>4200–3850</td>
<td>LC 1</td>
<td>Post Ubaid</td>
<td>T. Ubaid</td>
<td>XII</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>V-I</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>4200–3850</td>
<td>LC 2 early</td>
<td>Early Uruk</td>
<td>Gawra A</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>XIA/B-XA</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>IV</td>
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<tr>
<td>4200–3850</td>
<td>LC 2 late</td>
<td>Gawra B</td>
<td>Lower Ninevite 3</td>
<td>XA-IX</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>V-I</td>
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<tr>
<td>3850–3600</td>
<td>LC 3</td>
<td>early Middle Uruk</td>
<td>Uruk A</td>
<td>Middle Ninevite 3</td>
<td>VIII</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>3600–3400</td>
<td>LC 4</td>
<td>late Middle Uruk</td>
<td>Uruk B</td>
<td>Upper Ninevite 3</td>
<td>VIII</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>3400–3100</td>
<td>LC 5</td>
<td>Late Uruk</td>
<td>Uruk C</td>
<td>Ninevite 4</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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Ur et al. 2013 Ancient Cities and Landscapes in the Kurdistan region of Iraq: The Erbil Plain Archaeological Survey 2012 Season 1. Iraq 75: 89-117.

Courtesy of J. Ur (EPAS Survey)
Late Chalcolithic 1-3 at Helawa
The growth of early social networks: New geochemical results of obsidian from the Ubaid to Chalcolithic Period in Syria, Iraq and the Gulf

Lamyia Khalidi, Bernard Gratze, Gil Stein, G Salm Al-Quntar, Robert Carter, Richard Cutler, Philipp Drechsler, Elizabeth Healey, Marie-Louise Izuzun, Damien Mouallil, Ernst Pernicka, Ame-Kyla Robin

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Obsidian sources in the Near East: Evidence from the Ubaid to Chalcolithic periods in Mesopotamia and Syria


In bold, archeological sites with obsidian artifacts studied in this paper

Peak of obsidian imports in Southern Mesopotamia (Pollock 2001:181-231)
Old Babylonian - Mittanian period at Helawa
Old Babylonian - Mittanian period in the Erbil Plain

Kurd Qaburstan - Late Bronze Age structures (Schwartz 2017)
Special thanks to the **General Directorate of Antiquities** of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and to the **State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH)** in Baghdad.

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