

“THE TELL MADABA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT, 2000-2001”

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ABSTRACT

The Tell Madaba Archaeological Project (TMAP) represents part of an ongoing regional research effort investigating the range of adaptive strategies and social institutions developed by early urban communities in the Highlands of Central Jordan. The Tell Madaba excavations were initiated specifically to gather archaeological data from the presumed urban center of a regional settlement network for comparison with data sets from comparable contexts (e.g. domestic/residential, administrative/public, etc.) at rural sites in the region. The 2000 field season marked the completion of Phase I of the project, and provides an opportunity to assess the results achieved to date. Preliminary analysis of settlement pattern data and the artifact record suggest a persistent pattern of low-level integration and autonomous development, rather than the centralized, hierarchical urban landscape typically assumed. This paper will present the results of the Phase I excavations, and will explore their implications within the context of the broader research objectives of the project.