

Table 15. Key micromorphological attributes characteristic of different horizontal context types, sorted by context type at Tell Brak.

Outside buildings Context type	Associated features	Surface/floor	Impact	Occupation deposits	% plants	% bone	Post-depositional alterations	Site reference and sample number
Open area	1-2)ovens	1) aggregate hard core with refuse wedged into interstices 2) orange brown silt loam plaster with heterogeneous anthropogenic inclusions 3)compacted sediments	dislodged aggregates from underlying surfaces	1) periodic accumulation of burnt aggregates; rich plant remains including charred and siliceous Gramineae with cereal grains, ?tubers, charred dung with spherulites; sparse bone; stone bowl and grindstone fragments. 2) yellowish brown organo-mineral deposits 3) burnt and unburnt aggregates; diverse charred woody plant remains; ash; charred bone; pottery 4) similar to (3) with grindstone fragments	1) 7-65 + 23 dung 2) 3) 33 +15 dung 4) 25 + 7 dung	1) 5 2) 1 3) 5 4) 2	1-4) reprecipitated salts (often extensive), some bioturbation 2) soil faunal pellets in organo-mineral lenses 4) extensive bioturbation, microaggregated and poorly preserved	1) HS4.2 (356-7, 301 F:) 2) HF1 (355) 3) HN (359) 4) HN (360)

Within buildings Context type	Associated features	Surface/floor	Impact	Occupation deposits	% plants	% bone	Post-depositional alterations	Site Area, TS no. Flot no
Room-entrance	1) few or no prepared surfaces	2) brown silt loam plaster with microcontrasted particles		1) aggregates of building materials and pseudomorphic vegetal voids 2) multiple layers 5-10mm thick with moderate-strong parallel orientation: microaggregated windlaid deposits; water laid crusts; trampled deposits with vegetal voids	1) 3	1) 2 2)	Some salts and bioturbation	1) HS5 (402; F 540) 2) HF1 (352)
Room-domestic	ovens or food preparation facilities	1) brown silt loam with heterogeneous anthropogenic inclusions and vegetal voids	sub-horizontal cracks and dislodged aggregates from trampling	1) charred and ?processed plant remains; orange organic staining; water-laid crust 4mm thick 2) burnt and unburnt aggregates; charred plant remains including ?tubers and cereal grains		1	extensive bioturbation including soil faunal pellets in foundation and collapse layers	1) HF1 (351, F-) 2) HF1 (347, F8006)
Room-?storage	whole pots	1) poorly pugged brown silt loam with heterogeneous anthropogenic inclusions		moderate parallel orientation: burnt aggregates, well preserved siliceous Gramineae, ash, ?dung		0	salts and microbial filaments silty clay coating of large channel in layer of collapsed debris	HS4.2 (325, F1185)
Room-sitting/sleeping		1) pale brown silt loam with white plaster finishing coat <0.5 mm thick		sparse thin lenses with flecks of charred plant remains		1	extensive reprecipitation of salts in channels and chambers; wind laid deposits on top of last floor	1) HF1 (348, F:8012)
Room-?ritual	1) benches	1) multiple couplets of preparatory pale brown silt loam and finishing coat of orange silty clay loam 2)	1) ?truncated upper surfaces and occasional lenses of fine silt with fibrous impressions compacted ?below mats 0.2-0.5mm thick	1) Few microscopic residues of activities, one layer of sparse fine bone fragments		2	bioturbation of lens with fine bone fragments	1) HF1 (353, F8025)
?Covered area-ritual	child burial + stake holes	1) complex sequence of multiple discontinuous brown, orange and white plasters		1) lower sequence: pale yellowish brown organic mineral deposits 0.5-1mm thick with fibrous voids; 2) upper sequence: silt loam with charred flecks, 0.5-1mm thick 3) lenses of ash		1		1) HF1 (354, 8020, 8025)
Room-ritual	Altar	well prepared orange silty clay loam plasters with white plaster finishing coats	1b) pale brown silt lens 0.5mm thick, occasionally compacted ?below mats 2) some areas show signs of slight truncation	1) occasional lenses a) dust, vegetal voids b) organic staining 2) flecks of charred 'soot-like' and siliceous plant remains and burnt and unburnt aggregates on last plaster floor		1	Sparse salts and bioturbation	HS4.2 (323, 327, 411, 413, 415, 416, 417 all flotation samples in temple)