



ÇATALHÖYÜK 2007 ARCHIVE REPORT
Çatalhöyük Research Project



**The excavations of the TP (Team Poznań) Area in the 2007 season / 2007
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Introduction

Work in the TP Area commenced on June 21 and was completed on July 24. This year the team was made of fifteen archaeologists and students of the Institute of Prehistory, University of Poznań and Institute of Archaeology, University of Gdańsk. Initially sandbags were removed to expose the top of the archaeological horizon, which were planned during the 2006 season.

After trowelling the area clean it was decided to start by excavating the western part of an extension trench 5 by 10 meters in a strip between the main TP trench excavated in previous seasons, and the east trench dug by Mellaart in the 1960s. Additionally, excavation further started in the eastern part of the Mellaart trenches to record and plan the underlying archaeological deposits not excavated in the 1960s campaign.

The previous excavation seasons resulted in a complete recognition and excavation of the earliest phase of the Neolithic occupation of the mound dated back to Levels 0-II. Hence, the main aim of this year season was to investigate various structures placed underneath these latest Neolithic deposits and to bring these into phase with the main trench excavated in previous seasons. This would allow a better understanding of the architecture and use of space in the late Neolithic, and reveal similarities and differences from the earlier Levels.

Another objective of this year season was to correlate TP plans with those studied in the 1960s to be able to relate excavated Neolithic structures with the Mellaart chronological scheme. This goal was satisfactorily achieved by analysing a sequence of mudbrick walls at the western edge of the excavated area. These were further recognised on the Mellaart plans from his 'Anatolian Studies' report published in 1962. They were identified as originated from phase I and II.

In overall, this year season brought about incomplete excavation of a sequence of two Buildings 72 and & 74 and some kind of the occupation area placed to the north of this structures. The comprised also fragments of destroyed Building 73, itself placed directly underneath Buildings 61 and 62, excavated in the 2006 season. The major element of the sequence comprised midden deposits as well as elements of yet unspecified occupation episode represented by fire installations.

This sequence located in northern part of the extension trench and varied considerably from the stratigraphic situation in its southern section as represented by Spaces 318 and 321. Relations between these two sequences are to be further examined in the next season.

Plans for the next season will be to continue in the same zones of the TP trench and will focus on completing excavation of all building and spaces exposed this year. It will also aim at analysing and reconsidering the stratigraphic relationships between midden deposits and the roof excavated in the 2004 season and the architectural elements discovered this year in order to understand the complexity of the late Neolithic sequence in the part of the mound.

Giriş

Bundan önceki kazı sezonları Neolitik höyüğe ait Tabaka 0-1 gibi en üst evreleri anlamaya yönelik olmuştur. Bu sezonun en önemli amacı ise bu üst evrelere ait Neolitik tabakaların altında yer alan yapıları araştırmak ve bu tabakayı bir önceki kazılan sezondaki seviyeye eşit duruma getirmektir. Bu geç Neolitik'e ait mimariyi ve alan kullanımını anlamamıza yardımcı olduğu gibi, daha geç dönemlere ait evrelerle olan benzerlikleri ve farklılıkları ortaya çıkarmamıza yardımcı olacaktır.

Bu yılın bir diğer amacı da 1960 larda Mellaart'ın kazılarında elde edilen Neolitik evlerin kronolojik olarak sıralanmış planları ile TP planlarını karşılaştırmak idi. Bu hedef kazı yapılan alanın batı kıyısındaki bir kerpiç tuğla serisinin analizini yaparak başarılı bir şekilde gerçekleştirildi. Bunlar daha sonra Mellaart'ın 1962 yılında 'Anatolian Studies' de yayınlanan makalesindeki planlarla da karşılaştırıldı. Bunların Tabaka I ve II den geldikleri belirlendi.

Genel olarak bu sezonda Bina 72 ve 74'ün kazılarının bir kısmı gerçekleştirilmiş ve bu yapıların kuzeyinde de bir yapı tespit edilmiştir. Burası ayrıca Bina 61 ve 62'nin hemen altında yer alan 2006 sezonunda kazılmış olan Bina 73'ten parçaları da kapsamaktadır. Bu dizinin ana unsurunu çöplük tabakaları ve daha tam tanımlanmamış olan ocak tipi üniteler oluşturmaktadır.

Bu dizinin genişletilmiş açmanın kuzey kısmında yer almakta ve açmanın güney profilini belirleyen Alan 318 ve 321'in tabakalanması ile ilgili olarak çeşitlilik göstermektedir. Bu iki dizinin arasındaki ilişki gelecek sezonda açığa çıkacaktır.

Bir dahaki sezonda da TP'nin aynı alanlarında çalışmalar devam edecek ve bu sene ortaya çıkarılan bütün Bina ve Alanlarda kazılar tamamlanmaya çalışılacaktır. Bununla birlikte, çöplük alanları, 2004 yılında kazılan çatı kalıntıları ile bu sene ortaya çıkarılan mimari yapıların arasındaki ilişki anlaşılmasına çalışılıp geç Neolitik'in karmaşık yapılması alanının bir kısmında ortaya çıkarılmaya çalışılacaktır.

Building 72

Building 72 is placed in the central part of the excavated area. The internal size and the layout of the walls is different from buildings in earlier phases of the East mound occupation. It is composed of two rooms – the western recorded as Space 323 (Figure 69) and the eastern one as Space 324. The main internal part of the building consisted of an elongated rectangular shape measuring 1.8-2.0 m N-S and 5.9-6.0 m E-W. B.72 was built directly above B.74 reusing some of their walls.



Figure 69.: Building 72, Space 323. Infill layer

The walls of Building 72 consisted of walls (15225; 13579; and 13578, 13067 & 13581), respectively forming the northern, western and southern walls of the structure with probably re-used the younger wall (15214) comprising the arrangement of walls how to the north. Despite the confusion about the walls sequence, in particular its northern part, it is clear that the internal size and the layout of the walls of Building 72 was different than the earlier structures.

The internal layout of the building was very simple with no platforms, benches, bins or other kind of features. The floors comprised a thin greyish plaster surfaces (Figure 70) laid over make up deposits mixed up with a large number of pebbles and numerous fragments of earlier solid floor. It is worth noting that this make up differed considerably from the make up of B.62 and B.61 (see Archive Report of the 2006 season) as pebbles are of different colour and size as compared with a very standardised pebble material in the latter structures. Solid fragments of earlier floor with a well-preserved surface c. 5-7 cm thick were placed horizontally, vertically and diagonally in the make up layer (Figure 71). In any case, the floor of B.72 is very thin and poorly preserved, albeit clearly discernible, which implies its short use. Accordingly, B. 72 may have been used only temporarily.



Figure70: Building 72, Space 324. Floor

Two deep postholes (F.2857 & F.2858) were placed against the southern wall of the building. The posts may have been used to support some kind of a light roof of the building.

It is worth noting that a small fragment of wall from B.61/62, dated tentatively to Level I, was placed in NE corner of B.72. This unequivocally implies that B.72 is younger than B.61/62 and can be dated to Level II.



Figure 71: Building 72, Space 323. Fragments of older floor in the make up layer

Building 74

Building 74 was located directly underneath B.72. Similarly as B.72, the internal size and the layout of the walls was different from earlier buildings. It was composed of two rooms – the western room recorded as Space 325 and the eastern one recorded as Space 326. The main internal part of the building consisted of an elongated rectangular shape measuring 1.8-2.0 m N-S and 5.9-6.0 m E-W. The walls of Building 74 consisted of walls (13579; 13586 & 13096; 15214; 15819, 15225 & 15527), respectively forming the western, southern, eastern, and northern walls of the structure.



Figure 72: Building 74, Space 325. Floor with cluster of stones

A partition wall (15298) divided the internal space into two rooms and it was probably built during later reconstruction of B.74. Space 325 (Figure 72) was probably the main part of the building and had a regular rectangular shape measuring 2.50 m E-W and 1.60-1.70 m N-S. Space 326 (Figure 73) located in eastern part of the building was a side room of a regular rectangular shape measuring 3.20 E-W and 1.60 m N-S.

The internal layout of the space was very simple with no platforms, benches, bins and other kind of features. The floor comprised a thin greyish plaster surfaces. Deliberately placed animal bones, forming some kind of installation, were found on the floor of Space 325. Altogether, five completely preserved cattle mandibles were deposited on the floor (Figure 74) - two of them in N part of the space, two more in its W part and one in NE section of the floor. Additionally, two completely preserved cattle scapulae in relation to one cattle rib was found in central-northern part of the floor. A cluster of small stones comprised also a part of the deposit. This deliberate deposit may have been associated with yet unspecified burial practice performed in the room. It seems as if all cattle bones were placed on the floor in relation to some kind of abandonment rituals/activities and possibly a burial. This deposit resembles similar installations found during earlier excavation seasons, e.g. scapularium in B.3 excavated in the BACH Area.



Figure 73: Building 74, Space 326. Floor

Both rooms were originally connected by some kind of a crawlhole in the northern part of the partition wall. This was later intentionally blocked as seen by blocking facing from Space 326. As yet, its purpose remains unclear. One may presume that this rendering applied over an obvious blocking in relation to sealing off all deposits in Space 325 when the room went out of use.



Figure 74: Building 74, Space 325. Cattle mandible

Space 326 comprised eastern room of B.74. Interestingly, there was an entrance to this space, and the building, at the floor level. This entrance was made by cutting off a solid southern double wall. The southern part of a double wall (13088) was probably older than the space itself and should be dated to the earlier phase of the mound occupation. Similarly to Space 325, the internal layout of Space 326 was very simple with no platforms, benches, bins and other kind of features. Its floor comprised a thin greyish plaster surfaces and it was almost completely devoid of any objects. Only one antler was found in its western part. It was considerably destroyed and deliberately truncated at the base. A relatively big lump of red pigment was also found on the floor. It may have been used for the wall painting.

Stratigraphic analysis of buildings and an intra-feature development across this part of the mound implies that B. 74 is to be dated to Level III.

While the excavation of the building is not yet complete, no further details of its use are available at this moment. The excavations of the building will be completed in the 2008 season.

Space 320 & 327 Sequence



Figure 75.: Space 320. Floor

Space 320 was placed in NE part of the excavated area and belonged to yet unspecified occupation level (Figure 75). It may have been somehow related to B.62, however stratigraphic relations between them are not clear at this stage of analysis. It was occupied in two subsequent episodes as marked by two floor surfaces. Later (15271) and earlier (15268) floors comprised a thin plaster surfaces laid over make up deposits. Earlier floor was divided into the N and S parts by a small partition

wall (15270). Two yet unspecified fire installations were associated with this earlier floor, including probably a small domed oven (F.2854).

The space was badly truncated by later occupation episodes. Its northern part was truncated by a large Hellenistic pit, a result of which was that the later floor and fragments of the earlier floor were completely destroyed. The southern part of the space was completely truncated by a later burial cut, probably Byzantine in date. Hence, the size of the building cannot be specified.



Figure 76: Building 74, Space 327. Infill and human burial (15838)

Space 327 was placed directly underneath the southern part of Space 320, however the layout of both structures differs considerably (Figure 76). Hence, the former cannot certainly be regarded as a direct continuation of the latter. The main internal part of the space consisted of an elongated rectangular shape measuring 1.90 m N-S and 1.10 m E-W. The walls of Space 327 consisted of the walls (15270, 15830; 13524, 13592; 15863; and 15856), respectively forming the northern, western, southern, and eastern walls of the structure. The latter wall came originally from a yet unspecified earlier building. Human burial (15838) was found against the eastern wall in one of the infill deposits. It will be excavated in the next field season.

The western wall of the space along with western fragments of the northern and southern walls were decorated by incised geometric spiral motifs (Figure 77). The

entire decoration had a form of rectangular panel. The motifs have probably been carved out by a bone.



The southern wall (15863) of Space 327 bonded to the northern wall (15227) of Space 326, B.74 in its eastern part. Probably shortly after the wall (15863) was constructed, these two rooms got connected by making a kind of doorway in the wall (15227). A small step (15862) was constructed in the doorway from the Space 326 side (Figure 78). After some time, the doorway got blocked deliberately as seen by courses of bricks in upper part of the wall (15863). An obvious blocking into Space 327 is also well attested in the eastern part of the wall of Space 326 (15227). At the same time, a kind of wall construction was built up on top of the step (15861) originally leading to Space 327.

A doorway between Space 327 and Space 326 of B.74 implies that Space 327 comprised an integral part of this building, and its construction was probably associated with one of the latest episodes of its occupation. The area of wall blocking was not removed during this year's excavation and will be excavated in the 2008 season.

Doorway blocking implies also that Space 327 went out of use at some stage while the occupation of Space 326 probably continued. It is not at all clear whether Space 325, as described above, went out of use at the same time. Another important question remains whether Spaces 325 & 327 were originally built as dwelling structures and later used as burial chambers (assuming our initial interpretation will be confirmed later) or they served mortuary purposes from the moment of their construction. If the latter hypothesis is correct, the incised panel with spiral motifs was originally set to be a decoration of some kind of tomb. The other possibility may be that Space 327 was built to serve similar purpose to Space 325 when the latter went out of use.

The excavation of the space has not yet been completed, including infill deposits, burials and the floor. The excavations of the space will constitute one of the major objectives of the 2008 excavation season.

Building 73 and adjacent deposits

This year season brought about also excavations of the sequence of occupation deposits discovered underneath Building 62 floor and partly excavated in 2006.



Figure 78: Building 74, Space 326. Step (15862) in the doorway to Space 327.

Building 73 was placed in the northern part of the excavated area in the place later used for the construction of B.62. The internal size and the layout of the walls was impossible to define due to a considerable destruction by a number of later occupation episodes. Additionally, the northern wall of the building is placed outside excavated area. Due to this destruction, it is also not at all clear whether the north wall of B.74 may have been at the same the south wall of B.73. The only preserved elements of the building comprised a fragment of floor (13532) and platform (13533) (Figure 79). The platform was arranged along the eastern wall of the building. The only feature associated with the floor (13532) was a small oven (?) (F.2867) or some kind of fire installation placed in its eastern part in a close proximity to the platform (13533).

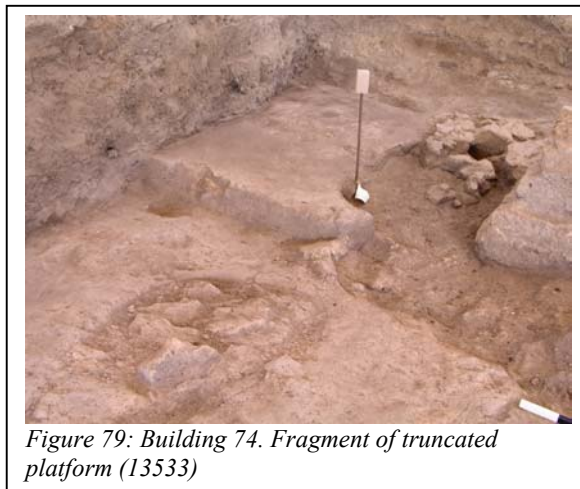


Figure 79: Building 74. Fragment of truncated platform (13533)

Stratigraphic relations to other structures remain unclear. However, B.73 may have been somehow contemporary with B.72, or alternatively it may have been a part of this building. Another possibility is that B.73 may have been a kind of external space, possibly a courtyard between rooms of B.74 from the south (Spaces 325 & 326) and from the east (Space 327). Interestingly, no fire installation was found in any of the Spaces of B.74 (325, 326 & 327). However, this scenario is not

corroborated by the placement of the doorway in the opposite side of the wall to the supposed courtyard. Whatever the real arrangement was, it seems as if B.73 & B.74 were contemporary.

B.73 was later deliberately destroyed. The floor was truncated in its southern and eastern parts to the level well below the floor and later filled in by a sequence of later deposits. These comprised pretty homogenous midden layers rich with organic material and numerous inclusions. The most uppermost sequence of deposits

excavated this year comprised rubble of constructional elements (13531) that was dumped on a midden. Subsequent units were distinguished by differentiated concentration of constructional material (15234, 15236, 15281, 15282, 15279, 15275, 15289 & 15821). In particular, a row of single mudbricks, some of them completely preserved, were dumped along the northern wall of Space 323 (15225). It may have been associated with destruction of the wall of B.74, which means this layer post-dated occupation of the building. As in the upper levels of the sequence, its lower segments were composed of infill, destructional and midden-like deposits, which degree of homogeneity varied considerably. No floor remains were discovered.

A formation of this solid and thick midden deposits has not yet been specified. It may have been formed during occupation of B.72. In any case, it was certainly formed after a deliberate destruction of B.74 as seen e.g. by a considerable truncation of its northern and southern walls. In any case, this midden is a part of the large midden deposit placed underneath N-S walls (see below) between the TP and the Mellaart Areas. At the same time, the midden was also placed on preserved fragments of the floor (13532) of B.73, which means the building is older than the formation of the midden. Stratigraphic position of the midden implies that is to be dated to Level II, which means that B.73 can be dated to Level III or IV.



Figure 80: Space 318. Space & entrance to B. 74

The only features within the midden deposits that may have been associated with some form of occupation of this part of the mound were fire installations (15278) and (15845). Both were placed in central part of the midden. A complete pot was found under the midden (15282), which should post-date Level III and be close to Level II.

The floor (13532) and particularly the platform (13533) of B.73 were deliberately truncated in the

eastern part of the building. As I argued earlier, both floors of B.73 and B.74 were roughly contemporary, at least during initial period of their occupation. The platform went then out of use while B.74 continued to be occupied. Abandonment of B.73 may have been linked with construction of the walls of Space 327 (15270, 15830; 13524, 13592; 15863), which itself was placed in the southern part of previously existing platform of B.73 and comprised probably an integral part of B.74 (see above).

Space 318

Space 318 was placed directly to the south of walls of B.72 and B.74 (Figure 80). Its internal part consisted of an elongated rectangular shape measuring 0.6 – 0.7 m N-S and 6,0 m E-W. The walls of Space 318 consisted of the walls (13059, 13088; 13089; and 13093, 13538) respectively forming from the northern, eastern, and southern walls of the structure. No wall was preserved from the western side.

The space was distinguished by two parallel walls, rather than its internal layout or features. Hence, the space may be some kind of artificial entity which function differed through time. The space was originally filled in by midden deposits. The lowest layers exposed this year comprised black and brown homogenous midden with a lot of organic material and a large number of ground stones. The uppermost part of the space comprised a kind of passage between the walls distinguished by fragments of a solid tramped surface/floor. It was clearly discontinuous, it means not all deposits were preserved. The passage was probably in use along with the doorway, originally belonging to B.74, now reused to link it with B.72. This floor/tramped surface laid over a make up layer, probably put up intentionally to level and consolidate the passage surface. Transversely placed bricks making some sort of a partition wall (13094) were aimed at dividing the space into two part and were clearly older than the passage itself. Three deep postholes (F.1946, F.1947 & F.1948) were placed against the southern and the northern walls of the building. The posts may have been used to support some kind of a light roof of the space. A large antler was placed deliberately in some sort of niche cut off in the eastern wall of the space. Relationship of this deposit to two long W-E walls of the space remains unrecognised and its significance unexplained at this stage.

Considering that both the N and S walls are probably dated to Level III – the midden deposit should probably be dated to Level II and the passage even later.

The excavation of the space has not yet been completed and it will be continued in the 2008 excavation season.

Space 321



Figure 81: Space 321. Infill

Work this year season continued also to a limited degree in the southern part of the TP trench. The internal size and the layout of the walls were impossible to define due to a considerable destruction by later occupation episodes. Additionally, the entire southern part of the space is placed outside the excavated area. At least two phases of occupation can be distinguished as revealed by presence of partition walls (13597, 13598) (Figure 81).

While the excavation of the space has not yet been completed, no further details are available at this moment. The excavations in this part of the trench will be completed in the 2008 season.

Some remarks on the stratigraphy between the TP and the Mellaart Areas

This year season brought about a careful examination of stratigraphy in the west section of the extension trench, directly between the TP Area and the Mellaart trenches from the 1960s. This refers to two parallel and N-S oriented walls placed in this area. Both of them comprised the western part of B.61 in different phases of its occupation. The outer wall (12229) dated by Mellaart to Level I while the inner one

(11583) to Level II. The former wall was made of dark brown mudbricks while the latter was constructed of brown & light brown bricks. A relative chronology of these walls was established as a result of re-analysis of the Mellaart's plans in 2005. These walls were not excavated in the 2007 season.

The wall (11583) was placed on a thick midden deposit mixed up with a number of constructional elements. The midden appears to be pretty substantive and deposited over a long period of time. Consequently, the wall was probably built after hiatus during which this area was not occupied and served as a dumping area, presumably of neighbouring houses.

Wall (12229) comprised probably the eastern wall of house II A3 (?) excavated by Mellaart in the 1960s. It appears that it was not exposed and excavated during this excavation campaign. Consequently, it does not appear on the plans published in Mellaart's article in 'Anatolian Studies'. This wall was also placed on the midden deposit made of thin and numerous striations and containing a huge amount of burnt soil, charcoal and organic material. Interestingly, this midden deposit was certainly later than the wall (11583) as it was sitting against it. Interestingly, the wall (11583) itself was located directly on yet another midden deposit. Hence, we are dealing with a sequence of two midden deposits placed one on top of the other. The midden underneath the wall (12229) can be dated to the pre-Level I, while the midden underneath the wall (11583) is to be dated to the pre-Level II. Furthermore, the midden underneath the wall (11583) was deposited on the floor (13532) of B.73 (see above). It means that this floor was older than the midden from the pre-Level II, which corroborates that the Building 73 is to be dated to Level III.

Summary

Work for the next season will continue in the same zones of the TP trench and will mainly aim to the completion excavating B.74 along with its three parts (Space 325, 326 & 327) as well as excavation of the late Neolithic structures in the northern and the southern part of the TP Area. The 2008 season will also aim at analysing and reconsidering stratigraphic relationships between midden deposits and the 'roof' excavated in the 2004 season as well as architectural elements discovered in the last two years in order to understand a complexity of the late Neolithic occupation in the part of the mound. The works will also continue in the western part of the trench with the aim to better understand and relate excavated Neolithic structures with those excavated by Mellaart in the 1960s.