

# ÇATALHÖYÜK 2013 ARCHIVE REPORT

## ÇATALHÖYÜK RESEARCH PROJECT



#### 4. The excavations of the TPC Area in the 2013 season

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Last year's season brought about the beginning of field work in the previously unexcavated area located in SW slope of the southern prominence of Çatalhöyük East. The trench was opened between two previously excavated and systematically studied areas, namely the South Area and TP Area (Fig. 4.1). This new excavation zone was named the TP Connection Area (TPC). The ultimate goal of this new project is to connect the stratigraphy in the TP Area, excavated in the years 2001-2008, with the main stratigraphic sequence in the South. The corresponding goal comprises the recognition of architecture, burial practice, pottery and obsidian manufacture and use, subsistence, landscape use, etc. in the period between the end of the South sequence (Building 10 in South – T) and the beginning of the TP sequence (Building 81 in TP-M) (see more Marciniak *et al.* 2012).

Works in the early levels of the settlement in the South Area revealed that the neighbourhood community was a major organizing principle of society in the classic phase of mound occupation. It was indicated by the salience of clustered houses and by the asymmetric distribution of sub-floor burials between them. Some houses in these early levels had a dominant position in terms of access to ancestors and religious paraphernalia and performance (compare Bar Yosef 1989; Cauvin 1994; Hauptmann 2002; Özdoğan and Özdoğan 1998), but they did not convert this predominant position into the control of storage, resources, exchange or production. These houses were integrated into larger neighbourhood associations involving economic pooling. Interestingly, in the upper levels of the South area, there was less direct continuity as houses were rebuilt, and the pace of rebuilding quickened. These shifts in site formation anticipated substantial changes revealed in the uppermost levels of the East mound in the TP Area.

Excavation results from the upper Late Neolithic strata (c. 6300 – 6000 cal BC) in the TP Area, revealed considerable differences in material culture indicating significant social and economic transformations of the local community towards the end of the Neolithic (Marciniak, Czerniak 2007). A residential pattern emerged with less densely-packed clusters of households and increasing amounts of open space (Düring 2005; Düring & Marciniak 2006, Marciniak 2008), and an apparent decrease in the importance of building continuity (Düring 2001). The inhabitants began to control storage and production. The overall context of the process, its mechanisms, pace, and consequences have not been investigated to date.

Excavations in the TPC Area are carried out in four new trenches. Trench 1 is 5 x 5 m and is located directly to the south of the Mellaart Area A. Trench 2 is placed directly south of Trench 1 and its overall dimension is 5 x 6 m. Trench 3 is located in the southern part of TPC Area, as close as possible to the South shelter's southeastern corner and its eastern edge, where Building 10 and several associated exterior spaces were excavated in past years (Kotsakis 1996, 1997; Jonsson 2003;

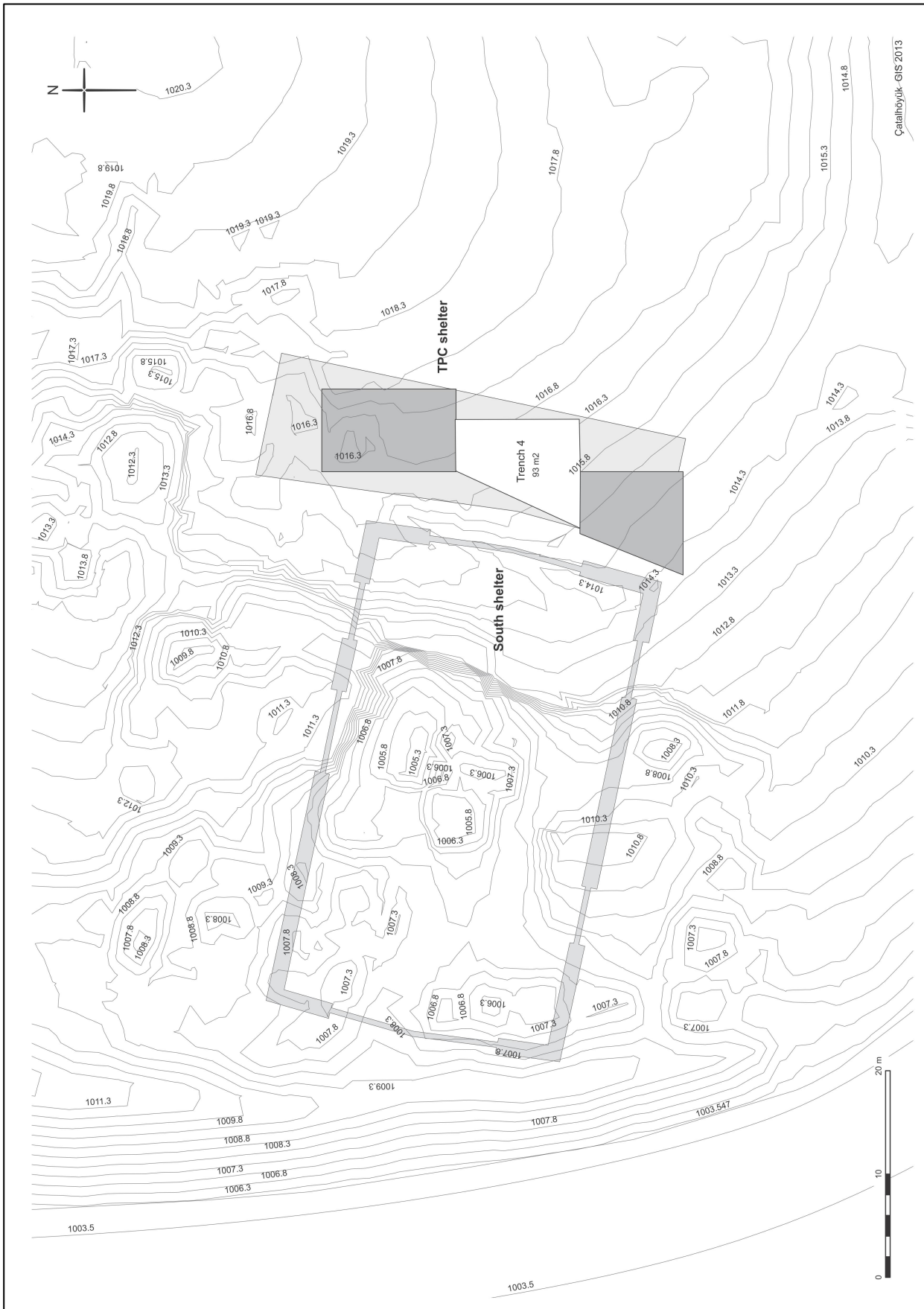


Figure 4.1. The extent of the TPC trenches. Plan: Camilla Mazzucato

Regan 2004). It is quadrilateral in shape with southern and eastern edges being 10 m long and the northern edge measuring 6 m in length. Trench 4, measuring ca. 8 x 6 m and is located in between these two sections of TPC Area. The works in the first two excavation seasons were carried out in Trenches 1 & 2 and 3, while Trench 4 will only be excavated in the coming years.

The excavations carried out in the past two seasons made it possible to reveal a sequence of Neolithic buildings and features in all three excavated trenches in addition to numerous post-Neolithic deposits. Altogether, remains of four Neolithic buildings in trenches 1 & 2, and two in trench 3, have been revealed to date. In the former contexts the two uppermost structures – B. 109 and 115 have been badly destroyed, while earlier B. 110 and 121 are considerably well preserved. Neolithic buildings B. 122 and Sp. 520 from Trench 3 are preserved in a relatively good shape.

## Results of the excavations in Trenches 1 & 2

### The Neolithic sequence



Figure 4.2. 3D model of B. 121. Model: Jason Quinlan

Since Trenches 1 & 2 are connected, and different structures are placed in both of them, it is justified to discuss the results of this year's works in one section. The works in the past two seasons made it possible to reveal and analyze a distinct and coherent sequence of a number of superimposed Neolithic houses and adjacent features and layers possible.

The oldest structure discovered to date in this part of the TPC Area is Building 121 (Fig. 4.2). It is a relatively large structure with a suite of in-built structures and complex history of occupation. As the works in this building have not yet been completed, only a tentative interpretation of the discovered deposits is possible at this point. This is further complicated as the building is only partly preserved as it has been badly truncated by later occupation activities. As indicated by one

radiocarbon date from the in-built hearth available at present, the building is dated back to ca. 6400-62250 cal BC.

Only two walls of the building are placed in Trench 2, while the remaining two are located outside its perimeters, the western one probably very close beyond the edge of the trench. The eastern and



Figure 4.3. The painted eastern wall of B.121. Photography: Jason Quinlan

northern walls were identified and exposed. The eastern wall (F. 7160) has been plastered and painted. Black and white geometric designs, in the form of vertical and transverse sets of parallel lines, were identified, uncovered and protected (Fig. 4.3). The northern wall (F. 7187) was also plastered and painted, probably throughout its entire length. However, the character of the decoration remains unknown: the wall was almost completely torn down by the large post-Neolithic truncation (Space 507), which destroyed a large section of the Neolithic deposits between Trench 1 and 2 (see below). Numerous fragments of plaster and paint found in the W part of the building may indicate that the western wall might have also been painted.

A sequence made of floor, three subsequently built platforms, hearth and bin has already been revealed but left largely unexcavated in the current excavation season. The floor was solidly made and easily distinguishable. The color and fabric seem to imply its division onto the northern 'clean' (30861) and southern 'dirty' (30818) parts, the pattern typical for the classic phase of the settlement occupation. This distinction is further corroborated by the character of deposits placed directly on the floor. The 'dirty' infill (30858) from the south, as compared with its northern 'clean' counterpart (30805, 30821), contained a large amount of phytoliths: possibly the remains of reeds which had been strewn on the floor. This deposit was also particularly rich in charcoal. Several features on the floor of B. 121 have been identified and recorded. A relatively large fire installation (F.7250) was placed in its center. It is rectangular in shape and had thick, raised and

plastered walls. It is the only feature of B. 121 that was partially excavated in the 2013 season. Its infill was made of two distinct layers. The one to the east was composed of a number of burnt striations, full of phytoliths, seeds, charcoal and dung (30842). At the same time, its western part comprised of layered brown and partly burnt layer (30843). Its stratigraphical position in relation to the building use is currently uncertain. However, the hearth seems to be sitting on the yet another layer of older floor which is visible in the section of one of the later pits (F. 7189). Another interesting feature exposed on the floor of B. 121 is a small circular bin with plastered, concave walls (F. 7193) placed directly against its northern wall (F. 7187).

Altogether, five platforms were identified and exposed in different parts of the building. They were not contemporaneous and are indicative of subsequent reconstructions of its space. Three platforms (F.7192, F.7251, & F.7254) are placed in the eastern part of B. 121, while the remaining two (F. 7258 & F. 7259) in its western section. The latter are poorly preserved due to a significant destruction by the later pit cut (F. 7189).

The first three platforms were built against the eastern wall of the building with impressive geometric painting (F. 7160). The platform in the NE corner of the Building (F. 7192) is the most distinct, solidly constructed, well preserved and has a plastered whitish surface. It has also a shallow but distinct depression that is probably indicative of burials. Further to the south was another platform (F.7251). It was badly destroyed and only its small southern section got preserved. The cut has already been recognized at the top infill layer, which implies it was made after the building was abandoned and its interior backfilled. However, it has to be noticed that the cut was clearly discernible in the subsequent to infill layers. In any case, this was certainly a deliberate truncation, which character is difficult to specify. It may have been linked to the skull retrieving practice. A small pit was dug onto the platform (F. 7251) abutting the building's eastern wall. It has not yet been excavated. It appears to be a posthole placed against the richly decorated wall with geometric motifs. Its location is quite uncommon as it is placed on the platform and abuts the most decorative wall.

The third platform (F.7254) in the eastern part of B. 121 was placed between the truncated platform (F. 7251) from the south and later platform in NE corner of the Building (F. 7192). It was clearly built after platform F. 7251 got truncated. More likely, it was deliberately constructed in the place in which the older platform F. 7251 was placed. Hence, it is probably not surprising that it looks different than the two adjacent and later platforms (F. 7251 & F. 7192). It appears to be built on a make up, itself made of small stones/pebbles. The surface is very thin and was only preserved in small fragments/patches. Overall, this kind of construction is reminiscent of a floor, similar to B61 and B81 in the TP Area (Marciniak & Czerniak 2012).

Building 121 was probably deliberately abandoned and backfilled. This is indicated by its standing walls as well as a sequence of fill layers deposited directly on its floor (Space 514). A large antler was found in one of them (30779), in a close proximity to the plastered northern wall. It was probably an element of the building decorations, which was dismantled during its deliberate abandonment. Interestingly, shortly after its abandonment, the building was possibly temporarily used as indicated by the presence of a fire spot and two adjacent pits of unspecified character placed firmly in the building fill.

The large part of Trench 2 was considerably destroyed following the abandonment of B. 121 (see below). Probably already in the Neolithic (as implied by a lack of late pottery), its western and southern parts of B. 121 were destroyed by two pits: F. 7255 – from the south and F. 7189 – from the west. The very NE corner of B. 121 was also destroyed by a small and deep pit (F.7169). In the following period, the SE corner of the Building was further destroyed by a large pre-Hellenistic truncation, located against E edge of the trench. Building 121 was then badly destroyed after the end of the Neolithic, as manifested by huge deliberate cuts (Space 507 & 516) (see below). A large E-W truncation (Space 507) probably cut down a fragment of the mound from its top to the West. It happened in before the Hellenistic period as both Hellenistic pits and all the early Islamic burials were cut into it.

Despite these significant destructions, an undisturbed Neolithic and post-Neolithic sequence was preserved in the SE corner of Trench 2 (Space 506). It had c. 2 m<sup>2</sup> within the trench and it was made of a number of superimposed layers and features. Interestingly, it appears to be placed directly on the top of layer than destroyed southern part of wall 7160 of B. 121 (Space 514). It indicates that it postdates this truncation and all the layers in it.

The sequence appears to have been deposited against the N-S wall (F.3972). It is made of yellowish brown bricks and both its stratigraphic position and chronology is unclear at this point. The sequence begins by a solidly made floor (F.3996). A large cluster of barley (30252) was deposited directly on the floor. It may have originated from a broken storage jar, as numerous sherds were found in direct proximity to it. A layered heterogeneous infill (30264) was found on the floor indicating its slow deposition. The following feature comprised a fire installation (F.3990), built above the floor infill. It is a solid construction made of an interesting block of clay comprising a bottom of the hearth. It contains a lot of soot, ash and charcoal. A small earring made from electrum (a gold alloy) was found in hearth. This feature clearly post-dates the Neolithic and has nothing to do with the Neolithic (?) wall and the associated floor.

A small fragment of undisturbed and homogenous midden was also identified in SW corner of Trench (30773 & 30774). Its stratigraphic position is not clear as it was badly destroyed by the post-Neolithic truncation. In any case, however, it is later than B. 121.

The following Neolithic structure in this part of the TPC Area is Building 110. Its preserved dimension was c. 8 by 6 m. Its walls (northern, eastern and southern) were made of solid yellow/sandish bricks. Its eastern wall (F. 3910) was constructed through a previously prepared foundation cut, a practice recognized also in the TP Area. It may imply some kind of deliberate constructional practice in the late levels. The Building was divided into two rooms by the E-W partition wall (southern - Space 486 & northern – Space 485) (see Marciniak at al. 2012).

While stratigraphic situation in Space 486 is pretty straightforward with numerous infill layers placed on top of the other, more a complicated situation was revealed in adjacent Space 485. Both rooms were filled with a rather homogenous sequence of deposits composed of small striations indicating its long and continuous accumulation. Altogether, c. 1.30 meters of deposits has been lifted. Different infill layers were distinguished based upon color and consistency of soil. Some of

them were more homogeneous, grayish layers made of silty sand, while other more heterogeneous with a mixture of silty sand and fragment of broken bricks, floors and other constructional material as well as charcoal, pottery and animal bones (mainly sheep/goat and cattle). A fragment of articulated cattle spine was also revealed, which indicates a kind of deliberate deposition. Broken bricks may have originated from the collapsed wall as they were identical with bricks making up the walls of B.110. The bricky material is yellow, orangish and it is very sandy. Moreover, fragments of a distinct floor were also found in Space 486 (see u. 30205). Its surface was pretty clear and distinct while the make up was made of little pebbles and charcoal. Interestingly, these pebbles were not white, which makes them different from distinct floor in B. 61 and B.81 in TP Area (Marciniak, Czerniak 2012). In any case, the floor fragments indicate truncation and destruction of one of the adjacent buildings. They may either originate from B.109 or other building chronologically contemporaneous to B. 109 or B.115. It is rather unlikely that this floor was a part of destroyed B.115. The floor of this building was thin and fine with numerous re-plasterings (see Marciniak et al. 2012).

At the bottom of the excavated sequence in Space 486, a layer of irregularly placed bricks were located against its northern and eastern walls. They have a form of a pile of bricks of unspecified character. Interestingly, they have been put in the place where platforms of the Neolithic building exist. The role and function of these bricks is unknown, it is also unclear where there is floor anyway close. No floor of the building was reached this season. As indicated by the character of walls and elements of constructional practices, the Building was probably contemporary to B.74 from the TP Area, which means it can be dated to TP-N (see Marciniak & Czerniak 2012).

Stratigraphic relations in Space 485 of B. 110 are not clear, despite the fact that we excavated infill of what defined Space 485 and deposited against northern wall of B.110. A row of five bricks, most likely originating from the earlier wall, was revealed in the western part of Space 485, against southern and northern walls of what was believed to be the walls of the Space. Interestingly, it did not continue further to the east and it may have either been truncated or it is a part of rather shorter building. They were later truncated twice that led to the destruction of the upper course of bricks of these walls. As works in this area have not yet been completed, no further details of this complex stratigraphic sequence are available at this point. Additionally, walls in the northern and eastern part of the Space disappeared at a certain level. It implies that the northern sections of the northern (F. 3911) and eastern (F.3910) walls of B.110 appear to be built on infill. At the same time, the wall between Spaces 485 and 486 at these levels seems to be continuing. If this interpretation is correct, it is clear that the floor of Space 485 either did not exist or was completely destroyed. Hence, it cannot be ruled out that the southern and western walls may have served both B.110 and its lower predecessor. Alternatively, we may encounter here the later reconstruction of B.110 and the floor from its first phase of use is yet to be found. The stratigraphy in the Space will only be clarified when the walls of what was defined as Space 485 be lifted.

In the layer of midden (20255) between N wall of Building 110 and southern wall of the adjacent Building, not yet excavated, a cluster of almost 200 sheep bones (mainly astragali, phalangi, metapodials), two cattle horn cores, basalt mace, worked bones, along with a cluster of the Neolithic vessels, was exposed. They seem to have been deposited after both walls were



constructed. This is a deliberate deposit of ritual character dated to the period of ca. 6350-6220 cal. BC.

As revealed in the 2012 excavation season (see more Marciniak et al. 2012), following the abandonment of Building 110, the area went out of use for some time. It was later occupied in the form of some kind of open space. Its surface is marked by a solidly made bricky layer (20234) with fragments of a tramped floor (20256). After some time, the activity area went out of use and this area was used as a midden (20232 & 20215). Interestingly, the activity area postdates a solid B. 110, which is similar to the sequence in the TP Area, where open space (courtyard) in B. 72 and B. 73 emerged after the abandonment of B.74. This is further corroborated by the fact that B. 110 and B. 74 seems to be contemporary.

A small fragment of *in situ* occupation activities was found directly above the open space and superimposed midden. However, considering a distinct character of the recognized features and despite the fact that it was badly destroyed from all sides, it justified to attribute them to a separate Building 115 (Space 491). The only preserved fragment comprises a kind of unspecified platform. It is made of a number of superimposed and distinct layers. The sequence was built on a layer of bricks placed directly on the midden (20213) followed by make up layer made of small pebbles (20207). The floor itself had a whitish plastered surface. This construction is almost identical to the floor of B. 61 in the TP Area, the latest in the sequence. The 'platform's' western and southern face was lined from outside by a homogeneous silty layer (20198), similar to mortar or plaster. A fragment of short E-W partition wall, with lining from the south, was discovered east of the 'platform'. Two distinct superimposed floors were recorded from the northern side of the 'platform'. They may have been remains of the room, possibly linked to Building 115. As it was only preserved in very small fragments, no details of its construction and layout are available.

The latest dwelling structure in this part of the TPC Area was Building 109. It probably respected both the size and layout of Building 110 - its indirect predecessor. The bricks were made of greyish /beige bricks of a poor quality. They were very homogenous in terms of their length – 80-82 cm, and were relatively well preserved. This Building is possibly contemporaneous with the latest B. 61 from the TP Area and can be tentatively dated to the Level TP.R. This is a tentative conclusion as not a single feature, which may unquestionably be linked to this Building, was found.

### **The post-Neolithic destructions**

The excavations in Trench 1 & 2 make it possible to identify a sequence of depositional events following the end of the Neolithic. The first element of this destruction comprised some kind of yet unspecified removal of western wall of B.121. On its ruins, three solid ovens (F. 3955, 7181, 7190) were built that most likely belong to some kind of activity zone placed the west of B.121 and beyond the western edge of excavated area (Space 519). Hence, its character is difficult to specify but it may either be a part of the building or be placed in an open area. In any case, the stratigraphic position of all three ovens makes it clear that they were built when both B.110 and B.121 went out of use.

The earliest in the sequence is oven F. 3955 (Fig. 4.4). Its construction led to the destruction of western sections of the southern wall of B.110 and northern wall of B.121. Approximately only 50 per cent of the oven was found within the trench. Despite the fact that its significant western part is located beyond the western edge of Trench 2 and hence it was only partly excavated, it is clear that it was a very substantial construction with a domed superstructure and very solid walls of ca. 10



Figure 4.4. Oven F.3955.

thick. They were greenish from the inside, c. 2 cm thick followed by the layer of burnt clay. This is indicative of numerous expositions to heat. The inner surface of the wall is smooth, albeit uneven. The oven interior was made of rubble, including large fragments of destroyed domed superstructure. Soon after the oven went out of use, a smaller oven F.7181 was constructed within its perimeter. It was poorly preserved, mostly by the rubble material which probably might have been a part of the oven construction. Unfortunately, no further details are available as it was not only partly placed outside the trench, but its eastern part got also truncated by a large cut that also destroyed S part of B.121 (Space 516). The oldest and the smallest in the cluster is oven F. 7190.

The stratigraphic position of the ovens, in particular in relation to the walls of B. 110 and 121, indicates that they are clearly post-Neolithic in date. It is not clear at this point whether the oven was constructed at the very late Neolithic or whether it happened immediately following the end of the Neolithic. It is clearly pre-Hellenistic (perhaps Bronze Age), as two ovens (F. 3955 & F.7190) got truncated by a Hellenistic pit (F.3934).

The second major destruction in this part of the TPC Area was caused by a large cut that destroyed the central part of the southern wall of B.110. The pit was large, deep, almost circular in shape, and easily distinguishable (F. 7154), followed by a set of six pits (Space 508). It truncated not only the southern wall of B.110 and northern wall of B. 121, but also the northern part of infill of the latter building (Space 514). It is a deep feature made of brownish sandy clay mixed up deposits, with numerous fragments of yellow sandy bricks, which more likely originate from the destroyed S wall of B.110. After the truncation was backfilled, its surface was intensively used. Six pits were found in



Figure 4.5. Dog burial F.3997.

its infill characterized by a significant degree of homogeneity (F.3997, F.3969, F.3999, F. 7156, F.7155, F.7158). They were of a rounded/ovoid shape, all similar. It is difficult to state the time difference between the abandonment of the pit F. 7154 and the construction of this set of pits on its top. Particularly interesting is F. 3997, where a dog burial was identified (Fig. 4.5). The skeleton was almost completely preserved except for the skull, pelvis and upper hind limbs. It was placed on the right hand

side, its front legs were slightly extended and the hind legs flexed. The latter two elements were probably removed by burrowing animals. The location of the skull is difficult to understand. However, the cut of the pit with a dog skeleton was difficult to distinguish. A piece of copper was found next to the skeleton. Remains of other dog burials were also found in F. 7158.

A stratigraphic position of Space 508 implies that it is to be dated to the period between the end of the Neolithic and the beginning of the Hellenistic period. It truncated walls of the Neolithic buildings and got itself truncated from the East by a later pit F. 3939, which in turn was truncated by a large Hellenistic pit (well?) excavated in the 2012 season (see Marciniak et al. 2012).

The next event comprised a cut of pit F.3939, placed against eastern wall of Trench 2. It was of a very atypical shape as it was a kind of rectangular and pretty regular. It truncated clearly F. 7154 and eastern wall of B. 110. Its depth differs significantly from 2-3 cm on top of the wall to up to 40 cm in places in which the walls were significantly truncated. It was placed behind the eastern wall of B.110, directly to the north of a post-Neolithic truncation that destroyed these walls (Space 507). It was made of relatively mixed up material with numerous fragments of small bricks, charcoal.etc. Hence, there was probably a significant time span between cutting pits F. 7154 and F. 3939, but the latter was clearly constructed before the beginning of the Neolithic.

The final destruction in this part of the TPC Area was caused by a huge truncation (Space 507) that is also to be dated to the pre-Hellenistic period. It is indicated by the fact that a vast majority of Hellenistic pits were dug onto it, while the bottom of some others was placed above this pit. Furthermore, a majority of early Islamic burials were also dug into this layer. The cut was large and had steep walls. However, it is unclear what the initial function of this truncation was and what its original shape was. In any case, numerous late pottery was found in different layers belonging to this Space. It was pretty homogenous, but tended to be made of two sequences. The ones to the south (30255, 30265, 30285, 30711 & 30724), were composed of greyish sandy soil, while those

further to the south were composed of brownish, less silty, deposits (30266, 30286, 30710 & 30723).

The last destruction in the area between Trenches 1 and 2 had a form comprised of longitudinal truncation in E-W alignment that destroyed the top fragments of the southern wall of B.110 (Space 497). It was recognized in the 2012 excavation season. It was backfilled by rather homogenous layers, which indicates its slow accumulation (see Marciniak et al. 2012).

A large section of southern and western parts of the fill of B.121 was later truncated by a cut from its southern and western side (Space 516). It was filled by fairly homogenous deposits with a lot of organic matter (e.g. 30780). They also contained a large number of late pottery fragments. Inside this layer, an oval pit (F. 3783) was found and excavated. It contains a lot of organic material, in particular charcoal and large number of animal bones. This sequence of late truncations destroyed almost completely the southern part of Trench 2, in particular the latest phases of the Neolithic occupation.

Remains of the late walls (probably Roman) were located in the very SW corner of Trench 2. It may belong to some kind of building located south of the trench. Two superimposed layers, defined largely arbitrarily, were also excavated. The southern layer (30266) was made of greyish sandy silt and it was a result of a huge truncation that happened after the Roman period and before the Islamic burials (Space 516). This late truncation destroyed the Roman walls seen in southern section of the trench, but late burials were dug onto this redeposited layer.

### **The Early Islamic burial ground**

The 2013 excavation season also brought about a number of late burials. The best preserved was a burial of a young adult individual (F.3994). It was placed on its back in extended position with head facing SW. Only the legs, pelvis and fragments of the spine were recorded within the trench. The remaining parts of the skeleton were outside of the excavated area, which will not be excavated in the current project. The individual was placed in a very narrow burial cut, which extends a pit towards his head. It looks as if the burial was truncated by a Hellenistic pit and hence it is pre-Hellenistic in date.

Another burial (F. 3974), probably early Islamic in date, was located in the southern part of Trench 2 (see Fig. 6.18). It was a female adult lying with its head to the west, on its right side facing south. The burial was aligned in an east-west axis. No burial goods were found but a separate human mandible was found close to the feet of the buried female. This probably originates from the disturbed earlier burial. Interestingly, a fragment of two superstructures (30203 & 30237), in the form of yellow grey bricks, seems to truncate the burial indicating its later chronological position.

A fragment of largely destroyed juvenile skull (30233) was taken out of the E section of the trench. It was a part of burial late in date. This may be the same type of burial as those excavated in 2012. Its head was facing the west, which means that the remaining part of the skeleton was placed outside the excavated area.

A longitudinal pit in E-W alignment was also revealed in SE corner of Trench 2 (F. 7180), just above (Space 516). Its unspecified and pretty shallow (up to 15 cm) feature contained some human bones in its infill and it was placed underneath a late burial and may have been destroyed by it.

Interestingly, it was defined by two E-W walls. One wall was built parallel to the eastern edge of the trench, just in its SE corner (F.3972). This pit infill appears to be deposited against this wall. Another unspecified wall was also placed further to the north, closing down this space. Southern part of this feature is difficult to define as it is probably placed outside the southern edge of the trench.

### Results of the excavations in Trench 3

#### The Neolithic sequence



Figure 4.6. Walls F.7171 and F.7176.

In the 2013 season, excavation works were also continued in Trench 3. Altogether, a number of Neolithic features was recognized, several of which have been truncated or disturbed by later inhabitants of the area. They also brought about excavation of later remains, in particular a large Hellenistic Building 120.

Evidence for Neolithic occupation in Trench 3 takes the form of several segregate spaces in the trench; all of these spaces are related in some way to three large walls running east-west across the northern half of the trench, built immediately against one another. From south to north, these walls are F. 3952, F. 7171, and F. 7176 (Fig. 4.6). They are composed of large rectangular mud-bricks which are orange in color. The major construction appears to be the northern wall, F. 7176, which is the southern wall of B. 122 (see below). It was a solid a large building with numerous re-buildings and reconstructions of its inner space. An understanding of the architecture of the larger complex of B. 122, the functions of the spaces inside it, and the temporal sequence of its construction is currently

impossible as a large part of the building is placed outside the excavated area. The building's southern wall later served as a point of reference for other structures constructed further to the south. The subsequent walls (F. 7171 & F. 3952) were not bonded with the former and more likely

postdated them. This may be a part of another large building placed further to the south (Space 520 – see below). These kinds of large walls, or rather, sequence of walls, is characteristic of the Late Neolithic architecture. They surround several large, walled, interior spaces that together form buildings that appear to be much bigger than the earlier Neolithic ones. These buildings are arranged more like complexes of spaces with differing functions.

Due to post-Neolithic destructions and the limited area under observation, an understanding of spatial arrangements is currently limited. However, it is more likely that we are dealing with two solid Neolithic buildings, placed one next to the other (B. 122 in the north and Space 520 to the south). As the latter one is clearly placed slightly below the former one, this may indicate some kind of terrace. Another E-W terrace was probably located along the slope further to the south. Its northern face was later used to construct the northern wall of the Hellenistic building, B. 120 (see below), built directly against it. These may be indicative of a terracing pattern in this part of the mound and placement of a row of houses on subsequent terraces, all facing south. The terracing of the mound surface in the Late Neolithic would not be surprising considering the discussed buildings were constructed on a significant slope. The Neolithic builders must have been forced to follow the covertures of the mound.



Figure 4.7. of space 493 and its bins.

The major Neolithic structure discovered to date in Trench 3 comprises B. 122 in its north part. It is a large complex-style structure, which extends beyond the edges of the trench. It is composed of three spaces located within Trench 3 (Sp. 517, 521, and Sp. 493). The most interesting is Space 493, a kind of storage room with three well preserved bins and one oven (Fig. 4.7). The relationship between these three spaces is not entirely clear. Further excavation to the north of the Overview trench would resolve numerous questions related to the Building spatial

arrangements.

This room Sp.493 marks the later phase of the Building use as it was built inside its NE corner some time after the house was constructed. Its southern and western walls (F. 3981 and F.3933), as located within the trench, were identified. The northern and eastern extent of the space is undefined because it goes into the edge of Trench 3. The room construction was preceded by a destruction of some kind of a structure ('platform?') placed against the eastern wall of that building. As the eastern part of the room is outside the excavated area, it is unclear whether the platform

was built against the eastern wall of B.122, or the eastern wall of the Space was constructed following the destruction of the former structure.

Both the inner and outer room's walls were then plastered over, which means they were clearly meant to be seen from outside within the space of building. This implies a kind of standalone and distinct room, as further corroborated by bonded courses of bricks. However, it cannot be ruled out that the outer surface of the wall was only plastered later when the wall was reused and comprised the eastern of later room built inside B. 122 (Space 517) (see below). Two of the features recognized in the Space (F. 7182 and F. 7198) were excavated completely in 2013, but the other two (F. 7196 and F. 7197) were left unexcavated. Storage bins and different tools revealed in Space 493 indicate that this is a room for grain storage and food preparation. The building was burnt before its abandonment. It is dated to the period ca. 6400-6250 cal. BC.

Space 493 within the trench has 3 m<sup>2</sup>. The room infill contained a heavily burnt layer mainly made up of construction material. It also yielded a lot of botanic remains and several ground stones. It is worth noting that a large quantity of essentially pure phytoliths was found in its north and middle part. They indicate a higher firing temperature in this part of the room as compared to the southern part where more charcoal and black, charred seeds were found, indicating a lower temperature and reducing atmosphere. Both the phytoliths and charred remains represent a now-extinct species of 'striate emmeroid' wheat (Fuller 2013). 32 ground stones, as they were situated in the burnt construction layer and not on a floor, are thought to have been placed or thrown inside the space during the destruction phase. A deposit of charred barley and wheat seeds (30807) was found in the southern part, which could represent a hanging basket which fell during the destruction or a small organic container, thrown in during the destruction. They both were clearly stored in the ears (Fuller 2013). In the west-middle part of the room floor, a cluster worked antler, bone, clay object, and ground stones were found. If it is *in situ* it could be interpreted as tools or raw material of tools in connection with the function of the space.

Two of the room bins were excavated this year. Both turned out to be storage bins for barley grain. The amount and preservation of the barley could indicate a quick destruction phase. Storage bin F.7182 F. was a large bin, rectangular in shape, built up against the western wall of the space, F. 7183. On top of the bin fill associated with the destruction of the space (30784), with numerous charcoal and barley, was a cluster of barley (30785), likely representing another hanging parcel. Below (30784) were two layers of nearly pure barley - (30859) and (30864). The latter unit separated the barley concentration and the white plastered bottom of the bin. Storage bin F.7198 was a smaller, free standing bin, in the south-west corner of Space 493. It was only 0.30 m long and 0.29 m wide. Like F. 7182, it contained a great deal of fill associated with the collapse of the space (30833) and beneath this, a deposit of pure barley (30871). This unit was black and full of grain, unlike u.30833 above, which suggests that the bin was used as a grain store. Some of the fill had fallen out through an animal burrow in the bottom part of the bin.

Sp. 517 is the latest room built inside B.122, later than the adjacent Space 493. It is indicated by radiocarbon date from its floor (6230-6070 cal BC). Interestingly, it significantly postdates the latter storage room, which may question whether these two rooms are actually elements of the same building. It occupies its NW part, extending past the north trench boundary. It is bounded to the

south, west, and east by three walls - F. 7194 forms the southern boundary of the space and is built up against F. 7176. There is visible plaster on the north face of F. 7176, which must have been present when F. 7194 was built; therefore we know that F. 7194 was built after the construction of F. 7176. To the west, Sp. 517 is bounded by F. 7260 which runs north-south along the western edge of the trench, and it is bounded to the east by F. 7183. Its eastern wall comprised the western wall of earlier Space 493 (F. 7183) and is plastered on its western face (see above). No plaster has been identified on the interior faces of the other walls so far. The function of Sp. 517 is still unclear, as no architectural features or significant artifacts have been recovered from the space. Two successive floors, however, were revealed in the 2013 season. Both the later one, F. 7195, and the earlier, F. 7257, exhibited signs of having been plastered originally and, in fact, remnants from both of these plastering events lipped up to the well-preserved plaster of the eastern wall F. 7183. Floor F. 7257 was left unexcavated at the end of the 2013 season.

Sp. 521 similarly serves no clear function. It lies to the east of Sp. 517, with wall F. 7176 serving as its southern wall, F. 7194 as its western wall, and F. 3981 as its northern wall. The space is extremely narrow, measuring only 0.65 m north-south, and 2 m east-west. It has been truncated to the east by a large pit, F. 7188, which contained a great deal of post-Neolithic material in its fill. Given the narrowness of the space, it may have served simply as a passageway when it was constructed, although the damage done by pit F. 7188 makes it difficult to understand this space in its full complexity. One floor was found in this space in the 2013 season, F. 7199, which was plastered like the floors in Sp. 517, with the plaster of the floor joining with the plaster on northern wall F.3981. In excavating the plaster (30838) and makeup (30839) of this floor F. 7199, a great deal of barley was discovered, indicating the close association of Sp. 521 with Sp. 493 to the north, since Sp. 493 represents a space used intensively for grain and cereal storage.

Only centimetres below the surface and above Space 517, a series of Neolithic human burials were identified. These originate from some kind of building or burial chamber later than B.122 but completely destroyed due to a range post-depositional processes. This does not appear to be a location of the burial but it cannot be ruled out. Altogether, remains of at least four individuals were recognized. It appears that initially, a cut (20258) was made for the burial of an adult female (20217) and a juvenile of about 8 years (20208). These individuals were allowed to partially decompose before being pushed aside to make room for the burial of an older adult female (20166). The three bodies were then covered and left for some time before a later cut (20257) was made, slightly damaging the skull of skeleton 20166. The body of an adult male (20162) was laid in this cut, and covered with a fill indistinguishable from that surrounding the earlier bodies (see Marciniak et al. 2012).

To the south of B. 122, there are two spaces which share a wall (F. 3952) with the building. They certainly comprise a part of larger buildings. As excavations of the part of the trench have not been completed, it is unclear whether these spaces represent two separate buildings or two spaces belonging to the same building. The eastern space, Sp. 520, is squarer than the spaces to the north, measuring 1.88 m x 2.74 m (Fig. 4.8). It is bounded by F. 3952 to the north, F. 7172 to the west, F. 7252 to the east, and F. 7253 to the south. Although the base of the northern wall was revealed, there was no surface or floor associated with the wall. This is consistent with findings in the TP excavations (e.g. Building 74) as well as Trench 1 in the TPC Area (B. 110), where excavating room fill





Figure 4.8. Overview of space 520.

has frequently failed to reveal surfaces or floors at the bases of walls. There is evidence to suggest a similar event occurred in the adjacent space, Sp. 515, which shares wall F. 7172 with Sp. 520 (see Fig. 4.6).

Space 515 was recognized against the western wall of the trench and it extends past the western edge of the trench. It is more likely a part of the Neolithic building that extends

further to the west and may go as far as the foundation trench of the large shelter. It is additionally bounded by F. 7177 to the east and F. 7174 to the south, although not all of these walls are contemporaneous; F. 7177 runs below F. 7172 and at a slightly different angle, representing an earlier construction. Evidence for the removal of a preexisting surface in Sp. 515 comes from the remains of platform F. 7173, which is plastered on top, but has been cut away on three sides, exposing the layers underneath this plaster. A distinct depression in the platform central part probably indicates a burial. A small portion of the floor associated with this platform remains, but it too has been cut vertically, leaving the platform and floor plaster essentially floating on a sort of stratigraphic pedestal. Why the surface removal would have been partial in Sp. 515 yet complete in Sp. 520 is not clear, but the evidence suggests that the same sort of event occurred in both spaces, explaining the lack of identifiable surfaces in either of these spaces.

The temporal relationship between Sp. 515, 520, and B. 122 is still unclear, as these spaces are segregated by walls F. 7171 and F. 7176, both of which predate all of these spaces. The building with Space 515 is most probably earlier than B. 122 in the northern part of Trench 3.

### **The Hellenistic settlement**

The next major occupational activity in this part of the TPC Area took place in the Hellenistic period. The settlement is represented by large building (B. 120) and ca. 20 large pits. The 2013 season brought about excavation of these pits. They were circular in form, but varied in size and depth. Few artifacts were found in them, and there was no evidence of scorching or other use at their base, leaving the function of these pits enigmatic. These pits are therefore consistent with possibly Hellenistic pits excavated in the other TPC trenches (see Marciniak et al 2012), as well as pits found in the TP area (Czerniak and Marciniak 2003, 2005; Czerniak et al 2002) and the upper layers of the South area (Kotsakis 1997) - although the sizes of the pits in Trench 3 are more varying in general than the pits identified in these other areas.

A large Hellenistic building (B. 120) is located in the southern part of Trench 3. It is dated back to 325-167 cal BC. Its chronological position is further corroborated by four complete vessels found on its floor. The building was extremely burnt, but at one time, the floor, walls, and the three bins found in it were all plastered. It is placed in terracing cut (30229), which extends beyond the southern extent of the trench. It more likely followed the earlier Neolithic terrace, but it was later deepened and expanded to prepare for the construction of B. 120. The mudbricks of the exterior walls of B.120, F. 3984 (western) and F. 3948 (northern), were packed into this cut. It was itself extremely jagged, and where bricks did not fit well into the stepped and sloping cut, clay was often packed in. The western wall of the building was placed directly on top of the Neolithic wall.

The size of the building cannot be estimated as its parts go beyond the edge of the trench. The northern wall extends past the eastern edge of the trench while the western wall its southern edge. Hence, the eastern and southern walls of the building are beyond the excavated area. The floor of the building was made of a grayish silty surface. It was pretty distinct, but not particularly flat; however, evidence of plaster on the walls and on the floor was discerned. Three distinctive and overlapping features were found inside it. These features were rectangular in shape and consisted of a molded edge surrounding a shallow depression. All three were extremely similar in appearance, averaging 1.82 m long, 0.95 m wide, and 0.31 m deep. The latest one was F. 3993, which was built on top of both F. 7151 and F. 7152. They were made of brick, and both F. 3993 and F. 7151 exhibited signs of plaster (with F. 3993 being completely plastered). These features have been termed “bins”, despite their shallowness. Evidence for this designation comes in part from (30247), the preserved contents of F. 3993 (30247) consisted purely of burnt remains. We are still awaiting analysis of this unit to determine if F. 3993 did in fact likely function as a storage bin, or if it suggests another function. Bin F. 3993 was the only one of the three still containing remnants of contents; in fact, the bin that was likely the earliest - F. 7151 - appears to have been systematically emptied and dug out. It was significantly deeper than the other two bins, and rather than having a shallow, gently sloping depression, the sides of F. 7151 proceeded sharply and vertically to meet the base at a right angle. This was probably the effect of a cutting or digging event which occurred when this bin fell out of use.

Another enigmatic aspect of B.120 is an apparently interior wall, F.7150, which extends toward the east from the western exterior wall F. 3984. This probably served as a partition wall. It was built on top of the floor of the building, F. 7153, and was composed of both heavily burnt mudbrick material and stacked roof finials. This wall seems to have been a hasty and haphazard later addition to a building which was already inexactly constructed.

The building infill, ca. 50 cm deep, was a highly heterogeneous rubble made of fragments of constructional materials broken bricks and clay. They seem to be indicative of some kind of destruction and elements of this structure construction were dumped inside. This is further indicated by a thick layer of ash and burnt staff that is indicative of some kind of fire that possibly destroyed the building. The destruction and abandonment of the building were likely to have been sudden and concurrent events, effected by the fire concentrated in the northwest corner of the building which scorched and damaged walls F. 3984 and F. 3948. The eastern half of the building showed no evidence of singeing or other heat damage. The suddenness of the destruction of B. 120 is furthermore supported by the several intact vessels found on its floor as mentioned above. After

the destruction of B. 120, the northern wall F. 3948 was disturbed by a roughly rectangular cut (30227) following the line of the wall. This cut has been interpreted as a robber's trench, F. 3987, although the aim of the cut is not entirely clear. It could have been related to the retrieval of objects from the building - as its executors may have known that the building had not been emptied before its abandonment or could have been an attempt to recover mudbrick material for agricultural purposes.

### **The Early Islamic burial ground**

The final destruction was caused by large inhumation Byzantine and early Islamic cemetery, already revealed and excavated in the northern part of the TPC Area as well as in the previously excavated TP Area (Czerniak et al. 2001, Czerniak et al. 2002, Czerniak et al. 2003). However, their number is much lower than in these both areas. The late burial (F.7179) was revealed in the NE corner of Trench 3, just south of B. 122. It contained the skeleton of an adult male with the well-preserved condition of the bones and the extended burial position. The individual was buried in an E-W orientation with all elements below the humeri buried past the eastern limit of the trench. Only the proportion of the individual which lay within the bounds of the trench were excavated this season; the rest of the skeleton was left unexcavated. A distinct grave-marker for the burial was recognized (F. 3963). It was a short mudbrick wall of two courses extending only a half-meter from the eastern edge of the trench. The mudbricks were extremely regular, 40 cm long and 40 cm wide, and were the distinctive light grey color.

Another late wall with three courses of regular light grey mudbricks, measuring 40 cm x 40 cm, was found further to the south (see figure 2). This wall was built into a terracing cut (30228), which dug visibly into the *in situ* orange mudbricks of preexisting Neolithic wall F. 3952, as well as into the fill of Hellenistic pit F.7188. The function of this wall was not clear, as it did not seem to be associated with any other architectural features found within the trench.

### **Final remarks**

Results of the two first excavation seasons in the TPC Area revealed a range of interesting features characteristic for the Late Neolithic. 11 radiocarbon dates available to date are very homogenous and date the studied structures to the period between 6350 and 6100 cal BC. However, it is worth noting that these dates originate from earlier levels, out of those excavated so far, while the later Neolithic structures are so badly destroyed that did not bear any reliable datable material. Both the range of these dates and the character of the settlement architecture imply that the studied sequence may have been in use as late as in the TP Area, which is the very end of the 7<sup>th</sup> millennium cal. BC. This is irrespective of the fact that these structures are located ca. 3 m below from the latter sequence. This should imply some kind of terracing respecting the shape of the mound. This kind of spatial organization is seen more clearly in Trench 3 where a sequence of buildings was more likely constructed in rows. The results of our works revealed also a range of characteristic features of the Anatolian Late Neolithic. This is manifested in the sheer size of the buildings, presence of pebbled floors, construction of smaller rooms inside existing larger structures as well as a probable lack of intramural burials and monumental installations. They largely remind arrangements from the top of the mound; however, there are also some differences. These will be systematically examined during the next three years of field works in the TPC Area. This represents a unique opportunity to

understand a period of Çatalhöyük's occupation that has not been documented or studied very intensively in the past.

It is worth stressing that Neolithic structures in all three trenches were badly destroyed by numerous intense activities from a range of different chronological periods. Those were found particularly in Trenches 1 & 2. The first large destruction in the part of the TPC Area was caused by two large truncations (Space 508 and Space 497), which significantly destroyed the southern wall of B.110. They were later backfilled with a range of heterogeneous materials. Interestingly, both of them were pre-Hellenistic in date. These were followed by a storage zone of Hellenistic settlement represented by numerous large pits and were excavated in the 2012 excavation season (Marciniak et al. 2012). Similarly substantial was Hellenistic settlement in the southern part of the TPC Area. It is manifested by a large Hellenistic building (B. 120) with well preserved in-built structures. These deposits in the first two trenches were further destroyed by two large truncations (Space 507 & 516). The final destruction was caused by large inhumation Byzantine and early Islamic cemetery, already revealed and excavated in the TP area (Czerniak et al. 2001, Czerniak et al. 2002, Czerniak & Marciniak 2003).

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