

Chapter 4

Excavations in the TPC Area

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Introduction

The work commenced in 2017 comprised the final season of excavations in the TPC Area. The TPC Area was opened up in 2012 between the South Area and the TP Area, and five excavation seasons have been carried out to date in four trenches. Trenches 1 and 2 are located directly to the south of Mellaart Area A, while Trenches 3 and 4 are situated further south of them and directly east of the South Area. The work this season was focused on Trench 4 and to lesser degree on Trench 3. Trench 3 is quadrilateral in shape with the southern and eastern edges being 10m long and the northern edge measuring 6m in length. Trench 4, measuring c.8m x 6m, is located between Trench 3 in the south and Trenches 1 and 2 in the north (Fig. 1).

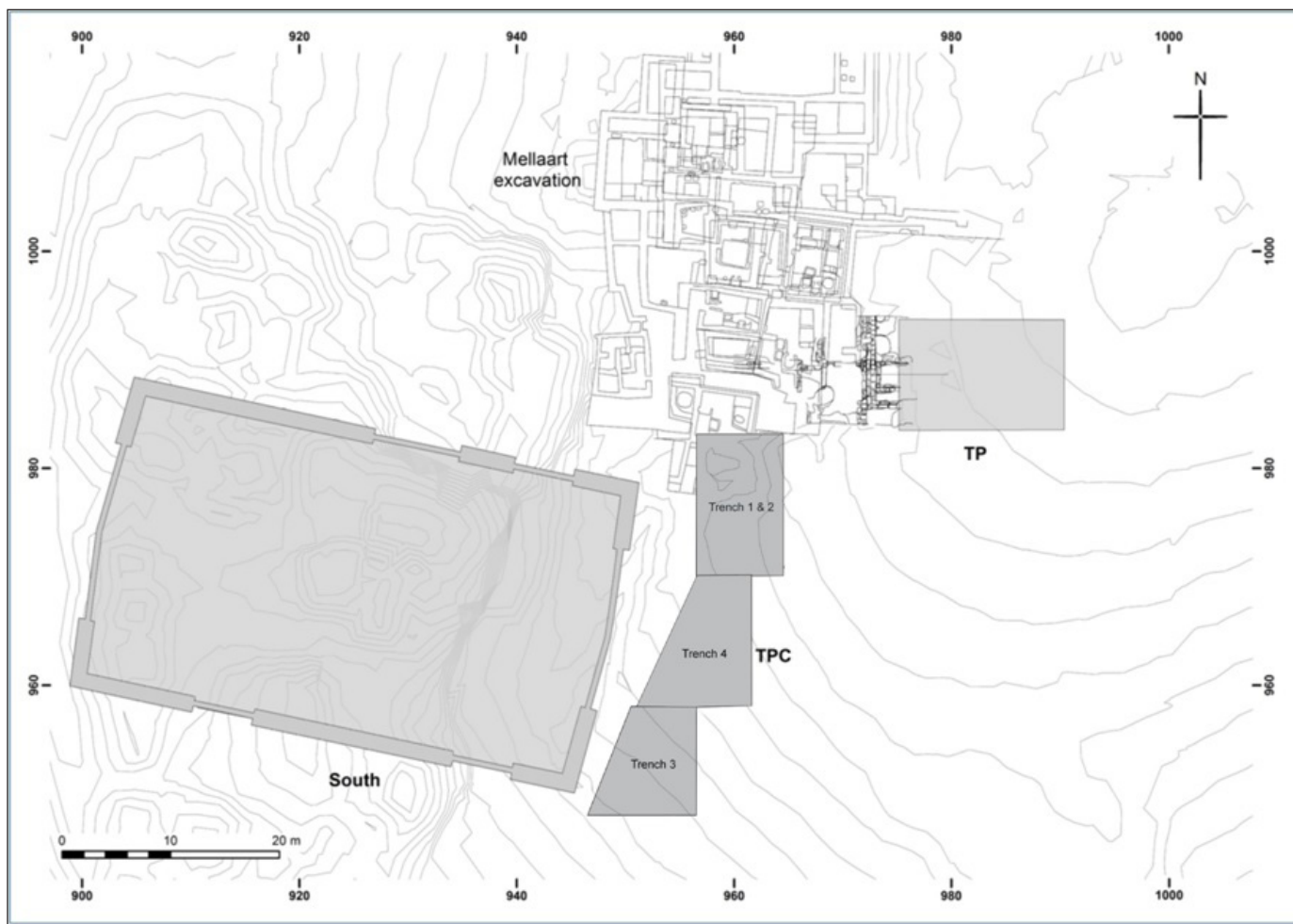


Figure 1. TPC Area in relation to other excavated areas.

One of the main goals of work in the TPC Area was to link the stratigraphy of the TP Area, excavated between 2001 and 2008, with the stratigraphic sequence of the South Area. In particular, it aimed at recognizing the relations between the end of the South sequence (B.10, Level South T) and the beginning of the TP sequence (B.81, Level TP M) (for more information see Marciniak *et al.* 2012, 2015). The work carried out in the first five seasons revealed a sequence of Neolithic buildings and features. Altogether, the remains of four Neolithic buildings (B.121, B.110, B.115, B.109) in Trenches 1 and 2, two (B.122, Sp.520) in Trench 3 and another two (B.150, B.152) in Trench 4 have been unearthed.

The work in Trench 4 in the 2016 season focused on excavating the Neolithic architecture. In particular, this involved exposure and study of the uppermost occupational levels of large B.150 (Marciniak *et al.* 2016). The building was luckily almost entirely placed within the limit of the trench but on the other hand, it has been destroyed by numerous post-Neolithic pits, in particularly a large pit (F.7378) placed between its western and northern walls (see Filipowicz *et al.* 2014). The work carried out in B.150 to date revealed some details of its construction as well as a number of features dated back to the final phase of its occupation (Sp.594). This phase consisted of a solid floor (F.8276) in its central part and a sequence of in-built structures including four platforms against the eastern wall of the building and three platforms in its southern and central area (see also below).

Building 150 is the earliest building in this part of the TPC Area and is one of the largest structures found on the top of the East Mound in both the TP and TPC Areas. It was most likely used for a long time, as indicated by a sequence of floor deposits, platforms and fire installations. Based upon its stratigraphic position and the character of its construction, the building can be dated to Level TP M, which is equivalent to Level III/IV in the Mellaart's phasing scheme. This level seems to represent the final phase of the classic Çatalhöyük occupation. The building appears to be contemporary with B.121 in TPC Trench 2 (Marciniak *et al.* 2013) and with B.122 from Trench 3.

The excavation carried out in the TPC Area in the past five seasons revealed also numerous post-Neolithic activities, including Islamic burial ground, Hellenistic storage part of unspecified settlement as well as remains dated back to the Chalcolithic and Bronze Age periods (see Marciniak *et al.* 2012),

The excavation this year began on the 11th of June and continued until the 12th of July. It was carried out in Trenches 3 and 4, as well as in the southeast corner of the South Shelter. The latter area was excavated in order to investigate a connection between the structures revealed in Trench 3 and a sequence of buildings excavated in the South Area (see Regan 2013). Trenches 1 and 2 were not excavated in the 2017 season.

Excavations in Trench 4

The aim of the 2017 field season in Trench 4 was to excavate all remaining occupational phases of B.150 and, in particular, to recognize the construction phase of the building. The work carried out this year made it possible to identify four complex occupational phases of its occupation designated, from the earliest to the latest, as Spaces 639, 637, 612 and 594. As the stratigraphy of the building turned out to be even more complex than envisioned and due time constraints, the building has not been completely excavated and its construction phase not recognized. Therefore, neither the detailed reconstruction of its full occupational history nor the recognition of the layout of the building in its earliest phase were made possible.

This year work in Trench 4 was also focused upon excavating remaining structures post-dating the use of B.150 (Sp.585), right above the southwest corner of the building and then its southwest room. Simultaneously, the work also concentrated on excavating the platforms in eastern and west-central part of the building, including burials beneath eastern platforms, being the first burials found in this context in the TP and TPC Areas. They can rightly be attributed as the last 'classic' Neolithic burials at Çatalhöyük East. Altogether, more than twenty individuals were unearthed beneath central-east platform of B.150. A number of floor deposits, infill layers and sequence of fire installations in southern part of the trench were also excavated. All those features are indicative of the B.150 complex history with multiple phases of its rebuilding.

Construction (?) / early occupational phase: Space 639

This is the earliest exposed phase of B.150, recognized only in its southwestern part. It is impossible to determine whether it represents its construction phase, as neither floor nor deposits beneath the floor have been reached. The building's walls have been discovered and exposed: west wall (F.7357), north wall (F.8288, F.8267), both discovered already in the 2015 season (Marciniak *et al.* 2015), south wall (F.7499) and east wall (F.8762). They were all unexcavated.



Figure 2. Orthophoto showing features in southwest room of Building 150 (F.8672).

The oldest exposed structure in the entire building was its southwest room (F.8672). It most likely served a special purpose, as indicated by numerous objects of different types, including more than 200 x-finds as well as two large anthropomorphic female figurines and clusters of special finds found inside.

The room was most likely constructed in the place of an earlier, considerably large platform (F.8750). It may have been deliberately destroyed and this part of the building was turned into a room. This is indicated by remains of the northern edge of this platform, distinctively plastered over from the northern side but cut off from the south. After this truncation, an uneven and not very solid floor (F.8751) was constructed. Three features were recorded sitting directly on this floor: two bins (F. 8674, F.8692) with white plastered walls and an unspecified, plastered clay construction (F.8752), placed against the room's northern wall (Fig. 2).

Out of these features, due to time constraints and ultimate completion of the project, only bin F.8674 was completely excavated. It was rectangular in shape and had the following dimensions: 0.52m x 0.38m x 0.14m. It contained a cluster of considerable large number of stone tools and worked stones (32860), including a polished mace-head made of red marble and two nicely finished pounding tools. Some of the stones were also embedded into the walls of the bins (32864) (see Chapter 16, *Ground Stone*). Some animal bones and obsidian point were also intentionally deposited in this bin. The walls and the base were carefully plastered. The base was uneven and sloping towards the south. Interestingly, it was set upon a sort of a clay pedestal that contained some kind of deposit made of stones and animal bones, which were very carefully plastered over with the bins' base. Another bin (F.8692) associated with this floor, albeit unexcavated, was placed against the very southwestern corner of room. It was round in shape with 0.45m in diameter and had thick, undercutting walls. It seemed to be empty, but was only partially excavated, as the season was coming to an end. The plastered feature F.8752 was not excavated.



Figure 3. Cluster (F.8678) in southwest room of B.150 (F.8672) containing two reed containers with seeds.

Another interesting feature associated with the floor of southwest room of B.150 in this phase of its use comprised a rich cluster of different types of objects (F.8678) (Fig. 3). It contained a piece of wooden tool, probably used for pounding (as suggested by remains of flour discovered on its surface), two extremely well preserved plant (reed) containers with seeds (lentils, barley, almond), a dozen of astragali, a clay bead and worked stones. A clay stamp seal in shape of hand with nicely carved geometric patterns came out from a dry sieve from the infill (23993). The exceptional finds are two anthropomorphic figurines (32806.x1) and (32806.x2) that were found nearby (see Chapter 12, *Figurines and Clay Stamps*).

The first figurine (32806.x1) is a completely preserved squat anthropomorphic female figurine made of very soft (poor quality) limestone. It is around 10cm high, c.8.50 cm wide and c.8.50cm thick. It depicts a seated female, with a corpulent body with breasts, and emphasized stomach and buttocks de-

picted. The arms are folded across the front and the hands merge with the breasts. The oval face is tilted upward, but few facial details remain.

The second very large and heavy anthropomorphic figurine (32806.x2) was made of marble. The figure was placed on its back roughly 10cm to the south of (32806.x1) with its head to the west. The figurine is completely preserved and is nearly 25cm tall, 12cm wide and 6cm thick. This figure has a cap, arms folded under the breasts, extended legs and breasts and stomach depicted but not exaggerated. It is quite flattened on the back. While the overall body shape and features like the back of the ears and cap are skillfully depicted, its back details are quite absent and features such as the buttocks and head are very flattened. The head and face, depicting only the nose and ears carved explicitly with only the suggestion of eyes and mouth, is very well executed.

As they were both sitting in the southern section of the trench, the recognition of their immediate context is difficult to specify. However, all finds deposited in this room point to the fact that the southwest corner of the building might have played some significant, special role.

At some point in the room use history, a short wall (F.8696) was constructed against an unspecified east-west wall (F.8699) (undefined due to its presence in the trench section), perhaps to close the room F.8672 from the east. The northern edge of that wall had a carefully made facing, which indicates that this might have form some kind of opening, most likely an entrance to this room. The entrance might have connected the southwest room with the central room. Its floor of this central room F.8697 seems to be later replaced by the platform (F.8689). However, the relation of floor F. 8697 to other features in the area have not been revealed due to termination of the excavation work in the trench.

Another relatively large platform (F.8693) was constructed against the northern edge of platform F.8750. Some time later, central platform of B.150 (F.8695) was constructed against the latter platform. These two platforms were later rebuilt, which marks the next phase of the building occupational history designated as Sp.637.

Early occupational phase: Space 637

The rebuilding phase of western platform of B.150 was recorded as F.8677 and central platform as F.8694. They appear to be built around the same time. The western platform F.8677 was made of several thin, fine layers of plasters and make-ups. An unspecified, short partition wall (F.8652) was placed on its top. The central platform F.8694 had nicely carved edges and some kind of bench in its western part. Right after the construction of both platforms, the uppermost floor (F.8698) in Sp.637 was built. The floor was preserved across the entire main room area (Fig. 4). It was of a relatively poor quality, soft, uneven (sloping west) and gray in color. From the constructional standpoint, it was similar to all the platforms from this phase: F.8677, F.8694. It had also striking similarities with a sequence of three platforms and benches along the eastern wall of the building, as seen from north to south: platform F.3893, bench F.3881, platform F.8664, bench F.3858, platform F.8757 and platform in southern part of B.150: F.8689. Neither floor nor platforms from this phase were excavated, except for platforms F.8677 and F.3893, due to termination of the project in this area.

The northeastern platform F.3893 underwent numerous reconstructions in later phases of B.150 use. Two superimposed platforms (F.3880 and F.8289) were built in the following phases and this part of the building was ultimately turned into a storage area (F.8298, Sp.594). Two distinct oval depressions were discerned on the surface of F.3893 towards the end of 2017 excavation season, most likely indicative of burials, but were left unexcavated. A bench/partition wall separated this



Figure 4. Floor F.8698 in Space 637, Building 150.

platform from the east-central platform F. 8664. It was made of bricks that were later carefully covered in plaster.

This partition wall was used for a long time, as indicated by numbers of replastering events. Surprisingly, it had an entrance in its central part linking both platforms. It was later blocked, which means that earlier in the building's occupational history there was a connection between northeastern and central platform and perhaps northeastern platform was back then used as some kind of a room.

A similar partition wall/bench separated the central platform (F.8664) from the southern platform (F.8757). A burial cut in this central platform was identified. However, due to its severe destruction by later burial cuts (F.3867 and F.3868 from Sp.594 see below) neither its content, shape and size were specified. The southeastern platform F. 8757 was also not excavated due to a dearth of time. Its later reconstruction phases were recorded as F.8659 and F.8275.

Directly to the west of the southeastern platform F.8757, there was a large oven (F.8756), placed against the southern wall of the building (Fig. 5). It was the first oven in a sequence of superimposed fire installations in the southern part of the trench. The sequence of ovens was as follows, from the earliest to the latest: F.8756, F.3897; and F.3871, F.8278. All the ovens revealed significant

similarities; they were quite large, oval in shape and had a distinct solid base. The earliest oven F.8756 in a sequence from Sp.637 was left unexcavated.



Figure 5. Oven F.8756, located in the south part of Building 150.



Figure 6. Cluster F.8687 (23765) containing mostly large animal bones and grinding stones.

In the southwestern room of B.150 (F.8672), a wall (F.3899) was built on top of the edge of a truncated platform F.8750 from Sp.639. In the infill deposited against this wall and the outer wall of the building in its southwest corner, two distinct clusters of numerous objects of different kind (F.8687 (23765) and F.8650), mostly grinding stones and large animal bones, were discerned. The former cluster was exceptional in terms of a variety of finds including numerous large animal bones such as scapula, mandible and some long bones as well as maple vessel, crystals, human teeth, possibly animal skin, an oyster and large number of worked stones and obsidian (Fig. 6). These items were placed on a kind of mattress made of leaves. The cluster represents a deposit made of intentionally selected objects of each kind.

Intermediate occupational phase: Space 612

The rebuilding of platforms and benches in eastern part of the building marks the next phase of B.150 occupation, designated as Sp.612. A sequence of platforms from this phase is as follows, from the north to the south: platform F.3893, bench F.3881, platform F.3855, bench F.3858, platform F.8659. The ladder placement (F.8690) was dug into the southwestern part of the platform F.8659. The other platforms from this phase were placed in central and southern parts of B.150 (F.8284 and F.8279).

The floor in central part of the building (F.8656) was made of several thin layers of different color, including make-ups and use layers. The make-up layers were only present its central part. The floor use layers in its northern and southern parts were placed directly on the room infill. The floor surface was clearly divided into

'clean' (23739) and 'dirty' (23908) parts in its northern and southern part, respectively, the latter directly connected to the oven area.

An oven (F.3897), in the sequence of ovens built in the southern part of the building (see discussion above), had an oval shape and carefully constructed distinct, solid base. Its dimensions were the following: 1.31m x 084m x 0.14m. Its base was most likely dug into the southern wall F.3898 of the building. The oven itself underwent three reconstructions, as manifested by three distinct bases, as from the bottom: (23773), (23936), and (32837). All the bases were similarly solidly constructed, they were large and oval in shape. The second base (23936) was particularly solid and had white plastered walls and a possible opening in its north part.

Interesting features comprised two circular pits with vessels (F.3882 and F.3865) deliberately cut into the floor (Fig. 7). They seemed to represent an intentional deposit, similar to other deposits with vessels associated with platforms in B.150 (Marciniak *et al.* 2016). Another interesting deposit comprised a shallow pit F.3894 with three large stones placed at its bottom (23748) that was cut out in a very central part of the floor.



Figure 7. Pot deposit F.3882, Space 612, Building 150.

Late occupational phase: Space 594

Space 594 comprises the latest phase of the building's occupation. Some occupational and in-built structures from this phase were completely or partially excavated in 2016 (see Marciniak *et al.* 2016). These comprise a solid floor (F.8276) in its central part, a fire spot on the floor (F.8290) as well as sequence of four platforms placed against the eastern wall of the building and platforms in its south-

ern and central area. The latter included southern platform F.3873 with ovens F.8278, southwestern platform F. 8284, and central platform F.8279.

The northeastern platform F.3893 of the building was rebuilt three times. Its earliest form (F.3880) may well be a raised floor with some occupational layers. Of particular interest is a homogenous black layer with a lot of organic matter (31894). On the surface of the alleged platform, a shallow rectangular bin with carefully plastered walls (F.3884) was constructed. A single worked astragal was found inside. The following reconstruction involved in solid platform (F.8289). The final phase marked the construction of a storage area (F.8298) made of rectangular bin consisting of two compartments divided by a partition wall. The bin fill was excavated in the 2016 season (see Marciniak *et al.* 2016). A bench/partition wall (F.18299) separated this platform from the adjacent east-central platform F. 3855.

Two burial pits (F.3867 and F.3868- the former truncating the latter), were identified already in 2016. They were dug into central part of platform F.3855. Right next to the northern edge of burial F.3867, two complete anthropomorphic figurines (20736.x1 and 20736.x3) were found (see: Marciniak *et al.* 2016), most likely associated either with the platform construction or a specific burial event.



Figure 8. Burial F.3868 in central east platform (F. 3855) of Building 150.

Burial F.3868 (Fig. 8) had 14 individuals (including two primary and other disturbed), while burial F.3867 contained remains of eight individuals (for more details see: Chapter 5, *Human Remains*). In total, four subadults and 18 adults of both sexes were identified. An outstanding inhumation comes from burial F.3868. A young adult female Sk (23799) that died during the final stages of pregnancy (most likely during the delivery) was buried with the baby in her belly Sk (23904).

Another very uncommon burial found directly under F.3867 comprised the primary disturbed inhumation of a male buried with the head towards the east (F.8759, Sk (32818)) with a narrow band painted in cinnabar on the frontal bone of the skull. Except for the articulated and partially articulated skeletons, burials F.3867 and F.3868 also contained numerous disarticulated and semi-articulated remains, primarily long bones, mandibles and skulls. The very similar state of preservation of the bones and their corresponding coloration seems to imply a deposition in a very short time interval. A large number of multicolored beads were found within the infill of both burial pits.

The bench (F.3859) separated the central platform from adjacent southeast platform (F.8275). A pillar/pilaster of unspecified character was dug into the central platform of B.150. It was set on a rectangular pedestal, itself being placed above an earlier pit with the pot deposit (F.8673) dug onto the platform. It seems to be contemporary to two other pilasters excavated in 2016 (F.3875 and F.3876) (see Marciniak *et al.* 2016).

Neolithic structures post-dating Building 150

The remaining deposits of the post-B.150 Neolithic structures were excavated in the southwest corner of the trench (Sp.585), right above the southwest room of B.150. Space 585 was most likely constructed after the abandonment of B.150. However, interestingly, this room seems to retain the special character of the preceding southwest room of B.150 (F.8672), as indicated by unusual objects deposited here. These comprise a cluster (31825) two wings of a goose and worked stones, worked bones, horn core, obsidian, flint objects was found in this room, as well, as a large stone headless female figurine (31852.x3), all excavated in the 2015 season (see: Marciniak *et al.* 2015).

The main constructional elements of a small room making the Sp.585 were in its central part and comprised two parallel walls of east-west alignment (later F.8271 and earlier F.3886), both built against earlier western wall of B.150. However, due to a significant scale of the post-Neolithic occupational activities, it is difficult to link these walls to the walls of Sp.585, excavated in previous seasons. Both walls were set on a loose infill layer. This most likely led to the collapse of the wall F.3886 and followed up attempts of its repair, as indicated by deliberately placed layers of packing made of fragments of bricks covered with thick layers of plaster. The later wall F.8271 was most likely built as a support/replacement for the collapsing wall F.3886. Eastern facings of both walls have been plastered. A small fragment of plastered floor (F.8281) was associated with the wall F.8271.

Excavations in Trench 3

The work in Trench 3 in 2017 season was concentrated in its western part. In the previous season, relations between Spaces 493, 515, 520, 521, 562, 573, 574 and 575 were finally established (Marciniak *et al.* 2016). This year efforts involved further excavation of two of them, namely Sp.562 from B.122 and Sp.515 from B.166.

The main objective of the work in Sp.562 was to expose and excavate the burials beneath the platform F. 8262. This led to unearthing a very interesting sequence of burials. The main goal of work in Sp.515 was to recognize the relations between platform F.7173, exposed in 2013 (Marciniak *et al.* 2013), and the remaining part of the space. The final goal for this season in Trench 3 was to find a stratigraphic connection between structures in the trench with those in the South Area (see Marciniak *et al.* 2012). The goal was accomplished following the 10 days excavations in the southwest corner of the South Shelter. In its result, the western part of B.166 as well the midden between this building and B.10 and B.44 were exposed and excavated.

Building 122, Space 562

The work carried out to date in Sp.562 of B.122 made it possible to reveal a number of reconstructions related to the final phases of its occupation (see more Marciniak *et. al.* 2015, 2016). Space 562 comprises the northeastern room of the building as its central part is beneath the baulk separating the TPC and South Areas. The platform (F.8262) from its northern part was built against the western wall of Sp.493. The eastern wall F.7183 of the latter room was covered with white geometric painting. Two benches delimited the platform from the north (F.8296) and south (F.8291). A horned pedestal was later built on the western edge of the central part of this platform (F.8293). Altogether, as many as eight individuals, representing in most cases primary inhumation, were placed beneath the platform F.8262. They were interred in three superimposed events.

Latest burial sequence

The late burial sequence was recognized as three cuts (F.3888, F.3889, F.3890) an intercutting sequence of similarly sized burial pits, all sub-rounded pits from c.0.40 m to c.0.63m in wide c.0.34m to c.0.55m in length and between c.0.20m to c.0.61m deep. The fills of all these burials were firm and compact silt-clays ranging from light brown to more orange brown in color, which were visible on top of the platform (F.8262) surface, all contemporary to each other (as the cuts were found in the same level of a compound plaster layer sealing the top of the infills). In addition, the three cuts are placed in a north-south sequence (Fig. 9).



Figure 9. Burial cuts (F. 3888, F. 3889, F. 3890) in platform F.8262, Space 562, Building 122.

Three cuts F.3888, F.3889, F.3890 included following burials (see Chapter 5, *Human Remains*): F.3888 - a child primary individual (3-12 years); F.3889 - a young adult female primary individual

(20-35 years); F.3890 - a child primary individual (3-12 years). The skeletons were mostly undisturbed and found in a remarkably good state of preservation. The bodies (especially individual from the F.3888) were tightly flexed, with knees almost touching the forehead. In the burial fill F.3889 another individual was exposed Sk (23754). His cranium was smashed probably due to disturbance by the animals or the interment of Sk (23751). A mandible and part of vertebral column as well as lower limb, which was recognized in the northern and eastern edge of the burial cut, may belong to individual Sk (23754). In addition, there is an evidence for burying those individuals Sk (23751), Sk (23754) in one event based on the same fill consistency and texture.

The fill of F.3888, F.3889, F.3890, yielded some x-finds as well as in all cases mixed material such as obsidian, animal bones, pottery, stones as well as charcoal. The fill of F.3888 contained obsidian (23780.x1) and cluster of astragals (23780.x2); F.3889 contained obsidian point (23728.x1), point made of animal bone (23728.x2), a cluster of astragals (23728.x3), a bead (23728.x4), and an astragalus (23728.x5). The fill (23917) of F.3890 contained thirteen x finds recorded as a beads or cluster of beads, which might be associated with young adolescence female (12- 20 years old), because beads were surrounded first cervical vertebrae of as well as attached to her the lower limb especially right and left knee.

Intermediate burial sequence

In the lowest elevation level other burial events were defined below some constructional as well as make-up and plaster layers. F.8676 was placed directly below F. 3888 while F. 8691 was distinguished as located below F. 3890. Both burials were situated in a fairly small sub-ovoid cut (c.0.56m wide c.0.7m long by and between c.0.24m to 0.30m deep). All of which were possibly disturbed by a later burial (F.3888, F.3890). F.8691 contained primary disturbed loose individual and was filled with yellowish brown silty-clay, more loose at the bottom of the burial cut (32857). The cut (32802) contained a burial fill, which has been brownish and more wet, clayish on top (23999). The fill was sitting on top of skeleton (32801), remains belong to primary disturbed an adult individual. A single bead was found below this individual's wrist. The fill of F.8676 appeared to show phytolith evidence that the skeleton was wrapped in a woven blanket. The skeleton was mostly undisturbed and found in a remarkably good state of preservation. The fill of F.8691, F.8676, yielded mixed material such as obsidian, animal bones, pottery, stones as well as charcoal and patch of red ochre in (23999).

Early burial sequence

The earliest burial sequence involved two separate events: F.8671 and F.8685. Those burials have been recognized as the earliest individuals buried under the platform F.8262. Features (F.8671, F.8685) were excavated after a separated compound layer of plaster/make-up/ orangish and grayish constructional elements sequence, as it follows: (23952), (23958), (23960), (23962), (23992), (23996), (23997). These burials were situated again in a fairly small sub-ovoid cuts (23981), (32828). They were filled by greyish-brown silty sand, which became more clay and compact rich towards the base.

The burial cuts were not clear in plan, due overlapping burial cuts. Burial F.8671 contained an infant Sk (23983) partially disturbed by animal burrowing, which occurred from the north-central-south part of the platform. This individual was poorly preserved compared to the outstanding condition of the remains from the other individuals recognized under this platform. The second distinguished event recorded as F.8685 contained a primary disturbed adult individual. The disturbance was made due to undercutting truncation, which occurred in the north-central part of the

platform. The fill of F.8671, F.8685, as in all cases, contained mixed material such as obsidian, animal bones, pottery, stones as well as charcoal.

Another feature from B.122 excavated this year comprised an oven F.8295 placed in southern part of B.122. It was either cut into the wall F.7176, or the wall was built over and around the closed oven. This has not been determined as the wall itself remains unexcavated.

Building 166, Space 515

Building 166 is located in the western part of Trench 3 and southeastern part of the South Area. It makes the connection between the two excavation areas, specifying of which was one of major objectives of the work in the TPC Area (see Marciniak *et. al* 2012). The relation between them was established after analyzing a set of walls in both trenches.

The northern wall F.3878 in Trench 3 continued in the South shelter foundation trench dug 2002 and recorded as F.1077 (Farid 2014: 267-69). The same number was given to the western part of the northern wall revealed in the South Area. The eastern wall of B.166 (F.3879) was situated in Trench 3. The eastern part of the southern wall F.7174 was unearthed in Trench 3. It continued into the South shelter foundation trench, where was recorded as F.1075. The remaining western part of the southern wall of B.160 F.8680 was situated in the South Area. The western wall F.8681 of the building was placed in the South Area.

Space 515 represents the eastern part of the main room of B.166, comprising a sequence of platforms to the north and the main floor area with some fire installations to the south. An overall aim of the excavation in this space this season was to lift as many features as possible and develop a timeline for their construction.

The earliest phase of B.166 occupation in Trench 3 (Sp.515) exposed to date comprised the floor (32850). Interestingly, it was constructed over an oven F.8688 and room fill (32851), which remained unexcavated and seem to be the earliest features discovered in this building to date. A number of superimposed layers was placed directly on the floor surface ((32831), (23995)). They were clearly linked to the activities taking place around the oven ((32838), (32834)). The dirty area of B.166 underwent some kind of reconstruction after the fire installation went out of use. This involved the construction of an unspecified north-south partition wall F.8684, the floor surface (32824) and the bench-like construction F.8686. Moreover, an oval pit with well-preserved pot F.8682 was dug into both the plastered surface as well as the partition wall F.8684. Interestingly, very similar pot deposits have also been recorded in TPC Trench 4 and in B.44 in the South Area (Marciniak *et al.* 2016; Regan 2014: 172).

The reconstruction of the southeastern part of B.166 corner appears to be contemporaneous to the earliest platforms from its northern part (F.8669 and F.8670). The platforms were placed one next to the other along the eastern wall F.3879 of the building. They had plastered albeit unpainted surface. Moreover, the southernmost platform F.8670 was abutting the bench-like feature F.8686. Both these platforms remained unexcavated. Interestingly, the earliest platform, as well as two superimposed platforms, were somehow inserted into the room as indicated by being attached to the already existing plastered surface of the eastern wall of the building.

The following two platforms were built directly on top of their predecessors respecting their shape and size. The northern platform F.8660 was constructed above platform F. 8669 while the southern platform F.8661 above F.8670. They measured 1.31m x 1.38m and 1.29m x 1.38m, respec-

tively. Platform F.8660 from the very northeast corner of the building was constructed of a friable constructional layer (23969) and much more compact layer (23967) of molding making the structure solid. The platform surface was covered by silty and very firm layer of plaster (23968). The platform F.8661 was very badly affected by the post-Neolithic truncation F.8665 (destruction cut 30887), which significantly damaged almost entire central part of the building. Due to this destruction only its northernmost part survived. It was made of a constructional layer (23967) (same as in the platform F.8660) and fairly thin plaster layer adjacent to platform F.8660 in its northern part (23966). Despite severe damage, two burial events were defined (F.3896 and F.8661) (see more: Chapter 5, *Human Remains*). The burial F.3896 was situated in a distinct pit (c.0.92m long, 0.58m wide and c.0.36m deep). The cut included two burials: (i) a completely preserved adult Sk (23921) laying on his back, slightly sloping on left side, and (ii) a headless adult Sk (23772) placed directly beneath the former one. The bones were in an exceptionally good state of preservation. The burial cut was filled with distinct silty-clay (23914) and (23770) layers. The second burial F.8662 contained an infant skeleton Sk (23961). It was in a flexed position and was interred in a shallow cut (23945), itself placed directly on the surface of the earlier platform F.8670.



Figure 10. Platform F.7173 with burial F.3891 visible on its surface.

The latest platform F.7173 is mostly likely the only in-built structure representing the final phase of the B.166 use (Fig. 10). The first constructional layer was made of fragile and soft material (23912), placed directly above the surface of the earlier platform F.8660. It was followed by a very firm layer of clay, layered down at the edges (23918), and the strong cement like constructional layer (23777). Two individuals were in one burial pit F.3891: (i) an adult Sk (23752) with tightly flexed position aligned with the cut, with head to the west facing south and placed directly above this skeleton

(ii) an infant Sk (23746) interred in a tightly flexed position on its left side, head to the west facing north. Both individuals were interred in an ovoid cut (c.0.92m long, c.0.84m wide and c.0.42m deep). The burial was then sealed off by two infill deposits ((23722), (23724)) and the platform surface was then carefully plastered over (23718). A circular red pigment application, excavated in the 2013 season, was placed directly above the burial cut (Marciniak *et al.* 2013).

Another platform/podium F.7177 was revealed only in a small fragment as it was running into the western section of Trench 3. The dimensions of the platform within the trench are c1.38m x 0.26m. The platform abutted the wall F.3878 from the north and the platform F.7173 from the east. As the above discussed platforms, the platform F.7177 was badly truncated from the south by an unspecified post-Neolithic cut F.8665.

Excavations in the South Area

With the aim of discovering the relations between B.166 and the corresponding structures in the South Area, two c.2m wide strips were excavated, one parallel to the southern part of the eastern wall of the South shelter, and the other perpendicular to it. The latter trench reached the eastern edge of structures excavated in 2004 and 2005 (Regan 2004, 2005), in particular the platform F.1312 located next to the western wall of B.44 (F.1340). The platform, as well as primary leveling deposit (11626), extends outside the building wall further the west. A blocking F.8668 made of very firm clay (23980), and one course of bricks (23979) was later built on the platform surface. It most likely have closed down the access between B.44 and the area outside directly to the east. This blocking was



Figure 11. Midden (23956) located west of B.166, Space 638, South Area.

later truncated by foundation cut for later wall F.8667, most likely used to stabilize and strengthen the blocking wall.

The remains of later activity comprised a large truncation destroying the packing F.8667 and floor surface (32808). It was made deliberately for the dumping area. The cut was later filled in with a number of superimposed midden layers deposited against both the packing F.8667 as well as the western F.8681 and the northern F.1077 walls of B.166. The midden was excavated by arbitrary layers. A sequence of the two layers (23998) and (23990) at the bottom was followed by another layer (23984) and then two uppermost layers of midden (23956) and (23950) (Fig. 11). A small wall of north-south alignment F.8663 was placed directly on top of the midden (Sp.126). It was unrelated to any other feature.

Final remarks

The work carried out in the 2017 season marks the completion of the project in the TPC Area. The planned objectives for the year were largely completed. In particular, the connection between the southernmost trench in the TPC Area and the South Area was established thanks to B.166, which parts are located in both areas. A satisfactory number of details were collected from that building. Similarly, a sequence of burials were unearthed beneath the northeastern platform of B.122. As the occupational history of B.150 was longer and much more complicated than originally envisioned, the planned goal of getting into the construction phase of the building was not achieved. However, this season made it possible to recognize four phases of the building's complex occupational history.

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