

F.8179, Sk (32698), Cut (32697), Fill (32659)

Feature 8179 represents a block-cut section that was removed on the basis that the surface features supported the potential inclusion of a basket burial (Fig. 23). Upon micro-excavation of the block, it became apparent that the skeletal remains were heavily disturbed due to animal burrowing. The infill (32659) contained numerous fragments of animal bones, including the majority of a small rodent skeleton. The skeletal remains of individual Sk (32698) were recovered from the bottom of the block cut, and no evidence of a basket was identified. Further analysis of the skeletal remains revealed that Sk (32698) represents a pre-term fetus of approximately 32-34 weeks gestation (8-8.5 months). This age is not viable at birth.

TPC Area Neolithic burials

Building 122 (platform F.8262)

F.3888, Sk (23781), Cut (23719), Fill (23779, 23780)

Feature 3888 is one of the northernmost burials in platform F.8262, Sp.562. It contained the primary undisturbed skeleton of an adolescent of unknown sex (Figs. 26 and 31). The body was placed in a tightly flexed position on its left side, with the head to the west (facing down) and the feet to the east. No artifacts were found in association with this burial. This burial was located directly above an earlier inhumation, F.8676, but it does not seem to have disturbed it.



Figure 26. Primary burial F.3888 containing Sk (23781) in Building 122.

F.3889, Sk (primary: 23751; secondary cranium and mandible: 23754), Cut (23720), Fill (23725, 23728)

Feature 3889 was located immediately to the south of F.3888. Stratigraphically, it appears to be the last burial in platform F.8262. The burial contained the primary undisturbed skeleton of a middle adult female. The body had been placed in a tightly flexed position on its left side, slightly prone, with the head to the west and the feet to the east (Figs. 27 and 31). Sk (23754), an isolated cranium, mandible and several articulated cervical vertebrae belonging to a possible male were found in the western end of the grave cut and appear to derive from an earlier primary burial (F.8685, Sk (32841)) located directly beneath F.3889. No artifacts were found in association with this burial.

F.3890, Sk (23920), Cut (23721), Fill (23913, 23917)

Feature 3890 is one of the southernmost burials in platform F.8262. It contained the primary undisturbed skeleton of a late adolescent, possibly female. The body was placed in a loosely flexed position on its back (leaning slightly on its left side) with the head to the west (facing northeast) and the feet to the east (Figs. 28 and 31). A worked animal bone point (23917.x1) was recovered from the grave fill and a number of stone and shell beads (23917.x2-13) were found in association with this skeleton.



Figure 27. Orthophoto of primary burial F.3889 containing Sk (23751) in Building 122.



Figure 28. Orthophoto of primary burial F.3890 containing Sk (23920) in Building 122.

F.8671, Sk (23983), Cut (23981), Fill (23982)

Burial F.8671 is one of the last burials in platform F.8262. It was located between burials F.3890 and F.3889 in the central area of the platform and contained the primary undisturbed skeleton of an infant (between 1 and 2 years of age at death). The body was placed in a flexed position on its left side with the head to the west and the feet to the east (Fig. XX). No artifacts were found in association with this burial.

F.8676, Sk (32801), Cut (32802), Fill (23999)

Feature 8676 is one of the earliest burials in platform F.8262. It was located in the northern end of platform F.8262, directly underneath the later inhumation F.3888. It contained the primary undis-

turbed skeleton of a middle adult female placed in a tightly flexed position on its left side with the head to the west and the feet to the east (Figs. 29 and 31). This burial appears to have truncated earlier burials in the platform, as the disarticulated and incomplete remains of an infant and neonate were recovered from the eastern end of the grave cut. No artifacts were found in association with this burial.



Figure 29. Orthophoto of primary burial F.8676 containing Sk (32801) in Building 122.

F.8685, Sk (32841), Cut (32828), Fill (32830)

Feature 8685 appears to be one of the earliest burials in platform F.8262 as it is quite deep and no cut was clearly discernible through any of the platform surfaces. The burial contained the primary disturbed skeleton of a young adult of indeterminate sex. The cephalic extremity of Sk (32841) was missing. The body was placed in a tightly flexed position on its left side with the head originally located to the northwest and the feet to the southeast (Figs. 30 and 31). This burial was located directly underneath later inhumation F.3889 and had truncated the western end of F.8685, disinterring the cranium, mandible and upper cervical vertebrae. The disarticulated cephalic extremity Sk (23754) found in the grave fill of F.3889 is likely to belong to Sk (32841).

In addition to primary disturbed skeleton Sk (32841), the incomplete and partially disarticulated remains of a middle adult female were also recovered from the grave fill (32830) of F.8685. Numerous old breaks are observable on the long bones, talus, ossa coxae and mandible. In addition,

old gouge marks are visible on the broken talus. These observations are suggestive of an aggressive disturbance to these bones in Neolithic times, perhaps resulting from the disinterment and relocation of this individual from an earlier grave. However, no trace of an earlier burial was found in this immediate vicinity of F.8685. As such, these bones may represent a secondary deposit. However, until the platform has been completely excavated, this cannot be ascertained. No artifacts were found in association with burial F.8685.



Figure 30. Orthophoto of primary disturbed burial F.8685 containing Sk (32841) in Building 122.

F.8691, Sk (32856), Cut (32857), Fill (32855)

Feature 8691 was located in the southern end of platform F.8682, directly underneath F.3890. As with F.8685, it appears to be one of the earliest burial features in the platform. It contained the partial cranium of a young adult possible female Sk (32856) and the isolated and partially articulated infracranial remains of at least two adults recovered from the grave fill and assigned as (32855.1) and (32855.2). Sk (32855.1) consists of an articulated right lower limb, a left femur and partial left foot. Sk (32855.2) is a semi-articulated and partially complete infracranial skeleton belonging to a possible female (Fig. 31). The bones of Sk (32855.2) have extensive but irregular black staining, and this matches the staining pattern of the isolated cranium Sk (32856). The black color on the bones

was confirmed as manganese (Mn) with PXRF. The levels of manganese are much higher on the black parts of the bone than on the non-stained parts of the bone and in the burial soil (32855). It is likely that this black staining was caused by the diagenetic accumulation of manganese from the soil, a phenomenon often observed at Çatalhöyük and other archaeological sites (e.g. Shahack-Gross 1997; Dupras and Schultz 2013). The irregular staining, and the fact that no manganese nodules have been found on site, makes it less likely that this black staining was intentional. The other set of infracranial bones Sk (32855.1) is much less stained. This suggests that one set of bones had been moved to this location from a different location.

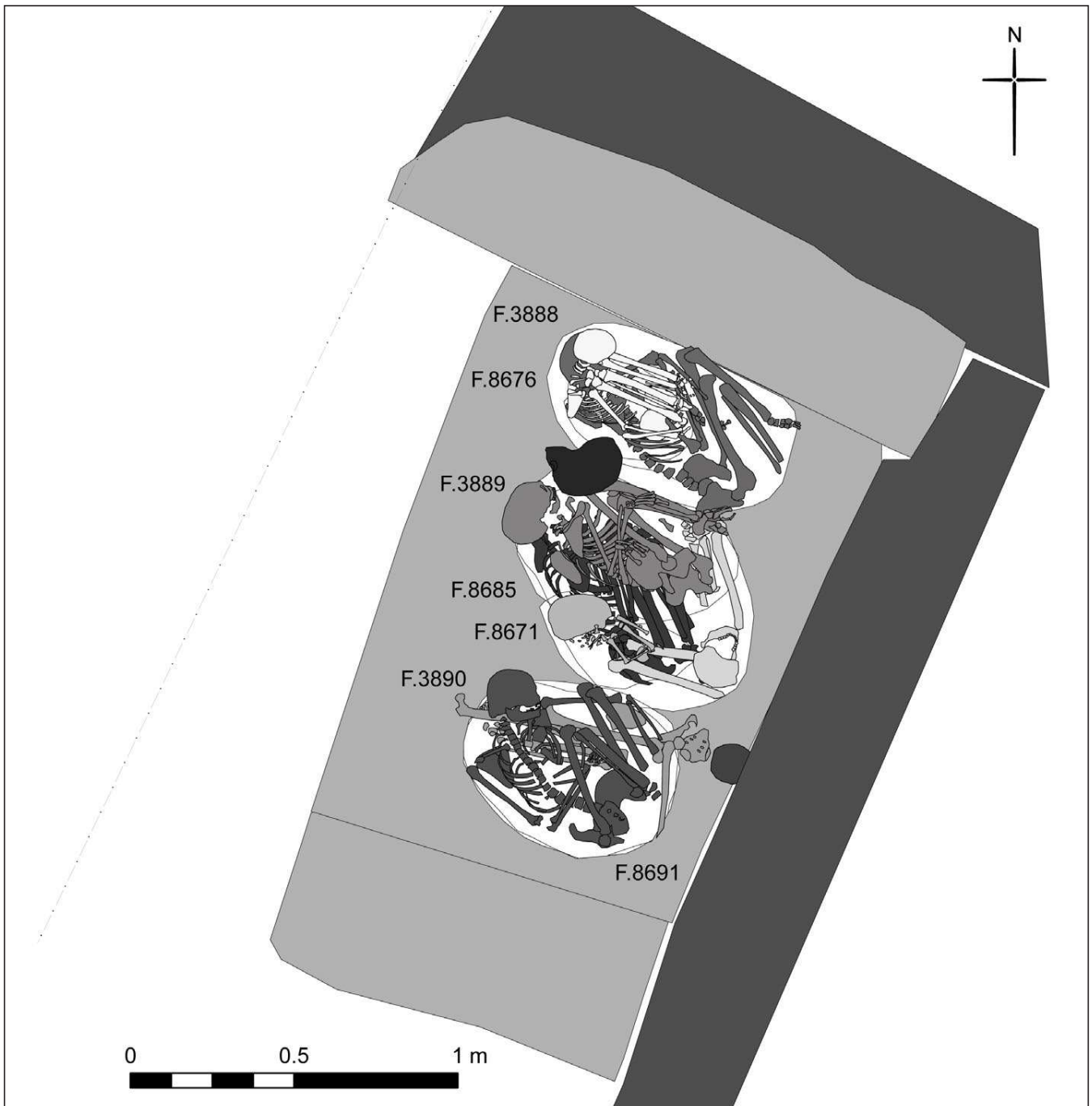


Figure 31. Plan of platform F.8262 in Building 122 showing location of burial features (plan by Camilla Mazzucato).

Building 150 (platform F.8664)

F.3867, Sk (primary disturbed/secondary individuals: 23760, 23905, 23909, 23911; primary disturbed loose/secondary crania and mandibles: 23910, 23957), Cut (20763), Fill (31884)

Feature 3867 is located in the southern half of platform F.8664 along the eastern wall of Building 150. It includes skeletal remains related to different (at least two) depositional events. Sk (23760) is represented by the flexed, incomplete skeleton of a middle adult of unknown sex, lacking the cranium and mandible (see Sk (23957), below, which may represent the cephalic elements of this individual), and its stratigraphic position is consistent with one of the last (or the last) deposition events in F.3867. Sk (23905) is represented by few cranial elements, coxal bones, and femora of a middle adult individual of indeterminate sex. Sk (23909) and Sk (23911) are the incomplete skeletal remains of two children (Sk (23909), which was flexed, while the incompleteness and scattered position of the remains of Sk (23911) hampered an understanding of their original position). Two crania and mandibles Sk (23910) and Sk (23957) pertain to middle and old adult males, respectively. Their relative position and relative age-at-death suggest that they may be associated with Sk (23760) (cranium and mandible Sk (23957)) and Sk. (23905) (cranium and mandible Sk (23910)), respectively (Figs. 32 and 35). The isolated skeletal remains of Sk (31884.1-91) were recovered in the fill (31884) of this feature and pertain to various anatomical regions of at least six adults and one child (a minimum number calculated on the basis of right femoral elements).



Figure 32. Mid-excavation view of burial F.3867 with loose and semi-articulated skeletal remains (photo by Jason Quinlan).

The overall interpretation of F.3867 is complicated by the chaotic overlapping of partially articulated and disarticulated remains and by their extreme fragmentation. Sk (23905), Sk (23909), and Sk (23911) may relate to primary inhumations disturbed by the later deposition of Sk (23760). The disturbance of the latter is more difficult to explain due to the absence of subsequent depositions above this individual, (but note the presence of isolated and scattered skeletal remains in the fill above). Accordingly, the absence of various skeletal elements in the context of overall anatomical

connection may relate to the secondary deposition of a partially fleshed individual. Similarly, the most parsimonious interpretation of the isolated human remains in fill (31884) is their link to two different processes: the disturbance of Sk (23905), Sk (23909), and Sk (23911), or their secondary deposition as isolated skeletal/body parts. It is essential in this context to note: a) that the fragmentation of these skeletal findings, and the partial overlapping of the age-at-death determinations of these individuals make it almost impossible to confidently assign any of the loose elements to a specific individual, and b) the incomplete excavation of platform F.3855 means that other individuals may still lie beneath. Several beads (31884.x1-x29, x31-x36) and one flint artifact (31884.x30) were collected from the fill (31844), their position being inconsistent with any association with a specific individual.

F.3868, Sk (primary individuals: 23799, 23904, 23798; primary disturbed loose/secondary crania: 23900, 23901, 23902, 23903, 23965, 23972, 23783, 32835, 32848) Cut (20796), Fill (31888)

Feature 3868 represents a complex burial deposit of primary and secondary skeletal remains of adults and subadults. This feature adjoins F.3867 located immediately to the south (described above). Excavation of this feature was not completed during the 2017 season, and it is expected that the skeletal remains of other individuals are still present within this context. There were three primary inhumations within the lower levels of this feature. These were the burial of a pregnant adult female, Sk (23799) and her full-term fetus, Sk (23904) (Figs. 33 and 35) and an adult female, Sk (23798).

Individual Sk (23799) died during the final stages of pregnancy and was buried with the baby in utero. The body position is loosely flexed and the cephalic extremity is hyper-extended. Further analysis revealed that she died between 25 and 35 years. Significant skeletal pathology included posterior fusion of the thoracic and lumbar vertebral column with preservation of the intervertebral space but leaving the anterior parts of the vertebrae unaffected. There was also advanced widespread osteoporosis affecting the majority of skeletal elements. Lastly, the glenoid of the left scapula and the sternal end of the left clavicle are expanded, likely as an osteophytic response to trauma, and six consecutive left ribs have healed mid-shaft fractures.

The full-term fetus (40 weeks gestation), Sk (23904) died in utero. The fetus does not display any evidence of skeletal pathology. The position of the fetal head (engaged within the mother's pelvic cavity) and the nuchal position of the right hand (behind the head, elbow at chin) strongly suggest that if the mother was in labor, the baby could not have been delivered without intervention (manipulation of the trapped upper limb). The third primary inhumation represents a partially articulated adult female, Sk (23798) of 35+ years of age at death). The lower limbs were not in articulation with the remainder of the skeleton and may be represented in the disarticulated remains within the fill (31888) of this feature. The skeletal pathology of Sk (23798) includes a partially healed fractures of the lateral border of the left scapula and a middle right rib. This individual was deposited after the pregnant female, Sk (23799), which is in a lower stratigraphic position within the cut.

The disarticulated crania belong to subadults and adults and their estimated age at death and sex are as follows: Sk (23972) (red pigment on external cranial vault), 18-25 years, male; Sk (23903), 35-45 years, male; Sk (23965), 16-22 years, male; Sk (23783) (cranium and mandible), 35-50 years, female; Sk (23901), 20+ years, female; Sk (23902), Sk (32848) and Sk (32835), all 35-50 years, and Sk (23900), adult. The disarticulated skeletal remains deposited in feature 3868 represent several individuals of multiple ages. It is possible that single individuals may be represented in the disarticulated remains of both features.



Figure 33. Primary undisturbed burial F.3868 [upper frame] with adult female Sk (23799) and fetus Sk (23904) and primary disturbed burial F.8759 Sk (32818) [lower frame] (photo by Jason Quinlan).

Numerous finds were recovered within the fill of F.3868 (31888). These include stone beads of several colors, worked bones, obsidian points and shaped flakes, disarticulated faunal remains, red and blue pigment, and shell. These could not be positively associated with articulated individual burials apart from two cases: two beads (31888.x42 and x43) were on the remains of Sk (23798); and one bead (31888.x56) was on the remains of Sk (23799).

The blue pigment (31888.s8) was analyzed with PXRF and showed a clear presence of copper (Cu). To make sure that this element was not present in the burial soil, a soil reference sample (31888.s1) was also analyzed. The soil sample indicated the presence of common soil elements such

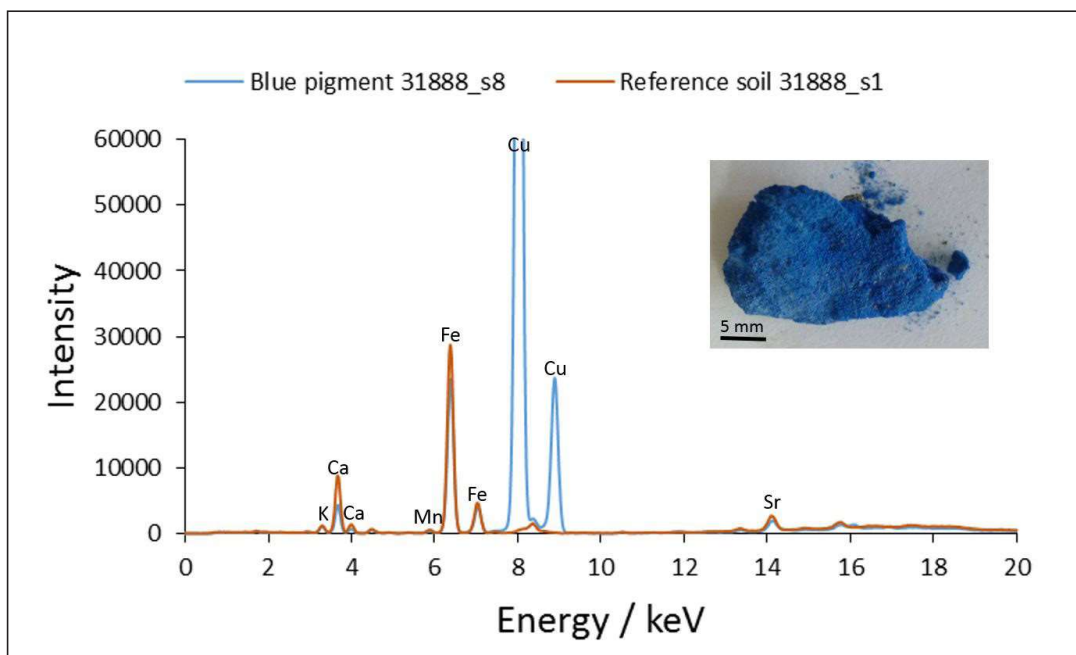


Figure 34. PXRF analysis of blue pigment (31888.s8) from F.3868 indicating the presence of copper (Cu). Soil reference sample (31888.s1) shows the presence of potassium (K), calcium (Ca), manganese (Mn), iron (Fe) and strontium (Sr).

as potassium (K), calcium (Ca), manganese (Mn), iron (Fe) and strontium (Sr) (Fig. 34). Given the presence of only copper in the blue pigment, it can likely be characterized as azurite.

F.8759, Sk (32818), Cut (20796), Fill (31884)

F. 8759 contains the primary disturbed skeletal remains of a middle adult male, Sk. (32818) lying on his back in what was originally a flexed position (Figs. 33 and 35). The skeleton is missing both femora, tibiae, and fibulae, most likely as a result of the later grave cut for F.3867 (see previous), located directly above F.8759.

Several features make this burial interesting: (1) the presence of red pigment on the frontal bone in the form of a straight, neat “stroke” of red pigment. Small patches of pigment are also present on the left maxilla; (2) the presence of a freshwater shell (*Unio* sp.) with red pigment at the right shoulder, and on top of it; (3) fragments of animal bones apparently associated with the skeleton and positioned at the cervical and abdominal regions, and lastly, (4) the orientation of the skeleton with its head towards the east, as opposed to the western head orientation of the other primary burials in this platform.

The red pigment on the frontal bone of Sk (32818) and in the shell (31884.x41) were analyzed with PXRF together with a reference soil sample from fill (31884) to ascertain that certain elements such as Hg were not present in the burial soil. The red pigment on the cranium and the shell was identified as cinnabar (HgS) by the presence of sulphur (S) and mercury (Hg). The soil reference sample from (31884) showed a clear absence of sulphur (S) and mercury (Hg) and presence of common soil elements such as potassium (K), calcium (Ca), manganese (Mn) and iron (Fe) (Fig. 36). For a more detailed discussion of the shells from burial contexts see Chapter 8, *Shells*.

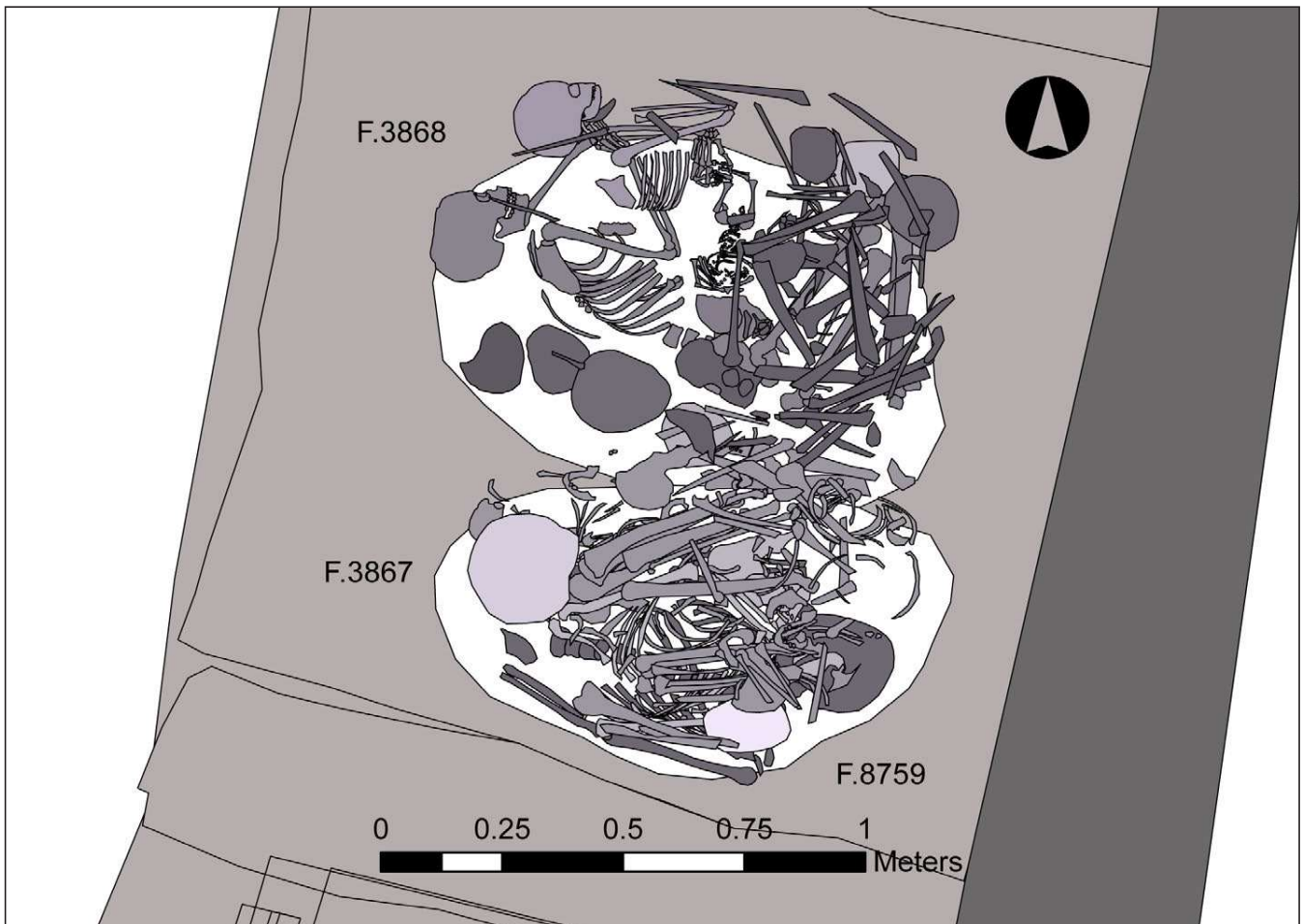


Figure 35. Plan of east-central platform F.8664 in Building 150 showing location of burial features.

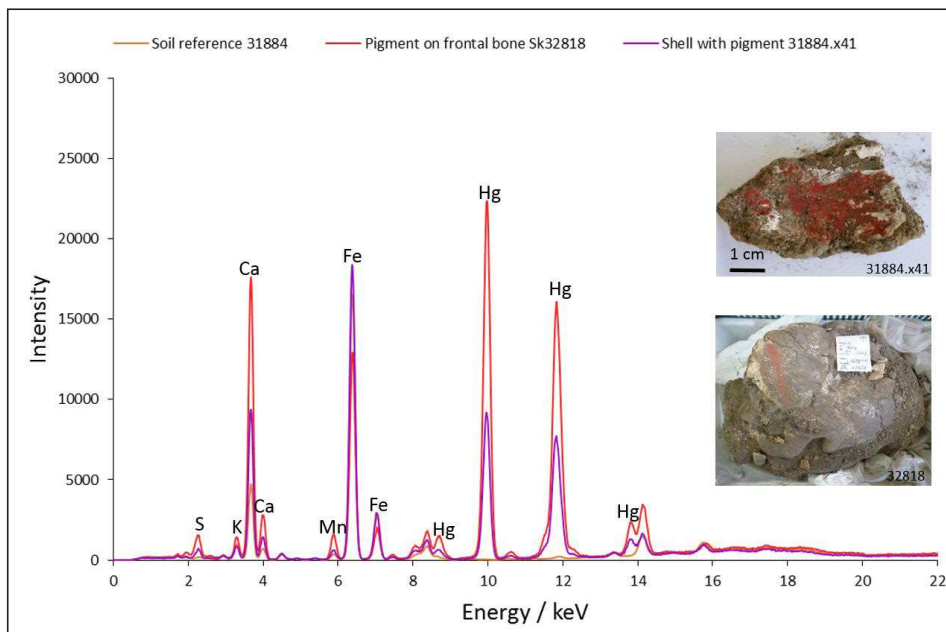


Figure 36. PXRf analysis of red pigment on the frontal bone of Sk (32818) and red pigment in *Unio* sp. shell (31884.x41) from F.8759 were both characterized as cinnabar by the presence of sulphur (S) and mercury (Hg).

Building 166

F.3891, Sk (23752, 23746), Cut (23723), Fill (23724, 23733)

Feature 3891 is a primary undisturbed double burial within the northeast platform F.7173 of B.166. The burial contained the simultaneously interred skeletons of an old adult male Sk (23752) and an infant Sk (23746). The adult was placed on his right side in a moderately flexed position with the head to the west (facing east) and the feet to the east (Figs. 37 and 40). The infant was placed directly above the adult in a loosely flexed position on its left side with its head to the west (facing east) and the feet to the east.



Figure 37. Primary burial F.3891 adult male Sk (23752) in B.166 after removal of infant Sk (23746) (photo by Mateusz Dembowiak).

One stone bead (23746.x1) was found in the region of the cervical vertebrae and mandible of the infant, and a shell bead (23733.x1) was found in the fill at the bottom of the grave cut. A small stamp seal with a geometric motif (23733.D1) was also recovered from the grave fill during dry-sieving.

F.3896, Sk (23772, 23787, 23921), Cut (23771), Fill (23770, 23914)

Feature 3896 contained the remains of three adults, placed one on top of the other. Stratigraphically, it appears that the interment of these three individuals took place as a single event, as there is direct contact between them within this feature, without any evidence for disturbance. This burial was partially truncated by a large Hellenistic pit (23761) such that the uppermost individual in the burial, Sk (23772), an old adult of indeterminate sex, was heavily disturbed, with only the torso, right upper limb, left proximal humerus and hand remaining (Figs. 38a and 40). The body of this indi-



Figure 38. Primary burial F.3896 containing (a) old adult Sk (23772), (b) old adult female Sk (23787); (c) mature adult female Sk (23921) (photos by Mateusz Dembowiak).

vidual had been placed on its back with its upper limbs crossed above its chest. The head was oriented to the west and the feet to the east. Although the lower limbs were missing, it seems that the body had been placed in a flexed position, given the oval shape of the grave cut. Two flat, sheet-like pieces of mineral (23772.x1, x2), perhaps mica, were recovered in association with this individual; both were found near the left shoulder.

Directly underneath Sk (23772) was Sk (23787), an old adult female without her cephalic extremity, placed in a tightly flexed position on her right side originally oriented with the cephalic extremity to the west and the feet to the east (Figs. 38b and 40). It is unclear whether the cephalic extremity of Sk (23787) was removed prior to its interment or was missing as a result of the Hellenistic truncation of the burial. No artifacts were found in association with this individual.

Sk (23921), a mature adult female, was found at the bottom of the grave cut (23771) for F.3896, directly beneath Sk (23787). It is the only completely intact individual found within this burial feature. As with the other two individuals from F.3896, Sk (23921) was oriented with its head to the west and its feet to the east (Figs. 38c and 40). The body had been placed on its back with the lower limbs flexed at the knee and drawn tightly up against the chest. The right upper limb was extended alongside the body, and the left upper limb was extended with the hand placed above the lower abdomen. An anklet of stone beads of various types was found around the left ankle (23914.x1, x2, x3). Due to its exceptional preservation, this individual was consolidated and lifted with the assistance of the conservation team and will be put on display in the Konya Archaeological Museum.

F.8662, Sk (23961), Cut (23945), Fill (23946)

Feature 8662 contained the loosely flexed primary undisturbed skeleton of an infant located in the northeast corner of platform F.8661. The burial was located directly above the earlier platform F.8670. The body had been placed on its back (and slightly on its left side) with the head oriented to the northwest and the feet to the southeast (Figs. 39 and 40). The lower limbs were slightly flexed at the knees. The left upper limb was extended alongside the body, while the right upper limb was loosely flexed, with the hand placed above the right ilium. Much of the facial skeleton and the left hand were missing, likely due to rodent activity. No artifacts were found in association with this burial.



Figure 39. Primary burial F.8662 infant Sk (23961) in Building 166 (photo by Mateusz Dembowiak).

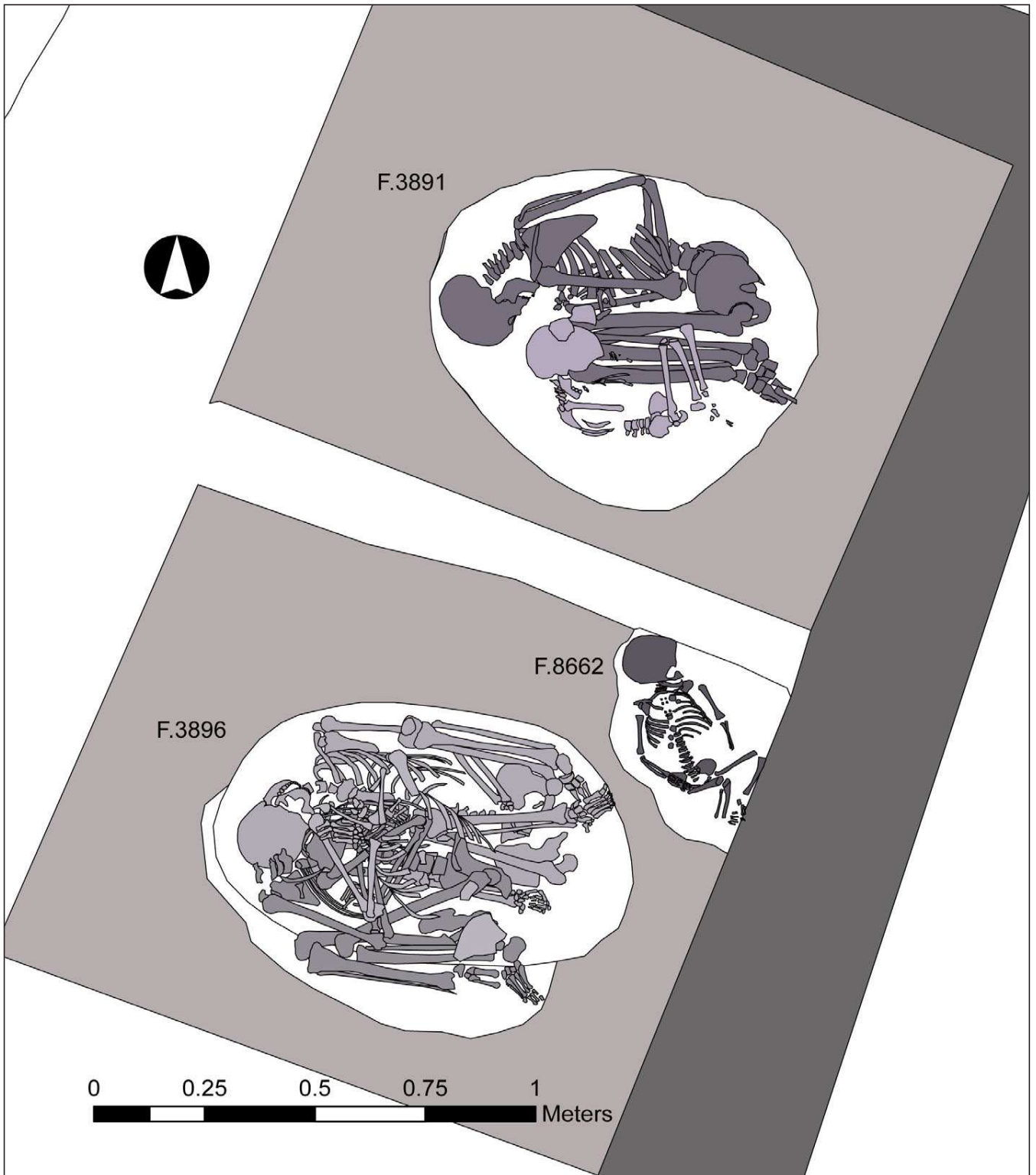


Figure 40. Plan of Building 166 showing location of burials.