

F.2648 (16513)

The tightly flexed skeleton of an adult male was found eroding along the western section of a 1960s trench. The lower part of the body had been lost by the truncation and subsequent erosion. The bones are in poor condition. The body was highly compacted to fit into the small grave pit. The main axis of the body was oriented east–west with the upper body to the east. The body was on its right side while the head was on the left. The head was twisted so that the apex of the head was oriented to the north. The neck vertebrae were highly curved to accommodate this head position. A talon of an eagle-size bird was found at the chest. Black residue was noted at the vertebrae and ribs.

F.5001 (16556)

The partial skeleton of a neonate was found eroding in the western section originally excavated in the 1960s. The majority of the body had been lost when the grave was truncated and due to subsequent erosion. The bones are in poor condition. The only bones remaining were parts of the cranial vault, a few ribs, a few vertebrae, and the right tibia. The grave cut was clear in some areas but indistinct in others. Phytoliths were sampled from the base of the skull and the ribs. The infant may have been buried in a basket.

F.5004 (17063)

Buried near an oven in B.75, a neonate was found on its back with the legs drawn up. The head was on its left side, facing east and slightly downward. Some bones were missing. The grave cut was not clearly visible until the skeleton was lifted. Phytoliths were recovered from the upper thorax region and the lower legs. A disarticulated adult humeral head was found near the knees of the neonate.

IST Area

Building 63, Space 289

Two neonates buried in the same pit but at different times are the first Neolithic burials to be recovered from the Ist Area.

F.2325 (13969)

A neonate was placed on its left side in a north-south orientation near the eastern wall of Space 289. The head was to the north, facing east. The legs were tightly flexed with the upper body pushed forward so that the spine was visible. A small clay ball was found in the abdominal area. The interment of the neonate disturbed another neonate (13985).

F.2325 (13985)

The skeleton of a neonate was disturbed during the interment of another neonate (13969). Placed on its right side, the disturbed neonate was in a north-south orientation, probably facing west. Only the left shoulder, left arm, and left leg of (13985) remained in situ. The rest of the body was scattered or missing entirely. The grave cut was visible only at its northern edge.

TP Area

A minimum of 11 Neolithic skeletons were recovered in the TP area during the 2008 field season. Ten of these individuals were recovered from a multiple grave context (F.6000) in a small room (Space 327) with incised architectural features. Another adult burial (F.6001) was found outside of the excavation area.

Space 327

F.6000 (15838, 17622, 17623, 17624, 17625, 17626, 17698, 17699, 17823, 17807)

At least 10 individuals were among the randomly scattered remains of human bones found in a small elaborated room (Figure 116). One headless individual (17698) was articulated at the bottom of the pit. Another skeleton (17622) was also articulated and headless. The bones were densely scattered throughout the northern portion of the room with a lighter concentration of bones in the southern part of the room. The burial chamber is the first example of its kind at Çatalhöyük where there is a decorated room specifically built and used for burial purposes. There were at least three infants; one is nearly complete but headless (17622). There were 36 indirectly associated grave items found within this chamber; none

could be associated with any specific individual. The grave goods included stone beads, flints, arrow heads, axes, a flint dagger, worked bones, and a figurine.



Figure 116: The first layer of the burial chamber F.6000 in TP area, view to west.

Complete Skeletons

(17698)

One of two complete skeletons was a headless female skeleton (17698) that was found at the lower layer of the room. It is likely the remains of earlier burials were disturbed by this interment. This flexed skeleton was lying on its left side, oriented west-east with the head to the west (Figure 117). The head was removed during Neolithic times after the skeleton had fully decomposed. Phytolith remains were noted on several places throughout the body including the elbows, which suggests that the body was bound pre-interment.



Figure 117: Headless adult female skeleton (17698), the last burial from in the burial chamber in TP area, view to west.

(17622)

A headless skeleton was found in the southern part of the chamber. An infant skeleton was lying on its stomach, slightly tilted to the left side. The head was missing. The presence of the first two cervical vertebrae suggests a deliberate removal of the head. However, disturbance of the skeleton during other burial events could also be reason for the absence of the head. The legs were bent at the knees and the lower legs crossed under the body. The right arm was bent under the body while the left arm was extended by the side of the body.

Partial Skeletons

The skeletal elements of the other individuals in the grave were found scattered throughout the room. Skeleton unit numbers were given to all skulls and some of the partial skeletons. These skeleton numbers and a brief description are as follows:

- (17699): semi-articulated skeleton, right lower leg located in north-east corner of the room
- (17623): an adult cranial vault located in the central part of the room; some disarticulated postcranial bones
- (17624): an adult female skull, located in the northern part of the room
- (17625): a crushed male skull found in the north-west corner of the room
- (17626): a partially articulated young adult male skeleton; torso, pelvis, and left femur in articulation, right femur found nearby
- (17807): semi-articulated torso found by the north wall of the room
- (17823): partially preserved skull, mainly facial bones and maxilla placed by the eastern wall
- (15838): partially preserved adult skull

F.6001 (17616)

This grave was found outside of the TP excavation area to the west (Figure 118). The grave was highly disturbed by weathering processes and it had been truncated by earlier excavations in the 1960's. Many skeletal elements were missing due to the truncation. The bones were disarticulated and placed randomly in the grave, suggesting that this may have been a secondary burial where the bones were brought from elsewhere. Preliminary indicators suggest the remains belong to one individual.



Figure 118: A secondary context burial (17616) from F.6001 in TP Area, view to east.

West Mound

Trench 5

F.5069 (16835)

The first Chalcolithic burial was found in Trench 5 on the West Mound. The partial skeleton of a neonate was found near or under a wall in Space 342. Placed on its right side, the neonate was likely to have been in a flexed position.

Post-Neolithic Remains

4040 Area

Three Post-Neolithic skeletons were excavated and lifted in the upper levels of the 4040. Two of the skeletons were adults and one was a juvenile. All were face up. Grave goods were found at the feet of two of the skeletons. Based on body position and orientation and the types of grave goods, these individuals appear to be late Roman.

F.3081 (16427)

Dorsally extended, head to the west and feet to the east, this Post-Neolithic skeleton of an adult was found cutting into B.77, Space 83. The head was face up with the head and mandible intact. The arms were extended alongside the body. Several elements were missing, displaced, or highly fragmented. The bones were in poor condition. Remnants of the coffin were present. No grave goods were found in association with this adult.

F.3084 (16442)

The skeleton of an adult from Post-Neolithic times was found cut into Space 84. Dorsally extended, head to the west and feet to the east, the skeleton was in poor condition. The head was face up. The arms were extended alongside the body. Proximity to the surface, animal activities, and root action accounts for the most of the disturbance to the skeleton. The grave