

TP Area

Although the major part of the bone material that was excavated in the TP area during the 2006 season will be analyzed in future years, we describe several analyzed deposits. They come from features stratigraphically dated to between Level I and 0 (clearly post-Level I), Level I and Level II. The animal bones were excavated from Buildings 61 and 62 as well as brickly layers near the buildings.

One of them (12277), composed of a large number of constructional elements including fragments of mortar, broken mudbricks, painted plaster, and clay was probably preliminary to the construction of Space 248 (Twiss et al. 2005) and associated with the abandonment of Building 61. Stratigraphically it can be dated to post-Level I. This layer contained a small-moderate amount of animal bone. There were mostly sheep-size animals with a little large mammal. The diagnostics were mainly sheep/goat, with a few cattle and dog. The sheep-size body part distribution was fairly even, but a bit light on the vertebrae and ribs, although rib heads were well-represented. Fragmentation was moderate, with many pieces ca. 5 cm. There was some digestion and gnawing, but very little burning. Generally this deposit of animal bone looks reworked because the surface condition was somewhat variable and mostly rather worn. The material from the flotation sample was generally similar to the dry-sieved but with more burning. The few diagnostics were mostly sheep/goat with one cattle phalanx fragment. A microfauna vertebra was also found.

The comparison of brickly layers situated eastwards from Buildings 61 and 62 (13020, 12282, 12277) with those laid to the south (13022 and over it 12278) from them, will be crucial. A typical brickly layer in the east and a midden-like / infill layer on the south suggests the possibility of faunal difference, as yet unknown at this stage of investigations. A perforated pig incisor bead was recovered from one of these layers (12278.X2).

Some burnt bones (13072) together with burnt brick fragments and pottery were discovered in a hearth area: dark greyish ash with many charcoal inclusions, located in the western part of infill layer (13509), below the occupation level situated under Building 62. The dry sieve sample provided information about burnt bone, small in fragment size (2 pieces over 5 cm and only 5 pieces over 3 cm), with sharp edges, not trampled, little abrasion or polish surface, with rodent and carnivore activity and a little bit of digested bone. Although the animal bone deposit (mostly fragments of long bone shaft, sheep/goat teeth and feet) comes from a hearth, it looks as though it was near enough the hearth to become burnt, rather than material directly associated with the activities that caused the burning.

South Area

Within the South Area, excavation this year centered on the Building 65/56/44 sequence and the vicinity of Building 53. Our recording was focused on the Building 65/56/44 sequence (see discussion of abandonment deposits below).

IST Area

The IST area this year yielded several special faunal finds, including the fragmentary remains of the first plaster-coated bucranium discovered by the current team (11898.X1-Fig.121). The horns of this small (probably female) animal are broken, so that the right one is approximately 8 cm long and the left approximately 12 cm. The