

ÇATALHÖYÜK 2018 RESEARCH REPORT





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Cover: Spiral Decorated Clay Object

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ÇATALHÖYÜK 2018 TEAM MEMBERS

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<i>Scientific Director:</i>	Çiler Çilingirođlu
<i>Honorary Team Member:</i>	Ian Hodder
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<i>Project Coordination:</i>	Bilge Kùçùkdođan, Sinan Ùnlùsoy
<i>Site Custodians:</i>	İbrahim Eken, Mustafa Tokyađsun, Hasan Tokyađsun, Uđur Burcu, Emre Sùzel, Yusuf Benli
<i>Field workers:</i>	Mevlüt Sivaz, Zekeriya Sivaz
<i>House staff:</i>	Keziban Sivaz, Ùmmùgùlsùm Eken, Havva Sivaz
<i>Website and Database:</i>	Dominik Lukas, Cem Yùksel Çakırlar
<i>IT systems:</i>	Ahmet Bozgeyik
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<i>Conservation:</i>	Jerrođ Seifert, Aliye Ùnal, Nuriye Gùkçe, Baran İnnal, Sinem Bejna Demir, Konya Museum interns
<i>Finds:</i>	Patrycja Filipowicz, Katarzyna Harabasz, Canan Karataş Yùksel, Nuriye Gùkçe, Lisa Guerre
<i>Zooarchaeology:</i>	Canan Çakırlar
<i>Public Archaeology:</i>	Sara Perry, Meghan Dennis, Sebastian Vizcay, Vassilis Kourtis, Numan Aslan

ÇATALHÖYÜK 2018 TEAM





In February 2019, we lost İbrahim Eken, a dedicated site custodian of Çatalhöyük for many years. He will be dearly missed and never forgotten.

Introduction

Çiler Çilingirođlu

The 2018 excavations at Çatalhöyük were carried out under the directorship of Yusuf Benli, the former director of Konya Museum and under the scientific supervision of Çiler Çilingirođlu of Ege University Department of Archeology. Field studies continued between July 1 and August 15, 2018, and after this date, various arrangements, security infrastructure improvement and cleaning works took place at the site under the supervision of the museum.

The 2018 excavation team included 24 members, 16 of whom were Turkish and 8 were non-Turkish. In this season, members of the Hodder team and the new project found the opportunity to work together for a smooth and successful transfer. During the season, old and new project members organized seminars and workshops to train the new project members on the Çatalhöyük excavation system and documentation protocols. I would like to thank Ian Hodder, Dominik Lukas, Bilge Küçükdođan, Sinan Ünlüsoy and Onur Yüksel for their efforts and works in this direction.

Excavations in 2018 took place on the East eminence of the East Mound, where no work has taken place so far. We opened a 10X50 meter trench in this area and removed the topsoil. Even the first season of excavations in the East Area reached promising results regarding the post-Neolithic and Late Neolithic Period occupation on the mound. Our work in this part of the East Mound, which we now officialy call the "East Area", will continue in the coming years in line with the objectives of our research. For more details please see the report on the excavations below.

In 2018 season, Jerrod Seifert was responsible from the supervision of the conservation work at the site. He was assisted full-time by Ege University students and Konya Museum Restoration and Conservation staff. In a short time, conservation team achieved a great deal of work fixing many Neolithic features, floors and walls under the North and South shelters. The team also repaired the broken horn cores at the replica houses. I would like to thank all of them for their precious contribution to the conservation of mudbrick architecture in Çatalhöyük.

From 24 to 29th of September, Sara Perry (York University) and the EMOTIVE Project team under her supervision carried out a short-term public archeology study at Çatalhöyük. This work collected many visual materials for mobile-phone applications developed for school students and Turkish visitors. Also, the first version of the mobile phone application developed for Turkish visitors was tested.

This research report presents the work completed in 2018 under five headings:

1. Transfer of the project to the Konya Museum
2. Excavations
3. Conservation
4. Public Archeology
5. Pottery

2018 SEASON

1. Transfer of the project and launching of the Çatalhöyük server

Çiler Çilingirođlu

With the request of the official letter by the Turkish General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums (dated 10.07.2018 and numbered 94949537-160.01.02-E.581904), Çatalhöyük excavations had to be transferred to the Konya Museum.

Referring to this letter, necessary studies such as recording and counting of all fixtures and consumables in the excavation house were carried out and preparations were made throughout the season.

Official documents were signed between the Konya Museum Director Yusuf Benli and Ian Hodder at the Çatalhöyük excavation house on 28.07.2018 (**Figure 1**).



Figure 1: Signing of the documents between Ian Hodder and Yusuf Benli.

Ian Hodder donated a microscope belonging to Stanford University and a server to the new project. According to the regulations, the Çatalhöyük excavation house, finds depots, furniture and all the inventory stock are transferred to the Konya Museum. During these procedures, British Archaeological Institute officer Gülgün Girdivan and scientific director Çiler Çilingirođlu were present.

One of the most important processes regarding the project transfer was the migration of the five virtual servers, where 25 years of excavation data were kept, to the newly purchased physical server at the Ege University. The previous servers were located at a private company in Istanbul which charged the project monthly. The stored data has been publicly available via the Çatalhöyük Research Project website. This process, which was very laborious and costly, took more than eight months to complete. Thanks to the exceptional efforts of Ege University Rectorate and Ege University IT Department, the project purchased a new server machine. I would like to thank Ege University Rector Necdet Budak for his help and support. Meanwhile, the Istanbul company shipped the server configuration data, which reached Ege University on 21.11.2018. This process is sponsored by KOÇTAŞ A.Ş. and Alan Mellaart. I would like to thank and acknowledge our sponsors for their generosity.

With the transfer of the virtual servers to Ege University, a very important stage has been completed in the transfer process of Çatalhöyük data. Following this process, Çatalhöyük servers began to function under the auspices of a public institution in Turkey. The picture below shows the first launching of the Çatalhöyük server in Ege University IT center server room (**Figure 2**).

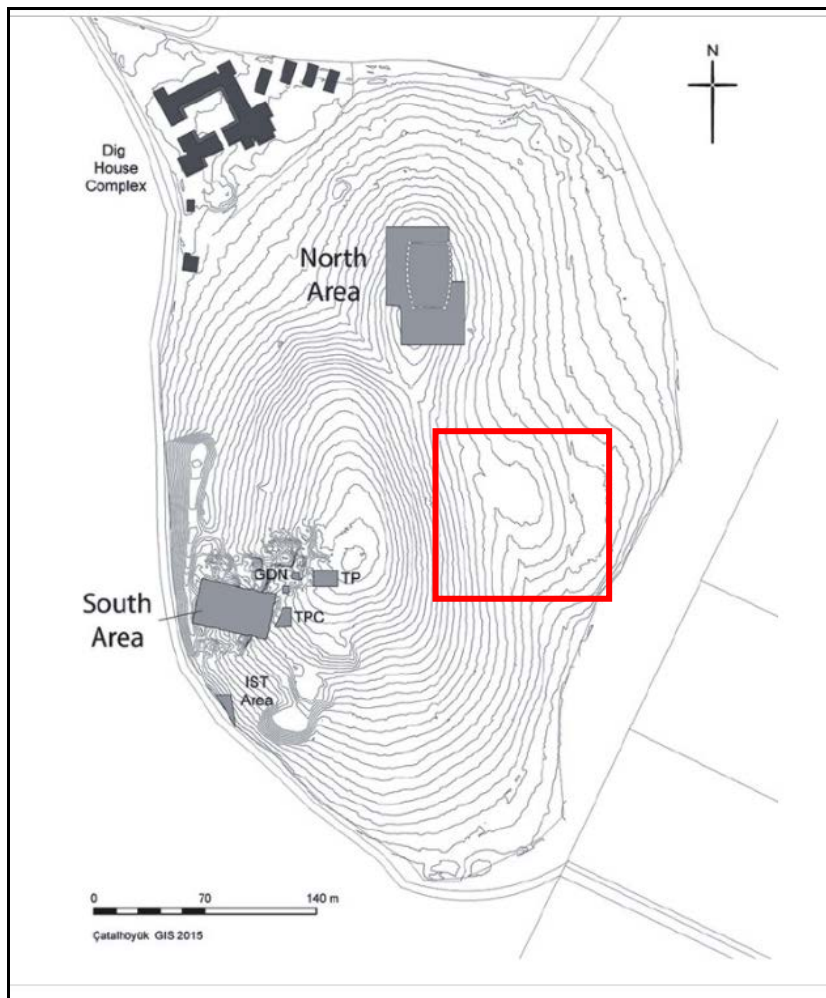


Figure 2: The launching of the Çatalhöyük server at Ege University IT Center.

2. Excavations

Arkadiusz Marciniak, Patrycja Filipowicz, Mateusz Dembowski, Jędrzej Hordecki, Katarzyna Harabasz and Çiler Çilingirođlu

The 2018 excavation season brought about a commencement of the work in the new and previously unexcavated part of the East mound at Çatalhöyük, referred to as the “East Area” (**Plan 1**). Eastern part of the East mound is relatively flat and even and covers around 50 per cent of its entire surface. The only distinct element in this part of the settlement is a circular eminence located in its westernmost section, very close to the main part of the settlement, made of distinct south and north eminences. The eminence has a form of circular and regular mound, which is ca. 50 m in diameter. It has never been investigated and its character remains largely unknown.



Plan 1: The borders of Çatalhöyük East Area

Fieldwork took place with the participation of many researchers and team members. Arkadiusz Marciniak supervised the excavations in the East Area. Patrycja Filipowicz, Mateusz Dembowski,

Katarzyna Harabasz, Jędrzej Hordecki, Ece Sezgin, Ece Dinçerler, Nuriye Gökçe, Bejna Demir, Canan Karataş Yüksel, Metin Dora, Günay Dinç, Numan Aslan and Onur Yüksel worked as field supervisors and assistants. The 2018 fieldwork was a very welcome and fruitful opportunity for the Ege University students to be trained on the Çatalhöyük excavation procedures.

Contrary to a common preconception portraying the East mound at Çatalhöyük as one big and homogenous höyük, its topography is much more diverse with three distinct parts in the form of a tell-like eminences. Its major and best known eminence makes southern part of the East mound. It is oval in shape and distinctively dominates over other parts of the mound. It was intensively researched within two large research projects. It was first investigated by James Mellaart in the years 1961-1965. Spectacular discoveries in this area made Çatalhöyük one of the most important Neolithic sites in the world (Mellaart 1967). This part of the mound was then thoroughly investigated in the excavation zone known as South Area by the Çatalhöyük Research Project led by Ian Hodder in the period 1995-2017 (e.g. Hodder 2014). The uppermost levels on the East mound were excavated in the years 2001-2017 by the team led by Arkadiusz Marciniak (and in the first period also by Lech Czerniak) in two zones known as TP and TPC Areas (e.g. Marciniak 2015). The northern eminence is another distinct part of the settlement. It is oval in shape but is significantly lower than the neighboring southern eminence. The excavated part labeled the North Area was excavated by the Çatalhöyük Research Project in the period 1995-2017 (e.g. Hodder 2014). These two eminences are separated by a distinct gully indicative of an independent formation of these two constituent elements of the settlement, at least in the latest phase of their occupation. Stratigraphic relations between these two eminences are difficult to specify as the gully was intensively used as a local road in recent times. Further difficulties in this respect caused denudation processes on both eminences resulting in the accumulation of a thick layer of washed out materials.

The new project on the East Area initiated in the 2018 season has a number of intertwined objectives:

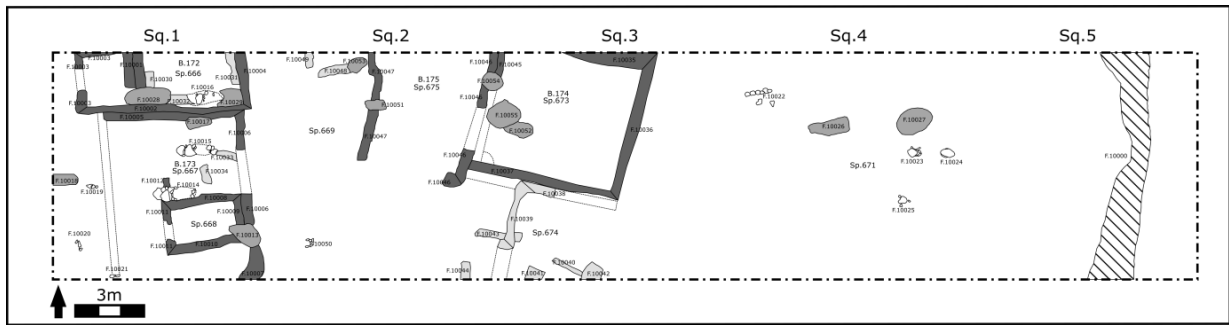
- (1) to recognize the character of occupation in eastern zone of Çatalhöyük settlement,
- (2) to recognize the character of dwelling structures, special purpose buildings, burial practices and diachronic changes in their character in this area,
- (3) to compare the settlement layout with the occupation of North eminence, both in the North Area and the zone subjected to scraping prior to commencement of the excavation works in early 2000s,

(4) to recognize the abandonment of this part of settlement in relation the abandonment processes in the North Area as well as overall demographic processes in the second half of the seventh millennium BC.



Figure 1: The view of the 50X10 m East Area from the East.

An ultimate objective of the 2018 season in East Area was to expose the settlement layout in order to define an area to be excavated in the coming years. Accordingly, a strip 10x50 m of E-W alignment, crossing out the entire length of the mound, was unearthed. It was arbitrarily divided into five 10 x 10 meters Squares, labeled from 1 to 5, as seen from the west to the east (**Figure 3**). The area stretches from the bottom of NE slope of south eminence and the slope in the west to the arguably modern field boundary in the east. The work involved a removal of top soil on the whole area. It was followed by the excavation of arbitrarily defined layers of ca. 10 cm deep from the entire targeted surface leading to the exposure of numerous Neolithic and post-Neolithic features and deposits (**Plan 2**).



Plan 2: Plan of architectural elements of Neolithic and post-Neolithic periods in the Eastern Area.

2.1 Previous work in eastern part of the East mound

The East Area, along with the entire eastern part of the East mound, has never been excavated. However, it has been subjected to a range of non-invasive methods related to the beginning of the Çatalhöyük Research Project in the years 1993-1995 and the geophysical survey from 2012.

The scraping project was carried out in selected parts of the East mound. Two squares were investigated in the area directly next to the East Area (1090/1040 & 1040/1040). The unearthed Neolithic features comprised east-west walls constructed of large fine textured, pale orange bricks, some over 1 m length, as well as a semicircle of laid bricks. In addition to Neolithic structures, a large number of post-Neolithic pits, some of them likely to be burials, along with scattered heavily burnt deposits, were also found. One burial in northwestern part of square 1090/1040 was fully excavated. The burial of a small infant without grave goods was capped by two terracotta tiles (Matthews 1997: 88).

The pottery survey on the East Area from the early 1990s resulted in discovery of the big amount of Neolithic and Late pottery. However, considering the late architecture and depth of topsoil covering the Neolithic features, Jonathan Last (1997:139) argued that most likely the material originated from upper parts of the tell and was washed down to the East Area.

The geo-survey conducted in 2012 did not reveal many features in eastern part of the mound. In the East Area and its vicinity, it exposed some rectilinear structures, which may be interpreted as Neolithic walls. Furthermore, a positive linear anomaly cuts across the mound from north-east to south-west for a distance of 53 m, which runs through the very eastern part of East Area. In western part of East Area and west to it there were registered numerous positive linear and discrete anomalies and faint traces of structural remains (Campana *et al.* 2012:112-113)

2.2 The East Area Stratigraphy



Figure 4: Pottery sherd with human face relief found in the midden deposit (40012.X6).

The work carried out in the 2018 season made it possible to recognize stratigraphy of the uppermost levels of the East Area. Square 1 is located in the westernmost part of the scraping area and borders with NE slope of south eminence. Its western sections were covered by a homogenous layer of greyish salty sand, most likely as a result of washing down the material from a steep slope of southern eminence. The denudation processes were extending over time following the abandonment of the Neolithic settlement and continued until recent period. Hence,

different than in its remaining sections. Considering a significant depth of these deposits, an exposure of underlying features proved to be impossible.

The depositional history in eastern section of Square 1, as well as in the following Squares 2 and 3, was different. It is as a result of slow accumulation of surface material building up a relatively shallow top soil level. Both Neolithic and post-Neolithic deposits were revealed ca. 10-15 cm below the surface. In general, this part of the excavated area is split up into two parts: (i) northern made up of a sequence of buildings and (ii) southern characterized by a solid midden layer (Sp. 669). This midden has been deposited against eastern wall of B.173 and most likely against southern wall of B.175. However, the latter relations are not straightforward due to a considerable destruction of southern parts of B.175. However, considering a very distinct difference between deposits in northern and southern parts of that trench, this interpretation is viable (see more below). Another midden, albeit much less distinct, seem to be placed above the Neolithic structures in Squares 2 and 3. If this is the case, there were two superimposed midden deposits in this part of the excavated area. Their extent and character is difficult to discern due to their similar color and character. A large number of x-finds were found in the midden, such as a spectacular human face relief (**Figure 4**), a pot fragment with relief bucranium (**Figure 18**), worked bones, and worked stones, including two complete stone axes and a big fragment of grinding stone.

The Neolithic occupation zone from Square 1, 2 and 3, made of houses and midden deposits and covered by homogeneous accumulation deposits, continues until the easternmost section of Square 3. A well preserved part of the Neolithic settlement, made of four distinct buildings and

accompanying features (see below) was located in Square 1 and in northern sections of Squares 2 and 3.

Squares 4 and 5 are devoid of any Neolithic deposits. They are covered by very homogeneous light brownish/beige sandy layers. The border between these two distinctively different types of deposits cannot be fully recognized and specified at this point. It is ca. 2 m wide and stretches out throughout the entire width of eastern part of Square 3. No feature of any kind was found in this transition zone. It is most likely that this zone marks eastern boarder of the Neolithic settlement, at least in this part of eastern eminence. A distinct midden from southern parts of Squares 2 and 3 was most likely are place beneath the light brown/beige layers from Square 4, indicating that the latter deposits were accumulated later than the midden itself. However, it cannot be ruled out is that these deposits comprise the edge of alluvium deposited after the abandonment of the Neolithic settlement that started to systematically cover the Neolithic deposits. If this interpretation is viable, the exposed edge of Neolithic deposits may not be the genuine eastern edge of the Neolithic settlement but rather western edge of a big alluvium. This needs to be clarified in the next field seasons.

A large number of burials, ovens, and pits of different character were scattered throughout the excavated area. They formed two clusters in Square 1 and Square 4. A few features were also revealed in Squares 2 and 3, but were they were not present in Square 5. Stratigraphic relations between these pits and the Neolithic structures in western section of the excavated area, clearly indicate that these are all post-Neolithic in date.

2.3 The Neolithic occupation of East Area

A significantly distinct Neolithic occupation was revealed in the 2018 excavation season. Its major elements comprised four Neolithic buildings and associated midden deposits as well as unspecified dwelling. They were revealed in Squares 1, 2, and 3. Altogether, they represent at least three phases of the Neolithic occupation:

(i) four regular buildings: B.172, B.173, B.174, and B.175;

(ii) a special purpose room inserted into B.173 (Sp.668);

(iii) four unspecified structures made of white regular bricks: Sp.672, Sp.674, Sp.676, and Sp.677.

The earliest phase is represented by four buildings: B.172, B.173, B.174, and B.175. The two former are located in Square 1 while two latter are in Squares 2 and 3.

B.172 (Sp.666) is a solid mudbrick structure located in northern part of Square 1. Only its southernmost section is placed inside the trench, while its major part is located directly north of

northern edge of this Square. As northern part of the building is beyond the trench, it is impossible to estimate its size. The part of the building in the trench has ca. 20 m². The walls are clearly distinguishable: (F.10002 - southern; F.10003 – western; and F.10004 – eastern). Southern wall (F.10002) is parallel to northern wall of B.173 (F.10005). The walls were made of orangish homogenous bricks, which make the structure similar to B.175 from Square 2 (see below). Southern part of the building is divided into two rooms by a double wall (F.10001), placed closely to its western wall. The western room within the trench has 3.8 m², while its eastern counterpart has 9.5 m². Southern part of that wall was later truncated by a pit, most likely burial (F.10028). A small fragment of perpendicular wall was recognized against northern part of eastern wall. As the observation within the trench was very restricted, it is difficult to specify whether this is a fragment of northern wall of the building or a fragment of W-E partition wall. Accordingly, it proved impossible to detect whether these two walls were bonded. It is most likely that the deposit within the walls of the building represents a room fill.

B.173 (Sp.667) in Square 1 is a rectangular mudbrick structure with an interior surface of ca. 40 m². Almost entire building is located within the excavated area except for its southmost part. Both northern (F.10005) and eastern (F.10006 & F.10007) walls are made of light brown bricks. As only the uppermost course of these walls was preserved, neither their size nor shape got recognized at this point. Central part of eastern wall of the building is missing as it may have been truncated by yet unrecognizable cut or eroded away. Western wall of the building has not been discernible at the level exposed this season. Southern wall of the building appears to be beyond the edge of the trench. As only the uppermost parts of the building were unearthed in the 2018 season, and considering later intensive occupation of this area, mostly from the post-Neolithic period, neither in-built structures nor internal space divisions have been recognized to date. The stratigraphic relations between these two dwelling structures are uncertain but most likely B.173 is earlier than B.172.

Of a similar chronological position is B.174 (Sp.673) in NE part of Square 3. It is almost entirely located in the excavated area except for a small part of its NW corner. The building is rectangular in shape and is ca. 6 m long and 5 m wide. Its inner surface has ca. 31 m² while the outer surface has ca. 40 m². Its single walls were made of brown bricks. Only the uppermost courses of bricks were unearthed in the 2018 season. Due to significant erosion, size of the bricks cannot be recognized at this point. Three walls were unearthed in its full extent: F.10035 – northern, F.10036 – eastern, and F.10037 - southern. Northern wall goes partly beyond the extent of the trench. The inner surfaces of all three walls are plastered over and the plaster is particularly distinct in NE corner of the building.

The deposit within the walls of B. 174 is characterized by brownish silty sand, indicative of the room fill debris. The deposits beyond the extent of the building are characteristic for midden.

The fourth dwelling structure of a similar character was unearthed directly to the west of B.174. B.175 (Sp.675) was identified on the basis of its eastern (F.10046) and western walls (F. 10047). A particularly distinct was eastern wall made of a good quality orangish bricks of similar size. A very small fragment of southern wall in its SE section was also discovered. Its remaining part, however, is missing. It has either been destroyed or the uppermost course of bricks is beneath the level exposed this year. The well-preserved western wall of the building wall was also made of regular orange-colored bricks. Interestingly, both inner and outer surfaces of the wall were plastered over, which may imply a presence of yet unrecognized building directly to the west, between B.175 and B.172. Northern wall of the building is located outside the trench. An inner surface of the reconstructed part of the building has ca. 21 m², while the outer surface has ca. 28 m². The deposits between the walls of B.175 are indicative of the room fill. These are composed of a mixture of sandy material with a lot of silt and bricky rubble. The type of deposit seems to continue to the edge of the supposed southern wall. A midden layer is deposited directly south of this line.

A pretty unclear situation is directly west of western wall of B.175 until eastern wall of B. 172 & B. 173. The deposits in this area appear to be similar to the room fill of B. 175. This seems to be an indirect indication of the presence of yet unspecified building. The function and stratigraphic position of this area need to be clarified in the coming season.

The next phase of occupation is marked by a kind of special purpose room of yet unspecified character that was clearly inserted into SE part of B.173 (Sp.668). The room is ca. 4 m². Its walls (F.10008 – northern; F.10009– eastern; F.10010 – southern; and F.10011 – western) are made of yellow mudbricks and are well-preserved. The inner surface of the walls were plastered over, particularly well preserved plaster is present on eastern and southern walls. The less distinct is western wall, where arguably there is a kind of doorway cutting through this wall. The character and function of this room is to be specified during next excavation seasons. The infill deposits seem to be well preserved as there was no post-Neolithic destruction of the room area except for an unspecified pit (F. 10013) that truncated its SE corner. This room is an example of a typical Late Neolithic practice of inserting later structures into existing architecture with parallels from TP and TPC Areas. The most distinct of them are two burials chambers from TP Area – Sp. 248 and Sp. 327 as well as a grain storage room (Sp. 493) inserted into B. 122 in TPC Area (see e.g. Marciniak 2015).

The latest Neolithic phase is represented by four largely destroyed structures made of white regular bricks (**Figure 5**). They were constructed after the abandonment of B.172, 173, 174, and 175. One of

such unspecified rooms/buildings is located in the northernmost part of B. 172 in Square 1 (Space 672). Fragments of its three walls were preserved (F.10030 – western; F.10031 – eastern; and F.10032 – southern), while northern wall is placed outside northern edge of the trench. Southern wall is badly destroyed by the post-Neolithic occupation in the form of truncation by three alleged burials (F.10016, F.10028 and F.10029). The room was certainly inserted into earlier B. 172, which is a reminiscence of the practice typical for the Late Neolithic. Small fragments of a very similar structure were also found in central-eastern part of Square 1. It is represented by two short walls (F.10033 – northern; F.10034 – western). This room was certainly built against eastern wall (F.10006) of an earlier B. 173 and was also inserted into it. Due to a considerable post-depositional destruction, functional and structural relations between these two rooms (?) of Sp. 672 are very difficult to specify and can only be tentatively reconstructed.



Figure 5: Traces of a mudbrick wall from the latest phase of the Neolithic Period.

A similar structure was revealed directly to the east in Square 2 (Sp.676), while the third structure (Space 674) was found in SE part of Square 2 and SW part of Square 3. Fragments of all four walls of Sp.674 were identified. Northern wall (F.10038) was built against southern wall of B.174 (Sp.673), located directly to the north. However, only western parts of this wall got preserved. Due to a significant destruction of NE corner of the building, its size remains unknown. A significantly destroyed is also western wall (F.10039) of this structure. Remains of two fragments of some kind of partition walls (F.10041) were placed against southern edge of the trench. Due to their considerable

destruction, no details of the space division of that building are available. All bricks were made of the same whitish clay and seem to be very standardized. The character and origin of the deposits within the walls of Sp.674 are difficult to specify. Most likely, this is rather a midden than the room infill. Hence, the building might have been constructed after the process of midden accumulation ceased. From the stratigraphic standpoint, however, it is clear that the building was constructed deliberately against southern wall of B.174. As this building is Neolithic in date, it is clear that the structure Sp. 674 must have been built while B.174, or its remains, was still standing.

Considering striking similarities in the constructional materials and shape of structures Sp. 674 and Sp. 676, they appear to be contemporaneous. Due to severe destruction, the character and function of these structures are very difficult to discern and reconstruct. Hence, it is very unlikely than any of the room fills or floors have been preserved.

It has to be mentioned that fragments of a similar structure (Sp.677) were also found in NE corner of Square 2. It is represented by a small section of yet unspecified room while its remaining parts are beyond the northern edge of the trench. Its southern wall (F.10048) is made of the course of white and regularly formed and very well preserved bricks. Western wall (F.10049) is equally well preserved and it is clearly visible in northern section of the trench.

2.4 The post-Neolithic occupation of East Area

The 2018 season brought about recognition of numerous features that are post-Neolithic in date. These comprise pits of unspecified character and burials. The contemporaneity of these features is difficult to establish and confirm. Altogether, 24 features of this kind were discovered in the 2018 excavation season.

The earliest post-Neolithic phase is represented by a range of pits and ovens. None of them was excavated in the 2018 season. A cluster of ovens in Square 2 (Sp.677) is represented by two oval ovens with a solid clay superstructure around its circumference. One of the ovens (F.10054) is located in its NE part. It truncated two parallel walls – western wall of B. 174 (F.10045) and eastern wall of B.175 (F.10046). Northern section of the oven is clearly burnt, so are southern edges of both walls. The other oven (F.10053) is located close to northern edge of this Square (**Figure 6**). It truncated southern wall (F.10048) of Sp. 676. Both ovens seem to have the same form and function and most likely belong to one occupational phase. The function of the remaining feature (F.10055) in eastern part of Square 2 remains in dark. This is an irregular oval pit. It is certainly post-Neolithic in date, as it truncated western wall of B.174 (F.10045). The shape of the pit seems to be distinctively different than that of the burials and it is later than the adjacent burial F.10052. One cannot rule out

that it may belong to the same phase as two ovens in northern part of the trench (F. 10053 and F. 10054). Hence, it got tentatively attributed to Space 677.

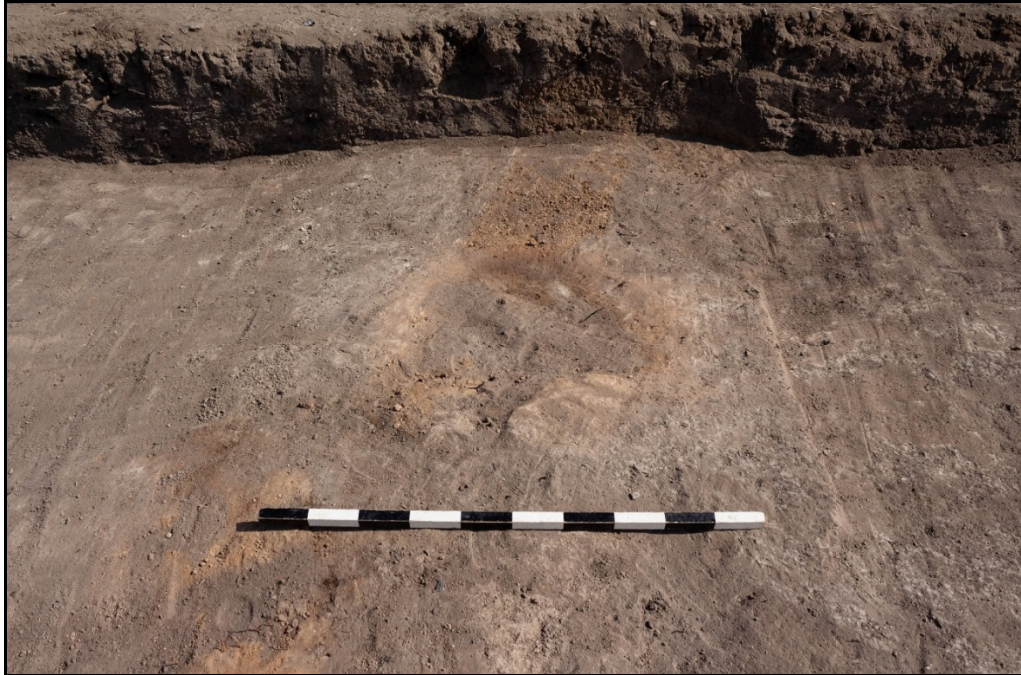


Figure 6: Oven in the northern part of trench 2 (F.10053).

Two pits of a considerable size (F. 10026 and F. 10027) were revealed in northern part of Square 4. These are oval in shape and are distinguished by a distinct fill made of brown sand, which is significantly looser as compared to deposits making up the trench. Another pit F. 10028 is more problematic. These pits somehow remind post-Neolithic pits from TP and TPC areas (Marciniak 2015).

The last phase of the East Area occupation is represented by a burial ground of yet unspecified chronological position. Altogether, eighteen burials were unearthed and three of them were excavated. The most distinct are four burials with stone superstructures (F.10022, 10023, 10024 and 10025) (Space 671) located in Square 4. The fully unearthed are burials F. 10023 and F. 10024.

Burial's (F. 10024) superstructure is made of a cap stone lying on six vertically placed stones around the burial cut (40029). The size of semi-rectangular stones ranged from ca. 0.14 m to 0.20 m in width; ca. 0.9 m. to ca 0.24 m. in length and between c. 0.06 m to c. 0.11 m. in depth. The cut was filled by silty sand, compact light grayish-brown on the top and loose darkish-brown at the bottom. Despite a close resemblance of burial, no skeleton was found. However, a number of fragmented human bones, including long bones from upper and lower limbs, belonging to two different individuals, were unearthed in the burial fill.



Figure 7: Burial of an infant (F.10023).

Another burial (F.10023) had a distinct superstructure made of a cap stone laying down upon 12 vertically placed standing semi-rectangular stones. They were different in size ranging from c. 0.06 m. to c. 0.61m. in width; c. 0.05 m. to c. 0.36 m. in length and between c. 0.06 m. to c. 0.27 m. in depth. Fragments of horizontally placed stone tiles were placed beneath a cap stone. The burial cut (40029) was sub-ovoid (0.70 m x 0.48 m) and was 0.08-0.12 deep. It was backfilled with the light-brownish silty sand layer on the top and the darkish-brownish layer at the bottom. The burial contained one primary disturbed fully flexed fetus individual (40028) (**Figure 7**). The individual was lying on the right side. It was nearly complete with articulated upper and lower limbs. Due to bad preservation and small size of skeletal elements, it was impossible to identify remaining elements, such as: mandible, some of the cervical vertebrae, parts of hands and feet. A worked animal tooth (x1) was deposited next to the smashed cranial elements.

Of similar character is burial F.10025. However, it has not been unearthed to the full extent. The most problematic in this burial cluster was F.10022. Its function remains unclear and it is possible that this is also a burial. The feature is made of six stones placed in a row in an undoubtedly deliberate manner. Two other stones were placed to the south of this stone row and were most likely functionally related to it.



Figure 8: Burial inside trench 1 (F.10014).

Another distinct cluster of burials is placed in Square 1 (Sp.670). It is represented by four features: F. 10014 (**Figure 8**), F.10015, F.10016, F.10018 which are longitudinally rectangular constructions with distinct stone superstructures. The stones cover the entire extent of the burial, and seem to be placed in a slightly diagonal manner. The other three burials (F.10019, F.10020, and F.10021) in western part of Square 1 are irregularly oval in shape and have some striking similarities to F.10023 and F.10024 from Square 4, which were excavated in the 2018 season and proved to be inhumation burials. The other three pits in the same Square are also most likely burials (F.10018, F.10028, F.10029). These are regularly longitudinally rectangular pits of different lengths and all of them are placed in W-E alignment. No superstructures of any kind have been discovered at the current state of the trench recognition. The remaining pit (F.10013) has irregularly oval shape and reminds more a storage pit than burial. One has to stress that many of these features truncated different elements of the previously described Neolithic structures, which is clearly indicative of their chronological position.

Three features exposed in Square 2 may also be burials. One of them in its southern part (F. 10050) is oval in shape, with distinct cut and superstructure made of six stones appearing to be placed along the burial circumference. Two other alleged burials (F.10051 and F.10052) are located in northern part of the Square (Sp.670). They are rectangular in shape with oval edges and placed in W-E alignment. They do not have any stone superstructures. They very much resemble similar features

located in Trench 1 (F.10029 and F.10017). The character and function of these features can only be revealed during excavations.

A considerably different situation was discerned in Square 5, which is the easternmost part of the excavated area. Its western part covers eastern slope of eastern eminence while its eastern part is placed on yet unspecified plateau directly east of this eminence. The easternmost part of eastern eminence differs significantly from the deposits from its top and more western sections. The deposits in question, right beneath the 10-15 deep topsoil layer, are homogenous and made of brownish/beige sandy deposits with a lot of silt. They seem to be formed as a result of denudation processes and accumulation of deposits washed away from the top section of this eminence. The character of these deposits is also indicative of existence of a distinct occupational zone, most likely related to the post-Neolithic history of the mound. This is additionally corroborated by a significant number of post-Neolithic pottery and fragments of roof tiles.

The area between these two topographic elements was truncated in modern times by the N-S ditch (F.10000), which is defined by geophysical prospection as a field boundary (Campana *et al.* 2012). This has most likely to do with the process of agricultural industrialization of the Konya Plain in the first half of the twentieth century, involving the construction of canals and development of the watering system. It is likely that the easternmost area of the East mound may have been used as agricultural fields, which is indirectly indicated by the results of geophysical prospection carried out in the 2012 field season. The ditch was pretty shallow with ca. 10 cm in the north to ca. 30 cm in the south and was regularly bottomed-flat. The edge of this truncation from the west was diagonal and seemed to follow a contour of eastern slope of eastern eminence. The shape of the truncation from the east was more difficult to define due to a largely indistinct character of deposits making up the ditch in relation to deposits of the plateau. More importantly, however, the ditch truncation did not go through an entire extent of these homogenous brownish/beige deposits making up its uppermost part, as mentioned above. Hence, it proved impossible to reach the Neolithic strata, most likely placed beneath these deposits.

2.5 Final Remarks

The work in the next excavation season will concentrate on Squares 1, 2, and 3. It will aim at excavating all post-Neolithic features in this part of the East Area and start excavating remains of the Late Neolithic occupation, including both dwelling structures made of white bricks as well as a cluster of well-preserved buildings from earlier phase of the Neolithic occupation. Ultimately, the work next year will also be aimed at clarifying stratigraphic relations between unearthed structures and providing the first examination of the East Area stratigraphy and its relations with both South and

North Areas excavated in the past years. Considering a significant depth of post-Neolithic deposits in Squares 4 and 5, a lack of Neolithic occupation, and taking into consideration overall objectives of the work in the East Area, these two Squares will not be subjected to further work.

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3. Conservation

Jerrod Seifert, Ashley Lingle

The 2018 season, though shorter than past field seasons, was a busy one for the conservation team. With the opening of the new East Area, conservation was focused primarily on treating standing architecture in the North and South areas, and less on excavation assistance. Work mirrored past seasons: The site was condition-assessed, buildings were cleaned, walls repaired, undercuts filled, and objects treated, though this year all was done in 14 days.

3.1 Off-Season Environment and Deterioration

Annual deterioration is unavoidable at sites containing standing mudbrick architecture, and Catalhoyuk is no different. As has been the case in every proceeding off-season, some areas of the site underwent noticeable erosion and collapse. The interior of both the North and South shelters were the least affected, whilst liminal areas bordering shelters suffered more. Moisture ingress and more variant climactic conditions are the most likely culprits for this. Environmental monitoring continued in the off-season, as a means to understand the fluctuating diurnal climate throughout the shelters, to more easily identify areas that were at greater risk of deterioration, and to assess the effectiveness of past treatments. Figures 9 and 10 show observed relative humidities and temperatures throughout the North and South shelters.

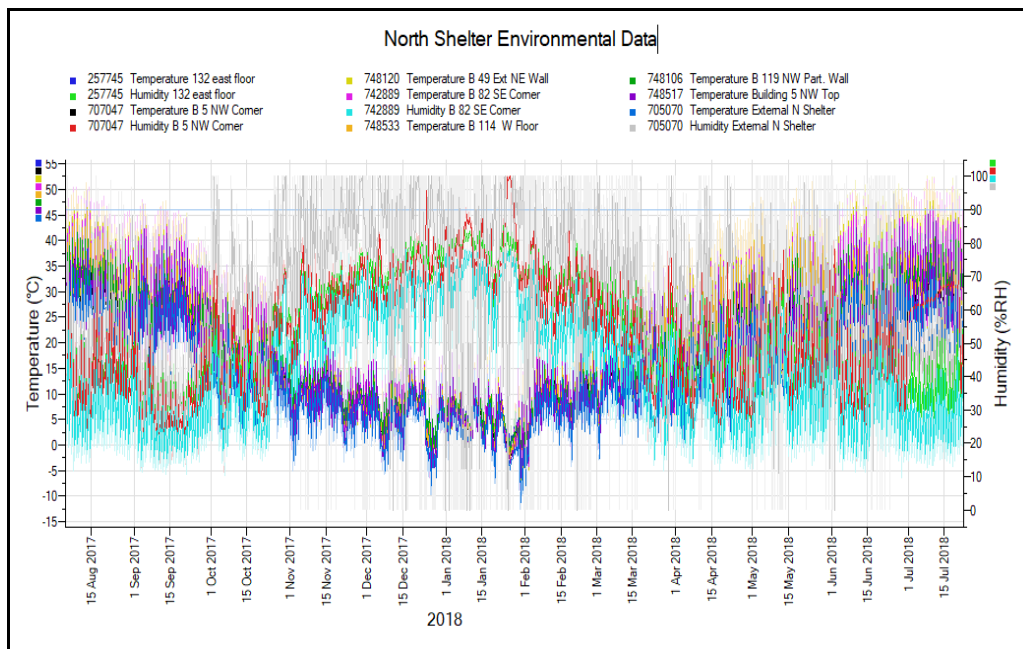


Figure 9: North Shelter Environmental data.

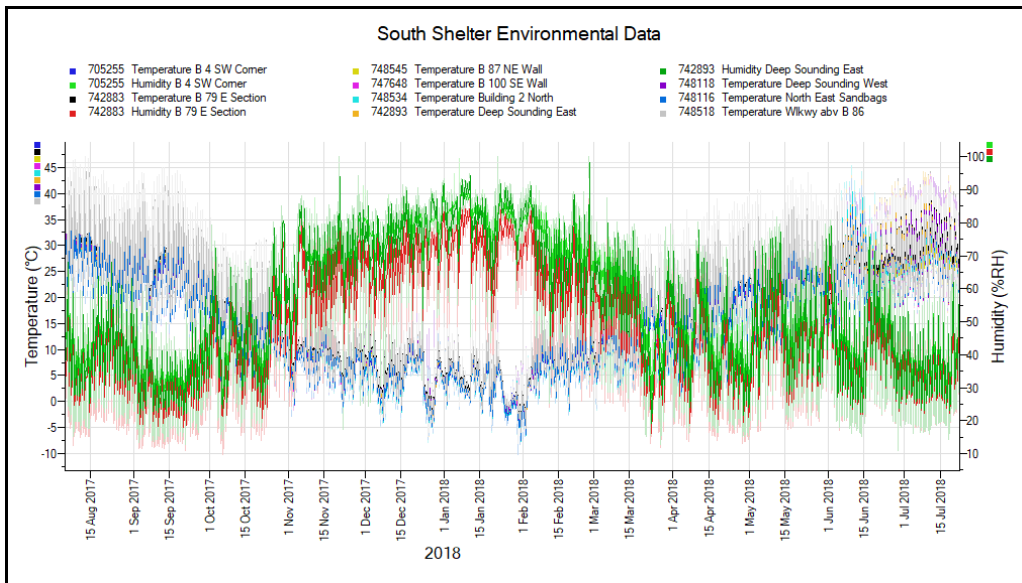


Figure 10: South Shelter Environmental data.

The TinyTag environmental monitors used across the site show temperatures ranging from -8.9°C to 52.5°C in the North shelter, with relative humidities (RH) between 9.5% and 100%. The South shelter saw temperatures between -10.4°C and 47.1°C , and RHs in the 9.5%-100% range. These daily fluctuations directly contribute to moisture and salt migrations, causing site erosion (see 2015 and 2017 Archive Reports for further information).



Figure 11: Off-season damage to B.5, F.231 (left) and F.226 (top).

Off-season damage was greatest in the North shelter. Half of B.5, F.231 collapsed at a formerly repaired crack, and the northwestern wall of B.5 (F.226) suffered a large shearing event (**Figure 11**), most likely due to an errant visitor walking off the path. In B.139, large fissures appeared in both the floor and north and south walls. Though the building was treated in 2017 as it was excavated, the speed of the excavation resulted in the building 'drying out' and fracturing much faster than anticipated. In Space 90, undercutting on both sides of F.221 had become so severe that the wall required sacking on both sides. B.119 and B.102 - continuing the trend of the past 4 seasons - showed signs of heavy erosion.

The South shelter showed better preservation. S. 161 & 162 continued to recede into the northern wall. Previous treatments in B.4 had successfully slowed deterioration to manageable levels, though those treatments had begun to fail. B.162 had large fissures running through the floor level and continuing up its walls, into buildings several levels up. The partially-backfilled TPC area showed signs of sandbag failure, and was overrun with organic debris, though no architecture was observed, meaning the partial backfill was continuing to be effective.

3.2 Site Work and Treatments

Site treatments primarily involved cleaning buildings, repairing, replacing, and applying new earthen renders to undercuts, and filling floor and wall gaps. With only a small, 14-day window available for site conservation, experimenting with new treatment methods was not possible. Basal erosion was treated with geo-textile overlaid with mud earth renders (2-1-1 soil/perlite/straw chaff mixed with water), and grouting for wall/floor gaps was a mixture of soil or plaster, perlite, and a 10% solution of Paraloid B44 weight-to-volume in 50/50 mixture of acetone and ethanol (See 2017 Archive Report). Soil and plaster used for gap fills were taken from within the same buildings where the fills were applied, as this made treatments more aesthetically pleasing.

Earthen renders were applied in Buildings 5, 48, 49, 82, 102, 119, and 139, and Space 60. B.119 had never had any renders applied to it in the past, as all four feature walls were covered in plaster. The plaster had partially delaminated on all walls, allowing renders to be applied to areas where mudbrick was now exposed. Feature 231 in B.5 was fully rendered in those areas that were newly exposed due to the feature collapse. Building 4 was the only area in the South shelter where an earthen render was applied. Gap filling was carried out on walls in B.132 and B.139 in the North, and B.4, B.80, and B.97 in the South. Floor cracks in B.80 and B.139 were also filled (**Figure 12**).



Figure 12: Floor of B.139 before (left) and after (right) conservation.

The midden area immediately above the deep sounding in the South shelter (F.299) had seen heavy erosion over the years and was in danger of sheering, an event which could prove catastrophic to site integrity and visitor safety. The decision was taken to sandbag a large area of the southern wall leading up to B.100. Soil was removed from the deep sounding, lifted in buckets and sacked. The deep sounding had not been cleaned out since 2015, resulting in a large amount of loose soil available for sandbags.

The new excavation area on the east of the mound required no treatment interventions. Architecture was identified and excavated, though only on the very top of potential feature walls. This new area was covered with geotextile and backfilled.

3.3 Visitor Reconstruction Houses and B.80

The reconstruction houses finished during the 2017 season required upkeep and treatments. All horncore facsimiles that had been placed in the houses were broken and ripped out of original placements. The conservation team spent late afternoons and early evenings reconstructing, repairing, and replacing horncore installations. One mudbrick hearth had to be repaired.



Figure 13: Nuriye Gökçe (Ege University) is repairing model houses.

The installation in B.80 remained in excellent shape. No maintenance was required (**Figure 13**).

3.4 Small Finds Conservation

As the only excavation area open this season was the new East area, very few finds were brought to the conservation lab for treatment. The conservation team received a total of 6 objects: Four spherical clay objects with hollow areas or holes through their center, an unfired clay cube, and a copper alloy artefact.

4. Public Archaeology

Sara Perry

As a small team of five people from five countries, we travelled to Çatalhöyük during the last week of September (24-29 September 2018) to continue the long-time visitor interpretation work that we have been leading at the site since 2009. This work entails developing the public-facing side of Çatalhöyük, including its on-site visitor experience for local, national and international tourists/community members, and its web and social media resources for remote visitors. Specifically, our primary responsibilities have entailed curating the Visitor's Centre, experimental and replica houses, and the on-site signage; managing the visitor route and trails; developing the graphic and textual content for the website, as well as contributing significantly to the blog and social media feeds for the project; authoring guidebooks, maps, brochures, children's activities and other interpretative media for the site; conducting visitor observations and interviewing key stakeholders in order to gather data to monitor change and to plan for the future; analysing data from the visitor log books and visitor comment books in order to monitor, manage the site, and plan for change; and implementing special projects when they arise.

On this visit, our team (Dr Sara Perry, team leader from University of York, UK; Meghan Dennis, University of York, UK; Sebastian Vizcay, INRIA, France; Vassilis Kourtis, ATHENA, Greece, Numan Arslan, Turkey) focused almost exclusively on work related to the European-funded EMOTIVE Project (<https://www.emotiveproject.eu/>). EMOTIVE aims to develop experiences for visitors to archaeological sites (as well as for people remote from them, using the internet) to engage with these sites in a way that will affect visitors personally - leading to long-term remembrance and care for the archaeological record. Çatalhöyük is one of a small number of sites from around Europe (including the Antonine Wall in Scotland, the Agora in Athens, and the York Minster in England) which has been selected to develop 'emotive' experiences for visitors, and the project has become

very well-known for its ground-breaking work in more effectively and impactfully presenting the past to the public.

During our visit this year, our team captured data for a virtual reality (VR) experience of Çatalhöyük that we are developing for visitors. This VR experience is constructed out of thousands of images stitched together to create a 3D model. That model is then subject to Image-Based Rendering (IBR) techniques to display it in a photorealistic fashion, allowing users to navigate through space as if they were there.

Our team gathered more than 12,000 photos inside the replica and experimental houses, as well as in the North and South Area. This was done through two techniques:

(1) using a helmet with Go-Pro cameras attached to it, which was held by Sebastian as he walked through the different houses/areas, capturing photographs in a 360 fashion along the way (**Figure 14**);



Şekil 14: Sebastian Vizcay taking a 360 degree view with the help of Go-Pro instrument.

(2) using a lightweight drone with a camera attached to it, which allowed the entire North and South Areas to be photographically captured very quickly by Sebastian (**Figure 15**).



Şekil 15: UAV imaging of the North Shelter.

Alongside this photographic work, we continued development of one of our on-site experiences for Çatalhöyük, which plays out mostly inside the replica houses. Here visitors are matched to a Neolithic Çatalhöyük personality type and a 3d-printed replica object from the site, then given a mobile phone which guides them through the experience of understanding what it is like to share wealth in the same way that the people of Çatalhöyük would have, based on their egalitarian social system. With the support of Numan, we were able to create a first full draft of the experience in Turkish, add the draft content to the EMOTIVE mobile app, collect additional 360-degree photos of the replica houses to elaborate the experience, then test it with two Turkish users to collect preliminary feedback (**Figure 16-17**). This first feedback was encouraging, and now the Turkish version will be refined over the next year in cooperation with another Turkish partner (Veysel Apaydın). It will also be used to enhance a digital schoolkit that we have been developing for children aged 12-14 years old to learn about Neolithic Çatalhöyük's complex social practices. We hope we might be able to work with Turkish youth in Turkey to further perfect this kit in 2019.



Şekil 16: Image taken from inside the model houses.



Şekil 17: Experimenting with the newly developed mobile phone application for Turkish visitors.

Finally, we performed basic maintenance at the site, cleaning interpretation panels, replacing the site map, and reviewing the last visitor log (collected in the early summer of 2018) which is an important tool for UNESCO monitoring. We gathered some general drone footage, too, which we hope to convert into a promotional video for Çatalhöyük which could be disseminated broadly by any interested party.

Çatalhöyük Pottery Report 2018

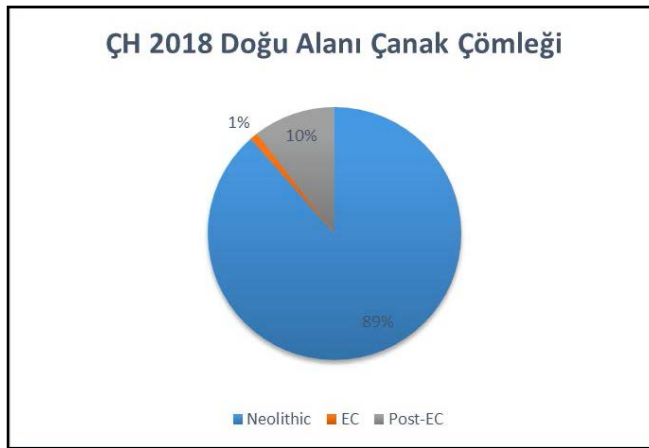
Çiler Çilingiroğlu, Jędrzej Hordecki

2018 fieldwork at the East Area removed the topsoil of 50X10 meters wide trench and excavated only 3 features which are identified as a stone cluster (U.40023) and two infant burials of post-Neolithic age (F.10022, F.10024). Of all the 21 units that produced pottery, Units 40000-40021 belong to the arbitrary layers of topsoil and Units 40032-400029 belonged to Sp.671 while 40022 belongs to a Neolithic age midden deposit below 40020 and Sp.671. This short report will try to make some inferences on the material and its distribution across the excavated area according to the unit descriptions.

Unit	Neolithic	EC	Post-EC	Total
40000	126	1	328	455
40001	162	3	123	288
40002	102	1	213	316
40003	109	2	198	309
40004	72	0	143	215
40005	10	0	1	11
40006	3	0	5	8
40011	276	3	238	517
40012	682	15	295	992
40013	8	0	9	17
40014	213	4	273	490
40015	124	1	606	731
40017	8	0	22	30
40018	120	1	35	156
40019	63	0	36	99
40020	63	0	160	223
40021	4	0	2	6
40022	355	4	42	401
40024	9	0	2	11
40026	4	0	12	16
40027	2	0	4	6
TOTAL	2515	35	2747	5297

Table 1: East Area pottery of 2018

All these units and features produced 5297 pieces of pottery which have been classified by Ç.Ç. and J.H. according to their periods as Neolithic, Chalcolithic and post-Chalcolithic (or Late). Late material includes Bronze Age, Iron Age, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine era ceramics. Chalcolithic ceramics are distinguished by their typical cream-on-red painted decorations with simple linear patterns. Neolithic pottery is easily distinguishable with its simple forms, hand-made production and plain burnished surfaces of dark and light colors.



The preservation of the pottery in most units is poor. The size of the sherds are small to medium and heavy majority are small bodysherds. There is exceptional preservation only in U.40022. This unit did not only produce almost exclusively Neolithic pottery (n=355) and EC pottery (n=4) but also contained very large pieces of vessel fragments. As such, this unit which is

identified as a Neolithic midden represents the only undisturbed Neolithic layer that is partly excavated in this area.

Units 40000-40004 represents the topmost soil at the area which has a W-E orientation and slope towards the East. The western most 10X10 meters produced 328 post-Chalcolithic, 126 Neolithic and 1 EC pottery with pottery showing heavy presence post-Neolithic presence in this area which is then followed by U.40011 which included 276 Neolithic, 3 EC and 238 post-Chalcolithic pottery. Upon removal of top soil in this area stone post-Neolithic features (possibly burials) as well as traces of burnt mudbrick walls appeared (B.172 and Sp.668). The increasing number of Neolithic pottery in the second layer in this part reflects the Neolithic architectural remains which were cut by later stone features. These features and walls have been left unexcavated in this season.

Unit 40001 and 40012 constitute the top soil in the second 10X10 m area. These two units contained almost 1000 pieces of Neolithic pottery and 18 EC painted pottery. The high number of Neolithic pottery from this area is probably due to the presence of a midden deposit covering the Late Neolithic deposits in this area. High presence of post-Neolithic pottery also indicates that this part witnessed post-Neolithic activities, although the nature of these events remain unclear as no architectural remains are to be seen here belonging to post-Neolithic era. One of the interesting features about U.40012 however is that it produced the highest number of Early Chalcolithic painted pottery (n=15) from all the units excavated. This may point out that this Eastern eminence was perhaps shortly occupied or used a midden area during the early 6th millennium BC. Upon removal of the topsoil, the midden deposit in this area covered almost all of this part (U.40022), except for the architectural features slowly appeared in the northern part of the trench (Sp.676). This midden deposit (U.40022) contained the best-preserved Neolithic and EC pottery among all the excavated units in season 2018. Also the proportion of Post-chalcolithic pottery in this unit dropped massively in comparison to upper units in the same area (%89 Neolithic, %10 post-EC, %1 EC).



Şekil 18: A piece of pottery with a bull's head in relief (40011.X2).



Şekil 19: Early Chalcolithic pottery from the East Area.

The third of the 10X10 m area to towards the East constitutes roughly the highest point of the Eastern eminence. 40002 and 40012 together belong to the top soil, which mainly constituted post-Chalcolithic pottery (486 pieces both units). The lower units in this part (U.40018, U.40019 and U.40021) represent other arbitrary units of top soil that produced less and less post-Neolithic pottery indicating better preserved and in situ Neolithic layers are to be expected just below these units.

Indeed the area already shows traces of well-preserved Neolithic-type rectilinear architectural remains to its northern part (B.175 and B.174)

The fourth of the 10X10 m areas has a different character than the rest of the areas. Here the topsoil included large amounts of post-Neolithic pottery. In total, 964 post-Chalcolithic vs. 299 Neolithic and Chalcolithic pieces of pottery identified. The appearance of well-preserved stone features in this area strongly indicate that both preservation of post-Neolithic features are better here and the area was used as a cemetery ground during the Hellenistic times. Here the Neolithic features –if present– should be expected well below the Hellenistic features which appear to be partly cut into the Neolithic-era deposits. However, this area did not produce any Neolithic architectural features so it remains difficult to infer whether mudbrick houses that are identified in western part of the trench continue towards this part.

A cluster of stones excavated in this area did not produce any pottery. On the other hand, the burial features contained few sherds in their infills. F.10022 contained 12 post-Chalcolithic and 4 Neolithic pieces of pottery. Infill of F.10024 on the other hand contained only 6 pieces of pottery in total. Four of these are of post-Neolithic age and only two are Neolithic era pottery. These stone features are probably of Hellenistic age, but the appearance of few Neolithic sherds in their infills indicate that they were perhaps cut into the Neolithic era midden deposits which are visible in the area below the stone features (U.40022).

The Eastern most 10X10 m. area is excavated in two units. This is the part which coincides with an Early Modern road that cut across the mound with a N-S direction. The upper most top soil (U.40004) included 72 post-Chalcolithic, 198 Neolithic and 2 EC pottery found in this deposit. In this area the amount of pottery is much less when compared to the other 10X10 m areas. Upon removal of the top soil, here the ditch-like feature that is a remnant of the old road has been excavated (U.40017 and U.40016). The infill of this ditch-like feature (F.10000) produced only 22 post-Neolithic and 8 Neolithic pottery. The excavations stopped here upon removal of the infill of F.10000. In terms of archaeological material, including pottery, Easternmost section of the East Area produced the least amount of results.