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The excavations of the East Area in the 2019 season 2019 Kazı Mevsiminde Doğu Alanındaki Kazılar

Introduction

The 2019 field season commenced on July 16. It was a direct continuation of the work carried out in 2018. The longitudinal trench 10x50 m in W-E alignment was opened last year. It is crossing out a distinct eminence in eastern part of the East mound at Çatalhöyük that was labeled as the East Area. The area was divided into Squares 1-5, each 10 x 10 m, as seen from the west.

The work in the past season revealed a complex stratigraphic situation, in particular in relation to the post-Neolithic occupational history. A strip ca. 2-3m wide located in the westernmost part of the trench was covered by an accumulation deposit resulting the denudation of the southern eminence in the period following the abandonment of the Neolithic settlement. At the same time, two easternmost squares of the trench were covered by very deep and homogenous deposits, most likely remains of a large alluvium covering the area surrounding the mound and being a result of a long-lasting process of an accumulation following the end of the Neolithic. As a result no Neolithic deposits were unearthed in this part of the trench. Hence, it was decided not to continue working in this area.

Following the results of the past year season, the research strategy for 2019 was developed. It was decided to work in three westernmost Squares of the trench covering the area 10 x 30 meters. A rich and complex stratigraphic situation was the revealed in this part of the trench comprising six Neolithic buildings, a number of unspecified Neolithic structures recorded as Spaces, one special purpose room inserted into one of the Neolithic structures (B.173) and a large and distinct midden deposited against the walls of the Neolithic buildings and placed along the southern edge of the trench. The other discoveries from the past year comprised a complex of pits and oven, most likely originating from the settlement of yet unspecified chronology. It was followed of a series of burials with superstructures made of stones and tiles. Three of such burials in eastern part of the trench were excavated in 2018. The burials indicate the presence of cemetery, most likely late Roman in age.

The new project in the East Area was initiated in the 2018 season. It has a number of intertwined objectives: (1) to recognize the character of occupation in the 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, and (4) to recognize the abandonment of this part of settlement in relation to abandonment processes in the North Area as well as overall demographic processes in the second half of the seventh millennium BC (Marciniak et al. 2018).

The Neolithic occupation of the East Area

BUILDING 175

The 2019 excavation season brought about the unearthing of B. 175 (Figure 1). It is located in central-northern part of the East Area. The building is composed of three rooms: northern (Space 680), western (Space 681), and eastern (Space 682). Three its walls are located in the trench: eastern – F. 10046, western – F. 10047, and southern – F. 10074. The northern wall of B. 175 is placed beyond the edge of the trench. The building has two partition walls: E-W wall separating Sp. 680 in the north from Sp. 681 and 682 in the south – F. 10073 and N-S wall separating Sp. 681 in the west from Sp. 682 in the east – F. 10075.

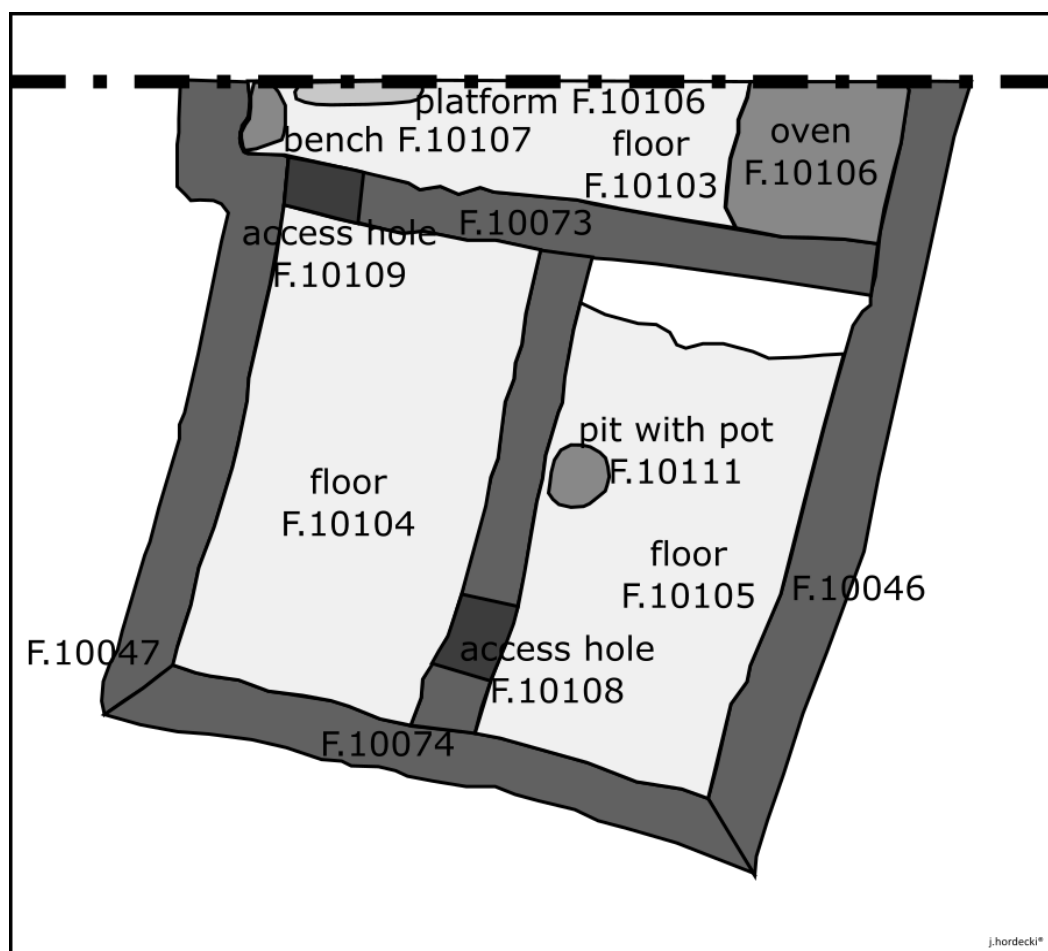


Figure 1. The plan of Building 175 (drawn by Jędrzej Hordecki)

The building is in an excellent state of preservation. The highest preserved wall has 1.25 m. The height of the walls in central part of the building is lower due to the post-occupation truncation

that destroyed the topmost part of the building. The preserved height of the walls is as follows: (i) outer walls: western (F. 10047) – 1.18-1.25 m, eastern (F.10046) – 0.80-1.00 m, and southern (F. 10074) – 0.70-1.00 m, (ii) partition walls: N-S wall (F. 10075) – 0.47-0.82 m; W-E wall (F.10073) – 0.70-1.05 m.

The northern room (Sp. 680) is in E-W alignment and is perpendicular to other two rooms of the building further to the south. It is ca. 4 m long. Its width cannot be established as its northern wall, which is most likely the northern wall of B. 175, is placed outside the excavated trench. No doorway into the north room has been recognized to date.

Both rooms in the southern part of the building: Sp. 681 and Sp. 682 have identical shape – they are 1.8 m wide and ca. 5 m long. Both rooms were built at the same time, in the moment of the building construction. It is implied by the partition wall (F. 10075) being bonded with the building southern wall (F. 10074) (Figure 2).

The work in the 2019 season revealed the uppermost floors in all three rooms of B. 175. As indicated by holes made by burrowing animals, there are at least two earlier floors beneath the latest floor. The floor in the western room (Sp. 681) was dark brown and had a fatty texture. An indistinct oval burnt surface was recognized on the floor. It may be indicative of some kind of its temporary use after it got abandoned. The floor in the western room Sp. 681 is lower than the corresponding floor in the eastern room Sp. 682 of B.175.



Figure 2. Building 175, Spaces 681 & 682 (photo by Mateusz Dembowski)

No built-in features were revealed in the eastern room (Sp. 682) of the building. The character of the floor deposits appears to be the same as in Space 681. An extremely interesting arrangements were revealed against the northern wall of the eastern room. A kind of small niche was dug onto the eastern part of the northern partition wall (F.10047). It has a half circle shape and is 30 cm high and 48 cm wide. The floor surface formed a longitudinal depression (40164), parallel to the northern wall of the room (F.10073). The installation of yet unspecified character, made of three horn cores, was found there. Two horn cores appear to be attached to the small walls of unspecified character within the depression and appear to be symmetrically placed. The third one was spotted in central part of the depression, most likely attached to the northern wall of the room. As the season was coming to an end, it was decided to stop excavating this depression. A large vessel was embedded into the floor of the room against its western wall. Its entire rim is preserved and its diameter is 0.40 x 0.34 m. The vessel is larger than any other Late Neolithic vessels. It is unclear whether it was placed there during the room occupation, and hence is to be associated with the final construction of the floor, or belongs to one of the earlier phases of its occupation.

Only a small part the northern room Sp. 680 of B. 175 is located inside the trench and hence only its southern fragment was unearthed. Despite its small size, this room appears to be the most elaborated out of three segments of the building. A large domed oven was placed in the SE corner of the room (F. 10106). It is a large construction with a solid superstructure. As the feature has not been excavated this year, details of its construction remain unknown. Its central and western part appears to be truncated and destroyed. Directly opposite the oven on the western wall of the room, there is an installation made of clay application and horn core. Directly to the north of it there is an edge of yet unspecified platform.

Altogether, three crawl holes were discovered in B.175. One crawl hole is placed in the western part of its southern wall (F. 10074). It leads from the western room (Sp. 681) of the building to yet unspecified outer area or another room further to the south, which may be placed beneath yet unexcavated midden. The crawl hole is a half circle in shape and is 0.28 m high and 0.42 m wide. Another crawl hole (F. 10109) leads from the western (Sp. 681) to northern room of the building (Sp. 680). It is located in the western corner of the partition wall F. 10073. It is regularly rectangular shape: 0.55 m high and 0.45 m wide. The third crawl hole links western and eastern room of the building and is placed in the southern part of the partition wall F. 10075. It is also rectangular in shape and is 0.45 m high and 0.60 m wide. Its height was possibly greater as the uppermost part of the wall had been truncated by a large truncation related to unspecified activities following the abandonment of B. 175.

Altogether, four infill layers were unearthed in the western room (Space 681) of B. 175, as seen from the top to the bottom: 40076, 40092, 40111, and 40129. The layers are made of brown clayish sand and are pretty homogenous. More fragments of constructional materials were found towards the bottom of the fill and closer to the floor. Surprisingly, the fill layers had little archaeological material. Both bottommost layers: 40111 and 40129 are stratigraphically completely secure as they are sitting between the western wall of B. 175 (F. 10047) and N-S

partition wall (F. 10075). Considering later activities (see below), the eastern extent of the two uppermost layers 40076 and 40092 might not have been accurately defined. Hence, the material from these layers may not be homogenous enough making the analysis of material originating from both layers problematic to some extent. Altogether two infill layers (40137 and 40164) were distinguished and unearthed in the neighboring eastern room (F.682) of B. 175. Due to its homogenous character, only one fill layer (40093) was distinguished and excavated in the northern room (F. 680) of the building.

A history of B. 175 after its abandonment was complicated. The large section of the area of the former building, particularly their central, northern and eastern parts, was cut by the large U-shaped truncation in S-N alignment. It destroyed a significant portion of the building, in particular its southern wall (F.10074), the partition wall between Spaces 681 and 682 (F.10075) and northern room of the building (Sp. 680). This large truncation removed also a significant portion of infill of B. 175, deposited there right after the building was abandoned. The cut is particularly well visible in the northern section of the trench. Altogether, three layers 40062, 40075 (a cluster of ashy material recorded somehow arbitrary) and 40099 made up the deposits post-dating the use and abandonment of the building itself. No permanent remains of any occupation were revealed, however one can expect that the area might have been temporarily explored or exploited by the settlement inhabitants. The layers were deposited some unspecified time after the abandonment of this dwelling structure. However, it is most likely these layers were deposited not long after its abandonment. It is possible the truncation was made by the Neolithic groups that were unable cope with excess of midden materials deposited south the B.175 in the open area between the houses. Deliberately destroying a significant part of the remaining parts of the abandoned house made it possible to resolve a problem of the lack of space.

Particularly midden-like is layer 40062. It covered the entire area of the former B. 175 stretching out between its eastern (F. 10046) and western walls (F. 10047). It is composed of ashy and charcoal striations indicative of long and continuous accumulation of the house debris. It must have been accumulated as a result of daily activities by the inhabitants of another house, yet unrecognized, building further to south-east to B.175. The layer had numerous archaeological material, including animal bones and pottery. A number of painted early Chalcolithic sherds was found in this layer, which may indicate Late Neolithic/Early Chalcolithic date of this layer, and correspondingly the date of yet unspecified dwelling structure whose inhabitants were responsible for depositing this midden. The layer 40999 was deposited only in central and eastern part of the building as the truncation was small in its bottommost part. Directly to the west, layers 40076 and 40092 were deposited, which are believed to be fills of the western room (Sp. 681) of B. 175. Hence, the composition of this layer can be mixed up and made of both room infill and post-abandonment deposits. The uppermost part of this unit is made of ashy material from midden being a continuation of layer 10062, while it became more sandy beneath.

SPACE 669 & 676

Space 669 is made of a sequence of heterogeneous deposits placed between the western wall of B. 175 (F. 10046) and eastern walls of B. 172 (F. 10004) and 173 (F.10006). It is made of four superimposed layers (40056, 40112 and 40143 and 40144). Their character is not easy to specify but it seems to be indicative of an open space – an area between two buildings that was temporarily occupied. The northern and central part of the Space looks more like a fill while its southern part is more midden-like. It is most likely a continuation of the large midden (40175) in southern part of the trench 40175 in Space 683.

The uppermost layer of this Space (40056) is made of a range of brownish materials in mixed up with broken bricks and other constructions material in its northern part and more blackish midden-like deposits further to the south. The layer is very rich in archaeological material, in particular in its NE corner, directly above the occupational area (Space 676) (see below). It comprised a number of complete animal bones, including sheep and goat horn cores as well as cattle scapula. Their completeness, presence in the form of cluster, additionally accompanied by distinct obsidian tools, may indicate a deliberate placement of this cluster, most likely as a part of post-abandonment activities. This may indicate a reuse of the already abandoned houses at the very end of the classic occupation of the settlement, as recognized in B. 150 in the TPC Area (Marciniak et al. 2019). It needs to be pointed out that while excavating the layer 40056, it proved impossible to distinguish a border between it and the midden deposits further to the south (Space 683) (see below). Hence, archaeological material, such as pottery or lithics, may have mixed up and cannot be reliably used for the chronological analysis.

Similarly rich materials were found in the second layer (40112) of Space 669, in particular in its NE corner. It is indicated by rich material, mostly animal bones and horn cores. This activity area seems to be placed within the fill/midden and may be indicative of not permanent occupation of this open space. These materials are placed directly below similar deposits from the layer 40056.

The third layer (40143) in Space 669 is made of a pretty distinct, albeit significantly destroyed, occupational layer made of marly matter. This may well be the remains of eroded floor. The layer is c 1.50 x 2.00 meters. It continued further to the south where was recorded as 40144. It has a surface of c. 2.00 x 3.00 meters. It is less distinct than the layer to the north in terms of its character. However, a huge cluster of animal bones (40128) was placed in this layer. It is made of a large number of horn cores, mainly caprines, but also few cattle, mandibles and other long bones as well as worked bones, work stones, figurine and stamp. It is certainly a deliberately deposited cluster, most likely in relation to some kind of feasting and post-abandonment rituals. The layer 40144 may well be the room fill. It is was considerably heterogeneous and contained a small number of archaeological material.

Space 676 is located directly beneath Space 669 (Figure 3) and is defined as the occupational area. It is made of a white surface with a range of built-in structures. They were constructed against western of B. 175, which means they clearly post-date its construction. From the north,

its built-in structures were constructed against the southern wall of Space 678 (F. 10048), which is the white structure inserted into the fill layer of this open space (see below). Hence, Sp. 669 marks the latest Neolithic occupational activity in the part of the excavated area. Based upon stratigraphy, the area is later than Sp. 678 and B. 175. Considering analogous stratigraphic relations, it is likely that the area is contemporary to B.177 further to SE. In any case, Sp. 669 is indicative of the presence of unspecified type of non-permanent occupation at Çatalhöyük towards the end of its occupation in the Neolithic. It is most likely contemporary with similar light structures in TP and TPC Areas (see Marciniak 2019, Marciniak et. al. 2019).

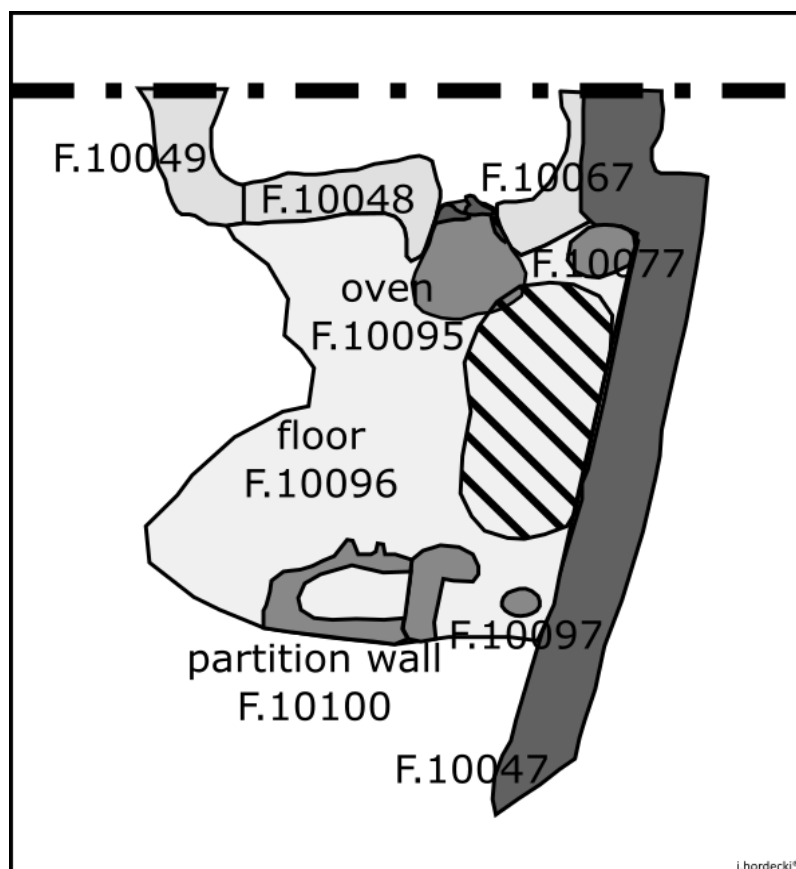


Figure 3. The plan of Space 676 (drawn by Jędrzej Hordecki)

This occupational area is made of the surface made of marl made and deposits of unspecified character. Its overall condition is bad as it was significantly eroded away and destroyed by different post-depositional processes. The most distinct is the northern part of the occupational area. A sequence of bricks, most likely used to back fill this part of the area, was placed on its floor. The first in the sequence was the floor F.10099 (3.10 x 2.57 m). It was white in colour and was lying directly on the layer of midden. Fragments of indistinct N-S partition (F.10100) wall were revealed on this floor, which possibly split up the area into its western and eastern sections. It was a little structure irregular in shape with the dimension 1.10 x 0.97 x 0.20. It was made by little grey mudbrick. The second floor of Sp. 676 F.10096 was made after the construction of the

partition wall. It had a dimension 2.5 x 1.87 m and was made of marl and clay. It was mostly white in the north and more yellowish towards the south. The surface from the south was pretty distinct and it became less pronounced in its central and northern parts. Its western and southern extent is less distinct and its boundary is partly arbitrary. There was also fragments of badly preserved partition wall F. 40180.

The most distinct feature related to this occupational area is the oval oven (F. 10095) located in its northern part. It had a dimension 1.30 x 0.70 m. The oven had a very distinct base (40169) placed in a small cut (about 0.1 m deep), which was covered by a superstructure. The base was highly burnt, and the infill was also indicative of burning. A fragment of the southern wall F. 10048 of Space 678 was deliberately chopped off to make the place for the oven. This clearly shows the stratigraphic relation between these structures. The oven is placed directly on the later floor F. 10096 of the occupational area.

Another interesting features in the occupational area comprise potholes, most likely indicative of the presence of light structure with light roofing. This may imply a temporal character of this dwelling structure. The most distinct was the posthole F. 10077 in the very NE corner of the occupational area. It has around 0.30 m in diameter and was 0.20 m deep. The cut was carefully plastered over. Another posthole F.10048 was built against the southern wall of Space 678, directly south to the oven. Yet another post F. 10097 is located further to the south against the western wall F. 10047 of B. 175. It was rounded in shape with the diameter of 0.14 m and the depth of 0.25 m.

SPACE 683

This is a large midden located in the southern part of Trench 2 and 3. It was only partly excavated in the 2019 season and hence its depth remains unknown. As revealed in sections of the post-Neolithic burial cuts (see below), it is at least 0.30 m deep. The midden was arbitrarily divided into two parts: western F.10175 and eastern F.10151. A part of the midden F. 10062 was deposited in the unspecified truncation, which largely destroyed the previously abandoned B. 175 (see above). A similar situation took place in an open area west of B. 175 (Spaces 669 & 676) – in particular in the northern part of its infill F. 10112. The midden was very fine and homogenous and was composed of a number thin striations made of ash and charcoal. Considering the midden continues into B. 175 and covers the truncated southern wall of that building, it is clear that it is later than the construction, use and abandonment of B. 175. It is very likely that the midden is also later than Space 676. However, its stratigraphic relation with this Space is yet to be clarified. It is quite possible that the midden was deposited against the walls of B. 176, which makes it possible that it has been accumulated as a result of activities carried out by the inhabitants of that building. There is no doubt that this midden is earlier than B. 177 as its eastern part was truncated from the east by the foundation cut (F.10093) of the western wall F. 10041 of B. 177 (see below).

The midden was also deposited against the eastern wall of B. 173 and southern wall F. 10074 of B. 175. It is indicated by a concavely placed striations of ash and charcoal. However, it looks as if the accumulation the midden continued after the abandonment of B. 175 and ultimate truncation of the uppermost parts of its outer and inner walls (see discussion of B. 175 above). As a result, the midden layer 40062 was then deposited at the bottom of this large cut as well as in Space 669, directly west of the western wall of B. 175.

As of the end of the 2019 season, it is believed that the midden was accumulated as a result of daily activities of inhabitants of three houses: Space 678 in the north, B. 173 in the west, and B. 176 in the east. The midden deposit is mostly likely also a result of activities of the inhabitants of another building further to the south, which is located beyond the southern edge of the trench.

After removing the midden layer (40175) in Sp. 683, two small fragments of E-W wall were revealed. The may be indicative of a complete destruction of yet unspecified dwelling structure directly to the east of B. 173. It may have been destroyed by the inhabitants of B. 173 in order to make room for the rubbish dumping originating from daily activities. When this space was completely filled in, the dump area may got extended by truncating the uppermost parts of B. 175 and mostly likely western parts of B. 176. This interpretation is corroborated by a complete lack of midden deposits on top of building 172 and 173 directly to the west. This may indicate that both buildings are later than B. 175 and maybe also B. 176. However, this does not rule out a possibility that some part of the bottommost sequence of midden was also accumulated by daily activities by inhabitants both B. 175 and B. 176, as indicated by presence of midden directly against wall of both buildings.

SPACE 678

Space 678 is placed in the north-central part of Square 2 (Figure 4). The revealed elements most likely belong to an unspecified dwelling structure placed directly to the north beyond the edge of the excavated trench. Only its southernmost room is placed inside the trench. The room was defined by three solid walls made of white bricks with little pebbles: southern – F. 10048, western wall – F. 10049, and eastern – F. 10067. The preserved size of the walls is as follows: F. 10048 – 1.84 x 0.29 m, F. 10049 – 0.86 x 0.37 m, and F.10067 – 0.77 by 0.52 m. The western wall was constructed inside the deliberately prepared foundation cut (F.10076). The eastern wall was firmly placed against the western wall F. 10047 of B.175. This indicates that Space 678 is later than B. 175. At the same time, the southern wall F. 10048 appears to be a later addition to the structure and hence seems to define the latest phase of occupation of this space.

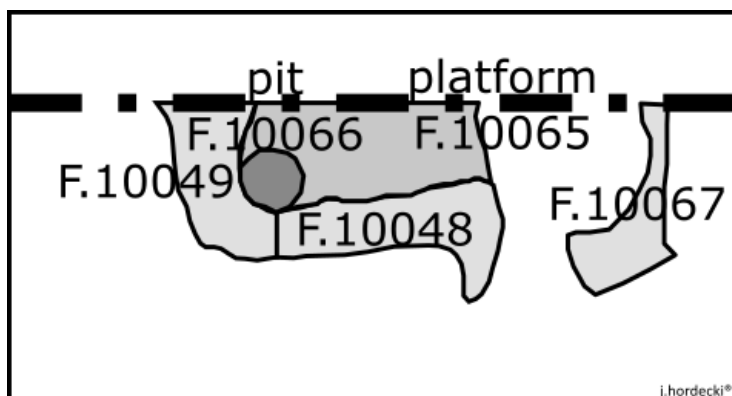


Figure 4. The plan of Space 678 (drawn by Jędrzej Hordecki)

Within the walls, a pretty distinct platform/floor F. 10065, directly north of the wall F. 10048, was unearthed. It has a dimension of 1.34 x 0.50 m. It is made of white matter mixed with white pebbles, which from the constructional standpoint is pretty similar to the walls of the room. The extent of the platform is unknown as it goes into the section of the trench. However, its eastern edge is very distinct and most likely was built in relation to pretty indistinct N-S wall, which is seen in the northern section of the trench. The whereabouts of this wall is to be clarified in due course when the work in this part of the trench will continue. A circular posthole pit (F.10066) 0.34 m in diameter was dug into the south-western corner of the Space. A cluster (40063) of animal bones including: scapula, horn cores, mandible, as well as some worked stones, was deposited directly on the platform F.10065.

The Space was exposed but not excavated in the 2019 season. Taking into consideration the character of building material, Space 678 seems to be contemporary with B. 176 (Space 674).

BUILDING 176

B. 176 is located in the southern part of Squares 2 & 3 (Figure 5). It is a multi-roomed large building in a NE-SE alignment. It is composed of at least two separate rooms recorded as Spaces 674 and 684. The southernmost part of the building is located outside the southern edge of the excavated area. This part was destroyed by the construction of later B. 177 (Space 679).

Sp.674 is most likely the easternmost room of B. 176. Two superimposed large post-Neolithic pits F. 10063 and F. 10064 (see below) were dug into the room interior exposing its layout in its entirety. The cut of larger pit F.10063 luckily terminated at the level of the room floor.

All four walls of the room were preserved, albeit to different extent. The best preserved is its western wall F. 10039. The northern wall F. 10038 got partly truncated from the south. The other two walls: eastern: F. 10058 and southern F. 10059, were truncated by the large post-Neolithic pit F. 10063.

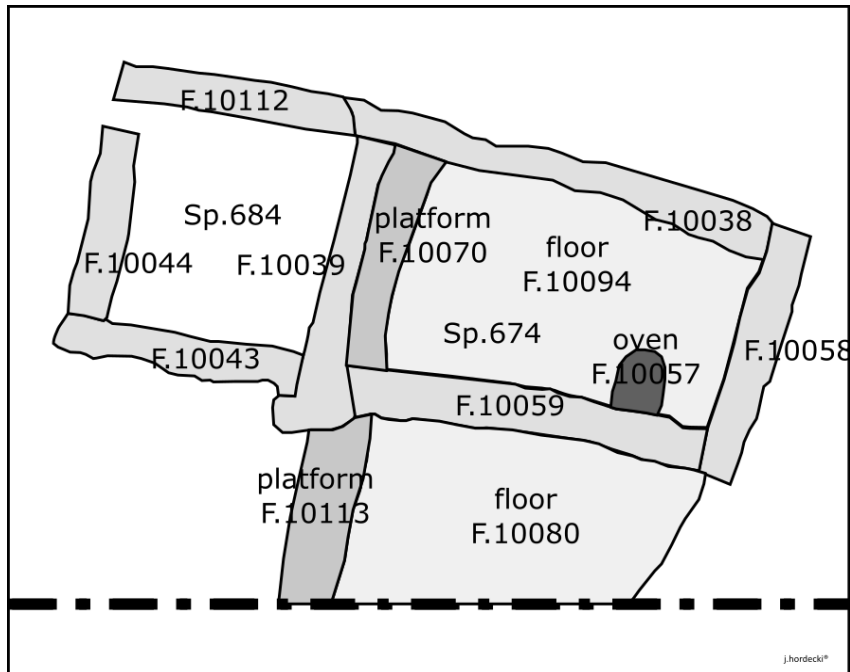


Figure 5. The plan of B.176 (drawn by Jędrzej Hordecki)

The westernmost sections of both northern and southern walls, as well as the western wall of the building, were preserved in the form of six courses of bricks. They were made of white marl substance and small white pebbles. These pebbles seem to be similar to pebbles used for the construction of floor in B. 61 and 62 in the TP Area (Marciniak 2019). The preserved size of the bricks are as follows: F. 10039 – 2.39 x 0.36 m; F. 10038 – 3.72 x 0.4 m; F. 10058 – 1.93 x 0.43 m; F. 10059 – 3.36 x 0.40 m. The room had a surface of 5.67 m². The floor of the room appears to be well preserved (F. 10094). It is plastered in white. The details of its construction are unknown as it has not been excavated. A narrow entrance to the room was located in the southern wall of the room F. 10059. A circular oven F. 10057 was placed in SE corner of the room, just right to the entrance. A solid, albeit partly preserved, platform F. 10070 was built against the western wall of the room (Figure 6). A significant portion of the platform was truncated by the large post-Neolithic pit F. 10063. The platform constructed of a range of heterogeneous materials. Its uppermost part (40082) was made of rubble material mixed up with animal bones. It also contained a cluster of animal bones (40085), which were clustered along with the burnt phytoliths and charred material in a very loose dark brown soil. Fragments of burned ceramics were placed underneath some large animal bones. The lower infill (40086) was compact, it consisted of rubble material, clay, and animal bones. Except for the platform, no other constructional elements and built-in structures were excavated in the 2019 season.

Sp.684 marks the north-western room of the building. All four walls of the rooms were recognized: western – F. 10044; northern – F. 10112, eastern – F. 10039, and southern – F. 10043. The room has 2.30 m². The work in 2019 made it only possible to unearth the uppermost parts of the walls.



Figure 6. Building 176, Space 674 (photo by Mateusz Dembowski)

Another floor F. 10080 is located directly south of the southern wall F. 10059 of Space 674. It most likely belong to another room of this multi-roomed building. Its preserved surface is 3.9 m². However, neither size nor extent of this room was recognized as its southern parts are located outside the excavated area. A kind of unspecified platform or threshold F. 10113 was revealed. Altogether two infill layers were excavated: 40139 and 40169. They were placed on the room floor. The fill was loose brown in colour and made of a small number of little clay intrusions.

The stratigraphy of this part of the excavated area implies that B. 176 was built against earlier B. 174, located directly to the north (see Marciniak et al. 2018). The building was made of a completely different constructional material, mostly brown mudbricks. At the same time, B. 176 is certainly earlier than B. 177 (Space 679), which nethermost part was constructed directly above its southern part. However, it has to be stressed that no stratigraphic and physical relation between the two structures exist at present. They may have originally existed but were destroyed by smaller of the late pits destroying this sequence.

BUILDING 177, SPACE 679

B. 177 is certainly the latest dwelling structure in the East Area revealed to date. It is located in the southernmost part of Square 3. Only a very small fragment of this unspecified structure is placed in the excavated area. It is triangle in shape and is made of fragments of two walls making up the NW corner of the building (Figure 7). Considering the unprecedented size of its walls and presence of Late Neolithic pottery, one can predict we are dealing here with a large Neolithic structure of unspecified character. Its very corner was truncated by two large post-Neolithic pits (F.10063 and 10064).

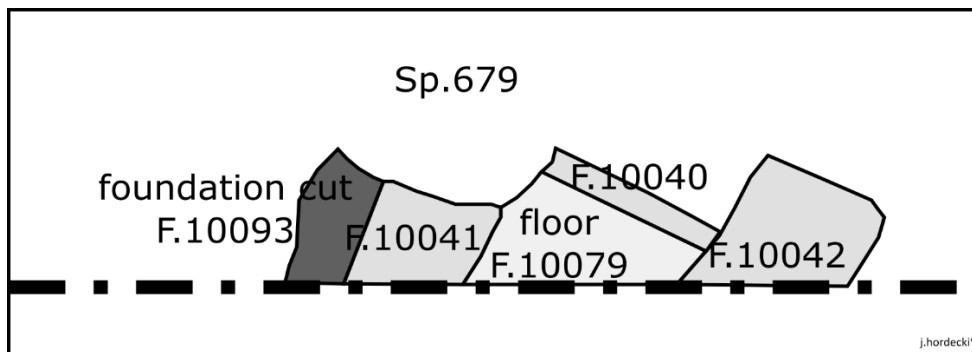


Figure 7. The plan of B.177 (drawn by Jędrzej Hordecki)

The building was constructed on to fill of earlier B. 176. The preserved dimension of the eastern wall F.10042 is 0.80 x 0.70 m. The massive western wall F. 10041 had the following preserved dimension: 1.10 x 0.90 m. The walls were made of a combination of white and brownish bricks that are bonded with each other. They have the dimension of 0.40 x 0.35 x 0.08 m. The eastern wall F. 10042 was placed inside the deliberately prepared foundation cut. It is very regular and is ca. 23-25 cm wide. The western wall F. 10041 of B. 177 was also built in a similar truncation cut F.10093. It was ca. 45 cm wide that is significantly wider than a corresponding foundation cut from the northern side. The preserved surface of the floor F.10079 has dimension of 1.50 m by 0.75 m. It was pretty compact and made of dark brown/grey fatty clay. The floor was not plastered. No traces of its intense use were detected, however phytoliths were placed on its surface. The floor was constructed on a thin and relatively loose make up layer, which was grey in color.

The floor of the unearthed part of the building was filled in by a sequence of horizontally placed bricks. They were laid down in different alignments and were not bonded with each other. Altogether two such sequences of bricks were recognized: F. 10040 on the top and F. 10072 at the bottom. The uppermost sequence of bricks F. 10040 is 1.20 x 0.63 m and is made of four rows of bricks, each of them got a separate unit number: 40122, 40120, 40126 and 40123. The lower layer of bricks F. 10072 was recorded under one unit number 40127. The bricks were

carefully placed one next to the other. Bricks in 40122 had a standardized dimension: 0.37 x 0.18 x 0,08 m. Three of them are completely preserved. The easternmost brick was made of dark brown clay. Bricks in 40020, directly south of 40122, had size 0.35 x 0.35 m and were made of brown clay. Altogether three complete bricks made up the unit. They were significantly eroded. The westernmost brick got truncated by Hellenistic pit while the easternmost brick goes into the trench section. The second layer of bricks F.10072 in Space 679 was made of brownish bricks of different color. The bricks must have been carefully placed on the floor right after the building went out of use. They filled in the entire space between the walls. The most viable explanation is that this a deliberate filling of the building interior following its abandonment. This kind of filling of the empty space was also found in B. 122 in TPC Area (Marciniak et al. 2015).

The foundation cut F. 10093 of the western wall F. 10041 of B.177 truncated a distinct layer of midden Space 683, which got accumulated against the southern wall of B. 176, Space 674. This defines a clear stratigraphic relations between these structures. Not only is B. 177, Space 679 later than B. 176 Space 674, but it is significantly later as it was constructed after quite some time during which this midden (Space 683) was accumulated.

The post-Chalcolithic occupation of the East Area

SPACE 677

Altogether seven features dated back to post-Chalcolithic phase of the East Area occupation were excavated in the 2019 season. One of the features was oven (F.10053), while the remaining six were pits (F.10052, F.10054, F.10055, F.10056, F.10063, F.10064).

Oven F.10053 is placed in the northern part of Sq.2, next to the western wall of B. 175 (F.10047). It is in the NE-SW alignment. It had a rectangular shape but it was getting narrower towards SW. The oven has the following dimension: 0.89 x 0.53 x 0.30 m. This is an ovoid construction with well-preserved superstructure built around the circumference of its cut. It is made of bricks and it got plastered over. A distinct base was made of clay. Fragments of burnt surface was also found, which is indicative of the presence of burning inside the oven.

Pit F.10054 is placed in NE part of Sq.2. It has a circular shape with the dimension of 0.70 x 0.60 x 0.13 m. The pit cut truncated the walls of B.175 (F.10046) and B.174 (F.10045).

A sequence of three pits was placed directly SE from pit F. 10054. The earliest of them was the ovoid pit F.40052. It had the dimension 0.80 x 0.60 x 0.08 m. It was truncated by the second pit F.10055. This large ovoid pit had the dimension 3.50 x 2.50 x 0.16 m. The latest pit F. 10056 was avoid in plan and had the dimension 0.90 x 0.50 x 0.22 m.

Two large pits are placed in SW corner of Sq.3. The earlier of them F. 10063 had the dimension 4.00 x 3.90 x 0.55 m. Its western edge was distinguished arbitrarily as it was placed east of the area excavated in the 2019 season. The pit significantly truncated the Late Neolithic building B.176 (see above). It was truncated by another pit F. 10064 in its SE part. This pit had the dimension 1.70 x 1.70 m. However, their shape and infill was virtually indistinguishable, most

likely due to their very similar character and infill. Their number and size can only be partly reconstructed by an outline of the cut and their depth – cutting off adjacent walls at different elevations. The infills of both pits were highly mixed, including midden elements from the neighbouring midden area (Space 683).

The post-Chalcolithic burial ground

During the 2019 excavation season, 20 post-Chalcolithic burials were excavated. All of them are placed in Sq.1 and Sq.2 of the East Area (Figure 8). The following burials were unearthed: F.10061, F. 10068, F. 10020, F. 10102, F.10028, F. 10060, F. 10062, F. 10098, F. 10013, F. 10101, F. 10014, F. 10069, F. 10015, F. 10016, F. 10029, F. 10078, F. 10081, F. 10019, 10021, and 10050. Another burial F. 10018 was identified but left unexcavated in the 2019 season (Table 1; see Milella et al. 2019). No graves good were found in any of the burials. However, a number of small finds, such as animal bones, obsidian, pottery were found in their fills.

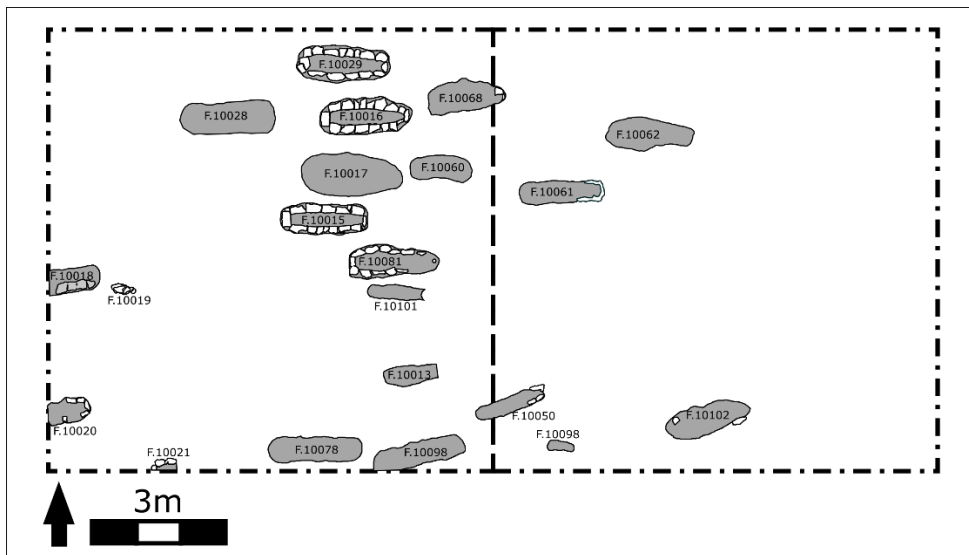


Figure 8. The plan of the post-Chalcolithic cemetery (drawn by Jędrzej Hordecki)

The excavated burials represented four different types in terms of their superstructure, shape of burial and character of the inhumation:

- (1) Empty burial - F. 10019, F.10021, F.10050. This type is characterized by the presence of burial cut and superstructure but is devoid of any human remains
- (2) Burial without grave marker and superstructure - F. 10013, F. 10028, F. 10060, F. 10062, F. 10098, F. 10101
- (3) Burial with grave marker in the form of standing walls around the feet of the deceased - F.10020, F. 10061, F. 10068, F. 10102

- (4) Elaborated burial with stone superstructure and burial cut covered with stones and/or tiles - F. 10014, F. 10015, F. 10016, F. 10029, F. 10069, F.10078, F.10081

Feature	Location	Burial type	Dimensions
10013	S part/ Sq.1	no grave marker & superstructure	1.24 m x 0.45 m x 0.55 m
10014	E part/ Sq.1	elaborated burial	1.91 m x 0.66 m x 0.42 m
10015	C-E/ Sq.1	elaborated burial	1.87 m x 0.31 m x 0.35 m
10016	N part/ Sq.1	elaborated burial	1.99 m x 0.81 m x 0.50 m
10019	C-W part/ Sq.1	empty burial	0.47 m x 0.23 m x 0.40 m
10020	S-W/ Sq.1	burial with grave marker	0.97 m x 0.66 m x 0.28 m
10021	S-W part/ Sq.1	empty burial	0.57 m x 0.27 m x 0.18 m
10028	S-W/ Sq.1	no grave marker & superstructure	1.67 m x 0.85 m x 0.62 m
10029	N part/ Sq.1	elaborated burial	1.74 m x 0.42 m x 0.56 m
10050	S part/ Sq.1&2	empty burial	1.06 m x 0.04 m x 0.04 m
10060	N-W part/ Sq.1	no grave marker & superstructure	1.21 m x 0.52 m x 0.04 m
10061	W part/ Sq.2	burial with grave marker	2,14 m x 0,60 m x 0,08 m
10062	N part/ Sq.2	no grave marker & superstructure	1.79 m x 0.79 m x 0.30 m
10068	S part/ Sq.1&2	burial with grave marker	1.64 m x 0.80 m x 0.13 m
10069	S part/ Sq.2	elaborated burial	1.88 m x 0.52 m x 0.37 m
10078	S part/ Sq.2	elaborated burial	1.46 m x 0.52 m x 0.48 m
10081	E part/ Sq.1	elaborated burial	1.48 m x 0.72 m x 0.43 m
10098	S part/ Sq.1	no grave marker & superstructure	0.55 m x 0.37 m x 0.13 m
10101	S part/ Sq.1	no grave marker & superstructure	1.34 m x 0.42 m x 0.35 m
10102	S part/ Sq.2	burial with grave marker	1.94 m x 0.80 m x 0.24 m

Table 1. Burial types and their dimension excavated during the 2019 season

The section below provides a description of each of the excavated burials.

(1) Empty burials

Feature 10019, Fill (40103), Superstructure (40101)

The burial F. 10019 is located in the central-western part of Sq.1. The burial pit (0.47 x 0.23 x 0.40 m) is oval in shape and was filled with soft, mid brown sand. The superstructure is made of five small stones placed on top of the burial. No human remains were interred in the pit.

Feature 10021, Fill (40095), Superstructure (40094)

The burial F. 10021 is placed in SW part of Sq.1. The burial pit (0.57 x 0.27 x 0.18 m) is oval in shape and was filled with soft, mid brown sand. The stone superstructure was placed on top of the burial. No human remains were interred in the pit.

Feature 10050, Cut (40090), Fill (40089), Superstructure (40109)

The burial F. 10050 is located between Sq.1 and Sq.2, in their southern part. Despite the fact that the feature was classified as empty burial, some loose human bones were recognized in the burial

fill. These were remains of the child individual represented by the first right rib bone. The burial pit (1.061 m x 0.037 m x 0.041 m) had oval shape and it was filled with soft, gray and black sand. The stone superstructure was placed on top of the burial.

(2) Burial without grave marker and superstructure

Feature 10013, Sk. (40186), Cut (40041), Fill (40181)

The burial F. 10013 is located in the Southern part of Sq.1. It contains a primary inhumation of an adult (≥ 20 years old), male individual. The burial pit was longitudinal with oval edges (1.24 x 0.45 x 0.55 m) and had soft, dark gray/ mid brown fill. The burial has neither superstructure nor grave marker.

Feature 10028, Sk. (40061), Cut (40043), Fill (40042)

The burial F. 10028 is located in NW part of Sq.1. It contains a primary deposition of a mature adult (34-49 years old), male individual. The burial pit is longitudinal with oval edges (1.67 x 0.85 x 0.62 m). It was filled with soft, gray sand. The cut was relatively deep, as compared to other burials. The burial has neither superstructure nor grave marker.

Feature 10060, Sk. (40064), Cut (40066), Fill (40065)

The burial F. 10060 is located in NW part of Sq.1. It contains a primary inhumation of a child (3-12 years of age). It has a simple longitudinal pit with oval edges (1.21 x 0.52 x 0.040 m), which was filled with soft, black sand. The burial has neither superstructure nor grave marker.

Feature 10062, Sk. (40072), Cut (40070), Fill (40071)

The burial F. 10062 is located in the northern part of Sq.2. It contains a primary deposition of a young (20-34 years old) male individual. The burial pit was longitudinal with oval edges and was relatively shallow (1.79 x 0.79 x 0.299 m). It was filled with soft, dark brown and gray silty sand. The burial has neither superstructure nor grave marker.

Feature 10098, Sk. (40178), Cut (40176), Fill (40177)

The burial F. 10098 is located in the southern part of Sq.1. It contains a primary disturbed deposition of a child (3-12 years old). The burial was longitudinal with oval edges and was relatively shallow (0.55 m x 0.37 m x 0.126 m). It was filled with soft, grayish and brown silty sand. The burial has neither superstructure nor grave marker.

Feature 10101, Sk. (40189), Cut (40183), Fill (40182)

The burial F. 10101 is located in the southern part of Sq.1. It contains a primary deposition of an adult (≥ 20 years old) male. The burial pit was longitudinal (1.34 x 0.42 x 0.35 m) with rectangular edges in the eastern part and oval edges in its western part. It was filled with and soft, dark brown sand.

(3) Burial with grave marker in the form of standing walls around the feet of the deceased

Feature 10020, Sk. (40100), Cut (40084), Fill (40083), Grave superstructures (40104)

The burial F. 10020 is located in SW part of Sq.1. It partly goes beyond the western limit of the excavation area. It contains the remains of an adult (≥ 20 years old) individual. It was interred in a longitudinal pit (0.97 m x 0.66 m x 0.28 m) with oval corners. It was filled with soft, gray and black sand.

Feature 10061, Sk. (40088), Cut (40068), Fill (40067), Upper and lower superstructures (40069 and 40098)

The burial F. 10061 is located in the western part of Sq.2. It contains the primary deposition of an old (≥ 50 years old) male individual. The burial pit was longitudinal, had oval edges and it was relatively deep (2,14 x 0,60 x 0,081 m). It had two stone superstructures placed at the eastern edge of pit. The burial cut was filled with soft, gray sand.

Feature 10068, Sk. (40091, 40091.b2, 40091.b3), Cut (40080), Fill (40081), Superstructure (40110)

The burial F. 10068 is located between Sq. 1 and Sq.2, in their southern part. It contains a primary deposition of a young (20-34 years old), probably male individual. It was interred in a longitudinal shallow pit (1.640 x 0.80 x 0.13 m). The burial pit was rectangular in the western part and more oval in its eastern part. It was marked by one stone superstructure (two stones - 40100) placed in its eastern corner. The burial cut was filled with soft, mid brown sand.

Feature 10102, Sk. (40187), Cut (40185), Fill (40184), Superstructure (40188)

The burial F. 10102 is located in the southern part of Sq.2. It is the easternmost grave in the excavated area. It had a longitudinal shallow pit (1.94 x 0.80 x 0.24 m) with oval shaped corners and one stone superstructure (2 stones- 40188), placed along its eastern edge. The burial fill in its different parts was both soft and firm. Even though the feature was defined as a burial, no skeleton has been found in an articulation. However, it appears that the bones were disturbed in the cut, which seem to have been dug into the Neolithic midden deposit and contains a primary disturbed adult (≥ 20 years old) individual of unknown sex.

(4) Elaborated burial with stone superstructure and burial cut covered with stones and/or tiles

Feature 10014, Sk. (40106), Cut (40079), Fill (40078), Upper and lower superstructures (40077 and 40102)

The burial F. 10014 is located in the eastern part of Sq.1. It contains a primary deposition of a mature adult (34-49 years old), male individual. The burial pit was longitudinal (1.91 x 0.66 x 0.423 m) with oval shape corners. It had two types of stone superstructure. The lower superstructure was made of six stones and tiles along the circumference of the burial cut. The upper superstructure consists of three big stones and some smaller stones. The consistency of burial fill was very loose in the western part of the pit where the cranium, mandible and upper limbs had been interred. The soil consistency changed into loose in its eastern part. The fill was made of soft, mid brown sand.

Feature 10015, Sk. (40130, 40130.b2, 40130.b3), Cut (40118), Fill (40117), Upper and lower superstructures (40115, 40116)

The burial F. 10015 is placed in the central-eastern part of Sq.1. It contains a primary deposition of an old adult (≥ 50 years old) female. Two additional individuals were recognized in the burial pit: (a) a child 3-12 years of age, Sk. 40130.b2 and (b) an adult ≥ 20 years old, Sk. 40130.b3. The burial pit was longitudinal (1.87 x 0.31 x 0.35 m) with oval shape corners and soft burial fill. The burial had two stone superstructures. The lower superstructure is made of thirteen limestones, without any visible displacement. The size of the stone is similar and has ca. 20 cm. The upper superstructure is composed of six stones covering the burial space.

Feature 10016, Sk. (40113, 40113.b2), Cut (40108), Fill (40107), Upper and lower superstructures (40105 and 40114)

The burial F. 10016 is located in the northern part of Sq.1. It contains the skeletal remains of an old adult (≥ 50 years old) female. Some loose human remains found in the burial fill belong to another adult (≥ 20 years old, Sk. 40113.b2) individual of unknown sex. The burial pit was longitudinal (1.99 m x 0.81 m x 0.499 m) with oval shape corners. It was filled with soft, mid brown sand. The burial had two stone superstructures. The lower superstructure is made of three layers of tiles while the upper superstructure was composed of four big stones, smaller stones and tiles.

Feature 10029, Sk. (40167, 40167.b2), Cut (40149), Fill (40140), Upper and lower superstructures (40148 and 40156)

The burial 10029 is located in the northern part of Sq.1. It contains a primary deposition of an old adult (≥ 50 years old) male individual. Few loose human remains of an infant (2 months-3 years of age, Sk. 40167. b2) were found in the burial fill. The funerary structure is composed of a pit surrounded by stones along its perimeter. The burial pit was longitudinal and relatively deep (1.74 x 0.42 x 0.56 m). It has the oval shaped corners and it was filled with soft, mid brown sand. The burial had two stone superstructures. The lower superstructure consists of eighteen fragments of limestones of different dimension. The limestone fragments are not displaced, and are assembled in the form of a continuous structure. The upper superstructure was formed by tiles.

F. 10069, Sk. (40121), Cut (40096), Fill (40097), Superstructure (40087)

The burial 10069 is located in the southern part of Sq.2. It contains a primary deposition of a young adult (20-34 years old), male individual. The burial pit was longitudinal (1.88 x 0.52 x 0.37 m) with oval shape corners. It was filled with soft, dark brown sand. The burial fill got surrounded by one stone superstructure. The lower superstructure consists of five clay tiles, two of them being incomplete. All tiles were decorated.

Feature 10078, Sk. (40161), Cut (40147), Fill (40146), Lower superstructure (40145)

The burial F. 10078 is located in the southern part of Sq.1. It contains a primary disturbed skeletal remains of an old (≥ 50 years old), male individual. The burial pit was longitudinal (1.46 x 0.52 x

0.484 m) with oval shaped corners. It was filled with firm, dark brown sand. The burial had stone superstructure made by seven clay tiles.

Feature 10081, Sk. (40172), Cut (40155), Fill (40153), Upper and lower superstructures (40162 and 40154)

The burial F. 10081 is located in the eastern part of Sq. 1. It contains a primary disturbed skeletal remains of a mature adult (35-49 years old), female individual. The burial pit was longitudinal (1.48 x 0.72 x 0.431 m) with oval shaped corners. It was filled with soft brown- gray sand. The burial had two superstructures made of stones and tiles. The upper superstructure contains three stones and six parts of tiles.

Final remarks

The work in the 2019 season was split two into two major segments. The first segment comprised the excavation of a range of structures and deposits dated back to the Late Neolithic and Early Chalcolithic. These are placed in Squares 2 and 3. The second segment involved the intense work on the post-Chalcolithic cemetery. All burials from the cemetery from Square 1 and 2 were excavated in 2019. The associated task involved also the excavation of different domestic features, mostly pits, that are post-Chalcolithic in date. All features belonging to this phase of the East Area occupation and located in Squares 1, 2 and 3 has been excavated to date. The work in the coming excavation season will involve a continuation of excavating the remaining Neolithic structures in Squares 2 and 3. It will also involve the excavations of corresponding Neolithic structures in Square 1, which is now possible thanks to a completion of the work on the post-Chalcolithic cemetery located in this part of the excavated area.

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