

THE REPORT ON THE 2009 EXCAVATION SEASON AT KÜLLÜOBA

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This year's excavations at Küllüoba were carried out between July 6th and August 30th. Once again, we concentrated mainly on revealing the architectural layout of the EB II Upper Town at Küllüoba (**Figs. 1, 2**). An outline of the work completed in the individual trenches is provided below.

We were also able to simultaneously conduct salvage excavations at Keçiçayırı – situated 35 kms south of Küllüoba- thanks to financial support from the İstanbul University Research Fund. Here, for the first time we excavated Early Neolithic deposit sealed under the house floors of the EB II citadel. The pottery recovered is the earliest so far discovered in northwestern Anatolia.

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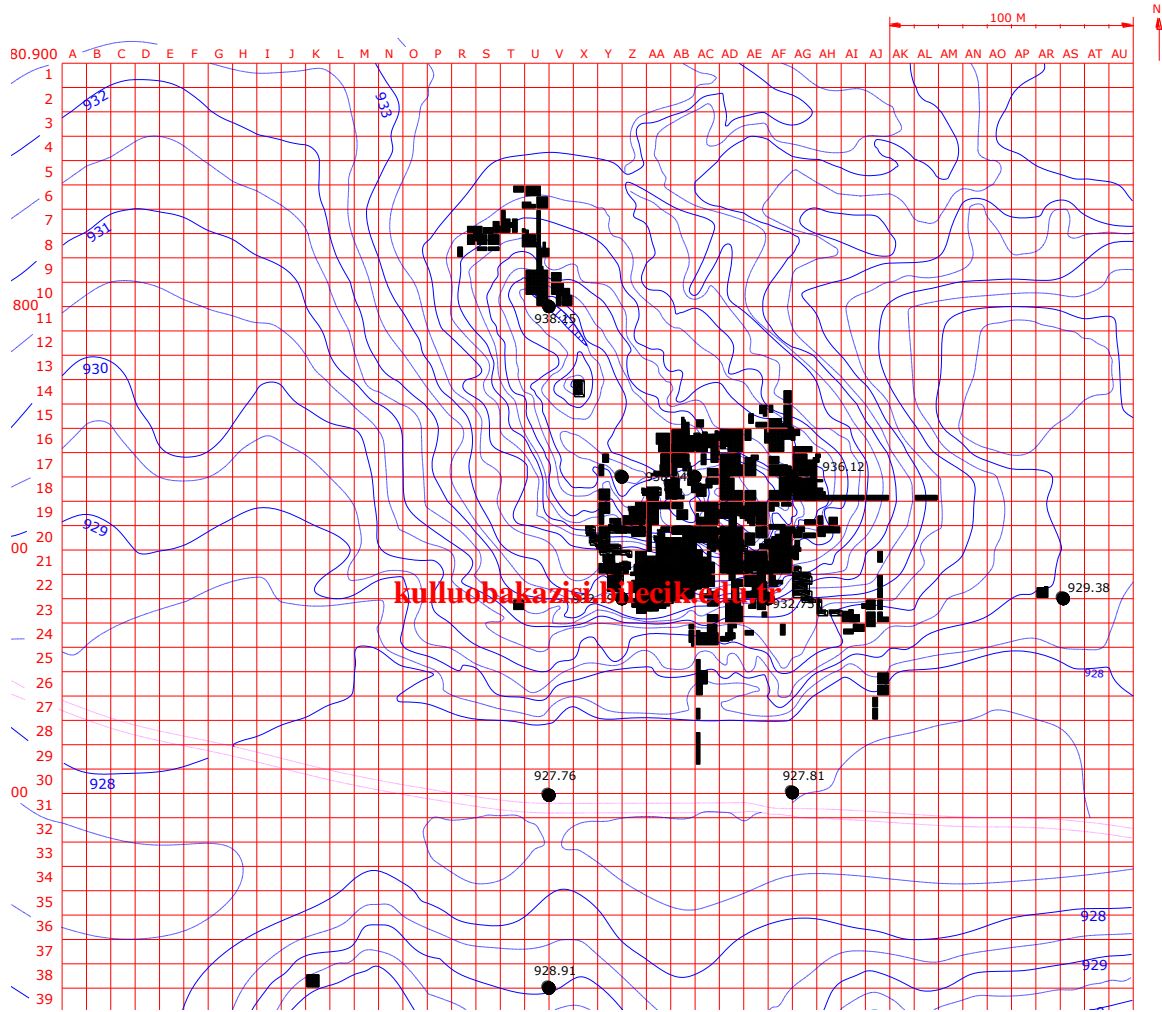


Figure. 1: Trenches so far opened at Küllüoba

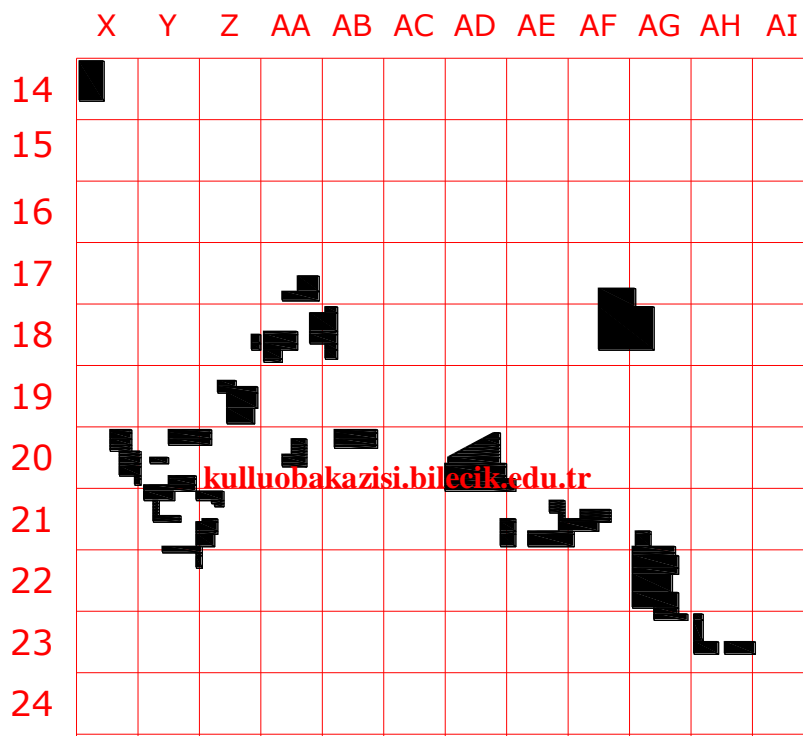


Figure 2: Trenches opened at Küllioba in 2009

A. The work undertaken in the northern part of the upper town to search for a possible “North Gate”

I A. The Grids AA-AB 18

This year we resumed work in this trench, starting with the excavation of a 5.0 m x 2.5 m area in the western part, which had previously been left at a higher level (the part of it to the north has been excavated from the surface down).

We reached a mudbrick concentration from the Transitional Period into the MBA and uncovered an islamic burial which had partially disturbed the mudbrick at a depth of 0.5 m from the surface. Below this level we found and emptied out several garbage pits of varying depths from the EB III and late EB II periods.

3.0 m below the surface on the western profile we finally reached the corner of a neatly built mudbrick structure without stone foundations (**Fig. 3**). The preserved length of the structure is 3.0 m and it is 2.0 m high. The dimensions of the mudbricks used are 48.0 x 7.0 x 5.0 cm. It has plaster only on the interior surface. The absence of plaster on the exterior might very well be proof that the structure is sunken into the earth and consequently had nothing to do with the gate here.



Figure 3: Mudbrick structure (Silo?), from the east

The mudbrick structure along the fortification wall which we had partially excavated last year turned out to be an oval silo; thus, it had nothing to do with the gate. In this part, the fortification wall goes deeper stil (**Fig. 4**).



Figure 4: The silo next to the fortification wall in Grid AB 18

I B. Trench AA 17

We resumed the work in the southern part of Trench AA 17 in an area of 4.0 x 3.5 m, hypothesizing that the southern flank of the gate entrance might have been situated across from the corner of the fortification wall uncovered in the SW corner of Grid AB 17 in the previous years. Unfortunately, there were only garbage pits in the area excavated.

We then dug deeper in the long narrow trench (6.5x 1.5 m) opened last year along the south profile (**Fig. 5**). We removed the stone-lined bin investigated last year and excavated 2.0 m down underneath it; we thus reached 6.0 m below the surface in the southern part of the trench.

While the layers slope down toward the west in the upper levels, they tend to be horizontal at the bottom without any interruption. This observation can be taken as the proof

that the area excavated in Trench AA 17 was an empty space – at least in the later phases of the EB II period.



Figure 5: Trench AA 17 and the bothroi

I C. Trench Z/AA 18

For two reasons, we decided to resume work in Trench Z/AA 18 (excavated 3.0 m below the surface in 2004 and 2006): 1) to search for clues regarding the possible North Gate and to collect more stratified material from the early EB III period (**Fig. 6**).

First we recut the collapsed profiles and removed the soil that had accumulated in the trench. We then removed the mudbrick wall of the oval structure uncovered in the early seasons. The area with the burnt material in it turned out to be a round pit from the late EB III period. We emptied it out down to 1.0 m, at which point the bottom had not yet been reached. Garbage pits were also excavated in the eastern part of the trench.

In the SW corner of the trech we excavated the early EB III layers previously uncovered in trenches AA 19 and Z 19 and collected more stratified material.



Figure 6: Trench Z/AA 18 and the bothroi

II. The work undertaken on the three corners of the North Wall of Complex II

We opened test trenches in three different corners of the North wall of Complex II in order to better document the corners and to search for possible architectural remnants outside the Complex in association with these corners. Contrary to the back walls of Complex I to the NE, mudbrick walls here seem to run quite deep without any stone foundation.

The trench at the NW corner of Complex II was enlarged as far west as Trench Y 21 in order to search for possible architectural remnants earlier than the trapezoidal structure (Phase IV C). The NW corner of the mudbrick room (Phase IV B), the remainder of which we had excavated in the earlier seasons, was documented. No architectural remains from Phase IV C were encountered in the investigated area. Here, the entrance into the room of Complex II was found in the north wall instead of the west (**Fig. 7**).



Figure 7: The NW corner of Complex II and the entrance on the north wall

III. Investigations carried out on the trapezoidal structure to the NW of Complex II and its immediate surroundings (Grids X/Y/Z 20-22)

We resumed work on the trapezoidal structure to the NE of Complex II in Trenches XY 20, Y 21-22 and Z 21, which we had began to uncover last year. This year we not only further excavated the structure, but also enlarged the area to the NW (Grids X/Y 20) to establish the plan of the house adjoining the trapezoidal structure from the north. This house had been partially excavated in 2002. Thus, investigations have been carried out in a large area encompassing the grids X 20, Y 20, Z 20, Y 21, Z 21, and Y 22. The entire area has effectively been converted into a single trench by removing the occasional remaining balks.

III A. trapezoidal Structure

We excavated certain parts of the trapezoidal structure (17 m long) to various depths and partially removed the balks between the grids in order to better reveal its layout (**Fig. 8**). The entrance in front has two phases and is flanked by two mudbrick bins. The upper phase has a large flat stone as a threshold. The exterior sidewalls of the bins were most probably built as high as the roof; thus, they formed the antea of the structure. The clay-lined pit in the eastern antea was emptied out and yielded three complete and restorable vessels, including four bone tools.

The structure has three rooms. The one at the back is corridor-like and arranged perpendicular to the long axis of the building. Part of another bin built of mudbricks was revealed in the NE corner of the front room.

The stone foundations of the NE corner were revealed in Trench Y/Z 20 (5.0 x 2.0 m.) excavated down to 1.5 m. from the surface. At a higher level in this trench, next to the southern wall of the single-roomed structure discovered in trenches Z 19 and Z 20 in the earlier seasons, we uncovered another stone foundation from the late EB III period.

The measurements of the Trapezoidal Structure are as follows:

Length: 15.5 m. (Silos included: 17 m.)

Front room :6.0x 5.0 m.

Central room :5.5x5.5 m

Back room:2.1x6.5 m.

There are several layers of hard-packed floors around the structure which point towards the open spaces. The plan of this trapezoidal structure, which shares a considerable number of features in common with Demircihüyük houses, indicates that it is the most typical EB II house plan of the Eskişehir area.



Figure 8: The Trapezoidal Structure, from the southeast

III B. The mudbrick structure built next to the back wall of the Trapezoidal Structure

The mudbrick structure adjacent to the Trapezoidal Structure in the north, part of which had been excavated in 2002 was further investigated to the west in an area of 4.5 x 4.5 m in Grid X 20.

A silo from the late EB III has been revealed 40 cm below the surface. It is 2.0 m. x 2.0 m and 50 cm deep. A pot with an outturning rim and globular body came to light near the silo. With its vertically double-pierced lugs on the shoulder, it is a typical Syrian form. In western Anatolia, this form has thus far only been discovered at Troy. Two large flat stones next to each other appeared underneath the silo.

We finally reached the rest of the mudbrick structure making a corner in the NW (**Fig. 9**). It most probably has two rooms, and its western façade in the middle, protrudes 50 cm

from the NW corner of the Trapezoidal Structure. An entrance (80 cm wide) was revealed in the middle part of the western wall; the building thus faces west. The south wall came to an end in Trench Y/Z 20 to the north, almost in line with the NE corner of the Trapezoidal Structure. It is not yet clear whether the wall actually stops here or was interrupted by a disturbance. Both structures appear to have been built next to each other in an open space.



Figure 9: Trapezoidal Structure and the mudbrick house next to it, from the northwest

IV. The work undertaken in Grids AF/AG 17-18 in order to reveal the western part of the “East Gate”

We excavated in an area of 9.0 m. x.10.0 m in grids AF 17, AG 17 and AG 18 in order to reveal the complete layout of the middle phases of the East Gate. We concentrated on the mudbrick structure, the upper part of which had been excavated in the earlier seasons. It is 4.5 x 3.5 m. and 3.0 m high, with two main phases. We eventually removed the balks in order to reveal the entire structure (**Fig. 10**). The walls on the interior are neatly plastered.

We first reached the upper floor with a hearth in the SE corner. Then we excavated down the first floor. In this early phase, the structure has a platform (1.4 x 1.0 x 0.5 m) in the SW corner, remnants of a hearth in the NW corner, and a round silo out of clay in the SE corner. Some vessels, either complete or restorable, have been found *in situ* on the floor.

The work has revealed that the mudbrick structure was built on the entrance of the earlier gate; thus, a corridor-like passageway had been formed along the south wall of the gate. The eastern parts of the sidewalls, built of large foundation stones, were excavated in the earlier seasons.



Figure 10: The architectural remains of the East Gate in Trench AF/AG 17-18

This year we uncovered the extensions of these walls to the west. The south wall turns to the north just under the balk between AF 18 and AG 18 and continues 3.0 m to where it is cut off by the mudbrick structure. It is proven by the intact floor-level stone protruding out of

the southern wall of the mudbrick structure and into the room in line with the stone wall. Mudbrick walls (1.5 m long) were added to the front parts of the side walls. Thus, the stone wall turning to the north is most probably a partition wall in which an entrance was situated. The northern wall of the entrance was again likely disturbed by the mudbrick structure. Just like on the south wall, the stone sticking out of the north wall of the mudbrick structure on interior can be taken as proof of it. Thus, in the middle phase, we can reconstruct the gate with a porch in the west.

Next year, we plan to remove the mudbrick structure and reveal the early phases of the gate. We should then be able to trace the development of the East Gate from beginning to end.

V. Excavation in the north room of Complex III in Grid AD 20.

In the room separated by a street from Complex I to the north, we removed the stone pavement excavated in previous years and revealed the floor underneath (**Fig. 11**). We then removed the mudbrick walls limiting the room from the south and exposed the stone foundations underneath. Mudbrick walls dated to Phase IV C were discovered under the stone foundations. Another mudbrick wall limiting the earlier room from the east began to appear. It makes a corner with the one in the south in the SE corner of the grid. Following drawings and photography, this year's work in the trench was deemed complete.



Figure 11: The architectural remains exposed in Grid AD 20, from the southwest

VI. The work undertaken in Grids AE/AF 21 to the north of the “South Gate”

We began to work in an area of 3.5x 2.5 m. in Grid AE 21 to trace the northern wall of the Gate toward the west and cut through the grayish hard-packed layers without any architectural remains – typically an indication of an open space. We halted the work 2.0 m. below the surface.

Next, we moved further to the east where a small part of the foundation stones of Complex III from the succeeding phase (IV D) have been preserved. We excavated under and around these stones. Our aim was to trace the north wall, which had been already exposed in this part from the corner of the so-called “Guard room” toward the west. We reached a foundation built of smaller stones which we could only partially expose due to the aforementioned larger stone foundations. They form a cubicle and the north wall does not continue further to the west.

We further exposed partition walls of the structure to the east of the cubicle along the South Gate. In addition, the Guard room was cleaned, redrawn, and photographed. During the course of this work, we discovered on its northern wall a passageway which leads up into the building to the north. The north wall of the gate forms an offset here due to the staircase.

At the end we opened the rest of the partition wall of Complex III built of large stones to the north of the investigated area.

VII. The investigations in Grids AG 21 and AG 22 to the south of the “South Gate”

First, the area excavated in Grid AG 22 in the previous years was cleaned and new trenches were laid out. The main goal was to uncover the extension of the fortification wall from the South Gate to the south and finally to the SW, and to meet the wall in Trench AC 24 and AD 24. In the beginning, we worked in a roughly 2.0 x 4.5 m. area. Eventually, the investigated area was enlarged to 9.0x 10.5 m. Right under the topsoil, we came upon severely burnt debris (**Figs. 12, 13**). This conflagration appears to be earlier stratigraphically than the three rooms to the west excavated in previous seasons.

The well preserved and nicely plastered back wall, to which the burnt rooms were attached, runs all the way across the trench in the north. As we went deeper, a rectangular room appeared (4.5x6.0 m. It was attached to the stone wall at the back, in the middle of the trench. Due to deep disturbances, only the interior plasters of the east and west walls have

survived. On the south wall there is an entrance into the room with treshold stones. The wall from the entrance on to the east continues with a high stone foundation just like the North Wall. This wall will undoubtedly join the North Wall, forming another room here. This is proven by the oven plate which appeared in the NE corner of the trench.



Figure 12: The burnt room and the *in situ* finds, from the north

Three walls stick out of the western profile of the trench. They end abruptly due to the deep disturbance here. These walls are on the same line as the partition walls of the room exposed in the next trench to the west. We will only be able to precisely establish the architectural layout of this part when we excavate the earlier phase of the room to the west.

As for the room in the middle of the trench, it has a well preserved oven next to the back wall. Four wooden posts appeared on the same line in an east-west direction, between the entrance and the oven. Their top parts above the floor (about 50 cm high) have been carbonised. We are storing them until they are picked up next year for dendrochronological examination. The one in the west was built into the wall. We can therefore anticipate another fifth post in the unexcavated part of the east wall. Another sixth post has been found next to the interior of the west wall to the north.



Figure 13: The burnt room in Grid AG 22, from the north

Many pottery vessels and other miscellaneous finds have been unearthed at different depths of the burnt debris in the room. The high preserved walls, a thick layer of burnt debris, and the fact that most finds were recovered in the filling (and not on the floor) raise the possibility that the room had two storeys.

A mudbrick wall which goes into the southern profile is attached to the south wall of the central room. A stone wall in a NE-SW direction appeared in the SE corner of the trench. This might have something to do with the wall encircling the upper town. It is probable that there is a street here, between the burnt houses and the stone wall.

There might be an entrance between this stone wall and the mudbrick wall going into the southern profile. A mudbrick structure, most of which remains unexcavated, has appeared along the southern profile. It is dated later than the burnt house. It is most probably sunken into the earth, just like the one revealed on the west profile of Trench AA/AB 18.

VIII. The excavation in Trenches AH/AI 23 and AH 23 in the Lower Town

We opted to open two trenches on the same line toward the west in grids AH and AI 23, in order to connect the stratigraphy of trenches AH/AI 22-23 and AJ 22-23 with that of trenches AG 21-22, and also to see if there is an empty space here between the upper and lower towns.

VIII A. Trench AH/AI 23

This is the eastern trench with a size of 2.0 x 5.0 m. In its western part we encountered a large disturbance at a depth of 40 cm beginning just from under the topsoil. The eastern part had a hard-packed grayish deposit. Mudbrick filling appeared underneath the disturbance. Associated with this filling is a mudbrick wall running N-S in the middle of the trench. It turns to the west along the southern profile, likely forming an entrance in the SW corner of the trench. These walls most probably belong to a room which has an ashy fill and a well pronounced floor in yellowish color underneath. From this ashy fill came the upper part of a necked vessel with a groove decoration. The floor is 2.0 m below the surface.

VIII B. Trench AH 23

We decided to open another trench (2.0 x 4.0 m) on the same line to the west, in order to trace the floor associated with the wall in Trench AH/AI 23 to the west. Remnants of an oven, most of which is under the northern balk, appeared 1.20 m. below the surface. Around

the same level, a ditch-like disturbance running NW-SE has come to light. A yellowish plaster runs along its east side. There is no doubt that this is a disturbed wall, and that only the plaster has survived. Finally, we came upon the floor opened in Trench AH/AI 23. This floor goes as far west as the plaster, and is probably somehow associated with a room from another row house.



Figure 14: The architectural remains in Trench AH 23, from the south

We then extended the trench to the north by 1.5 x 4.5 m. in order to trace the disturbed wall to the north and to establish the relationship between the upper and lower towns in this part. Thus, the trench is now L-shaped (**Fig. 14**).

We came upon the rest of the disturbed wall 3.30 m. below the surface. It has stone foundations and is undisturbed from the middle of the trench to the north. It also has two partition walls which go into the eastern profile. The one in the north has an entrance in it. It appears to exist a street between the burnt houses of the upper town in the north and the row houses of the lower town.

Another mudbrick wall appeared at a slightly lower level next to the disturbed wall along the western profile. This wall may provide clues regarding the possible existence of another row house from the earlier phase to the west.

The impression we have gotten so far is that the houses in the lower town were built one above the other in the same place. According to the profiles, disturbances opened from the surface have often followed the walls, and have damaged walls from more than one phase. Naturally, the fillings on either side of the disturbances are often in different character, since they were originally separated by a wall.

IX. The work done in Trench Z 19 in association with the Early EB III period

We had begun investigations in Trench Z 19 in 2007 and reached a depth of ca. 4.5 m., revealing a clear stratigraphic of the early and late EB III period. However, early EB III with three different successive layers could only be detected in a limited area at that time.

This year, the area has been enlarged to the south in order to obtain more stratigraphical material from this period. We excavated the gray filling in an area measuring 6.5 x 6.5 m. and reached the floor associated with the single-roomed structure that we excavated last year. This structure corresponds to the first phase of the Transitional period into the MBA, in which no bead-rim bowls have been observed.

We then restricted the area to be investigated to 3.5 x 3.5 m., excluding the corner of the single-roomed structure. Again, we collected material stratigraphically from the early EB III layers. The earliest material was found between the two pebbly thin layers. The material from the two bothroi which cut through these layers has been collected separately. Four metal pins were recovered during this operation. Finally, we reached the late EB II deposit in homogenous brown color underneath the lower pebbly layer. After lifting ca. 20 cm of the EB II deposit, we stopped working in Grid Z 19. Thus, we have a reliable stratigraphy from the eastern part of Grid Z 19 from the late EB II up to the end of the EB III period.

X. The work done in Trench X 14 on the South Cone

We opted to excavate in an area of 4.0 x 6.5 m. in Grid X 14 on the South Cone in order to investigate the late EB III deposit. We went down ca. 50 cm in the south and 1.0 m in the north. Rows of neatly laid flat stones (NE-SW oriented) 2.0 m in length appeared in the northern part of the trench. Tile fragments used among the stones and the material found in their immediate vicinity made us think that it might be a simple grave from Hellenistic period. Following removal of the stones, a skeleton surrounded by vertically placed stones appeared underneath. It was laid on its side, facing the south.

From the disturbed deposit on the surface, we recovered pottery from the Transitional Period into the MBA. Next, EB II pottery showed up in the entire trench, around the level at which we stopped working. The mudbrick wall that began to appear in the NW corner might date to the same period.

In conclusion:

The work done at Külliöba this year has been very successful with regard to documenting certain architectural details (**Fig. 15**); synchronization of the stratigraphies of upper and lower towns; revealing the complete layout of the Trapezoidal Structure; determining the architectural phases of the East Gate; recovery of many finds characterizing the early phases of the EB II period in the burnt house in Grid AG 21 (**Fig. 16**); and collecting more stratified material from the early EB III period. The burnt structure has also given us invaluable information in connection with the interpretation and reconstruction of the Külliöba EBA architecture. The globular pot with an outturning rim and double-pierced lugs on the shoulder (**Fig. 17**) is the most outstanding find of this year in terms of Syro-Cilician and Trojan connections over inland Anatolia.

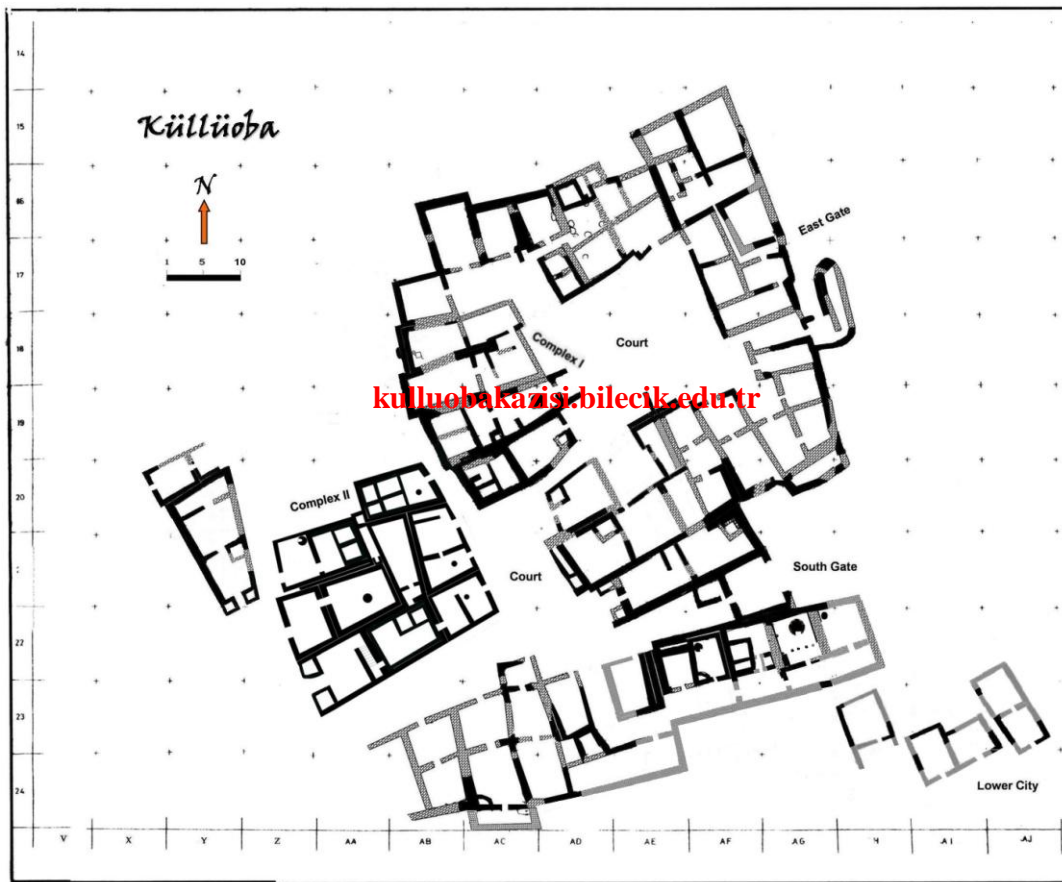


Figure 15: The current state of the architectural layout of the EB II settlement



Figure 16: The complete and restored pottery, most of which has been recovered in the burnt room in Grid AG 22



Figure 17: Globular pot with an outturning rim and double-pierced lugs on the shoulder (Syrian origin)