

# **REPORT ON THE 2006 SEASON OF THE KÜLLÜOBA EXCAVATIONS**

**Professor Turan Efe**

Bilecik Üniversitesi Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi, Arkeoloji Bölümü

## **I. Introduction**

The large prehistoric mound of Küllüoba is an irregular oval some 250 x 150 m, rising nearly ten meters above the plain level in the rolling cultivated fields of the upper Sakarya (Sangarius) basin just north of the Phrygian Highlands: 35 km SE of Eskişehir, 15 km NE of Seyitgazi and 1.3 km south of the village of Yenikent (Fig. 1).

The mound itself—on the northern slope of an ancient stream bed, now dry—is comprised almost exclusively of prehistoric deposit; our eleven excavation campaigns suggest that all phases of the Early Bronze Age are represented, underlain by Late Chalcolithic deposit. Stray finds from the Middle Chalcolithic period suggest that there are earlier strata as well. We also suspect that there is a prehistoric cemetery in the fields immediately to the NW of the mound. The latest prehistoric material on the settlement mound itself comes from the late EB III, i.e. the period transitional to the Middle Bronze Age. In the general vicinity there are also late Hellenistic remains; a Hellenistic pavement (Grid AJ 26) and wall (Grids AJ 26 and 22 respectively) appeared two years ago above EBA deposit in the soundings in the fields SE of the citadel.

As in previous years, we again had support from two other institutions in addition to INSTAP: the Research Fund of Istanbul University and DÖSİM of the Turkish Ministry of Tourism and Culture. Once more we sincerely thank the authorities of the Institute for Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP) for the financial assistance we received.

The nucleus of the excavation team convened to reopen and clean the excavation house a few days before the fieldwork began on July 6. Work at the site continued until 5 September.

At the end of the season we delivered 109 finds to the Eskişehir Museum (80 to be inventoried and 29 for the Study Collection).



Figure 1. Work on progress at the mound. From the south.

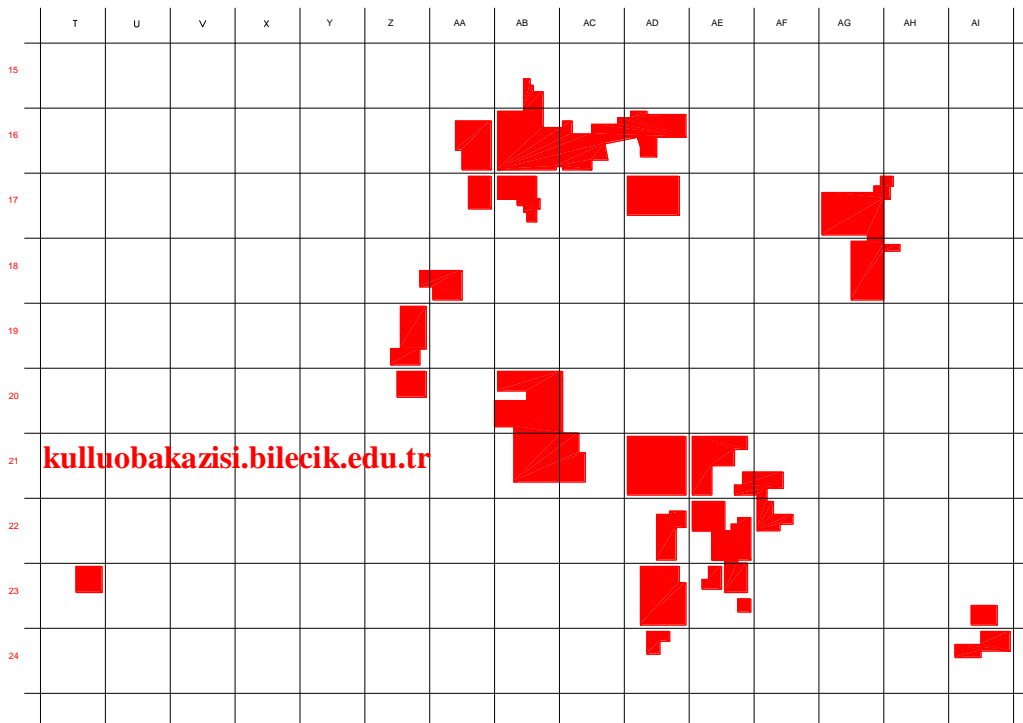
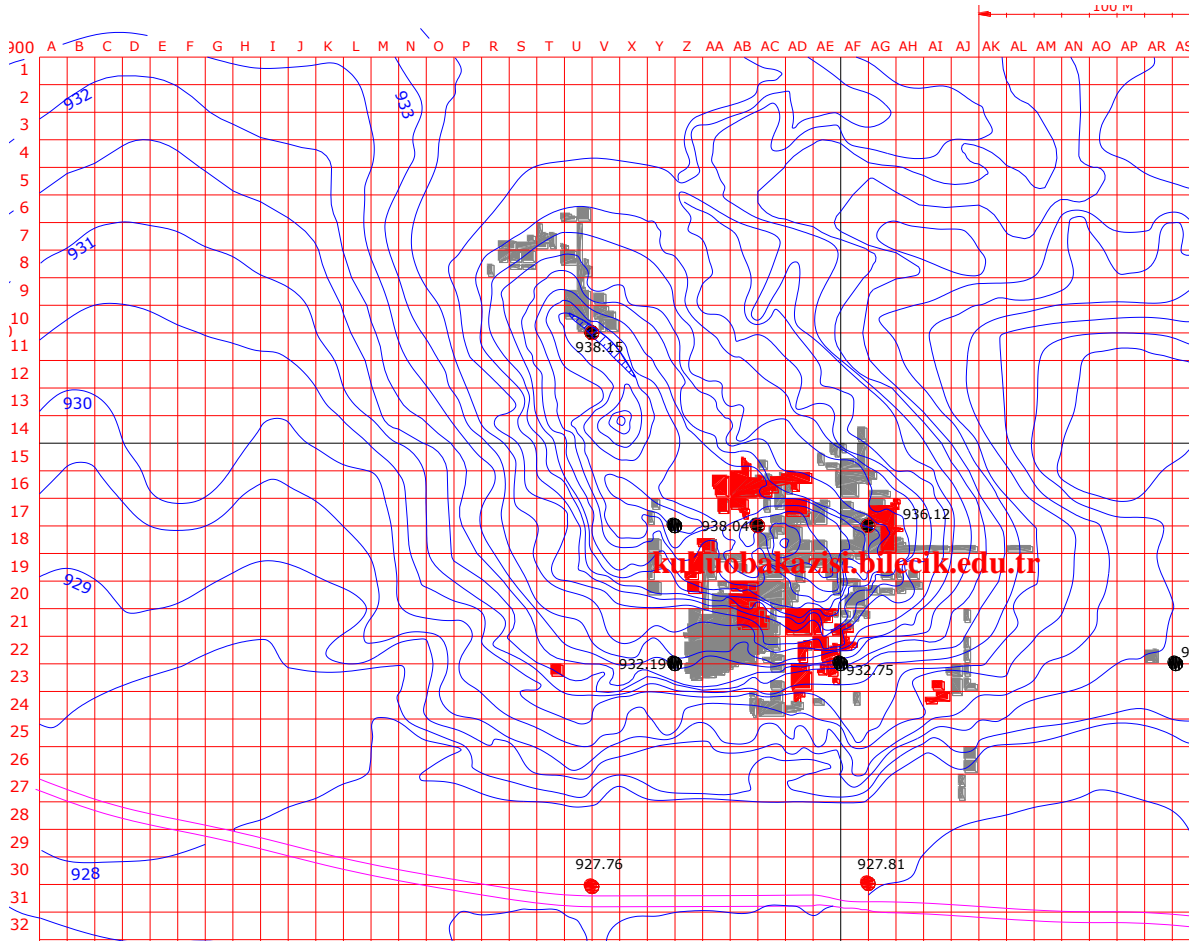


Figure 2. Areas investigated during the 2006 campaign.



**Figure 3. The topographical plan of Küllüoba showing the areas thus far excavated. Red represents the areas in which work was done this past season.**

Participants in the 2005 campaign were as follows:

Prof. Dr. Turan Efe (Director of the Excavations)

Emel Özçelik (government representative from the Eskişehir Archaeological Museum)

Deniz Ş. M. Ay-Efe (archaeologist and draftsman)

Deniz Sarı (TA in the Department of Archeology, Istanbul University)

Esra Gülseven (TA in the Department of Archeology, Istanbul University)

Hidayet Bakırcı (restorer/conservator)

Erkan Fidan, Shizue Miura, Beyil Öner, Rıza Gürlü Akgün, Murat Afşar (archaeologists).

Serap Bal, Eyüp Akça, Sim Belik, Sevingül Bilgin, Armağan Tan, Çiğdem Kibar, Fahrettin Ceylan, Halil Buruk, Serap Kuşu, Duygu Apari, Nihan Büyükakmanlar, Ali Teke, Sevda Ateş, Giovanna Matini, Federica Lume-Pereira (undergraduate students of archaeology).

## II. Outline of the Fieldwork in 2006

### II A. Work undertaken to better understand the EB II settlement

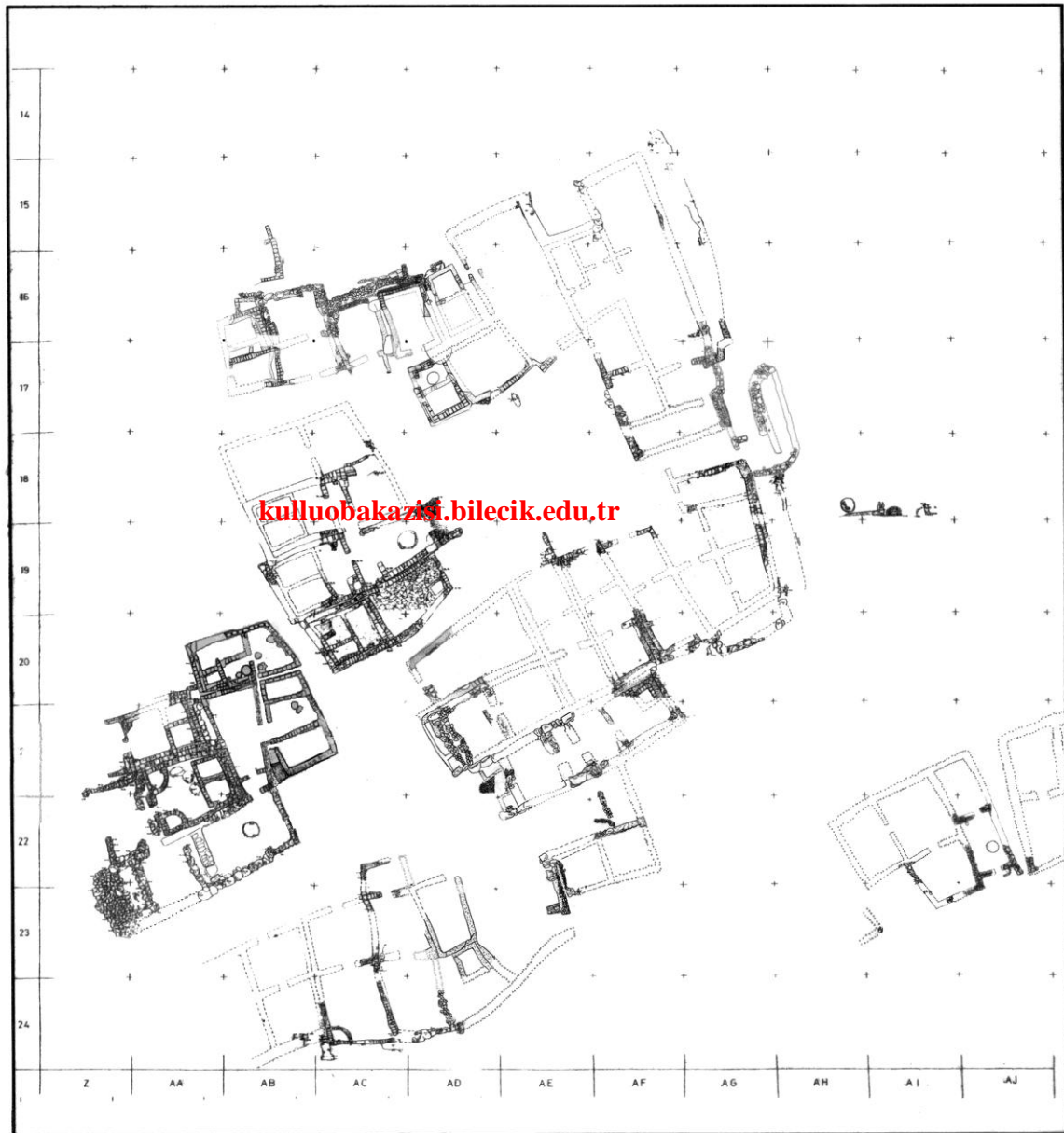


Figure 4. A simplified plan of the EB II settlement

We concentrated further on the eastern sector of the mound; excavation was generally restricted to the southern and northern slopes to better define both the layout of the EB II settlement on the acropolis (Fig. 4) and the stratigraphy of the late EB III period (Übergangsperiode) on the mound. In addition, we worked further on the Eastern Gate we continued our work in Trenches AĬ 23 and AĬ 24 to further expose the remnants of the “Megaron-house” in the lower city in the fields to the SE and have begun our first deep sounding in the Eastern Sector (in Trenches AD 20 and AD 21) to establish a firm sequence of the mound down to the virgin soil (Figs. 2,3).

*II A. 1. Investigation of the fortress on the northern slope (Trench AA-16, AA 17, AB/AC/AD 15-16, AB 17 and the removing of the topsoil in Grids AD 16, 17.*

II A.1.a. Trenches AB/AC/AD 15-16

This year we conducted extensive work in the northern trenches to further investigate the fortification wall and the houses adjoining it. First we dug in Trench ABAC/AD 15-16, taking the unexcavated northwestern corner and the strip to the east along the northern scarp down to the level reached in that part of the trench the previous year.

Just below the surface, only the corner of the late EB III partially excavated in Trench AA 17 was preserved. Below this, there were only garbage pits from various levels below it. A storage bin from the Transitional Period dug deep into the EB II layers appeared to the SW of the so-called “Tower.” What is surprising is that there were no remains of the early EB III here. We then proceeded deeper over the entire western part of the trench. Finally we reached the remainder of the walls found last year adjoining the tower; these were damaged by many pits, some of which intersected one another. The walls constitute part of a room and a small cubicle built adjacent to the tower upon independent foundations (Fig. 5).



**Figure 5. Trench ABAC/AD 15-16 from the southwest**

During this operation we discovered that the tower-like projection has three main phases. The filling of the uppermost phase dates to the end-phases of Complexes I and II, and covers the room and the cubicle mentioned above. Thus the tower represents the limit the upper town in this phase.

We then removed the large boulders that represented a later addition along the N exterior wall of the tower. During this operation a mudbrick wall appeared outside the wall of boulders. It was severely damaged, preserving only the lowest two courses of mudbricks and continuing only some three meters westward. At its eastern end where it turns to the north, it is preserved to a height of 1.5 m. We extended the trench into Grid AB 15 to confirm the plan of this structure. After 4.5 m the wall made a corner to the west, thus indicating a rectangular room, the length of which remains uncertain. A mudbrick projection of a more reddish hue—1.6 m long—was built onto the NE corner continuing the line of the N-S wall. A standing stone, the lower limit of which has not yet

been reached appeared in situ outside and adjacent to the eastern wall of the structure. The function of this structure outside the fortress has not yet been clarified (Fig. 6).



**Figure 6. The mudbrick wall and the standing stone**

We excavated somewhat deeper along the exterior of the fortification wall in the eastern part of the trench and followed the wall eastward for about 2.5 m; thus we were able to clearly differentiate individual building phases tangent to the exterior. To the east, the stones of the wall had been robbed out down to the large boulders of the foundations. Here there may have been a subsidiary entrance to the upper city; this will be further investigated in the next campaign. An additional rampart was found built along the exterior of the fortification wall from here to the tower in the west (Figs. 7, 8).



**Figure 7. The fortification wall from the northeast**



We continued to remove topsoil in Grids AD 16 and AD 17, clearing the walls to reveal the layout of the rooms here. We discovered a partition wall of mudbrick dividing the room with thick mudbrick walls (Trench AD 17) limiting the court on the NW into two equal cubicles. This structure most probably served as a storeroom serving Complex I. The room in line with this storeroom immediately to the east was partially exposed in previous seasons. A narrow corridor seems to have run along the back of these two structures bounding the court to the north, dividing them from the houses along the fortification wall (Fig. 4).

#### II A.1.b. Trench AA 16

The main purpose of excavation here was to check whether the fortress definitely continues westward or whether there had perhaps been a gate here. Just below the topsoil we encountered mudbrick walls of the period transitional to the Middle Bronze Age. These belong to two freestanding houses separated by a street running E-W (Fig. 9). The one to the south represents part of the house previously excavated in Trench AA 17. After we reached the floor levels, we limited excavation to the southern half of the trench that encompasses nearly the entirety of the southern house.

Within the house we exposed still earlier floors. After the removal of the walls, a large bothros appeared at the southern scarp. After emptying it out, we continued deeper and came upon a floor covering the entire area. Large fragments of pottery (some of which restored as half-complete vessels) still dating to the transitional period, lay on the floor. Thus we have another sealed deposit from this phase transitional to the Middle Bronze Age.

Below this floor we again encountered—as in the neighboring Trench AB 16—many pits intersecting one another. We removed another 1.5 m of deposit and then reduced the excavation area to an L-shaped sounding. Finally, at 4.20 m from the surface we reached the level at which we had encountered the fortification wall in Trench AB 16 to the east. The soil at this level was a homogenous dark brown, loosely packed in layers sloping downward to the west. We encountered no remnants of walls except for some large loose stones protruding some 1.5 m from the eastern scarp. Again, no early EB III material was encountered (Fig. 10).



**Figure 8. The fortification wall and the corner of the tower-like projection from the northeast**



**Figure 9. The walls of the period transitional to the MBA, with the EBA fortifications appearing at the upper left (from the north)**



**Figure 10. L-shaped sounding in Trench AA 16**

#### II A.1.c. Trench AA 17

We resumed work in this trench newly opened last year. We exposed the foundation stones of a structure previously documented in Trenches AB 17 and AB 16. This building, which dates to the very end phase of the EB II period, might have a megaroid plan (Fig. 11). After removing the foundation stones—save for those on the northern scarp—we continued to excavate to the level where we might expect the fortifications; upon encountering a dearth of tangible architectural remains, we halted work in the trench.



**Figure 11. The foundation stones of the structure in Trench AA 17**

#### II A.1.d. Trench AB 17

First we investigated the deposit of the last phase of the EB II period which had been partly excavated in the previous season. We then removed the stone wall corresponding to the structure excavated in Trench AA 17 and we exposed the E-W mudbrick wall that had partially come to light last year. The wall turns to the south at the western scarp. There seems to be a rectangular room here. This room has a homogenous soft ashy fill which matches the steeply sloping fill from the upper phase of the tower in Grid AB 16 to the west. Finds in the fill here date this stratum to the end phase of Complexes I and II; in other words, it must be one phase earlier than the end phase of EB II. This room was first constructed at the same time as the additional room and the cubicle in Grid AB 16 and continued in use during this phase.

Then we extended the trench 2.5 m eastward to trace the continuation of the western wall of the tower. From the surface downward we once again had garbage pits to

deal with. Finally—at one meter below the surface we reached the wall, which had been partly destroyed by these pits. The east wall of this rectangular room was built contiguous to the southern extension of the “Tower” wall, but has bulged away from it over time, as seen in Figure 12.



**Figure 12. The southern extension of the tower wall in Trench AB 17**

Then we extended excavation to the south to expose the remainder of the double wall. We exposed part of a very deep stone-lined pit from the transitional period, underneath which ran the double wall that turned at right angles to the west. The entire room here slopes downward to the west. Indeed, this downhill slope can be traced along west of the tower wall and the back of Complex I. From the northern wall of Complex II, then, the strata slope downward to the north, indicating that there must have been a relatively low area here, possibly employed as an open court. On the other hand, the

fortification wall might well have followed the slope, leaving this depression outside the upper city.

### **II B. Work in the Eastern Part of Complex II (Grids AB/AC 20-21)**

In this operation—in which we learned a good deal about the building phases and plan of Complex II—we began by opening those areas still left at surface level. As in the previous year, we found in situ finds on the floors of the upper phase. We removed first the mudbrick superstructures and then the foundation stones of this phase. Below these appeared mudbrick walls of an earlier phase.

A corridor was built between the central room or “light well” of the Complex and the eastern rooms; this it turns to the east along the southern wall of the NE room and provides an outside exit. Thus it was possible to proceed from the back room of the Megaron through two doors into the light well and from there through this ‘L’-shaped corridor to an eastern exit into the street to the east. This indicates that in this phase at least the building constituted a large complex. No inner architectural features were found in the three rooms here, which brings to mind the possibility that they may have been used as bedrooms (Figs 13-15).



**Figure 13. The corridor and the rooms in the NE of Complex II**



**Figure 14. The earlier walls in the east of Complex II**



**Figure 15. The street between Complexes I and II**

During this operation we realized that the great Megaron in the south had only two rooms in the lower phases. The room with two phases at the back was added later. This was not surprising to us, because the material found in the back room was later in date, something had earlier puzzled us.

We excavated in the NE corner of the Complex as well. The earlier street entrance to the corner room was slightly to the north of the later one, again with two steps downward. The storeroom to the west was further excavated, and a clay-lined pit and two pithoi along the southern wall were emptied out. Only a few sherds remained from the second pithos.

We also removed the balk between Complexes I and II and cleared the back wall of Complex I, thus the street between the two buildings became more apparent (Fig. 15).

### **II C. Initiation of a deep sounding in Grids AD 20 and AD 21**

In the Eastern Sector (Grids AD 20 and AD 21 on the southern slope) we finally began a deep sounding which we intend to carry to the virgin soil. First we excavated the uppermost layers in Grid AD 20. Here there was a thin stratum of early EB III, with late EB II architectural remains underneath. A large deep EB III pit was excavated in the SW corner, and a large necked vessel in upright position—containing a nearly complete depas—was found slightly to the east of the pit.

In the southern part, two SW-NE walls side by side cross the trench diagonally. The northern wall (belonging to a northern room, the opposite wall of which had been previously excavated) proceeds into the eastern scarp without any sign of a partition wall. The room bordered by the southern wall was found in Grid AD 21 to the south, introduced below. Two stone pavements—one above the other—came to light inside the northern room (Fig. 17). We then shifted our efforts back into the Grid AD 21 in the south.





**Figure 16. The double wall of Complex III (Trench AD 21) after removal of the mudbrick superstructure**



**Figure 17. Complex III and stone pavement (Trenches AD 20 and AD 21)**

Our rewarding work in Grid AD 21 continued, working from the surface down over the entire grid; in the eastern half we went down some five meters—almost to EB I strata. Together with the work in AD 20, we were able to establish five main architectural phases which represent nearly the complete duration of the EB II period. The walls excavated here all ran on the same orientation (NE-SW). It is now clear that a three-partite complex with two sub-phases corresponding to the upper phases of Complexes I and II is situated between Megaron I and the fortification wall to the south (Figs. 16, 17). Thus, we have excavated the entire front of this complex which we have named "Complex III" (Fig. 4). A court, the walking ground of which slopes down towards Complex II to the west, lies between the Complexes II and III. Ramps were built before the front entrances, that before the central entrance of mudbrick and that before the southern entrance of stone cobbling under a thick mud plaster. We are still investigating the northern entrance. The lower courses of the foundations are built of large boulders like those found in the southern Megaron of Complex II. The stones of the walls between the central and the southern structures have been mostly robbed by the villagers.

A corridor-like substructure and a sunken storage bin of mudbrick lay under the porch between the antae (between the ramp and the front wall) of the central structure (Fig. 17), as was the case for the middle phase of the Megaron of Complex II. The latter, however, was built of stone rather than mudbrick. The antae of the central structure here are of mudbrick. Inside the front wall of the central structure is one earlier wall of smaller stones. A storage bin also appears under the north corner of the porch of the southern structure.

As we proceeded deeper, we discovered out that the southern structure displayed one phase earlier than those of those of the central structure. Then, we reduced the excavation to the eastern half of the trench. After another meter, the foundation stones of another structure slightly at the same orientation but slightly recessed from the line of the upper ones appeared. It forms one corner at the northern profile and another reaches the southern profile. It is clear that no structure joined this building from the south as is the case in the upper phases. The building has an entrance in the middle with an upright stone slab at one side that most probably served as a lintel (Figs. 18, 19).

Another building on nearly the same lines appeared underneath this one. After exposing the foundation stones, we ceased this year's work in the trench.



**Figure 18. The stone walls of the earliest two phases yet found in Trench AD 21**



**Figure 19. The successive building phases and the entrance of the building with an upright stone slab at one side**

#### **II D. Work on the southern slope in Grids AE 2, AE/AF 21-22, AE 22-23; AD 22, AD 23 and AD 24.**

##### *II D.1. Work on the southern structure of Complex III*

*(Trenches AE 21-22, AF 21)*

Above we introduced the northern part of this structure with a porch, a sunken storage bin and a stone ramp. Many of the foundation stones of the structure have been robbed by the villagers. The building has a two-phased porch and two rooms. The southern anta ends in the balk between AD 22 and AE 22. There is a corridor-like passageway between the two rooms, similar to that seen Complex I (Figs. 4, 20). The back wall of this structure most probably joined the fortification wall after turning

southward in Trench AF 20-21. Many packed floors, one above the other, along the southern wall in Trench AE 22 indicate that there was a court here.



**Figure 20.** The corridor-like passageway in the southern part of Complex III

*II D.2. The search for the fortification wall in Grids AE/AF 21-22 and AE 22-23.*

Thinking that the open space (court?) in Trench AE 22 might be limited by the fortification wall on the south, we decided to open new trench in Grid AE 22. A segment of stone wall running SE-NW appeared just under the surface. The stones from where it forms a corner in the north have been completely robbed away (Figs. 4, 21). The disturbance ditch runs SW-NE into the eastern scarp. The southern part of the trench—including the wall—was completely disturbed.

As we went deeper down, a series of walls running in the same direction appeared below. Two of these in the west are mudbrick walls, the eastern one of which—leaning slightly to the west and lighter in color—is faced with small stones on the exterior. The wall to the east leans slightly to the west so that the faces of the two walls diverge from each other.

Then we enlarged the trench to the south to trace the continuation of these walls. The eastern wall turned eastward before the others. The disturbance continued to the south, where we again encountered a few garbage pits just under the surface. The double wall to the west continued further and stopped 1.5 m before southern scarp. This western wall turns to the west and its continuation is looked for slightly to the west. The wall, which is cut by a garbage pit, ends 2.5 m from the eastern profile most probably formed an entrance here. Since the stone-lined wall does not continue along this wall to the west, there is a possibility that it formed a gate—together with the fortification wall approaching from the southwest here. This will hopefully be cleared up next year.

In Grid AF 22 we opened a new trench to trace the continuation of the walls to the NE. The surface of the trench was completely disturbed and this disturbance went deeper in the south. In the north, a curving wall of small stones emerged from the western scarp. Its southern face is irregular and a mudbrick wall appeared to the south at a deeper level. This wall is most probably is the continuation of the fortifications from Trench AE 21-22. Between the two walls, the disturbance went slightly deeper.



**Figure 21. The walls in Trench AE 22-23**

In an enlargement of the trench to the north, another wall of small stones appeared, running SE-NW. We removed the balk between trenches AE/AF 21 and AF 22 to trace the wall to the north. It stopped soon with a clear ending. Apparently there was an entrance here between this wall and the wall of the southern structure of Complex III. If there is an entrance to the upper city here or there is a room here is not yet clear. The corner of a stone wall which appeared in the SW corner of the trench proves that there was a room here limited by the eastern wall in Trench AE 22-23. We partially removed the mudbrick of the wall here and revealed the foundation stones. The fill to the south of this wall was discolored by fire. In the fill we found in situ vessels (complete and half-complete) and loom-weights.

Then we traced the fortification wall ca. three meters further to the east, where it stopped at a thick mudbrick N-S wall. It is not yet clear whether this wall turns to the south. This wall might indeed be part of the fortifications, which formed a gate further to the south.

#### *II D.3. Trenches AD 22, AD 23 and AD 24.*

The main purpose of the work in this area was to trace the fortification wall and the adjoining houses excavated in Trench AC 23, AC 24 and AD 24 further to the east. Unfortunately, the fortification wall was completely destroyed here. We traced the foundation wall of a house to the north, but it was interrupted by the disturbance before it reached the northern profile. To the east of this wall are deep disturbances, the bottom of which have not yet been reached.

Further north in Trench AD 23, plastered mudbrick walls of houses of a lower phase appeared. They are contemporary with the lower fortification wall in Trench AE 22-23.

In Trench AD 22 there were some garbage pits at the surface. The packed ashy layers indicate an open space here. We proceeded deeper in the southern part to expose the continuation of the mudbrick wall continuing from Trench AD 23. It ended soon after it entered the trench, possibly forming an entrance here.

## II E. Work on the East Gate

We resumed work on the East Gate to get a more complete plan and excavate its earliest phase. During this operation we also removed the mudbrick superstructure on the fortification wall going into the southern profile.

The important finding associated with the gate is the steep stone-faced slope limiting the gate court from the east. This stone slope, which was destroyed on both ends, most probably joined the wall limiting the gate entrance from the east. The larger stones at the top of the stone slope might be associated with the Gate of the upper phase.

We were able to expose only a small part of the floor of the entrance hall. The carefully executed plastering of the walls curls out at the base to meet the floor. The early floor is lower than the walking ground of the entrance court.



**Figure 22. The early phase of the East Gate from the northeast**



The entrance hall is limited on the south by a partition wall with an entrance. Through this door, one would have passed southward from the entrance hall into the entrance room. Through the door in the wall limiting the entrance room on the west, then, one would have proceeded into another room or court leading into the upper town.

To our surprise, we discovered one long narrow room running along the east of the entrance and accessed from the entrance room. The room in the north has a thick floor, a small part of which we opened along the east profile. The complete plan of the Gate will be researched further next year. The pottery associated with the first phase of the Gate is dated to the end phase of the EB I period.

## **II. F. Excavations in the fields to the east outside the citadel: Trenches Aĭ 23 and Aĭ 24**

In addition, we resumed our work in the fields to the SE—immediately west of Trenches AJ 23/24”—in order to expose the western extension of the Megaron-house investigated last year and thus reveal the general layout of the house.

### *II F.1. Trench Aĭ 24*

This trench, opened in an east-west direction, was opened to trace the continuation of the front wall of the Megaron-house westward and locate the SW corner of the house. Unfortunately, a disturbance in the southern part of Trench AJ 23/24) last year continued into this trench, covering nearly all the trench—much deeper toward the middle; only small areas of deposit were left intact in the corners. We recovered certain Hellenistic pottery sherds in the disturbance. We reached the bottom course of stones in the foundation only along the eastern and northern profiles. After working in the undisturbed western part of the trench, we discovered that the front wall did not continue further westward to form another room. Instead, a flimsy wall of small stones, on a slightly higher level, formed a corner in the south. It stops about one meter to the west without any disturbance. Thus it might not belong to a building. In the extreme SW corner of the trench, a small segment of a foundation wall—most probably from another house—has appeared (Fig. 23).



**Figure 23. Trench Aİ 24.**

*II F.2. Trench Aİ 23.*

We decided to open another trench in Grid Aİ 23, just to the north to trace the extension of the wall of the Megaron-house. Fortunately, we figured out that only a limited part of this trench suffered from disturbance.

The remnants of a foundation wall appeared on the northern profile just below the humus. The wall, which was most probably part of the structure, was interrupted by the disturbance. As we excavated further, we discovered that the eastern fragment went much deeper and formed a corner with another wall laid SE-NW.

Finally we reached the walls of the Megaron-house (Fig. 24). The wall—a few lower courses of which had appeared on the northern profile of Trench Aİ 24 under the disturbance, runs slightly SE-NW, and two walls on the same axis join it from the east and west. The western wall here indicates that there is another room of the house protruding to the northwest. Since the front wall does not continue to the west, there is no possibility that there was another room in front of it.

Although there were wide and deep disturbances within the trenches excavated, we now have an overall idea of the plan of the Megaron-house.



**Figure 24. Trench Aİ 23**

## II G. The late EB III period in Trenches AA/Z 18, and Z 19.

In these two trenches we excavated mainly the late EB III period, in other words the period transitional into the Middle Bronze Age.

### *II G.1. Trench Z 19.*

We opened a new trench west of Trench AA 19 to complete the plan of the house which was partly excavated in Trenches AA 18 and AA 19 in previous years and to collect as much stratified material as possible.

Under the surface we exposed garbage pits—as usual—and one of them was again stone-lined. These had partially damaged the architectural remains underneath. We managed to trace almost the entire plan of the house and its rebuilding phases, the northwestern back wall of which we had excavated in Trench AA/Z 18. It appears to have begun as two freestanding megara side by side. The back slopes gently downward towards the north (Fig. 25). There is a packed floor both inside and outside the house. A pot burial was found in a pit within the porch eastward of the door.



**Figure 25. Remnants of the Megaron building in Trench Z 19**



**Figure 26. The second phase of the Megaron building with the extension to the south**

In the second phase, a complex appears as a result of an extension to the south (Fig. 26).

### *II G.2. Trench AA/Z 18.*

We resumed work in Trench AA 18, which we had previously excavated to a depth of 1.5 m. The back wall from the later phase of the structure in Trench Z 19 was removed. Finally the back wall of the megaron in Trench Z 19 appeared at a lower level, slightly to the north. The corner of a flimsy wall was excavated in the NW corner of the trench. The garbage pits at different levels appeared again in this trench.

We then reached the same thick pale gray flooring found in earlier seasons in Trench AA 19. Here it slopes downward both to the west and south. Part of a circular mudbrick structure (2.80 m in diameter) associated with this floor appeared in the NW corner of the trench (Fig. 27). A pit had destroyed most of a centrally placed fireplace (?). The pottery from the fill on this floor dates to the end phase of Early EB III, in other words, to the pre-transitional period into the Middle Bronze Age.

Then we enlarged the trench to the northwest to search for the rest of the circular structure. In the south of the excavated area—just before we reached the circular structure—we found a segment of a curving stone foundation. This is most probably part of an apsidal wall at the back of the early megaron house in trenches AA 19 and Z 19 described above (Fig. 27). Finally, three meters from the surface we reached the remainder of the mudbrick structure.

### **II H. Work in Trench T 23**

We opened a trial trench in Grid T 23 on the lower southwestern skirts of the mound to determine if there was any EB III deposit left intact. The ashy deposit ca one meter below the surface yielded mixed material of the EB II and EB III periods. Only then did we reach undisturbed layers with late EB II material.

As we do at the end of every season, we covered the trenches with plastic sheets strewn with earth.



**Figure 27.** Part of the apsidal wall and the circular structure beneath it in Trench AA/Z 18.



Fig. 28. A selection of finds from the 2006 season.



Fig. 29. A selection of complete vessels from the 2006 season.



### III. Conclusions

From the 2006 season at Küllüoba we have once again very important results, especially in terms of EBA stratigraphy and architecture. After 11 years of defining only specific characteristics, we have finally come to know the mound in the EBA period. The settlement pattern has been to a great extent clarified.

The various building phases of the fortification wall are now better understood; the plan of the East Gate with its various phases is now well established.

The layout of the Upper City on the southern slope of the Eastern Sector is reaching clarification. The fortification wall and the houses adjoining it have been almost entirely brought to light.

Another quite impressive three-partite complex that we have named "Complex III" was to a large scale exposed in Trenches AD 20, AD 21, AE 21 ad AF 21. It has provided us with complementary evidence enabling us to better reconstruct the porch of the great Megaron of Complex II. As in Complex I, the central structure of megaron plan in Complex III protrudes from the facade. Because we haven't yet found any interior architectural elements of note in this complex, we are not yet in the position to say whether these three rather impressive complexes have different functions.

Our knowledge of the rebuilding phases of Complex II has improved quite a bit. Originally the great Megaron of Complex II had only two rooms; the back room with two different phases was added later. This year we also found an 'L'-shaped corridor connecting the great Megaron to the northeastern part of the complex.

After two years of work in the fields to the southeast, we now have a better concept of the simple houses in the lower town. Stones as large as those employed in the Upper City were not encountered in the house foundations outside the citadel.

In the Eastern Sector we have begun a deep sounding in Trenches AD 20 and AD 21. We went almost five meters down in Trench AD 21, exposing nearly all the EB II phases and approaching the phases of the EB I period. We have thus established five different building phases all belonging to the EB II period—with all buildings here on the same orientation. This and the realization that the earlier phase of the East Gate belongs to the EB I period prove that the concept of upper and lower towns cities had been established at least as early as the EB I period. Despite relatively little change in the

architectural layout, a tendency towards more monumental architecture becomes apparent by the end Phase of the EB II period. Continuation of the settlement plan without much change throughout the timespan of the EB I and II is also the case at Demircihüyük, situated 65 km west of Küllüoba. The mound of Küllüoba is one of only four or five excavation sites in west Anatolia that endow us with a comprehensible settlement plan in the EB II period.

The architectural layout changes first in the very end level of the EB II, accompanied by certain innovations in the pottery. It is most probably first in this phase that long freestanding structures, megaron or megaroid in plan built on foundations of large stones appear.

The megaroid structure from the Transitional Period into the Middle Bronze Age—possibly with an apsidal wall—might be the proof of external influences upon the traditional local architecture. What is now urgently needed in order to follow the architectural development through the end of the Early Bronze Age uninterrupted at Küllüoba is the discovery of the early EB III architecture.

This year we have obtained quite a bit of stratified pottery from the late EB III layers. The pottery of the Central Anatolian *Übergangsperiode* in the light of the Küllüoba excavations will be prepared as a dissertation by Esra Gülseven, one of the assistants in our department.

We have also recovered a representative collection of pottery from various phases of the EBA, as well as clay stamp seals, a violin-shaped idol of bone, metal implements tools and other groups of materials (Figs. 28, 29).