

REPORT ON THE 2008 SEASON OF THE KÜLLÜOBA EXCAVATIONS

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I. Introduction

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

The mound itself—on the northern slope of an ancient stream bed, now dry—is comprised almost exclusively of prehistoric deposit; our thirteen excavation campaigns suggest that all phases of the Early Bronze Age are represented, underlain by Late Chalcolithic deposits. However, stray finds from the Middle Chalcolithic period suggest that there are even earlier strata contained in 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. There are also late Hellenistic remains in the general vicinity.

As in previous years, we had support from two other institutions in addition to INSTAP: the research funds of Istanbul University and of the Turkish Ministry of Tourism and Culture (DÖSİM). We would like to once again sincerely thank the Institute for Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP) for the financial assistance we have received.

The nucleus of the excavation team convened to reopen and clean the excavation house a few days before fieldwork began on July 8. Work at the site continued until the 10th of September .

Participants in the 2007 campaign were as follows:

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

Süleyman Ateş (government representative from the Kırşehir Archaeological Museum)

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

Deniz Sarı, assistant in our department

Erkan Fidan "

Fatma Şahin "

Archeologists:

Shizue Miura, Beyil Öner, Murat Afşar, Tuba Kaya

Undergraduate students of archaeology:

Sevda Ateş, Bekir Anul, Muhmmmed Yüksel, Sevilay Demirkır, Fatih Gündüz, Ahmet Çoban, Kenan Demir, Sevil Kışla, Yasemin Ceylan, Murat Yelkesen, Mustafa Can Yalçın,

Hidayet Bakırcı (restorer/conservator)



Figure 1. Work in progress at the mound. From the southwest.

II. Outline of the Fieldwork in 2008

As in prior years, we concentrated on the Eastern Sector of the mound: the excavation on the northern part of the acropolis was resumed in trenches AA 17 and AA/AB 18 in order to investigate the EB III period and trace the extention of the fortification wall and the houses adjacent to it from the east; the complete plan of the so-called “Complex III” in Grids AD 19, AE 19, AD 20, AE 20 and AE 21 was thus revealed. We also opened a new trench in the area to the northwest of Complex II in Grids Y 20, Y 21, Y 22 and Z 21 to search for houses possibly encircling it from the west.

The investigation on the possible outer wall of the EB II settlement on the southern outskirts of the mound has been conducted in two different areas: the southern outskirts of the mound (Trenches AC 25-26 and AC 27) and the western sector of the mound (Trenches T 6 and U 6).

In addition, we continued to investigate the Transitional Period into the MBA in Grids Y 19, Y 20, Z 19 and Z 20 (Trenches Y 19, Z 19 and Y/Z 19-20) on the western part of the “Eastern Sector”.

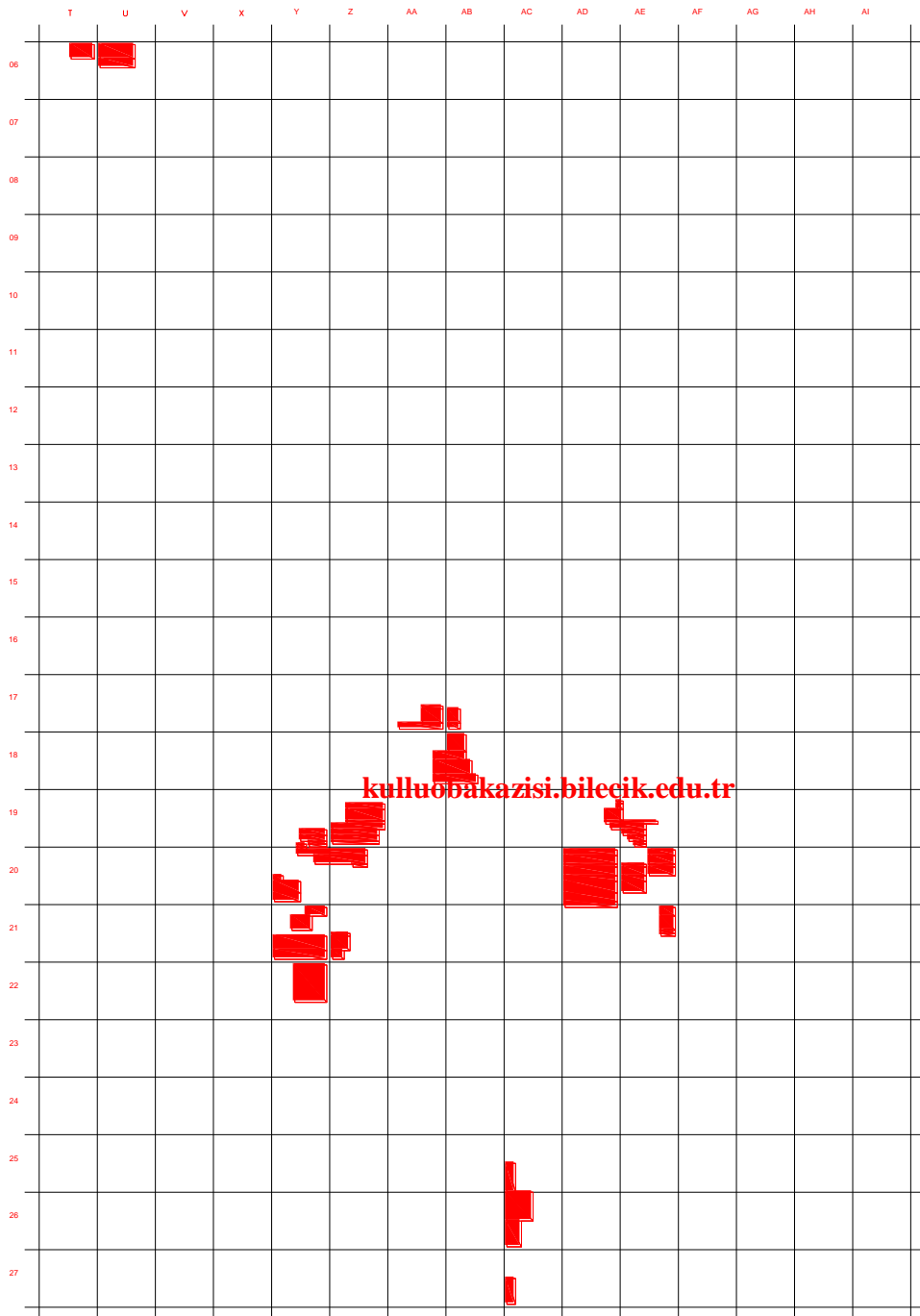


Figure 2. Areas investigated during the 2008 campaign.

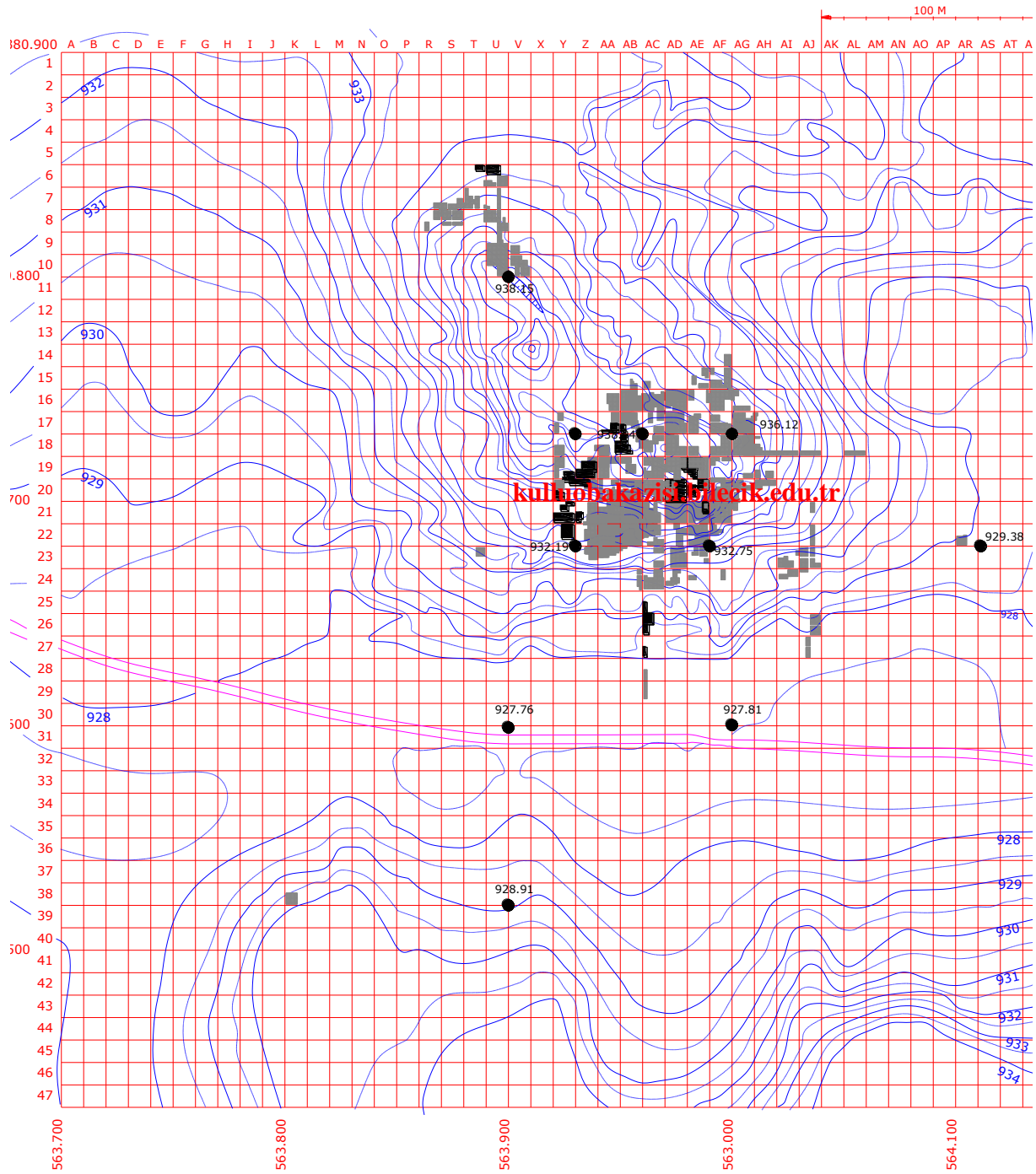


Figure 3. The topographical plan of Küllüoba showing the areas thus far excavated. Black represents the areas in which work was done this past season.



Figure 4. A simplified plan of the EB II settlement

II. A. Work undertaken in the northern part of the Upper Town (Trenches AA 17, AB 17 and AA/AB 18)

II. A.1. Trench AA 17

We opened a new trench from the surface measuring 3.5x4.0 m in the SE corner of Grid AA 17 in order to trace the western prolongation of the fortification wall and the houses adjacent to it. The southern extension of the mudbrick structure from the “Transitional Period into the MBA” investigated in the previous years began to appear ca.50 cm below the surface. Again, two architectural phases have been proven in association with the structure. An entrance here leads into a long rectangular posterior room. The wall joining the western wall from the west proves the existence of an another room to the west. During this operation, an islamic burial was uncovered near the south profile.



Figure 5. Trench AA 17. The stone foundations of the building dated to the Transitional Period into the MBA.



Figure 6. Trench AA 17. A stone-lined bin from the period Transitional into the MBA (Period IV A)

We then opened a long narrow trench (1.0X4.0) along the south scarp to the west in order to trace the wall running west and the corner it forms with the wall limiting the room

here from the west. It soon extended into the western profile, but the wall with which it was assumed to form a corner was not encountered in the investigated area. Apparently it runs a little farther west from the trench.

An earlier phase of the Transitional Period without architecture has been established after dismantling the structure. The early EB III is only represented by garbage pits in the investigated area.

After reaching a depth of ca. 2.5 m, we finally came upon the large foundation stones of the structure from the last phase of the EB II period, part of which had been earlier investigated in the same grid to the north and Grid AB 17 to the NE. Investigations to date indicate that this free-standing structure had at least two rooms. We continued to excavate under the two-roomed structure until we reached a depth of 4.0 m, but no more architectural remnants were observed. In the narrow trench to the west we recovered a rectangular bin built of stone at about the same level from the last phase of the EB II period. It is very likely that the area where trench AA 17 is situated was an empty space – possibly part of the entrance court during the EB II period.

II. A 2. Trench AB 17

We decided to excavate in the SW corner of Grid AB 17 in an area measuring 2.0 x 4.0 m. The main purpose of extending the old trench to the south at this point was to see whether the fortification wall continues southward or westward and to search for a possible “North Gate” in this area.

In the southern part we uncovered walls of the Transitional building, part of which has been excavated in Trench AA 17. The wall running into the western profile from the eastern flank of the door which was uncovered earlier in Trench AA 17. The northern prolongation of the wall running in a south-north direction is possibly disturbed. After excavating a thin layer of the earlier Transitional Period underneath the floor of the building, we came upon early EB III pits. Surprisingly, we found a red-slipped alabastron type of Syrian Bottle in one of them.

We then proceeded down over the stone foundation and the floor of the building dated to the last phase of the EB II period (IV A). After removing the wall, we excavated a soft grayish deposit ca. 1m thick, and finally reached the stones of the fortification wall at a depth of 4.5 m. The wall turns to the south in the trench and goes into the south profile. The outer face of the wall is neatly built.



Figure 7. Trench AB 17. The stone foundations of the building dated to the Transitional Period into the MBA.



Figure 8. Part of the Citadel wall excavated in Trench AB 17

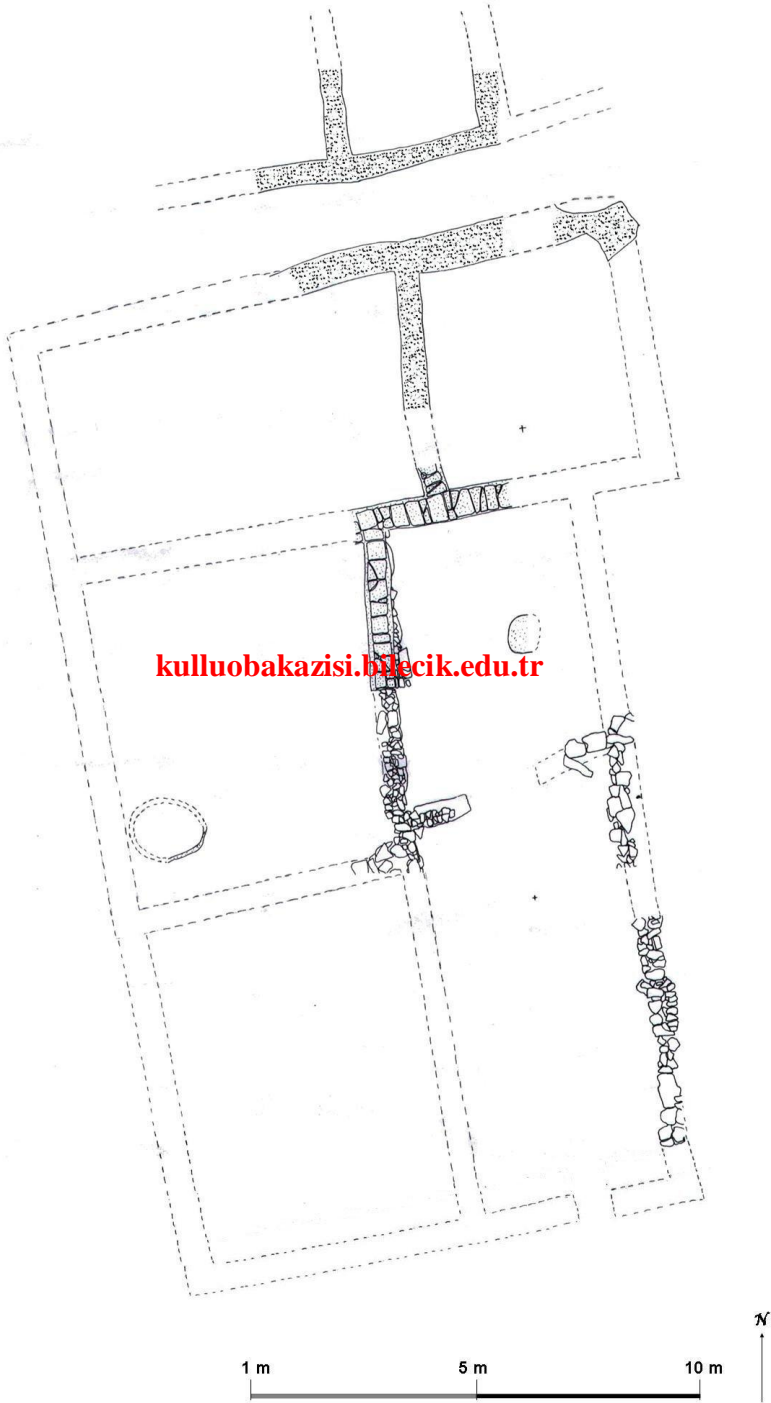


Figure 9.

II. A 3. Trench AA/AB 18

We began to work from the surface down in the western part of Grid AB 18 in a trench measuring 5.0x8.5 m. It gets narrower toward the north receding in steps from the east. The main purpose of excavating here was to uncover the northwestern corner of Complex I; second, we wished to trace the prolongation of the fortification wall; lastly, we were seeking to establish the relationship between Complex I and the fortification wall in this part, thinking it might finally provide clues pertaining to a possible north gate here.

After removing the top soil and reaching a depth of 50 cm, two islamic burials were recovered, one of which partially goes into the west profile. Next, along the east profile, a wall from the Transitional Period appeared; this wall is the continuation of the one uncovered in Trench AB 17. It has a floor with an oven plate consisting of a layer of sherds underneath. A more-than-half-complete conical cup with a single vertical handle was recovered in the fill that had accumulated over the floor.

We next decided to go down in the southern half of the trench in an area measuring 3.0x3.0 m. Two pits and a disturbance were encountered at a depth of 70 cm. These pits dating to the early EB III yielded a wheelmade cup with a string-cut base (possibly a Mesopotamian import), depas pieces, a fragment of a Trojan type of cylindrical lid together with other typical sherds of the EB III period. Shortly afterwards, we came upon a concentration of mudbrick deposit, under which a double wall of Complex I—oriented to SW-NE and disturbed partially by the pits—came to light.

We then began to excavate the middle part of the trench, which had been left higher. After the removal of the Transitional wall running north-south, we came upon a thin layer dating from the early EB III period which had been partially cut through by garbage pits. Finally, at a depth of 4.0 m we reached the remnants of the fortification wall and the rooms adjoining it at their back walls. The wall forms an offset of 1.30 m long before it goes into the south scarp to meet the wall in Trench AB 19 exposed in earlier seasons. Two bins (one rectangular, the other round in form) appeared in the middle room, the walls of which had been neatly plastered. An additional wall of 4.0 m had been built adjacent to the fortification wall, running almost the entire length of the back wall of the middle room. Finally we came upon a hard-packed floor sloping slightly downward towards the north.

The additional wall against the fortification wall most likely represents the eastern flank of the hypothetical “North Gate” here. In order to clarify the situation, we enlarged the trench to the west into Trench AA 18 (2.0x5.5 in measurements)—now covering a cumulative area of 7.5x8.5 m. First we removed two layers of the Transitional Period into the MBA

under the topsoil. The upper one again had a floor. No architectural remnants were encountered from this period. Next, the EB III pits underneath were emptied out and documented.



Figure 10. Trench AA/AB 18. The stone foundation of the building dated to the Transitional Period into the MBA.



Figure 11. Fortification wall and the additional wall built adjacent to it

Initially, at a depth of 2 m, the working area was reduced to 2.5x2.5 m.; we then reduced it again to 1.5x2.5 at a depth of 3.5 m. In the end, we reached the floor level, part of which had been uncovered in Trench AB 18. Here, the hard-packed floor slopes gently downhill to the west.



Figure 12. Sura bitiřik inřa edilmiř, kapıya ait olabilecek kerpiç duvar ve üzerindeki ahřap direk delikleri

We demolished the stone wall which most likely forms the eastern flank of the possible hypothetical “North Gate” here. A mudbrick wall appeared earlier to the north of this stone wall and continued under it as far south as the offset of the fortification wall. It is 6 m long and gets wider in the middle, sticking out to the west. It has two thick postholes, one in the middle and the other on the southern end. Many wooden remnants were collected from the middle one. This sturdy mudbrick wall most probably belongs to an earlier phase of the gate. The part with neatly rounded corners that sticks out in the middle might have been the eastern jamb of the gate entrance.

Next year, we hope to uncover the entire plan of the Gate.

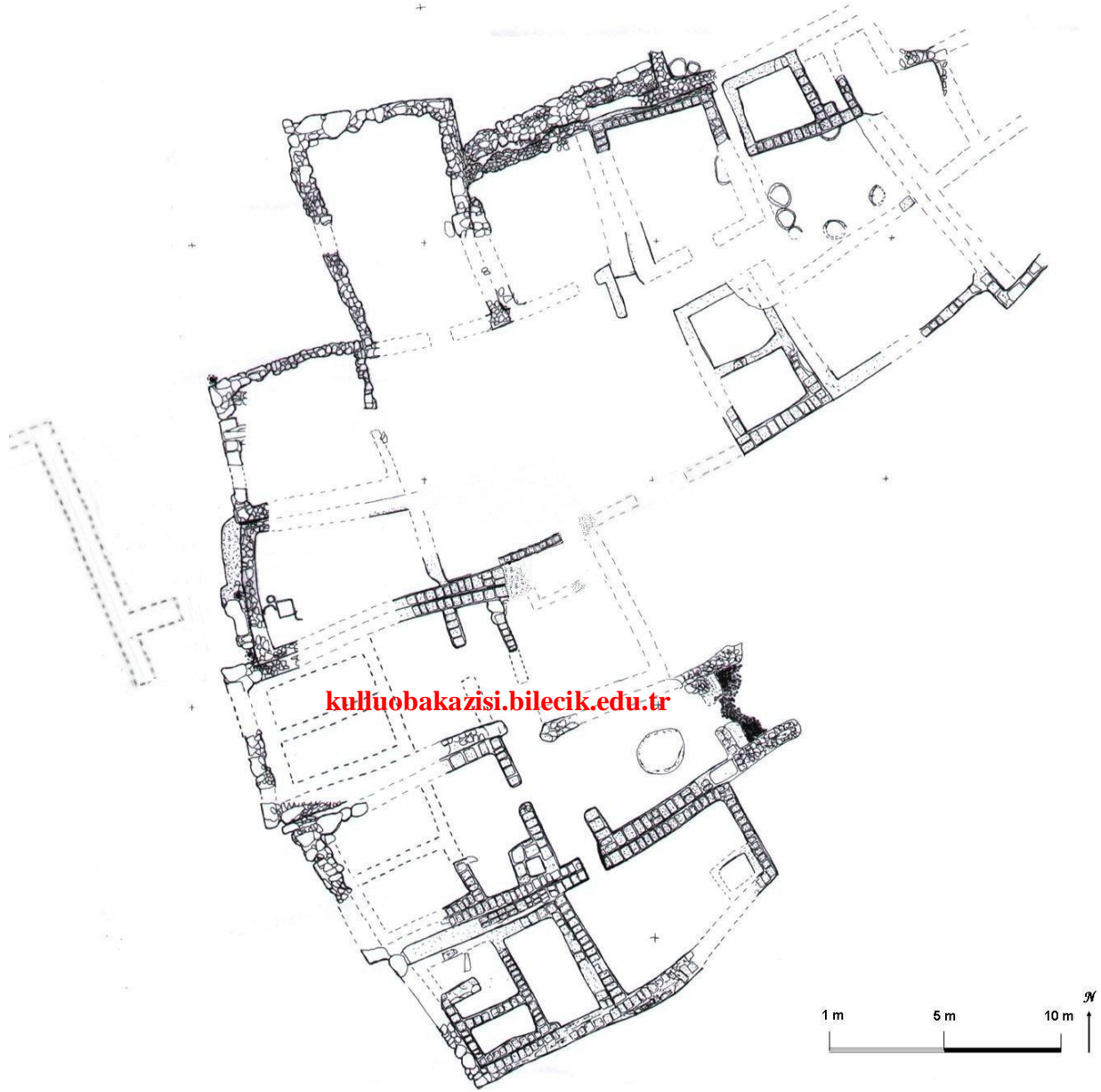


Figure 13. Kompleks I, kuzeydeki sur ve sura bitişik evler ile olası Kuzey Kapısı'nın önerilen tümlemesi

II. B. Investigations on the back part of Complex III (Grids AD 19, AE 19, AD 20, AE 20 and AE 21

We resumed the work in Grids AD 19, AE 19, AD 20, AE 20 and AE 21 in order to beter understand the layout of the so-called "Complex III" and its relation to the houses - situated between "Complex I" and the East Gate- opening into the court.

II. B.1. Grid AD 20

Starting at the the surface, we undertook an investigation in the NE corner of Grid AD 20 in an area of 4.5x5.0 m. The western part of the grid had been partially excavated in previous years. After the top soil, we excavated the early EB III layer without finding any architectural remains, and reached the late EB II phases. During this operation, two or three garbage pits were emptied out in the excavated area. An unexcavated strip of varying thickness (between 0.5 and 1.0 m) left along the north scarp in the earlier seasons was also removed. Finally, we began to work over the entire grid.

The mudbrick wall in the northern part of the trench exposed in earlier seasons and sloping upwards to the NE was further excavated. It definitely limits the room here from the north and this room has a double partition wall and a silo in the NW corner, to the left of the entrance. The wall stops before it goes into the north profile. This room constitutes the northern flank of the three-partite plan of the so-called “Complex III” in Phase IV B. The remnant of a stone wall running in a SE-NW direction in the eastern part of the trench might have limited the room from the east.

We removed the filling on the stone pavement, which had a floor only in a limited area in the middle. Due to disturbances in the east profile, the stone pavement does not continue this far south. The double wall, most of which was hidden in the southern baulk was investigated and documented.

After emptying out the rest of the EB III pit in the SW corner of the trench, a hard-packed floor sloping downhill to the SW appeared underneath. This floor, which seems to cover almost all of Grid AD 20, provides hints that the area to the south of Complex I functioned as an empty space before the mudbrick structure.

Work was resumed in the street between the mudbrick wall and the southern wall of Complex I. Hard-packed layers one above the other were uncovered here. During this operation the mudbrick wall of the earlier phase of Complex I began to appear underneath the stone wall of Phase IV B. In the end, we removed the mudbrick wall running along the south of Complex I and exposed the foundation stones underneath. This wall seems to have been built after the stone pavement.



Figure 14. AD 20 açmasındaki kerpiç duvar



Figure 15. AD 20 açması, kerpiç duvar altındaki taş temel ve taş döşeme.

Ön planda silo ve alt evreye ait taban

II. B.2. Grid AE 20

Two separate trenches -Trench AE 20 (west) and Trench AE 20 (east)- were opened in Grid AE 20 with a 50 cm baulk between them to trace the continuation of the wall which we had exposed in the SE corner of Grid AD 20.

II. B.2.a. Trench AE 20 (west)

After removing the partially disturbed layers under the surface, we came upon a deposit from the last phase of the EB II period (Phase IV A). This is a light-colored stratum in which we found an almost complete loop-handled bowl and a partially preserved tankard with a handle on the shoulder (early form), along with other sherd material. A segment of a foundation wall (in the eastern part) and an oven floor paved with sherds (at the northern scarp) were uncovered in association with this phase.

As we proceeded deeper, a mudbrick wall with a stone foundation appeared on the same line as the upper one, crossing the trench diagonally. This wall, which has an entrance near the west profile, is the prolongation of the one we had discovered in Grids AD 20 and AD 21. Eventually, we removed the poorly preserved mudbrick on top and documented the foundation.

A round mudbrick area –most probably a remnant of the hearth platform— appeared at the west profile.



Figure 16. AE 20 açması üst evre temel kalıntısı ve İlk Tunç III'e Geçiş Dönemi fırın tabanı.



Figure 17. AE 20 açması (batı ve doğu). Alt evre duvarı, sağ alt köşede giriş.

II. B. 2.b. Trench AE 20 (east)

We opened a trench (4.5x4.5 m) to the northeast of the earlier one to uncover the back wall of Complex III. Soon after we removed the topsoil, we discovered the walls of the rooms coming together at the west profile of the trench. The stone foundation exposed in Trench AE 20 (west) turns to the south. This is the back wall of the middle structure of Complex III. The mudbrick wall on the same line with the earlier one runs in the opposite direction into the NW corner to meet the western wall of the room in Trench AE 19. The third wall, underneath which a double wall has just appeared, runs towards the east and goes into the east profile. Part of the room formed by two of these walls in the SE corner with the mudbrick filling has been emptied out and the gray-colored floor underneath brought to light.

II. B.3. Trench AD/AE 19

We undertook a new operation from the surface down in the southern part of Grid AE 19 in order to find out how the walls coming from three different directions interface here. The trench, measuring 4.0x5.0m, gets narrower towards the south by receding in steps on the

west. While doing this, we also excavated part of the baulk between Grids AD 19 and AE 19 and a small part to the west in Grid AD 19. As usual, we dug out a few pits, two of which yielded some important Early EB III pottery. The most surprising of all was an almoscompletely dark gray Syrian Bottle; among others we can cite certain wheelmade forms and depas pieces. There were also occasional random disturbances opened from the surface.



Figure 18. AE 20 açması, birbirleriyle köşe yapan duvarlar, kuzeyden.

The mudbrick wall running NE-SW, part of which we had excavated in the earlier seasons, turned out to be a double wall and stopped in the middle of the trench. The mudbrick wall coming from AE 20 (East), on the other hand, stopped before it joins the double mudbrick wall; in other words, the two walls unexpectedly form an entrance here. The double wall apparently goes quite deep, as seen on the pit wall opened immediately to the west of it. Thus, the mudbrick wall running parallel to the southern wall of Complex I in Trench AD 20 does not extend far enough to the east to meet this double wall.

The mudbrick wall running to the south forms a zigzag in the earlier phase and lacks an entrance.



Figure 19. AD/AE 19 açması kuzeyden.



Figure 20. AE 19 plankaresi, zigzag yapan kerpiç duvar.

II. B.4. Grid AE 21

In Grid AE 21, we partially excavated the double partition wall and the mudbrick fill between them, which belongs to the southern structure of Complex III. The one in the east had some mudbrick wall preserved. These walls built of big boulders will be further excavated in the coming season.

II. C. Work undertaken in the Northwestern sector of acropolis-the Area to the NW of Complex II (Grids Z 19, Z 20, Y 19 and Y 20-22)

II. C.1. Grids Y 20, Y 21, Y 22 and Z 21

We began a new operation on the southern slope to the northwest of Complex II to investigate the possible row houses encircling Complex II from the west. We arranged the trenches according to the geophysics measurements indicating certain walls might appear in this area.

To begin with, we opened trenches in the southern part of Grid Y 21 (4.5x9.0) and in the northern part of Grid Y 22(4.5x7.5). Right under the topsoil in Trench Y 21, we uncovered an almost 1.0 m wide, sturdy mudbrick wall with a stone foundation, running SE-NW. It turns to the NE at the southern scarp. A large pit opened from the later phase in the NW corner of the trench was emptied out.

In order to trace the extension of the sturdy wall to the NW, we decided to open two trenches: one in the northern part of Grid Y 21 (comprised of two small trenches measuring 2.5x3.5 m and 1.5x3.5 m) and the other to the south of the old Trench Y 20 (3.5x4.5 m) with a 1.0 m-wide baulk between.

The work in these trenches has been very rewarding. The sturdy wall running SE-NW made a corner with the stone wall excavated in earlier seasons in the old trench to the north in Grid Y 20. Two partition walls were revealed in connection with the wall: one in the new Trench Y 20 and the other in Trench Y 21 (North). A large deep pit in Trench Y 20 completely destroyed the middle part of the partition wall in the North; the southern one, on the other hand, had a well pronounced doorway in the middle part. At the end, we realized that there had been a long house here with three rooms, facing -at an angle- the façade of Complex II. While both front rooms are 6.5 m long, the perpendicularly arranged corridor-like back room was only 2 m wide. The walls seem to have been plastered and whitewashed carefully.

We opened a new trench (3.0x4.5 m) in Grid Z 21 to reveal the entire front part of the building and to get an idea of its width by exposing the opposite side wall. Three pits were emptied out under the topsoil. Rows of stones with mudbrick in them appeared along the western scarp. Considering the location and orientation of the sidewall in this trench and the excavated length of the middle partition wall, this 15 m-long building is most likely trapezoidal in shape, becoming gradually narrower toward the front. It measures 5.0 m wide in front and 9.0 m at the back. It appears to have a sunken silo between the two short antae in front, just like we observed in front of the central building of the so-called Complex III in Grid AD 21 and the large Megaron of Complex II. Judging by the pottery found in its rooms, the building can be dated to the late EB II period (Küllüoba, Phase IV B, in other words, the end phase of Complex II).



Figure 21. Y 20 açması trapez evin batı köşesi.

We exposed a well packed floor to the east, partially destroyed by the pits here. This floor proves the existence of narrow passageway providing links between the two courts, the North Court and the possible court in front of Complex II. This building, the back wall of which most likely leaned onto the sidewall of another building, appears to be surrounded by open space on the remaining three sides, thus separating the two courts mentioned above from each

other. The building was covered with plastic sheets and a layer of soil to be further investigated in the coming season.

This year, we could only excavate 20 cm down from the surface in Trench Y 22; no architectural remains have been encountered thus far.



Figure 22. Y 20-21 ve Z 21 açmaları, trapez yapı güneyden.

II. C.2. Trenches Z 19 and Y/Z 20, Y 19

The main purpose of excavation in these trenches was to get more stratified material from the EB III period and to reveal the complete layout of the possible freestanding building, the excavation of which we had begun two years ago.

II. C.3. Trench Z 19

We resumed the work in Trench Z 19, which had last been excavated in 2006. First, we exposed the earliest floor of the “Transitional Phase into the MBA” in the southern part of Trench Z 19. Thus, the wall of a house which had partially appeared in 2006 along the eastern edge of the western sounding has been fully exposed.



Figure 23. Z 19 ve Y/Z 20, Y 19 Açmaları, kare yapı doğudan.

We enlarged the trench to the North (2.5x3.5 in size) in order to trace the prolongation of the wall to the North. The Transitional material here was collected according to the layers which were visible on the profiles of the earlier trench.

We reached the wall 2.0 m below the surface. The wall turned to the west in the excavated area. We exposed the well-packed yellowish floor of the building here. A metal pin was recovered near the NE corner of the building. The pottery collected from the fill of the building dates to the very early phase of the Transitional Period.

II. C. 4. Trench Y/Z 20

To be able to detect the prolongation of the wall in Trench Z 19 to the south, we decided to enlarge Trench Z 20 to the west to include part of Grid Y 20. (This way, the size of the trench grew to 3.0x12.0 m.) Shortly after we removed the topsoil, the stone foundation began to appear. It forms a corner in the west, soon after it comes out of the profile. This corner is not sharp but rounded. An additional row of stones from a later phase was found along the outer face of the back wall near the western corner. We then enlarged the trench to

the west into Grid Y 20 to find out if the wall continues further west. In the end, we found out that the wall turns to the north where the corners of the three grids meet.

Finally, we excavated the fill of the house in this trench; the floor has not, however, been reached yet. The walls of the building are highly preserved in this trench.

II. C. 5. Trench Y 19

We opened a new L-shaped trench in the SE corner of Grid Y 19 (4.5x3.0 m) in order to search for the western wall of the Transitional house and to eventually follow the prolongation of the EB II houses discovered in Trench Y 20 in earlier seasons. We encountered a mudbrick filling on the northern half of the trench under the top soil. A pebbly fill with much pottery from the Transitional Period into the MBA and animal bones appeared underneath it. This 1.0 m-deep pit with irregular contours turned out to be a disturbance. The deposit is gray-colored in the rest of the trench. A red mudbrick layer in the SW corner might be a remnant of an oven platform. We finally exposed part of the western wall at a depth of 2.0 m below the surface. It runs at a slight angle to the western scarp and remains partially unexcavated under the baulk. Smaller stones seem to have been used in this wall. The floor in this trench has not yet been reached, either. In the end, we were able to reconstruct the plan of the house: it is a large, single-roomed square structure measuring 6.5x6.5 m.

II. D. Work undertaken on the southern outskirts of the mound (Trenches AC 25/26 ve AC 27)

We resumed the work in Trenches AC 25/26 and AC 27, which had been opened on a single line on the southern outskirts of the eastern sector in order to investigate the remnants of the EB II lower town and search for the possible outer fortification wall.

II. D.1. Trench AC 25/26

We had already enlarged the excavated Trench AC 25/26 southward from the surface down. The area to be investigated was 3.0x4.5 m. First, we removed the earth (40-50 cm thick) from the surface, dumped here during previous seasons. A light colored, homogenous deposit with scant finds was then excavated below it. We finally came upon the Hellenistic layer. Save for a few sherds, no finds were encountered in this layer, either. Underneath the Hellenistic deposit, we excavated a thin layer in which Transitional and early EB III pottery were found together. Finally, the remainder of the early EB III architectural

remains, which we had exposed in the north last year, began to appear. The well plastered Mudbrick Structure formed a cubicle measuring 3.0x3.0 m. As the southern wall continues farther to the southwest into the west scarp, there is most likely another cubicle or room in the west. The highly preserved walls and the absence of an entrance between the two rooms might be indicative of a sunken structure.

A large pit which partially disturbed the southeastern part of this mudbrick structure is apparently bordered by a mudbrick wall from the south as well. This structure with a sunken floor might have been used as a dwelling; the interruption in the mudbrick wall in the west might have something to do with the entrance into the structure.

After demolishing the mudbrick structure, we proceeded somewhat deeper and came upon the hard-packed layers (light yellowish gray mud laced with thin layers of ash and red clay) that we had brought to light around the round pit to the north last year. Soon thereafter, two additional, smaller round pits appeared at just about the same level as the big one. The pottery recovered in them also dates to the early EB III. The one in the south goes into the south profile. It ultimately became clear that these pits have nothing to do with the dwellings and that they are simply garbage or votive pits sunken into the hard packed layers.



Figure 24. Kerpiç Yapının bu sene kazılan kısmı.

We next resumed the work in the narrow trench to the north. First, we removed the stone pavement and excavated ca. half a meter down through the hard-packed layers. Two big boulders appeared near the north profile.

After excavating the hard-packed layers around the big round pit to its floor level, we decided to take a narrow long strip along the west scarp. The layers harboring the round pit slope downwards both to the north and west. They tend to rise again in the north towards the fortification wall of the citadel. The low level here might be the prolongation of the channel we had discovered in 2005 in Trench AJ 21 to the NE . It might have been built to collect the rainwater running down the slopes of the citadel, thus preventing the outlying houses of the lower city from flooding. Similarly, hard-packed layers or clayey fill outside the citadel here might correspond to the floods.



Figure 25. Adak çukurları ve batı profilindeki derinlik sondajında ortaya çıkarılan ana toprak

II. D.2.Trench AC 27

A new trench has been opened in the SW corner of Grid AC 27 measuring 1.5x4.5 m. First, accumulated dirt was removed from the surface. After the light-colored Hellenistic deposit, we dug through the layer of the Transitional Period into the MBA. Soon after, a stone foundation from the Transitional Period appeared along the south profile.

We left the wall unexcavated and continued to excavate in the rest of the trench. At a depth of 3.50 m from the surface, a round plastered silo dated to the same period appeared. Several layers and pits were encountered below this level. At the depth of 3.75 m. a yellowish layer mixed with mudbrick remains appeared. The pottery recovered in these layers dates to the later phases of the EB II period.

We stopped working at a level 4.20 m below the surface without reaching virgin soil.



Figure 26. AC 27 açmasında ulaşılan en son seviye ve sağ tarafta Orta Tunç Çağı'na Geçiş dönemi duvarı.

II. E Work Undertaken in the Western Sector to Search for the Outer Fortification Wall

According to the measurements conducted by Associate Professor Ahmet Fethi Yüksel from the Dept. of Geophysics at İstanbul University, there might have been a curved sturdy stone wall in line with the counter lines on the westernmost outskirts of the mound. We opened new trenches in Grids T 6 and U 6 where this curvature is evident.

II. E.1. Trench U 6

This new trench measuring 4.0x6.0 m has been opened to the north of Trench U 6 opened in the early years. We reduced the working area to 3.5x2.5 m at a depth of 1.20m from the surface. The entire investigated area seems to have been disturbed. A segment of stone wall appeared in the middle part of the trench, running SE-NW. The pottery recovered dates mainly to the Transitional Period into the MBA. After removing the wall, we continued to excavate in the deep part and came upon a hard-packed layer ca. 20 cm underneath it. It slopes gently downhill towards the north and seems to be a natural formation. We stopped excavating at this layer, 1.60 m below the surface.



Figure 27. U6 açması. Orta Tunç Çağı'na Geçiş Dönemi'ne ait taş temel.



Figure 28. U6 açması. Derin kesimde iki çöp çukuru tarafından kesilmiş olan sert ince tabaka.

II. E.2. Trench T 6

Likewise, Trench T 6 (4.0x2.5m), opened immediately to the west of Trench U 6, yielded a disturbed deposit on top and a gray fill underneath. We came upon the hard-packed layer at a depth of 2.0 m from the surface, corresponding to the one we excavated in Trench U 6. It is interrupted in the SE and NE corners of the trench.

We then dug down only in the eastern part, to a depth of 2.80 m from the surface, confining the working area to a size of 2.0x40 m. Transitional pottery into the EB III period (Phase IVA) was recovered in the deposit underneath (50 cm thick). This time, we reduced the size of the deep sounding to 1.5x2.5 m and came upon virgin soil of reddish hue (Neogen sediment) at a level of 3.0 m. from the surface. In summary, the wall suggested by the geophysics measurements was not encountered in these two trenches.



Figure 29. T6 açmasının son durumu, sol alt köşede ana toprak.



**Figure 30. İçi Yiv Bezemeli
Black-topped Kase (Geç İTÇ II)**



**Figure 31. İTÇ II'nin son evresine (IVA evresi)
ait ilmik kulplu bir kase**



Figure 32. Tankard (İTÇ III'e Geçiş Dönemi)



Figure 33. Çift Kulplu Tankard (Erken İTÇ III)



Figure 34. Kırmızı Astarlı Suriye Şişesi



Figure 35. Koyu gri renkli Suriye Şişesi



Figure 36. Dibi iple kesilmiş fincan (Erken İTÇ III)



Figure 37. Boyunlu ömlek (OTÇ'ye Dönemi)



Figure 38. Tek Kulplu Fincan (OTÇ'ye Geçiş (Geçiş Dönemi)



Figure 39. Figürin başı (İTÇ II dönemi)



Figure 40. Mühür (İTÇ II)

III. Conclusions

The 2008 excavations at Küllüoba again mainly concentrated on the eastern sector, making significant progress towards the completion of the plan of the Upper Town and providing us with new data on the settlement layout and house plans of the Transitional Period into the MBA. We emptied out quite a number of garbage and votive pits from the EB III period during this year's operations.

In addition, we continued to excavate in trenches AC 25-26 and AC 27 outside the Upper Town on the southern outskirts of the mound, and we resumed the work begun years ago in the western sector (Grids T 6 and U 6) in order to search for the possible outer fortification wall.

The northern fortification wall and the back wall of Complex I have finally been connected in Trench AA/AB 18; we thus have a nearly complete plan of Complex I and the houses encircling the court associated with it. An additional wall with two phases has been uncovered along the fortification wall in the trench. The earlier one is a massive mudbrick wall 6 m. in length and getting wider in the middle part. Two big post-holes have been discovered in connection with the wall. This wall most probably constitutes the eastern flank of the gate here (the North Gate?). Further investigation of the gate is planned for the next season.

The work carried out in Grids AD 20, AD 21 and AE 19 has revealed the architectural layout of the so-called Complex III and the adjacent areas.

One of the most interesting findings of this year is the trapezoidal house to the NW of Complex II from Phase IV B (15 m long, 5 m wide in front, and 9 m wide at the back) reflecting megaron in plan. It was surrounded by open spaces at three sides; only the back wall might have leaned onto another structure. It seems to have been separating the northern court and the putative court in front of Complex II. This megaron structure with its trapezoidal form and a sunken bin in its porch is very similar in concept to the Demircihüyük house-type proposed by M. Korfmann.

We reached virgin soil in a limited area in Trench AC 25-26 outside the Upper Town. Only EB II material has been recovered in the layers immediately above virgin soil. The area most probably corresponds to an open space during the EB II period. Judging by the evidence collected in Trench AC 27, the EB II deposit seems to become thicker and denser towards the south. This could be taken as an indication that the row houses presumably encircling the settlement were still a component of this area further in the south.

We opened two trenches in Grids T 6 and U 6 in order to search for a possible outer fortification wall. Although we reached virgin soil in Trench T 6, no signs of such a wall were encountered.

We have more stratified material from the new trenches in Grids AD 20, AE 19 and AE 20. A loop-handled bowl and a more-than-half-complete tankard –both handmade— come from the end phase of the EB II period (Phase IVA).

The pits from the early EB III yielded certain important pottery samples, among which three Syrian bottles and two-handled wheelmade jars or tankards represent the most outstanding ones. The tangible architectural remnants from this period have so far been only partially investigated in Trench AC 25-26. It is a mudbrick structure with at least two rooms. Since it goes into the west scarp, its overall plan has not yet been effectively elucidated.

The work in Trenches Z 19 and Y/Z 20, Y 19 was very rewarding. A free-standing square building 6.5x6.5 m. in size, most of which has been excavated dates to the very early phase of the Transitional Period into the MBA. The pottery collected from the fill associated with this building has not yet fully developed bead-ream bowls and can be paralleled to Beycesultan phases X-IX. On the other hand, as a result of the work in Trenches AA 17, AB 17 and AB 18, we realized that the multi-roomed house from the later phases of the Transitional Period in the north covers a much larger area than we had earlier anticipated.

We can say without any hesitation that this year's work contributed much to the clarification of certain critical issues regarding the architecture and material development in the EB II and III periods.