This face pot was found in fragments through several midden deposits in a pit in the 4040 Area.

Our newsletters aim to provide a brief outline of each season’s activities at Çatalhöyük. Highlights of the season’s excavations and finds are described as well as summaries of research programmes and events that took place on site. More detailed information is available in the archive report (http://www.catalhoyuk.com/archive_reports/2006/)

The project works in Turkey with a permit provided by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and under the auspices of the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara. Our main supporters are Stanford University in the USA, the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, the University of Cambridge, and the Institute of Archaeology, University College London in the UK, Selcuk University and Istanbul University in Turkey, and the University of Poznan and the Polish Heritage Council in Poland.
SEASON OVERVIEW – Ian Hodder

We have spent much of our time over the decades we have worked at the 9000-year-old Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük demonstrating the remarkable repetition of practices in houses. Houses are built on houses, using much the same organization of space, and in each house across the site and through time a similar spatial arrangement of activities is found. But in recent campaigns at the site we have come to recognize that considerable variation also exists. We have come to recognize that some houses are more like ‘ancestral’ houses in that they are rebuilt in exactly the same spot over long periods and have many burials, while other houses seem to come and go – they are built out onto midden areas and then are abandoned after relatively short periods of time. We have also seen that many houses break the site-wide rules about oven location (usually in the south) and burial location (usually adults are buried in the north and east of the main room of the house). There seems to be a tension between continuity and change.

We had perhaps our largest team ever at Çatalhöyük this summer. As well as the Stanford-UK team, and the existing teams from Istanbul (led by Mihriban Özbaşaran) and Poland (led by Arek Marciniak and Lech Czerniak), our ranks were swelled by the new team from Selcuk University (led by Ahmet Türpan and Asuman Baldran) working on the Classical site to the east of the East Mound and then on the Byzantine burials on the West Mound. On the Chalcolithic West Mound itself, there were two new teams – one from Cambridge (led by Peter Biehl) and the other from the University of Thrace at Edirne (led by Burçin Erdoğan). After most of us had left the site in late August and September the dig house was taken over by the new team, with a separate permit, excavating Boncuklu (led by Douglas Baird).

Perhaps it is the large scale of the current team that allows us to explore continuity and variation rather better than in our earlier key-hole excavations. We certainly had yet more evidence of repetition and continuity in the use of buildings at Çatalhöyük. The clearest example came from the South Area.

An overhead view of Building 65 in the South Area. South is to the left.

In the eastern part of the South shelter we had earlier excavated Building 10 with Building 44 (assigned to Level IV) below it and with an almost identical plan. Then below Building 44 we found another identical plan in Building 56 (Level V). In all cases there were southern ovens and hearths in the same positions, an eastern central platform with a bench along the south side, and a northeastern and north central platform. In 2006 the excavation of Building 56 was completed and we waited on tenterhooks to see what would be found below it. As Roddy Regan and his team worked through the fill beneath Building 56, yet another more or less identical building was found – Building 65. As in the building above, the ovens and hearths were in the same location even though there was a southeastern small room into which an elaborate moulded oven had been set. The layout of all the platforms was the same, although displaced somewhat by the presence of the southeastern room. In both Buildings 65 and 56 there was a complete pot set into the floor just where the ladder met the entry platform. The floor in Building 65 had multiple divisions with bright white
Excavation areas on Çatalhöyük East and West mounds and off-site.
central eastern and northeastern platforms as in 56. In both Building 44 and 65 there were concentrations of grinding and polishing stones suggesting a continuity of social function. So the continuities of Buildings 65-56-44-10 are remarkable and include specific features not widely found. But there is also evidence of some change. In Building 65 there was a storage and food preparation room to the west, including several bins. The overall impression was of gradually less ancillary space (storage and food preparation space in side rooms) associated with this building sequence. A similar shift from a variety of to fewer functions was noted in the Building 17 to ‘Shrine 10’ sequence. It is probably too early to say that those living in houses are sometimes able to convert success in production to success in ancestry and ritual.

There is much variation in the size of buildings, but we have never been able to correlate this variation in size with variation in status or ritual elaboration. In 2006 we continued working in Building 49 in the 4040 Area, which is an extremely small building (about 4 m across). This building had in earlier campaigns given every indication of considerable elaboration in that large numbers of horn cores and figurines were found. This year the impression was strengthened by the burial of an individual without arms, shoulder blades and legs and by the presence of geometric painting around the northwest platform. This painting is similar to that found in nearby Building 1, around its northwest platform, indicating a local style within the settlement. There is much replastering of the walls and floors, the house was lived in for a very long time, and there are probably burials yet to be found beneath the platforms (as seen in the depressions in the platform surfaces).

So Building 49 is small and possibly of some special significance. Nearby in the 4040 Area in 2006 we excavated the opposite – a huge building, 8m across, with much less evidence of special significance. The main room and associated west room of Building 59 are shown in the figure below. In the west room are bins and fire installations. There is also a room that was added to the northeast of the main room, which also contains storage bins, although the overall number of storage bins in this building is not outside the range we have encountered in other buildings, including quite small ones. The main room has very large platforms. The one in the northwest is the highest and most clearly marked by a raised edge. There is also a raised edge on the central east.
platform, which has a brilliant red dado on the lowest part of the wall running along the platform, and a bench along the southern edge. The northeast, northwest and east central platforms all have traces of pedestals on their edges. There is a large retrieval or foundation pit or wall scar in the centre of the west wall of the main room. There are traces of a ladder in the southeast corner and the usual ‘dirty’ floors in this area.

We all marvelled at how fresh and clean the edges of the platforms looked in Building 59. There was no doubt that the building had been lived in, as evidenced by the ‘dirty’ floors, and multiple replasterings of floors and walls. But the building had been very carefully built and maintained. Such a magnificent building might have been thought to be high status, but in fact the building lacks some of the indicators that we have come to associate with significant social status at Çatalhöyük. For example, it seems to have had a relatively short life. There are relatively few plaster layers on the walls, and when we emptied the fill from the post retrieval pits in the main room, we saw that few floor layers had existed. In addition, these retrieval pits had disturbed no burials, and there were no hollows in the surfaces of platforms that might have indicated sub-floor burials. The most important buildings at Çatalhöyük tend to be those that have most burials and last longest. But these important buildings are not especially large (e.g. Buildings 1 and 5) and they do not have special concentrations of storage bins and adjacent spaces and rooms (Buildings 1, 5, 17 and Mellaart’s ‘Shrine 10’).

On the other hand, Building 59 had been carefully abandoned and filled, often a sign of special status, and there is evidence that earlier and later buildings existed on the same plan. Adjacent was a building that had been treated very differently – Building 64 had been filled in and then used for digging pits, which were filled with midden. Indeed we excavated extensive areas of midden in the 4040 Area, and as a result we had an
artefact-rich year, including the discovery of fragments of a face pot (see cover).

Pits dug into Building 64 in the 4040 Area. Looking N.

There is also much variation through time. The excavation of Buildings 61 and 62 in the TP Area is demonstrating very clearly that in the uppermost levels of the site the arrangement of internal features in houses was very different. The new work being conducted on the West Mound will allow these changes to be followed into the Chalcolithic, while the work being conducted by the Istanbul team will hopefully allow some of the early developments at the site, and those at the western edge of the site, to be explored.

**Other activities**

An educational programme at the site sponsored by Shell and Coca-Cola has continued this year. The aim of the programme is to educate young people from the Konya region, and other areas of Turkey, about the importance of archaeology for Turkey and about Çatalhöyük.

This year 600 children spent a day at the site. Each day 20 children spent the day learning about the site, doing some excavation of previously excavated earth, doing Çatalhöyük paintings and making models of Çatalhöyük houses. The programme is being run by Gülay Sert, who has also produced a book for children about Çatalhöyük.

With funding from the Global Heritage Fund, a fence was constructed around the West Mound, and further work was completed on the training of local women in the conservation of wall plasters and paintings.

With funding from the Global Heritage Fund, a fence was constructed around the West Mound.

A seminar was organized with a group interested in the female spirituality at the site and they have provided funding for a garden to the north of the dig house which can be used for recreation by the women and children of the village and region. Work has started on the garden and a fence will separate it from the dig house itself.

Tour of the 4040 Area for a group of scholars interested in female spirituality at the site.
Our main Press Day was associated with an exhibit called Topraktan Sonsuzluğa (From Earth to Eternity) organized by one of our sponsors (Yapı Kredi) and produced in collaboration with the project and Yapı Kredi Arts and Culture at their gallery in Istiklal Caddesi in the centre of Istanbul. The grand opening was in May to which James and Arlette Mellaart were invited, and the success of the exhibition was demonstrated by a month’s extension until the end of Sept. This was extremely successful and large numbers of people saw the exhibit and the publicity associated with it.

A project funded by the Templeton Foundation involved a group of anthropologists, theologians and philosophers coming to the site to experience collaborative interpretation ‘at the trowel’s edge’. They spent a week at the site in August and contributed much to the interpretation of the site.

13 undergraduate students from the Institute of Archaeology, UCL joined us for 2 nights with their course director Prof. Roger Matthews. The student’s were on a course on an introduction to the archaeology of early Anatolia, which is integrated with visits to relevant sites and museums in Turkey. Topics included the Palaeolithic occupation of Anatolia, the development of sedentism and farming in the Neolithic, and the rise and evolution of complex societies in the Chalcolithic, Bronze Ages and Iron Age. Teaching took place at the British Institute in Ankara as well as at the Institute of Archaeology, UCL, and many of the sites covered in the course were visited during the trip to Turkey.

We invited the villagers of Küçükköy, our local village, to the site for an open day and dinner. There was general concern in the village about the entry fees being charged at the site, recently introduced by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Plans are underway to construct a new shelter over part of the 4040 Area, partly funded by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, for which we are very grateful. We are also planning to build more stores to the east of the dig house. Permission for these buildings is being sought. Permission to construct some new experimental houses at the entrance to the site is planned for 2007 to compliment the existing experimental house, which has proved so popular.
THE FIELD TEAM 2006

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West Mound excavations: Peter Biehl, Burcin Erdogan, Tom Birch, Catriona Gibson, Jonathan Last, Helen Lomas, Naoise MacSweeney, Nick Soderberg, Christoph Skowranek, Ingrid Franz, Eva Rosenstock, Gülgin Gürcan, Hanife Yalçin, Sedef Polatan, Nejat Yücel, Gülay Yilankaya, Esra İrmağ.
Stanford Field Team: Tess Garton, Heather Heistand, Rachel King, Ilana Lohr-Schmidt, Silvana Rosenfeld.
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Finds: Julie Cassidy.
Heavy Residue: Slobodan Mitrović, Milena Vasic.
Image and Media: Jason Quinlan.
Faunal Team: Louise Martin, Nerissa Russell, Katheryn Twiss, Sheelagh Frame, Rebecca Daly, Marina & Rafael Lizarrañale, Kamilla Pawlowska, David Orton, Andy May, Arzu Demirer and Joe.
Amphibian & small mammals: Rhiyan Mayon-White.
Human Remains: Simon Hillson, Clark Larsen, Lori Hager, Başak Boz, Scot Haddow, Marin Pilloud, Bonnie Glencross, Lesley Gregoricka, Patrick Beauchesne, Christopher Ruff.
Phytoliths: Arlene Miller Rosen, Philippa Ryan.
Isotopes: Jessica Pearson.
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Ground Stone & bead technology: Karen Wright.
Ceramics: Nurcan Yalım, Hilal Gültekin, Duygu Tarkan, Joanna Pyzel.
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The institutional partners of the project are Cambridge University, Stanford University, University College London, The Museum of London, Poznan University, Istanbul University, Middle East Technical University (Ankara).

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EXCAVATIONS - Summary from Archive Reports
Excavation took place in four areas on the East mound, two trenches were opened on the West mound and 3 evaluation trenches excavated off -site. The four areas on the East mound were: the 4040 Area, an area that was scraped in 2003 on the northern eminence of the mound; the TP Area, an area excavated by Team Poznań since 2001 at the crest of the mound; the South Area, an area excavated since 1995, incorporating the 1960s trenches and covered by a shelter constructed in 2002, and the IST Area in its second season on the lower southwest slope, south of the South Area. On the West Mound Trenches 5 and 6 were opened on the eastern edge towards the south. Off-site the three evaluation trenches were located in fields to the east following results of a geophysical survey conducted last season.

Teams work with specific aims and research questions in areas across the East Neolithic and West Chalcolithic Mounds.

4040 Area
Thus the 4040 Area to the north of the east mound was scraped in 2003 and integrated with the area exposed by surface scraping in 1993-5. The subsequent plan exposed a large number of houses that defined groups of similarly aligned Neolithic houses possibly separated by ‘streets’ or ‘alleyways’.

The aim is to excavate as many buildings within the 4040 Area to their latest occupation horizon and to cover the area with a structure that will be open to visitors throughout the year, as well as providing cover for the archaeologists to continue
Plan of excavated structures in the 4040 Area by year.
excavating in the summer months (as the South Area). The next phase of work will then target specific buildings and spaces covering a range of building type and phase.

Each year since 2004 10x40m strips on a N-S alignment and straddling a number of ‘zones’ of structures separated by ‘streets/alleys’ have been excavated to the latest occupation horizon in buildings whilst delineating ‘open’ area spaces where excavation was only conducted to extrapolate stratigraphic relations.

Among the structures excavated to the north and centre of this years 10x40 strip was a large area of midden (Spaces 279 & 280). These rich debris deposits sealed and infilled underlying abandoned buildings, one of which had been cut by a series of intercutting pits, probably for quarrying building materials.

Building 64 was one such building that had been heavily cut by pits at the end of its life history (see page 6). Unlike most buildings we have excavated, there was no indication of an intention for an immediate rebuild in this location after all household contents had been removed. An absence of continuity of construction at this location was also indicated by the shape of Building 64, which was irregular and appeared to have been opportunistically ‘fitted’ into a vacant plot of space (see 4040 Area plan) – similar to the Building 2 sequence in the South Area.

The midden deposits yielded many artefacts among which animal and human like figurines and the ‘face pot’ on the cover of this newsletter. (Figures from midden deposits in Space 280. (top left) 13167.X7, 13143.X3 (right) 13167.X10, & (below) 13142.X3.)

Neighbouring Building 64, we excavated the partial remains of Building 60. The building was furnished with the usual suite of internal furnishing with platforms and a bench against the east wall, indications of the oven/hearth area lay to the southeast with an associated ladder emplacement. A small pit was found with a group of obsidian pieces (see page 21). Unfortunately, being so close to the surface the building had suffered badly from erosion such that only about a third of the house plan survived, however it yielded and a fine history of change and renovations including ten human burials associated with platform F.2225, 8 of these in a multiple context. Skeleton (13162/13163) (see page 18) was the first to be interred in the
southern portion of the pit over a basket or mat (13470). Her fully articulated, flexed body was headless. It is possible the skull was taken at a later date. No cut marks were observed on the cervical vertebrae.

Traces of red paint were found on the heavily eroded east wall, which was a hint at what was to come (see Building 59).

Below Building 60 we excavated Building 59 which is a relatively large sized building of c. 8m across, consisting of a large room which houses very large platforms (see page 5). One in the northwest is the highest and most clearly marked by a raised edge. There is also a raised edge on the central east platform, which has a brilliant red panel on the lowest part of the wall extending along the length of the platform and a bench at the southern edge. The northeast, northwest and east central platforms all have traces of pedestals on their edges. There is a large retrieval or foundation pit or wall scar in the centre of the west wall of the main room and there are traces of a ladder in the southeast corner and the usual ‘dirty’ floors in this area. A western room houses storage bins and an oven. A third room appears to be a later extension to the north which is again a relatively large but bare space except for two storage bins against one wall.

Excavation was also conducted in some of the buildings that we had exposed in previous years, Buildings 58, 47/67, 49 and 52. Of these, Building 49 (see page 13) yielded a complex history of use with many phases of remodelling and replastering. On the north wall was the poorly preserved but beautiful geometric painting (see page 4) and the one human burial excavated so far proved to be quite unexpected (see page 4). It was an older individual, possibly a male, found in a grave with the arms, legs and shoulder bones removed. The skull and torso were fully articulated. There was no evidence of cut marks on the bones. The

![Surviving features of Building 60, 4040 Area.](image-url)
removal of the scapulae and clavicles would have been particularly difficult if their removal was done post-interment in the grave. The position of the head and torso in the grave and the lack of loose bones such as fingers and toes in the grave suggest removal of the elements in another area. Moreover, while it is possible the grave was opened later to take the missing body parts, there is no evidence of this relative to the burial cut. Pre-interment removal of the body parts is possible. The removal of the parts seems to have been done after most of the flesh had decayed but while the ligaments or other soft tissues were still holding the torso and head together. This is the first example of removal of the parts of the bodies other than the heads.

Neighbouring Building 49 to the west we further investigated Building 51/52 (see 2005 reports). Building 52 had burnt down preserving much of the building’s contents including a bucrania set into a niche on the west wall with a bench alongside that had a series of horn cores set along one of its edges. A rich assemblage of artefacts was found across the floors of the rooms and the storage bins were full of an array of carbonised seeds (2005 Archive Report). Building 51 had been identified as a later structure in the NE corner of Building 52. However upon further investigation this season we have rephased Building 51 as a final phase of Building 52 as a quick and temporary solution designed to accommodate the inhabitants of the burnt building until they were able to replace the burnt house with another one.
South Area
To complement our research aims in the 4040 Area covering contemporary neighbourhoods, in the South we aim to explore more fully the temporal processes that produce phases of settlement because the buildings under excavation occur at different levels. Thus it is possible to examine the chronological development of houses in relation to each other from the very base of the mound.

Continuing on from last year we concentrated on the excavation of two of the buildings that occupy the highest sections of the area. To the east excavation of a sequence of superimposed Buildings 10, 44, 56 and 65 is on-going. This sequence is located over a large section of stratigraphy, which we hope to reduce over the course of the next few years.

By the end of 2006 the earliest Building 65 was under excavation (see page 2). Similar to Buildings 44 and 56 (see Archive reports 2004 & 2005), Building 65 appears to be intricately linked, with similar closure activities observed alongside the internal layout of the buildings. Although there were some differences the buildings displayed similar layout with an arrangement of platforms and benches laid out along the eastern wall, a platform in a northern bay area, with a platform in the southwestern corner. Buildings 56 and 65 also had a storage area lying within a narrow room at the west. Ovens were cut into the southern walls of the structures, although Building 65 was also provided with southern and northern rooms unlike its successor.

As with last years excavation a number of interesting closure / construction events and deposits illustrated the continuity and possible ‘ritual’ nature of moving from one house and into another.

The second building excavated was located to the centre of the south side where Building 42 was found in 2005. It was from this building that a painted plastered skull was found buried, cradled in the arms of a woman against her chest and a marble figurine retrieved from another feature (2004 Archive Report). The earlier sequence excavated below Building 42, consists of a midden area and part of a building (Building 53). Notably this earlier building has so far reflected none of the exceptional features of its successor. Absence of continuity is also conspicuous in the fact that the two buildings were not directly superimposed, which is perhaps associated with the use of the area for midden.

IST Area
Team IST is mainly comprised of members and students from the University of Istanbul, Department of Archaeology, Prehistory Section under the direction of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mihriban Özbaşaran.

Team IST has formerly excavated sites in Central and Southeast Anatolia. Since 1989, its members have been working at Asikli Höyük and Musular, the two Aceramic Neolithic sites located in the east part of Central Anatolia - west Cappadocia. Asikli and Musular, respectively, are the predecessors of Çatalhöyük in chronological terms. Asikli is radiocarbon dated to the 9th-8th mill. and the latter to the 8th-7th mill. BC. With such a background, Team IST is focusing on the early/earliest development of the site. The most promising and suitable area to fullfill this objective of excavating the early phases of the settlement in large areas is the southwestern slope of the mound (see plan of excavation areas page 3).

By the end of this season a large building, Building 63, was exposed which comprised three spaces. A large room to the southeast is made up of two sections one of which has two square platforms placed side by side with traces of a hearth on one of them. The other room has a pedestal in one corner and a clay ‘box’ against the west wall. In the southwest corner of Building 63 are a series of storage bins. One, which lies to the west, contained a substantial amount of barley as well as a variety of ground and natural
stones. The clay figurine depicting ‘life and death’ was found from here at the end of the last season.

Building 63 facing west, showing the storage room (SW) with the two platforms to the SE. IST Area.

Part of another building to the south of Building 63 was defined, which is part of a building that continues beyond the limit of excavation, and a further space to the east is an open ‘midden’ area. Finally, two further spaces of another building were excavated on the very south of the trench. These partial buildings were traced up to the site perimeter fence, which clearly indicates that the sequence lies below the public dirt track that runs between the East and West Mounds. In 2007 the team plan to extend their area of investigation to an orchard area on the other side of the track.

TP Area
The team from Poland, headed by Professors Lech Czerniak and Arkadiusz Marciniak from the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Prehistory, University of Poznan direct a team of students from Poland. The team continued excavations at the highest point of the East Mound. This area was targeted to investigate the latest levels of the site. The study of these later periods is providing significant data for the transition of Neolithic to Chalcolithic at Çatalhöyük and thus linking work on both the east and west mounds.

The previous excavation season had resulted in full recognition and excavation of the latest phase of the Neolithic occupation of the mound dated back to Level 0. Therefore the aim of the 2006 season was to investigate various structures placed underneath these latest Neolithic deposits which would allow a better understanding of the architecture and use of space in the late Neolithic, and reveal similarities and differences from the earlier Levels.

Overall, this season brought about the complete excavation of a sequence of two Buildings 61 and 62 and some kind of occupation area placed directly beneath. This sequence was located in the northern part of the trench and varied considerably from the stratigraphic situation in its southern section.

West Mound
We were joined this year by a new team who resumed excavations on the West Chalcolithic mound previously conducted by Drs. Jonathan Last and Catriona Gibson between 1998 – 2003. Their results, in preparation for publication, have produced exciting and important data in terms of the transition of the Neolithic to Chalcolithic at Çatalhöyük. The gap of c.800 years between the last Neolithic activity on the East mound and the occupation of the West mound as had been interpreted in the 1960s has been closed based on the data collected from the West Mound excavations and the TP Area on the East mound. It is probable that we will
find a seamless continuity between the two mounds.

In 2006 a joint team under the leadership of Dr. Peter Biehl from the University of Cambridge and Dr Burçin Erdogu from the University of Thrace began excavations in two trenches (T5 and T6) on the eastern slope (see Area Plan page 3).

The aim is to excavate a step trench down to natural in order to reach the earliest levels of occupation on the West Chalcolithic mound. The results combined with those from the TP Area on the East mound will inform on the nature of transition from Late Neolithic on the East Mound to Early Chalcolithic on the West Mound or, illustrate that the two sites were at some stage occupied concurrently.

The results of the 2006 season defined a new three-fold research approach for the West Mound excavations. One team will continue to work in Trenches 5 and 6 in the step trench to natural whilst a second team will focus on excavations to the northwest of the mound to correlate occupation sequences on Çatalhöyük west to Can Hasan.

Thirdly the SEL team will work on the Classical and later activity.

**SEL Team**

In 2005-2006 a team of students under the direction of Prof. Dr Ahmet Tirpan and Dr Asuman Balıran of Selcuk University, Konya, conducted a geophysical and surface collection survey off-site to the SE of the East mound to assess the location and extent of the Classical and later remains that are known to lie in this area.

Evaluation trenches opened in 2006 were targeted over areas that were shown as anomalies in the geophysical survey but upon investigation proved negative. It is therefore assumed that the historic sites lie further afield and that the surface scatter of classical date are residual.

It was therefore deemed appropriate for the team to direct their research into the classical and later activities on the West mound where a large corpus of human burial data is known to be located.
LAB TEAMS (- Summary from Archive Reports)

The excavation teams were supported by the full suite of laboratory teams whose work here is summarised from the 2006 archive reports.

The Faunal Team recorded nearly 50,000 bones bringing the total recorded over 700,000. This year’s work focused on middens and abandonment deposits.

Isolating midden material is the best reflection of overall consumption patterns and we see that sheep/goat increases in proportion starting at Level VI, at the expense of cattle and especially equids. The team concentrated analysis on the abandonment deposits found in Building 65 and elsewhere that include freshly deposited remains of final meals and dumped stores of bones, particularly sheep/goat metapodials, equid phalanges, and astragali of various taxa.

A study was also initiated of the Çatalhöyük dog remains found in abandonment and other deposits, in particular partial dog skeletons in plaster lined pits (‘boxes’). Another new project conducted by Elizabeth Henton at University College London, as a postgraduate topic is on oxygen stable isotopes on modern sheep mandibles. This material is to construct a modern scientific baseline to assess oxygen stable isotopes. This baseline will be used to understand the oxygen stable isotope patterns in Neolithic sheep jaws from Çatalhöyük, which will then establish herding patterns in the wider landscape. This is a collaborative project with Selcuk University.

The Human Remains Team swelled to a team of 11 this year and were kept busy with the analyses of 70+ individuals that were excavated from across the site. There were forty-five Neolithic burials from the East Mound in the 4040 and South Areas. No burials were found in the IST and TP Areas this year although some disarticulated human remains were found in non-grave contexts.

Twenty-seven burials dated from the Late Roman or Byzantine periods were found in the 4040 Area of the East Mound and on the West mound. Two of the more interesting
burials excavated this season were the limbless man from Building 49 (see pages 4 & 13) and a headless pregnant woman from Building 60 (see page 12) both from the 4040 Area. Another burial from Building 56 in the South Area displayed a fine example relating to mobility and activity at Çatalhöyük and the potential for understanding change over time as population size increased, leading greater resource stress and the possibility that inhabitants of the settlement may have had to increase the distance travelled to acquire food, fuel, and other resources. Simon Hillson (University College London) and Başak Boz continued to collect data for their dental pathology study of the people of Çatalhöyük which show a very interesting range of dental conditions, in particular combining heavy tooth wear with common dental caries (decay). Başak Boz and Lori Hager also initiated a new study of anaemia. Previous studies of the 1960s samples have suggested a high prevalence of the physiological disorder due to malaria. Molleson et al. (2005) have confirmed that several individuals, particularly infants, were anaemic. They suggest malnourishment may be a factor. Marin Pîlîoud (Ohio State University) is conducting an analysis of biological distance among the Çatalhöyük human remains. This study involves the investigation of various morphological and metric traits of the dentition that have been found to be genetically inherited. Statistical analyses of these polygenic traits then yield measurements of group divergence, allowing the researcher to make assessments about the genetic similarity or dissimilarity among groups. The aim of this project is to understand social structure and mortuary practices through an interpretation of genetic patterns. Sabrina Agarwal (UC Berkeley), Bonnie Glencross (University of Toronto) and Patrick Beauchesne (UC Berkeley) are undertaking a study of bone loss and fragility over the lifecycle, examining aspects of bone binding.

A number of Human Remains research projects are under way. Christopher Ruff (Johns Hopkins University) and Clark Larsen (Ohio State University) are focusing on behavioural and activity reconstruction based on the study of structural adaptation in adult long bones. This research addresses the broader questions of the research program.
quantity, bone quality and gross morphology in all age, sex and social groups.

The **Macrobotanical Remains Team** processed 869 samples (c. 15,600 litres of soil) in the 2006 season. Particularly rich/dense samples came from the vicinity of Building 53 in the South Area (pit fill and ‘lime-burning waste’), the remainder of the bin fill full of naked barley grain from burnt Building 63 in the IST Area (see also 2005 Archive Report), and from the 4040 Area, mostly midden deposits in Spaces 279 and 280.

The team are pleased to welcome Dr. Füsun Ertug onto the team as ethnobotanist. Dr. Ertug’s experience in central Anatolian ethnobotany opens up a series of new opportunities for ethnoarchaeological work in the region to answer archaeobotanical questions. The team are also planning a collaboration project with Selcuk University to collect floral and ethnobotanical data in the Çumra area over 1-2 years, which will incorporate survey of weed floras in mountain villages where ‘traditional’ crop husbandry regimes are practised.

As part of a broader research programme into the archaeobotany of animal dung fuel the team initiated experimental animal feeding and dung collection in the village of Küçükköy. They focused this season on feeding einkorn and emmer grain and chaff to sheep and cattle, to monitor the survival of glume wheat chaff, and of grain inside and outside the spikelet. And finally with a view to assessing potential for differentiating cultivation areas using strontium isotope ratios in crop material (see also 2004 and 2005 Archive Report), the team collected certain grass species along a transect from the western edge of the West Mound and across the old Çarşamba channels to the eastern edge of the East Mound. The aim is to assess variability in strontium signatures within the ancient alluvial fan, and the mounds provide the best exposure of Neolithic-Chalcolithic sediments. This research forms part of ongoing collaboration with Dr. Jane Evans of the NERC Isotope Geosciences Laboratory, Keyworth, Nottingham.

The **Phytolith Team** collected numerous samples for full analysis at University College London. Some interesting samples analysed on-site include unit 12438.S3, where the possibility of a basket being used in the preparation of a meal involving barley is suggested, unit 12101.S2 where visible silica skeleton remains within the perforation of a bead suggest that the bead might have been worn with cordage made from a sedge (Cyperaceae), and unit 12451.S7 where the black ashy looking material creating the impression of a burnt floor was found to be a thin phytolith layer derived predominantly from Phragmites sp. (reeds).

Phytoliths are particles of silt sized opaline silica that form within and in-between certain plant cells. Not all plant genera produce phytoliths, and those that do produce differing levels, and phytoliths from different genera allow varying degrees of identification. Grasses and sedges are the most prolific producers, and the phytoliths are often distinctive of plant part, plant family, genus and occasionally species. Phytoliths also occur in a high percentage of woody trees and herbaceous dicotyledons but these are more difficult to identify, and are produced less profusely. The marshy environment surrounding Çatalhöyük during the Neolithic facilitated the production of phytoliths and thick white silica skeletons of former in situ plant material, such as woven materials, are frequently recovered. This means that two types of samples can be analysed; sediment samples from which phytoliths have to be removed during several laboratory processes, and visible silica skeletons, which can be directly mounted onto a slide.

A total of 7374 fragments of pottery sherds were registered by the **Pottery Team** this season of which 4604 were body sherds, 1199 diagnostic, 1248 unidentified body and 323 unidentified diagnostic sherds. The
registered pottery sherds are evaluated in terms of the type and the ware groups. Ware group charts also show surface treatments. Type (form) and ware (fabric) groups are generated this year for the new database system to not merely ease the registration but also to be able to compare large numbers of sherds in different area and levels. We gathered the detailed descriptions of each sherd as general characteristics with a given ware code. This seasons highlight was the discovery of adjoining sherds from the midden pits in the 4040 Area that produced our first ‘face pot’ (see cover).

This season produced a very large number of **Figurines** compared to previous years. Over 300 figurines were excavated this year, more than five times the number of figurines found in 2005. This trend, generally seen across all other data sets, was due to the fact that the excavations were largely digging in midden (see page 11). Virtually all of the 2006 figurines came from midden contexts that date roughly to the same level. This season we also carried out some basic spatial and temporal analyses of the entire corpus across the site. Other types of analytical inquiries and activities concerning the figurines proved to be productive. The team made substantial progress in refining aspects of their recording methods and database structure, investigating aspects of figurine clay materials, and thinking through themes of disarticulated bodies, exaggerated forms and the circulation and installation of body parts (primarily heads) that also occur in other media such as wall art and plastered wall features.

One of the aims for the **Chipped Stone Team** this year, above and beyond processing the mass of material generated by the excavations, was to devise both long and short-term research strategies, projects undertaken by individuals and collaborating team members alike. These for example will include diachronic analyses of blade technologies, projectiles, raw material consumption (obsidian and ‘flint’), harvesting technologies and in situ deposits / refitting inter alia. Some of these studies have already commenced while others are major undertakings and will be developed over the long term.

One of the highlights of this season’s finds was a complete bullet-shaped core found between the west wall of Building 67 and the east wall of Building 58. A complete pressure-flaked unipolar blade core (13446.X1) that measured 12.11 × 2.64 × 2.56cm, with 13 blade scars visible (mostly parallel sided, with no signs of hinging), having been worked around its entire circumference. The raw material is shiny black with occasional lighter
Building 60 produced the sole obsidian hoard from 2006, buried in a small pit (13109) below the entrance ladder scar in the SE corner. The hoard consisted of five pieces of obsidian, two coming from the pit’s upper fill (13111.X1-X2) and three at its base (13111.X3-X5). The three basal finds were all complete biface preforms, with covering scalar retouch obscuring what were originally large blades, almost certainly of East Gölü Dağ obsidian.

Despite being heavily truncated, Building 60 in the 4040 Area (see page 12) provided a number of informative contexts. The first point to make concerns the various ‘dirty’ floors excavated in the southern part of the building produced very small quantities of chipped stone. In the case of (12969) (a series of nine surfaces), one fragmentary blade was hand-picked from the matrix. Our interest in these figures relates to one of the issues raised in last year’s Archive Report, namely whether or not (the residue of) obsidian working was to be associated with the ‘dirty areas’ of buildings in the upper levels at Çatalhöyük, as they had so consistently been in the Level VII-X structures of the South Area. By extent this is a question concerning the organization of production, following up Conolly’s original thesis that in the ‘second half’ of the Neolithic occupation chipped stone production had become a more specialized and exclusive practice.

In 2005, a new phase in the study of Bead Technology was initiated. Despite research on the beads in previous years, there was until 2006 no digital database of personal ornaments. With the help of a Society of Antiquaries Minor Research Grant the summer of 2006 was spent in creating a database of ornaments. All stone ornaments housed at Çatalhöyük, including those excavated in 2006, were recorded (some 4500 artefacts). Databases of the bone, clay, shell, glass and metal beads housed at Çatalhöyük were also begun, with many of these artefacts recorded; however, this will be completed in 2007. Considerable progress was made on the bone beads. As part of the recording, several hundred beads and related items were scanned at high resolutions so as to create a database of images.

Aspects that will comprise this study will include (1) materials and technology, (2) local vs imported materials and possible trade connections, (3) spatial (and possibly social) variations and (4) personal ornaments and the body.

The Micromorphology Team’s overall aim is the micro-analytical research through micromorphology to compare the life-cycle and -history of individual buildings across the settlement in order to develop a more dynamic understanding of Neolithic household social, cultural and ecological practices and relationships. Microscopic analysis of finely-stratified sequences of architectural surfaces and residues is enabling investigation of traces of activities within individual households at the multiple timescales of c. everyday-life, seasonal to annual cycles, the life-course and longer term histories.
One of the research projects being conducted as part of a PhD research at the University of Reading is investigating the seasonal, annual and longer-term cycles and changes at Çatalhöyük, through the analysis of finely stratified sequences and micro-artefactual remains within buildings and middens.

This research employs both chemical analysis, increasingly a major focus of archaeological investigation, and microanalytical techniques, to study a range of midden deposits at Çatalhöyük. Vibrational microspectroscopy and residue analysis are two areas of analytical chemistry, which can be used to answer archaeological questions, and which will be used here as complementary techniques to micromorphology. Results obtained from these combined analyses will be applied to archaeological questions including midden formation processes, seasonality of activities and resource use at Çatalhöyük.

This year saw the start of a new program of research, looking at the Use Of Clay across the site. This aims to add to the current research by taking a geomaterials viewpoint. Instead of focusing on what the artefacts are made from, it will first define the range of clay raw materials, which were available and then, ask how, when and why these were used. Çatalhöyük is well known for it’s abundance of clay-based materials, the reliance on clay being partly a consequence of the immediate scarcity of sizable stone at the site. Clay was extensively used for architectural elements (mudbricks, mouldings, daub, mortar and plaster), and in smaller volumes for a diverse array of artefacts including pottery, clay balls and geometric objects, figurines, and stamp seals.

This project will directly aid two current PhD researches. One is Building Neolithic Communities Through Mud Brick Architecture, the study of the composition of building materials to determine if any use patterns exist, undertaken by Serena Love (Stanford University). Preliminary results show a temporal discontinuity in raw materials but materials can be grouped spatially. These results hint at the possibility of a brick typology. Pragmatically, the temporal discontinuity in materials may be explained by the dynamic nature of an alluvial environment. The spatial similarities in the composition of building materials might reflect social groupings, collective land ownership, shared notions of resource use and a changing scale of house production.

Another complimentary study Building materials and the making of tradition conducted by Burcu Tung (UC Berkeley) focuses on the architecture and building materials based upon a geoarchaeological perspective in the analysis of the various building materials. This study hypothesises that the settlers of Çatalhöyük used shared resources and shared knowledge in the construction of the their houses, which was integral in maintaining the continuity of the site. The formation of the archaeological record is viewed through a series of contradictive processes that reflect the fluidity and entanglements of social organisation. The methodology seeks to develop the sedimentation of the archaeological record as social practices both formed and transformed not only by the materialities of the immediate built environment, but also the surrounding landscape. Here, in the basis of the formation and gradual transformation of tradition, the concepts of place and place-making are central in mediating interpretations of continuity, tradition and experience.

A Community Archaeology research project was carried out this summer by Sonya Atalay (Stanford University) aimed to examine the potential of collaborative Indigenous archaeology methodologies outside of a non-Native landbase. Indigenous archaeology is described as archaeological practice that foregrounds knowledge and experiences of Indigenous people to inform and influence Western archaeologies as part of the decolonization of the discipline. This approach is not marginal in its applicability,
but rather has implications for archaeology globally, as its concern for a socially responsible practice in relation to Indigenous People is extended and applied worldwide to descendent and local communities and other stakeholders and publics. To be most effective, Indigenous archaeology must now address a number of challenges, primarily the development of specific methodological approaches that are supported rigorously with field data to demonstrate their effectiveness and significance within and outside an Indigenous land-base.

**SUPPORT TEAMS**

The huge datasets produced from the above disciplines is collated, integrated, maintained and disseminated by a number of crucial support teams. The ‘finds’ (artefacts and samples) are the primary responsibility of the Finds Officer to supervise the daily processing of artefacts coming from site, and to control the dispersal of those finds to the relevant specialist for analysis, as well as to supervise the storage of the finds in a way which makes them accessible and stable for future study.

The excavation of a site is a destructive process, whereby the material and features are systematically removed from their context and replaced with written, drawn and photographic records. If the context of the artefact is lost, then its use as a tool to understand the site is also lost.

The main purpose of the post-exavcation system is to preserve the material culture from the site in such a way that preserves its identity, condition and context in order that it can be studied and used to aid the interpretation of a site for many years to come. This requires the organised and accurate recording of all necessary artefact data, i.e., identity number, artefact material and description, area and year of excavation, onto a multifaceted and centralised database. This ensures that the location of each find can be easily accessed.

The work of centralising the Çatalhöyük datasets into one **Integrated Database** continued over the winter months and throughout the 2006 season. The work comprised of gathering datasets, cleaning up data problems with the help of team members and creating interfaces or improving existing ones to work with the centralised database. We used the project forum to call for feedback on team databases, and discuss any issues with downloading and using the forms. One of the greatest advantages of the centralisation of the Çatalhöyük datasets was reflected in our ability to create a web interface with on-line search facilities in a relatively short amount of time.

The **Web Interface** allows cross platform accessibility to the data, both to browse and to search. A first generation system has been designed which allows basic browsing to complex searching of the entire excavation and diary databases.

The advantages of the integrated system have been highlighted by our ability to begin work on formalising terminologies to enable better cross team communication and searching, sharing data between previously separate applications and the development of a web search facility available to the public.

The usefulness of an artefact and all associated records as interpretive tools rely on a number of support systems to be in place. Thus all archaeological data is relationally and spatially recorded on the site wide grid system monitored and maintained by the Survey Team. Artefacts and the excavation process is recorded by visual media of **photography, video and illustration**. This season saw the usual mixture of finds drawings, building reconstructions, on-site drawing and other projects. Work continued on a complete catalogue of figurine illustrations, as well as representative illustrations of various ground stone types. Reconstructions were produced of Building 63 in the IST Area, Buildings 56 and 65 in the South Area,
and Building 44 in the 4040 Area. In addition, previous illustrations of the Chalcolithic buildings on the West Mound were reviewed and new ones produced in preparation for a display in the Konya Museum. On-site discussions produced reconstruction vignettes of the midden pits and possible gaming/divination activities in the 4040 Area, and unusual oily deposits on features in Building 56 and a bound burial in the South Area. On site, illustrations were done of the wall paintings revealed in Building 49 and Building 59. Among the other illustration projects this season, were the production of maps for Sedrettin’s forthcoming book, plans for new reconstruction houses and a comic newsletter for children from Küçükköy. All these projects were documented in two blogs, one on an illustration mini-website on the Çatalhöyük server, and the second at www.catalhoyuk.com.

Research into particular On Site Conservation problems was also carried out in order to find suitable and practical solutions. These included: the monitoring of Building 5, which has been on public display since 1999 and monitored seasonally since. The issue of rapid dehydration of exposed human remains was addressed by the conservation team in collaboration with the excavators and human remains teams. A solution towards slowing the drying process of both the bones and the surrounding soil matrix during the course of excavation, recording and lifting before study and packaging in a more controlled environment was addressed.

Another area of continued research was in the issue of different recipes for mortars and grouts that have been used on the site since 1993 and the materials suitable for the consolidation of cracks in the walls of Building 5. A number of experimental projects were undertaken on the variety of mortar and grout mixtures based on the previously used materials.

Finally the conservation team were delighted to have a chemical fume cupboard installed. The availability of a fume cupboard on site also helped other teams who use chemicals for their analytical work. We were able build an uncomplicated and inexpensive structure using locally available materials.
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TEMPER Project: www.temper-euromed.org
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Mysteries of Çatalhöyük: www.smm.org/catal/
JOINING THE FRIENDS OF ÇATALHÖYÜK

The Friends of Çatalhöyük was set up to promote the project’s endeavours in excavation, conservation and heritage management at the site; to promote public interest in the site, both local and international; to promote scientific research into the understanding of the site and its setting. Members receive Newsletters which cover recent activities of the project and results of the excavations and which keep them informed of lectures and events. If you are interested in joining please complete the form at the bottom of this page and return it to the address indicated. If you would like any further details please contact the Çatalhöyük Office or by email at catal@hermes.cam.ac.uk

A Turkish Friends society in Istanbul is headed by Dr Reşit Ergener. The Turkish Friends arrange lectures, publicity and fund raising events and welcome any support. During the summer, they organise trips to Çatalhöyük and other Neolithic sites in Turkey. They can be contacted in Istanbul on (212) 269 4393 and via e-mail to info@catalhoyuk.org.

Please make £ cheques payable to “University of Cambridge”
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View of the East Mound from the SE with the North and 4040 shelters to the right and the South shelter is to the left

THE FRIENDS OF ÇATALHÖYÜK

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