Excavations at Sos Höyük, 1998 to 2000:
Fifth Preliminary Report

Antonio SAGONA
Centre for Classics and Archaeology
School of Fine Arts, Classical Studies and Archaeology
University of Melbourne
Victoria 3010
AUSTRALIA
Fax: 61 3 8344 4161
E-mail: a.sagona@unimelb.edu.au

Claudia SAGONA
Centre for Classics and Archaeology
School of Fine Arts, Classical Studies and Archaeology
University of Melbourne
Victoria 3010
AUSTRALIA
Fax: 61 3 8344 4161
E-mail: c.sagona@unimelb.edu.au

Abstract

Seven seasons of archaeological investigations at Sos Höyük, an ancient mound site near Erzurum, north-eastern Turkey, have provided us with a reliable stratigraphic sequence of the human occupation for the mountainous region. Five broad cultural periods have been tentatively distinguished to date, ranging from the Late Chalcolithic (Period VA) to the Medieval (Period I). Discoveries during 1998-2000 have enabled a reassessment of the early settlement history at Sos Höyük and the site’s inter-relations with neighbouring regions, especially Trans-Caucasus. Among the highlights are a Late Chalcolithic (‘Proto-Kura-Araxeian’) settlement distinguished by monumental stone wall, well-preserved Middle Bronze Age buildings, and a burnt Early Iron Age room with fine examples of carbonized basketry*

* We wish to thank the Turkish Ministry of Culture for granting us a permit to enable this project to continue, and to various individuals and organizations who have offered
The seventh season of archaeological work at Sos Höyük, Erzurum, was concluded in 2000. This paper outlines the main results of the last three seasons of excavations that were carried during 1998-2000. The nature of investigations varied over this period. In 1998, two weeks of fieldwork, focusing on the investigation of specific site formation processes, was followed by four weeks of intensive artifact analysis, whereas in the next two seasons both aspects of work were carried out simultaneously. Our broad objective over the three year period was to refine the stratigraphic sequence in order to better understand the development of this complex multi-period site. The specific objectives were to:

1. Understand the constructional history of the large monumental stone wall established soon after the site was settled.
2. Investigate the earliest phases of occupation, currently dateable to the Late Chalcolithic period, initially through an exploratory trench (1998) and subsequently by means of wider horizontal exposures.

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3. Expose the residential area contemporary with the shaft graves of the Middle Bronze Age that had been found in earlier seasons.

4. Enlarge the area in J14, investigated in 1995, with a view to preserving the rich carbonized organic remains of the Iron Age I period and thereby have a clearer understanding of household assemblages.

Accordingly, work during the three seasons concentrated mostly on the northern side of the mound (Fig. 24) where operations were extended to the very back walls of a row of modern houses that were built into the mound in the 1980s, before our work began. In this paper results are presented from the earliest deposits (Period VA) upwards, following a periodization scheme detailed in another article, which also contains discussions of comparative material that are here kept to a minimum.

**Late Chalcolithic: Period VA (3500/3300 — 3000 Cal BC)**

Presently, data from trenches L17 and M17 on the northern side of the mound suggest that Sos Höyük was first settled in Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). But we know little about the earliest settlers, having reached the lowest level only in a small exploratory trench dug in Trench L17/M17 in 1998. Excavations revealed a series of burnt floors and some very large stones that superimposed a gravelly virgin soil. Finds included a twin-horned, portable hearth (Fig. 25), a type which continued to remain popular for many centuries, and a stone blade showing extensive use wear sheen along one edge (Fig. 26). A radiocarbon reading from the base of the sounding calibrated to a 2-sigma accuracy (Beta-120452: Cal BC 3500 to 3435, and 3385 to 3285, and 3245 to 3105) points to the second half of the fourth millennium BC for initial occupation at Sos Höyük.

We have a better idea of architecture in the level above that is represented by a few rooms with a lime-plastered floor and mud brick walls founded directly onto the earthen surface. Only one room (M17, Locus 3780), the easternmost, sited against the rear wall of a modern house, was fitted with a hearth built into the floor; the other room (M17, Locus 3779) had three post-holes that punctured a lime plaster floor.

Shortly after these earliest occupations, the character of Sos Höyük changed markedly. The inhabitants of the village felt the need to build a

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1 Sagona, Erkmen, Sagona and Thomas 1996, pl VI:b, c. An overview of the project that contains a large selection of images and a brief site history may be obtained on the following website [The Northeast Anatolia Archaeological Project](http://www.sfc.anatolia.edu.au/turkey/hoyukfest.swf)

2 Sagona 2000; Kiguradze and Sagona (in press).
very large stone wall (Fig. 27). First reported in 1996, the sector of wall exposed so far is curved and solidly built of locally acquired field stones, ranging from about 25 cm to 70 cm in length. The wall measures 2.5 m across, whereas its height has been preserved, in parts, to over 1.75 m. These foundations presumably had a mud brick superstructure, though no evidence of it has survived. In 1999 a semi-circular lobe attached to the wall’s eastern face was exposed (Fig. 28). The stones used in the construction of this component are similar in size and type to those of the wall, but we cannot be certain at this stage about its date of construction relative to the wall itself.

So what was the purpose of this monumental stone construction? It now seems clear that this wall did not belong to a large building, but rather it seems to constitute a spatial boundary of some sort. Without knowing the full extent of the Late Chalcolithic settlement, or the complete plan of the wall (for much of it lies in the unexcavated area at the centre of the mound), it is difficult to determine what area it originally demarcated. To judge by its location, it is unlikely that the wall served as a perimeter. Instead its purpose may have been to define space at the core of the settlement, which would imply that areas inside and outside the wall were differentiated either in terms of function, or perhaps along socio-political lines. One thing is certain namely, that the wall was destroyed at least twice. The absence of scorching rules out fire as a cause, and there is no evidence to suggest that warfare played a part in the collapse. Rather, as we suggest below, it seems likely that an earthquake caused the wall to tumble, for we must remember that Sos is located directly on the notorious north Anatolian fault line.

Dwellings and floor deposits associated with the earliest building phase of the wall, before the first collapse, have been found on both sides of the stone wall. The use of stone for foundations stands in sharp contrast to earlier constructions and is more in line with the character of the wall itself. The inside settlement is evidenced by Locus 4299, in Trench L17b, a burnt plaster surface that did not contain the standard built-in hearth, but yielded another fine example of the twin-horned andiron (Fig. 29). A small deposit of phytolith was collected for radiocarbon analysis, but it did not yield a very helpful date with a calibration range of 3085 to 3055 Cal BC, 3040 to 2855 Cal BC and 2810 to 2690 Cal BC (Beta - 135363). Given the dates from more secure later levels (see below), the upper range of this segmented reading should be considered the most accurate. Above this floor a round

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3 Sagona, Erkmen, Sagona and Howells 1997: pls 11, 12; Sagona, Erkmen, Sagona, McNiven and Howells 1998: pl.5.
hearth was found associated with a hard-packed, burnt orange surface (L17b, Locus 4279).

The next level, best preserved in M17 (Loci 3766, 3768 and 3770), comprised three interconnecting rooms each fitted with a circular hearth. The easternmost hearth (Fig. 30) was bedded on a thick layer of river sand (locally known as *kum*) and surrounded by fragments of two types of hearth props and pottery vessels. Nearby and to its south, a hearth 90 cm in diameter and centred by a pot, was conspicuous for its red-black colour scheme. The stone footings that separate the northern and southern halves of the dwelling are quite substantial.

The latest of these ‘pre-collapse’ Late Chalcolithic dwellings revealed the surviving southern portion of a dwelling perched at the very northern edge of the mound, in trench M17. Founded on several courses of irregular stones, the dwelling’s western side was built against the eastern face of the large stone wall. The floor of the house was plastered with lime several times and was fitted with a hearth that is noteworthy for its method of construction. Built on a raised platform of soil that bore traces of scorching, the hearth comprised a modified ceramic vessel surrounded by ten stones embedded vertically in the soil in a U-pattern (Fig. 31). Behind the hearth, lay a substantially complete pot, an obsidian blade and portable hearth fragments. To the east lay an elevated semi-circular feature (M17, Locus 3765), most probably an oven base, with a burnt plaster surface and edged in mud brick.

Some time around 3100 Cal BC, the northern sector of the wall collapsed, leaving the revetment and part of the eastern face standing. The inhabitants did not rebuild the structure immediately, preferring to clear the collapse and build houses around and over the undamaged portions of wall. The first ‘post-collapse’ floor level (L17b, Locus 4270) is distinguished by a deposit of pottery sherds that were purposefully crushed on a fine layer of river sand (Figs 32-33). Sherds also surrounded a circular hearth (Fig. 34), embedded in a layer of the same sand, which had been placed against the inner face of the curved wall. A strikingly similar example of this practice of associating a hearth with a floor of pottery sherds was uncovered at İkiztepe level 2, on the Black Sea littoral, that has been dated by the excavators to the third millennium BC. To judge from the contemporary use of similar sand by the villagers of Yiğittași who position their bread ovens in a layer of *kum*, the use of the sand in a Late Chalcolithic context at Sos is not likely to be fortuitous. At Yiğittași, bread ovens are built of clay. They are

*Alkim, Alkim and Bilgi 1988:pl. LXVI:35.*
cylindrical in shape, about a metre deep, and are sunk into the earthen floor of a room or courtyard. According to the inhabitants of Yiğittaşı, kum acts as an effective insulator that retains heat in the oven hours after the embers have been extinguished. It is quite likely, then, that the combination of ceramic sherds above a layer of river sand provided an effective means of insulation for Late Chalcolithic houses during this period. Presumably, the heat generated by the permanent hearth would have traveled along the ceramic sherds, an effective conductor, but would have been prevented from draining into the earthen floor by the layer of kum.

But it appears that this method of insulation was restricted to that particular Late Chalcolithic floor. Above the ceramic sherd deposit lay a house that was rectilinear in plan (L17b, Locus 4254) with a central, circular, clay hearth set in a lime plaster surface, and a stone bench running against the east side of the standing foundations of the curved wall. In marked contrast was the subsequent dwelling, a freestanding house (L17b, Locus 4250) roughly circular in plan (Fig. 35), that was built of mud bricks placed directly onto the ground. Within the house a hard-packed surface of clay was covered with a layer of burnt debris that contained much carbonized organic matter, including matting. As one entered the house, on its western side, attention would have been drawn to the circular hearth built into the centre of the floor, virtually in the same position as the hearth of the earlier building. To the left of the doorway were portable hearths and the posthole of the main support, whereas across the floor lay a number of ceramic vessels. A little later, when the house was abandoned, a pit was dug inside the house along the southern boundary, and was filled with pottery and ash. Radiocarbon analysis of charcoal of samples collected from the house floor has given a two sigma reading of 3345 to 2915 Cal BC (Beta-135362).

Not long after the round-house burnt, the inhabitants of the village rebuilt the stone wall, which effectively sealed three levels — the crushed pottery floor, the rectilinear house and the round-house — between the original wall foundations and the rebuilding. The reconstruction of the wall was skillfully executed, though a ‘fault line’ (Figs 36-37) on the interior face indicates the juncture of the two building phases. The round-house provides a sound terminus ante quem and suggests that the reconstruction occurred sometime around 3000 BC, though how long it remained intact before the second collapse, again brought about by an earthquake, is difficult to determine at this stage. We suspect that the rebuilding was short-lived, and after its second destruction the wall remained in ruins.

5 I would like to thank Richard Heap, a trench supervisor, and his trench co-workers for this observation.
The pottery sequence for the Late Chalcolithic (Period VA) has been discussed elsewhere, but it is worth repeating, in brief, the main characteristics. In terms of fabric, the most notable feature is the association of three main groups. One has a dark paste, baking orange near the surface. Vessels are generally friable and gritty to touch with surfaces that are highly burnished and slipped in black or dark grey; rarely, they are a red-brown burnished on the exterior. Of the three groups, this is closest to Kura-Araxes pottery, and, accordingly, may well be termed ‘Proto-Kura-Araxes’. Significantly, this group shares many forms with the other two ware categories. One of these has a coarse, dark core with a lot of voids and mixed grit inclusions, breaking with sharp angular edges. Exterior surfaces vary in treatment. They can be a mottled greyish brown (around 10YR 5/4), matt and self-slipped, cream-slipped (2.5Y 8/3), or even lightly burnished. With the exception of the cream-slipped variety, which is not common, the fabric may be termed ‘drab’. The third group is relatively rare at Sos, though more common in Trans-Caucasus. Sherds have a compact fabric with well burnished and slipped surfaces. Colours range from pale browns through reds to yellows (around 10R 4/6, 2.5YR 4/6); cores are dark grey.

Typologically, certain vessel forms should be noted. They include small jars with a biconical body and a straight, slightly swollen neck (Fig. 6: 1-6), jars with a pair of loop handles attached to an elongated neck (Fig. 6:7), cups with a curved profile (Fig. 6:8), large jars (Figs 7:1-3; 13), various bowl shapes (Figs 7:4; 8:5-6), and flat lids (Fig. 9). While these forms foreshadow the later Kura-Araxes repertoire, two shapes point to firm roots with earlier traditions. These are the shallow trays (Fig. 12:1-4), commonly found in Trans-Caucasus where they are often perforated around the rim with a row of holes around the lip, and the holemouth jar (Fig. 12:6). Presently, the pedestal base (Fig. 12:6) stands alone. A number of sherds, probably part of one or two vessels, have an unusual decorative combination of bold relief spirals and fine incised decoration (Fig. 8:1-2, 4). Small pellets attached to the body are also used as ornaments (Fig. 8:3). The sherd illustrated here in Fig. 38 is instructive for the light it throws on the method of manufacture of relief ornamentation. It appears that the potter incised the outline of the design before applying the ornament. Hearths are common and are mostly the twin-horned variety (Figs 10:1; 11, 25, 29). Individual, vertical props (Fig. 10:2) often found in twos or threes are also found. Towards the end of Period VA, the U-shaped portable hearths (Fig. 15) mark the beginning of one of the hallmarks of the Kura-Araxes tradition.

6 Sagona 2000; Kiguradze and Sagona (in press).
7 Kiguradze and Sagona (in press).
Other craft items of this period include three well facetted beads with multiple perforations (Fig. 23:1-3), found in the round-house, that attest to a considerable degree of skill. Obsidian is the material most often used for the production of stone tools, though occasionally other stones were used for blades (Fig. 26). Bone tools (Fig. 19:1) are present, but develop in quality and in number with time.

Early Bronze Age I: Period VB (3000-2800 BC)

The Early Bronze Age I period was investigated primarily in Trench M16 and contiguous areas. Initially these were defined by segments of floor levels, but none was very clear. The most distinctive, a layer of evenly sized riverine cobbles covered with soft brown soil speckled with charcoal, contained pots in situ scattered around a hearth. Beneath the cobbles lay the semi-circular lobe attachment of the Late Chalcolithic wall (Fig. 28), that was re-used as a small enclosure for a hearth during this period.

In trench M17, at the northern edge of the site, half a stone-based house was uncovered (Figs 1, 39). Freestanding and presumably single-roomed, the structure has many of the characteristics of Kura-Araxes dwellings, including a fixed circular hearth defined by an outer ridge and a central ceramic bowl to contain the embers. Several hearths were found stacked above this hearth, each representing a different floor level. A more elaborate hearth was found nearby (Figs 40-41). It was manufactured in two halves and decorated with a geometric design on the surface.

The pottery repertoire shows a development of earlier types (Fig. 14:1-2) with certain vessels foreshadowing the girth accentuation of later periods. A large storage jar (Figs 42-43) here shown in two parts bears a geometric design in a style similar to that on the hearth. A ground stone object (Fig. 19:2), bone points (Fig. 19:3-4), a fine bronze pin (Fig. 19:5), modified ceramic discs (Fig. 19:6) and many obsidian tools, mostly flakes, but including some well crafted projectile points and blades (Figs 44-45) are among the assemblage items of this period. A perforated, white stone bead (Fig. 23:4) is a type that had a long history at Sos Höyük, especially in later centuries when it featured with grave goods.

Early Bronze Age II: Period VC (2800-2500 BC)

In the Early Bronze Age II, residences remained relatively unchanged. Built with mud brick walls set on high stone foundations, most of a
single-roomed house was exposed in M16/N16, against the rear wall of a modern village house (Figs 2, 46). Although two later burials cut its south-west corner, the dwelling conforms to a ubiquitous rectangular type that often has rounded corners. A circular clay hearth originally with three central projections was fixed into the floor and decorated with a double spiral design (Fig. 47). Behind the hearth was a bench that ran along the back wall. A narrower bench ran along the west wall, complementing a clay bin in the north-west corner that provided a further storage facility. Two radiocarbon readings (Beta-120451 and OZD-713) taken from charcoal collected within the hearth point to a 2-sigma range stretching from about 2900 to 2500 Cal BC.8 Ceramics within the house were all black burnished (Fig. 14:3-5).

**Early Bronze Age III: Period VD (2500-2200 BC)**

Deposits uncovered in Trench L16 towards the end of 2000 are here provisionally attributed to the Early Bronze Age III. Excavations exposed a series of plaster lenses, ash layers (Loci 4154, 4160, 4159), including charcoal beams and burnt mud brick all within a matrix of very loose dry powdery soil. The first coherent plan was in the form of an ashy plastered surface of part of a room (Locus 4161) with rounded corners. Although it was not constructed on a post framework, wooden supports were used for an internal feature located in the south-west corner. This series of interleaving deposits superimposed a layer of stones first exposed in L17a in 1995.9 Two animal figurines (Fig. 21: 4, 5) associated with an isolated hearth in M16d/N16c, and a fine ceramic crucible (Figs 48-49), found on the top of a trash pit that cut into the Late Chalcolithic wall, all belong to Period VD.

**Middle Bronze Age I: Period IVA (2200-2000 BC)**

In earlier reports we drew attention to a series of burials found in the northern operation that belonged to the Trialeti tradition of mortuary practice.10 Elsewhere in Trans-Caucasus settlements of Trialeti date are rare.11 Thus a residential unit consisting of two rooms that were contemporary

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8 Beta-120451: 4160 +/- 60 BP; 2 sigma: Cal BC 2895-2570. OZD-713: 4140 +/- 70 BP; 2 sigma: Cal BC 2873-2510.
9 Sagona 2000.
10 Sagona, Erkmen, Sagona and Howells 1997; Sagona, Erkmen, Sagona, McNiven and Howells 1998.
11 Mansfeld 1996.
with some of the burials at Sos Höyük and dateable to the very end of the third millennium BC is significant. Structurally, the dwelling, found stretched across Trench L16 (Figs 3, 50, 51), was based on good-quality foundations built of riverine stones. The cobbles measured approximately 16x12x8 cm and were laid two across, and were preserved up to six courses deep. The western, larger room (Locus 4140) was rectangular in plan. It had a mud bench covered in lime plaster along the west wall and part way along of the north wall. In front, positioned slightly off centre, was a circular hearth defined by an outer ridge. The other room (Locus 4144) was narrower; its hearth was not as well constructed, comprising a modified vessel set into the floor (Fig. 52). Part of an open area with a mud-plastered vessel was located to the north of these rooms.

Preference for black burnished pottery is clear (Figs 14:7-8; 16:1, 3), as is the growing interest in trays with decorated fronts (Fig. 16:2) and lids with a central depression (Fig. 18:3). Deep, open bowls (Fig. 18:1) occur, but are not common. Although U-shaped hearths increase in popularity, the twin-horned variety (Fig. 17) is still used. A tanged antler projectile point (Fig. 20:2) is a type that continued to be crafted throughout the first half of the second millennium BC and is one of many items (Fig. 22:1) of bonework that characterize the Middle Bronze Age. Sometime around the transition of the third and second millennia, the residence was abandoned. A relatively thin plaster floor and pits above this house (Fig. 4; Loci 4141, 4143, 4137, 4150) suggest that the area was used as a transitory camp site before the construction of the Period IVB complex.

**Middle Bronze Age II: Period IVB (2000-1500 BC)**

Permanent architecture returned to L16 soon after the pit interlude and was again represented by a substantial residence orientated NE-SW (Figs 5, 53, 54) and constructed of good quality mud bricks. First exposed, in part, in 1995, the structure was built of standardized mud bricks and comprised at least four main rooms. Each room, except the central one, contained a circular hearth built into its lime-plastered floor. Two hearths had a flat surface, whereas the one in westernmost room had three high projections and a red, well burnished exterior (Fig. 55). Mud-plastered benches were common and the largest room had what appeared to be a semi-subterranean storage area.

With the abandonment of this structure permanent architecture disappeared from this area of the mound until the beginning of the Iron Age.
The rest of the Middle Bronze Age is represented by a series of pits and ashy lenses. Within this matrix (Loci 4087, 4088 and 4097) was Pit 9 (Locus 4085), a large trash pit that contained a considerable amount of ceramic fragments (Fig. 56), a tray fragment, a bead (similar to Fig. 23:5-7), animal bones and seeds. The pottery belongs to what we have called ‘Kura-Araxes Late Gritty’ ware (Fig. 18:1) that is distinguished primarily by a large amount of white grit inclusions. A well-crafted projectile point (Fig. 20:1), found nearby, outside the house, is clear evidence of the advanced bone working industry (Figs 20: 3; 21:1-3,6), as is the a perforated antler mace head (Fig. 57). A miniature ceramic wheel (Fig. 21:7) belongs to the end of this period. A thick plaster surface (Locus 4061) sealed this deposit.

Later still, in Trench L16d, a large number of pits (part of the so-called ‘Pit Phase’ of earlier reports) and a burial belonging to the very end of the Middle Bronze Age were exposed. The pits were plaster-lined and similar in size and shape to those uncovered in previous years. One pit had a deliberately, perhaps symbolically, inverted black burnished bowl at its centre (Figs 14:6; 58). The burial, on the other hand, is the first of its type at Sos Höyük. A cluster of animal bones was placed in a pit alongside a number of ceramic vessels (Fig. 59). A radiocarbon analysis of a sample of bone provided a reading of 1630–1520 Cal BC.

Late Bronze Age: Period III (1500-1000 BC)

The late second millennium BC is the least understood period at Sos Höyük. In 1999 deposits were investigated in Trench L16, but the western half, L16c, was quite featureless, apart from a bell-shaped pit (Pit 2). This confirmed our earlier suspicions that during the Late Bronze Age the northern sector of the mound did not contain residential units. Rather it appears to have been an industrial area. Split and burnt bones were collected, but not as large a quantity as was found in L16d in 1998. This bone deposit lay on top of a greyish white plaster surface (Locus 4061) that is part of the very hard packed surface uncovered in 1997 in L16d (Locus 1785).13 Judging by the amount of bone and ash, and the compactness of the surface in L16, the focus of the working area appears to have been L16d. The remains of an oven consisting of a flue leading into one of two depressions support this idea of an industrial area.

12 Sagona 2000.
Iron Age: Period II (1000-200 BC)

Investigations were resumed this year in Trench J14, on the western flank, with a view to extending the area that, in 1995, yielded the burnt Early Iron Age room sealed by its roof debris — white organic material and carbonized beams (Fig. 60). The room’s very fine lime-plastered floor was strewn with impressive carbonized remains of basketry and matting. Similar remains were exposed in 1999 within a room ascribed to Locus 1293. Well-preserved but extremely fragile fragments of matting, basketry and rope (Figs 61-63), a preservation challenge even for the most experienced conservator, were among the remains. Even a twine sandal (Fig. 64) was found lying on the floor. Fragments of burnt furniture were mixed in the debris with ceramic items (Figs. 18:4; 22:3), including a black burnished askos (Fig. 65) that contained a substantial amount of oil seeds. Above this burnt room, three levels represented primarily by corners of large units continued the sequence into post-Achaemenid (Period IIB) times.

Conclusions

Through further excavation in the northern operation, the nature of the earliest settlements and the evolution of the monumental stone wall are certainly clearer. Sometime around the mid-fourth millennium BC, Sos Höyük was settled by bearers of a cultural tradition that was germane to the formation of the Kura-Araxes (Early Trans-Caucasian) complex. Period VA ceramic assemblage, in particular, illustrates a fusion of influences. It certainly foreshadowed some of the hallmarks of the better known third millennium repertoire, but types such as holemouth jars and pale-coloured containers point to continuity with earlier traditions. Indeed what has come to be known as ‘classic’ Kura-Araxes may, in fact, turn out to be an amalgam of traits from both Trans-Caucasus and eastern Anatolia. Whatever their origins these earliest inhabitants exhibited a considerable ability to organize labour, for not long after their arrival they constructed the massive wall, and rebuilt it after it collapsed, presumably caused by an earthquake. The function of the wall is not altogether clear, but it appears to have defined space at the heart of the settlement, which may point to either an economic or socio-political division of some sort.

14 Sagona, Erkmen, Sagona and Thomas 1996.
15 Kiguradze and Sagona (in press).
Around the beginning of the third millennium BC, the wall collapsed for a second and last time. Subsequently, Sos Höyük was drawn the orbit of the eastern half of the Kura-Araxes complex (Periods VB-VD). Its cultural connections with sites in Tans-Caucasus are clear, but the strongest links were with settlements in the Erzurum province, which emerged as a well-circumscribed area.16

Excavations over the last three years have also provided valuable insights into late third and early second millennium residences (Periods IVA and IVB), that up till now were rather elusive in the archaeological record. We now realize that certain dwellings, contemporary with some of the tombs of Trialeti tradition found at Sos, were multi-roomed and quite substantial. Significantly, although the structure and plan of the residences are not typical of the Kura-Araxeian cultural tradition, their internal cultural domain fits comfortably within it.17 It is also clear that there were instances in the history of the site, especially in the second millennium, such as the period between the two substantial Middle Bronze Age structures, when Sos was a location of temporary camps. Interleaving thin-plastered floors and considerable number of pits are suggestive of a mobile lifestyle.

During the Late Bronze Age (Period III), the settlement pattern at Sos changed when the northern sector was turned into an area for processing meat if the thick deposit of bone and ash are any indication. Then with the beginning of the Iron Age, substantial multi-roomed buildings were constructed across the entire summit of the mound. In 1999 investigations focused on Trench J14 where a burnt room of the Iron Age I date (Period IIA) preserved remnants of basketry, thereby providing us with a rare glimpse of otherwise invisible items of a highland household.

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Catalogue

Each entry begins with a notation representing the object’s stratigraphic context. The three components are: Trench/Locus/Basket. Occasionally an artifact number is also listed.

Figure 6

1. M17/3756/14. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA) Fragment from a small, deep bowl; very thin-walled; HM; compact black fabric with semi-fine gritty inclusions and a few small voids; sandwich core, black toward exterior, red-brown 5YR 5/6 interior and over lip; high burnished exterior and interior rim; smoothed lower interior.

2. M17/3756/14. Artifact 3402. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Small, deep bowl; thin everted rim; off-set neck and carinated body; thin-walled; some heat damage to the flat base; HM; medium-textured clay with fine to medium mixed gritty inclusions and fine voids in the paste; even-coloured dark grey N5/-N4/ fabric; matt, smoothed interior; mottled light olive brown slipped, burnished exterior; light red 10R 6/6 painted spots and fugitive vertical zig-zag lines on the body.

3. L17d/M17c/4235/49. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Straight-necked jar with biconical body; wall of neck is slightly swollen; HM; fabric with medium grit inclusions; abraded around the belly and rim, probably from use; section reveals two contrasting colours — black on the exterior and red brown 5YR 5/6 on the interior; exterior surface is burnished, the interior is smoothed and red brown, except for under the rim which is black.
4. L17b/4243/10. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Jar with recessed neck, everted rim and biconical body; HM; relatively thin-walled with medium grit inclusions; both surfaces are mottled; the exterior is well burnished and colours range from red brown 5YR 5/6 to grey brown 10YR 6/4 with occasional black, smoke patches; the interior is smoothed, except for the rim which is burnished, and smoke-blackened around the base.

5. M17/3766/48. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Deep bowl with thickened belly and everted rim; sharp off-set at the juncture of neck and shoulder; HM; very friable, dark grey 7.5YR 4/1 clay with decayed interior from use as a cooking pot; laminated section with voids and a small amount of very fine mixed gritty inclusions; pale-slipped and plain interior; light brown 7.5YR 6/3 exterior neck; smoke-blackened lower; two pairs of deeply incised grooves on shoulder. The widest part of the pot shows scarring from being placed in a stand or hearth.

6. L17b/4299/145. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Straight-necked jar with biconical body; wall of neck is slightly swollen; HM; dark grey brown 10YR 3/1 fabric, tending towards black, with medium grit inclusions; fired to a pale grey brown 10YR 5/1.5 or pale brown to 10 YR 6/3 all over; smoke-blackened on shoulder, and patch on the lower body; lightly smoothed all over.

7. L17b/4244/18. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Long-necked jar with a pair of loop handles set above the shoulder; HM; dark grey brown 10YR 3/1 fabric, tending towards black, with medium grit inclusions; exterior is black and well burnished except for the shoulder which is red brown 2.5YR 4/4; interior is smoothed and mostly smoke blackened except around the neck which is a pale yellowish grey 10YR 5/3.

8. L17b/4295/134. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Cup with curved profile; HM; grey brown 10YR 4/1 fabric with medium grit inclusions and occasional coarse piece; exterior is burnished and mottled brown 10YR 4.5/4 and black; interior is plain grey.

Figure 7

1. M17/3770/65. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Deep bowl; off-set swelling neck; small loop handle at the neck juncture; HM; laminated section, the inner surface was scored to bond with outer layer; a refined fabric with very fine grits and a few voids; the core reveals the contrasting colour scheme of the surface — a red burnished interior and a lustrous, black burnished exterior.

2. L17b/4299/149. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Jar rim fragment; HM; black fabric with medium grit inclusions; exterior is black burnished except for narrow strip of brown 7.5YR 5/4 along one edge; interior is black and smoothed.

3. M16-M17/3765/38. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Deep bowl; scars from two, ovoid-sectioned loop handles from neck to shoulder; partly reconstructed; HM; early drab ware; the core is pale brown to dark grey N4/; very fine golden mica, a moderate amount of medium mixed gritty inclusions and some voids in the paste; smoothed reddish yellow 7.5YR 8/6 surfaces, not burnished; mottled from use as a cooking pot.

4. M16/3766/57. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Large open bowl fragment; off-set and everted rim; carinated profile; a small solid tab handle survives at the rim; HM; sandwich core from reddish yellow 7.5YR 8/6 interior to very dark grey.
N3/ exterior; a moderate amount of fine to small mixed gritty inclusions in the paste; smoothed interior and burnished exterior

Figure 8

1. L17b/4253/46. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Decorated body fragment with handle attached above the shoulder; HM; fabric has medium grit inclusions with occasional coarse piece and fired to two contrasting colours — black on the exterior, red brown 5YR 5/4 on the interior; the exterior surface is burnished, the interior is smoothed; design comprises tendrils in bold relief emanating from the base of the handle, and a band of finely incised zigzags

2. M17/3773/68 Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Fragments from a large closed jar; HM; eroded interior surface; layered section; friable fabric with voids and fine mixed gritty inclusions; black-burnished exterior; strong brown 7.5YR 5/6 interior.

3. L17d/M17c/4223/24. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Body fragment with solid knob; HM; friable, sandy fabric, slightly gritty to touch; moderate amount of mixed grit inclusions and some voids; dark 10YR 3/1 core baking red 7.5YR 5/4 near the surface; exterior is dark 5Y 2.5/1 and highly burnished; interior is drab 10YR 4/1 and smoothed.

4. M17/3773/68 Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Body sherd from a large closed jar; HM; elaborate geometric design incised after firing on the exterior with traces of white in-fill; compact fabric with medium to large mixed gritty inclusions and some voids; brown 7.5YR 5/3 interior; black exterior.

5. L17/4301/3. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Small, shallow bowl with solid lug handle attached to the rim; HM; plain, pale brown 10YR 7/4, lumpy fabric with a dark grey inner core; medium grit inclusions; smoke patch at the base of the exterior.

6. L17b/4295/134. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Bowl with slightly incurving rim; HM; relatively hard brown 10YR 5/4 fabric with medium grit inclusions; very few voids; brown and lightly burnished all over; slightly abraded on the exterior; black smoke patch around the solid knob that is set under the rim.

Figure 9

1. L17b/4250/39. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Lid; HM; dark brown to black coarse fabric with medium-coarse grit inclusions, with the occasional very coarse piece; no voids; top surface is burnished mottled red-brown 5YR 5/4 and grey 7.5YR 5/1, smoke blackened around the edges; the underneath surface is similar, except for a greater amount of smoke blackening.

2. L17d/M17c/4224/27. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Lid fragment; HM; compact, crisp fabric with voids and some fine grit inclusions; both surfaces are highly burnished, the upper is grey brown 2.5Y 5/2, whereas the lower is black.

3. L17b/4299/139. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Lid fragment; HM; brown fabric 7.5YR 5/4 with medium-coarse grit inclusions; brown burnished lower surface; dark grey 2.5Y 4/1 burnished upper surface; part of the geometric grooved design is preserved.
Figure 10

1. L17b/4244/28. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Twin-horned andiron; HM; greyish brown to pale brown smoothed surface; dowel hole near the back edge for manoeuvrability.

2. L17b/4293/133. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Hearth prop; HM; very coarse brown 10YR 4/3 fabric with large grit inclusions; badly burnt and cracked; smoke blackened around all the edges.

Figure 11

L17b/4299/141. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Twin-horned andiron; HM; pale red brown 7.5YR 6/6 all over, except around one of the horns which is pale grey 2.5Y 6/2; smoothed to lightly burnished all over, including base; very little trace of smoke blackening.

Figure 12

1. M16/3752/3. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Tray; HM; hard, compact fabric with medium mixed grit inclusions fired to a red brown 2.5 YR 5/8; dark grey inner core; plain on both surfaces; very rough base; smoke-blackened patch on exterior.

2. L17d/4229/33. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Tray fragment; HM; friable fabric with moderate amount of small to medium mixed grit inclusions; some voids; dark 10YR 4/2 core; surfaces 10YR 3/1 are possibly self-slipped and smoothed, almost burnished; rim has a squared profile, but clearly distorted when viewed from the top, perhaps deliberately incurved; very rough base possibly reed-wiped.

3. L17d/M17c/4215/13. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Base fragment of tray; HM; friable 7.5YR 5/4 fabric with a large amount of mixed semi-coarse grit inclusions, similar to river gravel; drab 10YR 5/2 smoothed surface.

4. M17/3766/49. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Tray with low scooped front; near vertical walls; flat rough base possibly formed on matting; HM; friable drab ware; medium-textured core, graded in colour from grey N6/, through light red 5R 7/6, to red 2.5YR 6/6; moderate amount of voids and small to medium mixed gritty inclusions; thick matt, light red 2.5YR 7/6 slip on both sides that is crazed and eroding.

5. L17d/M17c/4226/30. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Pedestal base fragment; HM; fairly crude, friable, drab N3/ (gley) fabric with numerous voids and medium to very large grit inclusions; straw-wiped all over.

6. L17b/4299/139. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Holemouth jar fragments; HM; black fabric with medium grit inclusions fired to a red brown 2.5YR 5/6 colour; smoothed to lightly burnished surfaces.

Figure 13

1. L17b/4299/142. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Rim fragment; HM; section reveals contrasting colours — pale brown 7.5YR 6/4 on the interior, black on the
EXCAVATIONS AT SOS HÖÜK, 1998-2000  73

exterior; medium to semi-coarse grit inclusions; smoke blackened, lightly burnished exterior, smoothed interior.

2. L17b/4299/149. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Rim fragment with loop handle linking neck to shoulder; HM; originally fired to a pale red brown 7.5YR 6/4, now the exterior is smoke blackened; core reveals both colours; surfaces are smoothed all over.

3. L17b/4253/46. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Fragment of straight-necked jar with large loop handles linking neck to shoulder; HM; relatively thin-walled with pronounced, everted rim; compact fabric with medium to semi-coarse grit inclusions; core reveals contrasting colour of surfaces — plain red brown 2.5YR 5/3 on the interior and a black burnished exterior; part of high relief design (spirals?) emanating from the base of handle.

4. M17/3755/30. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Deep bowl with carinated profile; a pair of flattened knob lugs with central shallow depression are set opposite each other at the juncture of neck and shoulder; HM; coil technique of manufacture is evident in section; heat-damaged and friable paste with a moderate amount of fine to medium mixed grit inclusions, and a few voids; core colour is uneven with the interior half about 5YR 7/6 and the exterior mostly black; the interior surface is slipped and smoothed, whereas the exterior, though originally burnished, is now badly eroded.

Figure 14

1. M17/3734/1259. Early Bronze Age I (Period VB). Small straight-necked jar with biconical body; HM; fairly compact black fabric with fine to medium grit inclusions; well burnished black exterior; slipped in buff on the interior surface which is smoothed except for a lightly burnished inner lip; decorated with a solid pellet attached to the carination — originally there were probably two equidistantly placed — and three (originally four) dimples, also equidistant from each other, just above the carination.

2. M16/M17/3727/91. Early Bronze Age I (Period VB). Small jar with an accentuated girth; HM; black fabric with medium white grit inclusions; black to dark brown-grey 10YR 4/3 burnished exterior; plain brown 5YR 4.5/4 interior, smoke blackened in parts; a groove defines the juncture of neck and body.

3. M16/N16/3645/10A. Early Bronze Age II (Period VC). Rim fragment of jar; HM; crisp, well levigated fabric with a moderate amount of fine to medium mixed grit inclusions; beautifully finished grey N6/ to N5/ burnished exterior surface with a conspicuous silver sheen around the neck; interior is grey and smoothed.

4. M16/N16/3645/10A. Early Bronze Age II (Period VC). Small jar with accentuated girth and thick wall; HM; dark fabric with occasional fine grit visible in abrasions; exterior is highly black burnished; interior is plain and dark 10YR 7/4 in colour; top of rim is very flat; base is quite rough.

5. M16/N16/3645/12. Early Bronze Age II (Period VC). Jar; HM; black burnished exterior; smoothed, pale red brown 7.5YR 5/3 interior, which is also smoke blackened; section reveals the same contrast of colours, with red brown tending towards 2.5YR 5/6; medium white grit inclusions.

6. L16d/1816/39A. Middle Bronze Age II (Period IVB). Jar with accentuated girth; HM; black burnished exterior; interior surface is plain brown 7.5YR 7/4
and its base has been thickly lined with clay that is packed down roughly; dark core 2.5Y 4/1 with some voids and fine to medium grit inclusions, mainly white.

7. L16/4161/71. Middle Bronze Age I (Period IVA). Deep bowl; off-set neck and everted rim; three evenly spaced dimples on the shoulder; HM; medium-textured, compact brown 7.5YR 5/4 fabric with a moderate amount of mixed gritty inclusions; some rim abrasions and cracked wall; decayed interior from use as a cooking pot; dark grey 7.5YR 4/2 burnished exterior and inner rim; plain reddish yellow 7.5YR 8/6 interior. A small patch of a tar-like material remains of an ancient mend.

8. L16/4138/17. Middle Bronze Age I (Period IVA). Bowl with triangular-profiled rim; HM; fairly compact black fabric with medium mixed grit inclusions and a consistent colour throughout; highly burnished exterior, smoothed dark grey 7.5YR 4/1 interior.

**Figure 15**

M17/3755/29. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Andiron fragments; HM; shallow depressions on the top of the sides and the back dips; flat front surfaces; shallow ledge around lower inner wall; rough base; coarse fabric with voids and fine to medium mixed gritty inclusions; mottled, matt, reddish yellow 5YR 7/6 slipped surface from heat damage; grey N4/ core, baking reddish yellow 5YR 6/6.

**Figure 16**

1. L16/4133/32. Middle Bronze Age I (Period IVA). Deep bowl with accentuated girth, and a sharp profile in the lower half; HM; black fabric firing to a dark greyish brown 7.5YR 5/3 on the interior; tempered with medium white grit inclusions; well burnished on the exterior; plain, rough interior.

2. L16/4133/11. Middle Bronze Age I (Period IVA). Tray fragment with elaborate relief decoration on the exterior; laminated core; black fabric with medium mostly white gritty inclusions; baking red-brown 5YR 5/4 on the interior surface and over the lip; burnished exterior surface; rough plain interior.

3. L16/4144/41. Middle Bronze Age I (Period IVA). Deep bowl with thickened belly; everted, flat rim suggests that bowl was inverted immediately after manufacture and pressed; triangular lug at the rim; flat base; restored; HM; friable interior from use as a cooking pot; dark greyish brown 7.5YR 4/1 to black core; a moderate amount of mixed fine gritty inclusions and some voids; slipped plain grey brown 7.5YR 4/2 interior; thickly slipped and burnished, red-brown 10YR 3/2 exterior.

**Figure 17**

L16/4161/68. Artifact no. 3406. Middle Bronze Age I (Period IVA). Twin-horned andiron with dowel hole near the back edge (1.6 cm deep); base is formed into a shallow tray; slightly blackened on the flat side from use; complete; thickly slipped light brown 7.5YR 6/4 and smoothed surface.
EXCAVATIONS AT SOS HÖYÜK, 1998-2000

Figure 18

1. L16/4138/17. Middle Bronze Age I (Period IVA). Deep hemispherical bowl with a thick, irregular ledge handle attached to the rim; HM; black fabric with distinctive medium white grit inclusions; baked to a greyish red brown 7.5YR 5/2 colour on the interior; exterior is mostly black with a patch of red brown 7.5YR 5/4; both surfaces are burnished.
2. L16/4117/215A. Middle Bronze Age II (Period IVB). Deep bowl with incurving rim; HM; black, well burnished exterior; interior surface is fired to red brown 2.5YR 4/4 and burnished in a hatched pattern; core reveals white grit inclusions and a similar contrasting colour scheme, though the interior is closer to brown 10YR 5/2.
3. L16/4140/27. Middle Bronze Age I (Period IVA). Lid with a bevelled edge and central depression; HM; black fabric with medium grit inclusions; colour is fairly even throughout; top surface is black burnished, whereas the underneath is plain brown 10YR 4/1.5 except for the edge which has been smoke blackened.
4. J14/1293/103. Iron Age I (Period IIA). Lower half of a jar; WM; black compact fabric with fine to semi-medium grit inclusions and the occasional mica specks; fired to a dark brownish grey 7.5YR 4/1 in the upper half, smoke-blackened around the base; wheel striations evident on the interior wall; horizontal blackened above the shoulder.

Figure 19

1. L17b/4244/27. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). Bone point; excellent condition; high polish at the tip and high points; diagonal scratches around the tip.
2. M16/M15d/3725/72. Early Bronze Age I (Period VB). Diorite stone hammer (?) with shaft hole; no sign of wear; both surfaces are flat.
3. M16/3718. Early Bronze Age I (Period VB). Bone point with signs of polish around tip.
4. M16/M15d/3715/30. Early Bronze Age I (Period VB). Intact bone point with fire hardened tip; high sheen along the shank from use; some sheen on the knobbed end.
5. M17/3750/42. Early Bronze Age I (Period VB). Bronze needle broken in two halves; reasonably fine condition with intact eye.
6. M16d/N16c. Early Bronze Age I (Period VB). Modified ceramic disk; smoothed edges; black burnished exterior; brown 7.5YR 5/3 burnished interior; section clearly reveals the two contrasting colours.

Figure 20

1. L16c/4079/113. Middle Bronze Age II (Period IVB). Tanged antler projectile point; intact and very fine example.
2. L16/4140/21. Middle Bronze Age I (Period IVA). Tanged antler projectile point; smoothed on one side; minimal use wear sheen; found in two halves.
3. L16d/1822/59. Middle Bronze Age II (Period IVB). Bone spatula.
Figure 21

1. L16c/4049/14. Middle Bronze Age II (Period IVB). Damaged point; some sheen toward the tip; drilled through the top.
2. L16c/4050/15. Middle Bronze Age II (Period IVB). Bone needle.
3. L16c/4051/17. Middle Bronze Age II (Period IVB). Bone needle.
5. M16d/N16c/3641/2. Early Bronze Age III (Period VD). Ceramic animal figurine; bovine; complete apart from horn tips; fabric colour is 10YR 6/2.
7. L16d/1815/34. Middle Bronze Age II (Period IVB). Ceramic wheel; hole pierced through central shaft; surface is smoothed though crazed in parts; surface colour is mottled; core is 2.5Y 5/2.

Figure 22

1. L16/4122/223. Middle Bronze Age I (Period IVA). Bone spindle whorl; intact; no sheen on domed side; straight central hole; dark colour may indicate fire hardening.
2. J14/1263/25. Iron Age II (Period IIB). Bone spindle whorl; intact; some sheen around the central hole; darkened by fire on the top.

Figure 23

1. L17b/4248/37. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). White flint triangular bead; three centre-dot circles decorate one side; four angled thread holes perforate the body.
2. L17d/M17c/4214/2. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). White flint, square bead; slightly burnt; three thread holes run through the longitudinal section; another three very small holes are drilled through the transverse section.
3. L17b/4248/40. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA). White flint, slightly irregular lozenge-shaped bead; two parallel thread holes perforate the body.
4. M16/M17/3724/77. Early Bronze Age I (Period VB). White flint short bead tending towards a truncate bicone shape; perforated through the centre.
5. L16/4098/152. Middle Bronze Age II (Period IVB). White flint truncated bicone short bead; perforated through the centre.
6. L16/4108/168. Middle Bronze Age II (Period IVB). White flint, truncated bicone disc; perforated through the centre.
7. L16c/4065/35. Middle Bronze Age II (Period IVB). Eroded faience bead, nothing left of the glaze; originally the shape was probably truncated short bicone; perforated through the centre.
Fig. 1. Early Bronze Age I (Period VB) house, Trench M17.
Fig. 2. Early Bronze Age II (Period VC) house, Trench M16/N16.
Fig. 3. Middle Bronze Age I (Period IVA) house, Trench L16

Fig. 4. Isometric plan showing three floors levels in Trench L16: A–Middle Bronze Age II (Period IVB) house; B– Middle Bronze Age I (Period IVA) thin plaster floor and pits; C– Middle Bronze Age I (Period IVA) house.
Fig. 5. Middle Bronze Age II (Period IVB) house, Trench L16
Fig. 6.
Fig. 8.
Fig. 9.
Fig. 11.
Fig. 12.
Fig. 13.
Fig. 14.
Fig. 15.
Fig. 16.
Fig. 17.
Fig. 18.
Fig. 20.
Fig. 21.
Fig. 22.
EXCAVATIONS AT SOS HÖYÜK, 1998-2000

Fig. 24. South section of the northern operation taken in 1999.
Fig. 25. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA) twin-horned andiron found in the exploratory trench opened in 1998. L17d/M17c, Locus 4215, Basket 13.

Fig. 26. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA) stone blade showing use wear sheen along a retouched edge. L17d/M17c, Locus 4216, Basket 10.
Fig. 27. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA) stone wall in trenches M17/M16, showing an interior stone revetment. The room on the left is situated at a higher level in Trench L16 and belongs to the Middle Bronze Age (Period IV B).
Fig. 28. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA) stone wall in trenches M17/M16 showing the exterior lobe attachment; looking north. The pit on the left belongs to a Middle Bronze Age shaft grave of the Trialeti tradition that cut through the wall.
Fig. 29. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA) twin-horned portable hearth. L17b, Locus 4299, Basket 141, Object 46.

Fig. 30. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA) floor with built-in circular hearth, ceramic vessel and two portable hearth props, in bottom left hand corner. M17, Locus 3768.
Fig. 31. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA) dwelling located at the edge of the mound. Hearth comprises a platform with modified ceramic vessel surrounded by stones that are beginning to appear. M16, Locus 3755.

Fig. 32. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA) floor constructed with pottery sherds that had been purposefully crushed on a layer of river sand (kum) shortly after the wall collapsed. L17b, Locus 4270; excavated in 1999.
Fig. 33. A section through the Late Chalcolithic (Period VA) monumental stone wall revealed the ‘ceramic’ floor sandwiched between two building layers. The large stones above the sherds belong to the second re-building phase. L17, Locus 4316; excavated 2000.
Fig. 34. Reconstructed Late Chalcolithic (Period VA) circular hearth. L17b, Locus 4269; Basket 81.
Fig. 35: Late Chalcolithic (Period VA) circular house with round hearth positioned in the centre of the floor. L17b, Locus 4530. A pit dug shortly after the house was abandoned is seen in the lower half.
Fig. 36. Interior (eastern) face of Late Chalcolithic (Period VA) monumental stone wall showing the juncture between the rebuilt section, on the left hand side, and the original face, on the right hand side. Looking north.
Fig. 37. Interior (eastern) face of Late Chalcolithic (Period VA) monumental stone wall showing the juncture between the rebuilt section, on the left hand side, and the original face, on the right hand side.
Fig. 38. Late Chalcolithic (Period VA) fragment of a Kura-Araxes vessel showing the technique used to create a relief decoration. L17b, Locus 4239, Basket 4a.
Fig. 39. Early Bronze Age I (Period VB) dwelling located at the edge of the mound. M17, Locus 3736.

Fig. 40. Early Bronze Age I (Period VB) hearth constructed in two halves with central bowl. Part of the surface is decorated with a geometric incised design. M16/M17, Locus 3726, Basket 84.
Fig. 41. Detail of the decorated Early Bronze Age I (Period VB) hearth. M16/M17, Locus 3726, Basket 84.

Fig. 42. Upper half of a large red-and-black burnished Early Bronze Age I (Period VB) storage jar with grooved pattern. M16/M15d, Locus 3733, Basket 107.
Fig. 43. Lower half of a large red-and-black burnished Early Bronze Age I (Period VB) storage jar with grooved pattern. M16/M15d, Locus 3733, Basket 107.

Fig. 44. Early Bronze Age I (Period VB) obsidian projectile point. M16/M15d, Locus 3715, Basket 30, Object 6.
Fig. 45. Early Bronze Age I (Period VB) obsidian blade. Artifact 2776.

Fig. 46. Early Bronze Age II (Period VC) house. The south-west corner was destroyed in the subsequent period with a grave was dug. M16/N16, Locus 3645.
Fig. 47. Detail of Early Bronze Age II (Period VC) hearth showing relief double-spiral design.

Fig. 48. Early Bronze Age III (Period VD) ceramic crucible. Top view. L17, Locus 4302, Basket 4, Object 3.
Fig. 49. Early Bronze Age III (Period VD) ceramic crucible.
Side view. L17, Locus 4302, Basket 4, Object 3.
Fig. 50. Middle Bronze Age I (Period IVA) structure with a cobble-based foundation. Looking west.
Fig. 51. Stratigraphic section showing Middle Bronze Age I (Period IVA) cobble foundations superimposed by foundations of larger field stones of the Middle Bronze Age II (Period IVB) period.

Fig. 52. Middle Bronze Age I (Period IVA) room with central hearth constructed from a ceramic vessel. L16, Locus 4144.
Fig. 53. Middle Bronze Age II (Period IVB) building, Trench L16.
Fig. 54. Middle Bronze Age II (Period IVB) building, looking east.
Fig. 55. Middle Bronze Age II (Period IVB) red-brown burnished hearth with central three projections. The hearth was sunken into the floor up to the rim. L16, Locus 4120, Basket 218.

Fig. 56. Kura-Araxes Late Gritty ware found in a trash pit of the Middle Bronze II (Period VB) period.
Fig. 57. Middle Bronze Age II (Period VB). Perforated antler mace head; two of the three branches appear to be fire-hardened. Artifact 3360.
Fig. 58. Middle Bronze Age II (Period IVB) plaster-lined pit at the centre of which is an inverted black burnished bowl. L.16d, Locus 1816.
Fig. 59. Middle Bronze Age II (Period IVB) burial in Trench L16d.
Fig. 60. Iron Age I (Period IIA) carbonized beam *in situ*. J14, Locus 1263.

Fig. 61. Iron Age I (Period IIA) carbonized basketry. J14, Locus 1293, Basket 105.
Fig. 62. Iron Age I (Period IIA) carbonized furniture fragment. J14, Locus 1293, Basket 105, Object 128.

Fig. 61. Iron Age I (Period IIA) carbonized basketry. J14, Locus 1287, Basket 90, Sample 257.
Fig. 65. Iron Age I (Period IIA) askos filled with oil seeds.

Fig. 64. Iron Age I (Period IIA) carbonized, twire sandal and the heel of another. J14, Locus 1299.