

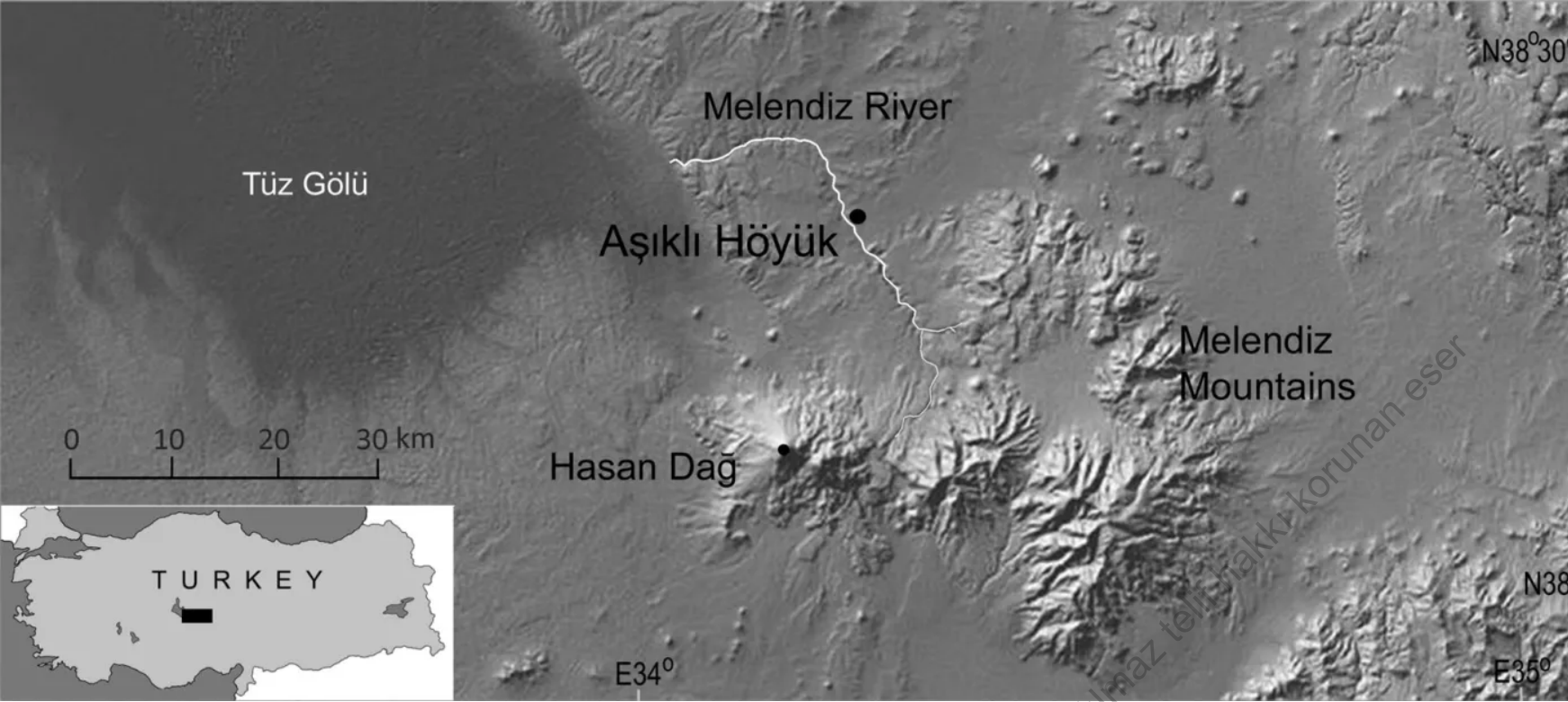
# Aşıklı höyük

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The medium size of Aşıklı Höyük lies on the banks of the Melendiz river in the village of Kızılkaya 25km southeast of the city Aksaray.







Aşıklı höyük on the bank of Melendiz river, view from the West.

Since 1989 salvage excavations have been in progress at the mound, which is comprised of three main levels, all belonging to the Aceramic Neolithic, as confirmed by a deep sounding opened at the northwest.



# Stratigraphy

- Level 1
- Level 2 10 building phase \* Agriculture had begun C14 date: 8000 BC
- Level 3 3 A,B,C building phase
- Excavations have now reached as far as the third building phase of level 3 (Phase 3C) counting from the surface downward.
- Level 2 consist of 10 building phases, among which phase 2B has been exposed over a large area on top of the mound to reveal the settlement pattern.
- Calibrated radiocarbon samples date level 2 to the 8th millennium BC.

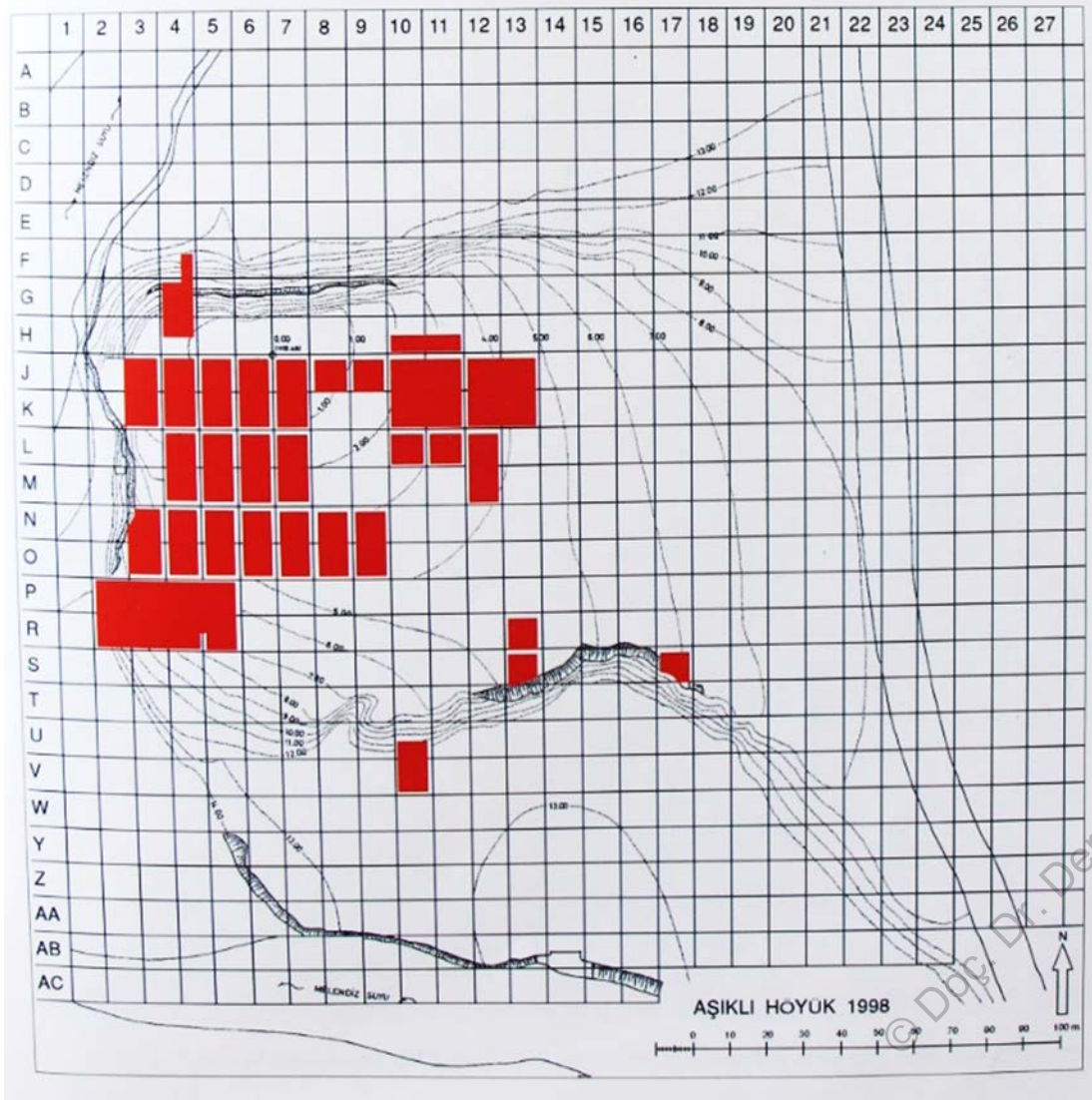


Barley



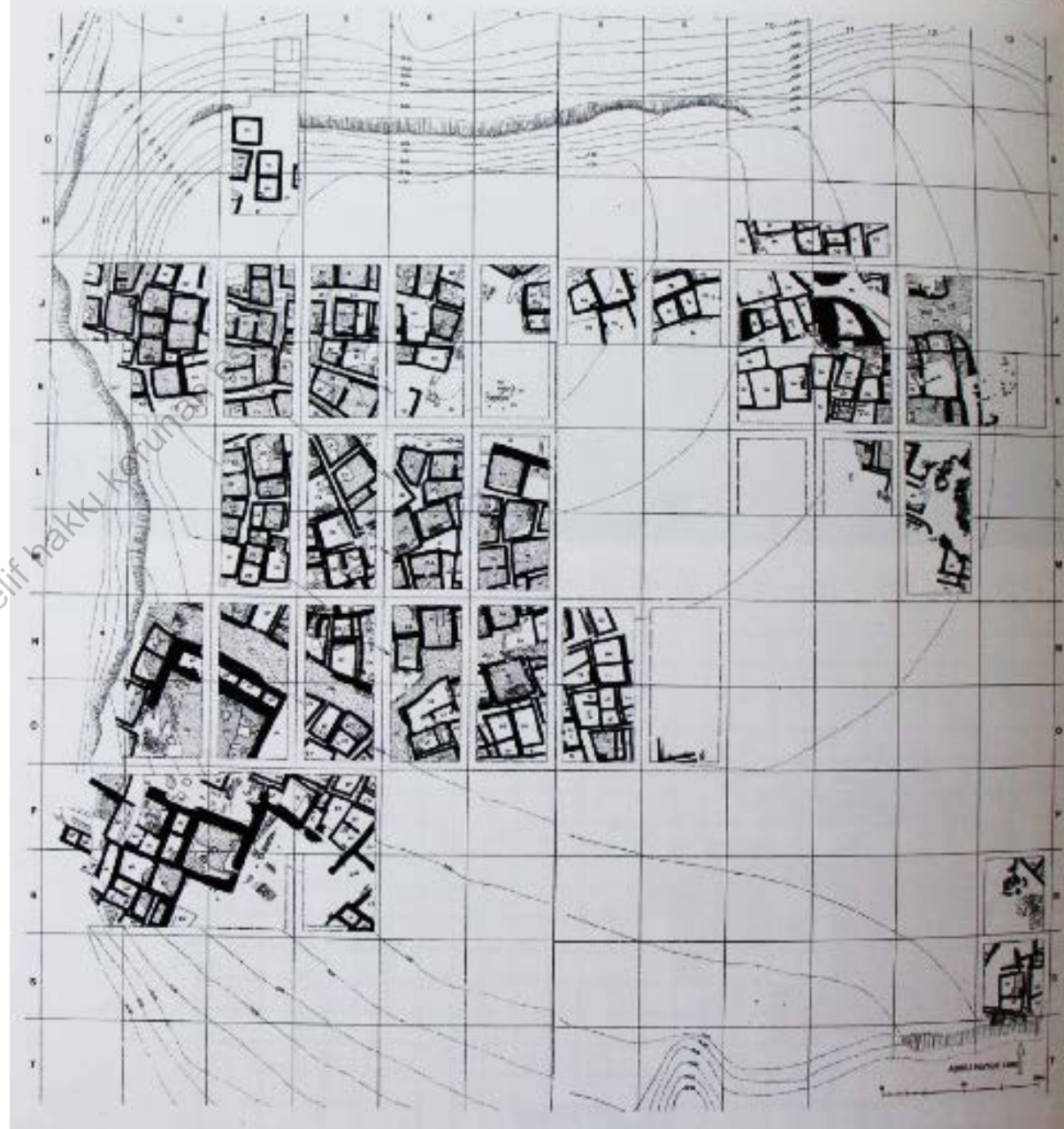
By the upper phases of level 2 agriculture had begun, although the economy was still mainly dependent on hunting and gathering, the inhabitants had begun to cultivate wheat (einkorn, emmer and durum) and barley. The economy is based more heavily on agriculture than industry, in addition to crops, both sheep and cattle are raised here.





Aşıklı Höyük, trench location plan.

It is estimated that 10% of the mound has been excavated.



Aşıklı Höyük. Schematic plan.





Aşıklı Höyük, air view from the West.

A part of the earliest settlement of Aşıklı on the shore of the Melendiz river. View from the Northeast.

The region, at an average of 1000 m above sea level, forms part of the cold Central Anatolian steppe. Aşıklı covers an area of 3.5-4 hectares, rising 15.35 meters above the Melendiz plain at the North, and 13.16 m at the South.



Model houses were built by excavation team of Aşıklı

Aşıklı Höyük first discovered in 1963 by Hittitologist Edmund Gordon, and investigated by Ian Todd as part of a thorough and detailed surface survey.





**The step –trenches** ( 4 F-G) at the northwest of Aşıklı, the building phases of level 2 seen from the South.



The deep sounding in step-trenches 4G-H . Mud-brick buildings of level 3, view from the South.

Most of the buildings are mudbrick, rectangular or trapezoidal in plan, often with rounded corners.

What is step-trench in archaeology ?

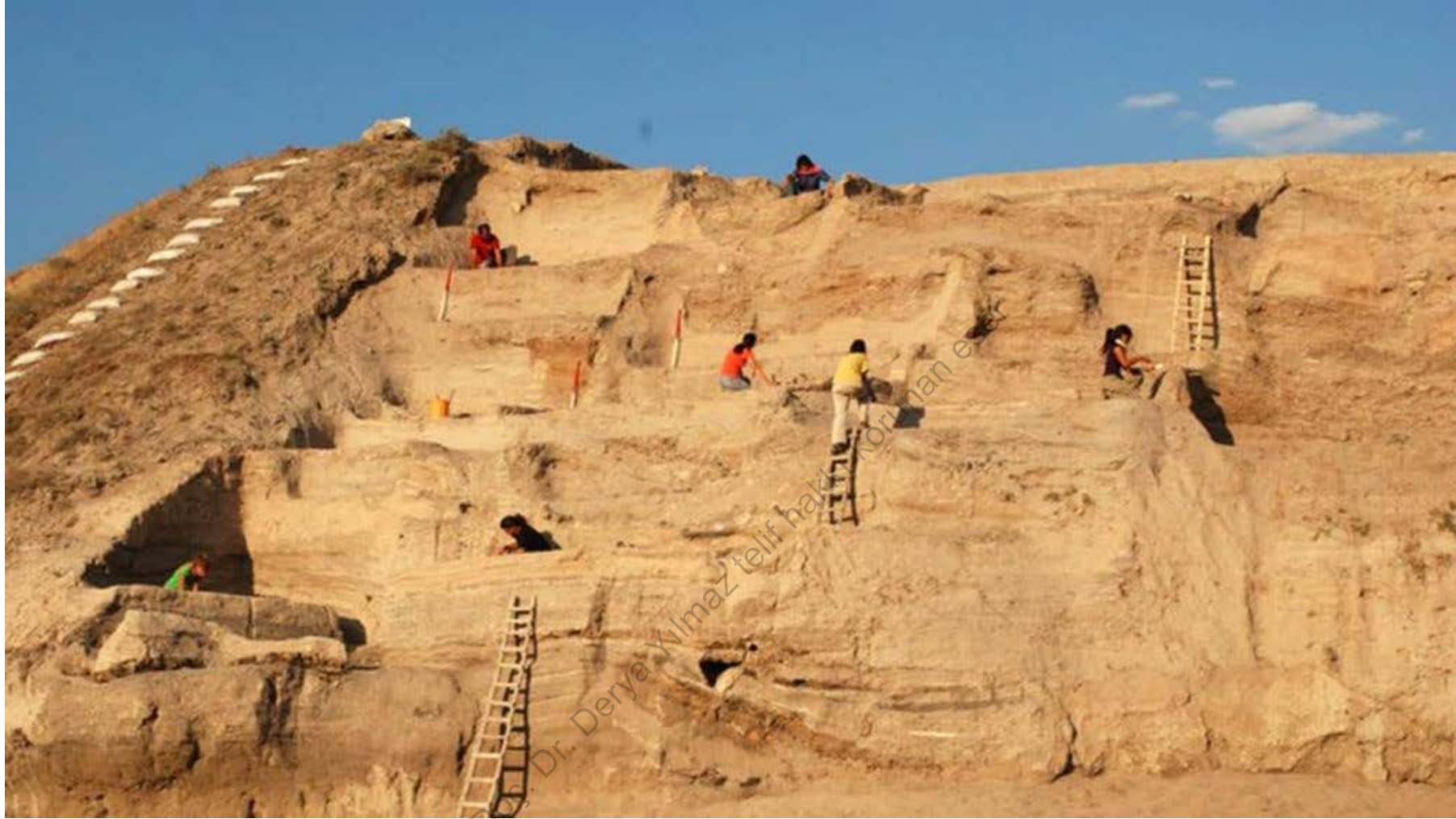
- A trench cut in a series of steps from the base to the top of a mound for determining the cultural levels of an archaeological site.



A settlement mound includes :  
Cultural Periods and architectural layers.  
For example:  
From top to basement

<u>Cultural Periods</u>	<u>Architectural layers</u>
Middle Age	level I
Iron Age	level II
Bronze Age	level III
Chalcolithic Age	level IV
Neolithic Age	level V





Aşıklı Höyük step-trench

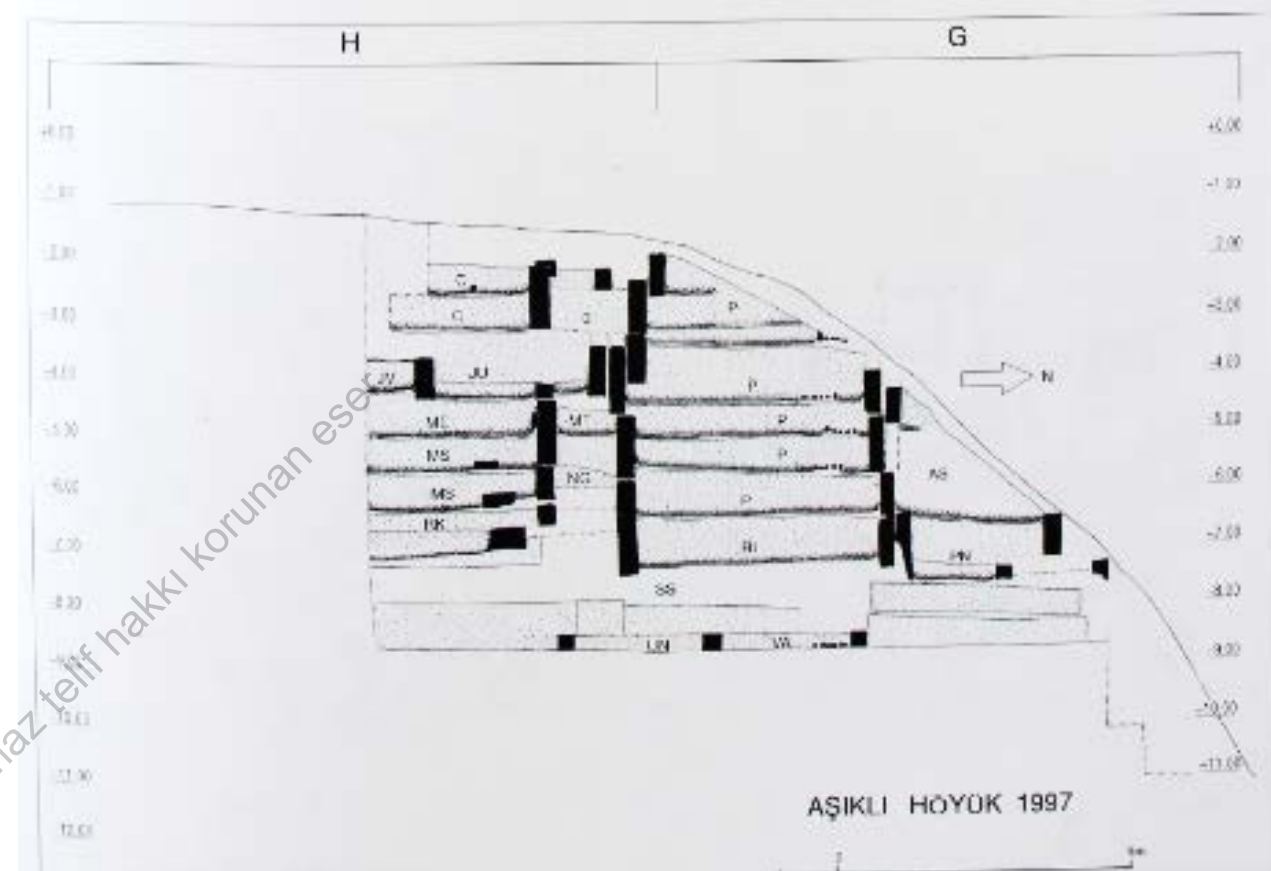


Aşıklı Höyük is an Aceramic Neolithic site located in the Central Anatolia. Research carried out for more than two decades at the site had exposed well-preserved remains and detailed data of the 8000 BC, inhabitants of the settlement. Recent research that started in 2010 focus basically on the early levels, radiocarbon dated to the mid and late 9000 BC.

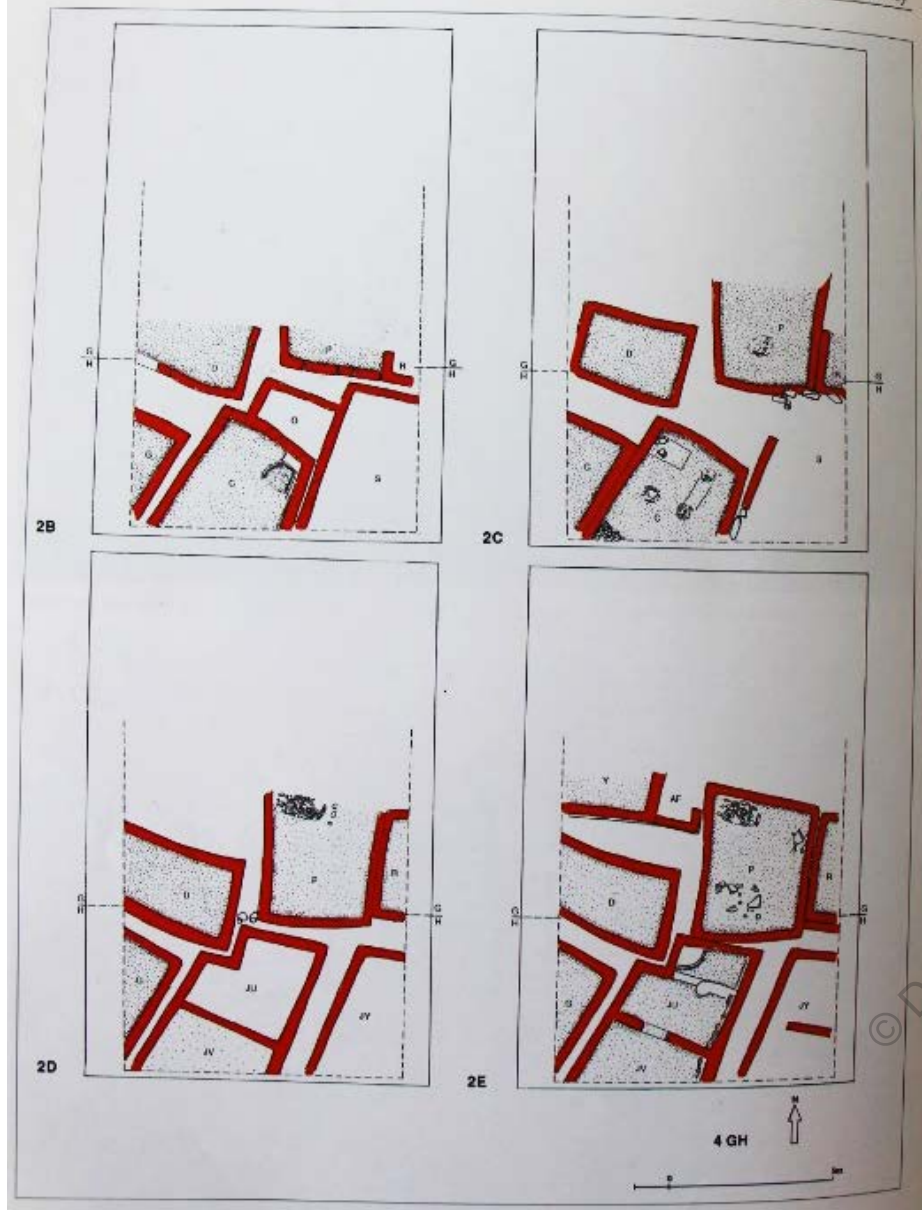




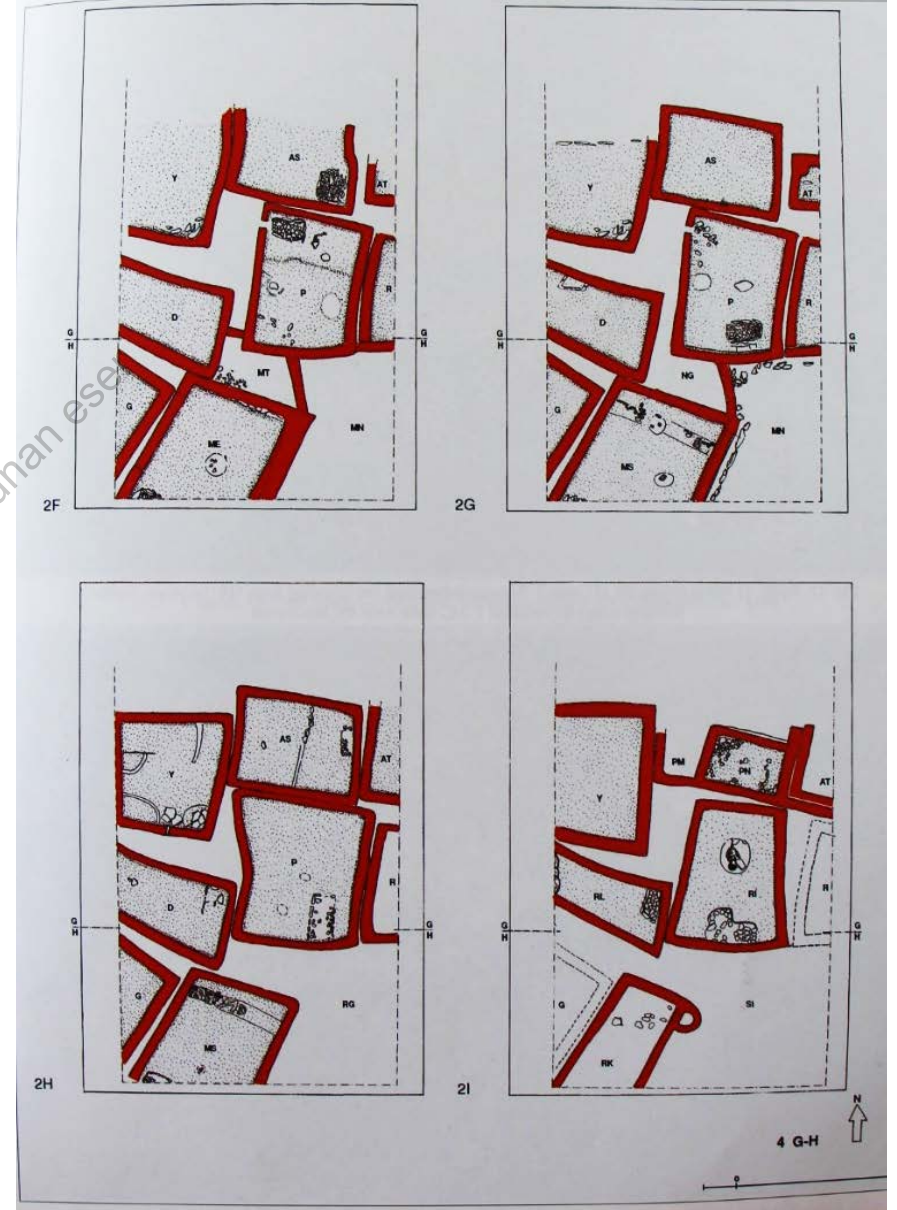
The South profile of the deep sounding in the trenches 4 G-H. Building phase of level 2 and 3. View from the North.



A schematic section of the deep sounding in the trenches 4 G-H. Building phases of levels 2 and 3.



Schematic plans of building phases 2B-2E of level 2 in the deep sounding of trenches 4 G-H.



Schematic plans of building-phases 2 F-2I of level 2 in the deep –sounding of trenches 4 G-H.

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the outer appearance of the 8000 millennium BC settlement, experimentally reconstructed *kerpiç* houses of the 8000 millennium settlement



General layout of 8000 BC settlement







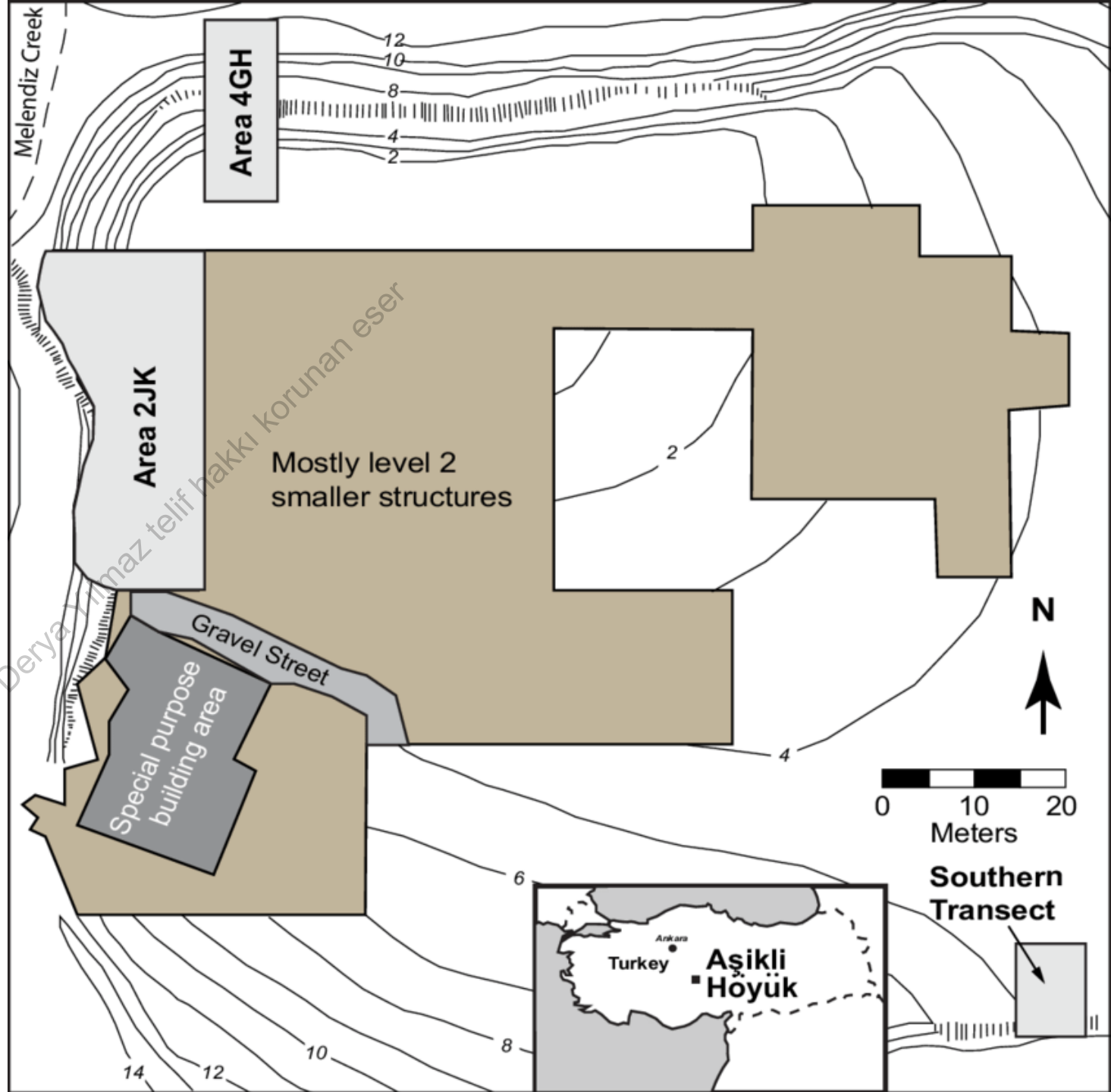
Aşıklı Höyük, building phase 2B of level 2. The workshop and the dumping area 'JA' between mudbrick living-quarters in trenches 7 J-L. View from the Southeast.



Aşıklı Höyük, the temple building T with its complex on the eroded Southwest slope of the mound in trenches 3-4 O-R. View from the Southeast.



Aşıklı Höyük does also have buildings that are bigger in size but without hearths. These are interpreted as public buildings or 'building complexes'.



- One of them (complex HV) being at up to 20 times larger than the largest loam buildings (i.e. 500 m<sup>2</sup>). They have a multitude of rooms and encompass elaborate and large internal courts; something that is not found in any other buildings. The walls are more robust and massive than other buildings, in some cases being referred to as "monumental walls".
- The interpretation of these buildings is difficult. The fact that they clearly differentiate from the domestic buildings indicates that they had special value in society. They also do not incorporate into the clustered 'neighbourhoods', indicating that they served several neighbourhoods or the local community at large.
- With 500 m<sup>2</sup> the range of activities that could have taken place in this space could easily incorporate several hundred people. There is a variety of hypotheses regarding the nature of these monumental structures. There are other examples of these restricted monumental spaces on other sites in the Levantine PPNB (such as Nevali Çori, Behida, 'Ain Ghazal), suggesting that they were used by an elite or for practising different social initiation rites.







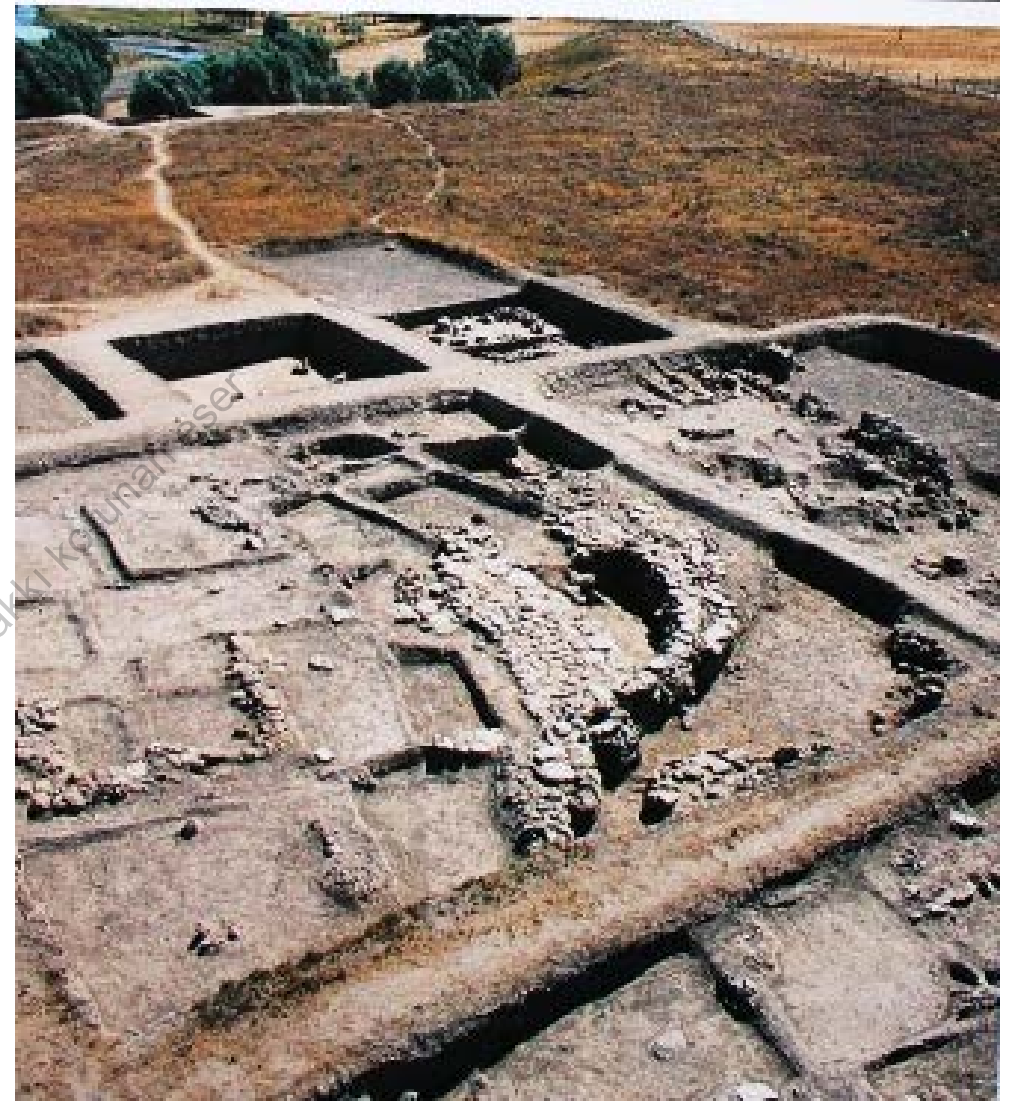
Aşıklı, the red painted floor of the Temple building T. View from the Southeast.



The mudbrick house TM with a small court-yard to the East in trench 8 O. A cylindrical earthen Silo on the North, dug in the floor and to the Southwest corner of the house a hearth paved with big pebble-Stones. View from the South.

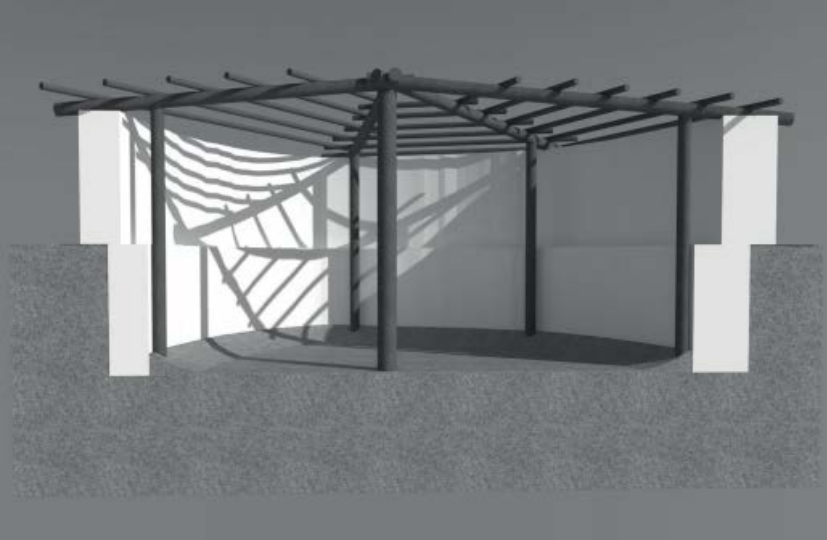


Aşıklı Höyük, a window –opening left in a mudbrick wall in trenches 5 L-M . View from the Northwest.



Aşıklı Höyük, the enclosure Wall running from the Northeast to the southeast. View from the Southeast.





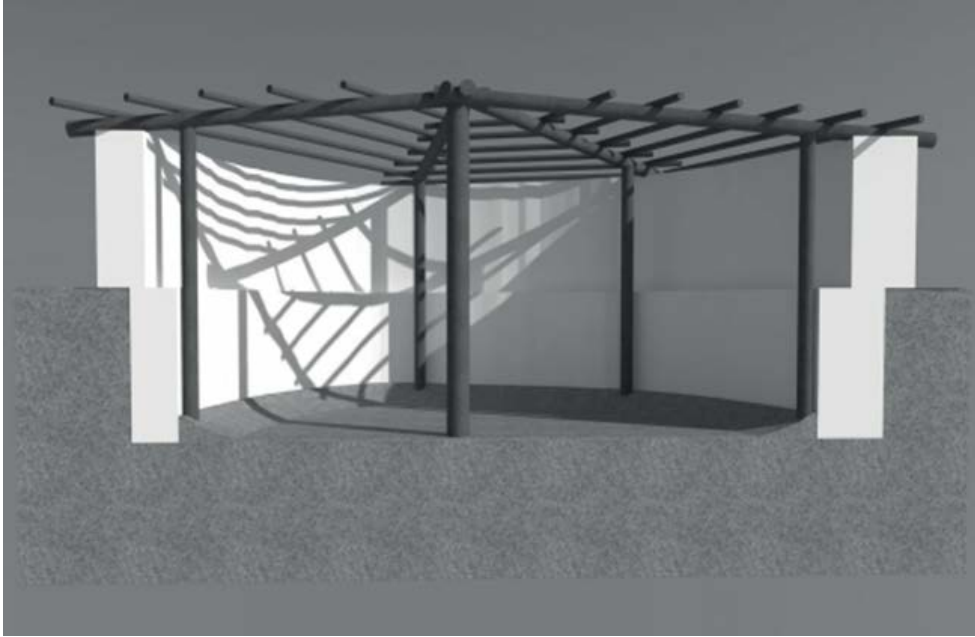
The reconstruction of B.18



The floor level of B.18 (Level 3)



The 9000 millennium BC settlement with sub-oval semi-subterranean buildings and the open space



The reconstruction of B.18



Kerpich model of one of the earliest rounded house at Aşıklı.

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The floor level of B.1

The work area in B.1; the basin, ground stones, bone spatula and the basket.



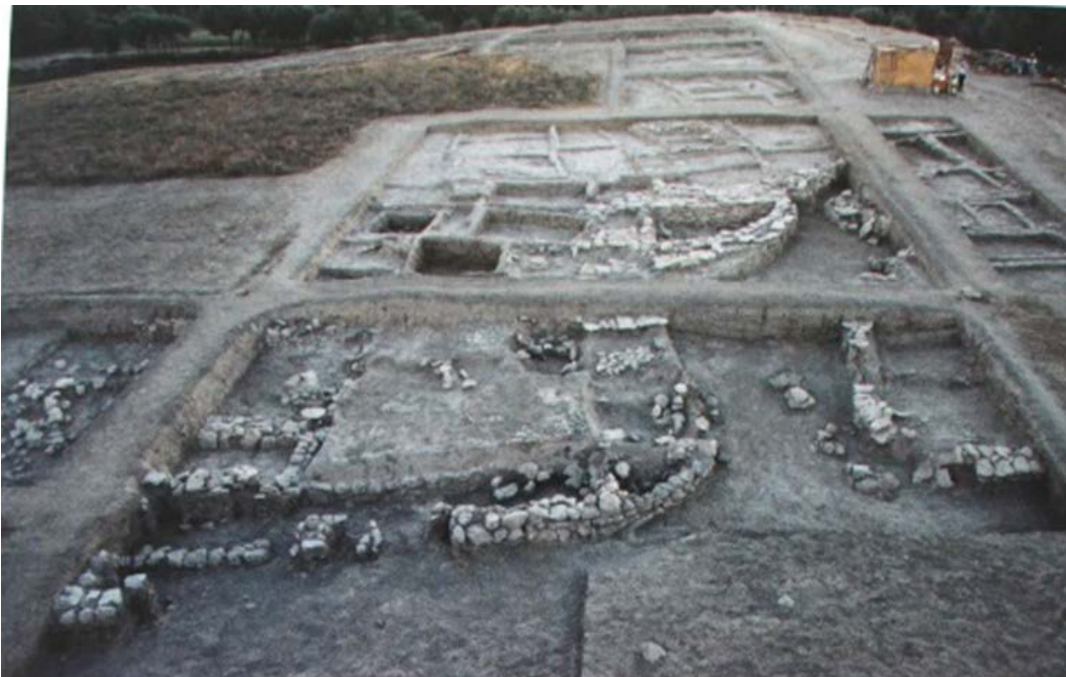


an 8-9 year old child was found lying directly on top of the cobble-paved floor of a hearth in Building 1. His/her upper body was in the hocker position but with the legs stretched out.



Burial pit of a child, 9000 millennium BC





Aşıklı Höyük, curves of the enclosure wall in trenches 10-13 H-K. The space between the curves are paved with small pebble-Stones. View from the East.



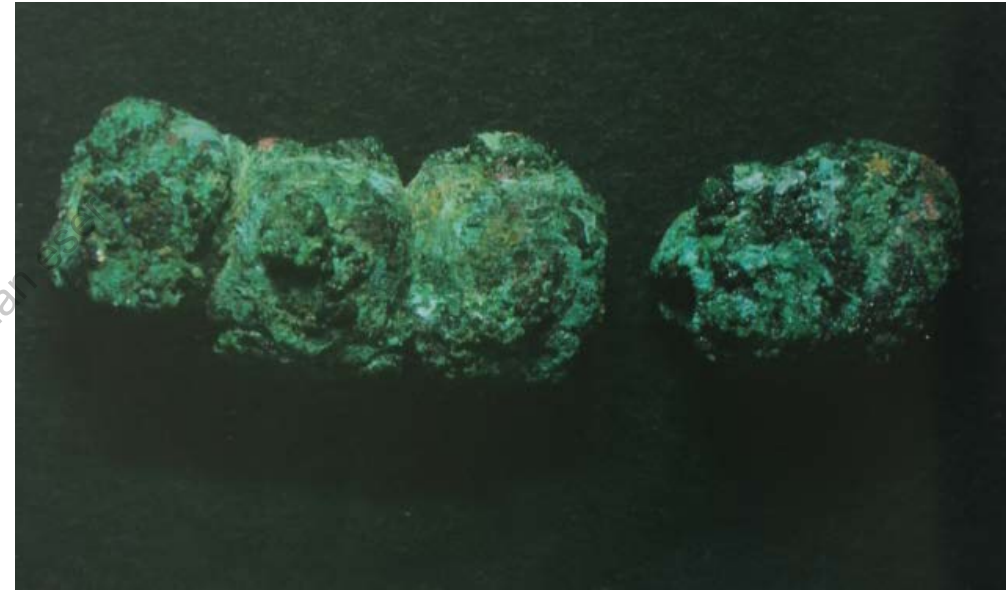
Small finds from Aşıklı. Obsidian artefacts, bone tools and hooks, an arrow sharpener and a celt of polished stone, beads of agate and simple Stones; an animal figurine made of half baked clay.

The developed organization in the upper phases of the level 2 at Aşıklı, which played most probably a significant role in obsidian trade, leads us to believe that the community was guided by a ruler or an elite family. Aside from obsidian, the most frequent tools found in the rooms and fill of level 3 were of bone and ground stone.



Aşıklı Höyük, an animal figurine of baked-clay.

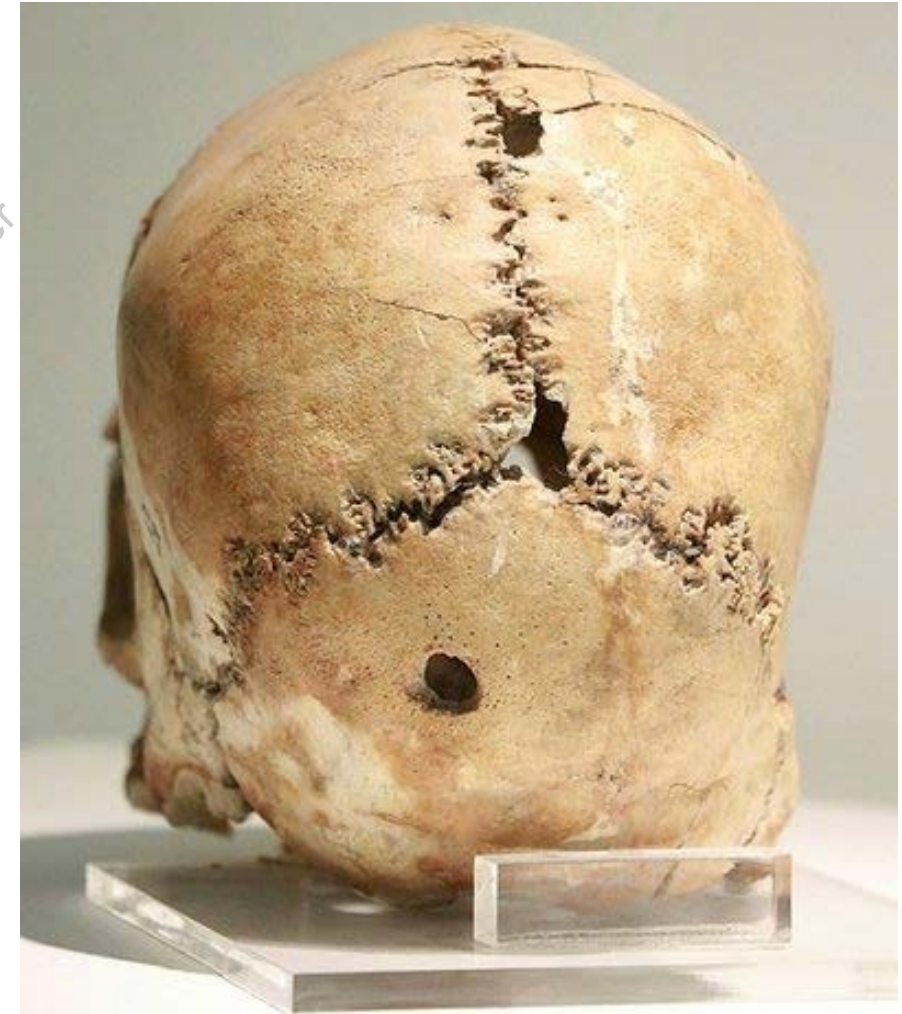
Aşıklı Höyük, a small polished stone plaque decorated with incised 'V' and 'O' motives in tiny, incised, parallel rows



Aşıklı Höyük, beads from heat treated (Hot-worked) and rolled, native copper sheet.



Two separate skulls found in Aşıklı Höyük provide important data in terms of the history of medicine. A brain surgery scar / Trepanation (Trepanasyon in Turkish) was found on the skull of a 20-25-year-old young woman, and after the opening of the hole, which was determined to be the result of a surgical operation, it was understood that the woman was alive and lived for about a week after the operation.



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