

# ÇADIR HÖYÜK THE 2008 SEASON

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## Preface

Çadır Höyük continues to produce important results from a variety of chronological contexts; these results are providing interesting new materials that are being used by a variety of scholars to more fully evaluate the history and culture of the central Anatolian plateau throughout the course of its long history. The 2008 excavation team took to the field for six weeks in July and August and its efforts produced a plethora of fascinating new results. Excavations continue in seven areas with the biggest emphasis being placed on the Northeast Terrace, the Eastern Step Trench, as well as the Upper and Lower South Trenches (fig. 1). These areas have produced vital materials belonging to the Byzantine, Hittite, Iron Age, and Early Bronze Age/Chalcolithic settlements, respectively. The sounding in the middle of the terrace has also become extremely informative for the chronology of that area with occupation there now known to extend at least into the Middle Bronze or Old Assyrian Colony Age.

The continuing excavations make it clearer every year that Çadır Höyük was an important site that influenced the area around it and was settled for the entirety of its history with no period of time left unrepresented in the historical account, with the possible exception of the Roman period. Çadır Höyük also displays an apparent continuity of function during this long sequence of settlement that probably accounts for the historical development that we are just beginning to understand. That function is grounded, most likely, on its identification as an important cult center. We continue to maintain the identification of the site in the second millennium with the important Hittite cult center Zippalanda, though there are still many questions related to that identification. Enough additional materials of a religious nature have turned up in other levels to show that they too had a religious function, the exact nature of which remains to be investigated. Nonetheless, the belief that Çadır maintained a religious function throughout its history remains a working hypothesis.

Our efforts at Çadır Höyük continue to produce physical evidence, but they also continue to produce an abundance of published materials that are shedding new light on the ancient site and its inhabitants. This paper continues that tradition as it reviews the results of work across the site, including additional references to work not mentioned above.

## Area 1: The Eastern Step Trench

### *The Hittite Periods*

In 2008 we returned to explore the Eastern Step Trench and we met with several surprises. The first was in square 800.910. During the last winter, a small area that was no more than 1 × 1 m in size had washed out of the baulk. In the process, 90–100 pieces of Hittite Empire-period pottery sherds had washed out of the baulk or lay exposed in situ. Of these, forty-seven are diagnostic rims, most from simple bowls with inverted splash rims (fig. 2). All the pottery, with the exception of one red-slipped piece, is of the mass-produced plain ware style used at Boğazköy. The pottery is from the baulk on the south side of the trench, near the surface and above the Middle Hittite wall. It rested on a plaster surface that lies just below the thick white

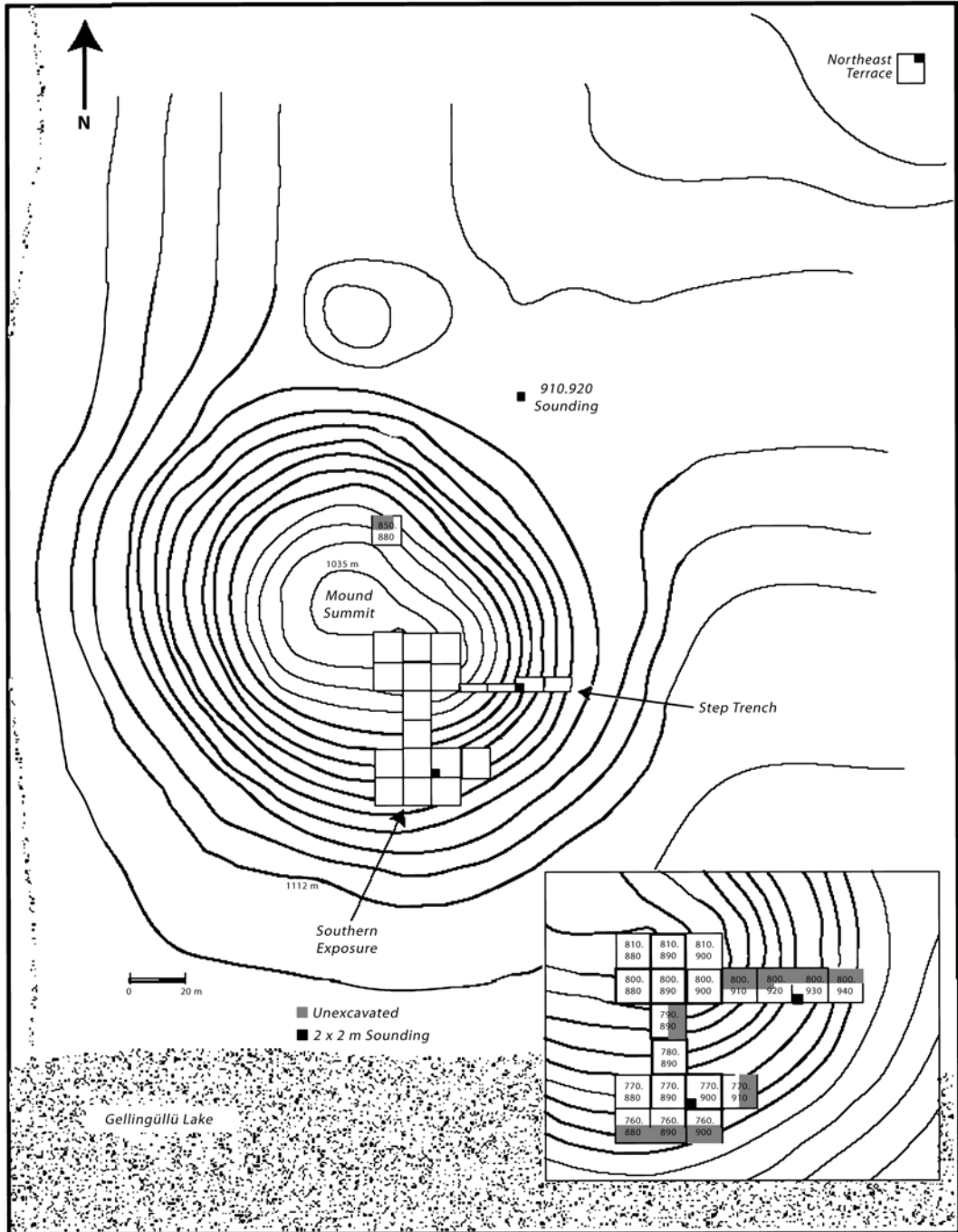


Figure 1. Topographic map of Çadır Höyük



*Figure 2. Hittite Empire-period rims from eroded floor area of square 800.910*

plaster floors of the “Temple” building (F 67), and to the left of the wall that separates the floors from an outside area. More pottery remains in the baulk so it is safe to assume that this is a rich deposit of Hittite Empire-period materials. In any case, this corpus of pottery provides us with an important focal point for our investigations of the Hittite Empire period. Bits and pieces of carbon were also found and may come from a burning of the town, which may explain how the pottery came to rest there.

### ***The Middle Bronze Age***

A second surprise came as we returned to the bottom of the Eastern Step Trench (800.950) in hopes of finding the extension of the Chalcolithic enclosure wall found in square 790.890 (fig. 3) (Gorny et al. 1995). Instead, we began to turn up Middle Bronze Age Kārum-period pottery. Most notable was a huge beak-spouted pitcher spout, a piece of an “andiron”-style hearth, a very carinated bowl, and a variety of wishbone handles. There were parts of surfaces and walls, but nothing that took the form of a building of any sort.

We also found two intersecting pits, but these produced very little in the way of material remains. The two pits were very shallow, approximately 20 cm in depth. The inhabitants had dug both pits into the brown pebble-rich fill that covers the entire area. It appears that the builders of this area brought in the pebbly fill from the river basin, but probably from very near the occupied area of the town, as the fill had small pieces of pottery scattered throughout. Outside of the pottery, the one item of interest from the pits is the bottom half of a lead figurine of the type found at Alişar and elsewhere (fig. 4). These lead figurines are cultic in purpose and date to the Kārum Ib period, which gives us a date for the pit. This particular



*Figure 3. 1994 photo of area we returned to in 2008*

*Figure 4. Old Assyrian Kārum Ib lead figurine fragment*

piece seems to display the bottom half of a goddess wearing a dress and the typical Hittite shoes with upturned pointed toes. The figurine possibly represents the Stormgod's consort. In the final analysis, the second-millennium discoveries made in 2008 at Çadır Höyük were striking in their character. They promise great things for 2009, when we plan to return to the Step Trench in order to continue unraveling the puzzles of Hittite history and geography on the Anatolian plateau.



## Area 2: The Northeast Terrace

Excavations on the Byzantine terrace continue to produce evidence of a three-period Byzantine occupation at Çadır Höyük (fig. 5). While the chronological division of the Byzantine era is quite clear, the exact nature of the settlement(s) remains undetermined.

Excavations in the earliest levels (sixth century) produced a variety of religious artifacts that may suggest that the initial use of the area was for a church. The arching nature of construction on the southern extremity of the excavation area lends itself to the belief that a nave once existed there. The middle layer (eighth century) was constructed over the initial building level and often used the same foundations. A later building in the northwest part of the trench that dates from the same period seems to have cut through and replaced some of the earlier church structure, however, and may have signaled a new function for the area. It is in this eighth-century level that we are finding equipment that seems to be related to the care and grooming of horses. The new construction may have something to do with the conversion of the area to that of a farmhouse or palatial grounds for the horse-breeding aristocracy that was known to have lived in this area at the time.



*Figure 5. Aerial view of Byzantine construction on the terrace*



*Figure 6. Long hall after excavation, showing later bench (rear) and wall (foreground)*



*Figure 7. Horse-related materials from the terrace*

For several years we have been excavating in and around a large room that appears to have the central focus of the larger construction (fig. 5). The central room had at least two doorways off its northern side and one off the eastern side that provided entry into a long hall (fig. 6). This hall seems to have been a focal point of the building's east side in the original sixth/seventh-century building; perhaps it was originally some sort of foyer. If one can appeal to the sense of balance in Byzantine construction, one might expect a similar foyer along the opposite side of the building. Whatever the room's original purpose, its doors were blocked in later phases of construction, indicating that the builders were working with the extant floor plan, but they changed the flow in and out of the hall, which indicates a change in function. The ovens found there in 2006 suggest the building had a pyrotechnical function in its latest phase, though that could have been anything from serving as a kitchen to being used as a smelting area. (The fact that slag was found in one of the rooms may point to this latter use.) Beyond that, several metal tools related to stonework or building construction were found in the area in 2006, as well as other items related to a horse-oriented culture that were uncovered there this year (fig. 7). The meaning of these interesting finds is unclear, though they do suggest a more pedestrian use of the area in later times. A final interesting find is a bowl inscribed in Greek; the inscription remains to be translated (fig. 8).

It is important to note that we are also undertaking a magnetometry survey on the Northeast Terrace. Early efforts show hot spots under the surface along with what we presume to be walls. In many cases, these structures align themselves with our already-excavated walls and provide us with important information for developing our 2009 strategy. The geophysical maps should be finished soon and we intend to continue this critical effort in 2009.



*Figure 8. Byzantine pot inscribed in Greek from the Byzantine terrace*

## Area 2b: The Terrace Sounding

Funding sources dictated that we would direct most of the 2008 excavation efforts to the excavation of Byzantine-period remains on the terrace. Nonetheless, a fair amount of time was devoted to cleaning the old 2001 terrace sounding and continuing to document the site's chronology by means of this important test area. Our work initially included straightening the eroded baulks and removing fallen and eroded materials from the bottom of the sounding. By the time we finished cleaning and were prepared to resume our excavation, the sounding had become a 3.0 × 2.2 m rectangle. While most of the pottery initially found in the cleaning was Iron Age in date, we did find a very nice red-polished Old Hittite handle that proved to be a harbinger of things to come.

We were prepared for a lot of work, since we knew that at Alişar the second-millennium remains were about 4 m beneath the surface. We were more fortunate here. The renewed investigation confirmed that we had been on the cusp of the Hittite era when excavation ended in 2001. We only had to dig another 30 cm before reaching a clear Hittite level. What we found, however, was a bit different from what we had expected.

As we renewed our efforts beneath the 2001 installation, the discovery of numerous Hittite period sherds led us to believe that a building level of some sort was near. The soil in this area, however, was moist and clay-like in composition, but with no evidence of building lines or wall foundations. Based on another sounding done on the terrace in 1994 (910.920) we had expected to come down on a stone wall foundation. Instead, we found a 20 cm thick layer of clay-strengthened soil that was peppered with white stones packed into the upper surface of soil (fig. 9). Initial observations suggested we had found either the broad foundation for a

large structure — such as a silo, a pool, or a cistern (such as at Boğazköy) — or some sort of pavement. For now, a synthesis of the evidence leads us to believe that we have discovered a small segment of a (ceremonial) road leading from the outer gate to the Stormgod's temple on the citadel. Possible reference to such a road might be found in Popko's study of the Zippalanda texts, where a procession of cultic participants is noted as being involved in various activities on the way to the temple (Popko 1994: 21, KUB XI 30+ [with duplicate Bo 3496], obv. III 25' ff.); p. 223; p. 207 (Temple way), 163, i.e., KASKAL). The construction method may have been intended to produce a durable paved road surface somewhat more capable of supporting heavier vehicles (such as chariots or carts) than the ordinary earthen roads into which such a vehicle might sink in wetter weather conditions.

Immediately beneath the layer of white stones and clay was a mudbrick construction barely discernible from the soil around it. The



*Figure 9. Sounding with layer of white stones visible in mid-picture and burial below*

floor of this building was 2.35 m below the surface and composed entirely of yellow-brown mudbrick very much like the matrix around it. The floor of the structure was 1.45 m in width with walls extending up on the east and west sides to create an interior room. In fact, there are actually several layers of floors beneath the room's surface and these are cut by a bell-shaped pit into which was placed a burial of some sort (fig. 9). The width of the walls was not clear as they extended into the baulk, but they were clear on both the north and the south sides with later materials lipping up from the floor to the wall.

Based on the discovery of Old Assyrian sherds in the sounding and elsewhere we can assume that there is also a Middle Bronze level somewhere beneath our current levels. No Early Bronze sherds have appeared in the mix so, despite the massive evidence of Early Bronze settlement on the mound, there may not have been an earlier settlement here. Then again, we may be surprised once we get past the Hittite level(s), which could have acted to seal the earlier deposits. There is certainly enough in the way of earlier mudbrick beneath the floor of the Hittite room (above) to accomplish this purpose.

The dating of these features is also of some interest. An initial analysis indicates that the pottery that came from below the layer of white stones and clay is Middle or Old Hittite, while the pottery above the stones appears to be later, presumably from the Hittite Empire period. Thus, the evidence so far indicates that the layer of white stones belongs to the Hittite Empire period, while the lower Hittite room is from the Middle/Old Hittite period. It also illustrates a period of renovation in the later era, perhaps related to the construction of the Middle Hittite wall F 1 on the citadel (Gorny 2006). The burial below the Hittite room must also be from the Middle/Old Hittite period, though the mudbrick matrix into which it was dug must belong to an earlier period. Pottery suggests either the Old Hittite or Old Assyrian periods, but is in no way definitive.

### **Area 3: The Lower South Slope**

In 2008 we continued to push the excavation of the Chalcolithic period town farther to the west. The result of that project was the discovery of a large mudbrick construction of uncertain purpose (fig. 10). The structure was composed of various walls and surfaces, which currently do not make a lot of sense. Since they are located only about 20 m from our earlier gate and enclosure wall, we thought that it might be a continuation of that whole complex. It later became clear that, despite the similarities in construction and proximity in space, the structures were from different periods.

In 1994, we uncovered the first portions of the Chalcolithic enclosure wall on the south slope of the mound. It was evident almost from the first, however, that the enclosure wall had been cut in some later period by subsequent settlers. In 2006 we discovered the enclosure wall had been cut by people who constructed a small mudbrick building (so-called H-House people) in the cut (fig. 11) (see Steadman et al. 2008a; 2008b). We were excited when the new excavations produced the foundation of a large stone wall leading to the mudbrick construction (fig. 12). At first we thought that the mudbrick construction belonged to the Chalcolithic gate complex, but then we realized that the mudbrick H-House was under the facing wall of the "new" enclosure wall that goes with the large mudbrick construction (fig. 13). In other words, the H-House is earlier than the wall, not later. Because of that, we now believe that there was not one, but two, enclosure walls, one built during the Chalcolithic period and one during the Early Bronze I. The first clue to this possible scenario was that the alignment of the stones



*Figure 10. Large mudbrick construction in Lower South Trench*



*Figure 11. Transitional Chalcolithic–Early Bronze I building*



*Figure 12. Stone wall leading to the large mudbrick construction*



*Figure 13. Early Bronze I "enclosure wall" showing packing and wall's mudbrick "casemate"*

associated with the Early Bronze I enclosure wall are on a different orientation than the earlier Chalcolithic enclosure wall. The Early Bronze I wall is oriented toward the spot where the late blockage of the Chalcolithic gate occurred, presumably in the Early Bronze I, period as indicated by the pottery (Gorny et al. 2002: 14, 132, fig. 9). The orientation of the Chalcolithic enclosure wall was slightly different, being set a little farther south. Mudbrick now appearing under and to the east of the long north–south mudbrick structure may be part of the mudbrick superstructure of the Chalcolithic enclosure wall. The burned room beneath and to the west of the mudbrick structure seems to be contemporary with the so-called “burned room” found in 2001 (Gorny et al. 2002: 113) and may well provide graphic evidence of the destruction that made a new enclosure wall necessary. This conflagration could also correspond to burning around the Chalcolithic gate and suggest more than a local destruction, as was posited in earlier theories (Steadman et al. 2008a; 2008b). Within this scenario we can better see how the H-House might have fit in. We know that the Chalcolithic enclosure wall was clearly cut by Early Bronze I inhabitants who constructed a small wattle-and-daub home in the place they cut the wall. Soon afterward, however, the building was built over by the people who built the Early Bronze I structure we are currently investigating. I believe that this later mudbrick



*Figure 14. Chalcolithic pottery vessel from under the large mudbrick construction*



*Figure 15. Early Bronze I pottery from large mudbrick construction*



*Figure 16. Early Bronze I cups from large mudbrick construction*

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structure is an Early Bronze I enclosure wall that may also display a gate or tower within its construction. Of special note are the many interesting examples of Chalcolithic and Early Bronze pottery associated with this larger structure (figs. 14–16).

#### Area 4: The Citadel

We undertook one project in 2008 that involved the citadel. This entailed an examination of the Byzantine wall foundations at the top of the Eastern Step Trench, in square 800.910. We had already noted the striated lenses of soil under the wall (fig 17a) and had wondered about their date. To the east of the striations there is a small wall jutting out of the mound that we have determined is Byzantine. The wall is set in a foundation trench that cuts the striations. By taking down the top levels of these striated soil lenses we were able to determine that the various



*Figure 17a–b. Striated Hellenistic lenses from (a) the Upper South Trench and (b) the East Trench*



striated lenses dated to the Hellenistic period. These lenses of soil may represent a widespread filling or leveling of the site, as they also appear in the same stratigraphic position in the Upper South Trench (fig. 17b) (Gorny 2007: 26, fig 13). This probably indicates that the three documented levels of Byzantine settlement on both the terrace and the mound are all we will find. The questions remain, however, what was happening at Cadır Höyük between the Hellenistic and Byzantine periods. Is there a Roman settlement to be found anywhere on the mound?

### Area 5: The Upper South Trench



a

In the 2008 season we continued to sort out the complexities of the Iron Age settlement. Our primary accomplishment in the Upper South Trench was to unearth the eastern pier of a Late Iron Age gate connected to a fortification wall (fig. 18a). The western pier was unearthed in 2005 (fig. 18b) (Gorny 2006: 15, fig. 4). The gate and associated wall seem to be contemporary with the Iron Age wall on the north slope of Çadır Höyük, and probably form part of that period's defensive system. Also found inside the eastern pier was a second, flimsier mudbrick wall that is a little later than the eastern pier and seems to represent a narrowing of the original gate during the Late Iron or Hellenistic period. This also corresponds to a narrowing of the western pier that was recorded in 2005 (Gorny 2006: 15, fig. 4). The area was also heavily pitted,

*Figure 18a–b. The (a) Eastern (2008) and (b) Western (2005) piers of the Late Iron Age gate*



b

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which would explain why there is a good amount of Early Iron/Dark Age pottery coming up in that area.

It should also be noted that the Late Iron Age wall cut through another wall while being constructed. It is not clear just how old this wall is, but in any case, the Late Iron Age structure apparently “robbed out” the Middle Iron period level during its construction. This explains why there was no real Middle Iron level beneath this pier.

Just below the Late Iron walls was a curved wall that appears to be of Middle Iron Age date. We expected to encounter a second Middle Iron Age wall, but the architecture associated with the curved wall stood there instead. Again, the area was probably gutted during the



*Figure 21. Example of Dark Age pottery from the Upper South Trench*

*Figure 19. Middle Iron Age stag ware from the Upper South Trench*

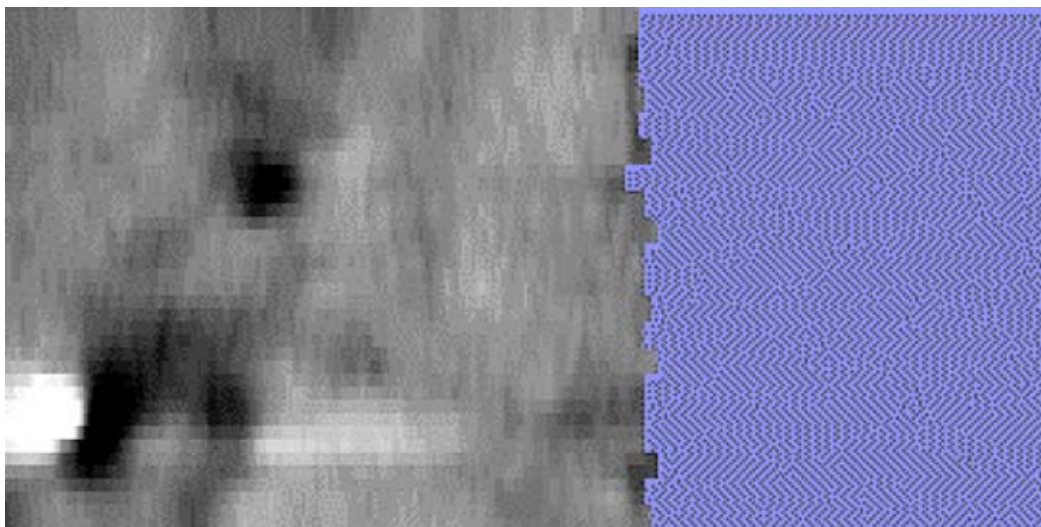


*Figure 20. Iron Age pot found in the Upper South Trench*

construction of the Late Iron Age gate. This level is dated clearly by several pieces of Iron Age “stag ware” (fig. 19), as well as other Middle Iron Age sherds (fig. 20) and was composed of hardened mudbrick that covered the remainder of an early Iron “Dark Age” building first exposed in 2006. Additional examples of Dark Age pottery were revealed (fig. 21; see Genz 2001 for description). We ceased excavation just above the Dark Age structure from 2006; we will continue our exploration of it next season.

### Area 6: The North Trench

The only work on the north slope consisted of a brief magnetometry survey at the bottom, where we believe there may be a gate, staircase, or glaci reminiscent of the Boğazköy glaci at the Sphinx Gate. The Zippalanda texts indicate that a lower gate exists at the base of the citadel through which the king entered and exited the temple area. Unfortunately, time was limited so the sample was small; only a 10 × 10 m square was set up across what seems to be the edge of the construction zone. Nonetheless, the results of the magnetometry sample show a large anomaly that appears to be a wall, perhaps with casemates (fig. 22). This suggests that we may be looking at the Lower Gate of Zippalanda, or at least its lower fortification wall. We intend to continue work in this area in 2009.



*Figure 22. Magnetometry printout showing large construction at base of citadel*

### Area 7: Çaltepe

Exploratory excavations were begun on Çaltepe in the hopes of finding evidence that might link that height to the Mt. Daha of the Hittite Zippalanda texts. Unfortunately, there was to be no quick resolution to that problem. We had hoped that there would not be much overburden and that the walls of the compound at the top of the mountain were Hittite in origin. While we were able to identify Hittite pottery from the sounding, it is now clear that a later use of the mountain may well mask its earlier cultic use by the Hittites.

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We began the Çaltepe sounding near the exterior wall on the north side of the compound (fig. 23). The square is near the conjunction of the north and east walls. The sounding began as a 3 × 3 m exploration of what we hoped would be an interior corner of a temple complex, perhaps near the *adyton*. The hope was that, since this spot overlooks the mound below, it might provide cultural materials from people taking advantage of the view for their religious rites. We had also considered a more central trench on the high point of the compound, but decided against that because the topography seemed to predict a heavier overburden in that area.

In the end, the sounding reached a depth of one meter and produced primarily a very hard mudbrick detritus. Small amounts of pottery were found in the mix, but it was mostly Byzantine with a scattering of earlier Hittite sherds. Thus, while we were unable to locate the Hittite loci, we were able to confirm its use by the Hittites in the second millennium. Although success eluded us in our first attempt to locate the center of Hittite cultic activity on Çaltepe, we are encouraged by the results and intend to try again in 2009.



*Figure 23. Beginning the sounding on Çaltepe, with the heights of Kerkenes Dağ in the background*

## Final Observations

The 2008 season was successful on many fronts. Not only were we able to delineate more levels of the second millennium, add more examples to the ceramic corpus, and further document the transition from Hittite Empire into the so-called “Dark Age,” but we also made strides toward gaining a better understanding of both the Byzantine and Chalcolithic settlements. Çadır Höyük continues to express an amazingly complicated and very fertile nature.

As we noted, progress was made in many areas other than actual excavation. We continue to work on the infrastructure of the excavation house with the addition of a new depot. Beyond that, various team members published articles in *Anatolian Studies*, the *Journal of Field Archaeology*, and the *Oriental Institute Annual Report*. In particular, progress was made by Ben Arbuckle (2009) in analyzing the backlog of faunal materials that have accumulated in the project depot. Of some note in this respect is his observation that the remains of animals in the Byzantine pen on the citadel almost certainly represent a catastrophic death event, much as had been projected in our earlier analysis (Gorny 2004: 20). This would buttress our contention that the Byzantine-period settlement was actually a *kastron* (Gorny 2006: 14). Arbuckle will publish his work in the upcoming *Anatolica* issue, along with an analysis of the Byzantine settlement by Marica Cassis. Jeff Geyer also made significant progress in cataloging and understanding Çadır Höyük's lithic inventory. His work will appear in *Anatolica* in two years. Additionally, Bruce Verhaaren began a geophysical survey of the terrace that promises to produce even greater amounts of data for analysis. Last but not least, more students were introduced to the discipline of archaeological fieldwork, and our Turkish workers gained new experience in the subtleties of archaeological field excavation. All these advances bode well for the future and help guarantee future successes at the site of Çadır Höyük-Zippalanda.

In summary, the dominating nature of the materials at Çadır Höyük continues to impress us with a strong sense of the importance this mound must have had to the Hittites during the second millennium. The remains are consistent with what we know of Hittite-era Zippalanda, though they do inspire new questions about the pre-Hittite existence of the site. Nonetheless, the probability that Çadır Höyük is to be equated with Zippalanda increases with every shovelful of dirt taken from the site. For that reason, future seasons will focus increasing amounts of time, money, and energy on documenting and explaining the second-millennium remains. It is hoped the literary evidence confirming our hypothesis will come to light in ensuing seasons of work. In the meantime, however, we continue to explore the diachronic impact of this amazing site on the social, political, and religious development of central Anatolia. Çadır Höyük remains one of the most significant excavated sites in Turkey.

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