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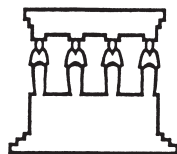
INVESTIGATIONS IN THE SANCTUARY OF ATHENA ALEA 1990–94 AND 2004

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Chiara Tarditi:
THE EXCAVATION IN THE NORTHERN SECTOR:
CLASSICAL AND PRE-CLASSICAL LAYERS

Introduction

The purpose of the excavation in this sector was to investigate the area north of the Classical temple. This was considered to be particularly important in the life of the sanctuary because of the presence of the fountain, of two monumental bases and of the ramp or platform, of unclear function,¹ located in the middle of the northern flank of the temple. The trench was aligned with this projection, to see if it was directed toward some monument in the northern area. (See the plan *Fig. 1*)

The research in this sector concerned only some areas, where the excavation was carried out with different methods adapted to the different contexts, but in the grid squares C6, C7, D7, E6 and E7 a stratigraphical excavation was applied over the entire area.²

The square D6 coincides with one of the soundings made in 1976–77 by the Greek ephorate, directed by Dr G. Steinhauer. He excavated in the northern sector five square trenches of 5 × 5 m and two half-squares of 5 × 2.50 m, most of them only partially;³ only in square D6 was the excavation carried down to what was considered virgin soil. When we started our excavation, the area of square D6 was completely filled with shrubs and earth that had been deposited over the years. We removed the debris, cleaned the trench-walls and the bottom of the trench, and drew and photographed some of the visible sections; the documentation is presented on *Figs 6* and *36–37*.⁴

In square D5 we recognized and re-excavated the trench created by the French archaeologists in the early 20th century, bringing to light two monument bases north of the temple.

First period: The construction of the Classical temple (second half of the 4th century B.C.)⁵

Grid squares C5, D5: The monument bases

The French excavations early in the 20th century revealed the presence of two monument bases in the area north of the Classical temple; they were discovered by the French mission while excavating a trench west of the monumental well which had been identified a few years earlier by G. Mendel.⁶

This trench, stretching east–west and large about 2.5 × 10 m, was located in the northern part of squares C5, D5 and E5. Only in the area between the two bases did the excavation go deeper, arriving at a level of – 2.60 m below the 0 level,⁷ with a surface of pebbles regarded by Dugas as the virgin soil.

In 1976–77 the Greek ephorate also undertook excavations in the grid squares C5 and E5. In C5 they stopped immediately under the euthynteria of the eastern base, while in E5 they continued 0.50–0.60 m deeper.

¹ See section **xvi** (Østby), 340–1.

² In the first two squares the excavation was directed by Prof. J.-M. Luce, in the others by the author. I wish to thank Prof. E. Østby for inviting me to direct the excavation in this part of the northern sector. In 1993 another group, directed by Dr K. Ødegård, excavated in the squares C-D 9-10; see section **v** (Ødegård). See also section **vi** (Tarditi) for a limited excavation in 2004 in the squares C-D 8-9 connecting the two trenches, directed by this author.

³ In areas corresponding to the grid squares 0A5, A5, C5, E5, B7, 0A9 of the new topographical system set up at the beginning of our research (explained in the introduction, p. 9). See *ibid.*, 1, and Voyatzis, *Sanctuary*, 24–5, for the only information so far published on this excavation.

⁴ See the introduction (Østby), 1 with *Figs 2–3*.

⁵ Unless otherwise indicated, all dates in this section are B.C.

⁶ For earlier investigations here, see K.A. Rhomaios, “Ἐργασίαι ἐν Τεγέῃ,” *Prakt* 1909, 309–10; Dugas, *Sanctuaire*, 338–9; Dugas *et al.*, *Tégée*, 69–72. The well was first correctly identified and connected with a passage in Pausanias by G. Mendel, “Fouilles de Tégée,” *BCH* 25, 1901, 245–6; but he did not excavate in the northern sector. For the well, see section **i** (Østby), 16–8.

⁷ All the levels in the text are calculated from a 0 level, defined as the surface of the euthynteria as preserved on a few blocks still *in situ* on the southern flank of the Classical temple. See the introduction, p. 9.

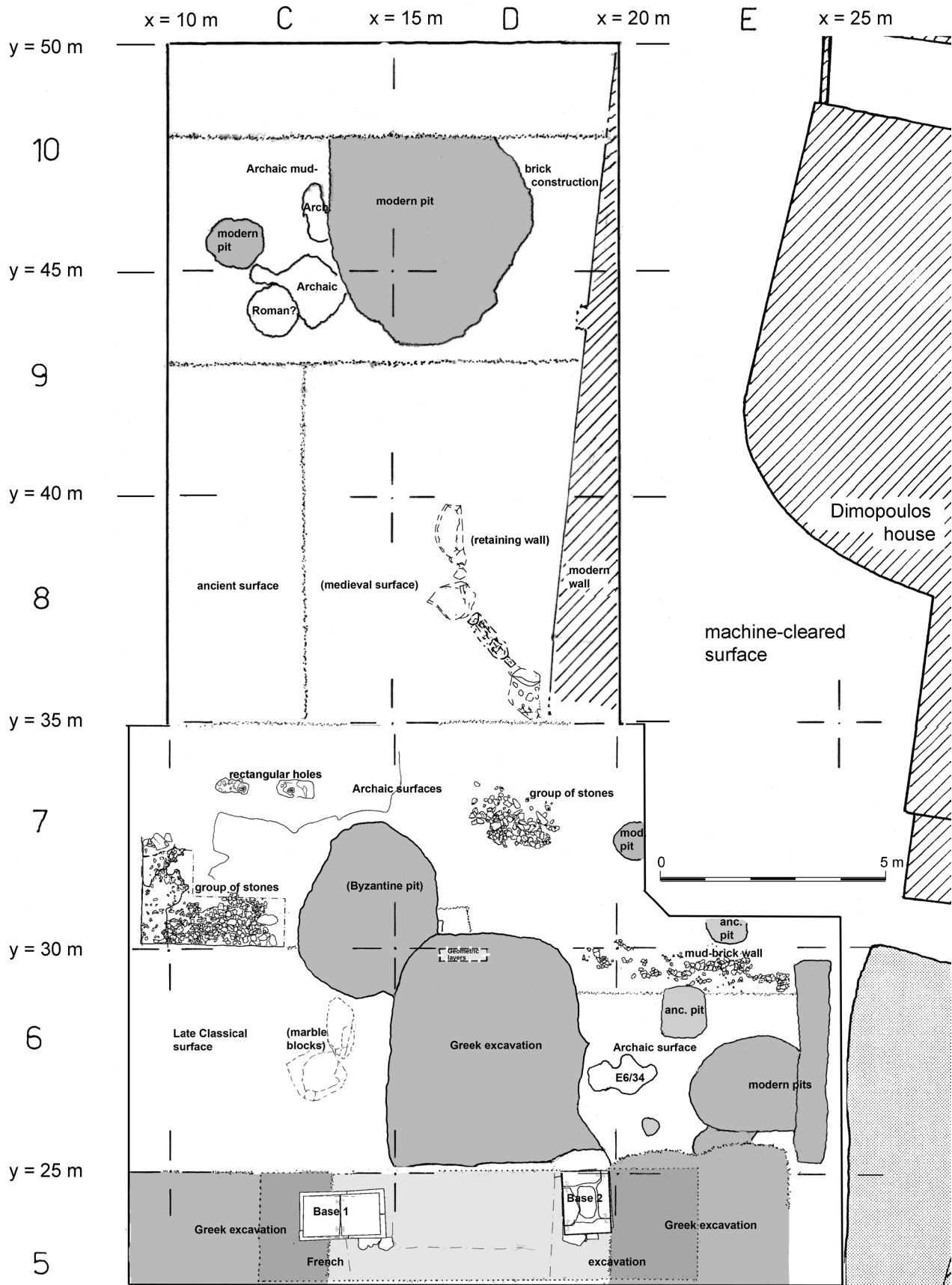


Figure 1. General plan of the ancient layers in the northern sector of the excavation, generally indicating features of the lowest layers that were reached. Later features (in parentheses) are discussed in other sections. Scale 1 : 125. (Prepared by E. Østby)



Figure 2. General view of the excavation in square D5; Base 2 in the front, Base 1 in the background. The deeper trench unit D5/01 is seen between the bases. (Photo: Tarditi)

We concentrated our excavation in square D5, where we recognized the cut of the French trench and completely removed its backfill in order to examine the stratigraphy of the trench walls and document it. (Fig. 2)

The two monument bases discovered by the French mission⁸ are located about 11 m north of the temple. They are made of blocks of local marble, and are parallel to the northern flank of the temple, but at a considerably lower level: – 1.21 (Base 1) to – 1.24 m (Base 2) below the 0 level, for the upper surface of the blocks that functioned as euthynteria. (Figs 2, 4)

The remains of the larger western Base 1 (1.11 × 1.93 m⁹), in the north-east corner of square C5, consist of a lower course of four blocks of Doliana marble, on which rests an upper course of two larger blocks. These were originally connected by two T-shaped metal dowels, no longer extant. Their upper surface is finished only on the rim, the rest has been left coarse, which indicates that originally there was a third course of marble blocks upon it. (Fig. 4)

The smaller eastern Base 2 (1.06 × 1.42 m¹⁰), located in the north-east corner of square D5, is constructed on a foundation or euthynteria course of irregular blocks of local Doliana marble, which support four blocks of the same marble. These blocks are regular on the outside, but irregularly finished on the inside. They were connected with four Z-shaped metal dowels, three of which are preserved, with remains of the original lead casing. In the centre of this upper course the blocks surround an irregular block of conglomerate.¹¹ (Figs 4, 12)

⁸ Dugas *et al.*, *Tégée*, 71–2, figs 28–29. For these bases, see also section i (Østby), 20–2 with Figs 8–9 and the drawing Fig. 10.

⁹ 1.10 m wide and 1.97 m long (the upper blocks: 0.945 × 1.75 m) according to the drawing Dugas *et al.*, *Tégée*, 71 fig. 28.

¹⁰ Slightly different measurements in Dugas *et al.*, *Tégée*, 72, fig. 29: 1.03 × 1.37 m.

¹¹ In Dugas *et al.*, *Tégée*, 71–2, it is stated that there was only one slab



Figure 3. The southern wall of the trench in square D5: the pebbled surface in unit D5/01 is seen below to the right, with the layer of black soil in the trench wall above it. (Photo: Tarditi)

The base originally had at least one additional, upper course, as indicated by the coarsely finished surface of the marble blocks, which have been smoothly polished only on the visible, external rim, and by the irregular inner outlines of the blocks. This upper course also covered the conglomerate block in the centre.

The Z- and double T-shaped bronze dowels support a Classical date for the two monuments, and suggest a date in the late 4th century, contemporary with the temple.¹²

An exhaustive, original documentation did not exist for either of these bases or for the limits of the stratigraphy of the French trench. By re-excavating the northern part of grid square D5 it was possible for us to recognize the

with an empty space in the centre. This is clearly a misunderstanding, based on faulty information; the four joining marble blocks and the central conglomerate block (but not the dowels) are shown in the drawing *ibid.*, fig. 29.

¹² For these types of dowels, see e.g. R. Martin, *Manuel d'architecture grecque I, Matériaux et techniques*, Paris 1965, 260–73; A.K. Orlandos, *Les matériaux de construction et la technique architecturale des anciens Grecs II*, Paris 1968, 105–9. The Z-dowels are rare after the mid-5th century, but can be found until the end of the 4th; the double-T dowels continue until Hellenistic times. For the date of the temple, see section xvi (Østby), 341–6.

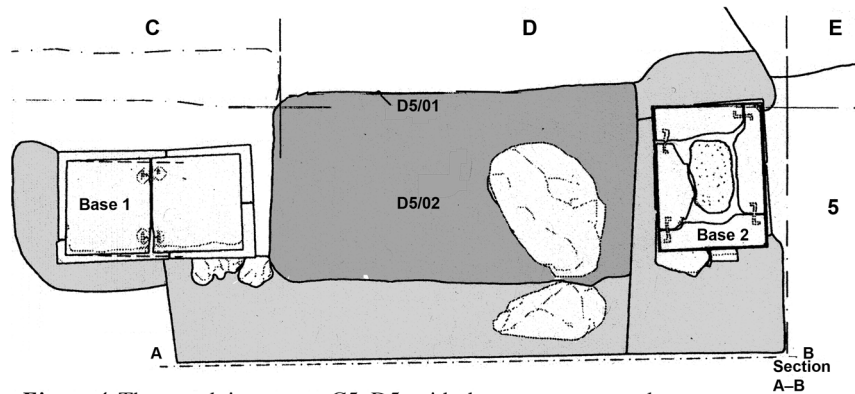


Figure 4. The trench in squares C5–D5, with the two monument bases.
Scale 1 : 75. (Drawing: N. Masturzo)

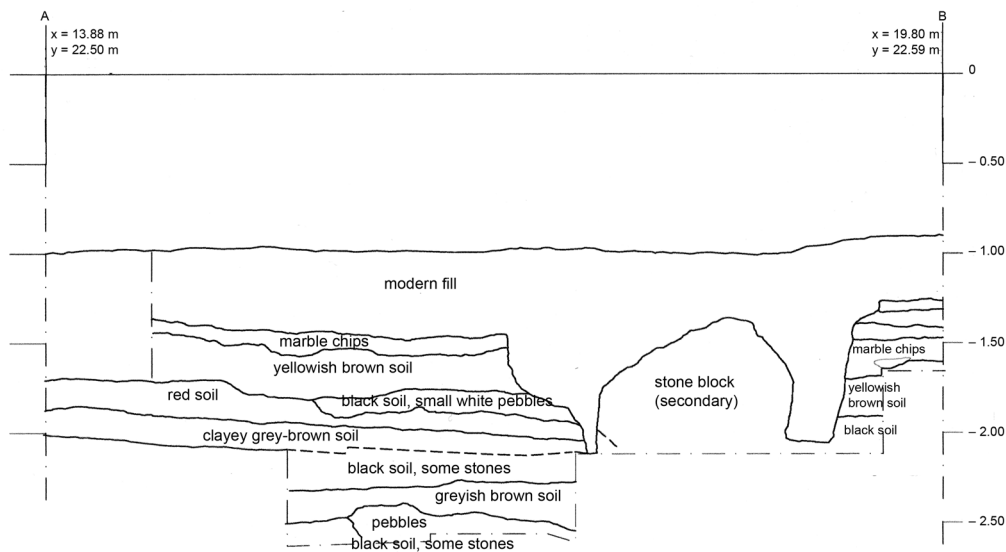


Figure 5. Section drawing of the southern trench walls in D5. The upper part is the section A-B as indicated in *Fig. 4*, the lower, narrower part is from the south wall of unit D5/01. Scale 1 : 50. Drawing: N. Masturzo, texted by E. Østby)

precise limits of that trench, to document the stratigraphy in its side wall, and to draw the two bases. (*Figs 3–5*)

After removing the surface layer of humus (D5/00) it was possible to recognize a regular, rectangular cut between the bases, which we interpreted as the old trench called “Couche A” in the French publications.¹³ It stretched into the adjoining squares C5 and E5, where the excavation had stopped immediately below the level of the euthynteriae of the bases; in the area between them (D5/01: ca. 3.60 × 2.60 m) it had been continued until the level – 2.60.¹⁴

The trench was filled with only one earth layer (called D5/02), quite homogeneous in appearance, of loose consistency and dark brown in colour; it looked very mixed and contained several small bronze objects. The

¹³ Dugas, *Sanctuaire*, 338–9. This is properly understood as a group of objects found in the black layer, at 2.80 m depth and 0.45 m thick, with coarse pottery and some bronze objects to which he assigns a Geometric or possibly even a Mycenaean date. Those objects cannot now be identified.

¹⁴ Dugas, *Sanctuaire*, 338 (3.25 m “sous le niveau actuel”, probably to be understood as the level of the modern surface at his time).

character of the layer and the presence of these objects demonstrate that it represents the backfill that was thrown into the trench at the end of the excavation, in a hurry and without taking care to retrieve the small objects mixed with the earth.

We too stopped our excavation at the level – 2.60, when the surface of small pebbles appeared; above this it was possible to see in the section a layer of fat black soil, with many sherds. This layer is probably identical to one mentioned by Dugas in his description of this trench; he believed that he had reached virgin soil when he brought to light a pebbled surface under a layer of black earth.¹⁵ This pebbled layer is also visible in the trench walls of square D6 (s.u. D6/16; see *Fig. 6*) and there we also identified the sterile layer immediately below it (D6/17).

After a complete graphic and photographic documentation, we backfilled the trench to the euthynteria level of

¹⁵ Both this and the black earth above it were identified also in his other trenches, B and C: Dugas, *Sanctuaire*, 337–8. For a discussion of the black layer, see *Tegea I*, section i (Østby), 49.

the two bases in order to keep them stable, and consolidated the metal dowels of the eastern base with a coating of paraloid.

Our excavation confirmed that the stratigraphy as reported in Dugas' description was essentially correct.¹⁶ It was also possible to observe that under the two bases a layer that was characterized by a great quantity of marble chips, and visible in the trench walls of the adjoining grid square D6 (s.u. D6/05) and in the other sectors where we excavated, continued without interruption. The position of this layer immediately underneath the bases implies a date before their date of construction, which is, as we have seen, the Late Classical period.

*The "Couche A" trench: descriptions of the stratigraphical units*¹⁷

D5/00: humus. Covers D5/01 and /02. **Finds:** lead wreath LdN 32.

D5/01: cutting of rectangular shape, created during the French excavations that brought to light the two monument bases. Covered by D5/00; filled by D5/02. Dimensions 3.60 × 2.60 m, 0.98 m deep; top level – 1.54.

D5/02: fill of the cutting D5/01, probably made at the end of the French excavation, when soil mixed with many small finds no longer connected with their original context was dumped here. Dark brown, loose soil. Covered by D5/00, fills D5/01. 0.98 m deep, top level – 1.54. **Finds:** many bronze objects, few sherds: bronze pins BrN-P 4 (Early Helladic), 24, 29, 31, 32, 39; bronze rings BrN-R 22, 32, 33, 37, 44–46, 60, 67, 71, 79; bronze earring BrN-Ea 5; bronze bead BrN-Be 5; bronze sheet BrN-Sh 4; bronze pendent BrN-Pd 3; fragment of bronze bowl BrN-V 6; iron disc IrN 6; lead wreath LdN 39. Human bones Sk 6.

Based on the graphic documentation of the profile sections visible in the trench walls (*Fig. 5*) it was possible to observe how the stratification was structured in this area. When comparing them with the stratigraphy visible in the other parts of the excavation, particularly in the grid squares D6 (the trench opened by Dr Steinhauer) and D7, a natural upward slope from north to south is recognizable. South of the bases, toward the temple, the slope becomes stronger, but not strong enough to reach the euthyteria level of the projecting foundation from the northern flank of the temple. The implications of this are discussed elsewhere (section **xvi** (Østby), 340–1).

¹⁶ Apart from the fact that the pebbled layer is not the virgin soil; see below.

¹⁷ In accordance with the archaeological documentation system used in Italy, we define as a "stratigraphical unit" (abbreviated "s.u.", plural "ss.uu.") every element and action documented during the excavation, without any formal distinction between soil layers, structures, cuts, etc. Since we excavated in several grid squares, the same stratigraphical unit could receive more than one name when it was present in different squares.

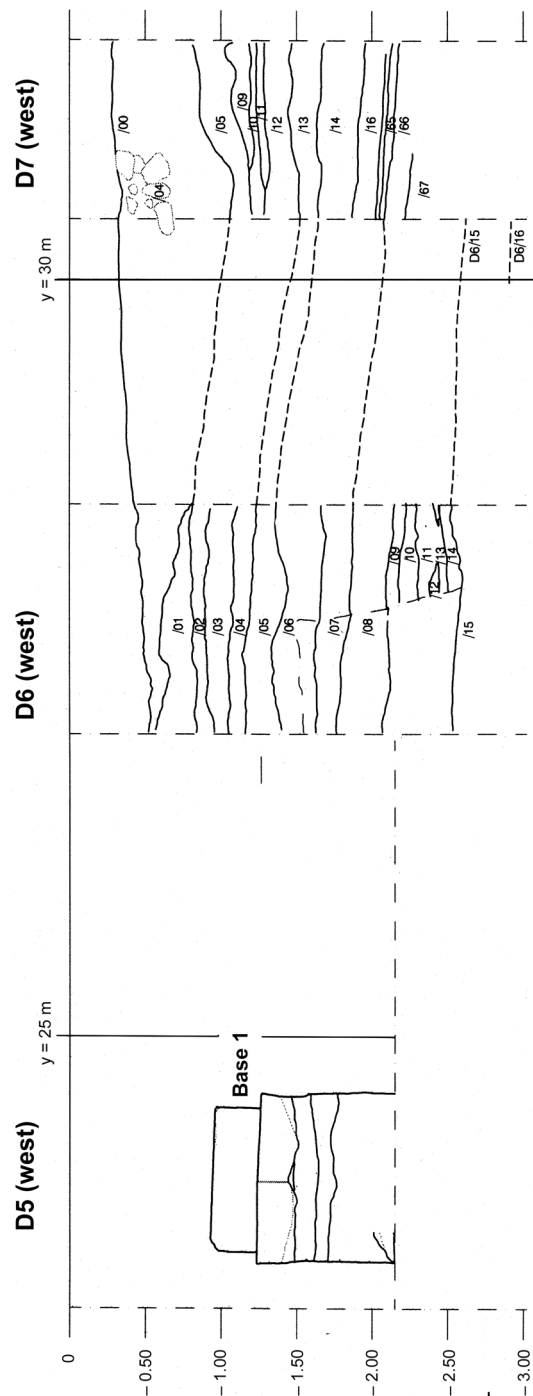


Figure 6. Section drawing across Base 1 in square D5 and of the western trench walls (at x = 15 m) in squares D6 and D7. Scale 1 : 50. (Drawing: N. Masturzo)

Grid squares C6, C7, D7, E6, E7: the layer with the marble chips

All over the investigated area the excavation uncovered a thick layer characterized by a great quantity of marble chips, of small and medium dimensions, with no traces of working. (See the plan, *Fig. 7*, and the overview photo *Fig. 13*) The layer is horizontal, with small irregularities



Figure 7. Structures and units in the layers with marble chips. Scale 1 : 100. (Drawing: E. Østby, after drawings by N. Masturzo)

in thickness, and follows the slope from south to north. The soil is quite compact, of light brown colour. (Fig. 8)

The marble chips, which are mostly positioned horizontally, did not create a compact or easily recognizable walking surface. The chips were always well mixed with the soil. The most recent sherds found inside the layer cannot be dated later than the Late Classical or the beginning of the Hellenistic period, so that the formation of the layer can be fixed at the end of the 4th century.¹⁸ On the surface of this layer (E7/18), identified only as the transition to a different layer above, we recovered a few finds connected with the long period when the surface was used, after the end of the 4th century until the end of antiquity. One exceptional find, the tooth of a lion, came forth from this surface.¹⁹ (Fig. 9) Some material was also found inside the upper parts of the unit D7/13 (D7/13a–b); D7/13b, with the units E7/17 – /18 and

C7/54, could have accumulated during the Late Roman period, while D7/13a, with E7/13 – /14 and C7/44 and /46, is from the period when the temple was destroyed and material from it reused.²⁰

The chips are of Doliana marble, the same material used in the Late Classical temple: the lentiform shape and the relatively small dimensions of most of the chips seem to indicate that they are production debris. The great quantity of these marble chips is the most peculiar element of the layer, and its wide extension all over the investigated area indicates that these chips are

¹⁸ The important pieces are the glass fragment **GIN 9** (Classical or Hellenistic; see section ix, Voyatzis, 242), and the sherds **CN-HR 4, 6, 8, 13**, which all date to the end of the 4th or the beginning of the 3rd century: see section viii (Iozzo), 147–50.

¹⁹ Inv. no. 3452; not catalogued. It was identified for us by Professor F. Poplin, Paris.

²⁰ Important are the sherds of the Hellenistic relief skyphos **CN-HR 3** from the 2nd century, found in the ss.uu. E6/12 and E7/17, and **CN-HR 17**, Late Hellenistic or Roman, from D7/13b; and the lamp fragment **TcN 75**, a 3rd-century type, from E7/13. (See sections viii, Iozzo, 147 and 151, and ix, Voyatzis, 236) Fragments of transparent glass from the Roman Imperial period were also found. Marble fragments with secondary traces of working indicate that D7/13a and perhaps also D7/13b, and the connected units, remained open and received new material as late as the destruction of the temple after the end of Antiquity. See Figs 8 and 10. The same layers were recognized in the excavation further north, but thinner and with clearer surfaces: see sections v (Ødegård), 89 (unit C9-C10/07), and vi (Tarditi), 104–6 (ss. uu. C-D 8-9/35 – /36); and section iii (Luce), 54, for D7/13a and the connected units.

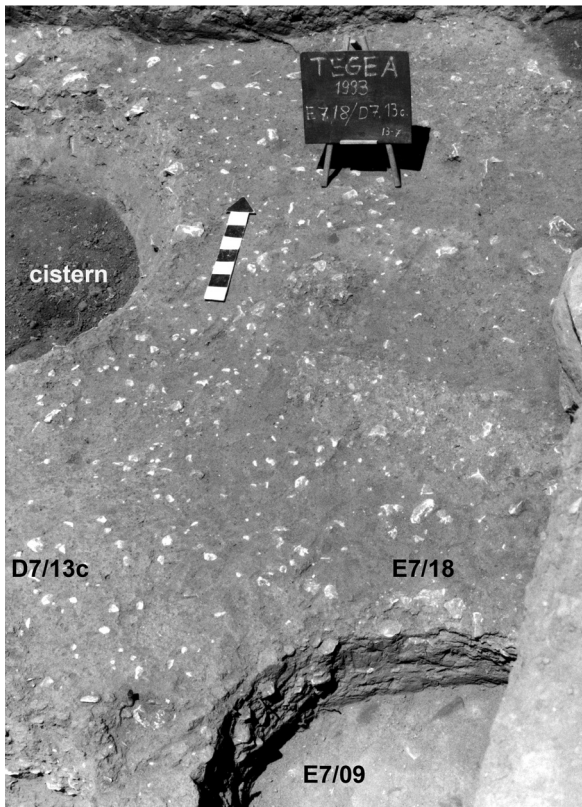


Figure 8. Surface of the marble chips layer, units E7/18 and D7/13c. The pit E7/09 is modern. (Photo: Tarditi)

the remains of a work of great dimensions. The date of the sherds connected with the layer, and the presence of this layer under the two monument bases in square D5, suggest that the formation of the layer was connected with the construction of the Late Classical temple; the marble chips can then be explained as refuse material from the final work on the marble blocks used for the construction of the Classical temple (such as the carving of the column flutes). The material from this process was distributed all over the area north of the temple, either because this was the place where the carving took place, or because it was an open area which could easily receive this great quantity of debris. The same material may also have been useful for filling up and levelling the surface. We could observe that the layer became thicker towards the north: the chips and marble fragments were probably thrown here in order to reduce the considerable natural slope that originally ran from south to north and from west to east.²¹

From this layer we collected a large quantity of sherds and metal fragments that were datable to earlier periods (Geometric, Orientalizing and Archaic fine pottery, Geometric and Orientalizing bronze pin fragments, fragments of Orientalizing lead figurines). The great quantity of these clearly votive objects, found mixed with later materials and with the marble chips derived from the carving of the blocks of the Classical temple,

²¹ This layer has also been identified further north, as a surface in squares C-D 8-9, and as a layer in squares C-D 9-10, where it was much thinner. See last note.



Figure 9. The tooth of a lion from unit E7/18, inv. no. 3452. (Photo: E. Østby)

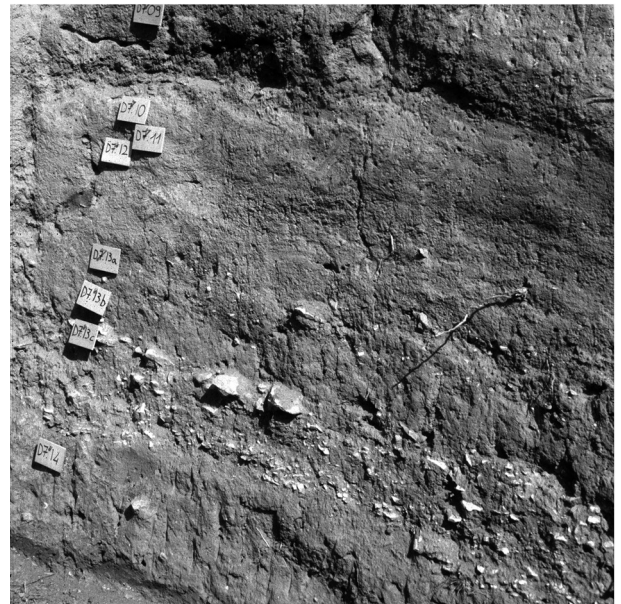


Figure 10. Detail of the stratigraphy in the northern trench wall of square D7, with the layers D7/13a-c and /14. (Photo: Tarditi)

can be explained as follows: the soil that was excavated from the trenches was used for the foundation of the same temple for the fill of the layer. This soil contained early votive objects which were discarded together with materials from the building process.

Layer with the marble chips: descriptions of the stratigraphical units

D7/13c, E6/12,²² E7/19 (with the surface **E7/18**); layer of compact, reddish brown soil, with a great quantity of marble chips of lentiform shape. Covered by D7/13b, E6/07, E7/13 - /14; covers D7/14a, E6/17 - /18 and E7/20. E6/12 fills the pit E6/25. From min. 0.09 to max. 0.28 m thick; level of the top from - 1.39 (south side) to - 1.67 (north side).

²² The upper parts of E6/12 include late material, and the unit was probably the result of a long process of accumulation similar to D7/13; but a distinction of separate phases, as was done for D7/13 (see note 20), could not be made here.

Finds: fine pottery fragments, painted (101 frgs; catalogued: CN-Arch 29, CN-CI 2, 3, 19–21, 24, 26, 29, 30, 33, 44, CN-HR 3, 5, 8, 13, 18; miniature pottery CN-MinIII 1–3, 7, 8, 29, 41, 57) and unpainted (60 frgs); tiles (239 frgs); terracotta (50 g mud-brick); plaster (80 g); bronze objects; a few fragments of bones and charcoal. Bronze pins BrN-P 2 (Early Helladic), 46, 50; bronze rings BrN-R 13, 36, 99; bronze dish BrN-Di 5; bronze pendants BrN-Pd 5, 10; coin-like bronze disc with an A incised, Co 15; lead wreath LdN 37; lead ring LdN 54; fragments of terracotta figurine TcN 42, of terracotta lamp TcN 75; 2 fragments of Archaic terracotta simae ArchN-Tc 5–6. **Date:** late 4th c. (black-glazed pottery, shapes of late 4th to beginning of 3rd c., CN-HR 8 (fig. of over-painted kantharos), 13 (fig. of black-glazed squat lekythos)).

E7/23: dark brown soil mixed with some marble chips, small stones and a substantial quantity of sherds. Covered by E7/19, covers E7/29; level of the top – 1.54. **Finds:** fragments of fine pottery, black-glazed (79 frgs; catalogued: CN-CI 22, 27 (a sherd from this also in E7/26), 28, 46; CN-HR 1–2) and unpainted (11 frgs); coarse pottery of small and medium dimensions (6 frgs); 1 fragment of vitreous pottery slag; terracotta fragments; mud-bricks (2,590 g). BrN-V 21, bronze shaft with inscription IEPA; 1 bronze fragment; terracotta object TcN 73 (= CN-MinIII 37); very small bone fragments. **Date:** end of 4th c. (black-glazed pottery frgs: 2 frgs of skyphoi, CN-HR 1–2; 1 frg. of a kylix, CN-CI 22).

C7/52, /54: layer of compact (C7/52) or soft (C7/54) brown soil, with stones, pebbles, and many marble chips. Covered by C7/46, covers C7/71; 0.05–0.07 m thick. **Finds:** fine pottery fragments, painted (146 frgs; catalogued: CN-Arch 1; CN-CI 11, 12, 42, 50, 53; CN-HR 6; miniature, CN-MinIII 31) and unpainted (312 frgs); a few small bone fragments, bronze objects and a few lead objects. Bronze pins BrN-P 3 (Early Helladic), 76, 93; bronze ring and ribbon BrN-Mi 1, bronze fragments (possibly from a vessel) BrN-Mi 4; lead ring LdN 57; bone double-axe BoN 1; Archaic geison tile ArchN-Tc 1. **Date:** late 4th c. (black-glazed pottery of late 4th to early 3rd c.; CN-HR 6, frg. of a black-glazed mug, shape of late 4th to beginning of 3rd c.).

C6-C7/67a: layer of brown-beige soil, hard, with many lentiform marble chips. Covered by C6/46 and /50, covers C6/106; 0.10–0.15 m thick. **Finds:** fine pottery fragments, painted (126 frgs; catalogued: CN-Arch 4, 25, 26, 36, 37, 39, 40; CN-CI 10, 32, 40, 43, 47; miniature frg., CN-MinIII 46) and unpainted (251 frgs); bronze objects; a few lead objects. Bronze pins BrN-P 86, 88; bronze rings BrN-R 35, 56; bronze fibula BrN-Fi 2; bronze sheet BrN-Sh 33; bronze pendant BrN-Pd 13; small bronze arrow BrN-Ar 1; possible fragment from a bronze vessel BrN-Mi 5; lead wreaths LdN 41–44; terracotta figurines and other objects TcN 5, 22, 27, 32, 51, 61. **Date:** 4th c. (black-glazed pottery, shape of 4th c.: 1 frg. of black-glazed kylix, CN-CI 10; 1 frg. of black-glazed lamp, CN-CI 47; 1 frg. of black-glazed cup, end of 5th to 4th c.: CN-CI 32).

C6/71e: layer of brown-beige soil, hard, with many marble chips. Covered by C6/46, covers C6/106; 0.05–0.06 m thick. **Finds:** pottery (catalogued: CN-Arch 21, CN-CI 9, CN-HR 4); a few bone fragments; bronze and lead objects.

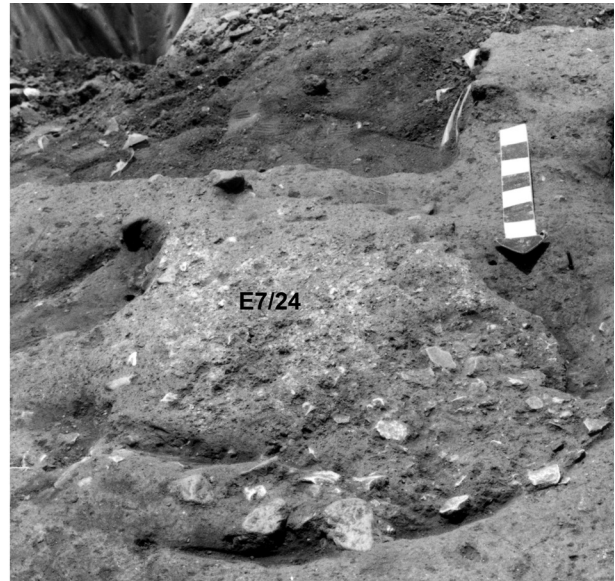


Figure 11. The debris lens E7/24, seen from the north. (Photo: Tarditi)

Bronze pins BrN-P 67, 71; bronze sheet BrN-Sh 12; bronze disc (with rosette, like a small shield) BrN-Di 8; bronze arrow BrN-Ar 3; bronze vessel fragment BrN-V 13; lead figurine LdN 10; terracotta figurine TcN 15; bone die BoN 16; fragment of coloured glass, GIN 9. **Date:** 4th c. (black-glazed pottery, shape of 4th c.: frgs of black-glazed kylix, CN-CI 9; 1 frg. of black-glazed mug, CN-HR 4).

Debris lenses and holes under the marble chips layer

Under the marble chips layer we found some lenses with material (mostly fragments of pinkish plaster, marble chips, fragments of tiles, and fragments of black-glazed pottery of the second half of the 4th century) that can be assigned to the period when the Classical temple was constructed. Some holes were also found.

Debris lenses and holes: descriptions of the stratigraphical units

E7/24: lens of irregular ovoid shape, with fragments of pinkish plaster (140 g) mixed with dark brown soil. Covered by E7/19, covers E7/29; 0.18 m thick, horizontal dimensions max. 0.60 × 0.80 m. Level of the top – 1.52. **Finds:** a few fine pottery fragments, painted (10 frgs) and unpainted (11 frgs); charcoal and marble chips; many terracotta fragments (570 g). Fragment of terracotta figurine, neck with necklace, TcN 34; glass bead GIN 8. **Date:** second half 4th c. (black-glazed pottery of that date). (Fig. 11)

E7/26: layer of dark brown soil in the south-west corner of E7. Covered by E7/19, covers E7/29; 0.02–0.04 m thick, horizontal diameter ca. 0.30 m. **Finds:** fine pottery fragments, painted (23 frgs; catalogued, frg. of a 5th c. Laconian mug CN-CI 27, sherds from this also in E7/23) and unpainted (3 frgs); fragments of tiles, terracotta (110 g

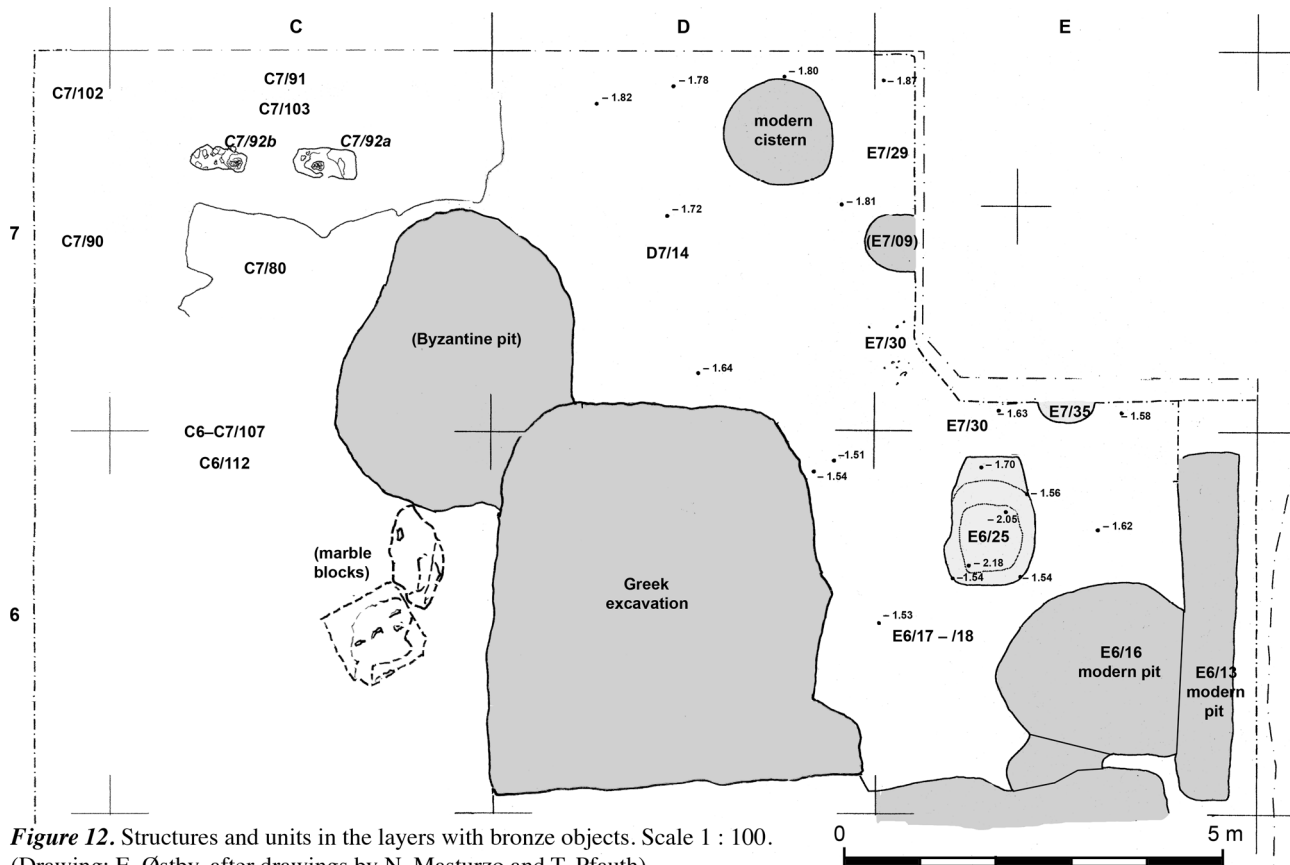


Figure 12. Structures and units in the layers with bronze objects. Scale 1 : 100. (Drawing: E. Østby, after drawings by N. Masturzo and T. Pfauth)

mud-brick), marble chips, small pieces of charcoal. **Date:** 4th c. (black-glazed pottery of that date; 1 fig. of an eastern Peloponnesian/Argive cup).

D6/27: ovoid lens of dark brown soil, friable, mixed with many marble chips. Covered by E7/19, covers E7/29; 0.11 m thick, horizontal dimensions max. 0.56 × 0.28 m, top – 1.54.

C7/81: roughly rectangular lens near the northern limit of square C7, filled by dark brown soil. Covered by C7/71, covers C7/80; horizontal dimensions 0.37 × 0.65 m (top), 0.30 × 0.54 m (bottom). **Finds:** many marble chips, some tile fragments.

C7/82: rectangular lens in the northern half of C7, filled by dark brown soil. Covered by C7/71, covers C7/80; horizontal dimensions 0.40 × 0.85 m (top), 0.27 × 0.65 m (bottom). **Finds:** many marble chips.

C7/83: roughly rectangular hole in the northern half of C7, filled by dark brown soil. Covered by C7/71, covers C7/80; horizontal dimensions ca. 1.60 × 0.60 m.

C7/84: a group of small holes under the northern part of C7/71. Covered by C7/71, covers C7/80.

Pits under the marble chips layer

In two cases the marble chips mixed with brown soil filled a pit. One pit (E6/25) has a rectangular shape, ca. 0.50 m deep, with vertical walls and an approximately horizontal

bottom; the other pit (E7/33) is of semicircular shape and only its southern half was excavated. (See *Figs 12–13*)

It is probable that these pits were originally intended to receive stones of large dimensions, one rectangular with rounded corners (E6/25) and one of ovoid shape (E7/33). Since they are inside the sanctuary area, we can suggest bases for statues or large votive monuments. These bases were removed before the marble chips layer was deposited: the holes were filled with soil identical to the material that also covered the upper layer cut by the hole itself. Consequently, the walking surface connected with these holes precedes the marble chips layer; when this was deposited, the empty holes were filled with the refuse material from the final work on the marble blocks of the Classical temple.

Pits: descriptions of the stratigraphical units

E6/25: rectangular cutting, with vertical walls and horizontal bottom, not perfectly flat. Covered and filled by E6/12; cuts E6/18, /29, /35, /37, /38. Horizontal dimensions 1.38 × 1.19 m (top), 0.88 × 0.84 m (bottom), 0.64 m deep. Level of the top – 1.54, of the bottom – 2.18.

E7/25: friable, dark brown soil mixed with marble chips, pebbles, small fragments of light pink plaster, sherds. Covered by E7/19, fills E7/33; 0.46 m deep, level of the top – 1.54. **Finds:** fine pottery fragments, black-glazed (108 frgs) and unpainted (27 frgs); coarse pottery (8 frgs),



Figure 13. The surface in square E6 in 1991, with the pit E6/25 in the background and the pebble floor E7/30 to its left; the surface E6/20 underneath is Archaic. To the left the modern pits E6/16 and /13; in the foreground Base 2. (Photo: E. Østby)

terracotta (20 g mud-brick), plaster (25 g), one bronze pin (not catalogued); small terracotta head **TcN 18**. **Date:** second half 4th c. (black-glazed pottery).

E7/33: cutting of semicircular shape, with vertical walls, only partially excavated (the cutting extends beyond the trench limit). Covered by E7/19, filled by E7/25; cuts E7/29 – /32, /41. Horizontal dimensions 0.76 × 0.26 m, 0.42 m deep. Level of the top – 1.59, of the bottom – 2.01.

General conclusions on the marble chips layer

The area which was covered in this way with soil heavily mixed with marble chips must be interpreted as an open space, since there are no recognizable traces of any structures. It cannot have been used intensively or for any clearly defined purpose, since no material which could be connected with a particular activity or with intensive use was recovered. An unresolved problem is the absence of a clearly recognizable walking surface that correlates with the use of the sanctuary after the end of the Classical period; the surface of the marble chips layer does not appear as a clear and solid floor, but is always very irregular and not compact. Some of the rare fragments from this surface are of Late Hellenistic and Early Imperial date and suggest a prolonged use of this area until the Late Roman period, but during this long time span no real floor existed, and no traces of specific activities were left.

It is difficult to provide an explanation for this situation. It is possible to consider thorough periodical cleaning of this open area, where any traces connected with its use were systematically removed; or, more simply, perhaps it was a part of the sanctuary that was not normally used, as the absence of any structure (apart from the two monument bases 1 and 2 at its southern limit) seems to indicate.

Grid squares C6, C7, D7, E6, E7: the layers with bronze objects

Under this heavy fill with marble chips a group of layers was identified, all characterized by the presence of a great quantity of early bronze objects. (See the plan *Fig. 12*, and the overview photo *Fig. 13*) They can also be connected with the period when the Classical temple was constructed, and should be understood as layers made with the soil removed during the excavation of the deep trenches for the foundations of the temple: the soil was discarded in the northern area for filling and levelling purposes, thus reducing the natural slope towards the north. Two such layers could be distinguished, separated by a pebble floor probably representing some short-lived, interim arrangement (visible on *Figs 13–14*).

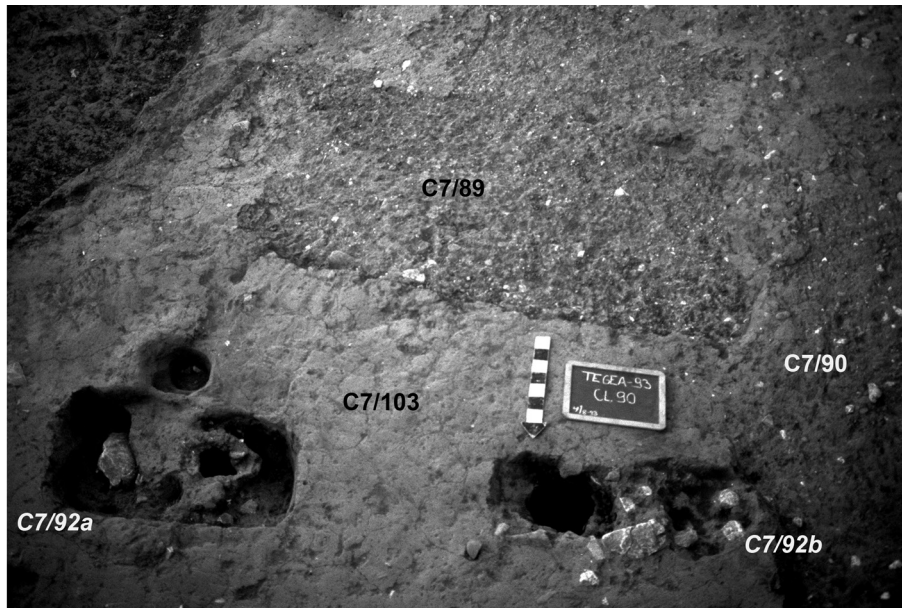


Figure 14. The rectangular holes C7/92a (right) and /92b (left), with the units C7/89, /90 and /103 of the first pebble floor. (CL/90 on the blackboard should read C7/103.) (Photo: E. Østby)

The first layer with bronze objects

The first of these layers is characterized by a light brown compact soil with small yellowish-red lenses, many small white powdery stones (probably caused by a fire); there are also a few fragments of charcoal and bones. We collected many sherds of fine pottery and a great quantity of bronze objects, including complete and well-preserved ones, particularly pins, rings, and small plain or punch-decorated sheets for votive purposes, datable to the Geometric and Orientalizing periods. There are also many fragments of iron nails and pins, and some small lead objects from the same period.

First layer with bronze objects: descriptions of the stratigraphical units

D7/14, E6/17 – /18, E7/29: layer of brown to light brown soil, compact but friable, with small white, calcareous, powdery stones. Covered by D7/13c, E6/12c and E7/19, covers D7/43, E6/29 and E7/30; 0.08–0.16 m thick, level of the top from – 1.53 (south side) to – 1.85 (north side). **Finds:** many fine pottery sherds, painted (2,370 frgs; catalogued: **CN-G 10; CN-LacPG 1; CN-Arch 10, 11, 32, 41; CN-CI 5, 25, 45, 55;** miniature pottery **CN-MinIII 9, 50**) and unpainted (1,283 frgs); coarse sherds (165 frgs); tile fragments, terracotta (220 g mud-bricks), plaster (110 g), small pieces of charcoal, many fragments of burnt bones, a great quantity of bronze and iron objects, complete or fragmentary. Bronze pins **BrN-P 9, 12, 16, 21, 26, 28, 41, 44, 47, 60, 62, 63, 66, 74, 83, 91, 96, 99, 100;** bronze nail **BrN-N 2;** bronze rings **BrN-R 2, 7, 11, 12, 31, 34, 38, 41, 50, 53–55, 62–64, 70, 83–87, 90, 92, 98;** bronze earring **BrN-Ea 4;** bronze fibula **BrN-Fi 1;** bronze bead **BrN-Be 7;** bronze sheets **BrN-Sh 3, 16, 20, GdN 2** (gilded); bronze disk **BrN-Di 3;** bronze pendant **BrN-Pd 12;** bronze bowls **BrN-V 5, 10, 12;** lead figurine **LdN 9;** lead wreaths **LdN 31,**

36; lead rings **LdN 46, 51–53, 55;** terracotta figurines **TcN 4** (horse with rider), **14** (head of a monkey), **16, 20** (heads), **49** (female figurine), also **55** (wreath) and **65** (loomweight); bone objects **Bo 8–10;** stone flakes **StN 25, 35, 44.** **Date:** mid-4th c. (black-glazed pottery: 1 frg. of eastern Peloponnesian bowl (bottom); 1 frg. of a vertical handle with double rods; 2 frgs of a Laconian oinochoe, type VIII). (*Fig. 10*)

C7/91a–b: layer in the north-eastern area of grid square C7, reinterpreted during the excavation as part of C7/80b and /100. Covered by C7/80b, covers C7/100. **Finds:** fine pottery fragments, painted (23 frgs) and unpainted (15 frgs); 1 miniature frg., **CN-MinIII 27;** some coarse sherds (3 frgs).

C6-C7/71, /106: surface of C7/80; layer of compact dark brown soil with many marble chips. Covered by C6-C7/67, covers C6-C7/80 and C6/107; 0.04–0.10 m thick, level of the top from – 1.39 (south side) to – 1.71 (north side). **Finds:** fine pottery fragments, painted (375 frgs; catalogued: **CN-CI 7, 41;** miniature pottery **CN-MinIII 12, 33, 45, 60**) and unpainted (619 frgs); tiles, few fragments of bone and charcoal; metal objects (bronze and lead), many of terracotta. Bronze pins **BrN-P 67, 71;** bronze ring **BrN-R 88;** bronze sheets **BrN-Sh 6, 12, 9, 24;** bronze arrow **BrN-Ar 3;** bronze vessel fragment **BrN-V 13;** iron pin **IrN 10;** lead figurines **LdN 2, 4, 14, 16, 19, 21;** lead wreaths **LdN 34–35;** lead ring **LdN 61;** human terracotta figurines **TcN 6, 19, 21, 23, 28, 35, 38–40, 45, 68** (a bead), **74** (a flower). **Date:** mid-4th c. (black-glazed pottery: 1 frg. of a black-glazed kylix, **CN-CI 7;** 1 frg. of a black-glazed lekythos, **CN-CI 41**).

C7/80, /80a, /80b, /80c, C6-C7/107: layer of brown to light brown friable soil, with some lenses of a clearer and more yellowish colour; many friable, small, white, calcareous and powdery stones. Covered by C7/71; covers C7/90, C6/112 and C7/103. 0.10–0.22 m thick; level of the top from – 1.51 (south side) to – 1.81 (north side; based on the section drawings). **Finds:** fine pottery fragments,

painted (1,818 frgs; catalogued: **CN-G 1, 5, 6, 9, 11; CN-PC 1, 6, 7; CN-SG 1, 6, 7, 10–13; CN-Arch 3, 5–9, 22, 45; CN-CI 4, 13–16, 23; CN-MinIII 14, 19, 20, 21, 58**, miniature pottery) and unpainted (2,813 frgs); coarse sherds (223 frgs); many fragments of bone and charcoal; many bronze and iron objects, complete and fragmentary. Bronze figurine of a hare **BrN-A 2**; bronze pins **BrN-P 17, 40, 49, 56, 58, 73, 80–82, 85, 103**; bronze rings **BrN-R 28–30, 39, 51, 69, 93**; bronze sheets **BrN-Sh 1, 11, 19, 23, 39**; bronze discs **BrN-Di 4, 9**; bronze pendent **BrN-Pd 9**; bronze miniature phiale fragments **BrN-V 14–15**; iron arrowheads **IrN 1–2**, lump **IrN 7**, nails **IrN 8, 9, 11, 12**; lead figurines **LdN 1, 3, 5, 11, 13, 18**; lead objects **LdN 23** (rosette), **24–25** (disks), **33, 45** (wreaths), **62** (ring); bone objects **BoN 2, 4, 5** (model double-axes), **14** (ring), **15** (spatula); amber bead (not catalogued, Tex no. 469); terracotta figurines of humans **TcN 9, 17, 24, 26, 29, 30, 31, 33, 37, 47, 50**, of animals **TcN 3, 7, 8**, loomweight models **TcN 62, 63, 66**, terracotta wreath **TcN 56**, terracotta button **TcN 77**. **Date:** 4th c. (black-glazed kylix frgs: **CN-CI 14–16, 23**).

In grid square C7 more stratigraphical units, parts of the same stratigraphical context, were distinguished when this layer was excavated.

C7/85: terracotta lens of rhomboid shape. Covered by C7/80, covers C7/80a; horizontal dimensions 0.50 × 0.50 m.

C7/86: cutting for a small rectangular hole. Covered by C7/80, cuts C7/80a. Horizontal dimensions ca. 0.45 × 0.30 m, 0.06–0.07 m deep; level of the top – 1.79.

C7/87: soil mixed with marble chips. Covered by C7/80; filling of C7/86. Depth 0.06–0.07 m.

C7/92a: rectangular hole with a group of stones (pebbles and burnt marble chips), mixed with compact greyish-brown soil. Covered by C7/91, covers C7/103. Horizontal dimensions 0.76 × 0.425 m. **Finds:** pottery fragments; one rim of a bronze bowl. (*Fig. 14*)

C7/92b: rectangular hole, close to and similar to C7/92a. Covered by C7/91; horizontal dimensions 0.78 × 0.32 m. (*Fig. 14*)

C7/104: shallow rectangular hole surrounding the hole C7/98. Covered by C7/91b; cuts C7/103; filled by C7/92b. Depth 0.08 m.

C7/92c: part of the surface C7/91; group of stones mixed with friable greyish-brown soil. Covered by C7/80a, covers C7/91a; horizontal dimensions 0.75 × 0.70 m, level at the top – 1.81. **Finds:** pieces of marble worked with a toothed chisel, marble chips, some river pebbles.

C7/94: posthole, with a bottom at two levels. Covered by C7/91, covers C7/103. Horizontal dimension 0.20 × 0.19 m (top), first level of the bottom 0.11 × 0.13 m, depth 0.11 m; second level of the bottom 0.15 × 0.17 m, depth 0.06 m. Found on the bottom: one burnt marble chip, one pebble, one pottery fragment.

C7/95: irregular and deep hole, probably made by an animal. Covered by C7/80a; cuts C7/92a; filled by C7/96. Horizontal dimensions ca. 0.12 × 0.12 m.

C7/96: covered by C7/80a; fills the hole C7/95, with fat and organic soil.

C7/97: rectangular, shallow hole surrounding C7/95. Covered by C7/80b, covers C7/92a.

C7/98: deep and irregular hole, probably made by an animal. Covered by C7/91; cuts C7/103; filled by C7/99; surrounded by C7/104. Horizontal dimensions 0.19 × 0.20 m, depth 0.61 m.

C7/99: covered by C7/91; fills the hole C7/98 with blackish organic soil. **Finds:** bronze fragments; terracotta figurine (small, male) **TcN 46**.

C7/100: small layer on the northern side of square C7. Covered by C7/91, covers C7/103; horizontal dimensions 1.05 × 1 m. **Finds:** lead figurines **LdN 6–8**.

C7/102: small layer in the north-western corner of the square. Covered by C7/80c, covers C7/103; horizontal dimensions ca. 1 × 1 m.

The first pebble floor

This layer with bronzes rests on a small floor made by limestone pieces and pebbles of small dimensions (max. 0.12 × 0.07 m). In the surface of the floor some sherds and tile fragments are enclosed, mixed with scattered, fine gravel; the floor has a regular, clear slope downwards to the north. (*Fig. 15*)

To the north and east the floor C7/90 clearly stops and in the south-eastern part of the square it was not found, but it is present as C6/112 in C6. In the squares D7 and E6 this floor with small stones and pebbles was not distinguished during the excavation, but it was visible in the section. For this reason the finds have been considered part of the layer above, D7/14 and E6/17 – /18.

This extensive layer of pebbles can be interpreted as a continuous floor, a walking surface used for a short period by the end of the 4th century, since it is located between two layers that are both datable to this period.

First pebble floor: descriptions of the stratigraphical units

E7/30: thin floor made with small white limestone pieces and pebbles mixed with brownish soil. Covered by E7/29, covers E7/31; 0.02–0.04 m thick; level of the top from – 1.51 (south side) to – 1.81 (north side). **Finds:** fragments of fine pottery, painted (174 frgs; catalogued: **CN-MinIII 40**, miniature pot) and unpainted (147 frgs); coarse pottery (16 frgs); a few fragments of tiles; plaster (130 g); fragments of small burnt bones; bronze objects (frgs of decorated sheet, not catalogued; pin, **BrN-P 7**); 2 fragments of a female



Figure 15. The pebble floor E7/30, between the two layers with bronze objects. (Photo: Tarditi)

terracotta figurine (not catalogued); glass bead **GIN 2**. (Figs 13, 15)

C6/112, C7/90: floor made of pebbles and marble chips (some burnt) of small and medium dimensions, mixed with greyish-brown soil. Covered by C7/80a, covers C7/105 (in C6 it constitutes the limit of the excavated area); 0.03–0.04 m thick; level at the top from – 1.44 (south side) to – 1.82 (north side). The units lie in the northern half of grid square C6 and in the western half of C7. **Finds:** fragments of fine pottery, painted (158 frgs; catalogued: **CN-G 3, CN-SG 4, 8**) and unpainted (190 frgs); coarse pottery (3 frgs); fragments of bones, small pieces of charcoal; bronze and iron objects. Bronze pins **BrN-P 45, 65**, ring **BrN-R 66**, earring (?) **BrN-Ea 6**; iron sheets **IrN 4–5**; lead objects **LdN 15** (figurine), **26** (flower); architectural terracotta **ArcN-Tc 2**. (Fig. 14)

C7/103: floor made of marble chips, with five big, burnt marble pieces, a few pebbles and small stones, mixed with greyish-brown soil. Covered by C7/80b, covers C7/105; 0.02–0.03 m thick; level at the top from – 1.88 to – 1.94. The unit covers the northern half of grid square C7. **Finds:** small fragments of fine pottery, painted (31 frgs) and unpainted (55 frgs); coarse pottery (3 frgs); a few fragments of bones, charcoal and iron; bronze ring **BrN-R 103**. (Fig. 14)

The second layer with bronze objects

Under this floor another fill was identified. The colour of the soil and the type of inclusions were very similar to the fill above the pebble floor. Also this layer is characterized by a great quantity of bronze objects, complete or fragmentary, and by pottery fragments of the Geometric and Orientalizing periods mixed with later sherds, the presence of which demonstrates a Late Classical date for the formation of the layer.

The second layer with bronze objects: descriptions of the stratigraphical units

E7/20, /31: layer of dark brownish soil, compact but friable, with small, burnt and powdery limestone pieces. Covered

by E7/30, covers E7/32; 0.08–0.18 m thick; level of the top from – 1.60 (south side) to – 1.87 (north side). **Finds:** many fragments of fine pottery, painted (1,614 frgs; catalogued: **CN-CI 31, CN-HR 19**); miniature pottery **CN-MinIII 23, 49**) and unpainted (658 frgs); coarse pottery (50 frgs); a few tile fragments; terracotta fragments (30 g mud-brick); plaster (15 g); small pieces of charcoal; many fragments of burnt bone; many bronze and iron objects, complete and fragmentary; some stone tools. Bronze pin **BrN-P 8, 23, 53, 57, 68, 90**; bronze nail **BrN-N 3**; bronze rings **BrN-R 19, 25, 43, 100, 103**; bronze bead **BrN-Be 10**; bronze sheets **BrN-Sh 14, 27, 31** (this has an incised letter **E**); bronze vessels, mostly fragmentary, **BrN-V 11, 16, 17, 20** (handle); lead figurines **LdN 12, 22**; terracotta figurines **TcN 1** (fragment of horse figurine), **44** (human figurine), **53** (relief with running Gorgon; see section xii, Eiring), **64** (loomweight); stone tools **StN 10, 24, 45**. **Date:** end of the 4th c. (black-glazed pottery, shapes of the end of 4th to the beginning of 3rd c.: spiral handle frg. **CN-HR 19**; frg. of oinochoe **CN-CI 31**).

C7/105, /105a: layer of greyish-brown soil, friable, with small, burnt and powdery limestone pieces and a few pebbles. Covered by C7/90 and /103, covers C7/89; level at the top from – 1.54 (south side) to – 1.87 (north side) (derived from the section drawing). **Finds:** fine pottery fragments, painted (185 frgs; catalogued, miniature pot **CN-MinIII 55**) and unpainted (129 frgs); coarse pottery (18 frgs); some tile fragments; bronze and iron objects, complete and fragmentary; charcoal and bones. Bronze pins **BrN-P 42, 55, 75**; bronze rings **BrN-R 4, 89, 97**; bronze bead **BrN-Be 11**; bronze sheets **BrN-Sh 7**; bronze pendants **BrN-Pd 1, 7**; bronze lump **BrN-Mi 3**; vessel fragment **BrN-V 9**; iron nail **IrN 13**; lead objects **LdN 20** (figurine), **50** (ring); bone double-axe **BoN 3**.

General conclusions on the layers with bronze objects

These layers with early bronze objects, themselves dated to the second half and probably near the end of the 4th century, demonstrate that the level of the soil in the northern area of the sanctuary increased considerably within a short time; the total height of the three layers is 0.22 m. (See Fig. 10)

These layers are present all over the excavated area. The objects found in them are chronologically mixed, and many are well preserved; so these layers may reasonably be explained as fills that were created with the soil that was removed during the excavation of the trenches for the Classical temple foundations, as was the marble chips layer above them. These trenches cut through early layers around and inside the Archaic temple and disturbed deposits of Geometric and Orientalizing votive objects,²³ and all this material, soil and votive objects, was discarded north of the temple for filling and levelling, together with some pottery contemporary with

²³ See Dugas, *Sanctuaire*, 337–8, for evidence that the foundations for the north-east corner of the Classical (and probably also the Archaic) temple had cut through a large deposit of early votive material. See also *Tegea I*, section i (Østby), 30.

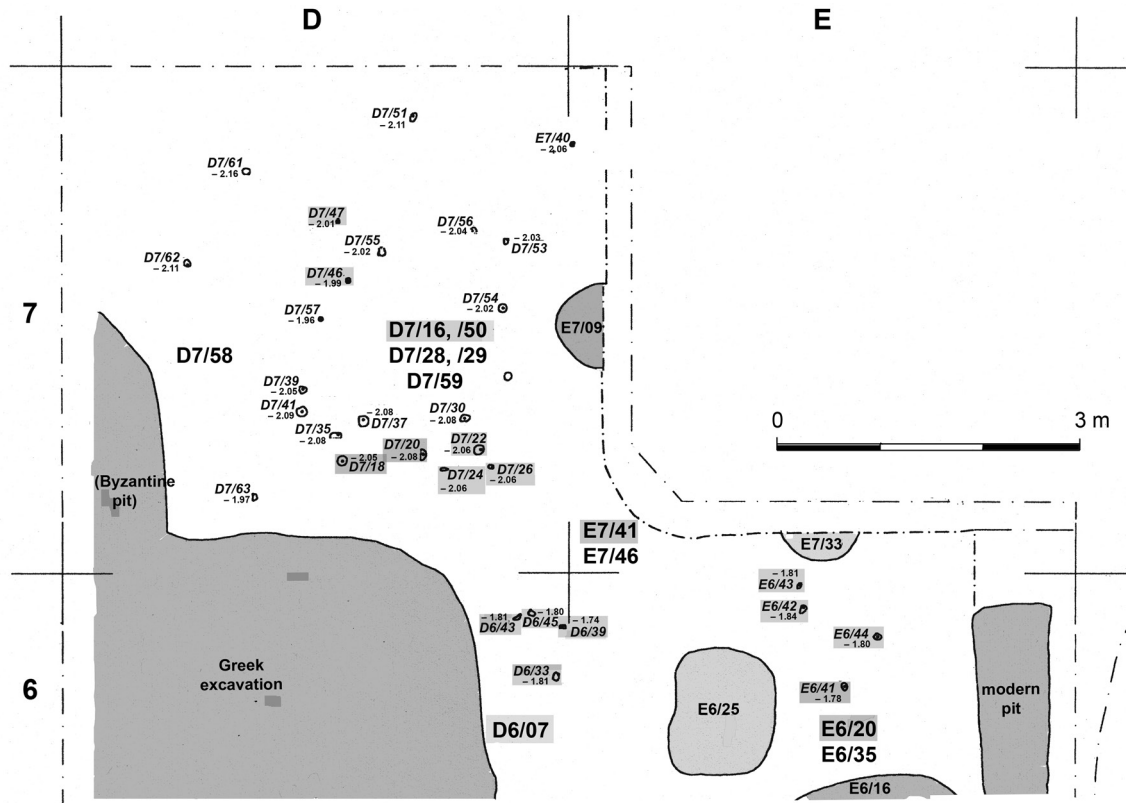


Figure 16. The first and second walking surface in the squares D7, D6 and E6, with postholes and other features. The postholes and other units of the first walking surface are evidenced with grey; the levels are those of the tops of the postholes. Scale 1 : 75. (Drawing: N. Masturzo, texted by E. Østby)

this activity. This interpretation can explain the presence within the same layer of chronologically heterogeneous material, but without stratification, as well as the good state of preservation for many of the objects.

The floor of pebbles and small stones between the two layers (E7/30, C6/112, C7/90 and /103) may have been laid as an interim arrangement, in order to allow the northern area to be used during the considerable period while the trenches for the temple foundations were opened. As the works proceeded, the floor was covered by the first layer with bronze objects. The area must then have been left open for some time, until the marble chips layer was laid out above it, at the time when the temple received its final touches.

It is possible to connect with this pebble floor some postholes identified in squares D6 and E6 while excavating the underlying layer E6/20 – E7/41 (the first walking surface) at levels between – 1.74 and – 1.84, with a particular concentration at – 1.80 to – 1.81: ss.uu. D6/33, /39, /43, /45, E6/41 – /44. (See the plan Fig. 16) We did not recognize any clear line or shape for the disposition of these holes; but if we presume that they were originally ca. 0.15 m deep, as seems to be the minimum required for such posts to stand firm, the level of the walking surface connected with them may coincide with this pebble floor. They may

thus have been created for temporary buildings or light structures in this open courtyard in the northern area of the sanctuary, possibly for use connected with the building of the temple.

When the layers with bronze objects were deposited and the pebble floor was constructed, the objects that originally occupied the two quadrangular and oval pits E6/25 and E7/33 must still have been *in situ*, since these layers do not continue beyond the limits of the two pits.

All the evidence in our possession clearly indicates that this part of the sanctuary remained an open space after the reorganization connected with the construction of the Classical temple, without buildings or important monuments in the area which we have excavated apart from the two preserved bases near the temple. The information about the topography of the sanctuary obtained from the excavation provides no obvious explanation for the projecting ramp or platform on the northern flank of the Classical temple; it can hardly be understood as a structure for easy communication with the open area north of the temple.²⁴

²⁴ See section **xvi** (Østby), 340–1 for a discussion of this issue.

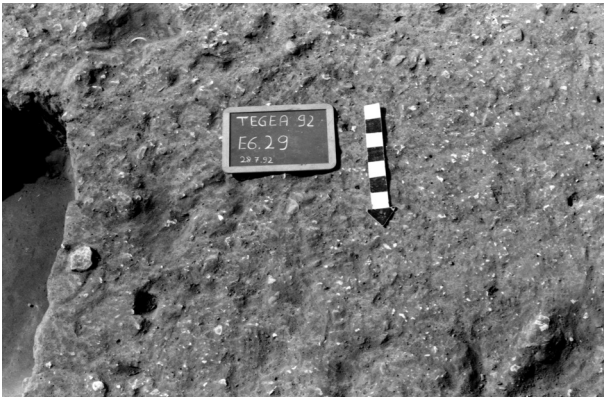


Figure 17. The surface of the second pebble floor E6/29. (Photo: Tarditi)

Second period: The northern sector in the Archaic times

Grid squares C7, D7, E6, E7: the second pebble floor

The layers with bronze objects described above cover a floor made with pebbles and very small (max. 0.10 × 0.07 m), white stones powdery from burning, mixed with fine gravel, a few marble chips and dark brown soil. This floor was recognized all over the excavated area. The surface is rather irregular, with an evident downward inclination towards the north following the natural slope. On the surface there were a few sherds, mostly of fine pottery; bone fragments, some of them burnt; small pieces of charcoal; and a few fragments of bronze objects (mostly thin votive sheets, rings and pins).

Second pebble floor: descriptions of the stratigraphical units

D6/18, D7/43, E6/29, E7/32: floor with small pebbles (max. 0.10 × 0.07 m), small and powdery limestone fragments (burnt) and a few marble chips, mixed with dark brown soil. Covered by D6/06, D7/14, E6/17 – /18, E7/20 and /31, covers D6/07, D7/16, /50, E6/20 and E7/41; 0.04–0.06 m thick; level of the top from – 1.66 (E6, south side) to – 2.06 (D7, north side). **Finds:** fine pottery fragments, painted (520 frgs) and unpainted (438 frgs); coarse pottery (85 frgs); fragments of tiles (27 frgs); terracotta (58 g); plaster (25 g); many bone fragments, also with traces of burning; small pieces of charcoal; a few bronze and iron fragments; 3 fragments of chipped flint. Bronze ring **BrN-R 10**; bronze bead **BrN-Be 9**; bronze pomegranate pendant **BrN-Pd 11**; cast bronze spool decorated with beads **BrN-V 22**. **Date:** end of 6th c. (black-glazed pottery; one Archaic krateriskos base; one frg. of amphoriskos rim). (Fig. 17)

C7/89: floor with pebbles, marble chips, small limestone pieces, mixed with greyish-brown soil. Covered by C7/105, covers C7/113; 0.02–0.04 m thick; level of the top from – 1.66 (south side) to – 2.01 (north side). **Finds:** fine pottery fragments, painted (1,782 frgs; catalogued: **CN-PG 1–2**; **CN-LacPG**

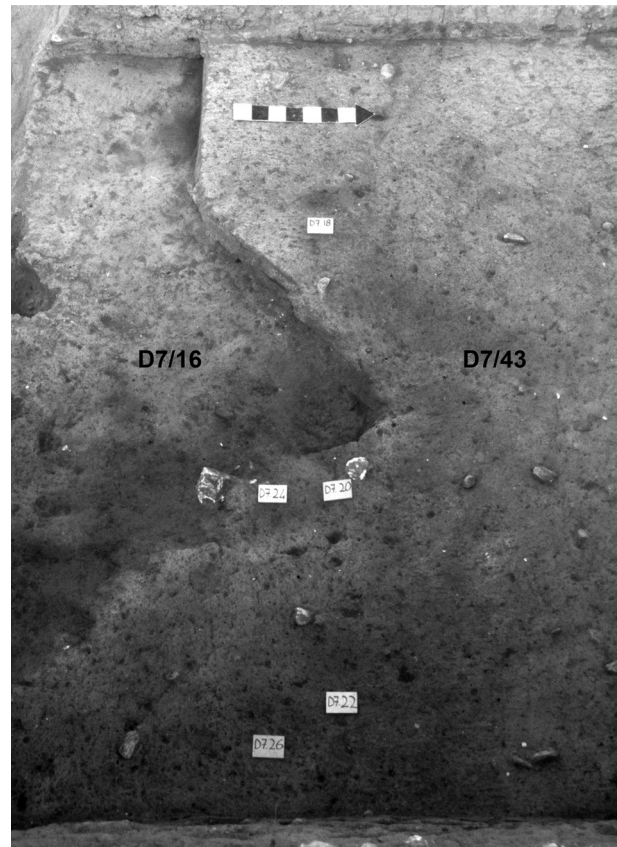


Figure 18. The surface D7/43, with some postholes from the underlying layer identified and marked; to the left a part of the first walking surface D7/16 has been exposed. (Photo: E. Østby)

2; **CN-G 4**; **CN-SG 3, 5**; miniature pottery **CN-MinII 1, 3, 9** and unpainted (1,019 frgs); coarse pottery (52 frgs); many bone fragments; many pieces of charcoal; fragments of bronze and iron; glass beads. Bronze pins **BrN-P 30, 35, 52**; bronze beads **BrN-Be 4, 13**; bronze sheets **BrN-Sh 10, 22, 37, 38, BrN-Mi 6** (perhaps from a vessel); bronze discs **Br-Di 2, 5** (shield model); lead model of double-axe **LdN 30**; terracotta objects **TeN 25** (small head), **69** (terracotta and lead bead); glass beads **GIN 3, 5**. (Fig. 14)

The material from this floor seems to suggest that it was used about the end of the 6th century; this is also indicated by the presence of a considerable quantity of Corinthian sherds, absent in the Classical layers. The type of floor and its extension indicate that it was an open area, perhaps a courtyard used for the activities of the sanctuary, as attested by the sherds of fine pottery, fragments of bronze votive objects, burnt bones, etc.

No traces of buildings or structures could be seen on the surface, but in grid square D7 it is possible to connect with this floor a cluster of postholes identified in the underlying stratigraphical units D7/16 and /50, all at a level between – 1.99 and – 2.16. (Figs 16, 18) They are discussed below. One particular group of these postholes (ss.uu. D7/18 – /27, /30, /31, /35 – /42, /46, /53 – /57), all found at a level between – 1.99 and – 2.09,

create a semicircular shape with the posts arranged at fairly regular intervals of about 0.50–0.60 m, enclosing an area about 2.50 m in diameter. The diameter of these holes lies between a minimum of 0.06 and a maximum of 0.12 m. Since these measurements are taken at the bottom of the holes, they indicate the dimension of the lowest part of the posts, which were probably slightly pointed; so the actual diameter of the posts could be between 0.10 and 0.20 m, suitable only for a fairly light structure. We may consider some kind of fence, of semicircular shape with a straight eastern side, perhaps open; if there was a roof, it would have to be of very light materials (thatch, or similar). If the original depth of the holes was ca. 0.15 m, as seems required for the posts to stand firm, the walking surface connected with this structure would be about 0.10–0.15 m above the level where we recognized the holes; as we have seen, this surface would then coincide with the second pebble floor of the late 6th century.

We could not recognize traces of any structures on this floor. Nevertheless, it is possible that such structures existed without leaving any evidence that could be recognized, perhaps because they only existed for a short time²⁵ or because they were demolished when the pebble floor was created, so that the evidence for the walking surfaces connected with them was also destroyed.

Grid squares C7, D7, E6, E7: walking surfaces of the 6th century

The first walking surface

The pebble floor rests on a thick layer of clayey, very compact soil, found all over the excavated area; it is of yellowish-grey colour, ca. 0.20 m thick, and follows the natural slope from south to north. The surface is compacted, and it shows some traces of use; there are materials deposited on it. A small quantity of objects were found inside the layer, mostly in its upper part.

In the squares D6–D7 and E6–E7, a few centimetres below the surface, we found traces of the first group of postholes mentioned above (ss.uu. *D6/39; D7/18 – /27, /46, /47; E6/41 – /44; E7/40*). They appear at slightly different levels and each consists of a lens of blackish soil, friable, of fairly regular, circular shape with a diameter mostly between 0.08 and 0.10 m. The depth is very modest, 0.02–0.03 m on average, with a maximum of 0.055 m. (See *Figs 16, 20*)

The holes were made by simply hammering the posts into the soil, without digging holes for them first. There is no difference between the soil above and beneath the holes. This fact, and the modest depth of the holes themselves, can be explained if the posts were intentionally removed after a short period of use. The holes are not preserved

²⁵ For example, a sort of temporary stand or stall for some festival or activity in the sanctuary – perhaps something like the small wooden and tarpaulin kiosks that are built today at nearby Episkopi for the Panaghia festival in August, and removed soon afterwards.

to their full, original depth, but since they were filled by the same soil in which they were dug, only their lowest parts, more affected by the decomposition of the wood, can now be recognized.

In square C7 a shallow, rectangular hole was discovered, filled by burnt limestone fragments of large dimensions and by terracotta fragments (ss.uu. *C7/131 and /120*); probably this was a debris pile.

The layer was used as a walking surface, as indicated by the different materials found both on its surface and mixed with the soil: stones, pebbles, bone fragments (also burnt), one millstone fragment, flint and obsidian, sherds, and a few small pieces of charcoal and terracotta.

Mixed with the soil there are many small, blackish “little stones” or iron concretions: they look like iron, but are reddish black inside. They are probably the results of the decomposition of organic material (like seeds and roots) which took place when this was left in a large quantity of stagnant water. These iron concretions are scattered throughout the layer, with a concentration in the south-western corner of square E6 (*E6/34*).

The finds give a general indication of an Archaic context, and a more precise date at the end of the 6th century can be established by the dates of the layers under and above it.

First walking surface: descriptions of the stratigraphical units

D6/07, D7/16, /50, E6/20, E7/41: layer of compact greyish-beige soil, rich in clay: when excavated with the trowel it almost shines. Covered by *D7/43, E6/29 and E7/32*, covers *D7/28, /29, /58, /59, E6/35 and E7/46*; 0.04–0.12 m thick; level of the top from – 1.72 (*E6*, south side) to – 2.06 (*D7, E7* north side). The layer contains many small, round, black iron concretions of organic origin; on the surface many stones of small and medium dimensions are present. The material includes some pebbles, fragments of pottery and bone (some also burnt), one fragment of a millstone (**StN 1**) and numerous small obsidian and flint flakes, small pieces of charcoal, and a few small terracotta fragments. **Finds:** fine pottery fragments, painted (327 frgs; catalogued: miniature pottery **CN-MinII 2, 6**) and unpainted (566 frgs); coarse pottery (126 frgs); tiles (6 frgs); terracotta (212 g); plaster (3 g); 5 flint fragments; 14 obsidian fragments; a few bronze and iron fragments. Bronze pin **BrN-P 6**; terracotta bobbin **TcN 59**; stone objects **StN 1, 11, 17, 32, 33, 36–38, 47**. **Date:** 6th c. (pottery with traces of black glaze).

E6/34: lentiform feature in the south-western corner of the square; the soil is compact yellowish-grey with a significant concentration of small, round, black iron concretions of organic origin, mixed with small terracotta fragments. Covered by *E6/29*, covers *E6/35*; horizontal dimensions max. 1.60 × 0.90 m, 0.11 m thick; level at the top – 1.72. **Finds:** fine pottery fragments, painted (10 frgs) and not painted (20 frgs); coarse pottery (13 frgs). (Shown on the plan *Fig. 1*)



Figure 19. The first walking surface in square C7 (unit C7/113) with a concentration of stones near the western trench wall. (Photo: J.-M. Luce)

C7/113, /113a, /119, /126: layer of compact greyish-beige soil, rich in clay, with many small stone chips and a great concentration of burnt marble chips and pebbles. Covered by C7/89, covers C7/127 and /123; 0.02–0.06 m thick; level of the top from – 1.79 (south side) to – 2.13 (north side). **Finds:** fine pottery fragments, painted (63 frgs; catalogued **CN-MinII 7**, miniature phiale) and unpainted (454 frgs); coarse pottery (83 frgs); fragments of bronze and iron. Bronze ring **BrN-R 58**; bronze bead **BrN-Be 1**; bronze handle **BrN-V 18**; glass bead **GIN 4**; flint flake **StN 31**. (Fig. 19)

Postholes and lenses: descriptions of the stratigraphical units

C7/131: rectangular hole in the northern half of grid square C7, near the east side of the hole C7/98. Covered by C7/113, cuts C7/119; filled by C7/120.

C7/120: friable dark brown soil, mixed with large fragments of burnt limestone. Covered by C7/113; fills C7/131. Horizontal dimensions 0.57 × 0.30 m, 0.05 m deep. **Finds:** fragments of pottery, terracotta, tiles, bronze.

D6/39: hole of ovoid shape, filled by friable blackish soil. Covered by and cutting D6/18. Horizontal diameter max. 0.105 m, 0.055 m deep; level at the top – 1.74.

D7/18: circular lens of compact, dark brown-black soil. Covered by D7/16; fills D7/19. Horizontal diameter max. 0.07 m, 0.03 m deep; level at the top – 2.05.

D7/19: posthole, same dimensions as D7/18. Covered by and cutting D7/16; filled by D7/18.

D7/20: circular lens of compact, dark brown-black soil. Covered by D7/16; fills D7/21. Horizontal diameter 0.095 m, 0.03 m deep; level at the top – 2.08.

D7/21: posthole, same dimensions as D7/20. Covered by and cutting D7/16; filled by D7/20.

D7/22: circular lens of compact, dark brown-black soil.



Figure 20. The posthole E7/40. (Photo: Tarditi)

Covered by D7/16; fills D7/23. Horizontal diameter max. 0.08 m, 0.015 m deep; level at the top – 2.06.

D7/23: posthole, same dimensions as D7/22. Covered by and cutting D7/16; filled by D7/22.

D7/24: small rectangular lens of compact brown-black soil; covered by D7/16; fills D7/25. Horizontal dimensions 0.035 × 0.015 m, 0.015 m deep; level at the top – 2.06.

D7/25: posthole, same dimensions as D7/24. Covered by and cutting D7/16; filled by D7/24.

D7/26: small rectangular lens of compact brown-black soil. Covered by D7/16; fills D7/27. Horizontal dimensions 0.035 × 0.015 m, 0.015 m deep; level at the top – 2.06.

D7/27: posthole, same dimensions as D7/26. Covered by and cutting D7/16; filled by D7/26.

D7/46: circular hole filled by friable brown-black soil. Covered by D7/43; cuts D7/16. Horizontal diameter 0.065 m, 0.04 m deep; level at the top – 1.99.

D7/47: circular hole filled by friable blackish soil. Covered by D7/43; cuts D7/16. Horizontal diameter 0.04 m; level at the top – 2.01.

E6/41: circular hole filled by friable blackish soil. Covered by and cutting E6/29. Horizontal diameter 0.065 m, 0.04 m deep; level at the top – 1.78.

E6/42: approximately circular hole filled by compact blackish soil. Covered by and cutting E6/29. Horizontal diameter 0.09 m, 0.04–0.055 m deep; level at the top – 1.84.

E6/43: oval lens, probable posthole, filled by friable blackish soil. Covered by and cutting E6/29. Maximum horizontal length 0.05 m; level at the top – 1.81.

E6/44: approximately circular hole, filled by friable blackish soil. Covered by and cutting E6/29. Horizontal diameter 0.075 m, 0.06 m deep; level at the top – 1.80.

E7/40: circular hole filled by friable blackish soil. Covered by and cutting E7/32. Horizontal diameter 0.06 m, 0.035 m deep; level at the top – 2.06. (Fig. 20)

Second walking surface

Under this clayey layer there is a second floor, found all over the excavated area; it is clearly recognizable as a walking surface by the many fragments of pottery, burnt bones, and a grindstone (**StN 2**) on its surface. This layer is also rich in clay, but it has a more mixed texture and composition than the layer above: it includes some lenses of sandy soil and of yellow clay (probably remains of mud-brick), with many small, white and powdery stones (burnt), pebbles, stones of small and medium dimensions (max. 0.07–0.08 m) and scattered pieces of fine gravel. Stones, sherds and bone fragments are more frequent on the surface, and occasionally they seemed almost squeezed into it, but these materials are scanty inside the layer. This layer is also characterized by the many iron concretions of organic origin.

In the middle of square D7 the top of a group of stones (D7/60) appeared; it will be discussed below. During the excavation we distinguished the layer west of the stones (D7/58; *Fig. 21*) from that east of them (D7/59), but, since there are no differences in the characteristics of the soil, these two units may be considered parts of the same stratigraphical context.

In grid square E6 some stones of small and medium dimensions appeared on the surface of this layer, as well as some pebbles; some stones were already visible on the surface of E6/20. On excavating E6/35 other stones appeared, without any particular connection between them, with only an approximate alignment running north–south.

The collected pottery indicates a date in the 6th century, probably the second half. There are no special features in this area, which was probably a plain, open space inside the sanctuary. This layer also included some lenses of blackish and friable soil, probably postholes (ss. uu. D7/30 – /42, /51, /53 – /57, /61 – /63; D6/33, /43, /45): their dimensions and characteristics are identical with the postholes identified in the layer above, and the same explanations will be valid for their composition and dimensions.

The great quantity of clay that characterized this layer and the one above can be explained if they were of alluvial origin. We can thus also explain the considerable rise of the soil level in a relatively short time, as we can infer from the chronology of the layers under and above these clayey layers: in about 50 years the level in the northern area of the sanctuary rose about 0.20 m, and this increase can be connected with two different episodes of flooding, after each of which a new walking surface was formed. The alluvial origin could also explain the presence of mixed material like pebbles, fine gravel, yellow clay lenses (remains of mud-brick?), and the iron concretions of organic nature, the origin of which is well explained by the episodes of stagnant water.

This layer was excavated at two different times, at first only in the south-western quadrant of square D7 (1992), later (1993) in the rest of square D7 and in E6 and E7.

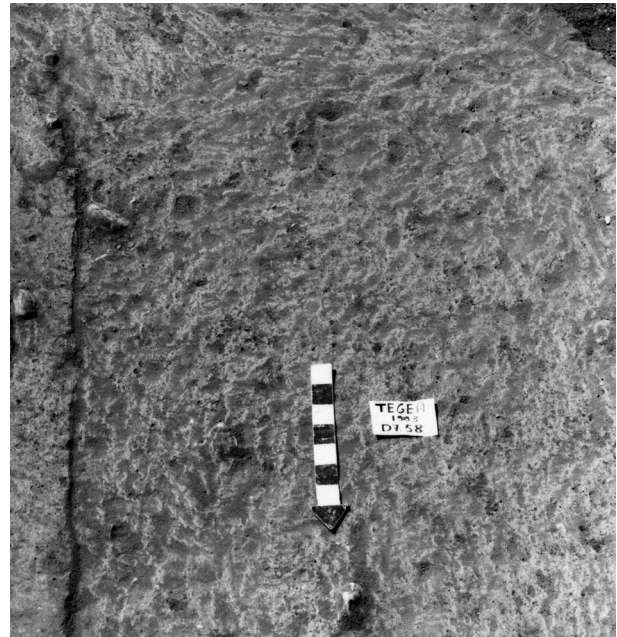


Figure 21. Second walking surface, the unit D7/58. (Photo: Tarditi)

Second walking surface: descriptions of the stratigraphical units

D7/28: compact reddish-brown soil, mixed with a lens of sand and of yellow clay; includes many small burnt stones (0.02–0.05 m diameter), small pebbles (0.06–0.07 m diameter), scattered fine gravel, and many pieces of charcoal. Identical to D7/29. Covered by D7/16 and /50, covers D7/64, leans on D7/60; 0.04–0.10 m thick; level of the top from – 2.03 (south side) to – 2.06 (north side). The unit was first recognized in the south-eastern quadrant of square D7, excavated in 1992. A grindstone was found on the surface. **Finds:** fine pottery, painted (16 frgs) and unpainted (32 frgs); coarse pottery (10 frgs); grindstone **StN 2**; fragments of chipped obsidian and flint **StN 14, 52**.

D7/29: compact reddish-brown soil, mixed with lenses of grey and yellow clay, and including pebbles of medium dimensions (0.07–0.08 m diameter), fine gravel and many pieces of charcoal. Identical to D7/28. Covered by D7/16 and /50, covers D7/64, leans on D7/60; 0.04–0.10 m thick; level of the top from – 2.06 (south side) to – 2.08 (north side). The unit was recognized in the south-eastern quadrant of square D7, and excavated in 1992; it covers the northern half of the quadrant. **Finds:** fine pottery fragments, painted (228 frgs; catalogued: **CN-Arch 12**) and unpainted (76 frgs); coarse pottery (8 frgs); small bronze fragments; bronze ring **BrN-R 15**; flint fragments **StN 18, 46**. **Date:** 6th c. (pottery: 1 frg. of a kalathos **CN-Arch 12**).

D7/58 – /59, E6/35, E7/46: layer of compact clayey soil, of mixed texture and composition, with lenses of sandy soil and of grey or yellow clay, some pebbles (diameter 0.06–0.08 m ca.), fine gravel, small white and powdery stones (burnt); a great quantity of iron concretions of organic origin. Covered by D7/16, /50, E6/20 and E7/41, covers D7/64, E6/37 and E7/46, leans on D7/60; 0.03–0.10 m thick; level of the top

from – 1.74 (E6, south side) to – 2.14 (D7 and E7, north side). **Finds:** fine pottery fragments, painted (274 frgs; catalogued: **CN-Arch 34–35**, **CN-MinII 5**) and unpainted (407 frgs); coarse pottery (101 frgs); 2 tile fragments; terracotta; mud-brick (325 g); plaster (10 g); bones, of medium dimensions and with traces of burning; many small pieces of charcoal; fragments of chipped flint and obsidian (catalogued: **StN 7, 16, 28, 53**); very small bronze fragments. **Date:** second half 6th c. (fine Late Archaic pottery: 1 frg. of a kalathos rim; 2 frgs of black-glazed mugs **CN-Arch 34–35**; 1 frg. of an Archaic band kalathos; 1 frg. of a Laconian lakaina; 1 Corinthian bowl base). (Fig. 21)

Postholes and clay lenses: descriptions of the stratigraphical units

D6/33: oval cut filled by friable, dark brown-black soil. Covered by and cutting E6/20. Horizontal diameter max. 0.09 m; level at the top – 1.81.

D6/43: oval cut filled by friable, dark brown-black soil. Covered by and cutting D6/07. Horizontal diameter max. 0.065 m, 0.03 m deep; level at the top – 1.81.

D6/45: rectangular cut filled by friable, dark brown-black soil. Covered by and cutting D6/07. Horizontal dimensions 0.08 × 0.05 m, 0.025 m deep; level at the top – 1.80.

D7/30: circular lens of compact brown-black soil. Covered by D7/29; fills D7/31. Horizontal diameter 0.09 m, 0.025 m deep; level at the top – 2.08.

D7/31: posthole covered by and cutting D7/29; filled by D7/30, same dimensions.

D7/32: lens of yellow clay, of square shape, clearly recognizable in the surface but not in the section; can be interpreted as one of the clayey components of the layer, perhaps from a disintegrated mud-brick. Covered by and covers D7/28. Horizontal dimensions 0.10 × 0.10 m; level at the top – 2.11.

D7/33: lens of yellow clay, of rectangular shape, clearly recognizable in the surface but not in the section; can be interpreted as one of the clayey components of the layer, perhaps from a disintegrated mud-brick. Covered by and covers D7/28. Horizontal dimensions 0.07 × 0.02 m; level at the top – 2.16.

D7/35: circular lens of compact brown-black soil. Covered by D7/29; fills D7/36. Horizontal diameter 0.10 m, 0.02 m deep; level at the top – 2.08.

D7/36: posthole covered by and cutting D7/29; filled by D7/35, same dimensions.

D7/37: circular lens of compact brown-black soil. Covered by D7/29; fills D7/38. Horizontal diameter 0.06 m, 0.035 m deep; level at the top – 2.08.

D7/38: posthole covered by and cutting D7/29; filled by D7/37, same dimensions. (Fig. 22)



Figure 22. The posthole D7/38 in the second walking surface. (Photo: Tarditi)

D7/39: circular lens of compact brown-black soil. Covered by D7/29; fills D7/40. Horizontal diameter 0.08 m, 0.045 m deep; level at the top – 2.08.

D7/40: posthole covered by and cutting D7/29; filled by D7/39, same dimensions.

D7/41: circular lens of compact brown-black soil. Covered by D7/29; fills D7/42. Horizontal diameter 0.085 m, 0.03 m deep; level at the top – 2.09.

D7/42: posthole covered by and cutting D7/29; filled by D7/41, same dimensions.

D7/51: oval hole, filled by friable, dark brown-black soil. Covered by and cutting D7/50. Horizontal diameter max. 0.08 m, 0.04 m deep; level at the top – 2.11.

D7/53: circular hole filled by friable, dark brown-black soil. Covered by and cutting D7/50. Horizontal diameter 0.06 m, 0.04 m deep; level at the top – 2.03.

D7/54: circular hole filled by friable, dark brown-black soil. Covered by and cutting D7/50. Horizontal diameter 0.085 m, 0.035 m deep; level at the top – 2.02.

D7/55: irregularly circular hole, filled by friable, dark brown-black soil. Covered by and cutting D7/50. Horizontal diameter 0.09 m, 0.045 m deep; level at the top – 2.02.

D7/56: rectangular hole filled by friable, dark brown-black soil. Covered by and cutting D7/50. Horizontal dimensions 0.105 × 0.04 m, 0.045 m deep; level at the top – 2.04.

D7/57: circular hole filled by friable, dark brown-black soil. Covered by and cutting D7/50. Horizontal diameter 0.05 m, 0.03 m deep; level at the top – 1.96.

D7/61: oval cut filled by friable, dark brown-black soil. Covered by and cutting D7/59. Horizontal diameter max. 0.08 m; level at the top – 2.16.

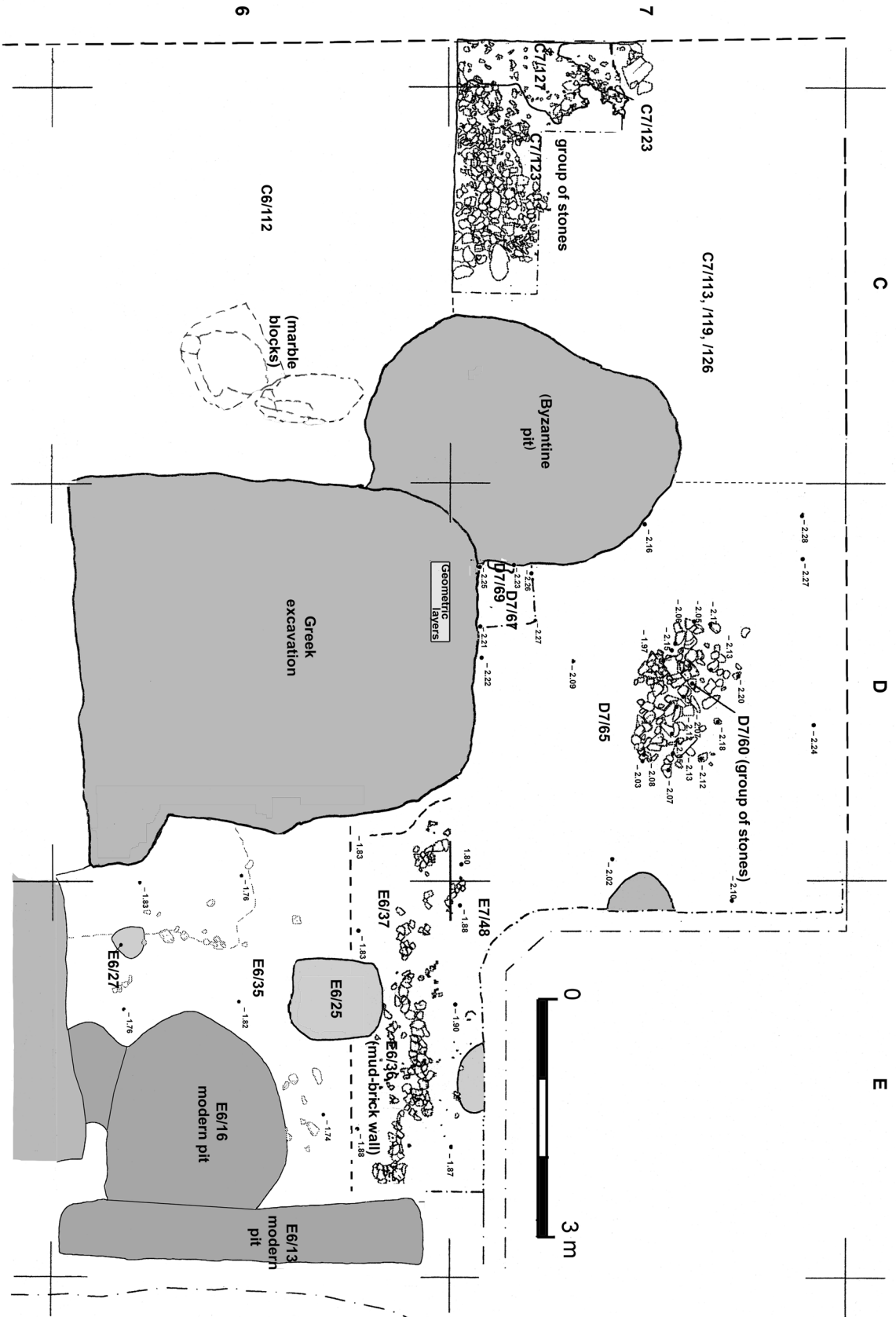


Figure 23. Plan of Archaic layers and structures in the squares C-E 6-7. Scale 1 : 75. (Prepared by E. Østby, after drawings by N. Masturzo)

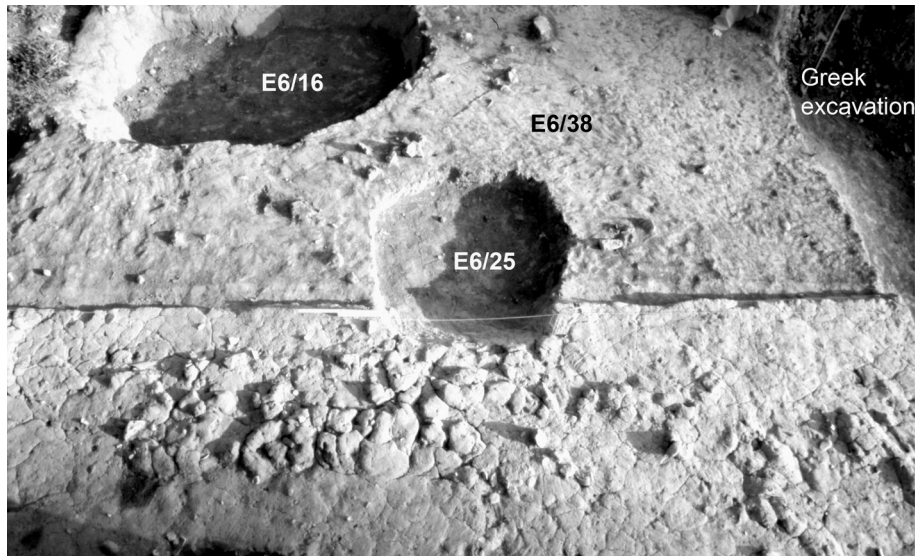


Figure 24. The mud-brick wall E6/36 and the floor E6/37 on both sides of it, seen from the north. The surface E6/38, at a slightly lower level, and the pit E6/25 are also seen. (Photo: E. Østby)

D7/62: circular cut filled by friable, dark brown-black soil. Covered by and cutting D7/59. Horizontal diameter 0.07 m; level at the top – 2.11.

D7/63: rectangular cut filled by friable, dark brown-black soil. Covered by and cutting D7/58. Horizontal dimensions 0.06 × 0.05 m, 0.03 m deep; level at the top – 1.97.

The mud-brick wall

In the northern part of square E6 the layer E6/35 directly covered a cluster of lenses of very fine yellow clay (s.u. E6/36), with an east–west orientation, ca. 0.60 m wide and at least 5 m long, extending over the entire width of the square. This group has been interpreted as the lowest course of a mud-brick wall, which was removed and cut down when the walking surface E6/35 came into use; this surface is very thin at this point, only as thick as the sherds mixed with some soil on the surface of the clay lenses. (Figs 23–25)

It is probable that the wall continued towards east and west: the eastern and western limits were probably destroyed respectively by the modern pit E6/13 in the east and by the trench opened by Dr Steinhauer in D6 toward the west.

During the excavation we dedicated great care to this structure, trying to establish the precise dimensions of each lens, in order to better define the shape of each mud-brick. Unfortunately they were too poorly preserved for a standard dimension to be identified. It was nevertheless possible to verify that the wall was constructed directly on the soil, without any particular preparation or a stone foundation:²⁶ the wall rested on a floor beneath it (s.u.



Figure 25. The mud-brick wall E6/36 and the floor E6/37 on both sides of it, seen from the east. (Photo: E. Østby)

²⁶ This building technique seems characteristic at Tegea, as attested by

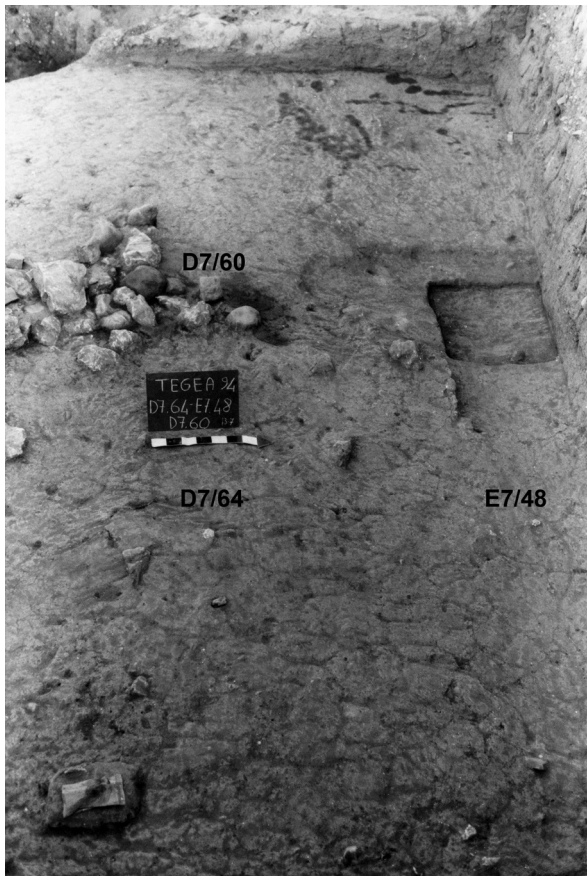


Figure 26. The third walking surface, units D7/64 and E7/48; the group of stones D7/60 to the left. (Photo: Tarditi)

E6/37) which was at first the level on which the wall was constructed, and afterwards also the surface of use connected with the life of the wall. The sherds collected during the excavation indicate a date about the mid-6th century: the wall was probably built at this time, and destroyed some time during the second half of the same century.

We found no evidence for other elements connected with the wall which might suggest that it was part of a building. If the wall really was independent, its east–west orientation, parallel to the Archaic temple, may indicate that it served as the northern limit of the sanctuary, like a temenos wall.²⁷

Mud-brick wall: description of the stratigraphical unit

E6/36: lenses of compact yellow clay, very fine, arranged to make a strip 0.60 m wide, with east–west orientation, extending through the width of the square. Covered by E6/20, covers E6/37; E6/35 and E7/46 lean on it. Horizontal

the discoveries in the temple sector, where the Geometric cult buildings of wattle and daub did not have any particular foundation. See *Tegea* I, sections **i** (Østby), 22–3, and **ii** (Nordquist), 114 and 150–1.

²⁷ This supposition is supported by the presence in the lowest layers of similar structures with the same orientation, discussed below.

dimensions ca. 5 × 0.60 m; 0.02–0.03 m thick; level at the top – 1.82 to – 1.83. **Finds:** on the surface very small sherds (none diagnostic) and fragments of burnt bone. (Figs 24–25)

Third walking surface

The walking surface connected with this phase was also recognized in squares D7 (D7/64) and E7 (E7/48). That the surface was used for walking is clearly indicated by the presence of small stones, fine gravel, fragments of pottery and burnt bones, also of significant dimensions, all in a horizontal position on the surface; the quantity of finds definitely decreases below the first 0.02–0.03 m of the layer. (Fig. 26)

It is interesting to observe that in square E6 the find material came mostly from the eastern half of the excavated area,²⁸ east of the alignment of stones observed on the surface of unit E6/35, although there is no difference to be recognized in the character of the soil.

In grid square D7, upon excavating unit D7/64, we found other stones connected with those observed in unit D7/60 and discussed below.

Third walking surface: descriptions of the stratigraphical units

D7/64, E6/37, E7/48: layer of friable reddish-brown soil, with mixed composition, with small lenses of yellow clay and fine gravel. Covered by D7/58, E6/35, E7/46 and E6/36, covers D7/65, E6/38 and E7/49; leans on D7/60. 0.04–0.12 m thick; level at the top from – 1.78 (E6, south side) to – 2.23 (D7 – E7, north side). Unit E6/37 was excavated up to the line y = 29 m, ca. 0.30 m south of the mud-brick wall E6/36. **Finds:** fine pottery fragments, painted (307 frgs; catalogued: **CN-CI 38**) and not painted (286 frgs); coarse pottery (54 frgs); fragments of tiles; terracotta (750 g mud-brick); plaster (10 g); burnt bones and pieces of charcoal; fragments of bronze, iron (nails), obsidian and flint (5 frgs). Bronze pin **BrN-P 18**; bronze ring **BrN-R 68**; bronze sheets **BrN-Sh 5, 29**; rim of a small bronze bowl (not catalogued, Tex no. 635); flint and obsidian blades **StN 12, 29, 39, 43, 49**. **Date:** mid-6th c. (pottery frgs; one base fragment of a Late Corinthian pyxis). (Fig. 26)

Fourth walking surface

Another walking surface, preceding this phase, was found all over the investigated area. On this surface there were small stones, sherds, fragments of terracotta and of burnt bones, some also of medium dimensions (length ca. 0.15 m). During the excavation we also collected fragments of mud-bricks and burnt terracotta.

The soil here is more reddish, fairly dry and friable, with some sand mixed with it. In this layer more stones appeared of the group already recognized in unit D7/60. (Fig. 28)

²⁸ More or less along the line x = 21, y = 26–28 m; x = 22, y = 29 m; x = 23, y = 29 m.

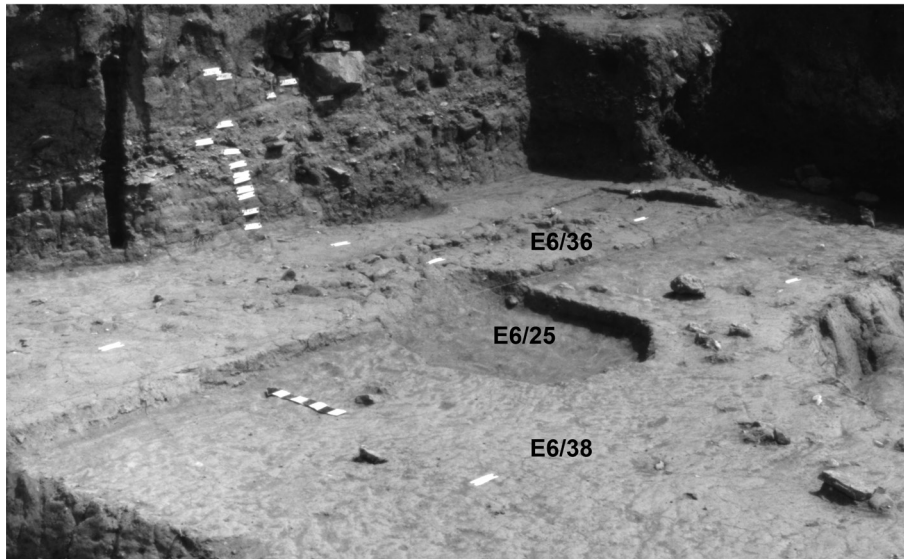


Figure 27. The fourth walking surface in square E6 (unit E6/38), seen from south-west. In the background, the mud-brick wall E6/36. (Photo: E. Østby)

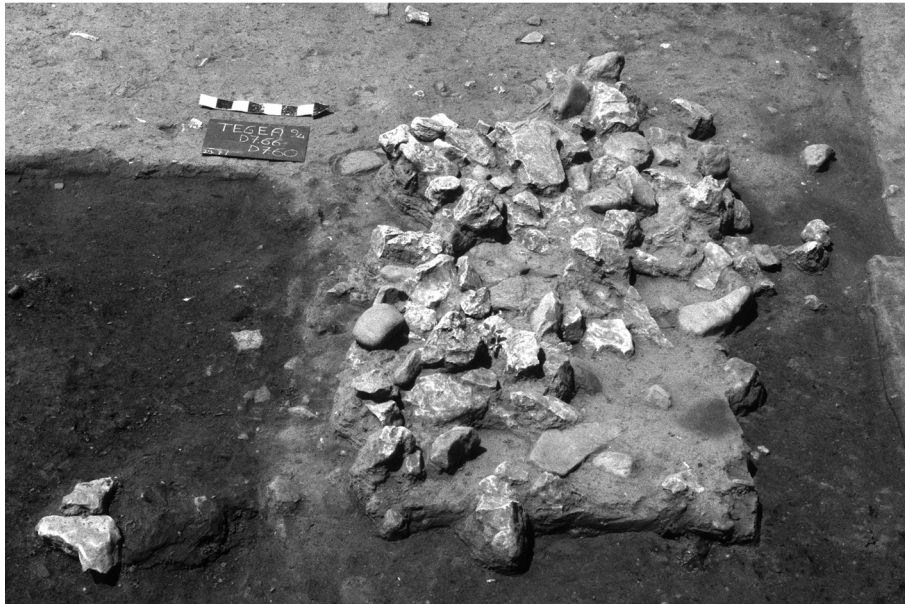


Figure 28. The group of stones D7/60 on the debris layer D7/66, seen from the east. (Photo: E. Østby)

The finds suggest a date in the first half of the 6th century. The layer was completely excavated over almost the entire area of the squares D7 (where only a strip on the north side was left) and E6, except for the northern part where the wall E6/36 was preserved together with part of the floor E6/37 (along the line $y = 29$ m). (Fig. 27)

In square E6, after unit E6/38 had been excavated and the surface of the underlying layer E6/39 cleaned, we concentrated our activity on defining the individual bricks of the wall E6/36, focusing the work in square D7 and the western part of E7.

Fourth walking surface: descriptions of the stratigraphical units

D7/65, E6/38, E7/49: layer of friable reddish soil, fairly dry, mixed with sand; some stones of small and medium dimensions, some of them clearly burnt, are scattered on the surface, mostly in E6. Covered by D7/64, E6/37 and E7/48, covers D7/66, E6/39 and E7/50; leans on D7/60. 0.04–0.15 m thick; level at the top from – 1.87 (E6, south side) to – 2.26 (D7, north side). Fragments of terracotta, bone and charcoal. **Finds:** fine pottery fragments, painted (155 frgs; catalogued: **CN-G 7, CN-SG 9**) and not painted (273 frgs); coarse pottery (119 frgs); 2 tile fragments; burnt bones; small pieces of charcoal; terracotta (1,130 g mud-bricks); plaster (4 g); bronze fragments (sheets, pin). 1 fragment of a horse figurine of terracotta (not catalogued). Bronze sheet



Figure 29. The collapsed group of stones C7/123, /127, /133, seen from the north. (Photo: E. Østby)

BrN-Sh 25; bronze fibula **BrN-Fi 3**; fragments of a small bronze bowl **BrN-V 7**; small plaque of bone **BoN 10**; flint flake **StN 40**. **Date:** first half of 6th c. (pottery frgs: 1 frg. of a Corinthian kalathos rim; 1 frg. of a Laconian black-glazed vase with a purple band; small Laconian frgs). (Fig. 27)

E6/39: layer of friable reddish, “dry” soil; not excavated. Covered by E6/38. Level at the top – 1.80.

Grid squares C7, D7: the groups of stones

When the excavation of the layer D7/65 – E7/49 was complete, it was then possible to expose also the lower part of the group of stones (D7/60) which had barely appeared in unit D7/58. It consists of a group of limestone rocks of small and medium size and some pebbles, mixed with soil; in some points we observed that two or more stones overlapped.

Upon excavating the layers partially leaning on and partially covering unit D7/60 it was possible to observe that this was a cluster of stones. (Figs 23, 28) Originally they overlapped on at least two or three levels, an arrangement now lost because of the disintegration of the pile; but this is indicated by some stones which were found in the upper layers, where they could have been deposited after falling down from their original standing position. This group of stones might represent the destroyed and shattered remains of a fairly impressive structure, such as the foundation of a wall that rested on the surface of unit D7/66 beneath. Such a structure would have been constructed during the period when surface D7/66 was in use, between the end of the 7th and the beginning of the 6th century.

First group of stones: description of the stratigraphical unit

D7/60: irregularly rectangular cluster of stones, of small and medium dimensions, and small pebbles, all mixed with soil; the arrangement is discontinuous, with two or more stones overlapping at some points. Covered by D7/50, /58, /59, /64 and /65, covers D7/66. 0.25–0.30 m thick; horizontal dimensions ca. 2 × 1 m; level at the top from – 1.90 to – 2.18. (Fig. 28)

A similar group of stones, in a similar stratigraphical position, was discovered in square C7. The scattered cluster seems to go beneath the layers C7/113, /119 and /126, and the excavation in square C7 ceased when this group of stones had been cleaned. (Figs 23, 29) Continued excavation also in square C6 might better reveal the nature and function of this group of stones.

Second group of stones: description of the stratigraphical units

C7/123, /127, /133: covered by C7/113, /119, /126. Ca. 0.10–0.20 m thick; horizontal dimensions ca. 2 × 1 m; level at the top from – 1.81 to – 1.95. Concentration of stones and pebbles in the south-western part of square C7. **Finds:** fragment of Archaic terracotta sima **ArchN-Tc 3**. (Fig. 29)

Third period: The 7th century

Grid squares D7, E7: the debris layer

The excavation of the layer D7/65 – E7/49 brought to light the surface of the underlying layer D7/66 – E7/50,

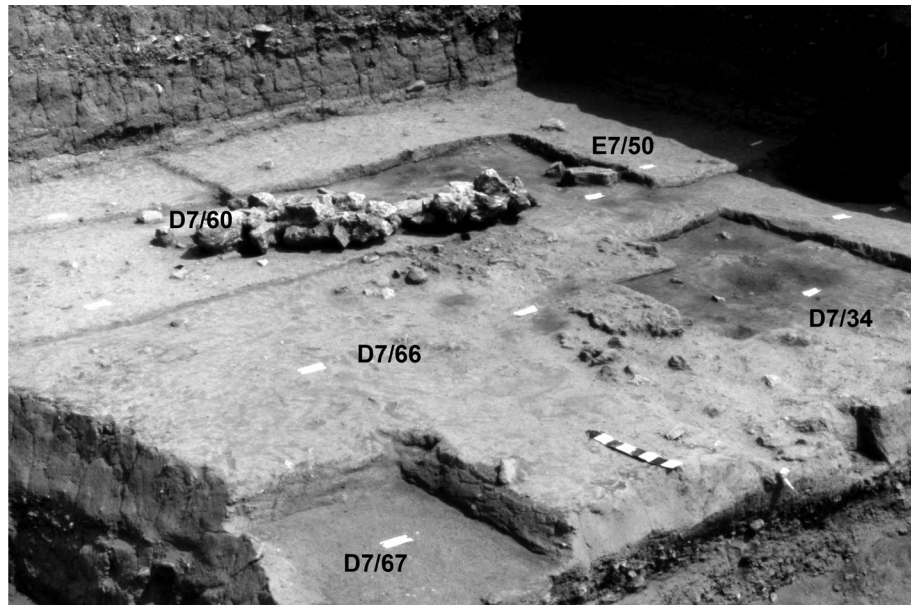


Figure 30. The square D7 at the end of the excavation, with the 7th-century surfaces D7/34, /66 and E7/50, and the group of stones D7/60. In the foreground, the small excavated part of unit D7/67. (Photo: E. Østby)

characterized by a great quantity of burnt terracotta fragments, mixed with charcoal and a few sherds. The dating of the materials collected on the top suggests that the surface was used between the end of the 7th and the beginning of the 6th century.

This layer was partially excavated in the south-eastern quadrant of square D7 during a sounding made in 1992; it was then named D7/34, and was excavated only in its upper part. As we understood that the material was connected with a destruction, we decided to postpone the excavation to a moment when it would be possible to expose the entire surface of the sector. Thus the excavation was resumed here in 1994, over the entire area of square D7. (Fig 30)

This layer essentially consists of terracotta fragments with clear traces of burning, often with remains of plaster, and in many cases with the impressions of light materials such as straw or reeds, along with many pieces of charcoal. The concentration of these materials is stronger in the central part of the square than in the northern and southern parts, where there is more soil.

The debris layer: descriptions of the stratigraphical units

D7/34: layer consisting of a great quantity of terracotta fragments with clear traces of fire, mixed with friable and dry, reddish soil. Covered by D7/28 – /29, covers D7/67. Excavated in 1992 in the south-eastern quadrant of square D7. Horizontal dimensions 2 × 2.5 m (not completely excavated); level at the top from – 2.12 to – 2.20. **Finds:** many terracotta fragments, with traces of fire; in some cases the surface preserves remains of a thin white covering of plaster. Fragments of fine painted pottery (catalogued: CN-

PC 2), charcoal, many bronze and iron objects, complete or fragmentary (pins, sheets). Fragment of bronze sheet **BrN-Sh 35**; bronze discs **BrN-Di 6–7**; bronze bowls **BrN-V 2–3**. **Date:** second half of 7th c. (one frg. of a Protocorinthian aryballos **CN-PC 2**). (Fig. 30)

D7/66, E7/50: layer consisting of a great quantity of terracotta fragments with clear traces of burning, mixed with reddish soil, friable, perhaps from disintegrated terracotta. Covered by D7/60, /65 and E7/49, covers D7/67 – /69. Partially excavated in 1994 in squares D7 and E7. Ca. 0.09–0.15 m thick; level at the top from – 2.07 to – 2.43. **Finds:** many terracotta fragments, with traces of burning; frequently the surface preserves remains of a thin white coating of plaster (6,415 g mud-brick, 240 g plaster). Fine pottery fragments, painted (47 frgs; catalogued: **CN-LacPG 3**, **CN-PC 4–5**, **CN-SG 2, 8**) and unpainted (44 frgs); coarse pottery (19 frgs); 1 pithos (11 frgs); tiles (3 frgs); many pieces of charcoal, also of medium dimensions; fragments of bone; many bronze and iron objects, complete or fragmentary (sheets, pins, nails); 1 gold fragment; glass fragments. Bronze pin **BrN-P 84**; bronze sheet **BrN-Sh 2**; fragments of bronze bowls **BrN-V 4, 8**; small handle of bronze **BrN-V 19**; fragment of gold sheet **GdN 1**; bone objects **BoN 6** (model of double-axe), **13** (pin head); flint chip **StN 50**. **Date:** the surface was used until the beginning of the 6th c. (sherds: 1 frg. of pottery with compact, fairly shiny black glaze; 2 frgs of a Protocorinthian aryballos with matt and cracked glaze, not catalogued; Protocorinthian sherds **CN-PC 4–5**). The layer: end of the 7th c. (pottery: Subgeometric sherds **CN-SG 2, 8**). (Fig. 30)

The excavation of the layer D7/34 – D7/66 – E7/50 demonstrated that it consisted of debris mixed with soil; the debris came from a building of mud-brick where one side of the wall had been covered with white plaster. The building had probably been destroyed by a fire, as the traces of burning indicate. The layer was only partly

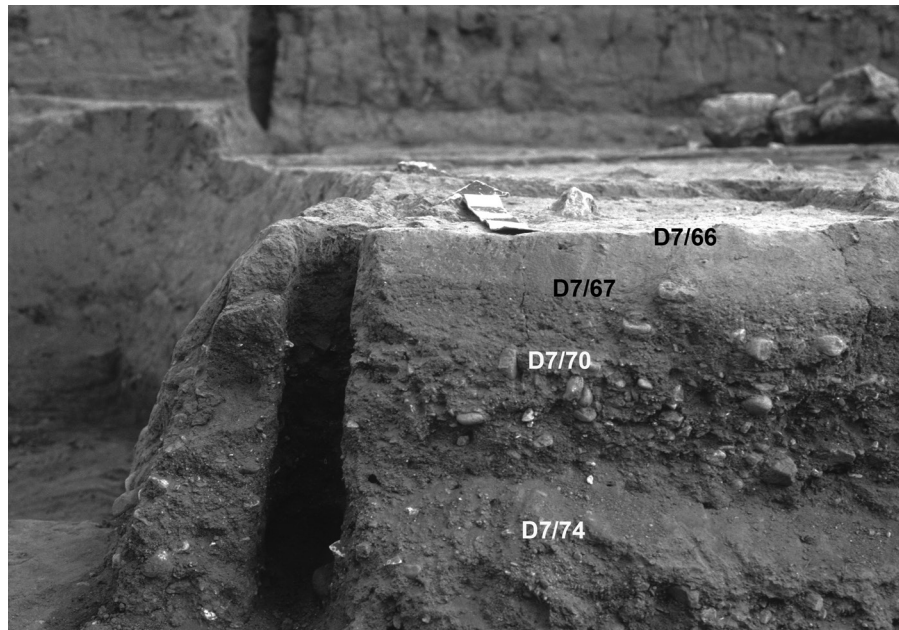


Figure 31. The southern trench wall of square D7, below the surface D7/66. The unit D7/66 has not yet been completely excavated; the layer of sand D7/67, the alluvial deposit D7/70 and the soil layer D7/74 are visible underneath. (Photo: Tarditi)

excavated. The collected finds can be dated to the 7th century: among the materials mixed with the debris there are important bronze and iron votive objects (sheets, pins, rims, bowls, etc.), in some cases with traces of fire, and for the first time in the northern sector they seem to be, at least to some extent, contemporary with the layer and not earlier. From this layer also came the only gold fragment found in the northern sector (**GdN 1**). We can conclude that the layer consists of debris and materials of the 7th century, and that its surface was used from the end of the 7th to the beginning of the 6th century, as indicated by the latest materials found on it.

We know from the excavation in the temple sector that in the early 7th century the sanctuary was damaged by a fire that destroyed the second Late Geometric temple, Building 1.²⁹ The votive objects collected during the excavation all over the sanctuary area indicate an abrupt and significant quantitative increase of dedications starting from the second half of the 8th and continuing particularly during the 7th century, following the general trend of Greek sanctuaries. The abundance of Orientalizing materials collected in the later layers of the northern sector demonstrates that during this time the sanctuary of Athena Alea was continuously used and frequented.

The excavations inside the Classical temple have shown that an intermediate building probably existed after the destruction of the Late Geometric Building 1 and before the construction of the monumental Archaic temple.³⁰ The evidence we have suggests that the northern sector was used to dispose of the debris of a

building which probably had a cultic function (as the connected objects and the care used on the building suggest); it was used during the 7th century and then destroyed by a fire. It is possible that the debris came from this intermediate building, which was then replaced by the more impressive Archaic temple towards the end of the century. During the monumental reorganization of the sanctuary at that time the debris of the intermediate building was discarded in the area immediately to the north of the temples, creating the surface that was used until the beginning of the 6th century.

Together with the other cluster in square C7 the cluster of stones found on this surface was intentionally deposited, probably as a foundation for an important structure, as indicated by the use of stone as building material. This use of stone in the sanctuary began by the end of the 7th century. This is attested not only by the Archaic temple, but also by the group of stones D7/60.³¹

Grid square D7: structures visible in the section

The interpretation of the layer D7/34, /66 and E7/50 was made easier by some observations made in the sections of the layers beneath it, as they could be seen in the cuttings in the western (the Byzantine pit C6-C7/59) and southern (the Steinhauer trench) sides of square D7.

In the southern section it was possible to observe two layers below unit D7/66, each consisting of sand and

²⁹ See *Tegea I*, section **ii** (Nordquist), 112–3, 141 and 155. Building 2 had been destroyed in the same way.

³⁰ See *Tegea I*, sections **i** (Østby), 31–5, and **ii** (Nordquist), 73–6.

³¹ See *Tegea I*, section **i** (Østby), 32 for the possibility that already the “intermediate” 7th-century temple building had a stone foundation. The Geometric cult buildings 1 and 2 of wattle and daub had no specific foundations; see *Tegea I*, section **ii** (Nordquist), 114 and 150.

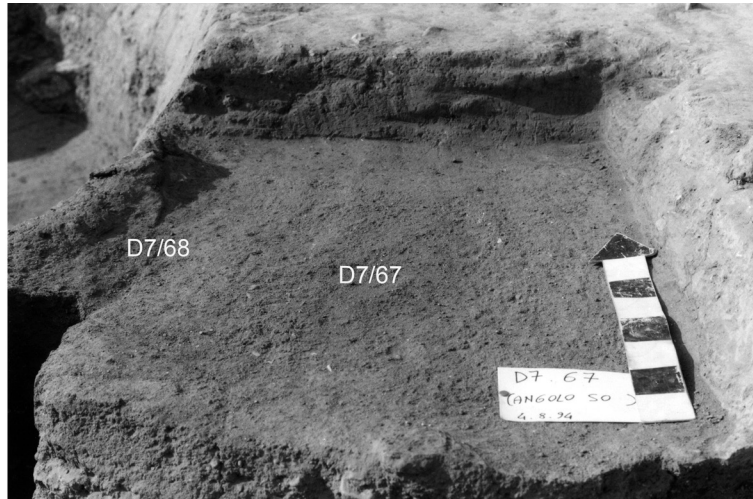


Figure 32. The surface of unit D7/67, in the south-western corner of the square. The cutting D7/68 can be seen to the left. (Photo: Tarditi)

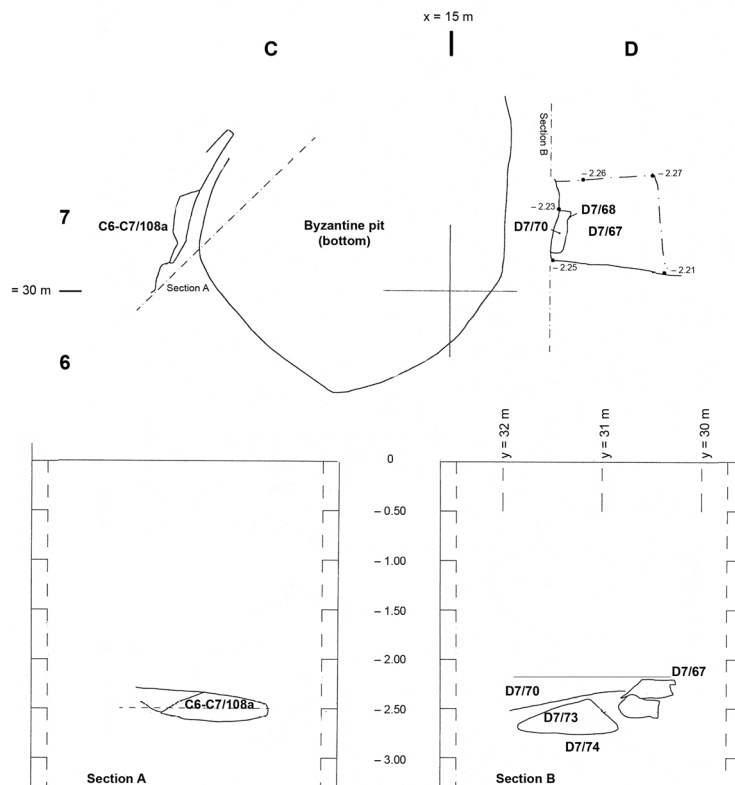


Figure 33. Early layers and structures identified in the walls of the Byzantine pit. Scale 1 : 75. (Drawings prepared by N. Masturzo and E. Østby)

pebbles. They can be explained as the results of two different, successive floods, which had occurred with only a short interval in between. (Fig. 31)

In the western section, the first layer of sand (D7/67) under D7/66 has a regular, vertical cut (D7/68) with a fill (D7/69) where the soil and materials are similar to unit D7/66, which covers it. (Figs 32–33)

In order to explore the nature and the direction of the cutting D7/68 and of the connected fill D7/69 we made a small sounding in the south-west corner of D7, where we

excavated unit D7/66 entirely and cleaned the top of the underlying sand in unit D7/67. (Figs 30, 32)

We observed that the cutting D7/68 and its fill D7/69 do not continue towards the east, but stop on a slightly oblique line; they are then ca. 0.06 m deep to the south and 0.10 m deep to the north, and 0.32 m wide. What we found is the east end of a cutting and its filling that must continue towards the west; and in fact, in the western wall of the large Byzantine pit (in the eastern section of square C7) we could identify a cutting going in a vertical

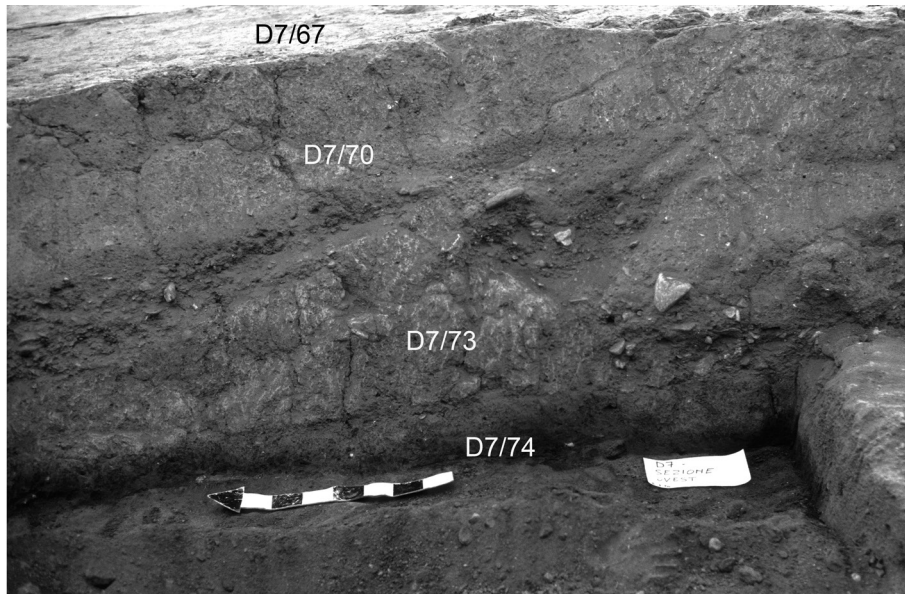


Figure 34. The western trench wall of square D7, with the early triangular structure D7/73 between the units D7/70 and /74. (Photo: Tarditi)

direction, in a position corresponding to the cutting D7/68, with the same dimensions and the same kind of fill. (See the plan and sections, *Fig. 33*) Unit D7/66 probably covered this structure completely, since we found that layer both south and north of it, and it partially filled the evident slope towards the north. From the western section of square D7 we observed that this episode, with the cutting D7/68 and its fill D7/69, is the latest, in chronological order, of a group of three similar structures.

In fact, underneath D7/67 a similar situation can be observed, since there is another vertical cutting (D7/71) here in the sand layer unit D7/70, and this cutting is also filled with soil mixed with debris (unit D7/72).

Covered probably by D7/70 (less likely by D7/67) we have a third structure, slightly further to the north than the others; it is made of yellow clay, and has a triangular shape: D7/73. (*Figs 33–34*) All these elements are parts of a structure with an east–west orientation, and the structure D7/73 is clearly recognizable also in the western wall of the Byzantine pit (C6–C7/108a).

This structure of yellow clay, which was probably made of mud-brick and rests directly on a thick layer of dark brown soil (D7/74 = D6/15), was already observed in all sections of square D6, where it seems to be covered by the first (in chronological order) of the alluvial layers of sand and pebbles. (See the stratigraphical photo and drawing at the end of the text, *Figs 36–37*)

Cuttings and fills under D7/66: descriptions of the stratigraphical units

D7/67: layer of medium grey sand, of not very fine texture; in the bottom part of the layer the sand is mixed with small

pebbles. Covered by D7/66, covers D7/70 and /72; cut by D7/68. Level at the top from – 2.21 to – 2.26. The layer is excavated in the south-western corner of square D7, and is visible in the western and southern sections of square D7 and in all the sections of square D6: it can be explained as an alluvial deposit. (*Figs 30–33*)

D7/68: cutting of trapezoidal shape, with the southern wall almost vertical, visible in the western section of square D7; continues towards east, slightly oblique, for only a few centimetres. Covered by D7/66, cuts D7/67; filled by D7/69. Width 0.32 (top) to 0.50 m (bottom); preserved depth max. 0.09 m; level at the top – 2.25. (*Figs 32–33*)

D7/69: fill of fairly friable and dry, reddish soil, very similar to the soil of D7/66. Covered by D7/66, fills D7/68; width 0.32 (top) to 0.50 m (bottom), 0.08–0.10 m thick.

D7/70: layer of medium grey sand, of not very thin texture: in the bottom part of the layer the sand is mixed with small pebbles. Covered by D7/67, covers D7/73 – /74; cut by D7/71. The unit is visible in the section on the southern and western side of D7 and in the side of D6. It can be explained as an alluvial deposit. (*Figs 31, 33–34*)

D7/71: rectangular cutting with vertical southern wall. Covered by D7/67; cuts D7/70; filled by D7/72. The unit is visible in the section on the southern and western side of D7. Depth 0.18, width max. 0.42 m (bottom); level at the top – 2.42.

D7/72: fill of D7/71, consisting of reddish soil, mixed with some fragments of burnt terracotta. Covered by D7/67; fills D7/71. Depth max. 0.22, width max. 0.42 m (bottom); level of the top from – 2.36 to – 2.42.

D7/73: structure of triangular section, made of yellow clay, visible in the western section of square D7. Covered by D7/70, covers D7/74. Depth 0.35, width 1.02 m. (*Figs 33–34*)



Figure 35. Sounding in deeper layers in square D6, in the 1994 season. (Photo: E. Østby)

C6-C7/108: structure of triangular section, made of yellow clay, visible in the eastern section of square C7 (the Byzantine pit C7/59). Dimensions, position and level of the top as D7/73. (Fig. 33)

D7/74: layer of very fat dark brown soil, visible in the western and southern sections of square D7 and recognizable in all the sections of square D6 (D6/15). Covered by D7/70 and /73. Level at the top from -2.63 (south side) to -2.72 (west side). (Figs 31, 33–34)

In order to better understand the nature and chronology of unit D7/74 we made a small test trench in square D6. We cleaned the surface of D6/15 (where Dr Steinhauer had concluded his excavation) and excavated a small rectangular area in the north-western corner of the square, 1 m long (from $x = 16.00$ to 17.00 m) and 0.22 m wide (from $y = 29.78$ to 30.00 m).³² The finds (small sherds, charcoal and small bone fragments) provide a date for the units D6/15 = D7/74 in the Late Geometric period.

The structure with triangular section D7/73 – C6-C7/108, which was probably destroyed by the flood attested by the thick deposit of sand and pebbles D7/70, could also be dated to this period.

After this destruction, a structure with a similar east-west orientation was built slightly further to the south, and a cutting (D7/71) was made for it in the alluvial deposit and filled with mixed material, probably debris (D7/72).

This structure was destroyed by another flood (which left the layer of sand and pebbles D7/67), and it was then rebuilt in the same position and with the same technique,

including a cutting in the alluvial layer (D7/68) filled with the same kind of mixed materials, soil and debris (D7/69).

Both were very simple structures, built with debris and were not very thick (ca. 0.30–0.35 m). Probably they were mixed structures, such as a kind of bedding on the soil for a wooden fence.

The final structure was eventually covered by what seems to be a large fill (D7/66), that filled in at least partially the evident downward slope towards the north. As we saw, the finds indicate that the surface of this fill was used between the end of the 7th and the beginning of the 6th century.

It is very difficult to interpret these structures, since they are so poorly preserved. They all appeared in the same position and with the same alignment, and if they continued in the same way to the west in square C7, we may suggest that they represent a kind of northern limit of the sanctuary area: first they were made of mud-brick, in the Late Geometric period; later, they were twice rebuilt with simpler materials, apparently in a period of crisis; and finally they were covered by a thick filling by the end of the 7th century. In the same period the sanctuary flourished, as attested by the construction of the first peripteral temple and by the great quantity of votive objects found during the excavations (bronze pins, lead figurines, fine pottery, etc.). The fill covering the ancient structures may suggest that the sanctuary was enlarged towards the north when the Archaic temple was constructed.

The mud-brick wall identified in square E6, and dated to the second half of the 6th century, has the same east-west orientation but is located slightly to the south of those structures, as if now this was once again the limit of the sanctuary area.

³² Coordinates: 1: $x = 16.00$, $y = 30.00$, $z = -2.63$ m; 2: $x = 16.00$, $y = 29.78$, $z = -2.59$ m; 3: $x = 17.00$, $y = 30.00$, $z = -2.64$ m; 4: $x = 17.00$, $y = 29.78$, $z = -2.73$ m. See Figs 1 and 23.

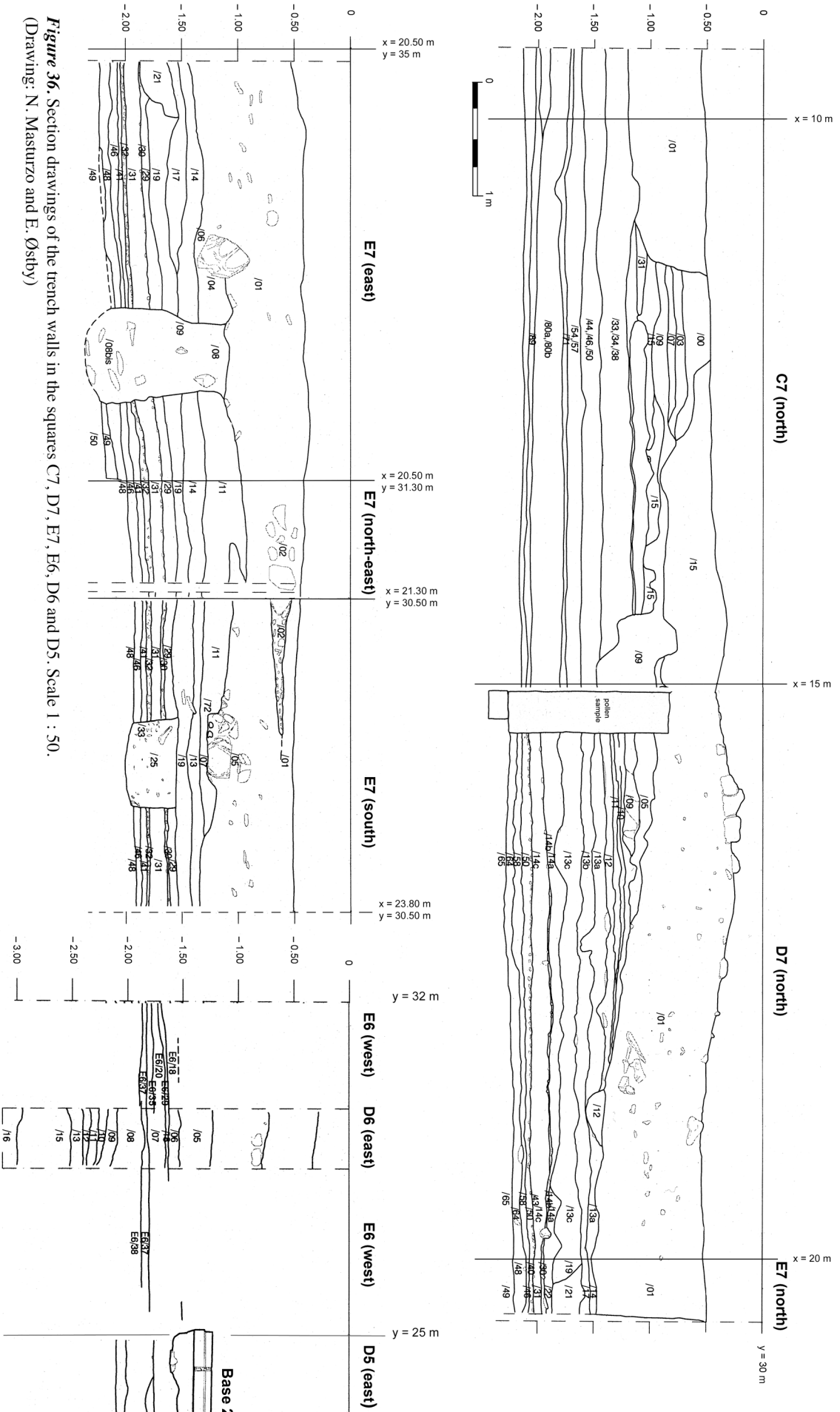


Figure 36. Section drawings of the trench walls in the squares C7, D7, E7, E6, D6 and D5. Scale 1 : 50. (Drawing: N. Masturzo and E. Østby)

Fourth period: The Geometric epoch

Preliminary observations

The sounding on the northern side of square D6 was started in order to check the chronology of unit D6/15, and was continued in order to verify Dr Steinhauer's stratigraphical sequence in the south-eastern corner of the square. (Fig. 35)

The dark brown layer is fairly thick (ca. 0.40–0.50 m), with small variations in the concentrations of sherds or small pieces of charcoal. Only by excavating it over a larger area will it be possible to identify different stratigraphical units.

Below this Late Geometric layer there is another layer, characterized by a great quantity of yellow clay; Dr Steinhauer indicated that it was sterile (D6/16: 0.20–0.25 m thick). We collected some very small pottery fragments, not chronologically significant. Below this (at – 3.36) we found a pebble layer (D6/20), from which we also collected a few small pottery fragments, not diagnostic.

Below the level – 3.46 the sounding was continued only with core-drillings, which testified to the presence of a thick clay layer. The drillings were carried down to – 4.01: at – 3.96 a small terracotta fragment turned up, as evidence for human presence at the site.

These drillings made clear that this is a pluri-stratified site, where some layers have been deposited by a sequence of different floods, connected with the hydro-morphological situation of the area and with the action of the Sarandapotamos river close by.³³

Conclusions

Our research in the northern sector of the sanctuary of Athena Alea has identified an unbroken stratigraphical sequence that starts from the Geometric period, the most ancient phase reached by the excavation.

At present, we do not completely understand how this area was used during the Geometric period (for cult or for dwelling?). The votive objects demonstrate that in the 7th century this area was certainly directly connected with the sanctuary, although we cannot identify its exact function.

The northern sector was an open space, with a slight downwards slope towards the north. In the southern part of square D7 we have evidence for three successive structures, all with the same east–west orientation, practically overlapping each other on the same alignment. They were destroyed by floods, as attested by the deposition of thick layers of sand and pebbles; after each destruction another similar structure was constructed.

Awaiting from future excavations further evidence

that could explain more precisely the use of the area to the north of these structures, we may suggest that they indicate the northern limit of the sanctuary during the 7th century since they were repeatedly constructed in the same place. The last of these modest structures was covered by the layer of debris dated to the end of the 7th century; on its surface a new structure was built, somewhat further north, but substantially in the same position as the earlier and smaller, linear structures. This new structure was made with far greater care, as attested by the group of stones which is now very disintegrated, but was once of important dimensions.

The importance of this wall is demonstrated by the use of stone as a building material. The date at the end of the 7th century coincides with a time of extensive building activity in the sanctuary. This is attested by the construction of the Archaic temple, the first cult building at the site where we know that stone was used. The stone wall may have been important for another reason if it defined the northern limit of the sanctuary, and it was now built in a way that reflected the new monumentality which was also evident in the Archaic temple.

During the 6th century other floods occurred, probably caused by the nearby river Sarandapotamos. These floods are attested by the significant rise of the soil level, about 0.20 m in approximately 50 years. After each flood a new walking surface was formed, the use of which is attested by the materials found on it (mostly sherds and fragments of animal bones).

About the mid-6th century a mud-brick wall was built in this area, of large dimensions (more than 5 m long and ca. 0.60 m wide), which crossed this part of the sanctuary in an east–west direction. This wall is preserved only in the lowest course of mud-bricks, and there is no evidence for another wall being connected with it or covering it. Moreover, there is apparently no difference in the use of the surface north and south of it. Probably the wall was intentionally cut and destroyed, as indicated by its regular surface, and its top was used as part of the second walking surface by the end of the 6th century. Since the direction and the position of this mud-brick wall coincide with the earlier and simpler structures of the 7th century and with the cluster of stones, the mud-brick wall may perhaps be understood as another reorganization of the northern limit of the sanctuary; by the mid-6th century it became necessary to reconstruct or partially replace the stone wall with this mud-brick wall on the same orientation.

At the end of the 6th century the sanctuary was probably enlarged towards the north, as attested by the destruction of the mud-brick wall and by the homogeneous use of the entire area, which seems always to have been left open. Two regular pits north of the mud-brick wall, probably for bases of objects of large dimensions (votive monuments?), confirm that this part of the northern sector was now inside the sanctuary.

Modest structures connected with the use of the

³³ Further discussed in section ii (Ødegård and Klempe).

walking surfaces are attested by the groups of post-holes, of small dimensions, that could be identified at different levels (but never on the floor with which they are connected). Some of these postholes, all of which are at almost identical levels, are grouped into a semicircular shape of ca. 2.5 m diameter. The dimensions of the posts suggest that this was a modest structure, uncovered or with only a very light roof, and not made for long-term use since the posts were intentionally removed and not left in position. It could have been a kind of temporary fence or shelter made for a festival or ceremony.

At the end of the 6th or the beginning of the 5th century a new floor was created in this area, with pebbles of small and medium dimensions; it is attested in all parts of the excavation. The floor was uniform and regular, and extended all over the open area. This pebble floor was in use throughout the 5th and part of the 4th century. Its surface preserved no particular evidence of use, neither in the form of materials deposited on it nor by any structure. However, it is possible that this floor was the surface connected with the light, curved structure attested by the postholes.

The pebble floor was followed by layers directly connected with the building of the Late Classical temple: soil containing bronze objects, probably from the excavation of the foundation trenches for the temple, was deposited on this floor. This northern area was perfectly suited for the disposal of a great quantity of soil, since it was very close by and free of structures. With this fill the natural northwards slope was then slightly reduced. A similar function of filling and levelling was repeated by the marble chip layer that was made of waste material from the final work on the marble blocks of the temple. Since we have not found traces of the construction site, the blocks were probably worked elsewhere; nevertheless the chips were discarded here, perhaps because there was a specific intention to reduce the slope at this point and/or to create a solid surface.

After this fill, it seems that no further building activity took place in this part of the sanctuary, with the exception of the Late Classical monument bases 1 and 2 discovered by the French archaeologists at the southern limit, immediately above the layer of marble chips.

We did not find any evidence to suggest that the function and purpose of the projecting foundation on the northern flank of the temple could be connected with some feature in the northern area.

The surface of the marble chips layer remained exposed for a long time, certainly for many centuries, as attested by the materials of Late Hellenistic and Early Imperial date which were found on it. Strangely, this long exposure did not create a homogeneous and compact floor

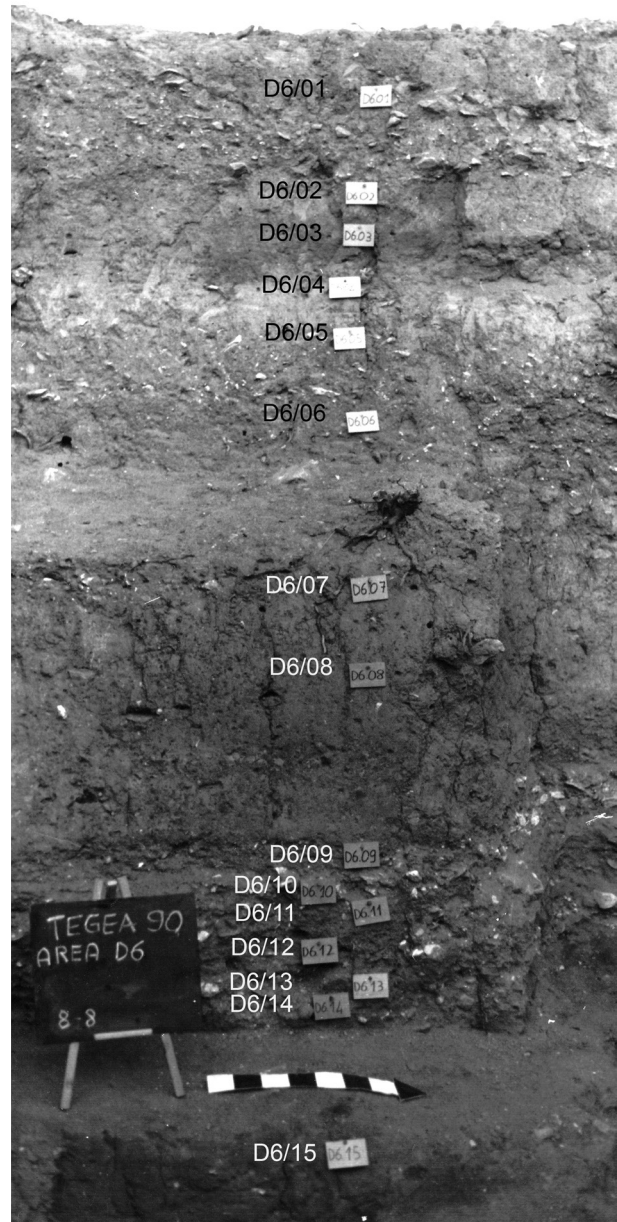


Figure 37. The layer sequence in the western trench wall of the Greek excavation in square D6, documented in 1990. (Photo: Tarditi)

that could be easily identified by the materials deposited on the surface or by its compact consistency. It is difficult to explain this situation. It is possible that this open area was periodically cleaned up, with any trace connected with its use being regularly removed – or, more simply, this may have been a part of the sanctuary which had no specific use, as the absence of any structure seems to indicate.