



PART 3

HUMAN–ENVIRONMENT RELATIONS IN THE BACH AREA

In this part of *Last House on the Hill*, we have merged two sections of Volume 4 (*Inhabiting Çatalhöyük*) of the CRP 1995–1999 excavation report (Part A: Site–Environment Relations, and Part B: Human Lifeways). In *Last House on the Hill*, this section brings together human relations to plant and animal resources, as well as the life histories of humans during the life history of the buildings in the BACH Area.

Both the faunal and floral reports contain essential discussion—as do all the Çatalhöyük reports on these materials—on the degree to which the plants and animals used in the Neolithic settlement conform to our notions of “domesticated” species and the implications of the ambiguity of their classification under this evolutionary scheme. In this volume, two aspects of faunal analysis are covered: Chapter 8, The Mammals, authored by Nerissa Russell, and Chapter 9, The Birds, authored by Nerissa Russell in collaboration with her colleague at Cornell University, Kevin McGowan. These two chapters are modeled after chapters by the same authors in Part A of Volume 4 (*Inhabiting Çatalhöyük*) of the CRP 1995–99 excavation report. Of special interest to the research aims of the BACH project—because of the significant deposition of large animal bones at the close of occupation of Building 3—are questions of the social meanings of animal use, such as feasting and disposal of bones. Nerissa Russell broadens the traditional parameters of faunal analysis and interpretation to include the symbolic significance of the visual representation of animals and the deposition of their remains in clay

bricks and mortar of walls, as, for example, in the screen wall in Building 3.

Emma Jenkins also builds on her report in the CRP 1995–99 volume 4 to author the report of the BACH microfauna in Chapter 10.

In Volume 4 of the CRP 1995–1999 excavation report, Christine Hastorf wrote a chapter on the method of collecting macrobotanical remains, although the actual macrobotanical analysis and report was written by the team of Andrew Fairbairn, Julie Near, and Danièle Martinoli. The final detailed analysis and publication of the macrobotanical remains of the BACH Area, however, was carried out by Christine Hastorf and a group of researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, who built their investigation on the analyses already carried out in the field by Kathryn Killackey and Aylan Erkal. Their report, nevertheless, is modeled on that of Fairbairn and colleagues and similarly focuses on the different uses of both wild and domesticated plants in the daily life of the Building 3 inhabitants, comparing them with other areas of Neolithic Çatalhöyük and relating them to Neolithic foodways in Anatolia in general. Through the issue of food preparation, this chapter may be linked significantly to that of Sonya Atalay on clay balls (Chapter 18).

The excavation, analysis, and interpretation of the human remains in the BACH Area were carried out by Lori Hager and Başak Boz, who have provided a jointly authored report for this volume (Chapter 13) covering both Neolithic and post-Neolithic burials. Başak Boz had been

part of the Çatalhöyük Research Project team publishing the burials from Building 1, focusing on dental health, in volume 4 of the CRP 1995–99 report. Lori Hager did not join the CRP team until 2000. The earliest burial in Building 3 is also the youngest in age, and the only one with a significant cluster of grave goods. The general lack of grave goods in the BACH Area, and other parts of Çatalhöyük in this time period, lends a rather different set of themes to the human remains analysis from many other Neolithic sites in the Near East. The report on the BACH Neolithic human remains follows the same interest demonstrated by the authors of CRP 1995–1999 volume 4 (*Inhabiting Çatalhöyük*, Part B) in focusing the interpretation of human remains as representing human life histories, investigating issues of health, nutrition, injury, and the effect of the daily round of tasks on their bodies. Much of the investigation of the BACH burials focused also on linking

the details of burial events to the detailed sequence of the life history of buildings.

The post-Neolithic burials have been brought together in a separate chapter (Chapter 14), since the aims of the investigation as well as the methodology involved in their study is rather different from that employed in the study of the Neolithic burials (Chapter 13). For their analysis and publication of the post-Neolithic burials, Hager and Boz were joined by Daniela Cottica, a specialist in material culture of East Mediterranean Roman and Byzantine periods from the University of Venice, Italy, and a participant in Douglas Baird's survey team of the area surrounding Çatalhöyük. Through her analysis of the ceramics and other substantial grave goods, the burials were dated to the Roman period, first to third century A.D.