

KP 361 Asagi Ayibli

The Site

The site is located on level, low lying ground, which slopes to higher ground in the distance on both sides. The land use in the area is predominantly arable, although the site itself and the fields immediately surrounding the site is currently waste ground. The village of Asagi Ayibli lies to the south of the site.

The site was found following topsoil stripping when quantities of pottery, obsidian and flint were visible on the stripped surface. The surrounding fields also contain quantities of artefacts, suggesting that this forms part of a wider settlement site extending either side of the easement.

Excavation was carried out here between 9th August and 5th September 2004. Excavation was restricted to a 3m wide trench along the pipe centre line. An existing trackway divided the site into two areas; on the eastern side of the track, the trench measured 33m, divided into ten 3m squares, to the west, the trench measured 78m, although the most eastern 24m was reduced to a 1m strip to confirm the absence of significant deposits here.

The trench located to the east of the track was extended to 5-6m wide for a length of approximately 7m following the discovery of a series of postholes possibly forming a structure. The full extent of this could not be determined as the presence of the strung and welded pipe meant that further extension of the trench was restricted.

Description of Archaeological Remains

Artefacts

The upper deposits recorded within the trench showed very little evidence of disturbance and, in many instances it was difficult to distinguish between the natural substrate and the cultural deposits due to the similarity of the material. There were however considerable quantities of artefacts within these layers, including pottery, animal bone, stone, flint and obsidian tools. The main concentration of material was within an area approximately 15m either side of the track.

Spreads of pottery were found throughout squares 19 and 20, and an in situ incomplete jar, placed upside down, was uncovered in square 17. Quern stones and a worked stone with a worn hole in the centre were recorded in squares 17 and 18, associated with the pottery spreads found here.

Material dating to the medieval period was recovered, although the majority of the pottery is considered to be eneolithic in date.

Pits

A number of large pits were visible in section. The exact function of these is unknown, but the quantity of material visible in section suggests that these may be rubbish pits..

Tandir

The remains of two tandir were recorded, both typical of t19 and appears to be associated with the extensive spreads of pottery and other domestic material recovered from this area.

Although this tandir is situated in fairly close proximity to the possible structure, there is no evidence to suggest that they were associated. The location of this feature would have placed it outside the structure.

The second tandir (square 23) was located approximately 10m east of the first, close to the southern edge of the trench. This was located in an area where occupation debris was considerably less dense. A single pit, containing relatively few sherds of pottery and bone, was located to the north east.

Structure

The corner of a possible structure was located 12m east of the track. This consisted of a series of eight postholes forming a right angle. In order to further investigate the extent and nature of this structure, the trench was extended to the north, although this was limited by the presence of the strung and welded pipe.

This additional area was not however excavated to the same depth as the main trench. The line of postholes recorded in the base of the main trench had not been visible closer to the surface, so it is doubtful whether the north – south aligned postholes located here are genuine. Fragments of wood were found in those located within the main trench and samples of these have been taken for analysis.

Stones - ???wall

Interpretation/Discussion

Range of pottery = domestic, occupation, settlement

Tandir = domestic function

Quernstone = grain processing close to site, domestic function

Postholes – do they form a structure? Are the ones in extended area genuine? Ones in main trench former fenceline??