

Boncuklu 2016

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The Boncuklu project gives us a chance to understand what the uptake of farming meant to Holocene foragers, in terms of their household organisation and social practices, landscape engagements, ritual and symbolism, as well as understanding the spread of farming from the Fertile Crescent and to points to the west, ultimately into Europe. Work took place in two areas previously excavated. We excavated 3 buildings that showed evidence for ritual practice and symbolic elaboration, including a series of deliberate depositions in postholes and cache; one contained a fragment of a figurine, a piece of obsidian and a bone point fragment, another contained several pieces of obsidian alongside a decorated stone plaque. Other features included the use of red paint on floors, human burials and the setting of a boar jaw into a niche in an interior wall, a clear antecedent to the practice known at Catalhoyuk located only 9.5 kms to the north.