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Die bronzezeitlichen Außensiedlungen von Troia

Projektnummer: 465871987

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FINAL REPORT

1 General Information

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2 Summary

Summary

Troy holds a unique position within the archaeological and cultural heritage of the ancient world. Beyond its legendary status as the backdrop for the Homeric epics, the site represents a key nexus point in the Bronze Age networks of the Aegean, Anatolia, and the Near East. Its long occupation history, stretching from the early third millennium BCE into the Byzantine era, makes Troy an invaluable case study for understanding the dynamics of cross-cultural contact, trade, and conflict across centuries. Particularly during the Late Bronze Age, Troy's strategic location at the entrance to the Dardanelles granted it control over one of the most critical maritime corridors between the Aegean and the Black Sea, amplifying its political and economic importance. However, the true scope of Troy's influence in the second millennium BCE remains a matter of debate. Initial excavations largely focused on the citadel, fostering an image of a relatively small, fortified settlement. It was only through the systematic exploration of the surrounding lower city, especially during the Tübingen-led campaigns between 1987 and 2015, that a more complex picture emerged. The discovery of extensive settlement structures, fortification systems, and differentiated spatial organization outside the citadel fundamentally challenged earlier assumptions about Troy's size and character.

The existence of a substantial lower city suggests that Troy was not merely a minor stronghold but a fully developed (proto-)urban centre, integrated into wider economic and political networks spanning western Anatolia and the Aegean world. Architectural features, material culture, and environmental data from the lower city point to a society engaged in both local production and long-distance exchange. This broader settlement area provides critical evidence for understanding Troy's role in the dynamic interplay of influences that shaped the Anatolian-Aegean interface during the Late Bronze Age.

Moreover, the presence of a populous and organized lower city during Troy VI–VIIa lends weight to interpretations that view Troy as a participant—rather than a peripheral observer—in the complex socio-political systems of its time. It reinforces the idea of Troy as a "contact zone," where Anatolian, Aegean, and potentially even Near Eastern traditions intersected. This perspective aligns with broader models of Bronze Age connectivity, in which sites along critical trade routes served not only as economic hubs but also as arenas for cultural interaction and innovation. In this context, the systematic analysis and publication of the lower city excavations are essential. They offer the key to resolving long-standing questions about Troy's political standing, economic strategies, and cultural affiliations. Only by integrating the evidence from the lower city can Troy's true position within the Late Bronze Age world be

fully appreciated—not as a mythologized relic, but as a living, evolving centre of human activity within the interconnected landscapes of the ancient eastern Mediterranean.

Zusammenfassung

Troia nimmt eine einzigartige Stellung im archäologischen und kulturellen Erbe der Alten Welt ein. Über seine legendäre Bedeutung als Schauplatz der homerischen Epen hinaus war der Ort ein zentraler Knotenpunkt in den bronzezeitlichen Netzwerken zwischen Ägäis, Anatolien und Vorderem Orient. Die lange Besiedlungsgeschichte, die vom frühen 3. Jahrtausend v. Chr. bis in die byzantinische Zeit reicht, macht Troia zu einem bedeutenden Fallbeispiel für das Verständnis der Dynamiken von Kulturkontakt, Handel und Konflikt über Jahrhunderte hinweg. Insbesondere während der Späten Bronzezeit verlieh die strategische Lage am Zugang zu den Dardanellen Troia die Kontrolle über eine der wichtigsten maritimen Verkehrsrouten zwischen Ägäis und Schwarzem Meer und steigerte so seine politische und wirtschaftliche Bedeutung.

Das tatsächliche Ausmaß von Troias Einfluss im 2. Jahrtausend v. Chr. bleibt jedoch umstritten: Frühe Ausgrabungen konzentrierten sich weitgehend auf die Zitadelle und vermittelten das Bild einer relativ kleinen, befestigten Siedlung. Erst durch die systematische Erforschung der Außensiedlung im Rahmen der Tübinger Grabungskampagnen von 1987 bis 2015 zeichnete sich ein komplexeres Bild ab. Die Entdeckung umfangreicher Siedlungsstrukturen, Befestigungsanlagen und einer differenzierten Raumorganisation außerhalb der Zitadelle stellte die bisherigen Annahmen über Troias Größe und Charakter grundlegend infrage.

Das Vorhandensein einer weitläufigen und strukturierten Außensiedlung legt nahe, dass Troia nicht lediglich eine unbedeutende Festung, sondern ein entwickeltes (proto-)urbanes Zentrum war, das in weitreichende ökonomische und politische Netzwerke Westanatoliens und der Ägäis eingebunden war. Architektonische Befunde, materielle Kultur und umweltarchäologische Daten aus der Außensiedlung weisen auf eine Gesellschaft hin, die sowohl lokale Produktion als auch Fernhandel betrieb. Dieser erweiterte Siedlungsraum liefert entscheidende Hinweise für das Verständnis von Troias Rolle im dynamischen Wechselspiel der Kulturen am anatolisch-ägäischen Schnittpunkt während der Späten Bronzezeit.

Die Existenz einer bevölkerungsreichen und organisierten Außensiedlung in den Phasen Troia VI–VIIa stützt zudem Interpretationen, die Troia als aktiven Akteur – und nicht als peripheren Beobachter – im komplexen soziopolitischen Gefüge seiner Zeit sehen. Troia erscheint somit als eine „Kontaktzone“, in der anatolische, ägäische und möglicherweise auch vorderasiatische Traditionen aufeinandertrafen. Dieses Bild entspricht den aktuellen Modellen bronzezeitlicher Konnektivität, in denen Orte entlang zentraler Handelsrouten nicht nur als wirtschaftliche Umschlagplätze, sondern auch als Arenen kultureller Interaktion und Inno-

vation fungierten. Vor diesem Hintergrund ist die systematische Auswertung und Publikation der Grabungsergebnisse aus der Außensiedlung von entscheidender Bedeutung. Nur durch die vollständige Integration dieser Evidenzen lässt sich Troias tatsächliche Stellung in der spätbronzezeitlichen Welt adäquat erfassen – nicht als mythisches Relikt, sondern als lebendiges, sich wandelndes Zentrum menschlicher Aktivität innerhalb der vernetzten Landschaften des antiken östlichen Mittelmeerraums.

3 Progress Report

Background and objectives of the project

The project is situated within the long and complex tradition of archaeological research at Troy, one of the most iconic sites of antiquity. Since its rediscovery and first excavation by Heinrich Schliemann in the late 19th century, Troy has occupied a prominent place in both scholarly research and public imagination. This special status is largely due to the Homeric epics, which imbued the site with mythological significance and ensured that any findings related to Troy would be viewed through the powerful lens of literary tradition. Over the past century and a half, successive excavations have sought to peel back the layers of myth to uncover the historical realities of the settlement, with varying degrees of success and controversy.

A major shift occurred during the Tübingen excavations between 1987 and 2015 under the direction of Manfred Korfmann and Ernst Pernicka. These excavations placed a new emphasis on the extensive "lower city" of Troy, located outside the fortified citadel. Discoveries in this area dramatically altered previous conceptions of Late Bronze Age Troy and reignited fundamental debates about the site's character, size, and regional significance (Jablonka 2014a, b). Korfmann's interpretation of Troy as a substantial, fortified urban centre engaged in long-distance trade networks challenged earlier, more modest assessments of the settlement. In contrast, critics led by historian Frank Kolb argued that Troy remained a relatively unimportant, provincial settlement, questioning both the scale of the lower city and the interpretation of its archaeological remains. The intensity of this debate, often marked by personal attacks and accusations of misconduct, polarized the academic community and attracted considerable public attention (cf. Kolb 2004; Jablonka/Rose 2004).

Unfortunately, the scientific publication of the excavation results from the lower city was severely hampered by the death of Peter Jablonka in 2019, who had been centrally responsible for the analysis and synthesis of the findings. As a result, much of the archaeological material remains unpublished and inaccessible, posing a significant obstacle to future research and an objective reassessment of the controversies. Given Troy’s continued importance both in

archaeological scholarship and in the wider cultural sphere, this project aims to compile and systematically present the results of the 1987–2012 excavations in the lower city in a comprehensive monograph. In addition, a web-based GIS platform will be developed to make the extensive geospatial data available not only to specialists but also to a broader public. Through this dual approach—scholarly consolidation and open accessibility—the project seeks to provide a neutral basis for future research and to foster a more balanced understanding of Troy's historical significance.

Description of the project-specific results and findings

Few archaeological sites have fascinated scholars and the public alike as much as Troy. Immortalized in the Homeric epics, Troy has been perceived both as myth and history, a site where legend intersects with archaeology. Since the late 19th century, when Heinrich Schliemann first excavated the mound of Hisarlık, archaeological research has been progressively disentangling fact from fiction. Initially, attention was focused almost exclusively on the citadel, the fortified core of Troy, whose monumental walls suggested a powerful settlement befitting Homeric tales. However, as archaeological methods advanced and excavation strategies widened, interest increasingly turned to the area beyond the citadel — the so-called "lower town" or extramural settlement (Jablonka 2014b).

This study synthesizes current knowledge of Troy's Bronze Age settlement outside the citadel. Based on a comprehensive analysis of excavation reports, geomagnetic surveys, coring projects, and topographical studies, it highlights the development, structure, and material culture of this extramural settlement (Blindow et al. 2014; Kayan 2014). Special emphasis is placed on the Middle and Late Bronze Age (Troy VI and VIIa), periods during which the lower town achieved its greatest extent and complexity. Despite challenges posed by erosion, later construction, and taphonomic processes, archaeological evidence allows us to reconstruct a vibrant picture of life outside the citadel walls (Jablonka 2006; Pieniążek et al. 2020; Becks 2022).

Natural and Topographical Setting

The topographical setting of Troy has been central to both its archaeological preservation and interpretation. The settlement occupies a low plateau about 30 meters high, composed of tertiary marine sediments, positioned between the ancient courses of the Skamander and Simoeis rivers. In the Early Bronze Age, the coastline lay considerably closer to the site than it does today, with the Karamenderes (Skamander) delta pushing the shoreline several kilometres outward over millennia due to progressive alluvial deposition. The western and northern edges of the plateau fall sharply into the former floodplain, while to the south and east,

the plateau slopes gently into the hinterland (Jablonka 2014c). During the Bronze Age, these features made Troy a strategically located settlement, controlling access between the Aegean coast and inland Anatolia. However, the very forces that shaped Troy's strategic advantage also contributed to the gradual erosion and transformation of its archaeological deposits. Fluvial dynamics, soil erosion, anthropogenic activities such as agriculture, construction, stone robbing, and vegetation clearance have severely compromised the stratigraphic record. Today, no natural soil formation remains in the lower town, and only isolated patches survive within the citadel. Understanding this taphonomic context is critical for interpreting the fragmentary remains of the Bronze Age settlement.

Research History and Methodological Framework

The exploration of Troy's extramural settlement has a long and complex history. Heinrich Schliemann, excavating in the 1870s and 1880s, sought evidence of a vast Homeric city but found little outside the citadel. Despite his efforts, including numerous test trenches, he concluded that Troy's Bronze Age occupation was confined to the citadel mound itself (Fig. 1).

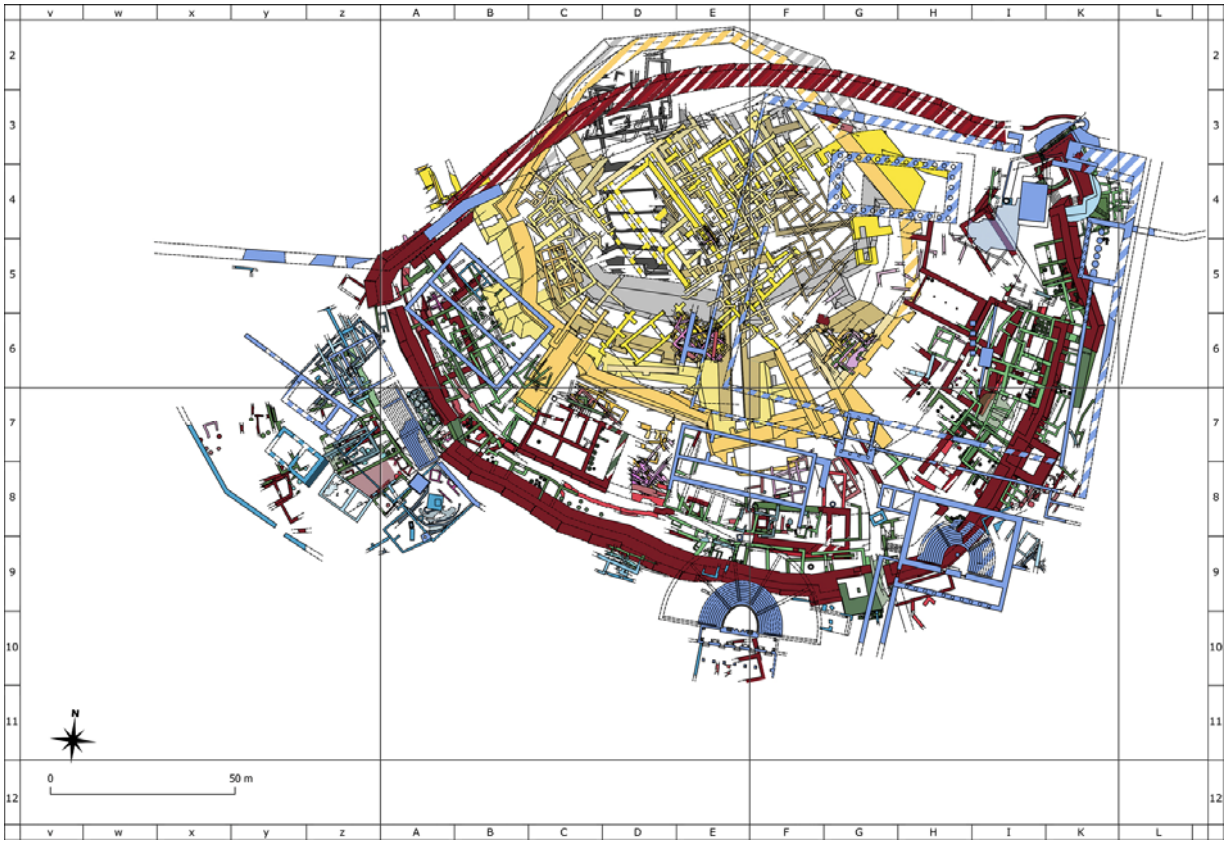

Fig. 1: The citadel of Troy, periods I to IX

Wilhelm Dörpfeld, Schliemann's successor, approached the evidence more cautiously. In the early 20th century, he suggested that parts of the plateau outside the citadel had been inhabited during the Late Bronze Age, although he found no direct evidence for a defensive wall enclosing a lower town (Dörpfeld 1902). Carl Blegen's excavations in the 1930s produced somewhat more concrete results. His team identified houses and burials dating to Troy VI and VIIa outside the citadel walls. However, Blegen argued that the extramural settlement was relatively limited in size and probably loosely organized, lacking monumental fortifications or dense urban planning (Blegen et al. 1953). A paradigm shift occurred during the Tübingen University excavations under Manfred Korfmann (1988–2005) and later Ernst Pernicka. Employing modern methods such as geomagnetic prospection, systematic survey, and coring, these projects uncovered substantial evidence for a large lower town, including defensive structures, residential zones, and craft production areas. Yet, these interpretations sparked intense academic debate, with critics arguing that the evidence for a dense, urbanized lower town remained inconclusive (Jablonka 2014a, b).

Defining the Extent of the Bronze Age Settlement

One of the most significant discoveries was the identification of large ditches carved into the bedrock south of the citadel. Geophysical surveys detected a linear anomaly, later confirmed by excavation to be a defensive ditch approximately 4 meters wide and 2 meters deep. Known as the "inner ditch," it describes a broad U-shaped arc enclosing an area south of the citadel. Its stratigraphy, pottery finds, and radiocarbon dating situate its construction in Troy VI Middle (ca. 1500 BCE), with gradual infilling during Troy VI Late and Troy VIIa.

A second, "outer ditch" was found roughly 80 meters further south, likely representing an expansion of the defensive system during Troy VIIa, corresponding to a period of settlement growth. Together, these features suggest that during the Late Bronze Age, Troy's lower town extended at least 400–500 meters beyond the citadel. Additional features interpreted as palisade trenches and gate structures bolster the case for an organized defensive system (Jablonka et al. 1994; Jablonka/Pernicka 2009).

Stratigraphy and Settlement Development Across the Bronze Age

a. Periods Troy I–V

Evidence for settlement outside the citadel during Troy I and II (ca. 3000–2350 BCE) is sparse. Only a few, mostly spatially isolated features could be recorded southeast of the citadel and along the northern slope of the plateau. These remains likely originated from simple, lightweight structures—possibly huts or temporary shelters—constructed primarily of wood. In stark contrast, however, is a remarkably solidly built palisade system with an inte-

grated gate complex, located over 200 meters away from the settlement mound. The stone-cut foundations of this installation have been preserved beneath up to 3.5 meters of later Bronze Age to Late Roman strata and buildings (Figs. 2, 3). The structure consists of a trench approximately 30 cm wide and 70 cm deep, running from southwest to northeast, which is paralleled at a distance of 2.3 meters by a row of postholes; it has been exposed over nearly 40 meters without reaching its terminus. At a gateway 2.1 meters wide, the trench is interrupted and, on both sides, bends sharply inward to form two arms extending toward the associated post row. The gateway itself follows a slight depression in the bedrock. Although initially hypothesized to represent a “wooden city wall,” such an interpretation now seems unlikely, primarily due to the absence of adjoining settlement structures. While the open areas enclosed by the palisade might indeed have served as secure refuges during emergencies, it is far more probable that the installation—no less critical to the daily life of Troy’s inhabitants—functioned primarily as an enclosure for agricultural land and pasture. During Troy III, IV, and V (ca. 2350–1780 BCE), the settlement gradually expanded beyond the earlier citadel limits. Excavations have identified domestic structures, stone pavements, and storage installations west and south of the mound. Nevertheless, the evidence suggests a dispersed pattern of occupation rather than a densely built urban area. It remains unclear whether a continuous defensive wall enclosed the settlement during this period (Blum 2022).

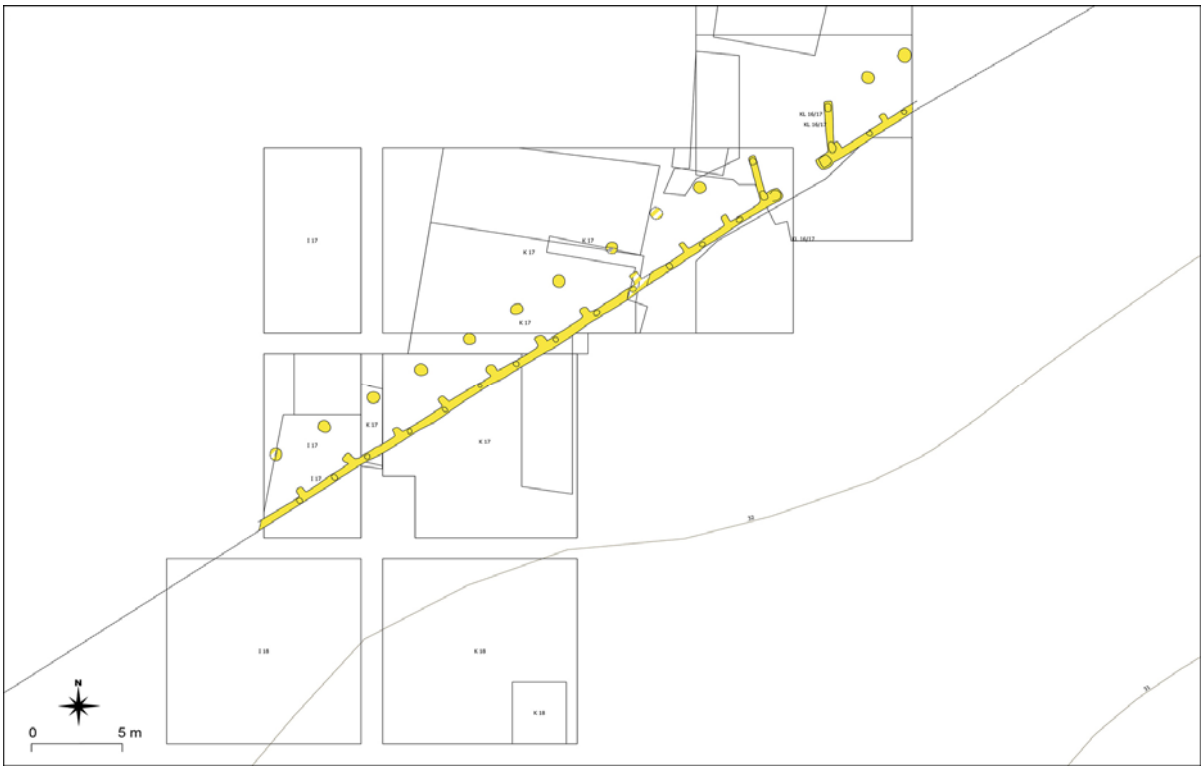

Fig. 2: Palisade structure, Troy II

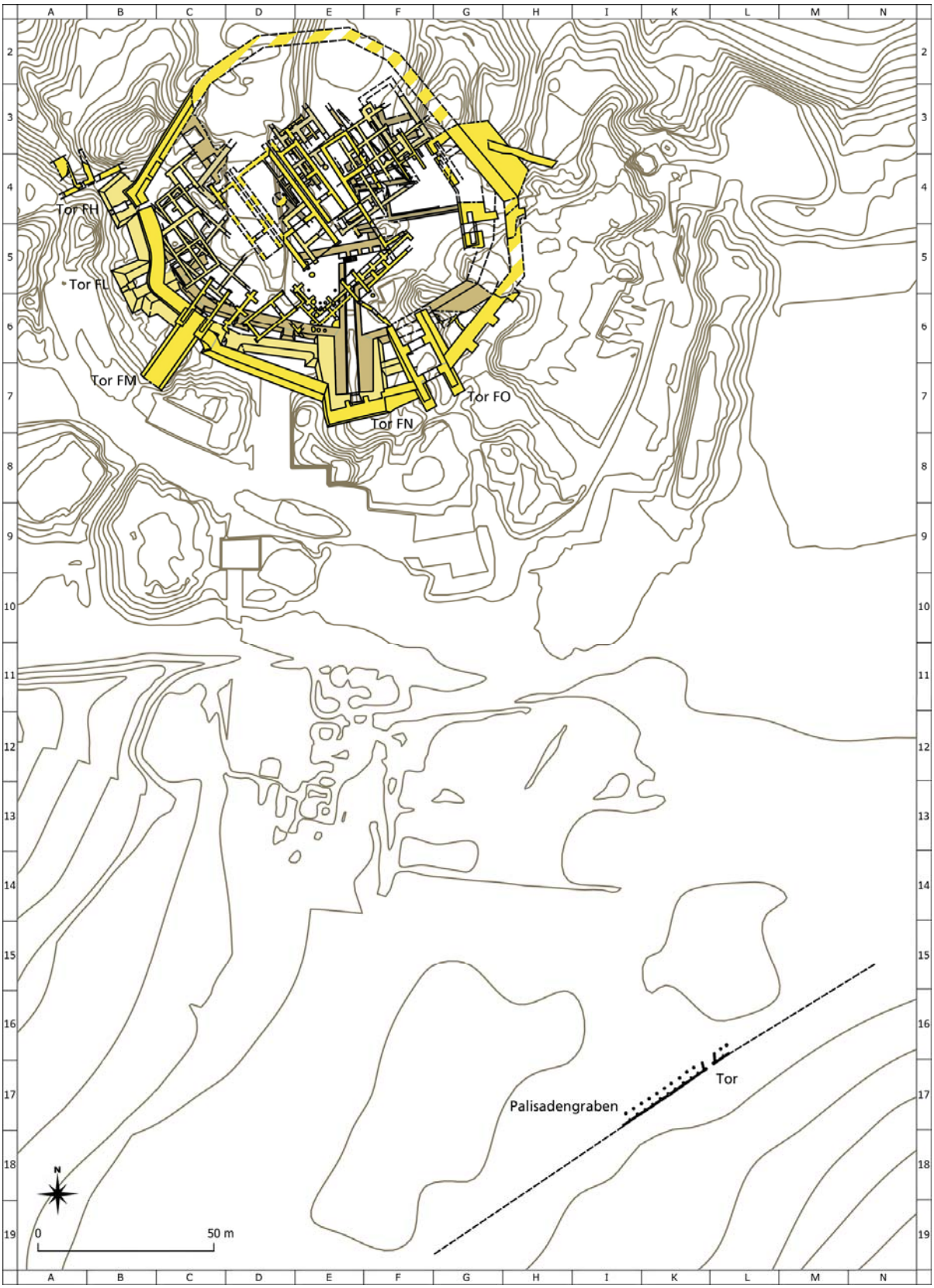

Fig. 3: Settlement plan, Troy II

b. Periods Troy VI–VIIa

The Late Bronze Age marks the period of greatest expansion and complexity. Excavations south and southwest of the citadel have revealed substantial remains of residential architecture, craft installations, and storage facilities (Jablonka 2006; Pieniążek et al. 2020). Notable features include: Stone-built houses with mudbrick superstructures, stone-paved courtyards and streets, hearths and ovens associated with domestic activities, installations for large storage jars *("pithoi")*, evidence for metallurgy, textile production, and shell processing. Settlement density appears highest close to the citadel, thinning toward the outer edges of the lower town. Nevertheless, sporadic architectural remains and surface finds indicate that the occupation extended well beyond the inner ditch, possibly even reaching the area between the inner and outer ditches during Troy VIIa. The structural remains of the lower town vary considerably in preservation and type. While stone foundations and mudbrick architecture dominate close to the citadel, only negative features such as postholes, pits, and pithos stands survive further out. Artefacts recovered include: Coarse and fine ware pottery, both local and imported, metal objects and slag associated with craft production, loom weights and spindle whorls indicating textile manufacturing, marine shell remains used for purple dye production (Pieniążek et al. 2020; Becks 2022). Together, these finds attest to a diversified economy combining agriculture, animal husbandry, craft production, and regional trade.

Excavations within the roughly 283,000 m² area enclosed by the inner ditch revealed numerous architectural features dating to Troy VI and VIIa, although these consisted largely of rock-cut installations—pithos stands, postholes, fence trenches—rather than standing walls. Stone and mudbrick architecture were concentrated near the citadel; though isolated remains were recorded even at distances of up to 300 meters. In excavation area w28, a grid of nine rock-cut pits for pithoi was found near a Hellenistic quarry. Similar features were encountered in H26, indicating occupation outside the inner ditch already during Troy VI Early to Middle. In IKL16/17, a multi-phase stone pavement was documented, disturbed by later pits, postholes, and a burial of a 14-year-old adolescent (Troy VI Early–Middle). An associated metallurgical installation, likely a furnace, dates to the same phase. In H17, beneath a Hellenistic building, a thick accumulation of Late Bronze Age destruction debris was found—collapsed stonework, burned mudbrick fragments, and reddish sediment indicative of intense fire. The layout matches the architectural orientation found further east. These remains likely represent houses destroyed during the end of Troy VI or VIIa. Additional postholes and paving features suggest ongoing construction activities throughout these periods. Further evidence from areas like I18 and EF10 indicates continued occupation and gradual settlement expansion into the plateau's southern reaches. In EF10, portions of two houses with stone walls and a courtyard were uncovered, dating to Troy VI Middle to Late. In the northeast bas-

tion area (KL4/5), excavation beneath massive Hellenistic-Roman foundations revealed Bronze Age street surfaces and roadways from Troy VI–VIIa, although denser building occurred only in Troy VIIb. Ultimately, while the general extent of Troy's Bronze Age lower settlement is now relatively well established, the question of its population density—and by extension, its cultural and political significance—remains unresolved. Both maximalist and minimalist interpretations must be regarded as hypothetical, given the incomplete and heavily disturbed archaeological record (Fig. 4).

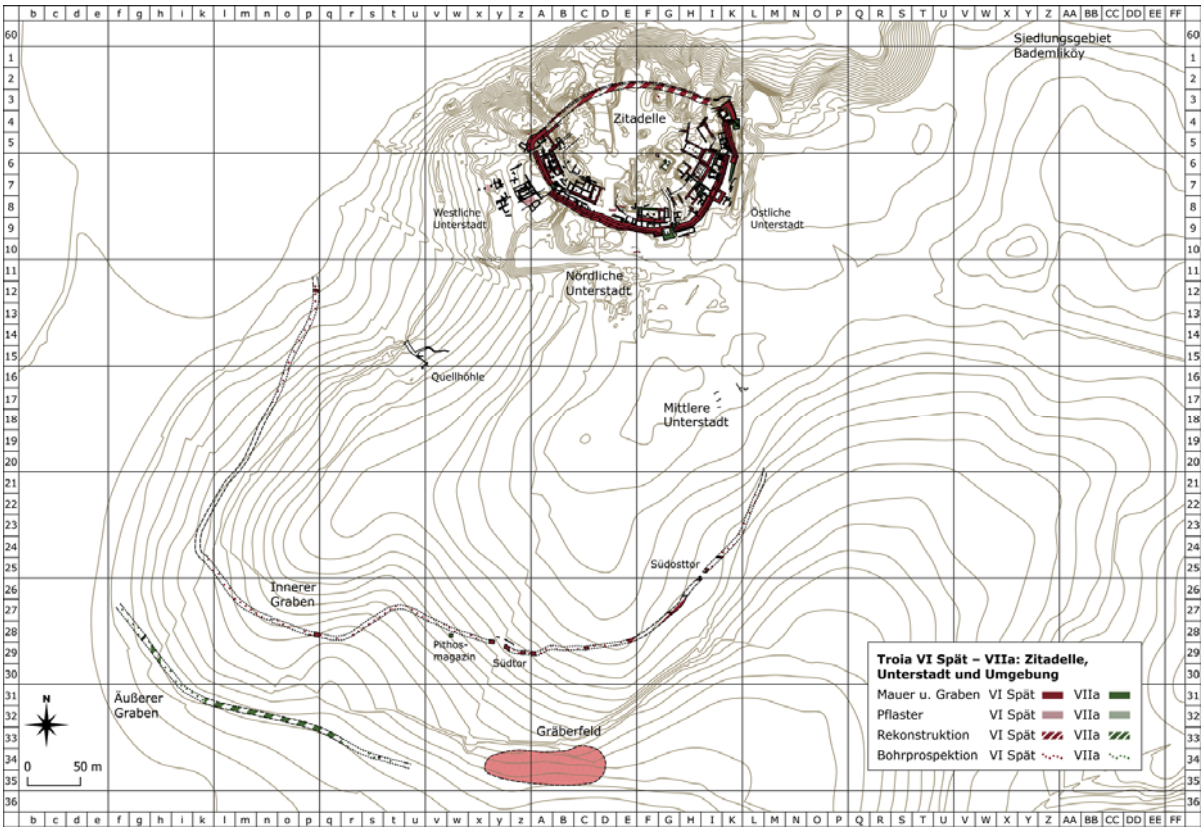

Fig. 4: Settlement plan of Late Bronze Age Troy VI and VIIa

Despite challenges posed by erosion, anthropogenic destruction, and taphonomic loss, the cumulative archaeological evidence paints a picture of Troy during the Late Bronze Age as a complex, multifaceted settlement extending well beyond the citadel walls. Defensive ditches, residential architecture, craft installations, and imported goods attest to a vibrant, economically active community embedded within regional and interregional networks. While the debate over the precise urban character of Troy's lower town continues, it is clear that the extramural settlement played a significant role in the city's structure and society during its Bronze Age heyday (Pieniążek et al. 2020). Future research, combining excavation, geo-

physical prospection, micromorphological analysis, and paleoenvironmental studies, will no doubt continue to refine our understanding of this iconic site.

Deviations from the original concept; findings that contradict the initial hypothesis & Activities and approaches to quality-enhancing measures through which the validity or verifiability of your research findings was ensured

The stratigraphic and chronological analysis of the archaeological finds has been carried out by the applicant, who has also been responsible for the creation of high-resolution GIS plans. These detailed maps play a pivotal role in reconstructing the site's complex stratigraphy and chronological framework, offering a precise and nuanced understanding of its development over time. In parallel, the Web-GIS platform for Troy, which is a central element of the proposal, is being developed by Jonas Abele and Mario Longo. This cutting-edge digital tool will allow for an interactive exploration of the site's spatial and temporal data, providing both researchers and the public with a dynamic, user-friendly interface to visualize and engage with the intricate layers of Troy's past. By integrating advanced GIS technology, the platform aims to bridge the gap between traditional archaeological methods and modern digital analysis, facilitating new insights into the settlement's structure, evolution, and significance in the broader Anatolian and Aegean context.

The analysis of the find material and architectural features produced a coherent and consistent overall picture, with no contradictions emerging in relation to the initial hypotheses. On the contrary, the Late Bronze Age outer settlement could be described in its full scope, and earlier critiques—especially those voiced by Frank Kolb—were effectively refuted. Kolb's position, which downplayed the significance of the lower city and viewed it as a relatively minor settlement, has been thoroughly reconsidered in light of the new evidence. His view, which contrasted sharply with Manfred Korfmann's interpretation of Troy as a major urban and trade hub, was largely based on earlier, more limited excavation data, which failed to capture the full extent and complexity of the settlement outside the citadel: Korfmann, who argued for Troy's status as a supra-regional, urban trade center, had emphasized the importance of the lower city for understanding Troy's role in the broader sociopolitical landscape of the Late Bronze Age. This vision of Troy as a dynamic, integrated center, rather than a peripheral or minor settlement, is supported by the new findings, which present a much more elaborate and multifaceted view of the settlement outside the citadel. The comprehensive analysis of architectural structures, settlement patterns, and material culture now aligns with Korfmann's interpretation, demonstrating the wide-ranging economic, political, and cultural connections that Troy maintained during this period. Kolb's more con-

servative view, which has been central to the academic critique of Korfmann's interpretation, suggested that the lower city was a less significant settlement, perhaps of modest size and importance, without the political and economic complexities that Korfmann proposed (cf. Korfmann 2001a, b; Kolb 2003a, b; Kolb 2010; Jablonka 2008).

However, the recent stratigraphic and chronological analysis, combined with high-resolution GIS mapping, has revealed a settlement that is far more complex and interwoven with both local and regional networks than previously assumed. The contradictions raised by Kolb's critique regarding the nature of Troy's urbanism have been thoroughly addressed, and the new data provides a solid foundation for reaffirming Korfmann's model of Troy as a major urban centre. Howevehe new research has shown that, in fact, neither of the two previous models was entirely accurate: The results show that the previous image must be completely reconsidered. While only a few new indications were found regarding the density of buildings and population size, the understanding of Troy's function has been significantly refined. Specifically, the settlement's role as both living space and production centre became clearer, with evidence pointing to the integration of storage facilities and open spaces for livestock grazing (cf. Pieniążek et al. 2020).

This shift in understanding is not only significant for the historical interpretation of Troy, but it also contributes to a broader rethinking of the nature of Late Bronze Age urbanism in Anatolia and the Aegean. The more nuanced view of Troy's outer settlement, now validated by the latest research, underscores the city's central role as a key player in the complex sociopolitical and economic interactions of the eastern Mediterranean during this time.

Handling of Research Data & Description of any research data, methods, standards, software or infrastructures generated in the project that are re-usable and openly accessible to others

a. In extensive measure, the project relies on archival material from the Tübingen Troy project. The data is available in the form of PDFs and JPEG files, supplemented by GIS files. These data types will be further processed and integrated into the current research framework. Existing datasets, including stratigraphic, architectural, and material culture records, will be analysed alongside the new findings to build a comprehensive picture of Troy's development and function. The anticipated data volume is substantial, with numerous layers of geospatial and contextual data being integrated, particularly in the form of GIS files. These files will be crucial in structuring and visualizing the findings, supporting the creation of high-resolution digital maps and the Web-GIS platform.

b. For the new data, the project exclusively utilizes open-source solutions and formats that are suitable for long-term archiving. This ensures that the data remains accessible and usable for future research. Comprehensive metadata is employed to describe the data in a clear and understandable manner, adhering to established documentation standards. These standards ensure consistency and transparency across different datasets, enhancing the comprehensibility and usability of the data. To ensure high data quality, rigorous quality control measures are in place. This includes regular checks for consistency, accuracy, and completeness of the data, with validation protocols for each dataset. The quality control process is integrated into the workflow at each stage of data collection and processing, ensuring that any discrepancies or errors are addressed promptly. Digital methods and tools required to handle the data include various open-source software solutions for GIS mapping, data analysis, and visualization. These tools support the processing and integration of large datasets, such as geospatial data, textual information, and image data, ensuring that the data is structured, analysed, and presented in a coherent and scientifically valid manner.

c. The research data will be stored and archived throughout the project duration in the data repository of the FDAT (Research Data and Archiving Team) at the University of Tübingen (https://fdat.uni-tuebingen.de/communities/troy). These data will be made accessible as open source, ensuring that they are freely available to the broader academic community. To secure sensitive data throughout the project, appropriate measures will be implemented regarding access and usage rights. Access to sensitive or restricted data will be regulated based on established protocols, with clear guidelines regarding who can view or use the data and under what conditions. This ensures both the protection of sensitive information and the transparency of the research process.

d. There are no legal restrictions anticipated regarding the handling of research data in this project. The data will be made available through open access, ensuring unrestricted public access to the research outputs. As such, there are no expected implications or restrictions concerning subsequent publication or accessibility. To address aspects of use, copyright law, and ownership issues, clear guidelines will be established for the proper attribution and use of the data. All contributors will retain the appropriate rights to their individual datasets, while ensuring that the overall dataset is shared under open access conditions. No specific research codes or professional standards are imposed on this project beyond those that are inherent in academic and research data sharing, such as transparency, proper citation, and adherence to ethical standards of data usage.

e. The datasets that are especially suitable for use in other contexts will be those that offer broad applicability across various research fields, such as geospatial data, stratigraphic data, and material culture records. These datasets are particularly valuable for comparative studies or for understanding broader trends in Bronze Age settlements and trade networks. The selection criteria for making research data available for subsequent use by others include the relevance, completeness, and potential for reuse in future academic research or public projects. The data will be made available through the FDAT repository, ensuring long-term access and facilitating their use by a wide range of researchers. Yes, the data will be archived in a suitable infrastructure, specifically through the FDAT repository at the University of Tübingen. This platform provides secure and reliable long-term storage for research data. There are no fixed retention periods, as the data will be available for as long as it remains relevant and accessible within the repository. The research data will be made available for use by third parties immediately upon publication, ensuring that other scholars and institutions can access and benefit from the findings.

f. The FDAT (Research Data and Archiving Team) is responsible for the adequate handling of the research data throughout the project. The team is managed by the University of Tübingen and provides its services to the Troy project free of charge. The FDAT ensures that the data is properly stored, described, and made accessible according to the project's requirements. To implement adequate handling of research data within the project, resources such as time for data curation and the use of high-quality software tools for data management will be required. These resources will be integrated into the overall project workflow, ensuring that data is managed efficiently from collection to publication. Once the project has ended, responsibility for curating and maintaining the data will remain with the FDAT, which will continue to manage the data within the university's infrastructure. This ensures long-term accessibility and preservation of the research data for future use by the academic community.

Implementation of scientific events, science communication measures

After the publication of the results in book form, conference participation and publication in scientific journals are planned as part of the science communication measures. These activities will allow the findings to be presented to a broader academic audience, facilitating further discussions and dissemination of the research. The goal is to engage with the scientific community through conferences and peer-reviewed publications, ensuring that the project's results reach those who can build upon them in future research.

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4 Published Project Results

The results of the project will be published in monographic form as part of the “Studia Troica” publication series of the Tübingen Troy project. This series is dedicated to disseminating research findings related to the excavations and studies at Troy, ensuring that the project's outcomes are made accessible to a wide academic audience.

4.1 Category A – Articles in peer-reviewed journals, contributions to peer-reviewed conferences or to anthology volumes, and book publications

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4.2 Category B – Any other form of published results

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4.3 Patents (applied for and granted)

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