

*The Matter of Çatalhöyük: Reports from the  
2009–2017 Seasons*

Edited by  
Ian Hodder

Supplementary material to  
Chapter 7. Large clay balls at Çatalhöyük East

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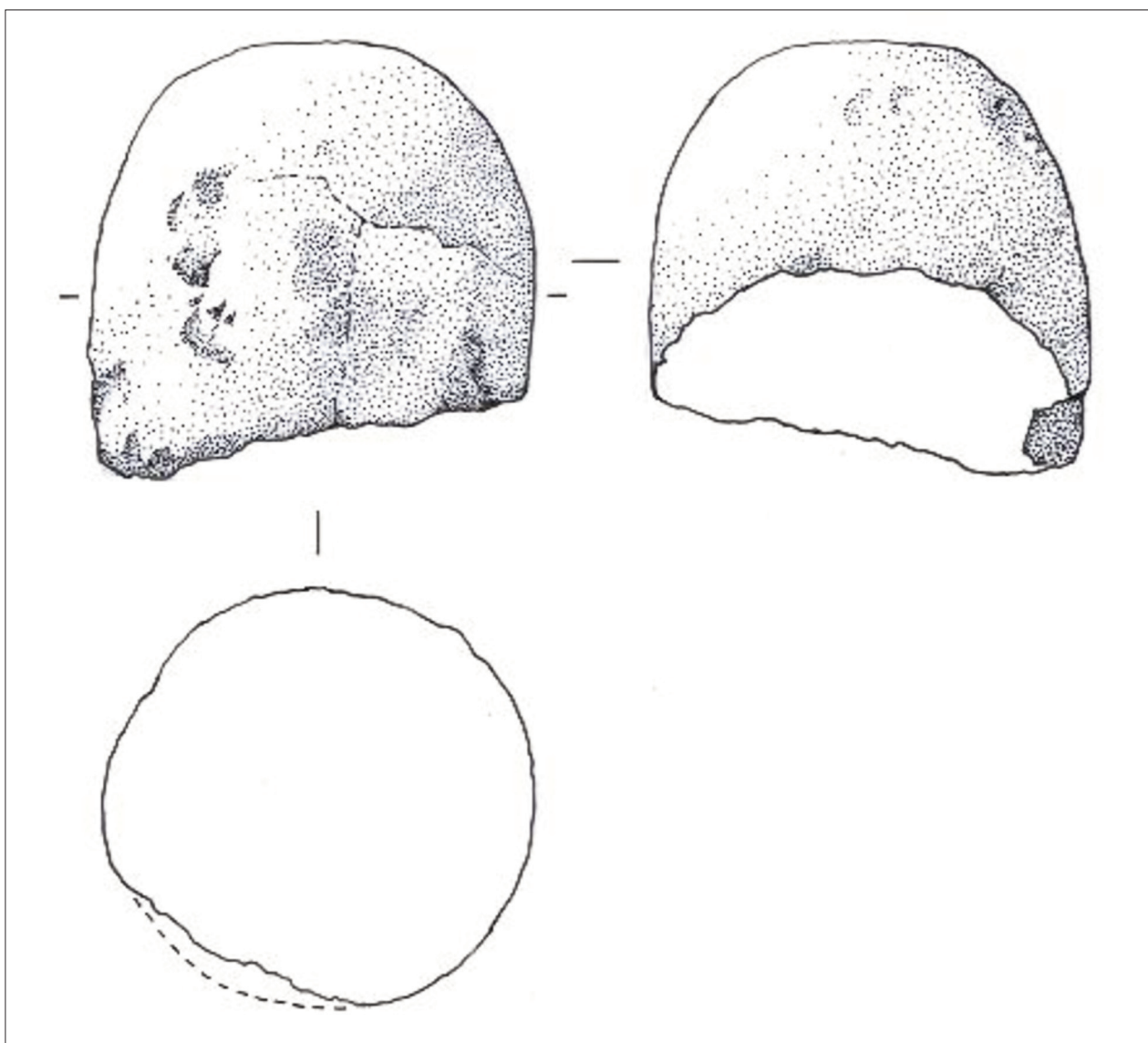


Figure S7.1. Fragment of an 'oblate spheroid'-shaped clay ball. DB# 4307/ 22300.m104 (6.6cm x 6.2cm x 5.7cm)  
(drawing by Jennie Anderson, Çatalhöyük Research Project).



*Figure S7.2. Clay ball fragments demonstrating the range of clay colours evidenced. Left to right, top to bottom: DB# 3390 /21660.m101, DB# 3391 /21660.m102, DB# 3420 /21660.m103, DB# 3421 /21660.m104 and DB# 3430 /21660.m105 (photograph: author's own).*

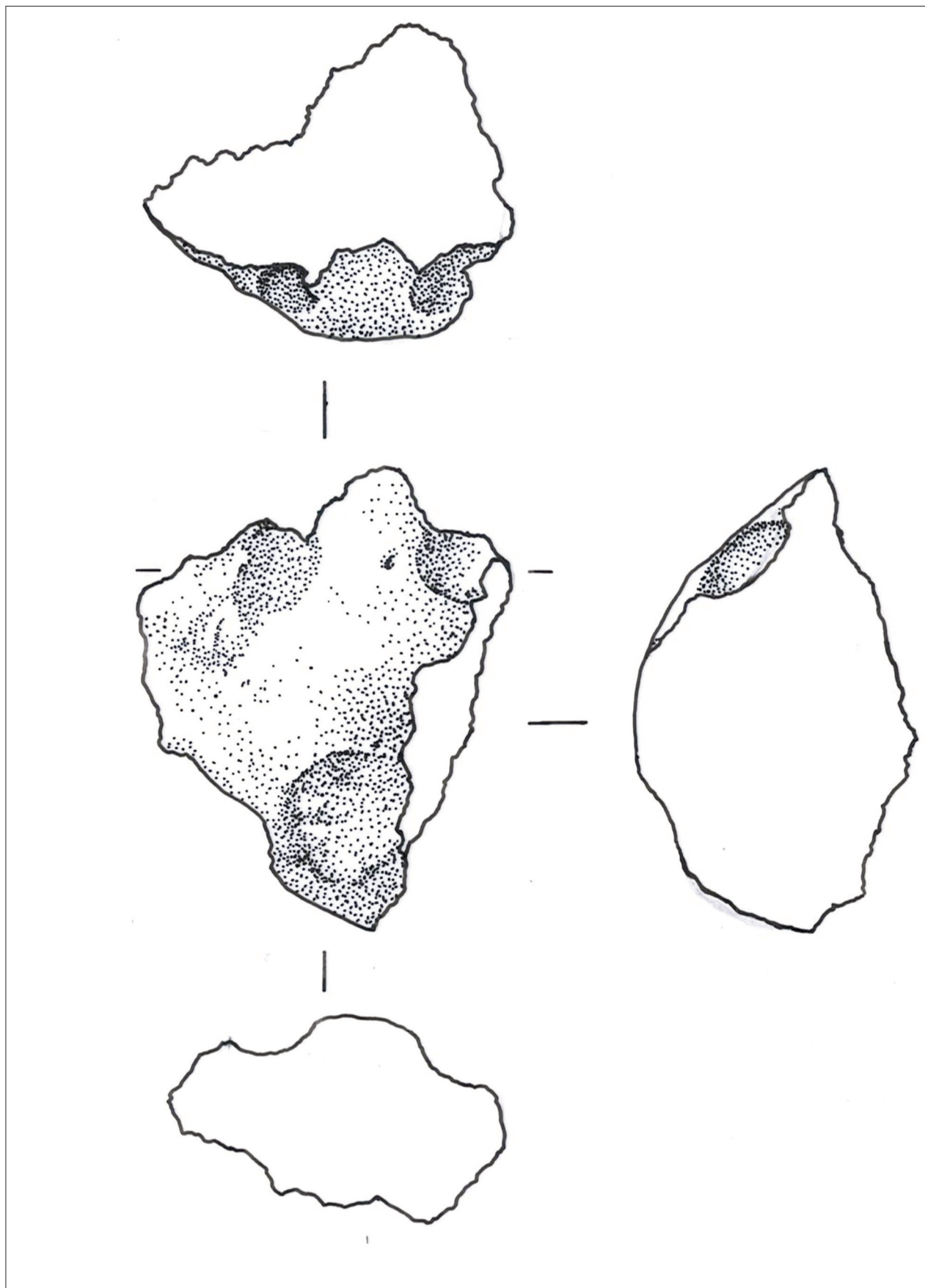
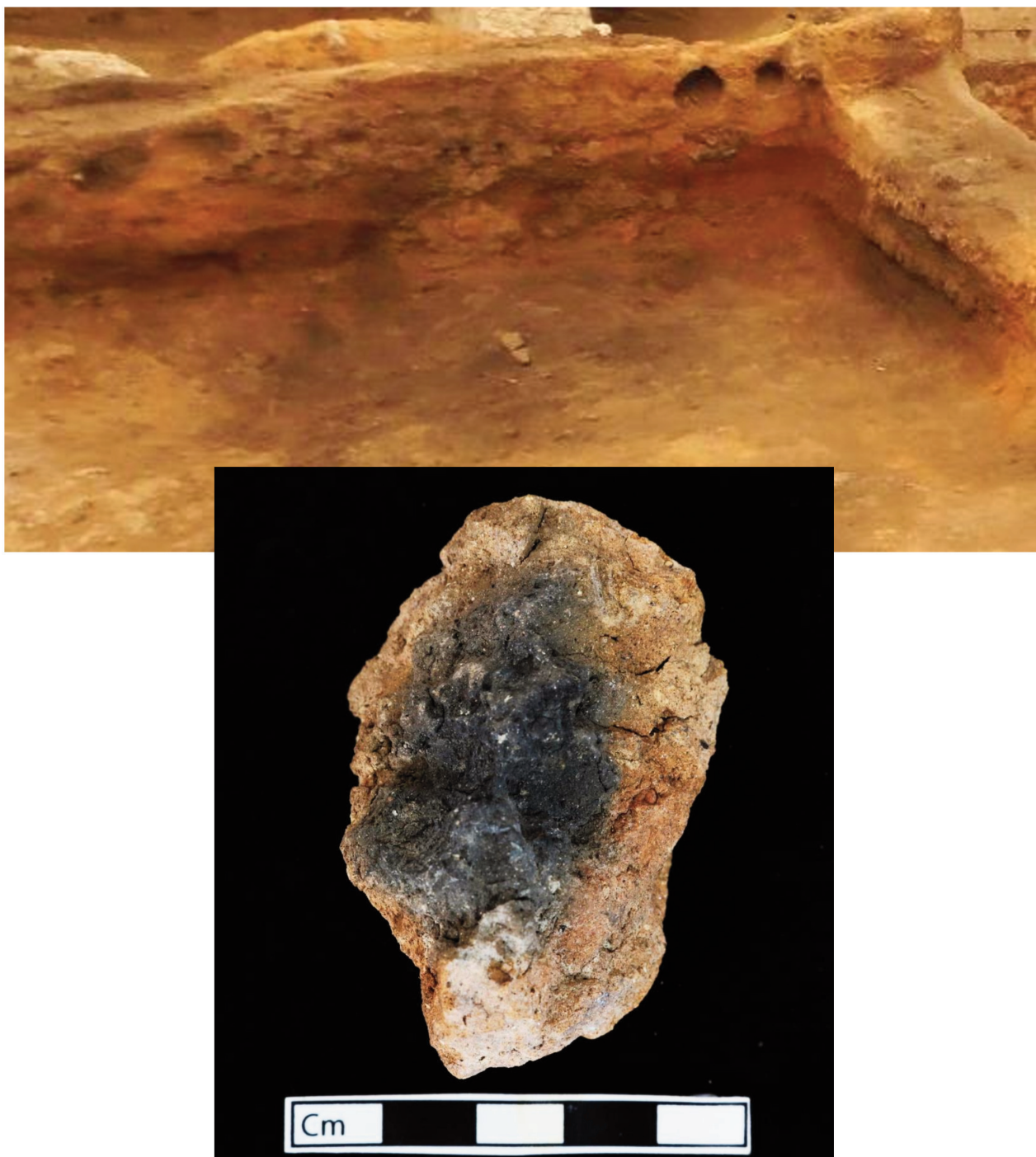


Figure S7.3. Clay ball fragment with shallow, fingertip depressions. Original exterior surface measures 5.3cm x 4.2 cm. 3.5cm thick. DB# 5773/20965.m63 (drawing by Jennie Anderson, Çatalhöyük Research Project).



*Figure S7.4. Top: Bright orange clay floors and mudbricks in burnt destruction layer, B. 131, North Area (facing north, 2015 excavation season). Bottom: Burnt clay ball fragment, interior view. Orange outer and black inner clay (DB# 6965/ 32682.m3) (photographs: author's own).*

| Clay colour                                             | Count | %     |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Primary colour: 'black'                                 | 234   | 10.01 |
| Primary, secondary or interior colour: includes 'black' | 723   | 30.92 |

Table S7.1. Clay balls which are heavily burnt, recorded as having a 'black' clay colour as their primary, secondary or interior clay colour (L2 2009–2017 excavated east mound objects,  $n=2,338$ ).

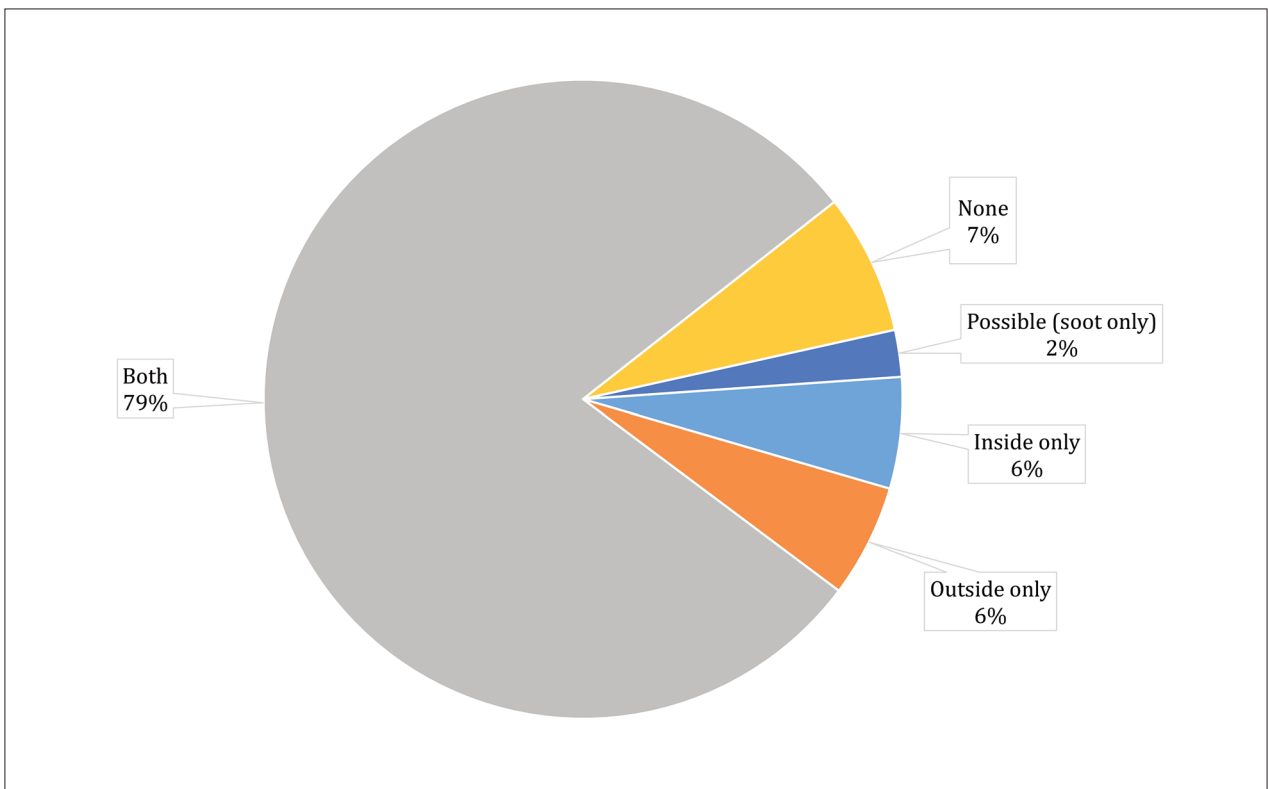


Figure S7.5. Evidence of burning on clay balls according to the location of burning (2009–2017, East mound L2 recorded clay balls,  $n=2,338$ ).

|    | <i>DB #</i> | <i>Find no.</i> | <i>Shape definition</i> | <i>Degree of artefact completeness (%)</i> | <i>Weight (g)</i> | <i>Length (cm)</i> | <i>Width (cm)</i> | <i>Height (cm)</i> | <i>Markings (count)</i> |
|----|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1  | 3683        | 21661.m171      | Sphere                  | 100                                        | 208.7             | 6.1                | 5.9               | 5.8                | 5                       |
| 2  | 3684        | 21661.m172      | Indicative fragment     | 1–24                                       | 20                | 4.5                | 2.5               | 2.8                | 2                       |
| 3  | 4285        | 32106.m124      | Indicative fragment     | 25–49                                      | 47.4              | 5.6                | 4.1               | 3.1                | 7                       |
| 4  | 4287        | 32106.m126      | Indicative fragment     | 1–24                                       | 53.3              | 5.3                | 4.6               | 3.1                | 5                       |
| 5  | 4300        | 31594.m103      | Indicative fragment     | 1–24                                       | 42.6              | 5.8                | 3.2               | 4.3                | 3                       |
| 6  | 4304        | 22300.m101      | Oblate spheroid         | 100                                        | 268.3             | 6                  | 5.6               | 7.2                | 18                      |
| 7  | 4307        | 22300.m104      | Oblate spheroid         | 50–74                                      | 192.8             | 6.6                | 6.2               | 5.7                | 3                       |
| 8  | 4905        | 22343.m106      | Sphere                  | 25–49                                      | 127.2             | 6.8                | 6.1               | 3.2                | 1                       |
| 9  | 5129        | 32467.m127      | Indicative fragment     | 1–24                                       | 100.6             | 6.3                | -                 | -                  | 6                       |
| 10 | 5568        | 32128.m73       | Indicative fragment     | 50–74                                      | 67.8              | 5.4                | 5.25              | 3.2                | 21                      |
| 11 | 5616        | 19836.x.1       | Indicative fragment     | 1–24                                       | 74.9              | 6.5                | 5.3               | 3                  | ‘Many’                  |
| 12 | 5657        | 30127.x.1       | Sphere                  | 75–99                                      | 326.2             | 7.1                | 6.6               | 6.9                | 3                       |
| 13 | 5671        | 19596.m8        | Indicative fragment     | 1–24                                       | 10.5              | 2.8                | 1.5               | 2.2                | 1                       |
| 14 | 5681        | 20965.m3        | Indicative fragment     | 1–24                                       | 56.2              | 5.5                | 3.8               | 5.3                | 2                       |
| 15 | 5725        | 20965.m15       | Indicative fragment     | 50–74                                      | 110.1             | 6.1                | 6                 | 4.1                | 1                       |
| 16 | 5823        | 20965.m113      | Indicative fragment     | 1–24                                       | 51                | 5.7                | 5                 | 3.8                | 3                       |
| 17 | 5833        | 20965.m123      | Indicative fragment     | 1–24                                       | 25.6              | 4.5                | 3.1               | 3.3                | 3                       |
| 18 | 5978        | 32692.m45       | Indicative fragment     | 1–24                                       | 31.4              | 4.7                | 3.6               | 2                  | 5                       |
| 19 | 5989        | 32692.m56       | Indicative fragment     | 1–24                                       | 10.1              | 3.7                | 3.2               | 1.1                | 2                       |
| 20 | 6113        | 21841.m22       | Indicative fragment     | 1–24                                       | 2.7               | 2.5                | 1.5               | 0.8                | 2                       |
| 21 | 6211        | 19486.m19       | Indicative fragment     | 1–24                                       | 11.9              | 3.1                | 2.2               | 2.9                | 4                       |
| 22 | 7130        | 23143.m29       | Indicative fragment     | 1–24                                       | 33                | 5.2                | 3.9               | 2.5                | 8                       |
| 23 | 7175        | 23143.m74       | Indicative fragment     | 1–24                                       | 6.1               | 3.3                | 2.2               | 1.4                | 2                       |
| 24 | 7541        | 21634.m1        | Indicative fragment     | 1–24                                       | 3.7               | 2.9                | 1.5               | 1.7                | 2                       |

*Table S7.2. Detail of the n=24 clay balls displaying intentional ‘markings’.*



Figure S7.6. Range of markings displayed amongst the marked clay ball assemblage. Top row: DB# 6964/ 32682.m2 and DB# 6960/ 23143.m8. Middle row: DB# 6955/ 23143.m3 and DB# 5906/ 21103.m18. Bottom row: DB# 6938/ 23090.m1 and DB# 6957/ 23143.m5 (photographs: author's own).

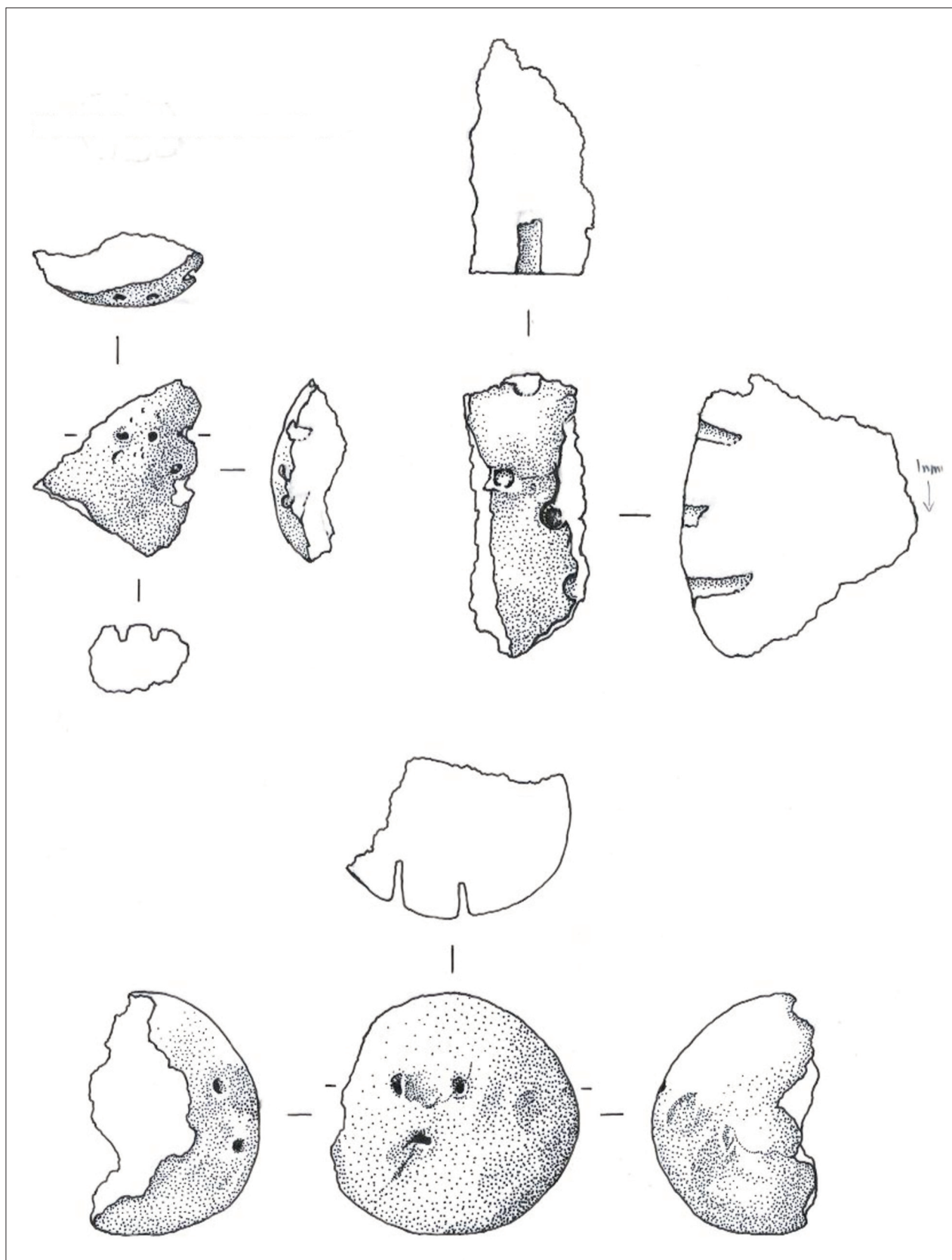


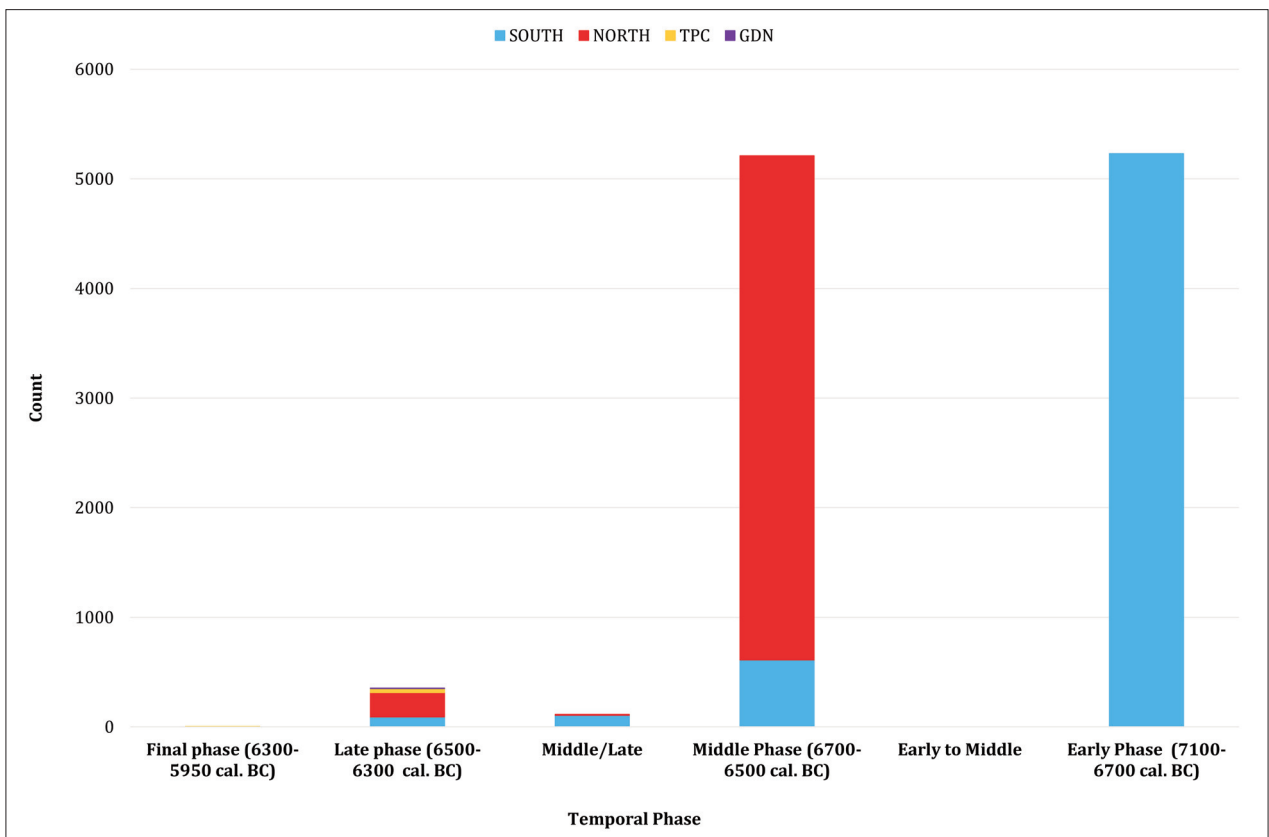
Figure S7.7. Clay balls with 'markings' in the form of circular depressions. Top left: DB# 6098/21841.m7 (3.2cm x 2.3cm x 1.9cm). Top right: DB# 6109 /21841.m18 (2.65cm x 1.2cm x 2.4cm). Bottom: DB# 5705/20988.m11 (5.1cm x 5.1cm x 3.5cm) (drawings: Jennie Anderson, Çatalhöyük Research Project).



Figure S7.8. Re-used discs: small, lenticular disc shaped objects made from the re-use of fragments of large clay balls, top and reverse views. Top to bottom: DB# 5144/ 32496.co1, DB# 5293/ 22670.co1 and DB# 6926/ 23226.co1 (photograph: author's own).

| <i>Site area</i> | <i>Count</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| North            | 4,981        | 44.51             |
| South            | 6,096        | 54.48             |
| TPC              | 58           | 0.52              |
| GDN              | 25           | 0.22              |
| Blank            | 30           | 0.27              |
| Total            | 11,190       | 100.00            |

*Table S7.3. Distribution of clay balls across Çatalhöyük east mound (L1 & L2 data, 2009–2017 excavated objects only).*



*Figure S7.9. Temporal distribution of clay balls, broad phase and area of site (2009–2017 excavated clay ball and fragments, n=11,190).*

| General category | Data category                | Interpretative category                  | Count | Percentage |
|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Cluster          | Cluster                      | Cluster                                  | 36    | 0.39       |
| Cut              | Pit                          | Cut                                      | 6     | 0.06       |
| Layer            | Activity                     | Activity layer                           | 33    | 0.36       |
|                  |                              | Activity                                 | 1     | 0.01       |
|                  |                              | Burned dump                              | 1     | 0.01       |
|                  |                              | Burnt fill/destruction layer             | 1     | 0.01       |
|                  |                              | Fire spot                                | 5     | 0.05       |
|                  |                              | Remains of fire installation             | 13    | 0.14       |
|                  | Arbitrary                    | Arbitrary layer                          | 8     | 0.09       |
|                  |                              | Cleaning unit                            | 34    | 0.37       |
|                  |                              | Infill layer                             | 34    | 0.37       |
|                  |                              | Arbitrary layer/room infill              | 37    | 0.40       |
|                  |                              | Eroded Neolithic infill/surface material | 7     | 0.08       |
|                  |                              | Midden                                   | 6     | 0.06       |
|                  |                              | Series of floors                         | 3     | 0.03       |
|                  | Construction make-up/packing | Baked base of fire installation          | 1     | 0.01       |
|                  |                              | Bench make-up                            | 7     | 0.08       |
|                  |                              | Fill                                     | 1     | 0.01       |
|                  |                              | Brick                                    | 2     | 0.02       |
|                  |                              | Burnt collapse                           | 12    | 0.13       |
|                  |                              | Collapse                                 | 12    | 0.13       |
|                  |                              | Dump                                     | 12    | 0.13       |
|                  |                              | Wall                                     | 2     | 0.02       |
|                  |                              | Fill of niche                            | 4     | 0.04       |
|                  |                              | Floor/make-up                            | 19    | 0.21       |
|                  |                              | Foundation layer                         | 8     | 0.09       |
|                  |                              | Hearth foundation                        | 3     | 0.03       |
|                  |                              | Make-up packing                          | 148   | 1.60       |
|                  |                              | Mudbrick                                 | 8     | 0.09       |
|                  |                              | Plaster surface                          | 86    | 0.93       |
|                  |                              | Platform make-up                         | 22    | 0.24       |
|                  |                              | Preparation layer                        | 19    | 0.21       |
|                  |                              | Roof collapse                            | 16    | 0.17       |
|                  |                              | Packing                                  | 59    | 0.64       |
|                  |                              | Wall mortar                              | 76    | 0.82       |
|                  |                              | Oven superstructure                      | 46    | 0.50       |
|                  |                              | Wall plaster                             | 7     | 0.08       |
|                  |                              | Wall                                     | 17    | 0.18       |
|                  |                              | Niche infill                             | 2     | 0.02       |
|                  | Fill                         | Room/building infill                     | 823   | 8.89       |
|                  |                              | Wall collapse                            | 12    | 0.13       |
|                  |                              | Wall niche                               | 2     | 0.02       |
|                  |                              | Storage pit                              | 31    | 0.33       |

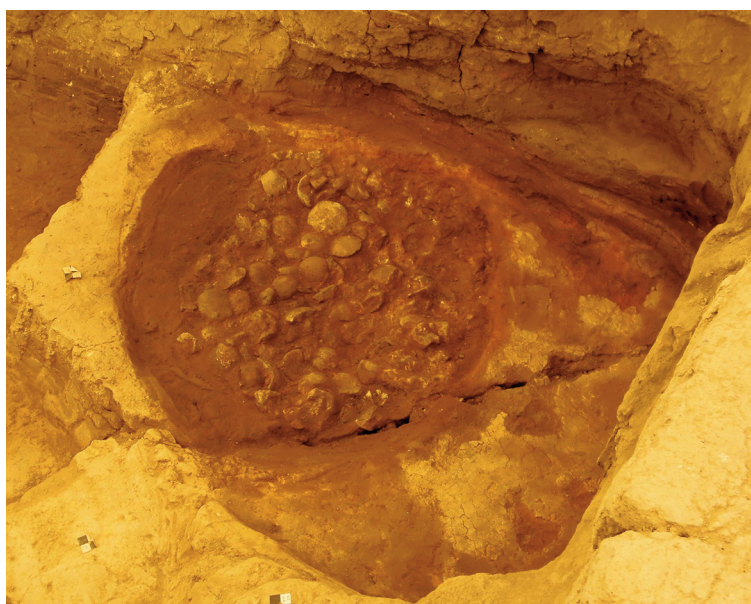
Table S7.4. Clay balls according to all three levels of context type recording (L1 & L2 2009–2017 excavated artefacts, n=11,190).

| <i>General category</i> | <i>Data category</i> | <i>Interpretative category</i>                 | <i>Count</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Layer (cont.)           | Fill (cont.)         | Roof collapse                                  | 18           | 0.19              |
|                         |                      | Re-deposited midden                            | 32           | 0.35              |
|                         |                      | Post hole fill                                 | 20           | 0.22              |
|                         |                      | Post retrieval fill                            | 28           | 0.30              |
|                         |                      | Pit fill                                       | 318          | 3.43              |
|                         |                      | Quarry pit fill                                | 1            | 0.01              |
|                         |                      | Oven fill                                      | 1,376        | 14.86             |
|                         |                      | Packing                                        | 63           | 0.68              |
|                         |                      | Midden                                         | 18           | 0.19              |
|                         |                      | Levelling                                      | 7            | 0.08              |
|                         |                      | Infill                                         | 81           | 0.87              |
|                         |                      | Hearth fill                                    | 2            | 0.02              |
|                         |                      | Foundation fill                                | 41           | 0.44              |
|                         |                      | Foundation trench fill                         | 8            | 0.09              |
|                         |                      | Fire spot/installation fill                    | 55           | 0.59              |
|                         |                      | Fill in-between walls                          | 80           | 0.86              |
|                         |                      | Fill                                           | 137          | 1.48              |
|                         |                      | Dump                                           | 25           | 0.27              |
|                         |                      | Crawl hole fill                                | 5            | 0.05              |
|                         |                      | Collapse                                       | 61           | 0.66              |
|                         |                      | Cluster                                        | 108          | 1.17              |
|                         |                      | Burnt building infill/collapse                 | 18           | 0.19              |
|                         |                      | Burnt/charcoal layer                           | 7            | 0.08              |
|                         |                      | Burial fill                                    | 1,039        | 11.22             |
|                         |                      | Bin fill                                       | 1            | 0.01              |
|                         |                      | Arbitrary layer                                | 42           | 0.45              |
|                         | Floors (use)         | Dirty floor surface                            | 70           | 0.76              |
|                         |                      | Floor layer with phyt., org. matting + pigment | 7            | 0.08              |
|                         |                      | Floor surface                                  | 248          | 2.68              |
|                         |                      | Hearth floor                                   | 1            | 0.01              |
|                         |                      | Oven base/oven floor                           | 45           | 0.49              |
|                         |                      | Oven rake out                                  | 1            | 0.01              |
|                         |                      | Platform surface                               | 5            | 0.05              |
|                         | Midden               | Midden (all)                                   | 3,449        | 37.24             |
|                         | Layer                | Mortar mudbricks                               | 8            | 0.09              |
| Skeleton                | Skeleton             | Skeleton                                       | 30           | 0.32              |
| (Blank)                 | (Blank)              | Ash deposit                                    | 4            | 0.04              |
|                         |                      | Burial fill                                    | 1            | 0.01              |
|                         |                      | Dump layer                                     | 10           | 0.11              |
|                         |                      | Dump/backfill                                  | 3            | 0.03              |
|                         |                      | Infill                                         | 2            | 0.02              |
|                         |                      | Late burial fill                               | 22           | 0.24              |
|                         |                      | Layer                                          | 25           | 0.27              |

*Table S7.4 (Continued). Clay balls according to all three levels of context type recording (L1 & L2 2009–2017 excavated artefacts, n=11,190).*



*Figure S7.10. Clay balls in situ in the floor surface in front of oven F. 7732, Sp. 531, B. 132 (North level F, 2016). South wall facing east (photograph: author's own).*



*Figure S7.11. Unit 21849 under excavation in 2016, showing clay balls fragments in situ (lower fill of oven F. 579, B. 17) (photograph: author's own).*

| <i>Interpretive category</i>             | <i>Count</i> |
|------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Room infill                              | 85           |
| Cluster /deposit of clay balls and bones | 116          |
| Pit infill                               | 38           |
| Activity layer                           | 30           |
| Foundation deposit                       | 19           |
| Floor                                    | 29           |
| Burial fill                              | 17           |
| Make-up/packing/structural               | 13           |
| Other                                    | 4            |
| Hearth (structural)                      | 1            |

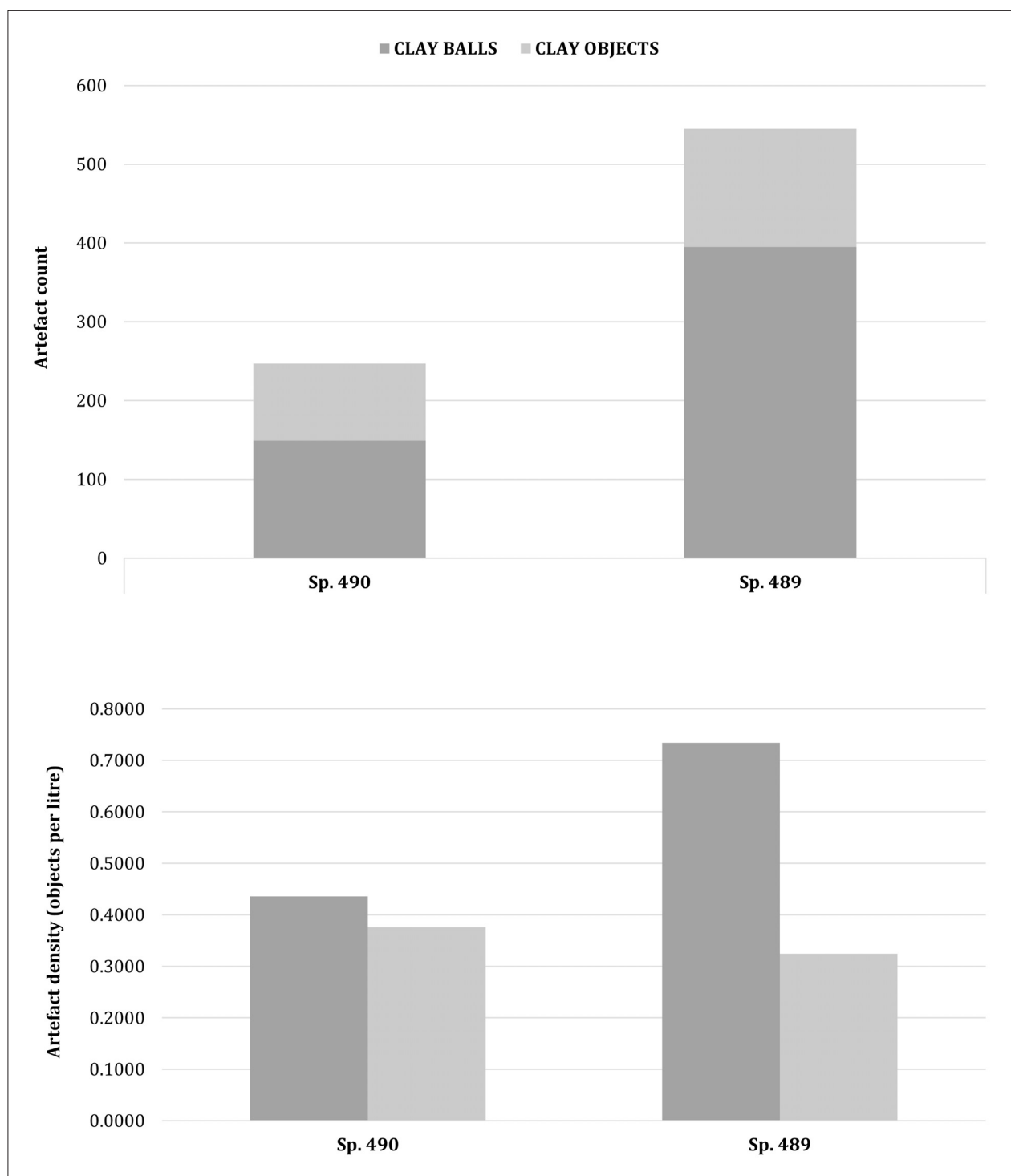
*Table S7.5. Clay balls (L1 & L2) recovered from priority B. 160 (Early Phase, South J) according to context type.*

| <i>Interpretive category</i> | <i>Count</i> |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Cluster                      | 305          |
| Dirty floor                  | 32           |
| Storage pit infill           | 62           |
| Burial fill                  | 46           |
| Infill                       | 43           |
| Make-up/packing              | 41           |
| Other                        | 43           |
| Scoop infill                 | 24           |
| Room infill                  | 12           |
| Post retrieval pit infill    | 12           |
| Base and make-up of oven     | 20           |
| Pit infill                   | 8            |
| Hearth (structural)          | 6            |
| Midden                       | 6            |
| Wall                         | 4            |
| Floor                        | 2            |
| Artefact cache               | 1            |
| Total                        | 667          |

*Table S7.6. Clay balls (L1 & L2) recovered from priority B. 132 (Middle Phase, North F) according to context type.*



*Figure S7.12. Selection of clay ball fragments recovered from unit 21849, the interior of oven F. 579, B. 17 (South K) (photograph: author's own).*



*Figure S7.13. Count (top) and density (bottom) of clay objects and clay balls within the midden sequence represented by Spaces 490 and 489 (North Area, Middle Phase, Level G. Excavated 2012–2015).*

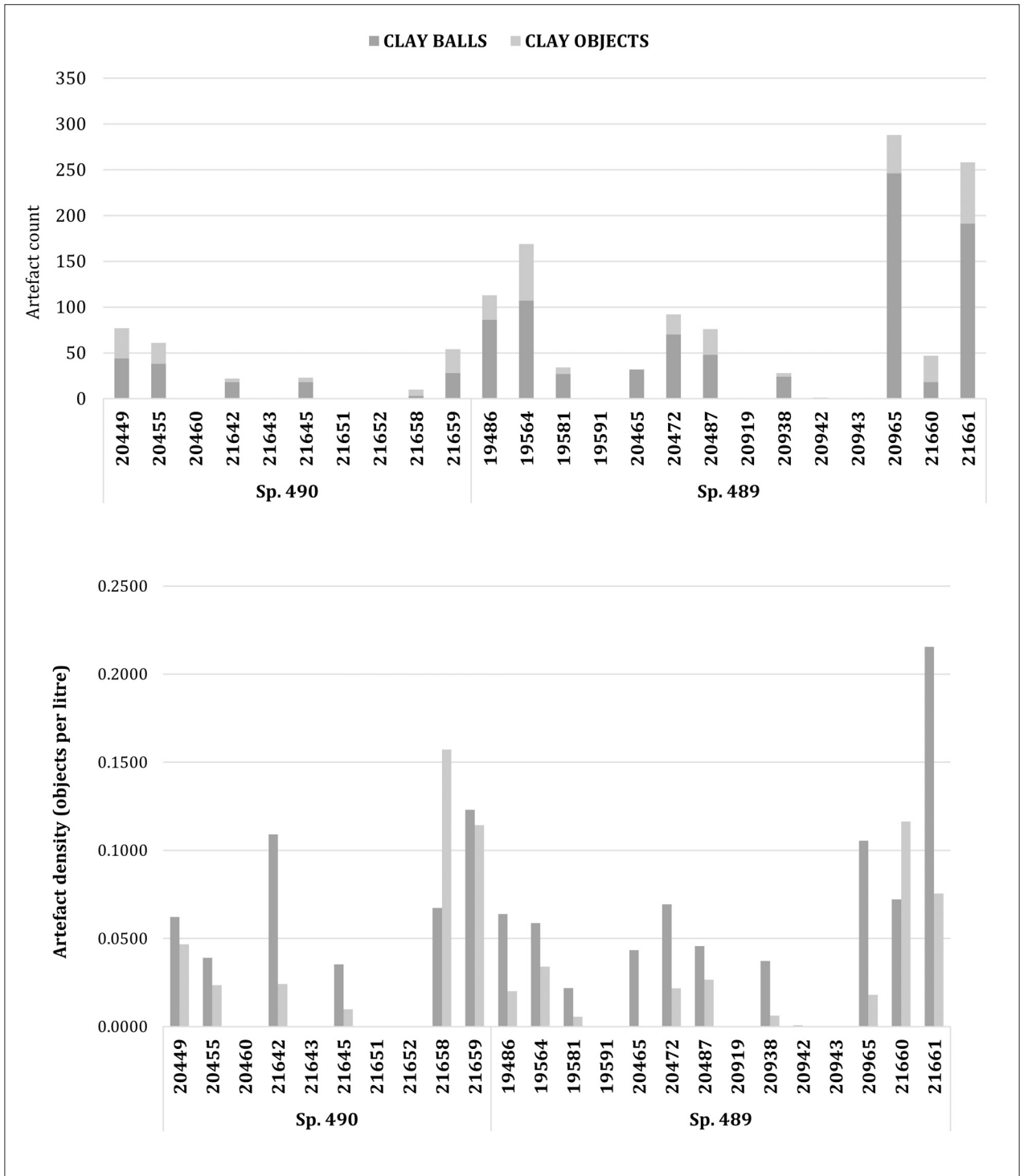
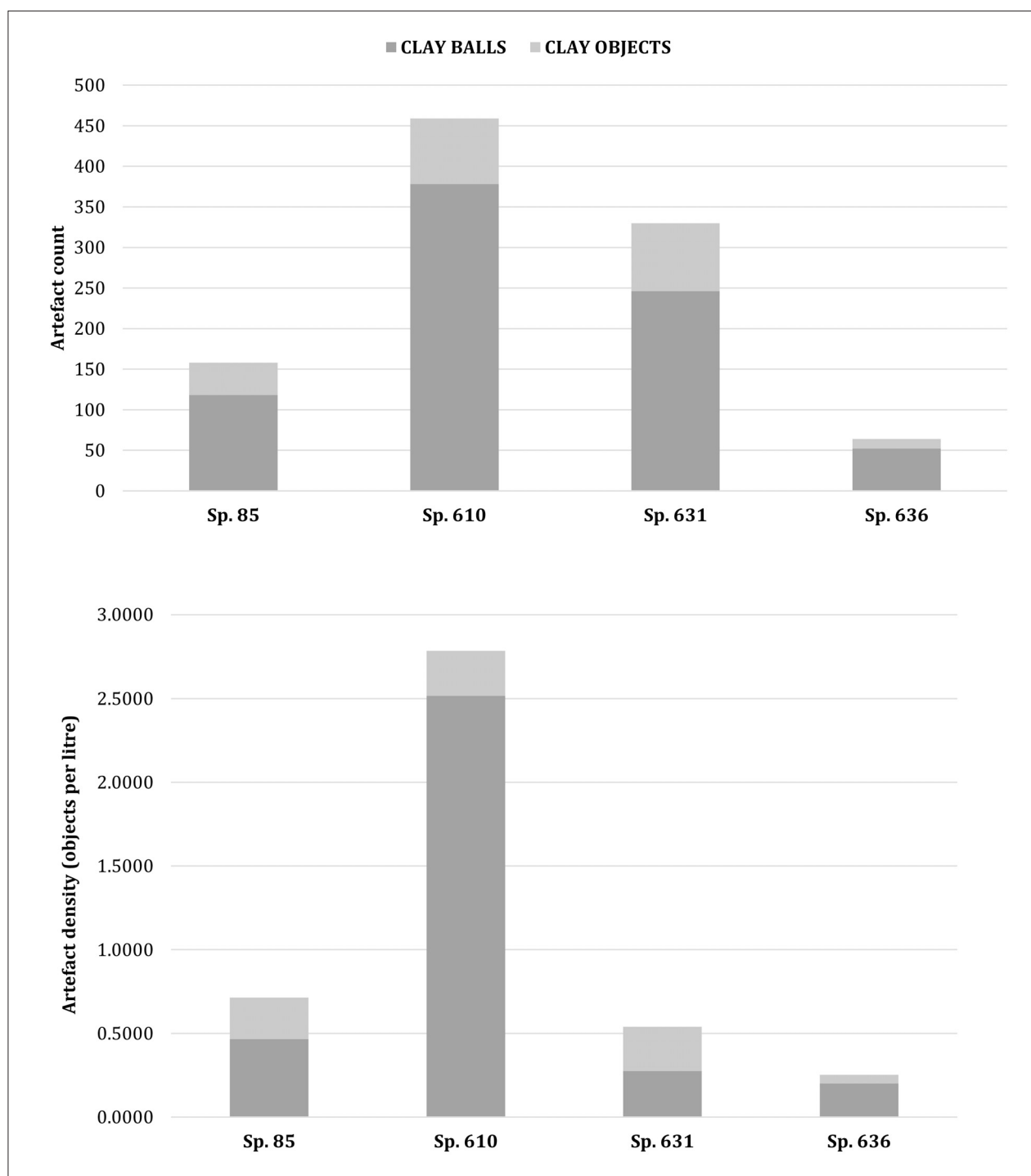


Figure S7.14. Count (top) and density (bottom) of clay objects and clay balls within the midden sequence represented by Spaces 490 and 489 (North Area, Middle Phase, Level G. Excavated 2012–15).



*Figure S7.15. Count (top) and density (bottom) of clay objects and clay balls within the midden sequence represented by Spaces 85-610-631-636 (North Area, Middle Phase, levels North F, H and H. Excavated 2016–2017).*

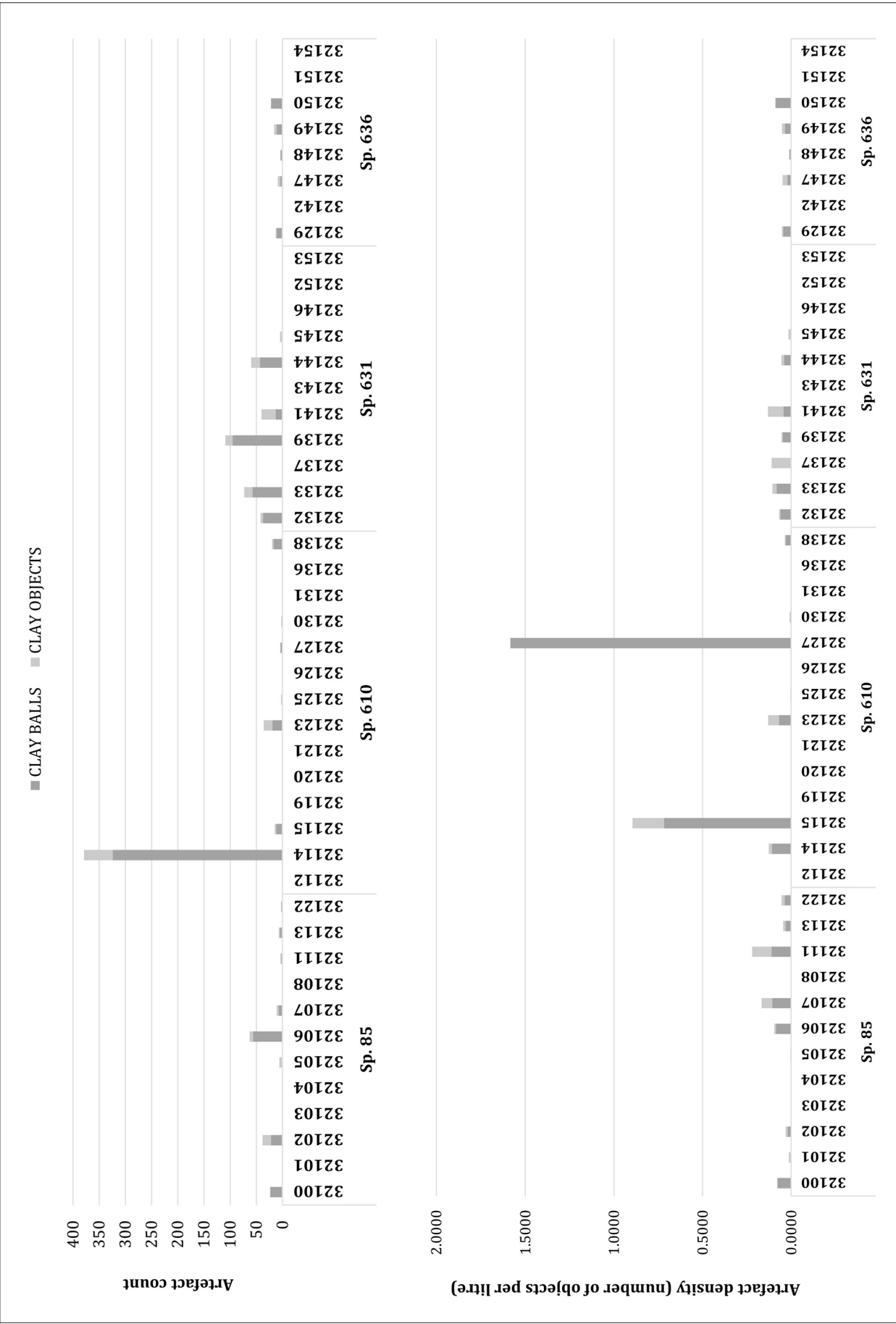


Figure S7.16. Count (top) and density (bottom) of clay objects and clay balls within the midden sequence Sp. 85-610-631-636, by unit.

| DB#  | Find #     | Year | Shape definition | Completeness (%) | Level   | Phase  | Data category | Interpretive category     | Building | Space      | Feature |
|------|------------|------|------------------|------------------|---------|--------|---------------|---------------------------|----------|------------|---------|
| 3685 | 21661.m173 | 2015 | Ovoid            | 50–74            | North G | Middle | Midden        | Midden deposit            |          | 489        |         |
| 3691 | 21661.m179 | 2015 | Ovoid            | 50–74            | North G | Middle | Midden        | Midden deposit            |          | 489        |         |
| 3759 | 21661.m247 | 2015 | Ovoid            | 1–24             | North G | Middle | Midden        | Midden deposit            |          | 489        |         |
| 3762 | 21661.m250 | 2015 | Ovoid            | 1–24             | North G | Middle | Midden        | Midden deposit            |          | 489        |         |
| 3840 | 22314.m106 | 2015 | Ovoid            | 25–49            | South L | Early  | Midden        | Midden layer              |          | 559        |         |
| 5446 | 32752.m25  | 2017 | Ovoid            | 1–24             | North F | Middle | Fill          | Infill of a storage pit   | 132      | 531        | 8330    |
| 4304 | 22300.m101 | 2016 | Oblate spheroid  | 100              | South K | Early  | Fill          | Room infill               | 160      | 551        |         |
| 4307 | 22300.m104 | 2016 | Oblate spheroid  | 50–74            | South K | Early  | Fill          | Room infill               | 160      | 551        |         |
| 5168 | 21849.m111 | 2016 | Ovoid            | 25–49            | South K | Early  | Fill          | Oven debris               | 17       | 170        | 579     |
| 5431 | 32752.m10  | 2017 | Ovoid            | 1–24             | North F | Middle | Fill          | Infill of a storage pit   | 132      | 531        | 8330    |
| 6280 | 20472.m5   | 2013 | Ovoid            | 25–49            | North G | Middle | Midden        | Midden arbitrary layer    |          | 489        |         |
| 6936 | 21859.m1   | 2017 | Ovoid            | 100              | South K | Early  | Fill          | Fill of fire installation | 17       | 170        | 8028    |
| 6953 | 23143.m10  | 2015 | Ovoid            | 100              | North F | Middle | Midden        | Midden                    | 139      | 623<br>625 |         |
| 6999 | 17048.m1   | 2017 | Ovoid            | 100              | South P | Late   | Floors (use)  | External surface dump     |          | 329        |         |
| 7296 | 23634.m2   | 2017 | Ovoid            | 25–49            | North F | Middle | Midden        | Midden deposit            |          | 625        |         |

Table S7.7. Detail of the context of the non-typical shape clay balls.