INTRODUCTION

Kalavasos-Kokkinogia (hereafter Kokkinogia) belongs to a cluster of prehistoric sites situated in the lower Vasilikos valley in the coastal lowlands of south-central Cyprus. Kokkinogia extends along the eastern edge of a low north – south ridge with commanding views of the lowlands to the east and south-east (Fig. 1) (Clarke 2004; Clarke and Todd 1993). It is located 500m. south of the predominantly Chalcolithic site of Kalavasos-Pampoules (hereafter Pampoules) and is only 2km. south of another Chalcolithic site, Kalavasos-Agious (hereafter Agious).

THE 1940S EXCAVATIONS BY PORPHYRIOS DIKAIOS

Both Kokkinogia and Pampoules were excavated by Porphyrios Dikaios in the 1940s, under the auspices of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus. Brief reports of the excavations were published in the Swedish Cyprus Expedition volumes (Dikaios and Stewart 1962) and recently, in more detail, by Clarke, Croft and McCartney (2007). Because Dikaios’ excavations were limited in their scope and because Kokkinogia was unusual for a Late Neolithic site on account of its underground features, it was deemed important to renew excavations in order to elucidate aspects of its structure, layout and function(s), which appeared anomalous with other sites of similar date.

THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA EXCAVATIONS, 2002 TO 2003

Objectives

New excavations began at Kokkinogia in 2002. The objectives of the renewed excavations were:

1. To determine whether or not the site was a settlement;
2. To further investigate the subterranean features and to compare them with underground complexes at other Late Neolithic and Early Chalcolithic sites;
3. To examine how subterranean features related to any above-ground architecture;
4. To investigate the social and economic strategies practiced at the site.

Results

The preliminary results of the first three seasons of fieldwork were published in 2004 (Clarke 2004). This work yielded further evidence to suggest that Kokkinogia was different to broadly contemporary sites elsewhere on Cyprus. A preliminary examination of the pottery and lithics suggested that Kokkinogia dated to the Late Neolithic period, ca 4400–4000 cal. B.C. (see Clarke 2004; Clarke and Todd 1993; McCartney 2007), but Late Neolithic sites in the southern part of the island are more typically located on hill tops with substantial above-ground architecture, e.g. Sotira-Teppes (hereafter Sotira) (Dikaios 1961); Kantou-Koufovounos (hereafter Kantou) (Mantzourani 2003). Kokkinogia, located on the coastal plain with fully and partly-subterranean features, appeared very different from sites usually considered typical of the Late Neolithic period. Even so, subterranean features are known to have existed at other Late Neolithic sites (see Watkins 1970, 1972) and it was therefore within the realms of possibility that
Kokkinogia too had been a settlement, of which negative features cut into the bedrock were all that survived. Digging began with this in mind, but after a time the subterranean features became so numerous that the likelihood of Kokkinogia being a settlement in the fashion of Sotira or Kantou diminished. By 2004 excavations had unearthed over nine pit-like features, plus four chambers inter-connected through a series of intricate tunnels, entranceways and port holes. The first chamber discovered, Feature 66 (Figs 2 and 3), was originally thought to have been a Bronze Age tomb, but on excavation, the absence of cultural material and the presence of a small porthole linking it with a second chamber (Feature 70) (Figs 2 and 4) suggested otherwise. On the floor of Feature 70 a Combed ware bottle (Fig. 8a) was found carefully placed inside a Combed ware bowl (Fig. 8b). Additionally, a third chamber (Feature 105) was identified as being linked to Feature 70 by a tunnel (Figs 2 and 4).

Although the nature and extent of the chambers suggested that Kokkinogia was somewhat different to other sites where subterranean features had been discovered, it was not immediately clear what type of site Kokkinogia might be. One possible explanation was that it was chronologically later than Sotira and Kantou, perhaps dating to the beginning of the Early Chalcolithic period (ca 3900/3800 cal. B.C.) and thereby making it contemporary with the beginning of occupation at the nearby Early Chalcolithic site of Agious, characterised by the presence of partly and fully-subterranean features (Todd and Croft 2004). However, the pottery from Kokkinogia suggested otherwise, as it bears little resemblance to the pottery from Agious. At Kokkinogia, the assemblage is characterised by Combed ware and Red Monochrome Painted ware in predominantly Late Neolithic forms, including hemispherical bowls with flat or omphalos bases and globular bottles with flat or rounded bases. At Agious, the assemblage is characterised by Early Chalcolithic types of Red-on-White and Red Monochrome Painted ware, in typical Early Chalcolithic forms including platters, bottles with pointed bases, plus slipped or painted Coarse ware trays with lug handles and other decorative motifs that are diagnostic of the early 4th millennium B.C.

**Discussion**

The complete absence of economic data at Kokkinogia is unique amongst Cypriot prehistoric sites (see Clarke, McCartney and Croft 2007 for a recent discussion by Croft). At Agious, the botanical evidence is poor (see Hansen 2004, 198) but faunal preservation is good and suggests that deer were predominant (Croft 2004, 207). It is therefore unlikely that the absence of economic data at Kokkinogia is the result of poor preservation. Kokkinogia also lacks the full range of material culture usually found at Late Neolithic and Early Chalcolithic sites. There are no bone tools (which are common on most prehistoric sites), no small objects, such as hooks, spirals, beads or pendants, and there are no figurines. The absence of figurines would not be unusual for a Late Neolithic site, where imagery of any kind was uncommon, but it is certainly unusual for the Early Chalcolithic period. If Kokkinogia was partly contemporary with Agious one would expect to observe similarities in the pottery and just as importantly, in the types and variety of other objects. Instead, the range of material culture represented is a depleted version of that which might be expected on a typical Late Neolithic settlement site. What is found at Kokkinogia, however, are large quantities of ground stone items, far in excess of what would be expected from a site of its size, most of which are expedient tools (McCartney 2007). Although a standard range of Late Neolithic pottery is represented, there is a significantly higher proportion of Coarse ware than in other broadly contemporary assemblages (Clarke 2004, 63). There are also instances where commonplace artefacts are found in unusual contexts or in unusual associations (Clarke 2004, 65-66).
THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA
EXCAVATIONS, 2004 TO 2007

Objectives

In light of the unusual features discovered at Kokkinogia in 2002 and 2003/2004, the aims of the 2005-2007 seasons of excavation were:

1. To further investigate the underground features found during the first three seasons, in order to define their extent and interconnectedness, and to ascertain how these spaces was used.

2. To determine whether Kokkinogia was a ploughed out settlement or some other type of site.

In order to achieve these aims excavations were extended onto the plateau (Fig. 9), to the west of the features discovered in the first two seasons.

Description of main features excavated 2005-2007

Excavation continued on the plateau edge in order to link Area Q, located to the south, with Area U, 50m. to the north. A number of new features were uncovered in both areas, all of them subterranean.

Area Q

Feature 152

This was a bell-shaped flat-based pit, 0.73×0.67×1.0m. deep, with a circular entrance that had been truncated by ploughing and is now much wider than it had been in prehistory. The west side of the pit consists of a large aperture leading into Feature 161 (Fig. 10). It is unclear whether the aperture was designed to connect Feature 152 with Feature 161, or was simply the result of one feature having cut the other by chance, by erosion or by the collapse of the wall separating the two.

Feature 161

Feature 161 consists of an upper cut and aperture giving access to a chamber below. The shallow oval upper cut into the havara surface measures 1.45×1.20×0.25m. deep and was damaged by ploughing and had collapsed on its north-west side. On its east side it was cut away by a later cultivation pit (Feature 150). In the base of the upper cut was a narrower circular aperture leading down into one of the largest chambers recorded at Kokkinogia, measuring approximately 2.6×2.4×1.15m. deep. In the southern end of Feature 161 was a niche, 0.65×0.55×0.44m. deep.

Intersecting with Feature 161 was Feature 152, the bell-shaped pit described above, and Feature 184, described below. There was a higher than usual number of hammerstones in the fill of Feature 161. These may have fallen into the chamber by accident after it went out of use – suggesting that there was a concentration of these artefacts nearby, or that they may have been deliberately thrown in at intervals over the course of time, or possibly both.

Feature 184

Feature 184 is a cavernous pit or quasi-chamber with an aperture in its north-west side leading to another unexcavated chamber or possibly a tunnel. Originally, the top of Feature 184 had been a circular aperture in the bedrock surface approximately 1m. in diameter but bedrock collapse had enlarged the aperture and made it irregular. At a depth of 1m. below the surface of the bedrock, Feature 184 bells out to 2×2.2×1.35m. deep. This chamber is characterised by two apertures: a north-west aperture that was 0.60m. wide × 0.75m. high. Much of this aperture remains unexcavated so its dimensions are not fully known. The second aperture, on the south side, is very large and fill deposits ran continuously into Feature 161. This aperture is 1.40m. wide × 0.75m. high. In the north-west alcove, at some point during infilling, a number of ground stone objects were stacked or cached. Objects included hammerstones, a rubber standing vertically against the north edge of Feature 184, utilised pebbles and grinders.
Area U

Excavations continued in the area where the interconnecting chambers (Features 66, 70, 105 and 113) had been discovered during the 2002–2004 seasons. (Clarke 2004, 57-60). By the close of excavations in 2005, it was apparent that many more chamber-like features existed and that they too were inter-connected with those already uncovered. What was startling was that these linkages were not only two-dimensional but three-dimensional, as Feature 66 was reached through a tunnel (Feature 115) which curved around to the south and west before rising vertically to an aperture in the floor of another chamber (Feature 181) (Fig. 2).

Feature 113

Excavation continued in Feature 113, the collapsed chamber uncovered during the 2003/2004 season (Clarke 2004, 60). Feature 113 was, in fact, found to be two adjacent chambers whose havar roofs had both collapsed (Fig. 6). Feature 113 (east) was sub-circular in shape with a dished floor, measuring approximately 3.6×2.7m. On its northern side it was connected by Feature 110 (a short tunnel) to Feature 70 (Fig. 2). As preserved, the entranceway (from Feature 70 via the Feature 110 tunnel) was approximately 0.5m. in diameter but may originally have been smaller owing to subsequent collapse of the unstable havarokonnos (friable clayey havana) through which it had been cut. Two niches were cut into the sides of the chamber, while a possible collapsed entry point from the surface into Feature 113 (east) was labelled Feature 118.

Feature 113 (west) was also sub-circular in shape with a dished floor and had an approximate diameter of 1.7m. A silty patch (unit 146) in the top of the feature almost certainly indicates the location of an entrance hole to the ground surface. On the north-west side of the chamber a small porthole-type aperture penetrated through the havarokonnos immediately beneath the stratum of white havana to connect with the south-east side of Chamber 181.

Soon after removal of the collapsed roof, it became apparent that a notable concentration of artefacts was present in the eastern part of Feature 113 (east) (Fig. 11). The deliberate placement of at least some of these items, in particular a small Late Neolithic Red Monochrome Painted flask sitting inside the base of a Late Neolithic Red Monochrome Painted bowl, suggests that the assemblage of artefacts was cached rather than dumped (Fig. 12) and recalls the placement of the Neolithic bottle and bowl in Feature 70. Although the density of artefacts was high, the cached objects did not seem to have been placed in a single heap but occurred somewhat discontinuously throughout a 0.7m. depth of silty fill. This suggests that caching in Feature 113 (east) did not occur as a single event but involved a small number of separate events that took place over a period of time. It is conceivable that the objects were deposited (and perhaps retrieved) seasonally, and that as silting-up of the chamber progressed, some objects eluded detection on account of having become buried. Given that the other five chambers of the complex appear to have been used over a very short period of time and finds in them have been very sparse, it may be that the cache of object in Feature 113 (east) is evidence of secondary, not primary, usage.

Feature 123

Feature 123 was only partly excavated by the end of the winter of 2003 and was continued in 2005. This feature, reported in Clarke (2004, 60) as “a circular aperture cut into the bedrock, and approximately 75cm. in diameter.….walls vertical to a depth of 60cm.”, revealed itself in 2005 to be an entranceway to Feature 181 (Figs 2 and 7). Feature 115, also described in 2004 (Clarke 2004, 60) as “a curving passageway approximately 90cm. high and 85cm. wide leading south and west back into the hillside… from Chamber 66” was revealed in 2005 to extend downwards from an aperture in the base of Feature 181, effectively linking Feature 181 above and to the west with Feature 66, below and to the east (Fig. 2).
**Feature 155**

This is an irregular bell-shaped pit approximately 1.55m. deep, giving access to the north, via entrance 183, to Feature 181 and another possible chamber or tunnel, as yet unexcavated, to the south (Figs 2 and 7). Feature 155 has a shallow, irregular upper cut around most of its top, except on its western side, below which it is vertical-sided in its upper part (for the first 0.25m.). Removal of the fill revealed a large slab that proved to be the sealing capstone, still *in situ*. Below this, on the north side, the pit edge is steeply undercut down to the top of entrance 183 (which leads into Feature 181). On its west side it bells out to a significant extent, whilst on its east side it is near vertical. On its south side the base of Feature 155 slopes steeply upwards to the threshold of another subterranean feature, as yet unexcavated.

**Feature 181**

Feature 181 is a complete subterranean chamber (Figs 2 and 7). It was sub-triangular in shape and approximately 2.25×2.25m. and 1.35m. in depth at its maximum point. The roof of this chamber is the superficial stratum of homogenous stable *havara* but the actual chamber is cut into the underlying stratum of friable unstable *havarokonnos*. The floor is uneven but largely horizontal with sloping sides. In the northern corner of the chamber, penetrating down through the floor is an aperture (Feature 182) which leads to a tunnel (Feature 115), which in turn leads to Feature 66 discovered in the 2002 season. Its northern lip is in the lower part of the wall of the chamber, while its southern lip, which has been worn smooth through use, is situated in the floor of Feature 181. Immediately south of the aperture, somewhat above the actual floor of the chamber, was a limestone slab 0.44×0.30×0.10m. which may have been used to cover the aperture.

In the south corner of the chamber was another entrance (Feature 183), which connected Feature 181 to the bottom of a pit (Feature 155). The entrance measured 0.55m. wide × 0.50m. high but may have been smaller when originally cut. High up in the east side of the chamber, immediately below roof level, was a small porthole-like aperture, 0.30×0.18m., connecting Feature 181 with Feature 113 (west). Like Feature 113 (east), Feature 181 was dotted with niches, the purposes of which are unknown. It may be that these are no more than areas where the unstable *havarokonnos* has fallen away, leaving depressions in the bedrock sides of the features concerned, but equally it may have been that these were cut for specific purposes.

**Area T**

In 2005, excavations began in the fields on the plateau to the west of Area U. A series of exploratory trenches were opened where resistivity survey in a 40×40m. area had indicated a number of anomalies. The prehistoric features uncovered are described below:

**Feature 136**

The removal of the upper fill of this feature revealed a roughly oval cut into the *havara* bedrock with maximum dimensions of 4.28×3.30m. The edges of this feature were formed by the natural *havara* which had been vertically cut through to form a scooped pit. Around the south-west periphery of this feature, both inside it and just outside it, were a number of small, relatively evenly-spaced hollows and cuts which have been tentatively interpreted as stake holes.

Excavation of this feature revealed a series of surfaces associated with an off-centre post hole, which was remodelled with each successive surface, and a small central fire pit immediately adjacent to the post hole, which may have been an alternative placement for the post but— at times— may have doubled as a fire pit, on the basis of extensive burning found within it. A horizontal spread of sherds, including an upturned smashed vessel, and a number of flat pieces of stone, were discovered on the uppermost surface...
Beneath this floor there were at least two further rough, crushed havara surfaces on which were found sherds, lithics and ground stone objects. Typically, chipped stone debris was found around the edge of the feature, suggesting that the surfaces were swept.

In the south-west section of the feature was a raised area of havara, tentatively interpreted as a platform as it was maintained throughout successive re-floorings as a raised area. This was kept clean of debris and was thus differentiated from the rest of the feature.

The greater dimensions of Feature 136 and its clearly different use, when compared with the fully subterranean chambers and the partly subterranean pits, has led to the conclusion that this was a structure of some kind (see Clarke 2007), albeit an insubstantial one. Recently, similar features at Pampoules were described by this writer as follows: “Dikaios divided [features] into two categories on the basis of morphology and the types of fixtures and fittings found within them. Type I were circular or irregular in plan... the lower part being dug into the soft bedrock... Type II were circular houses constructed of posts arranged in a circle and presumably meeting at the top of a main central post. Type I were recorded as stratigraphically earlier than Type II with Type II coming into use in the second period after Type I features went out of use” (Clarke, Croft and McCartney 2007, 59). Furthermore, Dikaios states in his report “that Type II pits re-used the upper part of Type I pits” (Dikaios and Stewart 1962, 139).

A similar pattern of site formation can be documented in at least three features at Kokkino-gia, but none are more clear than Feature 136. In the eastern half of this feature, beneath the earliest floor, were two chambers cut by the later Feature 136. Feature 136 therefore approximates the section illustrated by Dikaios and Stewart (1962, Fig. 63, lower left hand corner), where a broad, shallow, straight-sided feature cuts a chamber-like feature, with belled sides where it has been cut down into the havarokonnos substrate (Fig. 14).

Preliminary analysis of the pottery from the floors within Feature 136 have determined that all but the latest pot spread found on Floor 157 is Late Neolithic in character. The uppermost deposit, on the other hand, is made up of sherds from at least two and maybe more Early Chalcolithic vessels.

Feature 147

Immediately east of the possible structure (Feature 136) was a chamber. It had a cavernous north-eastern side narrowing down to what was apparently a tunnel leading off toward Area U. Within the chamber, close to the surface, was an incomplete stone slab, probably an entrance cap stone, placed on end and abutting the southern side of the chamber.

Feature 191

This was a pit or small chamber 0.90m. deep cut into the havara bedrock. It was entered through a roughly circular aperture 0.65m. in diameter, which widened out to reach a maximum diameter of 1.10m. at the juncture of the hard havara surface bedrock and the crumbly, friable, havarokonnos substrate. At this point the actual shape of the pit / chamber was difficult to reconstruct as the sides had collapsed causing significant “belling” of the feature. At the base of the feature the original sides were preserved to a height of 0.30m. and were clearly vertical. The fills of Feature 191 indicate an initial phase of rapid infilling, first with topsoil and then with pit collapse and washing in of gravels from the surface. A final phase of infilling with topsoil occurred sometime after the feature went out of use and it is in this material that the majority of artefacts were recovered.

In the north-east side of this feature was an aperture, 1.20m. wide and 0.55m. high, located

1. The pits beneath Feature 136 are not reported on here as they are not yet fully excavated.
0.55m. above the base of the chamber and connecting it with Feature 239. Excavation demonstrated that the fills of Features 191 and 239 were discontinuous. As a concentration of stones that ran through Feature 239 was not disturbed by the aperture into Feature 191 it is likely that Feature 239 post-dates and cuts Feature 191.

**Feature 199 and associated burial 229**

Feature 199 was a “figure-of-eight” shaped cut into the *havara* bedrock, comprising two roughly circular pits. The earlier, north-western pit was subsequently cut by the later, south-eastern pit. A rough line of small stones and *havara* lumps were placed across the “waist” of the feature in prehistory, probably when the second pit was cut, in order to provide a clearly delineated, “hard” edge all the way around its circumference.

Within the north-west pit was an articulated burial of a female individual, and a number of bones from a second individual (Fig. 15). The articulated individual was placed on her right side along the north side of the pit, with the left arm folded across the chest and the left hand in the vicinity of the right shoulder. The right arm seemed to mirror the position of the left arm, as if something was being carried in the vicinity of the right shoulder. The lower, right leg was folded, meaning the body was in a semi-contracted position. The left leg did not appear to be articulated with the rest of the body and some of the skeletal elements from this leg may have been included in an upper spread of disarticulated bone. The head had been placed on a small stone, which tilted the skull forward, facing east. A smooth, rounded stone (10×14cm.) was found in the base of the grave just above the right shoulder. The presence of additional disarticulated bones laying on and between the long bones of the articulated skeleton remains puzzling.

In addition to pits, Dikaios also reported finding a burial at *Pampoules*, which he describes as a “circular pit dug into bedrock containing human remains partly disturbed by the building of a platform” (Dikaios and Stewart 1962, 139). This burial appears to have been located in the immediate vicinity of a “half-sunk dwelling” but he does not specify which one, except to say that it was a Type I dwelling. It is certainly interesting, in light of the *Kokkinogia* burial, to note Dikaios’ report of a similar grave cut at *Pampoules*, in close association with a “half-sunk dwelling” that appears to have been similar to Feature 136.

**Feature 203**

This was an approximately circular chamber with near vertical walls and slightly dished floor. The chamber has a maximum extent of 2.15m. north-south and 2.05m. east-west and a more or less horizontal floor area of 1.80×1.65m. The maximum height of the chamber was 1.05m. The entire north-east quarter of the chamber opens out into a large alcove. This alcove narrows for 1.10m. eastward, being 1.50m. wide at the chamber edge and narrowing to 0.80m. towards the end of the alcove. Nothing was found in the chamber.

**Feature 205**

This was entered through an aperture 0.85×1.20m. cut into the bedrock surface, which appears to have been a collapsed entranceway leading into an antechamber with maximum dimensions of 1.40×1.75m. This sloped down to the south into a main chamber, 2.45m. long and 1.95m. wide, making it one of the largest underground features at *Kokkinogia*. Feature 205 clearly connects with the unexcavated Feature 121 to the south-east. A number of objects were found in the fill of the chamber, but not on its floor; these included three diabase pebbles, a number of utilised pebbles, a rubber, a hammerstone and an anvil.

The most exciting artefact from the chamber was located beneath the anvil. It was a moulded unfired cylindrical mud “lamp” (Fig. 16), which appears to have been moulded into shape within some sort of vessel, from which it was removed once the mud had set. The top of the artefact was smoothed with a thumb and a finger-sized hole was inserted into the centre. There are slight
traces of burning around the outside of this hole. At some point prior to the final hardening of the mud, a thicker object was inserted into the finger hole, creating a wider hole, which does not penetrate the full length of the original hole.

**Feature 215**

This was a chamber, cut into a hollow in the *havara* bedrock. The entrance is an approximately oval aperture, 0.95×0.80m. cut through the upper stratum of solid *havara* and into the friable *havarokonnos* beneath. At this level, the entrance opens out into a chamber extending east and west. The chamber roof comprises the base of the upper stratum of *havara*. The unique feature of this chamber is that it contained two surfaces. On the upper surface, at the western extent of the chamber, a near vertical alignment of stones blocked access to the west part of the chamber. At least two vessels, one broken into many sherds, and the partial sherds of another, lay vertically against this line of stones (Fig. 17). All sherds from this pot spread appear to have been Early Chalcolithic, suggesting that this upper surface within Feature 215 was utilised later than the primary, Late Neolithic use of most subterranean features at *Kokkinogia*. A number of flint blades were discovered in association with the large sherds described above.

The second surface was the utilised base of the chamber. Here were discovered a number of ochre pieces, an ochre-encrusted stone and a Red Monochrome Painted flask, similar to the one discovered in the cache in Feature 113.

**Ceramics**

The pottery has yet to be fully studied, so this discussion is both general and preliminary. A total of 5694 sherds have been processed to date; considerably less than what might be expected from a Late Neolithic settlement site, where sherd counts number in the tens of thousands. The smaller quantity of pottery from *Kokkinogia* is therefore another characteristic that distinguishes it from ‘standard’ settlement sites. Equally interesting is the fact that the relative proportions of vessel shapes and fabrics at *Kokkinogia* also differ from the ‘standard’ Late Neolithic settlements, in the sense that there is a significantly higher proportion of Coarse ware at *Kokkinogia*, sometimes representing up to 30% of the total sherd count from a feature. In contrast, on ‘standard’ settlement sites Coarse ware never represents more than 5-8% of the total pottery assemblage (Clarke 2001, 67-68).

There is no relationship between the size of a feature and the quantity of sherds found in the fill. Feature 105, at over six cubic metres, is the largest chamber so far discovered but produced only 22 sherds. In contrast, Feature 152, an entranceway into Feature 161 measuring less than a cubic metre, produced 141 sherds, and Feature 161 itself produced 280 sherds. Generally speaking the number of sherds found within a feature was never more than in the low hundreds. There were two exceptions to this: Feature 136 (the possible structure), which has produced the largest number of sherds (916); and Feature 113, which had the secondary cache of objects within its fill, partly accounting for the greater number of sherds (637).

In general the *Kokkinogia* assemblage is Late Neolithic in character. Late Neolithic pottery is found across the site in most of the features. In some features there appears to have been purposeful deposition of parts of vessels as well as, but not necessarily in association with, ground stone tools. For example, Feature 77 in Area Q (published in Clarke 2004, 61), a deep circular flat-bottomed pit, was filled after its primary use with a range of partly restorable vessels and stone tools. The vessels were deposited in different parts of the fill so that there was no mixing of joining sherds from different vessels. In one part of the fill were the partly restorable sherds of a Combed ware bowl, in another part of the fill were sherds from a Red Monochrome Painted bowl. There were no fully restorable vessels however. Likewise, in Feature 113, objects were cached throughout the fill, including one complete Red Monochrome Painted flask. Even so, there were also parts of restorable vessels in the
fill, in association with clearly cached items and it may be that these were purposefully cached as well. To date no clear joins in the pottery have been found across features, but studies of this nature are ongoing.

Although most of the pottery can be attributed to the Late Neolithic, there were some exceptions. The pottery from the possible structure, Feature 136, was predominantly Late Neolithic but on the uppermost, latest floor the pot spread was characteristically Early Chalcolithic, indicating a terminal use of this feature sometime during the beginning of that period. Less clearly differentiated was the cache in Feature 113, which had some elements that were Early Chalcolithic in nature, including a Glossy Burnished ware fabric, but which was more typically Late Neolithic. In Feature 215, the small Red Monochrome Painted flask, discovered on the lower surface of the chamber was transitional Late Neolithic / Early Chalcolithic, but the pottery found positioned upright against the stones in association with the upper surface was clearly Chalcolithic, possibly even as late as Middle Chalcolithic.

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS

Attempts to relate features to one another and to understand the overall structure and function of the site have been hampered by the general lack of direct stratigraphic relationships between them. Much of the sequencing of Kokkinogia is therefore reliant upon radiocarbon dating and pottery sequencing. Results of radiocarbon dating are still pending, so it is only the pottery that is discussed here.

The pottery in individual features suggests that pits and chambers were cut at regular intervals throughout the latter part of the Late Neolithic period. Some features were probably cut together, e.g. Features 66, 70, 105, 155, 181, 115 and 123 located in Area U (see Fig. 2). Secondary use of some of the features at Kokkinogia occurred during the Early Chalcolithic period. This is particularly notable in Feature 215 and to a lesser degree in Feature 113, where secondary caching probably occurred during the early part of the Early Chalcolithic period.

Feature 136 is particularly important, because although there is no break in the stratigraphy within this feature, Late Neolithic pottery was found on the lower surfaces, while the pot spread on the uppermost, latest surface is Early Chalcolithic.

Kokkinogia, therefore, appears to have been utilised for an indeterminate period of time during the transitional Late Neolithic / Early Chalcolithic period, with no discernable break in occupation. This would make Kokkinogia one of only two sites on the island to have continuous stratigraphy bridging the two periods; the other being Agios Epiktitos-Vrysi on the north coast of the island (Peltenburg 1982; Peltenburg et al. 2003, 261). It therefore seems that Kokkinogia represents the activities of people who lived in south-central Cyprus around the time of the abandonment of the Late Neolithic settlements of Sotira and Kantou, but prior to the utilisation of Agious. Whether or not Kokkinogia was a ‘genuine’ settlement is still not clear; further work needs to be carried out in order to clarify this vexing issue. What is clear, however, is that the subterranean features at Kokkinogia foreshadowed those of Agious and, indeed, those of Kissonerga-Myloudia where there is a clear evolution from subterranean and semi-subterranean pit dwellings in the Early Chalcolithic to the well-known round houses that were common across the island in the Middle Chalcolithic period (Peltenburg, et al. 2003, 259-60).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus, the village of Kalavasos, Ian Todd and Alison South for their logistical support, project staff and students who made excavations possible, Alison South and Jeannette van der Post for their illustrations, Alexander Wasse for comments on the various drafts of this paper and for his editing work and Mr Alistair McLeish for proof reading.
REFERENCES


Fig. 1. Photo of east views from Kokkinogia.

Fig. 2. Plan of Area U, the chamber and tunnel complex.
Fig. 3. Section through Feature 66.

Fig. 4. Section through Feature 70.
Fig. 5. Section through Feature 105.

Fig. 6. Section through Feature 113.

Fig. 7. Section through Feature 155 and Feature 181.
Fig. 8a. Combed ware bottle.

Fig. 8b. Combed ware bowl.
Fig. 9. Photo of the plateau, to the west of the ridge looking south. In the foreground is Feature 136, the possible structure.

Fig. 10. Photo of Feature 152 and Feature 161.
Fig. 11. Photo of the artefact cache in Feature 113 east.

Fig. 12. Photo close up of the flask and bowl base in Feature 113 east.
Fig. 13. Photo of Feature 136 during excavation.

Fig. 14. Plans and sections from Kalavasos-Pampoules (cf: Dikaios and Stewart 1962, fig. 63).

Fig. 15. Burial Feature 199 and accompanying internment 229.
Fig. 16. Possible lamp found in Feature 205.

Fig. 17. Feature 215.