Among the features revealed by the magnetic mapping of 2005 was a small temple, situated immediately west of the temple of Psamtik I and oriented facing to the north (Fig. 1). This area was investigated in 2006 in an attempt to discover the date of this new temple. Excavation was carried out at the front of the monument, where remains of one side of a brick pylon were found to the west of the temple axis. The pylon had been constructed of large mud bricks measuring 44 x 21 x 12cm. The preserved distance from the west end of the pylon to the axis was 15.7m, indicating a full width across the entire pylon of 31.4m, equivalent to 60 ancient Egyptian cubits. Unfortunately, tests on the eastern side of the pylon failed to find any preserved remains, the area having been cut by deep pits of later date. In the axis of the pylon there had been a sand-filled foundation within a brick retaining-wall, to act as a substructure for a stone gate (Fig. 2). The bricks of this retaining wall were the same size as those of the pylon. Most of the sand and all of the stone had been removed by ancient quarrying, leaving only small chips of limestone. A similar scatter of stone fragments around the pylon may indicate that the brickwork had been originally covered by a limestone casing.
(Figs. 3-4). The brick lining of the foundation-pit at the centre of the pylon was, like many temple foundations, quite irregular in shape, with the thickness of the brickwork at the front varying from 90 cm at the west to 160 cm at the east. The alignment of the inner edge of the brickwork was not at right-angles to the axis of the temple, but no doubt the stone masonry which originally stood above the foundation would have been built with greater precision.

In front of the temple pylon was an approach avenue flanked by a pair of screen-walls, the positions of which showed on the magnetic scan. Excavation revealed the sand-filled foundation trenches of the walls, of which the western one was the better preserved, with a width of 2.42 metres. The depth of sand in these trenches was not great, extending to just 70cm below the ground surface. Only the ends of the trenches close to the pylon were excavated, but the magnetic map shows that they had continued for nearly 20 metres to the north. The western trench had cut through an older oven, situated in the original pre-temple ground in the area in front of the pylon foundation (Figs 5 and 6). The width of the avenue between the screen-walls built on these foundation-trenches was 5.3m, no doubt intended to be 10 cubits. To the west of the western sand-trench, immediately beyond the earlier oven, was an area of mud-brick extending towards the north, perhaps the base of some kind of buttress at the front of the temple. The width of this brickwork was 2.5m and there was probably a matching feature to the east of the temple axis. A test-trench cut into the ground
beside the eastern sand-trench revealed sandy fill at an additional depth of around a metre, containing a few pottery fragments of Ramesside date.

**Pottery list:**


Jar neck and rim of red siltware with a thin, streaky pink slip, as *Exc. Bal.* 95-8, pl.73, no.13.

A siltware jar neck with an external red slip. Cf. *Exc. Bal.* 95-8, pl.70, no.3; pl.73, no. 12.

Several open plates with plain rims. Cf. *Exc. Bal.* 95-8, pl.70, no.3; pl.71(b), no. 2.

Fragments from three large plates of coarse red siltware. As *Exc. Bal.* 95-8, pl.71(b), no. 1.

Small fragments from the rims of two incurved bowls of Silt B fabric.

Coarse red siltware rim, as *Exc. Bal.* 95-8, pl.70, no.3; pl.72, no. 12.

From the rear of the west side of the pylon, the side wall of the temple, also built of mud brick and with a thickness of 2m, extended towards the south. This wall had been founded on a layer of limestone chips, perhaps the remains of an older monument cleared away to make room for the temple. Only a short length of this wall could be traced because it disappeared into a pitted area,
but within the surviving part was a corner with a cross-wall going to the east. This corner was located 2.3m from the back of the pylon and the cross-wall itself had a thickness of 1.58m.

Beside the exterior of the western wall of the temple the excavation was taken slightly deeper, to relative level 90, in an attempt to study the pre-temple ground. A thin wall of mud brick was revealed running north-south and composed of a single line of headers, 40cm in length (Fig. 10). In the fill near to this wall were several broken dishes of poorly-fired coarse siltware pottery (Fig. 14). These had flat string-cut bases and plain rims. From a slightly higher level came a fragment from the shoulder of a Canaanite jar and part of another jar-rim (form as in *Excavations at Tell el-Balamun 1995-1998*, pl.70, no.3; pl.75, no. 4).

On the opposite side of the temple, a small part of the eastern wall of the building was also identified, but part of this had been cut away at an oblique angle by the later foundation for the temple of Psamtik I (Fig.9). Unfortunately, attempts to acquire dating evidence about the temple did not meet with great success. The building must pre-date that of Psamtik, because it is cut by the foundation of his adjacent temple, but no foundation deposits were discovered to identify the builder. Some of the ground beside and below the foundation contained Ramesside pottery, but the quantity of sherds was limited and does not permit a very precise dating. The design of the foundation in the form of an open-pit (as opposed to individual wall-trenches) suggests a date no earlier than the Third Intermediate Period, at which time building activity is attested in the main temple of Amun with the construction of the pylon of Sheshonq III. Although the excavated remains of the temple were found to be not very well preserved, the magnetic map still shows an almost complete outline of its original ground plan, with a length of about 40 metres. This shows that the disturbance of the ground caused by the construction and later demolition of the temple has left a measurable magnetic trace, allowing the geophysical scanning to detect the footprint of the monument even in those areas where it is invisible to the eye. The foundations for the approach corridor to the pylon are interesting in this respect: at their southern ends, by the face of the pylon, the sand filling remains in place, but tests further north showed that all the sand had

![Fig. 9: The interior of the eastern side of the temple foundation. This is cut (between the red marks) by the foundation of the adjacent temple of Psamtik I.](image1)

![Fig. 10: The lower-level brick wall (left of the ranging-pole) in the ground to the west of the temple.](image2)

![Fig. 11: The eastern side of the temple foundation excavated to greater depth. Looking east.](image3)
been removed and replaced by fine homogenous mud. The magnetic properties of this are, however, of low intensity and closer to those of the sand than the surrounding compact earth which surrounds the foundation-trenches, so the pale lines of the foundations appear on the scan in spite of the loss of the original sand. The same is true for the large area of the temple naos, which also appears pale on the magnetic map, although very little of the original sand filling remains. Again, the mud which has replaced the sand is magnetically different from the ground outside the foundation, so the shape of the temple shows. The lack of the original sand-bed in this temple is not surprising, as its presence would soon have been detected by the builders of the adjacent temple of Psamtik I, to whom it would have been a most convenient sand-quarry for their own monument.

From the disturbed fill above the ruins of the temple came two limestone trial-pieces, one a three-dimensional sculpture of a royal kilt (Fig. 12) and the other a relief carving, also showing the kilt of a figure (Fig. 13). A pit on the site of the eastern side of the pylon contained the fragmentary glazed bowl shown in Figure 15.

Unlike the other temples of the site, this one is oriented facing directly to the north, although the reason for this is not apparent.

---

**Fig. 12:** Front, side and back of a limestone trial-piece of a royal torso with kilt. The ends of the legs are flat, not broken, showing that the piece was complete in itself and not a fragment from a figure. Height 11.7cm; depth 5.8cm.

**Fig. 13:** A limestone sculptor’s trial-piece with a low relief carving of part of a royal or divine figure, facing right. Only the kilt and upper part of the legs are represented. The lower edge is flat, not broken. Height 11.4cm; width 12.3cm; thickness 2.5cm.

**Fig. 14:** Fragments of several coarse red siltware pottery dishes of this form were found in the fill outside the west side of the temple foundation, close to the low-level wall shown in Figure 10. Scale 1:4.

**Fig. 15:** Reconstructed profile of a blue-glazed composition bowl, from Ptolemaic pit-fill above the destroyed east wing of the pylon. Scale 1:2.