
Preliminary Report on the Fifth Season of the Konya Ereğli, Karapınar, Halkapınar and Emirgazi Survey Project (Keyar)2017

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PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE FIFTH SEASON OF THE KONYA EREĞLİ, KARAPINAR, HALKAPINAR AND EMİRGAZİ SURVEY PROJECT (KEYAR)¹ 2017

The fifth field season of the KEYAR survey project, which aims to locate and systematically survey the Bronze and Iron Age settlements in the southeastern districts of the Konya plain, took place from 06.09 until 22.09. 2017. The districts under investigation are Ereğli, Halkapınar, Emirgazi and Karapınar. The 2017 field season focused in particular on the Karapınar district. The representative of the Ministry of Culture Directorate of Antiquities and Museums was Yakup Ünlüer, from the Niğde Museum. The team members were Muhip Çarkı, Francesco Tessa, Melda Küçükdemirci, Coşkun Bilgi, Catherine Kuzucuoğlu, Ali Gürel and Müslüm Demir. The survey project is generously supported by Koç University College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Avis Turkey, Özkoçlar Otel and Derya Lokantası. I am grateful to the Ereğli Museum Director Mahmut Altuncan, our representative, my team, our sponsors, our driver Mrs. Sadiye Kaya and everyone who has helped and opened their doors for us.

SCOPE OF 2017 FIELD SEASON

The survey of the Karapınar district had started in 2016². Previously the Karapınar district had been partially surveyed by Mellaart, Güneri and Bahar³. However, the whole district was never really investigated and systematically surveyed. One of the aims of the 2017 field season was to continue the

survey of Karapınar. Secondly, two mounds were chosen for GPR scanning⁴; one of the aims of the KEYAR survey project is to create a database with GPR results for the most important mounds in the region surveyed. Thirdly, the paleo-environmental survey was continued in the marshes of Akgöl by Kuzucuoğlu, Gürel and Demir⁵.

REGIONS AND SETTLEMENTS INVESTIGATED AND SURVEYED IN 2017

During the 2017 field season Akören, Ovacık, Dağ Gölü (crater lake), Karacadağ Kurşuncu Manastırı, Kesmez, Kazanhöyüğü, Akçayazı, Kayacık, Tilkili and Sazlıpınar in the Karapınar district and a newly discovered settlement in Halkapınar Yeşilyurt were systematically surveyed. Eight settlements, which were in use during the Bronze and Iron Ages, one of them in Halkapınar district, were systematically surveyed (Table 1, Fig. 1-2). Tilkili Höyük has been previously investigated by James Mellaart and Hasan Bahar, and Kazanhöyüğü by Bahar; the other six sites have been surveyed for the first time. In the next section the surveyed settlements will be described in detail. The numbering system of the settlement, which was initiated during the first field season in 2013, is also applied to the newly surveyed settlements and regions.

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1) KEYAR: Konya Ereğli Yüzev Araştırması, Konya Ereğli Survey Project.

2) Maner 2017, 2018

3) Mellaart 1954, 1955, 1958, 1963; Güneri 1990: 324; Bahar 2002; Bahar and Koçak 2004; Bahar and Küçükbezci 2012: 105-106.

4) Publication in preparation.

5) Publication in preparation.

Table 1

Settlement Number	Settlement Name	Province and District	Altitude (m)
63	Halkapınar Höyüğü	Halkapınar, Yeşilyurt	1328
64	Kazanhüyükü	Karapınar, Kazanhüyükü	1016
65	Kuru Höyük	Karapınar, Hotamış	1008
66	Yelekli Höyük	Karapınar, Akçayazı	1017
67	Derbent Höyük	Karapınar, Akçayazı	1020
68	Kayacık Höyük	Karapınar, Kayacık	1007
69	Tilkili Höyük	Karapınar, Tilkili	995
70	Karacadağ Dağ Gölü	Karapınar, Ovacık	2003

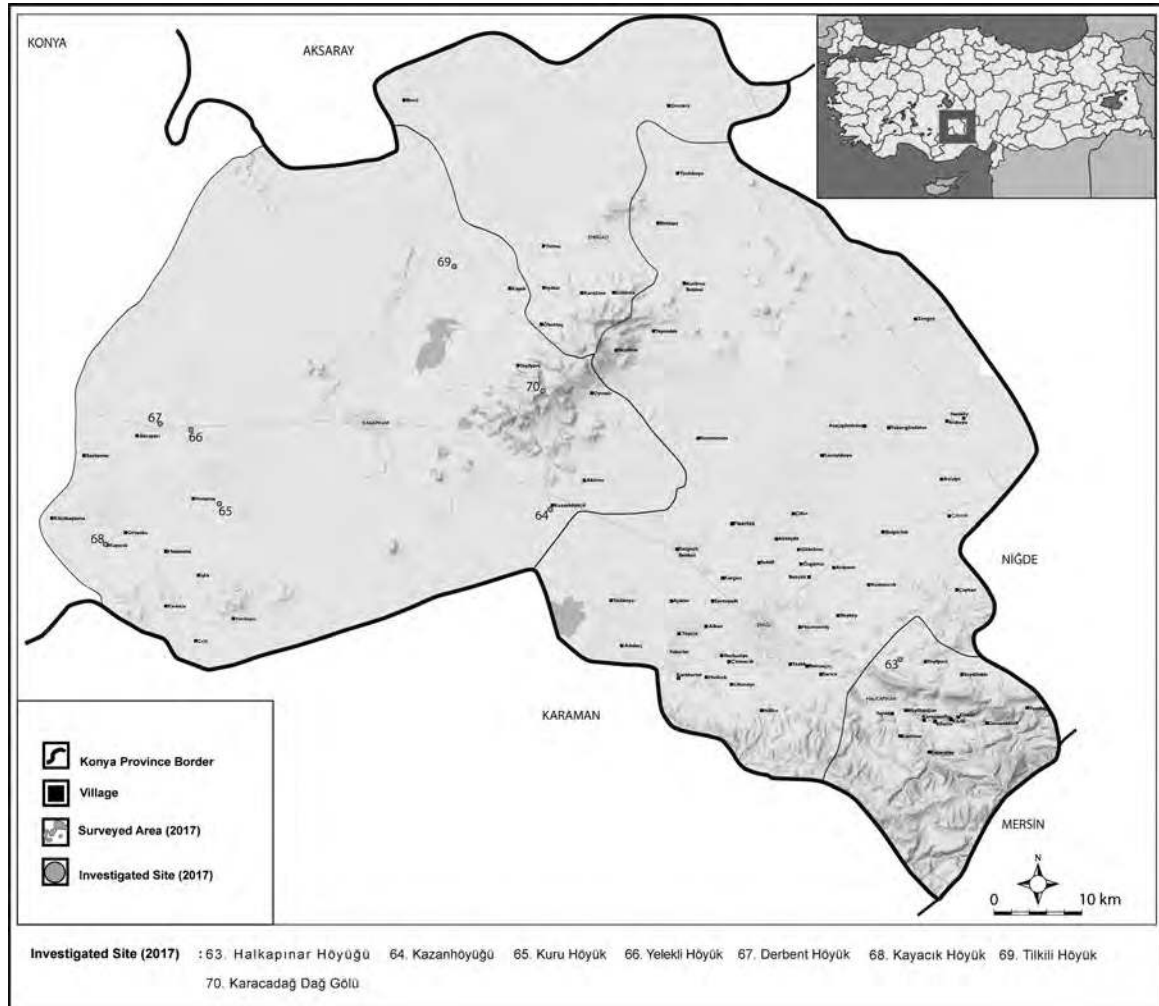


Fig. 1: Systematically surveyed sites during the 2017 field season.

N° 63 Halkapınar Höyüğü (Fig. 3-4)

The survey of the Halkapınar district was conducted in 2014-2016⁶. This settlement mound was indicated to us by a villager. It is located just behind the village cemetery and a farm house. The settlement mound is situated on the road to Gökçeyazı – Yeşilyurt, *ca.* 4.5 km northeast of Tont Kalesi. The mound measures 200 x 100 m and is around 3-4 m high. The owner of the farm house is using the mound as a field and has removed major parts and accumulated the soil on the south of the site. There are several illicit excavation pits on the mound. Architectural details haven't been preserved. The pottery indicates that the site was inhabited in the EBA, IA and Roman period.

N° 64 Kazanhüyükü (Fig. 5-6)

Kazanhüyükü is located 15 km west of Sazlıgeçit, left of the highway from Ereğli to Karapınar. The name of the village is also Kazanhüyükü. The village cemetery is located on top of the settlement mound and is still in use. The cemetery is surrounded by a wall, which is built on the mound. Bahar had surveyed this mound in 2000⁷. He indicates that the site bears EBA, 2nd Millennium and IA pottery. The settlement mound measures *ca.* 124 m (E-W) by 75 m (N-S) and is *ca.* 1.5 m high. The pottery was collected systematically in seven sample areas. Pottery is also distributed *ca.* 500 m around the *höyük*. Among them are EBA, LBA, IA and Roman (?) shards.

N° 65 Kuru Höyük (Fig. 7-9)

Kuru Höyük is located in the centre of fertile fields, a rubble road is leading to the mound. The settlement mound is located 3.5 km southeast of Hotamış and measures 214 m (N-S) by 228 m (E-W) and is *ca.* 4 m high. The pottery was systematically collected in five sample areas. The area around the *höyük* was covered with fields of sun flowers, hence couldn't be investigated. The pottery indicates that the site was inhabited during the EBA and IA.

N° 66 Yelekli Höyük (Fig. 10-12)

Yelekli Höyük was shown to us by the *muhtar* of Akçayazı. It is a large flat settlement. The site is located 5.3 km east of Akçayazı, on the left side of

the highway from Karapınar to Konya. The settlement mound is *ca.* 1.5-2 m high and 230 m (E-W) by 120 m (N-S) large; however, pottery was discovered in a 1 km radius around the mound. The pottery was collected in five sample areas. They mostly date to Early-Middle and Late Iron Age, Roman and Byzantine periods. Since this site is located on the main road to Konya, which was an important settlement from the Neolithic onwards, it can be assumed that Yelekli was an important settlement on the road to Konya and on the way to the Mediterranean and Mesopotamia.

N° 67 Derbent Höyük (Fig. 13)

Derbent Höyük is located 2.6 km northeast of Akçayazı, on the road from Karapınar to Konya, on the right side of the highway. The whole area is used for farming, including the settlement mound. Currently the settlement mound measures *ca.* 140 m (N-S) by 130 m (E-W) and is now only around 2 m high (around 2-3 m from the top were removed). The site is covered with illicit excavation holes. The pottery from these include IA and Roman period pottery.

N° 68 Kayacık Höyük (Fig. 14)

The mound is located in Kayacık, 33 km southwest of Karapınar and 2.7 km west of Ortaoba. The *höyük* is *ca.* 160 m (N-S) by 170 m (E-W) large and is 2 m high. The village cemetery is situated on top of the *höyük* and is still in use today. The pottery was collected in three sample areas, which are located around the cemetery wall (the area inside the cemetery was not investigated). The pottery of the *höyük* indicates an occupation during EBA, IA and Late Antiquity.

N° 69 Tilkili Höyük (Fig 15-16)

Tilkili Höyük is located 20 km northeast of Karapınar and 6.7 km northwest of Kayalı. The mound is 190 x 190 m large and *ca.* 4 m high. Mellaart and Bahar surveyed this mound as well⁸. Mellaart indicates the occurrence of EBA pottery, such as burnished, metallic and coarse wares. Bahar mentions EBA, 2nd Millennium B.C., Roman and Byzantine pottery.

The northwestern side is partially cut by the road from Kayalı to Karapınar. Pottery is spread over a

6) Maner 2015a, 2015b, 2016, 2017a, 2017b, 2017c, 2017d, 2018.

7) Bahar 2002: 258.

8) Mellaart 1963: 209; Bahar 2002: 258.

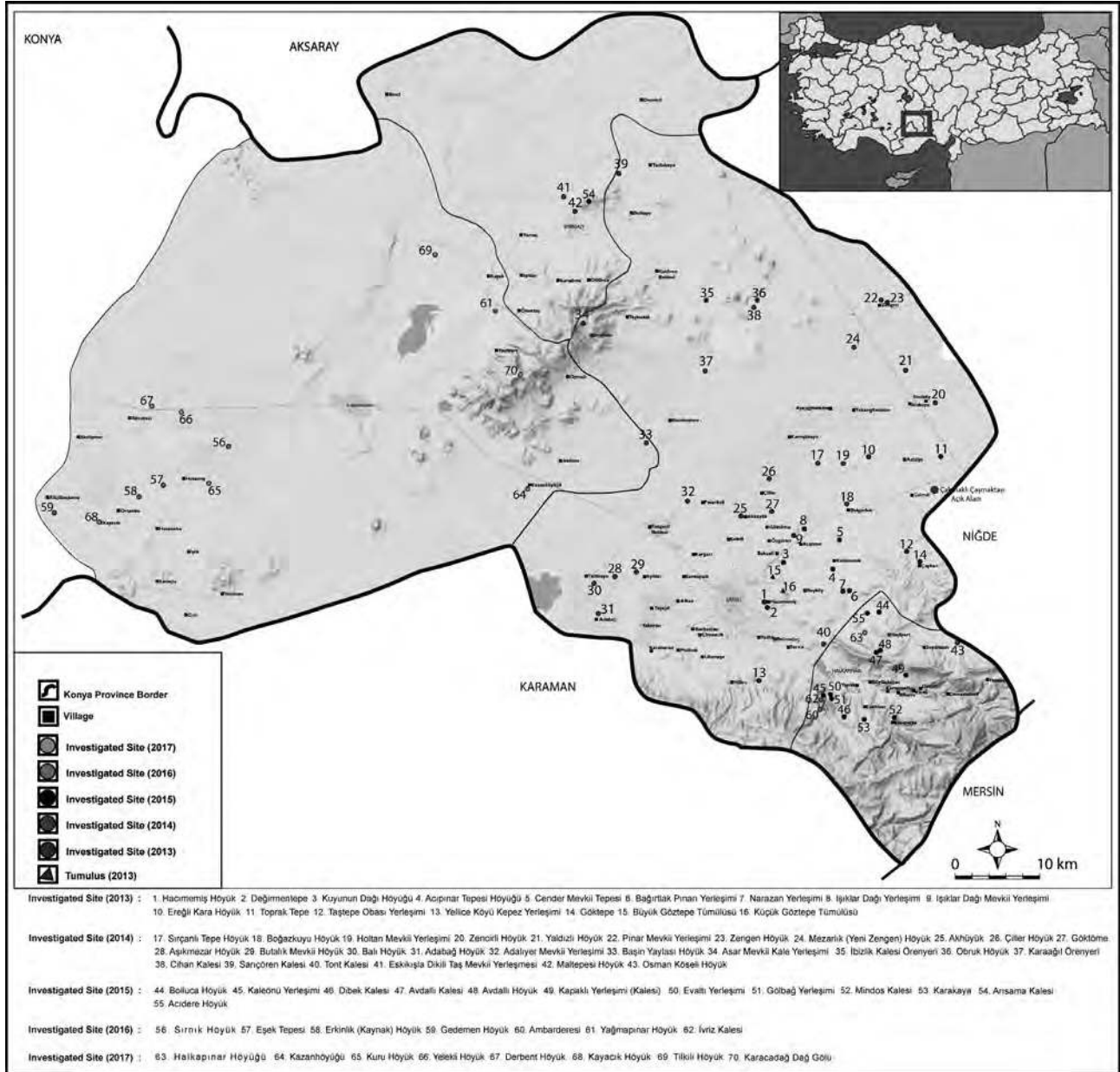


Fig. 2: Systematically surveyed sites between 2013-2017.

radius of *ca.* 400 m around the mound, especially on the northern, southern and eastern sides. The settlement is located on the shore of the Sultanıye Sazlığı lake, which dried out. In 2016 we had surveyed Yağmapınar on the northeastern shore of the lake, which is a very important IA settlement in the region⁹. The location of Tilkili höyük and also Kızık Höyük west of Tilkili, which will be surveyed in 2018, show that settlements were located around this lake and close to the northern slopes of Kara-

cadağ. The pottery at Tilkili Höyük was collected in five sample units. Among them were Neolithic, EBA, LBA, IA and Roman and Byzantine (?).

N° 70 Karacadağ Dağ Gölü (Fig. 17-18)

Dağ Gölü (or also known as Krater Gölü-crater lake) on the western hills of Karacadağ, was visited by the KEYAR team for the first time in 2016 (Fig. 17)¹⁰. This was also the first archaeological in-

9) Maner 2017c, 2017d.

10) Maner 2017c, Maner 2017d, 2018.



Fig. 3: Halkapınar Höyüğü.



Fig. 4: EBA and IA pottery from Halkapınar Höyüğü.



Fig. 5: Kazanhüyükü.

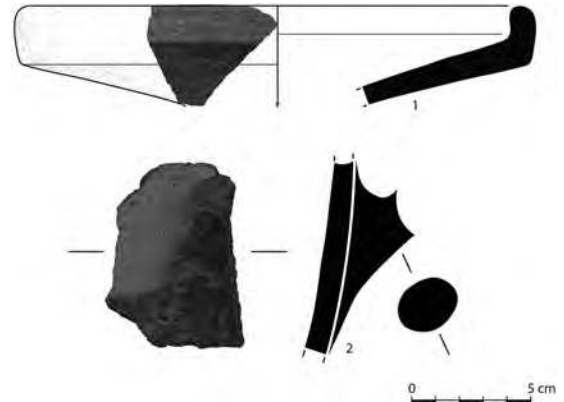


Fig. 6: LBA and EBA pottery examples from Kazanhüyükü.



Fig. 7: Kuru Höyük.



Fig. 8: EBA pottery from Kuru Höyük.

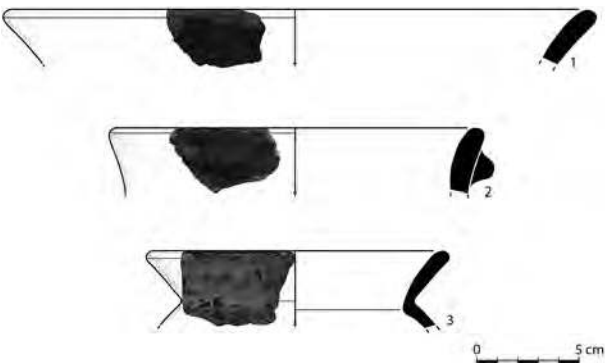


Fig. 9: EBA and IA pottery from Kuru Höyük.



Fig. 10: Yekli Höyük.



Fig. 11: IA pottery from Yelekli Höyük.



Fig. 13: Derbent Höyük.



Fig. 15: Tilkili Höyük.

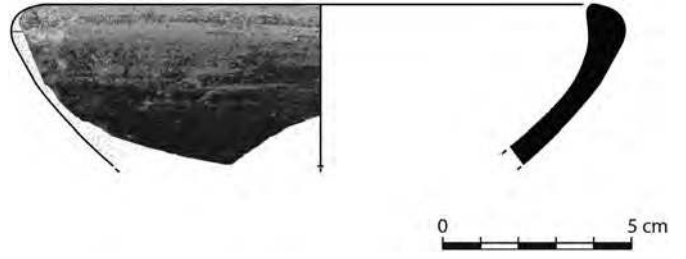


Fig. 12: IA bowl from Yelekli Höyük.



Fig. 14: Kayacık Höyük.

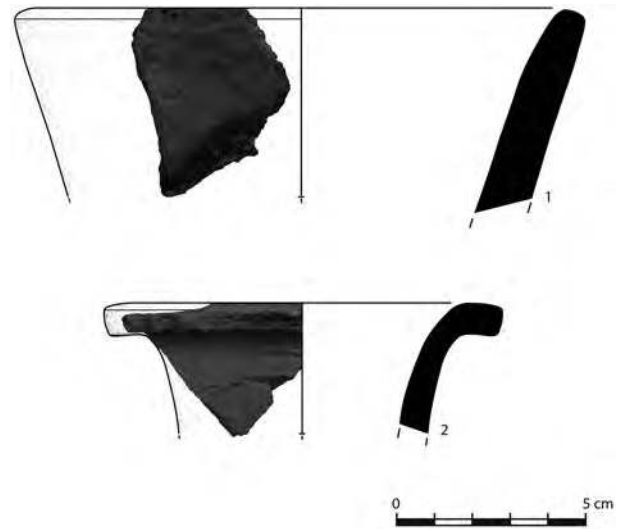


Fig. 16: EBA and IA pottery from Tilkili Höyük.



Fig. 17: Dağ Gölü on Karacadağ with fortress in the left corner and Kurşuncu Monastery on the peak to the right.



Fig. 18: Spolia on the shore of Dağ Gölü.

vestigation of the Dağ Gölü region so far¹¹. However due to a shortage of water we were forced to climb back down, without finishing the investigation. During the 2017 season we hired a donkey from a shepherd in Ovacık to carry up water and equipment, which made a longer stay possible¹². The lake was dried out, and it was possible to walk through the dried marsh. On the western side of the crater lake several pens are located. The pens, wells and troughs are made from *spolia*, which were carried from Kurşuncu Monastery and probably they have been dismantled from structures close to the lake. There are several worked boulders lying around (Fig. 18).

No archaeological remains were observed inside the lake. West of the lake just inside one of the pens robbers has excavated a large pit. From this pit a few pottery shards were collected, which date to the Late Iron Age and Roman Period.

Northeast of the lake, just a few meters away, is an oval shaped structure, of which only the outer walls have been preserved, which are very likely fortification walls (Fig. 17). The walls are made of medium sized unshaped stone boulders in cyclopean masonry. Two pottery shards, which date probably to the Byzantine period have been found. This fortress is located just about the Ovacık crater, and looks over the crater and also down to the Ereğli plain to the south and to the Karapınar plain in the west. It must have been one of the control towers-forts of the western part of Karacadağ and specifically Ovacık. Keçi Kalesi, ca. 1.6 km east and Mennek Kalesi 3 km to the north of Dağ Gölü fort

are all located around the Ovacık crater and it can be assumed that they were controlling the south and east, north and west.

Kesmez and Eski Kesmez

Kesmez is located 18 km south of Karapınar, on the main road from Karapınar to Ereğli. This village is new and was established by the villagers of Eski Kesmez, who lived on the southwestern slope of the Karacadağ. It is possible to drive up a rubble path to Eski Kesmez. Eski Kesmez is located 6.5 km north of Kesmez on the southern slope of Karacadağ. The small village is mostly abandoned; apparently only shepherds stay here during summer. A few years ago Eski Kesmez was used as a film set, the model houses are still preserved. The original houses of Kesmez are built of stone, and several Byzantine *spolia* in the walls were observed. No archaeological ruins nor pottery dating to the Bronze and Iron Ages could be determined in Eski Kesmez. Eski Kesmez is generally equated with Thebasa¹³. A path from Eski Kesmez leads up the Karacadağ to Segh Kalesi. From Eski Kesmez it is also possible to climb up to Dağ Gölü.

Akören and Yeni Akören

Akören is located on the southern slope of Karacadağ and 2 km southwest of Oymalı. Oymalı was investigated during the 2016 field season¹⁴. Akören is –like Oymalı– abandoned, the inhabitants are living in Yeni Akören, which is located 8 km south of

11) Gertrude Bell has not visited Dağ Gölü. See Ramsay and Bell 2008².

12) It is also possible to climb up from Oymalı or Kesmez. However it is much steeper and longer.

13) Belke 1984: 155, 174, 187, 200, 201, 232, Fig. 31, 32, 33.

14) Maner 2017c, 2017d.

Akören, down in the plain. The houses in Akören are built of worked stones and several Byzantine *spolia* were noted. From Akören and Oymalı earthen paths lead up to the close vicinity of Dağ Gölü.

İVRİZ CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ON THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE TENTATIVE LIST

An extensive file for the application of İvriz Cultural Landscape for the Unesco World Heritage Tentative List was prepared in 2017; in 2017 it was submitted to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums¹⁵. On April 15th 2017 İvriz Cultural Landscape was accepted onto the Unesco World Heritage Tentative List¹⁶. The Cultural Landscape of İvriz underlines the integrity of archaeological and natural heritage and is an outstanding and a unique example of the exhibition of essential interchanges of human values from the Bronze Age until the Byzantine Period. It includes the Neo Hittite reliefs in İvriz and Ambaderesi, the Byzantine Monastery in Ambarderesi and the natural habitat of springs, canyons and caves where the reliefs are located. The reliefs are unique in their iconography, inscriptions, the applications of technologies and tools. İvriz village, with unique examples of civil architecture of mud brick buildings has maintained its rural character. The setting of this village contributes to the understanding of the ancient landscape. For the protection of the integrity and authenticity of the village and its surroundings, the continuity of the local community's presence is a crucial issue. The protection of the İvriz and Ambardere reliefs, the Byzantine monastery and local resources are important for the sustainability of past and current traditions. To create awareness

among the inhabitants, to initiate a sustainable method for the protection of the cultural and natural heritage and to work on projects related to public and community archaeology such as sustainable tourism a Landscaping Project in İvriz and a rural development project were initiated.

İvriz Landscaping Project

At the same time of the Unesco World Heritage Tentative List application and due to devastating threats to the archaeological and natural heritage of İvriz a landscaping project was initiated a) to protect the site in a sustainable way, b) to manage problems such as parking, garbage and noise of large local tourist groups, who come to picnic, c) to set up visitor and education centres, paths and signboards and d) to create awareness among the inhabitants and tourists. The landscaping project was prepared by Atölye Mimarlık and approved by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the local protection board for cultural heritage of Konya on May 15th 2017. Financial support to built the landscaping projects is given by KOP (Konya Plain Project) Regional Development Administration.¹⁷ Construction will hopefully start in the second half of 2018.

CONCLUSION OF THE 2017 FIELD SEASON

The systematical survey in Karapınar investigated seven settlements and one in Halkapınar. EBA pottery was found in Kazanhüyükü, Kuru Höyük, Tilkili Höyük, Yelekli Höyük and Kayacık Höyük. MBA pottery in Yelekli Höyük, LBA in Kazanhüyükü, Yelekli Höyük and Tilkili Höyük. IA is present in every settlement we have surveyed.

Ç.M.

15) I am grateful to Mr. Yıldırım İnan for his endless support and help.

16) <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6244/>

17) Konya Ovası Projesi Bölge Kalkınma İdare Başkanlığı.

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