

Pisidia Survey Project 2011

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The Pisidia Survey Project has been working in the territory of the ancient city of Pednelissos since 2007. The project aims to reconstruct the development of settlements and settlement patterns through time. Traces of economic activities and roads have been recorded for the information they can provide about production and mobility patterns. The 2011 fieldwork season once again provided a wealth of information, of which new elements as well as some sites which stand out are briefly presented here.

The survey area is located northeast of Antalya and covers the southernmost fringes of the Taurus mountains, as well as their foothills, and the northernmost parts of the Pamphylian plain, shaped by the river Kestros (present day Aksu). As a result, the survey area spans highly varying geographical situations: from the high mountains in the north to a relatively flat floodplain in the south. This variation in landscape is clearly reflected in the types of remains recorded during the survey. To provide further information on the landscape – its evolution as well as the options and limitations the natural resources offered inhabitants of the region, past and present – geomorphologists under the direction of Timothy Beach (Georgetown University) have started the investigation of water sources in the survey area.



Timothy Beach and Jonathan Flood sampling a spring at Yumaklar Köyü, Aşağı Pamucak mahallesi

In the mountains, both isolated structures and larger settlements have been recorded during fieldwork. Although each of the sites has its own characteristics, the majority of the remains fit a limited number of settlement types and have allowed the establishment of a typology (Vandeput 2007: 33; Vandeput et al. 2010: 29). Two of the sites identified during the 2011 fieldwork season stand out, however, and do not fit within this typology. The reason for this is that neither was an inhabited site – at least not in its original function.



View of Haspinar Köyü, Erenler mağarası

No traces of a settlement were discovered at Haspinar Köyü, Erenler, a site which basically consists of a cave, oriented to the east and located below the summit of the southeastern slope of the mountain. It housed a sanctuary, probably of the goddess Artemis, and must have been in use for a long period of time. The cave has been repeatedly and excessively looted and all stratigraphy is long since destroyed. Unearthed sherds are of exceptional quality and often imported. Remains of heavily mortared rubble walls seem to have been part of a large building, constructed parallel to the mound of the cave, but at some distance. A few partially rock-cut rooms higher up the slope complete the ruins at this site.

The site at Yumaklar Köyü, Bekirler Kalesi, does not fit within the typology either and was used for different purposes at different periods in time. The oldest remains consist of a monumental chamber tomb with a large door opening facing west and overlooking the Pamphylian plain. The tomb measures 7.35m by 8m and rises on a partially rock-cut podium. Its walls are built with large, well-cut blocks. Today, only the orthostates are still standing. A shield originally decorated the front of the tomb, but it has been reused as a pressweight for the



View of the remains of the tomb at Yumaklar, Bekirler Kalesi

olive-oil press. Like the shield, blocks of the walls have also been reused in the single-naved basilica to the east of the tomb. It occupies the highest of two artificial terraces underneath the tomb. Its eastern wall rises above a terrace wall which then continues its course further towards the south. A stone-built staircase links both terraces. The terrace below the church seems to have housed constructions of small dimensions. It also serves as the west wall of a large construction at the bottom of the slope. This building has a rectangular groundplan and stands two storeys high. The early Christian church and the construction on the lowermost terrace may have been in use together, but their construction techniques differ. The walls of the two-storeyed construction are built of heavily mortared rubble with larger, ashlar blocks reinforcing its corners, while mortar is as good as absent in the walls of the church. The double-storeyed building was, therefore, either built later or remained in use and repaired after the church was abandoned. It can be assumed that the site was originally selected for the tomb because it allowed a commanding view over the Pamphylian plain and was possibly intended to give the deceased a view over the family property. The present road into the mountains curves around the foot of the outcrop and may well follow the trace of the ancient road from the Pamphylian polis of Sillyon to the northwest. Further up the road lies, for instance, the ancient site of Kocamehmetler Asarı.

Work also continued at Yumaklar Köyü, Kocamehmetler Asarı, where Ahmet Çinici and Kyle Erickson recorded constructions and building techniques as part of the former's PhD project. The remains at Pednelissos were studied to address the same issues. Comparison between the sites showed significant, although preliminary, results, confirming the different status of the sites. Compared to Pednelissos, the lack of monumental public buildings in large-size ashlar at Kocamehmetler Asarı is striking. Limited indications of urban organisation, the extensive use of rubble for domestic construction and even for the fortification walls, as well as the comparatively large number of freestanding houses are further differences in comparison with the architecture at Pednelissos.



View of the remains at Yumaklar, Bekirler Kalesi



Students from Newcastle University walking transects for the intensive survey at the site of Dorumlar Köyü, Kireçyığı

A team from Newcastle under the direction of Katie Green carried out a systematic surface survey of ten survey units. Each survey unit was specifically chosen because of its distinctive historical landscape character or for its value as a point of reference when combined with data from the Pisidia Survey Project. The main aim was to provide sufficient data for the study of the development of the complex landscape of the region through time. The results of this survey will be incorporated into Katie's PhD thesis, where they will be used to inform a 'historic landscape characterisation and retrogressive analysis' of the region (Crow, Turner 2009). To achieve this, data were collected systematically using a combination of three different survey methods: transect walking, collecting at intensive target areas and collecting in chosen, comparable areas within the site of Kocamehmetler Asarı. As such, representative samples of pottery and other artefacts were collected and processed. The environment in which the artefacts were found was described, as well as the extents and relationships of terraces and field boundaries. A digital dataset to provide a platform for spatial analysis was collated. The survey not only resulted in the first find of a certain concentration of lithics, it also confirmed the dominant presence of late Roman to early Byzantine material as well as the abundance of Late Roman D ware, a ware of which at least seven production centres have been identified by the Pisidia Survey Project.

Bibliography

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