

### Çaltılar Archaeological Project

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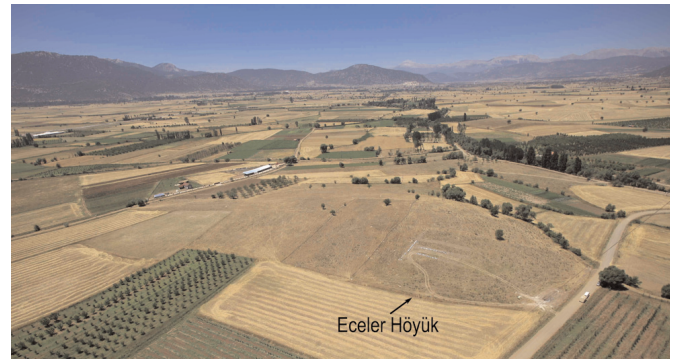
With Alan Greaves, Belgin Aksoy, Tamar Hodos, Andrew Brown, Neil MacDonald and Pedar Foss

The overall goals of this project are to provide substantial new knowledge on the settlement history, material culture and environment of pre-Classical northern Lycia (Chalcolithic to Early Iron Age, c. fourth to early first millennium BC), and to explore the role of this region within the context of broader eastern Mediterranean–Anatolian–Aegean interactions in these early periods. Developing from our work at Çaltılar Höyük in 2008–2010 (see our 2011 article in *Anatolian Studies*), our 2012 season was largely devoted to the exploration of Eceler Höyük, a comparable site located about 12km south of Çaltılar, next to the modern town of Seki and near ancient Oenoanda. In addition, we conducted further geomorphological work at both Çaltılar and Eceler.

Eceler Höyük has never been systematically surveyed before, but it was reported as having Late Neolithic/Early Chalcolithic, Early Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and possibly later pottery, on the basis of previous limited collections of surface material. Çaltılar and Eceler also offer an interesting contrast regarding their environmental contexts, with the former being situated near a spring and a possibly marshy area, and the latter being adjacent to a river.

The specific objectives and activities of our 2012 season aimed at providing an initial assessment of the settlement at Eceler, identifying areas where more intensive survey could be carried out in future seasons and supplying data for our continuing environmental and landscape studies of this *yayla* region. Our activities, described in more detail below, included: (1) an assessment of the extent of the site of Eceler (rapid reconnaissance); (2) detailed topographic survey and aerial photography of the site; (3) geomorphological investigations in the environs of both Eceler and Çaltılar; (4) intensive surface survey (collection of visible artefacts) at Eceler, using a series of transects across the site; (5) processing, recording and preliminary study of all the recovered artefacts from the intensive survey, including sampling of ceramics for petrographic and other analyses; (6) outreach activities with the community in Çaltılar.

A rapid survey of the fields around the visible höyük at Eceler was conducted to assess the extent of the site. The area examined covers approximately 33ha. During this rapid reconnaissance, no artefacts were collected, but the density of pottery in each field unit was recorded and evaluated. This information was then used to determine the overall area to be sampled for intensive survey. The area around Eceler Höyük showing significant quantities of pottery, indicative of settlement activity, covers approximately 15.2ha, including the visible höyük, which is about 4.2ha. Evidence of settlement activity is especially clear in the fields to the south, southeast and east of the höyük, whereas to the north and



Aerial view of Eceler Höyük and surrounding fields

northwest artefacts are scarce or virtually absent. It is also clear that there are features in the topography around the höyük that might be indicative of farming terraces and natural processes by the river.

We conducted a detailed topographic survey of the visible höyük, the surrounding fields and adjacent areas of interest to the geomorphological survey, including the riverbed and its banks on both sides. The aims of this survey were to provide an understanding of the physical shape of the höyük, as a means to interpret its settlement history, and to provide detailed landscape information for the geomorphological study. In total, 8,823 topographic points were taken and combined into a three-dimensional model of the site using GIS. We also established a grid of 5m by 5m squares over the site, enabling the geo-referenced collection of artefacts.

In addition, to obtain further information about the mound's shape and its surroundings, a series of aerial photographs was taken by Erhan Küçük of Air Studio Antalya.

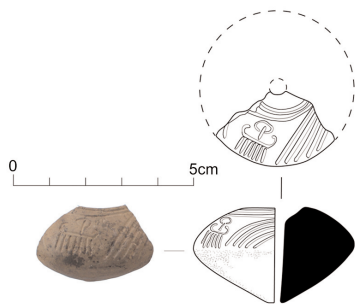
Field survey of the area surrounding both Eceler and Çaltılar Höyük was undertaken, consisting of field mapping near the two sites and including a broader catchment assessment. The hydrological structure of the region was assessed in relation to tectonic structure and landscape history. The region within which the two sites are situated can be considered as a series of cascading catchments, with both sediment and water flowing along the river systems through these basins, until they reach the constraints of the gorge leading to the lower Xanthus basin (modern Eşen Çay). The geomorphological mapping clearly illustrates that the river channel has remained relatively stable in terms of location during the establishment and occupation of the settlements, but deposition of sediments by the fluvial system has occurred between the site at Eceler and the river. Sediment cores were extracted at both Çaltılar and Eceler for examination of landscape and environmental change.

Once a grid was established across the area of Eceler to be sampled, we conducted intensive surface collection of artefacts across a series of transects to gain an overall idea of the settlement's character and history. These transects ran in an east–west direction and sampled all the different topographic zones of the site. In all, we covered 13,550m<sup>2</sup>, which amounts to c. 9% of the settlement's total estimated area.

We collected just over 8,000 pottery fragments and 375 other finds, such as chipped stones, querns, burnt mud-brick, slag, etc. Ceramic samples were collected by Dr Mustafa Kibaroglu for petrographic analyses. Our preliminary study of these artefacts suggests the following main periods of occupation at the site.

Among the material collected in 2012, the earliest that we could safely date can be assigned to the Late Chalcolithic period, and comprises pottery fragments such as lug handles, which find exact parallels in the Late Chalcolithic pottery of Bağbaşı in the Elmalı plain. Many sherds could be assigned to the Early Bronze Age, especially to the Early Bronze Age II phase, such as bowl rims decorated in white paint on red or black/grey burnished surfaces, closely comparable to material

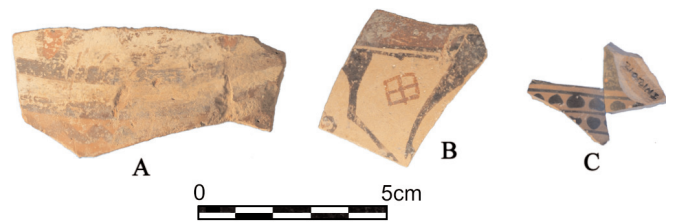
found at Çaltılar and at Karataş in the Elmalı plain. An interesting find, also assignable to the Early Bronze Age, is a truncated bi-conical spindle-whorl with incised decoration on a buff burnished surface, consisting of concentric arcs and an unusual fringed motif.



Early Bronze Age spindle-whorl

Unlike Çaltılar, Eceler Höyük has not yielded, so far, clear evidence for occupation in the second millennium BC. Only one fragment, belonging to a carinated bowl with handles set on the rim, could be assigned, very tentatively, to this period, but its small size and very poorly preserved surface cannot preclude a later date (possibly Iron Age?). The Early, Middle and Late Iron Ages (c. 1100 to c. 550 BC) are represented at Eceler Höyük through ceramic finds with parallels identified at Çaltılar and elsewhere. It is clear that during the seventh and sixth centuries BC, in particular, Eceler was connected with other regions, especially western Anatolia and the Greek world, as shown by a number of imports.

The majority of material collected from Eceler can be associated with the Hellenistic and Roman periods. The apparent absence, in our assemblage, of material datable between the late sixth and late fourth century BC may not be an accident of retrieval, but could reflect an observed regional gap that coincides with Persian control, and may relate partially to a shift to pastoral occupation in this area. Preliminary analysis suggests that we have material across the Hellenistic and Roman periods. Occupation may also have continued in the late Roman period (approximately fifth to seventh century AD), since some Late Roman D Ware sherds have been identified. In addition, several forms and fabrics of roof tile can be distinguished, including types also common at Balboura. In general, much of the post-Bronze Age material appears to be very weathered, and also shows heavy traces of burning.



Late Iron Age imports: (A) Western Anatolian Ware; (B) late seventh century BC Middle Wild Goat II Ware; (C) mid sixth century BC Attic Siana cup

### Outreach activities

This year our outreach activities took the form of a public meeting and a small poster exhibition illustrating the work conducted at Çaltılar between 2008–2010. The exhibition was displayed in one of the abandoned schools of Çaltılar village, which we restored in 2010 to serve as a visitor centre and base for our field operations. Over 80 people from the village attended the meeting, and during our fieldwork season over 150 people visited the exhibition.

### Acknowledgements

Our season took place between 16 July and 10 August 2012, and we offer our warmest thanks to our temsilci, Sadraddin Atukeren of Manisa Museum, for his invaluable contribution. We are also very grateful to the Vali of Muğla, the Kaymakam of Fethiye, the Director and members of staff of the Archaeological Museum in Fethiye, the muhtar (Nafiz Aktan) and all the people of Çaltılar. For their excellent work in the field and in the depot we thank our students Yasin Ezik, Gonca Tutuk, Osman Solmuş, Susan Williams, Danielle Bradshaw, Hege Osborne, Danica Anderson and Kathleen Raymond-Judy. Warm thanks also to Pınar Döğerli Başerkafaoglu for her indefatigable liaison work with the Turkish press and TV.



Hellenistic to Roman wares