

## Pisidia Survey Project

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In July, the final fieldwork campaign for this phase of the Pisidia Survey Project took place in the territory of Pednelissos. Six campaigns have been dedicated to locating and studying remains in a c. 750km<sup>2</sup> area around the Pisidian city of Pednelissos, located on the southernmost slopes of the Taurus mountains to the northeast of modern Antalya. More fieldwork could be done and would yield an even denser set of remains, but the data gathered seem to provide a good overview and an idea as to the borders of the territory of the ancient city.

From the outset, specific questions formed the basis of the project. In Pisidia, the territories supported their poleis for a period of over 1,000 years, but it is only for Sagalassos (for example Vanhaverbeke et al. 2011) that detailed data on the territory of a Pisidian city and its development through time are available. Thus our work in the territory of Pednelissos aimed to describe and reconstruct the relationship between the central settlement, i.e. Pednelissos, and those in its territory from a *longue durée* perspective. Moreover, the location of the city and its territory means that the geography in the survey area evolves from high mountains in the north over a range of lower foothills to the borders of the Pamphylian plain in the south. Obviously, such terrain will have had implications for communication on a local as well as on a regional level. In general, the landscape and climate would have had a very significant impact on life in antiquity, as they still do now. The torrential rains and resulting flash-floods of winter 2011, for instance, destroyed the lower-lying quarters of the village of Pınargözü, made major alterations to streambeds and damaged vegetation. Antique settlement patterns in the territory of Pednelissos often reflect the impact of the landscape in their setting and spacing. Remains demonstrating the opposite, however, are equally obvious. Intense terracing and a complex road system are but two examples of human intervention in the landscape. Furthermore, abundant remains testifying to the economic activities of the past have been recorded, allowing assessment of how income for the city was generated when Pednelissos was inhabited. Traces of olive-oil and, most likely, wine production are preserved throughout the area and hint at a differing organisation of production between the mountains and the plain. Most spectacular and unexpected has been the discovery of at least seven production units of Late Roman D Ware, the so-called 'Cypriot Red Slip Ware' (Jackson et al. 2012) on the brink between the foothills and the plain.

Despite these results, many questions remained unanswered. The seeming lack of pre-Hellenistic remains had only partially been resolved by the discovery of a very thin scatter of flint tools during the intensive survey under the direction of Katie Green (Newcastle University) in 2011 (Vandeput 2011). Therefore, this fieldwork season was partially devoted to increasing our knowledge of pre-Hellenistic activities in the survey area. Sabri Aydal, Seth Price (Liverpool

University) and Kyle Erickson (Lampeter University) visited a total of 28 caves of widely varying dimensions with our local guide, Mehmet Tekin. Many of the caves are located at great heights and are extremely hard to reach. Some 75 lithic pieces were found, from 11 sites out of a total of 53 sites surveyed. Seth Price examined all the finds and reported that most were indeterminable. However, some sites may be tentatively dated to the late Epipalaeolithic or early Neolithic based on tool and core morphology. One chert nodule source and workshop, located on top of one of the conglomerate outcrops bordering a fertile valley to the northeast of Gebiz, at Kuruçen Ovası, was revisited. Traces of modern activity were abundant, but retrieved tools and flakes allow us tentatively to suggest activity in prehistoric times as well. This site illustrates perfectly two of the main problems in identifying early material. First, local chert was used in prehistory, and this resource was in use until about a generation ago, when rows of flint flakes were inserted into grooved wooden boards and used for threshing. Second, there has been continued use of the caves in the region. In many of the caves a thin scatter of Roman or late Roman ceramics was discovered, but the main problem consists of continuing use of the caves as sheep and goat shelters. Archaeological remains may therefore exist, but they would be deeply buried in excrement as well as natural cave depositions. Taking all these factors into account, prehistoric activity, possibly dating to the early Neolithic/late Epipalaeolithic, can be suggested at three sites, with further possible sites at three other locations, two of which are caves.



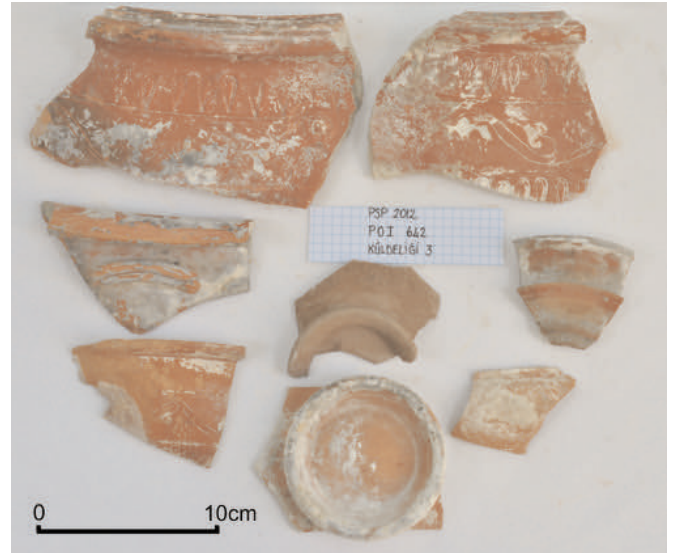
Damage to trees caused by the floods of winter 2011

Some of the caves did testify to their usage in the Hellenistic and/or Roman periods. A recently-dug illegal excavation in the primary chamber of the medium-sized cave Küldeliği 3 on Tarakçıl Dağı (Hasdümen Köyü) revealed ceramics within a thick ash layer underneath debris from cave collapse. The second, smaller chamber appears to have been utilised as a midden deposit, with bone and pot sherds in clear evidence. The sherds belong to large, high-quality bowls and vessels, and should probably be considered as related to funerary practices or rituals. This cave illustrates that, apart from the general usage of the caves in the Hellenistic to late antique period as animal shelters or larders, they could also be attributed a spiritual significance. The cave at Küldeliği 3 may have served for burials, but Erenler Mağarası (Haspınar Köyü) (Vandeput 2011) and the cave at Arpalıktepesi (Yumaklar Köyü) had a ritual function and both were in use as central elements of sanctuaries over long periods of time.

The remains at Arpalıktepesi formed a further focus of attention during the 2012 fieldwork season. Its sanctuary consists of a cave over which a temple was built at some stage. The Antalya Museum excavated part of the cave in the mid 1990s, after severe looting activities. Votives from the cave testify to uninterrupted use from the end of the seventh or beginning of the sixth century BC until the fourth century AD (Işın 2006). Arpalıktepesi is extremely interesting because a settlement developed around the sanctuary over the course of time. A team consisting of A. Çinici (METU), G. Işın (Akdeniz University), C. Namirski (University of Reading) and the author has completed a topographical map of the site. Unfortunately, looting has clearly continued unabated since the museum's excavations. As a result, the plan of the temple can no longer be recognised. Elsewhere too, large holes have been dug. The preserved housing facilities consist almost exclusively of c. 13 very large compounds with multiple rooms, arranged around a courtyard. Clearance of large areas for agricultural purposes in recent times has obviously destroyed some of the remains. Excessive looting in one specific area in the centre makes it impossible to reconstruct a plan of the complex. A few preserved inscriptions and remains of stucco and mosaic from an apse, probably of an early Christian church that was built into the pre-existing complex, seem to indicate that this area had a public function at some point. In all, evidence for buildings with anything other than a domestic function is scanty and hard to interpret before the early Christian period. The structures of the latter period, however, seem unusually large and complex, and may have had functions other than purely domestic.

Apart from caves, 25 other sites were located and identified. The overwhelming majority dates to the Hellenistic, Roman and especially late Roman periods, and fits well with the settlement typology constructed in previous years.

The caves provide evidence for prehistoric occupation in the mountains and foothills of the Taurus. None of the sites identified in previous years in the Pamphylian plain have allowed us to trace development further back in time than the



Ceramics from Küldeliği 3 cave

Roman period. Only a thin scatter of chipped stone was recovered during the intensive survey in 2011. Southeast of the village of Gebiz, a site by the name of Tesbihli Belen was revisited this season. Local informants pointed us to a young olive grove and told us that the area had been a höyük which had been flattened by bulldozer about a generation ago. The earth of the mound has been spread over a large area and recovered stone material was reused in the present-day houses of the village of Gebiz. The area yielded numerous chipped stones along with a variety of ceramics, pointing to long-term occupation.

The 2012 fieldwork season of the Pisidia Survey Project thus succeeded in lifting a corner of the veil on pre-Hellenistic occupation in the area. The cave survey in combination with the results of last-year's intensive survey clearly demonstrates the limitations regarding further research on the early remains.

These and our previous results would not have been possible without the dedication of the members of the fieldwork teams over the past six years. I would therefore like to extend my sincere thanks for all the determination team members have shown over the years.

### Bibliography

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