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ŞANLIURFA PROVINCE CENTRAL DISTRICT TEKTEK MOUNTAINS YEAR 2015 SURFACE SURVEY

Şanlıurfa İli Merkez İlçesi Tektek Dağları 2015 Yılı Yüzey Araştırması

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Öz

Güneydoğu Anadolu Bölgesi'nde son yıllarda yapılan araştırmalar, Çanak Çömleksiz Neolitik döneme ait büyük ve küçük boyutlarda yerleşimlerin varlığını ortaya çıkartmıştır. Şanlıurfa'nın yaklaşık 50 km güneydoğusunda bulunan Tektek Dağları bölgesi bu durumu en iyi gösteren yerlerden biridir. Bölgede yapılan çalışmalarda, büyük ve küçük ölçekli Neolitik dönem yerleşimlerin dışında, Kalkolitik, Tunç, Demir, Roma ve Bizans dönemine tarihlenen yeni pek çok antik yerleşim de keşfedilmiştir. Ayrıca, yabani hayvanları avlamak için Neolitik yerleşimlerin yakınlıklarına yapılmış tuzak alanları da tespit edilmiştir. Daha çok bu çalışmada, 2015 yılında Tektek Dağları bölgesinde yapılan araştırmalarda yeni keşfedilen Neolitik döneme ait olduğunu düşündüğümüz tuzak alanları ve yerleşimler üzerinde durulmuştur.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Çanak Çömleksiz Neolitik Dönem, Tuzak Alanı, Şanlıurfa, Tektek Dağları, Göbekli Tepe, Kurt Tepesi, Karahan Tepe.

Abstract

Recent researches in the Southeastern Anatolia Region have revealed the existence of large and small sized settlements from the Aceramic Neolithic Age. The Tektek Mountains region, about 50 km southeast of Şanlıurfa, is one of the best places that indicate this fact. In addition to large and small sized Neolithic settlements, many new ancient settlements dating to the Chalcolithic, Bronze, Iron, Roman and Byzantine periods have also been discovered during the surveys conducted at the region. Furthermore, snare areas have also been identified near Neolithic settlements for hunting the wild game. More specifically, this study focuses on the snare areas and settlements that are contemplated to belong to the Neolithic period as recently discovered during the survey conducted in the Tektek Mountains region in 2015.

Keywords: Pre-Pottery Neolithic Period, Snare Site, Şanlıurfa, Tektek Mountains, Göbekli Tepe, Kurt Tepesi, Karahan Tepe.

Introduction

The surface survey carried out for the Neolithic period and the previous ages at the rural areas within the borders of Şanlıurfa Province, Central District started on 09.01.2015, and ended on 19.09.2015¹. The surface survey undertaken in 2015 was again involved perambulating the villages and rural areas within *Tektek Mountains* region located southeast of Şanlıurfa province, as was the case in years 2013 and 2014. Taking into account the challenging conditions that prevail in the region, unregistered and unknown sites of post-Neolithic periods at this area were also examined.

The survey conducted in the central district of Şanlıurfa in 2015 involved travelling to the villages located in the south-east of the city and located about 60-70 km from the city center and surveying the lands there. The archaeological sites present at the villages and hamlets founded in the Tektek Mountains region, which were visited and surveyed, are; Köyiçi structures (Picture 1) at Örenli village, Ancient Quarry Relief (Picture 2 and Picture 3) at Dağyamaç village, Tosunlu village Deçe West Locality (Picture 4), Sarpdere Heçli Locality, Orta İkizce village Damal Harap Locality (Picture 5), Aşağı İkizce village Aksoy Tepe, Aşağı İkizce Village Yağmurlu Locality, Bağışlar köyü Suvan Tepesi (Picture 7, Picture 8), Büyük Arpalı Village Cave Locality, Büyük Arpalı Köyü Southwest Locality, Kırçiçek köyü Mınzile Locality 1, Kırçiçek köyü Mınzile Locality 2 (Picture 9), Küçük Kösecik köyü Snare Site (Picture 10, Picture 11, Picture 12), Kargılı Köyü Church Structure (Picture 13), Kargılı Köyü Zakzuk Castle Barn Structure, Kargılı Köyü Zakzuk Castle (Picture 14, Picture 15), Güvenli Höyük (Picture 16), Güvenli North Locality, Karakuş köyü At Locality 1, Karakuş köyü At Locality 2 (Picture 17), Karakuş Köyü Yusuf Ruins 1 (Picture 18), Karakuş Köyü Yusuf Ruins 2, Karakuş Köyü Yusuf Ruins 3, Karakuş Köyü Kırmızı Tepe Slope settlement and Karakuş Köyü Kırmızı Tepe Snare Site (Picture 19), respectively.

The efforts were concentrated, and carried out more comprehensively, particularly on the settlements where flint and obsidian finds are discovered more intensively and frequently. The survey in 2015 carried out in *Tektek Mountains* region revealed a wide range of settlement periods starting from the Islamic Period and extending back to Byzantine period, Roman, Iron Age, Bronze Age, Chalcolithic, Neolithic and

¹ The survey has been carried out with contributions from Turkish Historical Society Presidency (TTK), İffet Özgönül from Peten Tourism Advertising, Mehmet Ekinci, Mayor of Şanlıurfa Eyyubiye District, and Ardahan University Scientific Research Project No. 2015/6.

Paleolithic ages. It was concluded that some of the sites are under the threat of illegal excavations, and if no action is taken as soon as possible, such sites will soon be destroyed completely. Apart from the mounds, slope settlements peculiar to the region were identified and studied also in 2015. 25 sites of archaeological finds were identified as a result of the survey conducted in 2015 (Map 1)

The Archeological Find Sites Identified in 2015

The archaeological finds discovered in 2015 consist of slope settlements, snare areas for hunting wild games, mounds, ancient settlements, stone quarry, castle and church. All these areas are located in the region of *Tektek Mountains*.

Örenli (Gıseyır) Village

Structures with intact walls has been discovered within Örenli village located 60 km southeast of Şanlıurfa and within *Tektek Mountains* region (Map 1.1; Picture 1). The structures discovered at Örenli revealed that the site is an ancient settlement. Said structures are two buildings with dimensions of 8x5m and 5x5m located beside buildings with square-shaped courtyard and two atriums built on the bedrock and they managed to remain intact until the present day. In addition to these structures, there is another south-facing structure with dimensions of approximately 7x4 m carved from the bedrock. Moreover, several lines of a Syriac epitaph have also been encountered at the rock floor where the structures are located. The small finds recovered from this settlement indicate that the settlement was inhabited during late Roman, Byzantine and early Islamic periods.

Dağyamacı Village East Locality

The caravan route and the quarry located on southern slope of the valley 1 km east of Dağyamacı village at the spot where Tektek Mountains starts to rise 58 km southeast of Şanlıurfa province has been examined for the first time during the survey in 2014 and studies were conducted on the reliefs contained therein². The survey studies in this area continued also in 2015 by moving further towards the east (Map 1.2; Picture 2 and Picture 3). Such studies have proven that the site is a quarry located on the caravan route by virtue of the recent discovery of another relief that looks exactly

² ÇELİK B. 2015a: **Şanlıurfa Province Surface Survey**. Ardahan University Journal of Faculty of Humanities and Literature, Belgü 2, 83, Res.11-12. ÇELİK B. 2016: "**Şanlıurfa Province Central District Surface Survey for Neolithic Period and Prior Ages, 2014**", 33rd Convention on Survey Results, May 11th-15th 2015 Erzurum, T.R. Ministry of Culture and Tourism, General Directorate of Cultural Assets and Museums, Volume II, 413, Res.9.

identical with the relief unearthed in 2014³. In addition, it seems more reasonable that the site is a stone quarry where orthostatic reliefs are produced from limestone, as the site is located 1 km west of the Harran Plain where rocky masses never existed. By looking at the styles of the reliefs found, it is understood that these reliefs are rather from the Persian period, dating back to 5th Century B.C.

Tosunlu Village Deçe West Locality

This is a slope settlement located west of Deçe Locality, which is 500 meters west of Tosunlu village and 60 km south east of Şanlıurfa province (Map 1.3; Picture 4). The investigations conducted at this locality revealed that the settlement is positioned between two rocky ridges, facing south. No architectural elements were discovered on the land due to the ongoing agricultural activities. The small finds acquired during the investigations at this area include ceramics from early Bronze Age, early Byzantine and Islamic periods, and fragment of a glass bracelet from early Byzantine period, blades, chips, scrapers made of flint from Neolithic period, obsidian blade fragments and basalt grinding stone fragments. This type of slope settlements appears to be very common in the region⁴.

Sarpdere Village Keçli Locality

Two groups of Syriac inscriptions were encountered on rocky ground at Keçli Locality located 2.5 km north of Sarpdere village, which is 58 km southeast of Şanlıurfa (Map 1.4)⁵. It is contemplated that said inscriptions, which were engraved on the bed rock surface, pertain to the late Roman period from 2nd Century A.D.

Orta İkizce Village Damal Harap Locality

The settlement is a slope settlement located at Damal Harap Locality, 2 km north of Orta İkizce Village which is 65 km southeast of Şanlıurfa Province (Map 1.5; Picture 5). Architectural finds on the surface have been destroyed due to agricultural activities. The settlement is oriented towards southwest. The settlement is surrounded with rocky hills from east, north and south sides. The investigations made at this settlement revealed

³ A more comprehensive work on all reliefs is currently in publication phase.

⁴ GÜLER M. and B. ÇELİK 2015: **Şanlıurfa Region Neolithic Period Studies**. Belgü 1, 76-102; ÇELİK, B. 2014a: "**Şanlıurfa Province Central District Surface Survey for Neolithic Period and Prior Ages, 2013**", 32nd Convention on Survey Results, June 02nd-06th 2014 Gaziantep, T.R. Ministry of Culture and Tourism, General Directorate of Cultural Assets and Museums, Volume II, 313-316; ÇELİK B. 2016: 410, 412, Res. 1.

⁵ A dedicated paper will be published on the Syriac inscriptions discovered during the surveys.

early Byzantine ceramics, scarce amount of painted Chalcolithic ceramics, obsidian and flint blades and, as tools, chips and flint scrapers and arrowhead pieces. Similar slope settlements are encountered intensively in the region.

Aşağı İkizce Village Aksoy Tepe

The site is located 1 km south of the Aşağı İkizce village, 61 km southeast of Şanlıurfa. Two mounds which suffered illegal excavations and pillaging are located on Aksoy Tepe (Map 1.6; Picture 6). Remains of two round-plan buildings were discovered between two mounds. Fragments of flint stone chips, perforator, scraper and blades from Pre-Pottery Neolithic period, two obsidian blade fragments, a two-sided tool from middle Paleolithic period and a small unipolar core contemplated to be from Epi-Paleolithic period were revealed from this area.

Aşağı İkizce Village Yağmurlu Locality

The settlement is a slope settlement located in the direction of Yağmurlu village, 1.5 km south of Aşağı İkizce Village, 61 km southeast of Şanlıurfa (Map 1.7). No architectural remains are encountered on the surface of Yağmurlu Locality, a west-oriented slope settlement, due to agricultural activities. The investigations conducted at this locality revealed ceramic fragments from late Roman, early Byzantine and Islamic periods, flint stone blade fragments, arrowhead fragments, end scrapers and some obsidian blades fragments. The slope settlement is inclined towards southwest.

Bağışlar Village Suvan Tepesi

The hill is located 2.5 km east of Bağışlar Village, 70 km southeast of the Şanlıurfa Province (Map 1.8; Picture 7). The place called Suvan Tepesi is located on the southern slopes of the hill. This hill also contains three tumuli from late period. The investigations unearthed remains of a round plan building on the surface of the settlement. Flintstone unipolar core, blade, chip, scraper, arrowhead, and bead; basalt pestle and grinding stone fragments are discovered at this site from the Pre-Pottery Neolithic period where no ceramics are encountered. In addition, obsidian blade fragments were also recovered (Picture 8).

Büyük Arpalı Village Cave Locality

The locality is located on the slope of a hill facing west located 2 km east of Büyük Arpalı Village, 65 km southeast of Şanlıurfa (Map 1.9). The site is called Cave Locality. There is a row of stone yard made with large stones in front of the cave. The investigation conducted here revealed beige colored ceramics from the early Byzantine period, Flintstone blades and scrapers, and fragments of basalt grinding stone.

Büyük Arpalı Village Southwest Locality

The site is a slope settlement located 2 km southeast of Büyük Arpalı Village, 65 km southeast of Şanlıurfa (Map 1.10). The rear side of the slope settlement ends at the rocky formation located east of the settlement. The foundation traces of the buildings from late period were encountered at the settlement. The investigations revealed beige and orange colored ceramics dated to early Byzantium period, and flint stone blades, chips and cores. The slope settlement is inclined towards southwest.

Kırçiçek Village Mınzile Locality 1

The site is a slope settlement located 500 m east of Kırçiçek (Yılan Harabesi) Village, 53 km southeast of Şanlıurfa (Map 1.11). The settlement is oriented towards west. The site here is named as Mınzile Locality 1. No architectural elements were encountered on the surface due to agricultural activities. The slope settlements that had been converted into agricultural arable lands are experienced frequently in the region⁶. The investigations conducted here have revealed beige and orange colored ceramics from early Byzantium and Roman period, grooved ceramics, roofing tile fragments, and flint stone blade, scraper, shoulder blades and obsidian blade fragments.

Kırçiçek Village Mınzile Locality 2

The site is a slope settlement located 2 km east of Kırçiçek (Yılan Harabesi) Village, 53 km southeast of Şanlıurfa (Map 1.12). The site here is named as Mınzile Locality 2. Founded at the bottom of a rocky hill, the settlement is oriented towards west. Two yards were formed at this area using large stones in order to construct animal pens. The investigations conducted here have revealed lavallois arrowheads from the Paleolithic period, blade, scraper and arrowhead fragments from Neolithic period, obsidian chip fragments, pestle fragment from basalt stone, and orange colored ceramic fragments from early Byzantium period (Picture 9).

Küçük Kösecik Village Snare Site

The site is located 4 km west of Küçük Kösecik Village, 50 km northeast of Şanlıurfa (Picture 10). The site was used as Wild Game Snare Site (Map 1.13; Picture 11). The site is a Snare Site constructed in the form of two interpenetrating triangles and covers an area of approximately 100 acres. The northern section of the large triangle is open. The site is located 1.5 km east of Kurt Tepesi Neolithic settlement. The Snare Site is formed by arranging flat stones in juxtaposed position in resemblance of dominos. Similar snare sites were also discovered at Selamet Village Guhera Abid

⁶ GÜLER M. and B. ÇELİK 2015: 4-6; ÇELİK B. 2014a: 313-316. ; ÇELİK B. 2016: 410, 412, Res. 1.

Locality and Tahtik Village West Locality during our previous surveys⁷. A two-sided hatchet, blade and chips from middle Paleolithic period were encountered during the investigation conducted at this site (Picture 12).

Kargılı Village Church Structure

The structure is located 500 m east of Kargılı Village, 52 km southeast of Şanlıurfa. The structure is cave church constructed by carving into the bedrock (Map 1.14; Picture 13). The dimensions of the Church Structure are 6.30 m X 6, 65 m and the southern section has been further expanded by 5.10 m X 2.60 m. The entrance section faces east and presents an arched and broad structure. An apse is present just opposite the entrance, which is surrounded by Syriac inscriptions. An arcosolium is present at north of the apse.

Another west-facing apse is also present outside the church. Moreover, there are stairs carved to the bedrock on both sides of the structure. Another rock structure with arcosolium is present immediately beside the stairs. Ceramics from early Byzantium period were unearthed during the investigations at this site.

Kargılı Village Zakzuk Castle Barn Structure

This castle is located 1 km east of Kargılı Village, 52 km southeast of Şanlıurfa (Map 1.15). It is contemplated that there is a barn structure carved to the bedrock and constructed at the immediate southern skirts of the castle. The structure has an entrance and two small windows and faces south. The structure contains recesses on the walls considered to be mangers. The structure is estimated to be from late Roman or early Byzantium period.

Kargılı Village Zakzuk Castle

This castle is located 1 km east of Kargılı Village, 52 km southeast of Şanlıurfa. The castle is known as Zakzuk Castle (Map 1.16; Picture 14 and Picture 15). The castle is a very majestic structure and is located at a position that dominates the surrounding areas from all sides. Another similar castle called Yanık Castle was discovered at the rural areas of Sumaklı Village during our previous surveys⁸.

The investigations conducted here have revealed 8 pear-shaped cisterns within the castle walls. Moreover, the remains of a rectangular-plan building are also present within the castle. The investigations conducted here have revealed ceramics from late Roman and early Byzantium periods.

⁷ GÜLER M. and B. ÇELİK: 79, Res. 3; ÇELİK B. 2015a: 84, Res. 18; ÇELİK B. 2014a: 314, Res. 6.

⁸ ÇELİK B. 2016: 414, Res. 13.

Güvenli Höyük

The mound is located within the borders of Güvenli (Davudi) Village, 65 km east of Şanlıurfa (Map 1.17). The mound is a small-sized mound and is founded on bedrock. The southern sections of the mound are covered with rural housings. Moreover, a small village cemetery is also present on the mound. The investigations conducted on the mound revealed finds from Pre-Pottery Neolithic, Chalcolithic, Bronze Age, late Roman and early Byzantium periods. The finds from Pre-Pottery Neolithic period are bipolar core, shoulder blade, round scraper, perforator, arrowhead fragments, blade and chip fragments and obsidian blades and chips (Picture 16).

Güvenli Village North Locality

The site is a workshop site located 200 m north of Güvenli Village, 65 km east of Şanlıurfa (Map 1.18). The workshop is contemplated to be in use during the Neolithic period. The investigations conducted here have revealed unipolar core, blade fragments, and arrowhead fragments and scrapers from Pre-Pottery Neolithic period.

Karakuş Village At Locality 1

The site is located 1 km northeast of Karakuş Village, 50 km southeast of Şanlıurfa. This site is named as At Locality 1 (Map 1.19). This slope settlement is inclined towards south. Similar slope settlements has been discovered in the region during previous surveys⁹. The investigations conducted here have revealed ceramics from early Byzantium period as well as arrowhead, scraper and redressed chip fragments from Neolithic period. Moreover, there is a Snare Site located southwest of At Locality 1 settlement.

Karakuş Village at Locality 2

The site is located 1 km northeast of Karakuş Village, 50 km southeast of Şanlıurfa. This site is named as At Locality 2 (Map 1.20). The investigations conducted at this site have revealed presence of a Snare Site used for hunting wild games. The triangular open side of the Snare Site faces west. Similar snare sites are also present at Guhera Abid Locality and at Tahtuk Locality¹⁰. The Snare Site is formed by arranging flat stones in juxtaposed position in resemblance of dominos (Picture 17). Kırmızı Tepe slope settlement, Kırmızı Tepe Snare Site and At Locality 1 slope settlement are present at southwest of At Locality 2 Snare Site.

⁹ GÜLER M. and B. ÇELİK 2015: 4-6; ÇELİK B. 2014a: 313-316. ; ÇELİK B. 2016: 415, Res. 14.

¹⁰ ÇELİK B. 2014a: 314-315, Res. 6; ÇELİK B. 2015a: 84-85, Res. 18; ÇELİK B. 2016: 415, Res. 14.

Karakuş Village Yusuf Ruins 1

The ruins are located 2 km northeast of Karakuş Village, 50 km southeast of Şanlıurfa. This site is named as Yusuf Ruins 1 (Map 1.21). Converted into agricultural land, this slope settlement is inclined towards south. The investigations conducted here have revealed very scarce amount of ceramics from early Byzantium period as well as flint stone blades, chip, scraper, arrowhead fragments, ornamented grindstone and obsidian blade fragments from Pre-Pottery Neolithic period (Picture 18).

Karakuş Village Yusuf Ruins 2

The ruins are located 2.5 km northeast of Karakuş Village, 50 km southeast of Şanlıurfa. This site is named as Yusuf Ruins 2 (Map 1.22). The settlement is a slope settlement where architectural elements are destroyed due to agricultural activities. The settlement is inclined towards southwest. The investigations conducted here have revealed very scarce amount of ceramics from early Byzantium period as well as flint stone blades, shoulder blades, scrapers, arrowhead fragments, perforator fragments and obsidian blade fragments from Pre-Pottery Neolithic period.

Karakuş Village Yusuf Ruins 3

The ruins are located 1.5 km northeast of Karakuş Village, 50 km southeast of Şanlıurfa. This site is named as Yusuf Ruins 3 (Map 1.23). No architectural elements were encountered on the surface due to agricultural activities. The settlement is a slope settlement facing west. The investigations conducted here have revealed very scarce amount of ceramics from Early Bronze Age, late Roman and early Byzantium periods as well as flint stone core replenishment fragments, shoulder blades, blade fragments, scrapers, arrowhead fragments and obsidian blade fragments from Pre-Pottery Neolithic period.

Karakuş Village Kırmızı Tepe Slope settlement

The settlement is located 1 km east of Karakuş Village, 50 km southeast of Şanlıurfa. This settlement is named as Kırmızı Tepe Slope settlement (Map 1.24). The architectural elements of the settlement were destroyed as the settlement site was converted into agricultural land. It is a slope settlement facing west. The investigations conducted here have revealed ceramics from late Roman and early Byzantium periods and one fragment of porcelain bearing blue decorations from Ottoman Era. Moreover, a blade fragment, scraper, unipolar core, stone chisel and a stone fragment made of chlorite has been acquired from the site.

Karakuş Village Kırmızı Tepe Snare Site

The site is located 1 km east of Karakuş Village, 50 km southeast of

Şanlıurfa. This site is named as Kırmızı Tepe Wild Animal Snare Site (Map 1.25). A Snare Site for hunting the wild games has been discovered during the investigations conducted at this site. The Snare Site is formed by arranging flat stones in juxtaposed position in resemblance of dominos (Picture 19). Similar other Snare Sites are also present at At Locality 2, Guhera Abid Locality and Tahtuk Locality¹¹. The remains of an approximately 10x10 m building, probably from later periods, is present at the northwest corner of the Snare Site. At Locality 2 Snare Site and At Locality 1 slope settlement remains northeast of Kırmızı Tepe slope settlement and Kırmızı Tepe Snare Site.

Review and Conclusion

It is a known fact that the region of Tektek Mountains was once covered with wild pistachio forests. Some of these wild pistachio forests are now declared national parks and are located between the Kargali and Açıkyazı villages. The local populace also mentions that wild animals and fames were pretty abundant in the region up to the time not more than 50 years. This region where a great variety of animals, particularly such as antelopes, boars, bustard, crane, rabbit, partridge, fox, wolf, porcupine, etc., which represent majority of the animal reliefs depicted on the pillars unearthed at Karahan Tepe¹² and Göbekli Tepe, probably offered a very habitable adequate environment also during the Neolithic period¹³. In

¹¹ ÇELİK B. 2014a: 314-315; ÇELİK B. 2015a: 84-85, Res. 18; ÇELİK B. 2016: 415, Res. 14.

¹² ÇELİK B. 2011: "Karahan Tepe: a new cultural center in the Urfa area in Turkey" Documenta Praehistorica XXXVIII, 241-253.

¹³ SCHMIDT K. 1997: "Snakes, lions and other animals: The Urfa Project 1997" Neo-Lithics 3/97: 8-9. SCHMIDT K. 1997/1998: "Stier, Fuchs und Kranich- der Göbekli Tepe bei Şanlıurfa und die Bilderwelt des obermesopotamischen Frühneolithikums" Nürnberger Blätter zur Archäologie (NBZA) 14, 155-170. SCHMIDT K. 1998a: "Frühneolithische Tempel Ein Forschungsbericht zum präkeramischen Neolithikum Obermesopotamiens" Mitteilungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft (MDOG) 130,17-49. BECKER N. - O. DIETRICH - T. GÖTZELT - Ç. KÖKSAL-SCHMIDT - J. NOTROFF - K. SCHMIDT. 2012: "Materialien zur Deutung der Zentralen Pfeilerpaare des Göbekli Tepe und weiterer Orte des obermesopotamischen Frühneolithikums", Zeitschrift für Orient-Archäologie (ZOrA) 5, 14-43. BEILE-BOHN M. - C. GERBER - M. MORSCH - K. SCHMIDT. 1998: "Frühneolithische Forschungen in Obermesopotamien. Göbekli Tepe und Gürcütepe" Istanbul Mitteilungen (IstMitt) 48: 5-78. DAI 2008: Göbekli Tepe, Jahresbericht 2007, Archäologischer Anzeiger 2008/1, Istanbul Abteilung, 161-162. DAI 2014: Göbekli Tepe, e-Forschungs Berichte des DAI 2014, Faszikel 1, 131-135. DAI 2015: Göbekli Tepe,

particular, the fruits of the wild pistachio trees that mature in autumn appear as a distinct option for food. Discovery of almost a hundred settlement sites in the region during surveys carried out since 2013 further endorses this fact.

Total of 25 archeological sites have been investigated during the survey study. A general assessment on the archeological elements identified between the visited villages indicates that majority of the settlements discovered predominantly feature characteristics of early Byzantium period and Neolithic period. The finds from other periods are less common and encountered less frequently. The studies carried out at Tektek Mountains since 2013 indicate that the region was not inhabited during all periods as it could be comprehended from the slope settlements discovered in the region. Flint stone and obsidian blades and chips and tools made of the same, finds from Neolithic period, are very common and discovered intensively in the region. Moreover, the number of snare areas, which are prepared for hunting wild games, discovered in the region are increasing gradually each day. Up till today, 4 Snare Sites are discovered in the region. Settlements that could be dated back to Neolithic period are also encountered in the vicinity of such snare sites. The Snare Site discovered during this year's survey at west of Küçük Kösecik Village is located approximately 1.5 km east of Kızıl Tepe¹⁴ settlement. At Locality 1 and Kırmızı Tepe slope settlements are founded immediately besides At Locality 2 and Kırmızı Tepe snare sites. The stones used at both Snare Sites are large and flat stones and are arranged in juxtaposed position in resemblance of dominos. This fact also applies at Küçük Kösecik West Locality Snare Site. The flat and large stones used at Tahtik Village West Locality Snare Site, however, are arranged in a different pattern, side by side¹⁵.

During the surveys conducted in 2015, 3 mound-type settlements founded on bedrock are discovered. These settlements differ from the slope settlements and can be characterized as small-sized mounds. Said settlements are Güvenli Höyük, Aşağı İkizce Aksoy Tepesi and Bağışlar Village Suvan Tepesi settlements. Remains of round-plan buildings and finds only from Pre-Pottery Neolithic period were discovered at two of these settlements. Another similar settlement in the region discovered during the survey in 2013 is Kuşarabesi Village Kuçe Çamçak Locality settlement¹⁶. Moreover, the remains of the round-plan buildings observed at these

e- Forschungs Berichte des DAI 2015, Faszikel 3, 149-151.

¹⁴ ÇELİK B. 2014a: 315, Res. 8-9; GÜLER M. and B. ÇELİK 2015: 4-6.

¹⁵ ÇELİK B. 2016: 415, Res. 14; ÇELİK B. 2015a: 84-85, Res. 18.

¹⁶ GÜLER M. and B. ÇELİK 2015: 80; ÇELİK B. 2015b: 444, Fig. 9.

settlements are also recognized from other sites such as Hamzan Tepe, İnanlı, Herzo Tepe etc.¹⁷

The most important handicap found in the settlements is that they are still being used as agricultural land and the architectural elements on the surface of the settlements have been destroyed accordingly. At such locations with archeological value, the settlements should be protected in order to prevent the ongoing destruction.

The reliefs located east of Dağyamacı Village between Tektek Mountains and Harran Plain, which were dated back to the midst of One Thousand B.C., are the finds we discovered in the region during the survey in 2014¹⁸. The eastern section of the same area was investigated in 2015 wherein reliefs from same period are again discovered. Therefore, it is concluded that this is an area rather exploited as a quarry.

The slope settlements peculiar to the region that we first discovered during the surveys in 2013 and 2014 are encountered at the rural sections of almost all villages also during the surveys performed in 2015. However, the surface features of these settlements did not managed to survive as intact. This type of settlements was usually converted into agricultural land due to scarceness of agricultural soil in the region. Recently the urban areas are becoming subject to intensive construction works for detached houses constructed outside the village, thus transforming the rural settlements in the region into scattered settlements. As a result of this fact, the archeological sites in the region suffer more destruction. Therefore, the archeological sites, especially the snare sites, in the vicinity of villages should be registered forthwith and put under protection.

In conclusion, the surveys performed at *Tektek Mountains* in 2013, 2014 and also in 2015 pointed out to the fact that the region was densely inhabited during the Neolithic period, and that the most significant factor contributing to such dense population is the fauna and flora of the region. The surveys to be carried out at the region of *Tektek Mountains* in the future would enable scanning of a broader area, thus enhancing our knowledge on the settlements in Neolithic period.

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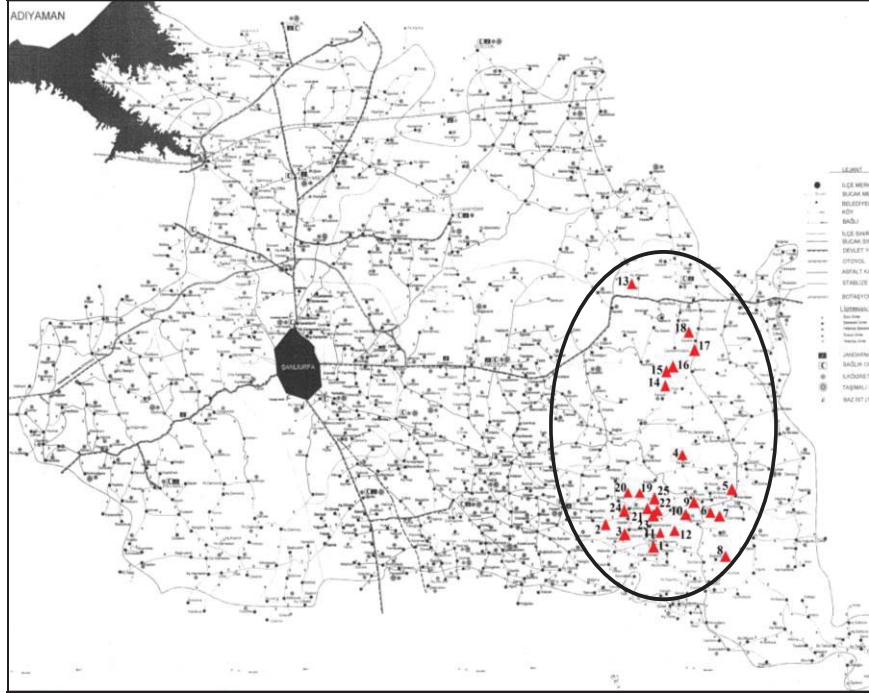
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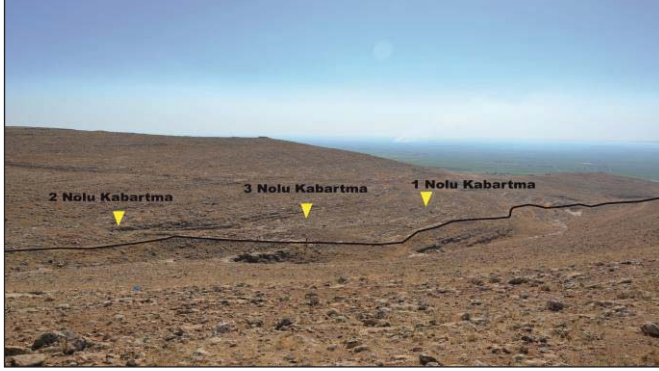
EKLER RESİMLER



Map 1: Year 2015 Şanlıurfa Tektok Mountains Surface Survey Area.



Picture 1: Örenli (Gıseyir) Village Architectural Structures, View from South.



Picture 2: Dağyamacı Village East Locality Quarries, View from North.



Picture 3: An Example for Reliefs at Dağyamacı Village East Locality Quarry.



Picture 4: Tosunlu Village Deçe West Locality, View from West.



Picture 5: Finds from Orta İkizce Village Damal Harap Locality.



Picture 6: Finds from Aşağı İkizce Village Aksoy Tepesi.



Picture 7: Bağışlar Village Suvan Tepesi Settlement, view from south.



Picture 8: Finds from Bağışlar Village Suvan Tepesi Settlement.



Picture 9: Kırçıçek Village Mınzile Locality 2 Surface Finds.



Picture 10: Satellite View of the Snare Site and Kurt Tepe Settlement.



Picture 11: Detailed View of one of the Stones at K. Kösecik Village Snare Site.



Picture 12: Küçük Kösecik Village Snare Site Surface Finds.



Picture 13: Kargılı Village Rock Church, View from West.



Picture 14: Satellite View of Kargılı Village Zakzuk Castle.



Picture 15: Kargılı Village Zakzuk Castle, View from South.



Picture 16: Güvenli (Davudi) Village Güvenli Höyük Surface Finds.



Picture 17: Wall Remains of Karakuş Village At Locality 2 Snare Sites.



Picture 18: Karakuş Village Yusuf Ruin 1 Surface Finds.



Picture 19: Karakuş Village Kırmızı Tepe Snare Site Wall Stones.