

28.

ARAŐTIRMA
SONUÇLARI
TOPLANTISI

3. CİLT



T.C.

KÜLTÜR VE TURİZM BAKANLIĐI

Kültür Varlıkları ve Müzeler Genel Müdürlüğü



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24 – 28 MAYIS 2010
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UŞAKLI/KUŞAKLI HÖYÜK (YOZGAT-SORGUN): THE 2009 SURVEY - (UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE)

S. MAZZONI*
A. D'AGOSTINO
V. ORSI

Introduction

The second season of surface survey at Uşaklı/Kuşaklı Höyük, in the central Anatolian plateau (Yozgat province), carried out in September 2009, has produced clear evidence to reconstruct the history of occupation and settlement development in the valley of the Egri Öz Su.¹

Uşaklı/Kuşaklı Höyük is a multi-period mound located on a wide plain north-west of the Kerkenes Dağ and to the south of the highway linking the modern towns of Yozgat and Sorgun (Fig. 1). It is marked in the old maps of the land register of Sorgun² with the name of Uşaklıhöyük but it was recorded in different ways: Kusachakly by E. Forrer, Kuşaklı by H.H. von der Osten (then prevailing in the literature), and Uçaklı by P. Meriggi.³

The survey included different surveying activities (topography, magnetic and

¹ We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Director of the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums, Orhan Düzgün, to the Director of Excavations, Gökhan Bozkurtlar, and his staff for granting us the permission to conduct this research and for their invaluable support. We are truly grateful also to Emel Özçelik of the Museum of Eskişehir, who gave us gracious and wise assistance, and to Director of the Yozgat Museum, Hasan Senyurt for his kindness. We thank the Sorgun District Governor, the İlçe Kaymakani, Ertugrul Kiliç and the Military Head Commander of Sorgun, the İlçe Jandarma Komutani, Hakan Öztürkmen for their kind welcome and aid during our stay in the region. The guardian of the Kerkenes house, Mehmet Ergiyas, and the Muhtar of Sahmuratlı, Osman Muhratdagi, made our stay there easy in every way. We are indebted to Prof. Tangianu, Director of the Istituto Italiano di Cultura for her support and interest. Funding was provided by the University of Florence and the Foundation OrMe, Oriente Mediterraneo. The mission is grateful to G.D. and M.E.F. Summers for their generous guide and support.

² We thank our 2009 representative, Emel Özçelik, who made enquiries with the communal authorities which own old maps of the land register.

³ Forrer, E. 1927, "Ergebnisse einer archäologischen Reise in Kleinasien", 1926, *Mitteilungen der Deutschen Orient Gesellschaft*, 65, 1927: 33 ; von der Osten H.H., *Explorations in Hittite Asia Minor 1927-1928* (Oriental Institute Publications 6), Chicago 1929 : 37,38, Figs. 31-32 ; Meriggi P., "Ottavo e ultimo viaggio anatolico", *Oriens Antiquus* 10,1971: 62, Pl. X.1-2. See Summers 1995: 53-55.

geoelectric analyses, systematic collection of materials in grid) which produced a wealth of information on the nature and chronology of the site. Two findings of the 2009 field season are especially noteworthy because they help us to clarify the chronology of 2nd millennium occupation of the site and contribute to differentiate the categories of data useful to define the history of the settlement (Fig. 2 and for location Fig. 4).

A clay bulla (UK09.Ob.1) with two sealed impressions was found on the northern outer slope of the terrace. The readable impression was made by a circular stamp: the field is framed by an arc of a guilloche and an arc of spirals; in the middle there is a motif, partially eroded, probably a double-headed eagle with spiralled body and open wings, but the quite different rendering of the motif on the top right could indicate a different animal's head (lion?). The seals of this group are attributed to the Old Hittite period, around the 17th-16th cent.⁴

The second important finding comes from the surface of the southern area on the slope of the plateau and is a fragment of a Hittite cuneiform tablet (UK09.Ob.2), extremely burned and vitrified, presenting writing on both sides. The fragment has been preliminarily dated between the 14th and the 13th cent. B.C. and belongs to a magical ritual.⁵

Surveying activities

Distinct and coordinated archaeological, topographic, geophysical and geological surveying operations have been organised. The primary objective of the activities⁶ in 2009 was to explore intensively areas to the west and south-west of the previous survey in order to map the distribution of artefacts and possibly correlate it with additional subsurface architecture identified by geophysical prospection.

The site of Uşaklı/Kuşaklı Höyük lies within a simple drainage basin that consists of one main stream with small tributaries. In 2009, our surveying activities were intensified and expanded in the site as well as in the territory around according to the 2008 map presented to the General Directorate. The geomorphologic study involved the geological

⁴ See S. Mazzoni in Mazzoni S., D'Agostino A., Orsi V., (eds.), 'Survey of the Archaeological Landscape of Uşaklı/Kuşaklı Höyük (Yozgat)', *Anatolica* 36 (2010): 111-163.

⁵ See C. Corti in Mazzoni *et alii* 2010.

⁶ *Director*: S. Mazzoni; *archaeologists*: A. D'Agostino, V. Orsi, B. Chiti; *topographers and geomagnetic surveyors*: G. Carpentiero, E. Mariotti; *geomorphologists*: R. Salvini, A. Cartocci, M.C. Salvi; *epigrapher*: C. Corti; *draughtsman*: S. Martelli; *students*: G. Della Lena Guidiccioni; D. Fossati, R. Ranieri, W. Bucci, F. Longo.

This report is the product of teamwork, compiled and edited by the authors. S. Mazzoni researched and composed the introduction and conclusion; A. D'Agostino and V. Orsi are responsible for the section on surface activities and collecting.

survey and GPS measurement of rock outcrops and morphological features (Fig. 3).⁷ Talus of blocks of granitoids at the foot of the hills, alluvial fans of gravel to sand-sized fragments of rocks along topographic breaks, alluvium along tributaries and the main stream, and soil on gentle slopes constitute the main depositional features of this area.

We can actually document that the occupation's *floruit* of the land around Uşaklı/Kuşaklı Höyük can be dated in the Late Roman/Byzantine period: no potsherds and material of the 2nd or 1st millennium were found on the 2008-2009 surveyed sites. The earlier occupation of the valley has been documented 2 km south of Uşaklı/Kuşaklı where the little site of Taşlık Höyük produced a discrete number of hand-made sherds dating probably to the Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age.⁸

Systematic investigations have so far concerned the large extended terrace at the foot of the Uşaklı/Kuşaklı high mound, involving a total area of ca. 30,000 square meters.

The first two campaigns of geophysical prospection concerned the northern and eastern part of the terrace at Kuşaklı/Uşaklı Höyük. The site (elevation: 1116-1136 m above sea level) consists of a high mound and a large extended terrace with a low, slightly sloping base: the entire extension of the settlement is about 10 ha, while the central mound covers an area of 2 ha (Fig. 4)⁹. The area for geophysical prospection was chosen in order to investigate that part of the lower city which seemed the most accessible for data acquisition.

With the aim of integrating different kinds of geophysical prospection with other survey methodologies, magnetic surveying was undertaken together with a geoelectric survey. The geo-magnetic and resistivity survey provides evidence of a curtain of casemate walls and large buildings on the terrace and its adjacent edges; their plans and regular walls, their size and the division into different units of rooms can be better compared with ceremonial and institutional buildings of the Late Hittite period (Fig. 5).¹⁰

Further architectural remains scattered over the surface were also observed and mapped, such as large-sized stones, blocks of granite carefully worked, apparently *in situ*, which have already been identified in the course of the preceding surveys as parts of a Hittite gate;¹¹ and individual stones, assigned to the Hittite period on the basis of the

⁷ R. Salvini, who is in charge of geomorphologic prospection, provided us with this preliminary information. For more details see the report of R. Salvini in Mazzoni *et alii* 2010, *op. cit.*.

⁸ See S. Mazzoni, A. D'Agostino, V. Orsi, 'Kuşaklı 2008 Survey Season (Yozgat-Sorgun) – 1st Preliminary Report', 27. *Araştırma Sonuçları Toplantısı 3.CILT, 2010*, Ankara 2010, p. 119; fig. 8: 52-58.

⁹ See E. Mariotti in Mazzoni *et alii* 2010, *op. cit.*

¹⁰ See G. Carpentero in Mazzoni *et alii* 2010, *op. cit.*

¹¹ Summers M.E.F., Summers G.D., Ahmet K., 'The Regional Survey at Kerkenes Dağ: an Interim Report on

cutting and polishing techniques employed.¹²

An intensive sampling strategy of all the artefacts relating to the main topographical or surveyed units was at first aimed at achieving precise spreadsheets of the different categories of finds (Fig. 5). We have to say that serious limits to a correct understanding of the initial localization of artefacts, the original distribution and composition of the archaeological record are posed by post-depositional activities such as human intervention and natural events. In particular, intense agricultural activities and erosion, previous visits to the site and collections carried out in past years, might have resulted in quite marked modifications of the original location of the artefacts and their consistency.

It would, in fact, be more correct to define our activity as a sort of 're-surveying' of the site first covered by unsystematic explorations conducted by travellers and scholars and, in recent times, by American and British colleagues. The collections of surface sherds carried out by O.R. Gurney and then by G.D. and M.E.F. Summers, in the framework of the Kerkenes Dağ Survey Project,¹³ provided us the first organised pieces of information concerning the main phases of occupation.¹⁴

In each of the surveyed units we picked up all the artefacts from the surface. In the course of this season, a total of approximately ca. 490 Kg of samples were recovered within the surveyed area.

The corpus consists of 10,674 potsherds for a total weight of approximately 326 Kg (ca. 266 kg of Common Ware; ca. 56 Kg of Storage Ware; ca. 4 Kg of Kitchen Ware), but also a notable quantity of roof tiles (593 fragments of *tegulae* and 71 of *imbrices* for a weight of ca. 155 Kg) and 82 fragments of middle-sized burnt slags (ca. 9 Kg) were collected (Fig. 6). Very scarce is the amount of lithics.

The density of roof tiles clearly indicates some form of occupation on the site in 'late' periods (Late Roman/Byzantine), which was mainly concentrated on the lower terrace. The dispersed distribution pattern on the S-SE slope of the terrace might have resulted from erosion and ploughing, while both 'cappuccina' burials or structures might have been located on the terrace.

The sample of slags includes different variants of melted combustion residuals. The concentration within the same area of both slags and irregular geomagnetic anomalies could reflect an interconnected phenomenon.

the Seasons of 1993 and 1994', *Anatolian Studies* 45 (1995): 53-55.

¹² See B. Chiti in Mazzoni *et alii* 2010, *op. cit.*

¹³ Summers *et alii* 1995, *op. cit.*: 69-72; Gurney O. R., 'The Hittite Names of Kerkenes Dağ and Kuşaklı Höyük', *Anatolian Studies* 45 (1995): pp. 53-59.

¹⁴ See A. D'Agostino and V. Orsi in Mazzoni *et alii* 2010, *op. cit.*

As for pottery, 1281 diagnostic and 9393 generic potsherds have been selected and recorded.¹⁵ The 2008-2009 systematic collection yielded a good representative sample of ceramics (17,880 potsherds). Preliminary ware and form typology applied to the sherds which were widespread all over the surveyed area, provided us valuable elements to date the occupation periods on the site.

The sherds documenting a late occupation dating from late Iron Age onwards till the more recent Late Roman/Byzantine periods were scattered mainly on the western portion of the terrace and in proximity of the high mound slope.

Iron Age period sherds show no specific concentration in any area, which may be the result of modern agricultural disturbances and erosion. Near the base of the slopes of the high mound, and on different points of the terrace, we found black painted sherds (Alişar IV type) and polychrome sherds dating to the Middle/Late Iron Age (Fig. 7).

A considerable proportion of the collected sherds can only be dated to very broad periods, or overlaps two or more periods. For the moment we are able to present the ceramics according to very general chronological ranges.

Typical findings distributed on the terrace are represented by curved and shallow bowls, with similar tempers and surface treatment. They constitute our 'drab' repertoire, establishing a close similarity with ceramic wares and shapes of the Hittite repertoire. The correspondence of 2nd millennium sherds and some buried structures identified by the geomagnetic survey can hardly be considered fortuitous. In particular, the density of Drab Ware diagnostic sherds over a limited area of the northern and eastern slopes may suggest that architectural remains appearing beneath the surface might belong to the Late Bronze Age period.

The distribution of red-slipped sherds is homogeneous and covers wide sectors of the terrace with a major density on the south-eastern slopes of the terrace, where a fair number of diagnostic sherds, such as carinated bowls with triangular handles and sherds with impressed stamps, generally good markers of the *karum* and old Hittite period, are also mainly distributed. Spouted jars and beak spouts and vertical handles have to be dated to the same span of time (Fig. 8, top).

The only traces of earlier occupation of the site are a few hand-made and 'Cappadocian' painted sherds, dating to the transition from the Early Bronze Age to the Middle Bronze Age, with a noteworthy concentration at the foot of the high mound and at the base of the northern terrace slope.

¹⁵ 26 diagnostic sherds were recovered within the survey areas first explored during the 2008 work season.

Storage jars and *pithoi* cannot be dated with certainty exclusively on the basis of morphology. In some cases, the use of both red slip and white/buff slip on the rim or below it offers comparisons with specimens documented at Kuşaklı Höyük/Sarissa and Bögazköy/Hattuša.

Some sectors of the site show traces of more intense occupation in certain periods. In fact the assemblage collected during a survey is not a random sample but is generally dominated by material that lay on or close to the original land surface. According to the distribution of diagnostic sherds, the 2nd millennium material evidence appears to be concentrated mostly on the low slopes of the terrace.

It is often difficult to draw a clear distinction among the different phases of 2nd and 1st millennium BC and, at the moment, we are not able to assert if our red slip ware sherds belong to the Middle/Late Bronze Age horizon instead of the Iron Age. We can only highlight that the majority of the diagnostic sherds seem to have good parallels with types found at Middle Bronze Age/Late Bronze Age sites. We have some types that we can hardly consider chronological markers of a century as they are represented in 2nd millennium BC assemblages of all periods. In many cases, however, and in particular in the case of body sherds, this does not exclude the possibility that they may instead pertain to the Iron Age horizon.

Taken together the 2008 and 2009 seasons of surveying provided us with the first pieces of systematic information about the occupational history of the mound. The preliminary analysis of the ceramics lead us to suggest the site was mainly occupied from the end of the Early Bronze Age to the Byzantine period, with an intensive occupation during the 2nd millennium BC: the majority of the collected and diagnostic sherds can be assigned in fact to this period.

Concluding remarks

The materials collected in the survey of Uşaklı/Kuşaklı Höyük and its adjacent area give evidence of a continuous occupation of this sector of the plain from the 2nd millennium BC to the Medieval period. The flourish of the occupation was most probably reached during the Late Roman and Byzantine period. The site has provided materials, pottery and tiles from the entire lower town or low terrace extension and its outskirts. Scatters of materials (tiles and pottery) were also found in the hills to the south of the site and in the adjacent valleys and hillocks.

In the Iron Age the area was apparently little settled; clearly no mounds or scatters of materials belong to this phase.

The floruit phase of the site was reached in the course of the 2nd millennium BC. During this period the site already covered more than 10 ha., as suggested by the distribution of diagnostic sherds.

Instead, no materials of the Old Hittite or Imperial periods have yet been collected in the territory, a fact which seems to indicate that, in the course of the 2nd millennium BC, occupation might have been concentrated only in the town of Uşaklı/Kuşaklı Höyük, while in the surrounding land it might have been of a rather ephemeral and sparse nature, not easily detected by the survey.

The 2009 results and especially the sealing and the fragment of tablet give further hints to the identification of the site with a Hittite centre. We can resume the main points of the discussion: O.R. Gurney had suggested the identification with Zippalanda¹⁶; textual sources place in fact Zippalanda two or three days (in two different itineraries) from Hattuša (which lies nearly 43 km to the north of Uşaklı/Kuşaklı). According to the Spring festival, the Hittite king worshipped Mount Daha, the seat of a Storm God, after having reached Zippalanda, and moving to Ankuwa. Kerkenes Dağ might be Mount Daha, as O.R. Gurney pointed out, lying about 30 km as the crow flies to the north of Alişar Höyük, which had already been identified with Ankuwa by I.J. Gelb.¹⁷ The position of Uşaklı/Kuşaklı might consequently fit the location of Zippalanda well and its distances from the Hittite capital and Ankuwa. It is however clear that only the exploration of the site will produce the final proof to this hypothesis.

¹⁶ 'The Hittite Names of Kerkenes Dağ and Kuşaklı Höyük', *Anatolian Studies* 45 (1995): 69-71. In a religious festival the Hittite king, moving from Hattuša, reached Haitta and Mount Puskuruwuwa. From there, the king arrived on the third day in Zippalanda, where he worshipped Mount Daha (probably Kerkenes Dağ). The next day, he reached Ankuwa.

¹⁷ For the debate on the identification of Ankuwa, see Gurney 1995, *op. cit.*: 70, note 9.

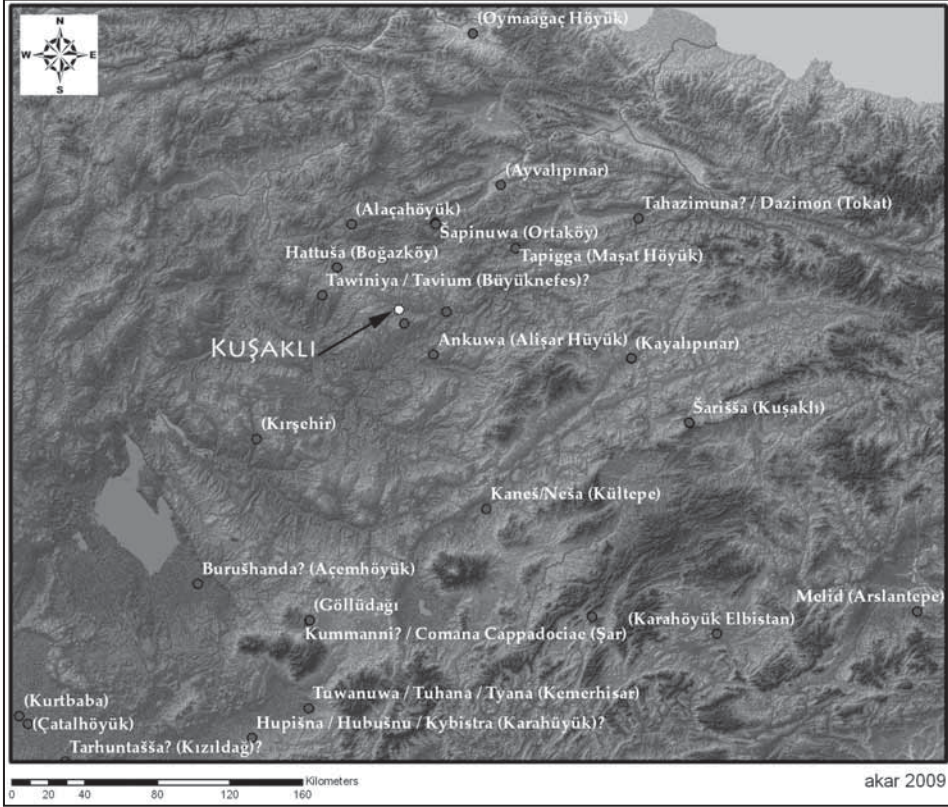


Fig. 1: Maps of Central Anatolian Plateau showing the location of Uşaklı/Kuşaklı Höyük and other sites (by M. Akar)

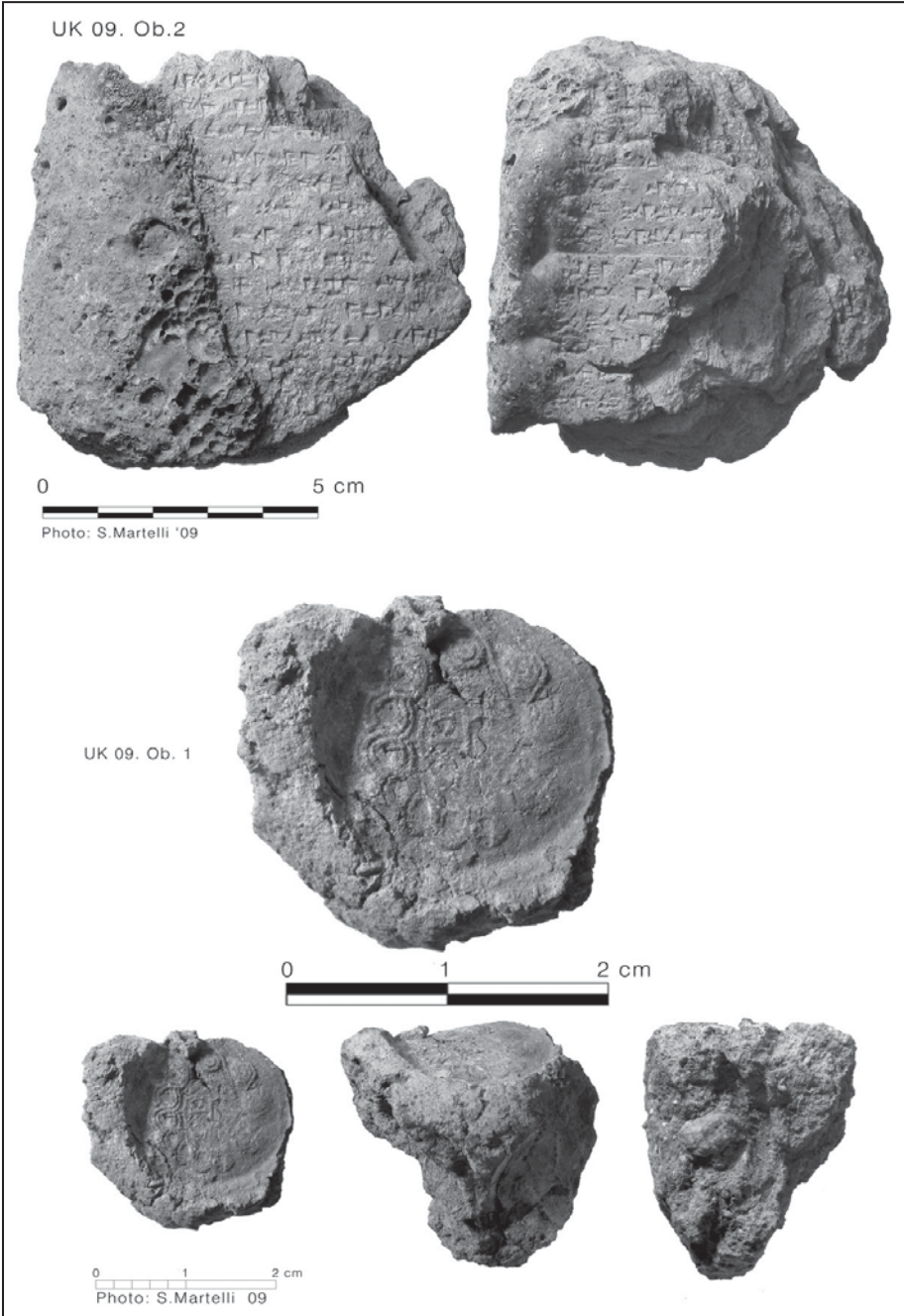


Fig. 2: Obverse and reverse of the tablet UK09.Ob.2 and the clay bulla UK09.Ob.1 (photo by S. Martelli)

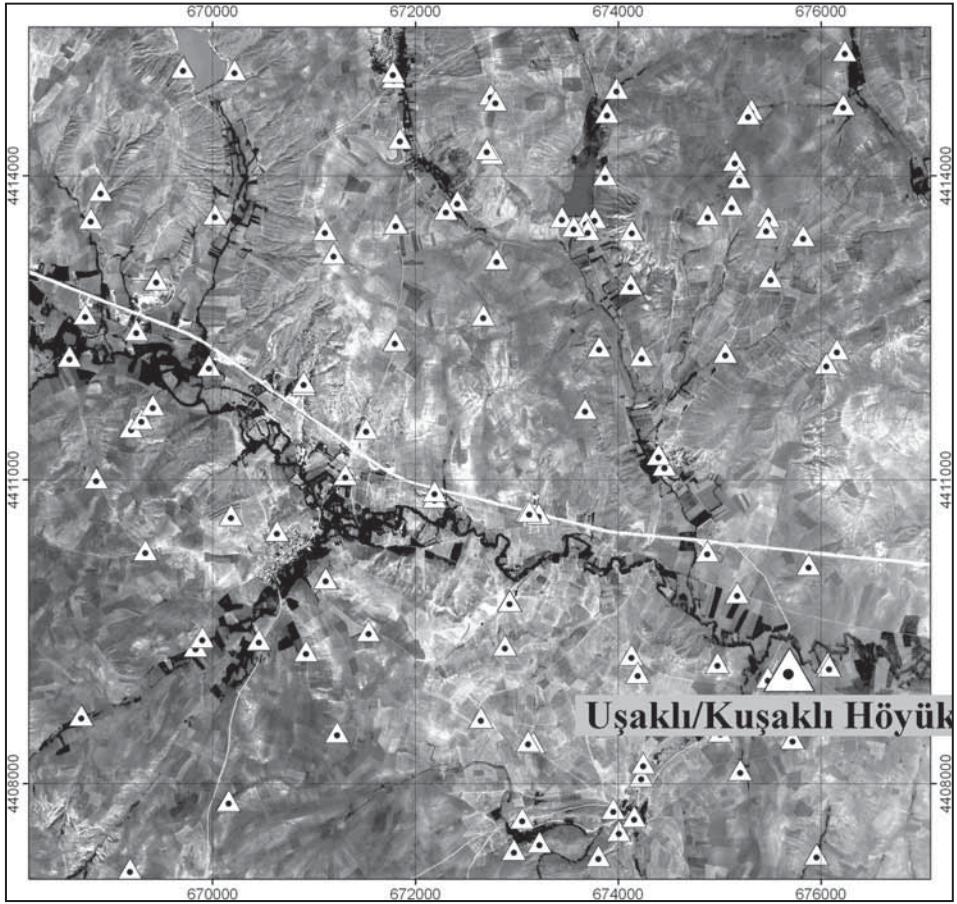


Fig. 3: Spatial distribution of GCPs shown over the GeoEye image (by R. Salvini).

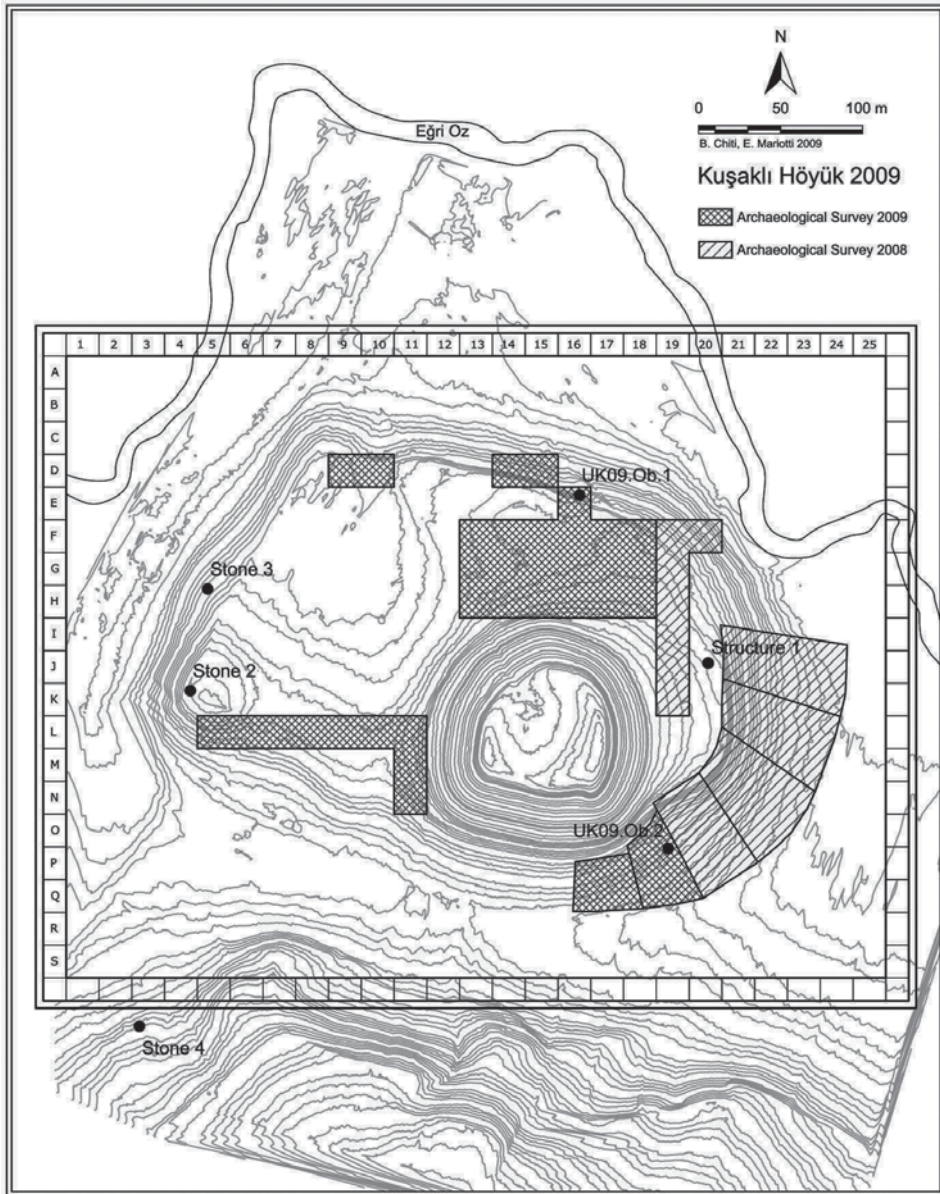


Fig. 4: Topographic map of Uşaklı/Kuşaklı Höyük (by E. Mariotti); archaeological survey areas, location of architectural remains and remarkable objects found on the surface (by B. Chiti).

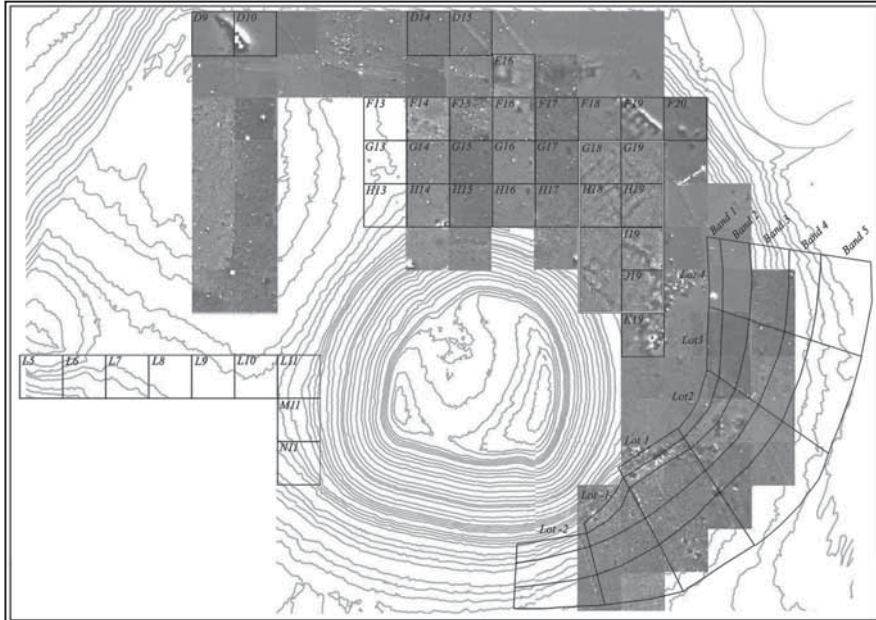


Fig. 5: The magnetic and geoelectric survey results and the grid for surface collecting (graphics adapted from G. Carpentero and B. Chiti plans).

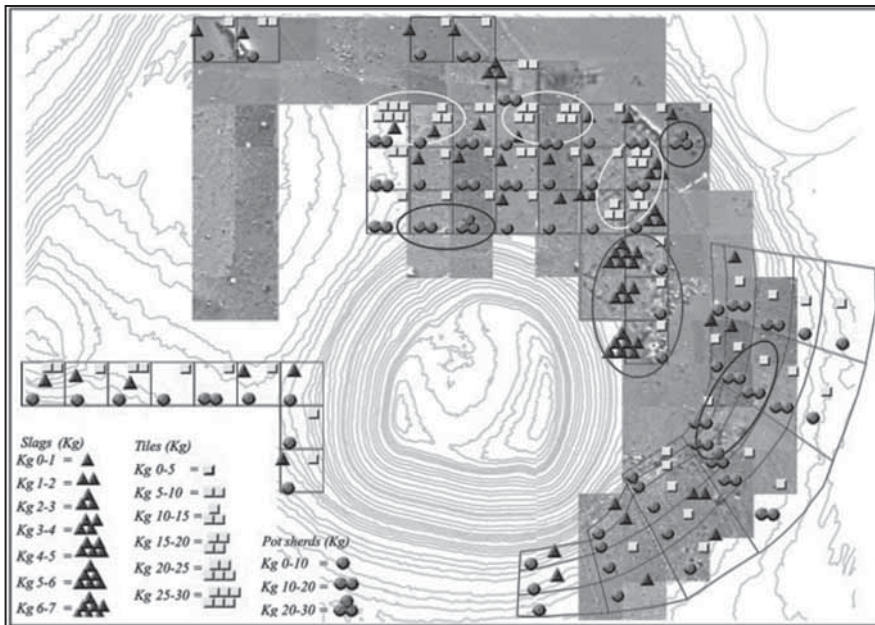


Fig. 6: Spreadsheets of different categories of findings (by V. Orsi).



Fig. 7: Potsherds from the foot of the mound (1st millennium BC).



Fig. 8: Potsherds from the terrace (2nd millennium BC).

