

THE KERKENES PROJECT

A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE 2004 SEASON

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with a contribution by
Scott Branting

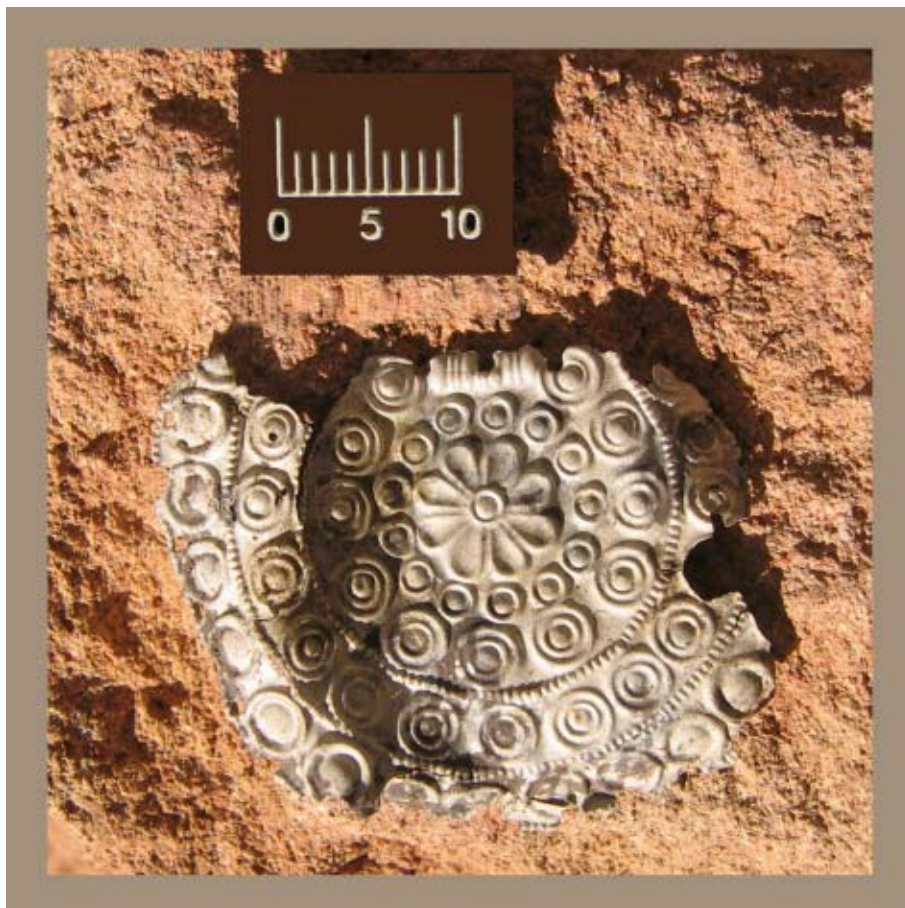


Figure 1. Embossed silver foil appliqué. (04dpcs0924)

LOCATION

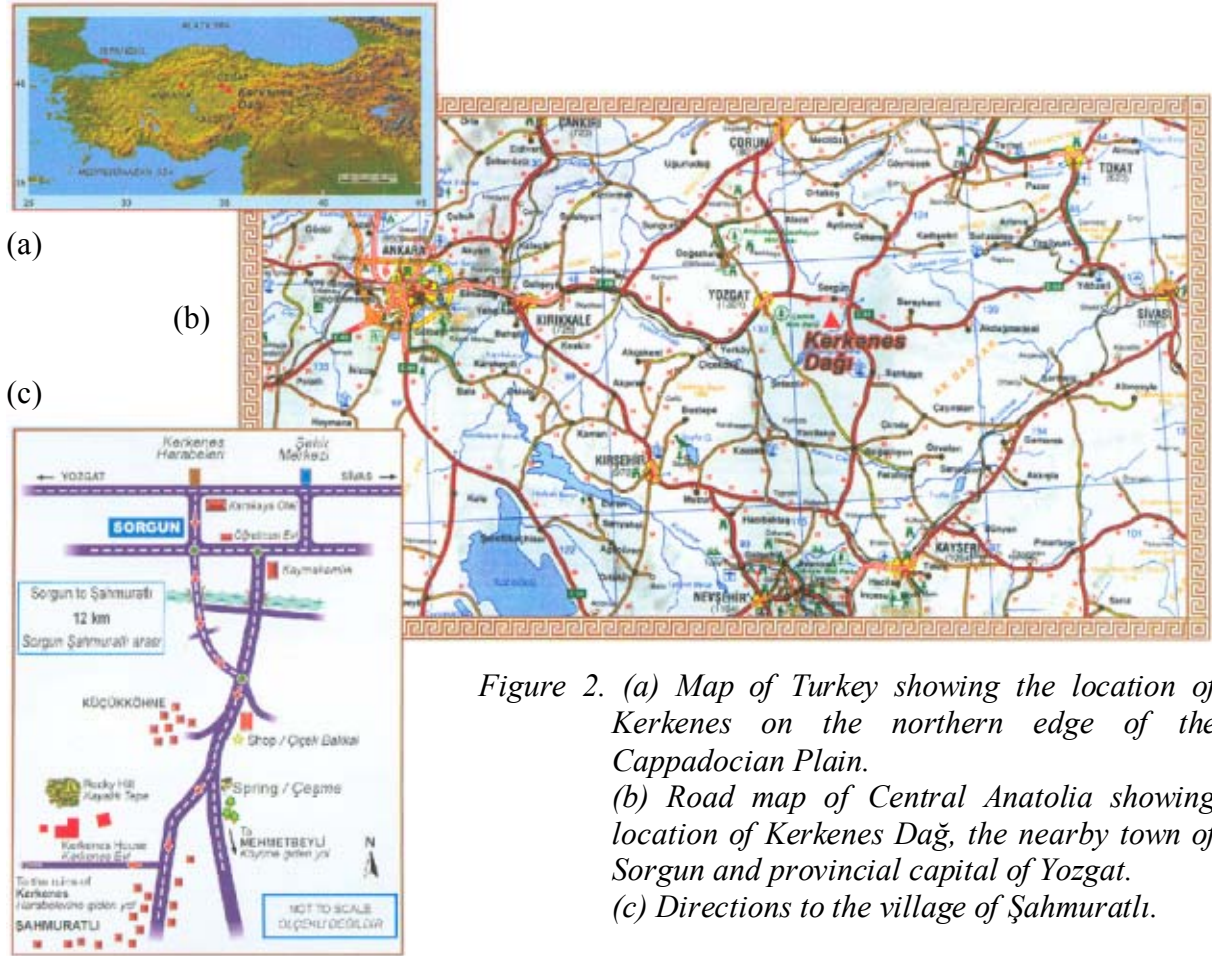


Figure 2. (a) Map of Turkey showing the location of Kerkenes on the northern edge of the Cappadocian Plain.

(b) Road map of Central Anatolia showing location of Kerkenes Dağ, the nearby town of Sorgun and provincial capital of Yozgat.

(c) Directions to the village of Şahmuratlı.

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The Kerkenes Web Page



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THE 2004 TEAM



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Kerkenes Eco-Center

We would like to note the participation of the key members of the Kerkenes Eco-Center Programme, Özge Beşgöl, Zehra Çakıcı, Soofia Tahira Elias-Özkan, Emre Ilgin, Tuğrul Karagüzel, Bora Topluoğlu and Kate Topluoğlu. A report on the 2004 activities of for the Kerkenes Eco-Center Project appears separately.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Figure 3. A panoramic view of the village of Şahmuratlı with the Kerkenes Expedition House, Depot and Laboratory Building and Eco-Center in the foreground. (04dpjv3322pan)

We would like to extend our thanks to the General Directorate of Cultural Assets and Museums, and especially to Director General Nadir Avcı, Assistant Director General İlhan Kaymaz as well as to Çiğdem Morçöz and Songul Erbay for their strong support and good advice. Particular thanks are due to representatives Ahmet Beyazlar from the Gaziantep Museum in the spring season and to Cumhur Sal from the General Directorate for the summer. The Acting Director of the Yozgat Museum, Mehmet Ayar, and Assistant Hasan Şenyurt have as usual been most supportive and their cooperation has been greatly appreciated.

We would also like to thank the Governor of Yozgat, Vali Gökhan Sözer, the Director of the Department of Rural Services, Muharrem Şengül, the Director of TEDAŞ, Bülent Gürel and the Director of Türk Telekom, Resul Aydın, and their staff in Yozgat and Sorgun, for great improvements to the road and to the village infrastructure and services. The Sorgun District Governor, Kaymakam Meftun Dalı, and the Sorgun Mayor, Belediye Başkan Ahmet Şimşek, have provided help and assistance essential to the work progress.

The main sponsors of the archaeological research in 2004 were Lafarge Sağlık Eğitim ve Kültür Vakfı, The Loeb Classical Library Foundation, The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, The Joukowsky Family Foundation, The Anatolian Archaeology Research Foundation, John Kelly Consulting Inc., The Charlotte Bonham Carter Trust and anonymous donors. The British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara made a grant towards the cost of the site guard and preparation of publications, the latter also sponsored by the Anglo-Turkish Society. Life in the field was made more comfortable thanks to The Ankara Hilton, The British Embassy, MNG, Onduline and Yibitaş Yozgat Çimento / Yibitaş Lafarge. Sokkia-Seza loaned surveying equipment. ESRI, ERDAS, İşlem and Geoscan helped with software and Datasel, Eternal/Hızlı and Romar with hardware. Research activities, including those related to the Eco-Center, are supported by funds from AKG, The Australian Embassy, The Canadian Embassy, Erdoğan Akdağ, MESA and Yenigün, channelled through the METU Development Foundation. METU Computer Center provides technical support and METU Press assists with publication.

At METU, staff and students from the Faculty of Architecture and the Settlement Archaeology and Archaeometry Graduate Programs are involved in various aspects of the Kerkenes Project including the environmental studies focusing on the Kerkenes Eco-Center programme of activities. The project has also ongoing programs of collaboration with the METU Museum, TAÇDAM, GGIT, the Department of Geological Engineering and the

Department of Metallurgical Engineering. The Computer Center continues to provide technical support and particular thanks are due to İbrahim Çalışır for his patience in dealing with old computers. We are extremely grateful to the Office of the Rector for providing office space for the Kerkenes Project to replace the project office no more available in the Faculty of Architecture.

Collaboration outside METU includes SUNY Buffalo, the Oriental Institute of Chicago University, the Malcolm and Carolyn Wiener Laboratory for Aegean and Near Eastern Dendrochronology at Cornell University, the Department of Near Eastern Studies of the University of California at Berkeley, Laboratoire de Géographie Physique of the CNRS and the Department of Hydrogeology at Hacettepe University. We would like to thank David Stronach, Prof. of Near Eastern Archaeology at Berkeley, for his continuing support beyond his formal involvement with the Kerkenes Project.

In the spring season Nurdan Çayirezmez was Acting Director at times when the Director was in Ankara, while Scott Branting took charge for part of the summer when the Director had to take leave of absence for personal reasons. In addition to the authors the team comprised conservator Noël Siver, illustrator Judith Sellers, publication assistant Isabelle Ruben, registrar Catherine Draycott, archaeologist Nurdan Çayirezmez, trench supervisors Andréé Bojalil, Tasha Granger and Tuna Kalaycı, assistant supervisors Ruth Bordoli, Melissa Clissold, Piraye Hacıgüzeller and Natalie Summers and students Maria Kelly, Seher Sencer and Derya Ulusoy. Evangelia Ioannidou will study the bones at METU. Pamela Summers and Bediha Gençarslan ran the kitchen for most of the season while Harun Muratdağı assisted with administration. Muhtar Osman Muratdağı used his minibus to ferry workmen and do expedition shopping. Memiş Gençarslan continues to be the site and house guard and workmen were employed from Şahmuratlı Village to take part in resistivity survey in the spring and excavation in the summer.

Efforts to establish the Kerkenes Eco-Center, in the village of Şahmuratlı (Fig. 3), are continuing and the expedition base proves to be a very appropriate vehicle to convey the importance of a sustainable and environmentally friendly approach to our daily life and needs. Following the initiation of the first activities by grants from the Direct Aid Programme of the Australian Embassy and MESA, The Canada Fund has generously supported the 2004 programme focusing on activities which will help the establishment of the newly formed Village Association and bring new life to rural areas. The strawbale construction, arousing the curiosity of many visitors, and the brick press from Parry Associate (UK), donated by the Burdens Charitable Foundation in Manchester, have demonstrated the potential impact of the ongoing environmental studies research. The British Council Partnership scheme continues to permit collaboration between colleagues from the Department of Architecture at METU and the Architectural Association in London for further research in this field.

The Kerkenes web page is now divided into three parts:

- K-One, covering the initial ten seasons of research and which continues to be updated;
- K-Two, concerning developments from 2002 onwards;
- K-Eco reporting on the development of the Kerkenes Eco-Center and associated environmental studies.

Annual reports and details of sponsors and participants can be accessed with the new shortened web address which opens the Kerkenes Homepage with the three links.



<http://www.kerkenes.metu.edu.tr>

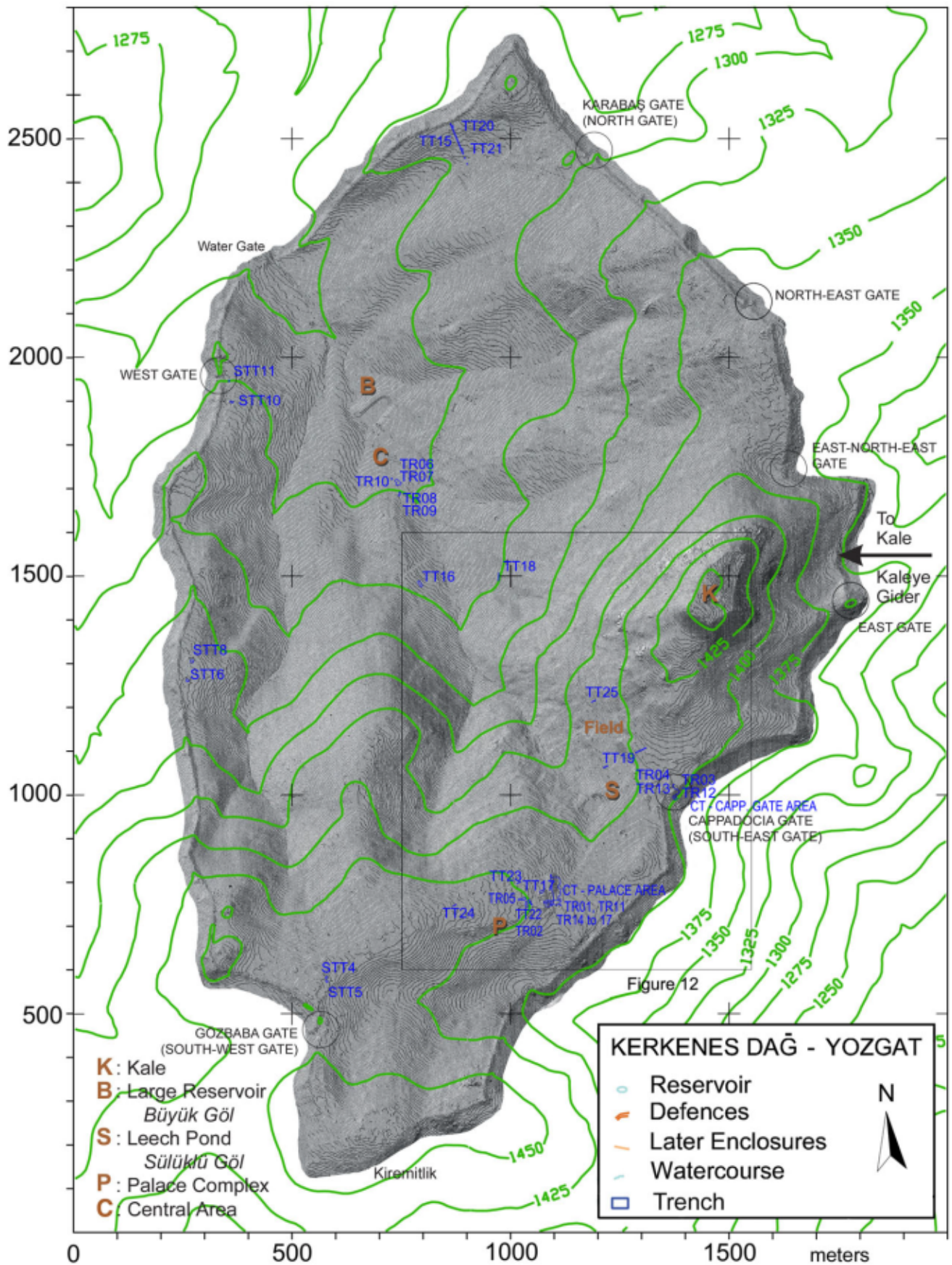


Figure 4. Digital Terrain Model (DTM) made by İşlem GIS, using ERDAS Imagine, from the GPS survey of Kerkenes. A rectangular frame locates Figure 12.

INTRODUCTION

The 2004 season of archaeological research at the Iron Age capital on the Kerkenes Dağ was divided into a short spring season of resistivity survey followed by a summer season of excavation.

In May, thanks to a spell of fine weather, it proved possible to conduct two weeks of electrical resistivity survey in the central, lower, portion of the city. The spring season also provided an opportunity to re-examine all of the sculpted and inscribed fragments that had been recovered in 2003. Many details, as well as a new set of digital photographs, were added to the existing descriptions in the catalogue and entered in the database. In particular it was possible to answer several questions concerning the inscriptions that had been raised by Prof. Claude Brixhe who is to include them in the new Supplement to his *Corpus des inscriptions paléo-phrygiennes*.

In early summer the Department of Rural Services made a splendid tarmac road from Sorgun to the foot of the ancient city. The new tarmac road winds all the way up to the site and allows a comfortable ride for cars and coaches making it possible, even in wet conditions, to drive up to the city wall at the base of the Kale. In the village itself the Department of Rural Services completed installation of pipes for a new sewer system together with an enhanced system of water distribution.

In another development, MNG Holding delivered a 15 by 5m prefabricated building, which was erected next to the existing expedition house in late August. This will provide four spacious rooms for accommodation in future season, reducing dependence on tents and replacing temporary use of the village clinic, which is scheduled for refurbishment by the Ministry of Health pending the appointment of a nurse.

The excavation season was ended in mid-August. Several team members then attended the 6th Iron Ages Symposium in Eskişehir during which two papers on Kerkenes were presented.

At the end of August, the Kerkenes Project office at METU moved to its new location by the Solmaz Izdemir Salonu in the library building. The University President's Office facilitated the reorganisation of the office and allowed the team to resume the post-fieldwork, which includes preparation of reports, publications and web page updates all year round.



Figure 5. The new tarmac road winds all the way up to the site, allowing a comfortable ride for cars and coaches driving up to the city wall at the base of the Kale, the prominent hump on the horizon. (04dpjv3304)

THE RESISTIVITY SURVEY

For the most part, the survey connected and extended the work conducted in previous years, and in particular covered the low level ground around the Büyük Göl (Figs 6 and 7).

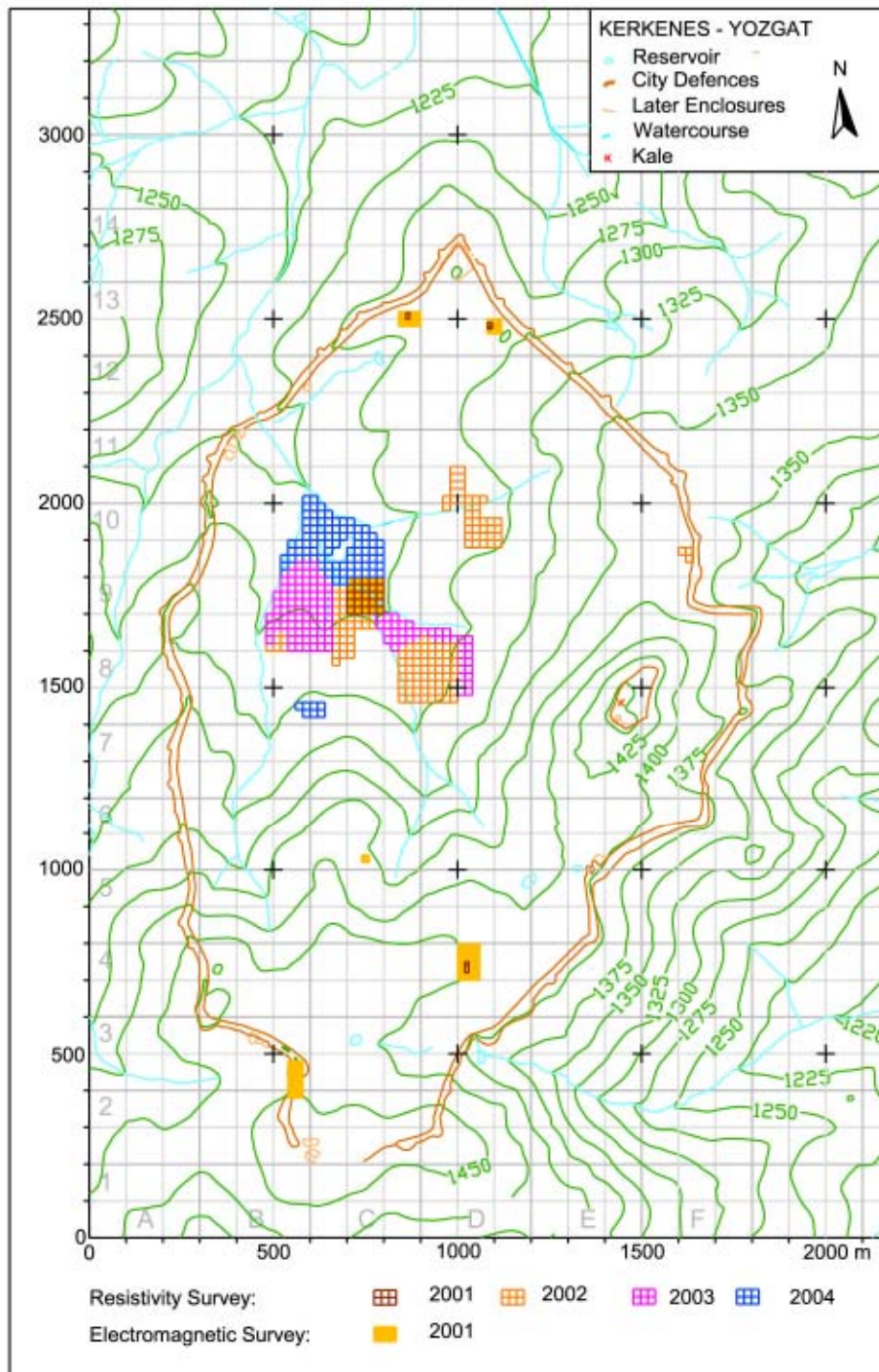


Figure 6. Progress map of the resistivity survey.

The Central Area

South-east of the Büyük Göl the resistivity survey (Figs 7 and 8) might be seen to have confirmed the existence of an open space first revealed by magnetometer survey. New evidence perhaps shows that this open area is bounded on its north-eastern side by a long narrow structure (Fig. 7 at lower right) which might be similar in nature to the building flanking the Field on the southern ridge below the Kale. If this interpretation is correct it would seem likely that there was some open public space in this central location adjacent to the largest of the city's reservoirs.

This same resistivity imagery could also, perhaps, show that there had been some encroachment of buildings onto the open space before the destruction of the city. On the tongue of land between two water courses to the north-west of the Büyük Göl (Fig.7 at upper left) a number of square freestanding structures were revealed together with the more usual two-roomed buildings.

The wet area immediately northwest of and below the reservoir was, not surprisingly, found to be largely devoid of remains.

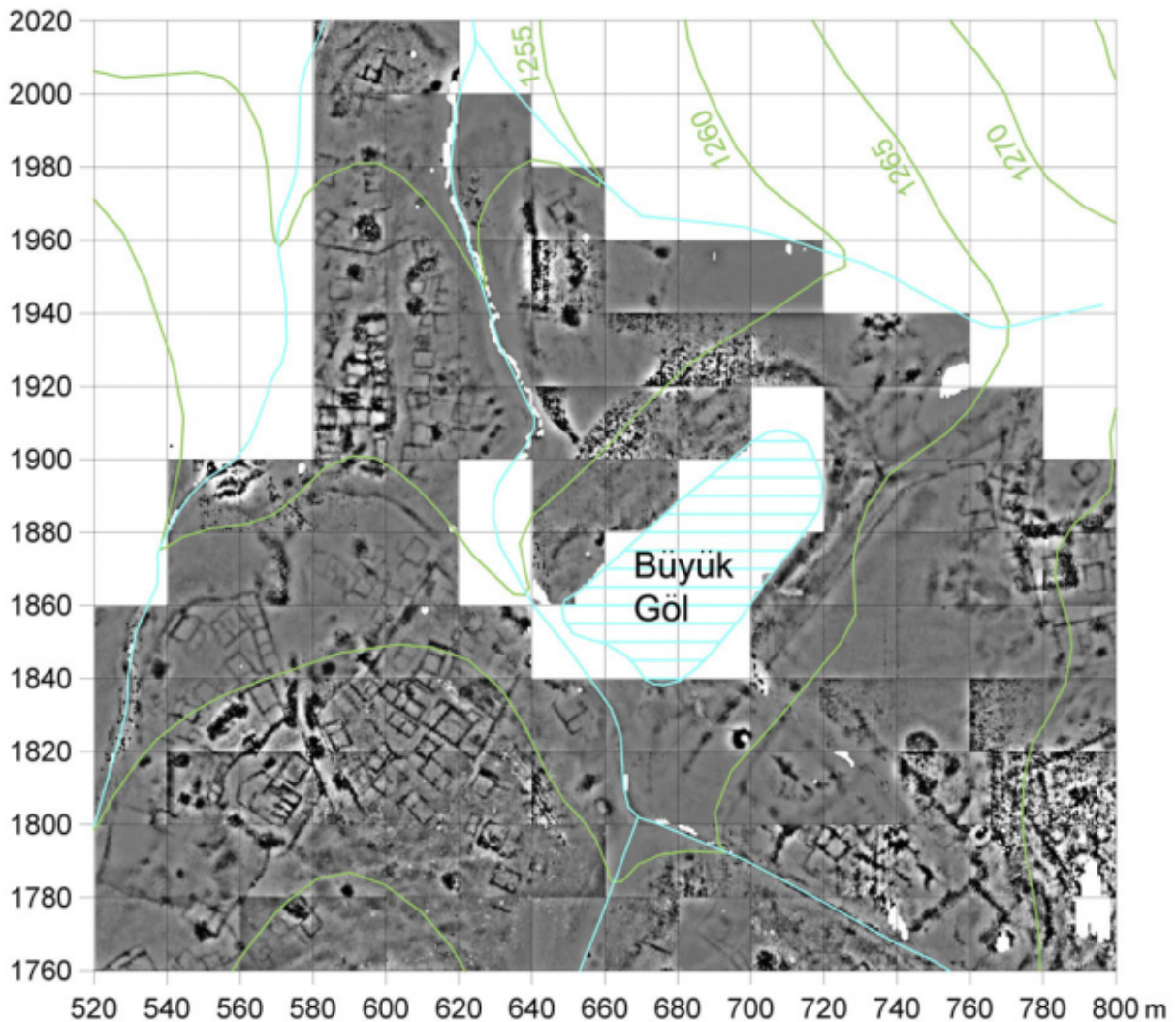


Figure 7. Map of the main portion of the 2004 Resistivity Survey. The blank area is the Büyük Göl and marshy streambed.



Figure 8. The central area of the city in May with the Büyük Göl at left and the western defences behind the shepherd's enclosure in the middle ground. (04dpjv0506)

It is to be noted that most of the remains, so clearly depicted by the resistivity survey around the Büyük Göl, are not visible on the ground. In the lower area of the site the ground is sufficiently moist until late spring and, with only few stones on the surface, presents ideal conditions for the use of a resistivity meter. A daily collection of data over 9 grids, each 20 x 20m, filling up the machine memory, is the daily target for a team of four.

A “Temple” at the Southern Edge of the Central Area

In another initiative, an entire day was devoted to the resistivity survey of a large, heavily burnt, two-roomed hall (Figs 9 and 10).

According to the evidence from the magnetometer survey, this building has been torched whilst the smaller structures around it appeared to have escaped unscathed. As expected, resistivity survey in this location provided clearer images of the unburnt structures, but failed to reveal the existence of stone bases to wooden columns or other internal features.

This unusually large hall, which does not seem to be situated in a large compound, fronts directly onto a broad street. This building clearly had some special function, and was very probably a temple.

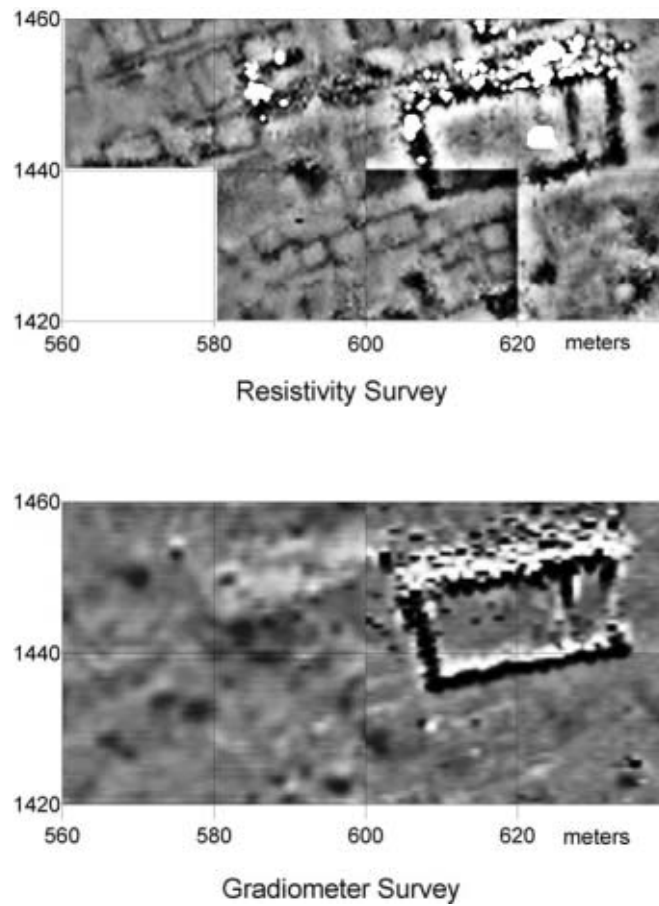


Figure 9. Resistivity map (above) and gradiometer map (below) of the “Temple” and its environs.



Figure 10. Resistivity survey of the “Temple” and its environs in progress The Büyük Göl is at centre right. (04dpjv0412).