

35.

KAZI SONUÇLARI TOPLANTISI

1. CİLT



T.C.

KÜLTÜR VE TURİZM BAKANLIĞI
Kültür Varlıkları ve Müzeler Genel Müdürlüğü



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27 - 31 MAYIS 2013
MUĞLA

T.C. Kltr ve Turizm Bakanlıęı
Kltr Varlıkları ve Mzeler Genel Mdrlę Yayın No:163-1

YAYINA HAZIRLAYAN
Dr.Haydar DNMEZ



27- 31 Mayıs 2013 tarihlerinde geręekleřtirilen
35. Uluslararası Kazı, Arařtırma ve Arkeometri Sempozyumu,
Muęla Sıtkı Koęman niversitesi'nin katkılarıyla geręekleřtirilmiřtir.

ISSN:1017-7655

Kapak Fotoęrafı: Engin ZGEN
"Oylum Hyk, 2012"

Not: Kazı raporları, dil ve yazım aęısından Klâsik Filolog Dr. Haydar DNMEZ
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Muęla Sıtkı Koęman niversitesi Basımevi
MUęLA – 2014

**UŞAKLI HÖYÜK 2012: SURFACE SCRAPING AND
COLLECTING ON THE HIGH MOUND
UŞAKLI HÖYÜK 2012 ÇALIŞMALARI: TEPEDE
YÜZEY KAZISI VE YÜZEY ARAŞTIRMASI**

Stefania MAZZONI*
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1. Introduction

The fifth season of fieldwork at Uşaklı Höyük, organized in the framework of a joint program between the Museum of Yozgat and the University of Florence, took place in June 2013 in order to complete the survey project initiated in 2008 with a series of more invasive surface activities.¹

The site of Uşaklı Höyük lies on the central Anatolian plateau (Fig. 1) not far from the city of Yozgat and clearly visible from the route connecting Yozgat and Sivas, a few kilometers west of Sorgun, æon a wide plain defined to the south by the Kerkenes Dağ. The site of Uşaklı consists of a high mound and a large extended terrace with a low, slightly sloping base (Fig. 2): the entire extension of the settlement is about 10 ha, while the central mound covers an area of 2 ha. The site benefitted from a very favourable and prominent position at the northern end of a large fertile plain, on the southern bank of the Eğri Öz Dere: here the high and distinct profile of the Kerkenes Dağ marks distinctly the southern skyline of the landscape.

Between 2008 and 2011 our project was primarily directed towards exploring intensively the site and its catchment area, obtaining information on the development of

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¹ The 2012 campaign was co-directed by Hasan Şenyurt, director of the Museum of Yozgat and Stefania Mazzoni from the University of Florence; Survey expedition team members: Serpil Ölmez, Anacleto D'Agostino, Valentina Orsi, Gabriella Carpentiero, Marta Aquilano, Nicola Barbagli, Margherita Dallai, G. Della Lena Guidiccioni, F. Devoto, V. Ippolito, Giuseppe Mancuso, Giuseppe Minunno, Clizia Murgia, R. Ranieri, Melissa Ricetti, Silvana Rubanu, Francesca Simi, Chiara Spinazzi Lucchesi, Livio Warbinek.

We wish to express our gratitude to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums for their precious advice, support and cooperation.

This report is the product of teamwork, compiled and edited by the authors: S. Mazzoni (section 1); A. D'Agostino (sections 2); V. Orsi (section 3). Financial support for this campaign has been granted by the Ministry of Education, University and Research and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Italy), University of Florence, OrMe - Fondazione Oriente Mediterraneo.

the settlement within the valley. Distinct and coordinated archaeological, topographic, geophysical and geological surveying operations were organised in the first four years of the research.² Systematic and intensive investigations have so far concerned the site of Uşaklı and thanks to geophysical prospection large structures were detected under the surface and numerous details relating to the distribution of artifacts highlighted. The geo-magnetic and resistivity surveys located marked anomalies arising from structures subjected to severe heating, probably burned by fire, as visible in the updated greyscale shade plot map (Figs. 3-5). In particular, among other anomalies, are clearly distinguishable a curtain of casemate walls and large buildings on the eastern portion of the terrace; a circuit wall on the top of the high mound; and probably large wall at the foot of the höyük.

The archaeological samples (potsherds, fragmentary tiles, slags, stone tools, fragments of baked bricks) have been collected within survey units established on the basis of morphological characteristics and following, on the flat areas, the general topographical grid. The intensive sampling strategy adopted, was at first aimed at achieving precise spreadsheets of the different categories of finds and understanding the distribution of significant categories of materials dispersed on the high mound and over the lower terrace.

The 2012 campaign took place in June and was aimed at collecting more information on the occupational history of Uşaklı, applying new systematic and integrated methods in the operations of superficial survey, along with the collecting of archaeological materials and geomagnetic prospection. The 2012 fieldwork program included:

- focused operations of ‘scraping’ on the steep slope of the high mound in order to obtain more information on the earlier periods of life of the site;
- cleaning of the granitic blocks on the surface of the north-west edge of the höyük;
- testing the depth of the lower large anomaly at the foot of southern slope of the höyük.

2. Scraping and Superficial Sounding Activities the High Mound Slopes on the High Mound Slopes

Having accomplished the first phase of surface research within the Uşaklı project, in the last campaign we began a program of more ‘invasive’ surface investigation of the site. The scraping on the southern side of the high mound was aimed for gathering evidence for a general and preliminary date of the large building appearing so clearly in the geomagnetic survey. Here a large anomaly reveals the plan of a huge

² S. Mazzoni 2012, La ricognizione a Uşaklı 2011 (Yozgat-Sorgun), *Arkeoloji ve Sanat* 139, 79-89; S. Mazzoni, A. D’Agostino, V. Orsi 2012, Uşaklı 2010 Survey Season (Yozgat), *29.Araştırma Sonuçları Toplantısı*, Ankara: 317-333; S. Mazzoni, A. D’Agostino, V. Orsi 2010, Survey of the archaeological landscape of Uşaklı/Kuşaklı Höyük (Yozgat), *Anatolica* 36: 111-163.

building 60 m long and 15 m wide, consisting of large halls or rooms, to be probably identified as courtyards, surrounded by rooms of regular plan (Fig. 6).

The presence of relatively dense vegetation (principally herbaceous plants) covering most of the slope had prevented visibility of the soil during the previous campaigns. The slopes of Uşaklı were never used for agriculture or crops and they had been never plowed; consequently, the topsoil was very hard and showed very few materials in exposure. Removing the topmost layer of soil by scraping was, therefore, the best method to obtain results from the surface. We decided to clear the soil of vegetation with the use of sickles and rakes and proceed with a superficial intense scraping with trowels and shovels in order to collect materials associated with the geomagnetic anomalies, located in the upper portion of the slope and possibly to expose the upper surface of sizeable archaeological features (namely traces of collapsed mud bricks walls, ash pits, baked bricks) (Fig. 7a-c). The team, composed of twenty operators (archaeologists and students) and two workers, proceeded in a east-west line together, progressively scraping the slope from top to bottom and collecting the surface materials in an integrated manner (Figs. 8-10).

In fact, we found spots of mud bricks (bands 3-7 of lot 9), delimited patches of brown and red soils, and a few alignments (bands 4, 5, 8 of lot 11), probably relics of the upper surface of mud bricks walls, although with less detectable outer limits (Fig. 11). The locations of these features were photographed, drawn in AutoCAD and the plot overlapped with the anomalies clearly visible on the geomagnetic survey (Fig. 12). In some cases we can distinguish a direct connection between spots of burnt red bricks with some registered anomalies; in other cases we have not any relation between the two phenomena.

Also, on the south-eastern slope of the mound a vertical band of 5x25 m² was cleaned and prepared for intense scraping. The area overlaps lots 5 and 6 of the 2010 survey where a few anomalies can be interpreted as a structure with 5 or 6 long rooms (about 30x22 m). The remarks concerning the main phases of occupation reached by intensive collections of surface sherds, have been confirmed by the results of the scraping. Remains of a little wall in small-sized rough stones are visible on the top of the area.

The method of collection involved the gridding of the slope into bands of various sizes or irregular discrete units³ from which all the artefacts were picked up. Distribution and composition of the archaeological record obviously depend on post-depositional activities such as human intervention and particularly natural events, in cases of steep slopes of the höyük. Despite this, and the slipping of soil and materials due to surface erosion, the later deposits not prevent us from seeing 2nd millennium BC materials; on the contrary these materials are well documented and represent a significant portion of collected artefacts on the from south slope.

A small 2x2 m sounding (Operation 2) was opened at the foot of the of southern slope of the höyük in order to individuate clues belonging to the large geomagnetic anomaly visible on the plot and/or possible components altering the signal within the soil matrix. Such a signal (3/4 m thick) probably refers to a wall of the lower city

³ Lot 9 and Lot 10 are respectively about 664 and 484 square meters; the dimension of the single units (bands) varies from around 4.50x11 m, on the upper portion of the slope to 8x17 m in the lower portion.

running from NW to SE. Excavation went down only at a depth of 1.20 m, in a fairly homogeneous deposit with very few sherds worn by surface exposure, but not further elements were found. As an initial result of this small sounding, we can exclude the proximity of the large anomaly to the surface, due for example to the accumulation of burned materials falling down from the top or accumulated during agricultural activity connected with ploughing or cleaning of the fields, but unfortunately we cannot suggest any reliable chronological attribution also considering the massive deposit of washed soils coming down from the slope of the mound.

A second more invasive activity was carried out on the top of the mound. On the very top of the mound, different sections of a strong pseudo-circular anomaly are clearly visible and could belong to a fortification wall, assigned preliminarily to the Byzantine period. A segment of a wall, part of the north-west circuit system, was visible on the surface and consists of a parallelepiped granitic block and a few flat slabs adjoining it on the east. The area and the stones were cleaned in order to expose a segment of the wall (Operation 1) and documented by drawing the visible architectural elements. The wall consists of two rows of ashlar separated by rough stones, as a shallow sounding along its outer line indicates. A slight depression on the surface and a path are visible respectively in front of and next to this portion of the wall and diagonally along the slope, probably the remains of a path to the top (in correspondence of a probable gate? At the moment we can only speculate about the date, medieval or modern, whilst awaiting systematic excavations).

3. The Pottery

Because of the sloping of the surface soil, a fine-grained characterization in chronological terms of the different collections is obviously hard to determine. All the recovered artefacts were washed, counted, weighed and a selection of them, the diagnostic types, were filed, registered, drawn and photographed.

2230 diagnostic sherds were collected through the scraping activity (Table 1). The number of roof tiles and amorphous slags is very low as compared with the results from collecting on the lower terrace.⁴

A total body of 215 Kg of sherds has been analyzed and attributed to relevant classes of pottery. The data entered in the dedicated database provided us with occurrence of types and shapes clearly recognizable for the different periods and in connection with the scraping units (bands and lots); thanks to the registration of all the sherds and after the processing of data, spreadsheets for several significant categories have been composed.

As already noted, dating surface pottery is, however, a challenge, particularly in areas where there is a marked homogeneity that characterised most of the ceramic production over a long period of time and where we do not yet know enough about the different assemblages. Nevertheless scraping did bring to light a good number of

⁴ A. D'Agostino, V. Orsi 2011, I materiali della ricognizione archeologica nell'area di Uşaklı Höyük, in S. Mazzoni, F. Pecchioli Daddi, G. Torri, A. D'Agostino (eds.), *Ricerche italiane in Anatolia. Risultati delle attività sul campo per le età del Bronzo e del Ferro*, (*Studia Asiatica* 6). pp. 129-156. Roma: Herder.

different types and diagnostic forms of the Painted Middle and Late Iron Age wares (so-called Phrygian and Alishar IV-V ware) with also notable examples with complex motifs (Fig. 13 a-d; d: later painted ware, maybe Achaemenid or Galatian?). Iron Age period sherds show no specific concentration in any area, which may be the result of erosion from the upper portion of the mound. The Middle and Late Bronze Age collection is also notably documented including the Red Slip and Burnished wares (Fig. 14 a-c) as well as Drab Ware sherds (Fig. 14 d). The distribution of red-slipped sherds is homogeneous: as noted on the occasion of the analysis of the lower terrace assemblage, we are not able to determine whether our red slip ware sherds, in particular in the case of body sherds, belong to the Middle/Late Bronze Age horizon instead of the Iron Age but can only highlight the fact that the majority of the diagnostic sherds seem to have good parallels with types found in stratified contexts of Middle Bronze Age/Late Bronze Age sites on the Central Plateau. Within the more ancient repertoire found at Uşaklı we classified a series of hand-made red-slip wares, and painted sherds ('Cappadocian ware') (Fig. 15) most likely to be dated to the end of 3rd/beginning of 2nd millennium BC. More problematic is the date of the few Grey Ware sherds attested on the slope (Fig. 15 d). The very low amount of sherds dating to the later period, Hellenistic or Byzantine is striking. This absence, and the occurrence of 2nd millennium BC sherds, prompt to reconsider the size and aspects of later levels in particular on the top of the high mound.

Noteworthy was the finding of three fragmentary tablets with cuneiform inscriptions in a possible relation to the geomagnetic anomalies visible on both the southern and southeastern slopes of the high mound (Fig. 11a where X indicate find spots). Preliminary reading of the tablets suggests them are letters dating from the Middle to Late Hittite period, with a possible date for Uk12.Ob.3 to the 13th cent. BC.⁵

As a first result of the scraping activity we can observe a clear and certain correlation in terms of chronology between the sherds collected on the surface and them collected during the removal of the superficial layer of soil: the main difference consist in the growing number of sherds when we proceed to scratch away the superficial strata of vegetation and soil. Both methods produced consistent data and confirm that over the course of time, erosion of the slopes exposes archaeological levels and associated materials trough the disturbance of buried strata, periodically bringing new artefacts to the surface. In addition, large superimposed chronological bands can be recognized by the distribution of sherds: obviously the Iron Age materials are randomly dispersed along all the slope but 2nd millennium BC materials are also well visible, in some case concentrated in relatively limited areas and non covered by conspicuous later deposits.

⁵ Alfonso Archi, Franca Pecchioli, Giulia Torri and Carlo Corti are in charge of the study and the final publications of the tablets found during the survey.

4. Conclusive Remarks

The intensive survey and the careful scraping on the slopes provided us with further important pieces of systematic information about the occupational history of the mound. The integrated scraping and processing of collected sherds document the 2nd millennium is well attested on the slopes of the high mound and provide us with a more precise idea about the location of future excavation trenches according to the period to be investigated, reducing the choice to specific sectors of the site.

The finding of three fragmentary tablets in addition to the tablet found in 2009⁶ on the lower terrace slope confirms the importance of Uşaklı as a significant regional site not only for archaeological research but also from an historical point of view. Concerning the question of the identification with Zippalanda, suggested by Oliver Gurney, the data furnished by the pottery, the nature, characteristics and main occupation phase of the site do not disagree with this hypothesis.

The southern skyline of the Uşaklı landscape is marked by the distinct profile of the Kerkenes Dağ, the most significant landmark of this area. The imposing presence of the mountain in the plain has in fact been evaluated as an important argument for identifying Uşaklı with the town of Zippalanda, one of the cult centres of the Storm-god. The position of Uşaklı Höyük fits well with the geographical setting of the journey recorded in the Hittite sources mentioning that the Hittite king, moving from Hattuša, reached Haitta and Mount Puskurunuwa, and from there, the arrival on the third day in Zippalanda, where he worshiped Mount Daha (probably Kerkenes Dağ, according to O. Gurney), before reached Ankuwa/Alışar Höyük. This hypothesis can be now supported with more confidence on the basis of the results of our survey, thanks to the presence of late 2nd millennium sherds, the sealed clay and the tablets dating to the Hittite period.

It is however clear that only the systematic archaeological exploration of the site will produce final proof of the possible continuous occupation between the end of 3rd millennium BC and the 1st millennium BC, still lacking in the region, and if we are lucky (and it is known that in archaeology this is a very important factor) the proof to the hypothesis that the site is to be identified with the Hittite holy city of Zippalanda.

⁶ S. Mazzoni, F. Pecchioli La ricognizione archeologica nel territorio di Uşaklı Höyük (Yozgat), in S. Mazzoni, F. Pecchioli Daddi, G. Torri, A. D'Agostino (eds.), *Ricerche italiane in Anatolia. Risultati delle attività sul campo per le età del Bronzo e del Ferro*, (*Studia Asiana* 6), pp. 105-128. Roma: Herder; S. Mazzoni, A. D'Agostino, V. Orsi 2010, New researches in the Hittite heartland: the Italian archaeological survey at Uşaklı/Kuşaklı Höyük (Yozgat - Central Anatolian Plateau), *Antiquity* 84/325 (September 2010), project gallery.

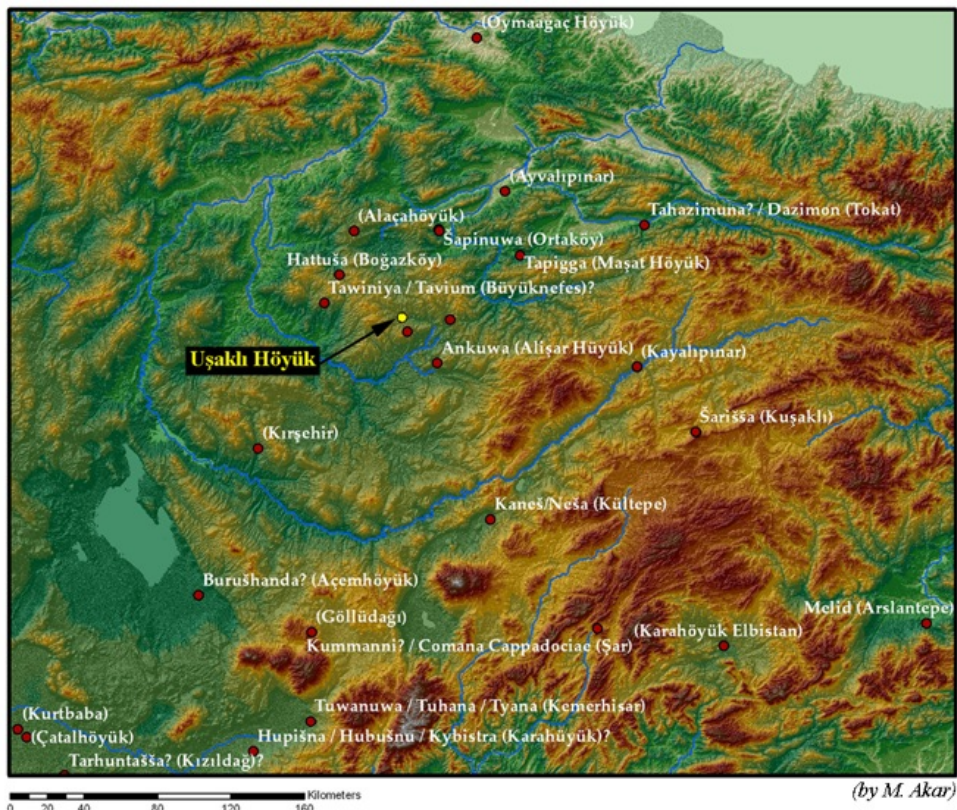


Fig. 1: Maps of Central Anatolian Plateau showing the location of Uşaklı Höyük and other sites.

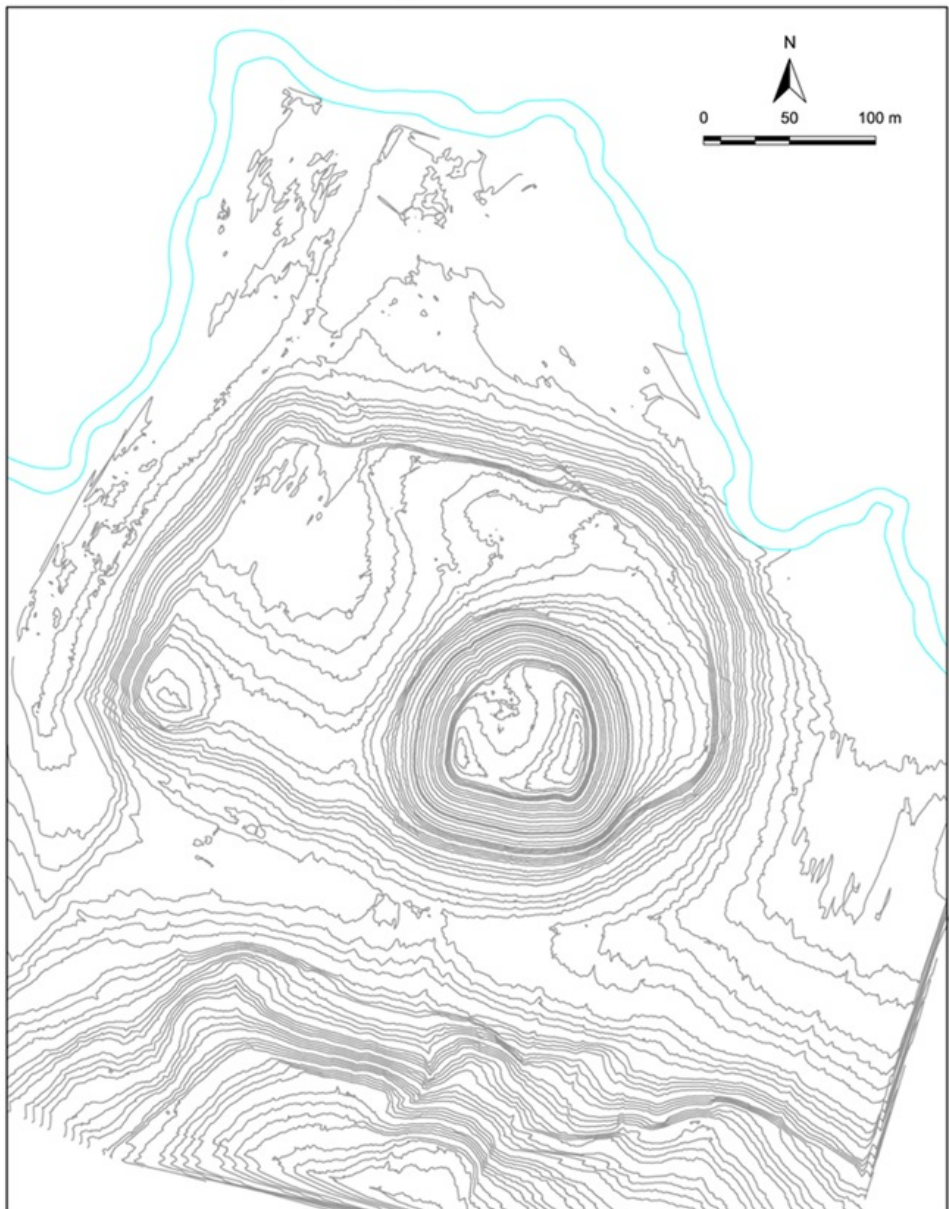


Fig. 2: Topographic map of Uşaklı Höyük.

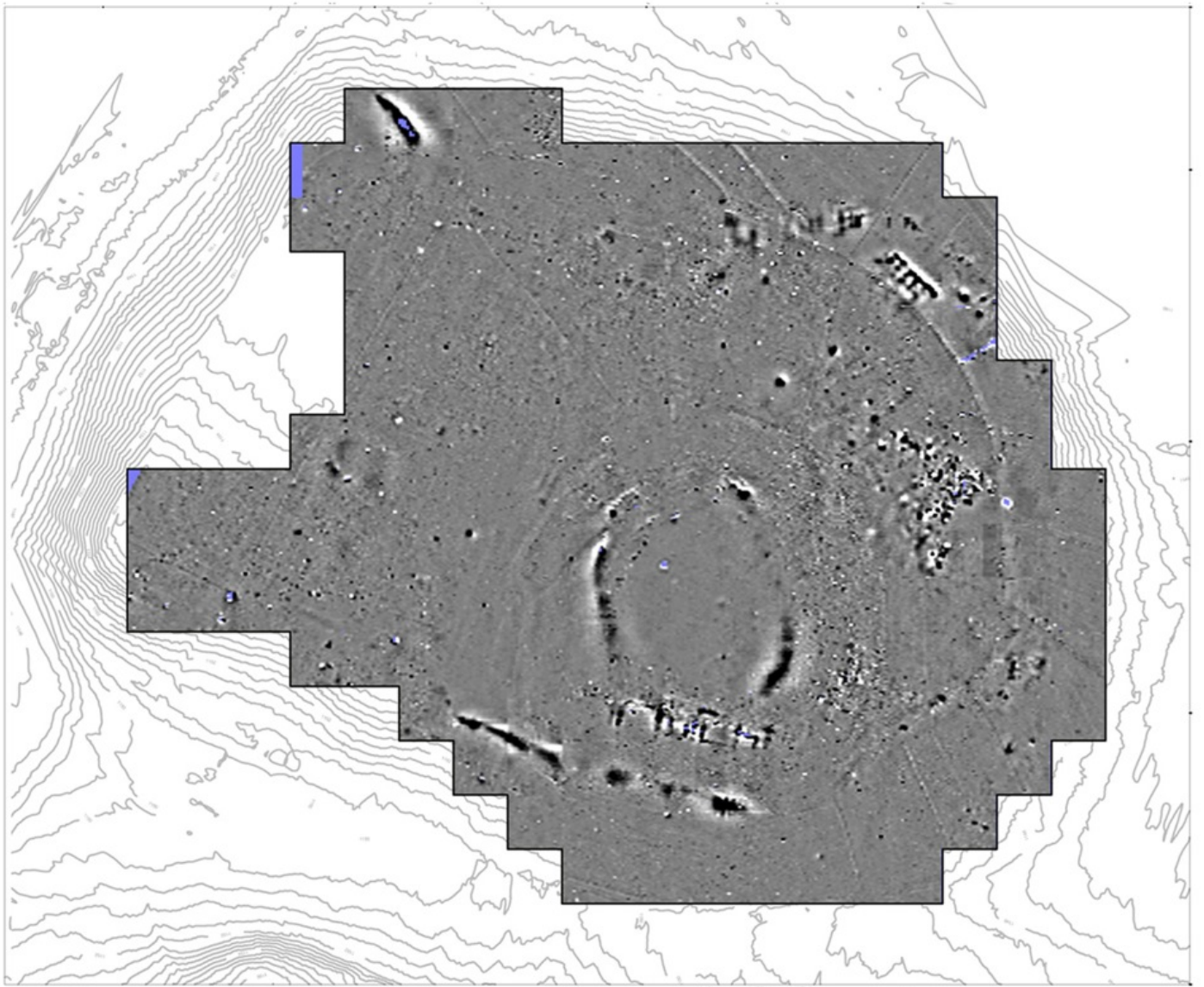


Fig. 3: Geomagnetic survey (by G. Carpentiero).

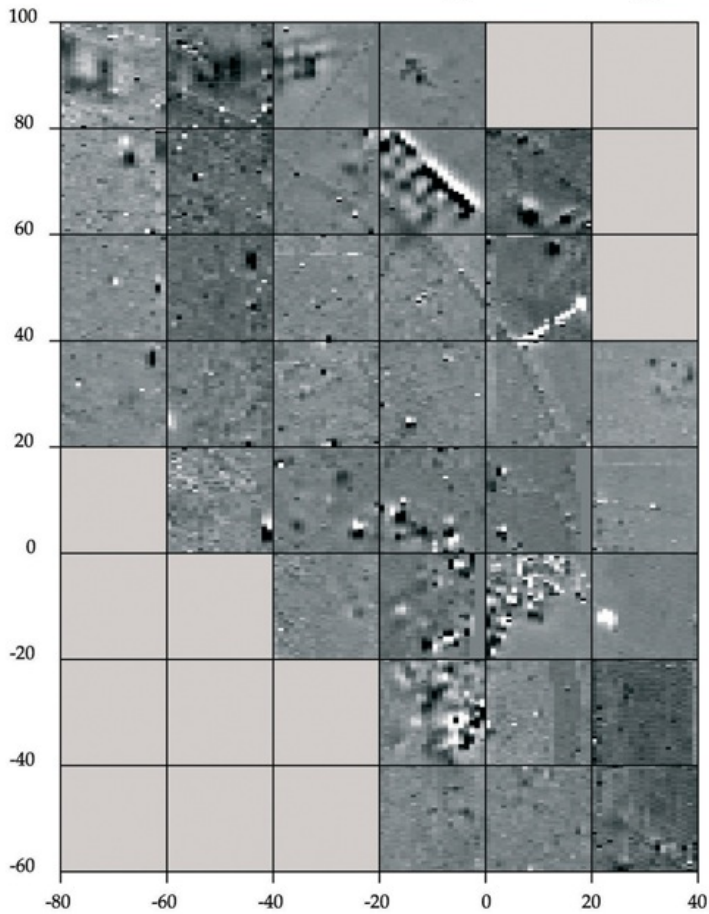


Fig. 4: Particular of the geomagnetic survey.

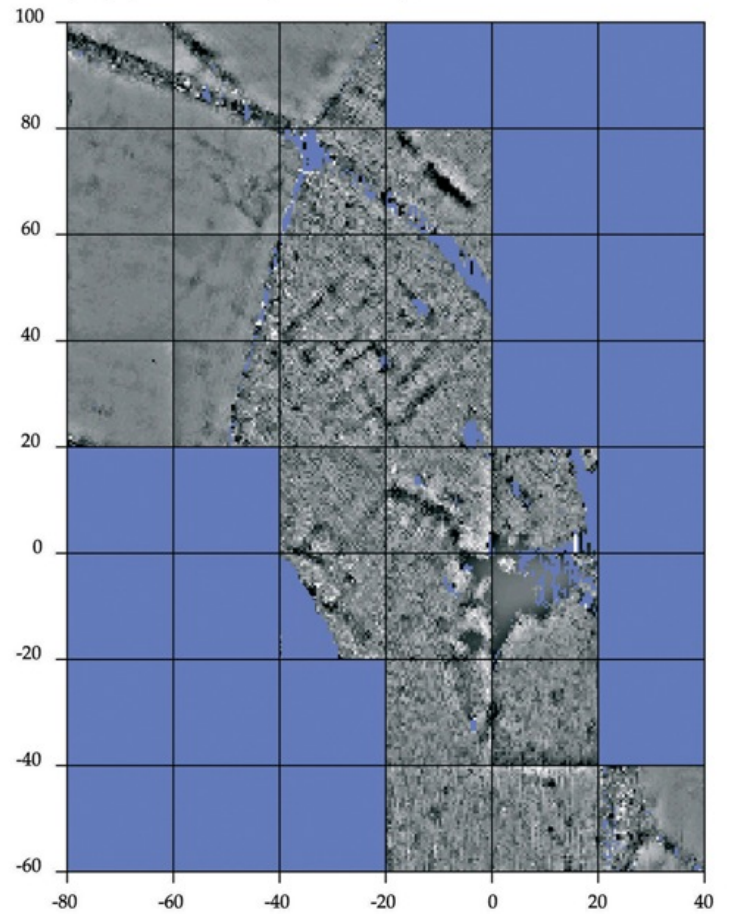


Fig. 5: Particular of the Geoelectric survey.

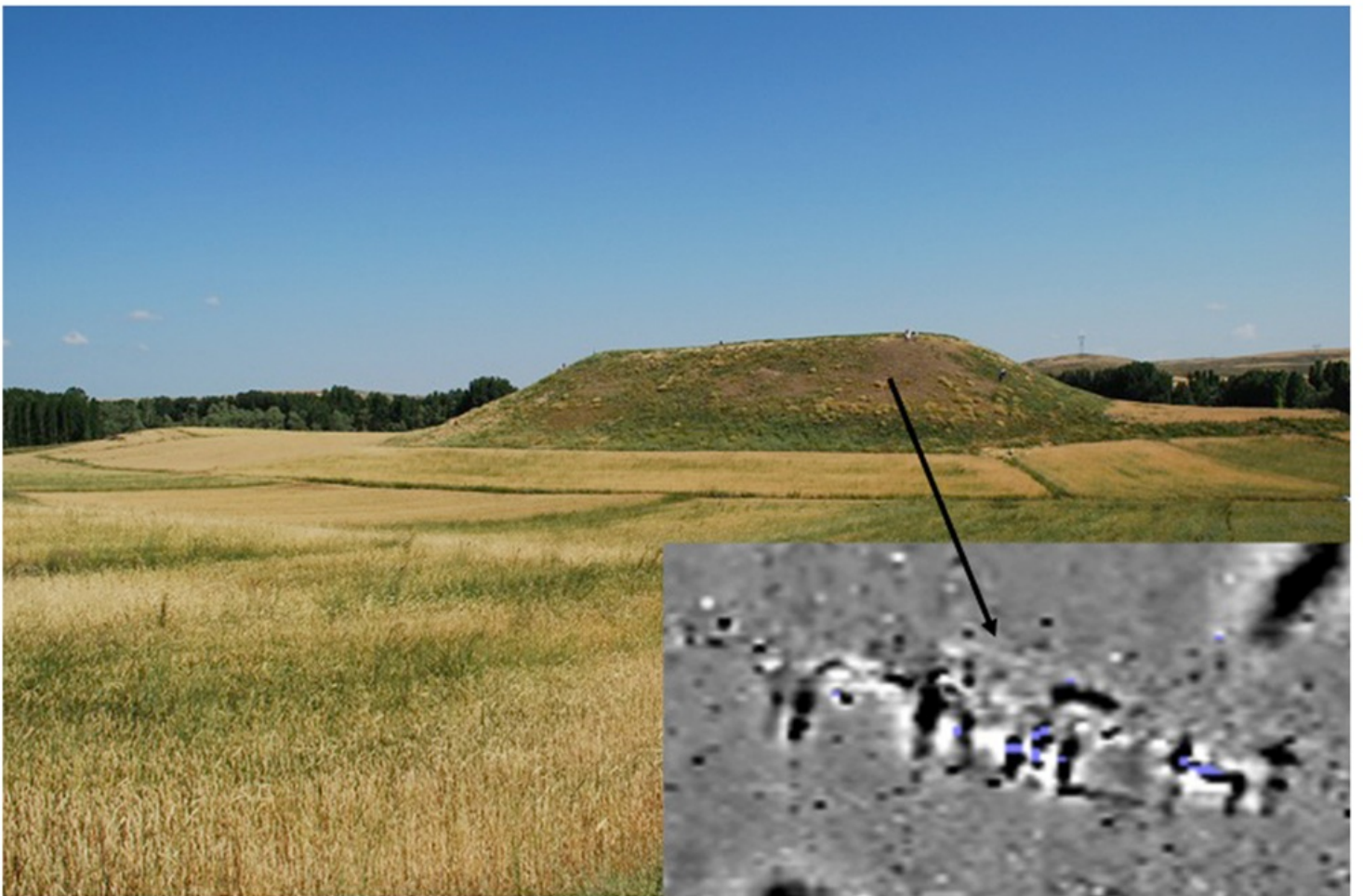


Fig. 6: The southern slope of the mound and the results of the geomagnetic survey.



Fig. 7: Cleaning and scraping on the southern slope.



Fig. 8: The scraping on the southern slope.



Fig. 9: The scraping on the southern slope.



Fig. 10: The scraping on the southern slope.

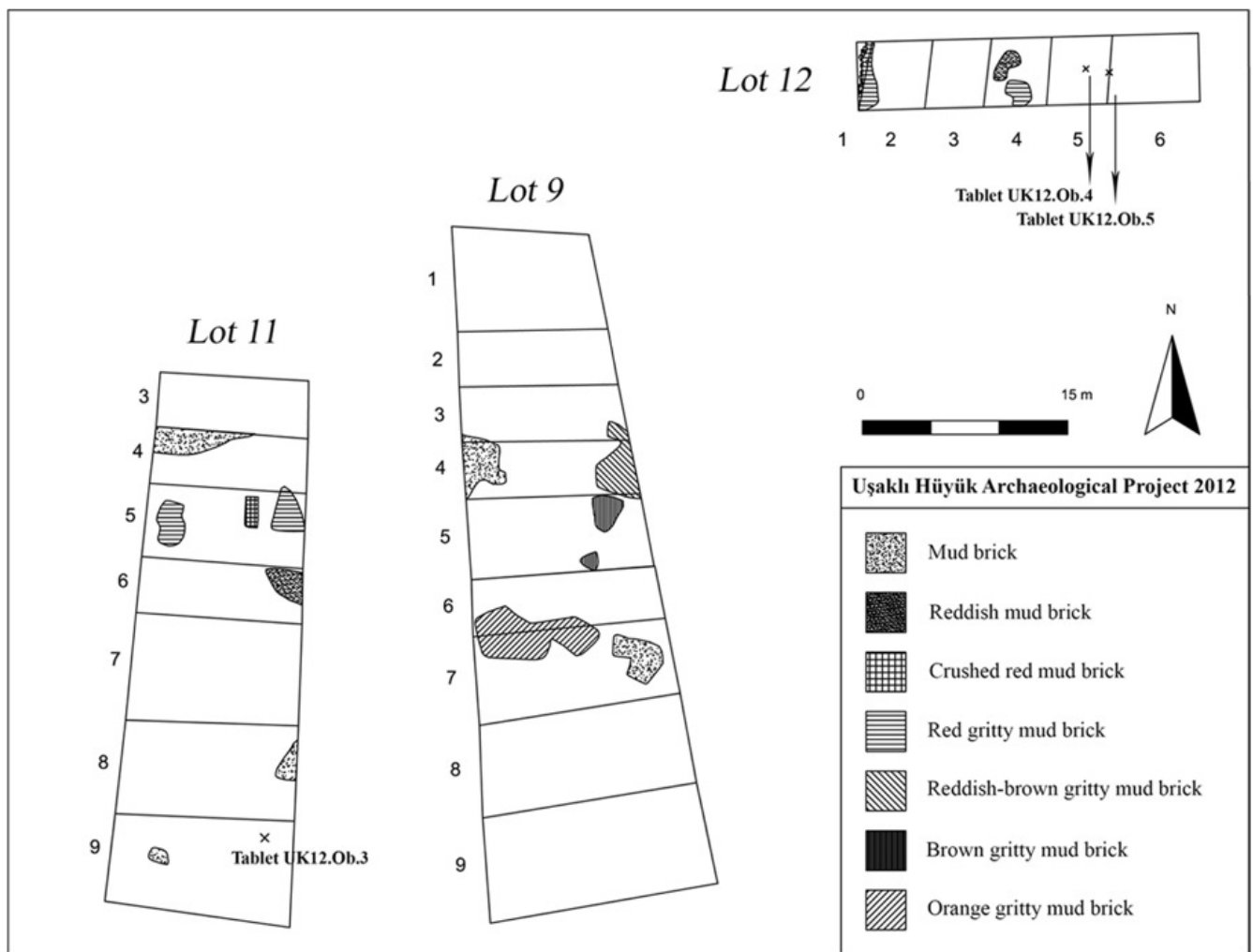


Fig. 11: Features visible on the surface after scraping (mud-bricks, alignements, patches of different kind of soils; X indicate tablets find spots).

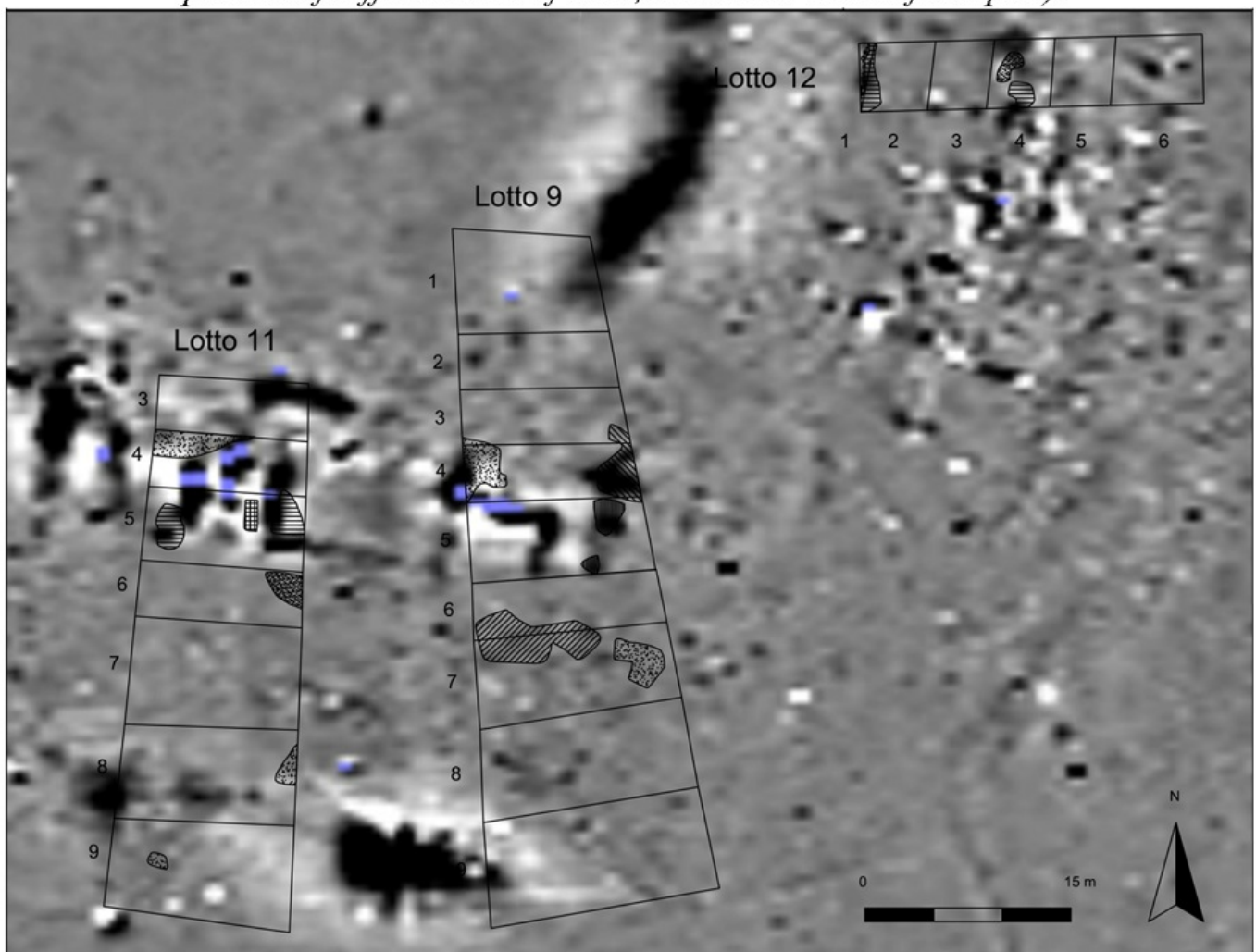


Fig. 12: Superficial features overlapped to the geomagnetic anomalies.



Fig. 13: Middle and Late Iron Age Painted Wares (a-c); later Painted Ware (d).



Fig. 14: Red Slip Burnished (a-c) and Drab Wares (d).



Fig. 15: Hand-made Burnished and Painted Wares (a-c); Grey Ware (d).



a (Uk12.Ob.3)



b (Uk12.Ob.4)



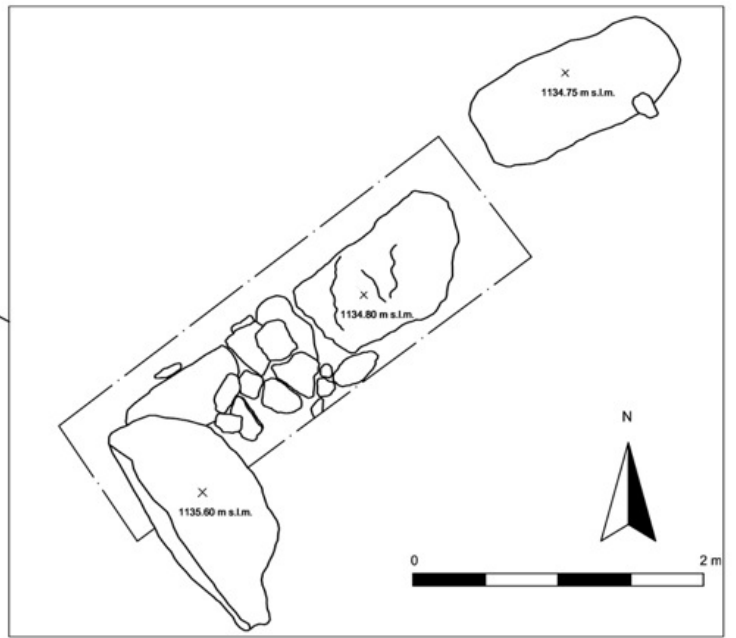
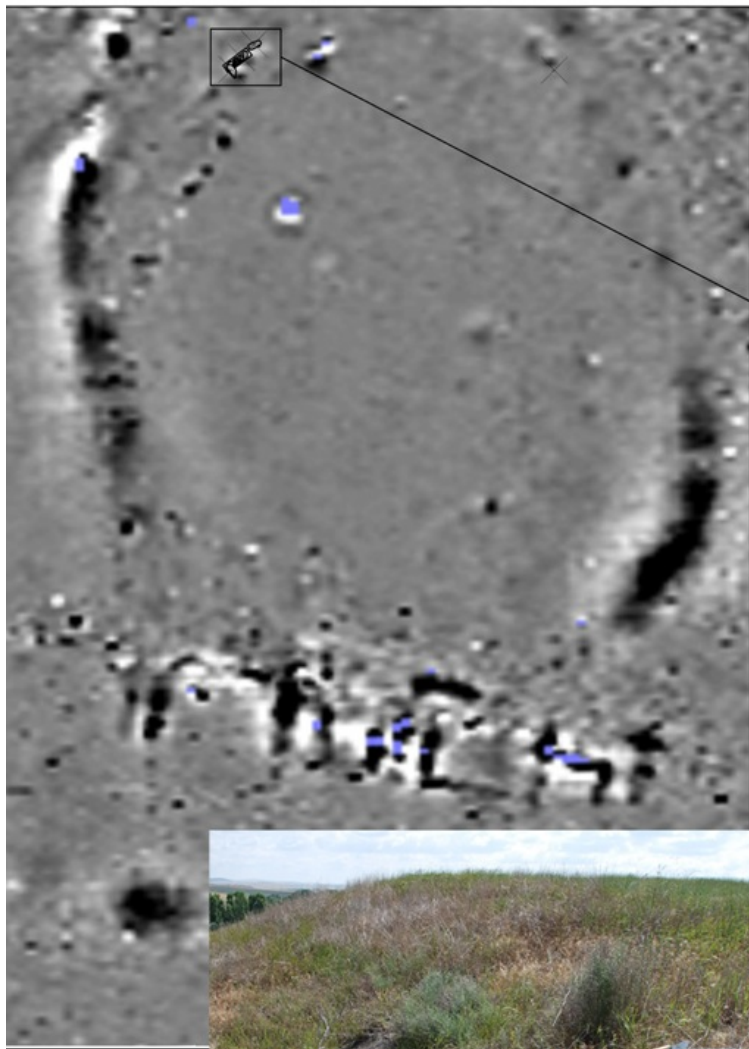
c (Uk12.Ob.5)

Archive of Uşaklı Höyük Archaeological Project



2 cm

Fig. 16: Fragmentary tablets with cuneiform inscriptions (from Middle to Late Hittite Period).



Uşaklı Höyük Archaeological Project 2012

a



b



c



d



e

Fig. 17: Operation 1 on the north-western edge of high mound (a-c) and associated materials (d-e).