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Prehistoric Island and Lake-Shore Settlements in the Lake District of Southwest Anatolia

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Introduction

The Lake District of southwest Anatolia has been well researched archaeologically, especially sites from pre- and protohistoric times. A vast number of settlement mounds were documented by James Mellaart who conducted archaeological field surveys in this area in the early 1950s[1]. The collected ceramic material was studied in detail by himself and David French who also made surveys in this region in the 1960s[2]. Both Mellaart's and French's pioneering work is still valid today, and many archaeologists use these results for their research of the prehistory of Central and Western Anatolia. In the early 1960s Ralph Solecki surveyed the prehistoric sites in the southeastern part of the Lake District around Lake Beyşehir and Lake Suğla[3]. Since the mid-1970s Mehmet Özsait and his wife Nimet Özsait have done further surveys in the Lake District and surrounding areas[4]. In the nearly 40 years of their research they have discovered many new prehistoric sites and re-visited the already known ones, thereby adding valuable information about the settlement history of the whole region. From 1993-1998 and since 2008 further surveys have been carried out in the territory of Sagalassos by members of the Sagalassos Archaeological Research Project under the direction of Marc Waelkens[5]. The Lake District is also well known for several archaeological excavations of important sites like Hacilar[6], Suberde[7], Erbaba[8], Kuruçay[9], Höyücek[10] and Bademağacı[11] (Fig. 1), conducted by James Mellaart, Jaques Bordaz, Refik Duru and Gülsün Umurtak. The results of their excavations are

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This article stems from an investigation about the settlement history of Western Anatolia during the Bronze Age conducted between 2009 and 2011 as a research fellow at the German Archaeological Institute at Istanbul.

1 Mellaart 1961, 1963; Lloyd - Mellaart 1962, maps III-VI, VIII; Lloyd - Mellaart 1965, map I.

2 French 1968.

3 Solecki 1964.

4 Özsait 1976-77, 1980, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1986a/b, 1989, 1990a/b, 1991, 1994, 2004a/b, 2005, 2007. Annual reports were published in Araştırma Sonuçları Sempozyumu (since 1983) and in ANMED (since 2004).

5 Vanhaverbeke - Waelkens 2003.

6 Mellaart 1970.

7 Bordaz 1968.

8 Bordaz 1969; Bordaz - Bordaz 1976; Bordaz - Bordaz 1982.

9 Duru 1994; Duru 1996.

10 Duru - Umurtak 2005.

11 Duru 2008.

of utmost importance not only for the development of the cultural history of this region, but also for the whole of Western and Central Anatolia, since close cultural connections with these neighbouring areas can be observed in the architecture and material culture at various times during prehistory.

This article is part of an investigation about the early settlement history of Western Anatolia and focuses on a specific settlement type occuring in the Lake District. The sites discussed here and the results presented in this study are solely based on published findings from surface site-surveying combined with satellite imagery.

Settlement Types in Anatolia

Different settlement types can be observed all over Anatolia from the Neolithic time onwards. The most common prehistoric settlement form is the mound (höyük). Settlement mounds are usually made up of several meters of habitation deposits which accumulate over a longer period of time. Their specific form is caused by the use of sun-dried mudbricks as the preferred building material which cannot be re-used after the destruction of the buildings. The destroyed houses were usually levelled and new ones built on top of them, thus leading to a steadily rising mound. Settlement mounds are mainly situated in fertile plains, often near fresh water sources. In the Lake District most of the settlement mounds are located at the margins of the plains. The main reason for this seems to be the threat of flooding of the plains which often have no natural water outlet[12]. Settlement mounds can also be located on higher terraces, often on the spurs of natural hills. The site of Kuruçay is a typical example for this kind of location[13]. Besides natural threats like floods, hill-spur sites possess strategic advantages in regard to their defensive situation. This is also a characteristic element of hill-top sites which form another settlement type. Hill-top sites are located on top of natural hills surrounding the fertile plains. With their strategic position they often also control important traffic routes. Whereas most of the settlements mounds are already known today because they are easy to spot in the plains, many hill-top sites still await to be discovered. This is also the case with flat sites, which were usually inhabited for a shorter time period; therefore their habitation deposits are only of minimal height. Flat settlements can be located either in the plains or on the flanks of hills. They are usually found only in intensive surveys. Today many flat sites have been destroyed by modern agriculture. Whereas these kinds of settlements are known from all parts of Anatolia, another settlement type occurs especially in the Lake District: island and lake-shore sites.

Island and Lake-Shore Sites in the Lake District

This kind of site was hardly noticed before as a distinctive settlement form in inland Anatolia. With the help of satellite images, a total of 37 sites of this type could be identified alone in the Lake District (Fig. 1). Since island and lake-shore sites are not very common in other regions of Anatolia, they can be regarded as a characteristic settlement form of the Lake District.

These sites are situated on the shores of lakes or on islands within the lakes. The majority of them (28 sites) are located on the lake shore, either on flat ground such as the site of Geneli at Lake Karamık (Fig. 2) or on low natural hills which sometimes protude as peninsulas into

12 A similar situation can be observed in most river valleys of Western Anatolia where the settlement mounds are also located at the margins of the river plains; see Becks 2013 (forthcoming).

13 Duru 1994, 95 pls. 2-3, 5-7.

the lake, like the site of Kocapınar at Lake Yaraşlı (Fig. 3). Today some of the sites located on flat ground are to be found several hundred meters away from the lake shore, e.g. the sites near Lake Eber, Lake Akşehir and Lake Suğla (Fig. 1). These lakes are rather shallow, and only slight changes in the water level immediately affect their surface size. Many lakes today have a lowered water level caused by modern irrigation and regulation; some like Lake Kestel were only recently drained dry for agricultural purposes. Other lakes periodically became dry because of a naturally reduced water input, e.g. Lake Suğla[14]. Palaeogeographical research on several lakes in the Lake District has revealed a continous decline of the water levels since the last Ice Age[15]. Intermediate periods of rising water levels have also been detected[16]. These are usually connected with climatic changes, i.e. the phase of the post-glacial climatic optimum (from ca. 6000 and 2000 B.C.)[17]. In some lakes with karstic sinkholes, the closing of these natural outlets due to tectonic impact has led to a rise in the water level, e.g. in Lake Beyşehir[18]. In some cases rising water levels have caused wave erosion on some settlement mounds, e.g. some sites on Lake Beyşehir and Lake Suğla. But this seems to have occurred rather late and only after the settlements had long since been abandoned[19]. Generally island and lake-shore sites seem not to be affected by rising water levels including seasonal fluctuations. Nonetheless, more geomorphological, palaeobotanical, palynological and archaeological investigations are necessary in order to correlate more precisely water level fluctuations in the lakes with climatic and environmental changes and their effect on the development and history of the surrounding settlements[20].

Altogether nine sites located on islands have revealed prehistoric finds (Fig. 1). These are Uylupınar in Lake Gölhisar (Cat.-No. 13), Pınarbaşı Gölü Höyük in Lake Pınarbaşı (Cat.-No. 35), Irgıllı in Lake Işıklı (Cat.-No. 25), İskele Höyük (Fig. 4) and Yeşilada in Lake Eğirdir (Cat.-Nos. 36 and 37), and Yılan Höyük, Kubad-abad, Külada and Homatburnu in Lake Beyşehir (Cat.-Nos. 3, 11, 16 and 22). Some of these island sites are connected to the main land via small natural or artificial causeways. The artificial causeways may also indicate possible changes in the lakes' water levels during the Later Holocene, but this would need clarifying their construction date through archaeological excavation.

Chronological Distribution

The chronological dating of all but one of the lake-shore and island sites in the Lake District relies on ceramic finds collected during surface surveying. The datings proposed by the conducters of these surveys in their preliminary reports seem reliable since the diagnostic surface ceramic finds were compared with material from sites excavated stratigraphically like Çatalhöyük, Troy, Mersin, Hacılar, Kuruçay and Beycesultan. The sites of Hacılar and Kuruçay lie within the Lake District (Fig. 1) and offer excellent comparanda, especially from the earlier

14 Erinç 1978, 104.

15 Erinç 1978, 91-93.

16 Cohen - Erol 1969, 397-398.

17 Erinç 1978, 91; Hütteroth - Höhfeld 2002, 94.

18 Barjamovic 2011, 370 with fn. 1535.

19 Farrand 1964, 153; Erol 1978, 116-117; Barjamovic 2011, 369 figs. 43-44.

20 Since 2008 the Sagalassos Archaeological Research Project has been carrying out an interdisciplinary research program investigating the geomorphology, palaeobotany and palynology in concordance with the archaeological settlement history in the territory of the ancient city of Sagalassos. More research of this kind is needed for other regions of the Lake District as well.

prehistoric periods of this region, namely the Late Neolithic and Early Chalcolithic. The site of Beycesultan is located in the plain of Çivril immediatly to the northwest of the Lake District (Fig. 1). The exacavations here have revealed an uninterupted occupation sequence from the Late Chalcolithic through the Early Iron Age[21]. Mellaart himself compared his survey finds with the stratified material from Beycesultan and published his results in form of chronological maps[22]. One of the major shortcomings of surface-collected material from surveys is the possibility of lacking finds from one or several occupation periods, especially from the earlier phases which are covered by later habitation deposits[23]. This insufficiency can be reduced either by intensive surveying with the collection of all visible surface finds or by repeated visiting of the sites with the supplementation of new find material[24]. Clear evidence of all cultural habitation phases present at one site can only be gained through excavation. The only excavated lake-shore site is Suberde/Görüklük Tepe on Lake Suğla (Fig. 1)[25]. It is also the earliest settlement of this type known so far and dates back to the Early Neolithic period (ca. 7080-6820 B.C.)[26]. Nonetheless, the excavations confirmed the former results of a survey where a Neolithic habitation phase was discovered with the help of surface finds[27].

In the Lake District, island and lake-shore settlements occur from the Early Neolithic period onwards. The earliest known lake-shore site in this region is Suberde/Görüklük Tepe at Lake Suğla, with its oldest settlement phases belonging to the Pre-Pottery Neolithic period (Cat.-No. 1). Three sites have revealed material dating to the Late Neolithic period: Alan Höyük and Yılan Höyük at Lake Beyşehir (Cat.-Nos. 2 and 3) and Ortakaraviran I at Lake Suğla (Cat.-No. 4). It is noteworthy that all the Neolithic lake-shore sites are located only in the eastern part of the Lake District, i.e. around Lake Suğla and Lake Beyşehir. From the Early Chalcolithic period onwards lake-shore sites appear in the western part as well. Yılan Höyük at Lake Beyşehir (Cat.-No. 3) and Ortakaraviran I at Lake Suğla (Cat.-No. 4) have also produced finds from the Early Chalcolithic period. Early Chalcolithic sites in the western region are Senir at Lake Burdur (Cat.-No. 5), Kocapınar at Lake Yarışlı (Cat.-No. 6) and Yenice at Lake Karataş (Cat.-No. 7). Five sites are known from the Late Chalcolithic period in all parts of the Lake District: Çallıca at Lake Yarışlı (Cat.-No. 8), Üzümlübel at Lake Kestel (Cat.-No. 9), Geneli at Lake Karamık (Cat.-No. 10), Kubad-abad and Burun Höyük at Lake Beyşehir (Cat.-Nos. 11 and 12). The majority of the island and lake-shore settlements in the whole Lake District date to the Early Bronze Age. Eleven of the 33 Early Bronze Age sites have revealed finds dating generally to the 3rd millennium B.C. (Cat.-Nos. 1, 6-9, 13-18). The other 22 sites produced ceramic material which could be dated more precisely to one or several of the sub-periods of the Early Bronze Age: five sites are known from the EBA 1 period (Cat.-Nos. 4, 20-23), 22 sites date to the EBA 2 period (Cat.-Nos. 4, 10-12, 19-36), and 12 sites were inhabited during the EBA 3 period (Cat.-Nos. 10-12, 20-21, 28-31, 33-35). From the 2nd millennium B.C. a total of 10 sites are known, nine of which belong to the Middle Bronze Age (Cat.-Nos. 12, 21-22, 32-37). One of them was generally

21 Lloyd - Mellaart 1962; Lloyd - Mellaart 1965; Lloyd 1972; Mellaart - Murray 1995.

22 Lloyd - Mellaart 1962, maps III-VI, VIII; Lloyd - Mellaart 1965, map I.

23 For the limitations of surface surveying as an archaeological method in general, see Vanhaverbeke - Waelkens 2003, 7-14 (with further references).

24 The method of systematic intensive site surveying has not been applied yet to any of the prehistoric sites in the Lake District. M. Özsait repeatedly visited most of the prehistoric settlements in this region adding new material from previously unknown habitation periods at several sites.

25 Bordaz 1968.

26 http://tayproject.org/C14.

27 Solecki 1965, 141 (No. 23).

dated to the 2nd millennium B.C. (Cat.-Nos. 18), and only one has revealed finds belonging to the Late Bronze Age (Cat.- No. 36).

The chronological distribution of the island and lake-shore sites in the Lake District is shown in Figure 5. After a slight increase from the Neolithic through the Late Chalcolithic, the number of lake sites grows enormously during the Early Bonze Age and reaches its peak in the EBA 2 period (ca. 2500-2300 B.C.). Afterwards, the number of lake-site settlements decreases drastically in the EBA 3 period, and then slightly more in the MBA period until it finally drops to an insignificant number in the LBA period. This diachronic development corresponds very well with the general development of settlement quantities, especially during the Bronze Age in this region (Fig. 6) and also in Western Anataolia as a whole[28]. One of the main reasons for the strong deviations in site numbers during the EBA seem to be climatic changes with favourable conditions during the first two-thirds of the 3rd millennium B.C. and a rather sudden change to unfavourable conditions at the end of the EBA 2 period (ca. 2300 B.C.)[29]. The steady decrease of site numbers during the 2nd millennium B.C. can be connected with a general trend towards a population shift and settlement nucleation in larger centers in Western Anatolia caused by political instability and military events which had led to a depopulation of this region[30].

It was proposed earlier that one of the main advantages of a settlement on an island or peninsula could be a strategic one for its better defensive position. But unlike hill-top settlements with their obvious defensive character and which increase in number during the 2nd millennium B.C. in Western Anatolia[31], the number of island and lake-shore sites strongly decreases during this time (Fig. 5). This opposite diachronic development shows that a defensive purpose was not a major factor for the people to build their settlements on islands and lake shores, at least during the 2nd millennium B.C. Economic factors, i.e. the exploitation of natural resources like fish, molluscs, birds, reed and salt seem to have been of more importance. This is also indicated by a similar development of settlement numbers when lake-shore sites are compared with all other settlement types in the region of the Lake District: both show the same curves (Figs. 5 and 6). Variations in size and quantities of settlements can be correlated with changes in population numbers. With an increasing and decreasing population number, the demand for special products from lakes grows and declines as well. Of course, this hypothesis needs to be tested with excavations.

The prehistoric people who were living in the region of the Lake District built their settlements in various locations just like everywhere else in Anatolia: in the fertile plains and river valleys, on the spurs and tops of hills, where they practiced agriculture and animal husbandry. The Lake District with its many inland waters is a unique region in Anatolia with a special climate and a rich faunal and floral ecology. The inhabitants of this region made use of these abundant resources for their economy. It seems that some people specialized in the exploitation of the natural resources from the lakes. They became fishermen, basket makers, salt and reed producers, and as a consequence of their profession they built their settlements on the shores of lakes and even on islands within. These specialized people adopted themselves to their environment in which the lakes were part of their daily lives.

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28 For settlement quantities in Western Anatolia during the Bronze Age, see Becks 2013 (forthcoming), fig. 3.

29 Bond et al. 1997; deMenocal 2001.

30 Becks 2013 (forthcoming) with further references.

31 Becks 2013 (forthcoming), fig. 5.

Catalogue of Sites

1. Suberde/Görüklük Tepe, Lake Suğla. Lake-shore site on low natural hill.
   Date: Early Neolithic (Layers III+II), mixed EBA-Ottoman (Layer I)
   Reference: Solecki 1964, 133-135, 141 (No. 23); Bordaz 1968; Harmankaya et al. 1997.

2. Alan Höyük, Lake Beyşehir. Lake-shore site on flat ground.
   Date: Late Neolithic
   Reference: Mellaart 1961, 159-160 figs. 1 (No. 5) and 5; Harmankaya et al. 1997.

3. Yılan Höyük, Lake Beyşehir. Island site.
   Date: Late Neolithic/Early Chalcolithic
   Reference: Mellaart 1954, 181 figs. 1-3, 5-11; Harmankaya et al. 1997.

4. Ortakaraviran I, Lake Suğla. Lake-shore site on flat ground.
   Date: Late Neolithic, Early Chalcolithic, EBA 1-2.
   Reference: Lloyd - Mellaart 1962, map VI (No. 252); Mellaart 1963, 209 fig. 5 (No. 129 - Ortakaraviran North); Solecki 1964, 131, 132, 141 fig. 2 (No. 26 - Küçük Hüyük / Ortakaraviran North); Harmankaya et al. 1997 (Ortakaraviran North); Harmankaya et al. 1998.

5. Senir, Lake Burdur. Peninsula site on low natural hill.
   Date: Early Chalcolithic
   Reference: Özsait 1986, 396; Harmankaya et al. 1998.

6. Kocapınar, Lake Yarışlı. Peninsula site on low natural hill.
   Date: Early Chalcolithic, EBA
   Reference: Özsait 1984, 8-9; Özsait 1986a, 77; Özsait 1991, 65; Harmankaya et al. 1998; Harmankaya - Erdoğu 2002.

7. Yenice, Lake Karataş. Lake-shore site on flat ground.
   Date: Early Chalcolithic, EBA
   Reference: Özsait 1985, 207; Özsait 1991, 63; Özsait 2005, 118; Harmankaya et al. 1998; Harmankaya - Erdoğu 2002.

8. Çallıca, Lake Yarışlı. Lake-shore site on low natural hill.
   Date: (Late) Chalcolithic, EBA
   Reference: Özsait 1977, 83-84.

9. Üzümlübel, Lake Kestel. Peninsula site on low natural hill.
   Date: Late Chalcolithic, EBA
   Reference: Özsait 1986b, 394.

10. Geneli, Lake Karamık. Lake-shore site on flat ground.
    Date: Late Chalcolithic, EBA 2-3
    Reference: Lloyd - Mellaart 1962, maps VI, VIII (No. 149); French 1968, 224 (No. 241); Harmankaya et al. 1998; Harmankaya - Erdoğu 2002.

11. Kubad-abad (Topraktol), Lake Beyşehir. Island site.
    Date: Late Chalcolithic, EBA 2-3
    Reference: Mellaart 1954, 181; Mellaart 1963, fig. 5 (No. 135); Lloyd - Mellaart 1962, map VI (No. 227); French 1968, 238 (No. 600 - Toprak Tol); Harmankaya et al. 1998 (Topraktol); Harmankaya - Erdoğu 2002; Arık 2010, 201.

12. Burun Höyük. Lake Beyşehir. Peninsula site on low natural hill.
    Date: Late Chalcolithic, EBA 2-3, MBA
    Reference: Lloyd - Mellaart 1962, map VI (No. 235); Mellaart 1963, 209 figs. 5-7 (No. 113); Solecki 1964, 141 fig. 2 (No. 13); French 1968, 220 (No. 130); Harmankaya et al. 1998; Harmankaya - Erdoğu 2002.

13. Uylupınar, Lake Gölhisar. Island site.
    Date: EBA
    Reference: Hall 1986, 187.

14. Gençali II, Lake Hoyran. Lake-shore site on flat ground (today a peninsula).
    Date: EBA
    Reference: Özsait 1990b, 383.

15. Külada, Lake Beyşehir. Island site with drowned artificial causeway
    Date: EBA
    Reference: Solecki 1964, 131, 141 fig. 2 (not numbered); Barjamovic 2011, 369-370 with footnote 1535 fig. 44.

16. Sinneli, Lake Eber. Lake-shore site on flat ground.
    Date: EBA
    Reference: - (TAY-GIS).

17. Çataltepe, Lake Eber. Lake-shore site on flat ground.
    Date: EBA
    Reference: - (TAY-GIS).

18. Kocaoğuz Höyük, Lake Eber. Lake-shore site on flat ground.
    Date: EBA, MBA-LBA (2nd millennium B.C.)
    Reference: Harmankaya et al. 2002; Afyon Arkeoloji Müzesi Map.

19. Bağra, Lake Suğla. Lake-shore site on low natural hill.
    Date: EBA 1-2
    Reference: Lloyd - Mellaart 1962, map VI (No. 250); Mellaart 1963, 209 fig. 5 (No. 128); Solecki 1964, 141 fig. 2 (No. 25); Harmankaya - Erdoğu 2002.

20. Gençali I, Lake Hoyran. Lake-shore site on flat ground (today peninsula).
    Date: EBA 1-3
    Reference: Lloyd - Mellaart 1962, map VI (No. 207); French 1968, 224 (No. 239 - Gençali-Hoyran); Özsait 1990b, 383; Harmankaya - Erdoğu 2002.

21. Homatburnu, Lake Beyşehir. Island site with artificial causeway.
    Date: EBA 1-3, MBA
    Reference: Mellaart 1958, map (No. 9 - Hozat Höyük); French 1968, 225 (No. 279 - Homatburnu); Barjamovic 2010, 15-16 (Homat Kale).

22. Yalıhüyük, Lake Suğla. Lake-shore site on low natural hill.
    Date: EBA 1-2, MBA
    Reference: Lloyd - Mellaart 1962, map VI (No. 254); Mellaart 1963, 209 fig. 5 (No. 131); Lloyd - Mellaart 1965, map I (No. 254); Solecki 1964, 141 fig. 2 (No. 28 - Yağlı); French 1968, 239 (No. 632); Harmankaya - Erdoğu 2002.

23. Kara Höyük, Lake Acıgöl. Lake-shore site on flat ground.
    Date: EBA 2
    Reference: Lloyd - Mellaart 1962, map VI (No. 26); French 1968, 228 (No. 339); Harmankaya - Erdoğu 2002.

24. Irgıllı, Lake Işıklı. Island site within riverbed of Meandros river.
    Date: EBA 2
    Reference: Lloyd - Mellaart 1962, map VI (No. 18); French 1968, 227 (No. 308).

25. Pınar Höyük, Lake Işıklı. Lake-shore site on flat ground.
    Date: EBA 2
    Reference: Lloyd - Mellaart 1962, map VI (No. 17); French 1968, 234 (No. 506).

26. Devederesi, Lake Karamık. Peninsula site on low natural hill.
Date: EBA 2
Reference: Lloyd - Mellaart 1962, map VI (No. 146); Harmankaya - Erdoğu 2002.

27. Kaşaklı, Lake Beyşehir. Peninsula site on low natural hill.
Date: EBA 2
Reference: Lloyd - Mellaart 1962, map VI (No. 237); Mellaart 1963, 209 fig. 5 (No. 134).

28. Yarıköy - Gâvur Evi, Lake Burdur. Peninsula site on low natural hill.
Date: EBA 2-3
Reference: Lloyd - Mellaart 1962, maps VI, VIII (No. 52).

29. Sundurlu, Lake Işıklı. Lake-shore site (today an island in a dam reservoir).
Date: EBA 2-3
Reference: Lloyd - Mellaart 1962, map VI, VIII (No. 13); French 1968, 237 (No. 567); Harmankaya - Erdoğu 2002.

30. Eberköyü Höyük, Lake Eber. Lake-shore site on flat ground.
Date: EBA 2-3
Reference: French 1968, 223 (No. 206); Harmankaya - Erdoğu 2002.

31. Taşköprü, Lake Akşehir. Lake-shore site on flat ground.
Date: EBA 2-3
Reference: French 1968, 237 (No. 581); Harmankaya - Erdoğu 2002.

32. Koca Höyük, Lake Suğla. Lake-shore site on flat ground.
Date: EBA 2, MBA
Reference: Lloyd - Mellaart 1962, map VI (No. 251); Mellaart 1963, 209 fig. 5 (No. 127); Lloyd - Mellaart 1965, map I (No. 251).

33. Ortakaraviran II, Lake Beyşehir. Lake-shore site on flat ground.
Date: EBA 2-3, MBA
Reference: Mellaart 1954, 192, map 3 (No. 63 - Ortakaraviran South); Mellaart 1958, map (No. 18); Lloyd - Mellaart 1962, maps VI, VIII (No. 253); Lloyd - Mellaart 1965, map I (No. 253); Mellaart 1963, 209 fig. 5 (No. 130 - Ortakaraviran South); Solecki 1964, 131, 141 fig. 2 (No. 27 - Büyük Hüyük / Ortakaraviran South); French 1968, 233 (No. 483).

34. Tolca, Lake Beyşehir. Lake-shore site on flat ground.
Date: EBA 2-3, MBZ
Reference: Lloyd - Mellaart 1962, maps VI, VIII (No. 229); Lloyd - Mellaart 1965, map I (No. 229); Solecki 1964, 141 fig. 2 (No. 4 - Tulça); French 1968, 238 (No. 598).

35. Pınarbaşı Gölü Höyük, Lake Pınarbaşı. Island site.
Date: EBA 2-3, MBA
Reference: Ormerod 1911-12, 91-94 (Bounarbashi Giöl); Mellaart 1954, 192 map 3 (No. 13); Lloyd - Mellaart 1962, maps VI, VIII (No. 195); Lloyd - Mellaart 1965, map I (No. 195); French 1968, 234 (No. 505); Harmankaya - Erdoğu 2002.

36. İskele Höyük, Lake Eğirdir. Island site with artificial causeway.
Date: EBA 2, MBA, LBA
Reference: Lloyd - Mellaart 1965, map I; Özsait 1994, 303; Özsait 2004a, 287; Özsait 2004b, 81; Harmankaya - Erdoğu 2002.

37. Yeşilada, Lake Eğirdir. Island site with natural/artificial causeway.
Date: MBA
Reference: Lloyd - Mellaart 1965, map I (Eğirdir).

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Özet

Güneybatı Anadolu - Göller Yöresi'ndeki Prehistorik Ada ve Göl Kıyısı Yerleşimleri

Güneybatı Anadolu'daki Göller Yöresi, Prehistorik dönemler göz önüne alındığında, arkeolojik açıdan en iyi araştırılmış bölgelerden biridir. Daha Mellaart'ın yaptığı yüzey araştırmalarında, prehistorik dönemlere tarihlenen çok sayıda höyük yerleşimi tespit edilmişti. Ayrıca arkeolojik kazıların yürütüldüğü Hacılar, Suberde, Erbaba, Kuruçay, Höyücek ve Bademağacı gibi höyükler, gerek mimari bulguları gerekse zengin buluntuları ile Neolitik Dönem'den Tunç Çağı'na dek bölgenin kültürel gelişimini gözler önüne sermiştir.

Bölgede rastlanan yerleşim tipleri arasında, tüm Anadolu'da olduğu gibi, en sık karşılaşılanı höyüklerdir. Bunlar aynı zamanda bereketli ovaların kenarında tercih edilen konumlarıyla, en kolay tespit edilebilenlerdir. Bir diğer yerleşim tipi, savunma kaygısıyla yüksekçe tepelerin üzerine konumlanan, tepe üstü yerleşimleridir. Bir de düzlük alanlara kurulan yerleşimler mevcuttur. Bunlar genelde ovalık alanlarda veya ovayı çevreleyen yamaçlarda konumlanır, kural olarak kısa süreli yerleşimlerdir. Bölgede karşılaşılan ve şimdiye dek pek araştırılmayan yerleşim tipi ada veya göl kıyısı yerleşimleridir. Bu tipe giren yerleşimler, özellikle güneybatı Anadolu'daki Göller Yöresi'nde, bölgeye özgü karakteristik bir yerleşim şekli olarak karşımıza çıkar. Bölgede toplam sayıları şimdilik 37 olan ada ve göl kıyısı yerleşimleri tespit edilmiştir. Bunların çoğu, göl kıyısında, göle doğru uzanan, hafif yüksekçe yarımadalar üzerinde konumlanır. Burdur Gölü gibi bazı göllerde günümüz modern sulama teknikleri ile su seviyesinin düştüğü, hatta Kestel Gölü'nde olduğu gibi bazı durumlarda göl havzalarının tamamen kurutulduğu görülürken; Beyşehir Gölü gibi bazı göllerde su seviyesinin yükseldiği gözlenir. Paleocoğrafya araştırmaları genel olarak son Buzul döneminden bu yana su seviyelerinde düşüş yaşandığına işaret eder. Post-Glazial klima optimumunda olduğu gibi (M.Ö. 6000-2000) ara dönemlerde, iklimsel değişimlerle bağlantılı olarak su seviyelerinde geçici yükselmeler yaşanmıştır. Prehistorik ada ve göl kıyısı yerleşimlerine bakıldığında, bunların kullanımı sırasında su seviyesine bağlı değişimlerin etkilerine dair iz olmadığı görülür. Buna karşın su seviyesindeki iklimsel etmenlere bağlı değişikliklerin, civar yerleşimlerin tarihine etkilerinin tam olarak anlaşılabilmesi için, bu yönde jeomorfolojik, paleobotanik, sedimental ve arkeolojik araştırmaların birbirlerini tamamlar şekilde yürütülmesi gereklidir.

Göl kıyısı yerleşimleri dışında, dokuz ada yerleşimi tespit edilmiştir. Bunlardan bazıları, doğal yollar ile bazıları ise yapay olarak karayla bağlantıya sahiptir.

Ada ve göl kıyısı yerleşimlerinin tarihlemesi, yüzey araştırmalarında ele geçen keramikler yardımıyla yapılmıştır. Bölge malzemesi, gerek Göller Yöresi'nde gerekse yakın komşu bölgelerde yapılan kazılarda bulunan ve stratigrafik katmanlardan gelen keramikler ile oldukça sağlam bir kronolojiye oturmaktadır. Ada yerleşimlerinden sadece bir tanesi kazılardan

bilinmektedir: Suğla Gölü'ndeki Suberde/Görüklük Tepe. Burası aynı zamanda, Akeramik Neolitik tabakaları ile (M.Ö. 7080-6820 cal.) bu tip yerleşimlerin şimdiye dek bilinen en eski örneğidir. Geç Neolitik Dönem'e ait, Göller Yöresi'nin doğu kesimlerinde, Beyşehir ve Suğla Gölleri civarında, toplam 3 yerleşim mevcuttur. Erken Kalkolitik'le birlikte bölgenin batısında da görülmeye başlar. Toplam 5 adetle Geç Kalkolitik Dönem'de de aynı sayıda devam eder. Ada ve göl kıyısı tipindeki yerleşimlerin sayısı Erken Tunç Çağı ile birlikte 33'e çıkmaktadır. Bunlardan 5 tanesi ETÇ 1; 22 tanesi ETÇ 2 ve 12 tanesi ETÇ 3 dönemlerine tarihlenir. M.Ö. 2. bine gelindiğinde sayının 10'a düştüğü görülür. Bunlardan 9 tanesi Orta Tunç, 1 tanesi Geç Tunç dönemlerine tarihlenen malzemeye sahiptir.

Ada ve göl kıyısı yerleşimlerinin dönemlere göre sayısal dağılımı, bölgedeki diğer yerleşimlerin sayısal dağılımı ile karşılaştırıldığında, yerleşim sayılarında yaşanan değişimlerin, özellikle Tunç Çağı'nda, doğru orantılı olduğu görülür. Erken Tunç Çağı'nda gözlenen, yerleşim sayısındaki ani farklılıkların, bölgede yaşanan iklimsel değişikliklerle ilişkili olabileceği düşünülmektedir. M.Ö. 2. binde yerleşim sayısındaki ciddi düşüşler ise, tüm batı Anadolu'da gözlenen bir durum olup, nüfusun yer değiştirmesi; değişen yerleşim politikası ve dönemin stabil olmayan siyasi-askeri durumu ile birlikte nüfusun büyük merkez kentlere taşınması ile açıklanabilir.

Prehistorik dönemlerde ada ve göl kıyısı yerleşim tipinin kurulma amacı savunma kaygısının dışında olmalıdır. Nitekim M.Ö. 2. bin yerleşimlerine baktığımızda, tüm batı Anadolu'da savunma kaygısıyla tepe üstü yerleşimlerinin sayısı artarken, ada ve göl kıyısı yerleşimlerinin sayısının azaldığı görülür. Bu tip yerleşimlerin kurulmasının asıl amacı ekonomik faktörler ve belli bazı ticari ürünlerin kazanımı olmalıdır. Göl coğrafyasında ticari meta olarak kullanılabilecek ürünler arasında balık, midye, çeşitli kuş türleri, saz ve tuz sayılabilir. Nüfusun artması ve azalmasına bağlı olarak bu ürünlere olan talep de değişmektedir. Bu iki olgu arasındaki ilişki yerleşim sayıları arasındaki ile uyumludur.

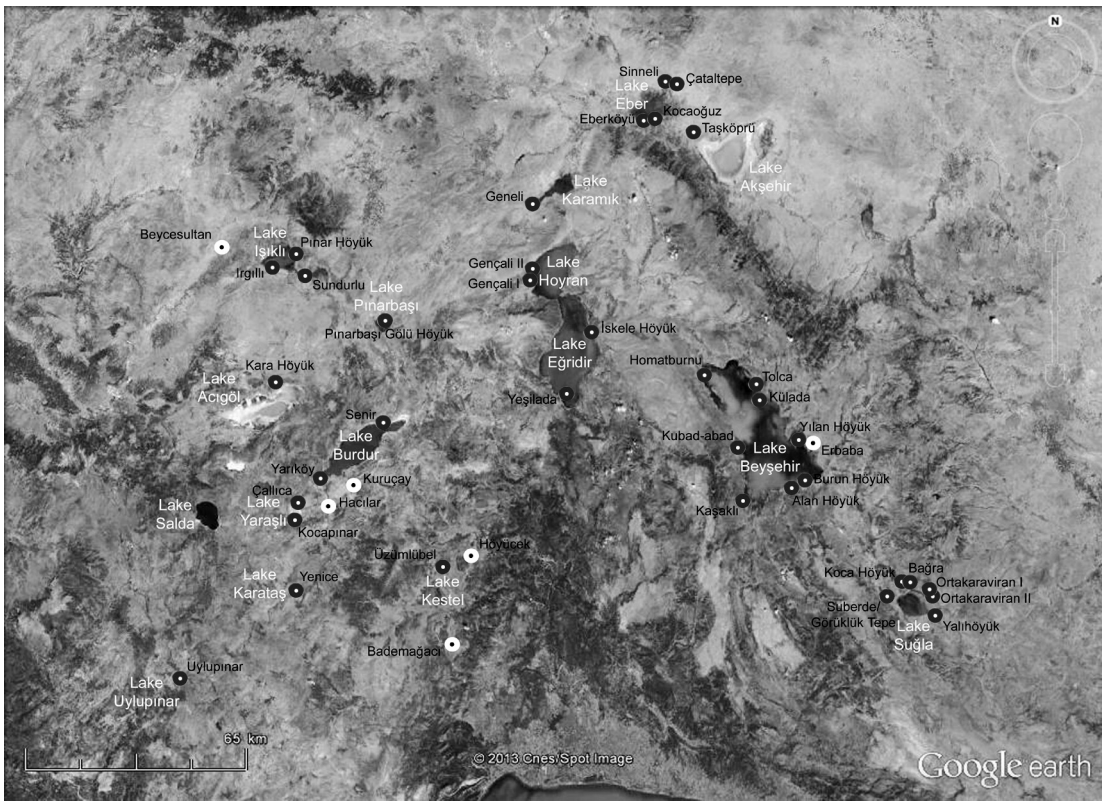

Fig. 1
Satellite image (GoogleEarth) of Lake District with prehistoric island and lake-shore sites and excavated sites.

Fig. 2
Satellite image (GoogleEarth) of Geneli, Lake Karamık – lake-shore site on flat ground.

Fig. 3 Satellite image (GoogleEarth) of Kocapınar,
Lake Yaraşlı – lake-shore site on low rocky promontory.

Fig. 4 Satellite image (GoogleEarth) of İskele Höyük,
Lake Eğirdir – island site with artificial causeway.

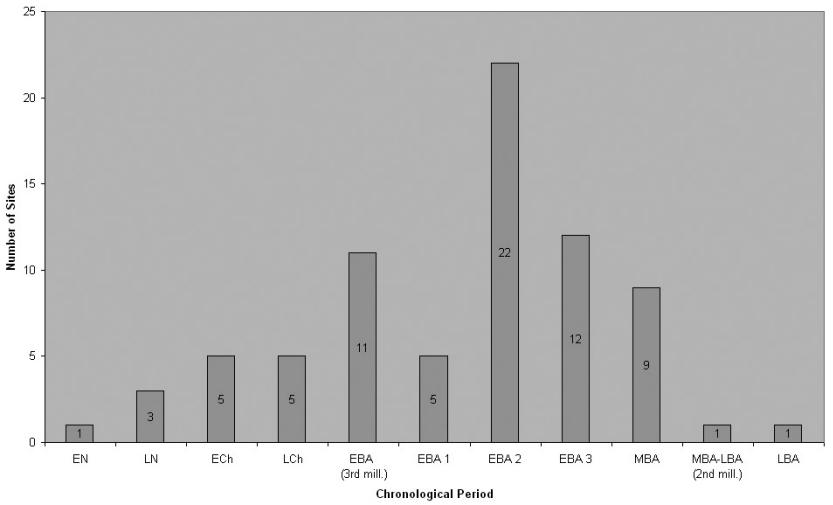

Fig. 5 Chronological distribution of prehistoric island and lake-shore sites in the Lake District.

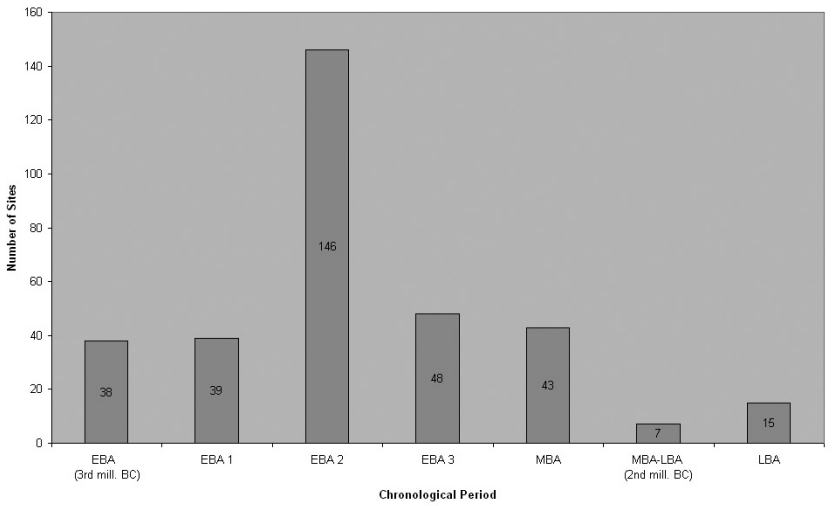

Fig. 6 Chronological distribution of Bronze Age sites (all other settlement types) in the Lake District.