

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DESTRUCTION
IN TURKEY**

YEAR 2000 PRELIMINARY REPORT

EXPLORATION TEAMS

Marmara:

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Part-time field team: Ahmet Boratav, Yüksel Dede, Burçin Erdoğan, Tarık Güçlütürk, Şenay Seba.

Logistical support team: Oktay Alper, Ahmet Boratav, Aslan Gençer, Ayşe Orhun, Enis Tartan.

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Aegean:

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Logistical support team: Oktay Alper, Ahmet Boratav, Aslan Gençer, Ayşe Orhun.

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TAY Project

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Local Municipalities

Union of the Municipalities of the Marmara Region, Union of the Municipalities of the Aegean Region, and the mayors of Balıkesir, Bilecik, Bursa, Çanakkale, Edirne, İstanbul Metropolitan, Kırklareli, Kocaeli, Sakarya, Tekirdağ, Yalova; Manisa, İzmir, Aydın, Muğla, Denizli, Afyonkarahisar, Uşak, Kütahya

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Açık Radyo, Akşam, Aktüel, AA, ATV, CNN and CNN Turk, Cumhuriyet, CBT, Dünya, Hürriyet, İHA, Kanal 7, Kanal D, Le Figaro, Le Monde, Milliyet, NTV, Posta, Radikal, Sabah, Star, Türkiye, TRT, TGRT, Tempo, Turkish Daily News, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, TV 8, Yeni Binyıl, The Washington Post

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Other Related Organizations

Central Laboratory of Restoration and Conservation , TÜBA, TÜBİTAK, YÖK

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ATLAS Magazine

With our sincerest gratitude ...

TAYEX SUPPORTERS

We extend our deepest thanks to those who have supported the TAYEx field teams, before, during and after the Marmara and Aegean expeditions.

(In chronological order)

MARMARA

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Mümtaz Başkaya	Teacher
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Mehmet Öndüç	General Manager, İkbâl
Halil Arça	Afyon Museum
Nurettin Büyüktarcan	Village executive, Dutluca
İbrahim Sezgin	Deputy Mayor, Tavşanlı
And all villagers and village executives...	

To understand what've being lost and
what need to be preserved,
what exist must be documented first...

TAY PROJECT

The primary objective of **The Archaeological Settlements of Turkey – TAY Project** is to create a detailed and easily accessible inventory of the archaeological settlements and find-spots that have been documented by the surveys and excavations in Anatolia and Thrace. The fact that no such inventory existed was the primary driving reason behind founding the TAY project eight years ago. So far TAY is the sole example of such an undertaking.

The **TAY Project** classifies and compiles all available published data on archaeological settlements in Turkey proper into a comprehensive database from the Palaeolithic period to present in a chronological order. The database contains standardized entries with detailed descriptions of the finds and their researchers' comments where available. It is made available to all scientists, researchers, related organizations and the public in general through printed and electronic media.

This ongoing "librarian's excavation" presents the otherwise scattered and often unavailable data in a ready-to-access format both in Turkish and in English since 1996. Both printed¹ and electronic² copies of the inventory of Anatolian and Thracian archaeological settlements are published progressively as the compilation and formatting processes are concluded.

The first publication containing the inventory of the find-spots, ateliers, flat settlements and cave sites of the Palaeolithic/Epipalaeolithic period was completed in 1996. This was followed by the publications of the inventories of the Neolithic (1997) and Chalcolithic (1998) periods. Currently, Early Bronze Age inventory is been prepared for publication, which will be followed by the Middle and Late Bronze Age inventories.

The efforts of the **TAY Project**, have been recognized by a number of organizations around the world . The project was cited with the **Turkish National Award** of the **Henry Ford European Conservation Awards** in 1997. **TAY Project** has been selected

¹ Harmankaya - Tanındı
1996 Archaeological Settlements of Turkey TAY 1, Palaeolithic/Epipalaeolithic, Ege Publications, İstanbul.

Harmankaya - Tanındı - Özbaşaran
1997 Archaeological Settlements of Turkey TAY 2, Neolithic, Ege Publications, İstanbul.

Harmankaya - Tanındı - Özbaşaran
1998 Archaeological Settlements of Turkey TAY 3, Chalcolithic, Ege Publications, İstanbul.

² <http://www.tayproject.org>

to appear in a CD-ROM entitled "**Millennium Guide to Cultural Resources on the Web**" attached to the **World Culture Report 2000** published by UNESCO. TAY was invited and represented in the UNESCO forum titled "**University and Heritage**" in 1998 and the **World Bank** meeting titled "**Culture Counts**" in 1998.

TAYEx (TAY EXPEDITION)

OBJECTIVES AND IMPLEMENTATION

Türkiye Arkeolojik Yerleşmeleri Projesi



While building and publishing the archaeological inventory of Turkey, the TAY Project has taken to the field in the summer of 2000 as TAYEx (TAY Expedition) to achieve the following objectives in all of Anatolia and Thrace:

- To verify the available data on all published archaeological settlements;
- To document the current condition and level of degradation/destruction of all sites and settlements (mounds, caves, rock shelters, flat settlements, tumuli, cemeteries etc.);
- To create a visual archive of the archaeology of Turkey.

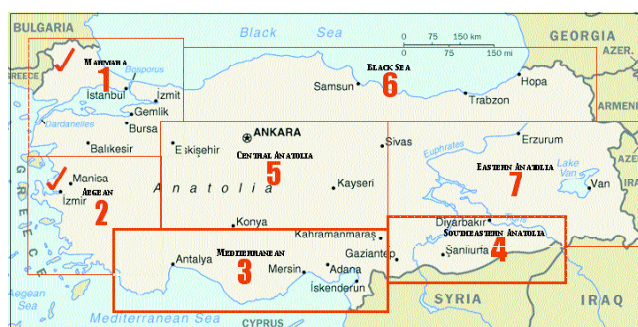
The cultural heritage must be documented clearly, thoroughly, and comprehensively before it can be preserved and protected. We believe that such documentation should identify not only what exist but in what condition they exist, clarifying the causes of degradation and destruction. More importantly, the results of such work should also be utilized to raise the official and public awareness on the issue.

Surely, the effects of the inevitable and rapid industrialization and rampant over-development of land of recent decades in Turkey should carefully be observed, documented and evaluated by scientific research of all related disciplines. TAY's underlying objective is to provide a solid reference for all archaeological research to that aim.

TAY Expedition (TAYEx) is undertaken in three phases. The first phase is the "explorative field work" during which, field teams gather data directly from the sites. During the second phase, this data compiled into printed, electronic and visual formats is shared with the local museums and other related organizations to speed up the official recognition and registration/certification process, with the intention to mobilize a rapid protection and preservation effort of a required scale. The third phase is to provide collaborative, logistical and informational support to all other local and regional archaeological research through the widespread availability of the project's findings and experiences.

TAYEX YEAR 2000 ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

TAYEx has planned the exploration to be conducted in seven regions as outlined in the map. The regions are identified by a criteria considering all sites documented by archaeological survey and excavations dating back to 1800s and the degree of urgency for protective measures needed in that region.



The standard protocol employed at each site by TAYEx field teams is outlined below:

- Exact coordinates of the site is identified by Global Positioning System (GPS)
- Detailed directions as to how to get to the site are composed.
- The site is photographed on both analog and digital media and captured on video.
- Level and description of degradation and destruction of the site, the condition of the periphery and the existing material therein are documented.
- A comparative analysis of the present condition and previously recorded data (if one exists) of the site is made and existing records are updated.
- Findings of this standardized procedure are then fed into the compilation and publication process.

The field teams routinely try to interact with the local population to promote interest in preservation and protection through the use of newsletters and flyers prepared by the project.

It is the hope of the TAY Project that this methodology can also serve as a model to other efforts of identifying and preserving cultural heritage and the environment.

TAYEx expeditions are organized in two 4-year stages. The first stage that began in the summer of 2000 will cover the period ranging from the Palaeolithic/Epipalaeolithic to the Early Bronze Ages (EBA), approximately between 400,000 to 3,000 years BC. The second stage, planned to begin in 2004 will cover the sites belonging to the Middle Bronze Age and later periods.

³ The coordinates of the sites will not be published in printed and electronic media so as not to foster treasure hunting. However, this information will be made available to all legitimate scientific research and relevant organizations as needed. This data will also be included in the "Digital Map of Archaeological Settlements of Turkey", which is due by the end of the first 4-year stage.

The first 4-year schedule of TAYEx activities are outlined below:

June - July 2000 Region 1 Marmara (Completed)	September - October 2000 Region 2 Aegean (Completed)
June - July 2001 Region 3 Mediterranean	September - October 2001 Region 4 Southeastern Anatolia
June - July 2002 Region 5 Central Anatolia	September - October 2002 Region 6 Blacksea
June - July 2003 Region 7 Eastern Anatolia	

The first year's expedition covering the Marmara and Aegean regions has proven how rapid and irreversible is the destruction of Turkey's cultural heritage. We have chosen to launch the expedition in Marmara and Aegean territories because, these are the two regions where aggressive cultivation, rapid industrialization and uncontrolled over-development have been the norm since the early years of the republic, thus demand the most urgent attention. The explorative field work of the Palaeolithic to EBA settlements in these two regions have been completed in October 2000.

The destruction in these two regions seem to have reached epidemic proportions during the last three decades. The emerging picture based on our observations of the explored sites in these regions is rather grave. Traces of civilizations dating back thousands of years ago seem to be systematically demolished with reckless abandon and with no evident consequences for the destroyers. The urgency of the situation becomes even more pronounced when considering the fact that most of the destruction is occurring on the so-called "officially registered" archaeological sites.

Reasons for destruction of the archaeological settlements are abound. However, two major factors stand apart: rapid urbanization/industrialization and aggressive agricultural activities. Both of these factors demand massive infrastructures to fuel their survival. The visible culprit of destruction is primarily this ever-expanding infrastructure. Constructions of all types including roads and highways, touristic facilities, airports, agricultural activities including waterworks, irrigation channels, land rehabilitation etc. all contribute to the relentless disfiguring and devastation of the cultural heritage. Enter illicit digging by treasure hunters, the condition becomes even more sobering. Moreover, because the inventory is not yet completed, one can never be sure exactly what have been lost.

In addition, the destructive activity documented by TAYEx is also severely disturbing the plant and animal life on and around the periphery of the archaeological sites. We hope that TAY Project's activities not only serve as a functional model for other environmental, ethnographical or architectural inventory efforts, but also promote cross-disciplinary collaborations around a common goal.

CONCLUSION

In this preliminary report we have included only a representative sampling of settlements under severe assault and those that require immediate attention due to rapid decline. All other data that do not appear in this preview will be made available in the form of updates in the comprehensive TAY databases and in the final publication which will be prepared after all seven regions are thoroughly surveyed.

TAY Project also plans to update all information on the sites that are already surveyed when they are relevant. This is part of our self-assigned and ongoing role as a "watchdog". We are determined to continuously watch over the sites we have previously documented to inform the national and international public of the present conditions of those sites. Our collective goal should be to mobilize any and all means to protect and preserve the cultural heritage.

Based on TAYEx year 2000 activities we are compelled to make the following initial proposals:

- We have identified numerous mounds that have not been officially registered/certified.

One of the first steps of preservation should be to certify all known archaeological settlements with no regard to which period it belongs or with no subjective criteria as "not worthy to certify".
- We have also encountered a large number of registered historical sites under assault; some due to no visible protective measure, some due to recent development sanctioned by status downgrading.

Protective measures employed for registered sites should be revised and diligently implemented. No historical site registration status should be downgraded.
- Once a site is excavated and its archaeological layers and deposits are exposed, it turns into an irresistible target for treasure hunters. (i.e. Beycesultan)

All excavated sites should be protected by appropriate physical measures.
- Recent discussions on whether to allow urbanized settlements on certain public properties that are known to contain archaeological remains should be concluded in favor of preservation not development.

Any such new construction effort on these lands should be deemed as criminal activity.
- TAYEx field teams have distributed newsletters and flyers prepared by TAY Project, aiming to increase awareness and promote grassroots protection and preservation efforts among the local population. The somewhat surprising success of this newsletter has proven that local population is more interested in protecting the wealth of historical heritage than otherwise may have been anticipated.

Outdated laws and regulations concerning the handling of scattered finds should be revised in favor of minimizing the red tape and maximizing the rewards involved for artifacts found by concerned citizens.

- We have noticed that local administrations have a powerful influence over the fate of the archaeological sites in their regions.

Local administrations should be mandated and supported to conduct educational and promotional activities to raise local public awareness on the issue. Exploiting the public land known to contain archaeological sites for political gains should not be tolerated.

Based on experiences of the TAYEx field teams and suggestions from concerned citizens, TAY Project has recently set up an "Informant Line" (only in Turkish) (<http://tayproject.org/tayex/ihbar.html>) to facilitate the participation of the local population in the protection efforts of the archaeological heritage. The information gathered through this channel is first verified, and then used not only to update our records, but is also conveyed to local authorities immediately.

We consider the initial motto of the TAY Project; "**information that is easily and widely accessible and updateable within an open network**" as only the first step in our collective relationship with cultural heritage. We intend to follow this adage in all phases of our work. Unlike the unfortunate and traditional isolation that most scientific research have been locked into, TAY Project deems its efforts incomplete and even futile if the information it produces and/or organizes does not reach the maximum audience through the most efficient methods and in a timely manner. TAY Project aims to be a work-in-progress, which encompasses scientific methodology, education and collaborative participation to achieve its primary objective. What we present in this preliminary report is born out of such an effort. Our earnest hope is that the dark portrayals that emerge from this report help accelerate the push towards finding solutions to the massive and unattended problems depicted here.



MARMARA REGION

EXPEDITION DATA:

Duration of expedition: 40 days (June - July 2000)
 Road traveled: 7016 km (4,359 miles)
 Surveyed provinces: İstanbul, Kırklareli, Tekirdağ, Edirne, Çanakkale, Balıkesir, Bursa, Bilecik, Yalova, Sakarya, Kocaeli
 Recorded visual data: 1224 shots of analog photograph
 825 shots of digital photograph (480 Mb)
 21 hours of video

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA:

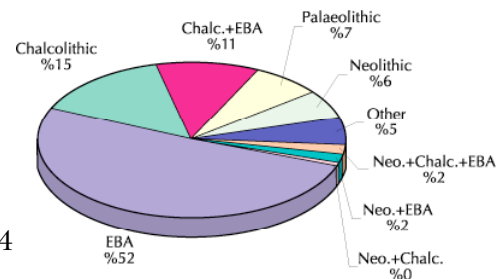
Archaeological periods surveyed:

Palaeolithic/Epipalaeolithic, Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age.

Number of target settlements:
202

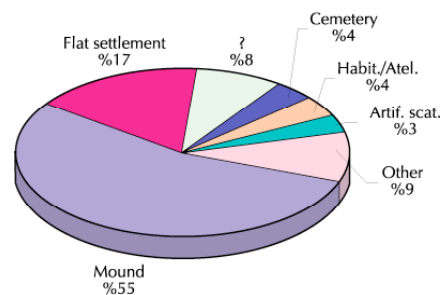
Distribution of archaeological periods over target settlements:

Palaeolithic/Epipalaeolithic: 15
 Neolithic: 12
 Chalcolithic: 30
 EBA: 103
 Neolithic + Chalcolithic: 1
 Chalcolithic + EBA: 22
 Neolithic + Chalcolithic + EBA: 4
 Neolithic + EBA: 4
 Other: 11



Distribution of settlement types over target sites:

Mounds: 110
 Flat settlements: 33
 Habitation sites/Ateliers: 9
 Cemeteries: 8
 Artifact scatters: 7
 Slope settlements: 5
 Single find-spots: 5
 Tumuli: 4
 Caves: 3
 Megaliths: 1
 Other: 17



Number of sites not visited:

13 (Sites in military zones; completely demolished sites; sites presented just by name in publications)

Number of sites not documented:

13 (Sites with scarce description of location; sites utterly destroyed by agriculture or by contemporary settlements)

Number of documented sites:

176

DESTRUCTION DATA:

Number of documented sites subject to destruction¹:

160

Distribution of types of destruction over documented sites:

Agriculture: 102

Contemporary settlements: 16

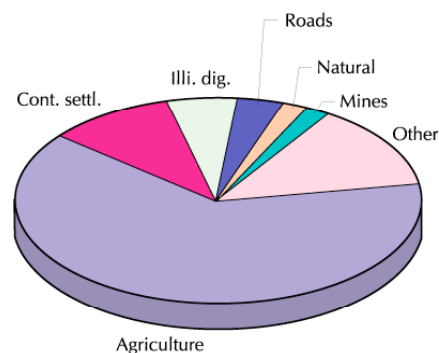
Illicit digging/treasure hunting: 9

Highways, roads, bridges etc.: 6

Natural causes: 3

Mines/quarries: 3

Other: 21



Types and description of destruction by district:

Eastern Thrace: Most common occurrences of archaeological destruction in this district are due to cultivation and other agricultural activities. Destruction caused by highways and country roads passing through or over the sites is also quite widespread. Destruction due to settlement invasion is observed primarily along the coastal areas such as Tekirdağ and Gelibolu. Also, in some cases villages, village cemeteries and water depots can be found directly upon the mounds. Nevertheless, illicit digging does not appear as a significant cause of destruction in this area.

Southern Marmara: As is the case in Thrace, agricultural activity appears to be the major course of destruction of archaeological sites here as well. Specifically, leveling of fields for cultivation and construction of irrigation channels play a predominant role. Illicit digging is also a significant occurrence, for smuggling ancient artifacts is a somewhat “traditional” economic resource for several local villages in this district.

¹ Clarification of primary causes of destruction:

Agriculture: All kinds of agricultural activity (cultivation, terracing, leveling, soil removal, irrigation channels etc.) on and around the mounds.

Contemporary settlements: Houses, hotels, recreational areas and holiday complexes, petrol stations, factories, dams, power lines, pipelines, cemeteries etc. built directly on the mounds.

Illicit digging/ treasure hunting: By locals and smugglers.

Mines/quarries: Stone, sand and lime mining on and around the mounds.

Highways/roads: Highways and country roads passing over or through archaeological sites, bridges built upon sites and soil removal from the sites to be used in the construction of such.

Natural causes: Earthquakes, forest fires, soil erosion, riverbed reformations, floods etc.

Other: Antique settlements, tumuli etc.

Northern Marmara: Contemporary settlement activities appear as the primary cause of destruction of archaeological sites and remains in this district. Agricultural activity and illicit digging, although not as frequently observed as in Southern Marmara also play a significant role.

Following is an inventory of the sites that are in a state of emergency as observed and evaluated by TAYEx 2000 team:
36 sites

(Sites that are severely damaged and/or entirely vanished are marked in black)

Site	Period	Settlement type	Province	District	Village
Yılanlık Mevkii*	Neolithic	Artifact scatter	Balıkesir	Gönen	Sarıköy
Üçpınar*	Chalcolithic	Mound	Balıkesir	Merkez	Üçpınar
İnboğazı Mağaraları*	Chalcolithic	Cave	Balıkesir	Havran	İnönü
Sındırgı	Chalcolithic	Mound	Balıkesir	Sındırgı	
Bardakçıtepe*	Chalcolithic	Mound	Balıkesir	Bandırma	Edincik
Babaköy	EBA	Cemetery	Balıkesir	Biyadiç	Babaköy
Bozöyük-I*	EBA	Mound	Bilecik	Bozöyük	Merkez
Gavur Tepesi	EBA	Slope settlement	Bilecik	Bozöyük	Dodurga
Zincirlikuyu*	EBA	Mound	Bilecik	Gölpazarı	Üyük
Yüğücek-İznik*	Neolithic	Mound	Bursa	İznik	
İnegöl I / Cumatepe*	EBA	Mound	Bursa	İnegöl	
Köprühisar*	EBA	Mound	Bursa	Yenişehir	Köprühisar
Bostın Boş Tepe*	EBA	Mound	Bursa	Yenişehir	
Değirmenlik Mevkii*	Neolithic	Flat settlement	Çanakkale	Eceabat	Merkez
Anzavurtepe*	Neolithic	Artifact scatter	Çanakkale	Biga	Bakacakköy
Kumtepe	Chalcolithic	Mound	Çanakkale	Merkez	Kumköy
Coşkuntepe	Neolithic	Flat settlement	Çanakkale	Gülpınar	Bademli
Kilisetepesi*	Chalcolithic	Mound	Çanakkale	Gelibolu	Eceabad
Baştepe*	Chalcolithic	Mound	Çanakkale	Gelibolu	Yaluva
Akbaş Şehitliği*	Chalcolithic	Flat settlement	Çanakkale	Eceabat	Yalova
Güneyli Limanı*	EBA	Unknown	Çanakkale	Evreşe	Güneyli
Hanay Tepe*	EBA	Mound	Çanakkale	Merkez	
Hantepe	EBA	Mound	Çanakkale	Ezine	Odun İskelesi
Kümbet Kocabahçe*	EBA	Mound	Çanakkale	Ezine	Kemallı
Gevgiler Tümülüsleri*	Iron Age	Tumuli	Edirne	Süloğlu	Gevgiler
Kumocağı/Avarız*	Chalcolithic	Flat settlement	Edirne	Merkez	Avarız
Kırıkköy Megalitleri*	Iron Age	Megaliths	Edirne	Lalapaşa	Kırıkköy
Arpalık Tepe*	EBA	Mound	Edirne	İpsala	Tevfikiye
Çardakaltı*	EBA	Mound	Edirne	Merkez	
Yarımburgaz Mağarası*	Palaeolithic	Cave	İstanbul	Küçükçekmece	Altınşehir

Site	Period	Settlement type	Province	District	Village
Selimpaşa*	EBA	Mound	İstanbul	Silivri	Selimpaşa
Bedre Mağarası	Unknown	Cave	Kırklareli	İnece	Kayalık
Dokuzhöyük	Iron Age	Tumuli	Kırklareli	İnece	Dokuzhöyük
Tilkiburnu*	Chalcolithic	Mound	Kırklareli	Merkez	Nacak
Toptepe (Tekirdağ)*	Chalcolithic	Mound	Tekirdağ	Çorlu	Marmara Ereğlisi
Yalova/Göztepe	Neolithic	Flat settlement	Yalova	Merkez	Samanlı

* Following are photographs and portrayals of the destruction witnessed at these sites.

SELECTED VISUAL DOCUMENTATION OF DESTRUCTION (MARMARA)



Yarımburgaz Mağarası (cave): This c. 400,000 years old site manifesting the oldest traces of human settlements in Turkey to date. Treasure hunters have dug large sections of the floor and the walls of this cave by power tools. Buildings of the nearby town of Altınşehir have invaded the rocky ridges of the cave. The cave was once used as a movie set for a commercial movie production. Currently there is no evidence of protection or preservation as if worse is yet to come.



Selimpaşa Höyüğü (mound): c. 5,000 years old Early Bronze Age (EBA) settlement. Although it is one of the largest and most important mounds in Marmara Region, no precaution is taken against the threat of destruction. The entire surface is cultivated and a wall built right on top of the mound serves as the border between plots of land. The whole mound is surrounded closely by modern buildings.



Tilkiburnu (mound): c. 7,000 years old. 25% of the mound soil is completely removed. A road runs through the mound cutting it in half. There is also a military bunker built right on top.



Gevgililer Tümülüsleri (tumulus): c. 3,000 years old tumuli. Half of this tumulus is demolished to build an irrigation channel.



Çardakaltı (mound): c. 5,000 years old EBA mound covered by the city dump of Edirne. It is impossible to locate the site exactly.



Kumocağı/Avarız (mound): c. 7,000 years old Chalcolithic Age mound. The entire deposit has vanished due to a deep and large sand quarry.



Kırıkköy Megalitleri (megaliths): c. 3,000 years old. Surrounding cultivated fields are about to engulf the entire site so much so that only the central megaliths are left standing. This site is subject to relentless illicit digging.



Arpalık Tepe (mound): c. 5,000 years old EBA mound. The mound is completely leveled and buried beneath a rice field. Only less than a quarter of its soil deposit is left due to soil removal.



Güneyli Limanı (mound): c. 5,000 years old EBA mound. The entire mound is leveled and a parking lot is built on top.



Akbaş (mound): c. 5,000 to 7,000 years old. Mound soil is completely removed and used as filler material during the construction of the nearby highway. A military cemetery lies on one slope, while a pine grove and cultivated fields cover the rest of the grounds. There is no visible evidence of the mound anymore.



Toptepe (mound): c. 7,000 years old. Mound? Not quite! The discotheque of “Kaptan 2 Vacation Complex” instead...



Baştepe (mound): c. 7,000 years old. The surface of this quite large mound is terraced for cultivation, displacing the archaeological strata. All stone remains are removed. The current landowner has recently shaved off another 3 to 5 meters off the top of what had remained.



İnboğazi Mağaraları (cave): These c. 7,000 years old cave settlements located in İnboğazi valley are about to be flooded by the Havran Dam being built on Gelinderesi river.



İnegöl I/Cumatepe (mound): c. 5 000 years old EBA mound. Situated right in the town center of İnegöl, the mound (currently utilized as a waste dump) is surrounded by a street, the municipality and two apartment buildings which are built partially on the mound.



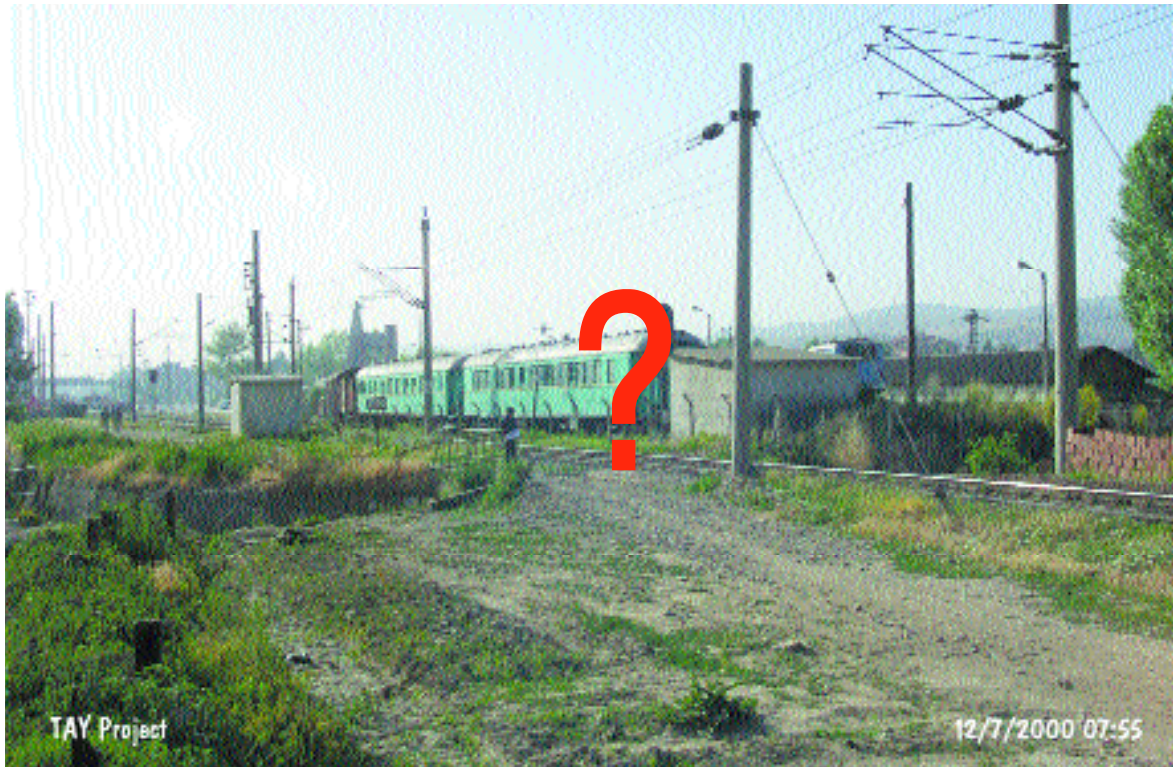
Bostin Boş Tepe (mound): c. 5,000 years old EBA mound. A public recreational area complete with kiosks, a café, and a cascading water fall feeding into a pond is what occupy the tree laden hill which was once the mound.



Bardakçitepe (mound): c. 7,000 years old. This site was once under protection as an officially certified primary archaeological site. Recently the status of this mound has been downgraded so as to permit construction. Now, thirteen apartment buildings, each 6-story high ornate this mound.



Bozöyük-I (1895-96): c. 5,000 years old EBA mound. Published by A. Körte. Dimensions of the mound: 40 x 11 m. (From Demircihüyük Excavation Final Report).



Bozöyük-I (2000): Now replaced by Bozöyük Train Station, its name still lives on though...



Değirmenlik Mevkii (mound): c. 9,000 years old. This mound, completely leveled, lies within the private grounds of Anati Bosfor Mussel Processing Plant.



Hanay Tepe (mound): c. 5,000 years old EBA settlement. First, excavation using dated methods by Schliemann then, massive soil removal for agricultural purposes have left this mound totally disfigured. Only three relatively higher grounds on the western, southern and southeastern corners of the site have survived the onslaught.



Anzavurtepe (mound): c. 9,000 years old. Most of its soil is removed and its surface is terraced for agriculture. Any surviving archaeological deposits have slid down to the skirts. A road curves along the slopes and the top of the mound hill while a petrol station sits on top of what probably was the Neolithic Age settlements. The mound bears scars of massive illicit digging.



Yügücek-İzник (mound): This c. 9,000 years old mound, originally measuring three meters high, is reduced down to only one meter. Apple orchards and six abandoned construction sites on the top, and ever increasing finished buildings on the eastern slopes complete the scenery...



Kilisetepe (mound): This c. 7,000 years old Chalcolithic Age mound located atop a hill stands in the middle of a populated quarter of a modern town. There is not a trace of the remains of the old church that was once on top of the mound and bombed during the First World War. Instead, on the southwestern corner, sits a water depot surrounded by a cement platform. A water line distributing water to the habitation quarters below run through the mound's archaeological deposit and is visible throughout the exposed and eroded cross-sections of the mound on the southern slope. This slope has also been scarred relentlessly by treasure hunters, the dirt road climbing to the water depot and erosion. The western slope is completely cut away. Another dirt road climbs up the northern slope where buildings have reached almost to the top of the mound. Relay antennae have been erected on the northwestern corner.



Kümbet Kocabahçe (bath, mound): c. 5,000 years old. This settlement lies in the cultivated fields and orchards where a small antique city was established. Ruins associated with a bath are found on top of the higher ground which probably represents an Early Bronze Age mound. Stones from the antique ruins are used as building material for the border walls of the orchards. A large, deep pit dug by treasure seekers lies next to just such a wall.



Köprühisar (mound): c. 5,000 years old. During the sixties half of its deposit has been removed to be used as filler material to construct a haphazard dike on the banks of the routinely overflowing stream nearby. The southern and eastern sectors of the mound are completely cultivated. A field track cuts through the northern slope.



Üçpınar (mound): c. 9,000 years old. To the east of the mound runs the main highway. The mound has been invaded by modern buildings from the west and northeast. A hospital and a parking lot will be constructed directly atop the mound. The surface has already been leveled.



Yılanlık Mevkii (mound): c. 9,000 years old. A country road and an irrigation channel running alongside it cut its skirts. Archaeological artifacts are observed in the soil piled in the channel. The site has suffered massive destruction due to agricultural and settlement activities, mostly visible on the northeastern sector. The whole vicinity is leveled for cultivation and irrigation. Power poles are erected directly over the mound.



Zircirlikuyu (mound): c. 5,000 years old EBA settlement. One of the largest mounds with its top razed and its soil removed from some sectors. Severe damage is observed due to irrigation activities throughout. A cement wall runs to the north and a gravel road cuts through the west. The western sector has the look of a garbage dump with mounds of gravel left over from the road construction, broken glass bottles and the like. It is ironic that this severely destroyed mound is actually an officially registered “primary archaeological site”.



AEGEAN REGION

EXPEDITION DATA:

Duration of expedition: 35 days (September - October 2000)
 Road traveled: 9909 km (6,157 miles)
 Surveyed provinces: Manisa, İzmir, Aydın, Muğla, Denizli,
 Afyonkarahisar, Uşak, Kütahya
 Recorded visual data:
 1085 shots of analog photograph
 970 shots of digital photograph (560 Mb)
 22 hours of video

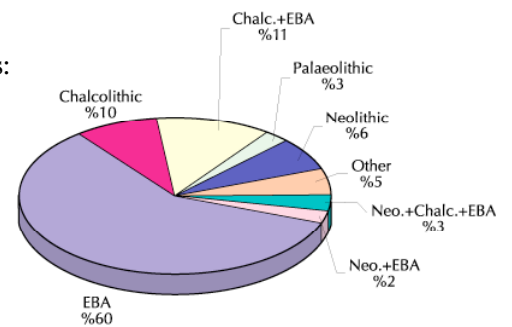
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA:

Archaeological periods surveyed:
 Palaeolithic/Epipalaeolithic,
 Neolithic, Chalcolithic and EBA

Number of target settlements:
 204

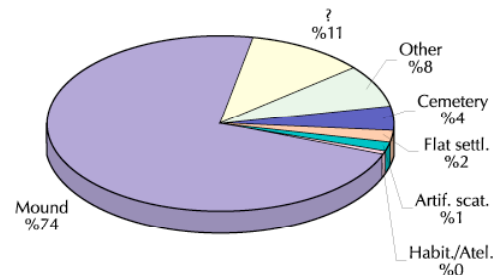
Distribution of archaeological periods over target settlements:

Palaeolithic/Epipalaeolithic: 6
 Neolithic: 13
 Chalcolithic: 20
 EBA: 120
 Chalcolithic + EBA: 22
 Neolithic + Chalcolithic + EBA: 7
 Neolithic + EBA: 5
 Other: 11



Distribution of settlement types over target sites:

Mounds: 148
 Cemeteries: 9
 Flat settlements: 5
 Single find-spots: 4
 Mounds with cemeteries: 4
 Artifact scatters: 3
 Caves: 3
 Flat settlements with cemeteries: 2
 Slope settlements: 2
 Habitation sites /Ateliers: 2
 Other: 22



Number of sites not visited:

16 (Sites in military zones; completely demolished sites; sites presented just by name in publications)

Number of non-documented sites:

8 (Sites with scarce description of location; sites utterly destroyed by agriculture or by modern settling)

Number of documented sites:

180

DESTRUCTION DATA:

Number of documented sites subject to destruction:

139

Distribution of types of destruction over documented sites:

Agriculture: 71

Contemporary settlements: 29

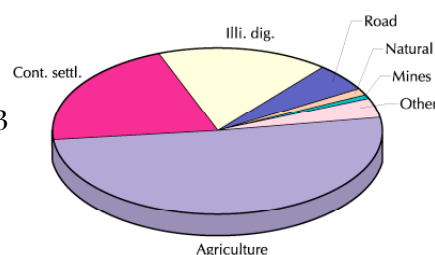
Illicit digging/treasure hunting: 23

Highways, roads, bridges etc.: 8

Natural causes: 2

Mines/quarries: 1

Other: 5



Types and description of destruction by district:

Aegean Coast: The main factor in destruction of archaeological sites is agricultural activities with a rate of almost 70% within the coastal district. Contrary to popular belief and although several large cities like İzmir, Manisa, Aydın and Muğla populate this area, settlement activities and illicit digging are to be blamed only for a small percentage of the destruction for the northern and middle parts of this region. However, modern settlements as a primary cause of destruction becomes pronounced toward the southern tip of this region. (e.g. Muğla).

Aegean Inland: Cultivation and other agricultural activities comprise the highest rate of destruction with 52%. Illicit digging is the second important factor followed by modern settlements and construction activities. Though rare, usage of archaeological sites as modern cemeteries and construction of dams are other causes of damage.

Following is an inventory of the sites that are in a state of emergency as observed and evaluated by TAYEx 2000 team:

48 sites

(Siyah olarak gösterilenler tümüyle tahrip edilmiş, yok olmuş ya da el değmemiş arkeolojik dolgusu kalmamış yerleşmeler)

Site	Period	Type	Province	District	Village
Şahitler*	EBA	Mound	Afyonkarahisar	Merkez	
Başmakçı*	EBA	Mound	Afyonkarahisar	Başmakçı	Merkez
Bozan*	EBA	Mound	Afyonkarahisar	Dazkırı	Bozan
Çobanlar Kadiyük*	EBA	Mound	Afyonkarahisar	Merkez	Çobanlar
Eğret*	EBA	Mound	Afyonkarahisar	Merkez	Anıtkaya
Ekinova	EBA	Mound	Afyonkarahisar	Kızılören	Ekinova
Karaoğlan Mevkii*	EBA	Mound	Afyonkarahisar	İhsaniye	Yaylabağ
Kusura	EBA	Mound	Afyonkarahisar	Sandıklı	Doğansu
Menteş	EBA	Mound	Afyonkarahisar	Kızılören	Menteş
Sandıklı	EBA	Mound	Afyonkarahisar	Sandıklı	Merkez
Şuhut Hisar Höyük*	EBA	Mound	Afyonkarahisar	Şuhut	
Hamidiye-Nazilli*	Neolithic	Mound	Aydın	Nazilli	Hamidiye
Kavaklıkahve*	Neolithic, EBA	Mound	Aydın	Bozdoğan	Kavaklı
Dedekuyusu/Deştepe	Chalcolithic, EBA	Mound	Aydın	Merkez	
Alamut	EBA	Mound	Aydın	Bozdoğan	Alamut
Üsgebi*	EBA	Mound	Aydın	Bozdoğan	Yakaköy
Haşattepe*	EBA	Mound	Aydın	Germencik	Kızılcapınar
Bahçetepe	EBA	Mound	Aydın	Sultanhisar	
Toygar-tepe/Hamidiye*	EBA	Mound	Aydın	Nazilli	Toygar
Eşikçitepe*	EBA	Mound	Balıkesir	Burhaniye	
Kızıftlığı/Trikopi Çiftlik*	EBA	Mound	Balıkesir	Gömeç	Merkez
Yeni Yeldeğirmeni Tepe*	EBA	Mound	Balıkesir	Ayvalık	Altınova
Beycesultan*	EBA	Mound	Denizli	Çivril	Kocayaka
Çivril	EBA	Mound	Denizli	Çivril	
Karakurt	Neolithic, Chalcolithic, EBA	Mound	Denizli	Merkez Karakurt	
Medet	Chalcolithic, EBA	Mound	Denizli	Tavas	Medet
Ömerli	Chalcolithic	Mound	Denizli	Çivril	Ömerli
Solmaz A	EBA	Mound	Denizli	Tavas	Solmaz
Küçük Yamanlar	Neolithic, Chalcolithic, EBA	Slope Settle.	İzmir	Merkez (?)	
Lembertepe*	Chalcolithic	Mound	İzmir	Merkez	Develi
Altuntepe*	EBA	Mound	İzmir	Menderes	
Bozköy/Höyücek*	EBA	Mound	İzmir	Aliağa	Bozköy
Çiftliktepe	EBA	Mound	İzmir	Bergama	
Helvacı Höyücek*	EBA	Mound	İzmir	Menemen	Helvacı Köy
Kabacakırı	EBA	Mound	İzmir	Torbali	Ahmetli
Pınarbaşı	Chalcolithic	Mound	İzmir	Bornova	Pınarbaşı
Subak*	Chalcolithic, EBA	Mound	Kütahya	Emet	Subak
Kayışlar	Neolithic, Chalcolithic, EBA	Mound	Manisa	Saruhanlı	Kayışlar
Hacırahmanlı*	Chalcolithic, EBA	Mound	Manisa	Saruhanlı	Hacırahmanlı

Site	Period	Type	Province	District	Village
Mecidiye*	Chalcolithic, EBA	Mound	Manisa	Akhisar	Mecidiye
Kocagentepe*	Chalcolithic	Mound	Manisa	Akhisar	Bostancı
Akırbey Çiftlik*	EBA	Mound	Manisa	Akhisar	
Eğriköy	EBA	Mound	Manisa	Merkez	Eğriköy
Paşaköy-2	EBA	Mound	Manisa	Saruhanlı	Paşaköy
Rahmiye II	EBA	Mound	Manisa	Akhisar	Rahmiye
Süleymanlı	EBA	Mound	Manisa	Akhisar	Süleymanlı
Yortan	EBA	Cemetery	Manisa	Kırkağaç	Gelembe
Banaz Höyük	EBA	Mound	Uşak	Banaz	

* Following are photographs and portrayals of the destruction witnessed at these sites.

SELECTED VISUAL DOCUMENTATION OF DESTRUCTION (AEGEAN)



Akırbey Çiftlik (mound): c. 5,000 years old. Early Bronze Age (EBA) settlement. The mound, with village houses, barns, pens etc. on its northern slope, lies in a territory of Hellenistic/Roman ruins.



Altıntepe (mound): c. 5,000 years old. EBA settlement. Most of the mound's deposit is destroyed as a result of agriculture and terracing.



Başmakçı (mound): c. 5,000 years old. EBA settlement, with a school building on the left and apartment blocks on the right which cover almost the entire surface of the mound. It was once planned to construct a highway through the mound. Though it seems that such plans are suspended for now.



Beycesultan (mound): One of the most important Chalcolithic and EBA sites in the Aegean Region. A crucial reference point for Aegean Prehistory and Protohistory. Drainage channels pass through its eastern and southern skirts, a monumental tomb dating back to the 13th century AD (Behice Sultan Türbesi) sits atop. Although an officially certified archaeological site, the mound excavated in the sixties is subject to illicit digging now.



Bozan (mound): c. 5,000 years old EBA settlement. Almost half of the mound is cut off and its soil removed and used for highway construction in 1996. It is partially leveled to the ground and is being used as dumping ground. The northwestern sector is being cultivated and village houses are built on the northeastern skirts.



Bozköy Höyücek (mound): c. 5,000 years old EBA mound. Although officially certified as an archaeological site, the eastern section of the mound bears a deep crevice dug by a grader for treasure seeking.



Çobanlar Kadıyük (mound): EBA. A broadcasting station, a TV/radio transmitter, power towers on the top and a house on the southern slope. The eastern sector cut away by the municipality.



Eşikçitepe (mound): A broad and shallow mound dating back to the EBA. An olive orchard, a small house, a barn, and a hayloft lies atop; a single-flat building (probably a depot) right on the skirt. The northern slope is terraced.



Eğret/Maltepe (mound): A 28 years old military cemetery sits atop this c. 5,000 years old EBA mound. Numerous illicitly dug pits on all slopes.



Şahitler/Afyonkarahisar (mound): Houses on the northwest, highway on the east, city dump on the north and the east... There lies the mound!



Şuhut Hisar Höyük (mound): This mound is completely buried under a recreational park.



Hacırahmanlı (mound): c. 7,000 years old Chalcolithic Age mound, settled again in the EBA. 300 sq. meters of its surface is covered by a cement platform used for processing grapes. A house sits to the south with vineyards on the slopes.



Haşattepe (mound): An EBA mound with numerous illicit digger pits one of which is dug below the living room of the house built on top of the mound (small photograph). The western slope is leveled for agricultural purposes.



Hamidiye/Nazilli (mound): Neolithic Age settlement is entirely demolished, all of its soil removed and used for who knows what...



Helvacı Höyücek (mound): The uneven surface formed by pits and heaps of soil is the result of illicit digging that scattered the archaeological strata severely. The soil from the mound was also removed and used in the construction of the road passing through the west.



Karaoğlan Mevkii Höyüğü (mound): The deposit of the mound and the bedrock it lies on are cut away on the western sector in order to build the petrol station. A village house sits on the north east section. Cultivated fields cover the eastern slopes. Intense modern settling is observed to the west.



Kavaklıkahve (mound): This seriously damaged mound bears cultural deposits from c. 8,000 BP to 2,000 BP. Half of it is razed down to enlarge the agricultural fields. A deserted house, a power pole and numerous illicit digger pits can be found atop and around.



Kocagentepe (mound): A Chalcolithic Age mound disguised as a farm complete with the house, the pen, the greenhouse and the melon fields... A deep crevice dug to plant trees runs through the western slope.



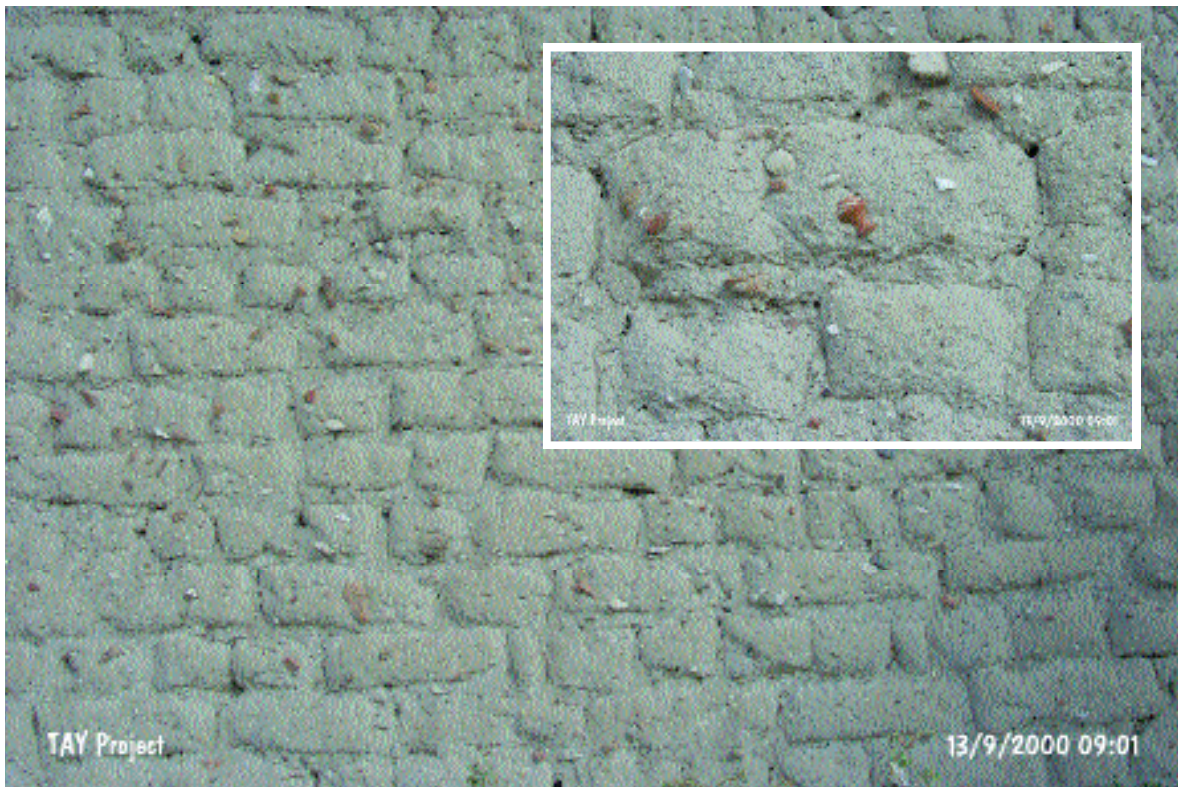
Kızçıtlığı/Trikopi (mound): c. 5,000 years old EBA mound with a bereft farm on the top. Surrounding summer houses are threatening the integrity of the site, the skirts of which are partially destroyed already.



Lembertepe (mound): Chalcolithic Age mound. Kuşadası - Menderes highway cuts through the middle of the mound and the sections left on both sides are covered by greenhouses and cultivated fields.



Mecidiye (mound): Modern village houses lie atop the mound surrounded by walls and other buildings.



Mecidiye (mound, detail): The soil of the mound with archaeological inclusions is used as construction material for the modern village houses built right on top the mound.



Subak (mound): A huge destruction pit on the northern slope; the surface cultivated; the eastern, northern and western slopes completely cut away...



Toygartepe (mound): A large EBA mound with a tumulus atop. The eastern slope is razed parallel to the road and the irrigation channel running alongside. A fissure, over 40 m of length along the northeast-southwest axis was dug by bulldozers under official sanction with permit! Later on, deeper pits were illicitly dug into the fissure.



Üsgebi (mound): The southern and the southeastern sectors of this c. 5,000 years old EBA mound are completely destroyed for cultivation.



Yeni Yeldeğirmeni Tepe (mound): A water reserve consisting of two structures built on top and a country road cutting through the EBA settlement from west to south have almost completely destroyed the mound.