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Extensive Survey Report, 2007

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The goal of our reconnaissance work in 2007 was to continue the study of the EKAS region by hiking around informally (i.e., not survey) in areas of the territory that we had not surveyed intensively in 1999-2002. The goal of this was to determine whether other parts of the Isthmus produced the same continuous carpet of high artifact densities that were noted near Isthmia and at the Kromnian crossroads. We were also interested in making note of any important surviving architectural remains in our territory. Both goals were part of our continuing work in the Eastern Korinthia with the primary objective of understanding the territory better and as part of a longer-term Gazetteer project.

In general, all new areas of the Isthmus that we walked around in this year produced the same moderate to high artifact densities of previously surveyed EKAS units. However, we noted that the higher elevations on the slopes of Mt. Oneion (Units 8503 & 8504) produced more discrete, localized and better-preserved clusters of AR-HE remains than did the plain below, which was a continuous carpet of artifacts. In my opinion, the previously surveyed EKAS discovery units of 1999-2002, along with the new data from this year, demonstrate conclusively that the area of the Isthmus between Corinth town and Kenchreai/Isthmia is a continuous carpet of moderate to high density artifacts, that represent buildings and land use dating from the Archaic to Late Roman periods. This leads to three recommendations for future reconnaissance hiking of this kind:

1. There is little value in recording additional density data for the Corinth-Kenchreai corridor for the future. However, it would be worthwhile to continue to record the abundant architectural remains of this part of the territory, which line the sides of agricultural fields of the Isthmus.
2. There would certainly be value in walking more around the lower slopes of Oneion.
3. As for the Isthmus, we should really take a closer look at the coastal plain between the main EKAS transect and the Lechaion Gulf. This is a part of the Isthmus that has received very little previous attention. Certainly, heavy sedimentation will have affected discovery of new sites, but it is worth a closer examination.

In the 2003 field season, we used the 8000 unit sequence to designate Revisit Survey Units. For the new kind of extensive survey unit in 2007, we begin a new sequence in the 8500 series. This sequence of units represents newly surveyed territory from the 2007 field season onward.

Notations & Abbreviations:

WP = Waypoints (saved as shape files by date)

CK / KW = kitchenware; FW = fineware; CW = combed ware; SGW = spirally grooved ware;
 MYC = Mycenaean; OBC = orange with blue core; BG = black glaze; MC = medium coarse;
 ROM = Roman.

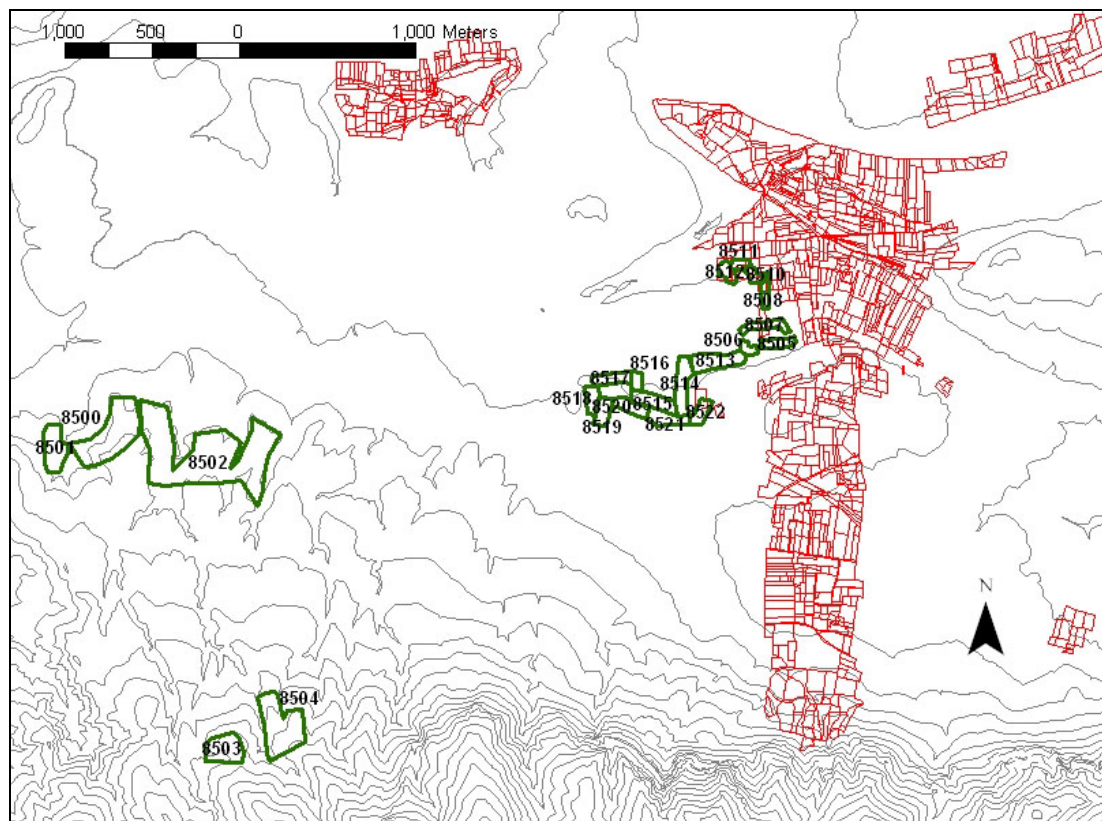


Figure showing the extensive units of 2007 (#s 8500-8522) in green outline, against the red outline of EKAS discovery units.

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

David Pettegrew, Kate Pettegrew, Jim (OSU undergrad), Bill Caraher, for two or three hours in the morning. Visited several of the ridges southeast of Corinth.

Unit 8500

Densities:

WP 107-108: low to medium artifact density.

WP 111: moderate density

Artifacts include:

Waypoints 107-108: marble revetment

WP 109: Roman and LR fineware
 WP 111: lamp fragment
 WP 112: cut blocks, Corinthian tiles
 WP 115-116: Late Roman SGW
 WP 116: CK Ware, Micaceous pottery, Roman FW rim (shiny slip: may be early)
 WP 120, 123, 131: SGW
 WP 132: pithos fragment, SGW

Comments: the view of Corinth town would be invisible from here. Can see Sicyonia beyond, but the village is invisible behind a low ridge east of Acro.

Unit 8501

Densities: moderate density

WP 136: ARS; CK ware handle
 WP 137: Black slip, thin marble revetment
 WP 138: ARS with stamp, revetment, Byzantine Measles Ware: all photographed

Unit 8502

While David, Kate, and Jim were walking a unit, Bill Caraher walked to the east to three of the other low rises. He noted a MYC kylix stem, and some CL, and a little LR. Medium pottery densities.

Thursday, June 21, 2007

David Pettegrew and Bill Caraher, for three hours in the morning. Visited two ridges on the slopes of Oneion, defined by sharp ravines on either side. Targeted agricultural fields. These fields are some of the highest on the slopes of Oneion.

Unit 8503

Plowed young olive grove above road that runs past Patoma. Initially, we didn't find anything (WPs 1-6), but we then located several localized artifact scatters (WP 7ff)

Densities

WP 1-6: very low (ca. 8 sherds counted total, COAH)

WP 7: moderate to high density, very localized site (ca. 40 m diameter), represents an ancient building, with large well-preserved Corinthian pan tiles, and scatter of Classical pottery (painted storage jars OBC with ridges), a few cut blocks, thin FW vessel. Nothing later. Area may be scraped / bulldozed slightly downhill. This ridge has an excellent view of Acrocorinth, a good place for a villa, but has been used to dump modern construction material. Interpretation: CL-HE farmhouse, shrine?

Unit 8504

Next ridge over, two plowed fields, weedy, with 70% visibility, among the pines

WP 11-17: first field, very low density; one piece of pottery: MCAH (WP 16)

WP 18-29: second field. There are two localized moderate density scatters in the field, one at the northern end (WP 20-22), with Corinthian tile fragments, COAH (probably CL), red-BG rim sherds. 20 m diameter. Definite building of the Greek period, possibly small farm, although Corinthian tiles could indicate cult building? / The other localized scatter is at southern end (WP 29) and includes a cluster of Corinthian tile fragments and various kinds of COAH, including some BG; also cut slabs. Another Classical farm?

Thursday, June 28, 2007

David Pettegrew went out to the field with Dallas Deforest, Brian Swain, Andrea Long (OSU undergrad), and Rachel Berry (Australian undergrad) to introduce students to the Isthmus, provide an overview of survey archaeology, and walk through some fields immediately west of the western border of EKAS survey units, immediately west-northwest of the Perdikaria Ridge. We visited three areas—two units south of the road to Hexamilia and one unit to the north of the road. Artifact densities throughout these fields (mainly olive groves) were moderate to high, with plentiful material from ER, LR, and AR-CL periods.

Unit 8505

Artifact Scatter in olive grove and vineyard.

WP 4-6: ancient marble revetment fragments, BG sherds, SGW

WP 7-8: OBC, cut stone blocks, Corinthian tiles, marble revetment, AR pottery

WP 10-13: ARS imitation, BG tile

Unit 8506

Olive grove, vineyard, and weedy field:

WP 16-18: cut stone blocks, medium densities, ER Fine ware?

WP 20-23: Rectangular building, possibly in-situ wall?, oriented east-west. There is a definite line of stones that appears to represent a wall, although it is also possible that farmers have simply removed the building debris from their field and created a field wall with the stones. However, about 15 meters to the north, there is a single cut block that may be the remnants of a northern wall parallel to the southern wall. In the southern wall, we found a large rim of a limestone vessel (>.50m diameter), possibly a perirhanterion rim (photographed), monumental cut stone blocks, fragments of mortar floor with pebble stones embedded (photographed). Definitely a building here in antiquity, perhaps AR-CL in date. Should revisit this area.

Unit 8507

Other side of the road, working back to the car. Again, moderate densities with pottery of different historic periods.

WP 28-36: Roman FW, SGW, Combed Ware, WRW.

WP 37: A fieldhouse at the end of a drive to a modern country house reuses numerous ancient cut stone limestone blocks, plastered over with mud mortar. Really interesting!

Monday, July 2, 2007

Walking north-northwest from the plowed field site up the low rise that runs just south of the line of ancient quarries. Walked through five different areas, all of which overlap in part (but not exactly: there is some new coverage) with regular discovery units (#s 2276-2281, 2283, 2285-2287) surveyed in the 2001 season—I didn't realize we were rewalking former units until I plotted the points in the GIS.

Unit 8508

Point 43: CW, marble revetment

WP 48-53: high density: OBC, CL BG, AR FW?, LR CW

Unit 8509

WP 53-65: mod. density, with various coarse wares, OBC

Unit 8510

WP 67: sarcophagus fragment

WP 69: slab

WP 73: cut stone

WP 77-80: cut slabs, ancient bricks, pottery, significant debris. There must have been a building here.

Unit 8511

WP 82-90: moderate density. CW

Unit 8512

WP 97: building debris pile

WP 100-107: moderate density

Wednesday, July 4, 2007

Unit 8513

WP 1-2: moderate density, many cooking ware, coarse ware sherds; CW, marble revetment

WP 2-3: vineyard, lower density; CL FW (skyphos rim); coarse wares.

WP 5-7: olive grove. moderate density. CW, marble revetment, cut block, SGW, Cooking ware, coarse ware

WP 7-9: grain stubble. coarse wares, cooking wares, CW, several cut stones, CL FW, slabs, huge pithos rim

WP 10-12: olive grove, moderate density

WP 12-13: vineyard. Cut stones on northern and western ends. Roman FW, cooking pot rims, CW, many kinds of coarse wares

Unit 8514

WP 14-21: weedy field, with mix of modern and ancient debris. A pile of blocks at WP 16 represents a collapsed modern field building, but the building used some ancient blocks. In the field around this pile are LR FW (PHW? Rouletted), Corinthian Tiles, Pithos fragments (OBC)

Unit 8515

WP 27-33: low density area. LRA handle; marble revetment; coarse wares

WP 34-44: olive grove, high density, a lot of pottery. Marble revetment, LR 1 handles, Koan type handles, some cut stone on southern end.

Unit 8516

WP 45-50: line of cut slabs and blocks; CW; ROM FW

Unit 8517

WP 50-54: low density

Unit 8518

WP 55-58: many artifacts noted: BG, CW sherds, coarse wares, painted roof tiles, BG lamp, Koan type amphora

Unit 8519

WP 59-62: many artifacts noted, similar to unit 8518

Unit 8520

WP 62-66: moderate-high density; cut block (WP 64); CW

Unit 8521

WP 67-72: moderate-high density. SGW, CW, coarse wares, marble revetment, ROM FW

Unit 8522

WP 73-77: ROM FW