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Extensive Team Final Report, 2001

Eastern Korinthia Archaeological Survey

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This season marked a significant advance in the methods employed by the Extensive Team. In the previous season the largely impressionistic nature of EDU data produced an unsystematic strategy for recording this information. The problems with this were obvious. It was essentially impossible to organize this information for analysis or interpretation. For the 2001 season, the Extensive Team employed a more systematic recording strategy with an eye toward producing data that, while still impressionistic in nature, could be easily filed along side, if not in true concert with, the data collected through LoCA or DU survey. To this end, the Extensive Team recorded many of their observations on traditional DU forms, entered the data in the DU database, and digitised the areas investigated in the project's GIS. Due to the inevitable variety in the type of information collected and the exact methods employed, this data is of uneven quality. In general, I would not endorse direct comparisons between EDU data and data collected through intensive survey, although it might be tempting to do so. The EDU data has no geomorphological controls. Furthermore, many of the EDUs were not sampled systematically. That is to say, we did not necessarily walk straight swathes at consistent intervals on account of variations in the terrain and limitations on resources. I have noted in the comments field of the survey method page in the DU database where we walked irregular spacing or circuitous swathes.

In cases where it was practical SUIR forms were recorded for artefacts found in the field. When possible individual's with specific knowledge of specific periods were consulted on the exact chronology of the material. Often, the pottery noted was unidentifiable coarse and medium coarse wares with the occasional tile fragment. The ChronoType system ensured that the Extensive team could record some information concerning all the pottery identified in the field even if my knowledge of the pottery rarely exceeded the most coarse chronology.

The first page of some 25 N-LoCA forms were filled out for areas which might reward addition, intensive, investigation. The length, complexity, of the full LoCA Designation and Initial Assessment Form, which ran to a remarkable 6 pages, and demanded specialized personnel and considerable time to complete made it simply impossible for the Extensive Team to complete them without significantly reducing the amount of time spent in the field and increasing the strain on already taxed GIs. In an effort to correct for this and to streamline the processing of information, a series of queries were performed on the DU database and the GIS with the assistance of L. Anderson. We then combined the information collected from these queries in a simple Access database and, with a striking increase in efficiency, produced the basic information requested on the LoCA Initial Assessment and Designation Form. In the future a more refined LoCA form constructed in concert with the data collected in the DU database will facilitate the cataloguing of areas of special interest without a significant sacrifice of valuable field time and limited resources.

In some instances the activities of the Extensive Team were not conducive to the DU form. The clearest instance of this was the walking paths and roads in the survey area. The

roads were plotted in the GIS and described in my mid season and final reports. When we noticed individual features, we recorded those areas as EDUs using DU forms. The Extensive Team Church Survey was recorded in a specific database. Close cooperation with J. Stead's Site Register project and L. Anderson, the GIS manager, has ensured that this database will integrate fully with the GIS and has produced a database structure that will allow easy retrofitting to work with Site Register as it takes shape. Finally, we maintained a field notebook to ensure that, in the unlikely case of data problems, an additional hard copy of our field data exists.

In the end, much of the best information regarding the activities of the Extensive team is not to be found in the in LoCA forms or in the DU database. I have composed careful and lengthy reports on each of the areas visited by the Extensive Team. These reports not only include information concerning perceived artefact density and features, but also have some basic analysis and recommendations for future action. These reports capture the impressionistic and often instinctive data collected by the Extensive team in a format less likely to encourage comparison with the more systematic and regular data collected by intensive field teams.