



Several general trends have emerged during the first four seasons which cast light on human settlement and activity in the survey area. We will focus on four main areas where patterns are becoming clearer, while stressing the preliminary nature of these comments.

1. *'Suburbs of Hacimusalar'*
In the first season, survey immediately around Hacimusalar Höyük (site 100) systematically defined the smaller mounds and concentrations that the 1992-93 Bilkent survey originally investigated. These include sites 101-103 and 106-110. They exist along an arc that runs from just NE of Hacimusalar Höyük (site 106) counter-clockwise to the southern extension of the mound (site 110), mostly along local high ground. This group of 'suburbs' also includes site 108, the ancient-modern cemetery along the dirt road from Hacimusalar Höyük to Sarılar (the road itself probably follows an ancient track). At that site, a concentration of Late Roman-Byzantine architectural blocks suggests a basilica or church. The material from these suburbs has represented nearly all periods, from Early Bronze Age to Late Roman. Byzantine material tends to be found further away from the mound (to the north and east), once one leaves the mound itself. Iron Age and Classical pottery is fairly rare (one Lydian sherd comes from field 1036 [site 110] to the south); most of the material is either Early Bronze Age or Roman. In addition, the areas immediately west (sites 101, 109) and especially north of the mound (site 102) show evidence of heavy industrial production, with high densities of glass slag and many fragments of basalt grinding stones. While scattered worked building stones appear in or at the edge of all these fields, there are no longer standing remains visible on the surface except at site 110, the southern extension of the mound, where low concrete walls from some monumental building(s) are visible. In general, these suburbs seem to follow the chronological patterns of intense occupation on the mound (though the suburbs seem to thrive in the Roman period particularly), while perhaps diverging from the mound in a functional sense. It is distinctly possible that there were large industrial and agricultural processing facilities around the mound, nearer the farmland and trade routes, whereas residences and public buildings may have been located mainly on the mound.

2. *Çatal Tepe*
Survey in 1999-2000 concentrated on walking the lower slopes of Çatal Tepe, the natural two-peaked hill that dominates Hacimusalar Höyük to the north. Our strategy was to survey the lower slopes, the perimeter of the hill, as far as possible to determine where material was naturally washing down the slopes of the hill. By systematically covering those slopes (we have nearly finished 100 degrees on the southern side), we can better prioritize future surveying upslope, towards pin-pointing the sources of eroded material from a site or sites on those peaks. At present, it appears that the eastern slopes were largely vacant; few fields had any pottery, and the few sherds that did appear could have been spread by manuring, as they tended to be small and worn. There were some exceptions, however. Site 120 appeared on the lower eastern slopes, and presented a large number of roof tiles and pithos fragments, indicating a building with agricultural storage. We are tentatively calling this a 'farmstead', and the material dates exclusively to the Roman period. A site with a similar profile was found during the 2000 season on the southwest slopes of the hill (site 131), suggesting scattered buildings and/or residences during the Roman period on the lower slopes of Çatal Tepe. A more intense Roman presence is evident down in the basin itself (see below).
Moving counter-clockwise, material density began to pick up around field 1240 at the southeast corner, where we also found, at its northern end, a fragment of a small limestone architectural moulding that dates to the Roman period by virtue of its tooling. As this piece must have moved down the slope from further up, it is a promising sign that some substantial place existed on the hill, one where architectural display was important. Whether that turns out to be settlement, cemetery or other remains to be seen.
Around towards the southwest, in fields 1137-1266-1269-1330-1331 (site 114/123), we located a substantial concentration of pottery, with fairly large pieces in better condition than down below in frequently-plowed fields. In general, material densities increase towards this point around the hill, and then decrease further west. At site 114/123 were present not only some Roman sherds, but also many items that appeared noticeably earlier, perhaps even Iron Age, with numerous examples of concentric circles and hatched ware (red-brown on buff). While Iron Age styles are known to be long-lived in this area, even into the Hellenistic period, the assemblages we are seeing here are clearly different in fabric, manufacture, and surface treatment from those sherds collected lower down in the plain. It is a possibility that some settlement of the Iron Age or Archaic period once existed on these slopes. They are fairly defensible, and offer a fine view of the basin and the mound. However, it remains too early for conclusions, especially as the local pottery chronology of the area has not yet been clarified. We must rely upon the excavations at Hacimusalar Höyük for a datable ceramic sequence. The other chronological concentration from Çatal Tepe at this location was of Early Bronze Age; a large collection of distinctive hand-made sherds was found in field 1269, where one transect alone produced 34 examples. These sherds were in concentrations too dense to be the result merely of wash from above; these fields may represent the lower edge of one or more settlement locations. Further fieldwork up-slope in future seasons should provide more information.
There are in fact some wall remains on the top of both Çatal Tepe South and North, discovered and recorded in preliminary fashion during the 1997 season (sites 104, 105). A plan will be made of those walls, difficult as they are to make out, so as to discern possible lines of buildings (as they seem on the S. peak) or fortifications (perhaps, on the N. peak).
Finally, two other notes about Çatal Tepe. First, a number of Byzantine sherds were found on the lower southwestern slopes of the hill, suggesting some occupation on that corner of the hill which we have not yet been able to clarify. Second, on the western side of Çatal Tepe North we found a concentration of several carinated urns, just off the northeast corner of field 1260 (site 119), with wavy-line decoration under a short collar-rim, in red-black slip on a red-buff fabric. Such items were large enough for burials, and it seemed suspicious that such a collection was found together, but the area is dense with maquis and was difficult to prospect. In sum, Çatal Tepe may have served both for settlement and burial in several periods, including Early Bronze Age and Roman, but perhaps the Iron Age as well. The hill will continue to earn intense scrutiny from the survey in future seasons. Çatal Tepe continues to earn the interest of illegal excavators as well; more pits dot the crest of the hill every year, and we observed a new, deep excavation pit near the southern top edge in 1999.

3. *The settlement on the ridge near Beyler*
In 1998, fieldwalking in fields 1121 and 1122 to the WSW of the village of Beyler revealed two large spreads of material, with stones from rough cobble-boulder walls, great amounts of pottery and tile, small amounts of glass, a fragment of *lapis Lacadaemoniae* revetment and an increase in chert material for chipped stone tools. On the basis of these finds and the large extent of the remains, as well as the thoroughly Roman pottery, site 112 was identified as a Roman villa, with site 113 perhaps part of that complex or an adjacent complex, exploiting the farmlands in the basin bottom just to the south. In 1999, fields 1297 and 1298 were walked to the east, on the west edge of Beyler, and field 1299 was walked on the west edge. In all fields, continuations of material concentrations were found. Pottery continued to be Roman, especially Late Roman, with some sherds exhibiting both comb-treatment and glaze on the same piece, and there were clear Byzantine sherds as well. Many tiles, cut stone blocks, numerous pieces of chert, glass, and another piece of polished stone revetment were collected. Combined, this material concentration now spreads in a linear fashion, ca. 50-100 m. wide, from Beyler nearly 800 meters west directly towards Hacimusalar Höyük. Site 112 was extended to the east, and a new site, 124, was added on the west. Furthermore, approximately 75 m. west of site 124, a large bull-dozed pit was discovered, around the edges of which were fragments of large limestone blocks cut for sarcophagus lids. This pit was apparently the product of illegal excavations carried out by a local family. This cemetery was designated as site 125.
Given the linear nature of the settlement along a natural low ridge that runs between Hacimusalar Höyük and Beyler, as well as the presence of a cemetery (there are also other sarcophagi near this line, i.e. sites 115 and 117), it can be supposed that a road ran along this ridge eastward from the mound. This settlement may have continued to edge eastward, eventually becoming the village of Beyler. What effect this putative settlement shift may have had on settlement at the mound is unclear. What is clear is the heavily agricultural activity (specifically grain production) that went on at this site. Trade was present too, however, as attested by the numerous amphora handles recovered from the survey. It is possible that whereas Çatal Tepe may hold important clues to understanding the origin of settlement in this part of the plain, site 112/113/124/125 may provide an epilogue to the occupation of Hacimusalar Höyük. We hope to clarify the extent of this settlement by surveying some of the remaining gaps between the mound and Beyler. Geoprospection may be of assistance in this regard.

4. *Farmsteads in the bottomlands*
The only period for which sites have been so far found below the elevation line of 1038 m. a.s.l., which may have been near the shoreline of the ancient lake/marsh southeast of Hacimusalar Höyük, is Roman. Prime examples are sites 111 and 122, a farm and a farmstead (as they have been preliminarily identified). Both display Roman pottery exclusively; both have evidence for buildings (tiles) and large storage jars (pithoi). We have also found a pottery waster near 122, as well as fragments of cement flooring and basalt grinding stones, all indicating agricultural production and storage. Both sites are well-spaced from each other, and are approximately 1 km. distant from the mound. The fact that only Roman material is found this far out into the bottom of the basin begs the question of whether the hydrology of the basin was different in the Roman period than in other periods. A prolonged climatic shift towards drier weather may have limited the extent of the ancient lakes and marshes, or perhaps the Romans deliberately made arrangements to drain the bottomland to increase arable land and agricultural production. While specific evidence for such environmental engineering is so far lacking, it is well-known that the Romans did drain large upland basins in Italy and elsewhere, proceeding to occupy the new land with farms soon after. Geomorphological and paleobotanical research programs are underway to help answer this question, amongst others.