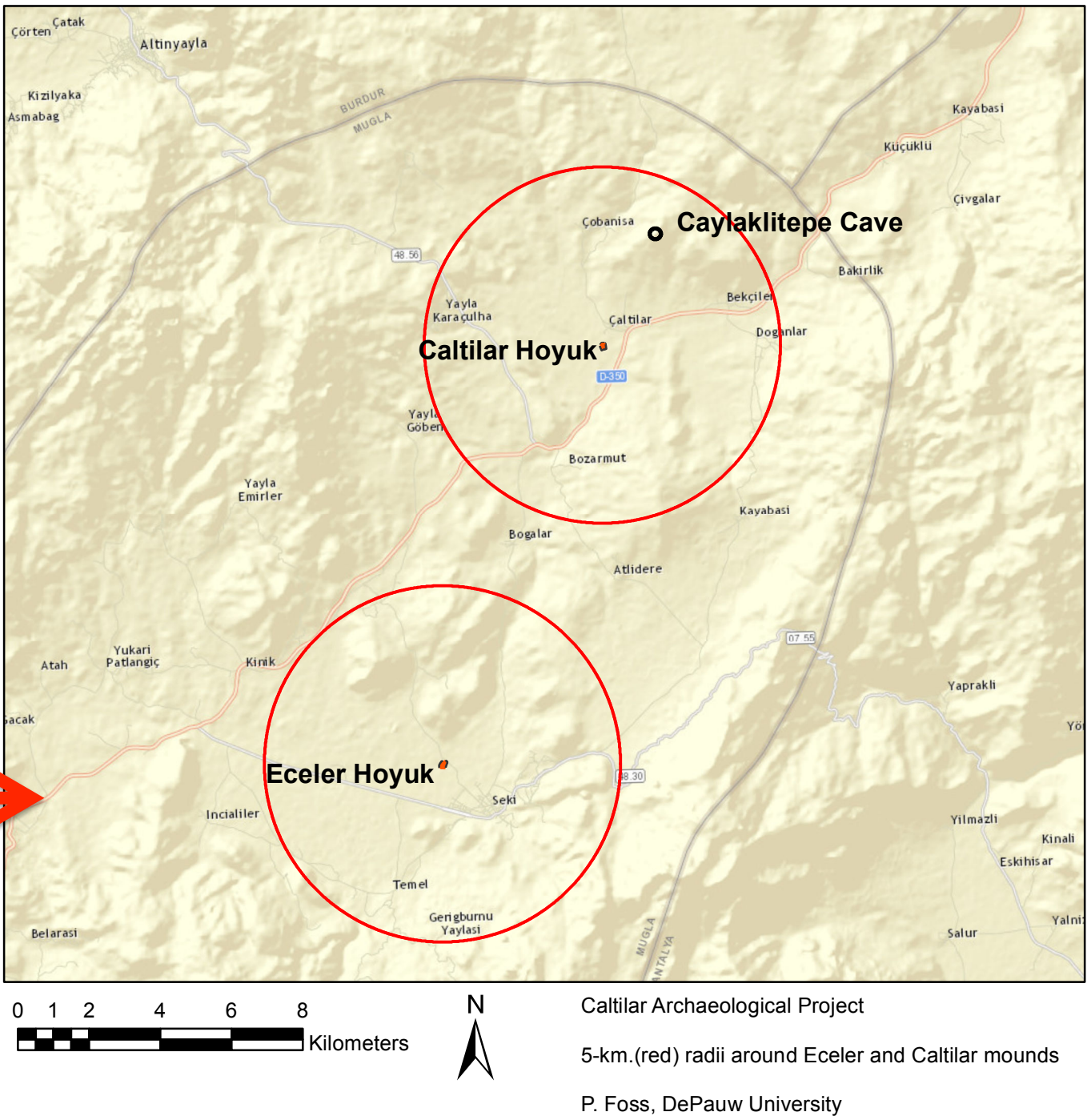
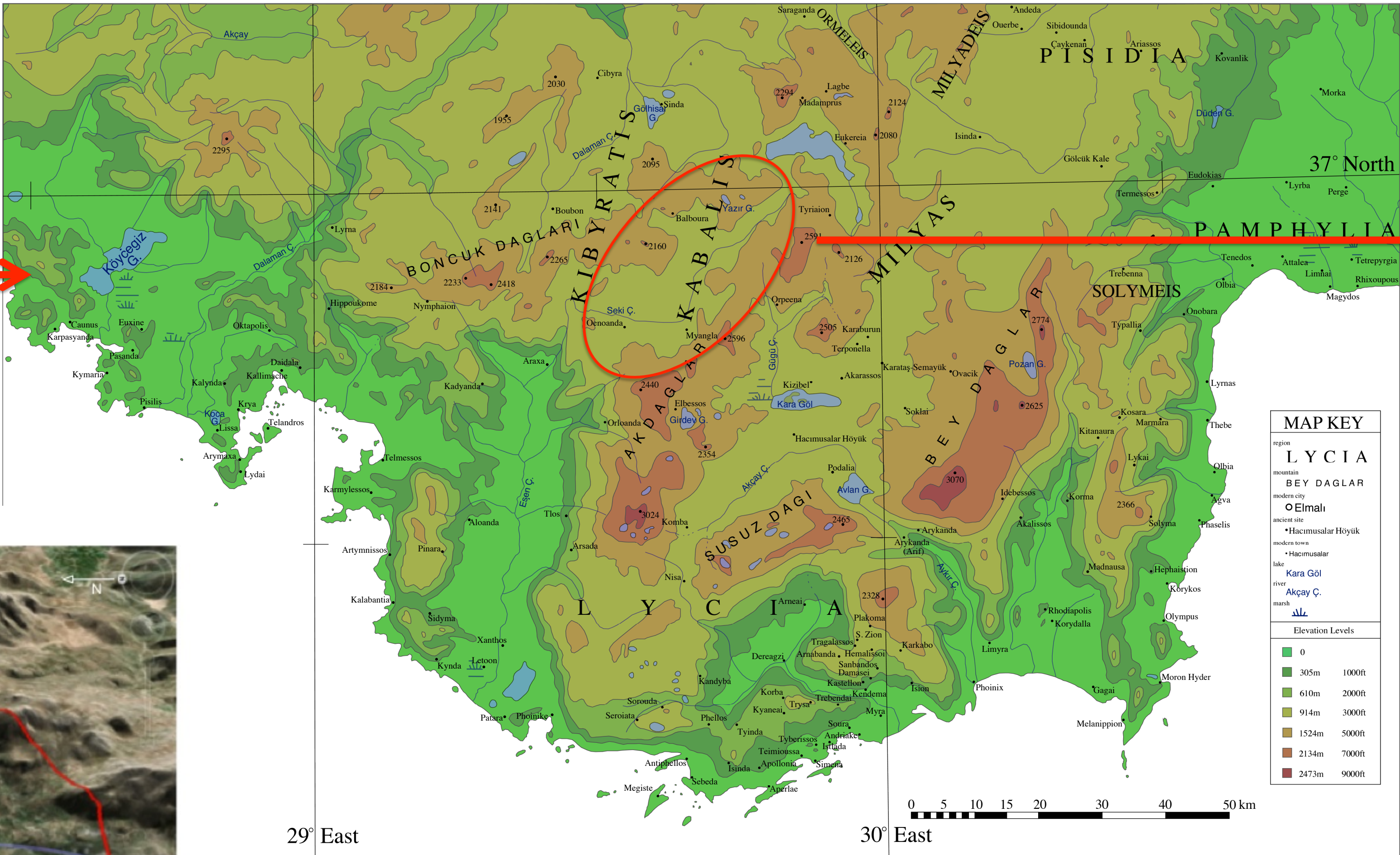


Mapping an ancient landscape on the Çaltılar Archaeological Project (northern Lycia, Turkey)

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Upper Seki Basin; basemap topography: Google Earth, accessed 24 Oct. 2011; adapted and annotated by P. Foss. North at left.



During July-August 2012, a team from DePauw participated in the Çaltılar Archaeological Project, operated by the Universities of Liverpool, Bristol, and Bursa Uludağ. Our purpose was to understand the Seki-Bekçiler basins (see maps above, at left, and upper right) through survey of the landscape, settlement sites, communication routes, and places of cult, burial, and art. For several years our British and Turkish partners have been surveying the mound-site of Çaltılar. This summer, we brought over a centimeter-resolution GPS system, the Topcon GR-5 (at left), so as to make a topographic map of another mound (Eceler) near Seki, and systematically collect pottery and finds from across that mound (through a sample of 5x5 m. squares) so we could study the periods and nature of its development (see map at right). The settlements flourished in the Bronze Age, Iron Age, and Hellenistic-Roman periods, ca. 3200 BC-AD 500.

We also found a stretch of ancient roadway west of Çaltılar, and mapped the location of an ancient sanctuary at Çaylaklitepe (Chalcolithic onwards), as well as associated rock-art reliefs of the Roman period. Due to threats of marble quarrying and road-building, looting, and deliberate vandalism at several of these locations (see photo at left), we hope to continue our work from 2013-15 to record as much of the monuments and evidence as possible before they disappear. The data is being stored and studied in ArcGIS, and we hope to get enough information in the system that we may eventually be able to undertake some predictive modeling to suggest the location of other sites in the area that are yet unknown, before they too come into danger of destruction. Meanwhile, we will also be studying the development of this area as a transition zone between the civilizations of the Anatolian plateau to the northeast, and the cultures of the coast and the Mediterranean to the south and west. For the project website and leaders, see: <http://sace.liv.ack.uk/lycia/>



Set-up for balloon photography over Eceler Mound, Seki Village



Ancient rock-cut shield relief, sundered by modern quarrying, near Eceler Mound

