

Team F Report, 2012

Kailey Rocker
B.A. in Cultural Anthropology

During the period 17 May-12 June, 2010, over the course of 22 days of fieldwork, Team F, composed of Kailey Rocker (team leader), Zamir Tafilica, Sarah James, Anisa Ani, and (for most of the season) Lorenc Bejko, Xhaneta Gjyshja as well as visiting members Dorian Kallanxhi, Dora Lambert and George Bey IV surveyed a total of 146 tracts, covering 1.6156 square kilometers. The tracts were intensively surveyed using standard Mediterranean methods. Survey was conducted at 15-meter intervals and surveyors were instructed to count all tile/brick, pottery and small finds which included but were not limited to lithics, iron tools, mill stones, iron mineral etc. and to collect any diagnostic artifacts, including all lithics. The largest tract was tract F-054 which was a total of 4.2795 hectares, the smallest (Tract F-070) which was 0.0731, and the average tract was 1.1066 hectares. Team F surveyed the hills and fields east of Team B's tracts from Site 003 in Vorfe to Kullaj. All fields as well as hills in the region were surveyed, unless the landowner objected, which was rare, or the vegetation was so dense as to make survey impractical. Average visibility was 66%, which reflects the fact that most tracts were moderate to lightly covered by maquis due to the nature of the hill-landscape. In addition to hills, fields in the area were also surveyed. The majority of the fields were lined with hay and tall grass with a few being used for cash crops such as tobacco. Landowners were rarely present during the survey due to the isolated location of the tracts; however, when present, they often expressed an interest in our project.

Team F had several goals for the 2012 field season. First of all, we hoped to locate and identify sites of all periods in the fields and hills residing between previously determined sites: Vorfe, Kratul i Madh and Kullaj. Additionally, we sought to survey all existing hills and fields along Team B's tracts from the 2010 field season in order to systematically expand the land surveyed from previous years. These goals were met during the period of regular field survey.

Results

Throughout the entire surveyed region many post-Medieval to Modern ceramics/tiles were found, which is to be expected because of their close proximity to the villages and homesteads. A substantial amount of prehistoric ceramic and tile was found east of Kullaj and north of Koder Boks to tract F-044 (see Figure 01, Figure 02). While this entire area may be connected with a Prehistoric site, after closer inspection, it has been posited that tracts F-082, F-083, F-085, F-086, F-057, F-087, F-090, F-088, F-091, F-092, F-051, F-050, F-094, F-100 and F-099 (the extreme eastern portion of the surveyed area) may indicate a large prehistoric site, which should be investigated in the 2013 field season of PASH. Additionally, many prehistoric finds were also associated with the site of Kullaj, previously site collected during the PASH 2010 field season. Very few ceramic sherds dating to the Archaic period were found. Tract F-145 contained 3-6 sherds and was located near a previously known site, Kullaj. Tracts F-083 and F-082

also had around 3 ceramic sherds/tiles as well and were located near Koder Boks. Classical ceramic and tile sherds, while poorly represented in Team F's finds for the 2012 season, were also concentrated in tracts F-145, F-083 and F-085. Very few Hellenistic/Roman ceramic/tile sherds were found with a small smattering southeast of Vorfe in tracts F-029, F-021, F-030, F-141, F-038, F-036 and F-145.

The majority of small finds were found in the region east of Kullaj and north of Koder Boks, extending to tract F-044. This area was consistently covered with a density of 1 to 13 lithics within each tract. Team F found a high density of iron ore (or iron mineral) in this region, which accounts mainly for the consistent and high number of small finds in tracts F-101 to F-146. Near tracts F-044 and F-096, red paleo soil was discovered along with higher concentrations of lithics. Also worthy of note: in tract F-062, a mostly intact Bronze Age point was discovered in a canal located in the middle of the tract.

Throughout the entire area surveyed, we found multiple holes that had mounding on the sides, indicating that they were most likely human-made. Initially, it was posited that these holes could be destroyed tumuli; however, this is highly unlikely because we never discovered any pristine or untouched tumuli in the region to indicate that there were tumuli in the area. Prior to this field season, tumuli had only been discovered largely in the plains region (such as Shtoj or Dragoc) with little to no evidence of their location in the hill area. Most likely these holes were created to hold water for animals or provide water for agricultural production. In addition to these human-made watering holes, we also found a lime kiln in tract F-099 as determined by the lime deposits and artifacts located in close proximity.

Three caves were found in the surveyed area. Two were located in close proximity to each other (one in tract F-099 and the other in tract F-100) and in a hilly area. The cave located in F-100 appeared to have caved in and there was little mobility beyond a few meters. The cave located in F-099, while small, appeared to continue. Another cave was located at the beginning of tract F-021, which was in a field. This cave was much larger with a 10-15 meter vertical drop into the cavern which appeared to continue into a larger corridor. Very few to no artifacts were found outside of these caves.

Future Goals

We would suggest that tracts F-082, F-083, F-085, F-086, F-057, F-087, F-090, F-088, F-091, F-092, F-051, F-050, F-094, F-100 and F-099 should be targeted for assessment and site collection to verify its status as a new Prehistoric site. Additionally, we would suggest that the area surveyed by Team F should be investigated more thoroughly to determine if it is a natural iron ore site, or if the high quantities of iron ore were indicative of human activity in the region. Finally, for the 2013 season, PASH should continue to survey the hills and fields east of the tracts surveyed by F this 2012 season as well as the fields southwest of sites F-074 and F-073 in the best interest of systematically closing the gap between Team B and Team F's tracts.

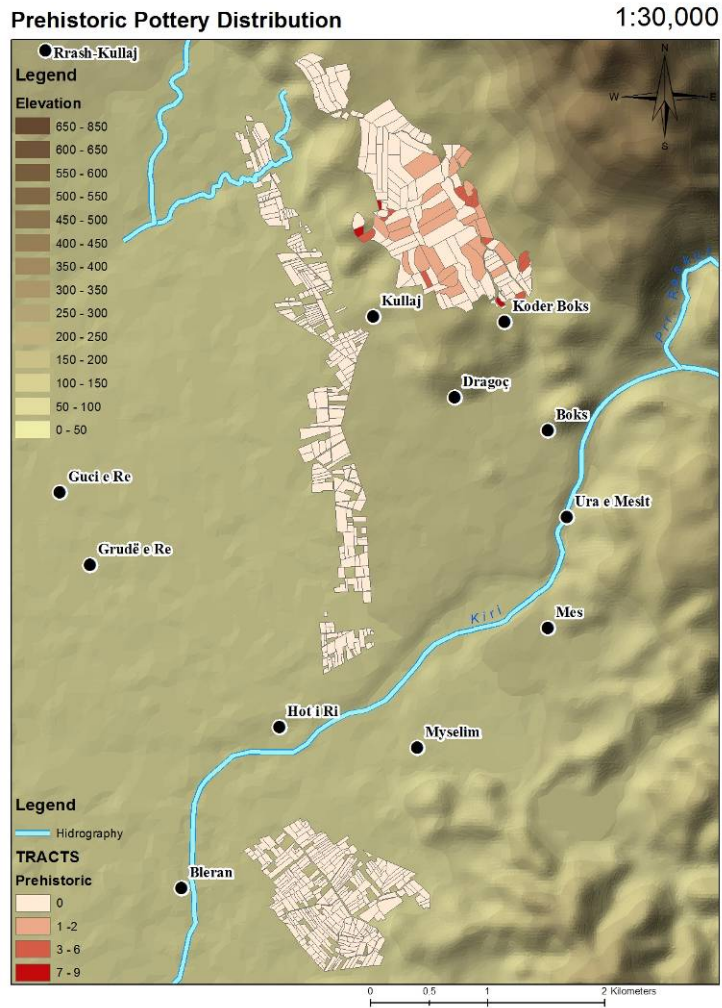


Figure 01: Prehistoric finds during the PASH 2012 field season

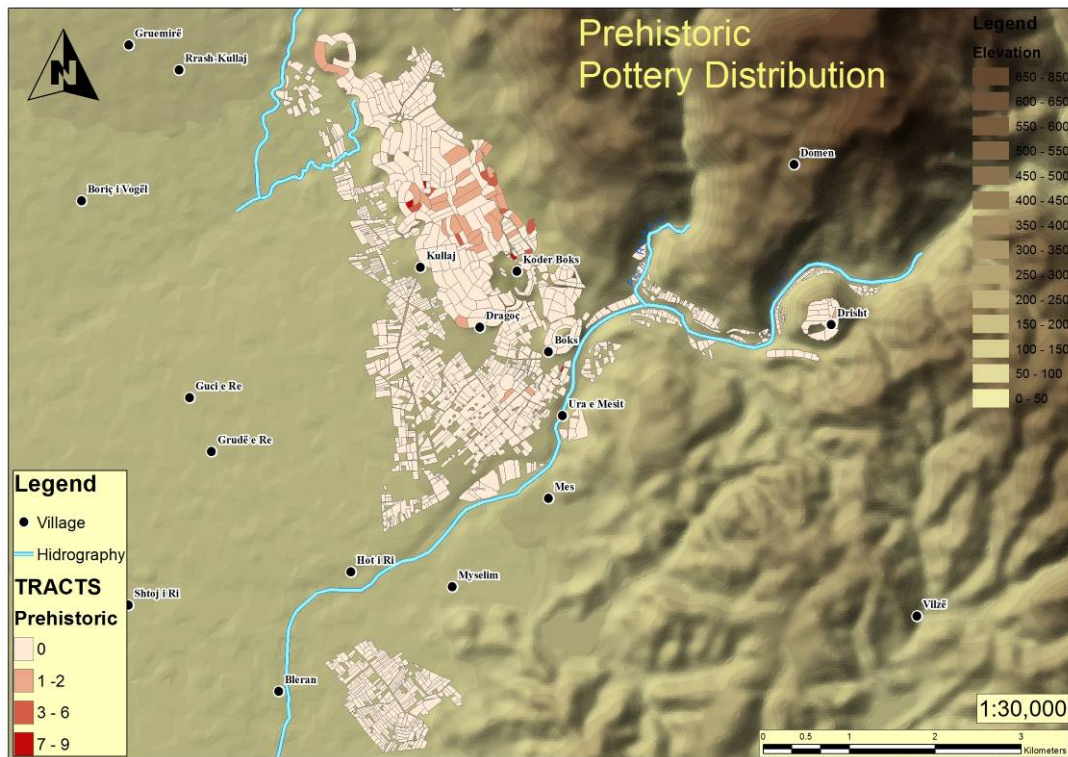


Figure 02: Prehistoric finds from the PASH 2010, 2011 and 2012 field seasons