

# Hallan Çemi Körtik Tepe

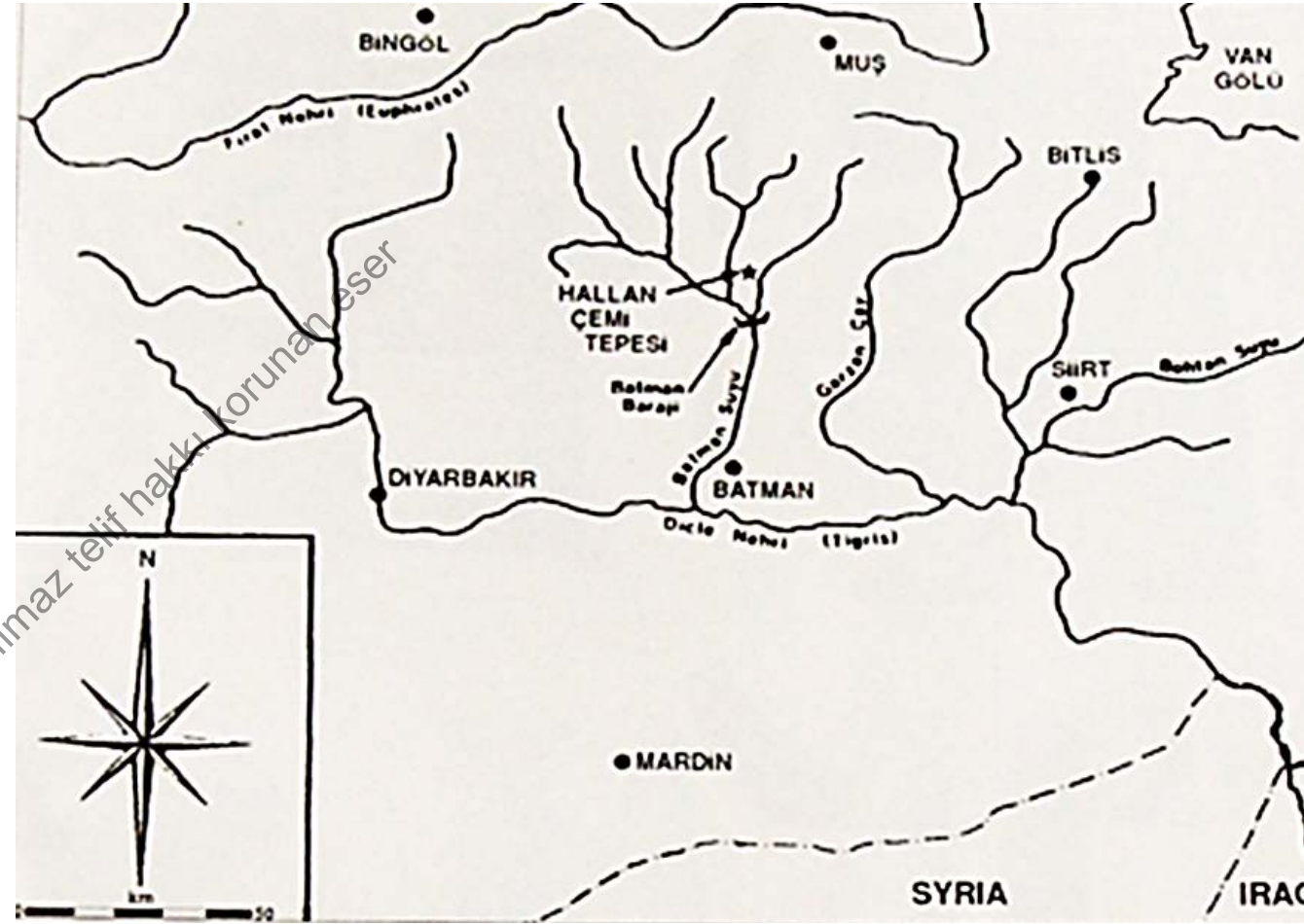
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# Hallan Çemi Tepesi

- Hallan Çemi is located Batman Province.
- It is a small stratified mound situated on the West bank of the Sason river, a tributary of the Batman river and Tigris respectively.



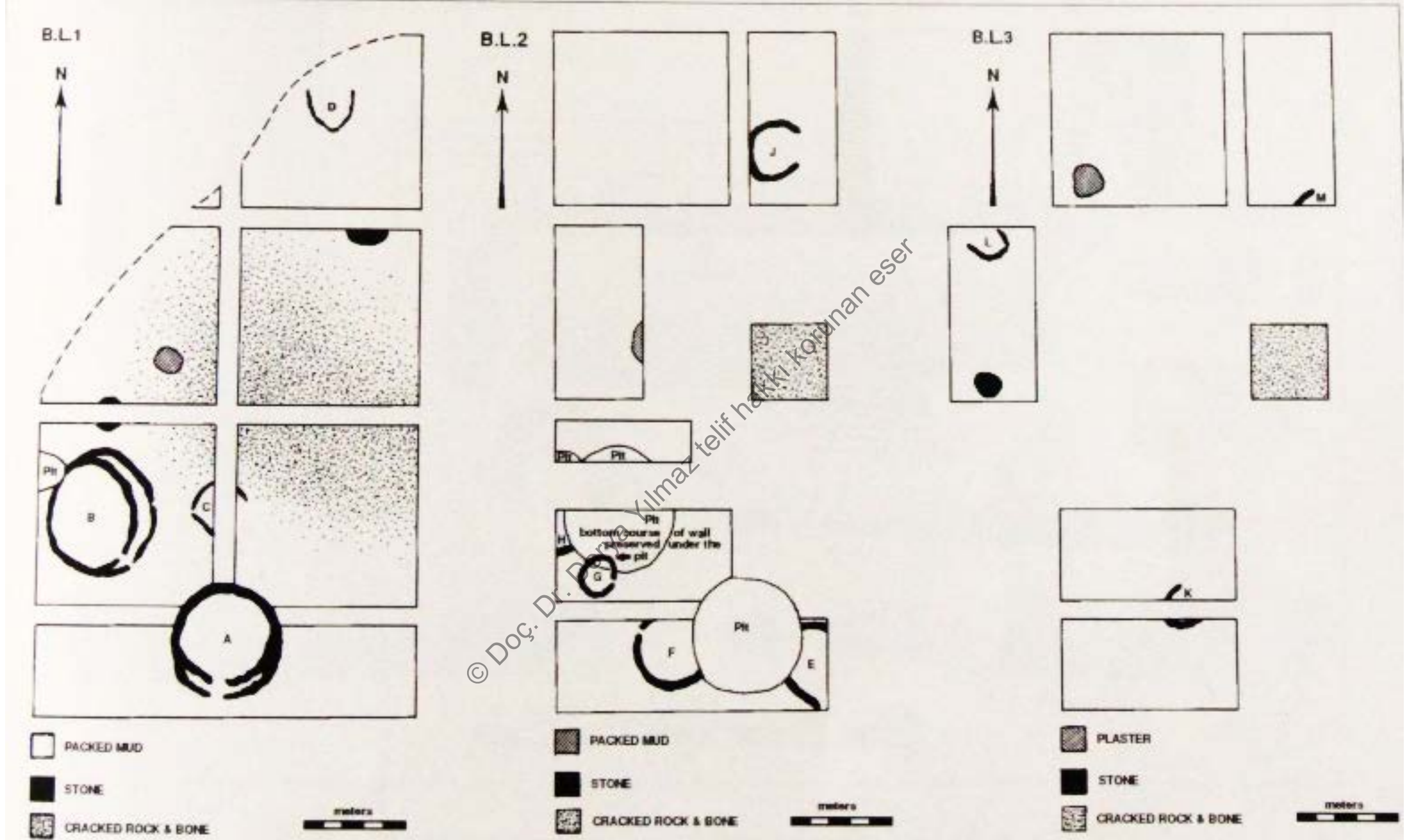
- Hallan Çemi Tepesi was discovered in 1990, during the course of archaeological surveys designed to identify sites by dam construction associated with the «Güneydoğu Anadolu Projesi (GAP)».
- Hallan Çemi was excavated under directorates of Michael Rosenberg from university of Delaware and the Diyarbakır Museum for four seasons starting from 1991.



Map of the Upper Tigris drainage showing location of Hallan Çemi

- Based on the presence of substantial architecture and the seasonal availability of the different types of animal and plant remains found at the site, Hallan Çemi was clearly occupied on a year-round basis.
- On the evidence we have from the sites of Hallan Çemi and Çayönü, it appears that the Aceramic Neolithic A cultures in southeastern Turkey remain relatively close to the Near Eastern models known from Syria and the Levant.





Sketch plans of excavated building levels, showing stone structures and platforms.





Stone bench in public building 1



Public building 1

- Community organization: the spatial layout of the Hallan Çemi Neolithic community consisted of a variety of structures and features arranged around an open central activity area that was 15 meter in diameter.





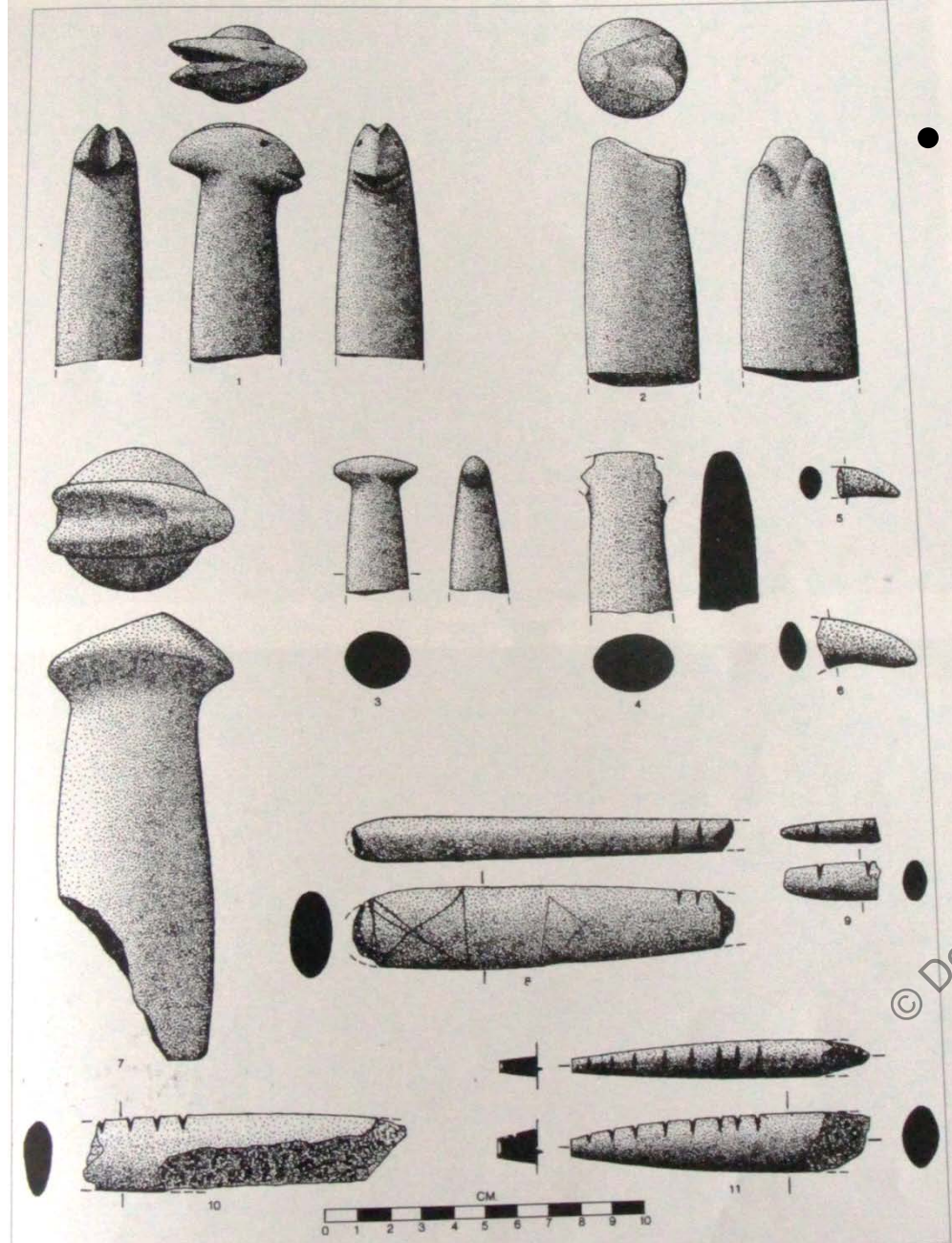
Large paved building in level 2

© Doç. Dr. Derin



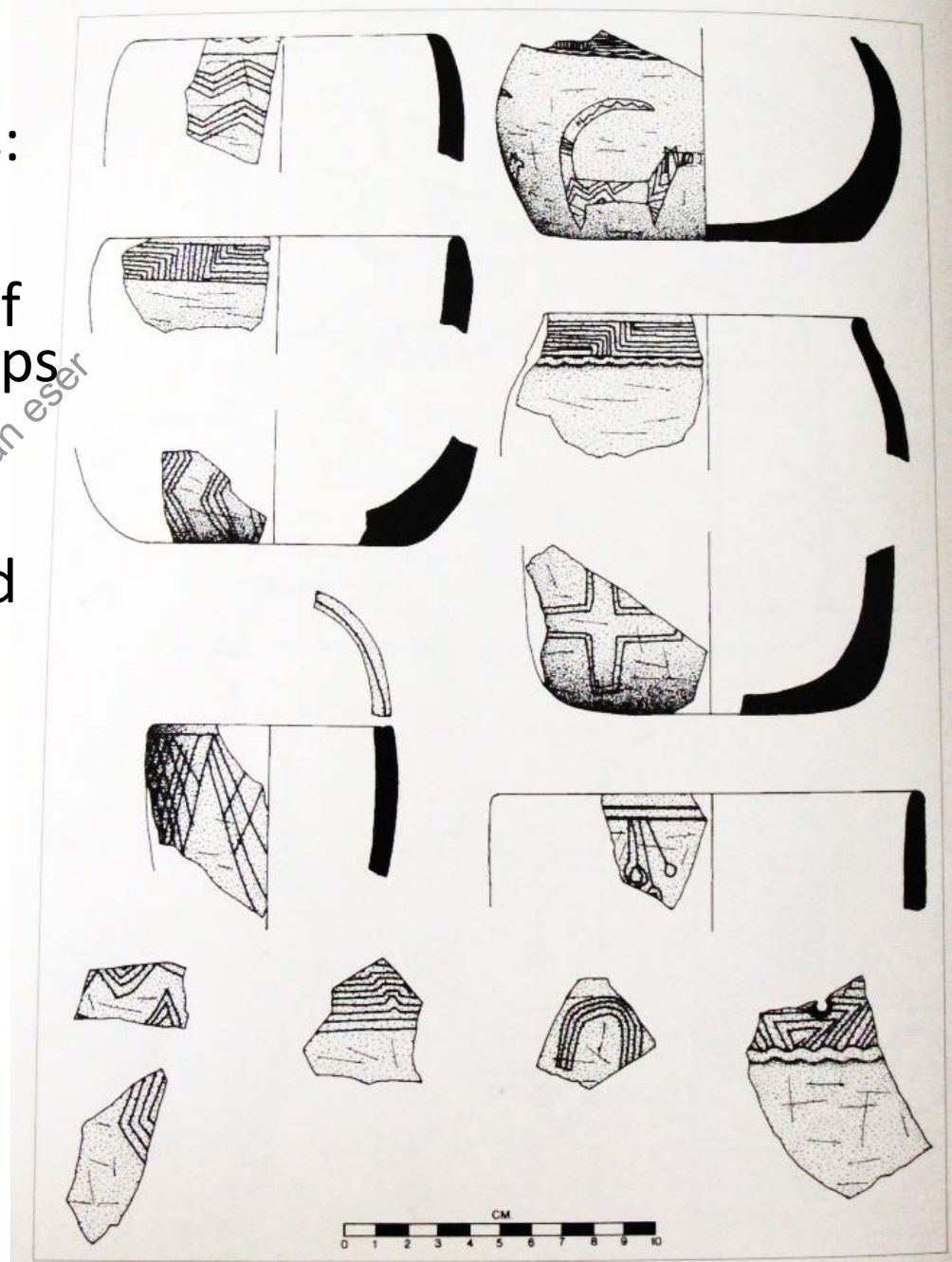
Public building 2





Sculpted pestles and notched batons

- Cultural affiliations: The finds from Hallan Çemi also contain evidence of cultural relationships to other cultures, including earlier, contemporary and later ones. Chipped stone assemblages shows a strong typological links from Zawi Chemi Shanidar.



Decorated stone bowls





Bison skull in public building



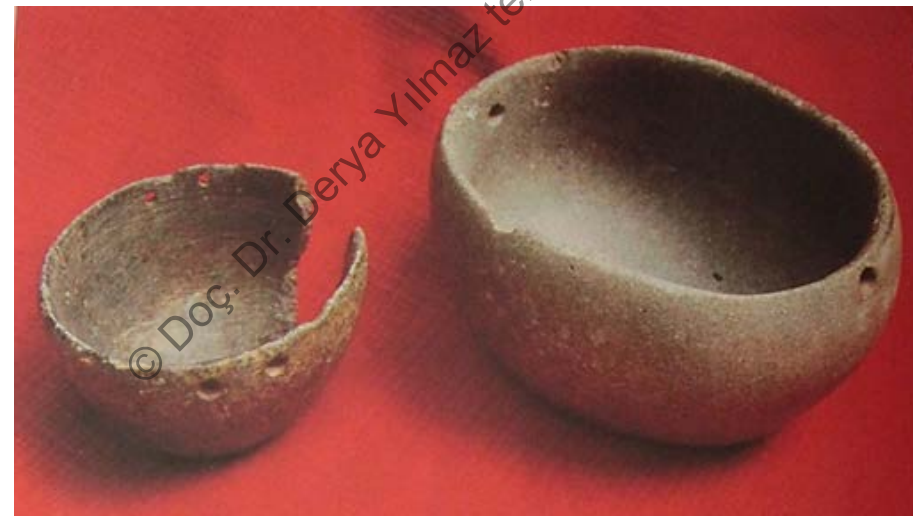
Sculpted pestles in various forms



Miniature stone horns



Carved bone snake



Stone bowls



Polished stone mace heads

- Economy: Though Hallan Çemi was occupied by a fully sedentary society, the economy of site's inhabitants was based primarily on the hunting-gathering of wild animals and plants.
- Tools were made from flint and obsidian. The closest obsidian source is Nemrut Mountain at a distance of three days (100 km). There is evidence of malachite, a copper ore, being imported and suggesting the existence of a trading network. Staples included lentils, almonds and pistachios. Whereas sheep and goat were usually the first animals to be kept as livestock by Near East communities, it appears that Hallan Çemi began with pigs.



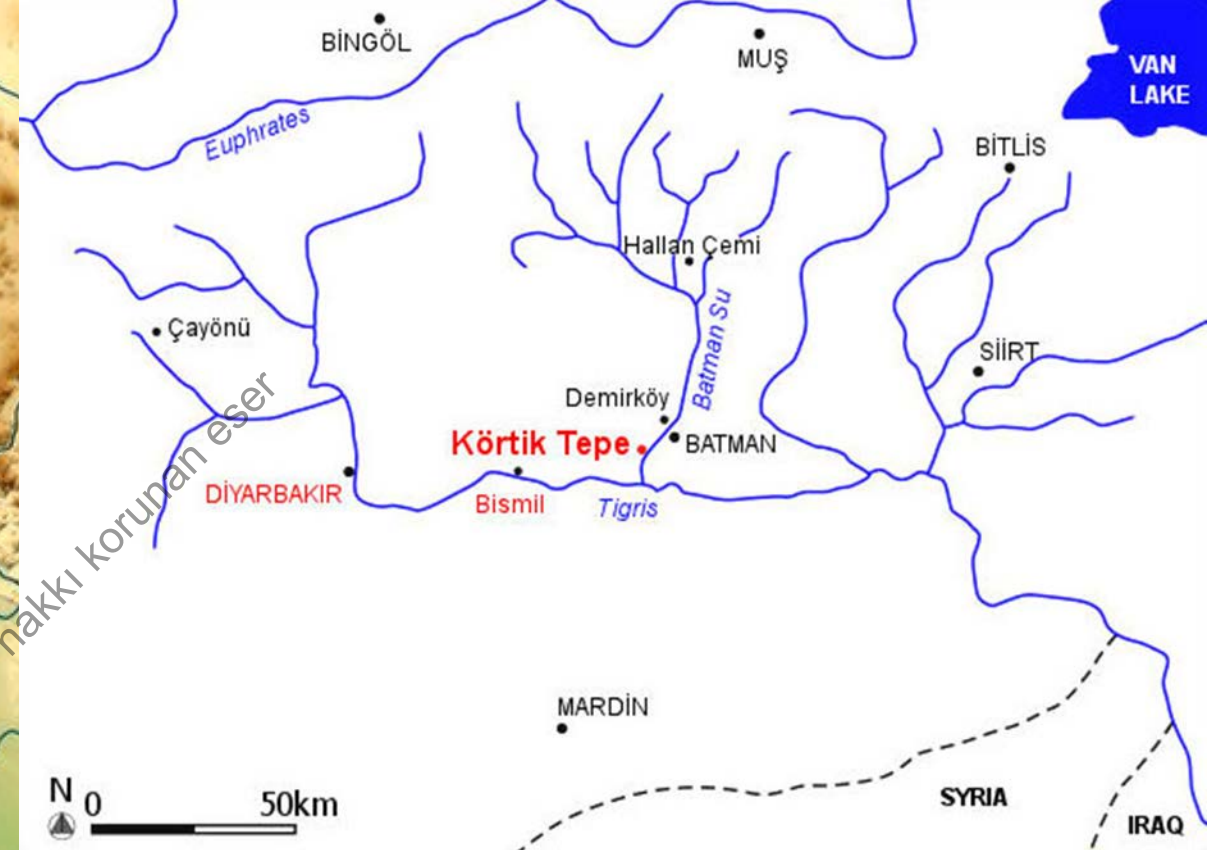


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# Körtik Tepe

- Kortik Tepe is located in the Aşağı Sazlık hamlet of Diyarbakır province, Bismil district.
- The mound was first detected in surveys carried out in 1989 and evaluated as a late site. Archaeological excavations that began in 2000 continued 18 years.
- Together with Hallan Çemi, Körtik Tepe is one of the earliest sites in which the transition from hunter-gatherer communities following a nomadic way of life to settled village life is represented.

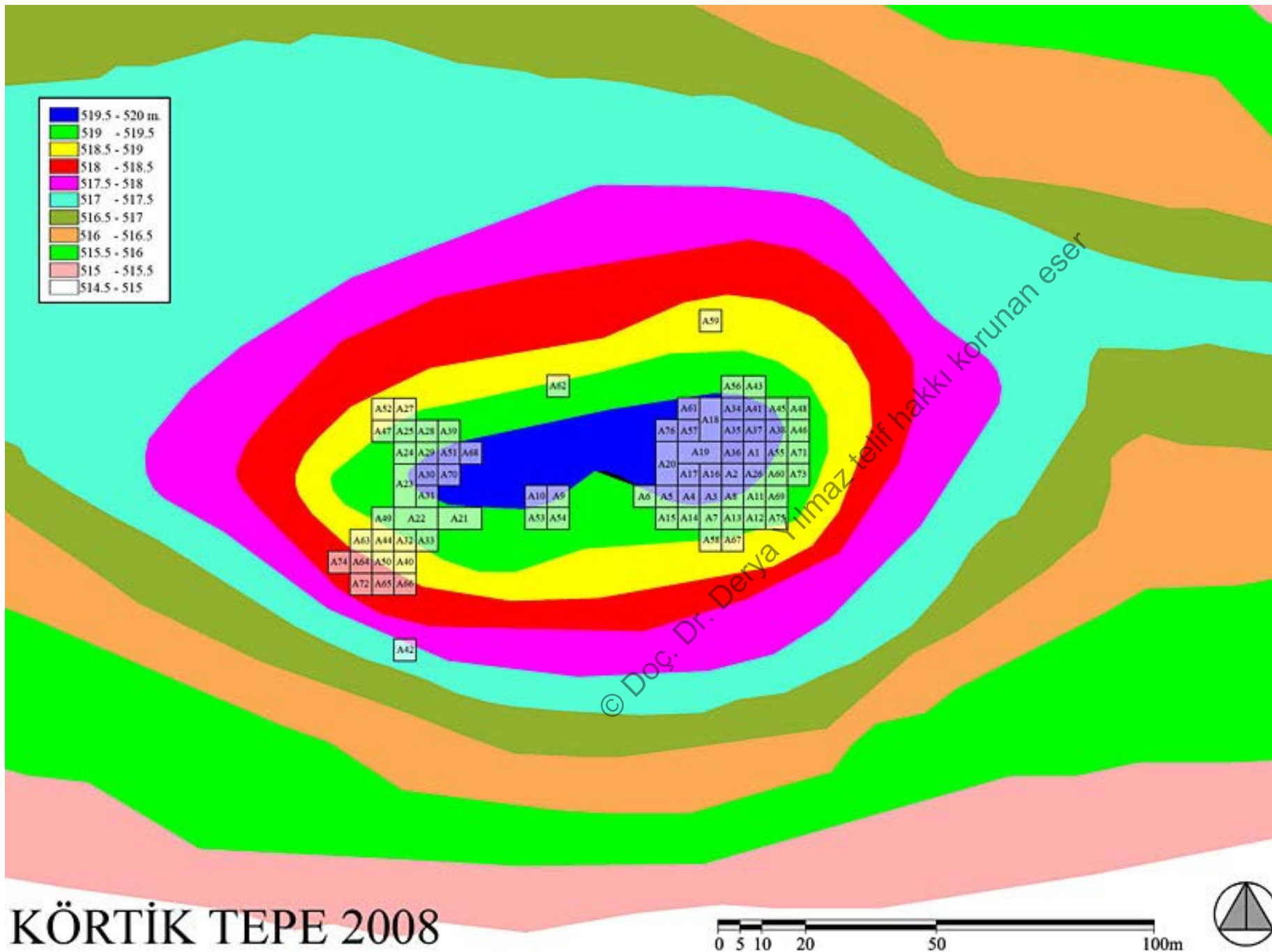




Two main cultural phases have been found. The upper phase is medieval, aspects of which are evident in the present day. The lower phase has been identified as Pre-Pottery Neolithic, represented through the body of the mound by structures, tombs and grave goods. The date is confirmed by burial rites, the style of stone and bone objects and 14C analyses which indicate that the mound was first settled in the tenth millennium BC

- Körtik Tepe is a low mound on the Tigris in Southeastern Turkey, dated to the end of the 11th and the 10th millennia BC. The lithic assemblage from the earliest level at Körtik Tepe is late epi-Palaeolithic in character and dates to the Younger Dryas.
- The levels above are dated to the Pre-Pottery Neolithic A [PPNA] period, strata that produced rich lithic industries, hundreds of zoomorphic and anthropomorphic decorated stone vessels, undecorated stone vessels, decorated ritual bone objects, thousands of marine shell beads, and several kinds of stone beads, animal decorated stone plaques, bone tools, bone fishing hooks, perforated stones large and small in size, and many kinds of mortars and pestles.





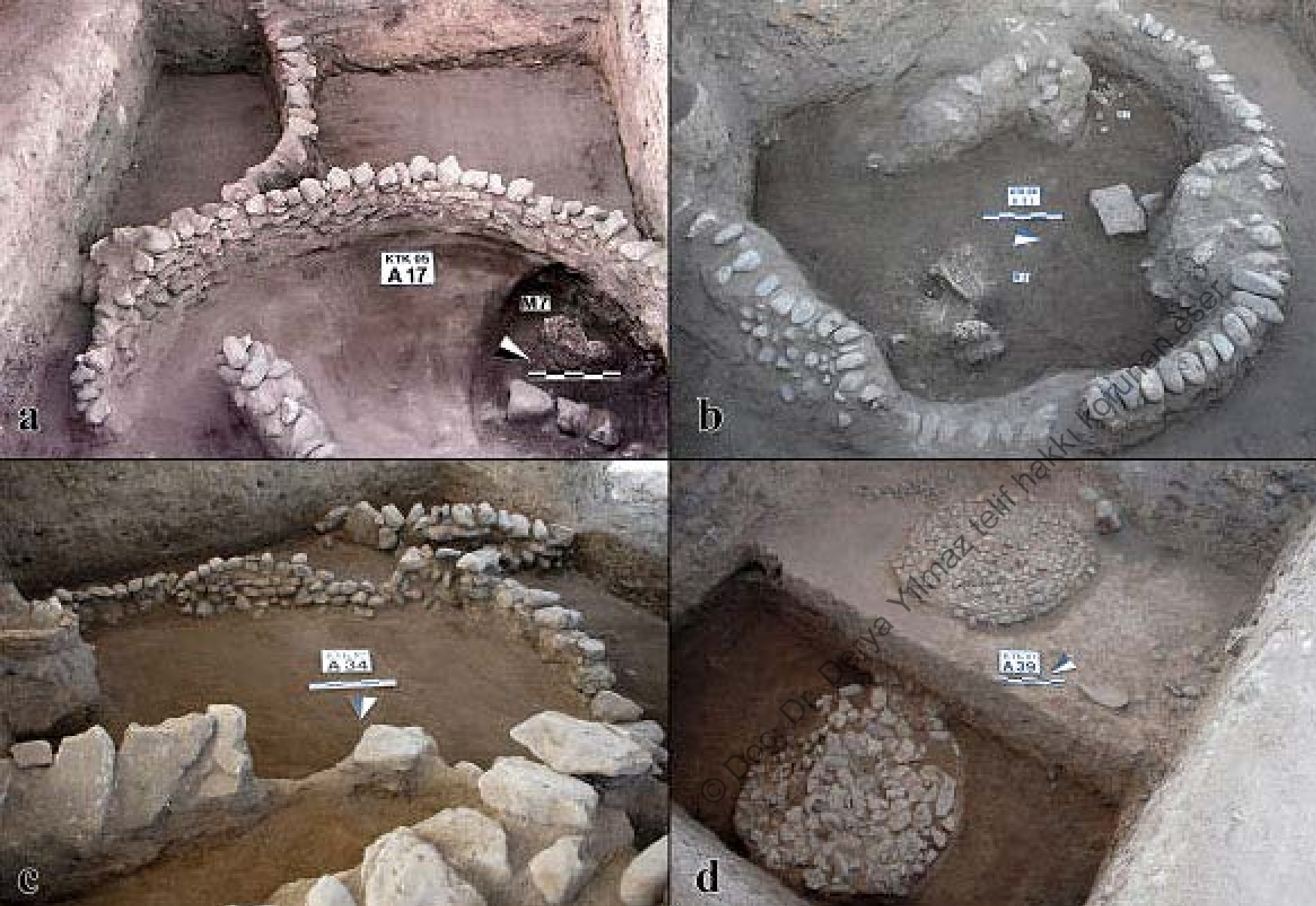
The data demonstrate that the Upper Tigris Valley was one of the primary regions of the Near East for the establishment of the earliest permanent settlements.

Topographical plan of site.

KÖRTİK TEPE 2008

0 5 10 20 50 100m





In contrast to the communities leading a nomadic lifestyle, in Körtik Tepe food production technologies were developed and fishing was a common activity. There is also evidence for weaving and architectural units were clearly built for the purpose of storing food.

The houses have earth floors encircled by thin stone walls (Figure 4a-c). Their diameters vary between 2.50-3.50m and may be located in open space or adjacent to each other. Similar structures are known from Hallan Çemi.

a-c) PPNA circular structures and intramural tombs; d) storage units.



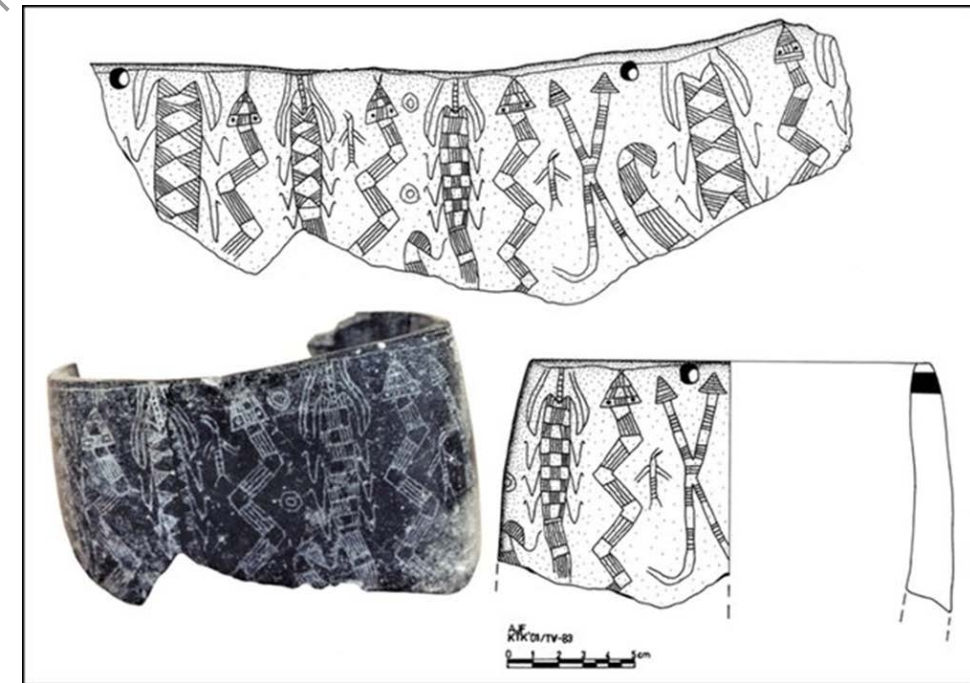


A chlorite plaquette of Körtiktepe displays a supernatural scorpion relief (Photo: Körtiktepe archive).



An in situ bone plaquette used as burial good displays two scorpions mirroring one another (Photo: Körtiktepe archive).

Venomous creatures; such as scorpions, snakes, spiders, and centipedes were associated with the world of the dead in the Neolithic of the Fertile Crescent. Unlike other Pre-Pottery Neolithic centers, Körtik Tepe shows some examples during the 11th–10th millennium BC in the Upper Tigris Basin.



A chlorite vessel used as grave goods at Körtiktepe has its whole body incised with scorpions and snakes (Photo: Körtiktepe archive).

PPNA general view of  
Körtik Tepe finds in 2008.



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PPNA tombs.



PPNA tomb contexts.



PPNA stone vessels.

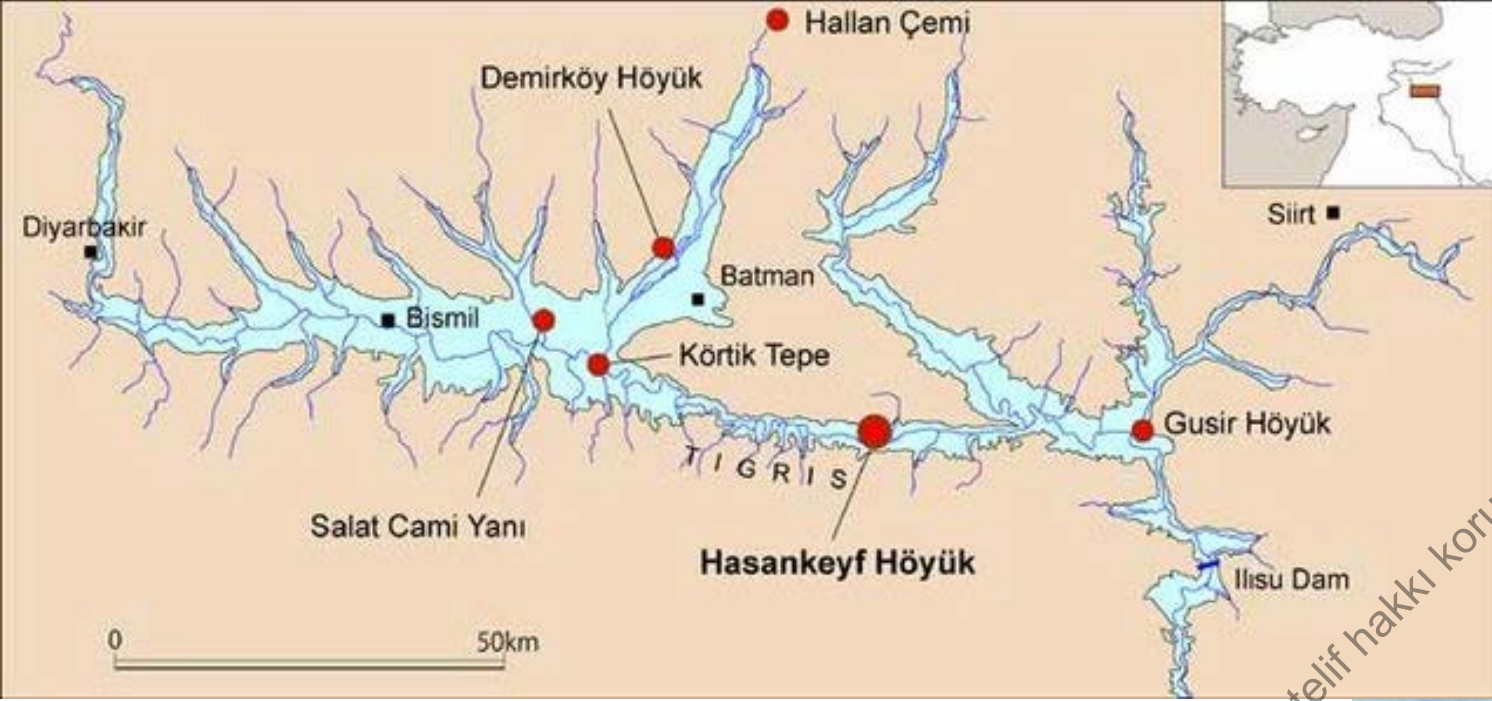


PPNA stone ritual objects having figures.



PPNA decorated bone finds.





- Today, under the waters of the Ilisu Dam, Körtik Tepe, located in the Bismil district of Diyarbakir and known as the place where humanity first settled, sank into the waters silently.



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# Selected References

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# Watch series

1. On 15 October 2021 at 21.00 on the **Arkeolojihaber youtube** channel, Prof. Dr. Aslı Erim Özdoğan will give a speech on "Çayönü Hill, yesterday, today and tomorrow".

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfxd77C009c>

2. You can watch the documentary titled "Anadolu'nun Kadim Hikayesi/ Ancient Story of Anatolia" broadcast on the **Moving Stones channel**.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59ioilcaw2g&t=483s>