



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

GIGAP Project: Results of the 2023-2024 survey seasons in the Gardabani district of Southern Georgia

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Abstract

The paper will describe aims, strategy and first results of the survey carried out by Ca' Foscari University of Venice in collaboration with Ilia State University of Tbilisi in the southern part of Gardabani district. It will pay special attention to the methodological challenges presented by this archaeologically poorly known region, where the impact of 20th cent. and later human intervention (military installations, intensive agriculture and cattle-breeding) was considerable. The chosen strategy, allowing for maximum flexibility and adaptation, combines published information and knowledge by local informants with: a) general geo-morphological study for the characterisation of different landscapes zones; b) satellite images analysis, c) drone imaging at specific sites, and d) extensive and intensive controlled pedestrian survey at selected representative areas in the different landscapes zones. Issues of visibility and local ceramic periodisation, problems of time/precision ratio in documenting complex sites (e.g. large barrow fields or extensive scatters of stone remains) will also be tackled. Preliminary results suggest that: by far the most common sites are fields of small kurgans and similar funerary monuments whose date is difficult to establish; the majority of the visible ancient settlements belong either to the LB/EIA or to the later IA or Medieval-Modern periods.

Keywords

Southern Caucasus, Georgia, Survey, kurgan fields, landscape archaeology

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