

Foreword

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The Džarylgač Survey Project (DSP) is a multidisciplinary archaeological survey project, which aimed at investigating the rural landscape in the hinterland of the ancient settlement of Panskoe I at both sides of the Džarylgač Lake, the Tarchankut Peninsula, Northwestern Crimea (Ukraine; Figs. 0.1-2).¹ The purpose of the study is to reach a better understanding of man's interaction with the Northwest Crimean landscape in a diachronic perspective from antiquity until early modern times. The project is a co-operation between the Danish National Research Foundation's the Centre for Black Sea Studies (DNRFCBSS) in Aarhus (Denmark), the Ukrainian National Academy for Scientific Research (Ukraine) in Simferopol' and the Groningen Institute of Archaeology (GIA) of the University of Groningen (the Netherlands). The methodologies applied are systematic field walking and collecting of surface finds supplemented with extensive site reconnaissance, as well as geomagnetic and other surface measurements, GPS recording, and trial excavations at selected sites.

A first visit to the area with preliminary field-walking undertaken in 2006 (Attema, Guldager Bilde, Stolba) fully demonstrated the potential for systematic fieldwork in the region. In May 2007, the first campaign with large-scale survey was undertaken. This was followed by a second campaign in May 2008.

The Džarylgač Survey Project was initially planned as a three-year pilot project that might have led to a larger project on the Tarchankut Peninsula. However, due to disagreement with the Crimean Branch of the Institute of Archaeology, on the initiative of our Ukrainian collaborators, the project was regrettably discontinued after its second campaign. At the same time, the Ukrainian government planned to construct a large-scale wind power plant with more than 100 very large wind-mills on the inland slopes.² This work was scheduled to start in the autumn of 2008. According to the homepage of Nova-Eco, the company could only carry out the construction provided that "In compliance with the Ukrainian legislation, geological, archaeological and botanical researches were conducted on the selected routes, and also necessary agreements are executed".³ The mentioned archaeological investigation was carried out by the Institute of Archaeology of the Simferopol' branch of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences led by S.D. Koltuchov. Mainly kurgans were discovered during this work and the construction of the power plant on the hills S of Černomorskoe was therefore not problematized (Fig. 0.3). However, already in 2007 a number of well-preserved settlements were found by the DSP and many more were found in 2008 (see Chapter 4.4 and Appendix 1). These findings added urgency to the Džarylgač Survey Project, and resources were made available from our side that would ensure a thorough investigation of the area threatened by the wind-mill plant (Fig. 0.4). However, our work was much restricted by the Crimean authorities as represented by the Institute of Archaeology, Simferopol' and as mentioned above, on the Institute's initiative, the collaboration contract was discontinued, which implied a cancellation of first a major geological campaign in the fall of 2008 as well as the third scheduled survey campaign.

On 17 September 2008, the project of Nova-Eco LLC passed the evaluation by state experts and obtained a positive resolution of the Ukrainian State Construction Expertise (<http://www.nova-eco.kiev.ua/static/14/>). The current state of the project is unclear. Rumours have it that the project has been suspended. Some parts of Nova's homepage seem to suggest that the project has been moved to the Donuzlav Lake area. In the light of the immanent threat of a unique cultural landscape as testified by the results of the first two campaigns of the DSP, which calls for the need for a large-scale revision of the settlement history of Northwestern Crimea, we deplore the fact that international collaboration over this project was discontinued before it had reached its completion.

¹ Guldager Bilde et al. 2007; Attema 2008; Attema, P. & T. de Haas 2008; Attema, P. et al. 2009; Attema, Guldager Bilde & Williamson 2010; Handberg 2011.

² [Http://www.Nova-eco.Kiev.Ua/static/20/](http://www.Nova-eco.Kiev.Ua/static/20/) accessed 11 august 2009.

³ <http://www.nova-eco.kiev.ua/static/13/> accessed 7 January 2009.

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In 2008, the Berlin-based company Eastern Atlas, directed by Cornelius Meyer and Burkart Ullrich and with participation by Lilli Keller, Rudolf Kniess, Dana Pilz, Ekkehard Schönherr, Henning Zöllner carried out geophysical prospection for the project. This part of the project was most generously financed by the “Excellenz Cluster” *Topoi* (Prof. Dr. Friederike Fless, Institut für klassische Archäologie, Freie Universität, Berlin and Prof. Dr. Brigitta Schütt, Institut für Geographische Wissenschaften, Physische Geographie, Freie Universität, Berlin). We are most grateful for this contribution, which made it possible to survey in detail part of the area destined to the construction of the before-mentioned wind mill plant.

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