

## **ANNEX O**

### **Cultural Heritage Site Assessment Report**



# **Amasra**

## **HEMA Hard Coal Mine Project**

### **Cultural Heritage Assessment Report**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report was written on archaeological and archaeologically potential sites of HEMA Hard Coal Mine Project and it was prepared on the demand of ELC Group Consulting & Engineering Inc. a company of Royal Haskoning DHV.

All sites and single monuments had their own references which may be found at the end of this report.

The report itself was made not only as table based work but also with an archaeological field survey made by Art Historian Ayse Didem Ozger-Bayvas on Jan. 15-17, 2015. She took the photographs as well.

In the beginning possible archaeological sites were fixed on the map of 1:25.000 which was provided by ELC Group and referances of these sites obtained scanning major periodicals and books related to the archaeology of the construction site. The minutes of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Karabük Regional Council Directorate of Protection of Cultural were of a great help during the work.

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### 3. HISTORICAL CONTEXT for HEMA HARD COAL MINE PROJECT

Amasra, whose known history dates back about 3,500 years ago, could not be determined with certainty who founded it. It is estimated that during the Hittite Kingdom period (1650-1190 BC), Amasra was within the boundaries Ancient *Pala* Country today located in the area surrounded by Modern Cities of Zonguldak, Bartin, Kastamonu and Karabuk.

It is understood from the Hittite tablets that *Pala* Land, from time to time, occupied by the invader *Kaskians* who came both from the east and from Sinop and Samsun. Although there are several claims on the origin of Amasra which mention that it may have been Hittite *Knrustamma* to the left of ancient *Marashanta* (Red River in *Hittite*) and may have been first colonized by Myceneans (Achaean) or the Phoenicians but those aforementioned cultures in question have no any archaeological findings detected until today in the entire Black Sea Coast, make all these allegations highly unlikely. The city is mentioned in the Iliad as *Sesamos* or *Sesamo* is considered to be established in Amasra.

Amasra which is a port-like peninsula with two bays seems to create an extremely convenient area to the ancient Greek colonization because of favorable geostrategic position. Therefore, in the process of becoming a colony of this native city, Miletus or Phokia as Ionian Cities must have played an important role. The Black Sea, because of its storms, hard waves, rocky shores and other adversities in terms of sailors, used to be called inhospitable (*Pontos Axenus*) but when its entire coast colonized by the ancient Greeks from the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC on, it was started to be called hospitable (*Pontos Euxinus*) and this must be directly related to the foundation of *Sesamos*. Besides all these *Stephnos* mentions that ancient name of the city is *Kromna*. Persian king Darius's brother *Oksathros*'s daughter and Heraklia Pontika's (Karadeniz Ereğli) tyrant *Dionysos*'s wife *Amastris*, combining the four cities named *Sesamos*, *Kytoron*, *Kromna* and *Tieion*, founded *Amastris* in 4<sup>th</sup> century BC and then her name *Sesamos* is eliminated. Here the mention of the name *Kromna* confirms the information given by *Stephanos*. *Sesamos* coins belonging to the years 340-300 BC may suggest that somewhere in *Amastris* perhaps on its Acropolis, *Sesamos* continued for a while.

*Strabo*, refers to *Amastris* as a city on a peninsula whose both sides overlooking the sea and can be used as ports. Blacksea coasts have never had an urban density as Aegean and Mediterranean coasts had. *Pontika Heraclea*, *Sinope* (*Sinop*) and *Amisos* (*Samsun*) are important coastal cities with Amasra along the

entire Black Sea Coast. Among these, Sinope and Amastris located in Ancient Paphlagonia were able to keep some of their ruins better preserved until our days. Hellenistic portion of the Amastris Walls can be seen in the lower part of the extant monuments and this is the only thing from that age in the city. It is understood that the city went a significant change when the Roman Rule began in 66 BC. In the southward expanding part of the city there are two very large buildings one of them is an ancient theatre currently used as a cemetery and other one is a *Covered Market* (Bedesten).

Amastris with its two ports is known to have commercial relationships with Trapezos and Crimea since the colonization period. Significant number of agricultural products and timber used to be exported from its ports. Lucian's rating Amastris in *Toxaris* as a port which had ships from *Scythia* (Northern Black Sea), must be a reflection from these commercial activities.

The Island of Boztepe, which is adjacent to the northwest of the peninsula, linked to the mainland by a bridge called *Kemere* and its fortifications must have been made during the expansion of the Roman City. The Genoese-restored dungeon which was kept well preserved till our days and the walls of the inner castle run approximately 600 m. The Walls of *Sormagir* fortress, which is reached by Kemere Bridge, are about 300m long. In the north east of the castle is The Great Harbour Gate and in its west is the other one called little harbor gate while its south has The Dungeon Gate. *The Bedestan* located in the south of the city with its brick architecture, is reminiscent of the Church at *Balat* in Sinop. Therefore it can be considered that this Badastan may have been made in 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD as a bath or bath-like structure.

Amasra is considered as its significant potential of cultural heritage sites and archeological assets (e.g. old grave, ancient ruins, houses) due to its historical background.

The following is the identified archaeological sites:

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| • Upside of Boztepe Island                            | 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree |
| • Boztepe District                                    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree |
| • Kaleiçi District                                    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree |
| • Bedesten Locality                                   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree |
| • Tavşan Island                                       | 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree |
| • Tekketepe Locality                                  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree |
| • Necropolis Area (Beneath the TTK service Buildings) | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree |

- Direklikaya 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree
- Little Harbour, Antique waterfront 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree
- Municipal Housing Area 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree
- Amasra Cemetery (It extends to the entrance of TTK) 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree
- It extends to the Old Bedestan where service buildings of TTK are located 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree

Furthermore, as urban archaeological sites the followings are registered as archaeological monuments; The Amasra Castle, Ruins of a Monastery (Tavşan Island), Temple Ruins (At Boztepe Quarter), Church Ruins (At Boztepe Quarter), Buildings of County Prefect, Mosque of Fatih (Old Byzantine Church at Zindan Quarter), Art House (Small Church Kuledibi), Naval Academy (Museum Building), Arched Building (near Bartın Highways), Theatre ruins (in the public cemetery), Gymnasium (The Bazaar), Roman Bridge (Located near the Bazaar), Roman Aqueduct (Cevizlik Valley), Kuskayasi Road Monument (Askersu the Location), City Baths (Kummahalle ) and Bath (İskele Sokak).

There are also 13 registered wood and stone structures.

The most magnificent monument in Amasra is called Kuşkayası (*Photo 1*) . It was made on the road towards Bartın which was built by the Governor of Bithynia during the reign of the Emperor Tiberius Cladius Drusus (BC 10 - AD 54) in order to export timbers obtained from the neighboring forests of Amastris.



*Photo 1*



*Photo 2*

It is located 4km from Amasra and is the only road monument with king's relief and an eagle symbolizing the Roman domination with two inscriptions (*Photo 2*). The Monuments itself can only be reached by impractical steps and in a very bad state of preservation. In the recent years its bottom part was blown up by the treasury-hunters and it still has deep cracks and open slots to place the dynamite blow it up again. As understood from the ruins that this monument probably included a monumental fountain.

Last traces of a Roman Road, 5 meters in width (*Photo 3*), can be seen in front of this monument. It must have been made in the Roman Period towards the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century. The goal of this road must be connection of Amasra to the other Anatolian cities. The ancient road, starting in Amasra passing in front of the Monument Kuşkayası after reaching Safranbolu and Gerede, is intersected by the Silk Road. Main part of the road is currently very much destroyed.



*Photo 3*

It is understood from the literary source that apart from the visible part of the ancient city on the surface, major part of it, is still under the ground at the depth of apprx. 1.50m-4.50m. It also is clear from the construction activities in the city which sometimes bring all these underground artefacts to the light.



#### 4. BRIEF TEXT DESCRIPTION of SITE LOCATION PATTERNS in the HEMA HARD COAL MINE PROJECT

Research area (*Map 1*) is the area of HEMA for its construction works.



Map 1

Shaft 1 is located between Tarlaağzı (*Gurlek*) and the village of Gömü (*Map 2*). The largest Dumpsite areas 1-2 and loading port construction are here. Cemetery of Tarlaağzı was also searched and some Late Ottoman tombstones were dedected (*Photo 1-2-3-4*).



Map 2



*Photo 1*



*Photo 2*



*Photo 3*



*Photo 4*

Gömü Village cemetery was also investigated. In the front of the cemetery entrance, a fine sculptured Roman sarchophagus was observed. It's been currently used as a fountain by the locals (*Photo 5*).



*Photo 5*

During the walk-through field work in the Spoil Dumpsites 1 and 2 and in their vicinity, no evidence of any cultural heritage is found. Near the aforementioned area the Museum of Amasra conducted an archaeological exploration and some diggings (*Photo 6*).



*Photo 6*

During our survey we observed that all the trenches are full of water (*Photo 7*).



*Photo 7*

A Track Road has been opened in the wooded area to perform these diggings. In the 100 m west of the excavated area and the road mentioned above besides the profile of their land, many shards and terracotta pieces were found (*Photo 8-9*).



*Photo 8*



*Photo 9*

Byzantine and Ottoman periods datable finds may unlikely indicate a possible settlement at Akçukur Location (*Photo Cover photo and 10-11-12*).



*Photo 10*



*Photo 11*



*Photo 12*

The site known as *rock tomb* by the locals, located on slope of the port where the loadings will be performed. This so called rock-tomb is actually a pile of the rubble colleted on a certain spot to make the land a proper agricultural field (*Photo 13-14*).



*Photo 13*



*Photo 14*

At the Shaft 2 and around it no findings of cultural heritage eas found (*Map 3*).



*Map 3*

Shaft 3 is located right at the entrance of Amasra and very near the archaeological sites (*Map 4*).



Map 4

The modern cemetery which was once the site of ancient theatre is about 500m away from Shaft 3. The theatre is from the Roman Period and is located on the southern slope of a hill called *St George* (Hagios Georgios). The seats of the theatre and its stage building were badly destroyed. A small portion of the stage building is still standing and visible (*Photo 15-16-17*). Fine ashlar was used for the construction of the theatre. This structure, could be kept well until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, started to be dilapidated by the year 1880 and its material were used as paving stones in the city.



Photo 15



*Photo 16*



*Photo 17*

The Hill of St George (Hagios Georgios) mentioned in the sources must have had the ancient necropolis on its slopes. Some of its stelae (tomb stones) were used for modern constructions in the city.

The so-called Bedesten building is about 1 km away from the Shaft3 is actually a Roman Building from 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> century (*Photo 18-19*).





*Photo 18*



*Photo 19*

It is supposed that originally made as a Bouluterion. It is also suggested that it was a *gymnasion* but Amasra has never been an important culture center in its history to have such a big school. It was constructed of bricks which is certain style in Roman Architecture, called *Opus Reticulatum*. During the construction of the city castle, it was badly plundered and also destroyed by the earthquake happened in 1968. It is a basilical planned structure with 5 aisles and was severely restored in recent years. A big piece of hewn stone that we found at its entrance, has a part of Ancient Greek Writing and deciphered by the Asst.Prof.Dr.Bülent Öztürk He believes that it is from the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD (*Photo 20-21*).



*Photo 20*



*Photo 21*

*("... After our burials whoever opens our tombs will pay that much penalty to the treasury...")*

We suppose that it is a writing against the treasury hunters and grave robbers.

In the area of HEMA the hostel building of TTK has some architectural pieces in the front of the building. One of them has another Greek writing which has yet to be deciphered and Dr.Bülent Öztürk is currently working on it (Photo 22).



*Photo 22*

## 5. CONCLUSION

There is no archaeological site or remains found in the workarea except Akçukur Location.

The sites, cemeteries, inscriptions and other archaeological remains included in this report however all located nearby the HEMA area.

In case of expansion of the dumpsites in future, these archaeological values mentioned above may be threatened by the new construction activities.

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