

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN THE VILLAGE ANAKLIA

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ABSTRACT: *Due to its geographical location, Anaklia seems to have been inhabited since ancient times (today it is a part of Zugdidi municipality). According to European travellers and writers, Anaklia was the ancient Heraclea. The most recent archaeological excavation has confirmed the existence of a well-established local Colchian settlement in Anaklia in early antiquity. While such facts would point to the influence of Hellenism, it did not exist to the extent that it had a significant impact on the local culture.*

As a result of archaeological excavations, significant traces of the Greek urban settlement (Heraclea) have not yet been revealed. On the contrary, the settlement found here - surrounded by a defensive moat with an artificial hill and residential square, typologically matches the model of a sacred Colchian settlement. The products found are predominantly Colchian while imported ceramics are few. The study concludes there was a temporary trading point located here.

Keywords: *Anaklia, Colchian settlement, artificial hill.*