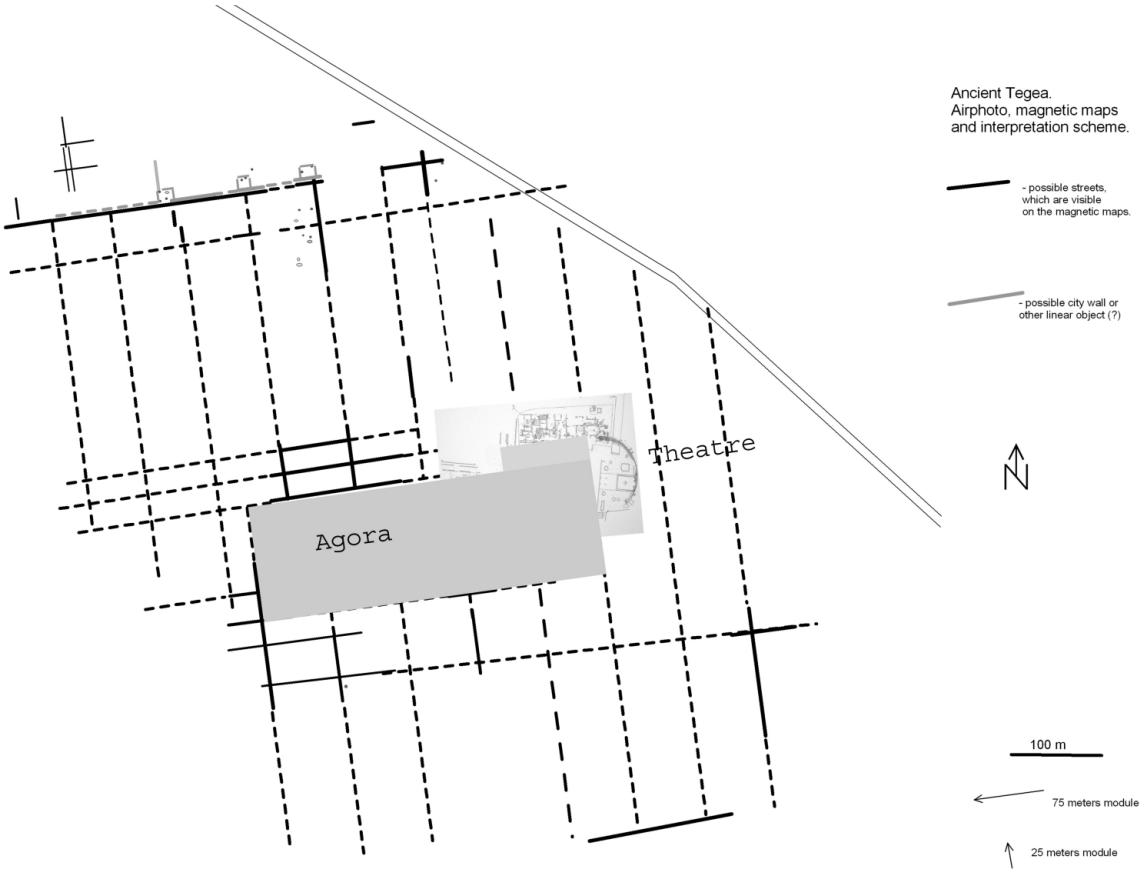


23. Tegea: grid plan of LAr city

perhaps indirectly documented by the Norwegian excavations in the Sanctuary of Athena Alea. A detailed study of the city plan compared to the study of the material from the Norwegian Arcadia Survey will appear as a monograph of the Norwegian Institute at Athens.

Valley/gorge of Lousios. A study of the Byz monasteries in the gorge is published: Διαμαντή, Κ.Π. and Ε.Ν. Πάντου, *Τα μοναστήρια στο φαράγγι του Λούσιου ποταμού στην Αρκαδία* (Athens, T.A.P.A. 2006).

Mt Lykaion, Sanctuary of Zeus. Anastasia Panagiotopoulou (5th EPCA), Mary E. Voyatzis (ASCSA/Arizona) and David Gilman Romano (ASCSA/Pennsylvania) report on the 2006 season of excavation and survey.

The work was divided into several parts. A topographical and architectural team continued the work of documenting the remains of the 67m *l.* **stoa** at the site. The architects are creating the first stone-for-stone actual-state drawing of the building. A series of steps or seats, *ca* 40m *l.*, exposed to the N of the stoa and at a lower elevation, will also be drawn.

Yanis Pikoulas (Thessaly) began his historical survey of the **sanctuary** and the general region of mount Lykaion. Mark Davison (Oregon) began a cultural landscape study of the region of the Sanctuary of Zeus at mount Lykaion, including considerations for the proposed national cultural park.

Four trial trenches were opened in the area of the anc. **hippodrome** and its immediate surroundings. Working at the S aspect of the anc. facility a trench was opened to look for the S limit of the racecourse floor. A second trench was opened to look for the E limit of the racecourse floor near what may be the SE area of the hippodrome. A third trench was dug in the hippodrome floor, looking for evidence of the floor itself as well as looking for what may have been the dromos floor of the stadium (which is set inside the hippodrome). Bordering the SW side of the area of the hippodrome, on a slightly higher terrace, a fourth trench was dug and anc. levels were discovered.

These four trenches yielded a large amount of anc. pottery sherds, roof tiles and some metalwork, including bronze coins and an iron blade. The finds have all been cleaned, conserved and are currently housed in the nearby Lykosoura Museum. The project website is http://lykaionexcavation.org.

LAKONIA (5th EPCA; 5th EBA)

Kouphovouno. C. Mee (BSA/Liverpool), W.G. Cavanagh (BSA/Nottingham) and J. Renard (EFA/Clermont Ferrand) report on the 2006 season of excavation at this MNeo to MH tell site.

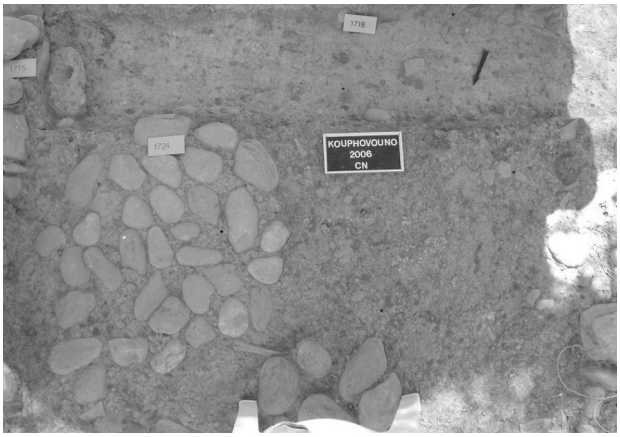
Excavation in 2006 was focused on three related areas: opening up an extensive sector in area C, concentrating on the MNeo architectural features; exposure of more MNeo architecture in area G; a deep sounding, also in area G, to trace the LNeo to MNeo transition and to complement the deep sounding in area C which had been taken down to the natural soil in the 2005 season.

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During the course of 2006 we exposed 121m^2 of archaeological deposit in **area C**, partly uncovering features excavated previously but mainly by further extending the area of excavation to the N, E and S.

A number of significant domestic installations and architectural details were revealed in the N sector of area C, including a series of walls oriented N–S and E–W, at least one complete room and the remains of a building which was exposed only in part. The E wall of the building, 4.8m *l.*, consisted of a foundation of rounded river stones set in an extremely compact, light yellow mortar and reaching up to 0.70m in *h.*; its superstructure had not survived, but a post setting at its N end and a number of other settings in the thickness of the wall indicated a wooden framework for the structure. A pivot stone marked the entrance at the N, in front of which was a porch enclosing a circular setting made up of flat cobbles, evidently a working area (**Fig. 24**). Similar settings, also of MNeo date, were found elsewhere in area C and in area G. The S wall seems to have been cut by a pit which apparently also destroyed the W wall of the complex. A good part of the interior of this room was covered by pebbles closely set into a compact clay cement; perhaps the bedding for a floor rather than the floor itself, as few artefacts were found resting on its surface. Similar pebble settings were also found elsewhere on the site in MNeo contexts. A sounding through the S wall, and through the floors on either side of it, revealed that the stone foundations of the wall rested on a dark surface, on which numerous finds lay flat. Above this were three further floor levels 3–5cm thick and all made up of a mix of materials, whose most marked characteristic was that they were all burnt to a uniform colour. They were laid down after the construction of the wall, but whilst it was still in use. On the latest floor were found resting sherds, bone, chipped and polished stone tools. A further wall, belonging to another construction, formed the W edge of the latest aforementioned floor. This wall stopped just short of the S wall mentioned above, and in the corner between the two walls was found an oven, its floor and walls of reddened clay.

In general the MNeo architecture in the S sector of area C had been subject to much more severe, later disturbance than was the case in area C N. After the removal of the surface plough soil a complex of inter-cutting stone rubble features was revealed, whose separation and excavation proved particularly problematic. Especially along the S edge of the area a number of levels were found to contain LNeo, Final Neo and some EBA material, as well as MNeo, these were interpreted as dumps, presumably due to levelling operations during the later history of the site.



24. Kouphovouno: setting of cobble stones within MNeo level

In the centre of the trench a long linear stone feature was recorded running NW to SE. Composed of irregular and poorly sorted limestone and schist rocks and cobbles (0.03–0.48m), it was quite substantial (covering an area roughly 5m by 1.4m). At most it was four courses deep. On its N side it appeared to be delimited by rather large stones. On its S side the edges of the feature were not so clearly demarcated. Within it two postholes (0.54m by 0.46m, 0.24m *d.*, and 0.37m by 0.17m) were noted. It appears that the first held a large upright timber and the latter a supporting post. What seemed to be the remains of clay plaster or rendering to this wall was also uncovered.

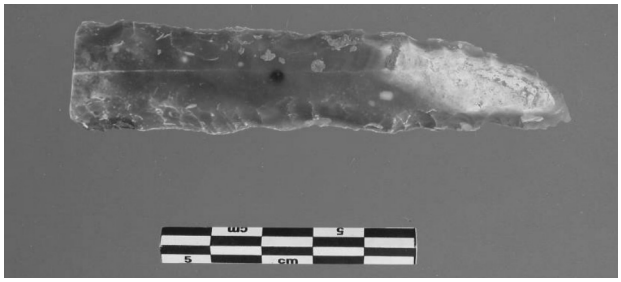
The later phases of the MNeo period were also well represented in area C, in both the N and S. In some of the contexts here there were more coarse vessels, in particular bowls and jars with massive pedestal bases and also characteristic cooking vessels, one of which was complete (**Fig. 25**).



25. Kouphovouno: MNeo cooking vessel

There was also LNeo pottery from contexts in area C S, mixed with Final Neo sherds, which were mainly coarse and often decorated with finger-impressed cordons, and some EH I, again mostly coarse and occasionally red-slipped and burnished. EH II pottery, fine and coarse, was associated with a context in area G. The Rom pottery from the stone rubble dump on the W side of the area consists mainly of storage vessels but there was some table ware. The presence of combed sherds suggests a LRom date for this phase of activity.

A figurine from area C is an example of the split type discussed by Talalay. The polished and chipped stone artefacts include a very fine flint blade, 9cm *l.* (**Fig. 26**).



26. Kouphovouno: MNeo flint blade

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In **area G**, likewise, two distinct focuses of activity were the deep sounding and the extension of area G to the W.

During the 2005 season, a 2m by 1m sounding had been opened in area G1, from a *d.* of 197.20 asl. MNeo to LNeo transitional pottery was found in the sounding, and it was decided this year to extend the sounding in order to get a fuller and more detailed sequence. The sounding was extended to measure 2m by 2m and this was excavated in four 1m by 1m grid squares by a series of spits (normally 0.10m deep).

As the sounding was taken down changes were observed in the nature of the fill, and certain specific features, including pits, dumps of material and stone features, were distinguished; but none of these could be defined very closely as floors, post-holes or walls, as they tended to grade slowly into each other. As in the case of the upper, LNeo levels in this part of the site, we were led to speculate that these soft earth fills indicated that much of the architecture may have been of timber construction, resting here and there on stone pads and props, whose recognition is only possible through wide, open-area excavation. On the other hand the sounding yielded very much the sorts of information we were hoping for: a very rich ceramic repertoire, starting in the LNeo and stretching back well into the MNeo. Frequent rich deposits of carbonized matter yielded excellent samples of seeds and charcoal for bio-archaeological analysis. The sounding also provided an excellent series of chipped and polished stone tools, as well as rarer finds, including the terracotta female figurine described below (**Fig. 27**). By the end of the season the sounding had been taken down to a *d.* of 196.19 asl (site datum), that is to say 2m below the original ground surface, but without yet reaching the natural soil.

The earliest pottery came from the deepest contexts in this sounding in area G. This is MNeo and predominantly fine with relatively few coarse sherds. A very high proportion of the pottery is painted, mainly monochrome but patterned decoration is also common, more so than scribble burnish, though this does occur. Evidently the pottery was principally used for the presentation or consumption of food and drink.

As we had hoped, the MNeo–LNeo transition could be followed in this sounding. An increase in the proportion of coarse vessels is one feature of this transitional phase. Monochrome pottery is also very common but it can be difficult to distinguish Urfirnis and Black Ware. The linear decoration often looks LNeo but is lustrous rather than matt-painted, so this is a hybrid style. In due course the LNeo wares become predominant, particularly Black Ware, with Grey Ware, Matt-Painted and some Polychrome as well.

Of particular note was a terracotta female figurine from the sounding. This is reminiscent of the MNeo figurine found in 2002 but the decoration is in the transitional MNeo/LNeo style.

Area G was also extended to the W in order to follow up the MNeo architectural elements which had been identified in 2005. Over the 2006 season an area of 35.2m^2 was exposed. After clearing the plough soil, it became clear that the W half of the trench was taken up by a major stone rubble dump and related deposits, which were part of the fill of a cut or terrace. It seems likely that this is connected with the similar feature, uncovered in 2002, some 25m to the N in area E. The features in both E and G are part of a major reconfiguration of the W half of Kouphovouno dating to the LRom period. These fills were taken down sufficiently to allow, without fear of contamination, the excavation of the MNeo levels, which were our main object. The central part of this MNeo area was occupied by a rectangular structure, marked by four walls; the N wall of the structure was curved. It appears that the floor in the centre of the room was largely destroyed by ploughing, but to its N was found a hardened surface with sherds lying flat on it,



27. Kouphovouno: MNeo figurine

interpreted as a trampled clay floor, together with a cobbled area, similar to that found in area C. The NE corner of the room was cut and disturbed by an EH pit.

The clearance of the Rom material enabled us to expose a N–S section through these MNeo deposits. This revealed that some depth of MNeo deposit had accumulated. This in turn had been cut by a circular pit, whose distinctive fill was clearly visible in section and in plan. None of these earlier MNeo levels was excavated. Into the pit-fill had been cut a foundation trench, into which had been placed the stone packing which formed the stone foundation of the superstructure of the room. The cobbled area, associated with, and to the N of the room, rested on top of the same pit fill. Careful excavation revealed that the other wall foundations in this complex were set in trenches, with larger stones at the centre of the trenches, and smaller stones, set vertically, filling the edges of the trenches.

In the S part of this sector of area G, the corners of three other structures met with a cross-shaped rectangular space between them. Unfortunately the later destruction caused by LNeo, EBA and Rom activities left the MNeo remains in this part of the excavation fragmentary.

Ian Whitbread continued to develop the methodology for his work on the **pottery fabrics**. The following is a brief summary of his fuller report.

Fabrics were divided into a range of groups, defined in the first instance by wall thickness (>4mm, 4–8mm, >8mm), and were further divided on the basis of clay colour and inclusion

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frequency and composition. It is anticipated that wall thickness is likely to correlate with inclusion size. Inclusions generally reflect the local geology: phyllite/schist for metamorphic rocks, limestone/calcite for calcareous regions and quartz for terrigenous sediments. Fabric properties were recorded with the aid of a hand lens (x10) and stereomicroscope (x18). Quantities of inclusions were assessed using a comparator chart, for which a fair degree of tolerance must be allowed. The ware definitions do not necessarily identify discrete pottery fabrics, but are a working model to be verified through further analysis and by correlation with other ceramics attributes, such as vessel shape, decoration and context.

MNeo pottery is primarily oxidised and it is possible that 'orange' fabrics may be fired red under certain circumstances. The high quality of much of the pottery in manufacture, decoration and firing suggests that potters were careful in the production of their ware, and thus colour differences may be significant. This may be tested in terms of consistency of specific firing results against fabric, shape and decoration. Grey-fired pottery may reflect reducing conditions during firing or the remains of carbon from 'incomplete' firing. Some vessels appear to have oxidised external surfaces and grey interiors ('orange' and grey, red and grey wares), which are likely to reflect upside-down stacking and the resultant production of localized environments within the firing. This effect is likely to have been intentional since changing the stacking arrangement could easily have eliminated it. The reddish-brown fabrics appear to reflect a different clay body given distinctions in feel and hardness. The soft, coarse fabric would be consistent with cooking wares, although evidence of soot seems to be on internal rather than external surfaces.

Geraki (anc. **Geronthrai**). J. Crouwel and M. Prent (Amsterdam, Netherlands Institute) report on the 2006 season of study and testing.

The season was largely dedicated to the study of material excavated during earlier years, with particular focus on the EH II deposits found in different areas on the acropolis and on the Hel deposit from room 1 in building C. Moreover, one week was devoted to test excavations in trench 17/13k, which had been opened in 2005.

With regard to the EH II period, study of the pottery confirmed a date of L EH II, contemporary with Lerna IIIC (L) for the destruction of the fortified settlement. While much of the fine ware pottery follows the EH II koine, it also seems that some shapes are particular to Geraki. Examples are what we have called 'kraters' and 'baking dishes'. There are also the coarse 'Geraki ware' storage vessels with their distinctive plastic surface treatment.

In addition to the study of major pottery assemblages, a beginning was made with the study of the Ar to Hel terracotta votives. Also, most of the soil samples gathered during previous years of excavation were processed.

The purpose of the test excavations was to remove the remaining collapse N of EH (fortification) wall 30, to define the hillside at the time of the construction and use of this wall and to gather dating material from below the level of that hillslope. The collapse consisted of large architectural stones fallen in a matrix of eroded mudbrick and wall fill, made up of cobble, gravel and sherd. The asociated pottery includes a mixture of Final Neo/EH I and EH I pottery with some clearly recognizable EH II material in varying proportions. It was tentatively concluded that the two faces of wall 30 were constructed and filled early in EH II. Its construction may have been accompanied by a certain degree of leveling, with material from preceding occupation levels being used in the wall fill.

Southern Laconia, coastal finds. A. Dellaporta and I. Spondylis (EMA) report (*ADelt B Chron 54* [1999], 1023–25) on underwater finds along the coast. These are (from E to W, following the coast): at **Kremmydi Monemvasias**, Ayios Pavlos, Neo, BA and later (down to Ot times) finds, including pottery and obsidian, and three Rom shipwrecks; at **Monemvasia**, Leipsona, a PH stone anchor; by **Prophitis Ilias** in the demos of **Neapolis** (anc. **Boiai)** at a *d.* of 6–9m remains of a Rom wreck with numerous amphorae; by cape **Zombola**, remains of a submerged ECh basilica with three apses; in the area of **Elafonisos**, on the small island of **Ailiotis**, LRom finds; and between the small island of **Pavlopetri** and the cape of **Elafonisos**, a small anc. cist grave; near **Archangelos**, at **Daliani**, a limestone quarry, house remains with associated Cl pottery and tile; in the bay of **Xyli** some submerged house remains at **Plytra** and at **Asprochortias** a 500 ton wreck of a 2nd World War vessel; at **Pounta** to the W of cape **Xyli,** some submerged apparently Pal levels and stone tools; at **Boza** a little to the N, PH walls associated with MBA pottery and obsidian blades; at **Epano Vatheio**, at the Hotel Belle Helene, submerged LRom walls possibly associated with the known ECh of **Ayios Nikolaos**; at **Trinaso**, **Valtaki** LRom or Byz structures; at **Gytheio**, **Ageranos** Rom walls; at **Porto Kagio** in the **Mani** a Rom wreck; and finally, in the harbour of anc. **Oitylon** more amphorae from the known Rom wreck here.

Sykia Molaon. A. Papathasaniou (EPS) reports (*ADelt*, 1009–11) on the osteological examination of skeletons associated with the Myc (LH IIIA–IIIC) chamber tombs here (see *AR* 49 [2002–2003], 33; *AR* 51 [2004–2005], 30). The minimum number of individuals per tomb were: seven for tomb 2; fourteen for tomb 3; and fifteen for tomb 4 (with a minimum of 36 for the whole cemetery). Of these, only fourteen adult skeletons (six males and eight females) were in a sufficiently good condition to determine sex. The majority of skeletons (28) were of adults over eighteen years of age, only eight being juveniles under eighteen years of age. There were no juveniles under four years of age. The dental and other pathology of the skeletons was also studied.

Monemvasia. A new study of this Byz and Med city is published: Καλλιγάς, Α.Γ., Χ.Α. Καλλιγά, *Μονεμβασία: ζαναγράφοντας σε παλίμψηστα* (Athens, Ποταμός 2006).

Trinisa. A. Dellaporta (EMA) reports (*ADelt*, 1029) that two sites in the vicinity have been registered as protected archaeological sites: the remains of LRom buildings at **Mavromandilou**; and the Rom structures that extend from **Valtaki** to **Kakia Skala** (see also E.S. Forster *BSA* 13 [1906–1907], 299).

Gytheio, Lakonis cave. E. Papayopoulou, P. Karkanas, E. Kotzabopoulou, K. Charvati and G. Tzartsidou (EPS) report (*ADelt*, 1003–05) on further excavation at this predominantly Pal site (see *AR* 50 [2003–2004], 28; *AR* 51 [2004–2005], 31). Excavation concentrated on the microstratigraphy of a $1m^2$ area around a hearth, where 379 stone and 230 bone fragments were recovered. Dating of the earlier, predominantly MPal, levels of the hearth yielded a C14 date of earlier than 45–40,000 years BP, a date confirmed by additional radiometric dating methods (ESR, IRSL and U-series), all undertaken by the Kimmel Center for Archaeological Science, Weizmann Institute in Israel. The recovery of MPal tools made using the Levallois technique (**Fig. 28**) confirms a

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