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ARCHAEOLOGY IN GREECE 2015–2016

Newsround

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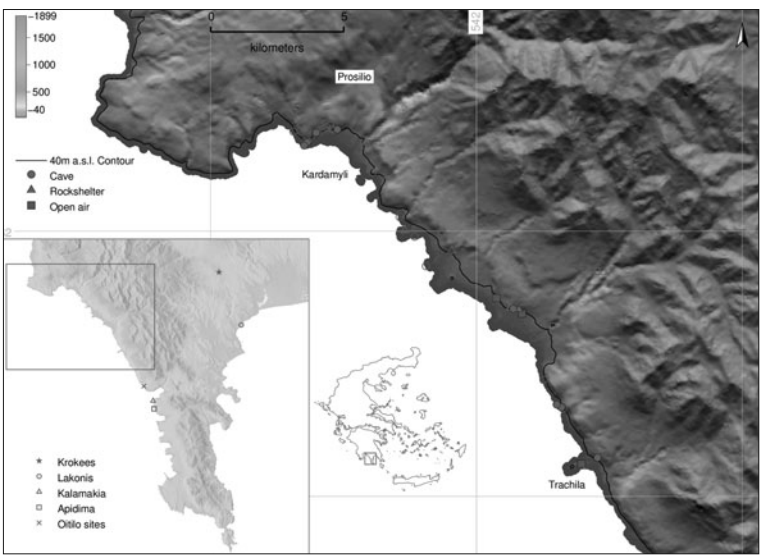
Returning for its third year, the Newsround section offers a platform for new data which do not appear within the specialist contributions of this year's *Archaeological Reports*, but which nevertheless warrant emphasis, either as a result of their particular characteristics or for the contribution they make to broader archaeological narratives.

This section is not intended to be exhaustive, but is designed, rather, to highlight recent discoveries in a way which complements digital content made available through *AGOnline*. The very varied nature of this material has meant that, for the most part, it has proven preferable to organize this section chronologically, although dedicated sections are provided for the inclusion of both marine archaeology and archaeological survey.

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Palaeolithic to Mesolithic

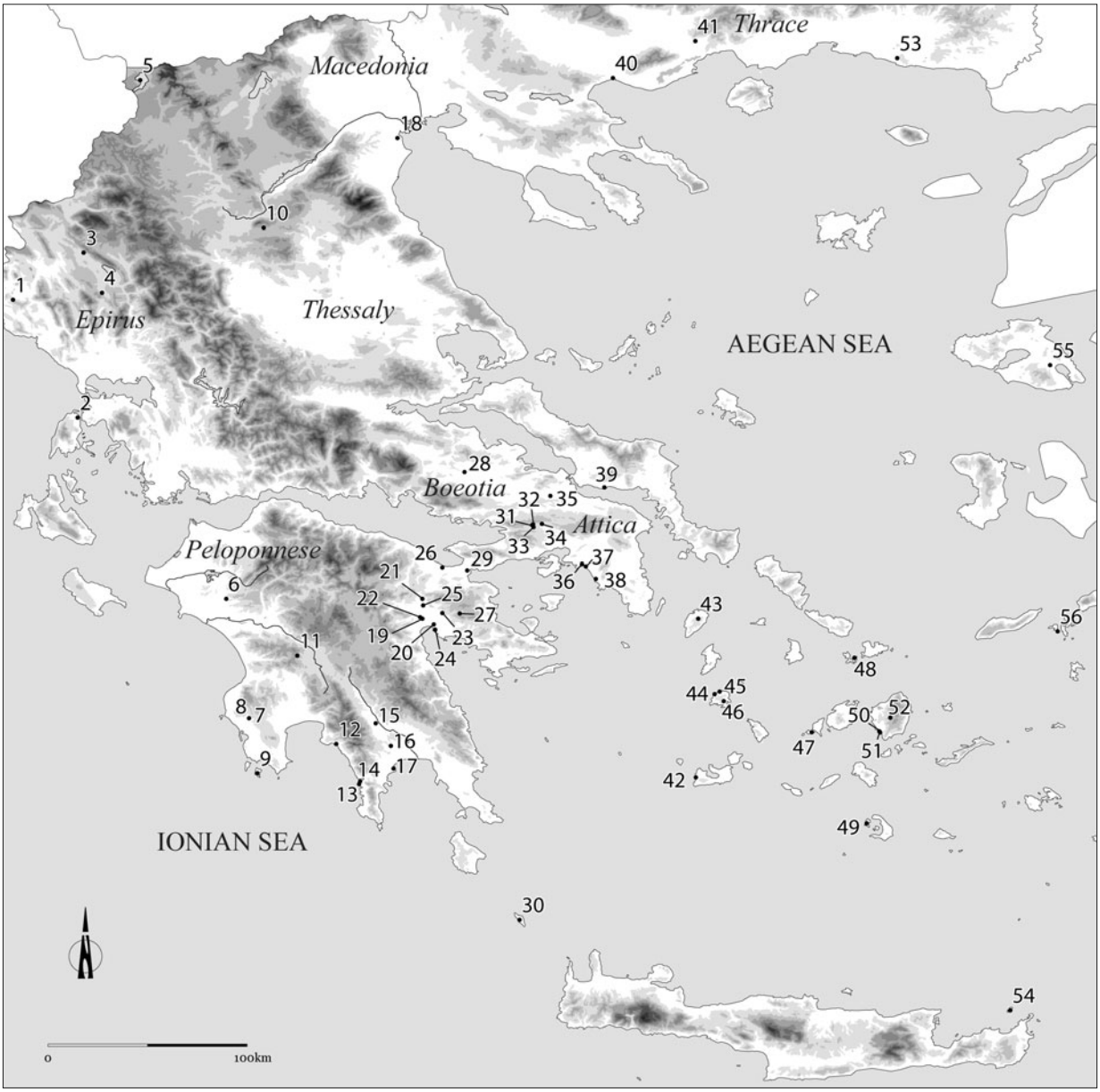
Vangelis Tourloukis and colleagues report the results both of targeted surface survey on the western coast of the **Mani** and of excavations mounted in 2013 within the cave at **Mavri Spilia** (Tourloukis *et al*. 2016) under the auspices of the multi-disciplinary project *Palaeoanthropology at the Gates of Europe* (PaGE), preliminary data from which have been reported previously within *AR* (*AR* 61 [2014–2015] 14). The survey has



22. Mani: distribution of Palaeolithic find-spots across the survey area.
Reproduced from Tourloukis et al. 2016: fig. 1;
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Map 3. Locations referred to in the text. © BSA. 1 Kokytos valley; 2 Koulmou Hill (Lefkada); 3 Asfaka (Epirus); 4 Episkopi Servianon; 5 Agios Achillios, Lake Prespa; 6 Roupaki, Langhadia (Agios Nikolaos), Boubrasias; 7 Chora Messenias; 8 Palace of Nestor, Pylos; 9 Schiza; 10 Vromonéria Panagias; 11 Mount Lykaion; 12 Mavri Spilia; 13 Apidima; 14 Kalamakia; 15 Vapheio-Palaiopyrgi; 16 Krokees; 17 Lakonis; 18 Methoni (Pieria); 19 Deiras; 20 Argos; 21 Mycenae; 22 Chania ; 23 Tiryns; 24 Nauplion; 25 Midea; 26 Lechaion; 27 Mount Arachnaion; 28 Gyphtissa; 29 Kyras Vrysi (Isthmia); 30 Antikythera wreck; 31 Eleutherai; 32 Kissos Cave, Mount Kithairon; 33 Kato Kastanava; 34 Kondita; 35 Eleon; 36 Agios Ioannis Rentis; 37 Phaleron, Athens; 38 Glyphada; 39 Eretria; 40 Argilos; 41 Dikili Tash; 42 Tzigouria Potamakia (Melos); 43 Ioulida (Kea); 44 Kephala (Seriphos); 45 Phournoi (Seriphos); 46 Plakalona (Seriphos); 47 Mandra (Despotiko); 48 Skardana (Delos); 49 Koimisi (Therasia); 50 Roos (Naxos); 51 Agiassos (Roos, Naxos); 52 Stelida (Naxos); 53 Cave of Polyphemos, Maroneia; 54 Dionysiades; 55 Ippeios (Lesbos); 56 Fourni Archipelago.

been developed to resolve a macro perspective on hominin activity during the Laconian Palaeolithic capable of complementing the depth of data derived from excavation at the cave sites of **Kalamakia**, **Lakonis** and **Apidima**. Targeting those areas with the greatest likelihood of preserving *in situ* Palaeolithic deposits, the surface survey prioritized a sub-200m above sea level coastal zone between **Prosilio** and **Trachila**, identifying a total of 46 caves, rock-shelters and open-air sites, of which 12

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yielded stratified Palaeolithic deposits and a further 13 offered Palaeolithic material on the surface (**Fig. 22**) (Tourloukis *et al*. 2016: 4). The vast majority of material collected belongs, technologically, to the Middle Palaeolithic (Levallois blanks and cores and a retouched assemblage including side- and end-scrapers, percoirs, denticulates and notches), although probable Upper Palaeolithic lithics (retouched blades, bladelet cores and thumbnail scrapers) were also identified at most sites. Significantly, all of those sites with stratified lithics also offered a clear contextual association with faunal remains.



23. Mavri Spilia: Middle Palaeolithic 'combustion feature' in Area C. Reproduced from Tourloukis et al. 2016: fig. 6; © V. Tourloukis et al.

At the cave of **Mavri Spilia**, located *ca*. 800m from the modern shoreline at an altitude of *ca.* 38m above sea level, excavation undertaken in association with the Ephorate of Palaeo-anthropology and Spelaeology exposed a number of probable hearths ('combustion features') (**Fig. 23**), each represented by a highly compacted deposit of recrystallized ash, burnt bone, lithics and charcoal. The lithic assemblage from the cave parallels the local Levallois-Mousterian industries and incorporates almost all stages of reduction. The majority of tools are of black and grey translucent flint; some, perhaps, reflecting exploitation of local sources within the **Viros Gorge** near **Kardamyli**. Quartz and radiolarite are used less commonly, while a small number of tools of porphyritic andesite ('Lapis Lakedaimonius') may have been carried to the site over an effective distance of the order of *ca*. 50km, based on the identification of the nearest raw material source at **Krokees** (Tourloukis *et al*. 2016: 9).

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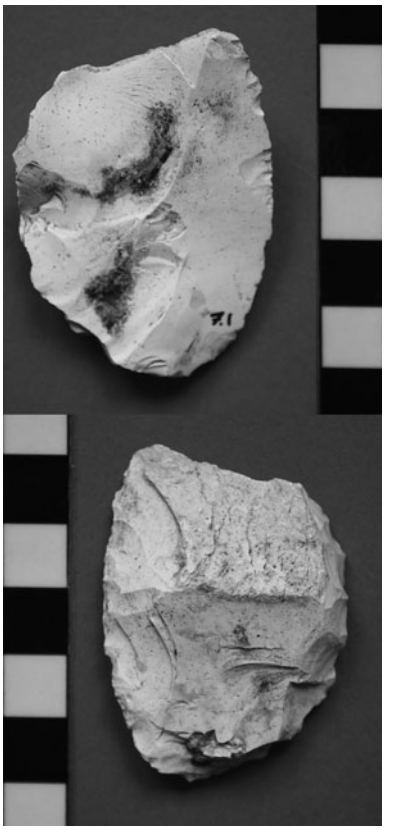
Taxonomic attribution of the faunal assemblage is made difficult by the fact that much of the material is burnt and highly fragmentary; small to medium-sized bovids and cervids are, however, common, and carnivores (accounting for some 7% of total) include *Canis lupus* and *Ursus*. A small percentage of the total assemblage evidences probable cut marks, while other examples demonstrate flake scars and additional characteristics suggestive of hominin modification.

In the northwestern Peloponnese, Palaeolithic tools have been identified at **Langhadia** (**Agios Nikolaos**) and **Roupaki** as a result of illegal sand extraction in the area of **Boubrasias**, **Psariou** (Elis) (**ID5150**), while in western Epirus, a Middle Palaeolithic hominin presence is well attested by the lithic assemblage recovered from find-spot PS43 at the base of the **Kokytos valley** (Galanidou and Papoulia 2016; see, previously, **ID460**). A flake-dominated Middle Palaeolithic assemblage of 108 artefacts from the latter includes two cores, five Levallois (and one pseudo-Levallois) points, three scrapers, two denticulates, two piercers and five retouched/use-worn flakes. A far larger assemblage of 508 artefacts represents the result of both late Upper Palaeolithic to

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Mesolithic and subsequent Neolithic (terminal Pleistocene to Early Holocene) activity within the valley. Palaeolithic and Mesolithic components, however, are not easily distinguished, and the conspicuous absence of typical Upper Palaeolithic tool types, including Gravettian/Epigravettian backed bladelets and micrograveттes, lends support to the identification of this as a predominantly Mesolithic assemblage (Galanidou and Papoulia 2016: 115–16).

Elsewhere within the valley, surface survey at the terra rossa site of **Megalo Karvounari** yielded several rare tool types from within a larger Middle Palaeolithic assemblage (Galanidou *et al*. 2016). These include two *Kielmesser*-type backed bifaces (among the first to be identified in Greece) and two *Quina* scrapers (**Fig. 24**). These tools may reflect an emergent Recent Micoquien (*Kielmessergruppen*) technocomplex further south than previously identified and/or a technologically mixed industry in the southern Balkans. They may, alternatively, represent technical choices dictated by raw material availability (Galanidou *et al*. 2016: 47–49).



24. Megalo Karvounari: Quina scraper from Unit 7. Reproduced from Galanidou et al. 2016: fig. 11; © N. Galanidou et al.

In the Cycladic archipelago, Adamantios Sampson reports the identification of a large open-air Mesolithic site at **Roos** on the southeastern coast of Naxos (Sampson 2016). Located immediately on the modern shore, surface survey suggests an extent greater than 2ha, well exceeding that of the Mesolithic open-air settlements at Maroulas on Kythnos and Kerame 1 on Ikaria. Within the lithic assemblage, tools are primarily of obsidian, although an additional number were manufactured from a white patinated flint derived from the nearby source at **Stelida** (see *AR* 61 [2014–2015] 12; **ID5066**), access to which may have formed an important consideration in the location of the site.

Work at **Stelida** during 2015 (**ID5443**) was undertaken with the express aim of locating *in situ* material capable of delivering use-dates for the four main areas of the site. Excavation in Area DG-A (**Fig. 25**), close to the summit of the hill, revealed two distinct colluvial layers, a higher grey-brown sediment containing tools of the early Upper Palaeolithic and a lower red, sandy sediment containing tools of the end of the Lower Palaeolithic or early Middle Palaeolithic. This earlier layer yielded a *Quina* scraper, as well as a proto-Levallois assemblage which includes both cores and bifaces. Two Middle Palaeolithic points (one Mousterian, the other pseudo-Levallois) are reported from Trench DG-A/05. Excavation of the later grey-brown sediment yielded an assemblage which appears to be Aurignacian, the identification of which, if correct, has important implications for our understanding of the movement of Homo Sapiens into Europe.

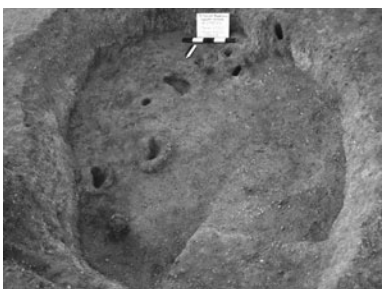
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25. Stelida, Naxos: view over Area DG-A from the summit of the hill. © Canadian Institute in Greece.

Neolithic to Bronze Age

Excavation undertaken by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Ioannina (12th EPCA) at **Episkopi Servianon** offers an extremely important addition to the sparse Neolithic record of central Epirus (see Vasileiou 2016; also **ID2518**); the site represents only the second Early Neolithic site known from the region (after the long-excavated site of **Asfaka**) and one of only a handful known from any stage of the Neolithic. Occupying a low hill at the edge of the Ioannina basin, Neolithic activity at Episkopi is characterized by several pits, at least some of which preserve postholes at their interior and likely represent the remains of sunken-floor buildings (**Fig. 26**). The ceramic assemblage from the site is, for the most part, low-fired; open forms dominate, and surface decoration, where it appears, consists largely of typical red-brown monochrome. However, several sherds with impressed and incised decoration have parallels from Konispol in Albania, Sidari on Corfu and from southern Italy, and suggest that Episkopi Servianon enjoyed access to a much more extensive Adriatic exchange network than previously thought.



26. Episkopi Servianon: probable sunken-floor structure (Vasileiou 2016: fig. 2). © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Ioannina (12th EPCA).

At **Dikili Tash**, application of new chemical analytical techniques to a storage jar recovered from Late Neolithic II House 1 has confirmed the presence of grape juice and fermentation markers consistent with the production of red wine, rather than simple juice extraction (Garnier and Valamoti 2016). The identification in the interior of resinous material derived from conifer suggests that the vessel was first coated to waterproof it before it was used to contain grape juice and pressings. Analysis of a small graphite painted jug found at a distance of *ca*. 4m from the storage jar indicates that it had been used to serve wine. The room in which the storage vessel was found yielded a very substantial assemblage of some 3,000 morphologically wild grape pips; these were likely spilled from

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the vessel when the house itself collapsed (see also, Valamoti 2015). This suggests either a managed cultivation of wild grape or domestication at a stage before pip morphology had greatly diverged from that of its wild progenitors. The architecture, and architectural development, of House 1 formed a focus of post-excavation study during 2015 (**ID5434**), while continued analysis of the associated archaeobotanical material identified from the north of the structure has clarified two discrete concentrations of flax seeds (*ca*. 200 and *ca*. 800, respectively); this is the largest such deposit of flax recognized in the Neolithic Aegean to date.

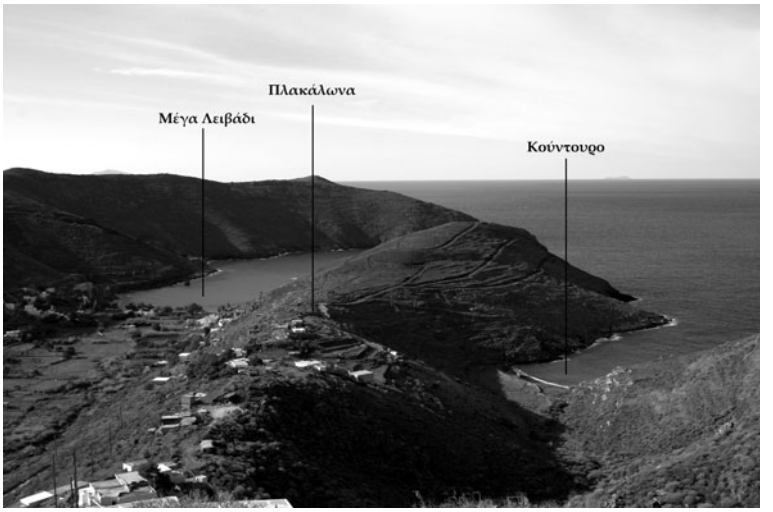
This suggests either a managed cultivation of wild grape or domestication at a stage before pip morphology had greatly diverged from that of its wild progenitors.

Rescue excavation undertaken by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Pieria at the Final Neolithic to Early Bronze Age settlement of **Methoni** (**Pieria**) (**ID5233**) has yielded the oldest examples of woven textile identified to date in Macedonia. Alongside a substantial ceramic assemblage, the site has yielded knives and pins in bronze, needles in bronze and bone, as well as stone tools and terracotta weights. The partially mineralized textiles were preserved on the corrosion products of three bronze blades, while a single bronze needle yielded a further thread. Detail of the textile awaits publication, although reports in the Greek press suggest it may have been woven from plant fibres (http://www.kathimerini.gr/805841/article/epikairothta/ellada/to-arxaiotero-yfasma-se-oloklhrh-th-makedonia).

Excavation undertaken within a wider programme of research designed to explore the diachronic landscape of **Therasia** has identified traces of an Early and Middle Cycladic settlement extending across a terraced slope in a naturally fortified position close to the Monastery of the Assumption at **Koimisi** (**ID5225**; see also Sbonias *et al*. 2015a; 2015b). Within the material assemblage, the presence of obsidian cores and blades, spindle-whorls and stone pestles is entirely typical for the period. The associated ceramic assemblage includes both decorated and undecorated storage and serving vessels; a small number preserve matt painted, polychrome and incised surface treatments (Kordatzaki 2015). Much of the ceramic material from Koimisi appears to be of local manufacture, although petrographic analysis suggests links with pottery-production centres on Naxos (Ceramic Group C); there is evidence also of the contemporary export of local products from Therasia to other sites in the Cycladic archipelago.

On Naxos itself, an Early Cycladic cemetery and settlement is reported from surface survey at **Agiassos** (Roos) (*ADelt* 62 [2007] *Chr.* 1144), while a group of well-built Early Cycladic II structures is reported from excavations above the Bay of Koundoura at **Plakalona** on Seriphos (*ADelt* 62 [2007] *Chr.* 1161–63; see also **ID5396**) (**Fig. 27**). Noteworthy here is the

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27. Plakalona: view toward Plakalona from the north. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades.

recovery of slag and furnace lining. These discoveries align Plakalona with other known Early Cycladic metalworking sites on Seriphos at **Kephala** and **Phournoi** (see Philaniotou *et al*. 2011: 162–63) and further strengthen the identification of Seriphos as a key Cycladic metal-production centre during the Early Bronze Age.

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At **Glyphada** (Asteria), further detail has emerged regarding the character and use-life of the large Early Helladic pit reported previously (**ID5380**; also **ID4871**). The pit itself was associated with a nearby metallurgical workshop and appears to have been used as a cistern for the collection of rainwater; a water channel and several other small pits were recorded in its immediate proximity. No longer functioning as a cistern, the pit was subsequently utilized as a bothros; its upper fill consists of detritus (litharge, heat-damaged tools and crucible fragments) from the workshop itself. The pit also contained material from the adjacent Early Helladic I chamber-tomb cemetery (**ID4871**) and was itself adapted for burial during Early Helladic II, at some point after the workshop had fallen out of use. Two burial shafts were inserted into the pit fill; the larger of the two, Burial 16, contained the disarticulated remains of 15 adults and two children as well as the contracted remains of a further adult and child. The grave goods are of a distinctly Cycladic character and include a frying pan, pyxides, two schematic marble figurines, a small marble phiale and two pairs of bronze tweezers. The second, smaller grave, Burial 17, yielded two contracted burials and a modest volume of obsidian and ceramics.

At **Eleon** (**ID5442**), excavations carried out under the auspices of the Greek-Canadian *Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project* focused on the so-called Blue Stone Structure at the centre of

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the site and the late sixth-century BC polygonal wall (**Fig. 28**). The former is now identified as an Early Mycenaean funerary enclosure by the discovery of four cist tombs in the southeastern quarter of the complex. The first of these tombs (*ca*. 1.75m × 0.85m), sealed with a limestone slab, contained the remains of an adolescent and two adults, and is dated to Late Helladic I by the recovery of a dark-burnished kantharos. The second tomb yielded the well-preserved remains of a child aged *ca*. 2–3 years at time of death. The third had been looted in antiquity; two sherds of the sixth century BC provide a *terminus post quem* for disturbance. The fourth tomb yielded the very poorly-preserved skeleton of a female in a flexed position, accompanied by a terracotta whorl; the recovery of an additional metatarsal from within the grave suggests a second occupant, now lost. A series of paved platforms constructed above each grave yielded further Early Mycenaean ceramics; an additional platform identified close to the centre of the complex should mark the position of further burials. A substantial volume of clay above these platforms indicates that the entire Blue Stone Structure was covered by a tumulus *ca*. 10m in diameter.



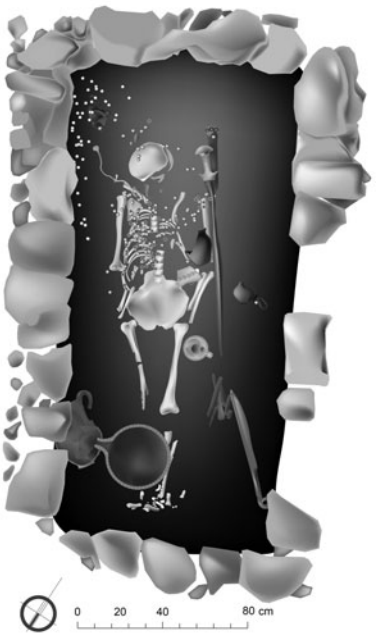
28. Eleon: aerial view of the Blue Stone Structure, illustrating the presumed northern extent of the building and the probable line of the tumulus. © Canadian Institute in Greece/Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Boeotia (9th EPCA).

The implications of the huge quantity of Mycenaean material from citadels, cemeteries and settlements in the northeastern Peloponnese presented within the 2015 volume *Mycenaeans up to Date* (edited by Anne-Louise Schallin and Iphiyenia Tournavitou) cannot be fully explored, or appreciated, within the confines of this year's report. However, among the very many important contributions, Iphiyenia Tournavitou presents the results of the first and second seasons (2010–2011) of the ***Mycenae East House Project*** (see previously, **ID2403**, **ID3312**), while Eleni Palaiologou publishes the excavation of a rural Late Helladic IIIB corridor building at **Chania**. The contents of the Western Staircase Dump at **Tiryns** are addressed in papers by Joseph Maran and colleagues (wall paintings) and Eleftheria Kardamaki (ceramics), while Late Helladic data from a mosaic of historic rescue excavations at **Nauplion** are presented by Christos Piteros. Excavations of the Mycenaean cult site on **Mount Arachnaion** are discussed by Olga Psychoyos and Yannis Karatzikos, and those at **Midea** by Katie Demakopoulou. Nikolas Papadimitriou, Anna Phillipa-Touchais and Gilles Touchais incorporate much unpublished material within their synthetic overview of Mycenaean **Argos**, while Phillipa-Touchais and Papadimitriou also present previously unpublished material from Carl Wilhelm Vollgraff's excavations in the cemetery at **Deiras.**

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Staying in the northeastern Peloponnese, the publication of rescue excavations conducted by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Corinthia (37th EPCA) within the Mycenaean settlement at

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29. Pylos: 'Griffin Warrior' tomb: digital reconstruction of the burial by Denitsa Nenova. © University of Cincinnati, Pylos Excavations.



30. Pylos: bronze swords in situ within the Late Helladic I–II shaft grave. © University of Cincinnati, Pylos Excavations.

Kyras Vrysi at Isthmia offers an important domestic perspective on the Late Bronze Age landscape beyond the Temple of Poseidon (Balomenou and Tassinos 2015). Located only *ca.* 200m to the west of the sanctuary, it is possible that at least some of the Late Helladic pottery previously published from within the temenos may have been washed down from the site. In Laconia, Louise Hitchcock and colleagues have published the results of a study of the probable Late Helladic III conglomerate quarry at **Vapheio-Palaiopyrgi** (Hitchcock *et al*. 2016; see **ID2561**). The site lies *ca*. 200m southeast of the Vapheio tholos and may well have served as the source for some of the large conglomerate lintel blocks excavated from its dromos (Hitchcock *et al.* 2016: 85).

By far the most extraordinary Mycenaean discovery reported over the previous 12 months is that of an undisturbed Late Helladic I–II shaft grave at the **Palace of Nestor** at **Pylos** (Area C) (**ID5577**; Stocker and Davis 2016). The burial was that of a single supine male aged *ca*. 30–35 years old at death. The deceased had been interred in a wooden coffin and placed within a stone-built chamber measuring *ca.* 2m × *ca.*1.05m, by *ca.*1.5m in depth; the presence of large ashlar blocks within the lower courses of the tomb suggests the reuse of material from an earlier monumental building on the Ano Englianos ridge. Within the grave was an extraordinary assemblage of some 1,500 objects (**Fig. 29**). Even preliminary reports on the character of this group are compelling: four gold signet rings (the highest number identified to date with any single contemporary interment: Davis and Stocker 2016), seven silver cups (including one with a gold rim), four gold cups and a variety of bronze vessels (including cups, bowls, amphorae, jugs and a spouted basin) incorporating gold and silver elements. A 0.76m-long gold box-weave necklace with sacral ivy finials lay close to the neck. A metre-long sword with an intricate gilt-ivory hilt and, beneath it, a short sword manufactured in the same style were located at the left chest (**Fig. 30**), while further bronze weapons (daggers and a spearhead) were positioned at the feet. Several thin bronze bands likely belong to a cuirass placed on the coffin at burial alongside a boar's-tusk helmet. Toilet articles include an ivory-handled bronze mirror and a group of six ivory combs, including one example decorated with a Minoan-style foliate band. An ivory plaque decorated with a griffin scene was located between the legs; a second example depicts a griffin being mauled by a lion. An assemblage of 50 sealstones was recovered, as were more than 1,000 beads of gold, carnelian, jasper, amber, amethyst and agate. The former are all likely to be Cretan in origin; indeed, a Minoan character is evident throughout the assemblage in general. At least some of the latter appear to have adorned a funerary textile, represented

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now by a few surviving fragments only. Unusually, no ceramics of any kind were included among the grave goods. The work which resulted in the identification of the shaft grave represents the first of a planned five-season project designed to elucidate the character of the Pylian Lower Town.

Our understanding of the wider environs of the palace benefit from the discovery of Late Helladic remains during infrastructural work along the Chora-Pylos Road (**ID5561**); walls and pebble floor surfaces were exposed *ca.* 180–200m southwest of the Palace, along with traces of a hearth built of tile and pithos fragments. Further Late Helladic building remains are noted from the **Vayena plot** and a small ceramic assemblage is reported close to the parking area of the plot (at the 103km marker).

Equally significant are reports from the ongoing Greek-American *synergasia* within the Sanctuary of Zeus on **Mount Lykaion**, Arcadia, of an east-west oriented slab-lined pit containing the remains of a probable adolescent male within the sacrificial altar (http://www.yppo.gr/2/g22.jsp?obj_id=66012) (**Fig. 31**). The cranium of the deceased was not recovered, although the lower jaw and the post-cranial skeleton appears intact; stone slabs had been deliberately positioned across the pelvis. The 11th-century BC date of the burial locates it securely during a period in which the ash altar itself was functioning and implies a cultic association for deposition.



31. Mount Lykaion: adolescent burial within the sacrificial altar. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Arcadia.

Early Iron Age, Archaic and Classical

On Melos, an eighth-century BC *enchytrismos* in a large pithoid jar is reported from the excavation of a rock-cut pit at **Tzigouria Potamakia** (Triades) (*ADelt* 63 [2008] *Chr.* 1114–15). The deceased child was accompanied by a bronze fibula, a number of bronze beads and two painted skyphoi. An adjacent pit yielded a dark painted cup, a small jug and a further skyphos which parallels those in the tomb. Roughly contemporary (*ca*. 750–700 BC), an undisturbed schist-built cist exposed during civic works at **Ippeios** represents the first Geometric tomb to be identified on Lesbos (https://archaeologynewsnetwork.blogspot.co.uk/2016/03/geometric-period-tomb-found-on-greek.html#VESTuKCXyhuYqUx4.97). The grave yielded the supine remains of an adult female accompanied by an assemblage of local Grey Ware drinking vessels which included a miniature krater, two bowls and two jugs. A small volume of jewellery (found at the pelvis and head) includes a bone pin, two gold earrings with granulated decoration, a large biconical bead and another of bronze. A schist container located to the north of the burial enclosed a Grey Ware amphora, still sealed by its stone lid and accompanied by a shallow bowl.

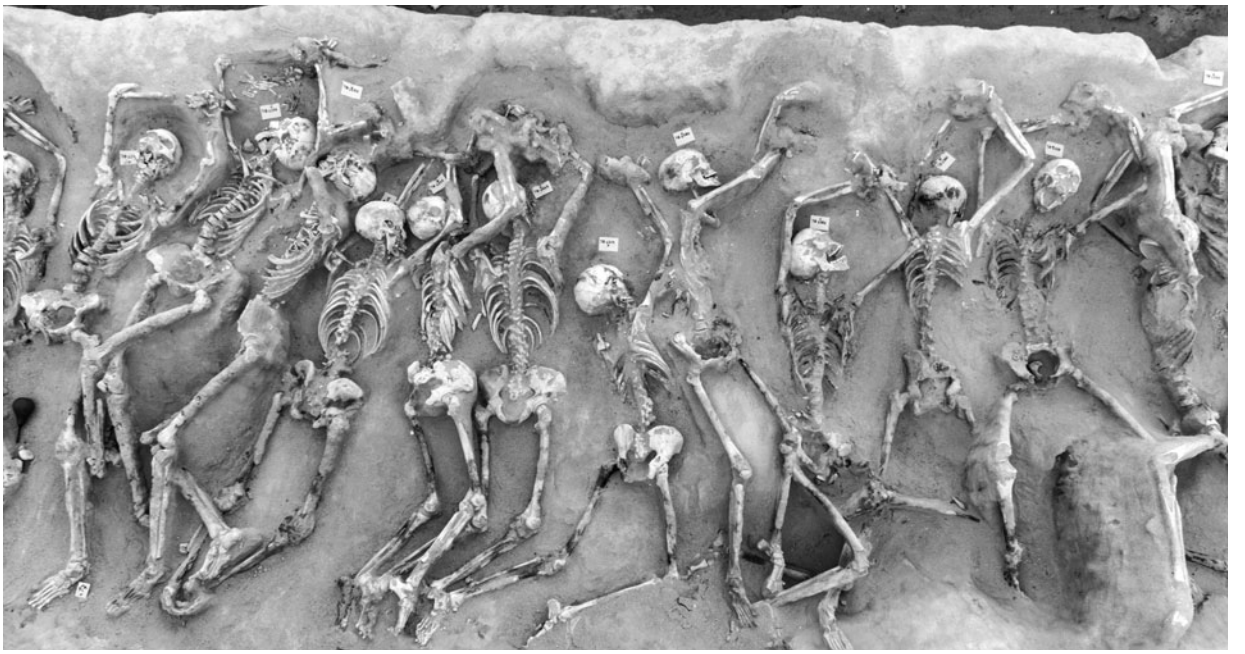
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Excavations within the extensive Geometric to Hellenistic cemetery at **Phaleron** have revealed two Archaic mass graves in the southeastern area of the esplanade (http://www.yppo.gr/2/g22.jsp?obj_id=64792). A total of 80 burials have been identified, all of them male, of which 36 preserve shackles *in situ* at the wrist (**Fig. 32**). Two vessels of unspecified type reported in association suggest a date of deposition in the third quarter of the seventh century BC. The presence of restraints suggests that these men died as prisoners, although the historical context of their interment remains unclear.

In the Koutloudis field on the southern acropolis of **Argilos** (Thrace), work has continued on the commercial complex (L) and street network previously identified (**ID5444**; for earlier work, see **ID5064**) (**Fig. 33**). The eastern edge of the complex has been traced, clarifying a total of 12 rooms over an area of 60m^2. In addition to the two phases of occupation already known (Phase 1: 475/460–425/400 BC; Phase 2: 425/400–357 BC), a probable Archaic occupation has now been recognized. Architectural parallels are evident between the rear wall of the complex and other Archaic buildings identified at the site, while excavation below the earliest Phase 2 surface in Room L6 identified a sand fill (0.6–0.8m in depth) below which was revealed a further surface and a pair of probable post-pads dating no later than the mid sixth century BC.



32. Phaleron: shackled burials. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of West Attika, Pireus and Islands.



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33. Argilos: Complex L, Rooms L4–L9. © Canadian Institute in Greece.

The character of this Archaic phase is not clear. All rooms appear to have had a commercial function during Phase 1, although some spaces may have served for habitation during Phase 2. Many of the rooms contained transport amphorae, although Room L4 appears to have housed an oil(?) press, while Room L7 yielded a significant assemblage of loomweights and a basin, perhaps related to the dying of fabric. The recovery of 239 coins brings the total from the building to some 450 and demonstrates well the commercial character of the Classical occupation. It is possible that this complex formed the northern boundary of the agora at Argilos, although further work is required to confirm the identification.

Work during 2015 within the Sanctuary of Apollo and Artemis at Mandra on Despotiko has located a major complex between the Archaic temple and the southern entrance to the sanctuary.

Work during 2015 within the Sanctuary of Apollo and Artemis at **Mandra** on **Despotiko** has located a major complex between the Archaic temple and the southern entrance to the sanctuary (**ID5227**). Measuring *ca*. 35m × 15m, it comprises five rooms which open at the south onto a courtyard space with a monumental entrance. The function of the building is not clear, although the material assemblage indicates use during the Archaic period, as well as multiple Classical and Hellenistic construction phases. A second large structure is reported to the west of this complex; comprising four rooms, excavation in its interior revealed a square altar of schist slabs and a large assemblage of sherds, including 20 inscribed with the name of Apollo (Α, ΑΠ, ΑΠΟΛ). These account for more than half of the 33 fragments of cups and skyphoi bearing the name of the deity reported for the season. Excavation in Building Z, beyond the peribolos of the temple, has yielded a further large Classical ceramic assemblage of which a significant proportion is comprised of Attic imports. A substantial wall is also reported,

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flanking the road linking the sanctuary with the port. Noteworthy among the 2015 sculptural assemblage are the calf of a kouros and three feet belonging to korai, as well as an Archaic marble statue base bearing the inscription: (A)NEΘH(KE).

A dump of the Archaic and Classical period is reported from excavation within the Zourni-Dova plot at **Gyftissa** (Orchomenos) (**ID5463**). The ceramic assemblage includes more than 1,500 vessels, many of them miniatures, while the substantial coroplastic assemblage includes standing and sitting female types dated between the sixth century BC and the beginning of the Hellenistic period. The character of this assemblage indicates a previously unknown Archaic cult space dedicated to a female deity in close proximity. At some point following the cessation of cult practice, the area to the west of this deposit saw the introduction of at least two cist graves (T1 and T2). T1 contained a single burial with the head at the west, accompanied by a group of five kotylai and an iron spearhead. A further 20 miniature vessels, 13 small kotylai and several back-glaze sherds recovered in association derive from the earlier cult deposit. T2, also missing its cover slab, yielded sherds and figurine fragments as well as three miniature kotylai.

The function of the building is not clear, although the recovery of an Archaic kantharos handle bearing the inscription ΤΟ ΔΙΟΝΥΣ *hints at a possible cultic use.*

An Archaic courtyard complex is reported from rescue excavations at 161–63 Piraeus Avenue, **Agios Ioannis Rentis** (**ID5279**; *ADelt* 63 [2008] *Chr.* 167–70). Two of the three rooms comprising the northern range preserved benches along their walls; the southern and western ranges comprise stoas with rooms at their terminal ends. Both stoas were accessed from the central courtyard via propyla, the column bases of which were preserved *in situ*. A peribolos wall was traced at the east, south and west of the complex, although the east of the complex itself is not preserved. The function of the building is not clear, although the recovery of an Archaic kantharos handle bearing the inscription TO ΔIONYΣ hints at a possible cultic use.

Hellenistic to Roman

On **Lefkada**, excavation on the northeastern flank of the **Koulmou Hill** has exposed part of the ancient theatre briefly investigated by Emil Krüger and Wilhelm Dörpfeld in the early 20th century (http://www.yppo.gr/2/g22.jsp?obj_id=63853; Dörpfeld 1927: 156, 267). Not attested within any surviving ancient text, 13 test trenches exposed areas of the seating and orchestra, a *ca*. 3m-long section of the retaining wall of the *koilon* and a *ca*. 25m-long section of the retaining wall of the stage. The dimensions of the seats are recorded at a width of *ca*. 0.22–0.33m and a depth of *ca*. 0.73–0.9m. This work follows the publication during 2015 of an important volume on the archaeology and architecture of the ancient Greek theatre edited by Rune Frederiksen, Elizabeth Gebhard and Alexander Sokolicek.

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Hellenistic, Roman and Early Byzantine remains have been identified during rescue excavations by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Florina (29th EPCA) at the site of **Spas** on the island of **Agios Achillios**, Lake Prespa (*ADelt* 62 [2007] *Chr.* 974–78). Noteworthy among a small group of Early Byzantine burials is that of a fourth-century AD female wearing a necklace of glass and amber beads, silver earrings and a bronze fibula, and accompanied by a number of coins of Constans I and Constantine II. Excavation below these burials identified a number of domestic Roman structures. Two further Roman buildings, built of mudbrick on a high stone foundation and roofed with Laconian tile, were exposed to the south. The first is identified as a probable warehouse based on the recovery of four pithoi of significant size inserted into the floor surface. The second, in contrast, yielded a hearth and several deposits of ochre, and may have functioned as a workshop. The associated ceramic assemblage includes storage vessels, Eastern Sigillata (first to third century AD) and a small number of skyphoi with relief decoration (first century BC to first century AD), while several fragments of glass vase, stamped weights and two coins – of Hadrian (AD 132–134) and Aurelian (AD 270–275) – are also noted. Survey on the lakeshore to the southwest yielded a concentration of local Hellenistic Grey Wares (some with black painted bands) and decorated hydriae, oenochoae and amphorae, indicative of an earlier, Hellenistic occupation of the second to first century BC.

Noteworthy among a small group of Early Byzantine burials is that of a fourth-century AD female wearing a necklace of glass and amber beads, silver earrings and a bronze fibula, and accompanied by a number of coins of Constans I and Constantine II.

At **Vromonéria Panagias** (Deskati) excavation by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Kozani (30th EPCA) has revealed a complex of four buildings with evidence of occupation from the Hellenistic to Early Byzantine period (*ADelt* 63 [2008] *Chr.* 970–74; see, previously, **ID2190**). The Hellenistic component is represented by the eastern Building A. This is a rectangular structure comprising 12 rooms oriented around a pebble-paved central



34. Eretria: mosaic floor with palm motif.
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courtyard containing a hearth and a millstone. The presence of brick repairs to the earlier cobble walls of the structure attest continued occupation into the Roman period. It was during this phase that Building B was constructed immediately to the west. Comprising a total of 21 rooms, the southern range of the structure incorporated a frigidarium, caldarium and tepidarium; the main water conduit was also traced. A further courtyard provisioned with a hearth and millstone was identified in the east of the structure. Contemporary with or slightly later than the latter is the monumental bath complex, Building C. In addition to a three-tiered frigidarium, a tiered tepidarium and a caldarium, the structure included a large rectangular triclinium with a mosaic floor of geometric motifs which yielded three column fragments, a column base and an abacus. A further space to the west likely served as the changing room. To the northeast of Building C were cleared sections of a retaining wall, several tiers of rock-cut seats, the remains of a stone portico with column bases *in situ* and two ovens. An Early Byzantine courtyard-centred structure, Building D, lay on an elevated plateau to the north.

In addition to a three-tiered frigidarium, a tiered tepidarium and a caldarium, the structure included a large rectangular triclinium with a mosaic floor of geometric motifs which yielded three column fragments, a column base and an abacus.

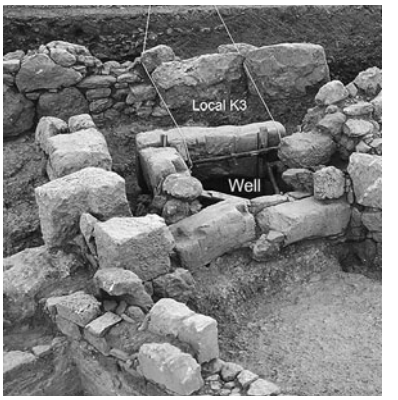
At **Eretria**, work continued on the gymnasium exposed during winter 2013–2014 (**ID5445**). Three building phases were identified around Courtyard A. The first (*ca*. 330–320 BC) includes porticoes in the north, west and east, and a long wall at the south. The latter was replaced during the second phase of construction (early third century BC) to form a peristyle court; during the third phase, the courtyard was eventually reduced in size during the second century BC with the introduction of porticoes at the south and east. To the west of Portico A2, excavation has exposed a rectangular room with a bichrome mosaic panel floor with a central palm-leaf motif (**Fig. 34**). The inclusion within the mosaic of a fragment of a reused second-century BC inscription suggests a date for construction during



35. Eretria: Exedra O.
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the Late Hellenistic period. In the eastern section of the gymnasium, work focused on Exedrae O and S. The façade of Exedra O is distyle in antis. There are negative traces of benches which lined the wall and two moulded brackets which likely supported a large basin; eight small footbaths were identified set into the floor (**Fig. 35**). The floor itself is of polished limestone and preserves at its centre a small polychrome mosaic rosette of the Late Hellenistic period. Exedra S preserves the same arrangement of benches, but the floor is of compact clay, suggesting that the space served a function other than bathing. Between the two rooms was identified a rock-cut well, the upper part of which was filled with layers of rubble (**Fig. 36**). Four large blocks at the opening preserved traces of rope-wear and four mortise holes for a pulley structure. Three rooms lining the road to the north of this area were likely used for storage.



36. Eretria: rock-cut well between Exedrae O and S. © Swiss School of Archaeology in Greece.

Late Antique to Early Modern

On **Kea**, rescue excavation carried out by the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades (2nd EBA) on the Marks plot close to the fortress of **Ioulida** has yielded evidence of activity during the Early and Middle Byzantine periods (**ID5562**; *ADelt* 62 [2007] *Chr.* 1180–82). Two rock-cut pits preserving lime mortar at the base and Middle Byzantine glazed pottery and combed-ware amphorae in the fill perhaps relate to a nearby workshop. A rock-cut chamber tomb lay to the northeast; square in plan (*ca*. 3m × 3m) and with a low vaulted ceiling, its walls preserved traces of red, blue and black painted decoration. Arranged across the floor was a series of seven Early Byzantine cist graves. Covered with schist slabs, they contained both single and double primary burials and an unknown number of secondary interments; the wall of one of this group included a reused inscribed Hellenistic stele. Offerings included a small oinochoe and a group of five oil lamps from fifth-century AD workshops in Attica, Asia Minor and North Africa.

Further reports on excavations mounted within the **Cave of Polyphemos** at **Maroneia** have clarified several distinct use-phases between the Neolithic and Early Modern periods (**ID641**, **ID2315**, **ID5772**; Panti 2015). The cave may have served as refuge for the population of nearby Palaeochora during the political uncertainty of the 12th to 13th century AD and the Catalan and Turkish raids of the 14th century AD. The presence of amphorae and pithoi with plastic rope decoration within the so-called Room of the Altar suggests that it also served as a commercial storage space, perhaps for locally produced wines; two stone structures identified here were likely intended as supports for storage vessels, while a third yielded fragments of cooking wares. A large ceramic assemblage is reported from both the Room of the Altar and the Room of the

The cave may have served as refuge for the population of nearby Palaeochora during the political uncertainty of the 12th to 13th century AD and the Catalan and Turkish raids of the 14th century AD.

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Red Column, which, as noted above, includes Zeuxippos Ware with incised concentric circles likely deriving from the workshop at nearby **Mikro Pisto**. Of particular interest within the Room of the Altar is a female burial of the Ottoman period; surviving fragments of silk from the knee and pelvis have provided a calibrated radiocarbon date of AD 1650–1800. A small collection of seeds at the torso may represent the remains of a modest funerary offering.

Of particular interest within the Room of the Altar is a female burial of the Ottoman period; surviving fragments of silk from the knee and pelvis have provided a calibrated radiocarbon date of AD 1650–1800.

Regional histories

Sylvian Fachard, Alex Knodell and Eleni Banou have reported on the second season of the ***Mazi Archaeological Project*** (**ID5384**; see, previously, **ID4875**; Fachard *et al*. 2015). Work continued this year between ancient Oinoe (Myoupolis) and the Late Classical to Hellenistic Mazi Tower (Area A) and on the adjacent Kouloumbi plain (Area B), and incorporated for the first time the western Mazi plain (including the settlement and fortress of Eleutherai) and the valley of Prophitis Elias (Area E). A total of 216 archaeological features are reported. Included within this count is a substantial Early Helladic upland settlement at **Kato Kastanava** (**Fig. 37**). Extending over several hectares, standing architecture is evident in the form of stone walls and several large enclosures; importantly, the surface assemblage indicates occupation only during Early Helladic I, with no diagnostic Final Neolithic or Early Helladic II component recognized to date. A similar absence of Early Helladic II has been noted previously in the adjacent **Skourta plain** and may indicate a local pattern of upland abandonment during this phase. Mycenaean occupation is reflected in material collected to the northwest of Oinoe (see Fachard *et al*. 2015: 182) and at the sites of **Eleutherai** and **Kondita**. Archaic activity is represented at the probable shrine to Antiope at the **Kissos Cave** on Mount Kithairon, the surface material of which included a large number of Corinthian aryballoi of the late seventh to early sixth century BC, several fragments of

A similar absence of Early Helladic II has been noted previously in the adjacent Skourta plain and may indicate a local pattern of upland abandonment during this phase.



37. Mazi Archaeological Project: prehistoric site at Kato Kastanava. © G. Asvestas, Ephorate of Antiquities of West Attika, Pireus and Islands

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decorated bronze sheet and three sherds with graffito. During the Classical period, Eleutherai emerged as the major focus of settlement; the site itself yielded the highest densities of tile and pottery within Area E, with scatter extending across an area of more than 6ha. Some 500m to the west, the Fortress of Eleutherai yielded an assemblage of Early Classical to Early Hellenistic ceramics (later fifth to third century BC), as well as evidence of a Late Roman occupation. A single Mycenaean kylix stem perhaps hints at earlier activity. A programme of systematic recording has revealed a series of wheel ruts in the bedrock of the fortress and additional stretches of intramural polygonal masonry indicative of a previously unrecognized earlier Classical building phase, while photogrammetric recording of the inscription of the Plataia Gate has yielded new detail. A preliminary reading identifies it as a customs regulation (or similar) of the third century AD. Limited Late Hellenistic occupation throughout the Mazi plain contrasts with an intensive Late Roman reoccupation. Large quantities of Middle and Late Byzantine pottery evidence a shift toward the **Kondita plateau** on the slopes of Mount Pastra as the main focus of occupation by the 12th century AD, with scatter covering an estimated 30ha. A modest assemblage of Zeuxippos Ware identifies a 13th- to 14th-century AD presence contemporary with the construction of the Frankish tower.

Limited Late Hellenistic occupation throughout the Mazi plain contrasts with an intensive Late Roman reoccupation.

Marine archaeology

At the harbour of ancient Corinth at **Lechaion**, excavations conducted during 2015 in the outer harbour (Area 2) under the auspices of the Greek-Danish *Lechaion Harbour Project* yielded an Early Byzantine mole comprising six well-preserved wooden caissons. This is a unique discovery in Greece which directly challenges the identification of major harbour works as a product of earlier periods (http://humanities.ku.dk/news/2015/greek-danish-team-of-archaeologists-investigates-one-of-the-most-important-harbour-towns-of-the-ancient-mediterranean; for previous work, see **ID4890**). Measuring *ca*. 13m in width, the mole was traced for a minimum distance of *ca*. 57m, although it may very well extend further. The six caissons (**Fig. 38**) were constructed as rudimentary barges, filled with stone, manoeuvred into position and sunk in order to protect ships at anchor. Preliminary radiocarbon dates suggest a date of construction during the middle of the fifth century AD, broadly contemporary with the appearance of the Leonidas Basilica. Future work may well help to clarify the exact nature of any functional relationship between the port and the church. Elsewhere, excavation was also undertaken on the stone-lined entrance canal which provided access to the three inner harbours of Lechaion. Remains of the structure have long been visible on the shore itself, although excavation has now exposed it for a total length of *ca*. 55m.



38. Lechaion: Early Byzantine caissons. Photograph by Vassilis Tsiairis; © Lechaion Harbour Project 2016/Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EMA.

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39. Fourni Archipelago: Archaic to Early Classical wreck. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EMA.

In shallow waters off the **Fourni Archipelago** between the Dodecanesian islands of Ikaria and Samos, survey between 2015 and 2016 under the auspices of the *Fourni Underwater Survey* has mapped a total of 45 previously unidentified wrecks (http://www.yppo.gr/2/g22.jsp?obj_id=65632). A Late Archaic to Early Classical (*ca*. 525–480 BC) amphora carrier lost with an eastern Aegean cargo represents the earliest of those identified (**Fig. 39**); the latest, in contrast, belongs to the 19th century AD. Other noteworthy examples include a Middle Hellenistic amphora carrier sunk with a cargo of Koan amphorae and another carrying amphorae from Sinope on the Black Sea; several Late Antique vessels are also reported. Two Archaic stone tow anchors represent the largest of the type yet discovered in the Aegean. The density and chronology of the vessels identified have clarified the exceptional significance of the archipelago as a nodal point in both ancient and Early Modern maritime networks.



40. Bay of Skardana, Delos: building foundation. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EMA.

Off northwestern **Delos**, excavation during 2016 has focused on the submerged remains of the Late Hellenistic district of **Skardana** (http://www.yppo.gr/2/g22.jsp?obj_id=65492). Structural elements from a collapsed colonnade were identified at a depth of *ca*. 0.2–5m, as were the foundations of a substantial port facility for which the exact function remains unclear (**Fig. 40**). A Late Hellenistic shipwreck was identified some 35m to the northwest of the Bay of Skardana, while a further seven were identified in the channel between Delos and **Rheneia**. Of the latter, six can also be dated to the Late Hellenistic period, while the seventh is Roman. The concentration of Late Hellenistic wrecks in this area reflects the intensive commercialization of Delos which accompanied Roman-Athenian rule following the Third Macedonian War in 167 BC.

Excavation at the site of the first-century BC **Antikythera wreck** (EMA/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution) continues to yield important data about the ship and its cargo (http://www.yppo.gr/2/g22.jsp?obj_id=65372). Of particular note is the recovery during 2016 of a second heavy bronze spear similar to that identified during 2014 (see *AR* 61 [2014–2015] 30), as well as four fragments of marble statues (including a left wrist), a wooden furniture leg covered in copper alloy, millefiori-type glass jars, a lagynos, a jug and a gold ring. Further structural elements belonging to the ship include multiple rivet types, resin lumps, lead hull-sheathing, a lead pipe (perhaps deriving from the bilge) and a probable lead counterweight of *ca*. 100kg; a large volume of iron slag is also reported. The case for the identification of a second ship at the site is strengthened by the recovery of a second lead tube of different calibre ship nails, of a type distinct from those noted at the main wreck, and variant forms of both amphorae and lagynoi.

Of particular note is the recovery during 2016 of a second heavy bronze spear similar to that identified during 2014.

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A Late Hellenistic to Early Roman wreck and another of the second to third century AD have been identified off **Schiza** (*ADelt* 62 [2007] *Chr.* 1424), while an additional first- to early second-century AD amphora carrier is reported off Agios Nikolaos, Crete at **Dionysiades**. The latter sank with a cargo of Cretan Type 2 and Tripolitania Type 1 amphorae, used respectively for the transportation of wine and oil.

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