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Recent research in Early Helladic southern Greece

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Introduction

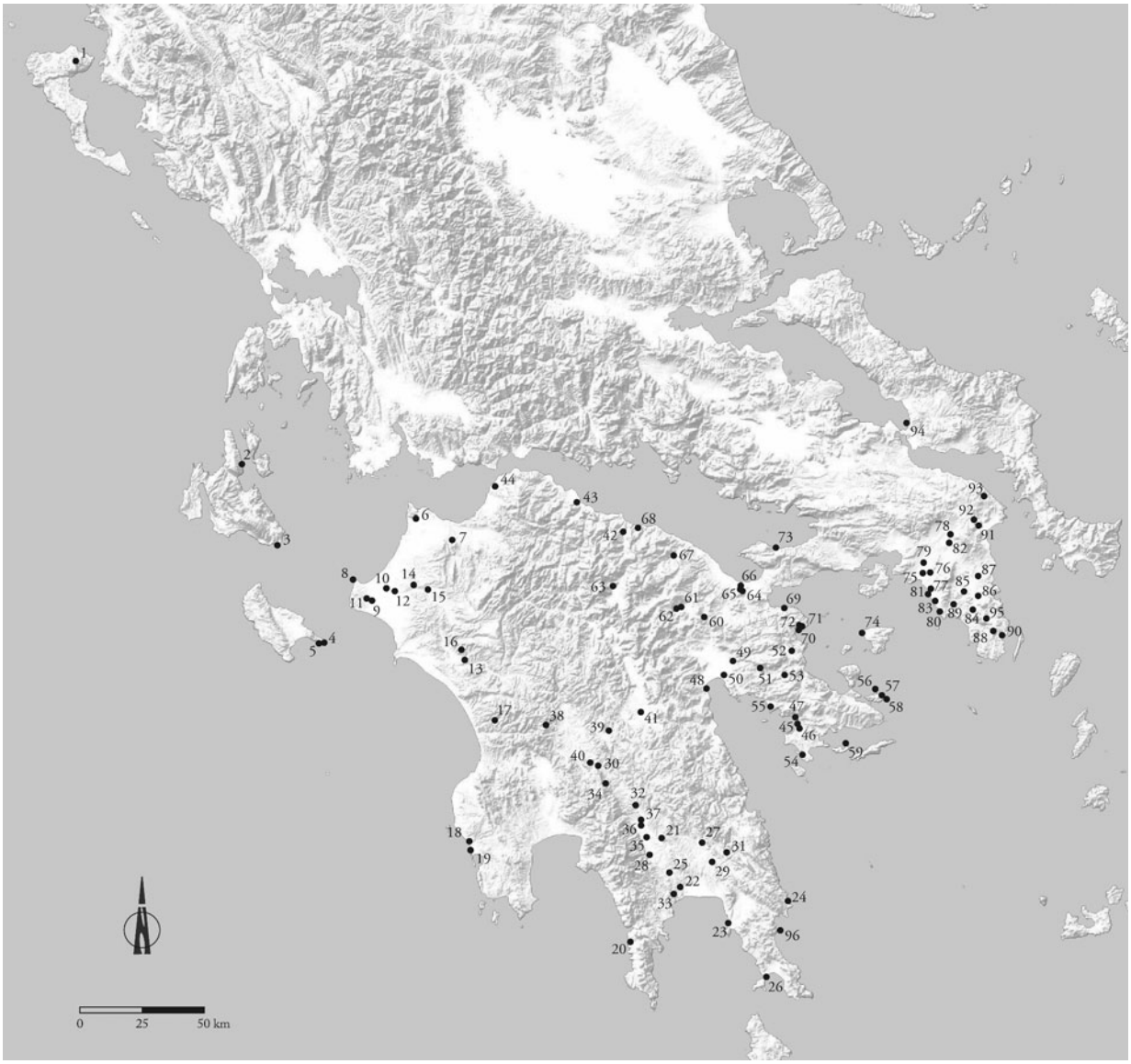
The Early Helladic period on the Greek mainland is a time of complexity and innovation, characterized by a marked regionalism in settlement patterns and material culture, and the presence of myriad cross-scale networks within which objects, technologies, ideas and individuals circulated. Nevertheless, much about the period remains unclear beyond the relative comfort of its long 'middle' phase, Early Helladic II (*ca*. 2950–2250 BC). Its emergence from the socio-cultural processes of the Final Neolithic, particularly, continues to be obscured by a 'fourth-millennium gap' which has proved frustratingly intransigent. Of those few Peloponnesian sites yielding radiocarbon dates which potentially fall within the fourth millennium, those of Franchthi (FCP 5.2, P-1659, *ca*. 4,230–3,790 cal. BC; see Vitelli 1999: table 9), Kouveleiki Caves A and B (**ID1492**; Kontaxi 2006) and Alepotrypa (Bronk-Ramsey *et al*. 2015: 200) fall well short of its mid-point. Halieis alone potentially bucks the trend (*ca*. 3,909–3,367 cal. BC; Pullen 2000: 184–86; see also Alram-Stern 2007), although the range on this sample is so great as to be problematic. New data from Pit 39 at Tsepi in Attica (3,635–3,520 cal. BC, see below) offers some cause for hope. What is to be made of this gap is not clear, although John Coleman (2011) has recently restated the case for a large-scale depopulation of Greece during much of the Final Neolithic period (see also Maniatis and Papadopoulos 2011; Maniatis *et al*. 2014). With William Cavanagh and colleagues (2016) offering a mean date of 3,257 BC for the beginning of Early Helladic I (3,579–2,935 BC at 95% probability, based on data from Tsoungiza and Eutresis), it is evident that we are still some way from closing the gap. Several sites have nevertheless offered potentially late Final Neolithic occupations (including, now, Geraki; see Crouwel 2012: 134) and there are indications of continuity across the transition at Corinth, Merenda and other sites (for Kiapha Thiti, see Nazou 2014: 170–71; for Corinth, see Lavezzi 2003; for Merenda, see Kakavogianni *et al*. 2009a; 2009c), although no published mainland stratigraphic sequence unequivocally bridges the gap.

Despite recent work, the overall picture of the Early Helladic I in the Peloponnese has changed little in the last decade. The absence of a chronologically diagnostic ceramic assemblage (or fabric type) comparable to the northeastern Peloponnesian *Talioti group* or the Cycladic *Kampos group*, of late EHI, continues to pose difficulties for the distinction of early to mid-EHI (the Corinthian sequence discussed by Lavezzi 2003 remains unpublished). The period continues to be poorly represented in the western Peloponnese other than at Agios Dimitrios, Olympia and Voidokoilia (among a handful of others; see Alram-Stern 2004), although discoveries at Kalamaki (Vasilogamvrou 1996-1997) and Elis (Rambach 2007a) have added to the record and there is some evidence for EHI activity at Teichos Dymaion (**ID3912**) and Romanou (see below). The period, of course, enjoys greater visibility in the eastern Peloponnese, where it has been buoyed by the publication of EHI deposits at Tsoungiza (Pullen 2011a) and the identification of a substantial EHI ceramic assemblage (currently under study) from the upper acropolis at Midea (Demakopoulou *et al*. 2008: 10–13), although architectural remains are still scarce. Attica, by contrast, has yielded a number of EHI settlements, including Lambrika (Kakavogianni *et al*. 2008; 2009b) and Merenda (Kakavogianni *et al*. 2009a), while work continues in the contemporary cemeteries of Tsepi (**ID6140**; Pantelidou-Gofa 2016a; 2016b) and Asteria-Glyphada (**ID3306**; recently, Kaza-Papageorgiou 2016a; 2016b; Nazou 2014: 344–53 for Final Neolithic to EHI remains elsewhere in Attica).

Early Helladic II (2,950–2,250 BC), and particularly its late phase EHIIB/Lerna IIIC–D, of course, continues to draw attention as an acme of socio-political complexity, although, with several Final Neolithic to EHI cemeteries now recognized and the identification of Final Neolithic monumental architecture at

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Map 9. Map of key locations/sites mentioned in the text. © BSA. 1. Almyros Peritheia; 2. Yayana (wreck); 3. Skala Mounda; 4. Cape Kalogeros; 5. Doretes; 6. Teichos Dymaion; 7. Kalamaki; 8. Kafkalida; 9. Vartholomio; 10. Tragani; 11. Vranas; 12. Andravida; 13. Olympia; 14. Simiza Spartorrachi and Marinaki (Agios Dimitrios); 15. Kostoureika II; 16. Kafkania; 17. Agios Dimitrios; 18. Romanou; 19. Voidokoilia; 20. Alepotrypa Cave and Xagounaki; 21. Agios Georgios and Vouno Panagias; 22. Agios Stephanos; 23. Boza; 24. Armakas Cave; 25. Kastraki Keratitsas; 26. Pavlopetri; 27. Geraki; 28. Anthochori; 29. Kouveleiki Caves A and B; 30. Kyparissi (Longanikou interchange); 31. Archangelos; 32. Karavas Soustianon; 33. Perdikoula (Krokees); 34. Agoriani (Klevaina); 35. Palaiopyrgi; 36. Kouphovouno; 37. Sparta; 38. Mount Lykaion; 39. Kastraki (Asea Valley) and Asea Paleokastro; 40. Monastiriako - Ambelakiotiko rema; 41. Tegea; 42. Krios Valley and Kassaneva; 43. Helike and Keryneia; 44. Patras; 45. Franchthi Cave and Lambogianna (Koilada Bay); 46. Delpriza Kranidi; 47. Salandi Bay; 48. Lerna; 49. Midea; 50. Tiryns; 51. Leukakia; 52. Vassa; 53. Epidauros; 54. Halieis; 55. Ano Iria; 56. Variarnia (Poros); 57. Kavos Vasili (Poros); 58. Modi; 59. Dokos (wreck); 60. Tsoungiza; 61. Petri; 62. Aidonia; 63. Pheneos; 64. Ancient Corinth; 65. Cheliotomylos; 66. Koutoumatsa; 67. Pyrgouthi; 68. Derveni; 69. Vayia; 70. Pharonisi; 71. Malia Stiri; 72. Malia Pitsis; 73. Schoinos; 74. Kolonna (Aegina); 75. Tavros; 76. Kouremenos Hill; 77. Hill of Pani (Alimos); 78. Nea Erythraia; 79. Aigaleo; 80. Vouliagmeni; 81. Agios Kosmas; 82. Kifissia; 83. Asteria-Glyphada; 84. Kalmis; 85. Lambrika; 86. Merenda; 87. Zagani; 88. Megalo Rimbari; 89. Kiapha Thiti; 90. Thorikos; 91. Tsepi; 92. Oinoi II (Cave of Pan) and Oinoi IV; 93. Mavro Vouno Grammatikou; 94. Manika; 95. Keratea; 96. Epidauros Limera.

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Geraki (MacVeagh Thorne 2012) and Xagounaki (Parkinson *et al*. 2015), it has become clear that at least some of the innovations with which the period has commonly been associated belong to a much older tradition. Similarly, the identification of an early EHIII corridor house at Helike (discussed below; Katsonopoulou and Katsarou 2017) has important implications for our understanding of the process of cultural change at the EHII–III transition and the regional trajectory of Achaea relative to other areas of the Peloponnese. The use of seals and sealing, at least in southern Greece, remains characteristic of EHII, represented by large groups of sealings at Lerna, Geraki and Petri (Kostoula 2000; 2004; 2006 [Petri]; Krzyszkowska 2005: 46–52 [Lerna, Geraki]). and visible in recent reports from Boza and Anthochori (Zavvou 2012), Tiryns (**ID297**, **ID752**) and Poros (Kavos Vasili [**ID244**] and the islet of Modi: Konsolaki-Giannopoulou 2011). The exact nature of the system or systems within which the practice was in use remains a matter of debate (see recent contributions by Maran and Kostoula 2014; Peperaki 2016), although scholarly opinion now seems to have succeeded in wresting the practice from the hands of a bureaucratic elite and repositioning it within a (commensal) community full of active agents (Peperaki 2007; Weiberg 2007). Meanwhile, ceramic analyses continue to illuminate the character and extent of those social, economic and technological networks within which such agents operated throughout EHII and, indeed, into EHIII – perhaps nowhere more so than at Kolonna on Aegina (Gauß and Kiriatzi 2011; Gauß *et al*. 2015).

As with early to mid-Early Helladic I, the low archaeological visibility of a ceramic EHIII (*ca*. 2,250–2,150 BC) continues to render it problematic. In addition to the obvious effect of the markedly shorter duration of the period relative to the agglomerative *ca.* 700-year record of EHII, diachronic variation in settlement architecture and morphology (Wiersma 2014) and variation in the pace and/or intensity of the adoption of new material changes, even at settlements within the same region (Weiberg and Lindblom 2014), has also served to muddy the waters. Jeremy Rutter (2017) has recently argued that the difficulty of distinguishing EHIII might be explained by the presence of groups who enjoyed a more mobile way of life than their EHII predecessors and who may have continued to follow a partially nomadic subsistence regime, at least during the earlier part of the period. As some of these groups shifted toward sedentism, tents may have been replaced by structures of timber and mudbrick, and basketry by pottery (reflected in the decorative syntax of Pattern-Painted ceramics: Rutter 1988; Nakou 2000). Meanwhile, Erika Weiberg and Martin Finné (2013) have recently framed early EHIII as a period of 'release' in which the removal of existing (EHII) socio-cultural constructs allowed the renegotiation of identities across multiple scales and in which the individual household, rather than the community, emerged as the principal unit (see also Nilsson 2014; Macheridis 2016; Weiberg 2017a; 2017b). As evidence continues to emerge, albeit slowly, these new ways of conceptualizing the late Early Helladic offer far greater potential for understanding the multiple processes of transformation and adaptation which occurred over the course of the period than traditionalist and ultimately restrictive models of collapse and recession.

Much new data has emerged from both systematic and rescue excavations in recent years which promises further insight into all phases of the Early Helladic. Some of those data, although by no means all, are summarized, and where possible contextualized, below.

Recent discoveries: Elis

In Elis, a modest assemblage of undecorated Final Neolithic to Early Helladic I pottery is reported from the excavation of a drainage canal at **Vartholomio** (Melios: *ADelt* 65 [2010] *Chr*. 863). A child pithos burial has previously been noted in the wider area of Vartholomio at **Tragani**, *ca*. 1.6km south of the modern village (*ADelt* 44 [1994] *Chr*. 104–05; also, Matzanas 2000: 322–24). Closed by slabs and covered with stones, the vessel bears applied decoration in the form of horizontal and diagonal impressed bands and has parallels from both Final Neolithic Asea and Alepotrypa. A small biconical jar recovered in proximity seems certain to be associated. The area may well be a Final Neolithic to Early Helladic cemetery, although the spatial relationship between this burial and the material from Vartholomio-Melios is not clear.

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Some 450m off **Cape Kyllini**, surface discoveries are reported of Early Helladic II pottery and tools – both flint and obsidian – on the small uninhabited islet of **Kafkalida** (*ADelt* 67 [2012] *Chr.* 231–32; note also *ADelt* 43 [1988] *Chr.* 143–44). Whether Kafkalida formed the western end of a larger mainland promontory throughout the Early Helladic is not clear (Kraft *et al*. 2005), although the area is highly tectonically active and the waters which isolate it today are relatively shallow (*ca*. 1–5m). A settlement here would, presumably, have been well placed to monitor and/or access maritime trade moving through the Zakynthos straits; indeed, this may well have been the motivation for the contemporary appearance of new settlements at **Cape Kalogeros** and perhaps also **Doretes** on the eastern coast of Zakynthos (van Wijngaarden *et al*. 2012) and at **Skala Mounda** on the southeastern coast of Kephallonia (**ID2590**). The well-documented existence of these western Peloponnesian maritime networks (plied by vessels such as those wrecked at **Dokos** and **Yayana**: **ID1608**) no doubt accounts for the presence of an Early Cycladic II frying pan among a modest group of Early Helladic material (ceramics, weights and blades), which has recently been published from the historic *Peneios Valley Rescue Operation* at **Kostoureika II** (Jones and Kouka 2015: 74). A small number of sherds may belong to earlier phases, although most should date between early Lerna IIIA and early Lerna IIIC (Jones and Kouka 2015: 87).

Particularly significant is the identification of a possible Early Helladic III tumulus at **Simiza Spartorrachi**, *ca*. 4km west of Lake Peneios and 4km north of ancient Elis (*ADelt* 65 [2010] *Chr.* 842–51; also, Matzanas 2000: 319–20, with additional short notes on Early Helladic material from **Vranas** and **Kafkania**). The monument ('Katarrachi 2') was not exposed in its entirety and no dimensions are given. Excavation close to its presumed centre yielded a vertically set sandstone slab – cautiously identified by excavators as an orthostat from a destroyed cist – a number of substantial stones (apparently architectural), as well as much partially fired red clay, charcoal, fragments of burned bone and a single goat's tooth. Several pieces of low-fired clay are attributed to a disintegrated pithos. Large quantities of coarse and fine pottery were recovered from the surface and to a depth of *ca*. 0.8m, including early Matt-Painted, Dark-on-Light and so-called 'Adriatic' (i.e. fine incised and impressed) sherds. Catalogued sherds recovered from both above and between the stones of the possible peribolos comprise a large cup or small krater with Dark-on-Light painted decoration paralleled on a narrow neck jar of Lerna IV:1–2 (Rutter 1995: 116 [P373]; see also Caskey 1966: pl. 53, fig. 10), a high-fired Dark-on-Light painted body fragment (P7401) and an Urfirnis rim fragment (P7402). Noted among the wider assemblage are fragments of drinking vessels, a coarse jar, several pithos fragments, an unusual 'lagynos'-type vessel and a horned lug, as well as horizontal, circular and vertical strap handles and body sherds with slipped and incised surface decoration, as well as a number of cobble tools and flakes. A possible kiln ('Katarrachi 1') was noted at a distance of *ca*. 10m, for which an EHIII date is conceivable, although not certain. Based on similarities in both topography and pottery, the excavators tentatively raise the possibility that a monument similar to that proposed for Simiza could account for the large volume of EHIII to Middle Helladic I pottery recovered at the destroyed New Gymnasium site at **Andravida** (**ID1943**; Rambach 2004: 1241–42; 2007b; 2010: 116–17), a suggestion now impossible to explore further.

The 2015 discovery of an extraordinary intact, handmade 'pseudo-kernos' at the adjacent site of **Marinaki** (Agios Dimitrios) offers an important addendum to the ritual landscape of Simiza. Unfortunately lacking context, the vessel (**Fig. 92**; Elis Museum Catalogue P7639) is decorated across its surface with dense lines of relief z-form motifs originally filled with kaolin; the base is burnished and the interior of the mouth preserves a thin dark paint. The excavators draw decorative parallels with incised-and-filled pottery from the late Early Helladic II to early EHIII burial tumulus at **Almyros Peritheia** on Kerkyra (**ID4071**).



92. Marinaki, Elis: Early Helladic III 'pseudo-kernos'. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: 6th EPCA.

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Achaea

Arguably the most important site to have emerged from recent work in Achaea is the extraordinarily large Early Helladic I to early EHIII settlement at **Helike** (now relatively well published; see, for example, Katsarou-Tzeveleki 2011; Katsonopoulou 2011; Soter and Katsonopoulou 2011; Katsonopoulou *et al*. 2016; Katsonopoulou and Katsarou 2017, all with additional references). With a proposed area on the order of 30ha (Katsonopoulou and Katsarou 2017: 5) and apparently fortified by an enclosure wall (Wall 2) *ca*. 3.5m wide, the settlement comprises rectilinear buildings – Apsidal Building 3, notwithstanding – organized around a series of cobbled streets and paved open spaces. Foundation widths suggest the presence of both single- (0.4–0.6m) and two-storey (0.7–0.8m) buildings; the presence of walls in excess of 1m wide suggests monumental architecture already during the earliest phases of EHII (Katsonopoulou 2011: 69; Katsonopoulou and Katsarou 2017: 6). While much of the masonry is formed of local stone, there is some evidence for imported black dolomite from sources in Arcadia to the south (perhaps facilitated through inland settlements like **Kassaneva** and others in the **Krios Valley** identified by the *Aegialia Survey Project*: **ID147**, **ID342**, **ID1598**, **ID1925**; Petropoulos *et al*. 2002; 2005; 2006; 2008a; 2008b; 2011; Pontrandolfo *et al*. 2016). The discovery of the so-called Helike Corridor House (HCH) has propelled Achaea and the wider Corinthian gulf into the long-running debate surrounding social reproduction and the existence, or not, of central authority on the Early Helladic mainland. Importantly, the HCH appears to be the sole example of the form to have functioned after the EHII–III transition; the Weißes Haus at **Kolonna** was already ruined when repurposed as a smelting installation during Kolonna IV (Ceramic Phase D) (Walter and Felten 1981; Shaw 2007; Berger and Gauss 2016). More significantly, the building appears to have developed into a 'corridor house' *sensu stricto* during early EHIII (ceramically defined), with the expansion of the ground-floor plan and the addition of a second floor to a simpler EHII building (Katsonopoulou and Katsarou 2017: 11–13). The ceramic assemblage from the HCH suggests cooking, dining and the storage of staple foodstuffs at scale, although very large pithoi (some perhaps the product of specialist potters: Katsonopoulou *et al*. 2016) are attested across the settlement and in other buildings in higher numbers; this at a time when, as at other EHIII sites, drinking sets became increasingly common at Helike and drinking behaviours (and the materiality thereof) were adapted to meet the requirements of a new social landscape (Rutter 2008; Weiberg and Lindblom 2014: 400–02). The Helike ceramic assemblage offers a picture of largely 'local' production with stylistic parallels – and some evidence of imports – from other sites (see Iliopoulos *et al*. 2011: 139–41), while other finds have drawn attention both for their rarity and for the perspective they deliver on the Early Helladic networks within which Helike operated: among them, the late EHII (Lefkandi I) *depas amphikypellon* bearing a unique pictorial floral motif above its base from Building 2 and ornaments in gold and silver from Building 3.

Remarkably, less than 500m to the southwest of Helike, rescue excavations on the lower slopes of Agios Georgios at **Keryneia** have yielded the remains of a second settlement of Early Helladic II–III date (Kolia 2015; Kolia and Spiroulias 2017). Located above the plain at *ca*. 65masl and oriented toward Helike and the Corinthian gulf beyond, Keryneia seems to offer clear architectural and material parallels with its near-neighbour. Test-trenching has established a minimum size for the site of *ca*. 5ha, and, while there is no evidence yet for the existence of a fortification, the edge of the settlement has not been traced. In the interior, architectural remains are extremely densely arranged. Predominantly double-faced and rubble-filled, walls survive to two to three courses, and some, as at Helike, employ herringbone masonry (Katsonopoulou 2011: 69; Katsonopoulou and Katsarou 2017: 6). Most significantly, the site is also reported to possess a corridor house (**Fig. 93**) and at



93. Keryneia, Achaea: corridor house. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports (courtesy of E. Kolia).

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least one monumental storage building. The ceramic assemblage includes characteristic bowls, sauceboats, fruitstands, tankards, jars and pithoi, with rope-impressed, incised and painted decoration. Ouzo cups (Lerna IV:1–2: Rutter 1995: 334–41) are common and Cetina-type pottery is reportedly well represented. The presence of Cetina-type pottery may well prove to be significant, as no similar pieces have yet been published from Helike. Terracotta objects include decorated hearths, a firedog stand with zoomorphic decoration, a mask-like terracotta stand or brazier, several EHIII 'terracotta anchors' (see Forsén 2008) and a large number of loomweights. Querns, grinders and obsidian tools comprise a typical ground- and chipped-stone assemblage, while a copper/bronze dagger and pendant are rare inclusions among a metal assemblage composed largely of tools. The preliminary nature of the reports on Keryneia prevent any meaningful discussion of the economic and social relationships it may have maintained with Helike through EHII–III. If contemporary, proximity should dictate a close (and, presumably, mutually agreeable) association, although the mechanisms (and direction) of any discourse remain to be seen. Keryneia, at least, located close to overland routes through the massif to the south (Bonnier 2016), may have facilitated access to networks of the Achaean interior.

Slightly less revelatory, rescue excavation at **Patras** has exposed further the Early Helladic settlement on **Odos Myrtiotissas** *ADelt* 66 [2011] *Chr*. 386; *ADelt* 67 [2012] *Chr.* 266). Situated atop a low hill (*ca*. 55masl), with strategic views toward the Gulf of Patras *ca*. 2.2km distant, the site was evidently large (extending to adjacent plots and, *ca*.75m south, to **Odos Prokopiou** and **Parodos Prokopiou**: see *ADelt* 52 [1997] *Chr.* 282; *ADelt* [1998] *Chr*. 262; *ADelt* 60 [2005] *Chr*. 351–52; *ADelt* 64 [2009] *Chr*. 417). A number of monumental walls, ranging in width between 1.2m and 1.35m, might conceivably represent a fortification, although it is difficult to distinguish the architecture of the Early Helladic settlement from that of its Middle Helladic successor. At least one substantial rectilinear Early Helladic II building is reported from the 2011–2012 excavations, measuring a minimum of *ca*. 5m in length and apparently possessing a 'vestibule' at its southern side. At least one pithos was recovered from a storeroom at the north of the building, with further examples recovered in close proximity. An EHII basin with taenia bands and a mat-impressed base are also noted, alongside spindle-whorls, ground-stone tools and lithics in obsidian and flint.

Messenia

The late Early Helladic I to EHII settlement at **Romanou** (Costa Navarino Resort) has proved an extremely significant addition to the rather sparse record of Early Helladic activity in Messenia, and increasingly so as details of its character continue to emerge (**ID2571**; Rambach 2014; 2016; *ADelt* 66 [2011] *Chr*. 263–65). Measuring at least 4ha in extent, Romanou incorporates a substantial northwest-southeast orientated road flanked by a series of rectilinear buildings representing as many as four successive phases of construction. Several warehouses located along this road at the southeast of the site yielded EHII pithoi containing carbonized figs and grape pips. The discovery of a purpose-built metallurgical workshop remains unparalleled in the region. The building housed an integrated system for the regulation of airflow into the furnace, and thus of the temperature within, and yielded huge volumes of ash, charcoal and copper slag, and a large number of crucible fragments. It also served as a space for obsidian tool production. The site was clearly a major producer, as evidenced by an assemblage of more than 10,000 cores, flakes and tools.

A few metres to the west of this workshop were the remains of a substantial well, destroyed during Early Helladic II by an earthquake which appears to have prompted (or at least facilitated) an act of communal ritual of the type often considered salient for social reproduction (Peperaki 2007; Weiberg 2007; Pullen 2011b; 2011c; 2017), but rarely recognized in the archaeological record (Rambach 2016: 569). Blocked at a depth of 3.5m by the collapse of the stone well head, the well shaft was quickly filled with more than 200 vessels, many of them intact or readily restorable (see Bennet, this volume). This assemblage consists largely of characteristic saucers with inverted rims (with and without ring bases), sauceboats, askoi, spouted bowls, one-handled cups and bowls, stands, fruitstands and jars, with fewer examples of deep bowls, basins, pans and pithoi (Rambach 2016: 568; *cf.* the large feasting assemblages

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identified in the EHII-initial 1982 House A at **Tsoungiza** and the House of the Tiles at **Lerna**: Pullen 2011a; Wiencke 2000, respectively), although several less common vessels are also noted, including an askoid feeding bottle, a Pattern-Painted bridge-spouted basin and an extraordinary Pattern-Painted 'super-sauceboat' with two leaf-shaped lateral spouts at the rim (**Fig. 94**). The character of the assemblage suggests a communal feast, its preservation the result of the curated deposition of its associated paraphernalia.



94. Romanou, Messenia: Pattern-Painted sauceboat. © Jörg Rambach.

A second, potentially related act of communal ritual is attested by an exceptionally large pit, some 100m to the west. Located adjacent to a substantial retaining wall and ramp, this pit (at least *ca*. 15m by 10m and *ca*. 2m deep) yielded a huge volume of Early Helladic II pottery (much again intact, including vessels with perforated bases indicative of the pouring of libations), pebbles and animal bones, as well as more than 100 cattle horns, the latter represented at Romanou almost exclusively within this deposit. Detailed study awaits the publication of faunal data, although the ostensible slaughter (as opposed to de-horning) of at least 50 cattle would seem an extraordinary investment. Both deposits raise intriguing questions, both about the function, process and spatiality of ritual at Romanou and about the relationship of the site and the groups therein to others in the region; the general absence of evidence for small-scale Early Helladic ritual practice has seen it normalized (and thus largely disguised) within the daily operation of the household. It may well be that such behaviours were observed in private, although Romanou would seem to reiterate the perceived value of deploying communal practice at scale in certain contexts. Ritual deposits of this type are, nevertheless, extraordinarily rare and none of the other attested instances of what might reasonably be termed 'massive' deposition at **Asteria-Glyphada** (**ID3306**; Kaza-Papageorgiou 2016a; 2016b) or in Deposit 39 at **Tsepi** (**ID6140**; Pantelidou-Gofa 2016b), below, offers a reasonable parallel.

Laconia

An unparalleled volume of Early Helladic material has emerged from Laconia over the past decade (particularly from those sites discussed by Zavvou 2009; 2012; Zavvou and Themos 2009; Banou 2012; Andreadaki-Vlazaki 2012: 93–98; the *Epidauros Limera Survey* [**ID1927**], to my knowledge, remains unpublished) and preparations continue for the final publication of long-term research projects at **Kouphovouno**, **Pavlopetri** and **Geraki** (note recently, Lentjes 2015 for the identification of pruned olive and grape wood within the Early Helladic II charcoal sample from the site).



95. Kyparissi, Laconia: view across the excavation. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Laconia.

At **Kyparissi (Longanikou interchange)**, work on the Lefktro-Sparti branch of the Moreas motorway has yielded the remains of what must have been an extensive Early Helladic settlement, apparently truncated by later levelling (**Fig. 95**; *ADelt* 67 [2012]

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Chr. 99–104). An initial Final Neolithic occupation is represented by a group of seven pits and an associated ceramic assemblage, of which one pit (29) appears to have been burnt *in situ*. The Early Helladic settlement, by contrast, is represented by a total of 110 pits of varying size; many covered with stone, some lined with clay and a number containing architectural debris in the form of burnt mudbrick and fragments of structural clay. The Early Helladic ceramic assemblage recovered from these pits includes pithoi, plates, bowls, jugs, askoi and some 20 fruitstands (one illustrated example preserves perforations through the stem of the type noted at Agios Dimitrios IIb; Zachos 2008: 70). The non-ceramic assemblage includes a modest group of blades and flakes in obsidian and flint, querns and grinders and a large number of animal bones. More unusual is the material from Pit 4, which reportedly includes a copper/bronze hook, among a larger assemblage of unidentified copper/bronze objects, and an unidentified rock-crystal ornament; the latter is extremely rare during the period (although note the examples in Banks 1967: 238; Reinholdt 2008: 110, cat. no. 51; and from **Klaraki**, below).

A probable Early Helladic fortified site is reported from rescue excavation on the hill of **Archangelos** (*ADelt* 65 [2010] *Chr*. 575). At least one substantial enclosure wall and a possible second were identified at the southern edge of the hill in an area characterized by a very high density of Early Helladic pottery. A number of cairns and the remains of a wall are also reported from the northernmost peak, although the report lacks critical detail and their relationship to the enclosure is unclear. There is some evidence for Early Iron Age to Archaic activity at the site, although the potential presence of multiple enclosure walls recalls the recently published EH(I–)II site at **Kastraki Keratitsas** (Zavvou 2012: 14–15; MacVeagh Thorne *et al*. 2013) and cairns are attested within the Early Helladic enclosures of the Argolid and eastern Corinthia (Tartaron *et al*. 2006; also Tartaron 2013: 253–58; see below). To the west, an unknown number of Early Helladic cairns (yielding pottery, obsidian and ground stone) and a large volume of EHII pottery are reported over an area of at least *ca*. 1.2ha at the solar farm site at **Perdikoula**, **Krokees** (*ADelt* 67 [2012] *Chr*. 116), while an additional group of six cairns (maximum area *ca*. 4m by 6.5m) is noted in association with both Early and Late Helladic pottery at **Agoriani**, **Klevaina** (*ADelt* 66 [2011] *Chr*. 190–91).

Adding to the mosaic of Early Helladic remains exposed at **Sparta** (Zavvou and Themos 2009), EHII pottery is reported from the area of the known Early Helladic settlement on **Odos Pantanassis** in the foothills at the western edge of the town (Visvi plot: *ADelt* 67 [2012] *Chr*. 98–99; previously identified at the Stavropoulos and Fotopoulos plots) and from rescue excavations within the town on **Odos Alkmanos** (OSK plot; *ADelt* 65 [2010] *Chr*. 442) and at the junction of **Odos Plataion** and **Orthias Artemidos**.

The difficult Early Helladic III period in Laconia (Cavanagh and Mee 2011; Cavanagh 2012: 61–71) – represented by very low numbers of sherds at **Agios Georgios**, **Vouno Panagias**, **Palaiopyrgi** (Banou 1999: 71, 73, 79), **Agios Stephanos** (Janko 2008: 565–66) and perhaps also at **Pavlopetri** (Gallou and Henderson 2012: 93), the **Amyklaion** (Forsén 1992: 106) and the **Armakas Cave** (Efstathiou-Manolakou 2009: 11–12) – is offered perspective by a series of pits at **Karavas Soustianon** (Mouchtaiika; *ADelt* 66 [2011] *Chr*. 198–99; Rutter 2017: 23). Most of these features yielded typical EHII shapes (including sauceboats, bowls, askoi and several fragments of frying pan), alongside ground stone (rubbers and pestles) and obsidian. One large, stone-lined pit (*ca*. 1.9m by 2.4m), however, is reported to have yielded a substantial quantity of EHIII ceramics, both overlaid and at the interior. Details of the assemblage have yet to appear in print, although its discovery has obvious implications for our understanding of the ceramic EHIII phase in Laconia and the mooted survival of EHII ceramic traditions in the southern Peloponnese (see, for example, Broodbank and Kiriatzi 2007: 263–64).

Early Helladic III material is also reported from **Sykea** in the Molaoi plain (**Megali Riza-Vrana**, Zoumboulakis plot: *ADelt* 65 [2010] *Chr*. 552). The site is represented by a single, heavily disturbed building of mudbrick on a stone foundation which, importantly, yielded deposits of clay and copper suggesting, perhaps, that it served as a workshop. An associated ceramic assemblage consists overwhelmingly of Early Helladic II shapes, although at least one large vessel (of unknown type) is reportedly EHIII. It remains unclear whether this can be understood to indicate continuity at the site through the EHII–EHIII transition or an isolated episode of activity during some subsequent stage of EHIII.

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Arcadia

The discovery of Final Neolithic and Early Helladic pottery on the summit of **Mount Lykaion** (**ID305**, **ID869**, **ID1464**, **ID1879)** has raised the possibility that the peak was utilized for ritual practice from a very early date (see Romano and Voyatzis 2014). While study of the material is ongoing, the Final Neolithic assemblage published thus far includes a variety of bowls (including collared and flaring carinated types), jars and pithoi; many preserve traces of a burnished slip, while at least one bowl is pattern burnished at the interior and two rims preserve incised decoration. A Final Neolithic quadruped figurine is also noted. Baking pans/hearths and sauceboats are identified among the Early Helladic I–II assemblage, while Early Helladic III material is reportedly well represented and includes bowls and wide-mouthed jars that are either unpainted and burnished or unburnished, or solidly painted and burnished or unburnished (Romano and Voyatzis 2014: 586–87).

An important new Early Helladic I–II settlement has emerged in the **Asea Valley** (Unkel *et al*. 2014) during construction of the Tripolis-Megalopolis road on the hill of **Klaraki** (**ID2426**; *ADelt* 65 [2010] *Chr*. 671–74). The hill lies approximately 2km to the south of the Early Helladic settlement of **Asea Paleokastro** (Holmberg 1944; Forsén 1996; Forsén *et al*. 2003: 96–102) in an area which seems to have yielded no trace of Early Helladic activity during the *Asea Valley Survey* (Forsén and Forsén 2003; Forsén *et al*. 2003). The site, as excavated, extends over an area of *ca*. 1ha, although Early Helladic material continues on the surface to the south. It was organized around at least one substantial road, *ca*. 2.5m in width and at least *ca*. 30m in length, although architectural remains are difficult to discern; six walls and 12 cairns are reported, the latter yielding large quantities of Early Helladic pottery, alongside more than 40 pits of various sizes (*ca*. 0.5–1.5m), including nine shallow examples with evidence of burning *in situ*.

The Early Helladic I–II ceramic assemblage includes bowls and beaked jugs in fine fabrics, table-wares, bowls, jugs, cups, pyxides and fruitstands in medium fabrics and coarse basins, cooking vessels and pithoi, decorated with incision, rope-impressed and plain bands and applied knobs and pellets. The recovery of the handle of an incised and impressed frying pan of mainland type is of particular note as, within the valley, Asea alone has yielded examples of the shape (Holmberg 1944: 84–87; Coleman 1985: 114; Forsén 1996: 62) and it may well have been a centre of production (MacGillivray 2008: 176). Of even greater significance is the recovery of the spout of a zoomorphic rhyton (**Fig. 96**). Such vessels are exceptionally rare on the Early Helladic mainland and the Klaraki example, while extremely worn, appears (with caution) to correspond to the Cycladic 'hedgehog' type attested at **Manika** (Sampson 1988: 185, fig. 86, no. 129.5809), **Cheliotomylos** (Lavezzi 2003: 73, fig. 4.8) and perhaps also **Lambrika** (Kakavogianni *et al*. 2009b: 247). The use context of such rhyta is far from clear and one hopes that Klaraki may offer some perspective on the issue. Firedog stands, spindle-whorls and fragments of five zoomorphic figurines are also attested, as well as an anthropomorphic (asexual) type (**Fig. 97**) which corresponds to Elizabeth Banks' category of late Lerna III/early Lerna IV Lugged Conical Objects (*cf.* Lerna IVa, L5. 391–92: Banks 1967: 624–28; also Caskey 1956, 162) and has parallels from probable Lerna IIIC–D contexts at Zygouries (Blegen 1928: 186–89). A variety of obsidian blades and bladelets, sickle elements, points, awls, scrapers and flakes are noted, with on-site manufacture attested by some 16 cores; a more modest group of blades, awls and flakes appears on white, grey and red flint. Querns and axes are noted among the ground-stone assemblage, while other objects in rock crystal and marble are recorded, but not explicitly described.



96. Klaraki, Arcadia: zoomorphic rhyton. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Arcadia.

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97. Klaraki, Arcadia: anthropomorphic figurine. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Arcadia.

To the east, excavation has yielded the remains of a Final Neolithic to Early Helladic II settlement at **Monastiriako - Ambelakiotiko rema** (**ID2431**; *ADelt* 65 [2010] *Chr*. 677–80). Strategically positioned above a principal route linking the Evrotas and Alpheios valleys, the morphology of the site is far from clear, although both cairns and walls are reported. The ceramic assemblage includes bowls with inturned and flaring rims, fruitstands and cooking pots, with numerous examples of rope-impressed bands, herringbone incision and applied knobs and pellets. One two-handled basin with a taenia band at the rim is specifically reported as deriving from the destruction deposit of an Early Helladic room. Low volumes of lithics and ground stone are also noted.

Jeanette Forsén identifies several Early Helladic III vessels among a very modest group of Final Neolithic and Early Helladic pottery recovered from the 1991–1994 excavation of the **Temple of Athena Alea** at **Tegea** (Forsén 2014). Comprising a large wide-mouth jar paralleled at Asea, two narrow-necked jars (including one Dark-on-Light painted) and a shoulder-handled tankard, the group is tentatively suggested as evidence for a late reoccupation following abandonment prior to late EHII (Forsén 2014: 394). Four bronze pins are also assigned to the Early Helladic (Voyatzis 2014: 165), although none among a small assemblage of obsidian, flint and ground-stone tools is diagnostic for the period (see Bakke-Alisøy 2014). Recent excavations carried out in the area of the stadium of Tegea on the hill of **Agios Konstantinos** (**ID2423**; Andreadaki-Vlazaki 2012: 124) have identified a large rectilinear two-room EHII building and an Early Helladic ceramic assemblage which includes pithoi with rope-impressed bands.

Argolid

The discovery of an Early Helladic settlement submerged offshore at **Lambogianna** in the Bay of Koilada (**ID5045**; Beck 2016; 2017) is an important addition to the corpus of fortified Early Helladic sites now known from the Argolid at **Lerna** (Wiencke 2000), **Midea** (Demakopoulou *et al*. 2008), **Vassa** (Tartaron *et al*. 2006) and **Salandi Bay** (**ID117**; *ADelt* 54 [1999] *Chr*. 1028–29) and on Poros at **Variarnia** (Konsolaki-Giannopoulou 2011: 273–74). The site itself is estimated to extend over a minimum area of *ca*. 2.6ha (**Fig. 98**), with occupation now confirmed to have begun at least as early as EHI. At the east, the settlement may well continue beneath the fields behind the beach, while its western (seaward) limit is demarcated by a monumental EHII wall, *ca*. 2m in width, incorporating three huge horseshoe-shaped foundations (towers?) along its length, each measuring *ca*. 18m by 10m. Beyond the wall, the recovery of a stone anchor and the remains of a large storage jar suggest a Prehistoric anchorage in close proximity. A series of parallel walls, up to *ca*. 2m in width, runs southeast from the northernmost horseshoe-shaped foundation at what may prove to be the northern edge of the settlement. Rectangular, circular and apsidal structures are noted at the interior, as is a paved road network; more than 6,000 artefacts have been recovered from the seabed to date. The identification of a number of later pits dug into EHII contexts confirms that the Early Helladic settlement was abandoned prior to its inundation.

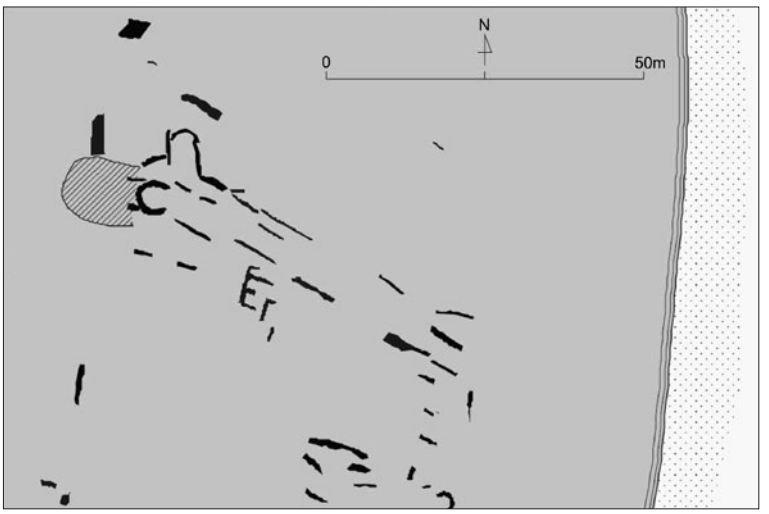
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A series of Early Helladic cairns, ranging in diameter from *ca*. 4m to 9m, is reported close to the Daphnopotamos stream south of **Koutroumbéïka** (*ADelt* 65 [2010] *Chr*. 407–08). The position of the site, again, would seem to hold some strategic value: on a main route between Epidauros and Troizen, via Trachea. The similarity of the dimensions of the cairns at Koutroumbéïka to those at Vassa (less than 20km to the north) – and to Corinthian examples nearby at Early Helladic I–II **Vayia**, Final Neolithic to EHII **Pharonisi** and in the upland basin between **Malia Stiri** and **Malia Pitsis** (Tartaron *et al*. 2011: 626) – and the absence at the surface of any pottery later in date than the Early Helladic might argue in favour of positioning Koutroumbéïka within the same tradition, although much about the character of the site remains unclear.

At ancient **Epidauros**, excavation has further exposed the known Early Helladic settlement in the area of the **Temple of Artemis** (*ADelt* 65[2010] *Chr*. 423–24; see previously, *ADelt* 32 [1977] *Chr*. 46–49). A substantial apsidal building has been revealed in full at the southern side of the temple, measuring *ca*. 14.5m in length (east-west) and *ca*. 4.8m in width, with three interior rooms. Immediately to the north lay the remains of two rectilinear Early Helladic buildings, representing two building phases, and a storage area containing an unknown number of pithoi. The fragmentary remains of a further rectilinear building continued beneath the temple; the same structure previously yielded an Early Helladic ceramic assemblage and the head of an Early Cycladic marble figurine (*ADelt* 32 [1977] *Chr*. 46; also Piteros 2012: 210).

An intact Early Cycladic spherical pyxis is noted from the area of the known Early Helladic settlement on the hill of **Ano Iria** (Drouza plot: *ADelt* 65 [2010] *Chr*. 412; previously *ADelt* 56–59 [2001–2004] *Chr*. 62–63; Hope-Simpson and Dickinson 1979: 50). Densely covered in alternating rows of herringbone incision, it should be ECI or transitional ECI–II in date, and seems certain to derive from an unidentified grave. Its presence is the product of a well-recognized acceleration and/or intensification of networked interaction between the Cyclades and the southern mainland which also saw construction of a late ECI(Kampos)/EHI ossuary at **Delpriza Kranidi**, *ca*. 15km to the north (Kossyva 2011).

On the Argive plain, Early Helladic monumentality finds new expression at **Tiryns** in the identification by Joseph Maran (2016) of a late EHII to EHIII tumulus above the remains of the Horizont 8b Rundbau 2 (for a reconstruction of the Tiryns Rundbauen, see Marzolff 2009; for Early Helladic tiles in terracotta and schist from recent excavations in the Unterburg, see **ID297**, **ID2078**). The construction of the so-called Rundbau tumulus soon after the destruction of Rundbau 2, it is suggested, accounts for the excellent state of preservation enjoyed by the building's mudbrick superstructure and for the close stratigraphic position of the latter to floors outside the so-called Little Megaron (Maran 2016: 162). The curvilinear Wall 3/1912, a double-faced cobble wall *ca*. 0.5m in width, built above the foundation of the Rundbau at the east and once thought to belong to a building of EHIII to Middle Helladic date, is reinterpreted as a peribolos wall and gives the tumulus an estimated diameter of 18–20m. A minimum height of *ca*. 0.5m is



98. Lambogianna, Argolid: geophysical survey data. © ESAG.

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inferred from the surviving height of Wall 3/1912, although truncation by later levelling operations may well have reduced it, perhaps from an initial elevation comparable to that of the Lerna IIID to Lerna IV:1 tumulus erected above the House of the Tiles (*ca*. 1.24m: see Banks 2013: 23). The low volume of Middle Helladic I–II pottery recovered from this area of the Oberburg suggests that the tumulus may have remained intact at least during this period and perhaps as late as MHIII to Late Helladic I (Maran 2016: 166).

At **Leukakia**, Early Helladic II–III remains are reported from excavation on the upper eastern slope of the hill of **Agios Ioannis** (*ADelt* 65 [2010] *Chr*. 391–92). The site itself is heavily disturbed and offers additional evidence of late Middle Helladic and Late Helladic occupation. At least one structure (not certainly Early Helladic) is attested, alongside a pit yielding a large volume of Early Helladic pottery. Fragments of Early Helladic pithoi and a modest obsidian assemblage are noted from the wider site.

Corinthia

Of note among recent discoveries in the Corinthia are the Early Helladic II settlement at **Derveni** (**ID4515**; Sarris 2011; 2013; *ADelt* 67 [2012] *Chr*. 334–35) and the early EHII cremation burial at **Schoinos** (**ID2499**; Balomenou 2013); the latter is the first of its kind in the region.

At ancient **Corinth**, preliminary field reports identify multiple phases of Early Helladic II activity beneath Shop 1 and the adjacent Shop 2 of the **South Stoa**, previously excavated by Oscar Broneer (see Daly and Parr 2016a; 2016b; Jiang and Judson 2016). Several EHII surfaces are recognized, including two yielding volumes of snail shell and animal bone, suggestive of cooking and/or feasting in proximity. A number of EHII pits cut into these surfaces yielded architectural remains (fragments of bedrock, worked cobbles, mudbrick and lime), as well as bone, ground-stone tools, a mixed Late Neolithic/Early Helladic ceramic assemblage (including an EHII firedog stand) and, importantly, two EHII roof tiles. Two further (late EHII?) pits may have been intended for storage, rather than refuse. A probable north-south metalled road was traced beneath Shop 1 Rear, which appears to have witnessed several episodes of damage and repair before falling into disuse, eroding and eventually being filled and levelled. EHIII activity (poorly represented at Corinth, although visible at the **Tile Works** and recently identified to the west at **Pyrgouthi**: Merker 2006: 85–86; Lolos 2011: 477) is represented by a floor surface and a small group of tools (a chert awl and scraper and two whetstones), perhaps representing a workspace. The entire area appears to have suffered multiple Early Helladic colluvial events, prompting a cycle of abandonment and reoccupation (at least in the short term), and, although the chronological, stratigraphic and functional relationships of the various contexts identified remain unclear, the material assemblage offers a familiar picture of Early Helladic Corinth. Pottery is typically red-, cream- and dark-slipped (a few 'light-ware' sherds are also noted). Shapes include bowls with incurving rims, one-handled cups and sauceboats, as well as two fragments of an Early Cycladic frying pan. A further red-slipped Early Cycladic vessel (unrestored and of unclear shape) is also reported, alongside tools in obsidian, flint (both local and non-local) and ground stone (including at least one andesite grinder), and a number of terracotta spindle-whorls. Early Helladic pottery has also been recovered during recent excavation to the south (**ID1881**) and a Corinthian EHII-initial spindle-whorl is reported from colluvial deposits in the **Panagia Field** (see Sanders *et al*. 2014).

A severely disturbed Early Helladic II–III building is reported less than 2km to the north of ancient Corinth at **Koutoumatsa** (Tsata plot: *ADelt* 66 [2011] *Chr*. 423). Measuring at least *ca*. 10.3m in length and *ca*. 4.1m in width, the building comprises a single room from which the exterior western wall extends a further 6m to the south, forming a courtyard. The EHII–III ceramic assemblage includes sauceboats, deep bowls and pithoi, as well as fine monochrome red- and black-slipped body sherds and a narrow-necked jar paralleled at Lerna IV (shape XVII: Rutter 1995: fig. S-17.a1; Koursoumis and Georgiadis 2012). A small quantity of Fine Grey-Burnished pottery is particularly noteworthy and includes at least one sherd with parallels in a deep bowl (shape XIII.4) from Lerna IV:3 (P983: Rutter 1995: 199). Finished tools, as well as secondary and tertiary flakes, attest to on-site production in both obsidian and flint; a single bone tool is noted. Possible late EHIII occupation has recently been noted elsewhere in the region at **Pheneos** (**ID5051**) and **Aidonia** (Hachtmann 2013: 408–09).

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Attica

The final publication of the extraordinary Deposit 39 from the cemetery at **Tsepi** (**ID6140**; Pantelidou-Gofa 2016b) offers an important dual perspective on ritual practice and ceramic typology in Final Neolithic Attica (on the latter, note Nazou's 2014 doctoral study, incorporating Final Neolithic pottery from **Kiapha Thiti** and Mine 3 at **Thorikos**; also Nazou 2017). Radiocarbon dated to 3,635–3,520 cal. BC (at roughly mid-depth), the pit (*ca*. 2.6m by 3m) has yielded an extraordinary volume of ceramics, of which *ca*. 760 vessels have been restored and a further 960 can be distinguished among the sherd material. The most prominent shapes are amphorae, amphoriskoi, ladles, fruitstands, kraters, basins, pithoi, necked jars, bowls and globular jars (with variants), although the assemblage also includes a Bratislava-type bowl (**Fig. 99**; Pantelidou-Gofa 2016b: 164–66; also known from the cemetery, see Pantelidou-Gofa 2005), ribbed-necked jars with parallels in Cernavoda I and III, and a category of coarse incised bowl which may be paralleled in a type of Balkan 'milk pot' (Pantelidou-Gofa 2016b: 392). The fill, which also includes obsidian, shell and animal bone, is identified as the product of repeated discrete acts of deposition; it was opened ('consecrated') with a series of small, structured deposits and subsequently filled to a height of *ca*. 0.35m above ground level with vessels which, it is suggested, may have been cast into an extinguished funeral pyre before being placed into the pit and covered with stones which perhaps served an apotropaic function (Pantelidou-Gofa 2016b: 389).



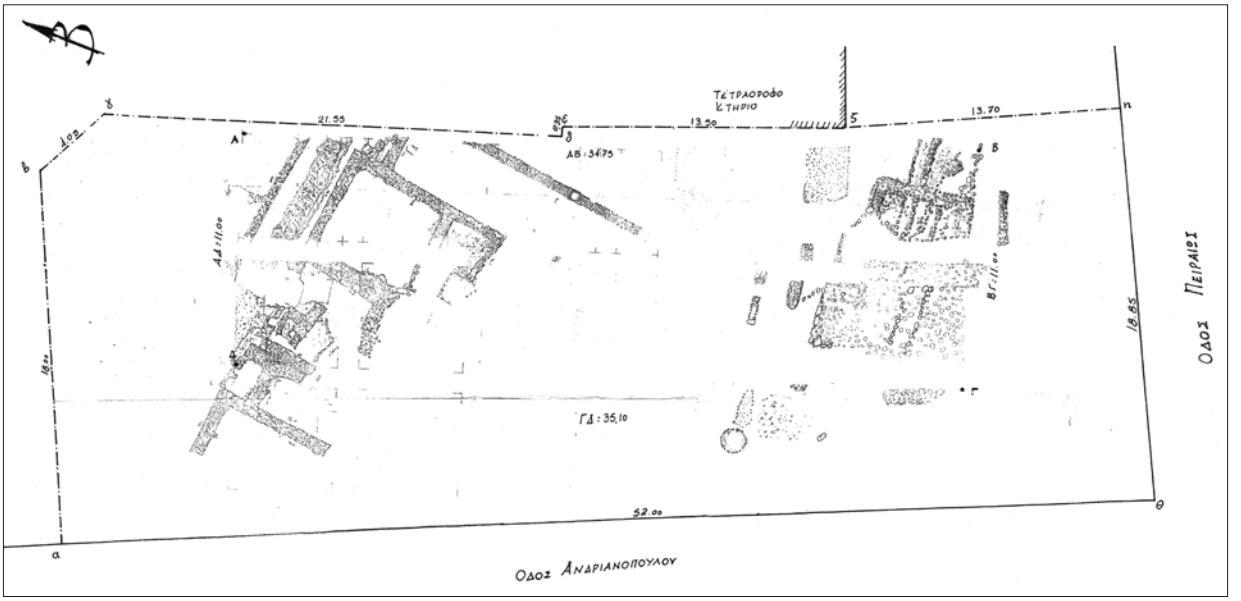
99. Tsepi, Attica: Bratislava-type bowl from Deposit 39. © ASA.

An Early Helladic seal- or stamp-impressed sherd (**Fig. 100**) is noted from excavation of a Final Neolithic to Early Helladic settlement at **Tavros** (**Odos Piraeos 180 and Lamias**, Theodoridis Group plot: *ADelt* 66 [2011] *Chr*. 136–42). A small number of stone foundations (incorporating postholes for structural timbers) characterize the Final Neolithic settlement, while two earlier Early Helladic phases are represented by timber huts; one is circular (2.6m in diameter, with a central post supporting the roof) and the other roughly circular or apsidal. The final (EHII?) phase of the site is represented by a small number of stone foundation walls, one also perhaps apsidal. A large Early Helladic ceramic assemblage is reported, alongside a lithic assemblage including numerous obsidian and fewer flint, blades and flakes. A second Early Helladic settlement is reported less than 2km to the southwest at **69 Odos Piraeos** (**Fig. 101**; **ID6191**). A number of long rectilinear buildings at the north of the site each included at least two interior rooms and possessed substantial foundation walls incorporating



100. Tavros, Attica: Early Helladic stamp or seal impression. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: 16th EPCA.

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101. Tavros, Attica: site plan of 69 Odos Piraeos. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: 16th EPCA.

herring-bone masonry. Much mudbrick and tiles in both terracotta and schist are noted among the destruction debris of the most coherent building, Building A. Some buildings appear to have shared party walls, while the settlement itself was oriented along at least one metalled road. The remainder of the site was very heavily disturbed, although a group of bothroi and (undescribed) stone-built features are identified as evidence of workshop activity in the centre of the plot, and at least one Early Helladic building is identified among a palimpsest of walls and other features in the south. A small obsidian assemblage is noted, alongside an EHII ceramic assemblage comprised of tablewares (not described) and storage vessels.

A modest (Late Neolithic to) Final Neolithic to Early Helladic II settlement is reported from rescue excavation on Odos Vyronos, near **Kouremenos Hill** (Petsiou plot, Agios Stephanos: **ID6033**). Final Neolithic occupation is represented by a sunken-floor hut with a clay-and-pebble floor and an adjacent bothros, capped with stone, which yielded bowls and cheese pots from within a larger Final Neolithic ceramic assemblage. At least two rectilinear, single-storey buildings occupied the site during Early Helladic I, although their plans could not be resolved, while a similar structure, at least 4.8m in length, is attested during Early Helladic II. The largest volume of pottery is placed within the Final Neolithic and includes bowls and basins (with incurved walls and horizontal lugs), cups, plates and pithoi. The EHI assemblage includes bowls and pithoi, and that of EHII comprises sauceboats and at least one Pattern-Painted vessel. Blades and flakes in obsidian account for the majority of the lithic assemblage, although a leaf-shaped arrowhead in white flint is also noted. More unusual is the recovery of a stone decorated with a zig-zag motif and a zoomorphic stone pendant, neither, unfortunately, illustrated.

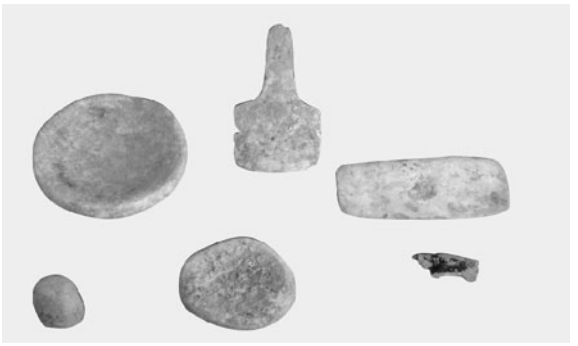
In northeastern Attica, a fortified Final Neolithic to Early Helladic I settlement is reported from the new landfill site at **Mavro Vouno Grammatikou** (**ID6092**). Situated on the northernmost peak of Mavro Vouno, some 5km northeast of the modern village of Grammatikou, the site enjoys excellent visibility across the Euboian gulf. A monumental circular enclosure was exposed at the summit, *ca*. 30m in diameter and a maximum *ca*. 6.5m in width; surviving in places to a height of *ca*. 1.2m, it may also have served as a retaining wall – *cf.* the contemporary Attic enclosures at **Zagani** (Steinhauer 2001), **Kiapha Thiti** (Lauter 1996: 7–18), **Megalo Rimbari** (Lohmann *et al*. 2002) and the **Hill of Pani** at Alimos (*ADelt* 55 [2001] Chr. 105–06). No architectural remains were recovered from the interior, although several bothroi yielded pottery, burned bone and large numbers of tools in obsidian and, less commonly, flint. The ceramic assemblage associated with the wall is Final Neolithic to EHI in date and, significantly, includes several fragments of crucibles used for copper metallurgy; indeed, this may well have been a primary function of

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the site, since both its position and orientation would have allowed smiths to exploit prevailing winds. A group of six, probably sixth-century AD graves located in the east of the enclosure may well reflect the reuse of Final Neolithic to EHI rock-cut pits by individuals associated with a well-built Early Byzantine farmhouse located on the southern slope of the hill. No additional Final Neolithic or Early Helladic remains were identified during excavation on the southern peak of Mavro Vouno, although work at the Gika plot (**ID6092**), *ca*. 600m to the east, yielded probable stone walls (obscured by dense vegetation), coarse Final Neolithic to EHI pottery with quartz and micaceous inclusions and an assemblage of obsidian tools. It is tempting to associate the two sites, although the nature of any relationship remains unclear.

A (Final Neolithic to) Early Helladic I–II settlement is reported at **Nea Erythraia** from excavations at 8 Odos Limnou (Borgia plot) and 104 Odos Ethnikis Antistaseos (Bobos and Co. plot: **ID6028**). At least four timber-framed huts occupied the site during EHI, with a total of ten discrete pebbled surfaces likely representing further examples. A number of contemporary refuse and storage pits are also reported; the majority yielded little in the way of material culture, with the exception of Pit 12 (Borgia plot), which offered a modest ceramic assemblage including fragments of Final Neolithic cheese pot, a Kephala-phase pithos decorated with incised hatched triangles and an EHI bowl. Two building phases are represented within the EHII settlement, which included at least one rectilinear single-storey building, several huts (including one elliptical example with a well-built pebble floor and two internal storage pits), nine pebbled surfaces, a large rock-cut feature (at least *ca*. 6.1m by 3.3m) of unknown function, a possible stone platform (*ca*. 0.4m by 0.45m), a number of pits (including one delineated by a series of cut stones set vertically around its edge) and several circular features which had been filled with earth and capped with stone. The modest EHI ceramic assemblage is comprised principally of body sherds, while the more sizeable EHII assemblage (deriving largely from the Bobos plot) includes dark-painted sauceboats, bowls with ring bases and T rims, fruitstands and pithoi. A large number of obsidian blades and flakes was also recovered. Further Early Helladic remains are reported from test-trenching at **Nea Erythraia** on Odos Ethnikis Antistaseos and Kastritsas (Stamatiou plot), although the site remains unexcavated (**ID6061**).

Several burials of probable Early Helladic/Early Cycladic I date are reported from properties along Leoforos Kifisou at **Aigaleo**. At 96–98 Leoforos Kifissou (**ID6079**), the excavation of a circular rock-cut chamber tomb with a rudimentary dromos yielded human remains, a small group of obsidian blades and a marble assemblage comprising bowls, a palette and a schematic violin-type figurine which should date the



102. Aigaleo, Attica: Early Helladic/Early Cycladic grave group. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: 2nd EPCA.



103. Aigaleo, Attica: Early Helladic/Early Cycladic chamber tomb. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: 2nd EPCA.

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tomb to ECI (**Fig. 102**; see, for example, Rambach 2017). A small contemporary ceramic assemblage recovered to the southeast may indicate the presence of a larger cemetery. Less than 2km to the southwest, three further rock-cut chamber tombs have been excavated at the junction of Leoforos Kifissou and Odos Thessalias (Viamax Co. plot: **ID6080**). Two of these tombs lay close together in the southwest of the area. Sharing a north-south orientation, both possessed circular chambers accessed by sloping dromoi and both had been blocked by slabs (**Fig. 103**). The easternmost yielded an extraordinary burial in a pit, overlain by the remains of at least four individuals, among which lay an undecorated terracotta kandila, also probably ECI. The westernmost yielded a small bone assemblage as well as a marble palette and a shallow marble bowl preserving traces of red pigment. The third tomb lay well to the east and, although similar in construction, was both smaller and observed a different alignment. It yielded a small volume of bone, although no grave goods were recovered. It seems likely that these graves too represent part of a larger cemetery.

A large volume of Early Helladic pottery and two possible Early Helladic buildings have been identified during work on **Odos Thanou** in the southwest of the known settlement at **Koropi** (Keratioti plot: **ID4896**; *ADelt* 65 [2010] *Chr*. 180–81; Andronikou 2013a; 2013b). The latter, roughly parallel, measure at least *ca*. 9.5m and *ca*. 8.3m in length respectively, although their interior plans were not reconciled. With a small Hellenistic to Roman component in evidence, an Early Helladic date, though possible, is not certain. Study of the faunal assemblage previously recovered from **Koropi-Thanou**, as well as those from **Koropi-Papachristou** and the **Medical Centre** excavation, has led Angelos Hadjikoumis (2016) to identify cynophagy – the consumption of dog – as a systematic and regular cultural practice at EHII Koropi, rather than a response to famine, with animals reared for food and their meat, perhaps, deployed strategically under certain commensal conditions as a mode of identity construction.

Two Early Helladic sunken-floor huts, eight contemporary rock-cut pits and two further stone-edged (one stone-lined) examples are reported from the southern slope of the hill at **Keratea** (VIOPA, Sotiriou plot: **ID6044**). Excavation on the northern and northeastern slopes has previously yielded evidence for a substantial fortified Early Helladic settlement (**ID5364**), incorporating numerous buildings organized around at least one road flanked by retaining walls. A large volume of Early Helladic pottery is reported, alongside a lithic assemblage which includes both cores and blades in obsidian and the head of an Early Cycladic marble figurine. Particularly noteworthy is the presence of a large quantity of litharge indicative of on-site silver metallurgy, attested elsewhere in Attica in the remarkable EHI silver workshop at **Lambrika** (see Kakavogianni *et al*. 2008; 2009b), as well as at the settlements at **Merenda** (Kakavogianni *et al*. 2009a), **Koropi** (Kakavogianni *et al*. 2008; Andronikou 2013a; 2013b) and **Kalmis** (Tsaravopoulos *et al*. 2001).

At **Kifissia**, two dense pebble layers yielding Early Helladic pottery at 39 Odos Deligianni (Sarantopoulou plot) likely represent the remains of buildings destroyed by later activity (**ID6060**). A similar scenario is likely represented at **Vouliagmeni** by the presence of Early Helladic pottery in the area of the Classical cemetery at 25 Odos Iliou (**ID6103**) as well as at other plots along Odos Iliou and on the neighbouring Odos Kentaurou and Odos Selinis (*ADelt* 39 [1984] *Chr*. 36).

Konstantina Kaza-Papageorgiou reports that conservation and consolidation work at the important Early Helladic settlement of **Agios Kosmas** (Mylonas 1959) has identified an earlier phase of construction beneath the foundations of Buildings I and E, as well as a preparatory levelling layer of pebbles, sand and obsidian laid across the site in advance of construction (*ADelt* 65 [2010] *Chr*. 321). An Early Helladic tomb is identified at the interior of Building E, its chamber defined by a circular arrangement of orthostats. This grave seems not to correspond to Mylonas' intramural Grave 2 and is not illustrated within the 1959 volume. It yielded a fragment of a small Early Helladic vessel of unidentified shape at the interior.

Finally, rescue excavations during 2012 and 2013 have yielded Final Neolithic to Early Helladic II material from the **Oinoi IV Cave**, a 315m^2 cave located on the northeastern slope of the acropolis of Oinoi, west of Marathon and south of the Haradros river (*ADelt* 68 [2013] *Chr*. 861–62). Although heavily disturbed by looting, the cave has yielded a ceramic assemblage of almost 18,000 sherds; the majority belong to the Late to Final Neolithic, with lower numbers dating to the Early Helladic and later. The Late to Final Neolithic material largely comprises coarse open- or wide-mouthed vessels, although dark-painted

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and a smaller number of bichrome sherds are also reported. Among the EHI–II assemblage are inturned-rim bowls, sauceboats and a range of closed shapes. Ground stone and lithics, human and animal bone and shell (*Castoderma glaucum*) are also noted. A stone pendant, a terracotta figurine with bichrome decoration and an intact schematic marble figurine are reported among an assemblage of small finds in clay, stone, shell and metal. New excavations are also noted in the neighbouring **Cave of Pan** (**Oinoi II**) which has previously yielded both Final Neolithic and Early Helladic remains (Daux 1958; 1959).

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