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ARCHAEOLOGY IN GREECE 2019–2020

Newsround

Tulsi Parikh | University of Cambridge | tp417@cam.ac.uk

Abstract

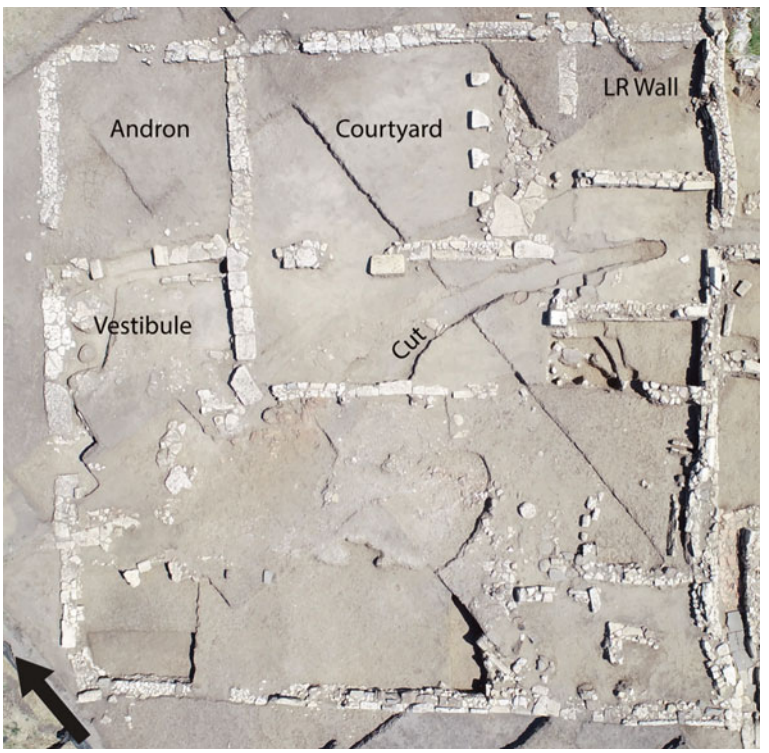
'Newsround' offers a platform for new discoveries that do not appear within the specialist contributions of this year's Archaeological Reports*, but which nevertheless warrant emphasis, either as a result of their particular characteristics or for the contribution they make to broader archaeological narratives. This section is not intended to be exhaustive but rather an overview of archaeological research in Greece. It comprises largely preliminary reports (results of excavations that took place up to and including August 2020 where possible) that complement the digital content made available through* Archaeology in Greece Online *(https://chronique.efa.gr). Due to the diachronic nature of a number of the sites and for ease of reference, the material is organized geographically in the first instance and then chronologically (earliest to latest) within each section as far as possible.*

Introduction

2019–2020 has been an exceptional year for Greek archaeology. Though the pandemic of 2020 has seen the closure of museums and sites in Greece, unexpectedly delaying projects, overall progress in the field in the latter half of 2019 was impressive. Collaborative projects brought to light new discoveries and study seasons yielded compelling results, revealing a wealth and variety of new data through which to explore the history of Greece. The key archaeological developments are summarized below.

East Macedonia and Thrace

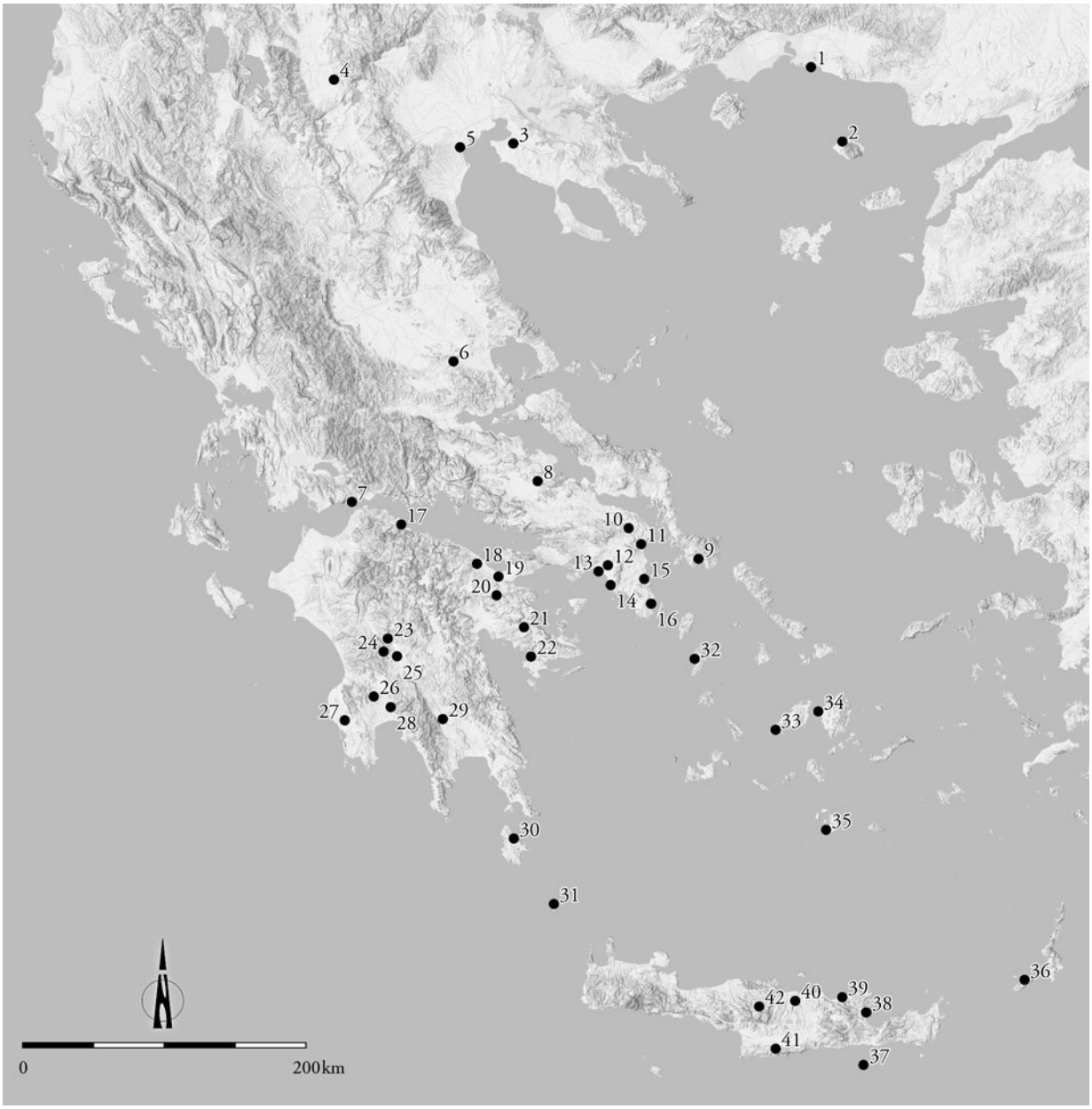
The ***Molyvoti, Thrace, Archaeological Project*** (MTAP) (**ID8120**) is in its second phase of fieldwork, and Nathan Arrington (Princeton/ASCSA), Domna Terzopoulou (Ephorate of Antiquities of Rhodope) and colleagues report on the results. At the settlement of ancient Stryme, the full extent of the House of Hermes (**Fig. 35**), immediately northwest of the House of the Gorgon, excavated 2013–2015 (**ID4213**, **ID5057**, **ID5452**, **ID6182**), was revealed (*ca.* 17.6m × 17.6m). It dates mainly to the fourth century BC and, like the House of the Gorgon, has a



35. Ancient Stryme: House of Hermes. © ASCSA.

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Map 2. Sites referred to in the text: 1. Molyvoti; 2. Samothrace; 3. Trapeza of Neo Rysio-Kardia; 4. Achlada; 5. Methone; 6. Kallithea; 7. Molykreio; 8. Gla; 9. Karystos; 10. Kotroni; 11. Brexiza, Marathon; 12. Athens; 13. Piraeus; 14. Asteria, Glyfada; 15. Porto Raphti; 16. Thorikos; 17. ancient Helike (Nikoleïka Aigialeias); 18. Sikyon; 19. Corinth; 20. Tenea; 21. Epidauros; 22. Koilada and Lambayanna; 23. Atsicholos, Megalopolis; 24. Mount Lykaion; 25. Marathousa; 26. Messene; 27. Pylos; 28. Thouria; 29. Amykles; 30. Paliochora, Kythera; 31. Antikythera wreck; 32. Vryokastraki, Kythnos; 33. Despotiko; 34. Stelida, Naxos; 35. Akrotiri, Santorini; 36. Kasos; 37. Chryssi; 38. Khavania; 39. Sissi; 40. Knossos; 41. Koumasa; 42. Zominthos. © BSA.

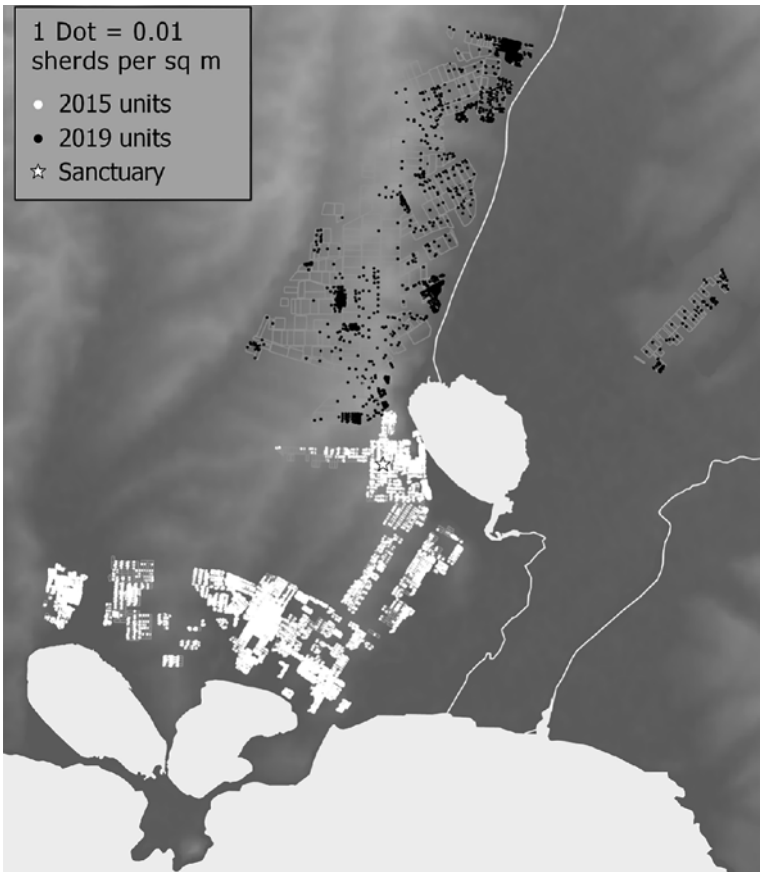
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grid plan. Uncovered features of the house include: a courtyard with a well-built pastas and four surviving pilaster bases *in situ*; a room in the northwest identified as an andron by its offset door, vestibule, location and irregularity of the walls to accommodate couches; and several drains. As the southeast area of the house revealed few architectural remains, the excavators suggest its use as a courtyard. Two roof tiles with Thasian stamps confirm the identification of the town as Stryme.

Two roof tiles with Thasian stamps confirm the identification of the town as Stryme.

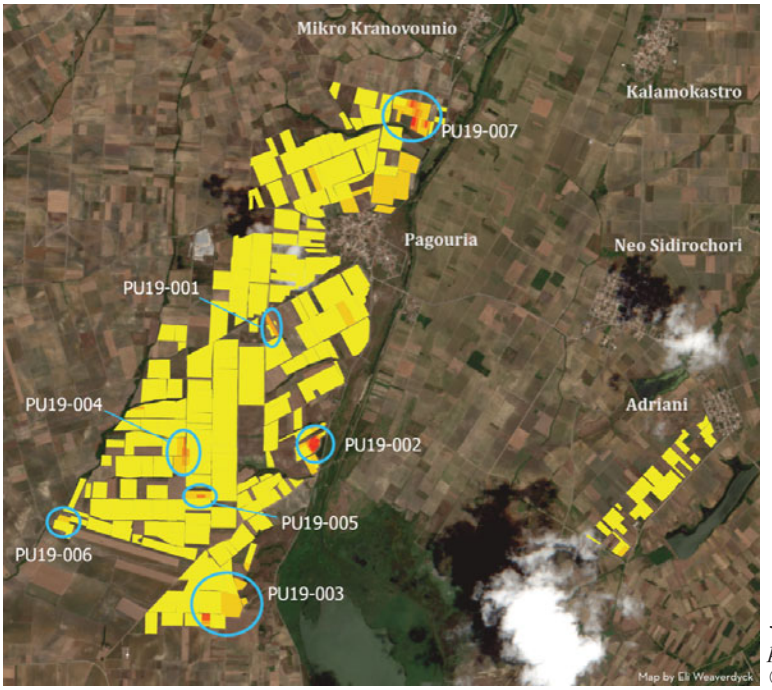
About 5km from the city walls, a surface survey conducted in 2015 had identified, via electrical resistivity, a possible sanctuary temenos, measuring 67m × 40m and orientated northeast–southwest. In 2019, excavations revealed a pithos *in situ*, two (probably Hellenistic) rubble walls and Thracian pottery, a rare find at Stryme. Marble finds, including a fluted pedestal of a *perirrhanterion*, block fragments and working chips, come from secondary or tertiary deposits, thought to be from a temple. Organic remains include barley, pulses, bread wheat, grape seeds and bones of sheep and goat. Most of this material shows no signs of burning and seems to be domestic – rather than ritual – refuse.

The team also conducted a pedestrian survey across an area extending 12km north and 10km northeast beyond the 2015 survey limits (**Fig. 36**), which uncovered Classical to



36. Molyvoti, Thrace, Archaeological Project: *survey areas. © ASCSA.*

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37. Molyvoti, Thrace, Archaeological Project: *places of special interest identified in 2019. © ASCSA.*

Hellenistic material, including coarse ware. A decline in density of finds was noted moving away from the city towards the northeast, suggesting that this area may not have been easily accessible, and perhaps not even part of Stryme's chora. Seven 'places of special interest' were designated in 2019 (**Fig. 37**), including three of Ottoman and one of Classical to Hellenistic date. It is hoped that a comparison of data from 2015 and 2019 will provide important information about settlement patterns, agricultural activity and the nature of trading ports in the fifth and fourth centuries BC, as well as post-Classical activity, including the impact of the construction of the Via Egnatia.

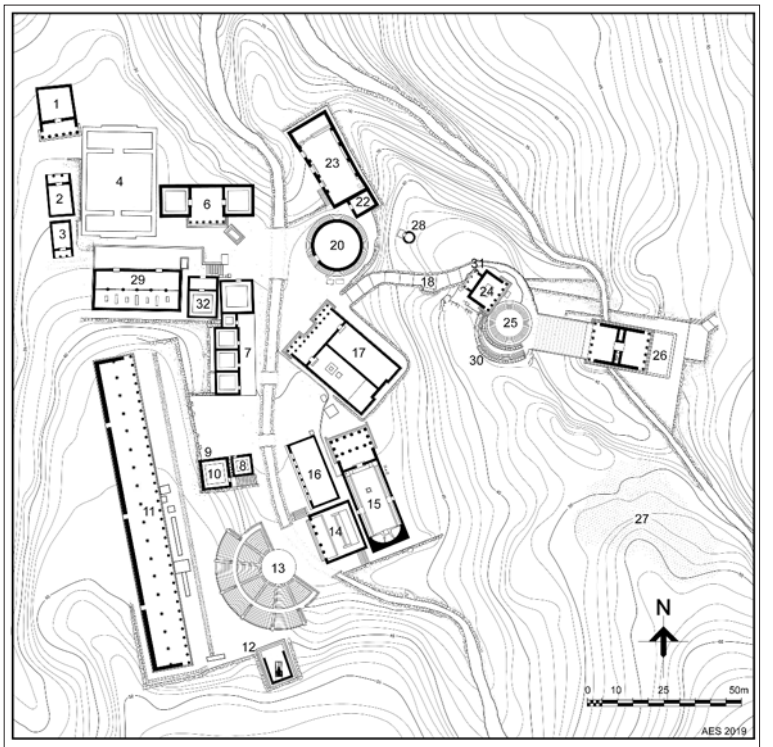
The inventive Hellenistic and Roman architecture at the sanctuary remains the focus of the excavation.

Excavations continued in summer 2019 at the sanctuary of the Great Gods at **Samothrace** (**ID8116**) under the auspices of ASCSA and the Ephorate of Antiquities of Evros, and directed by Bonna Wescoat (Emory). The inventive Hellenistic and Roman architecture at the sanctuary remains the focus of the excavation (Wescoat 2020: 306) (**Fig. 38**). In the area of the 'Central Ravine', the channel that runs through the central valley of the sanctuary, the primary aim was to locate the Hellenistic and Roman channels in the area between the Altar Court and the Hall of Choral Dancers, and to the west of the Rotunda of Arsinoe. Large collapsed sections of Roman concrete walls were found to the east and west of the channel, and the Hellenistic foundations of the Roman wall were identified along the western side of the channel. It became clear during the excavation that the ancient channel was positioned west of the modern ravine channel in this area (**Fig. 39**). A thick buttress that would have supported a bridge across the channel was identified west of the rotunda.

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38. Samothrace, sanctuary of the Great Gods: 2017 aerial view of the southwestern section with the channelized central torrent, stoa, Nike precinct and theatre. The positions of the 2019 trenches are outlined in black. © ASCSA.



Reconstructed plan of the Sanctuary of the Great Gods in the early 1st century CE.
1, 2, 3. Unidentified Late Hellenistic buildings; 4. Unfinished Early Hellenistic building (Building A), 6. Milesian Dedication; 7, 8, 10. Dining rooms; 9. Archaistic niche; 11. Stoa; 12. Nike Monument; 13. Theater; 14. Altar Court; 15. Hieron; 16. Hall of Votive Gifts; 17. Hall of Choral Dancers; 18. Sacred Way; 20. Rotunda of Arsinoe II; 22. Sacristy; 23. Anaktoron; 24. Dedication of Philip III and Alexander IV; 25. Theatral Circle; 26. Propylon of Ptolemy II; 27. South Nekropolis. 28. Doric Rotunda; 29. Neorion; 30. Stepped Retaining Wall; 31. Ionic Porch; 32. Hestiatorion.

39. Samothrace, sanctuary of the Great Gods: new plan. © ASCSA.

In Area K, three trenches were opened with the primary goal of learning more about the stair system that had been partially excavated in 1969, 1970 and 1993, especially regarding its relationship to surrounding architectural structures, including the Hellenistic and Roman retaining walls and the stoa. In trench K.3 (**Fig. 40**), the team identified three construction phases: Late Classical/Hellenistic, when the two southernmost

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steps and an east–west retaining wall (*ca.* 4m north of the first step) were built; a second, later, phase, when a further five steps were built of reused limestone and rhyolite blocks; and a Roman phase, when the construction of a concrete retaining wall made the stairs unusable. In the area south of the stoa, the team surveyed and recorded an oval structure using photogrammetry (**Fig. 41)**. It is hoped that future work will clarify its date, function and relationship to the Nike precinct.



40. Samothrace, sanctuary of the Great Gods: trench K.3. © ASCSA.



41. Samothrace, sanctuary of the Great Gods: post-antique oval structure on the slope south of the stoa. © ASCSA.

Central Macedonia

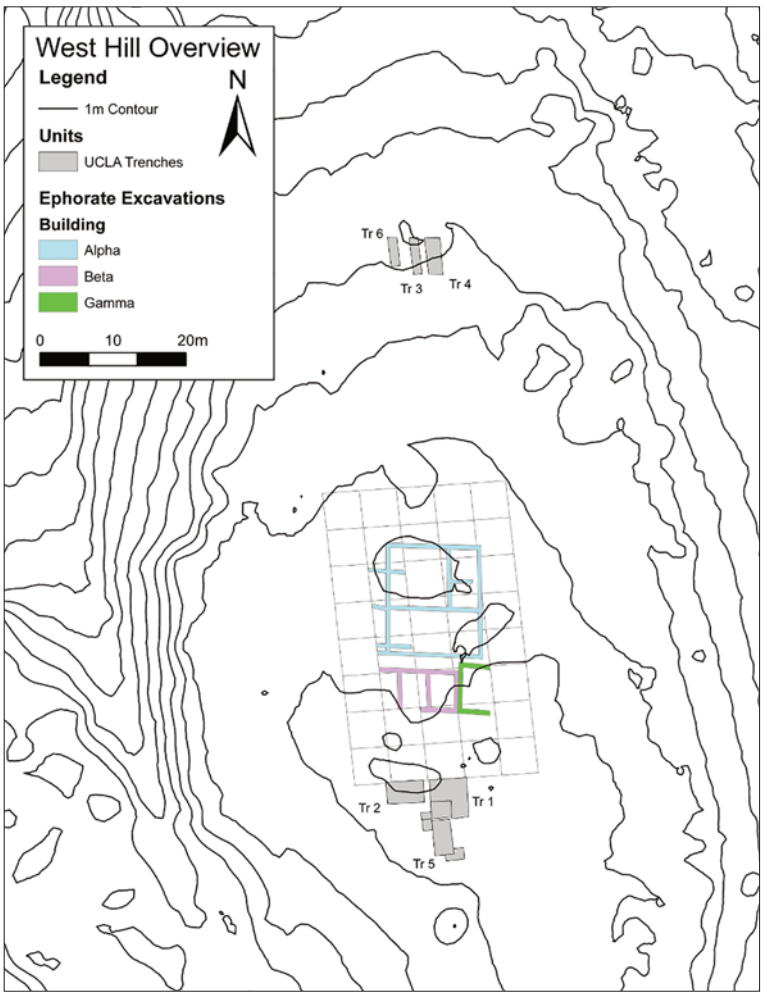
In 2019, Manolis Manoledakis (International Hellenic University) continued archaeological work begun in 2017 at the ancient settlement at the **Trapeza of Neo Rysio-Kardia**, inhabited between the 11th/tenth and sixth century BC (**ID8510**; https://www.ihu.gr/ucips/excavation-neo-rysio-kardia/the-settlement). To date, the exacavations have revealed several rectangular buildings and vertical and horizontal roads, signifying the urban layout of the settlement (**Fig. 42**). Other finds include a large quantity of ceramics, mainly amphorae and oinochoae of local fabric from the ninth to sixth century BC, and stone and metal tools. This is the first time the site has been investigated and excavations are ongoing.

The second year of study on material from **Methone** (**ID5058**, **ID5451**, **ID6183**; Bessios *et al*. 2019), excavated between 2014 and 2017 by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Pieria and the University of California, Los Angeles, took place in 2019, producing new results on the Early Iron Age, Archaic and Classical history of occupation on the West Hill (**Fig. 43**). The team clarified the comprehensive landscaping of the hill for industrial activity in the early seventh century BC and made new joins on ceramics from Pit 46, which will enhance the impressive corpus of Attic black- and red-figure pottery from the site.



42. Trapeza of Neo Rysio-Kardia: ancient roads and buildings. © International Hellenic University/M. Manoledakis.

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43. Methone, West Hill: overview. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Pieria/ASCSA.



44. Achlada: bronze vessel containing a secondary cremation. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Florina.

West Macedonia

Ongoing rescue excavations at an ancient cemetery in **Achlada** near Florina, directed by Liana Gelou (Ephorate of Antiquities of Florina), have revealed a number of noteworthy finds from sixth-century BC warrior graves, which attest to the political and social character of Macedonian aristocracy at this time (**ID8159**; https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=2964). Nearly 1,300 graves have been discovered in total so far – the earliest from the Late Bronze Age, the majority from the period between the sixth and third centuries BC and many dating to Byzantine times. In 2019, 75 Archaic and 131 Byzantine burials were discovered. Six burials, demarcated by an enclosure (*ca.* 4m × 3.5m), are of particular interest. The bodies had been placed in pits approximately 2m below the surface of the enclosure or in cist graves with paved floors. Five burials showed evidence of secondary cremation, including a large bronze vessel, 0.55m in diameter, with ornate handles in the form of human hands (**Fig. 44**). The urn was found along with two iron swords, two iron spears and a bronze Illyrian helmet, indicating the burial of a warrior. Four Illyrian helmets were

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uncovered at the site in total (including in Grave 684: **Fig. 45**); these are the first finds of such items at the cemetery of Achlada. Other finds include a faience spherical aryballos, terracotta figurines of seated female figures holding a dove and a sphinx with a lyre, and two Archaic figure vases of a female and male, the latter possibly Herakles with the hide of an animal on his head. A gold mask was found in a disturbed pit grave, along with a gold ring, a silver pin, fragments of iron swords, amber beads, a bronze lebes and a pitcher. In the southern part of the site, two Roman farmhouse complexes were also found in 2019.



45. Achlada: warrior burial with helmet, armour and silver shoe soles. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Florina.

West Greece

In 2019, systematic excavation as part of a 14-year research cycle drew to a close at the Archaic sanctuary of Poseidon and Athena in ancient **Molykreio** in Aetolia (**ID8565**; *Ergon* 2019: 40–42; https://www.latsis-foundation.org/eng/grants/excavation-at-the-acropolis-of-ancient-molykreio-of-aetolia). Under the direction of Nikolaos Kaltsas and Aliki Moustaka (ASA), investigation concentrated on the area of the Great Altar (**Fig. 46**), where a deposit of ash, bone and sherds dates ritual activity at the altar from the seventh century BC to the Hellenistic period. Other finds around the altar include figurines, a clay plaque with a sphinx and silver and bronze coins from Aegina, Phocis, Sikyon, Megara, Corinth and Aetolia – perhaps the places of origin of the worshippers at Molykreio. The foundation on the northern side of Temple B was also uncovered (**Fig. 47**). Architectural members from an older temple, found within the temple and the foundation fill, show traces of paint. The foundation deposit also yielded two iron swords, one with an elaborate handle. Future work at the site will include restoration of the altar and the study of finds in relation to the nature of ritual activity at the sanctuary.



46. Molykreio: the Great Altar. © ASA.



47. Molykreio: Temple B. © ASA.

Central Greece

A new five-year campaign as part of the ***Central Achaia Phthiotis Survey*** (CAPS) (Haagsma *et al*. 2019a) had its inaugural season in July to August 2019, co-directed by Sophia Karapanou (Ephorate of Antiquities of Larissa) and Margriet Haagsma (CIG/Alberta). The project developed out of the *Kastro Kallithea Archaeological Project* (KKAP), which completed fieldwork in 2013 (Haagsma 2014; Surtees *et al*. 2014; Chykerda *et al*. 2015), and investigates activity from Neolithic to pre-modern times on 3,000ha of land surrounding the fourth- to second-century BC kastro (Haagsma *et al*. 2019b). The area is remote but nevertheless at an important crossroad: trade routes ran between the coast and the hinterland, from east to west, and seasonal agricultural routes ran between the varying pastures of the lowlands and mountains, north to south. The project aims to increase understanding of the

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relationships between the environmental, geopolitical, cultural and social factors associated with the communities in Kallithea by studying agricultural developments and transport networks in this dynamic area.

In 2019, over 130ha were surveyed using a total-collection strategy in the Kampos area to the north and west of the kastro at **Kallithea** and around 2ha at Arabises in the Agios Antonios valley 5.5km to the northwest. The sherd material around the kastro mainly dates from Classical to Roman times, and a possible pre-Ottoman church was identified at the base of the kastro. Material from Arabises dates from the Bronze to Iron Age and Classical period. Extensive survey was carried out in the uncultivated area surrounding the kastro, where there was evidence for structures such as fountain houses, extramural architecture, tile graves, tholos tombs and a prehistoric necropolis with cist graves. A remarkable number of Early Iron Age tholos tombs were found on top of ridges radiating from the base of the kastro – four had previously been reported by Dimitris Theocharis in 1964. In 2019, another 16 tholos tombs, plus eight possible tholoi, were recorded with differential GPS; this represents a remarkable 13% increase in known tholos tombs of this date in Thessaly. Tholos 4, which was partially collapsed and deemed unsafe for further cleaning and excavation, was cleared. Previously known Tholos 7 was fully excavated and discovered not to have a dromos, but an extended stomion (**Figs 48**, **49**). Human remains of two, likely male, adults were recovered from its vaulted chamber. The two individuals share an unusual dental trait, suggesting they were related.



48. Kallithea: the stomion of Tholos 7 as seen from inside. © CIG.

Following a 20-year break, excavations resumed in 2018 at the Mycenaean acropolis at **Gla** (**ID8163**; *Ergon* 65 2018: 28–32; https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3024). Led by Elena Kountouri (Hellenic Ministry of Culture and



49. Kallithea: aerial view of Tholos 7. © CIG.

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50. Gla: aerial view of the citadel. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Boeotia/ASA.

Sports/ASA) and conducted in collaboration with the Ephorate of Antiquities of Boeotia, new and important architectural features and finds dating to *ca.* 1250 BC have come to light on this vast citadel, which comprises a fortified area of some 20ha in size (**Fig. 50**). Between 2018 and 2019, five large building complexes (M, N, O, P, Q) were identified in the northwestern, southwestern and southern parts of the acropolis. Finds include Mycenaean vessels (stirrup jars, skyphoi, hydriae, kylikes, askoi, etc.), fragments of wall paintings, lead vessels and figurines.

New and important architectural features and finds dating to ca. 1250 BC have come to light on this vast citadel, which comprises a fortified area of some 20ha.

In June to July 2019, the team continued work on complex N on a natural plateau in the southwest (**Fig. 51**). This is made up of six independent buildings measuring 8.6m × 27.7m and is orientated east–west. The buildings are in two rows of three, equally spaced along the north–south axis. Each building (*ca.* 240m^2) is divided into three rooms of equal size by stone walls. Excavations also began on complexes O, P and Q (**Fig. 52**).



51. Gla: Buildings Na, Nb and Nc. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Boeotia/ASA.

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52. Gla: Buildings O and P. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Boeotia/ASA.



53. Gla: Bronze axe, as found in Building P. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Boeotia/ASA.

Notable among the finds are large pieces of lead and decorated Mycenaean vessels consistent with finds from earlier excavations. An intact bronze double axe (**Fig. 53**) is a rare find and believed to have been concealed just before the Mycenaean palatial collapse. These structures share certain architectural features with previously excavated buildings: elongated wings, axial layouts and large dimensions. Such consistency is rare at other Mycenaean acropoleis, which were repeatedly modified and rebuilt, suggesting that the fortifications and buildings at Gla were constructed as part of a single building programme towards the middle of the 13th century BC (and abandoned at the end of the century). It is hoped that further analyses of building materials and zooarchaeological and archaeobotanical data along with micromorphological and geological studies will shed further light on the daily life and spatial organization of Gla and its economy.

Euboea

A sixth-century BC settlement has been identified during the installation of a windfarm at Pyrgari-Dardiza in **Karystos** on Euboea. Excavation, which began in July 2019, is supervized by Angeliki Simosi (Ephorate of Antiquities of Euboea) (**ID8511**; https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=2944). The site is located in a naturally fortified position with views out to sea and to the fortified settlement of Filagra to the north. The architectural remains measure 46m × 22.50m and have a southeast–northwest orientation (**Fig. 54**). The team uncovered exterior walls, an apsidal space and symmetrically arranged rectangular rooms on either side of a corridor leading to an open space in the northwest and a courtyard in the southeast. Finds include Archaic coarse-ware pottery, utilitarian and storage

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54. Karystos: architectural remains at Pyrgari-Dardiza. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Euboea.

vessels, and some fine-ware ceramics, including an aryballos. A loomweight and iron slag suggest craft activities at the site. The nature and chronological development of the settlement require further study.

Attica

In 2019, excavations were conducted at a Neolithic to Early Helladic II production site at **Asteria, Glyfada** (**ID8495**; for previous reports, see **ID4871**, **ID5380**, **ID6492**, **ID8494**). Konstantina Kaza (ASA) reports on the results (*Ergon* 2019: 11–12). Two circular basins carved out of rock, one with a diameter of 6m and the other 10m, and two large pits, thought to be associated with a metallurgical workshop of the Neolithic period, were explored (**Fig. 55**). Though flooding halted excavation, the flood debris revealed vessels, including metal cups and bronze fragments. After the Neolithic period, the area was used as a cemetery, where an outstanding 117 graves have been found. This may be one of the largest cemeteries in Attica after Tsepi at Marathon.

This may be one of the largest cemeteries in Attica after Tsepi at Marathon.



55. Asteria, Glyfada: aerial view of the large pits and the surrounding rocky area. © ASA.

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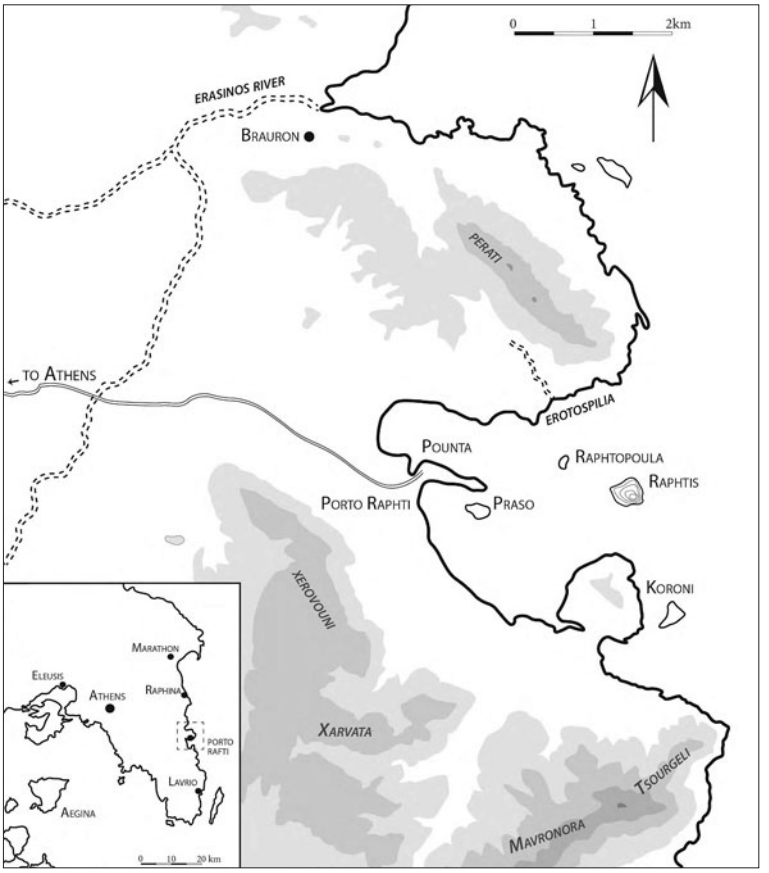
The metal finds comprise exclusively pieces of iron slag, providing compelling evidence for local iron-ore processing.

The first season of fieldwork of the ***Kotroni Archaeological Survey Project*** **(KASP)** (**ID8141**) was conducted in 2019, under the auspices of the IIHSA and the supervision of Eleni Andrikou (Ephorate of Antiquities of Eastern Attica), Anastasia Dakouri-Hild (Virginia) and Stephen Davies (Dublin). The area under investigation surrounds the citadel of Kotroni, near Kapandriti and Lake Marathon. It is hoped that the project will provide information about the environmental, topographic and regional contexts of the citadel. In 2019, the team focused on remote sensing, LiDAR survey and geological analysis. New archaeological sites and the Middle Bronze Age tumulus excavated in 1894 were located, and, for the first time, evidence for local industrial activity came to light. Misfired vessel fragments and tiles, collected during a pedestrian survey, point to local ceramic production; this is supported by the presence of an area nearby, south and southwest of the lake, that is well known as a source of clay. Stone tools and terracotta artefacts, such as loomweights, lamps and figurines, were also recovered during the survey. The metal finds comprise exclusively pieces of iron slag, providing compelling evidence for local iron-ore processing. Finds dating to most periods are attested – especially Classical and Roman, but also prehistoric and Late Antique. Most of the pottery is locally or regionally made, with some table wares of likely Athenian origin. The amphorae have a wide-ranging provenance. In addition, African Red Slip Ware from Tunisia and Late Roman C table ware from western Turkey was recovered. Aerial images were collected via remote sensing. Comparison with aerial images from 1962 and 1970 shows significant changes in the landscape. The team was also able to target areas for further investigation through vegetation extraction using Worldview 2 imagery in the region of the citadel and on other surrounding hilltops.

The first field season of the ***Bays of East Attica Regional Survey*** (BEARS) took place from May to June 2019 (**ID8189**). This diachronic project offers important perspectives on the economic role of the bay of **Porto Raphti** (**Fig. 56**) in Early Bronze Age Attica, the nature of the Mycenaean occupation of the bay and the spatial organization of the Hellenistic demes of Steiria and Prasiai. BEARS is a collaboration between CIG, the Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica and the Central Archaeological Council of Greece, directed by Sarah Murray (Toronto) and Catherine Pratt (Western Ontario). In 2019, the team conducted gridded collection, intensive and extensive survey, mapping and aerial photography of the bay, which yielded some very promising preliminary results.

On Raphtis, the wide range of finds – Mycenaean coarse and fine wares (**Fig. 57**), Final Neolithic and Early Bronze Age pithoi, Roman amphorae and dishes, and volcanic ground-stone

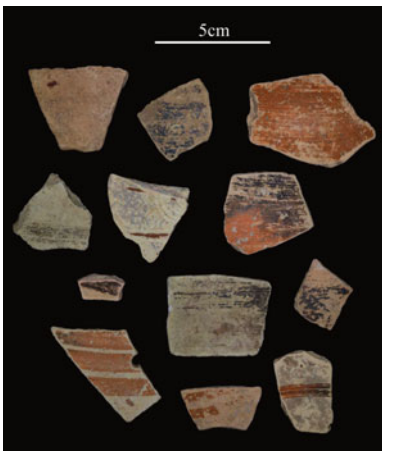
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56. Porto Raphti: map of bay and surrounding area. © ASCSA (map drawn by S. Murray).

The abundance of perforating tools and crushed purple shells and the hollow features of the bedrock of the Pounta peninsula provide compelling evidence for purple-dye production.

objects – points to domestic, ritual and industrial activities on the island, as well as the presence of a settlement from at least the Late Helladic IIIC. Moreover, similarities between the chronology and fabric of pottery found on Raphtis and that from the cemetery of Perati, across the channel, suggest that the inhabitants of Raphtis made use of the cemetery during the 12th and 11th centuries BC. Raphtis produced a relatively low density of obsidian in comparison with the Pounta peninsula, which may have been a local hub for lithic production and distribution. In addition, the abundance of perforating tools and crushed purple shells and the hollow features of the bedrock of the Pounta peninsula provide compelling evidence for purple-dye production. Slag and fragments of bronze suggest metallurgical activity. The nature of the lithic materials and similarities between the pottery fabrics of Pounta and Thorikos, the Cyclades and Aegina demonstrate the likely role of the bay of Porto Raphti as a significant point of contact between the Cyclades and Attica during the Final Neolithic and Early Bronze Age.



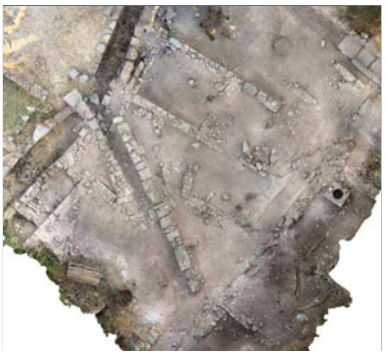
57. Porto Raphti: painted Mycenaean sherds from unit D13 on Raphtis island. © ASCSA (photo by R. Stephan).

On the island of Koroni, the presence of Hellenistic Aegean amphorae confirms third-century BC activity in the area. However, the discovery of Late Helladic IIIC cooking ware has,

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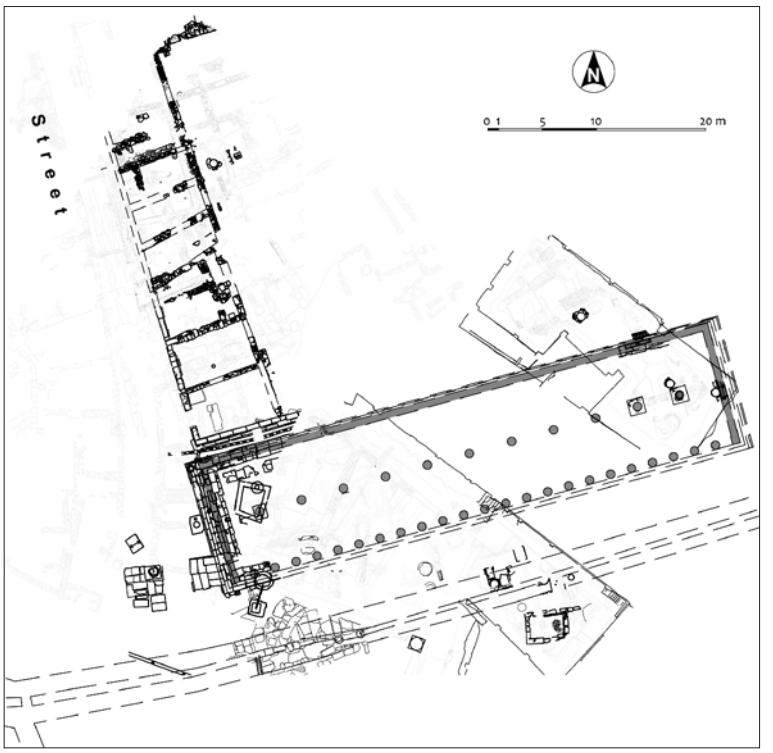
for the first time, provided evidence of Bronze Age occupation at the site, perhaps contemporary with the settlement on Raphtis island. Archaic and Classical pottery and tiles are further indications of activity predating the Hellenistic occupation, particularly in relation to the deme of Prasiai. Corinthian tiles on the acropolis may have belonged to an early building in this location, perhaps a sanctuary.

John Camp (ASCSA) reports on the Geometric to Byzantine material uncovered from four excavation areas of the **Athenian Agora** (**ID8115**) in June to August 2019 (**Figs 58, 59**). The team explored Section NN in the southwestern corner of the site, from where Rodney Young had excavated material of all periods in the 1940s (Young 1951). Plans of buildings, in an area where terracotta figurines had been found, were clarified, but the workshops, where the figurines were made, were not identified.



58. Athens, Agora: aerial view of Section NN. © ASCSA.

In Section BZ, the completion of the excavation of a well with a diameter of 1.2m at the top and 0.9m at the bottom (found in 2015: **ID5383**) revealed in the lower levels of the fill a hydria with asymmetrical incised decoration around the neck and a table amphora with glazed bands, both from the second half of the eighth century BC. The upper levels were dated to the seventh century BC, giving some indication of the well's period of use. Elsewhere in Section BZ, the team exposed the western wall of the Classical Commercial Building and the road to its west, by removing the Middle Byzantine wall.



59. Athens, Agora: plan of the excavations. © ASCSA.

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In Section BΘ West, over the western half of the Stoa Poikile, where excavation has reached the floor level of the Byzantine houses (tenth/11th century AD), pithoi were found and explored, their mouths at floor level (**Fig. 60**). They seem to have been emptied before being abandoned.



60. Athens, Agora: pithoi in Byzantine houses in Section BΘ. © ASCSA.

In Section BΘ East, in front of the Painted Stoa and just south of the Eridanos river, the team cleared the Roman basin (3.2m × 2.15m and 1–1.3m deep) at the western corner of the enclosure (**Fig. 61**), which is tentatively identified as the Leokorion. The southwestern and northwestern sides of the basin make use of the surviving orthostate walls of the enclosure; the southeastern and northeastern sides are built of tiles (*ca.* 0.017m high) with reused marble blocks above the tiles. Heavy mortaring of the basin, its depth and its location next to the river suggest a hydraulic function, but it is unlikely to have been a cistern due to the lack of a cover. No evidence for a drain has been found either. The fill included animal bones and pottery pieces, provisionally dating the abandonment of the installation to the third century AD.

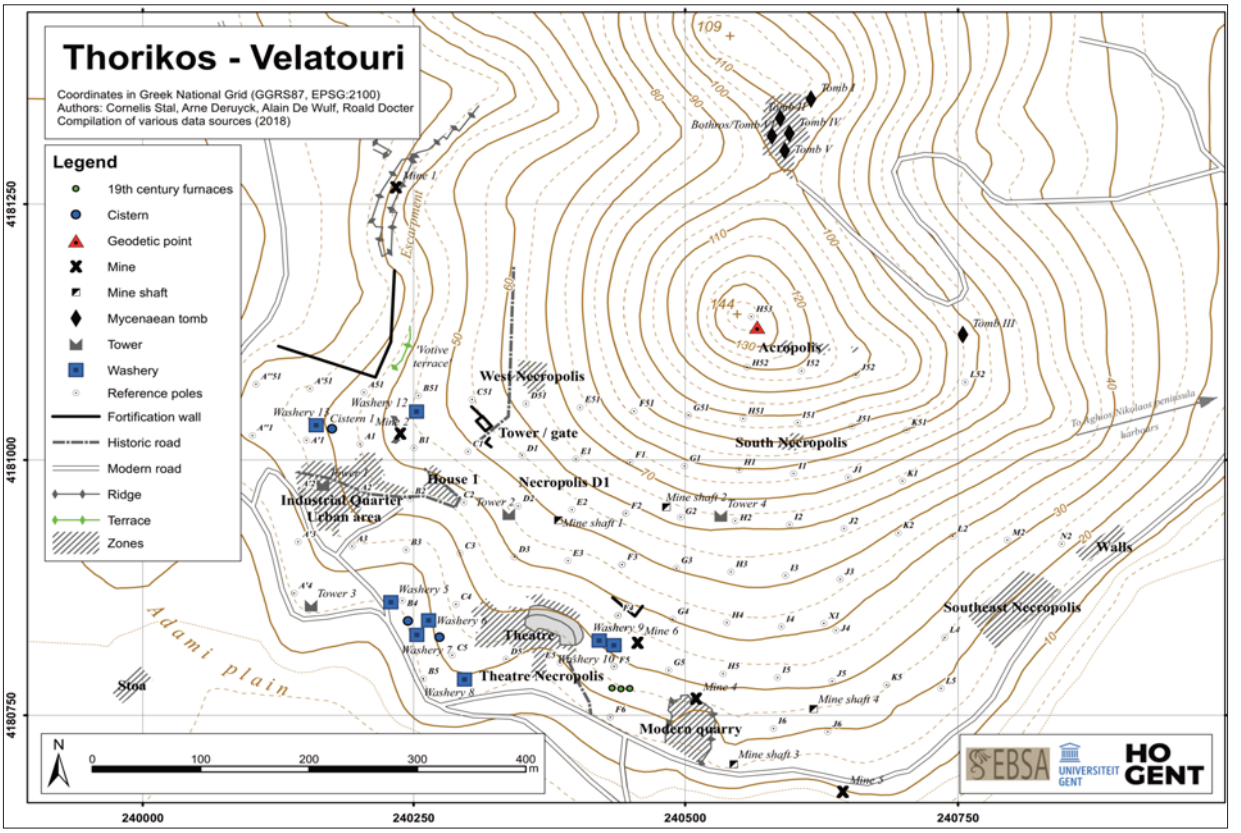


61. Athens, Agora: excavating the Roman basin built just in front of the Painted Stoa. © ASCSA.

Following work in 2019, the excavators have proposed that two clamped limestone blocks, revealed in 2018 (**ID6982**) along the southern side of the enclosure wall, belong to a large monument that sits on the line of the southern temenos wall. Whether the monument precedes the temenos or was built into the temenos wall requires further research. The team also found part of a worked marble bench north of the tank, thought to be an exedra – a common Hellenistic semicircular monument that carried statues and often had a bench at its base. This sort of dedication is common to agoras (at Priene, for example) and sanctuaries (on Delos, for example), and the team anticipates that the area in front of the stoa will reveal more commemorative monuments.

On the east coast of Attica, archaeological work continued for the second year in 2019 at **Thorikos** (**Fig. 62**) under the direction of Roald Docter (EBSA/Ghent) and Sylviane Déderix (EBSA/Heidelberg/Louvain) (**ID8498**; https://www.thorikos.be/). The primary focus remained on the excavation of a large rectangular structure, the investigation of which began in 2018 (**ID8492**). Four construction phases have been identified. In around the fifth century BC, the structure is thought to have been part of the enclosure separating the city from the cemeteries. This structure was later converted to a cistern, then reoccupied in the Late Roman period and used again in early modern times. In the Classical 'South East Necropolis' area several structures that had previously been detected during geophysical survey were collaboratively explored by Ghent and Göttingen universities, and one structure was interpreted as a large fourth-century BC funerary monument. Traces of quarrying were also found.

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62. Thorikos: site plan, 2018. © EBSA.

Later in the summer of 2019, a team led by Robert Laffineur (Liège), Sylviane Déderix and Nikolas Papadimitriou (Heidelberg) studied the Bronze Age remains from previous excavations on the acropolis of the Velatouri (1880s–1890s and 1960s–1970s), continued surface survey on the northern and upper western slopes of the hill and mapped several features discovered in 2018. Tombs I, II, IV and V on the saddle (**Fig. 63**) and tomb III on the eastern slope of the hill were cleaned and recorded using photogrammetry and laser scanning.



63. Thorikos: the necropolis on the saddle of the hill at the end of the 2019 campaign. © EBSA.

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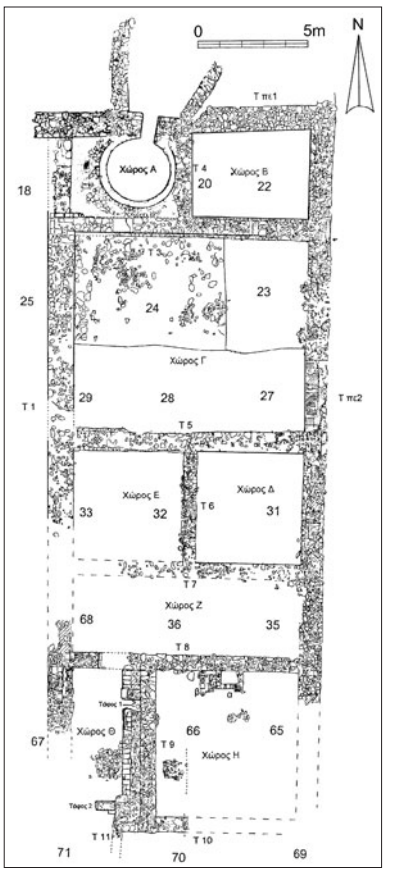
64. Piraeus: finds in a pit discovered during the construction of the Athens metro. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Piraeus and the Islands.



65. Piraeus: wooden statue. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Piraeus and the Islands.

Geophysical survey of a fifth- to fourth-century BC bronze foundry, discovered south of the **Olympieion** in **Athens** by John Travlos in 1971, was carried out in October 2019 (**ID8185**). The team, led by Matthias Leopold (Western Australia) and Gerhard Zimmer (Eichstätt), investigated an area of approximately 60m^2 with ground-penetrating radar and multi-electrode resistivity imaging. The casting pit of the bronze foundry was identified (Leopold and Zimmer 2020). Further analysis is required to locate possible other pits or foundations associated with the foundry.

Rescue excavations on the Athenian metro line to **Piraeus** – the largest excavation carried out in this area – have brought to light the remains of an aqueduct constructed during the time of Hadrian and thousands of objects from the Hellenistic and Roman periods (https://www.kathimerini.gr/society/1087255/ploysia-archaiologika-eyrimata-apo-tin-epektasi-toy-metro-ston-peiraia-fotografies/). More than 4,000 preserved objects have been recovered so far. Particularly significant are the 1,300 wooden objects, including furniture and tools, which comprise the largest collection of domestic wooden objects found in Greece to date owing to the depths that the excavation was able to reach, including the bottoms of ancient wells up to 18m below ground level (**Fig. 64**). Other organic materials, including fruits and tree branches, were also preserved. A wooden headless statue, possibly of Hermes, from the Hellenistic period, discovered at the bottom of a well, is a particularly exceptional find (**Fig. 65**).



66. Brexiza, Marathon: plan of Building B. © ASA.

At **Brexiza, Marathon** (**ID8497**; *Ergon* 2019: 12–16) excavations continued at the sanctuary of the Egyptian Gods under the direction of Iphigeneia Dekoulakou (ASA). Focusing on Building B (**Fig. 66**), the team uncovered third-century AD pottery fragments, including amphorae, skyphoi, jugs, lekanae and plaques, as well as a few sherds from earlier periods, fragments of wall decoration, a bronze coin of Gallinus (AD 253–268) and an Ionian column base (of a different shape from

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67. Brexiza, Marathon: inscribed tile, third century AD. © ASA.



68. Brexiza, Marathon: Grave 2, third century AD. © ASA.

the one found previously). In the southern part of Building B there was also a tile inscribed AΘHNAIOY (**Fig. 67**). In the north, a tiled-roof grave of a child (**Fig. 68**) was found with more pottery of the third century AD.

Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory (AAIA) reports on the 2019 field season of the ***Australian Paliochora Kythera Archaeological Survey*** (APKAS), which took place over four weeks, one of which was devoted to a sampling study of the agricultural terraces in the northern part of the island (**ID8184**; Gregory *et al*. 2019; Tzortzopoulou-Gregory 2020). The main aims included establishing a chronology for these impressive human-constructed landforms and determining the techniques of their construction, as well as testing a new methodology for the study of terraces in general. Micromorphological samples were drawn from three locations in the area around the village of Karavas – one from Theodorakia and two from Kambi-Keramari. These locations had revealed high concentrations of ceramics and lithics from the Middle and Late Bronze Age in 2016–2018. The results of micromorphological analysis and optical driven luminescence (OSL) dating are yet to be published. However, preliminary results from stratigraphic documentation of the terrace samples show that the retaining walls for the terraces in the three different locations were constructed using three different techniques: at Theodorakia, vertical cutting of the rock; at Kambi 1, soil and stone deposition in the wall foundations; and at Kambi 2, shallow digging of the natural background. The terraces in each location were completed in multiple phases (four, three and five respectively) and they attest to the advanced ways in which people modified the natural landscape for their agricultural needs. It is hoped that further investigation will clarify the nature of these sophisticated field systems.

Various finds came to light in the final season of a five-year project on the first-century BC shipwreck off **Antikythera** (**ID7480**; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3f0x8Cei2So; https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3006). Angeliki Simosi (Ephorate of Antiquities of Euboea) reports that the analysis of five bags of sand from previous excavations revealed bones, olive kernels, copper nails and a bronze ring. The remains of the ship's cargo (**Fig. 69**) contained amphora fragments and an iron stub with a circular end. Amphora bases, a neck and an entire amphora, missing only its handle, from Kos were identified, as well as another amphora base of unknown origin and two necks of Laboglia 2 type from Italy. A possible structural element from the ship – a piece of wood with four bronze nails – was also raised from the seabed. A further five-year project has been planned and areas of interest have been mapped for the continuation of excavation work.

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69. Antikythera: pottery from the shipwrecked cargo. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EUA.

Peloponnese

New data emerged during the second year of a five-year geoarchaeological programme in the Megalopolis basin (**ID8117**), a collaboration between ASCSA and the EPS, directed by Elena Panagopoulou-Karampela (EPS), Panagiotis Karkanas (ASCSA) and Katerina Harvati (Tübingen). The site is currently dated to *ca.* 400–500 ka BP, and, as such, is the oldest known archaeological site in Greece. However, last year fieldwork focused on locating sites even older than the site of Marathousa 1 (Karkanas *et al.* 2018; Panagopoulou *et al*. 2018). In particular, work targeted the undisturbed geological deposits underlying Lignite Seam II in the mines of **Marathousa**, Choremi and **Kyparissia**. Tectonic and sedimentary structures were also examined, while geological samples were collected for analysis.

Many more finds were uncovered during the 2019 field season than in 2018, including fossil bones and teeth. Of particular interest are those that provide possible evidence for anthropogenic cut-marks, such as a deer phalanx from Survey Unit 6 (SU6) in Marathousa 2. Other mammal and mollusc fossils were found in SU7 of the Marathousa mine, beneath Lignite Seam II, and will be studied for further evidence of anthropogenic processing and subjected to biostratigraphic, biochronological and palaeoenvireonmental analyses.

Especially significant from the Kyparissia mine are lithic artefacts discovered in spatial and stratigraphic association with fossil bones, including hippopotamus, deer, rhinoceros, turtle and bird (Athanassiou 2018; Athanassiou *et al*. 2018). These important finds extend human presence beyond the Marathousa mine to the northwestern area of the Megalopolis basin and may also extend the date of human activity earlier than the *ca.* 400–500 ka BP date for Marathousa 1. This is an exciting working hypothesis that requires further investigation.

Finds extend human presence beyond the Marathousa mine to the northwestern area of the Megalopolis basin and may also extend the date of human activity earlier than the ca. *400–500 ka BP date for Marathousa 1.*

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In summer 2019, the ***Mount Lykaion Excavation and Survey Project*** completed the fourth year of the current programme under the auspices of ASCSA and the direction of David Gilman Romano (Arizona), Mary Voyatzis (Arizona) and Anna Karapanagiotou (Ephorate of Antiquities of Arcadia) (**ID8119**; https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/service/SitePages/view.aspx?iID=4175; see Spathi, this volume).

The underwater project at the bay of **Koilada** (**ID8188**) and the Early Bronze Age settlement at **Lambayanna**, in the southern Argolid, produced important results in 2019. In the bay area, the team led by Julien Beck (ESAG/Geneva) and Andreas Sotiriou (EUA) discovered a small underwater cave, which is thought to have been connected to a freshwater supply and to have been used as a place of shelter during the prehistoric period before sea levels rose. At Lambayanna, petrography and style analyses of sherds suggest that, during the Early Bronze Age, the settlement was an important intermediary point along communication routes between the Cyclades and the Peloponnese. The team continued topographic mapping at Lambayanna, begun in 2016: some Early Bronze Age structures were visible, while others were submerged and only detectable through geophysics. Both attempts to locate underwater channels, which had been identified in geophysical survey in an area just outside the Franchthi Cave, were unsuccessful due to low visibility. West of Koilada, a small cave with a shallow opening was found. Its floor was covered in small pebbles. The cave's lower temperature suggests that there was a freshwater source nearby.



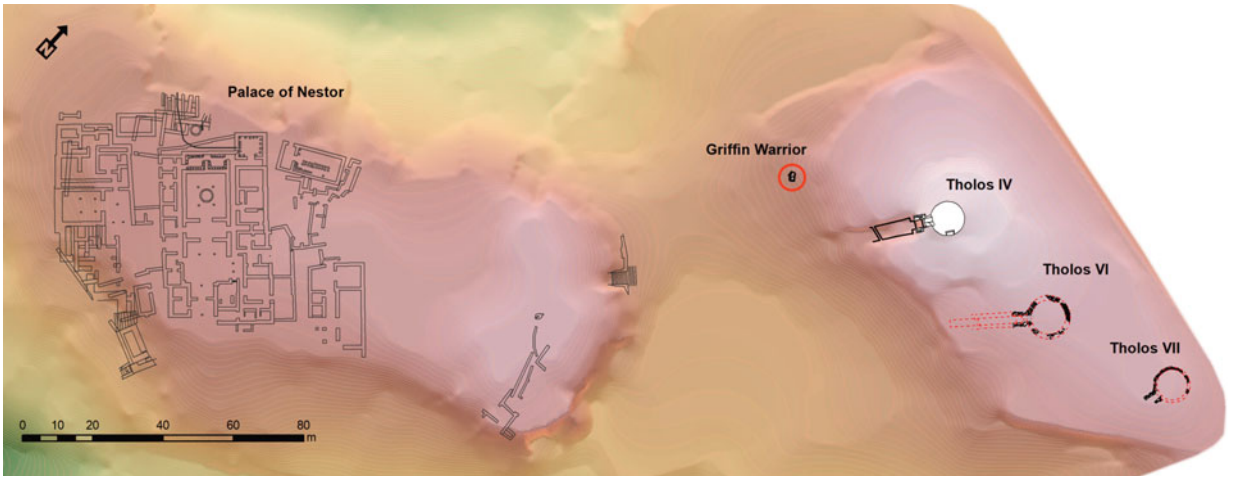
70. Pylos: aerial view of Tholos VI, from the north. © ASCSA/University of Cincinnati/Arthur Stephens.

At **Pylos** (**ID8078**), excavation in the Demopoulos Field, adjacent to Tholos IV, of the monumental Tholos Tombs VI and VII continued in 2019 (first discovered in 2018; https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3065) (**Figs 70**–**72**). Sharon Stocker and Jack Davis (ASCSA/Cincinnati) report on the results. Tholos Tomb VI (**Fig. 70**) has a burial chamber measuring an impressive 12m in



71. Pylos: aerial photograph showing the excavation of the two tholos tombs. © ASCSA/University of Cincinnati/Denitsa Nenova.

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72. Pylos: map of the site in relation to the Palace of Nestor. © ASCSA/University of Cincinnati/Arthur Stephens.

diameter and walls preserved to a height of 4.5m. Human bones, jewellery and other grave goods were retrieved, dating the tomb's construction to the 15th century BC (Late Helladic IIA), evidence for which also comes from excavation of its 15m-long dromos. The tomb yielded the highest number of 'Palace Style jars' found in a Peloponnesian tomb so far, with evidence of use extending to the Late Helladic IIIA2 period. The excavators also note Archaic and Classical evidence in the upper part of the chamber, but the post-Bronze Age history of the site requires further investigation.

Tholos Tomb VII, most likely also of 15th-century date, is smaller, with a chamber 8.5m in diameter and walls preserved to 2m in height. Here, no definitive Late Helladic IIA or Palace Style jars were found. The excavators observe that, after the 12–14m dromos was backfilled in antiquity, a new, narrower dromos was cut into it, in Late Helladic IIIA2. In total, across both tombs, an extraordinary 15,000 small finds have been found and *ca.* 400,000 pottery fragments. Jewellery is popular among the finds, and includes a gold signet ring with two bovids (**Fig. 73**) and a gold pendant with the head of the Egyptian goddess Hathor (**Fig. 74**). Particularly striking are the number of imports from the Near East found in 2019; these were rare finds in 2018 in comparison with other Mycenaean sites. The dromoi of both tombs are parallel to the earlier Tholos Tomb IV, excavated by Carl Blegen in the 1950s, and excavations have confirmed the prominence of the cemetery along the road between the Palace of Nestor and the town of Chora, Trifylia, between the Middle and Late Bronze Age.



73. Pylos: gold signet ring engraved with two bovids. © ASCSA/University of Cincinnati/Jeff Vanderpool.



74. Pylos: pendant with a representation of the Egyptian Goddess Hathor. © ASCSA/University of Cincinnati/Vanessa Muros.

At **Amykles (ID8564**; *Ergon* 2019: 29–33), ongoing excavations led by Stavros Vlizos (ASA) have completely exposed the preserved part of the wall on the southern side of the hill, measuring 21m long, 1.1m high and 1.3–1.8m thick

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75. Amykles: the continuation of the wall to the east, abutting the ancient peribolos. © ASA.





76. Amykles: statuette of an owl and inscribed roof tile. © ASA.



77. Amykles: miniature vessels from the area of the wall. © ASA.

(**Fig. 75**). The fill in front of the wall produced sherds from the Early Helladic to the Early Archaic period. The soil showed signs of burning and it is thought that, after the wall fell out of use, the area was used for rituals at which people deposited small offerings. Of particular note amongst the finds are a fragmentary statuette of an owl, a roof tile with an inscription containing the name ΗΟΡΜΙΠΠΟΣ, iron spits, lead garlands, bronze jewellery, the eyelids of a bronze statue, bone plaques, astragaloi and miniature vessels (**Figs 76**, **77**). Clay moulds and fragments of glass suggest a possible workshop for the manufacture of these objects and statues (see also Spathi, this volume).

This year, 2020, has seen the systematic excavation of the sanctuary of Poseidon at ancient **Helike, Nikoleïka Aigialeias**, with a focus on its Geometric and Archaic phases: the apsidal Geometric temple (710–700 BC), mudbrick altar (760–750 BC) and Archaic temple (550 BC) (**Fig. 78**; **ID8560**; https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3423). The lead archaeologists of the project are Erofili Kolia (Ephorate of Antiquities of Ilia) and Anastasia Gadolou (Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports) (see also Spathi, this volume).

A new Archaic (*ca.* 600 BC) building of unknown function has been discovered at another important religious site, the sanctuary of Asclepios at **Epidauros** (Sfyroera *et al*. 2020; https://www.iefimerida.gr/ellada/epidayros-oikodomima-kato-apo-iero-toy-asklipioy). The building was found adjacent to the Tholos, during excavations carried out by Vassilis Lambrinoudakis (Athens). The building is rectangular, had a basement with one of the best-preserved pebble mosaic floors from this time and a ground-floor peristyle (**Fig. 79**). Its Archaic date provides evidence that the worship of Asclepios began earlier than thought – at least *ca.* 600 BC rather than 550 BC. The identification of the underground room, moreover,

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suggests that the newly discovered building is a predecessor of the Tholos, which similarly has an underground room, and that it was demolished with objects buried within its basement before the Tholos was built in the fourth century BC. Lambrinoudakis thus proposes that this Archaic building had a similar function to that of the Tholos and was used for incubation and healing as the chthonic residence of Asclepios (**ID8577**).



78. Ancient Helike: vessels in a layer with traces of burning and animal bones, perhaps the remains of ritual meals, 750–740 BC. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Ilia/ Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities.

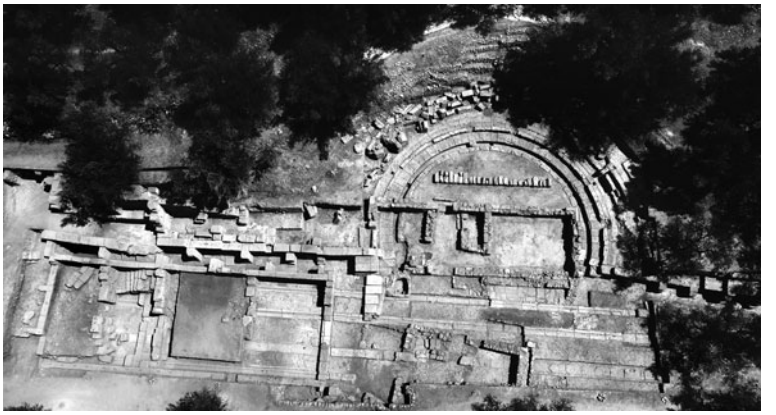


79. Epidauros: remains of the newly unearthed building discovered next to the tholos. © ASA.

Excavation, conservation and restoration, led by Petros Themelis (ASA), continued at **Messene** (**ID8562**; *Ergon* 2019: 19–24) in 2019 (see also Spathi, this volume). The mosaic with the inscription ΘΕΟΔΟΥΛΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΕΠΟΙΕΙ in the so-called Prayer House, an Early Christian building, was detached. Excavation revealed that the eastern and northern sides of the hall of the building had been modified at the beginning of the fourth century AD and the new floors decorated with mosaics. Structural and topographical analyses have helped to clarify the layout of the temple of Isis and a large elite residence northwest of the gymnasium. The tetrastyle Doric gate, through which one would have approached the western stoa of the gymnasium and on which inscriptions commemorate donations for its construction, is now fully restored. A chance find comprises a short list of *kistiokosmoi* and *prostatai* of Athena Kyparissia from the end of the fourth or beginning of the third century BC.

In 2019, excavation at **Thouria** under the direction of Xeni Arapogianni (ASA) exposed the entire skenotheke of the fourth-century BC theatre (**Fig. 80**) (**ID8563**; *Ergon* 2019: 25–29; see **ID6893** for work in 2018). The interior dimensions of the skenotheke are 21.4m × 7.7m; parts of channels at least 45m long, for moving scenery, have been found. After the

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80. Thouria: aerial photograph of the theatre. © ASA.

abandonment of the theatre, a two-storey building with four interconnecting rooms was built on the skenotheke, reusing some of the stones of its walls. Six steps of a staircase leading to its upper floor are still preserved. The walls of the building also incorporated parts of a Doric building, including triglyphs and metopes which still preserve their white plaster and traces of red paint. The discovery of a *perirrhanterion* at the site suggests the presence of a shrine. During the same campaign, at nearby Ellinika, excavators brought to light a large Doric-style building, perhaps a temple (**Fig. 81**). Finally, west of the monastery of Ellinika, part of the ashlar wall of ancient Thouria was revealed, preserving buttresses and niches with capitals that once carried a monolithic roof.



81. Thouria: Trench 1 with accumulated old architectural members, viewed from the west. © ASA.

A preliminary investigation at **Sikyon** was carried out by Yannis Lolos (ASA) in 2019 (**ID8561**; *Ergon* 2019: 16–19). Work focused on the large Building N (43m × 21m) of the gymnasium, characterized as a stoa and dating from the first half of the third to the first century BC. The building faces east and has two series of rooms along its western side. There are wings on the northern and southern sides. The columns in the northern wing perhaps belong to a propylon. A semicircular exedra (like that found at the Athenian Agora, noted above) was also found.

Following the discovery of ancient **Tenea** in 2018, ongoing archaeological work in 2019, led by Eleni Korka (Director General Emerita of the General Secretariat of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage at the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports), revealed an extensive bath complex, *ca.* 500m^2 in total, dating from the first century BC to the third century AD (**Fig. 82**) (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3011; https://www.kathimerini.gr/society/1048246/nea-entyposiaka-eyrimata-stin-archaia-tenea/). It is orientated north–south and located west of the housing complex excavated in 2018. Material from Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic

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82. Tenea: aerial view. © E. Korka.

structures had been reused for its construction. Excavations have so far revealed three consecutive caldaria in the northern part of the complex, each of which had a hypocaust and praefurnium, and two of which are apsidal in form with well-preserved floors. Some areas of floor still preserve paint. Pieces of marble and tile were found throughout, attesting to the luxury of the baths.

Excavations have so far revealed three consecutive caldaria in the northern part of the complex, each of which had a hypocaust and praefurnium.

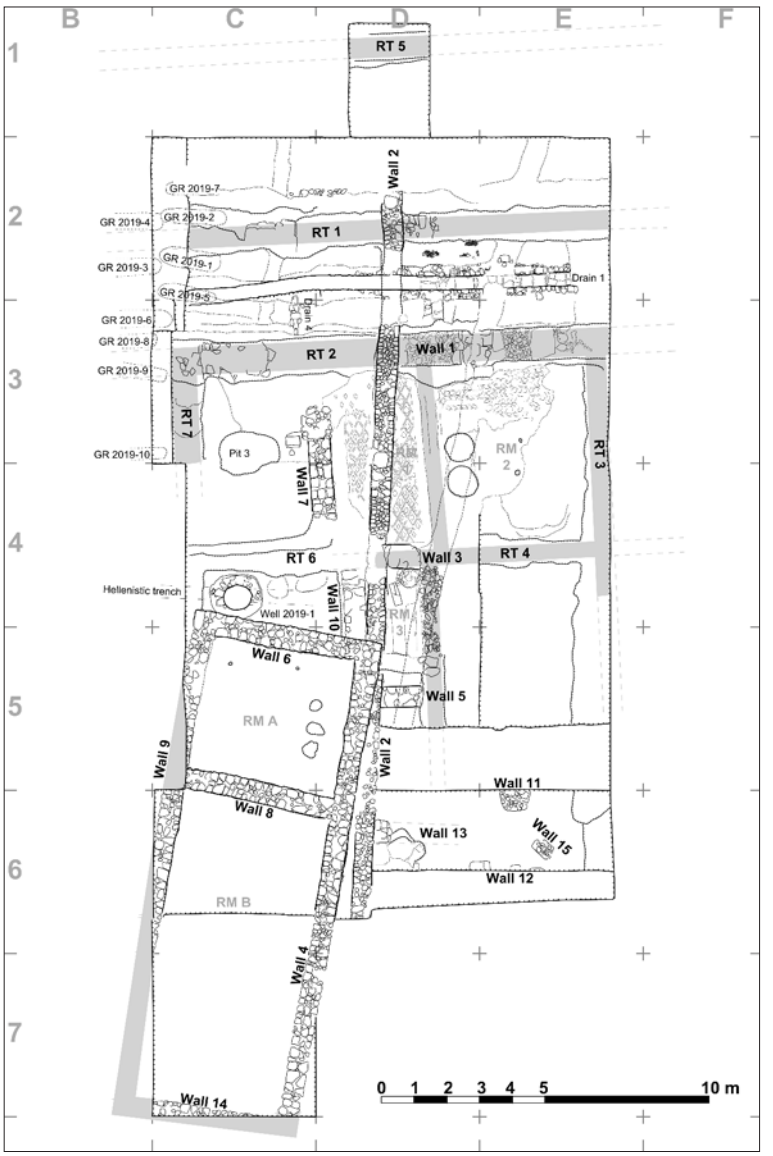
Other rooms were located in the southern part of the excavated area: the first had benches running along its walls; to its east, a second room with pools connected to one of the caldaria to the north and a partially explored room to the south; further east was another room with pools and an extensive clay floor, under which was found a lead pipe bearing the name of the manufacturer; and, finally, there is an area in the southwest where the drainage pipe, which runs under the other rooms, emerges. Collapsed Doric capitals were found in two of the rooms and 130 Hellenistic and Late Roman coins were found throughout the complex. To the north of the baths, a 15m-deep well with a hexagonal mouth, surrounded by Archaic walls arranged in a pi-shape, was found, next to which lay a deposit of figurines and miniature vessels. All the ceramics from the area of the well are from the Archaic period. There are also some terracotta horses, models of iron tables and a fragment of a thigh

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There are also some terracotta horses, models of iron tables and a fragment of a thigh of a kouros statue.

of a kouros statue (from the Late Archaic period). These are believed to be offerings and therefore the site is thought to have been religious. Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic architectural fragments were found inside the well, as well as part of a marble female statuette, possibly Aphrodite, over 60 amphorae and oinochoae, other vessels from the Archaic to Late Roman period, Roman and Late Roman coins, and an iron spearhead.

Christopher Pfaff (ASCSA) reports on the second year of the current programme of excavations at Roman (and post-Roman) **Corinth** (**ID8118**) in the northeast of the theatre area (**Fig. 83**) to the west and south of the area opened up in 2018 (Pfaff 2020). The team uncovered more of the east–west road and parallel Drain 1, discovered in 2018. To its south, the smaller Drain 4 was discovered, which perhaps served as a conduit for



83. Corinth: plan of the excavations in the northeast of the theatre area. © ASCSA.

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channelling water into Drain 1 (**Fig. 84**). Work also continued on the large Roman building, where a fourth room was tentatively identified by the discovery of black stone-chip flooring. During excavations, it has become clear that the Roman building was succeeded by a Late Antique multi-roomed building. Irregular pits were created in the floor of the Roman building and filled with earth prior to the construction of the Late Antique building. In the fills, pottery dating to the sixth and seventh centuries AD was found along with an unexpected discovery of a gold ring set with a yellow jasper bearing the sign for Cancer, the letters IAΩ and the Greek transliteration for Yahweh, Hebrew for God (**Fig. 85**).



84. Corinth: Drains 1 and 4, viewed from the west. © ASCSA.

Near the Late Antique building, a contemporary well produced a completely preserved Samian lamp and complete amphorae (**Fig. 86**). The shaft of the well was found to cut through an earlier east–west trench which contained the earliest deposit found in the area so far, dating to the fourth century BC. Punic amphorae in this fill attest to Punic trade at this time.

On the western edge of the excavation area, the team made another surprising, yet important, discovery: a cemetery containing at least ten shallow pit graves, of which four were excavated in 2019 (**Fig. 87**). One female and three male adults were identified, buried in accordance with customary Christian practice at Corinth. Sherds provide a *terminus post quem* for the cemetery in the 12th century AD. Finally, the 2019 season brought to light a house with two adjacent rooms containing early 19th-century pottery and coins of the early Greek monarchy. Finds from the second half of the 19th century have not been found and the excavators therefore suggest that the house was abandoned after the 1858 earthquake.



85. Corinth: gold ring with yellow jasper magical gem. © ASCSA.



86. Corinth: red-slipped table amphora from Well 2019-1. © ASCSA.



87. Corinth: Graves 2019-1 (top) and 2019-2 (bottom), viewed from the north. © ASCSA.

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88. Atsicholos, Megalopolis: remains of the church of Agios Vlasios. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Arcadia.

Excavation of 11th- to 12th-century AD Agios Vlasios in **Atsicholos, Megalopolis** took place in Summer 2020 (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/service/SitePages/view.aspx?iID=4179). The church measures approximately 8.4m × 6.8m and is of the distyle cruciform type with a semicircular niche (**Fig. 88**). The church has two doors, one on the west and the other in the centre of the southern wall. Ancient architectural features from buildings in the area and neighbouring Gortyna were used for its construction. In turn, its northern and eastern sides seem to have been repurposed in later periods.

In the sanctuary, 50 wells and other hydraulic features have been recorded for the first time.

Northern Aegean

Katja Sporn (DAI) reports on the completion of the project *Water and Cult in the Heraion of Samos* (Sporn 2019), the aim of which was to understand the development of hydrological conditions at **Samos** and sacred and profane water use in the sanctuary. The results have shown that the route of the Imbrassos river, which flows into the sea around 600m west of the Heraion, has shifted several times and old river courses are present in the area. In the sanctuary, 50 wells and other hydraulic features have been recorded for the first time. In addition to the shaft wells, which are attested from the tenth century BC onwards, another type of well appeared around the middle of the seventh century BC. The Heraion was served with water via clay pipes from the Hellenistic period onwards.

Southern Aegean

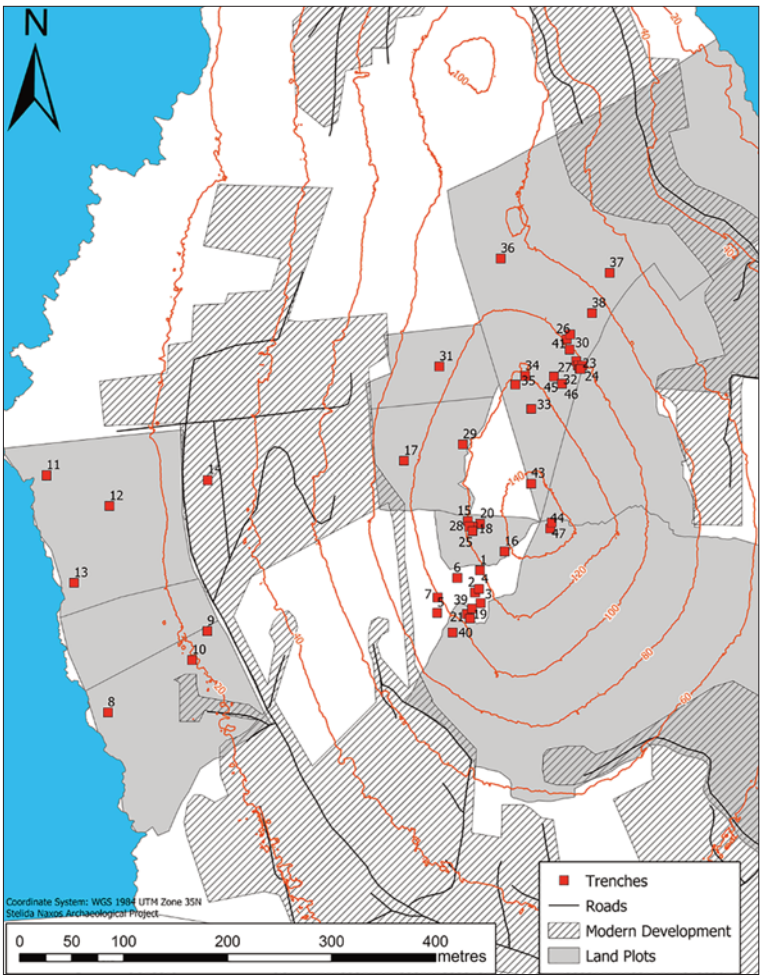
The ***Stelida Naxos Archaeological Project*** (SNAP), co-directed by Tristan Carter (McMaster) and Dimitris Athanasoulis (Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades), began in 2013, and in 2019 the final season of the research cycle was completed (**ID5066**, **ID5443**, **ID6177**, **ID6620**; https://www.stelida.org/english;

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https://www.cig-icg.gr/content/finishing-cycle-1-2019-season-stelida-naxos-archaeological-project). Archaeologists have found stone tools from 200,000 years ago, demonstrating that Neanderthals and early humans found their way to and stayed on the island for some time; however, it is now believed that Naxos was not an island 200,000 years ago (Carter *et al*. 2019). Rather, a land bridge joined Greece and Turkey in cold periods, and pre-Homo sapiens and Homo sapiens would have entered Europe across the Aegean basin, stopping off at where today lies the island of Naxos to extract chert from Stelida for their tools. The excavations at Stelida are important for shedding light on the nature of early human movement into and out of Europe.

Archaeologists have found stone tools from 200,000 years ago, demonstrating that Neanderthals and early humans found their way to and stayed on the island for some time.

In this final season, the team opened trenches on the upper part of the hill and just below the southern peak (**Fig. 89**), and identified a 'Minoan-type' peak sanctuary of the Late Bronze Age through the presence of pottery, including numerous conical cups, a small stone 'ladle', burnt stones and animal bones, found for the first time at the site (Carter *et al*. 2020;



89. Stelida: map showing trenches excavated 2015–2019. © CIG (map by T. Wong).

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90. Akrotiri: miniature beads. © ASA.



91. Akrotiri: clay chests. © ASA.

Mallinson and Carter 2020). The location of a peak sanctuary at a vantage point with a view towards Grotta (traditionally interpreted as the Bronze Age centre of Naxos) and towards many Cycladic islands is not surprising, but nevertheless provides an exciting new direction of research on the Bronze Age environment and ritual activities, as well as the significance of Grotta and the nature of southern Aegean geopolitics.

Excavations at **Akrotiri, Santorini**, conducted under the direction of Christos Doumas (ASA) and the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades, are ongoing and have provided information about the inhabitants of the island before the volcanic eruption in the 16th century BC (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3106). In Area 1 of the House of the Benches excavations revealed four vessels (partly exposed in previous excavations), bronze objects, including two large double-edged axes, and beads from necklaces (**Fig. 90**). A Linear A inscription was identified on an object of undetermined function. On the floor of Area 1, layers of sand, pebbles and soil are thought to be deposits from tidal waves that preceded the volcanic eruption. In Area 2, on the southern and western sides of the Deposit of Horns (for which, see **ID8165**), plaster casts were taken of at least six wooden stakes that formed a grid on which horns were placed. At their base, horns, stone tools and utensils were found alongside textile remains and charred fruit. Vessels date to the Late Cycladic IA, signifying that the building was in use until the destruction of the town.

West of the Deposit of Horns, a pair of clay chests was found (**Fig. 91**). The largest lay upside down over the smallest, which in turn contained a wooden box holding a marble Early Cycladic female figurine. The containers were painted red on the inside. Two clusters of vessels were found in the southwestern part of Area 2: a group of 16 around a wooden object and 131 miniature vessels in a shallow floor cavity, which might be related to a ritual space.

In 2020, Yannos Kourayos (Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades), Ilia Daifa and Alexandra Alexandridou (Ioannina) continued excavations at the extensive Archaic sanctuary of Apollo on **Despotiko** and on the islet of **Tsimintiri**, once connected to Despotiko via an isthmus (https://www.kathimerini.gr/society/1093657/to-iero-chrysorycheio-tis-paroy/). Two new structures were identified on Despotiko (bringing the total on the island to 29), including a large Archaic building (8.65m × 8.50m) located towards the harbour and thought to be a cistern. Additionally, eight buildings, likely related to the operation of the port, were

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identified on the islet of Tsimintiri. Within at least one, a large quantity of pottery fragments, including seventh-century BC pithoi with engraved and relief decoration (**Fig. 92**), was collected, confirming the storage function of these buildings at the entrance of the port. The jars would have been used as containers for oil and other liquids. Restoration of the Archaic temple and ritual dining space formed a vital element of this year's work (**Fig. 93**). Seven of eight columns of the temple and much of its façade were completed. Restoration remains to be completed on the pediment, but work so far nevertheless provides a strong indication of the grandeur and significance of the sanctuary in the Archaic period.



92. Despotiko: fragment of a decorated pithos from the Tsimintiri islet. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades.



93. Despotiko: restoration work on the temple of Apollo. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades.

An extensive Early Byzantine structure, a coastal fortification and an ancient, possibly Classical, sanctuary have been uncovered on **Vryokastraki**, a rocky islet off Kythnos (**Fig. 94**) (**ID8158**). Excavations were directed by Alexandros Mazarakis Ainian (Thessaly), who, in 2019, extended the area of excavation from Vryokastro to Vryokastraki, where exploration had already taken place in 2018. On the southern plateau, a monumental terrace, 22m in length, has been unearthed and tentatively dated to the Classical period based on its method of construction and ceramic finds (**Fig. 95**). High-quality Geometric and Archaic sherds, and votive miniature vases and figurines were also found. A possible monumental altar (11m × 4m), formed from carved rock, has been identified around 5m east of the terrace. Further study is required to determine the nature of the Classical to Hellenistic building (possibly a temple) that stood in the area. The deity that may have been worshipped also remains unknown. The Early Byzantine occupation of the area has disturbed older buildings at the site, with the remains of some used to build later walls. The most recent ceramics date from the sixth and the first half of the

An extensive Early Byzantine structure, a coastal fortification and an ancient, possibly Classical, sanctuary have been uncovered on Vryokastraki.

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94. Vryokastraki: aerial view of the ancient city of Kythnos (top right) and of the Vryokastraki islet (bottom left). © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades/University of Thessaly.



95. Vryokastraki: Classical monumental terrace and rectangular spaces of the Late Antique/ Early Byzantine period. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades/University of Thessaly.

seventh centuries AD, after which the inhabitants moved to the island's medieval capital, the Castle of Oria. On the internal side of the Late Antique fortification wall, protecting the side exposed to the interior of the island, a bronze coin of the emperor Maurice was found (AD 582–602). The main gate was identified, and it was confirmed that the Late Antique fortification stood directly on an older, probably Archaic, fortification.

Excavation on the interior of the three-aisled Early Byzantine basilica, in use until at least the seventh century AD, was also completed in 2019 (**Fig. 96**). Three main construction phases have been identified, including one during which the nave was separated from the adjacent aisles by rows of alternating columns or pillars and the final phase, when the spaces between the columns were closed and only narrow openings allowed passage from one area of the interior to another. Marble parts of

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96. Vryokastraki: aerial view of the three-aisled basilica. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of the Cyclades/University of Thessaly.

ancient buildings, such as the helix of an Archaic ionic capital, were used as spolia in the building. The barrier of the presbytery was found *in situ*, next to which stood an open vase in the southern aisle. Two fragmentary inscriptions (of the fourth century BC and first century AD) were found in the narthex. Around the bema, excavation revealed a marble column, a circular marble table, a fragment of an iron cross, a bronze incense burner (thymiaterion, sixth to seventh century AD) and a lead goblet. A layer of proto-Byzantine vase fragments was found under the disturbed floor of the apse and a foundation deposit containing a cylindrical lead object was found below this layer.

Five new shipwrecks, dating from Classical to modern times, and the remains of a port have been uncovered.

Five new shipwrecks, dating from Classical to modern times, and the remains of a port have been uncovered during the first underwater exploration off the coast of **Kasos** (**ID8161**). The project is a collaboration between the EUA and the Institute of Historical Research, and is directed by Georgios Koutsouflakis and Xanthie Argiris. A shipwreck dating from the end of the fourth to the beginning of the third century BC contained five pyramidal anchors, as well as a cargo of amphorae, pithoi and fine wares. The anchors can be compared with those from Kythera dated to the end of the fourth century BC. Divers also found a cargo of Rhodian amphorae from the first century BC, a shipwreck containing amphorae and table wares from the eighth to tenth century AD, a wooden hull from a modern (post-1830) ship and another modern wreck with building materials. Iron

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97. Chryssi: Building B2. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Agios Nikolaos.



98. Chryssi: bronze vessel. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Agios Nikolaos.



99. Chryssi: gold beads. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Agios Nikolaos.

cannons and Byzantine and modern anchors have also been found. The diachronic nature of the shipwrecks attests to the continuous use of the area for ships from at least the Classical period onwards and the area's significance as a navigation centre. Investigation is due to continue until 2021.

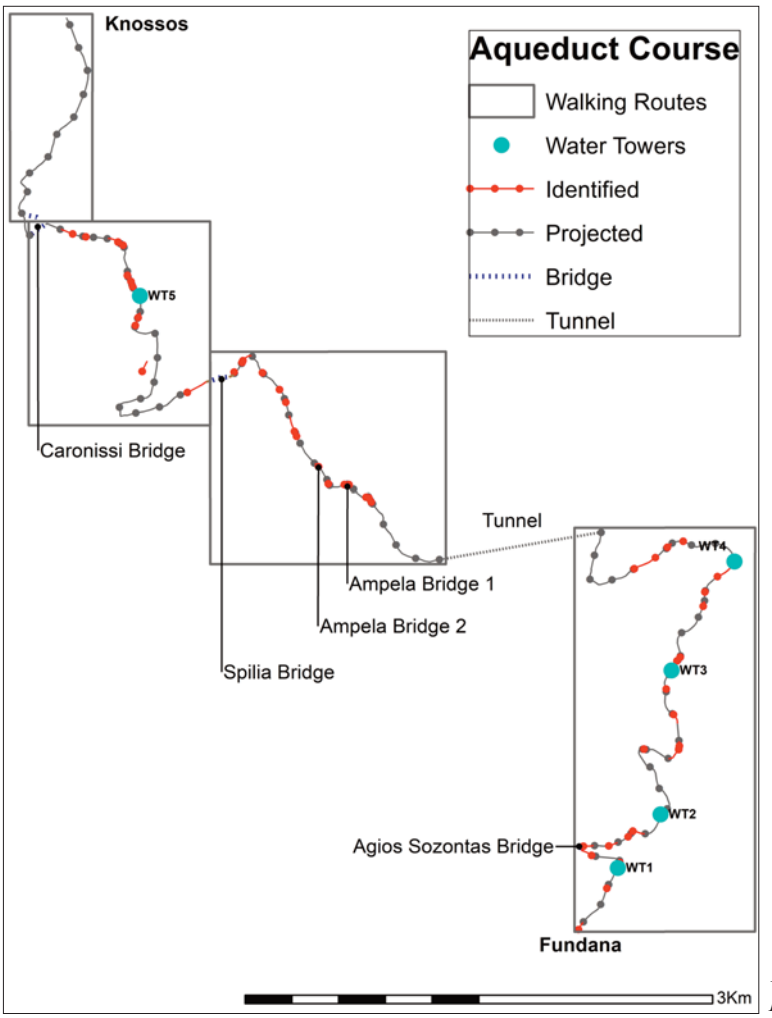
Crete

Kostis Christakis reports on finds from palatial Crete up to 2019 elsewhere in this volume. There were field seasons in 2019 at: **Sissi** directed by Jan Driessen (Louvain/EBSA) (**ID8207**); **Zominthos** directed by Efi Sapouna Sakellaraki (ASA) (**ID8566**; https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=2973); **Khavania** (*Khavania Topographic and Architectural Mapping Project*) directed by D. Matthew Buell (Concordia) and Rodney Fitzsimons (Trent), under the auspices of CIG and the Ephorate of Antiquities of East Crete (**ID8190**; http://www.cig-icg.gr/content/khavania-topographical-and-architectural-mapping-project-2019); **Koumasa** directed by Diamantis Panagiotopoulos (ASA) (**ID8567**); and **Chryssi** directed by Chryssa Sofianou (Ephorate of Antiquities of Lasithi) (**Figs 97**–**99**) (https://www.culture.gov.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=3022).

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A walking survey was conducted (October to November 2019) of the Roman, Venetian and 19th-century aqueducts at **Knossos** by Amanda Kelly and Brendan O'Neill (Dublin) (**ID8142**). The survey covered four sections following four different routes: (1) Fundana to Skalani; (2) Ampela to Spilia; (3) Spilia to Caronissi and (4) Caronissi to Knossos village (**Fig. 100**). Important results were achieved. Roman channels and linings of *opus signinum* were identified in several parts of the 19th-century structure, and it now appears that the aqueduct commissioned by Mehmet Ali, the governor of Egypt, in the 1830s was built directly over the Roman channel for most of the length of the Roman aqueduct. Three 19th-century single-arched gravity flow siphon bridges (**Fig. 101**), hitherto undocumented, were recorded between Fundana and Skalani. Between Spilia and Caronissi, certain sections of the 19th-century and Roman aqueducts run parallel to each other and the Roman aqueduct stands at a height of 2.5m. Also noted were differences in masonry styles between the 19th-century, Venetian and Roman architecture.

Roman channels and linings of opus signinum *were identified in several parts of the 19th-century structure.*



100. Knossos: the course of the aqueduct from Fundana to Knossos. © IIHSA (Amanda Kelly).

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101. Spilia: the venter bridge for the inverted siphon (1838) (Amanda Kelly). © IIHSA.

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