

ARCHAEOLOGY IN GREECE 2013–2014

# Newsround

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This section, a new addition to *Archaeological Reports* for 2014, is not intended to be exhaustive. Rather it is designed to draw attention to those discoveries which, for reasons of geography, chronology or character, do not appear elsewhere within this year's report, but which nevertheless deserve to be highlighted. The very varied nature of this material has meant that, for the most part, it has proved far easier to arrange this content chronologically than thematically.

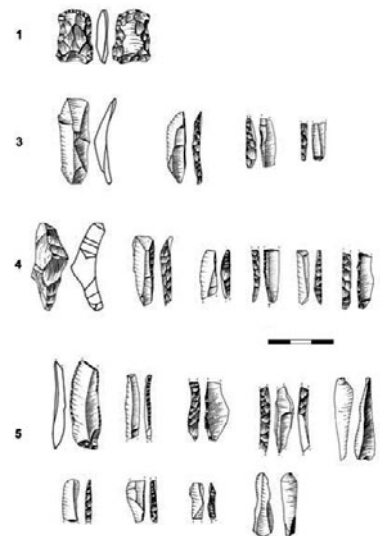
## Palaeolithic to Mesolithic

In Laconia, continued research into the Palaeolithic occupation of the karstic network of the Mani peninsula focused on several caves above **Oitylos Bay**. A 12<sup>th</sup> season (2005) of excavation by the EPSNE within **Kalamakia Cave** (Fig. 11; ID4480) provided additional detail of the Middle Palaeolithic occupation layer associated with the Neanderthal remains noted in last year's report (*AR* 59 (2012–2013) 24). A hard ash deposit (*ca.* 1m<sup>2</sup>) in the centre of Stratigraphic Unit IV represents the location of a hearth around which was scattered ash, carbonized material, worked stone and burnt bone. Deer and chamois appear to constitute the major prey species, although the faunal assemblage also includes evidence of brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), lynx (*Lynx cf. lynx*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), wildcat (*Felis silvestris*), *Bos* and/or *Bison*, *Capra sp.*, wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), hare (*Leporidae*) and tortoise (*Testudo sp.*). The lithic assemblage is typically Middle Palaeolithic, characterized by Mousterian tools with Levallois elements, and with all stages of manufacture represented. Noteworthy among the non-lithic material is a boar canine, with evidence of retouch on the long sides.

To the west of Kalamakia, bone, shell and Upper Palaeolithic Gravettian/Epigravettian lithics are reported from a probable seasonal camp at **Melitzia Cave** (Fig. 12; ID4481). Deer and ovicaprids dominate the faunal assemblage, although the identification of a large concentration of land snail shells (*Helix melanostoma*) is interesting in light of recent research into their exploitation as a food source elsewhere in the Upper Palaeolithic Mediterranean basin (see Fernández-López de Pablo *et al.* 2014). Several pieces of haematite from the cave may relate to the production of red ochre.



11. Kalamakia Cave: lithics from Stratigraphic Unit IV. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: EPSNE.



12. Melitzia Cave: lithics. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: EPSNE.

Haematite is also reported from Upper Palaeolithic levels at **Tripsana Cave (ID4482)**, where, in addition to an assemblage of Gravettian/Epigravettian lithics, a small group of bone tool fragments included two retouched awls or points, a bisected deer antler and two retouched long-bone fragments (**Fig. 13**).

Approximately 1km north of the bay, Epigravettian tools and faunal remains are reported from a small trial excavation at **Kastanis Cave (ID4483)**.

### Neolithic to Bronze Age

A substantial Neolithic settlement has come to light during excavation by the 28<sup>th</sup> EPCA close to the modern village of **Agio Pneuma** near Serres (**Fig. 14; ID2956**). The earliest occupation phase at the site is represented by two, presumably domestic, sunken-floor structures, yielding a substantial Late Neolithic I ceramic assemblage. Later reorganization of the site saw the construction of a long north-south oriented terrace wall extending for least *ca.* 22m in the west of the excavated area and the excavation of a *ca.* 2.5m-wide ditch, which follows the line of this wall to the east. Both the fill behind the terrace wall and the fill of the ditch yielded a large volume of Late Neolithic II pottery.

Systematic excavation by the Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, at the southern edge of the Neolithic settlement at **Dispilio** has identified pits and clay structures belonging to the Early Bronze Age lakeside settlement (**ID2915**). The absence of further structural remains below this level suggests that the area was still under water during the Neolithic (see recently Karkanas *et al.* 2011). Notable among a substantial material assemblage, is a group of 29 pierced canine teeth, perhaps from a single necklace. Recently published C<sup>14</sup> data suggest a date for the foundation of the settlement at the end of the Middle Neolithic, *ca.* 5355 ± 125 BC (Facorellis *et al.* 2014). A C<sup>14</sup> date of 5202 ± 123 BC is offered for the so-called ‘Dispilio Tablet’ (Facorellis *et al.* 2014: 525).

Reports of work carried out by the ESPNE in the **Troupitses Cave at Skortsinos (ID303)** provide additional detail regarding its Final Neolithic occupation (see Efstathiou-Manolakou 2009: 16–17). Pottery from the cave includes pithoi and pithoid vessels, deep bowls, strainers and scoops, while other finds include tools of bone, lithic and ground stone, beads of shell and bone, and, unusually, a fragment of bronze sheet. Part of a hearth was located and bones from both domesticates and wild species were identified. Yet, despite its apparent domestic character, it seems likely that the cave was principally used for storage and only occupied intermittently, while the presence of human remains throughout indicates that it also served for primary and secondary burial. Obsidian and pottery found beyond the cave entrance likely indicates the existence of an associated open-air settlement.



13. Tripsana Cave: view of the cave and the two trial trenches. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: EPSNE.



14. Agio Pneuma: view of the excavated area from the north. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 28<sup>th</sup> EPCA.



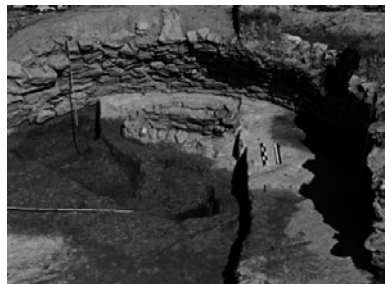
15. Plaka, Andros: early Middle Cycladic building preserved to first-floor level. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 21<sup>st</sup> EPCA.



16. Plaka, Andros: petroglyphs including a ring idol, an arm with open palm and a curvilinear arrow.  
© Ministry of Culture and Sport: 21<sup>st</sup> EPCA.



17. Peritheia, Corfu: Early Helladic II–III tumulus. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 8<sup>th</sup> EPCA.



18. Litharolakka, Ambelophyto: Mycenaean tholos chamber. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 7<sup>th</sup> EPCA.

At **Plaka** on **Andros**, the importance of the Early and early Middle Cycladic settlement is becoming increasingly clear (**ID3227**; *ADelt* 60 (2005) *Chr.* B2, 916–17). At least four buildings have been identified, including one preserved to first-floor level (**Fig. 15**) as well as a street with steps that appear to lead to a small square. Pottery recovered from a destruction layer at the site provides a *terminus post quem* for the foundation of the settlement of at least Early Cycladic IIIB; however, petroglyphs identified at the edge of the settlement offer technical and thematic parallels with the well-known Neolithic examples from Strophilas to the north (*cf.* Televantou 2008: 49, fig. 6.10), suggesting an even earlier phase of occupation and close links with the latter site. A life-size depiction of a human head surrounded by ring idols, ships and other symbolic motifs is thus far unique and hugely significant (**Fig. 16**).

A late Early Helladic II to early Early Helladic III tumulus excavated by the 8<sup>th</sup> EPCA at **Peritheia** (**ID4071**) is the first example to be discovered on Corfu and offers an important parallel to the contemporary R-Grave cemetery on Leukas (**Fig. 17**). A peribolos wall of small unworked and roughly-worked stones surrounded a slab-lined cist containing the remains of a child of less than five years of age. A second grave identified outside this peribolos to the southwest contained the remains of an adult and those of one or more, unidentified, animals. A later phase of construction saw the addition of a second, semicircular, peribolos, with a projected diameter of *ca.* 10.5m. A probable burial pithos within the area of this peribolos contained no remains, although, outside it, a second contemporary slab cist yielded several bones, a little charcoal and a small lithic assemblage. Material associated with the first peribolos includes a large number of incised sherds with similarities to pottery of the Albanian Chalcolithic and the Dalmatian Cetina culture, while a single sherd of Corded Ware represents the first example of this central-European pottery type from the island.

In Messenia, excavation of a Mycenaean tholos at **Litharolakka, Ambelophyto** (**Fig. 18**; **ID4339**) revealed the unexpected presence of six looted Byzantine cist graves at the interior, built using material removed from the earlier superstructure. Cleaning of the chamber floor revealed one iron and one bronze dagger, bronze tweezers, an intact Psi figurine and a number of terracotta and steatite spindle-whorls. Four intact Late Helladic IIIA1–2 vessels (a stirrup jar, a cup, an alabastron and a handmade miniature jug) were recovered from an oval grave structure at the north of the chamber, while other recognized Late Helladic I–II to Late Helladic IIIB shapes subsequently restored include stirrup jars, kylikes, cups, an alabastron, a bridge-spouted jug, a feeding bottle and a thymiaterion.

A further tholos is reported to the south at **Volimidia (ID4340)**. Additional graves are noted within the known Mycenaean cemetery at **Vouzani** in Elis (**ID4311**) and, to the north, Late Helladic settlements are reported at **Kato Kastritsi (ID4358)** and **Kato Sychaina (ID4355)**.

### Early Iron Age

On **Salamis**, a Middle Geometric cist identified during rescue excavation by the 26<sup>th</sup> EPCA at 90 E. Venizelou Street represents the first tomb of the period to be identified at **Ambelakia (ID4400)**. In Thesprotia, further excavation at the long-lived, but significantly disturbed, settlement at **Skala**, Aetos, has identified a large oval stone building which appears to have been in use for *ca.* 500 years, from the Early Iron Age until the end of the fourth century BC (**ID4075**). The building itself measures *ca.* 14.5m by 3.5m internally and is divided into two rooms, of which the larger, eastern, room contained the remains of stone paving and fragments of pithoi (**Fig. 19**). A further apsidal building forms a partial foundation for a rectangular structure of the later fourth century BC (Building I). A terrace or peribolos wall was also identified, the fill of which yielded an admixture of handmade Bronze Age and Iron Age vessels, as well as wheel-made Classical shapes and imported Attic black-glazed wares.

To the south, rescue excavation on the Prodrómio Plain has uncovered the remains of an Early Iron Age settlement at **Mavromantilia (ID4241)**. A *ca.* 0.5m-thick cultural layer traced over a distance of *ca.* 50m yielded concentrations of small and medium-sized field stones, animal bones, much coarse and fine pottery and evidence of burning; four terracotta figurines (three bull's heads and one bird) are noteworthy among the material assemblage. An area of stone pavement is also noted. Intensive survey and trial excavation conducted in the immediate vicinity of this site by the Finnish Thesprotia Expedition (site number PS36; see Forsén *et al.* 2011: 99–100) identified further remains belonging to the same settlement, including much Early Iron Age pottery and a further bull's-head figurine, as well as the remains of three probable Early Iron Age buildings (features I–III) and a contemporary pit (pit 1). As at Skala, occupation at Mavromantilia dates between the Late Bronze Age and the Hellenistic period, with most of the pottery belonging to the eighth century BC (Forsén *et al.* 2011: 100).

### Archaic to Classical

In Attica, excavation by the 3<sup>rd</sup> EPCA at **Dourako, Alepochori (ID4478)** has identified an Archaic to Classical shrine *ca.* 800m to the west of the hugely important Archaic sanctuary at Bouri (see **ID1717**). Within the limits of a large peribolos wall, a slab-built altar (*ca.* 3m by 1m) contained burnt earth and river pebbles, as well as a large assemblage of miniature vessels



19. Skala, Aetos: Early Iron Age building. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 8<sup>th</sup> EPCA.



20. Dourako, Alepochori: Archaic slab-built altar. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 3<sup>rd</sup> EPCA.



21. Dourako, Alepochori: pottery deposit in situ. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 3<sup>rd</sup> EPCA.



22. *Salamina: lekanis*. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 26<sup>th</sup> EPCA.



23. *Salamina: squat lekythos depicting a goose*. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 26<sup>th</sup> EPCA.



24. *Salamina: squat lekythos with palmette*. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 26<sup>th</sup> EPCA.

(notably plain oinochoae and lamps) and figurines of the late sixth to early fifth century BC (**Figs 20, 21**); a stone pile identified to the west contained a fragmentary marble inscription (ΑΠΟΛΛ/ΑΠΟΤΡ) while initial survey of the site yielded a sherd inscribed with the word ANEΘEKE ('dedicated'). A possible building in the west of the enclosed area has yet to be excavated. The chronological and functional relationship between the Dourako and Bouri sites remains unclear.

A necklace composed of 150 bone beads and two larger bone discs is reported from a Classical slab cist (Tomb 3) on Glitsi Street, **Salamina (ID4397)**. This necklace may have been interred in the grave in a small wooden box, the presence of which is identified by its surviving metal elements; a late fifth-century BC lekanis (**Fig. 22**), a squat lekythos depicting a goose (**Fig. 23**), a bronze pin and an unidentified lump of lead comprise the remaining grave goods. A further slab cist at the site yielded an iron strigil and a palmette squat lekythos of the earlier fourth century BC. Two fourth-century BC squat lekythoi are also reported from a slab cist within a Classical to Hellenistic cemetery at the junction of Kyprou Street and E. Venizelou Street (**Fig. 24; ID4398**).

At **Phragma Kalama**, a late Classical to early Hellenistic Π-shaped funerary enclosure (**Fig. 25**) is reported from excavation by the 8<sup>th</sup> EPCA along the route of the national road from Igoumenitsa to Sagiada (**ID4245**). Of the three cists within this enclosure, Tomb Φ3 alone yielded grave goods; an assemblage of 12 vessels, a bead, a silver coin, gilded bronze nuggets and, significantly, a bronze cymbal.

### Hellenistic to Roman

Excavation conducted on the summit and slopes of a low hill at **Sykoula, Kainourgio** on the Ambracian gulf has yielded a group of 131 sling bullets, 21 arrowheads and a spearhead (**ID4254**). Inscriptions were identified on 89 of the bullets excavated, among which ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ was the most common, followed by BABYPTA (most likely the name of a Macedonian unit commander; see recently Kelly 2012) and then ΠΕΤΑ/ΛΟΥ. The site itself is *ca.* 700m north of the fountain of Veinovrysi, an observation which may go some way toward explaining the presence of these projectiles in an area without any evidence of contemporary settlement.

The excavation of a substantial group of Hellenistic beehives at the fortified site of **Kastraki** on the Dodecanesian island of **Agathonisi** offers an important insight into Hellenistic apiculture in the eastern Aegean (**ID852**). The identification of some 10,000 hive fragments (Triantaphyllides 2012: 637)

positions Kastraki as one of the major producers of honey in the region. A series of workshops processing *murex brandaris* for purple dye is noted from the same area and at least some of the honey produced at the site may have been used during the dyeing process. Organic residue analysis on several of the hives has identified the presence of propolis, but also pine pollen and thyme (*Eleutherotypia* 16.02.13; Triantaphyllides 2012: 640), while clay employed for the hives displays similarities to Fabrics I and II used in the manufacture of Koan amphorae from Halasarna and may indicate the local adaptation of an existing clay recipe known for its mechanical performance (see Karatasios *et al.* 2013). A clay seal recovered from a Late Hellenistic fill at the site depicts a schematic representation of a bee (**Fig. 26**); it would originally have been impressed into the interior rim of a hive and should be associated with a local potter's workshop specializing in their manufacture (Triantaphyllides 2012: 645; Karatasios *et al.* 2013: 37–38).

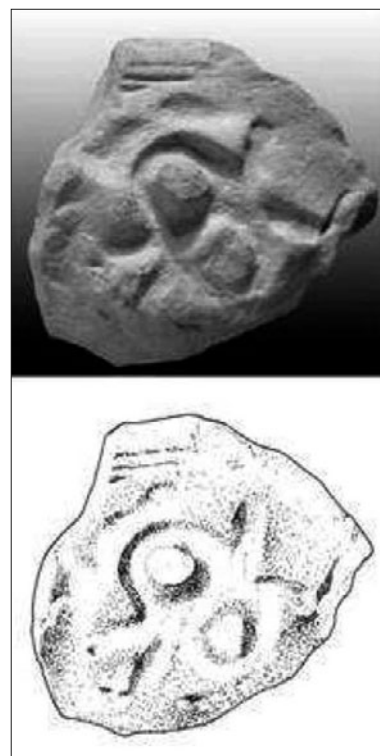


25. Phragma Kalama: funerary enclosure. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 8<sup>th</sup> EPCA.

On **Salamis**, a large Hellenistic building complex is reported close to the ancient harbour at **Ambelakia (ID4401)**. A well-built room on the northern side of the excavated area preserved traces of yellow and purple painted wall plaster, while a limestone column is noted *in situ* south of the entrance. A further room in the south of the complex preserved a floor of tile fragments arranged in concentric circles. Excavation of an open courtyard in the centre of the complex uncovered a marble well-head and a square altar (*ca.* 0.9m<sup>2</sup>) with an associated burnt deposit composed principally of sherds from drinking vessels. A destruction level of tile and large storage vessels was identified across the site.

### Late Antique to Early Modern

Excavation conducted by the 8<sup>th</sup> EPCA at **Ladochori, Igoumenitsa (ID4072)** has identified five tile graves and an *enchytrismos* belonging to a larger cemetery in the vicinity of a known Late Roman to Early Byzantine settlement, part of which was exposed in the southwest of the excavated area. To the east, the burial of a young woman accompanied by a pair of Middle Byzantine bronze earrings and a bronze ring in a limestone cist is reported from a known area of Hellenistic and Byzantine burial at **Phanoti-Doliani, Geroplatanos (Fig. 27; ID4073, also ID1691, ID3270)**. This tomb (Tomb 9) betrays three distinct phases of use, of which the earliest is represented by an adult inhumation of possible seventh-century BC date.



26. Kastraki, Agathonisi: Hellenistic seal. © P. Triantaphyllides.

Several Late Roman to Byzantine sites are noted from rescue excavation associated with irrigation works in the nearby **plain of Elaia and Phiniki, Philiates (ID4074)**. Site 11 is a small basilica with a semicircular apse. Wall paintings were preserved around the altar, the templon and in the northwestern corner; three layers of painting were preserved at the last, the uppermost depicting a



27. Geroplanatos: seventh-century BC handmade kantharos. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 8<sup>th</sup> EPCA.

saint on horseback. Tile and cist graves were identified inside and outside the building and a later built tomb was excavated in the centre of the church (**Fig. 28**). A Late Roman farmhouse was identified at Site 13 (**Fig. 29**), while a large residential complex of the fourth to seventh century AD was identified at Site 14. This latter site included several rooms which preserved yellow- and white-painted wall plaster; four storage pithoi were identified *in situ* in a room in the east of the complex and an iron workshop was excavated immediately to the south. Finds include much pottery (including Combed Ware), fragments of glass vessels, coins, loomweights and a bronze medicine spoon.

On **Mount Athos**, work undertaken by the 10<sup>th</sup> EBA has helped to clarify the Byzantine and post-Byzantine occupation of the **Monastery of Zographou (ID2947)** and the **Monastery of the Great Lavra (ID2948)**.



28. Plain of Elaia and Phiniki, Philiates: Byzantine church (Site 11). © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 8<sup>th</sup> EPCA.

Across the Thracian Sea to the north, restoration of the **Khalil Bey Mosque at Kavala (ID2958)** permitted excavation of the Early Byzantine basilica which preceded it. The apse, the central and northern naves and the narthex were identified. Beneath the central nave, three pit graves were excavated, as was a stone cist which yielded a gold signet ring of the Late Roman or Early Byzantine period and an earring of gold filigree. Excavation of the northern nave demonstrated the continuation of burial here after the Late Byzantine abandonment of the basilica. Numerous architectural fragments belonging to the church were recovered, as was much local pottery and sherds of imported Zeuxippos Ware.

At **Giannitsa** (Ottoman Yenice-I-Vardar), three construction phases have been identified in the *türbe*, or mausoleum, of Gazi Evrenos (**ID2924**). The core of the monument was erected above the tomb during the 15<sup>th</sup> century AD and the walls decorated with aniconic paintings intended to mimic marble veneer. A second phase saw a southward extension of the structure and a third, during the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century, added a large trapezoidal room at the east, a further square room in the southeast and incorporated modifications to the roof.



29. Plain of Elaia and Phiniki, Philiates: Late Roman farmhouse at Site 13. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: 8<sup>th</sup> EPCA.

Also at Giannitsa, as part of the development of the **Mosque of Sheikh Ilachi**, the 11<sup>th</sup> EBA reports work at the late 15<sup>th</sup>-to early 16<sup>th</sup>-century AD **Baths of Ahmet Bey (ID2923)** which have clarified the ground-plan and character of its hot rooms and, particularly, its vestiary, which possessed a fountain at its centre as in contemporary baths at Rhodes and Mytilene (**Fig. 30**)

## Marine archaeology

Survey carried out by the EMA along the southern coast of **Salamis** has identified a probable Classical wreck site on the reef between Lagousa and the Gaidaros rock which yielded pan and cover tiles, fine ceramics and amphorae, most likely of the early Chian swollen-neck type (**ID4466**).

Chian amphorae are also reported among the ceramic assemblage from a wreck ('Kythnos 1') of the late fourth to early third century BC identified off the Cycladic island of **Kythnos** (**Fig. 31**; **ID4615**) close to the area where a bronze epebe of the fourth or third century BC was recovered in 2004 (see **ID3176**).

In the Ionian islands, a Late Roman ship wrecked off Kephallonia at **Cape Kapsalimniona** yielded examples of LR2, LR4 and Dressel 5 amphora as well as a deposit of 68 ballast stones (**ID4469**). To the south, an amphora carrier of Late Hellenistic or Early Roman date is reported at **Cape Dichalia** (**Fig. 32**; **ID4468**). At Ithaca, survey around **Polis Bay** yielded two Early Byzantine amphorae and large fragments of North African 1 and Dressel 5 types (**ID4470**), while Late Byzantine amphorae and cooking vessels identify a wreck off the promontory of **Agios Andreas** (**ID4471**).

Three Roman wrecks have been identified by the EMA/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution **Antikythera Underwater Survey Project** ca. 65km off the western coast of Crete; one carrying 100 tons of stone blocks, the second carrying amphorae and tableware, and the third carrying African amphorae (**ID4512**). Two further amphora carriers in this area belong to the Middle Byzantine period. At **Kythera**, continued excavation of the *Mentor* wreck during 2013 yielded two fragments of Egyptian sculpture, the first a late Ptolemaic stele depicting Ra and the second a pharonic statue of the New Kingdom (**ID4513**).

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30. Giannitsa: Ottoman bath-house.  
© Ministry of Culture and Sport: 11<sup>th</sup> EBA.



31. Kythnos: pottery from the wreck 'Kythnos 1'. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: EMA.



32. Cape Dichalia, Kephallonia: Late Hellenistic or Early Roman wreck. © Ministry of Culture and Sport: EMA.



*At Kythera, continued excavation during 2013 of the Mentor wreck (loaded with acquisitions made by Thomas Bruce, Seventh Earl of Elgin, which sank in Avlemonos Bay on 17th September 1802) yielded two fragments of Egyptian sculpture, the first a Late Ptolemaic stele depicting Ra and the second a Pharaonic statue of the New Kingdom.*

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