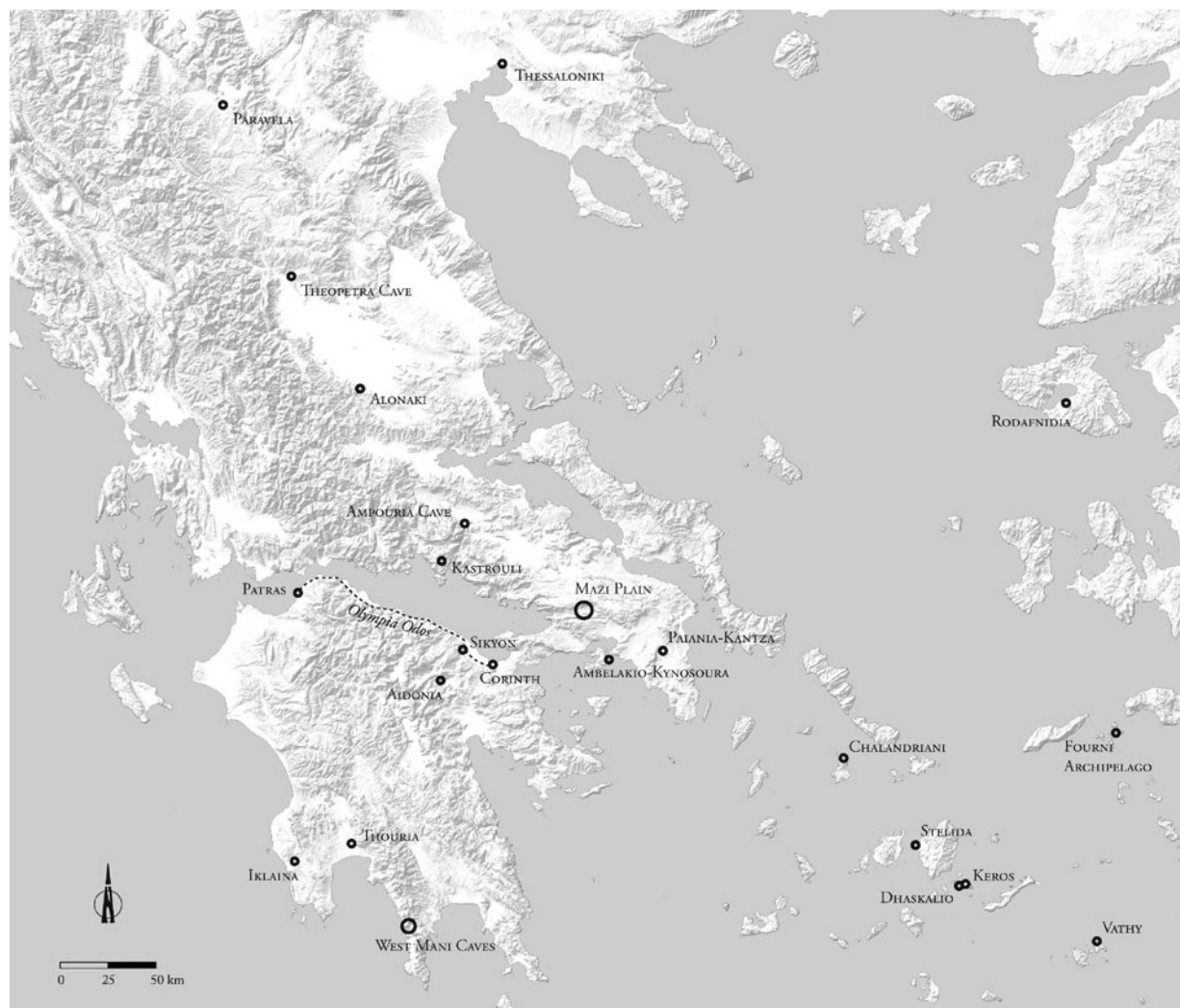


ARCHAEOLOGY IN GREECE 2016–2017

Newsround

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Map 3. Map of key locations/sites mentioned in the text. © BSA.

Introduction

‘Newsround’ offers a platform for the presentation of new data which do not appear within the specialist contributions of this year’s *Archaeological Reports*, but which nevertheless warrant emphasis, either as a result of their particular characteristics or for the contribution they make to broader archaeological narratives. This section is not intended to be exhaustive; rather, it is designed to highlight recent discoveries in a way which complements digital content made available through *AGOnline/Chronique des fouilles en ligne*. The very varied nature of this material has meant that, for the most part, it has proved preferable to organize this section chronologically, although dedicated sections are provided for the inclusion of regional histories, marine archaeology and archaeological survey.



27. Rodafnidia, Lesbos: panoramic view across the site. Reproduced from Galanidou *et al.* 2016: fig. 8.2; © N. Galanidou *et al.*

Palaeolithic to Mesolithic

Nena Galanidou and colleagues publish the results of recent excavation (2010–2012) at the Lower Palaeolithic site of **Rodafnidia** on Lesbos (**Fig. 27**). Occupying a low hill above the thermal springs at Lisvori, approximately 2km from the modern shore of the Gulf of Kalloni (perhaps a freshwater lake during the glacial Pleistocene), this appears to be the result of the fluvial transport of archaeological material from older sediment beds (perhaps even pre-Marine Isotopic Stage (MIS) 13) located somewhere upstream; post-infrared infrared stimulated luminescence (pIRIR) dates for the upper part of the excavated sequence are problematic, although they support a Middle Pleistocene date (Galanidou *et al.* 2016: 127). The lithic assemblage is composed primarily of artefacts on a variety of coloured cherts and includes five major technogroups: large cutting tools (LCT), prepared core technology (PCT), non-PCT flake cores, flakes and detached pieces, and retouched flakes. A total of 30 LCTs are recorded, including 16 complete handaxes (**Fig. 28**), three unifaces and at least one cleaver; the latter, interestingly, was manufactured on a pre-formed flake blank despite the fact that the chert used did not require it. PCTs include examples of both radial/centripetal and convergent/point Levallois, as well as the ‘stripped down Levallois’ form of simple prepared cores. It is possible, although far from certain, that these reflect the presence of Middle Palaeolithic groups. A single cleaver on coarse-grained lava is identified among the non-PCT flake core material, as are two discoids, a core scraper and a spheroid; the retouched flake group includes scrapers, three denticulates, a point and possible examples of a wedge and awl (Galanidou *et al.* 2016: 133–34). The variety of the Acheulian assemblage from Rodafnidia is unique in the Aegean, although it has comparanda from the central Anatolian site of **Kaletepe Deresi 3** (note also Çilingiroğlu *et al.* 2016 for the recent identification of a technologically Late Palaeolithic handaxe at **Kömürburnu** on the nearby Karaburun peninsula).



28. Rodafnidia, Lesbos: handaxes from the LCT group. Reproduced from Galanidou *et al.* 2016: fig. 8.10; © N. Galanidou *et al.*



29. Cape Skini: view toward Skini 1, 2, 3 and 4 (right to left). © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EPS, courtesy of A. Darlas.

'Fire features' yielded carbonized organic material and micro-fauna which should allow absolute dating of activity at the site and provide important insight into subsistence practices and the palaeoenvironment.

Diagnostic Lower Palaeolithic artefacts are also reported from the Cycladic site of **Stelida** on Naxos (Skarpelis *et al.* 2017; see previously, **ID5066**, **ID5443**). Handaxes and other bifaces (in both local stone and non-local emery) were found, along with a cleaver and flake tools including denticulates and scrapers. The presence of these tools is noted in the context of a new petrographic and geochemical characterization study of Stelida chert which, it is hoped, will eventually allow the reconstruction of the Middle Pleistocene to Early Holocene socioeconomic networks within which material circulated. Work at the site during 2016 focused on the western slope of the hill in order to clarify the depth and integrity of deposits from summit to base. Mesolithic activity was attested clearly for the first time, although the most significant discovery of the season was the identification of a number of *in situ* carbonized deposits of probable Aurignacian (Upper Palaeolithic) date close to a small rock shelter at the top of the site. Sealed by *ca.* 1.5m of colluvium, these 'fire features' yielded carbonized organic material and microfauna which should allow absolute dating of activity at the site and provide important insight into subsistence practices and the palaeoenvironment (Tristan Carter, personal communication).

Andreas Darlas and Eleni Psathi (2016) offer a fuller synthesis of Middle and Upper Palaeolithic remains recovered during excavation in the west Maniote caves of **Melitzia**, **Kastanis**, **Skini 3 and 4**, **Tripsana** and **Kolominitsa** (Fig. 29; see previously, **ID4481**, **ID4482**, **ID4483**; also, *ADelt* 67 [2012] *Chr.* 809–18). Nineteen spits were excavated at **Kolominitsa**, of which the two uppermost yielded an assemblage including Gravettian backed bladelets; Spits 3–8 yielded an Aurignacian lithic assemblage, with a bone sample from Spit 6 offering a date of $33,870 \pm 550$ ^{14}C BP (40,390–37,180 cal. BP). The lower spits (14–19) were artefact rich and evidence a clear mixture of Middle Palaeolithic and Upper Palaeolithic lithics; it

is tentatively suggested that this mixture of elements may be indicative of the coexistence and interaction of Neanderthal and anatomically modern humans (Darlas and Psathi 2016: 111). Dating based on charcoal from this layer also points to occupation during the Middle to Upper Palaeolithic transition. Faunal data mirror those from Kalamakia in terms of the predominance of fallow deer and the visibility of land tortoise. Some 300m to the north, limited excavation in the cave of **Kastania** yielded a lithic assemblage characterized by Epigravettian thin backed bladelets; a charcoal sample from the lowest excavated layer yielded a date of $12,390 \pm 70$ ^{14}C BP (14,910–14,070 cal. BP). Successive ash layers and a very large volume of archaeological material identify intensive Upper Palaeolithic activity at **Skini 4**, ca. 500m south of Kolominitsa, with charcoal from the basal layer of the trench yielding a date of $26,240 \pm 200$ ^{14}C BP (31,210–30,540 cal. BP). The Gravettian lithic assemblage includes backed bladelets and, significantly, shouldered points, with most stages of reduction represented. Several antler tips are also noted, including one which had been worked to a point (**Fig. 30**). Haematite was present through all layers. Located only ca. 20m to the south, **Skini 3**, by comparison, appears to have been used only intermittently at approximately the same period, ca. $25,560 \pm 190$ ^{14}C BP (30,890–29,700 cal. BP).



30. *Skini 4: antler point.* © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EPS, courtesy of A. Darlas.

Zuzana Hofmanová and colleagues (2016) offer the first ever mitochondrial DNA data from Mesolithic Greece. The samples derive from the tibiae of two burials at **Theopetra Cave**: Theo 1, a subadult female dated to $8,070 \pm 60$ ^{14}C BP (7,288–6,771 cal. BC) and Theo 5, as yet neither aged nor sexed, but dated to $8,549 \pm 40$ ^{14}C BP (7,605–7,529 cal. BC). Both individuals display a K1c haplogroup, a lineage currently unique within the European Mesolithic data and one with central Anatolian or Near Eastern affinities (see Hofmanová *et al.* 2016: supplement 25). While the authors caution against over-interpretation of this data with reference to the appearance of Neolithic technology on the Greek mainland, this work nevertheless confirms at least small-scale migration prior to the Early Neolithic and represents an important contribution to the debate.

Neolithic and Bronze Age

A previously unknown Final Neolithic pit-grave cemetery is reported from rescue excavation by the 5th EPCA at **Polydendro** in Laconia (Phokas plot), ca. 500m north of the important Neolithic settlement at **Kouphovouno** (*ADelt* 66 [2011] *Chr.* 181–83) and immediately southwest of the Niarchos plot which recently yielded a ‘Neolithic’ bowl and a triangular flint blade (*ADelt* 65 [2010] *Chr.* 512). A total of six graves was identified, all seemingly contracted single burials. Grave 1, in the northwest of the plot, was found without a cover or grave

While the authors caution against over-interpretation of this data ... this work nevertheless confirms at least small-scale migration prior to the Early Neolithic and represents an important contribution to the debate.



31. Polydendro, Laconia: Final Neolithic Grave 5. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports.



32. Dhaskalio: marble sealstone from Trench A. © Cambridge Keros Project.



33. Dhaskalio: in situ pecked spiral petroglyph from Trench F. © Cambridge Keros Project.

goods; the burial was fragmentary and heavily disturbed. Similar was the unaccompanied adult in Grave 6. Grave 3 had been covered with unworked stone and held an east-west orientated adult accompanied by sherds from two separate vessels (not described) placed at the head and the feet. A similar orientation was adopted for the burial in Grave 4, though here two intact vessels had been deposited at the feet and a cairn had been raised above the grave. The treatment of the body in Grave 5 was more elaborate (**Fig. 31**). Oriented north-south, fragments of pithos had been laid out below the deceased as a rudimentary floor and further fragments were placed over the head and upper body; others were set vertically around the head, perhaps in an act of protection. Several obsidian blades appear to have been placed on the body. Fragments of burnt pithoi and bone fragments were identified covered by stones at the north of Grave 5 and could, perhaps, represent the remains of a cremation. Pithos fragments were also used to cover the contracted adult burial in Grave 7, orientated north-south and accompanied by a single vessel (not described).

In addition to its status as one of only a handful of Neolithic sites to have been excavated in Laconia, the Polydendro cemetery represents only the second confirmed Final Neolithic open-air cemetery recognized in the region, following recent discoveries at **Xagounaki (ID4889)**, although the latter, including infant dead and multiple examples of double burial, appears very different in character (see Darlas and Psathi 2016: 106 for the additional discovery of a Final Neolithic double burial at **Skini 3**). The relationship, either chronological or socio-functional, of Polydendro with the settlement at Kouphovouno is not clear, although the Final Neolithic period is not well represented at the latter site (Cavanagh *et al.* 2007: 27, 63, 67, 98–99; Cavanagh 2012: 56–58).

The first season (2016) of a new programme of excavation on the Cycladic islet of **Dhaskalio (ID6045)** has already yielded important additions to the 2006–2008 data (Renfrew *et al.* 2013; Sotirakopoulou 2016; Haas-Lebegyev 2017; Renfrew 2017). Of particular note is the recovery from Trench A of a Dhaskalio Phase B marble sealstone (**Fig. 32**), unparalleled on either Dhaskalio or Keros, and from Trench F (located immediately south of 2007–2008 Trench VII) a petroglyph of pecked-spiral type (**Fig. 33**). Reportedly the first example to be excavated from a secure context in the archipelago, it is paralleled in out-of-context examples on Keros from **Konakia** and **tou Markou** (note also the recent publication of petroglyphs from **Chalandriani** on Syros and **Vathy** on Astypalaia: Marthari (2016) and Vlachopoulos (2016), respectively). A possible workshop is attested on the eastern slope of the islet (Trench L) by a significant number of

metallurgical ceramics and numerous fragments of copper and lead, as well as a stone dagger mould and a small lead axe. X-ray fluorescence analysis of an excavated floor surface with evidence of burning yielded very high trace readings indicative of on-site casting. Metalworking has been proved to be a fairly typical activity in the buildings of Dhaskalio, although no dedicated workshop has previously been recognized.

Downslope, *ca.* 5m from the sea, excavation in Trench H revealed a stone staircase and drain which may represent one of the principal access points into the settlement for those crossing the now-submerged causeway linking the islet to Keros.

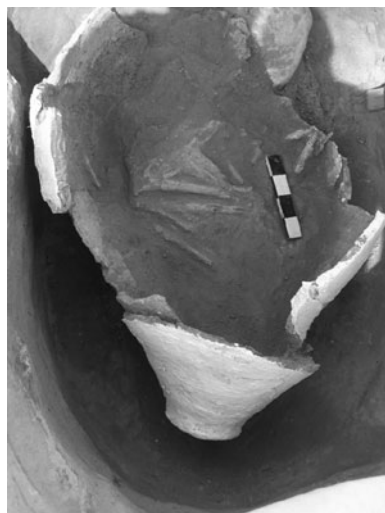
On **Keros** itself, excavation focused on Polygon 2, a site identified on the north of the island during the 2013 survey, which proved notable for its assemblage of cores and lithic manufacturing debris (**ID4284**). Excavation of the site has now confirmed the Early Cycladic date of field walls and other structures previously recognized. Much of the pottery from the site could be placed into Dhaskalio Phase A; a small quantity of Phylakopi I and Grey Minyan pottery suggests limited activity during Dhaskalio Phase C (for a summary of the group, see Sotirakopoulou 2016: 310–14).

In **Attica**, Anna Plassara reports the discovery of a Final Neolithic and Middle Helladic settlement during rescue excavations conducted by the 2nd EPCA associated with the construction of a football pitch close to **Paiania-Kantza** station (**ID6094**). The modest Final Neolithic component of the site includes the remains of five huts and an extensive destruction layer. The former structures combine stone and timber architecture. The best preserved, sunken-floored building K9, possessed a curved wall at the east (3.5m long by 0.8m wide), flanked by postholes immediately to the west. The pebble floors of two further huts (K10 and K11) were identified immediately north and south of K9, while the remaining two (K2 and K3) lay to the east. Several bothroi were also identified, of which one stone-lined example yielded a typical assemblage of pottery, shell and blades and flakes in obsidian. Additional sherds, some with incised decoration, an obsidian arrowhead, a blade on white flint and a small number of ground-stone tools are reported from the wider site. The Middle Helladic component, by contrast, appears to demonstrate a relatively substantial, organized settlement, represented by the stone foundations of at least ten buildings arranged in two rows (most on an east-west axis at regular intervals of *ca.* 8–10m) and a total of 37 rock-cut pits (**Fig. 34**). Two rectilinear buildings, K3 and K4, were identified at the eastern end of the two rows. Excavation yielded Grey Minyan ceramics (largely undescribed, although including fragments of the characteristic ring-stemmed goblet) and an assemblage of obsidian blades and

Metalworking has been proved to be a fairly typical activity in the buildings of Dhaskalio, although no dedicated workshop has previously been recognized.



34. Paiania-Kantza: Middle Helladic rock-cut pit (K12). © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica.



35. Paiania-Kantza: Middle Helladic pithos burial. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica.



36. Kastrouli: view from the dromos to the interior of Late Helladic III Tomb A. © A. Sideris/University of the Aegean.

flakes. Building K7 preserved two rooms at the interior: the easternmost room possessed a sunken floor and the westernmost preserved the remains of a hearth. The assemblage from K7 included a large volume of Grey Minyan and Matt-Painted sherds (again, largely undescribed, although including both jugs and bowls), as well as shells, and blades and flakes in obsidian and flint. The site also yielded a Middle Helladic child burial in a pithos (T5) which had been set into a pit and sealed with an unusual Light-on-Dark painted bowl (**Fig. 35**). A Matt-Painted pithoid vessel was found lying on its side immediately to the west, and likely represents the remains of a second burial.

Athanasios Sideris and colleagues have published the 2016 excavation of a Mycenaean tomb at **Kastrouli**, Phocis (Sideris *et al.* 2017). The tomb was located on the Mesokampos plateau *ca.* 5km northwest of the Late Helladic site at **Steno** and *ca.* 7.5km north of that at **Sykia** on the Corinthian gulf (**ID5083**). The tomb itself, Tomb A, represents a hybrid rock-cut/built chamber tomb, consisting of a small rock-cut chamber with niche augmented by built walls and roof slabs. While the threshold of the stomion is cut, its superstructure (incorporating a monumental lintel) and the dromos are built (**Fig. 36**). The commingled remains of at least 15 adults (male and female), one infant and one foetus were recovered from the chamber (Chovalopoulou *et al.* 2017). An unrelated femur previously recovered has offered a calibrated radiocarbon date of 810–760 BC, suggesting reuse of the tomb during the Middle Geometric. The ceramic assemblage includes numerous fine-painted sherds, rarely joining and never restorable to profile, dating between Late Helladic IIIA2 and LHIIIC. The stirrup jar constitutes the most common shape, although deep and shallow bowls (some with S-profile rims), kylikes, piriform jars and alabastra are also noted. Coarse-ware sherds were rare, although several probably derive from a pithos. The non-ceramic assemblage includes one Phi B and three Psi figurines, a steatite biconical spindle-whorl, four beads in bone and steatite, and a small assemblage of gold-foil dress ornaments, including one with punched dot decoration. A hearth or fire-pit located to the east of the tomb yielded a small number of sherds, including at least one kylix, and a possible loomweight.

New tombs are also reported within the known Mycenaean cemetery of **Aidonia**, Nemea. In addition to a looted chamber tomb discovered in the middle cluster during 2016, two new tombs are reported in 2017 from the lower cluster (<http://www.culture.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=2010>). The first of these had, unsurprisingly, been looted entirely. The second example, overlaid by later Archaic, Late Roman and Middle Byzantine remains, had not. The dead were interred on the floor of the chamber and in three pits; the

largest, *ca.* 4m in length and covered by monumental stone slabs, yielded three individuals. Two more were found in the second, accompanied by bronze arrowheads, knives and daggers, including two with gilt handles. At least two Palace Style pithamphorae are reported from within the fill of the third. Those interred on the floor of the chamber were accompanied by ceramics and stone buttons.

Early Iron Age, Archaic and Classical

A variety of Early Iron Age remains are included among the extraordinary Late Helladic to Roman palimpsest exposed during construction of the Olympia Odos at ancient **Corinth** (*ADelt* 66 [2011] *Chr.* 424–42).

A Protogeometric kiln was noted at Km 1+260, comprising a circular chamber (*ca.* 1m in diameter) with a 0.45m-wide sloping channel at the northwest (**Fig. 37**). The walls of the chamber were coated in thick white clay; an elliptical structure at the centre presumably supported spanning elements. A handful of sherds were reported in the interior, alongside concave fragments of coarse clay from the kiln's vaulted superstructure. A small group of Protogeometric (late 11th-century BC) burials was recovered in close proximity. Of these, pit Grave 94 (Km 1+235) had been inserted into the floor of a Late Helladic IIIB1 building (*ADelt* 66 [2011] *Chr.* 430). It held a single burial accompanied by an unpainted amphoriskos at the head and an unpainted skyphos and handmade trefoil-mouth oinochoe containing a cone of olive steatite at the legs. At Km 1+255, the contemporary Grave 1, a pit with dromos, yielded a single burial accompanied by a handmade unpainted stamnos at the head, spiral-form bronze hair rings near the skull (presumably worn at burial) and several fragments of bronze pin on the chest, one of which preserved traces of the plain-weave shroud in which the deceased had been interred. The third of the group, Grave 2 (Km 1+258), was a cremation burial, an important example of a practice rare at Corinth (see Lemos 2002: 161). Its heavily burned interior bore a coat of thick white clay comparable to that of the kiln and yielded calcified stone, a large quantity of burned bone, heavily burned handmade pottery and fragments of a bronze pin with a silver finial. Early Geometric and later Early Iron Age burials are also reported from a long-lived roadside cemetery exposed at a distance of approximately 200m between Km 1+450 and Km 1+485.

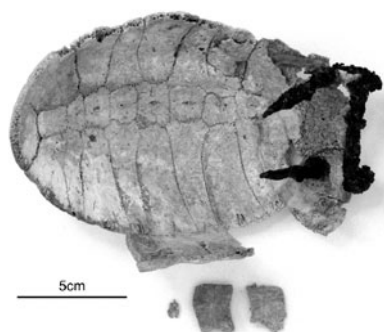
An Early Geometric apsidal building, at least 4.25m in length with clay floors and a circular stone feature which perhaps served as the footing for an internal support, was exposed at Km 1+280, while a Middle Geometric apsidal structure was identified nearby at Km 1+245. Measuring *ca.* 4m by 3.3m and



37. Corinth, Olympia Odos: Proto-geometric kiln. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Corinthia.



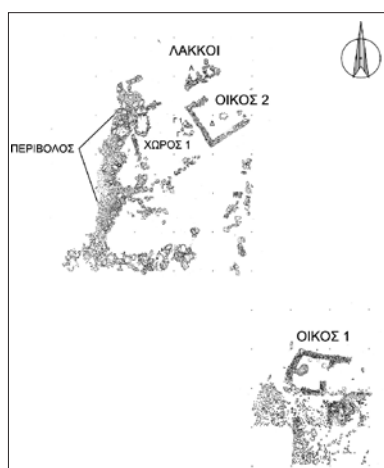
38. Corinth, Olympia Odos: Tomb 160. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Corinthia.



39. Corinth, Olympia Odos: *chelys* lyre from Tomb 160. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Corinthia.



40. Sikyon, Olympia Odos: monumental Middle Geometric II Tomb 75. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Corinthia.



41. Alonaki: plan of the rural sanctuary. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, courtesy of C. Karagianopoulos.

with an unusually wide stone socle (0.93m), it yielded a pit-trench in the interior, surrounded by traces of burning and containing a very large quantity of ninth- to eighth-century BC ceramics (including skyphoi, oinochoae and aryballoi), suggesting use as a cult space. A deposit of beach pebbles, ash and undecorated pottery (including kotylae, skyphoi and oinochoae: *ADelt* 66 [2011] *Chr.* 433–34) identifies a Late Geometric to Archaic altar (‘Altar of the Double Stele’) at Km 1+235; riders, doves and standing female types are noted among a larger coroplastic assemblage recovered nearby. An Early Archaic (seventh-century BC) apsidal building located at Km 1+309 is also likely to have served a cult function. Noteworthy among the later remains is a group of four Archaic to Classical sarcophagi identified between Km 1+310 and Km 1+345. The most important of these, Tomb 160, yielded an adult burial of the later fifth century BC accompanied by a rich grave assemblage which, in addition to lekythoi, kylikes, skyphoi and strigils, included a bone stylus at the leg and the tortoiseshell soundbox of a *chelys* lyre, complete with the bracket to which the arms were attached, held in the right hand (Figs 38, 39); this suggests, perhaps, that the deceased had been a poet.

Construction on the Olympia Odos at **Sikyon** has yielded a group of Early Iron Age tombs (*ADelt* 66 [2011] *Chr.* 442–49). Of particular note is the monumental rectangular rock-cut Tomb 75 (ca. 3.20m by 1.55m by 1.39m; Fig. 40). Dating to Middle Geometric II, and with four vertical cuttings in each of its long walls perhaps intended to receive beams for a wooden roof, it contained an adult double burial; the dead were positioned in an embrace with their legs overlapped. The grave goods include a possible iron saw, two oversize ritual bronze pins and a bronze bowl, and suggest, in combination with the unusual structural character of the tomb, that it belonged to an individual, or individuals, of at least local sociopolitical importance.

To the north, in Thessaly, work on the Central Greek Motorway (E-65, km 55+710 - 55+750) has exposed the remains of an Archaic to Hellenistic rural sanctuary at **Alonaki**, ca. 2km southwest of modern **Anavra**, in the eastern foothills of Mount Katachloro (*ADelt* 67 [2012] *Chr.* 408–17). In its final phase (fourth to third century BC), the sanctuary incorporated at least three buildings (Fig. 41). The southernmost, Building 1, was a modest, single-roomed structure (ca. 3m by 3m) of mudbrick on a stone foundation with a tiled roof, which probably served as the *oikos* of the deity. Noteworthy among the coroplastic and ceramic assemblages from the interior are a large female bust and a group of five large upturned kalathoi, of which one held a group of figurines and skyphidia. Several further terracotta fragments and a ceramic assemblage including small black-glazed drinking vessels, miniatures and a squat lekythos were

recovered from the exterior, in an area apparently demarcated by a large, vertically set block. Building 2, a single-storey, four-roomed structure (*ca.* 14.5m²), lay *ca.* 30m to the northwest. Although heavily damaged by plant machinery, it too offered a coroplastic assemblage (including busts, figurines and a throne), as well as painted and unpainted pottery. Adjoining Building 2 at the west was a probable room (Area 1), which may have served as a storage space for offerings and ritual paraphernalia accumulated over the life of the sanctuary. A further room may have lain to the south, perhaps even a second *oikos*, although the structure is too heavily damaged to be certain. A pit excavated in the northwestern corner of Area 1 yielded terracotta, metal, glass and a silver *obolos* of Sikyon (fourth century BC). Two ‘pit-bothroi’ identified to the north of the building likely served for chthonic ritual. The northernmost, Pit A, yielded a modest bronze assemblage and had succeeded an earlier pit in the same location which offered bronzework and ironwork, glass beads and a handful of fine unpainted sherds. Pit B, in contrast, yielded busts, figurines, iron bracelets, bronze rings, amber and glass beads, and burnt and fragmented animal bones within a deposit of black, oily earth, suggestive of the practice of animal sacrifice. These pits, as well as Building 2/Area 1 were delimited at the west, south and perhaps also the east by a peribolos of unworked or roughly worked boulders and cobbles. A further series of offering pits located at a greater depth (2.5–3.3m) in the area of Building 2 belongs to an earlier phase of the sanctuary, beginning in the seventh century BC. Pit C and the adjacent Pit C1 appear to have been used for non-sacrificial rites. Pit C yielded pottery, figurines, beads and bronzework; C1 yielded a burnt deposit of beads, horse figurines and a large group of bronze rings (**Fig. 42**). The deepest of the group, Pit D, however, was surrounded by traces of burning and burned and fragmentary animal bone; it yielded beads, bronzework and jewellery in the interior. A curved line of stones founded on bedrock and associated with an ashy deposit was identified in the same area; a small assemblage of Laconian tile fragments suggests the existence of a building in close proximity.

Handmade and wheelthrown ceramics collected from across the site attest activity, although not necessarily ritual practice, during the Late Helladic and, to a lesser extent, during the Early Iron Age and Early Archaic period. The first phase of the sanctuary appears to have ended in destruction during the mid-fifth century BC, while the sanctuary fell out of use permanently towards the end of the first quarter of the third century BC. The substantial coroplastic assemblage (*ca.* 2,282 items) includes female types (seated, seated with deer, standing, standing with deer, *hydriaphoroi*), riders (also depicted on a number of terracotta plaques), horses (and other animals), thrones and seats. Other terracotta objects include spoils,

Pit B, in contrast, yielded busts, figurines, iron bracelets, bronze rings, amber and glass beads, and burnt and fragmented animal bones within a deposit of black, oily earth, suggestive of the practice of animal sacrifice.



42. Alonaki: bronze rings in situ in Pit C1. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, courtesy of C. Karagianopoulos.

It is likely that Artemis formed at least one focus of cult; the possible presence of a second oikos could indicate worship of a second deity with chthonic attributes.



43. Ampouria: view into the cave.
© Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EPS, courtesy of S. Katsarou.



44. Ampouria: bronze plate with votive inscription to Pan and the Nymphs.
© Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EPS, courtesy of S. Katsarou.

loomweights, spindle-whorls and pillars. Noted among the ceramic assemblage are bowls, squat lekythoi, unguentaria, skyphoi, miniature hydriae, lekanides, lekanes, kalathoi, beehives, strainers, censers, plates and pithoi; three sherds (two from the same black-glazed skyphos) and several more inscribed tiles perhaps name dedicators or visitors to the sanctuary. The metal assemblage (1,279 items) is composed overwhelmingly of bronze rings (953), although other objects in bronze (including earrings, fibulae, pendants, tweezers, pins, hair rings, bracelets, awls, ballot beads, syringes, mirrors and vessel handles) and iron (including rings, fibulae, nails, knives, arrowheads, spears, pins and tools), lead and silver are recorded. The glass assemblage (180 items) comprises primarily beads, with additional fragments of vessels and pendants; a small group of amber beads likely derives from a single item of jewellery. It is likely that Artemis formed at least one focus of cult; the possible presence of a second oikos could indicate worship of a second deity with chthonic attributes.

Stella Katsarou reports on excavation by the Ephorate of Palaeoanthropology and Speleology of Southern Greece and the 14th EPCA of a previously unknown cave shrine to Pan and the Nymphs on the eastern flank of Mount Parnassos (Agia Marina) at **Ampouria** (*ADelt* 67 [2012] *Chr.* 818–22). This is an important complement to the Corycian Cave located on the opposing slope. The cave at Ampouria is composed of a single sloping chamber, *ca.* 20m in length and seemingly unmodified. Situated at an altitude of *ca.* 940masl, it was almost certainly used seasonally during the fifth and fourth centuries BC (**Fig. 43**). Its existence was made known by a member of the public, who also gave to the department of antiquities a group of ancient artefacts recovered therein. Noteworthy among the latter is a fourth-century BC rectangular bronze plate, perhaps originally attached to a small wooden box, bearing a dot-punched votive inscription: ΑΡΙΣΤΩ ΠΑΝΙ ΝΥΜΦΑΙΣ (**Fig. 44**). A shallow-incised template of the letter forms, followed more or less accurately, is preserved on the rear. Other finds include an early fifth-century BC red- and white-painted terracotta fig, a bronze ring with a rhomboid-form bezel bearing incised geometric decoration, a coroplastic assemblage composed of peplophoroi, seated silenoi and a mid-fifth-century BC male squatting type (in which the tail forms a tripod support) holding a loaf of bread (presumably a satyr: *cf.* Merker 2000: 78, with additional parallels), Corinthian miniature kotylae, squat lekythoi and skyphoi (fifth century BC), a lamp of the first quarter of the fourth century BC, knucklebones and shells. Systematic excavation of the interior of the cave yielded a further 51 knucklebones as well as shell, animal bone and hundreds of additional fragments of handmade and mouldmade terracottas. Included among the female forms are peplophoroi, krobyloi, seated types, Tanagra types, a number of Aphrodites

and a bust with polos and relief locks. Noteworthy among the male types is a probable Pan which is likely to be Late Archaic (late sixth century BC) in date. Several other examples of naked males are attested, as are a headless satyr, a torso holding or offering bread (fifth century BC) and a probable male depicted in a triangular cap. Some 190 additional fragments of bases and torsos were recovered, a handful preserving traces of paint. At least one pigeon is reported among the zoomorphic types (for a recent discussion of the coroplastic assemblages associated with the worship of Pan and the Nymphs at Corinth, see Kopestonsky 2016).

Hellenistic to Roman

Excavations undertaken on the upper western slope of the Ellenika Hill at **Thouria** have exposed the remains of the city's theatre, orientated westward and overlooking the Messenian plain (<http://ancientthouriaexcavation.gr/en/2016-2/>; see previously **ID6121**). The monumental isodomic retaining wall of the koilon, buttressed at regular intervals, was exposed over a length of 12.3m and to a height of almost 4m. Parallel to it lay the double isodomic wall of the left parodos (**Fig. 45**), also buttressed, which was traced for a length of 18.35m and to a maximum preserved height of *ca.* 3m; a rectangular pedestal for a statue or an inscription is noted in close proximity. A third buttressed isodomic wall was exposed at a distance of *ca.* 1.7m and traced for a length of 19.2m; this seems not to belong to the theatre, but to another monumental building. Excavation also uncovered a large section of the orchestra, its peripheral corridor, the *prohedria* and part of one *klimaka* (**Fig. 46**); architectural members and further seat fragments deriving from damaged *kerkides* were recovered to the rear.

Late Antique to Early Modern

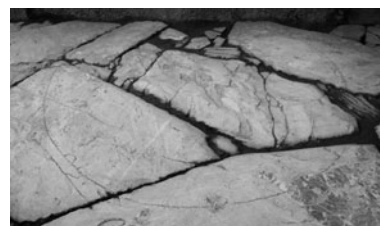
An extraordinary picture of the Late Antique cityscape of Thessaloniki is offered by the 2012 excavations of the 9th EBA associated with the construction of the **Thessaloniki Metro** (*ADelt* 67 [2012] *Chr.* 507–17; for the results of excavations during 2011, see *ADelt* 66 [2011] *Chr.* 725–34). Excavation in the northern section of Agia Sophia station (**ID 2704**) has exposed more than 70m of marble decumanus, the surface of which preserves wheel ruts (*ca.* 1.4m apart) and incised circles identified as the remnants of street-side games played using pebbles or counters (**Figs 47, 48**). The road widens before the intersection with the *cardo* to form a square, post AD 450 in date, built of basalt slabs and likely provisioned with a fountainhouse to serve the local community. A series of seven column bases of the fourth to sixth century AD delineates the southern edge of the road and characterizes it as a *via colonnata*. Although damaged by the introduction of the central pile curtain of the station, two Early Byzantine building phases



45. Thouria, theatre: wall of the left parodos. © X. Arapogianni.



46. Thouria, theatre: limit of the orchestra, with drain. © X. Arapogianni.



47. Thessaloniki, Agia Sophia metro station: detail of a game board incised into the surface of the road. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Thessaloniki.

48. Thessaloniki, Agia Sophia metro station:
view of the road from the east, with the
colonnade to the south.

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The numismatic assemblage recovered from the surface of the road supports a long use-life and survival into the first half of the seventh century AD. It is possible that the abandonment and collapse of the area was related to the earthquake/s of ca. AD 620.

are represented by the southern insula to the rear of the colonnade: the earlier by rooms utilizing brickwork architecture, marble thresholds and a three-sided structure in *opus mixtum*; the later (sixth-century AD) phase by a structure which reused inscribed marble blocks in its foundation. The area was well served by a dense network of water and sewerage pipes and by four wells which remained open until the sixth century AD. The numismatic assemblage recovered from the surface of the road supports a long use-life and survival into the first half of the seventh century AD. It is possible that the abandonment and collapse of the area was related to the earthquake/s of ca. AD 620. Marble architectural elements were subsequently used as spolia in Byzantine buildings or as covers for the Early Byzantine sewer system, which continued to function (with modification) until at least the 12th century AD. The numismatic assemblage suggests, perhaps, that the construction of the colonnade, the buildings with marble thresholds in the southern insula and the sewerage and water-supply network should be placed in the period of the successors of Constantine the Great.

Excavation at Venizelos station (**ID 3065**) exposed a 77m-long stretch of the decumanus maximus, the city's main east-west road, linking the western Golden Gate with the Cassandrian Gate at Syntrivani Square, and its junction with the cardo, the principal north-south road (**Fig. 49**). Pillars of marble blocks and brickwork survive at the side of the road to a maximum height of 3m; beyond the crossroads, however, are the *in situ* remains of a stone colonnade of the fourth to fifth century AD. During the sixth century AD, the decumanus was repaired and widened from 4.9m to 7.8m, and at the same time a monumental marble square (at least 34m by 10m) was laid out; it appears to have been delimited at the west and probably also the south by stoas. Its surface too preserves the incised traces of



49. Thessaloniki, Venizelos metro station: view of the decumanus maximus from the west.
© Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Thessaloniki.

street games and, again, the area was destroyed by earthquake in the seventh century AD, prompting a significant reorganization of the city plan. The decumanus is covered by destruction debris and silt, while the cardo is covered with a layer of earth. These deposits yielded bronze coins of Constans II (AD 641–668) and cut-down folles of the seventh century AD. The square was subsequently repaired and a new building erected in the west. The northern wall of the latter incorporates a variety of spolia (including marble architectural elements, Ionic capitals, small columns and pillars), while its marble floor yielded bronze coins of Constans II and Constantine IV (AD 641–685). New buildings, some with subterranean or semi-subterranean rooms, subsequently encroached into the public space over the course of the eighth and ninth centuries AD (**Fig. 50**); the activity therein is dated by coins of Theophilus (AD 829–842) and Vassilios I (AD 876–886). At the east of the trench, an early Middle Byzantine road network defines a block of six houses; the identification of mercury during excavation here suggests the presence of a workshop in the vicinity.



50. Thessaloniki, Venizelos metro station: private structures encroaching onto the public square.
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A vaulted tomb of the fifth century AD ... embodying several unique architectural characteristics, finds no parallel in the east or west cemeteries of Thessaloniki.



51. Paravela, Argos Orestiko: stairs of Early Byzantine tomb. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Kastoria.

A variety of domestic, religious and funerary remains of the third to sixth century AD have been exposed at Democracy Square station (**ID 2705**). The earliest building phase is represented by a substantial third- to fourth-century AD building complex (*ca.* 50m by 15m) housing workshop and warehouse facilities on the road to the Golden Gate, *ca.* 50m distant. Originally comprising eight rooms, it expanded to a maximum of 15 over its lifetime. Thirty-one pithoi were found set into the floor at the interior, including two lined with plaster for the storage of water and three lined with pitch in order to hold wine. Following its abandonment, the complex was reconstructed in the late fourth century AD, although the destruction of the pithoi suggests a change in function. During the fifth century AD, it was succeeded by a small, single-roomed church, square in plan (*ca.* 9.6m by 9.4m) with an apse and annexe at the south, similar to other Early Christian churches in the city. Built of *opus mixtum*, fragments of painted plaster attest to walls covered in fresco. Adjacent to the church at the south was a semi-open space housing a group of five *in situ* amphorae of (late fifth- to early sixth-century AD) Samian type. The southern annexe yielded a marble larnax and two pithoi, of Samian and LRA2 type, dating to *ca.* AD 450–550. Below its floor was a vaulted tomb of the fifth century AD, which, embodying several unique architectural characteristics, finds no parallel in the east or west cemeteries of Thessaloniki. The heavily disturbed remains of four individuals were recovered from the interior. After the abandonment of the church in the early seventh century AD, probably during the reign of Heraclius (AD 610–641), graves were dug into its ruins. Indeed, the entire surrounding area was used for burial, principally those of children and infants, during the fifth and sixth centuries AD. From the wider area of the western cemetery are included a further 15 graves: two cists, four tile graves, two enchytrismoi, six tile-covered pits and one unusual pit grave covered by pieces of four LR2 amphora. Unfortunately, their context and lack of grave goods makes dating difficult.

Andromache Skreka reports the excavation by the 16th EBA of an important Early Byzantine tomb at **Paravela, Argos Orestiko (Fig. 51; ID3080; ADelt 67 [2012] Chr. 628–31)**. Accessed by a flight of stairs incorporating decorative brickwork, the tomb comprised a square chamber (*ca.* 3.1m by 3.1m) with a domed vault; architecturally, the structure resembles a cubiculum, although there are no arcosolia. The dome was adorned with three concentric zones of fresco. The first, in the crown of the dome, consists of a chi rho (with the rho reversed), flanked by an alpha and omega, also reversed. The second zone includes wreaths with flowers or fruit in white and orange, while the third replicates the night sky. The remainder of the dome is painted in light blue, with a series of eight-pointed stars rendered in a much darker shade. Damage to the walls of

the chamber make it unclear whether they too were originally decorated. Three brick and plaster sarcophagi and a tile grave lay to the west; a further chi-rho was painted on the wall above them (**Fig. 52**). The sarcophagi are of a rare type which employs cover tiles for the lid. The first yielded a female accompanied by a spherical glass perfume bottle (*ca.* AD 250–450) and a broken bronze fibula. The second also held a female; it was lined at the base with sheet lead, a practice commonly indicative of high status, and painted on the exterior with dark red circles over a lighter red background. It yielded two simple silver pins and a more elaborate gilt example with a female bust finial (**Fig. 53**). Several gold fibres probably derive from an embroidered cloth placed over the head of the deceased. The occupant of the third sarcophagus could not be sexed, though it too was decorated: red-painted diamond and zig-zag motifs at the side, spirals across middle and, at the position of the head, painted circles framing a chi-rho. An unidentified iron object was recovered from the interior. The brick and tile tomb T4, partially blocking the entrance, also contained a female burial, although without goods. Both T1 and T3 had been looted in Antiquity. In line with the ceramic evidence, coins of Constantius II and Theodosius I recovered from the staircase support a date for the use of the tomb in the second half of the fourth century AD. It is possible, however, that its construction belongs to an earlier period.

Regional histories

Sylvian Fachard, Alex Knodell and Kalliopi Papangeli report on work undertaken during the third season of the *Mazi Archaeological Project* (Swiss School of Archaeology in Greece/Ephorate of Antiquities of West Attica, Piraeus and Islands) (**ID 6136**; Fachard *et al.* 2017). They note that, to date, the survey has identified some 593 structures over a total area of 12km² and catalogued more than 100,000 objects. Intensive survey was focused in the centre of the Mazi plain and in the valley of Kastanava (Areas E and D). Particularly significant is the identification of a Late Helladic site on the slopes of Mount Pastra, an important Late Roman settlement to the east of Eleutherai and a Byzantine village at Agios Dimitrios, in the north of the plain. The numerous walls and enclosures noted at the Final Neolithic to Early Helladic I upland site at Kato Kastanava were cleaned and recorded, although the site has proved to be severely disturbed. Cleaning undertaken on the two monumental gateways of the fortress of Eleutherai has resolved three phases of construction. The first fortress was constructed on the summit of the hill during the later fifth century BC and was succeeded during the fourth century BC by a much larger complex, incorporating 13 towers and 14 curtain walls. Some 237m in length and 117m in width, it enclosed a total area in the order of 3ha. This work may well have been carried out under Theban/Boeotian direction, perhaps during the



52. Paravela, Argos Orestiko: painted sarcophagi. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Kastoria.



53. Paravela, Argos Orestiko: silver-gilt pin with a female bust finial. © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: Ephorate of Antiquities of Kastoria.

This confirms Mycenaean occupation of the hill, perhaps associated with a putative route through the Kaza ravine linking Thebes and Eleusis.

Covering a contiguous area of ca. 22km² between the Palace of Nestor and Koukounara, it identified a total of 16 catalogued 'sites' and a further 36 'off-site' scatters, ranging in date from Early Helladic III/Middle Helladic I to the Ottoman period.

Theban Hegemony of 371–362 BC. The new reading of the inscription above the Gate of Plataea (**ID 5384**) suggests that Boeotian control continued into the later third century BC. The third construction phase is represented by repairs to the southern wall and modification of the gates, probably carried out between the fifth and seventh centuries AD. It is possible that this work was undertaken at the same time as the construction of the two Christian churches on the eastern slope of the hill. A Late Helladic cist tomb was identified on the southern slope of the fortress, part of a larger cemetery identified by the Archaeological Service in 1984. This confirms Mycenaean occupation of the hill, perhaps associated with a putative route through the Kaza ravine linking Thebes and Eleusis. In the plain to the northwest, the massive polygonal wall identified during 2015 was cleaned and recorded. Positioned in a torrent bed, it measures 12m in length and retains most of its mass along the western side. It very likely functioned as a dam, protecting the adjacent settlement from flood damage and serving to create a reservoir. Examples of similar structures are rare in the Greek countryside and are best exemplified by the fourth-century BC reservoir of the Inopos at Delos. Finally, geophysical survey in the lower town at ancient **Oinoe** identified two probable streets, as well as a large north-south orientated wall (Sectors W1, W2 and W3), which may constitute part of the Classical fortification. A second wall in W3, oriented northwest-southeast and perhaps joining the former, may represent part of its Late Roman successor.

The appearance of the final report on the ***Iklaina Archaeological Project*** (Cosmopoulos 2016a) represents a valuable addition to the archaeological landscape of Messenia previously explored by the Pylos Regional Archaeological Project (Davis 2008). The project itself was not intended to investigate diachronic patterns of settlement and land use in their totality, but rather, and more specifically, the relationship between **Iklaina** and **Pylos** within its broader Mycenaean geopolitical context. Nevertheless, covering a contiguous area of ca. 22km² between the Palace of Nestor and Koukounara, it identified a total of 16 catalogued 'sites' and a further 36 'off-site' scatters, ranging in date from Early Helladic III/Middle Helladic I to the Ottoman period (Cosmopoulos *et al.* 2016). Alongside a modest assemblage of 'Neolithic to Bronze Age' lithics, the earliest evidence of occupation in the region is represented by a group of four scrapers on chert tentatively assigned to the Middle Palaeolithic (Newhard 2016: 196). The general absence of Neolithic pottery from the survey area mirrors the results of PRAP. The near-total invisibility of the Early Helladic period is, perhaps, slightly more surprising; it is represented by a single Early Helladic III 'terracotta anchor' from the excavations itself and by a group of three lug handles

of possible late EHIII date recovered from the surface at Iklaina/Traganes (Site 1: Shelmerdine and Gulizio 2016: 159). The data suggest that the Middle Helladic saw the first major period of occupation within the survey area, with six certain and four possible Middle Helladic sites identified (Cosmopoulos and Shelmerdine 2016: 203) and clear continuity of settlement into the Early (and, indeed, the later) Mycenaean period, when there is also evidence for expansion into new areas with agricultural potential. The recovery of a large assemblage of Late Helladic sherds and more than 1,000 pieces of slag at Katsimigas (Site 8) is cautiously linked to the bronze smiths of **a-pu*₂ referred to in Pylos tablets Jn 693 and Ma 124. Meanwhile, the size of Iklaina/Traganes (ca. 12ha) and the character of its surface assemblage are suggested as being consistent with its identification as a district capital of the Pylian Hither province (Cosmopoulos and Shelmerdine 2016: 207–09) – a suggestion subsequently supported by excavation data (ID1506, ID2084, ID2556, ID3313, ID6128; see recently, Cosmopoulos 2016b).

The size of Iklaina/Traganes (ca. 12ha) and the character of its surface assemblage are suggested as being consistent with its identification as a district capital of the Pylian Hither province.

Maritime archaeology

The third (2017) season of the *Fourni Underwater Survey* yielded the remains of a further eight wrecks at depths of between 60m and 120m in the area between the eastern coasts of Fourni and Agios Minas. This takes the total number of wrecks identified by the project to date to 53 (Fig. 54)

(<http://www.culture.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=1973>). The earliest of this group sank during the Classical period (fourth century BC) with a cargo of Chian amphorae and the latest, a wooden-hulled ship of the interwar period, was lost shortly after 1929. Also included is a Roman amphora carrier apparently sailing from Iberia with a cargo of Dressel 38 amphorae (for the transport of garum) and a pair of Late Roman (sixth- to seventh-century AD) amphora carriers. In addition to



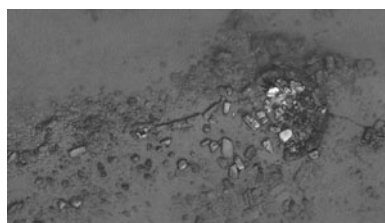
54. *Fourni Underwater Survey: amphora scatter.* © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EMA.



55. *Salamis: substantial wall in the northwest of the bay.* © Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports: EMA.

their cargoes, these wrecks also yielded personal items, including tableware and oil lamps. Quantities of jettisoned pottery and a large number of stone, lead and iron anchors ranging in date from the Archaic to the Byzantine period are also noted.

A new programme of underwater investigation was begun in late 2016 in the area of Ambelakio-Kynosoura on the east coast of **Salamis** (<http://www.culture.gr/el/Information/SitePages/view.aspx?nID=1824>). The focus of work was the western section of the bay of Ambelakio, the commercial and military port of Classical and Hellenistic Salamis and the most significant to Athens after Kantharos, Zea and Mounichia, not least as the probable muster point for the Battle of Salamis (480 BC). This work identified submerged architecture on the north, west and south of the bay, including port features, fortifications and buildings. Of particular interest is a partially submerged area at the northwest of the bay enclosed at the south by a substantial wall, *ca.* 160m in length and terminating in a tower *ca.* 7m in diameter (**Figs 55, 56**), and at the east by a later mole (*ca.* 48m in length), built with ancient material, possibly on a similarly ancient foundation. Cleaning to the west of this mole yielded a series of large, well-cut blocks, orientated north-south for a distance of *ca.* 12m, which should belong to a monumental, possibly public building. To the west, a second, similarly large building was identified, measuring 21m in length and 9.2m in width. At the southern side of the bay, a west-east breakwater, measuring *ca.* 40m in length, and a further long wall, running parallel to the coast for a distance of 30m and terminating in a square tower measuring 6m by 6m, were located. Surface collection in the north and west of the bay yielded a multi-period ceramic assemblage including a large number of sherds from transport amphorae and other Classical and Hellenistic shapes. A single bronze coin of Corinth (fourth century BC) is also noted.



56. *Salamis: circular tower.*
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