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The Artemision at Amarynthos: The 2023 Season

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Aegina, Hellanion Oros: The 2023 Season

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The School's main project in 2023 focused on the Artemision at Amarynthos (island of Euboea), combining excavation, archaeological field survey, and geoarchaeology¹. After 12 consecutive campaigns, we will put fieldwork on hold in order to set aside time for study and publication. In this regard, the School is delighted to launch a new *Amarynthos* series in 2024, inaugurated by Denis Knoepfler. Outside of Euboea, the ESAG assisted in the underwater excavations of the Antikythera shipwreck. On the island of Aegina, excavations and surveys on Mt Oros continued in 2023 in collaboration with the Ephorate of Antiquities of Piraeus and Islands, yielding remarkable results.

THE ARTEMISION AT AMARYNTHOS: THE 2023 SEASON

Sylvian Fachard, Angeliki Simosi, Tobias Krapf, Tamara Saggini, Olga Kyriazi, Jérôme André, Chloé Chezeaux, Samuel Verdan, Thierry Theurillat

A large-scale excavation season was conducted during the summer of 2023, the third of a four-year scientific program whose aim is to better understand the origins and early phases of the Artemision². The excavation focused on the “area of the temples”, characterized by a succession of Geometric and Archaic building phases, as

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¹ The program is supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation and the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation. We are especially grateful to the Greek Ministry of Culture, as well as the entire staff of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Euboea. The activities of the Swiss School are also supported by the University of Lausanne, the Fondation philanthropique Famille Sandoz, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the Isaac Dreyfus-Bernheim Stiftung, the Ceramica-Stiftung, the Société Académique Vaudoise, the Fondation Théodore Lagonico, and Swiss universities.

² The excavation is co-directed by S. Fachard (ESAG – University of Lausanne) and A. Simosi (Ephorate of antiquities of Piraeus and Islands); the fieldwork is supervised by T. Krapf and T. Saggini (ESAG – SNSF), and O. Kyriazi (EAE), with the collaboration of J. André (University of Lausanne – SNSF), S. Verdan and T. Theurillat (ESAG). The team consisted of 30 students from Switzerland, Greece, France and Italy.

well as the Geometric remains under the monumental Building 3 that flanks the eastern side of the sanctuary (*fig. 1*). Simultaneously the excavation team continued the exploration of Prehistoric remains on the Paleokklisies Hill. Furthermore, the Eretria-Amarnythos Archaeological Project (EASP) conducted a third field season of field walking and remote sensing, extending the surveyed area to 22 square km and thus providing a crucial context for understanding the insertion of the Artemision within the ancient landscape.

The Prehistoric settlement on the hill

Systematic excavation on the slopes of the Paleokklisies Hill continued in 2023. On the higher part of the slope, our work in trench XXXV brought to light an EH horizon. We excavated an Early LH cist grave containing several individuals³ in the northern part of the trench; finds include a grey minyan amphoriskos, a stemmed goblet with one handle (*fig. 3*) and a few beads. In the lower part of the slope, trench XL (9 × 6 m) was opened between XXXVII and XXXVIII in order to locate the southwards continuation of the EH walls discovered in 2021. Unlike trench XXXVIII, Byzantine remains have been found only at the southern limit of the trench, allowing us to reach the EH horizons more easily, covered by some 2 m of erosion deposits. Three walls, in a position corresponding to that of the walls in trench XXXVII, were identified (*fig. 2*). Although the walls between the two trenches cannot be securely connected, the evidence for the existence of a retaining wall of defensive character along the lower slope appears increasingly clear. Indeed, a curved wall positioned perpendicularly to the uppermost boundary wall seems to belong to a tower-like bastion, comparable to those at Palamari on Skyros, Kastri on Syros, or even Kolonna on Aegina⁴. Additionally, the discovery of a wall with a similar orientation but at a slightly higher elevation to the south

³ St365: 2,12 × 1,1 m.

⁴ See Gauss 2019 for an overview.

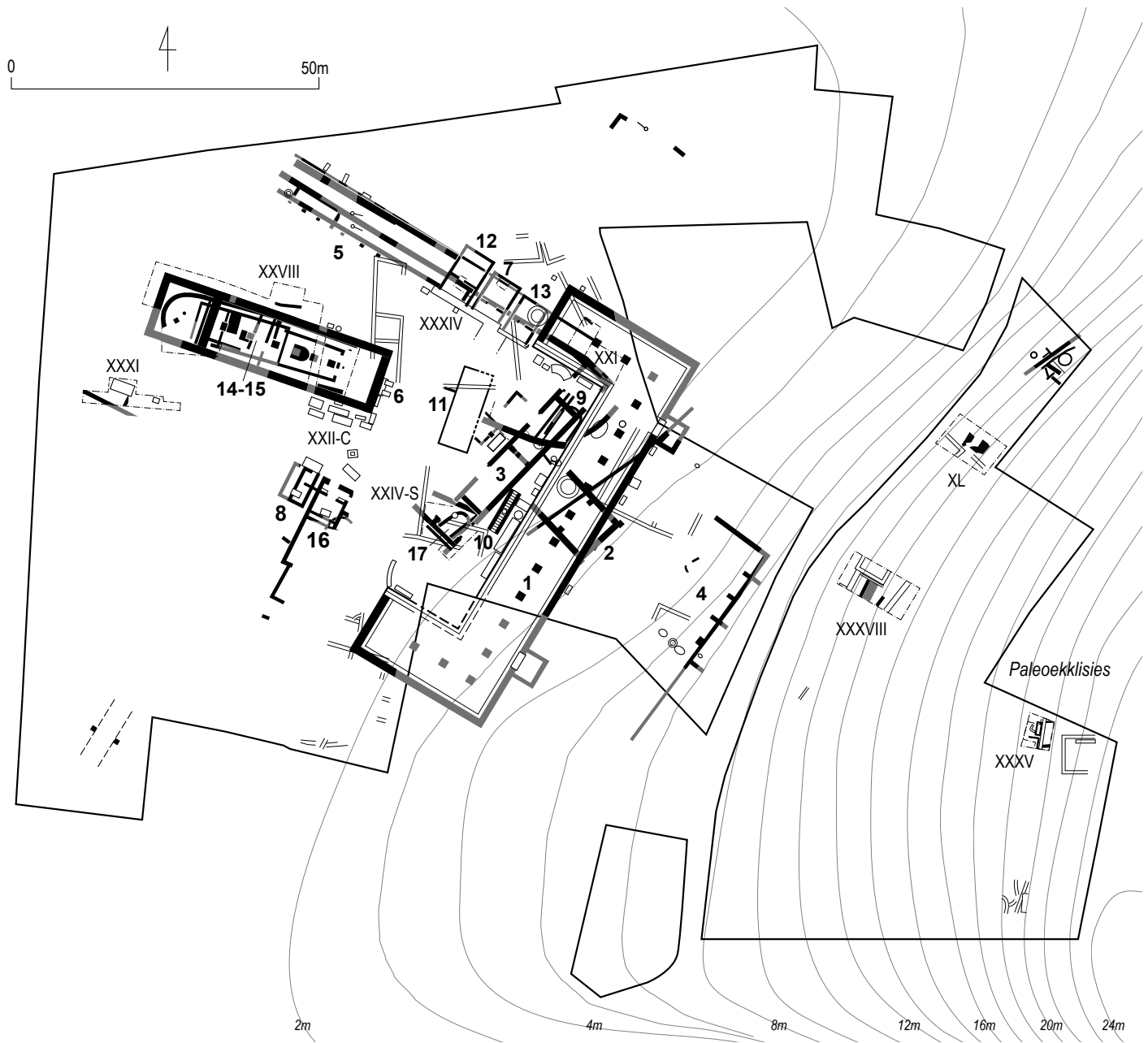


Fig. 1 Plan of the excavation at Amarynthos

(XXXVIII), below the massif Byzantine structure, further strengthens the hypothesis of a fortified site⁵.

The Artemision: the temples

Over the last few years, excavations mainly focused on the large votive deposit discovered within the Archaic

temple⁶. In 2023, our work continued in the core of the sanctuary with a twofold objective: first, to complete the excavation of the Archaic temples discovered in 2020; second, to further explore the earlier remains that had come to light below the temples at the end of the 2022 season (*fig. 4*).

⁵ M230, preserved in some ten courses. The absence of undisturbed contexts associated with the wall presently hinders a secure date.

⁶ AntK 64, 2021, 148–150; AntK 65, 2022, 130–133; AntK 66, 2023, 95–96.



Fig. 2 EH walls in trench XL on the west slope of Paleoeckklisies hill

New insights into the layout of the Archaic temple and its use

The extension of the excavation area in 2023, thanks to the acquisition of a new plot, brought to light the frontal and apsidal sections of Archaic Temple 14. The latter consists of three distinct spaces separated by dividing walls⁷. A first elongated room, probably covered or

⁷ M164, M173. All that remains are the wall socles with small rubble facing and pebble infill, and a few tiles on the levelling course. The difference in style with the temple's load-bearing walls may be due to their different functions or may indicate a second stage of construction or renovation.



Fig. 3 Two Early LH vases from grave St365 in trench XXXV

semi-covered by a roof, opens out to the east. Little is known about the layout of the eastern façade because the area has been disturbed by a large Roman ditch⁸. However, we can rule out the presence of antae or a continuous front wall and reconstruct an entrance marked by a column⁹. The central section of the building is shorter and accessible through an off-center doorway, and the rear of the building consists of an apsidal room (*fig. 5*). The outer walls of Temple 14 are reinforced by posts set at regular intervals against their internal face. The total length of the temple is about 32 meters, which appears to correspond to the symbolic dimension of 100 feet. Temple 14 thus closely parallels Edifice 2 in the sanctuary of Apollo Daphnephoros at Eretria and becomes part of the group of grand religious buildings of the 8th and 7th centuries BC¹⁰.

Each of the three rooms within the temple housed an altar or hearth, whose use produced layers of ash, charcoal, and charred bones radiating around them (*fig. 6*)¹¹. In the eastern part of the temple, we reached the foundations of the horseshoe-shaped altar discovered in 2020¹², asserting that the first phase of its use can be linked to the temple (14). This altar was in a covered or semi-covered space and not in front of the building's entrance, as initially thought. In the center of the building, a large hearth, reshaped several times, functioned in a manner comparable to that of the horseshoe-shaped altar¹³. Around the structure, layers of waste from the altar's use, including ashes, charcoal, burnt bones, and offerings,

⁸ St263.

⁹ Like hekatompodos 1 on Samos. Base St347 in Temple's 14 central axis may have supported a column.

¹⁰ Verdan 2013, 162–163.

¹¹ St200, St324, St377.

¹² St200, *AntK* 65, 2022, 131–132.

¹³ St324: long. max. 3,05 m × larg. max. 1,77 m.

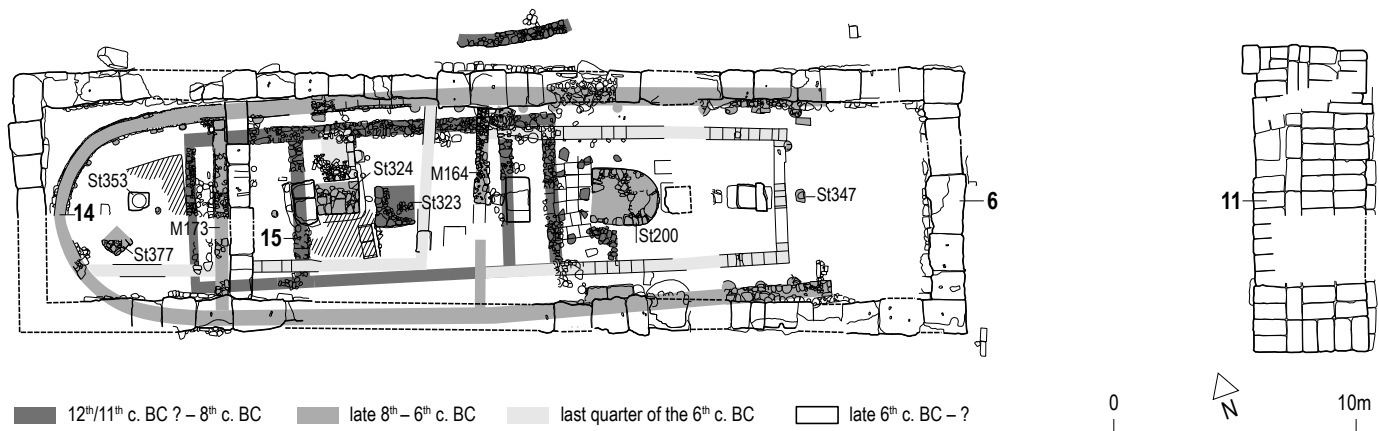


Fig. 4 Phase plan of the temple of Artemis

alternate with thin strata of indurated clay and white lime. Combining waste with the floors adjacent to the altar seems to have been part of a ritual. Last, we identified the remains of a third hearth in the back room of the temple¹⁴. The structure is quadrangular and consists of a single layer of stone. Partially excavated, its purpose is not well understood, but the presence of charcoal and bone residues suggests that it may have been connected with animal sacrifices.

We can thus suggest the following chronological sequence for the Archaic period based on the latest excavation data. Temple 14 was likely constructed at the end of the 8th century or the beginning of the 7th century BC. The building was used for more than 150 years before being partially destroyed by fire sometime toward the last quarter of the 6th century BC. It was temporarily restored with mud walls before being replaced by a new temple (6) at the end of the 6th century. The architectural reconstruction of the two buildings remains challenging at such an early study stage. But thanks to the excavation of the western end of Temple 6, we now have a complete plan of its foundations, which were 39 m long and 11 m wide. The unfluted limestone column resting on a base, uncovered in the rear room and positioned on the central axis of the temple (*fig. 5*), could belong to one of the two building phases¹⁵. Several elements of Temple 6's Doric entablature were recovered from later pits, some still

bearing traces of polychrome paint (blue, red, and black)¹⁶.

A variety of offerings

The 2023 excavations within the temple continued to yield a variety of objects, including vases, weapons, sacrificial utensils, and amulets. Most of the vases found in the temple seem to have been produced locally (*pl. 12, 1: a, b*), while the origin of other offerings remains unclear. Several imported objects are noteworthy, such as a finely chiselled ivory head, likely of Egyptian origin (*pl. 12, 1: c*), and numerous scarab-shaped seals made from semi-precious stones, some of which are still set in silver or gold and were originally attached to pendants or rings (*pl. 12, 1: d-f*). Terracotta offerings were scarce in the early phase of the occupation of Temple 14. They consisted of about a dozen of loomweights and spindle whorls concentrated mostly in the central part of the temple. Bronze and iron objects, such as vases, weapons, and utensils, came mainly from the rear room of the temple (*pl. 12, 1: g, h*). Hence, it seems that there are differences in how the offerings were placed in the temple chambers.

The earlier building

The 2023 excavations reached levels and structures that predate the Geometric period. A building (15) was excavated under Temple 14, displaying the same orientation (*fig. 1. 4*). Despite the still incomplete nature of the

¹⁴ St377: 1,32 × 0,75 m max. cons., ht. max. cons. 0,20 m.

¹⁵ St353. This structure is located in the central axis of the later temple (6), but is covered by the building's construction fill, leaving some doubt as to its use.

¹⁶ Particularly in pit St214, some ten metres south of Temple 6, which has yielded several fragments of triglyphs and mutules.



Fig. 5 The apsidal end of Temple 14 to the west

evidence, the building seems to consist of three rooms, like the one that succeeded it. To the east, a narrow room leads to the central space, where a quadrangular dry-stone structure appears to have served as a hearth¹⁷, as evidenced by the thin layers of lime, ash, and clay that surround it. The building could go back to the LH IIIC, but a more precise dating remains premature at this stage of the study. Although its chronology and nature must be clarified, several arguments favor a religious function. First, the building's position beneath the Archaic temple echoes the latter's orientation and internal tripartition. Second, a cluster of stones near its eastern façade, south of the horseshoe altar (St200) and partly beneath it, could

¹⁷ St323: 1,67 × 1,55 m; 0,31 m preserved height, see *fig. 6, 1*.

be identified as an altar predating that of the Archaic period. Several bronze animal figurines were uncovered there in the deepest levels (*pl. 12, 1: i*¹⁸), together with pottery and various finds dating back to the Mycenaean period, including a terracotta figurine depicting a bull's head found next to a kylix stem (*pl. 12, 1: j*¹⁹). Further excavation is required to clarify the data regarding these periods.

¹⁸ Other similar figurines have been discovered in the sanctuary (see Greger 2020).

¹⁹ Unlike the Mycenaean artefacts unearthed further east in the sanctuary, those in the temple area are unlikely to have come from the hillside deposits. On these deposits, see Verdan *et al.* 2020, 78–79.



Fig. 6 Fireplaces or altars inside building 15 (1) and Temple 14 (2–4)

Occupation of the site in the Geometric period

Exploration of the pre-Archaic phases also continued further east, under the East Entrance Building (3)²⁰, where an apsidal house (9) was previously discovered in its northern part²¹. In 2023, the focus shifted to the southern part of the Archaic building (fig. 1, trench XXIV-S; fig. 7). We excavated the southwestern corner of the edifice, made up of large, carefully cut sandstone blocks. The discovery of two walls now extends its façades, which must have delimited the eastern boundary of the sanctuary courtyard²². Below the thick floor of the Archaic building²³, we uncovered another apsidal house (17), which was protected to the north by a wall, possibly a peribolos.

In addition to the possible sacred edifice (15), four buildings from the Geometric period have now been identified throughout the excavation area. Although future investigation will focus on the relationship between the different buildings to determine the nature of the site, the 2023 campaign confirms the hypothesis that the sanctuary area at the foot of the Paleoeckklisies Hill was densely built up since the Geometric period²⁴. This evidence also pushes us to reassess the marshy nature of the area²⁵, as a portion of the land must have been filled or reclaimed at that time to make room for buildings²⁶.

In the long term, future research at the Artemision in Amarynthos should expand excavations beyond the

known boundaries of the sanctuary to consider the larger context in which it emerged and developed. In the short term, though, the research priority is to study and publish the data collected so far, leading us to pause the excavation²⁷.

The Eretria Amarynthos Survey Project (EASP)

The third field season of EASP continued the archaeological exploration of the region between Eretria and Amarynthos²⁸. The project involves intensive and extensive pedestrian survey, LiDAR-based remote sensing, architectural documentation, and geomorphological mapping. Additionally, a significant geoarchaeological component was incorporated in 2023 to improve our understanding of erosion and alluvial dynamics²⁹. This helps us analyze the ceramic densities on the surface and identify the areas best suited for long-term settlement and agriculture. The objectives of the 2023 campaign were to survey the upper part of the Eretrian Plain, link up with the Sarandapotamos Valley, and continue the extensive survey of the slopes of Mt Servouni, north of

²⁰ AntK 63, 2020, 107–108; AntK 64, 2021, 147–148; AntK 66, 2023, 96; Verdan *et al.* 2020, 87–91.

²¹ AntK 62, 2019, 145–147; AntK 66, 2023, 96; Verdan *et al.* 2020, 82.

²² M240 and M241.

²³ St120. See AntK 62, 2019, 148.

²⁴ Verdan *et al.* 2020, 82, 98.

²⁵ See Ghilardi *et al.* 2012, 45–48.

²⁶ Flooding still occurred in the Archaic period, as evidenced by the gravel and sand levels in Temple 14's east room.

²⁷ In addition to the undersigned: P. Maillard (Fribourg University), B. Dimova (ESAG), P. Sapirstein (Toronto University), M. Roumpou (Athens Harokopio University), E. Kiriati, N. Müller (BSA Fitch Lab), T. Karkanas, D. Roussos, M. Gkouma (ASCSA, Wiener Lab.), A. Gkotsinas (Ephorate of Antiquities of Elis), T. Theodoropoulou (CNRS), E. Margaritis (Cyprus University), A. Iliadou (ESAG) are members of the study team.

²⁸ The survey is co-directed by S. Fachard (ESAG – University of Lausanne) and A. Simosi (EAE), with the collaboration of C. Chezeaux (University of Lausanne) and O. Kyriazi (EAE). The pottery has been processed and studied by T. Saggini (ESAG) and F. Kondyli (University of Virginia). The team was composed of 20 students from Switzerland, Greece, France, and the United States.

²⁹ The study of the Sarandapotamos watershed is conducted by T. Talas, a doctoral student in geosciences at the University of Lausanne.



Fig. 7 Geometric apsidal building (17) under the south end of the East Entrance Building (3)

the Artemision (*fig. 8*). Since 2021, we have systematically surveyed an area of 22 square km, uncovering nearly 200 archaeological features from all periods and counting over 100,000 pottery shards and tile fragments on the surface. Despite the challenges posed by the extensive development of modern urbanization along the coast, the survey has been able to map broad patterns of ceramic distribution and long-term human occupation across the entire landscape.

The Eretrian peneplain

The Eretrian peneplain is characterized by an undulating surface made of rolling hills and mounds at the foot of the large limestone mass of Mt Olympos. The northern section of the peneplain features the Eretria-Gymnou communication route, which links Eretria with the upper Amarynthos Valley and the Servouni Pass. This route is mapped on the 1835 map drawn up by the “Mis-

sion de Morée” and was part of a larger communication axis linking Chalcis to Kymi on the Aegean. Its origin appears ancient, as suggested by the high densities of sites and ceramics stretching along this wider communication axis.

A significant settlement was discovered around the modern hamlet of Aghion Asomaton, located on a small limestone eminence; the position benefits from several springs and exploits more fertile soil than the regional average. Several single sites from the Classical, Hellenistic, and Roman periods were spotted in the surroundings. In the Byzantine period, a nucleated settlement occupied the limestone hill, mainly on its southern slopes. The ruins of a small church, corresponding to the “ruined chapel” recorded in the area by French topographers in the 19th century, were found on the summit of the hillock. The plan is oriented east-west and includes a nave and an apse; its walls are composed of spolia, including several ancient limestone blocks. The surface pottery in the area shows occupation in the Late Roman to Early Byzantine period and in the Late Byzantine to Early Ottoman period (sgraffito ware, Italian import)³⁰.

East of Aghion Asomaton, two survey teams covered a vast area spreading towards the large farming village of Gymnou and the northern outskirts of Amarynthos (Kato Vatheia) to the southeast. We spotted large densities of ceramics along the Gymnou route, which confirms the long-term attractiveness of this communication axis within the regional settlement pattern. Several sites displaying the archaeological signature of single rural houses or farmsteads (pithos rims and other storage vessels, fine and courseware pottery for cooking and drinking, abundant glazed tiles, and beehives) were discovered in this area, which is particularly suited for olive and barley. Other features include small quarries, graves, and a possible rupestral olive press south of Gymnou, which remains a strong candidate for the location of the ancient deme of Boudion³¹.

Survey teams also returned to Kotroni and Aghios Raphail, where significant ancient sites were documented

³⁰ We are grateful to F. Kondyli for reading the Byzantine pottery.

³¹ Fachard 2012, 53–54; Knoepfler 1997, 367–378.

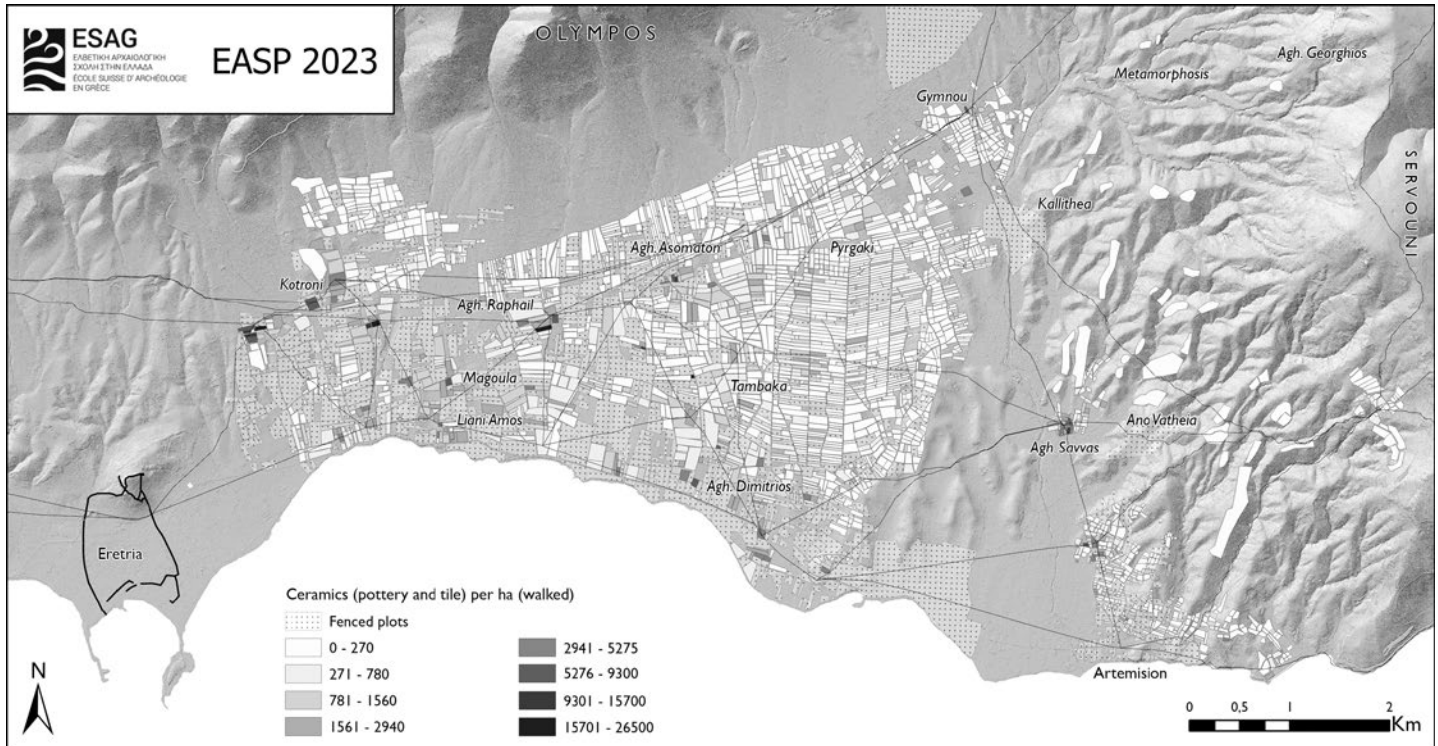


Fig. 8 Survey map showing ceramics (pottery and tile) densities (2021–2023)

in 2022 in order to complete and widen the areas of investigation. Both sites are situated in the northern section of the Eretrian peneplain, along the Eretria-Gymnou communication axis. Survey work collected additional information regarding the chronology of occupation as well as the size of the respective settlements, which seem to have been ancient demes in the Classical, Hellenistic, and Roman periods.

Ano Vatheia and the slopes of Mt Servouni

In the northeastern sector of the study area, we conducted an extensive-type survey north of Ano Vatheia and on the slopes of Mt Servouni. This is a significant component of our project, as it focuses on areas impractical for side-by-side surveys due to the steepness of the slopes and dense vegetation. Work in this area is oriented by LiDAR-based remote sensing and ground truthing, as the recorded anomalies serve as a guide for survey teams in the field³². Thanks to this method, many notable archaeological discoveries were made, including ruined chapels, towers, windmills, threshing floors, terrace

walls, roads, and even illicit excavations. Thus, the extensive survey teams saved a significant amount of time in challenging terrain due to the efficiency of the workflow and method.

At Metamorphosis (known as Ano Mamoula in the 19th century), on a path leading to the higher slopes of Mt Servouni, we discovered a ruined Byzantine church on a small plateau, surrounded by a substantial density of tiles and pottery, including diagnostic sherds from the Late Byzantine and Ottoman periods (end of 15th–17th centuries). Oriented east-west, its plan consists of a central nave and apse, with walls made of small stones, mortar, and tiles. Additionally, two Late Byzantine–Ottoman settlements were documented on the higher slopes of Mt Servouni, at an altitude of 400–420 m, where the mountain mass is marked by the junction of limestone and schist. Both sites enjoy access to springs, capped by Byzantine fountains and cisterns. The larger site is found at Aghios Georghios: it displays large densities of Late Byzantine to Ottoman pottery spread over several flat terraces delimited by retaining walls; the homonymous church is modern, but it was rebuilt several decades ago on the ruins of an older church, as attested by local accounts and ancient spolia. Olive cultivation has thrived in this area for several centuries, as attested by the presence of centuries-old olive trees. Further north was the

³² In 2021, we commissioned a Lidar survey of a vast area stretching from Lefkandi to Mt Servouni to the Greek company AeroPhoto Co Ltd.

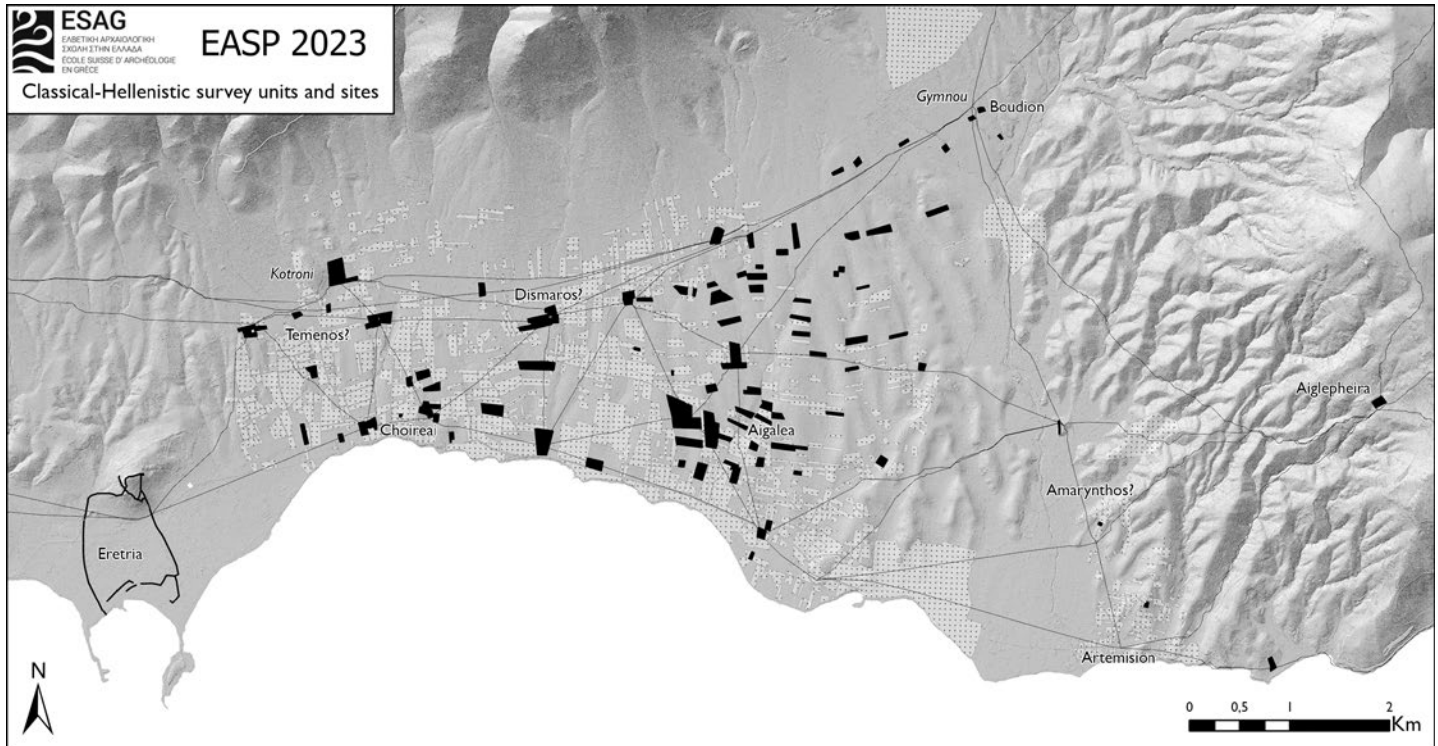


Fig. 9 Classical-Hellenistic densities, ancient demes, and potential road network

site and church of Theotokos, close to a small spring and at the foot of a limestone outcrop. Black-glazed pottery was found above the spring, but the area is mainly occupied by a Late Byzantine site spread over several large flat areas delimited by terrace walls. The sites of Theotokos and Aghios Georghios seem to be situated on a mountain path linking the Servouni Pass to the Monastery of Aghios Nikolaos, built in the 16th century³³, and the site of Aiglepheira, a Classical deme site reoccupied in the Late Byzantine to Ottoman periods³⁴.

Occupational history

Although it remains premature to draw conclusions, general trends in the occupational history of the region can be drawn based on a systematic review of the surface pottery of the 2021–2023 seasons³⁵. Following a very discrete presence in the Geometric and Early Archaic periods outside Eretria and Amarynthos, we record an incremental occupation of the plain at the very end of the Late Archaic period (23 survey units and sites). The distribution of the pottery shows a concentration in the

areas of Liani Ammos-Magoula and Aghios Dimitrios-Tambaka, along the coastal road leading from Eretria to the Artemision. Interestingly, some sites also appear along the axis leading from Eretria to Gymnou, more precisely at Aghios Raphail, Aghia Varvara and Pyrgaki. Diagnostic sherds are few but sufficient enough to show that several of the later Classical settlements were occupied by the end of the 6th – early 5th century BC, thus confirming the presence of *choria* (villages) outside Eretria during the Persian siege of 490 BC, as recorded by Herodotus (6, 108).

The peak of occupation was reached in the Classical period. Diagnostic Classical pottery is found in 101 survey units and sites, displaying several distribution patterns (fig. 9). First, we note a densification of occupation in the previously settled areas of Liani Ammos-Magoula (deme of Choireai?) and especially at Aghios Dimitrios-Tambaka (deme of Aigalea?), where we recorded strong densities over 20 ha³⁶. The same phenomenon of densification is noted on the communication axis towards Gymnou, with the occupation of three new *nuclei* around the hill of Kotroni, a densely nucleated settlement of approximately 5 ha at Aghios Raphail and the dispersion of multiple sites between Pyrgaki and Gymnou, many of them interpreted as single sites and

³³ Koder 1973, 149–150.

³⁴ See previously AntK 66, 2023, 98.

³⁵ Thanks to the collaboration of T. Saggini, C. Chezeaux, F. Kon-dyli, and T. Krapf.

³⁶ On these demes, see Fachard 2012, 51.

farmsteads. Last, we note the occupation of three sites north of the Artemision, including the ancient deme center of Aiglepheira. Overall, we can tentatively recreate 6–8 ancient settlements between Eretria and Amarynthos, which we interpret as ancient demes³⁷. This demonstrates a vibrant occupation in the region outside the urban pole of Eretria, with settlement densities spreading over a large area along the main communication axis. These first results weaken the dichotomy between the city and its countryside and promote instead the vision of a more complex urban-rural continuum³⁸.

In the Hellenistic period the level of occupation appears to drop dramatically from 101 to less than 20 survey units and sites, especially in the last two centuries BC. This decrease is visible both inside and outside the demes, prompting us to hypothesize a partial abandonment of the Eretria-Amarynthos countryside in the Hellenistic period. Such drops in occupation in the Hellenistic period have been recorded in other surveys in Greece, but the case of EASP, if confirmed, appears to be particularly telling. On the other hand, we record a stabilization and slight increase in occupation during the Roman Imperial period (1st–4th century CE). In the Late Roman period (5th – middle of 7th century CE), we observe a substantial increase in occupation and rural exploitation, with diagnostic pottery found in 45 survey units. New single sites appear in the countryside and several Classical deme sites are occupied or reoccupied in the areas of Kotroni, Aghios Raphael, Liani Ammos, Aghios Dimitrios and Ano Vatheia.

In the Byzantine period (43 survey units and sites), we observed a paradigm shift in habitation and exploitation. First, Eretria appears to be abandoned – or at least depopulated to an unprecedented level in over two millennia of occupation. Second, several Byzantine sites are distributed along the Eretria-Gymnou axis, which continues to bear significance as a communication route: the settlement (and church) of Aghion Asomaton lies on this road, and it is important to cite the Medieval tower of Gymnou in this historical context of Latin domination

over Euboea (1204–1470)³⁹. We also note a concentration of occupation in the eastern part of the Sarandapotamos Valley, with sites at Paleoekklisies, the area of Aghios Savvas-Ano Vatheia, and Aiglepheira on the higher slopes of Mt Servouni. This pattern fully expands in the Late Byzantine-Early Ottoman period (diagnostic pottery found in 44 survey units and sites), with significant settlements and activity in the areas of Kotroni, Gymnou, (Ano) Vatheia, and the churches of Metamorphosis, Aiglepheira-Zoodochos Pigi, Aghios Georgios and Theotokos (mentioned above). Although the archaeological data is still incomplete, it matches with the Ottoman tax records of 1474 that mention the “town” of Vasya (Vatheia) and the villages of Gimnoz (Gymnou) and Mumala (Mamoula, between modern Kallithea and Metamorphosis)⁴⁰. In the Ottoman and Early modern periods, we note a decrease in occupation, now mainly concentrated in the areas of Gymnou and Ano Vatheia.

After three survey seasons, the occupational history of the Eretria-Amarynthos region can already be studied within a new epistemological framework and on a research-driven base. The intensive and extensive survey will continue in 2024 and 2025, as we plan on completing the survey area extending from Eretria to the entire Sarandapotamos basin, the foothills of Mt Olympos, and the western slopes of Mt Servouni.

AEGINA, HELLANION OROS: THE 2023 SEASON

Tobias Krapf, Stella Chryssoulaki, Leonidas Vokotopoulos, Sophia Michalopoulou, Jérôme André

In 2023, two excavation and pedestrian survey campaigns took place on the peak and in the surroundings of Hellanion Oros⁴¹.

³⁹ Koder, 1973, 103; Lock 1996, 116; Loizou 2017.

⁴⁰ Balta 1989, 330–331.

⁴¹ The survey took place from 3 to 12 May 2023 with the participation of N. Kesidou and A. Kotzampourouni (University of Thessaloniki), L. Madson (Rutgers University) and K. Regnier (University of Louvain). The excavation took place from the 11 September to 7 October 2023 with the participation of J. Rocha Baptista, C. Pacheco Martins and E. Quintela Mimet (University of Lausanne),

³⁷ On the deme of Eretria, see Fachard 2012 and Knoepfler 1997.

³⁸ See Fachard, forthcoming.

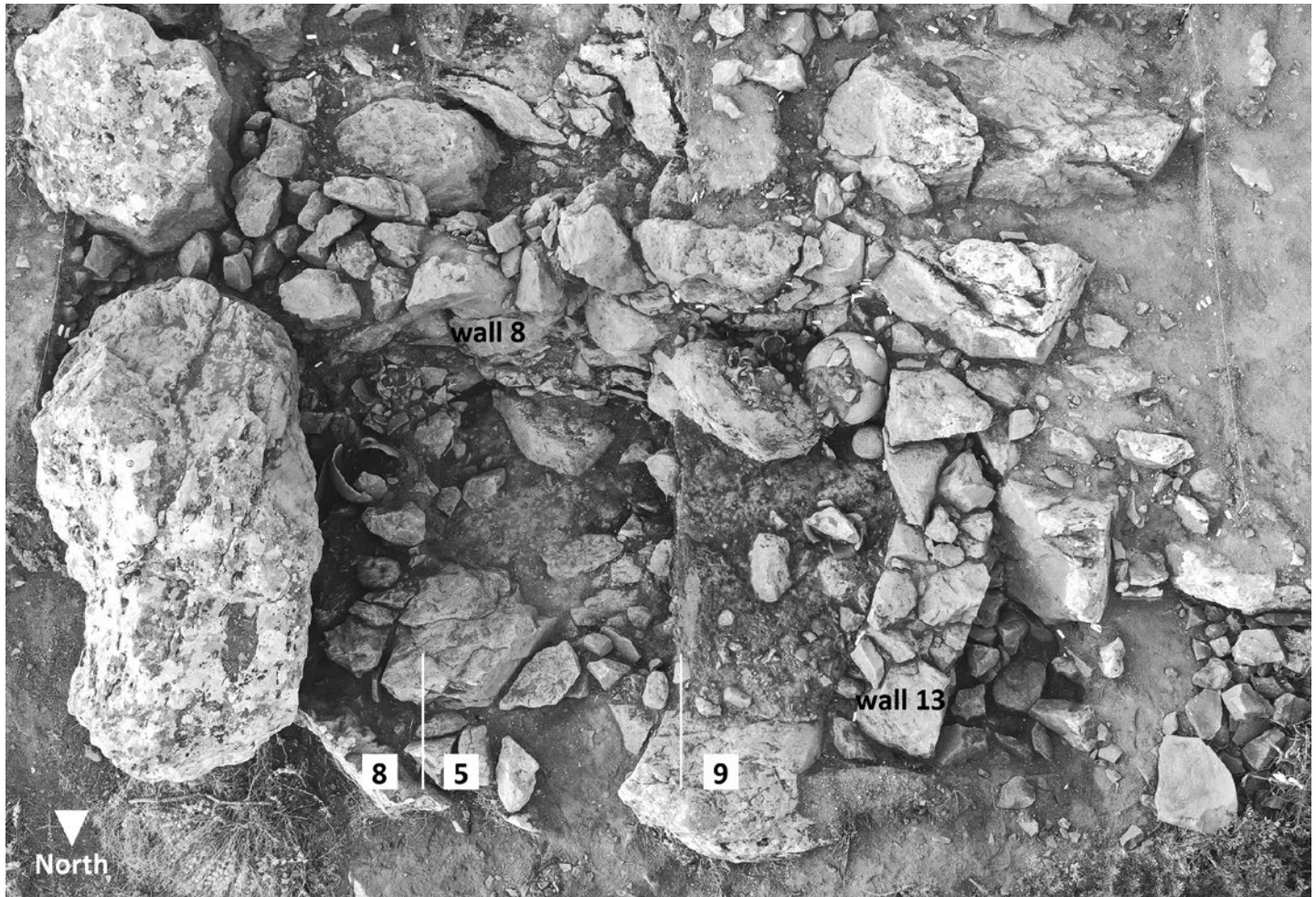


Fig. 10 Mycenaean building on the northern slope, with parts of the destruction layer *in situ* in trenches 8 and 9; in trench 5, the destruction layer has been excavated in a previous campaign

Excavation

Excavation focused on the Mycenaean building discovered in 2021 on the steep slope north of the Analipsis chapel⁴². The initial 2 m wide trench 5 was extended to the east (trench 8) and west (trench 9), allowing the uncovering of the entire structure containing the destruction deposit (fig. 10). This space, which measures approximately 3,7 × 2,8 m, is delimited to the south (wall 8) and west (wall 13) by well-preserved walls; there is not much left of the northern wall, while a large rock marks its eastern limit.

I. Kutlešovskii (University of Heidelberg), G. Plakas (European University Cyprus) and Ch. Spyrelli (University of Ioannina). The fieldwork was financed by the Foundation of the ESAG.

⁴² For the previous campaigns see AntK 65, 2022, 137–142; AntK 66, 2023, 100–104. For a synthesis of the work carried out in 2021–2023 see Krapf *et al.* 2023.

Trench 8 yielded a large storage jar, a tripod cooking pot, a basin, and sherds from other vases. Another large storage jar was found at the southwest corner of trench 9 near a protruding rock with a relatively level upper surface, possibly used as a shelf (*pl.* 12, 2). Upon the latter, and between the aforementioned storage jar and the walls, a concentration of vases was discovered, many of which might have fallen from a higher level. The vases included two tripod cooking pots and further fragments of one with carination found earlier in trench 5, a cooking jar, a drinking vase with carinated body, and a small alabastron. At the time of its destruction, the building contained a minimum of 30 vases⁴³, of which at least six were tripod cooking pots. Together with other types of cooking vessels, they underline the importance of food

⁴³ As the finds of 2023 have not yet been restored, it is impossible to describe the assemblage in detail.

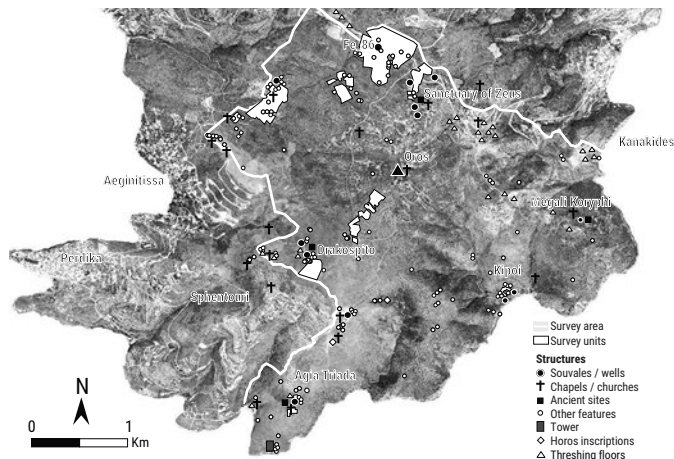


Fig. 11 Map of the survey area, with the survey units until 2023 indicated in white

preparation as one of the activities carried out at the building. The coexistence of LH IIIB2 and LH IIIC shapes dates the collapse of the building to an early stage of the Postpalatial period.

So far, it is unclear if the building had additional rooms. The excavation of the area extending immediately upslope to the south, where a series of Mycenaean finds has been retrieved previously from a black layer, continued in 2023 without providing clear evidence for walls that would delimit another space. However, a few MH sherds have been found beneath the Mycenaean layer and immediately above the rock, confirming the evidence for early frequentation of the site⁴⁴. Above the Mycenaean deposits, the area of the three trenches 5, 8 and 9 was covered by a layer containing pottery from the Geometric to Roman periods and thousands of tiny fragments of highly burnt animal bones⁴⁵. This year, many fragments of Roman lamps have been recovered near the rock that delimits the Mycenaean building to the east, including a fragment depicting Eros playing a double flute. These findings provide additional evidence of the cult activities that took place during the historical periods on the summit.

⁴⁴ Further evidence stems from the trenches opened earlier at the summit, south of the chapel, as well as from surface collection.

⁴⁵ Zooarchaeologist A. Gkotsinas, with the help of restorer K. Anagnostopoulou-Stamatopoulou, cleaned most of the bones found at the site. He highlights the predominance of sheep, goats, and piglets, along with a significant presence of tortoises, fish, and shellfish. The discovery of burnt bones suggests they are remnants of ritual practices, possibly including animal sacrifices.

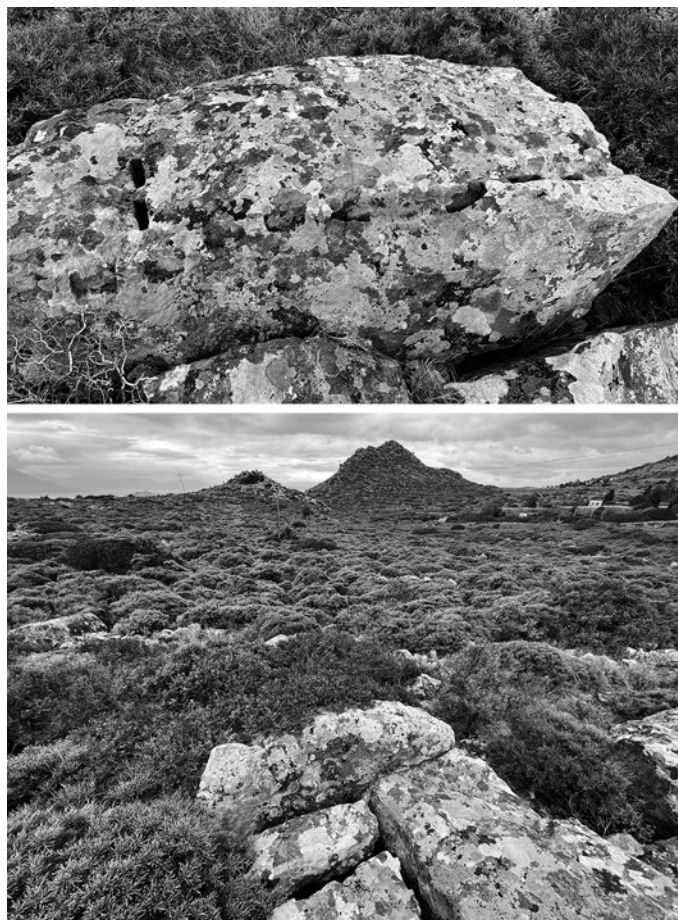


Fig. 12 Quarry Fe_086, situated to the northwest of Hellanion Oros

Survey

The intensive surface survey was carried out by a team of 5–6 field walkers (*fig. 11*). In 2023, the team investigated the northwest slopes of Hellanion Oros and the small plain with an old olive grove between the chapels of Agia Triada⁴⁶ and Agios Georgios, where some lithics previously collected announced additional finds. Eighty-two units have been explored in a mostly rugged terrain of abandoned and overgrown terraces. Visibility was better in the plateau, thanks to the flat surface and its use for grazing. Pottery was detected in 80 % of the surveyed units, representing a wide range of periods. Besides, 156 obsidian and flint blades and flakes were collected in 2023, some in larger concentrations (e.g., 26 in SU_059). Apart from drystone terrace walls, the team located numerous ruined features interpreted as huts – isolated or in clus-

⁴⁶ Not to be confused with the chapel of the same name at Spheniouri.

ters –, small rock shelters, many enclosures, and small *souvales* (cisterns), attesting to the area's intensive use up to the mid-twentieth century. Noteworthy is a quarry with some half-extracted blocks, wedge slots, and cut-marks (Fe_086, *figs. 11. 12*). A rupestral inscription was located nearby, covered by dense lichen. A second inscription was identified close to the path that ascends the west slope of Hellanion Oros, leading to the summit.

Last, François de Polignac's study of the intervisibility between peak sanctuaries around the Saronic Gulf will contribute to the contextualisation of Hellanion Oros. A whole series of cult sites of Zeus are visible from Hellanion Oros: Mts Paneion and Olympos in southern Attica, Hymettos and Parnes, the sanctuary of Zeus Aphesios in the Megaris and Mt Arachnaion in the Argolid⁴⁷.

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GENERAL ABBREVIATIONS

EAE	Ephorate of Antiquities of Euboea
EH	Early Helladic
ESAG	Swiss School of Archaeology in Greece École suisse d'archéologie en Grèce
LH	Late Helladic
MH	Middle Helladic
SNSF	Swiss National Science Foundation Fonds national suisse

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⁴⁷ Vokotopoulos *et al.* forthcoming.

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I



Fieldwork of the Swiss School of
Archaeology in Greece 2023

- I Amarynthos, finds from the
temple area:
- Ia local black-figure hydria
(525–500 BC)
 - Ib high-neck jug (7th century BC)
 - Ic ivory head (Aegyptian
import?)
 - Id–f scarabs seals
(8th–7th century BC)
 - Ig bronze spear head
(8th–7th century BC?)
 - Ih bronze mug (7th century BC)
 - Ii bronze bulls and ram
(9th–8th century BC)
 - Ij Mycenaean terracotta bull
figurine
- 2 Aegina, Hellenion Oros:
detail of the Mycenaean
destruction layer

ABKÜRZUNGEN

AA	Archäologischer Anzeiger, Beiblatt zu JdI	IstForsch	Istanbuler Forschungen
AAA	Αρχαιολογικά Ανάλεκτα ἐξ Ἀθηνῶν	IstMitt	Istanbuler Mitteilungen
ABV	J. D. Beazley, <i>Attic Black-figure Vase-painters</i> (1956)	JdI	Jahrbuch des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts
ActaArch	Acta archaeologica (Kopenhagen)	JHS	The Journal of Hellenic Studies
Addenda ²	Beazley Addenda. Additional References to <i>ABV</i> , <i>ARV²</i> & <i>Paralipomena</i> (Second Edition, compiled by T. H. Carpenter et al. at the Beazley Archive, 1989)	JRA	Journal of Roman Archaeology
ADelt	Αρχαιολογικόν Δελτίον	JRS	The Journal of Roman Studies
AEphem	Ἀρχαιολογικὴ Ἐφημερίς	LCS	A. D. Trendall, <i>The Red-figured Vases of Lucania, Campania and Sicily</i> (1967), Suppl. 1 (1970) 2 (1973) 3 (1983)
AION	Annali dell'Istituto universitario orientale di Napoli, Dipartimento di studi del mondo classico e del Mediterraneo antico, Sezione di archeologia e storia antica	LIMC	Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae
AJA	American Journal of Archaeology	MdI	Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts
AM	Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Athenische Abteilung	MEFRA	Mélanges de l'École française de Rome, Antiquité
ANRW	Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt	MonAnt	Monumenti antichi pubblicati per cura della Accademia nazionale dei Lincei
AntK	Antike Kunst (diese Zeitschrift)	MonPiot	Fondation Eugène Piot. Monuments et mémoires
AntPl	Antike Plastik	NSc	Atti della Accademia nazionale dei Lincei. Notizie degli scavi di antichità
ArchCl	Archaeologia classica	NumAntCl	Numismatica e antichità classiche, Quaderni ticinesi
ARV ²	J. D. Beazley, <i>Attic Red-figure Vase-painters</i> (² 1963)	ÖJh	Jahreshefte des Österreichischen Archäologischen Instituts in Wien
ASAtene	Annuario della Scuola archeologica di Atene	Paralipomena	J. D. Beazley, <i>Paralipomena. Additions to Attic Black-figure Vase-painters and to Attic Red-figure Vase-painters</i> (Second Edition) (1971)
ASR	Die antiken Sarkophagreliefs	Prakt	Πρακτικά τῆς ἐν Ἀθήναις Ἀρχαιολογικῆς Ἐταιρίας
BABesch	Bulletin Antieke Beschaving. Annual Papers on Classical Archaeology	RA	Revue archéologique
BCH	Bulletin de correspondance hellénique	RE	Paulys Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft
BICS	Bulletin. Institute of Classical Studies, University of London	RendPontAcc	Rendiconti. Atti della Pontificia Accademia Romana di Archeologia
BMC	A Catalogue of the Greek Coins in the British Museum	RM	Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Römische Abteilung
BSA	The Annual of the British School at Athens	RVAp I–II	A. D. Trendall–A. Cambitoglou, <i>The Red-figured Vases of Apulia I</i> (1978) <i>II</i> (1982), Suppl. 1 (1983) 2 (1991/92)
BSR	Papers of the British School at Rome	RVP	A. D. Trendall, <i>The Red-figured Vases of Paestum</i> (1987)
BWPr	Winckelmannsprogramm der Archäologischen Gesellschaft zu Berlin	SEG	Supplementum epigraphicum Graecum
CAT	C. W. Clairmont, <i>Classical Attic Tombstones</i> (1993)	SIMA	Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology
CIL	Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum	SNG	Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum
CorVP	D. A. Amyx, <i>Corinthian Vase-Painting of the Archaic Period</i> (1988)	StEtr	Studi etruschi
CVA	Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum	StudMisc	Studi miscellanei
EAA	Enciclopedia dell'Arte Antica, Classica e Orientale	ThesCRA	Thesaurus Cultus et Rituum Antiquorum
FR I–III	A. Furtwängler–K. Reichhold, <i>Griechische Vasenmalerei I</i> (1904) <i>II</i> (1909) <i>III</i> (1932)	TrGF I–V	Tragicorum Graecorum Fragmenta: TrGF, hg. von B. Snell I (1971, ² 1986) <i>II</i> (1981) <i>III</i> (1985) <i>IV</i> (1977, ² 1999) <i>V</i> (2003)
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IG	Inscriptiones Graecae		

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