

Final Neolithic Crete and the Southeast Aegean: Supplement 2

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This is the second article in the series intended as an update to the book entitled “Final Neolithic Crete and the Southeast Aegean”, published in 2014. The main aims of this supplementary series were explained in the first article. In the present paper over 40 new sites are added to the Gazetteer. Four locations are mentioned in the category of probable sites, with some evidence of the FN activity, too poor, however, to allow these sites to be included in the proper Gazetteer. During the last two years substantial progress has been made not only on the identification of early FN (FN I) sites, but, even more important, also on identifying sites which can be dated to the LN. Thanks to these discoveries, the reconstruction of the changes between the LN and FN I, as well as between the FN I and FN II, is better evidenced and thus more reliable, although new questions have also arisen. Among the most intriguing ones are 1) almost all the newly identified LN sites presented below represent short-lasting or seasonal occupation; therefore, where were the permanent settlements related to them?; 2) was there a transitional phase between the LN, characterised by an intensive exploitation of coastal areas by small and probably mobile groups of people, and the FN I withdrawal from the coast to inland “refuge” or defensible sites?; and 3) what is the chronological relationship between sites representing the earliest phase of this withdrawal (e.g. Faistos, Gortina and Monastiraki Katalimata), and stratified deposits of Knossos? The newly identified LN sites date probably to the fifth and the earliest quarter of the fourth millennium BC. They seem to indicate that the pre-FN I settlement pattern was based on a few permanent settlements and much more common individual households and seasonal/short-lasting camps/shelters scattered in almost all regions of Crete. LN Cretans based their economy on agriculture and herding, but numerous small mobile groups of people, scattered irregularly throughout the island, must have survived also on the intensive exploitation of a broad variety of natural resources (plant, animals, raw materials exploitation and exchange) in different geographical zones.

Introduction

Although the transition between the Neolithic and the Early Bronze Age in Crete is now relatively well researched,¹ there are still several key issues which make the reconstruction of settlement development between the late fifth and the late fourth millennia BC very speculative. Among the most intriguing questions are: 1) what was/were the settlement pattern/s before the beginning of the FN I period (i.e. before ca. 3700 BC)² and how

(if) did it/they vary between different regions within Crete?; 2) were the two FN phases (FN I and FN II) chronologically partly overlapping?; 3) what were the origins of, and interrelations between, the FN I and FN II population groups?; 4) how homogenous (in their origins) were the people classified as representing the FN II period: do they represent a single wave of immigrants or a long, several centuries lasting, migration process? Field investigations carried between 2015 and 2018 can help to solve some of these problems and their results can stimulate future research, in particular concerning the first and the last question.

¹ NOWICKI 2002; 2008; 2014; 2015; 2018; TOMKINS 2007; 2008.

² For the thorough analysis of the “Final Neolithic” term as used in this paper see NOWICKI 2014, 61–70.

Four points in the sequence of settlement changes have been clarified by the most recent studies. These are: 1) the identification of some elements of the LN settlement pattern dating before the FN I withdrawal from the coast; 2) the relationship between the FN I defensive relocation and FN II settlement expansion in three different regions of Crete (the area between the East Siteia Plateau and the West Siteia Mountains, the Ierapetra isthmus and the Kissamou region); 3) the extension of the East Siteia FN II Red Ware group farther to the west on the eastern outskirts of the West Siteia region, and 4) settlement patterns and their changes during the FN II to early EM I periods in the Asterousia Mountains and the southern edge of the Mesara plain.³

Points 1 and 4 represent the most important results of the recent fieldwork since once again they prove that far-reaching theoretical hypotheses based on the absence of evidence, should be avoided as long as no field investigations focused on the subject have been undertaken. A series of new sites preceding the FN I period, tentatively dated to the LN (the fifth and the first centuries of the fourth millennium BC), was found on coastal terraces and in front of rock-shelters close to the sea, along the southern coast of Crete. The scarcity of pottery, its poor preservation and a very small amount of comparable contemporary material may explain why sites of this pre-FN date have been often missed by archaeological surveys.

Regarding the sequence of settlement changes during the FN II period, it seems justified, in the light of new finds, to distinguish two phases – early and late. The early phase can be defined by the absence of several essential early EM I pottery “markers”, such as for example the red slip, hard and well fired through pink to light red fabrics and the appearance of large storage vessels. On the other hand during this phase cheese pots are more frequent and include often very “rough” types; chaff temper is common and firing is poorer, with the vast majority of sherds showing a thick black or dark grey core, easier to break than the late FN II–early EM I potsherds. It seems, as well, that the early FN II sites were of a more temporary character. Houses were built in a less elaborated way than their late FN II–early EM I successors, often possibly of perishable material which did not leave any visible remains on the surface. Such a preliminary modification of the FN II chronology finds some parallels in the settlement and pottery changes in the southern part

of the Dodecanese, especially on Karpathos and Kasos. Settlement of an apparently temporary nature can be traced along the entire northwestern coast of Kasos,⁴ but also in some coastal regions in Crete, such as on the small island of Koufonisi (only a few miles away from the very southeast edge of Crete), at Papadiokampos Sopata, in the eastern part of the island, and south of Chrisoskalitssa, in the western part.⁵ The Koufonisi case, especially, may indicate the strategic importance of the off-shore islands of eastern Crete (including the Dionisades and a little islet next to Palaikastro) in the scenario of large scale migrations from Anatolia to Crete via the southern Dodecanese.⁶ An extraordinary number of LN II coastal sites (more or less contemporary with the Cretan FN sites), as well as their extensions, in the southern Dodecanese, are difficult to explain on the basis of these islands’ natural resources and the history of settlement before and after this period. There is little doubt that this temporary population boom in the southeast Aegean during the fourth millennium BC (mostly its second half) must have been related to the settlement changes in Crete during the FN I, FN II and early EMI periods.

Apart from new evidence for the chronological problems of the FN II period, the recent field investigations brought to light substantial new data for the explanation of regional (within Crete) differences in settlement development. Elsewhere, I pointed out that almost all hitherto proposed interpretations of settlement development in the Asterousia Mountains and the Mesara have been wrong since they were based on the theoretical, but not actual, absence of FN II–early EM I sites similar to those known from eastern Crete. I wrote (quotation): “... *this new evidence* [recorded in 2014 and 2015] *regarding settlement patterns calls for a re-evaluation of the old interpretation of the settlement development in the Asterousia and Mesara. Five settlements in this group (Aliithini Vigla, Apesokari Vigla, Vasilika Anogia Prophetes Elias [should be Afendis Christos!], Koumasa Kefala, Doraki) were founded between FN II and the beginning of EM I on hills or ridges rising immediately above the southern outskirts of the Mesara: their defensive characteristics located more on the Mesara than the Asterousia side. They dominated the Asterousia foothills, often lying near settlements (their successors) founded in the late EM I or early EM II period on lower hills, closer to the plain or on the plain itself. The defensible characteristics of these*

³ The new investigations prove that the earlier hypothesis on the settlement history and changes in the region of the Mesara and the Asterousia, based on a few sites, were inaccurate; see ALEXIOU and WARREN 2004; RELAKI 2014; TOMKINS 2018.

⁴ NOWICKI 2014, 350–353; 2015, 24–27.

⁵ NOWICKI 2014, 150–153, 155–156.

⁶ NOWICKI 2008, 220–226; 2014, 371–378.

sites and their later fate indicate that the northern edge of the Asterousia mountains was for some time at least (approximately during the last centuries of the fourth and the first centuries of the third millennium BC), a division line between different groups of people confronting each other rather than building up a single community.⁷ Since I wrote this paragraph several new relevant defensible sites have been identified on the Asterousia coast, allowing a completely new interpretation of the settlement changes in this region, which look now very similar to those proposed for the East Siteia region. The defensible sites in the Trypiti gorge, Salamia and Maridaki Kakerasma have all the topographic characteristics known from eastern Crete. They were short lasting and were replaced at the very end of the FN II or at the beginning of the EM I period with a new pattern characterised by the abandonment of the most defensible settlements and wider dispersion of population, living in small hamlets and individual farmsteads, through the coastal plains and the mountains immediately north of it.

Another problem clarified by the most recent investigations is the archaeological and historical background of the beginning of the Final Neolithic settlement changes. When an extremely defensible FN I site was identified at Katalimata in the Cha gorge,⁸ the only contemporary (though geographically and topographically remote) comparisons were available from two sites in the Mesara – Faistos and Gortina.⁹ Katalimata, however, was unique by its location and short lasting occupation. It was obvious that the settlement was founded under extreme threat of an unidentified enemy. The FN I site of Katalimata was isolated in its chronological and geographical context, and thus difficult to explain given the state of research.¹⁰ Searching for answers to the questions of when and why Katalimata was inhabited, where its inhabitants came from and what their fate was? brought to light several important FN settlements in the region of Ierapetra–Mirabello.¹¹ In the meantime new relevant evidence was identified at the neighbouring sites of Azoria and Vronda,¹² which indicates that the pattern of FN I relocation to hilltops was a general phenomenon in this

region. The recent identification of LN pottery on the surface of Vasiliki Kefali and the coast of Chalepa shed even more, though still very restricted light, on the character of pre-FN settlement in this region and elsewhere in Crete. Vasiliki Kefali seems to be the main inland-located, probably extensive, pre-FN settlement in the northern part of the Ierapetra isthmus. Looking for similar sites in the southern part of the isthmus will be a challenging task, but the existence of such is rather beyond doubt. More easy seems to be now searching for coastal sites similar to Gournia Sfoungaras and Chalepa, which were located on coastal terraces eroded rather than covered by alluvium. The present report includes several sites of this type discovered on the southern coast.

An identification of a series of certain pre-FN sites on the southern coast not only yielded new material for the analysis of the LN settlement patterns, but also led to a revision of the tentative dating (between LN and FN I) of several sites published in the 2014 book. The number of these newly discovered sites, their location and characteristics of archaeological evidence (visible on surface) allow for preliminary conclusions regarding some aspects of pre-FN settlement in Crete. To introduce an order in the presentation of this new evidence, especially to draw the line between the FN group of sites and their predecessors, I decided to add a new part to the Gazetteer as presented in the 2014 book and Supplement 1.¹³ This includes the sites which according to my preliminary dating are earlier than the FN I period. Most or all of them can be probably placed in the fifth and the early fourth millennium BC, and are described here as of LN date.¹⁴ The sites are numbered here starting from 301 and leaving the missing numbers between 213 and 300 for yet unidentified sites of FN date.

The Gazetteer - Supplement 2:

Part A: Final Neolithic sites (Figs. 1, 2 and 3)

183. Palaikastro Simodi

Simodi is the characteristic conical hill rising above the plateau between Skinias and Langada, about 2.5 km southwest of Petsofas. From afar it looks like a miniature version of the Modi mountain which rises about 4 km

⁷ NOWICKI forthcoming.

⁸ NOWICKI 2008.

⁹ VAGNETTI 1973a; 1973b.

¹⁰ In 1993 when the FN I stratum at Katalimata was uncovered the most updated picture of the period labeled the Final Neolithic was a paper by L. Vagnetti and P. Belli (VAGNETTI and BELLI 1978) in which only six open-air FN settlements were mentioned.

¹¹ NOWICKI 2002; 2014.

¹² For Azoria see HAGGIS, MOOK, CARTER and SNYDER 2007; for Vronda see GESELL and DAY 2016, 48 and 199.

¹³ NOWICKI 2015.

¹⁴ According to the chronological scheme proposed in NOWICKI 2002 and 2014 these sites, being dated to the fifth and first centuries of the fourth millennium BC, belong to the LN period. According to Tomkin's chronology they would represent the LN II, FN Ia, FN Ib and the early stage of FN II (TOMKINS 2008).

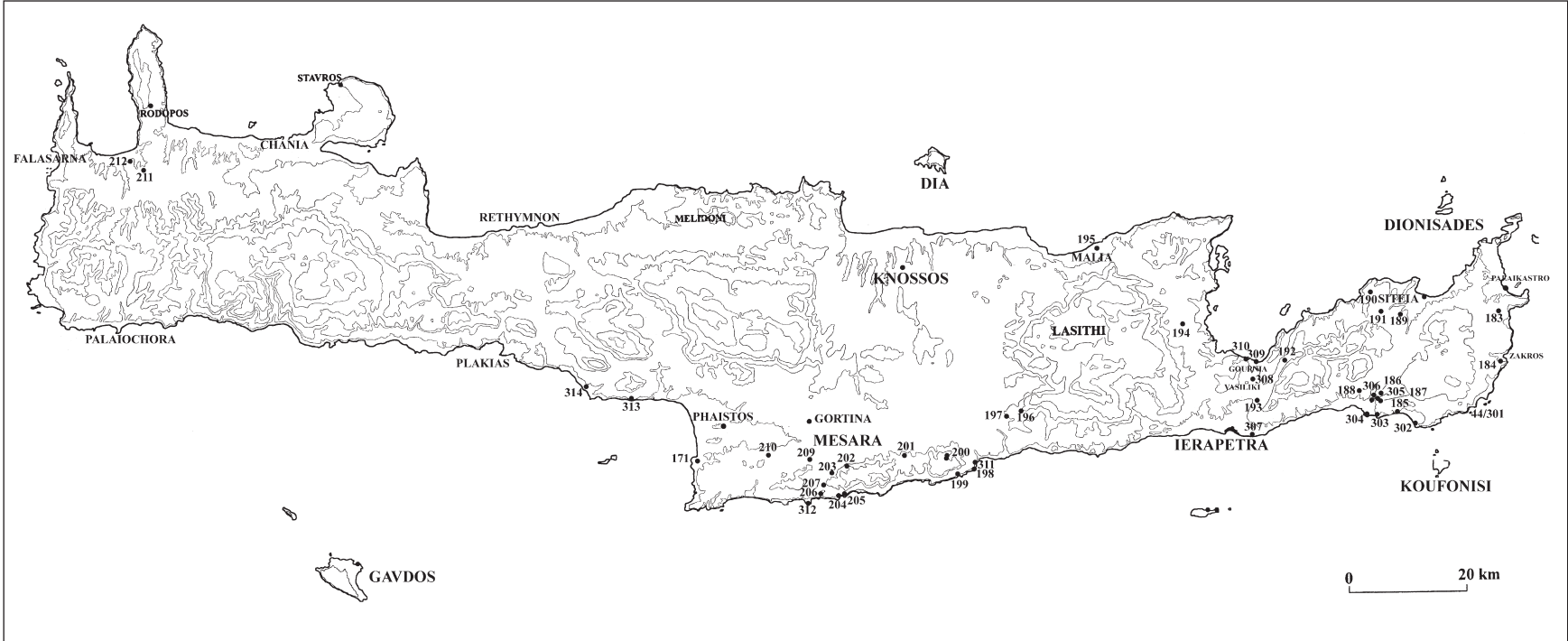


Fig. 1. Map of Crete with Neolithic sites presented in this article

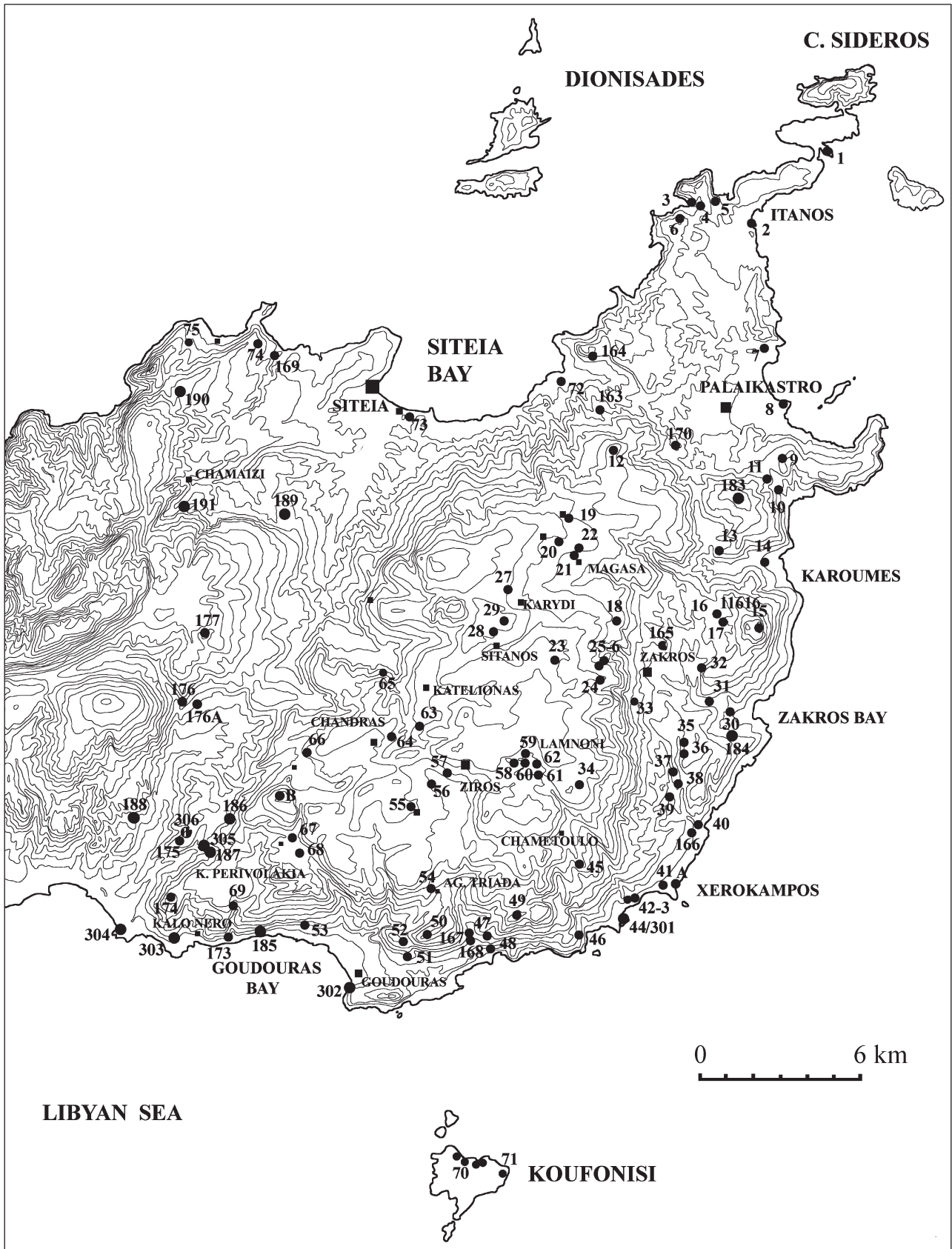


Fig. 2. Map of East Siteia Peninsula with Neolithic sites (numbers refer to the sites published in NOWICKI 2014; 2015 and in this article)

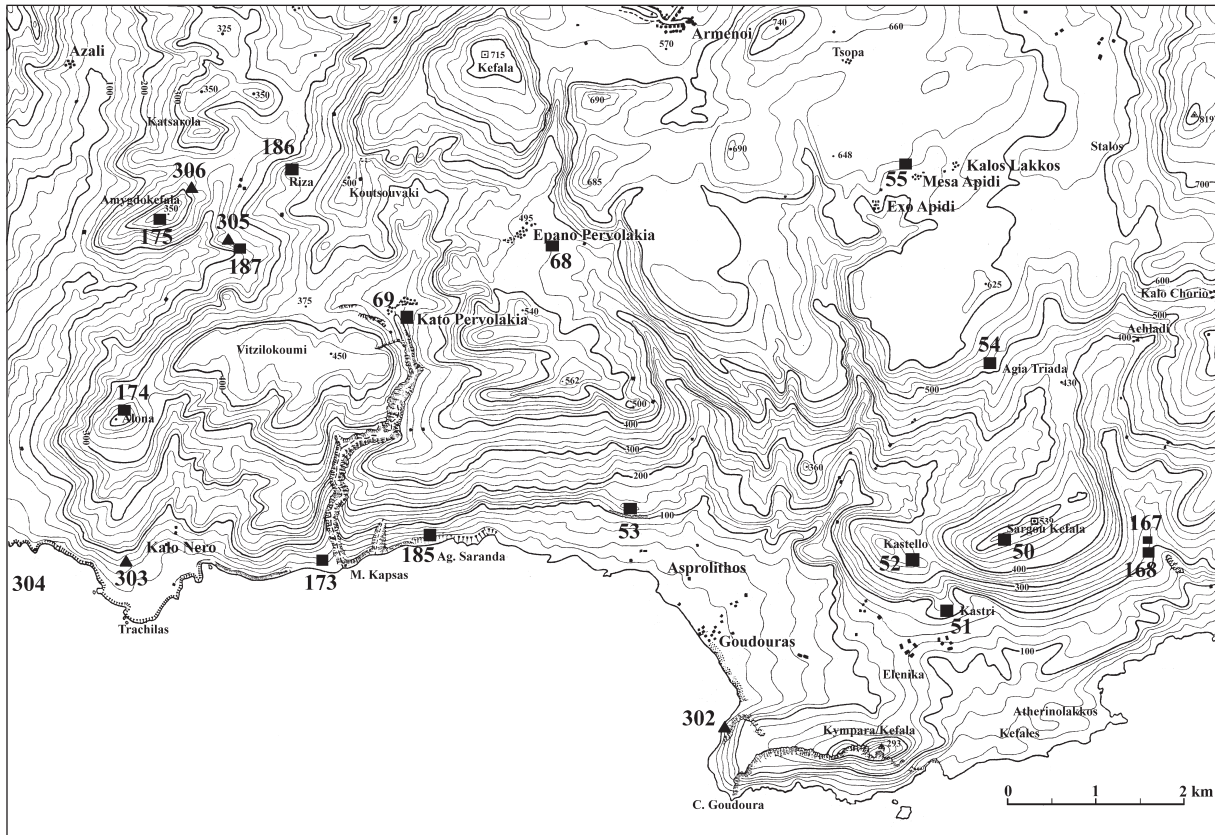


Fig. 3. Map of Goudouras – Kalo Nero area (numbers refer to the sites published in NOWICKI 2014; 2015 and in this article, triangles indicate pre-FN sites and squares indicate FN sites)

farther to the west. A dozen of FN II sherds was seen on the southwest terrace of the hill, about 25 m from its summit. Two sherds with chuff impressions on the surface were of a fabric similar to the FN pottery from Petsotas.¹⁵ One handle fragment dates probably to the FN II–EM I transitional phase. An obsidian flake was found close to the concrete column on the summit, but its chronological link with the FN occupation is not certain since the hill was also visited in the MM and LM periods, perhaps for ritual reasons. This poor surface evidence may indicate that in the late fourth millennium BC a short-lived isolated house or a hamlet was built on this hill which dominated a vast plateau around – a pattern similar to that identified previously on the Modi mountain.¹⁶ A small FN II/EM I early site (ca. 20 m in diameter) was also recorded on a hill between Simodi and the Langada valley, ca. 800 m northwest of Simodi.

184. Kato Zakros South

A small FN II/EM I site (ca. 25 by 20 m in size) was recorded on the second terrace level, 600 m from the sea and above the southern edge of the Kato Zakros plain. It represents a hamlet of two to three houses; one of them, of a rectangular or trapezoid plan, is about 5.5–6 by 10 m in size. Pottery is moderate and among the diagnostic shapes were fragments of storage jars with thick-walled rounded bases and a pedestal jar fragment. No chipped stone was seen, but a few ground stone tools were noticed close to the wall remains.

185. Goudouras Agioi Saranda (Fig. 4)

This defensible site is located on the south steep rocky slope of the first coastal terrace, immediately above the road leading from Kalo Nero to Goudouras, about 220 m west-southwest of the church of Ag. Saranda, and 1 km east of Moni Kapsa. An FN II settlement occupied two terraces which were well defended by cliffs on three sides – eastern, southern and western; on the north the access was easy from the saddle which joins the area with the next and higher terrace. Remains of walls in the upper

¹⁵ NOWICKI 2014, 88.

¹⁶ NOWICKI 2014, 92.



Fig. 4. Goudouras Agioi Saranda (Site 185) from west



Fig. 5. Kalo Nero (Site 174), Amygdalokefala (Site 175), Lithines Riza (Site 186) and Amygdalokefala North Rock Shelter (Site 306) from northeast

terrace (traced within an area ca. 10 by 15 m) indicate a single rectangular or curvilinear structure – probably a single house or a construction which defended access to the main part of the settlement located on the lower terrace. An alternative explanatory hypothesis for this

upper structure is that it was built later in the EM II or MM I period (a few sherds of these dates were also found in this area). The main part of the settlement occupied a lower terrace, immediately south of the first one. It is about 40 by 12–20 m in size, in total ca. 500–700 m².



Fig. 6. Lithines Agios Georgios 2 (Site 187), Lithines Agios Georgios 1 (Site 305) and Amygdalokefala (Site 175) from east

This allows to reconstruct three to maximum four households – a small settlement similar to other sites of this date scattered along the southern coast in the vicinity of Gourouras. Pottery represents the Red Ware Fabric Group, recorded also at Gourouras Kastello. Rounded bases, wide-strap handles, lug-handles and thick-walled jars were among diagnostic fragments (Pl. II). Only one chipped tool of local chert and one cobble stone tool were noticed.

186. *Lithines Riza* (Fig. 5)

The rocky ridge of Riza lies between Lithines and Kato Pervolakia, on the western edge of the East Siteia highland and about 1.5 km northeast of Amygdalokefala. It extends west of the road leading to Kato Pervolakia from the main road connecting Siteia with the southern coast, and rises high above the Lithines – Pilalimata valley. The ridge offers natural defensive characteristics, with cliffs and steep slopes on three sides – southern, western and northern, but with a relatively easy access from the east, i.e. from the Kato Pervolakia valley. Riza was inhabited and/or visited on many occasions in the prehistoric, medieval and modern times. Here, however, I will discuss only its earliest occupation indicated by pottery of FN I, FN II and early EM I date. These earliest phases are attested mostly in the western part of the ridge, with FN I evidence restricted almost entirely to the area ca. 50 by 40 m in size on the western summit and the terraces facing the Amygdalokefala hill and the coast.

No architectural remains were identified which could be securely linked to this earliest phase. FN I pottery is represented by fragments with incised decorations (Pl. I and VIII D), which have parallels in the excavated deposits from Faistos and Knossos,¹⁷ but also in the pottery from unexcavated sites such as Vainia Stavromenos;¹⁸ in three cases traces of good quality burnishing were preserved. Fabrics, including “sandy” and calcite ones, are of the types recorded earlier at other East Siteia sites and similar to the fabrics identified at Monastiraki Katalimata, Gournia Sfoungaras and Vainia Stavromenos, in the Mirabello–Ierapetra region. The chipped stone industry is represented by local grey chert (one green chert was also seen) and obsidian flakes and blades. Some of the latter, however, may be related to the EM I and II occupation episodes, as may be the case for several quernstones.

187. *Lithines Agios Georgios 2* (Fig. 6)

An important FN II–early EM I settlement was identified when looking for the outer dependencies of an LN site discovered earlier in the vicinity (see Gazetteer Part B, no. 305). It is located on an elongated hill immediately southeast of the LN site. Remains of stone built houses can be seen along the hill’s summit, over an area ca. 75 by 10–20 m, but pottery extends even farther to the east, covering a total area ca. 130 by 10–30 m. All

¹⁷ TOMKINS 2007, 40.

¹⁸ NOWICKI 2014, 289 and 436 Pl. 25.

the potsherds represent the Red Ware Fabric Group, the same as the pottery on the summit of the neighbouring hill of Amygdalokefala (Site 175).¹⁹ The frequency of red slip may indicate, however, the advanced FN II or even the very early phase of EM I as the period of the site's occupation, slightly later than that proposed for Amygdalokefala. Among the diagnostic shapes are also fragments which should be dated to the transition between FN II and EM I or to the early EM I period (Pl. II). Only a few ground stone tools and chipped stone flakes were recorded. The latter were represented by grey chert of the same type as that from Amygdalokefala.²⁰ No obsidian pieces were noticed – a sharp contrast to the chipped stone material at the LN site nearby (see below p. 31). Architectural remains visible on the surface allow for reconstruction of at least three or four units representing probably one household each. Although rectangular plans dominate, curvilinear walls were noted in a few places, as well. The best preserved, or at least the most exposed building complex is that in the westernmost part of the site, ca. 15 by 7–10 m in size. It is uncertain if all the sections of the enclosure wall that encircles this house date to the FN II–early EM I period or represent later activity at the site.

188. Azali

This site is situated on the southern slope of a hill rising about 1.5 km southwest of the village of Azali and north of the area (not a church) called Panagia Kera (north of Pilalimata). FN II pottery was noticed along a steep and much eroded dirt track bulldozed for installment of water pipes. In one of eroded ditches a storage jar was seen at the depth of 0.4 m. Among the diagnostic FN II pottery were strap handles of large jars and cheese pot fragments (Pl. II). Although most of the potsherds can be dated to the FN II period some fragments seem to represent early EM I. Because the surface material is restricted to a few eroded areas, ca. 30 by 10 m in size, it is difficult to reconstruct the character and original extension of the site. It is possible that the pottery has been eroded from the higher part of the hill and the proper settlement may be covered with a thick layer of soil. The activity on this hill was contemporary with the occupation of the Amygdalokefala hill.

189. Achladia Kefala

A small FN I (or LN?) site was recorded on the summit of Kefala, about 150 m from its southwestern cliff, and 540 m southwest of the Minoan villa. At least 15 sherds of this early date, including two rim fragments (Pl. I), were noticed in an area ca. 30 m in diameter together with occasional pottery of later, Early and Middle Bronze date. A proper EM I–II settlement (with occasional MM pottery) is located in a distance of about 100 m farther to the south, close to the southern edge of the hill.

190. Chamaizi Xerokampos (Fig. 7)

This site is part of a cluster first identified by S. Wallace during her unpublished survey of the area north of Chamaizi (Wallace, S. *Socioeconomic change and the meaning of settlement in Crete, 12th to 8th centuries BC*. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Edinburgh). Wallace drew my attention to ancient remains in this area following her work in 1998–1999. This cluster is located on the southwest edge of the plateau-like ridge, which extends from the coast near the Trachilas promontory southwards, for a distance of about 4 km. The site consists of two finds scatters, at a distance of 150 m from each other, which may have represented two separate house-units or two small hamlets. The southern is densely covered with garigue and at places eroded to bedrock. Several stone tumbles, remains of poorly preserved walls, and frequent potsherds can be seen in an area ca. 25 to 30 m in diameter. Pottery dates to the FN II period, with several diagnostic fragments of collar-necked jars, bowls and cheese pots. Two obsidian pieces were noted, including one blade. The northern pottery scatter, about 20 by 10–15 m in size, is located next to the western cliff of the plateau facing the ridge of Liopetro. Pottery is moderate to frequent and of the same fabrics as that recorded at the southern cluster. Only one obsidian flake was recorded here. Remains of walls show rectangular and curvilinear structures somewhat similar to those unearthed at the Mesorrachi North site (Site 169).²¹

The site was probably founded at this very place for “strategic” reason during the early stage of formation of FN II–EMI territorial units – a process which has been identified in other regions of Crete.²² It may have marked the southernmost outpost of the territory marked on the north by the settlement of Mesorrachi North.²³ Farther to

¹⁹ NOWICKI 2015, 12–13; Site 175 was misspelled Amygdalokefala instead of Amygdalokefala and incorrectly named Pilalimata on Pl. II B.

²⁰ NOWICKI 2015, 30, Pl. II B.

²¹ NOWICKI 2014, 241.

²² NOWICKI 2014, 372.

²³ NOWICKI 2014, 241.



Fig. 7. Chamaizi Xerokampos (Site 190) from west

the south and southwest rise hills which are the eastern extension of the Orne Mountains and define a separate geographical region.

191. Chamaizi Oval House

A few LN or FN I sherds were noticed on the surface around the Oval House, but more fragments were recorded around the fence, especially at places where erosion has exposed the strata between the present surface and bedrock. These early FN (or LN) pottery fabrics can be classified in two groups – “sandy” and phyllite – which were identified also at Katalimata, Vasiliki Kefali, Chalepa and Pano Chorio, all in the Ierapetra isthmus.

192. Vronda

A number of FN I or LN pottery fragments, together with two stone celts, were published recently from the LM IIIC site at Vronda.²⁴ This evidence indicates that the hill was probably occupied somewhere between the late LN and early FN I periods, in the initial phase of the FN I relocation to more defensible places. It is possible that it represents the same phase as the earliest occupation of Vainia Stavromenos, in the south Ierapetra isthmus, and Lithines Agios Georgios 1 (see below) on the western edge of the East Siteia Plateau.

193. Kato Chorio Profitis Elias

This rocky spur is the lower northern extension of the Profitis Elias hill that rises south-southeast of Kato Chorio. It is Site 144, as described by the Gournia Project,²⁵ dated to the EM I–II, LM IIIA–C and Archaic periods. However, numerous FN pottery fragments were

seen by the author in the northern part of the spur and on the northwestern slope as far as about 80 m from the highest point of the rocky summit. Although no diagnostic pottery shapes were found, the fabrics and surface characteristics indicate FN I rather than FN II period.

194. Thylakas

The site is known as a controversial peak sanctuary,²⁶ certainly used during the Archaic-Hellenistic and possibly during the MM II period. The later (A–H) ritual place seems to have faced to the south and west, whereas the earlier one (MM II) to the east and southeast. Pottery related to this cult activity is less frequent in the northern and northeastern part of the summit. Here, more than a dozen FN sherds were found within an area ca. 20 by 30 m in size. Some of them, of the “sandy” fabric with traces of a good-quality burnishing, may be dated to the FN I period whereas these similar to the Red Ware Fabric Group, and with traces of scoring, may be of FN II date. An obsidian blade was found five metres from the concrete column on the summit.

195. Sissi Arkovouno

A Neolithic site was mentioned at Arkovouno by S. Müller who directed an intensive survey in the Malia region.²⁷ Arkovouno is a very extensive hill stretching between the western edge of the Sissi valley and the eastern edge of the Malia plain. It forms a second coastal terrace, immediately above the first terrace, where main coastal road runs. The entire hill is covered with immense number of prehistoric, early historic, medieval and modern potsherds, scattered over a large area between

²⁴ GESELL and DAY 2016, 48, 49, 199.

²⁵ WATROUS et al. 2012, 132.

²⁶ DAVARAS 2010.

²⁷ MÜLLER 1998, 549.



Fig. 8. Viannos Kandaros (Site 196) and Mesi Tsikouria (Site 197) from east

the northern edge of the hill/terrace and the southern, less clear, border of the hill. Numerous pottery clusters, sometimes with remains of stone-built architecture and chipped stone (mostly obsidian), indicate permanent as well as seasonal intensive prehistoric habitation. Early and Middle Bronze Age evidence pre-dominates and is especially abundant along the northern part of the hill, close to the edge overlooking the first coastal terrace. The area is partly overgrown, built on or bulldozed, but still the surface visibility allows the identification of an intensive FN II–EM I occupation extending over an area at least 300 by 50 m. Pottery from this site includes fabric groups similar to those observed at the coastal site on the eastern edge of Milatos.²⁸ The settlement pattern at Arkovouno may be similar to that identified earlier at Papadiokampos Sopata and Milatos.²⁹ A few sherds indicate that the same area was inhabited or visited earlier, in FN I or more probably LN period.

196. *Viannos Kandaros* (Fig. 8)

The Kandaros mountain rises between the villages of Kato Viannos and Martha, on the eastern side of the main road leading from central Crete to Viannos. About 200 m west of the summit, and 50 m lower, is an extensive rocky

outcrop with two sides (west and south) protected by a precipitous cliff, and on the north and east by steep slopes. In the highest part of this naturally defensible rocky spur 40 sherds of FN II to early EM I date (Pl. III) and three chipped red chert flakes were found within an area about 20 by 10 m. The site represents either a single house or a “watch point” on this important route between the Upper Mesara, the southern Pediada and the Viannos region.

197. *Mesi Tsikouria* (Fig. 8)

Tsikouria is a long rocky ridge, one km north-north-east of the village of Mesi, between the Viannos valley and the Upper Mesara. An FN II/early EM I settlement is situated in the eastern part of the ridge. Potsherds and one chipped black chert arrowhead (?) were recorded on the very summit and in the upper part of the southern slope over an area ca. 30 by 20 m. The pottery belongs to the Red Ware Fabric Group with some characteristics indicating both the above suggested phases – FN II and early EM I (Pl. III). Occasional potsherds of the same date were seen at the southern foothill, in a distance of 100 m from the main site and about 30 m lower. Several EM II–MM II sherds were also observed on the ridge’s summit, several tens of metres west of the FN II settlement. Tsikouria forms a natural mountainous barrier between the Viannos region on one side and the southern Pediada and the Upper Mesara on the other. The FN II/EM I site might control, therefore, the entrance to the Viannos valley from those directions.

²⁸ I am grateful to Sylvie Müller and Aleydis van Mortel for showing me the pottery from the Arkovouno sites.

²⁹ NOWICKI 2014, 155–156 and 184.

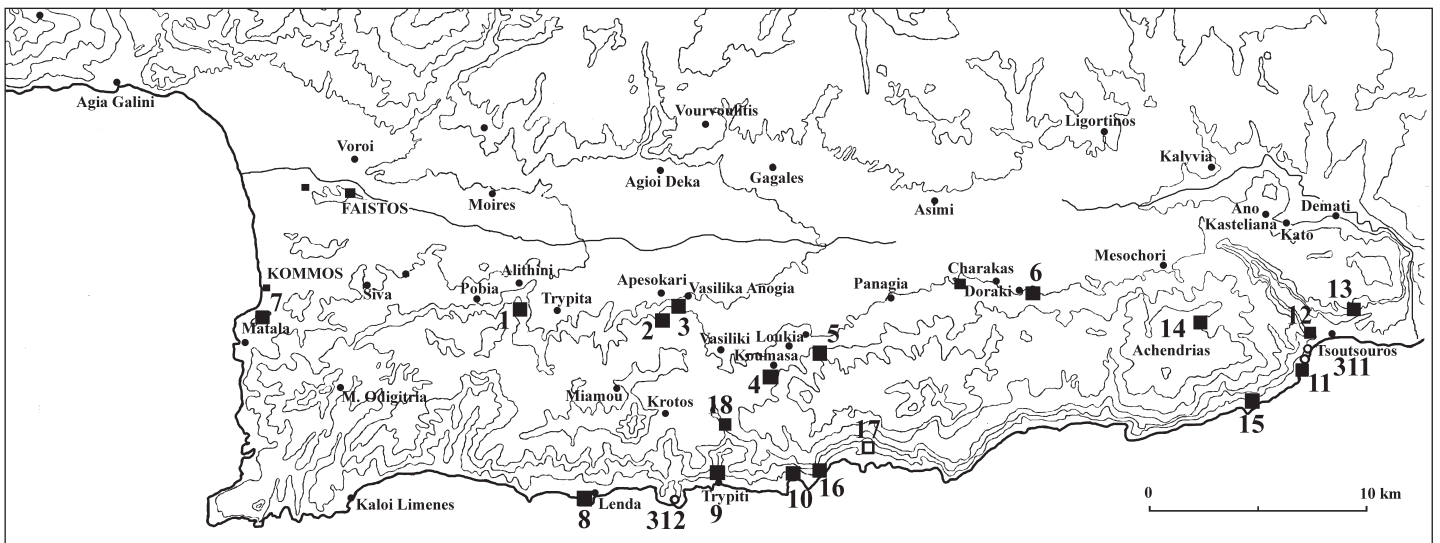


Fig. 9. Map of the Asterousia Mountains with Neolithic sites presented in this article: 1) Alithini Vigla (Site 210); 2) Apesokari Vigla (Site 119); 3) Vasilika Anogia Afendis Christos (Site 209); 4) Koumasa Kefala (Site 203); 5) Fournofarango Kalamaki (Site 202); 6) Doraki (Site 201); 7) Kommos Nisos (Site 171); 8) Lenda Kefali (Site 118); 9) Trypiti Maroulas Gorge (Site 206); 10) Salamia Gorge (Site 204); 11) Maridaki Kerkellos Cape (Site 198); 12) Tsoutsouros (Site 115); 13) Tsoutsouros Alona (Site 117); 14) Achendrias Kastellos (Site 200); 15) Maridaki Kakoperasma Gorge (Site 199); 16) Salamia East (Site 205); 17) Agios Ioannis Tsounos (?); 18) Trypiti Christos (Site 207)



Fig. 10. Maridaki Kerkellos Cape (Site 198) from west

198. Maridaki Kerkellos Cape (Fig. 9 and 10)

The western coast of the Tsoutsouros bay has two excellent, but small and hidden natural “harbours”. The first is at the mouth of the gorge in Maridaki and the second in the Kerkellos promontory. The promontory itself is characterised by a low rocky ridge rising to about 60 m asl. A small FN II–early EM I site was identified in the western part of this ridge, about 30 m west of

the concrete column that marks the datum point. Pottery can be seen within an area ca. 25 by 15 m in size. Architectural remains, stone-built walls and several pieces of mud-brick, are scattered over an area ca. 15 by 10 m and may represent a single house. Probably not all the walls are related to the FN activity. The central part of the ruined structure may be linked with the numerous potsherds of Venetian date, and may represent a kind



Fig. 11. Maridaki Kakoperasma Gorge (Site 199) from north

of *vigla*. A similar function – a coastal guard-house and observation point – can be tentatively proposed for the FN II–early EM I structure. The view from the site is spectacular: to the east as far as Arvi and beyond, to the west as far as the ridge of the Asterousia Mountains between Kakoperasma (see below) and Tris Ekklisies. Pottery represents the Red Ware Fabric Group and shows a continuation from the late FN through the early phase of the EM I period (Pl. III). A few sherds, with traces of a buff slip and brown phyllite, indicate that the site may have been still occupied or visited in the later part of EM I. A dozen of chipped stone flakes were found – all of black, grey and red chert, but no obsidian was noticed. A fragment of quernstone (of conglomerate) was found at the very site. A few EM I–II sherds were seen at the northern foothill of the ridge, and in a distance of 330 m to the west is a small early EM I settlement. Here, fragments of pithoi with a relief decoration and with the Agios Onoufrios type of painted decoration were seen. Both the EM sites may indicate a continuation of settlement in this area after the FN II site was abandoned.

199. Maridaki Kakoperasma Gorge (Fig. 9 and 11)

This site represents the type of an “FN II–early EM I hilltop citadel” and is similar to numerous coastal sites identified in the East Siteia region. It is situated on a prominent rocky ridge, at the very western end of the coastal plain, about 3 km west of Maridaki, on the eastern side of the Kakoperasma Gorge. Although the site is only about 500–600 m from the sea, it lies at the altitude of 180 m and the walking/climbing time between

the coast and the site is about 30 minutes. Small coves at the mouth of the gorge on the west and the ravine on the east may have been used as the local community’s “harbours”. This well fortified settlement extended over the entire summit of the ridge, covering an area about 50 by 10–20 m. The northern and eastern sides of the ridge are naturally defended by cliffs, a fortification wall was constructed, therefore, on the southern and western side. The easiest access to the ridge from the northwest was also shut by a similar wall. Local hard limestone blocks of medium and large sizes were used in the construction of the wall. Pottery is moderate to frequent and represents the Asterousian type of the Red Ware Fabric Group, which is slightly lighter and with more variety of rock inclusions than the East Siteia type of this group. Fragments of large storage jars and wide strap handles (Pl. III) are similar to those recorded at other contemporary sites along the Asterousia coast. Only two chipped grey chert pieces were seen, but cobble stone tools, including at least four saddle quernstones, indicate a permanent habitation of people depending on agriculture and herding. The settlement size allowed for not more than four to five houses. A preliminary search for a lower settlement on the slope immediately to the south has not produced any evidence for such a settlement pattern. It is possible, however, that individual families were scattered through land controlled by a larger group of people, and built their houses in non-defensible places. This hypothesis is supported by a small early EM I site located next to a rocky knoll, on the eastern edge of the ravine 200 m east of the FN II settlement (Fig. 11:A).



Fig. 12. Achendrias Kastellos (Site 200) from northwest

This site belongs to the group of early EM I (one or two families) households which were built within an enclosure. Such an architectural arrangement preserved some aspects of FN II “defensiveness”, but more to keep unwelcomed individual “visitors” out than to protect the inhabitants against an attack by a large group of enemies.

200. Achendrias Kastellos (Fig. 12)

Achendrias is an upland village situated in the easternmost plateau of the Asterousia Mountains at the altitude of about 670 m. A concentration of FN II to early EM I sites has been recently identified on the ridges on the eastern edge of the plateau, at the entry to the gorge leading down to the sea, towards Maridaki. The first site is represented by occasional FN II–early EM I potsherds scattered over an area ca. 50 by 60 m, on the slope immediately south and below the summit of Kastellos, about 1.5 km east of the Achendrias village. The pottery here can be classified in the group of the Red Ware Fabric Group (Pl. III). Another concentration of pottery of the same date, ca. 20 by 20 m in size, was noted on the saddle between Kastellos and the ridge immediately west of it, about 120 m to the northwest of the previous site. However, the largest of the Kastellos clusters of FN II–early EM I sites is located on a rocky ridge about 200 west-northwest of Kastellos and about 1.2 km east of the Achendrias village. The ridge itself has an extensive and mostly flat summit gently sloping to the east, with

three sides (southern, northern and western) defended by cliffs. The site extends from the saddle for about 80 m to the west, and 30 to 40 m along the north-south axis. Pottery fragments, all in the Red Ware Fabric Group, are most frequent in the eastern part of the site where at least three to four house units can be reconstructed. In total, one can estimate six to maximum eight households on this hill, which constituted the main settlement in the entire cluster. One more site of the same date was identified 300 m southwest of this main FN II settlement, at the pass on the route from Achendrias to Maridaki, and about 1 km east of the village. The FN/EM I pottery scatter is about 20 m in diameter, mostly in front of a stone built *mandra*, but it is mixed with much more frequent pottery of Roman-Byzantine, MM I–II and modern date which extends over a larger area. A few fragments can be dated to the LN or FN I period; they represent phyllite-rich and “sandy” fabrics, with well burnished surface. The entire area is covered with black chert pieces, among which a few red chert chipped flakes were found. This latter raw material can be classified in the same group with red chert recorded in the Tsoutsouros-Maridaki area.

201. Doraki (Fig. 13)

A large FN II–EM I early settlement has been identified on the hill immediately east and above the small village of Doraki, on the northern edge of the Asterousia Mountains. Pottery of this date, mixed with frequent



Fig. 13. Doraki (Site 201) from southwest

EM II and MM I–II sherds, can be seen over an area ca. 100 by 150 m, on the saddle between rocky ridges and in the highest part of the western slope facing the village. Chipped stone is represented mostly by red chert, but dark grey chert and one flake of translucent (“smoky”) obsidian were noticed as well. The FN II–EM I pottery was most frequent along the bulldozed western edge of an olive grove, whereas the eastern and southern parts of the sites showed a dominance of EM II–MM I pottery.

202. *Fournofarango Kalamaki*

The landscape between the villages of Loukia and Fournofarango is dominated by the rocky ridge of Kalamaki with its precipitous northern face rising immediately from the Mesara plain. Early EM I and FN II pottery was recorded in two areas in the high zone of this mountain. The first cluster was found on the steep southern slope about 30 m above a dirt track that runs along the gully between Kalamaki and the hills south of it. Ten sherds were noted, but chipped stone and ground stone tools were absent; no architectural remains were observed either. It seems that the recorded evidence comes from an isolated house or can be the result of erosion of the upper part of the ridge. The topographic situation and the pottery distribution show some similarity with the pattern recorded on the southern slope of Vasilika Anogia described below (Site 209). The second cluster is located at the eastern end of the Kalamaki summit, next to the

pass separating the ridge from the chain of mountains farther to the east. Here, a concentration of early EM I sherds (with a few of FN II date) was found within and around an abandoned *mandra* (sheep shed).

203. *Koumasa Kefala* (Fig. 14)

This defensible settlement of FN II–EM I date is situated on the rocky ridge of Kefala, about 400 m southwest of the Koumasa village and 900 m southwest of the tholos tombs and the BA settlement of Koumasa.³⁰ Kefala is well protected by cliffs and very sheer slopes all around. The easiest access leads from the south, from the saddle which joins the ridge to the hills south of it. The summit of Kefala, about 35–40 by 20–30 m in size, is covered with remains of stone-built houses. Most of the pottery here indicates advanced/late EM I and probably early EM II occupation. FN II and early EM I pottery is better visible on the northern slope, further down from the architectural remains, and occasionally on the saddle south of the ridge. Among the earliest potsherds were strap handles and pithos fragments with relief decoration, all belonging to the Red Ware Fabric Group, with close parallels at the sites in the Trypiti Gorge and Salamia (see below). Several quernstones and cobble stone tools were found on the steep northern slope below the house remains.

³⁰ XANTHOUDIDES 1924, 3–6; BRANIGAN 1970.



Fig. 14. Koumasa Kefala (Site 203) from southeast



Fig. 15. Salamia Gorge (Site 204) from northwest

204. Salamia Gorge (Fig. 15)

A defensible FN II–early EM I settlement has been identified on a rocky ridge between two deep ravines and above a small sandy beach, on the western edge of the Salamias bay (between Trypiti and Agios Ioannis). It is on all sides defended by cliffs and the only access leads up a steep slope from the northwest. The site consists of two parts – a lower extensive terrace, ca. 30 by 30–40 m, and an upper rocky ridge with a few narrow

terraces. The main part of the FN II settlement was situated on the lower terrace. Here, remains of stone-built rectangular houses may indicate a small community of maximum three to four families. The upper rocky ridge is densely covered with pottery, but lack of wall remains and a very restricted size of terraces, between rocky outcrops, make the reconstruction of proper houses doubtful. Pottery belongs to the Red Ware Fabric Group, similar to the pottery from other sites on the coastal strip



Fig. 16. Salamia East (Site 205) from northeast

of the Asterousia coast and to contemporary sites in the East Siteia region. Among the diagnostic examples were fragments of large pithoi decorated with horizontal ribs (Pl. IV), the class similar to those found at Afroditi's Kefali and Maridathi.³¹

A small FN II–early EM I site probably representing a single household was recorded 300 m west-northwest of the previous defensible settlement and about 500 m from the sea. It occupies a summit of a low hill on the western side of the Salamia gorge with a visual control of the area between the sea and the higher ridges which rise several hundred metres further to the north. Pottery is scattered mostly on the very summit and the south slope, over an area ca. 10 by 30 to 40 m, but the house remains are best preserved on the western terrace. The site's size can be estimated for 500 to 600 m². The surface evidence indicates a short-lasting occupation contemporary with the neighbouring site in the gorge. It was probably seized after the initial colonization of the Salamia bay and thus it marked an inland expansion of the group which first founded their defensive site in the gorge. The hilltop site offered better visibility to the north, towards the Asterousia Mountains, and more convenient access to the cultivable coastal terraces around. Neither chipped stone nor ground stone tools were seen.

The FN II–EM I early presence in the central part of the Salamia coastal area remains unclear. A single fragment of a pithos with a relief decoration (of the

Afroditi's Kefali type) was found on the slope above a coastal EM–MM I settlement, about 800 m east of the site in the gorge, and 100 m southwest of the tholos tomb. Several sherds of FN II–early EM I date were also found on the eastern outskirts of the coastal terrace, about 400 m east-southeast of the tholos tomb.

205. Salamia East (Fig. 16)

The eastern edge of the Salamia coastal plain is shut by a rocky ridge (ca. 60 m asl) that offers a splendid view to the entire plain to the west and the Agios Ioannis bay to the east. The landscape characteristics of the area around the ridge causes that the only communication route to/from the east (to/from Agios Ioannis and Koudouma) must pass in the vicinity of the ridge. The multi-period site identified here represents, therefore, one of the most important (though poorly preserved) elements of early settlement in the region. Remains of two or three chronologically different fortified structures are preserved on the northern face of the ridge and in a few places on the other sides. Pottery scattered around the ridge indicates more or less continuous occupation/activity from the FN II through the EBA and MBA, and then again in the Greco-Roman period. FN II–early EM I potsherds are only occasional to moderate and are mixed with pottery of later dates. The dating of the above mentioned fortified structures is difficult; the best preserved one, which occupied the very summit of the ridge, may be of late Early Bronze Age or even post-Bronze Age date. However, the outer enclosure that is better visible around

³¹ BETANCOURT 2013, 94–97, Fig. 8.6–8.8; NOWICKI 2014, 86.



Fig. 17. Trypiti Maroulas Gorge (Site 206) from above-west, (A) Adami Korfali

the upper terrace immediately north of the ridge, represents the type of defensive architecture known from the FN II and EM I periods. Its lower part was constructed of large boulders, in the way similar to that known from Livari Katharades.³² Pottery of FN II–early EM I date was recorded around the ridge over an area ca. 80 by 50–60 m, especially on the southern, southwestern and eastern slopes. Occasional potsherds of the same date, a stone lid and a few chipped stone were noticed around the ridge, with some clusters as far as 120 m from it. A badly destroyed stone structure of a possible circular or oval shape can be seen 70 m south-southwest from the ridge.

206. *Trypiti Maroulas Gorge* (Fig. 17 and 18)

This is one of the most important and most interesting FN II sites in the southern part of the Asterousia Mountains. It is situated on a naturally defensible rocky ridge, on the western side of the Trypiti Maroulas gorge, about 900 m north of the coast. The only access to the ridge, otherwise defended by cliffs, leads up a rocky slope on the northern side. This access was probably defended by a wall, remains of which are still well preserved. Although the site is well hidden from the coast, the view from its highest point is spectacular towards the Trypiti beach and the promontory of Fylakas, the eastern side of the

gorge (with the later sites of Adami Korfali)³³ and the inner valley to the north. The settlement occupied four terraces (Fig. 18). Terrace A is the lowest and largest one and covers about 1500–1800 m². Pottery here is modest to frequent, one black and one grey chert flakes were also found. In some places remains of stone built walls are visible on the surface. Somewhat higher (ca. 4 to 5 m) is Terrace B, covering an area only 250 to 300 m². Pottery fragments and remains of walls indicate that this area was built over, like Terrace A. Pottery is most frequent on the third terrace, Terrace C (Pl. V), covering an area about 20 by 40 m and situated about 7 to 8 m higher than Terrace A. This terrace had its own defensive (?) wall which separated it from Terraces A and B. At least three to four house units can be reconstructed here on the basis of walls remains. A stone axe, fragments of three quernstones, several cobble stone tools and two chipped stone flakes (one grey and one red chert) were recorded on Terrace C (Fig. 18). The best defensive position, additionally strengthened by an enclosure/defensive wall, held the highest terrace – Terrace D, the smallest one, about 15 by 6–8 m in size (ca. 100 m²). FN II–early EM I pottery is also visible on the slope north of the entrance to the above described ridge, over an area about 20 by 30 m. This cluster of sherds may result from erosion or cleaning of Terrace A, but the possibility of some kind

³² NOWICKI 2014, 131–133.

³³ VASILAKIS 1991–1993; 2010.

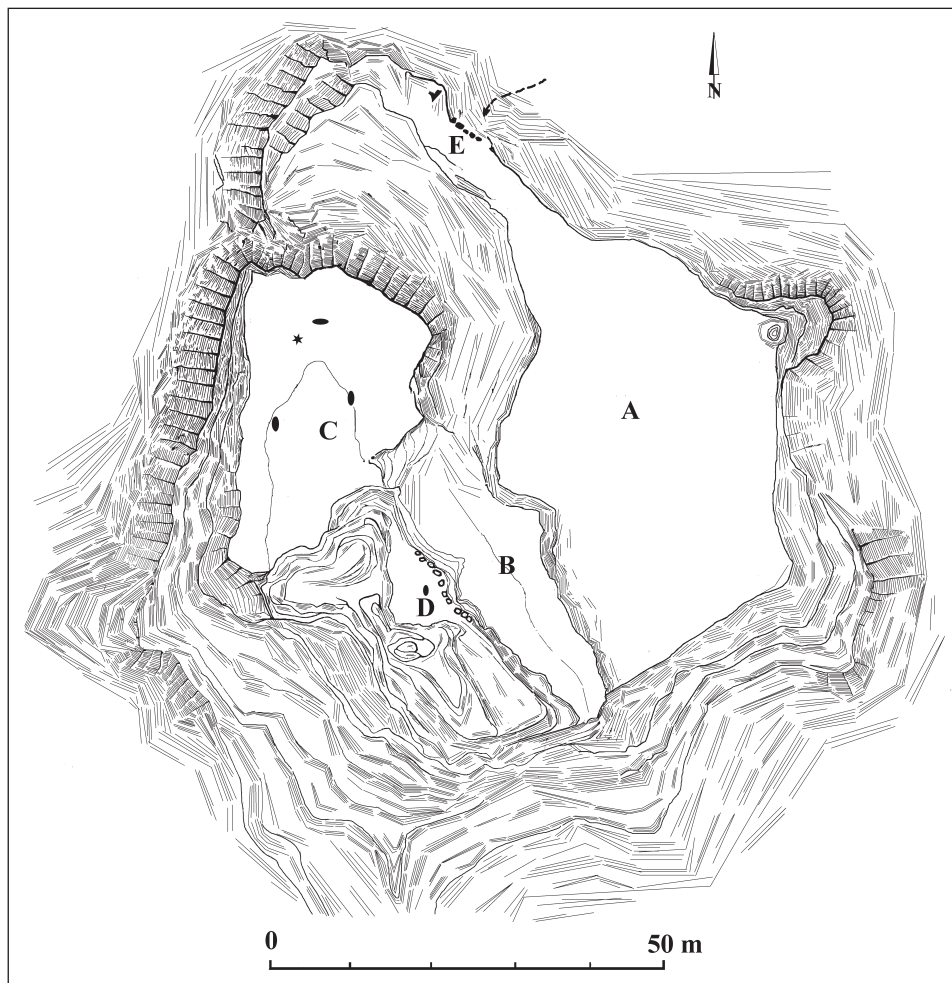


Fig. 18. Trypiti Maroulas Gorge (Site 206) – sketch plan

of activity beyond the defensible part of the settlement cannot be entirely rejected.

207. *Trypiti Christos*

This site is situated on a rocky spur on the northern side of the entrance to the Trypiti (Katsakne) gorge,³⁴ which opens in the east end of the valley, where Evans mentioned the site of Christos (Afendis Christos),³⁵ south of Vasiliki. The location holds an excellent observation position in control of the entire area between the Trypiti (Katsakne) gorge and hills north of the coast, the “Christos” valley and the hills between the latter and the Mesara plain. Altogether 15 sherds of FN II/early EM I were recorded within an area of about 50 m². Two sherds came from a large pithos. The site represents

a single building which may served a defensive or (more probably) communication function on the way between the northern edge of the Asterousia Mountains and the southern coast.

208. *Agia Fotia*

Twenty FN II–early EM I sherds were recorded on the northern and northeastern terraces of the rocky knoll that rises about 400 m southwest of the village of Agia Fotia and 250 m from the church of Agios Ioannis. Although the pottery was seen mostly on narrow rocky terraces, it is possible that the proper houses occupied the foothills of the knoll.

209. *Vasilika Anogia Afendis Christos* (Fig. 19)

An extensive FN II–EM I settlement was identified on the rocky ridge of Afendis Christos which rises steeply from the Mesara plain, south of the village. This is probably the largest and most important defensible settlement

³⁴ On the map of the Anavasi Topo 1:25.000 this upper part of the gorge is labeled “Katsakne Gorge”.

³⁵ EVANS PM II:1, 82.

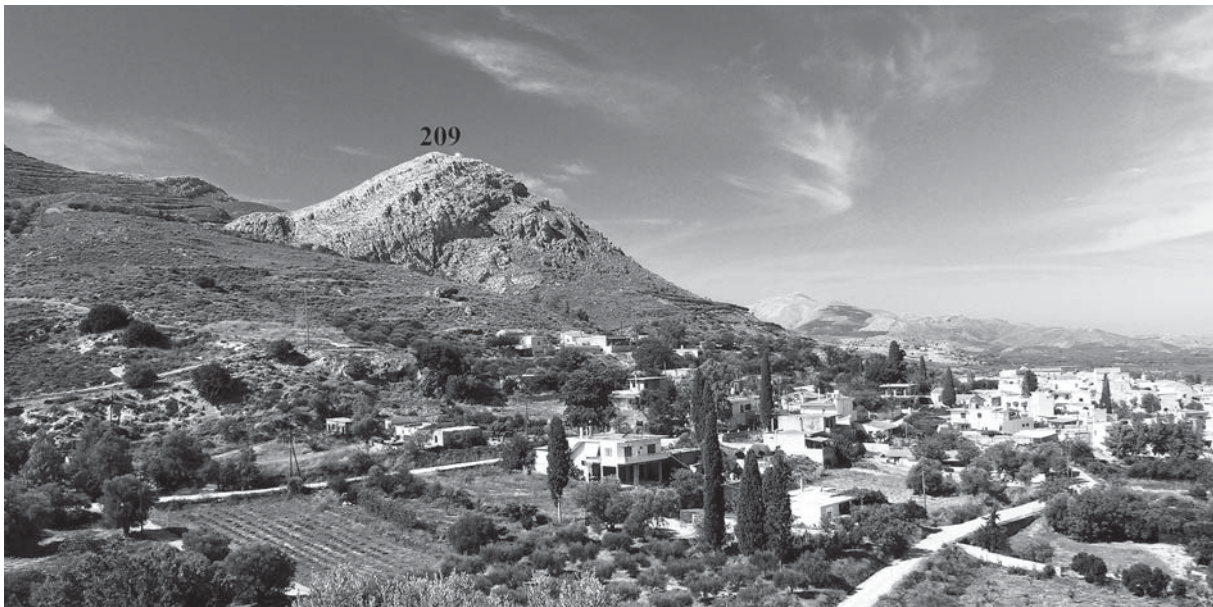


Fig. 19. Vasilika Anogia Afendis Christos (Site 209) from east

of this date in a series of contemporary hilltop sites which were identified along the northern edge of the Asterousia Mountains, immediately above the Mesara plain. FN I and EM I pottery (Pl. III) is scattered over a large area of the eastern part of the summit terraces, and the southern and southeastern slopes of the ridge, as far as about 150 to 200 m south and east of the church on the summit. The site covers, therefore, an irregular area of ca. 20 000–25 000 m², only part of which was actually built on. Whether the western part of the summit was also occupied by the early settlement is less certain since here only a few sherds of FN II and EM I date were found. Classical and Hellenistic pottery (mostly cups) dominates in this area and the characteristics of the pottery deposit in an eroded area north of the church resembles that seen on the summit of Pobia Gria Vigla. Both sites face the ancient town of Gortina and the late pottery deposits may indicate a probably ritual function of the sites.

Returning to the earliest settlement, the extension of FN II pottery seems to be larger from that of EM I date, especially on the eastern and southeastern slopes. Remains of walls which can be tentatively interpreted as representing the FN II–EM I phase of occupation are few, mainly in the eastern part of the summit terraces and on the slope in the eastern extension of the site. The nature of the settlement's organization is uncertain – the surface evidence may indicate individual houses or groups of houses loosely scattered on the slope below the summit, wherever narrow terraces allowed for such constructions. Whether the summit itself constituted a “core” of the

settlement and was densely built on must remain an open question for future excavators. Pottery represents mostly the Red Ware Fabric Group of the advanced type, which should be dated to the early EM I phase, but numerous FN II fragments allow to date the foundation of the settlement to that period. Chipped stone is represented by chert, flint and quartz, but no obsidian was recorded. About 200 m east of the church, on the lower slope at the outskirts of the site, a circular or semicircular stone construction was noted together with a few EM I sherds.

210. Alithini Vigla (Fig. 20)

Another important and possibly well-preserved settlement of FN II–EM I date (with some limited later EM and MM activity) is situated on the hill of Alithini Vigla, about 1 km south of the village of Alithini. The hill, which is the north-northeast extension of the Gria Vigla mountain, holds a strategic position overlooking the southern side of the Lower Mesara between Faistos and the group of FN II–EM I sites around Apesokari and Vasilika Anogia. Remains of houses, pottery and ground-stone tools can be seen on the surface of the southern highest elevation and its northern slopes, over an area at least 60 by 40–50 m. Altogether, the settlement may have occupied an area of about 2500 to 3000 m². However, smaller clusters of pottery and walls were noticed farther down to the north, as far as 150 m from the hill's southern summit. Remains of a curvilinear constructions, ca. 20 by 30 m in size, were also recorded on a plateau



Fig. 20. Alithini Vigla (Site 210) from east

ca. 140 m north of the summit. Although most of the pottery should be dated to the early EM I period, there are enough FN II sherds to see the site as founded already in this period (Pl. VI). Fragments of quernstones, cobble stone tools and a single chipped stone tool (red chert) were found in the main (upper) part of the site.

211. *Roka*

The rocky knoll of Trouli (rising immediately north of the village of Roka) and its southern slope were occupied by large Early Iron Age and Early Byzantine settlements.³⁶ Pottery from these periods, numerous remains of houses and rock-cut structures cover the entire slope between Trouli and the village, whereas ruins of the Byzantine and Venetian fort are still visible on the summit of Trouli. This defensible hill was occupied, however, in earlier periods including the fourth millennium BC. Sixteen FN I (or LN) sherds, three chipped quartz and dark grey chert flakes, and a stone axe were recorded within an area ca. 30 by 20 m, on the southern slope of the ridge, about 20 m from the southeastern cliff. Six FN I (or LN) sherds, an obsidian retouched flake, one chipped black chert and one quartz were seen on the summit of Trouli and the steep southeastern ascent to it.

Both clusters of this early evidence represent probably an extensive occupation of this very defensive hill during the period of disturbances, either towards the end of the LN or in the FN I period.

212. *Drapanias Chalepa*

The oblong hill of Chalepa stretches between the villages of Drapanias and Faleliana, about 1.5 km south of the coast. Two Neolithic sites were identified on the hill's summit. The first is situated around the concrete column, which marks the northern elevation of the northeastern spur of the hill. About 30 pottery fragments of FN II date were recorded from an area ca. 50 by 20 m. The second site lies about 250 m southwest of the first one, on the highest summit which is at present partly eroded and occupied by a reservoir. Numerous fragments of Classic–Hellenistic pottery, associated with building material and bedrock cuts, indicate a large structure of this date. Together with this late pottery, however, were found occasional Neolithic sherds characterised by calcite/sandy fabrics, most probably representing the FN I or LN phase. Together with this early evidence were found three chipped stone pieces (including one obsidian blade) and a broken quernstone or rubber fragment.

³⁶ NOWICKI 2000, 216–217.

Sites where FN pottery was noted, but the amount of the material and its wide-range dating do not allow inclusion at present in the Gazetteer

J. Xykefalo

The peak of this mountain was occupied by an MM II–III peak sanctuary,³⁷ but three or four sherds, including one rim, date probably to the LN or FN I period. About 30 m southwest of the summit is a shallow rock shelter dug by illegal excavators. Here a base fragment of an LN or FN I vessel was recorded. The above described evidence may represent a short lasting occupation or use of this place contemporary with the LN or FN I phase recorded previously on the summit of Voila Kastri.

K. Pefkoi

An extensive EM site, with some MM and later evidence, was recorded on a rocky ridge about 1 km east of Pefkoi village. Pottery fragments are occasional to moderate

and only a few chipped stone pieces, including obsidian blades, were noticed. Some sherds, however, especially in the southern part of the ridge, date back to the FN II – early EM I date.

L. Kolokasia Kastri

Fifteen FN to early EM I sherds were recorded on the summit of Kolokasia within the “Cliff House/House A1”³⁸ and immediately west and southwest of it, as well as by the western end of the Byzantine defensive wall. A saddle quernstone found about 20 m southwest of the “Cliff House/House A1” belongs probably to the same early phase of Kolokasia occupation.

M. Polirhynia

A few LN or FN I sherds were recorded on the very summit of the hill, around the concrete column, over an area ca. 20 by 40 m. One obsidian blade and one chipped flake of black chert were found in the same area.

Appendix 2 Part A (Sites nos. 1–172 were presented in Nowicki 2014, 173–182 and A–I in Nowicki 2015)

SITE	DATE	SIZE CLASS ³⁹	ALT	LONGIT N	LATIT E
183. Palaikastro Simodi	FN II/EM I	D	400	35°10.220'	026°15.500'
184. Kato Zakros South	FN II/EM I	C2	75	35°05.563'	026°15.742'
185. Goudouras Ag. Saranda	FN II	C2	50-70	35°01.369'	026°03.903'
186. Lithines Riza	FN I FN II EM I	C1	400	35°03.457'	026°02.697'
187. Lithines Ag. Georgios 2	FN II EM I	C1/C2	260	35°03.067'	026°02.227'
188. Azali	FN II EM I	?	200	35°03.580'	026°00.448'
189. Achladia Kefala	FN I	?	285	35°09.886'	026°04.150'
190a. Chamaizi Xerokampos North	FN II	D	384	35°12.118'	026°01.510'
190b. Chamaizi Xerokampos South	FN II	C2	404	35°12.043'	026°01.558'
191. Chamaizi (Oval Building)	FN I	?	500	35°10.063'	026°01.116'
192. Vronda (House A NE corner)	LN/FN I	?	420	35°06.601'	025°51.503'
193. Kato Chorio Profitis Elias North Spur	FN I FN II EM I –	C?	220	35°02.738'	025°47.678'
194. Thylakas	FN I FN II	?	515	35°10.243'	025°40.763'
195. Sissi Arkovouno	FN I? FN II EM I –	A	70	35°18.083-152'	025°30.644-780'
196. Viannos Kandaros	FN II EM I	D	785	35°03.316'	025°21.926'
197. Mesi Tsikouria	FN II EM I	C2	748	35°03.492'	025°21.100'
198. Maridaki Kerkellos Cape	FN II EM I	D	60	34°58.112'	025°16.134'
199. Maridaki Kakoperasma Gorge	FN II EM I	C1	180	34°57.588'	025°13.764'
200. Achendrias Kastellos	FN II EM I	B2	653	34°59.629'	025°14.361'
201. Doraki	FN II EM I	B1	390	35°00.385'	025°08.383'

³⁸ NOWICKI 2000, 211.

³⁹ For the classification of sites' sizes see NOWICKI 2014, 247–249.

³⁷ NOWICKI 2012.

SITE	DATE	SIZE CLASS	ALT	LONGIT N	LATIT E
202a. Fournofarango Kalamaki SW	FN II EM I	?	720	34°59.178'	025°01.927'
202b. Fournofarango Kalamaki E	FN II EM I	D?	690	34°59.137'	025°02.067'
203. Koumasa Kefala	FN II EM I	C?	460	34°58.659'	025°00.382'
204. Salamia Gorge	FN II EM I	C1	95 70	34°56.151' 34°56.128'	025°01.070' 025°01.058'
205. Salamia East	FN II EM I	C?	60	34°56.155'	025°01.781'
206. Trypiti Maroulas Gorge	FN II EM I	C1	90 70	34°56.151' 34°56.128'	025°01.070' 025°01.058'
207. Trypiti Christos	FN II EM I	D	400	34°57.576'	024°59.283'
208. Agia Fotia	FN II EM I	?	330	35°00.756'	025°06.364'
209. Vasilika Anogia Afendis Christos	FN II EM I	A	410	35°00.218'	024°57.843'
210. Alithini Vigla	FN II EM I	B2	400	35°00.226'	024°53.311'
211a. Roka Slope	FN I FN II	B?	254	35°28.526'	023°44.055'
211b. Roka Ridge		C?	310	35°28.552'	023°44.018'
212a. Drapanias Chalepa Northeast	FN II	D	177	35°29.407'	023°42.177'
212b. Drapanias Chalepa Southwest	FN I	D	182	35°29.322'	023°42.672'
J. Xykefalo	FN I FN II	?	760	35°05.400'	026°07.866'
K. Pefkoi	FN II EM I	?	430	35°04.468'	025°59.875'
L. Kolokasia Kastri	FN II EM I	?	643	35°12.935'	024°13.094'
M. Polyrhena	FN I FN II?	?	402	35°27.480'	023°39.337'

The Gazetteer – Supplement 2: Part B: pre-Final Neolithic sites

301/44. Xerokampos Amatou (Kastellakia)

This site was described in detail in the 2014 book as an FN II–EM I settlement, which continued (with or without break) through the EM II–MM I periods.⁴⁰ My most recent visit to the site found, apart from characteristic FN II cheese pot fragments (Pl. I 301/44 4–6), a number of potsherds which must be dated either to the FN I or LN period. This early evidence was recorded in Area C close to the eastern rocky face of Kastellakia.⁴¹ The sherds with incised/impressed decoration, illustrated here (Pl. I 301/44 1–3), find parallels at FN I Faistos and Azoria, but also at Chrissi and at Vainia Stavromenos.⁴² Several sherds found in the same area had well burnished surfaces, which support their early dating. Considering the sequence of the pre-FN and FN sites in the neighbouring region between Goudouras–Kalo Nero–Diaskari–Lithines it seems probable that this recently attested earliest

occupation of Amatou preceded the FN I retreat of the native population from the coast to defensible location at some distance from the coast (such as above mentioned Lithines Riza).

302. Cape Goudoura (Fig. 4 and Fig. 21)

This small site is located on a low coastal terrace (2–3 m asl), ca. 20 m from the sea, below the west cliff of the Kympara ridge. Over twenty sherds, together with two grey chert flakes and a broken arrowhead of Melian obsidian, were found within an area 10 m in diameter. Among the diagnostic pottery fragments were a bowl rim, a strap handle (Pl. I) and two sherds with well burnished surface.

303. Kalo Nero Rock Shelter (Fig. 22)

A series of rock shelters opens in the cliff immediately west of the village of Kalo Nero (between Magrygialos and Goudouras), at a distance of 500–600 m from the sea. Eight Neolithic sherds and one chipped stone flake (grey chert) were found on the terrace in front of one of these rock shelters together with occasional medieval and modern pottery. The early pottery fabrics and surface characteristics indicate an LN or FN I date. Similar sherds

⁴⁰ NOWICKI 2014, 126–128.

⁴¹ NOWICKI 2014, Fig. 95.

⁴² NOWICKI 2014.



Fig. 21. Cape Goudoura (Site 302)



Fig. 22. Kalo Nero Rock Shelter (Site 303) from north-northeast

(three in number) were seen on the front terrace of the Cave of Drakou (ca. 900 m to the west) and a single sherd of the same date was recorded on the terrace between the cave and the coast, 260 m southwest of the Cave of Drakou. All this evidence, together with the site on the Psalidia promontory (see below), indicate rather intensive activity/occupation in this coastal area during the LN period.

304. *Langada Psalidia* (Fig. 23)

This extensive promontory, situated between the bays of Diaskari (on the west) and Ammoudi (on the east), is an important landmark on the southern coast between Makrygialos and Goudouras. Its central part is covered with greenhouses and northern part is partly bulldozed. Pottery of the Bronze Age, early historic and medieval periods, as well as of modern date, can be seen in many



Fig. 23. Langada Psalidia (Site 304) from northeast (from Alona)

places over the entire peninsula, especially in its western part. The frequency of MM II pottery and wall remains indicates some activity in the area, with several structures widely spread throughout the peninsula, but not a proper settlement. However, the most interesting evidence, which was recorded in the western part of the promontory, represents an extensive LN site. Pottery of this date is scattered over an area ca. 60 by 40 m. Chipped stone includes grey and black chert, and one obsidian blade.

305. *Lithines Agios Georgios I* (Fig. 24 and 25)

A small LN site was identified on a rocky spur about 340 m west-southwest of the Ag. Georgios church, immediately east of the road leading from the south coast to Lithines, east of and below the ridge of Amygdalokefala. The spur is bounded on two sides (southern and western) with cliffs, whereas rocky slopes/steps offer some kind of protection on the other sides (Fig. 25). A natural gate between two rocks on the eastern side (Fig. 25:H) was once closed by a wall built of large boulders. It is uncertain, however, whether this construction is contemporary with the LN pottery scattered all over the flat summit of the spur. The summit itself can be divided into several terraces. Most of the pottery was recorded on Terraces A, B and C, it was occasional on Terrace D and only a few sherds were found on Terraces E, F and G. Such a pottery frequency pattern is matched by the distribution of chipped stone. The site's size can be estimated at ca. 30–35 by 20 m, i.e. 600–700 m²; allowing us to reconstruct a community of one or two families. The location of this site suggests some concern with security,

and perhaps the first signs of the process of withdrawal from the coast. It is, however, less defensible than the above described FN I settlement on the summit of the Riza ridge, which is situated about 1 km farther northeast.

The pottery fabrics and shapes, especially diagnostic rims and “wishbone” handles, have their closest parallels at the coastal site of Langada Psalidia (see above). Among the chipped stone noticed on the surface obsidian was dominant (over 25 pieces, including blades), less numerous were grey and black chert flakes (six and three respectively). The high ratio of obsidian is surprising, considering that this raw material was rare at other LN sites identified along the southern coast and during the FN II period was outnumbered in quantity in the area by pieces of local chert.

306. *Lithines Amygdalokefala North Rock Shelter* (Fig. 5 and Fig. 26)

An LN or FN I site was identified on the terraces north of a large rock shelter on the northern side of the Amygdalokefala ridge, facing the hill of Katsaroli. The rock shelter itself is 12 m wide, 8 m deep and 2–4 m high, and at present is closed by a stone wall up to 1.5 m high. A small terrace, ca. 5 m long and 2.20–2.50 m wide, extends along the central part of this enclosure wall. Outside this is another terrace, ca. 18–20 m long and 4–6 m wide, and most of the LN/FN I pottery was recorded here. Potsherds of the same date, mixed with modern pottery, can also be occasionally seen on the slope below this terrace, farther to the north. The pottery belongs to several fabric groups, among which the most



Fig. 24. Lithines Agios Georgios 1 (Site 305) from north

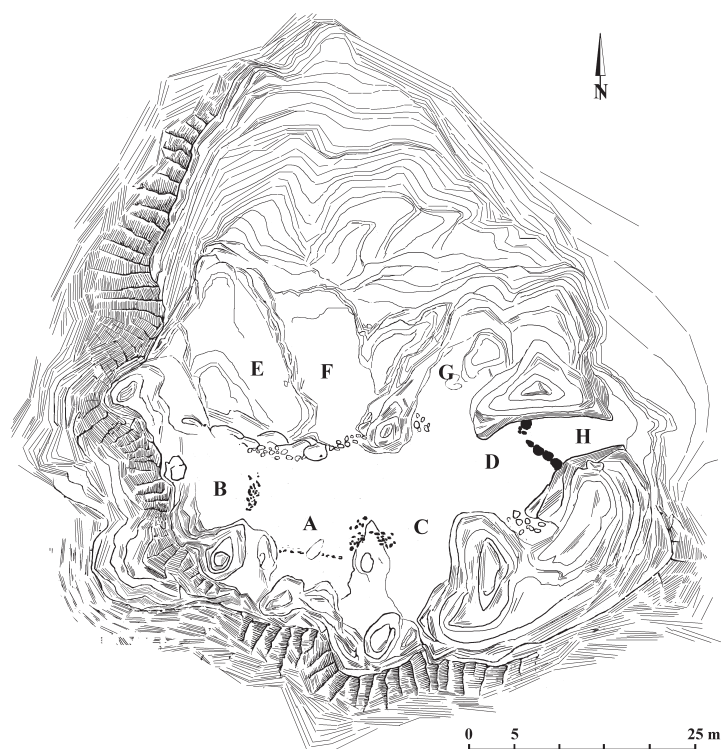


Fig. 25. Lithines Agios Georgios 1 (Site 305) sketch plan

common is the “sandy” one, but calcite and phyllite fabrics were also observed. One fragment preserved the jabbed type of decoration, another an incised line (Pl. I). Chipped stone is frequent, mostly grey chert/flint of the same type as that observed on the summit of Amygdalokefala, and occasional black chert. No obsidian was recorded. The site’s chronological relation to the two LN and/or FN I

settlements in the neighbourhood (Agios Georgios 1 and Lithines Riza) is difficult to establish, but it seems to represent a similar LN settlement pattern as that recorded in rock shelters near Kalo Nero, several kilometers to the south (see above). A neck fragment from a probable “Chamaizi pot” (Pl. I 306:4) indicates that the place was visited/occupied also during the Middle Bronze Age.



Fig. 26. Lithines Amygdalokefala North Rock Shelter (Site 306) from west



Fig. 27. Ierapetra Komdougeto (Site 307) from west

307. Ierapetra Komdougeto (Fig. 27)

An LN site badly destroyed by erosion and human activity is located on the second coastal terrace between the beaches of Katharades and Paplinou, between Ierapetra and Koutsounari, and north of the main road Ierapetra – Makrygialos. Neolithic pottery (Pl. I) can be seen only occasionally, scattered over an area at least 80 by 50 m

in size, north of the WW II gun position, 350 m north of the coast. A single LN sherd was found immediately north of the gun-site, but a cluster of ten sherds and chipped chert flakes were identified by the rocky outcrop between the concrete column marking the datum point and the aforementioned gun position. Because most of the terrace's surface is destroyed by modern and past

bulldozing, the distribution of LN evidence cannot be regarded as representing an original extension of this probably camp-type site.

308. *Vasiliki Kefali*

LN sherds were seen in several places within the excavated area and on the slopes around it. Numerous pottery fragments of this date were seen mostly in the southern part of the fenced site, often on the surface of soil dumps (Pl. I). The fabrics of this early pottery belong to several types well represented in the material from FN I Katalimata and Azoria, including the granodiorite, phyllite and calcite fabrics. All the sherds classified as of certain LN date had a well burnished surface, like some of the pottery fragments from Katalimata. So far only one fragment with incised decoration (a row of small semi-crescent incisions) has been found; this type of decoration is known from Azoria, Vainia Stavromenos and Chrissi.

309. *Pacheia Ammos Chalepa*

Previously the site was placed in the group of “probable FN sites”.⁴³ Since then over 10 potsherds of LN date have been found on the coastal terrace eroded by sea, between the village of Pacheia Ammos and the excavated EM I settlement north of the Agia Irini church.⁴⁴ This new evidence indicates that the area was occupied during the pre-FN I period, probably contemporary with the LN phase at Vasiliki Kefali. The pottery represents the same fabric groups recorded at Sfoungaras and Vasiliki Kefali. Three cup/small bowl fragments preserved well burnished surface like that observed on a few sherds from Vasiliki Kefali and Monastiraki Katalimata. The illustrated rim fragments of cups (Pl. I) have parallels at Monastiarki Katalimata.⁴⁵

310. *Gournia Sfoungaras*

The site, mentioned already by Hall as containing a Neolithic stratum,⁴⁶ was described in the 2014 book with a proposed “FN or LN date”.⁴⁷ In the light of the most recent finds the latter date is postulated now. Pottery fabrics have parallels in the material from Vasiliki Kefali, Chalepa and Monastiraki Katalimata. The coastal location immediately next to a rock shelter resembles the location of other sites of this type, such as the below described

series of rock shelters between Tsoutsouros and Maridaki, and at Psili Ammos.

311a. *Maridaki Rock Shelter 1* (Fig. 28 and 29)

This site is the southernmost rock shelter in a series of similar LN sites scattered on the first high coastal terrace between Tsoutsouros and Maridaki. The latter (seasonal) village belongs to the community of Achendrias – the upland easternmost village in the Asterousia Mountains. The site is located immediately above the path leading from Tsoutsouros to Maridaki, 500 m from Tsoutsouros. The rock shelter consists of the main chamber, ca. 10 m wide and 3–4 m deep, and another low chamber ca. 3 by 4 m in size. At least 20 LN sherds and a similar number of chipped chert (red, grey and green) were recorded on the terrace in front of the shelter, as far as the above mentioned path. Pottery represents the “sandy” fabrics and four fragments preserved a well-burnished surface.

311b. *Maridaki Rock Shelter 2*

This site is situated in the front of another rock shelter situated 50 m north-northwest of the previous site and about 10 m higher. The rock shelter consists of three parts: 1) an antechamber, ca. 5 by 3 m, with a carob tree in the front of the entrance, 2) the main chamber, ca. 4 by 2 m and 5 m high, and 3) the back chamber, ca. 10 by 1–1.5 m. LN pottery and chipped stone were observed on the front terrace, ca. 30 by 3–10 m in size. These early potsherds coexist with LM, Archaic, Classical, and later pottery. About 50 m farther to the northeast is still another rock shelter with a terrace covered with Classical-Roman pottery, but a few sherds should be dated to the LN period. The same date can be applied to numerous chipped chert flakes (red, green and grey).

311c. *Maridaki Rock Shelter 3* (Fig. 28 and 30)

This rock shelter opens in a low cliff facing to the north, with a gently slope in front of it, descending to a narrow coastal terrace. The sea is about 150 m east of the site. The shelter’s opening is about 6 by 1–2 m and the inner size of the shelter is about 6 by 2 m. Pottery fragments seen on the surface came from the debris of illegal excavations in front of the shelter’s opening. Over 20 fragments were recorded, including a number of well-burnished examples, one rim, three handles and one piece with incised decoration (Pl. I and Pl. VII). A more precise chronology of this deposit could be obtained when/if the site is properly investigated. Here, I can propose only a wide dating within the MN to LN periods. Chipped stone was represented by a single quartz flake.

⁴³ NOWICKI 2015, 21.

⁴⁴ WATROUS et al. 2012, 112.

⁴⁵ NOWICKI 2008, Fig. 81.

⁴⁶ HALL 1912.

⁴⁷ NOWICKI 2014, 171.



Fig. 28. Coast on the western side of the Tsoutsouros Bay



Fig. 29. Maridaki Rock Shelter 1 (Site 311a) from north

Three or four cobble stones seen in the same tumble may be related to the Neolithic pottery deposit.

311d. Maridaki Rock Shelter 4 (Fig. 28 and 31)

At present this is the northernmost LN site identified in a series of rock shelters in the coastal terraces between

Tsoutsouros and Maridaki. The site includes two rock shelters in a low cliff of the second coastal terrace above the northwestern corner of the Tsoutsouros bay, about 250 m from the sea. The lower rock shelter's entrance is 3 m wide and 1.5 m high and it is 3 by 10 m in size. The size of the upper shelter is 5 by 5 m. The largest

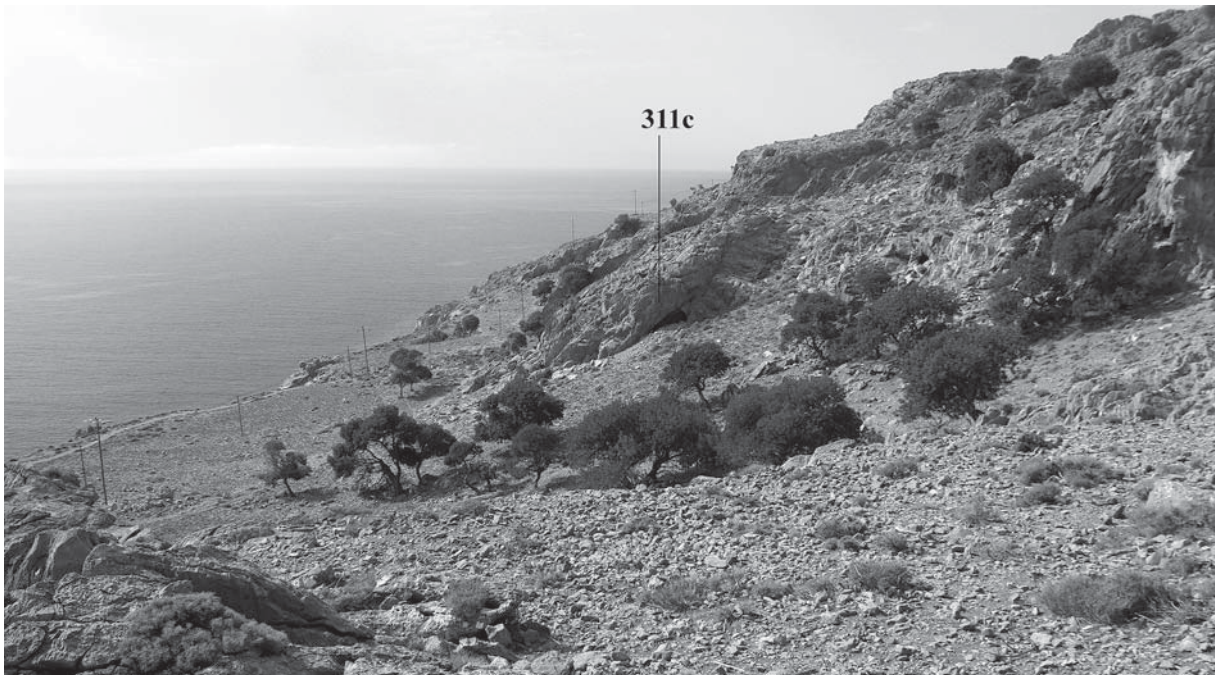


Fig. 30. Maridaki Rock Shelter 3 (Site 311c) from north

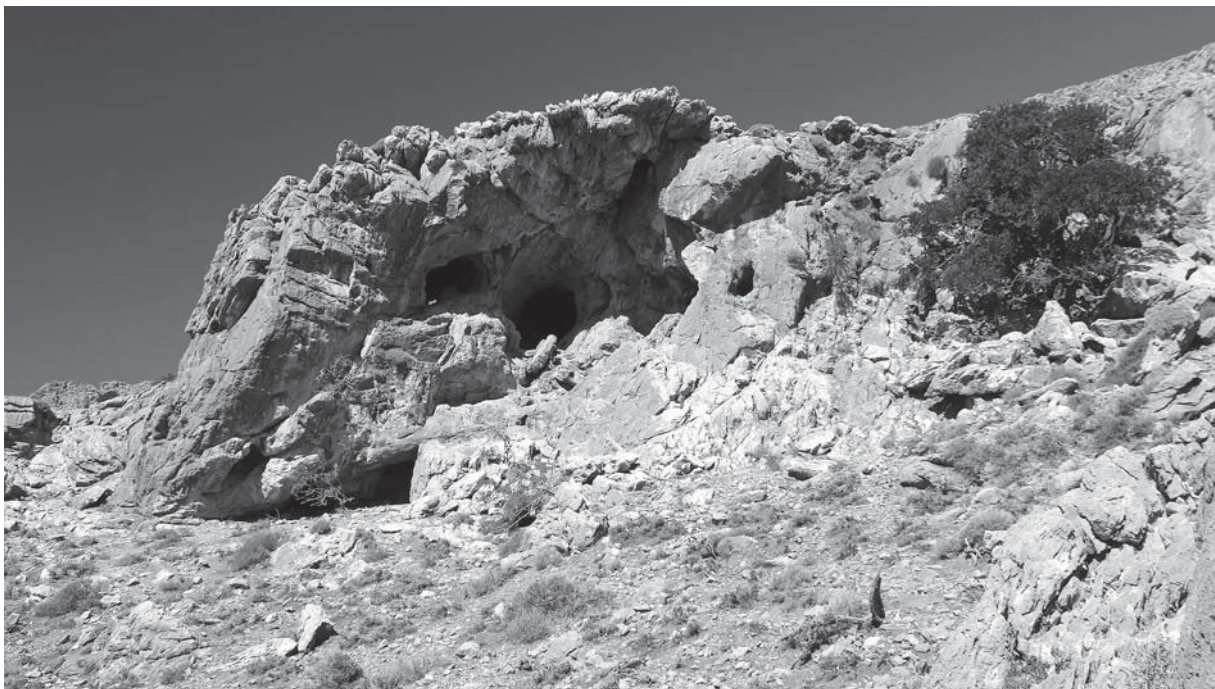


Fig. 31. Maridaki Rock Shelter 4 (Site 311d) from northeast

concentration of LN potsherds (which are nevertheless few) is on the terrace in the front of the lower site, over an area 10 by 15 m. Together with pottery several chipped pieces of chert (grey, black and red) were also found. A few Neolithic sherds and chipped stone were found

on the terrace of the upper site. One obsidian blade and two flakes were found on the terraces around the rock shelters and above them. These, however, may be related to EM and MM pottery which can be seen occasionally in the area around the site.



Fig. 32. Trypiti Psili Ammos (Site 312) from east



Fig. 33. Agia Galini Agios Georgios Louros (Site 313)

312. Trypiti Trachilas Psili Ammos (Fig. 32)

The promontory of Trachilas lies halfway between Trypiti and Lenda on the southern coast of the Asterousia Mountains. It is cut into two parts (eastern and western) by a gorge which terminates at a small beach called Psili Ammos. LN potsherds (11 in number; Pl. I) and chipped stone (dark grey chert, red chert and quartz) were recorded on the terrace immediately above and northeast of the beach, over an area ca. 30 by 20 m, close to the cliff bounding the terrace on its north. These objects must be related to numerous cobble stone tools scattered over even a larger area, among which one quernstone was noticed. Because a few sherds on the same terrace can be dated to the FN II, it cannot be excluded that the quernstone represents the later period of the terrace's occupation. A few sherds of LN date were also noticed on the higher terraces to the east in distances of 100 and 500 m from the above described site. Very limited later activity of EM–MM and modern date is attested by occasional pottery fragments. The LN site belongs probably to the pre-FN I group of coastal open camp-type habitations, similar to those described above. Its location below a cliff, which protected it against northern winds, was probably not accidental. The site, situated only 250 m from the sea, next to a convenient bay with a sandy beach and a stream immediately below, may relied on a mixed economy including exploitation of the sea, herding and some agriculture. The location, with no concern about security, proves that during the pre-FN I period such small groups of people (at this site probably one to maximum three families) felt safe in the coastal environment and any contact with the oversea incomers was likely to have been peaceful.

313. Agia Galini Ag. Georgios Louros (Fig. 33)

This site lies on the southern coast, below the steep and rocky slope of the Vouvala Mt, and below the road leading from Agia Galini to Agios Pavlos, in the area labeled on the map as Louros.⁴⁸ The coastline here forms a kind of promontory with a prominent rocky spur and a narrow flat terrace next to it. The area immediately below the rocky spur was occupied by a *mandra*,

the construction of which probably contributed to the partial destruction of a prehistoric enclosure next to it. Remains of this enclosure can be seen on the southern and southwestern side of a low rocky elevation, about 30 m west-northwest of the spur. Here, a wall built of local limestone boulders (preserved in places up to 1.5 m) was integrated with rocky outcrops of the aforementioned elevation. This wall is similar to the FN walls at Goudoura Castello⁴⁹ and Trypiti Gorge (see above Site 206), although constructed of smaller stones and with less care. There is no wall visible on the northern side of the elevation, but this section may have been dismantled when the *mandra* was built. Although it is tempting to link this enclosure with the LN pottery recorded around, its dating must remain uncertain until the site is excavated. The other defensive walls, mentioned above, enclosed FN II settlements, and so far no certain architectural remains have been identified on the surface of pre-FN II sites. No pottery of FN II date has been so far identified at the Louros site. Only a few pottery fragments were found within the enclosure and in its vicinity. These included two modern sherds, one or two Byzantine, two or three MM I–II, but six fragments were of pre-Final Neolithic date, which were accompanied by an arrowhead of red chert. The most important fact about these finds is that apart from one sherd all the Neolithic ones and the arrowhead were found within the enclosure whereas the other fragments were scattered in some distance (10 to 20 m) to the east and southeast.

314. Triopetra (Fig. 34)

The promontory of Triopetra was occupied by an EM I settlement, at present much eroded. About 350 m to the northeast of this settlement an LN site was identified on the edge of a coastal terrace. Chipped stone, mainly white quartz and red chert, is scattered over an area ca. 50 by 40 m. A small cluster of Neolithic pottery, probably of LN date (16 potsherds), was found about 20 m from the cliff and covered an area up to 15 m in diameter. The pottery fragments were small and eroded, but a few preserved traces of burnishing and one rim fragment of a thin-walled bowl was recorded (Pl. I).

⁴⁸ The map of the ROAD Edition, Topo50, no 404.

⁴⁹ NOWICKI 2014, 136–138.



Fig. 34. Triopetra (Site 314) from north, (A) EMI site

Appendix 2 Part B

SITE	DATE	SIZE CLASS	ALT	LONGIT N	LATIT E
301/44. Amatou Kastellakia	LN	?	10	35°02.610'	026°12.669'
302. Cape Goudoura	LN	D	3	35°00.249'	026°05.774'
303. Kalo Nero Rock Shelter	LN	D	45	35°01.201'	026°01.540'
304. Langada Psalidia	LN	?	5	35°01.315-34'	026°00.231-50'
305. Lithines Ag. Georgios 1	LN	D/C	240	35°03.122'	026°02.192'
306. Lithines Amygdalokefala North – Rock Shelter	LN	D	290	35°03.446'	026°01.965'
307. Ierapetra Komdougeto	LN	C?	55	35°00.111'	025°47.373'
308. Vasiliki Kefali	LN	B?	80	35°04.918'	025°48.612'
309. Pacheia Ammos Chalepa	LN	?	0–3	35°06.655'	025°48.877'
310. Gournia Sfoungaras	LN	D/C	15	35°06.775'	025°47.520'
311a. Maridaki Rock Shelter 1	LN	D	50	34°58.776'	025°16.638'
311b. Maridaki Rock Shelter 2	LN	D	60	34°58.805'	025°16.625'
311c. Maridaki Rock Shelter 3	LN	D	60	34°58.910'	025°16.675'
311d. Maridaki Rock Shelter 4	LN	D	80	34°58.981'	025°16.709'
312. Trypiti Trachoulas Psili Ammos	LN	D/C	40	34°55.714'	024°57.568'
313. Agia Galini Ag. Georgios Louros	LN	?	50	35°05.739'	024°38.407'
314. Triopetra	LN	?	40	35°07.040'	024°33.091'



Fig. 35. Kommos Nisos (Site 171) from south

Part 3: Supplementary data for the sites published in 2014

64. *Voila Kastri*

This site, known primarily as an extensive LM IIIC settlement,⁵⁰ was included in the gazetteer of FN sites in the 2014 book, with the note “FN II and probable early EM I pottery (the Red Ware Fabric Group) were seen on the highest and most defensible part of the hill”.⁵¹ However, the most recent visits to the site, have added new evidence that allows to move back the origin of Kastri occupation to the FN I or even LN period. These early sherds were all recorded in the eroded southern edge of the summit, only a few metres from the ruins of the fort. They were reddish brown, dark brown to black in colour, with traces of a heavy burnishing and of “sandy” fabrics.

66. *Etia*

This site was described in the 2014 book as “a small FN II–EM I” settlement.⁵² However, during the most recent visit several sherds were seen which should be dated to the FN I (or LN) period.

171. *Kommos Nisos East* (Fig. 35)

Revisiting the site on the Nisos hill, previously interpreted as a hamlet inhabited by two to three families,⁵³

brought to light new evidence which allows to reevaluate the size and importance of this FN II–EM I early settlement. The previous interpretation of the site regarded only its easternmost part. In fact the settlement was much larger and extended along the ridge of Nisos, from the concrete column in its eastern end for a distance of about 600 m to the southwest (35°00.086' N, 024°45.360' E). A freshly ploughed field, immediately west of the part of the site published in 2014 and extending for about 200 m to the west, exposed numerous fragments of storage jars and pithoi; one rim fragment of cheese pot was also found (Pl. VI). At least five other clusters were identified, each between 20 and 60 m in diameter, with frequent pottery fragments and occasional chipped stone (red and grey chert). Remains of walls visible on the surface at one cluster may date to the FN II–EM I early period. To sum up, the settlement on the Nisos hill consisted of several clusters representing a proper extensive settlement in the eastern part of the hill, and individual households or hamlets scattered along the ridge to the west, with a distance 50 to 100 m between them. Such a pattern has been identified also in other regions of Crete, from the East Siteia Peninsula, on the east, to the Chrisoskalitissa coastal plain, on the west.

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⁵⁰ NOWICKI 2000, 60–61.

⁵¹ NOWICKI 2014, 147.

⁵² NOWICKI 2014, 148.

⁵³ NOWICKI 2014, 243.

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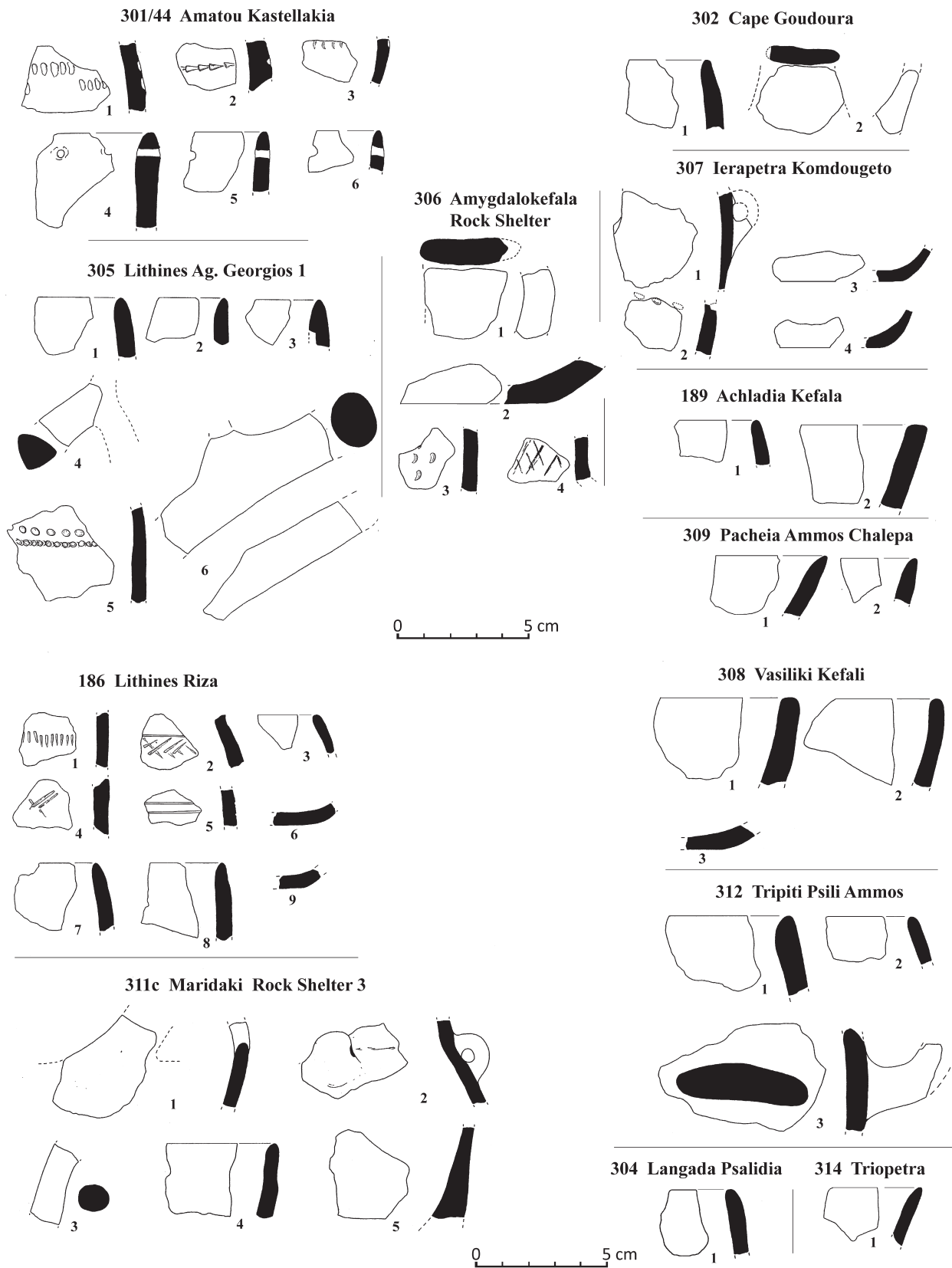
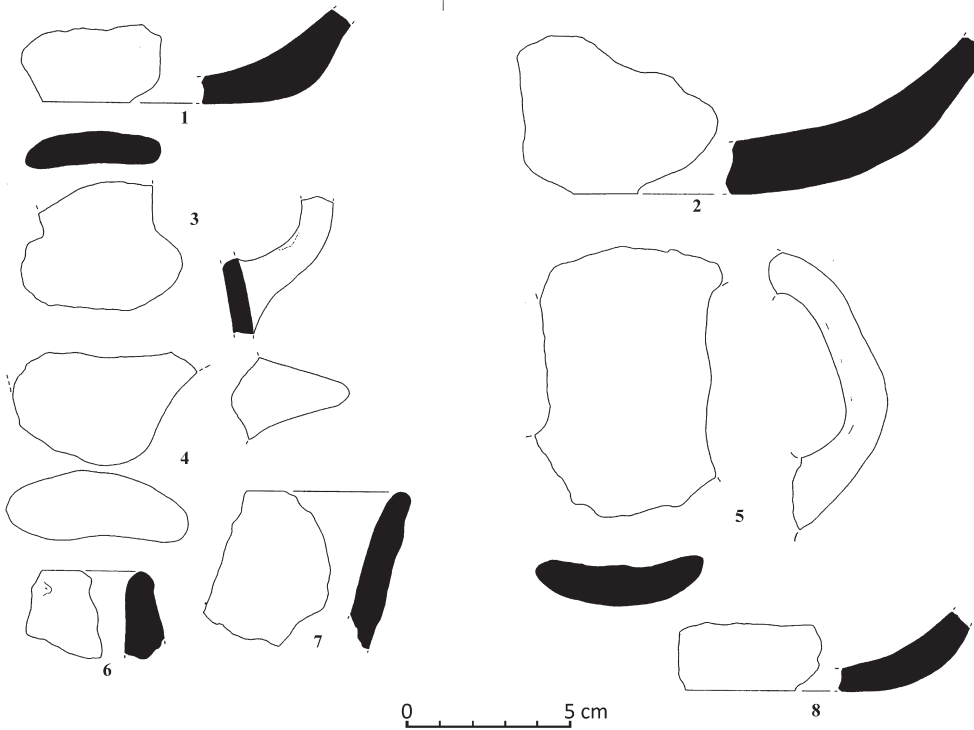
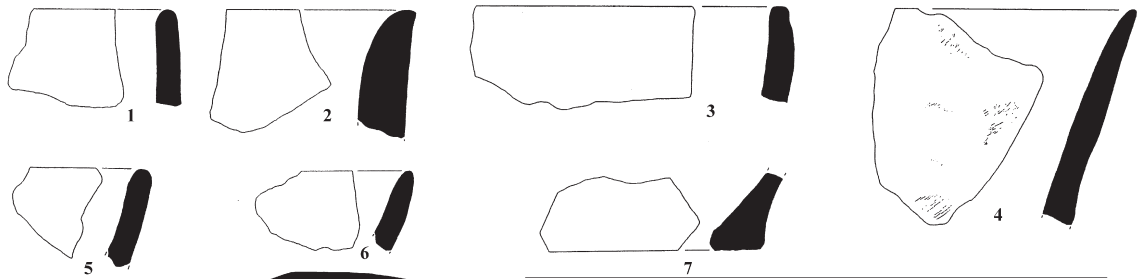


Plate I. Pottery from the pre-FN and FN I Sites 186, 189, 301, 302, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 311c, 312 and 314

185 Goudouras Ag. Saranda



187 Lithines Ag. Georgios 2



188 Azali

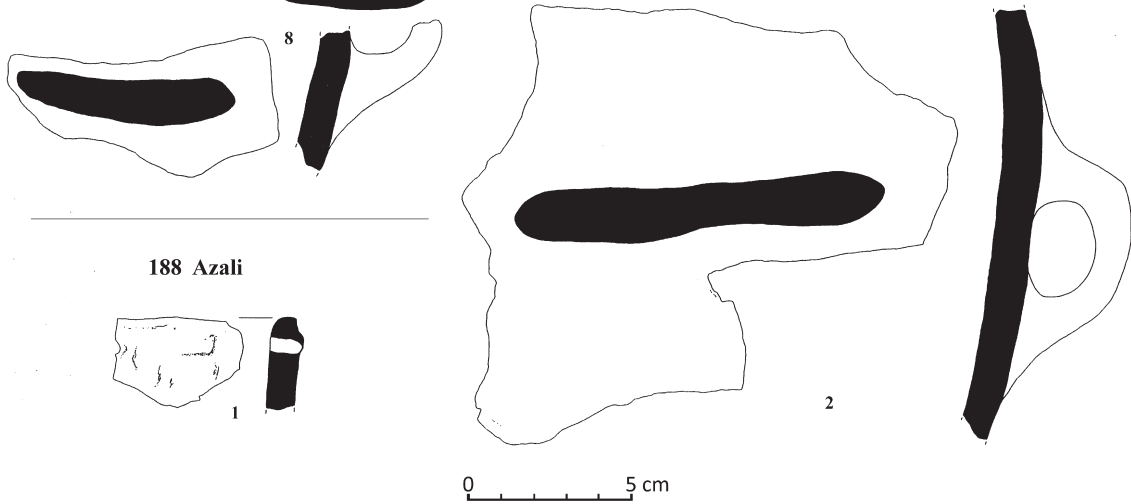


Plate II. Pottery from Sites 185, 187 and 188

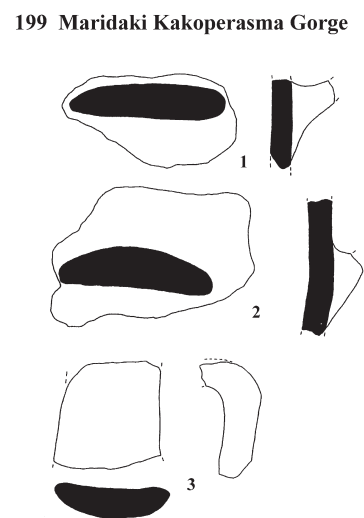
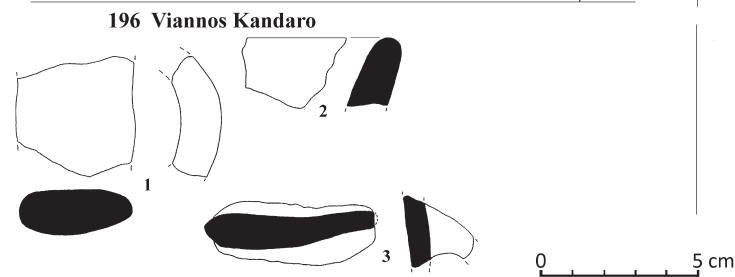
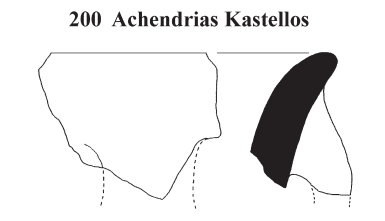
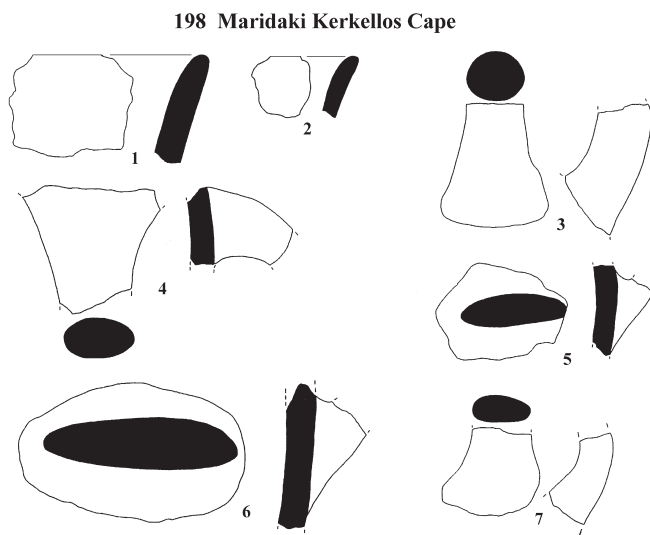
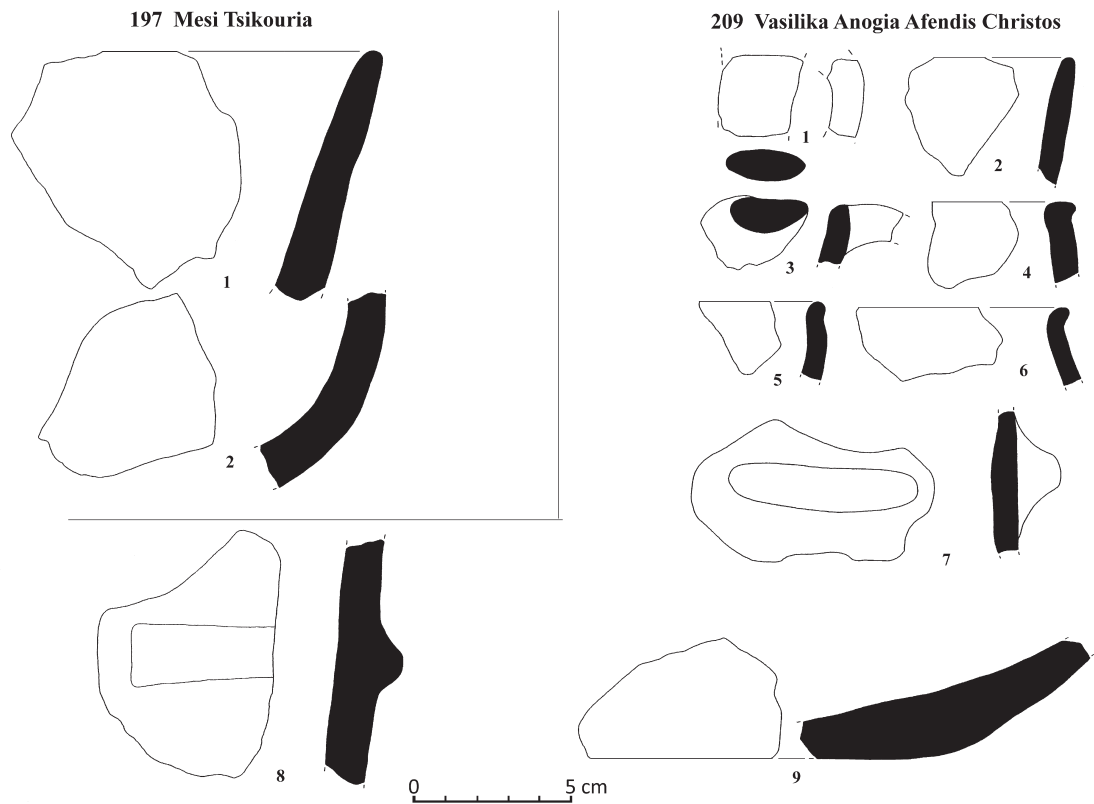


Plate III. Pottery from Sites 196, 197, 198, 199, 200 and 209



Plate IV. Pottery from Site 204

206 Trypiti Gorge

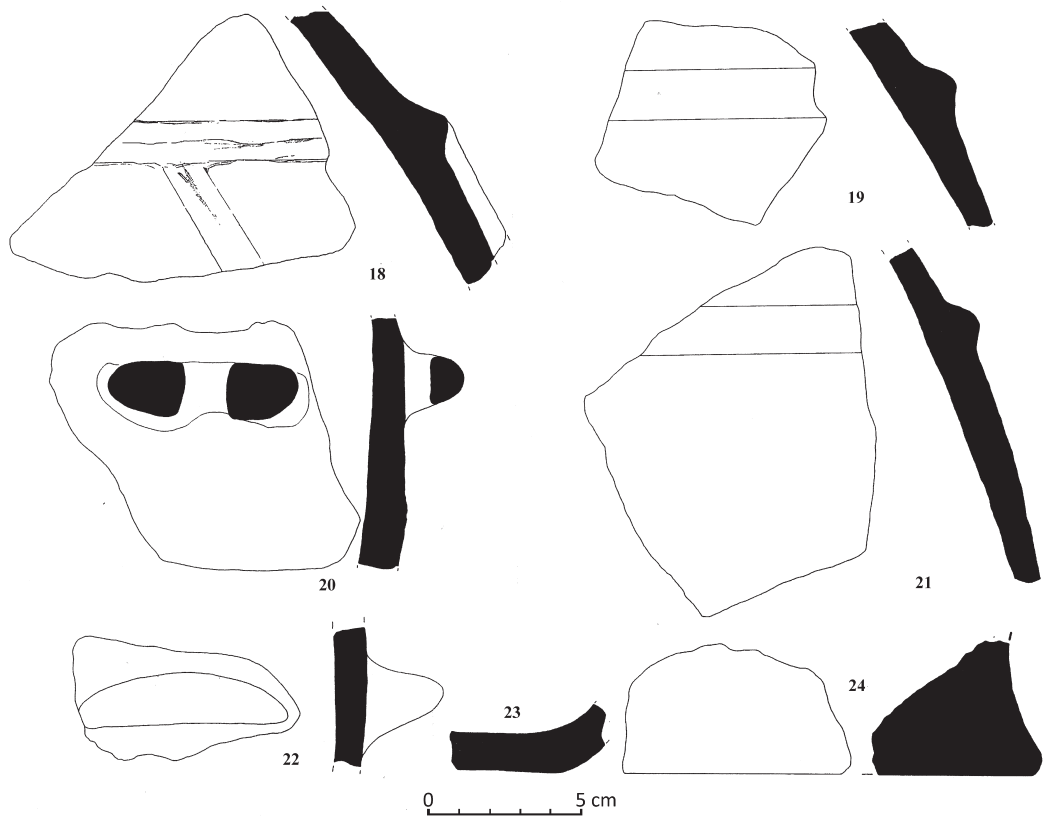
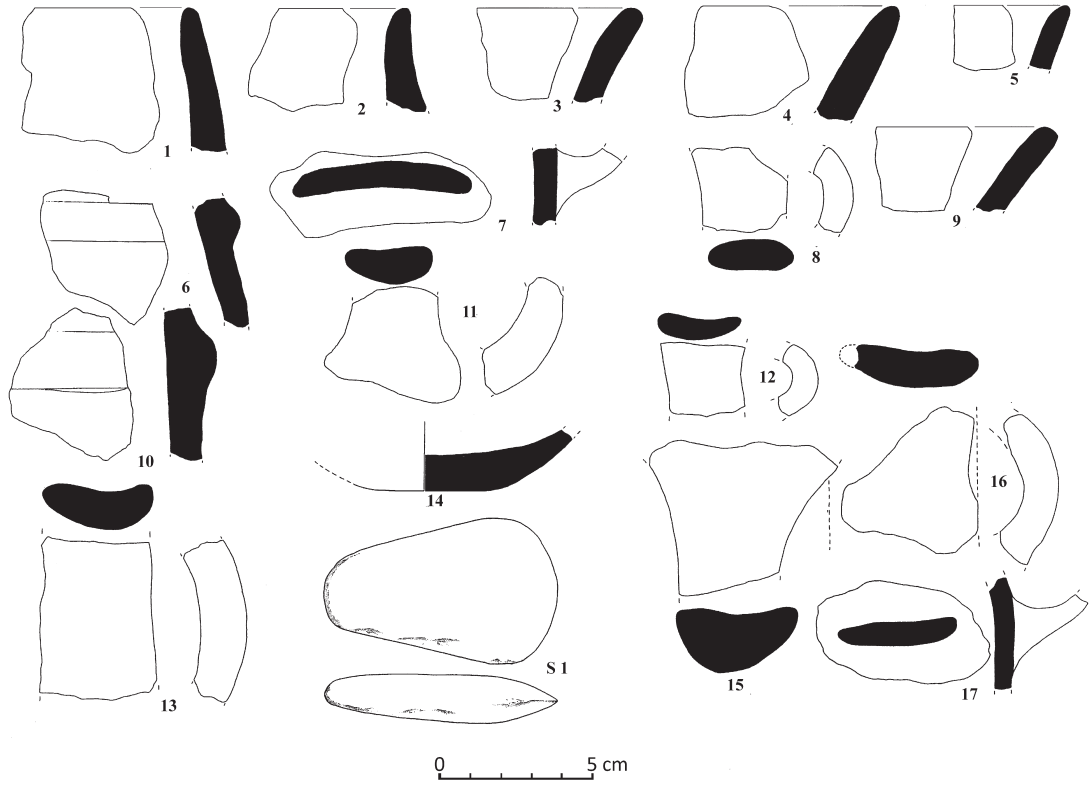
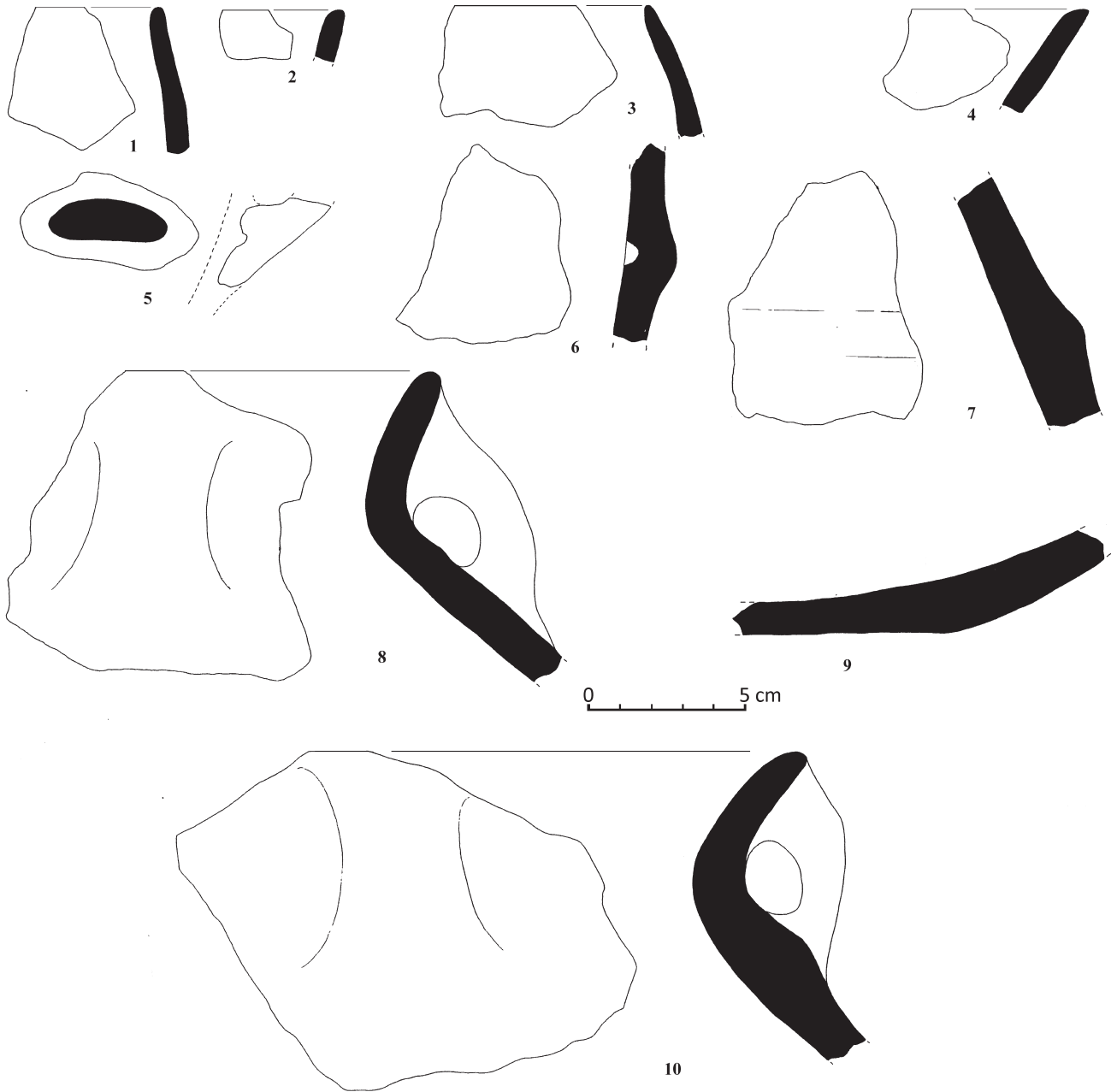


Plate V. Pottery from Site 206

210 Alithini Vigla



171 Kommos Nisos

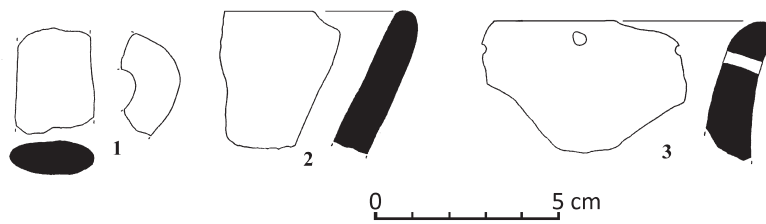


Plate VI. Pottery from Sites 171 and 210



A



B



C



D

Plate VII. Pottery from Sites (A) 304, (B) 311d, (C) and (D) 311c



Plate VIII. Pottery from Sites (A) 64, (B) 301/44, (C) 305, (D) 186

