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WORK IN PROGRESS

092.0.01 J. Bintliff, B. Slapšak, B. Noordervliet, J. van Wiesen:

The Leiden-Ljubljana Ancient Cities of Boeotia Project 2009 seasons

During 2009 the joint Leiden-Ljubljana Project continued work at the ancient city of Koroneia, the city of Thespieae, the city of Haliartos, and revisited the city of Hyettos. Joint teams of staff and students from the respective universities were directed by John Bintliff (Koroneia, Hyettos) and Bozidar Slapsak (Haliartos, Thespieae). The Assistant Director was Professor Vladimir Stissi (Amsterdam), and the Assistant Field Director was Dr. A. Vionis (Leuven/University of Cyprus). We wish to acknowledge the always helpful support of Professor Vassilis Aravantinos for the Thebes Ephorate, the staff of the Dutch Institute in Athens, and the generous hospitality of the Bishop of Thebes and Livadhia for our project accommodation at Evangelistria. A ceramic study season was carried out in April under the direction of Professor Jeroen Poblome (Leuven) and Professor Stissi. Key staff members for the fieldwork at Koroneia and Hyettos were Bart Noordervliet and Janneke van Zwienen (Leiden), whose specialist research in digital recording and GIS was fundamental to the project. Emeri Farinetti (Leiden) was the database manager. Previous work has been presented in *Pharos. The Journal of the Dutch Institute at Athens* (Bintliff 2006; Bintliff and Slapsak 2007, Bintliff and Slapsak 2009, and for the 2008 season, *in press*).

Koroneia

As in previous seasons, surface survey of this large Greco-Roman city continued, using a standard 20x20 metre grid-unit for the recording of surface finds and surface architecture. By the

end of the summer season, 581 survey quadrats have been completed, mostly in the ideal size, but a minority in other dimensions when survey conditions were too poor for full treatment. The total area covered is now 22.6 hectares of the city-hill [*Figure 1*]. The exact boundaries of the maximum extent of the ancient town are only known at some points, and on this Figure we have shown two natural lines (in yellow) based on the contours which would have been desirable for a strong Lower Town fortification. They represent 22 hectares and 53 hectares. On the basis of several pieces of evidence, including one definite and one possible cemetery, and the spread of built-up housing detected in our grid-units, we believe the actual maximum extent of the Greco-Roman lay somewhere in between these two figures. Some tentative, more realistic alignments for the city wall are shown as dashed purple lines. On that basis we have perhaps covered one half of the city surface. At the end of the season, a large field which had been bulldozed by a local farmer yielded numerous traces of architectural fragments and an inscription, in an area [*Marked as a blue locality on Figure 2*] where the evidence just-cited had led us to suggest a city wall-line, and this may well be a periurban cemetery in the vicinity of a town-gate. The hypothetical wall-line here will necessarily need to be drawn slightly further south so as to place this field just outside and to its north.

Additional support for defining the edge of the built-up town comes from the total ceramic density map for the grids covered so far, corrected for visibility of the ground surface [*Figure 3*]. As a rough guide, intensive analysis at the city of Thespieae in Boeotia has indicated that the boundary here shown of around 21,000 sherds per hectare may mark city-periphery, which means that all the zones from blue-colour and higher could be urban, green and lower extramural. The low values in the far south are clearly non-urban, and lie across a natural stream boundary. In the north-west and north-east values above and below the guidelines may suggest we are near the city edge, but caution is needed in using these values with precision, since the known Classical cemetery and the Frankish period village fall mostly into 'city density' but we believe these to be outside the ancient town walls. Clearly a combination of quantitative and qualitative criteria will be needed.

The new putative city-gate cemetery was not the only place where farmers have begun to opt for speedy but unprecedentedly destructive reorganisation of agricultural land inside the ancient town, the other being the Agora. Fortunately our summoning the phylax for the site soon brought an end to such damage.

Amongst important discoveries from this season, in situ blocks from the Theatre gave some insights into its construction, whilst our architectural expert Dr. Inge Uytterhoeven (Leuven) has suggested that the large 'bath' at the highest part of the Acropolis is a major public building, perhaps a Bishop's Palace, datable from its tiles to the 5th-6th centuries AD. She also clarified the supposed 'church' on the lower plateau of the Acropolis as Late Antique clumsy housing with a heavy use of spolia. In the Lower Town, a massive Late Antique building could be a private mansion, less likely a church.

The surface ceramics continued to appear in extraordinary quantities in almost all the grids examined, and show clear evidence on first inspection that different districts of the city had varying periods of use. Whilst Archaic finds indicate that large parts of the town were already active in the earliest urban phase, Classical finds are ubiquitous, and Late Hellenistic-Early Roman appear equally-so, although perhaps concentrating on the period till the Late Republic rather than in the early Imperial centuries. Middle to Late Roman in contrast appears much more con-

fined in its extent. So far Medieval finds are rare except around the Crusader feudal tower at the north-east base of the city hill, and there they are essentially of Frankish age. We have still then to find the presumed Byzantine predecessor to the dependent village of the 13th-14th centuries, although sporadic ceramic pieces of pre-Frankish medieval date have been found in the upper parts of the Lower Town. Little of Post-Medieval date is visible, supporting the archival evidence for the removal of the Frankish-era village to the modern settlement of Aghios Georgios some two kilometres south-west of the city during the late 14th-early 15th centuries. Also only rare finds of prehistoric pottery and lithics support older mention of Neolithic-Bronze Age activity at the site; we have yet to find any settlement focus, although the overlay of literally millions of Greco-Roman habitation debris sherds and roof-tiles makes the discovery of prehistoric artefacts extremely difficult.

These immense quantities of surface potsherds had already given rise to lively discussion between the survey team and the Project ceramic specialists, as to whether we were collecting the most representative sample for laboratory study. In particular, an apparent poverty of cooking-wares seemed to suggest discrimination in the collection-phase. In order to investigate these issues, Mark van der Enden (Finds Laboratory Supervisor, Leiden/Leicester) set up experiments to test the relationship of the collected sample to the total available on the site surface. This involved comparing the makeup of our normal grid collection, a sample from each 20x20m unit, with a series of 4x4m squares placed within such grids, but from which all pieces were brought back. The main criteria evaluated were size, fabric and the main functional classes (cookware, other domestic, fineware). This is intended to form a separate publication by Mark, but some of the chief provisional findings are worth recording here. Firstly, the representation of coarseware in the total collections was little different from that in the samples, if we exclude tiny fragments which are not gathered in the samples (the rule there is a sherd must be larger than a fingernail). In fact in the total samples much coarseware was indeed in the sub-fingernail size, suggesting that one reason for lower than expected coarseware recovery is due to its far higher risk of disintegration than better-fired wares. Secondly, it appears likely that in regions like Boeotia, with excellent potting clay and traditional high quality products, cooking vessels appear to have been made using fabrics and hardness usually qualified as 'domestic ware'. In addition it can be suggested that much more use was being made of grilling and other forms of food preparation rather than in formal cooking-vessels. An additional observation was made by Professor Stissi on the two comparative samples: as far as chronology is concerned, where quantities are considerable, as at Koroneia, the information from body-sherds adds little to the information obtained from feature-sherds (rims, bases and handles), with the rare exception of prehistoric pieces, where their scarcity requires every possible piece to be retained.

Bart Noordervliet and Janneke van Zwienen registered the study-grids and their qualitative and quantitative data on gps-linked palmtop computers (they are responsible for all the mapping data presented in our Figures), as well as continuing the complete fine-detail mapping of the city surface using a Differential GPS device (measurements on average every 7 metres – see **Figure 4** for the latest map of points measured-in). The three-dimensional model of the city-hill [**Figures 5-6** are from the most up-to-date version], is the basis for their ongoing-analysis of possible street and path routes for ancient inhabitants, as well as the layout of residential and public zones. All architectural pieces are being recorded to centimetre-accuracy, and are being studied by Dr. I.Uytterhoeven (Leuven).

Figure 1:

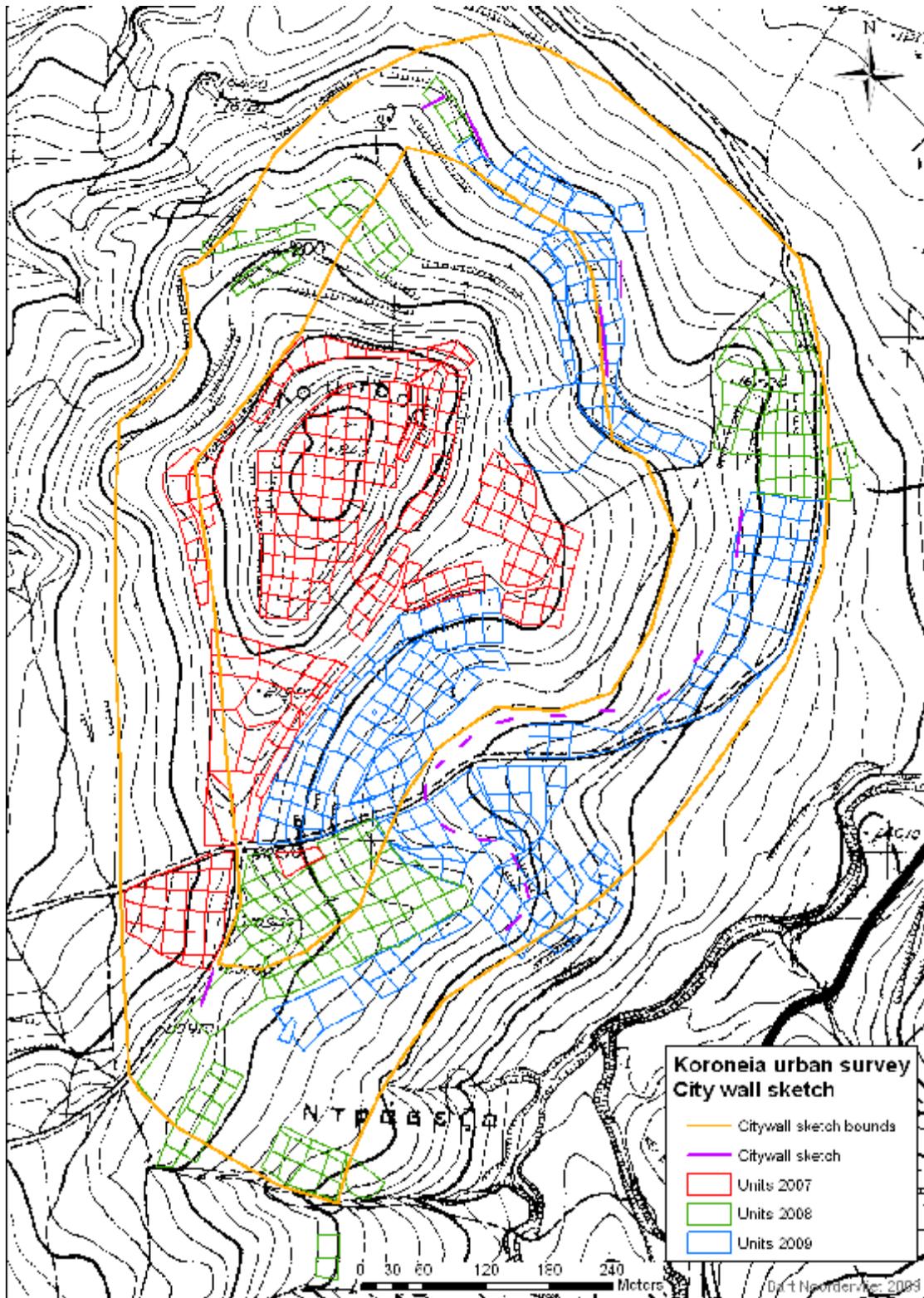


Figure 2:

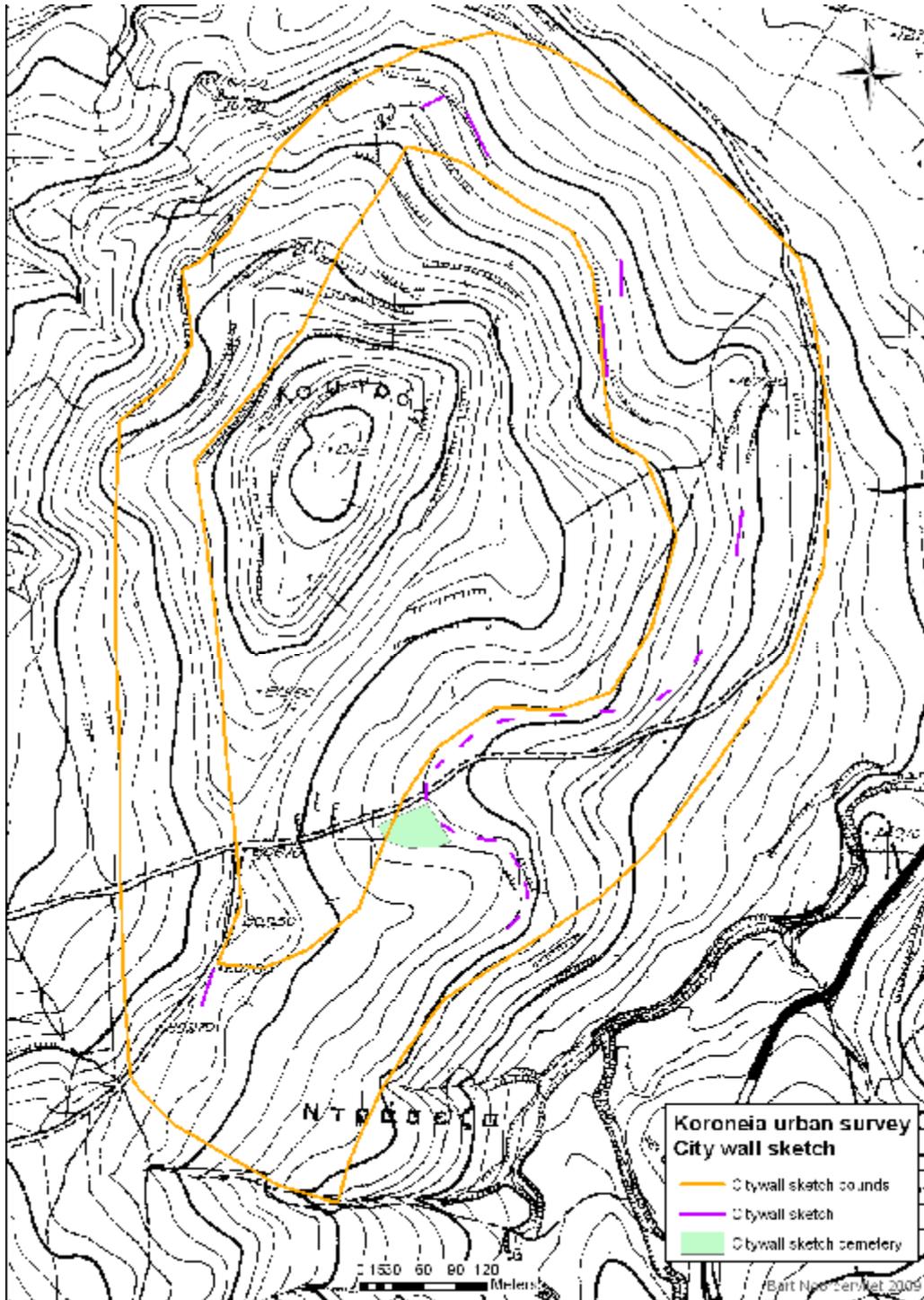


Figure 3:

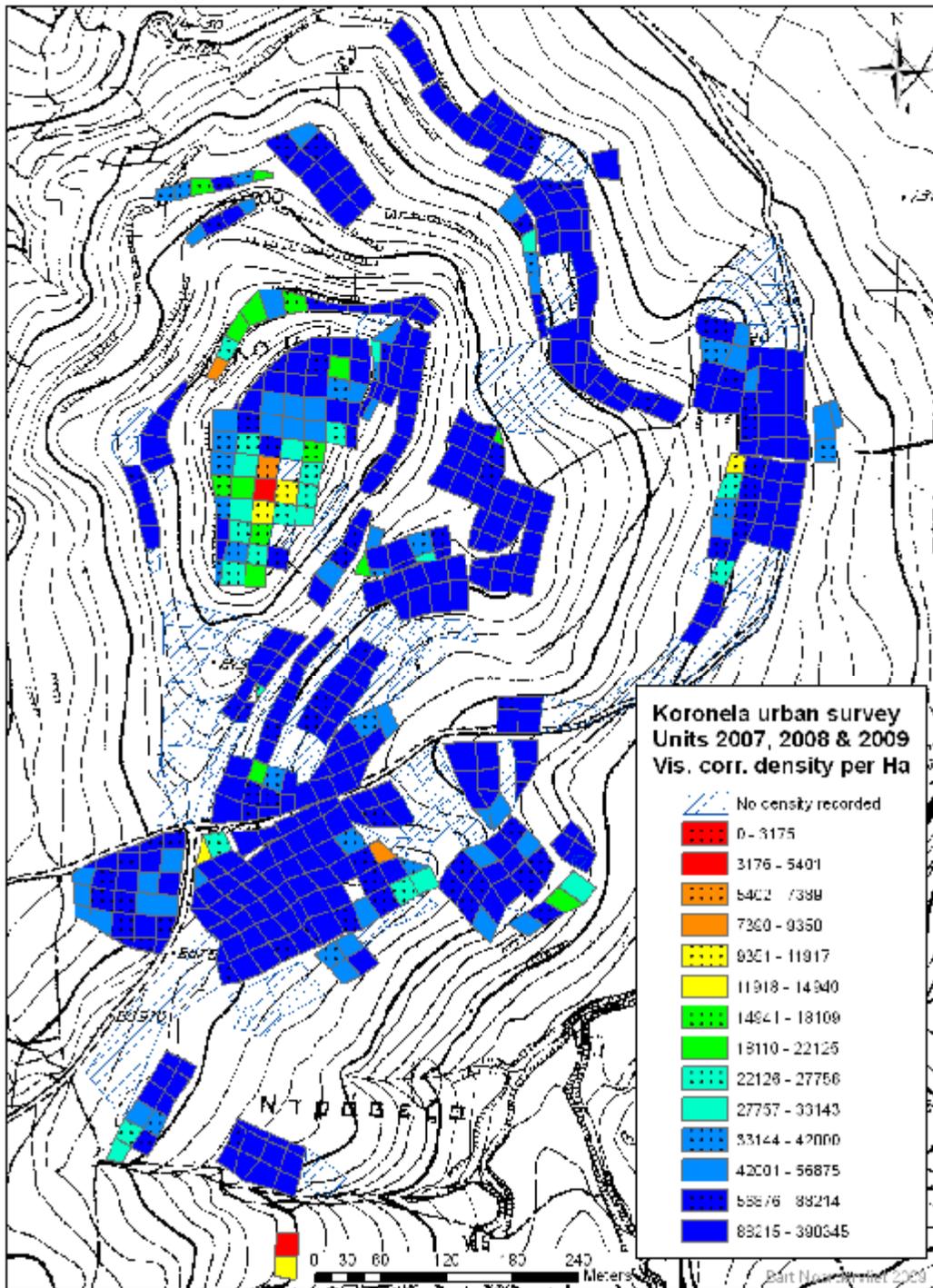


Figure 4:

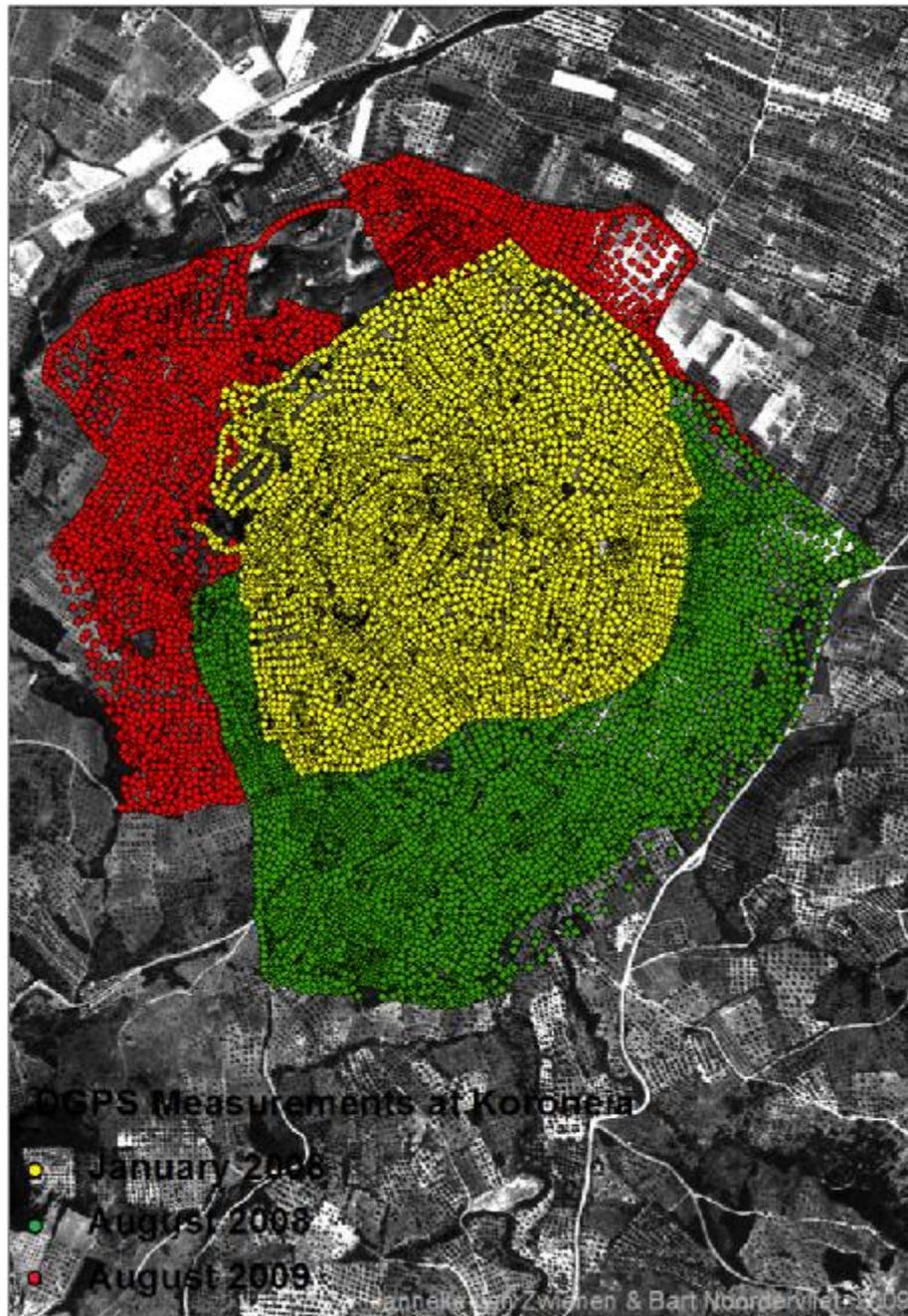
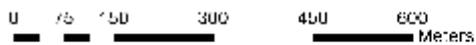
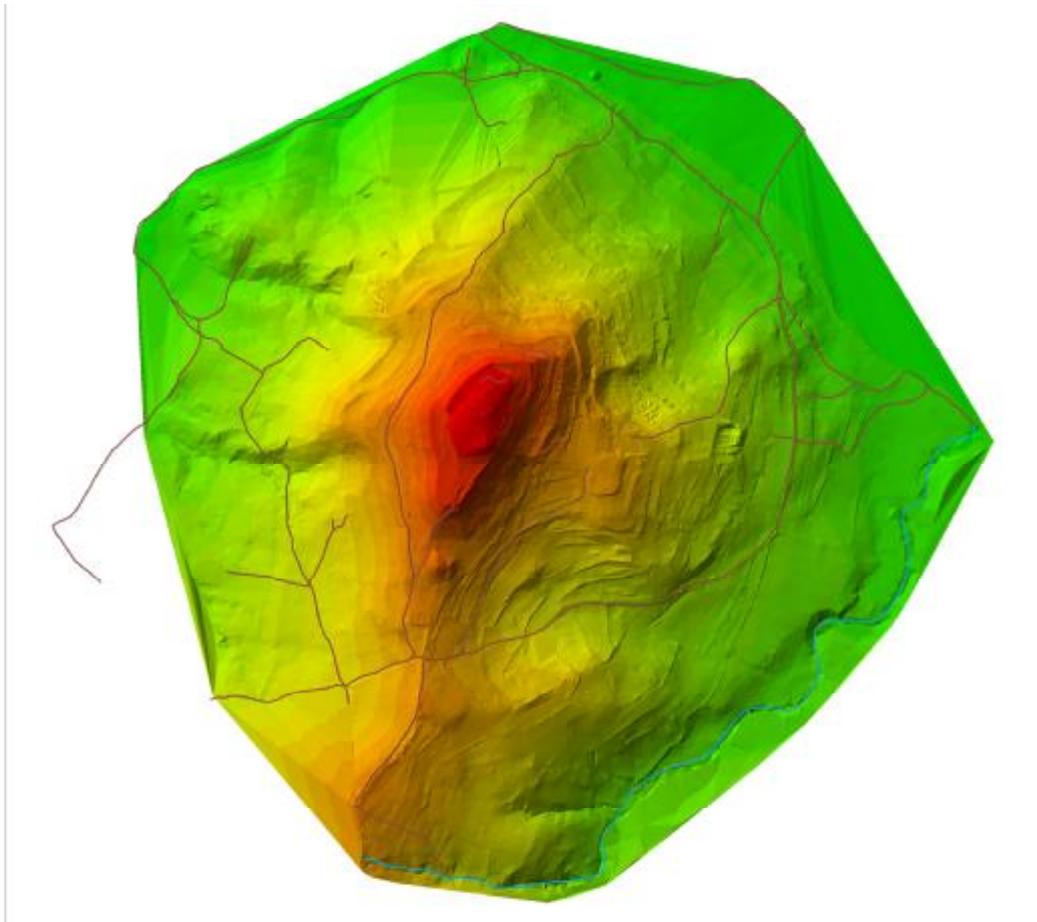


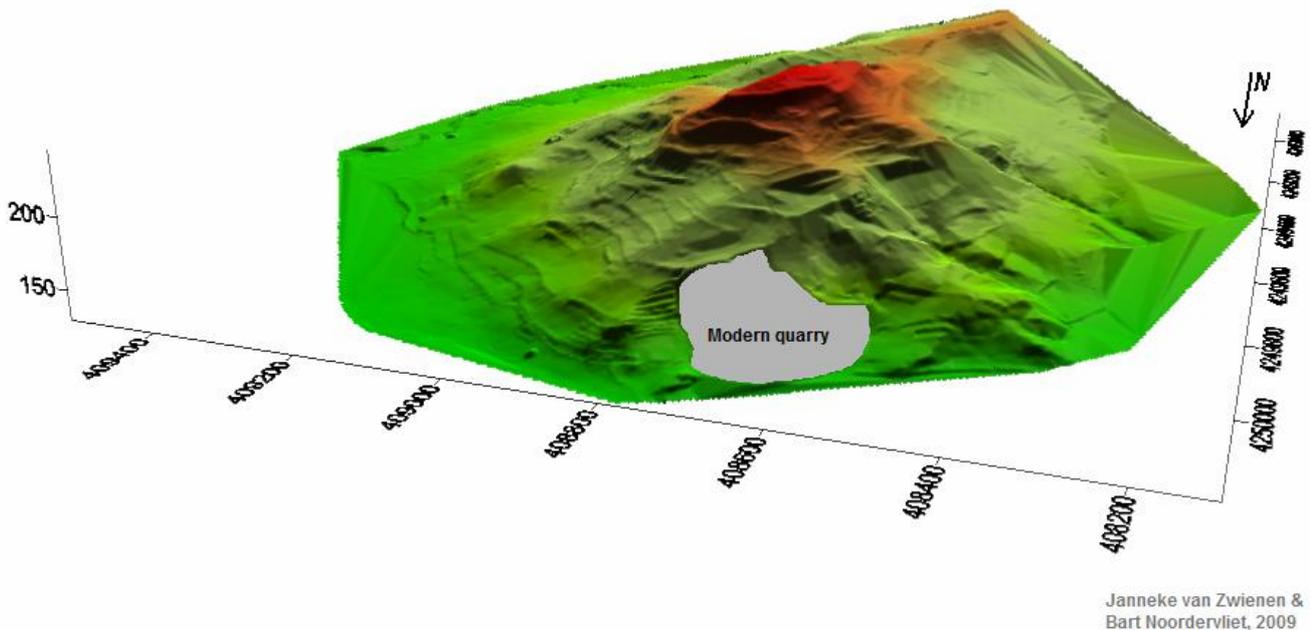
Figure 5:

Digital Elevation Model of Koroneia hill



Janneke van Zwiene &
Bart Noordervliet, 2009

Figure 6:



Haliartos

This ancient city was surface-surveyed in the mid-1980's by the earlier Boeotia Project, under the direction of Professor Anthony Snodgrass (Cambridge). In connection with the final publication monograph for this site, the Ljubljana team under the direction of Bozidar Slapsak, began geophysical survey across the city surface. It is hoped that over the next few years as much as possible of the town will be studied in this fashion, since balloon and light-aircraft photography by the same team have already shown that a gridplan with well-marked streets and house-blocks can be observed from altitude. Since the city was destroyed by the Roman army in the 2nd century BC, and was subsequently only partially reoccupied, this townplan is likely to reflect the Classical-Hellenistic city with little later modification.

Thespieae

The second monograph to be published, of the older Boeotia Project, will cover the 1980's surface survey of the city of Thespieae, carried out by John Bintliff and Anthony Snodgrass. As part of the checking of our knowledge of that large site (some 100 hectares at its maximum), one major unknown element remained to be clarified. Amongst a small number of standing ruins on the modern site surface, a striking façade and rectilinear associated wall-plan in the far east of the town remained undated. It had long been assumed to be a Late Roman, Early Christian basilica. In the period since our surface survey, however, the monument, clearly once-

excavated but never attributable to a known archaeologist, has suffered the indignity of becoming a dump for masses of field clearance stones by local farmers. Not only were we still unsure of the chronology of this major building, but it was clearly being rapidly destroyed by this very recent damage. In response to a request, the Byzantine Ephoreia intervened, and with the assistance of a labour-force provided by the Mayor of the modern village of Thespieae, and the technical support of the Ljubljana team, the monument was cleared of its dumped stone and through subsequent clearing, revealed in suitable detail to obtain at least the main lines of its history.

Although further research may nuance this picture, at this point the likely history of the building(s) appears to Professor Slapsak as follows: it was undoubtedly excavated at the end of the 19th century AD by the French epigrapher Jamot, in search of inscriptions, then left till the 1990's as an open hole in the ground. The oldest phase is a small church of Late Roman times, which is followed by a Middle Byzantine successor. These however are slighted by a giant platform, whose façade had been mistakenly taken to be one end of these churches, but in fact this now appears to be a large multi-storey rectangular structure. It may be that the Byzantine nave was remodelled to accompany this solid block. This final complex structure appears to be Frankish in date, and some Gothic architectural fragments were recovered. If the Late Antique and Middle Byzantine churches can be associated with the final phase of the city and the subsequent village in its eastern extremity, respectively, the Crusader structure can be linked both to the Frankish-era continuation of the eastern village but more significantly to a Papal letter, which indicates that an Italian branch of the Latin monastic order of Premonstratensians was given the feudal control over the Byzantine village in 1210 AD following the Fourth Crusade's conquest of Greece. It is probable that the last phase of the building represents a tower-and-church complex as the tangible presence on the site of the new lords of the village-community of Erimokastro.

One other vital new element in our understanding of the ancient city of Thespieae came from the expertise of Michaelis Kambanis, representing both the Byzantine Ephoreia and Leiden University. Michaelis recognizes in architectural members located earlier by our Project from the Late Roman fortified enceinte, or Kastro, in the centre of the ancient town, pieces of church architecture of the 7th-8th centuries AD, a time of Slav occupation of the Boeotian countryside. This, taken with Dr. Athanasios Vionis' identification of rare ceramic finds of the same period from the site, allow us to suggest that the town survived in occupation from the end of Antiquity into the Middle Byzantine revival of the 9th-12th centuries.

Prehistoric Ceramic Research

With the aid of an INSTAP grant, Dr. Popi Sarri (assisted by a student Ray di Caccio) conducted a detailed re-examination of the prehistoric sherds from Thespieae City, and the Hyetos countryside sites, as well as working for the first time on some parts of Koroneia town. The work on older surveyed sites was in preparation for their final publication.

Vernacular Architecture Project

Following on a series of earlier recording of historic domestic houses by the Boeotia Project, a new phase of this activity was inaugurated in 2009 by Chiara Piccoli as part of her preparation for a PhD study at Leiden. With the aid of a Robotic Total Station and suitable photographic image-processing software, she undertook 3-dimensional reconstructions of ruined houses in the villages of Mazi and Evangelistria, near the project base, as well as collecting local ethnohistoric information from residents regarding the use and furnishings of these houses, one of

which is believed to date back to the early 19th century. Given the rapid destruction of pre-Modern traditional houses in Greece, this work of recording and visualisation is a form of heritage-work which can catch the last manifestations of a way of life likely to date back to the late Middle Ages in the case of the dominant longhouse accommodation. More complex multistorey houses of the late 19th and early 20th centuries also however represent important historical monuments as they can be associated with major transformations in the Greek countryside through rising commercialism, globalisation and economic and political stability. Miss Piccoli was assisted with technical support by Bart Noordervliet and Janneke van Zwienen, and with the ethnographic interviews by Dr. Vionis. Eric Dullaart (Leiden) gave helpful advice on the Robotic Total Station.

092.0.02 B. Burke:

Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project 2009 Report

The Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project, a *synergasia* between the Canadian Institute of Greece and the 9th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, conducted three seasons of surface survey, mapping, and collection, 2007-2009. Under the co-directorship of Vassilis Aravantinos, Brendan Burke, Bryan Burns, Yannis Fappas, and Susan Lupack, our teams have sought to document the archaeological history of eastern Boeotia through all periods.

The third field season was conducted in June 2009 with a team of 5 senior staff and 16 field walkers devoted to artifact collection and analysis, with additional colleagues joining for shorter periods of time. The study of the region's major settlement site at the acropolis of Eleon was furthered by additional mapping of topography using a total-station system. In addition, Gregorios Tsokas carried out a pilot program for geophysical survey in late October, 2009.

Our primary work focused on the western half of our permit area, surrounding the modern villages of Arma and Eleona. Our collection began adjacent to the zone covered in 2007, surrounding the acropolis site provisionally identified as ancient Eleon. Three teams of walkers surveyed 573 units with individual transects totaling 204 kilometers, within an area of approximately of 20 square-kilometers (Fig. 1)

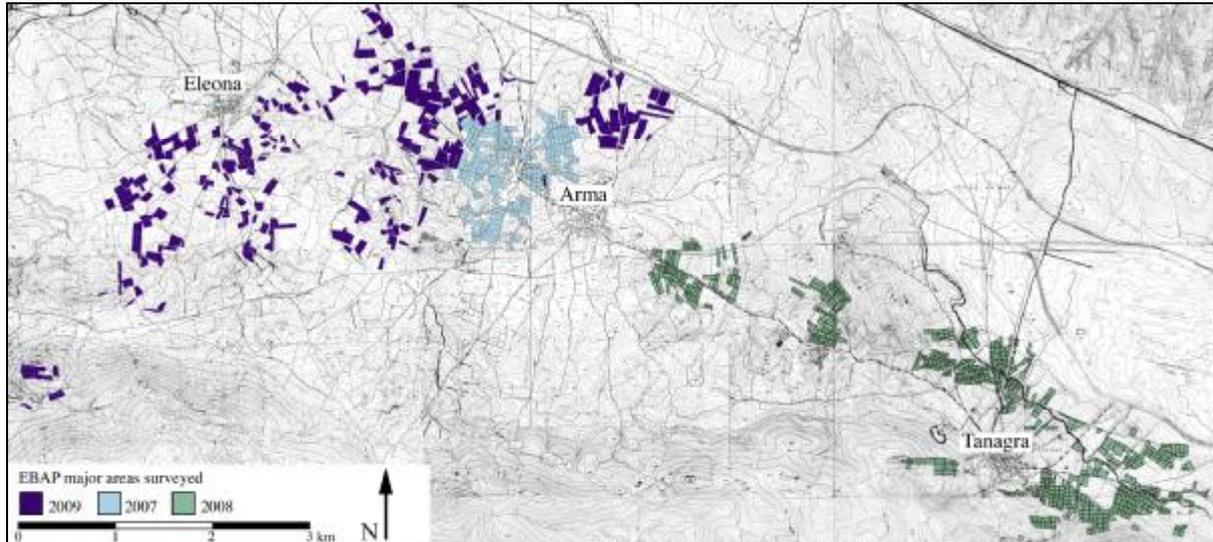


Fig. 1 Major locations of EBAP survey collection, 2007-2009

In 2009 we were able to survey an area just below the acropolis of Eleon that had been too overgrown in previous years to survey. In that area we continued to find Mycenaean pottery of very high quality concentrated around the acropolis (Figs. 2-4). It is noteworthy, however, that Bronze Age ceramics were generally absent from the wider area of focus within our survey zone, to the west this year. The isolated and concentrated character of Bronze Age ceramics in Boeotia follows a pattern discerned by previous surveys in the region.

We found the best evidence for Archaic activity in the survey area in one isolated concentration (tract G26) of sherds (e.g., Fig. 5) representing dozens of Corinthian imports alongside polychrome kylikes of Boeotian style. The repetition of fine ware forms paralleled by the tombs at Rhitsona suggests that this material probably came from funerary depositions. We also found two black-figure pieces, one bearing the head of a wild boar and another of the torso of a warrior with a spear held diagonally across his chest (Fig. 6). The distribution of black glaze sherds throughout our area attests to a widespread habitation during the Classical and Hellenistic periods. Much of this material is remarkably well preserved, including full diameter ring bases with complex profiles. The cluster of surface finds at tract F218 (in the south-west) is specific enough to suggest a farmstead settlement of the late-Classical and Hellenistic periods. The ceramic material includes black glaze bowls, large courseware basins, plus three amphora toes. Specific dates of the fourth century are indicated by the ridged profiles of several ring bases and the stamped acanthus decoration on the interior bottom of the bowl (Fig. 7).



Fig. 2 Kylix Stem



Fig. 3 Kylix Stem



Fig. 4 Mycenaean body sherd

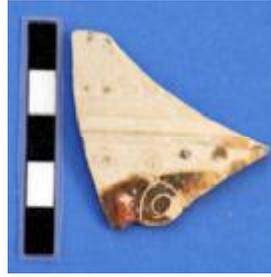


Fig. 5. Corinthian body sherd



Fig. 6. Black-figure body sherd



Fig. 7 Back-glazed stamped base

Many of the areas of higher densities were those adjacent to the acropolis of Eleon and we were happy to return to several fields that were not accessible in 2007. These produced important new finds, including a terracotta architectural fragment decorated with a compass-drawn circles, repeating palmettes, and polychrome floral motifs (Fig. 8). Much of the area under study is typified by relatively low densities of ceramic types that are not easy to date with any precision. In the composite, however, wheel-ridged wares, rougher combed wares, and those with roulette decoration attest to the continued occupation of the region through Roman and Byzantine times. More easily identified are the sherds of mold-made vessels, some in black and Roman red glaze, and five fragments of Roman lamps with can be dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries CE (Fig. 9). Numerous isolated finds can be more specifically dated, such as a bronze coin of Constantine VII and Romanus I (mid-10th c. CE) and sgraffito vessels dating to the 16th century (Fig. 10).



Fig. 8. Architectural fragment



Fig. 9 Molded lamp fragment



Fig. 10 Byzantine bronze coin



Fig. 11 Lithics from Soula

In our exploration of the area immediately north-west of the acropolis we discovered one of the more spectacular finds of the season, a Classical grave stele typical of those from the region, carrying the simple inscription ΕΠΙΤΑΙΣ. Found nearby were two molded fragments of terracotta figurines, with ambiguous shapes.

Another area with recognizable material of the Classical period is located in the far south-west of our survey zone, on a low peak called Soula located along the south-west border of our survey zone. Paul Wallace (*Strabo's Description of Boiotia, a Commentary*, 1979, 96-98) identified this location as ancient Teumessos, mentioned by several sources including Strabo, Pausanias, and Statius. An alternate candidate for ancient Teumessos is the rocky, barren hill known as Meso Vouni (Fossey, J. *Topography and Populations of Ancient Boiotia* 1988, 212-5), located right along the old Thebes-Chalkis highway. Our survey of both locations lends support to the arguments of Wallace (1979) that the more likely location of ancient Teumessos is the peak of Soula. We also found a number of lithics among the material from this area, suggesting a longer range of occupation (Fig. 11).

Prof. Gregorios Tsokas of Aristotle University brought a team to the acropolis site at Arma in October 2009 to test the efficacy of several methods of subsurface detection. Tsokas' team produced the best results through electrical resistivity (DC current) in a zone running immediately west of the site's well-preserved Polygonal wall. Refined interpretations of the pattern of anomalies suggest very well preserved architectural remains of more than one period (Fig. 12).



Fig. 12. Interpretation of resistivity survey anomalies, over Google Earth satellite imagery.

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