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THE MAZI ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT 2017:

TEST EXCAVATIONS AND SITE INVESTIGATIONS

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The Mazi Archaeological Project (MAP) is a diachronic archaeological survey of the Mazi Plain, a small valley located on the major land route connecting Eleusis with Thebes in the Attic-Boeotian borderlands (*fig. 1*)<sup>1</sup>. While the Mazi Plain has long been known for its Classical remains at the sites of Eleutherai, Oinoe, and the Mazi Tower, little was known about its broader occupational history prior to the work of MAP<sup>2</sup>. Since 2014 the project has documented the study area through the systematic pedestrian survey of its surface remains, using a variety of new and traditional methods (*fig. 1*). In the course of intensive fieldwalking, we covered some 11.6 sq km in 2,962 survey units, with team members traversing

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<sup>1</sup> The Mazi Archaeological Project is a *synergasia* between the Ephorate of Antiquities of West Attica, Piraeus, and Islands and the Swiss School of Archaeology in Greece (ESAG). The project is co-directed by K. Papangeli (Ephorate), S. Fachard (ESAG, American School of Classical Studies at Athens), and A. R. Knodell (Carleton College). We are grateful to the Hellenic Ministry of Culture for its constant support during the four years of the project. We also wish to express our gratitude to Dr. S. Chrysoulaki, Ephor of West Attica, Piraeus and Islands, and to Prof. K. Reber, Director of the Swiss School, as well as to the institutions that supported the project in 2017: the Ephorate, ESAG, Carleton College, and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. We acknowledge also the institutions that have supported the project in previous seasons (2014–2016): the Swiss National Science Foundation, the Loeb Classical Library Foundation, the Institute for Aegean Prehistory, and the University of Geneva. Knodell is grateful to the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American School of Classical Studies at Athens for a fellowship in 2017–2018. (Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.). Finally, we warmly thank all team members of the 2017 team: E. Svana, E. Tsalkou, P. Valta (Ephorate of Antiquities of West Attica, Piraeus, and Islands); T. Krapf (Swiss School of Archaeology in Greece); S. Craft and R. Lee (Carleton College); S. Murray (University of Toronto); C. Nels, R. Salem, A. Sery (University of Nebraska); C. Cloke (Smithsonian Institution); F. Kondyli (University of Virginia); M. McHugh (University of Birmingham); E. Levine (Brown University); J. Banks, M. Brennan (University of Cincinnati); and C. Hunziker (University of Geneva).

<sup>2</sup> On previous field seasons and reference to prior work in the area, see Fachard 2013; Fachard – Knodell – Banou 2015; Knodell – Fachard – Papangeli 2016; Knodell – Fachard – Papangeli 2017. See also: <www.maziplain.org> (May 2018).

the landscape in parallel lines spaced every ten meters, allowing for the diachronic quantification and collection of artifacts across the entire study area. In addition, we documented some 560 archaeological features through mapping, drawing, photography, and description. Several features and sites of special interest were given more detailed treatment through high-resolution mapping with a differential GPS, three-dimensional recording with photogrammetry, aerial photography, architectural illustration, gridded surface collection, and geophysical survey.

The bulk of the fieldwork of the project was carried out in three field seasons (2014, 2015, 2016). Highlights include new discoveries spanning several periods. Final Neolithic and Early Bronze Age remains were documented at various locations throughout the survey area, most notably at Kato Kastanava. Mycenaean material was found on both ends and in the center of the Mazi Plain, most notably at the “shady rock of Eleutherai”<sup>3</sup>, which features significantly in the mythological landscape of the region. Also nearby was the “Cave of Antiopé”<sup>4</sup>, where we documented an Archaic shrine. For the Classical period we produced the first comprehensive plans of Eleutherai and Oinoe and revealed a previously unknown pattern of settlement in between. We documented the Mazi and Velatouri towers, as well as the Oinoe road that connects the Mazi Plain with Eleusis and Athens, revealing information about connectivity within and around the survey area. We noted a substantial shift in the settlement pattern in the transition to the Roman period, and more so toward the end of it, similar to patterns seen in rural landscapes throughout Greece. Perhaps the most significant transformations in the organization of settlement happened in the Byzantine period, following the 11<sup>th</sup> century establishment of the Monastery of Osios Meletios, which became a powerful institution in the wider region. We discovered and/or documented several of its dependencies (settlements and churches) throughout the area. A final group of insights concerns the more recent history of the region. This mountain plain has been important for pastoralism and

<sup>3</sup> Eur. Suppl. 757–760.

<sup>4</sup> Paus. 1, 38, 9.

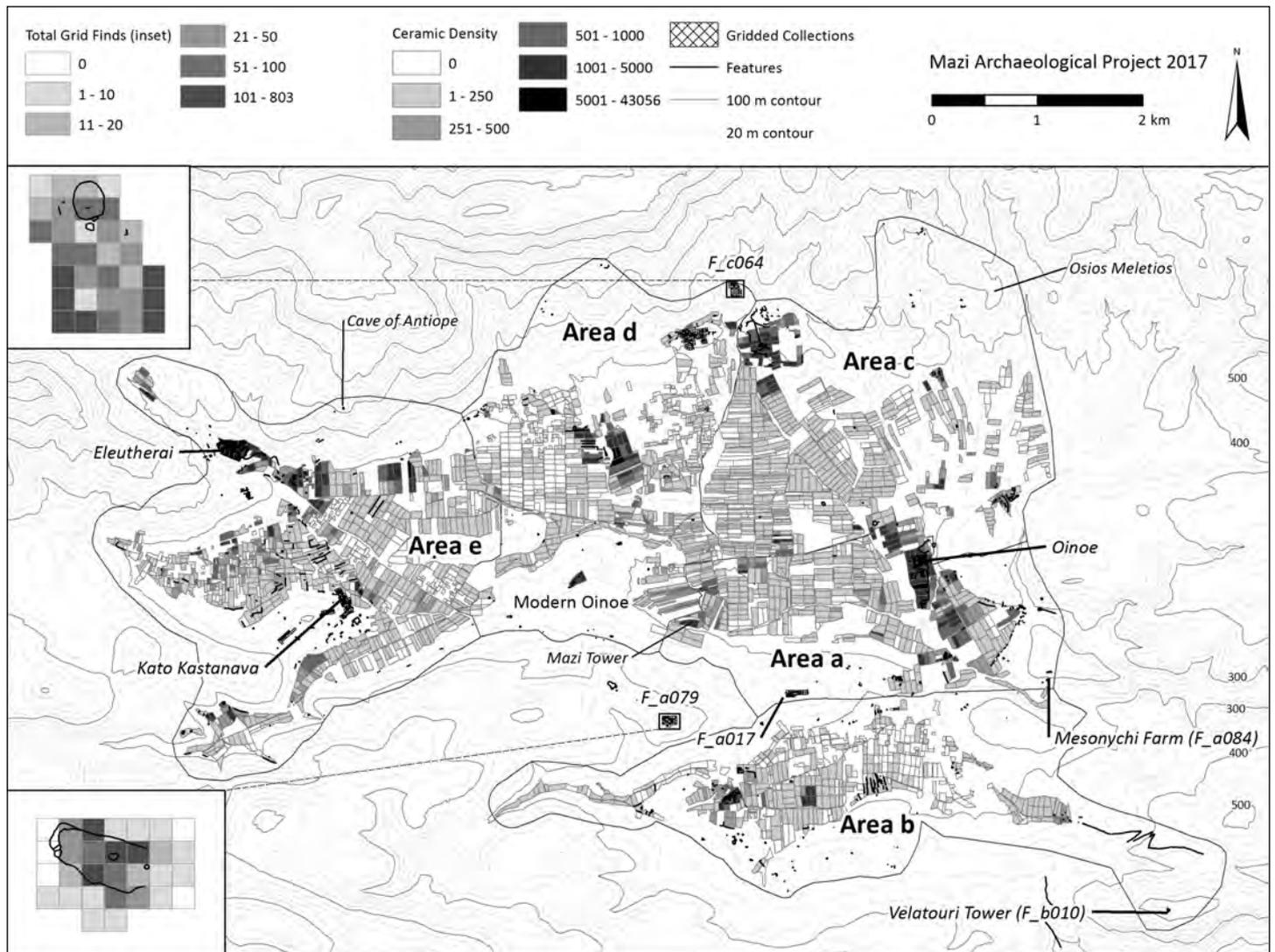


Fig. 1 The study area of the Mazi Archaeological Project, showing pottery densities, important sites, and the results of gridded collections in 2017

resin production, and remains a vital route between central and southern Greece. Traffic through it is well documented by early travelers, in the form of a 19<sup>th</sup> century Royal Road, in its place in World War II history, and in the Old National Road that continues to be a major thoroughfare. Methodologically, we have used a mix of new and traditional methods for recording, seeking to innovate technologically while also remaining grounded in tried and true techniques of pedestrian intensive and extensive survey. A point of particular emphasis was the detail and broad scope of feature recording undertaken by the project at multiple stages, the final phases of which are the chief subject here.

The fourth and final season of fieldwork took place in June 2017. The main objectives were (1) to excavate two trial trenches: one at Ancient Oinoe and one at the prehistoric site of Kato Kastanava; (2) to clean and docu-

ment several sites discovered in 2016; and (3) to make progress in the study of the survey material for its final publication.

#### *Trial trench and surface cleaning at Ancient Oinoe*

Oinoe has never been the subject of a systematic program of excavations, despite being well known as a strategic Attic deme center<sup>5</sup>. In the framework of MAP, the

<sup>5</sup> J. Traill, *Demos and Trittyes* (Toronto 1986) 137; D. Whitehead, *The Demes of Attica. 508/7 – ca. 250 B.C.* (Princeton 1986) 372–373; J. Ober, *Greek Horoi: Artifactual Texts and the Contingency of Meaning*, in: D. B. Small (ed.), *Methods in the Mediterranean: Historical and Archaeological Views on Texts and Archaeology* (Leiden 1995) 112–114. See also E. Vanderpool, *Roads and Forts in Northwestern Attica*, *California Studies in Classical Antiquity* 11, 1978, 231–232; Ober 1985, 154–155; Lauter 1992, 81–84; Fachard 2013, 92–93.

settlement was surveyed in its entirety in 2014 with the fieldwalking methods used throughout the rest of the study area and the fortifications were systematically mapped for the first time (*fig. 2*). In 2016 a geophysical survey was conducted in the lower town, south of the acropolis<sup>6</sup>. These investigations provided the first detailed plan of the settlement and clarified the main phases of occupation, ranging between the Classical and Late Roman periods.

Several questions remained, however, mainly concerning the existence of a southern wall in the upper town, the extension of the Classical fortifications in the lower town, and the earliest phases of occupation at the site. In order to address these questions, we undertook surface cleaning in various parts of the site and excavated a trial trench at what we believed – based on the results of the geophysical survey – to be the southern front of the Classical fortifications.

The trench was oriented north-south, perpendicular to the south fortification wall located below the upper town (*fig. 2*)<sup>7</sup>. With dimensions of 6.0 × 1.5 m, the excavation unit was placed to extend over the entire projected width of the wall, its potential foundation trench, and occupation layers within the fortified area.

The trench confirmed the existence of a fortification wall, oriented east-west (*fig. 3*)<sup>8</sup>. Only the foundations survive, which nevertheless demonstrate the existence of a massive wall with a width of 4 m. The foundations are made of large local limestone blocks laid out directly on the hardened clay of the virgin soil, which was found at a depth of 1.5 m below the current surface. It is unfortunate that not a single block belonging to the first courses

of the wall was found in the trench; the stone socle seems to have been dismantled and the blocks reused in later constructions, probably in the Late Roman period. However, based on the evidence from the west and east fronts, the south fortification must have been a double-faced wall enclosing an internal fill and supporting a mudbrick elevation.

The foundation trench of the fortification wall was identified, carved in sterile, clay-like soil. The ceramics from the fill date the construction of the fortifications to the Classical period. A layer sealing the foundation trench contained a bronze arrowhead and its northern part consisted of a hardened floor made of small stones and tiles. The interpretation of this layer is subject to debate, given the small size of the trench, but it could be associated with a working surface linked to some repairs done on the wall or on some buildings in this sector. Sections of a wall and a drain, which were built on this hard layer, are preserved in the northwest corner of the trench. Little can be said about the date of these features, but their location above the foundation trench and earlier layers suggests that they come from later periods, perhaps Hellenistic.

The top two strata consist of soil deposits that accumulated in subsequent periods. Pottery in these layers consisted of a mix of Classical to Roman materials, as well as numerous roof tiles. Among the finds were two fragments of molds used for the production of clay *protomai*, most likely of Hellenistic date. These fragments reveal the presence of workshops at Oinoe, and shed new light on the local production of architectural terracottas.

The results of the resistance survey accord with the walls documented during the excavation, but reveal at the same time a more complex set of architectural remains in the southwest corner of the fortification. Additional walls appear to have existed in the vicinity of the south and west walls. Obviously, only an open area excavation could reveal the extent of the ancient remains, but the existence of a larger tower defending the southwest corner and a possible gate complex would make sense from the point of view of military architecture.

Although it remains difficult to draw definite conclusions about the stratigraphic sequence, the 2017 trial

<sup>6</sup> The geophysical survey was carried out by a team led by Prof. Grigoris Tsokas (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki). See Knodell – Fachard – Papangeli 2017, 158–160.

<sup>7</sup> This trial trench, located in a plot owned by the Ephorate, was excavated between 6 and 28 June 2017, supervised by E. Tsalkou (Ephorate of Antiquities of West Attica, Piraeus, and Islands) and J. Banks (University of Cincinnati), assisted by two local workmen and student volunteers.

<sup>8</sup> This result contradicts the earlier supposition, made by Lauter (1992, 81–82), that “at the Southern edge of the hill a line of walling probably never existed.”

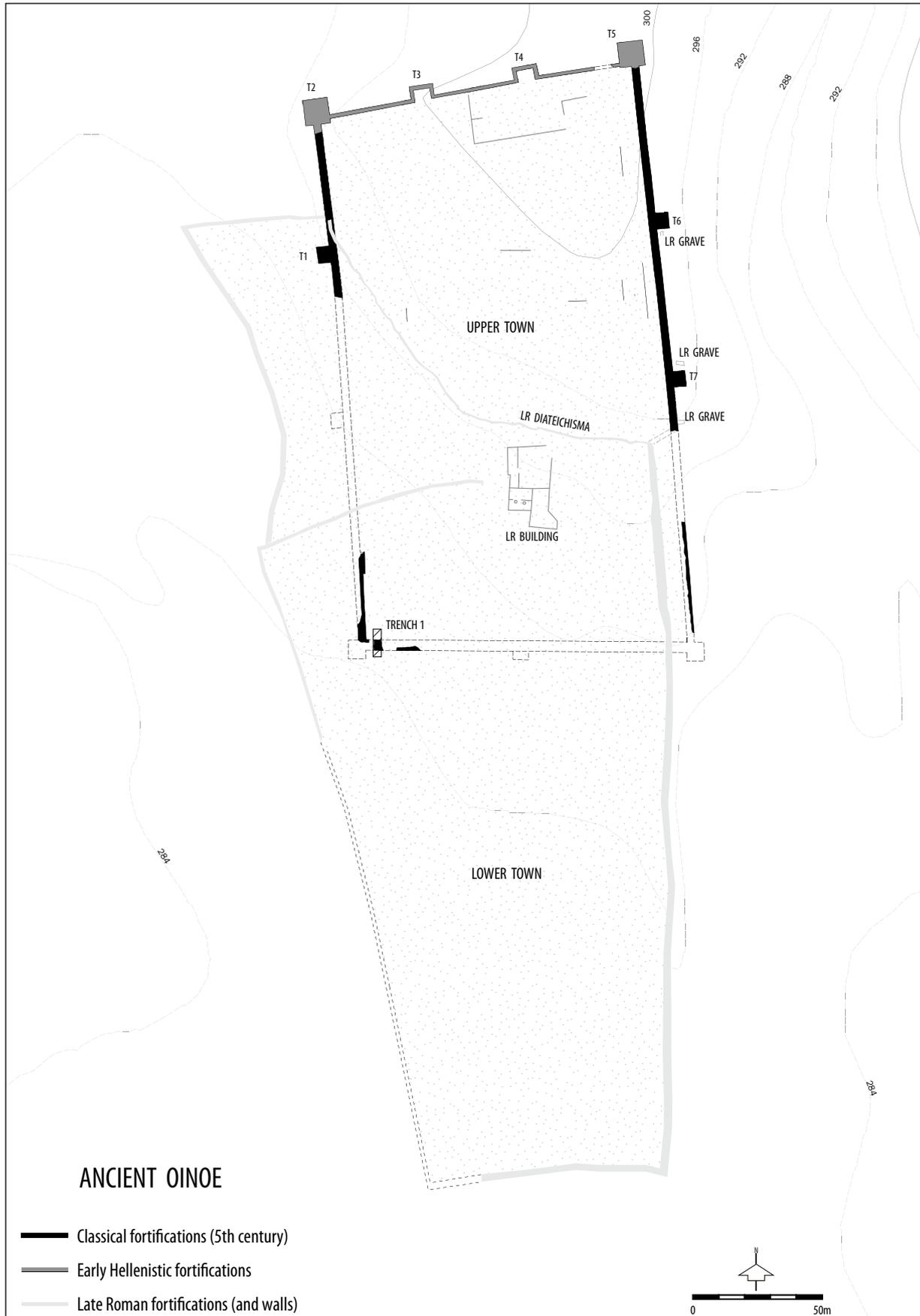


Fig. 2 Plan of Oinoe

## OINOE TRENCH 1

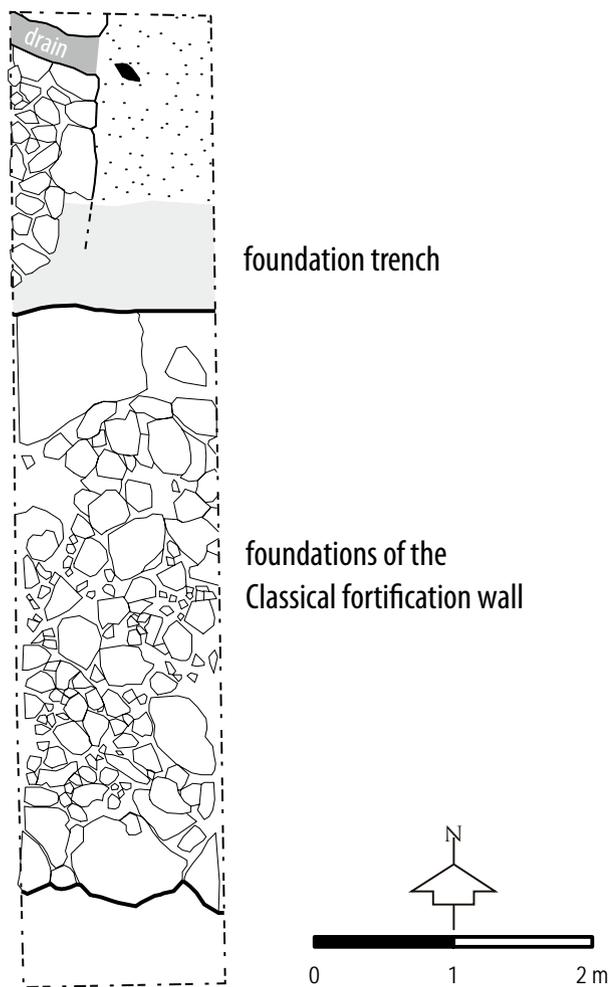


Fig. 3 Plan of the Oinoe trench, showing layout and architectural features

trench does allow us to make some comments on the phasing of the Oinoe fortifications. First, it is noteworthy that the earliest sherds found in the trench do not predate the 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE. The survey revealed few signs of occupation at Oinoe in the Archaic period, yet we do know that the site was attacked by the Boeotians in 506 BCE<sup>9</sup>.

Second, the Classical pottery from the fill suggests an accord with Thucydides' testimony<sup>10</sup>, according to which Oinoe was the first town in Attica to be (unsuccessfully) attacked by the Lacedaemonians in the course of their first invasion of Attica in 431 BCE: the fortifications would have to have been built before this date. The walls were double-faced, made of rectangular to polygonal limestone

<sup>9</sup> V. L. Aravantinos, A New Inscribed Kioniskos from Thebes, *BSA* 101, 2006, 369–377.

<sup>10</sup> Thuc. 2, 18, 1–2.

blocks, mostly arranged in courses, supporting a mud-brick elevation (*fig. 4*). The walls were 2.10 m wide on the west and east fronts, while the south wall, at least in its westernmost section, was 4 m wide. Such an increase in width is best explained by the micro-topography: while the north, west, and east walls are founded on the bedrock and use the natural advantages of the hill, the south wall was built on lower and less stable ground, which forced the builders to implement wider foundations.

In terms of overall plan, we are now able to project the full course of the 5<sup>th</sup> century walls across the site (*fig. 2*). The Oinoe fortifications form a rectangle 235 m long and 136 m wide, enclosing a fortified area of 2.6 ha. The 2017 trench and surface cleaning allowed us to map the south wall, the southern portion of the west wall, with a probable staircase, as well as a section of the southeast corner and its connection with the east wall. Three towers can be related to this first building phase: T1, T6, and T7. It thus appears that towers were positioned every 50–60 m. Based on this postulation, a fourth tower can be tentatively restored some 50–55 m south of T1 and on the axis of T7. It is also reasonable to restore two towers at the southwest and southeast corners, as it would have been unwise to leave these corners undefended, as well as a tower in the middle of the south wall<sup>11</sup>. As described above, several features were revealed by the resistance survey at the southwest corner. Moreover, a noticeable mound on the ground surface could correspond to the buried remains of a south middle tower. If our reconstruction is sound, then the Oinoe fortification formed a more-or-less regular rectangle – a very unusual plan for Greek fortifications, which are usually adapted to the shape of uneven terrain.

The discovery of the south wall also shows that an important part of the Classical settlement, the lower town, was located outside of these walls<sup>12</sup>. A more

<sup>11</sup> L. Chandler restores two corner towers with dotted lines on her plan of Oinoe (Chandler 1926, 9 *fig. 4*). Corner towers exist at the northwest and northeast corners, but they belong to the second building phase. We nevertheless believe that they reused existing towers.

<sup>12</sup> Evidence for a lower town was documented in 2014 as a thick distribution of pottery and tile across an area of c. 2.8 ha. See Fachard – Knodell – Banou 2015, 183–184.



Fig. 4  
Oinoe, tower T<sub>1</sub>, showing  
Classical phasing.

modest wall was perhaps built around it, but in its current form the wall of the lower town, which makes extensive use of spolia from the Classical and Hellenistic walls, dates to the Late Roman period<sup>13</sup>.

In the upper town, the 5<sup>th</sup> century fortifications were later repaired and strengthened by new walls made of conglomerate ashlar blocks, disposed in headers and stretchers. New towers were built on the north face (T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub>, T<sub>4</sub>, T<sub>5</sub>), probably replacing existing ones. The date of this phase is uncertain, but the size and architecture of the new towers, especially T<sub>2</sub> and T<sub>5</sub>, and the strong similarities with the walls of Athens rebuilt at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century<sup>14</sup> suggest construction in the later 4<sup>th</sup> or early 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC.

In the Late Roman period, the plan of the Oinoe fortifications is modified considerably: new walls are built to the west and south of the fortified upper town, and the entire lower town is included within a new enceinte. The south wall of the upper town seems to have been disassembled at this time and replaced by a *diateichsima* built further north, on higher ground, following approximately the 292 m contour line (fig. 2). Three stretches of

the new walls were cleaned in 2017, allowing us to gather information on their construction and date. They are made of loosely-assembled blocks and small stones, including spolia, mostly limestone and conglomerate blocks from the Classical and Hellenistic fortifications, as well as the large weight of an olive or wine press. The masonry is often composed of conglomerate blocks used as orthostats, with intervals filled in by smaller stones. The use of blocks from the Hellenistic fortifications provides a solid (if imprecise) *terminus post quem*, and these walls best fit within the period of a Late Roman revival at Oinoe, which is well documented in the surface pottery from the survey. This phase is accompanied by the construction of new and often large buildings within the fortified space. These constructions also made use of spolia, mostly conglomerate blocks from the Hellenistic fortifications. One of these architectural features was cleaned and mapped in 2017, revealing that it was an important building, 32 × 19 m, comprised of several rooms and a courtyard (fig. 2). One of the rooms contains two large underground pear-shaped cisterns, whose inside surfaces were carefully covered with watertight concrete. Pottery from the cleaning suggests a date in the Late Roman period.

<sup>13</sup> This wall was tentatively dated by H. Lauter to the 5<sup>th</sup> century (Lauter 1992, 84), but the 2017 surface cleaning shows that these walls were Late Roman in date.

<sup>14</sup> A. M. Theodoraki, *Τα αρχαία τείχη των Αθηνών* (Athens 2015) 203–214.

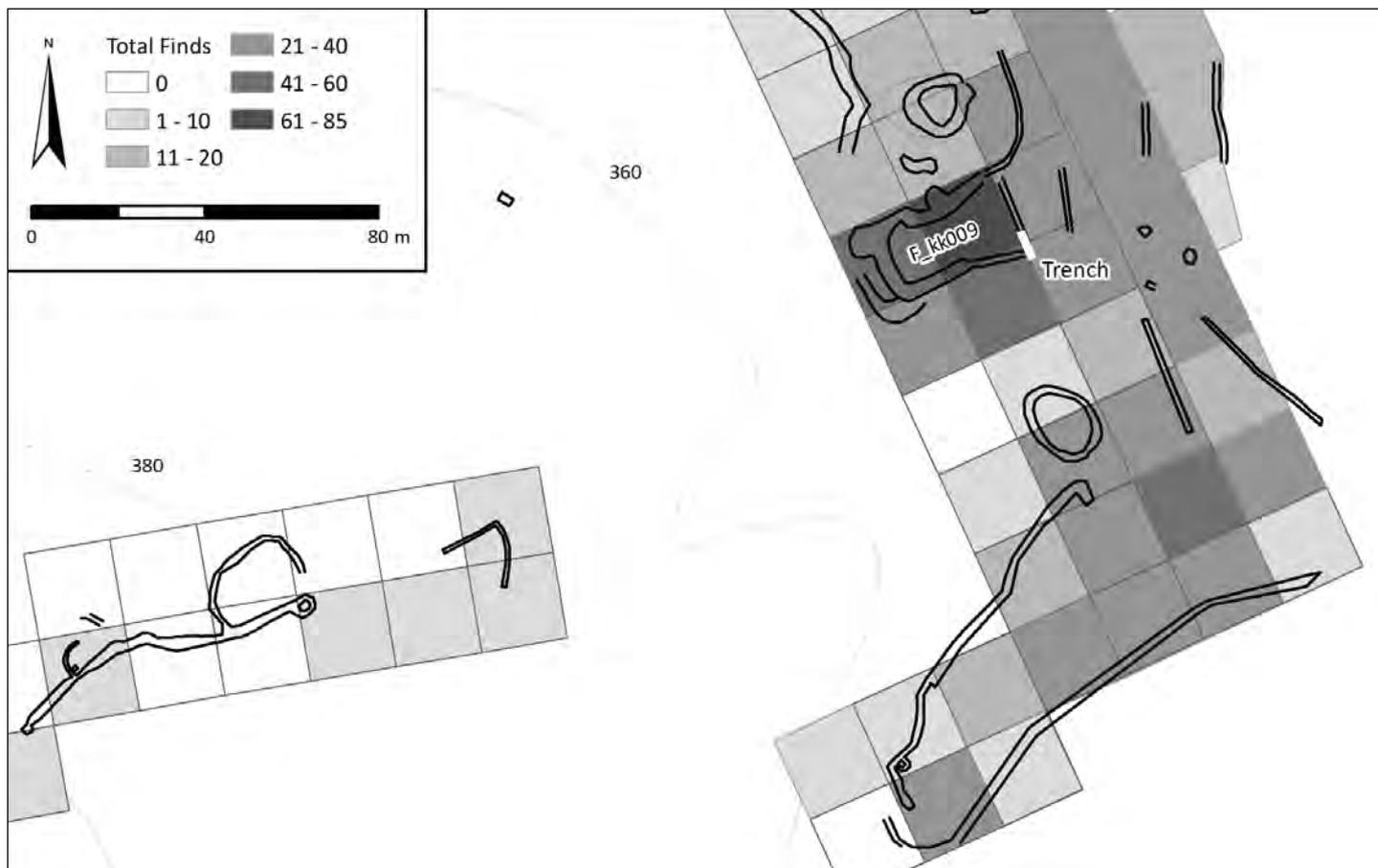


Fig. 5 Plan and location of excavation trench at Kato Kastanava

### Test excavations at Kato Kastanava

The prehistoric site at Kato Kastanava was the target of various types of investigations during the 2015 and 2016 field seasons<sup>15</sup>. Surface cleaning was carried out at the most significant architectural features, accompanied by gridded collection of surface artifacts, including chert and obsidian chipped-stone tools and pottery from the Final Neolithic and Early Helladic I periods. Cleaning operations revealed that the site had been used in more recent times as well, most notably through the construction of *mandria* (sheepfolds) of a type usually dated to modern periods. Several of the enclosures visible on the surface, however, remain ambiguous in date.

In 2017 a small trial trench was dug at the site, focusing on one of the architectural features cleaned in 2016 – the largest of the enclosures present at the site, which also had the highest concentration of prehistoric obsidian and

pottery finds in its vicinity (*fig. 5*)<sup>16</sup>. The trench (7 × 2 m) was positioned in the southeast corner of the large, rectangular rubble enclosure, F\_kk009. The trench was designed to capture both outer wall faces of the corner, as well as the interior, which was deemed to be the most likely location of finding any artifactual evidence associated with the construction of the wall. The bedrock, although apparently deeper than in other areas in the vicinity, still proved to be relatively close to the surface<sup>17</sup>.

Excavated levels in this trench were more or less uniform. The soil seemed to consist mostly of recently formed, loose material, probably related to known practices of keeping animals at the site. The walls of the feature were quite shallow, founded directly on the unmodified bedrock, in some places with small amounts of soil in between. The excavation progressed quickly, as the soil was relatively homogeneous and finds throughout

<sup>15</sup> Knodell – Fachard – Papangeli 2016, 142–143; Knodell – Fachard – Papangeli 2017, 154–155.

<sup>16</sup> The trench was supervised by E. Tsalkou (Ephorate), T. Krapf (ESAG) and J. Banks (University of Cincinnati) and carried out between 26 and 28 June 2017.

<sup>17</sup> For the most part less than 0.5 m.

most of the trench consisted of only a few pottery fragments, lithics, and bones, all most likely washed down from above and unstratified.

The most significant deposit excavated in this trench was located in a cavity in the bedrock at about the midpoint of the trench, below the east wall of F\_kk009. This deepest layer contained most of the pottery excavated in the trench. The pottery consisted entirely of friable, coarse sherds consistent with Final Neolithic or Early Helladic I pottery: the fabric suggested that these were poorly fired ceramics created by open firing, rather than kiln use. A silex blade and fragments of a red-burnished shallow bowl with parallels from the Athenian Agora and Kea confirm this date<sup>18</sup>. This deposit corroborates and adds to what we know from the surface survey of the site concerning its prehistoric occupational history. These finds do not, however, have a clear association with the architectural feature F\_kk009, since the deposit is located under the wall. It therefore seems most likely that the enclosure is a more recent construction. Nevertheless, we have expanded our body of evidence for occupational activity at this site in the Neolithic and Early Helladic I periods. Further excavation would be useful in terms of generating more information concerning the prehistoric periods and this complex of architectural features that continues to elude clear chronological definition.

### *Cleaning, mapping, and gridded collection*

In 2017 the Mazi Archaeological Project undertook further work at various sites discovered in previous field seasons, including: gridded collection and mapping at two prehistoric sites (features F\_a079 and F\_c064); architectural cleaning and mapping at a farmstead located on the Mesonychi hill in the southeast region of the study area; and further documentation at the Velatouri tower,

supplementing the photogrammetry and DGPS mapping conducted in 2016 (see *fig. 1* for locations).

### Prehistoric sites F\_a079 and F\_c064

Both prehistoric sites selected for further investigations in 2017 were discovered in the course of reconnaissance conducted late in the 2016 field season. The two sites are positioned on hills on the south and north side of the Mazi Plain, with panoramic views of the study area. As with other substantial prehistoric sites in the study area, F\_a017 and Kato Kastanava, we elected to conduct gridded collection in order to have as comprehensive a picture as possible of the prehistoric surface assemblages. In these cases, we collected all artifacts observed in 20 × 20 m grid squares across each site (*fig. 1*).

F\_a079 is located southeast of the modern village of Oinoe, on the summit plateau of a limestone hill. Double-faced rubble walls encircling the summit may represent a fortification, or at the very least a substantial terrace and delimitation of space. Surface gridding brought to light many lithics, as well as a few pottery sherds, both signaling to a Prehistoric occupation. The lithics and pottery suggest a Final Neolithic to Early Helladic I date similar to that seen at F\_a017 and Kato Kastanava. Several fragments of glazed tiles, discovered on a pile of rubble at the summit, provide evidence for occupation on the hill in the Classical period as well.

Site F\_c064 occupies a well-defined hilltop located in the southern foothills of Mount Pastra, which overlooks the Mazi Plain from the north. Several terrace walls, or possibly more substantial structures, were built at the summit, exploiting the natural defensive character of the hill in a way that is somewhat similar to the terraces at Kiapha Thiti in southern Attica<sup>19</sup>. A large amount of pottery was collected during surface gridding, most notably indicating occupation in various parts of the Bronze Age. The earliest material is most likely Final Neolithic in date. This site also had Early Helladic II sherds, the

<sup>18</sup> S. A. Immerwahr, *Results of Excavations conducted by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. The Neolithic and Bronze Ages. The Athenian Agora XIII* (Princeton 1971) 4–9. J. E. Coleman, *Kephala: A Late Neolithic Settlement and Cemetery. Keos I* (Princeton 1977) 13–15. We are grateful to Margarita Nazou for analyzing this material.

<sup>19</sup> H. Lauter, *Kiapha Thiti: Ergebnisse der Ausgrabungen II, 1. Die bronzzeitliche Architektur. Marburger Winckelmann-Programm 1995* (Marburg 1996).

first noted in the course of the survey. The only other sites in the survey area that had Early Bronze Age pottery were Kato Kastanava and F\_ao79, but those sherds were limited to Final Neolithic and Early Helladic I, with no definite Early Helladic II material. This near absence across the survey area – with the exception of a few sherds – is surprising, since Early Helladic II pottery is typically well represented in rural surveys in Greece<sup>20</sup>. There was also a substantial amount of Mycenaean material from F\_co64, including Early Mycenaean pottery as early as Middle Helladic III, which would be the first attestation of Middle Helladic in the Mazi Plain. Most of the clearly datable material from the site comes from the Late Helladic III period. Numerous tiles were also collected, although little can be said about the date for most of them, and some can be narrowed to Roman times or later. A single Classical-Hellenistic sherd was also found.

#### Mesonychi farmstead

A complex of architectural features (F\_ao84) was discovered late in the 2016 field season, located on the limestone slopes of the Mesonychi Hill, overlooking a small, fertile valley situated in the southeast corner of the Mazi Plain. In 2017, following a thorough cleaning of the vegetation, it was possible to map an elongated building with an irregular plan, comprised of several rooms and a courtyard. The walls are made of blocks and smaller stones, and some stretches include roughly cut polygonal blocks. Black and red-glazed tiles, as well as surface pottery, indicate a date in the Classical period. The construction, location, and artifact assemblage present at the site suggest that it can be identified as a farmstead<sup>21</sup>.

#### Velatouri tower

An important watchtower on the Velatouri hill, located above and southeast of the Mazi Plain, monitored

<sup>20</sup> J. Rutter, Review of Aegean Prehistory II: The Prepalatial Bronze Age of the Southern and Central Greek Mainland, *AJA* 97, 1993, 772.

<sup>21</sup> On the archaeological signature of farmsteads, see M. McHugh, *The Ancient Greek Farmstead* (Oxford 2017).

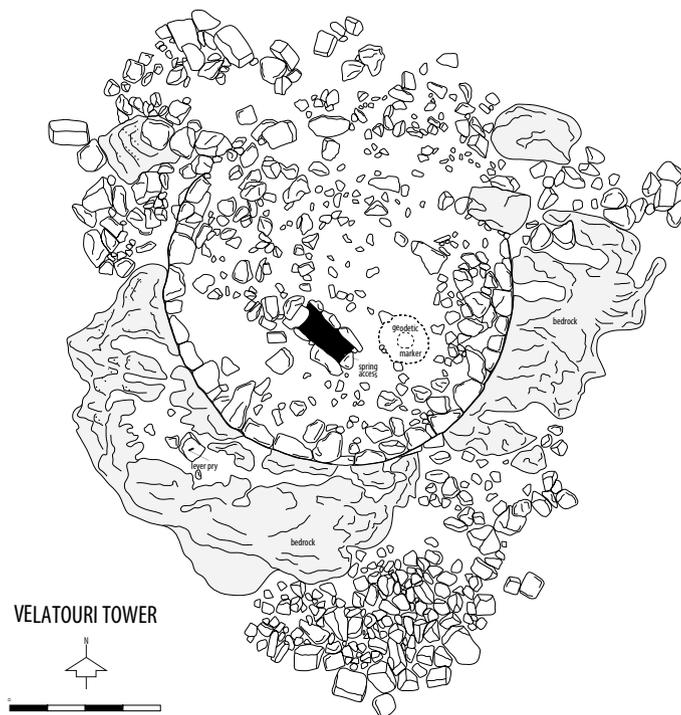


Fig. 6 Velatouri Tower

the traffic of the carriageable road linking the study area with the Thrasian Plain and Eleusis<sup>22</sup>. The round plan (diameter 8.3 m), positioned on a steep limestone knoll, was necessitated by the local morphology of the rock (fig. 6). Preserved to a height of 3 m, the masonry consists of polygonal blocks fitted cleanly together, often making use of smaller chinking stones. The masonry and plan of the tower find their best parallel at the Plakoto Tower, which similarly integrated a steep limestone outcrop into its foundations<sup>23</sup>. Plakoto, positioned 6 km away from Velatouri, guarded the northern entrance of the Thrasian Plain. Given the inter-visibility and the similarity in their construction, it seems likely that the two towers were built as a pair to monitor the important Oinoe road.

Pottery collection and a program of new and traditional methods of architectural documentation were undertaken at the site in 2014 and 2016<sup>24</sup>. The plan of the

<sup>22</sup> On the tower, see Ober 1985, 157–158; Lohmann 1992, 40 n. 35; Lohmann 1993, 145. 159–160.

<sup>23</sup> Ober 1985, 157–158.

<sup>24</sup> S. C. Murray – S. Fachard – A. R. Knodell – K. Papangeli – M. L. Berenfeld – E. Svana, *New and Traditional Methods for Thorough Documentation and Analysis of Architectural Features in the Greek Landscape: A Case Study from the Mazi Archaeological Project (Western Attica)*, in: G. Vavouranakis – M. Katsianis – Y. Papadatos – M. Mouliou – P. Petridis (eds.), *Digital Pasts for the Present. Proceedings of the 2nd Conference on Computer Applications and*

tower was supplemented in 2017 and a new 3D photogrammetric model was produced. Based on the surface pottery, it appears that the tower was built in the 4<sup>th</sup> century or at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. The high number of tile fragments, of Corinthian and Lakonian types, show that the roof was rebuilt several times. The plan of the roof remains an open question, however, since no round tiles were found at the site.

Finally, the cleaning of the rock-cut cavity situated under the southern foundations of the tower, which has puzzled previous scholars, provides new data regarding its function. The cavity appears to have been a rock-cut cistern collecting the water from an ancient spring. Thanks to a stairway supported by polygonal walls and ending into a narrow bottleneck, it was possible to draw water directly of the internal chamber of the tower. To our knowledge, this is the only example of an ancient Greek tower incorporating a cistern and spring inside its foundations.

### *Study season and conclusions*

The final component of the MAP 2017 season involved the further study of materials collected throughout the entire course of the project (2014–2017) and the planning of the final publication. All materials collected by the project have been studied and dated in preliminary form and much of it has been studied by specialists, or at least noted for specialist attention<sup>25</sup>. Finally, one of the more significant achievements of the 2017 study season con-

cerned the discussion and outlining of the final publication plan. In addition to the previously published work of the project, this plan includes targeted articles on issues of visibility and quantification in surface assemblages, monastic landscapes in northwest Attica, and new architectural and epigraphic work at Eleutherai<sup>26</sup>. Most importantly, the final publication will be in the form of a monograph that describes comprehensively the results of the project, as well as its contributions to the long-term history of the Mazi Plain and surrounding areas. The fieldwork of the project is now complete, and we have moved fully into the final publication phase.

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Quantitative Methods in Archaeology, Greek Chapter, Athens, 20–21 December 2016 (Athens 2017) 3–10; Fachard – Knodell – Banou 2015, 284–285. For a three-dimensional model of the tower, see: <[www.maziplain.org/media](http://www.maziplain.org/media)> (May 2018).

<sup>25</sup> Christian Cloke coordinated the team working in the apothiki at the Eleusis Museum. Fotini Kondyli conducted a thorough study of the Late Roman, Byzantine, and Medieval pottery collected by the project, and in collaboration with Sarah Craft carried out site visits to relevant places in the Mazi Plain and surrounding areas. Maura Brennan studied material collected at the Cave of Antiope in 2015, including photography and illustration. Rebecca Salem completed the analysis of all tiles collected by the project. Christine Hunziker examined all evidence related to apiculture collected during the course of the project. Evan Levine worked to collate spatial data collected by the project and

create a comprehensive set of GIS files that are also accessible to project members via ArcGIS online.

<sup>26</sup> C. F. Cloke – A. R. Knodell – S. Fachard – K. Papangeli, Diagnostic Visibility and Problems of Quantification in Survey Assemblages: Examples from the Mazi Archaeological Project (Northwest Attica), in: A. Meens – M. Nazou – W. van de Put (eds.), *Fields, Sherds, and Scholars: Recording and Interpreting Survey Ceramics* (Leiden, forthcoming); F. Kondyli – S. Craft, *Byzantine Monastic Landscapes in Northwest Attica* (in preparation); S. Fachard – S. C. Murray – A. R. Knodell – K. Papangeli – N. Papazarkadas – F. Marchand, *New Architectural and Epigraphic Work at the Fortress of Eleutherai* (in preparation).

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Figures by authors unless otherwise indicated.

