

Excavations at Arediou-Vouppes (*Lithosouros*), Cyprus: An Interim Report on Excavations 2005-2006*

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INTRODUCTION

This article presents a summary of preliminary excavations at Arediou-Vouppes, a Late Bronze Age settlement located at the interface between the Mesaoria plain and the Troodos mountains (Fig. 1). The site lies within the area of the Sydney Cyprus Survey Project, which identified it as a possible agricultural support village dating to *ca* 13th century B.C., either servicing specialised mining villages in the foothills of the Troodos or the coastal urban centres (Knapp *et al.* 1994; Given 2002, 7; Given and Knapp 2003, 179-82).¹ The region lies in the hinterland of Morfou Bay and it is probable that during the second millennium B.C. the Politiko-Arediou group of sites fell within the political and economic sphere of a coastal centre such as Toumpa tou Skourou in the northwest, or possibly Egkomi in the east (Given and Knapp 2003, 267-68; Keswani and Knapp 2003, 218-20; Knapp 2003, 574-75). Following discussions with the village priest we discovered that although the site is known to the archaeological community as *Vouppes* the local name for the fields in which the site is located is in fact *Lithosouros* (meaning 'mound of stones'). This certainly reflects the present topography of the site; the field boundaries/terraces are constructed from large river pebbles and contain frequent ground stone artefacts. The surface of the site is likewise strewn with broken ground stone. Even though it would be preferable to respect the local nomenclature we decided that, given the number of publications already

referring to the site as *Vouppes* and the material stored under this name in the Cyprus Museum, we should continue to refer to it as Arediou-Vouppes (henceforth *Vouppes*).

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The socio-political organisation of Cyprus during the later second millennium B.C. is still the subject of debate. Various hypotheses have

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1. Although Arediou-Vouppes was first published by SCSP, earlier rescue excavations at the site had been undertaken by the Department of Antiquities under the direction of Dr Maria Hadjicosti.

been advanced to interpret the level of socio-political organisation throughout the island during the LBA, which make explicit reference to the tripartite model of settlement hierarchy proposed by Catling (1962) and more recently refined by Knapp into a four-tiered system of settlement (Knapp 1997). These models posit a series of large coastal urban centres engaged in trade (and seemingly diplomatic exchanges) with the great powers of the East Mediterranean and smaller inland farming and mining settlements. However, these discussions are largely reliant on comparison of evidence from the extensively excavated coastal urban centres against more limited survey data from the Cypriot hinterland. Indeed, while the LC period is characterised by an expansion in settlement throughout the island and diversified use of the Cypriot landscape, our understanding of this period is largely derived from excavations at a small number of the coastal towns such as Egkomi (Courtois *et al.* 1986) and Kalavassos-Agios Dimitrios (South *et al.* 1989); meanwhile the current state of knowledge of the

Cypriot interior during this period is very limited and largely dependant on survey material. Two copper production sites have been excavated, at Apliki-Karamallos (Taylor 1952) and Politiko-Forades (Knapp *et al.* 2002a, 2002b); a couple of possible religious centres at Athienou (Dothan and Ben-Tor 1983) and Myrtou-Pigades (Taylor 1957). More recent excavations of an administrative centre at Alassa-Paliotaverna (Steel 2004, 96-97) suggest that the picture of settlement in the Cypriot hinterland is more complex than that put forward by most Cypriot archaeologists. Field survey at Analiontas-Palioklichia (Webb and Frankel 1994) provides the most detailed analysis of an inland agricultural settlement to date. Consequently, the fieldwork at *Vouppes* aims to redress the imbalance in our knowledge through excavation of a little known settlement type. Specifically, it focuses on establishing the nature of LBA occupation in the Cypriot hinterland and thereby tests the various models that have been developed for settlement and economy on the island during this period.

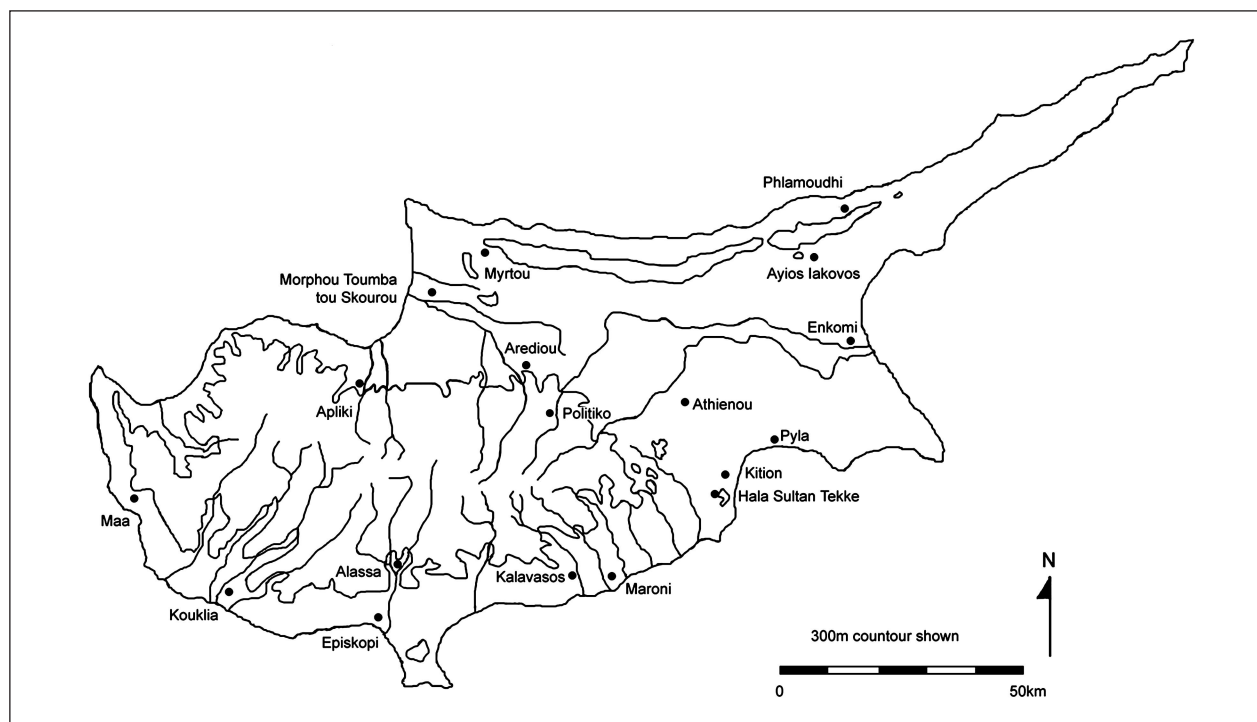


Fig. 1. Map of Cyprus showing LBA sites mentioned in the text.

FIELDWORK

The SCSP survey recovered surface material over an area of around 2ha.; this mainly comprised large quantities of ground stone tools and LC utilitarian wares, especially *pithos* sherds (Given and Knapp 2003, 180-81). Survey in 2004 (Steel and Janes 2005) augmented SCSP's findings – the spread of archaeological materials was shown to be far wider, over an estimated area of 10ha. The results of the geophysical survey, however, are more consistent with scattered buildings rather than a planned architectural complex over this area. There was, moreover, far more diversity in the range of ceramics than we had anticipated. The full range of LC utilitarian wares were identified (*pithos* sherds, Cooking ware, Plain ware and Monochrome) and small quantities of tableware (WPWM III, White Slip and some Base Ring). There were also occasional Mycenaean imports and some pieces of Egyptian amphorae. An inscribed LM IIIB stirrup jar found on the surface in 2006 is the first indication for literacy at the site (Fig. 2). For the most part the range of ceramics demonstrated the main phase of occupation to date to the 13th century B.C.; however, a discrete group of LC I (16th century B.C.) pottery was located in the north-east survey area, suggesting greater time depth to the site's occupation.



Fig. 2. LM IIIB stirrup jar.

The geophysical survey indicated the presence of a series of subsurface anomalies (Steel and Janes 2005, 239-40); but their precise nature and archaeological significance was unclear. Several anomalies can be considered as noise, due to their location near the current field boundaries, farm buildings and rubbish tip; others could be related with old field boundaries indicated on the 1923 cadastral map. There are, however, several interesting readings in fields 3, 4 and 5, that appear to have some archaeological significance and which correspond to concentrations of LC surface material.

2005 EXCAVATIONS

The primary aim of excavations was to test the results of the previous year's survey, with a number of trial soundings located within the 10m. grid laid out over the site in 2004 (Fig. 3). The grid reference number is taken from the south-west corner of the trench. Ultimately we hope to demonstrate whether the settlement covered the entire plateau as a planned complex or whether we are looking at small clusters of buildings possibly shifting around the plateau over time, as suggested by the results of the geophysics. The distribution of material in the 2004 survey had suggested that the southernmost field on the plateau lay outside the main area of LC activity. Accordingly, the first objective was to test this and further to determine the southern limits of the settlement. Secondly we investigated the possibility of cemeteries in the southern part of *Vouppes*, as identified by SCSP during their reassessment of the site in 1996 (Given 2002, 7; Given and Knapp 2003, 179). The other objective was to establish the nature of the subsurface anomalies identified in the geophysical survey, through a series of soundings. It was hoped that these would reveal architectural remains of LC date.

Consequently, the 2005 soundings were largely on the southern periphery of the main settlement area, as identified by the 2004 survey results. This was a conscious strategy as the pre-

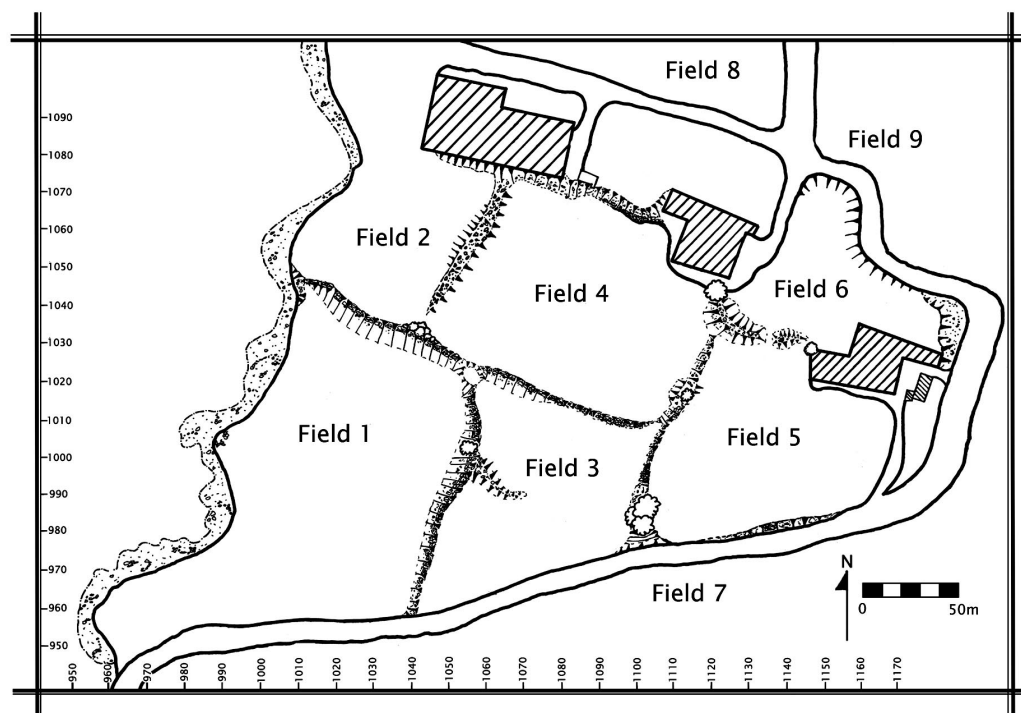


Fig. 3. Plan of site showing fields.

liminary excavations were intended to answer the anomaly posed by the very different results of SCSP's assessment of the main location of the site as opposed to that suggested by the surface and geophysical survey in 2004. In addition, this approach enabled us to test the nature of the archaeology and depth of deposit at the site, and proved invaluable due to the site's intricacy — extensive terracing, field boundaries and the complex natural geology.

The first sounding in field 7 was intended to test whether this southernmost field lay beyond the limits of the LC settlement, as suggested by the limited diagnostic material recovered there in the survey. A 4×1m. trench (1050/940) was opened; this was completely sterile, however, it did reveal an earlier plough surface of uncertain date at a depth of around half a metre. The absence of pottery in the "ancient" plough soil suggested that there was little of interest below this surface. Although excavations did not reach the natural in this trench it was decided to close

it at this point. The assumption that field 7 lay beyond the southern limits of the site was significantly reinforced by the presence of a substantial cutting made into the natural contour of the field, at its western end, as preparation for the construction of a large agricultural building. We examined the section in detail, which showed no indication of any archaeology (Fig. 4). In addition, a close examination of the associated bunds contained no archaeological material.

Possible tombs, represented by hollows in a rocky outcrop at the south western edge of the site had been identified by SCSP in 1996 (Fig. 5; Given 2002, 7; Given and Knapp 2003, 179). These were associated with concentrations of LBA fine wares but unusually no ground stone or *pithos*. Results of the 2004 survey appear to corroborate SCSP's findings (Steel and Janes 2005, 235-36). Moreover, discussion with the locals suggested that the cliffs at the edge of the site were the location of burials, which had eroded away and fallen into the valley below within the

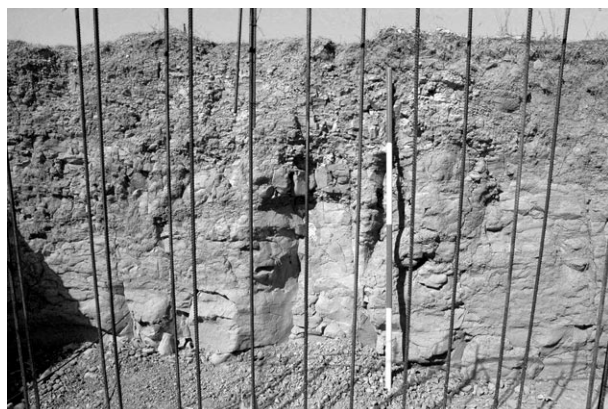


Fig. 4. Detail of section in foundation trench, field 7.



Fig. 5. Hollow in field 1.

last fifty years. The posited cemetery was of particular interest as the clear separation between the presumed tombs and the main area of the settlement contrasts with the usual LC burial practices attested at contemporary urban centres, where there is no apparent spatial distinction between habitation areas and mortuary facilities. Instead LC funerary structures are typically located within the domestic environment, ordinarily beneath the courtyards of houses or under the streets. Even so, burials are attested at some LC sites, including tombs cut into the crags along the eastern edge of Egkomi. The persistence of extramural cemeteries, typical of the EC-MC period, likewise is attested at a number of non-urban sites during the LC period (Keswani 2004,

86). This might indicate that in rural communities in the hinterland burial practices continued along traditional lines, whereas the phenomenon of intramural burial was intrinsically associated with the renegotiation of space and social identities within the new urban centres. If the identification of the tombs at *Vouppes* were correct this would imply that the social and spatial organisation of the community at *Vouppes* belongs to an indigenous, rural tradition stretching back into the earlier part of the Bronze Age. Accordingly, this was one of the first areas to be excavated.

Two 2.5×2.5m. trenches (953.8/954 and 952.8/959.6) were opened, one over each hollow; both these trenches, although initially promising, ultimately proved negative. The hollows corresponded with shallow pits that bottomed out at less than a metre. An earlier plough surface was identified in 953.8/954 while in 952.8/959.6 we identified what we presume to be an ancient (possibly Early Holocene) riverbed (Fig. 6). Despite the significant concentration of worn fine wares on the surface in this area, nothing was found beneath the shallow topsoil. The concentration of LC fine wares in this area is likely due to selective processes of erosion; the lighter ceramic materials accumulating at the edge of the cliff. The suggestion of extramural burial at *Vouppes*, therefore cannot be substantiated, although the local information of tombs collapsing from the cliff edge needs further examination.



Fig. 6. Cross section of 952.8/959.6, showing puddling pit and pebbles from an Early Holocene riverbed (facing south).

Further excavation was to test the results of the geophysics survey. The distribution of surface finds, and discussion with the local farmers indicated that the main concentration of archaeological remains was likely to be in field 4. Nonetheless, it was decided to conduct the first soundings towards the edges of the site, thereby establishing the nature of the archaeological remains and depth of deposit prior to exploring the main archaeological deposits. Therefore four test trenches were opened in fields 3 and 5, in areas where rich deposits of archaeological materials on the surface corresponded with subsurface anomalies. A 2.5×2.5m. trench (1075/1000) in field 3 was opened up to explore anomaly 22 (Fig. 7) and in field 5 two 3×3m. trenches were opened to explore anomalies 39 (1112/998) and 44 (1143/1004) and a 2×2m. trench (1121/997) to test anomaly 42 (Fig. 8). These soundings revealed clear evidence of LC habitation; the anomalies were picking up readings of collapsed and/or robbed out walls built from diabase pebbles, presumably procured from the Alouppos riverbed. The preservation of remains in field 3 was such that trench 1075/1000 was extended 1.5m. to the west and 3m. to the north. The new, larger trench is 1073.5/1000 on the site grid. In addition, a second sounding, measuring 3×3m., was opened (1070/1005).

The first clear evidence of architectural remains was identified in 1073.5/1000, where the large external wall [36] of a structure (Building 1) was uncovered. This runs diagonally from the south-west corner of the trench (Fig. 9). The bottom course consists of stones that were much larger than the diabase pebbles in the upper courses, laid on a thick bed of mud mortar. At the north end of the wall there is a doorway with an unusual white stone threshold. These rough white stones had been deliberately bedded in mortar within the threshold, cobble-fashioned, and do not extend outside the line of the wall in either direction. The choice of stone used for this threshold is particularly striking as it has not been identified elsewhere on site in the walling.

Care over the construction of thresholds is evident in other LC sites –including the use of gaming stones at Maa (Karageorghis and Demas 1988, pl. XXXIII:2). The doorway comprises a stone of 60-70cm., walled on end to form both the quoin and the lower part of the door jamb. This had collapsed, smashing a large quantity of pottery directly on the floor surface. On the east side of the doorway there is what appears to be the base of a stone bench, perpendicular to the wall. Architectural features include a pillar base bedded into the mortar floor. In addition, a circular pit [69] was identified immediately adjacent to the south baulk. To the west of the wall there is a surface cut into the natural. This was originally identified as an external courtyard area, on analogy with the architecture recorded at Apliki-Karamallos, which recorded the use of floors directly on the bedrock (Taylor 1952, 134). Rich deposits of LC pottery were found on the floor, primarily utilitarian wares such as Plain ware and Canaanite jar. Also quantities of WPWM III ware. There are surprisingly small quantities of *pithos* sherds considering its abundance on the surface. There is also significant evidence of copper working in the form of slag and small quantities of charcoal. Small finds are rare but included a small copper/copper alloy point (Fig. 10).

In 1070/1005 small expanses of what appears to be a surface cut into the natural (a sedimentary sandstone) were identified in the north-east and south-east corner of the trench, lying some 10cm. below the surface. The rest of the trench was filled with a mass of rubble tumble mixed with LC IIC material including White Slip sherds. Nonetheless, in the north-east corner of the trench walled stones were uncovered. These are laid in cuts in the natural (Fig. 11), bedded in a mortar apparently made from the surrounding soils. Similar walling techniques were recorded at Apliki-Karamallos (Taylor 1952, 134). The relationship between this structure and Building 1 in the adjacent trench (1073.5/1000) is unclear. The indications are that a surface cut into the natural lies between the two walls; the walls might

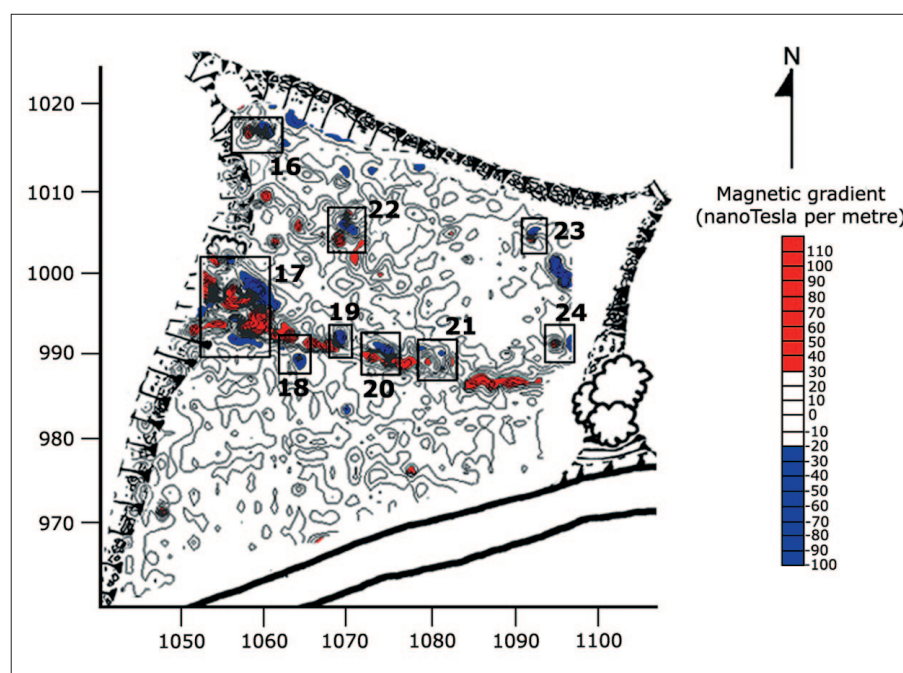


Fig. 7. Geophysics results for field 3.

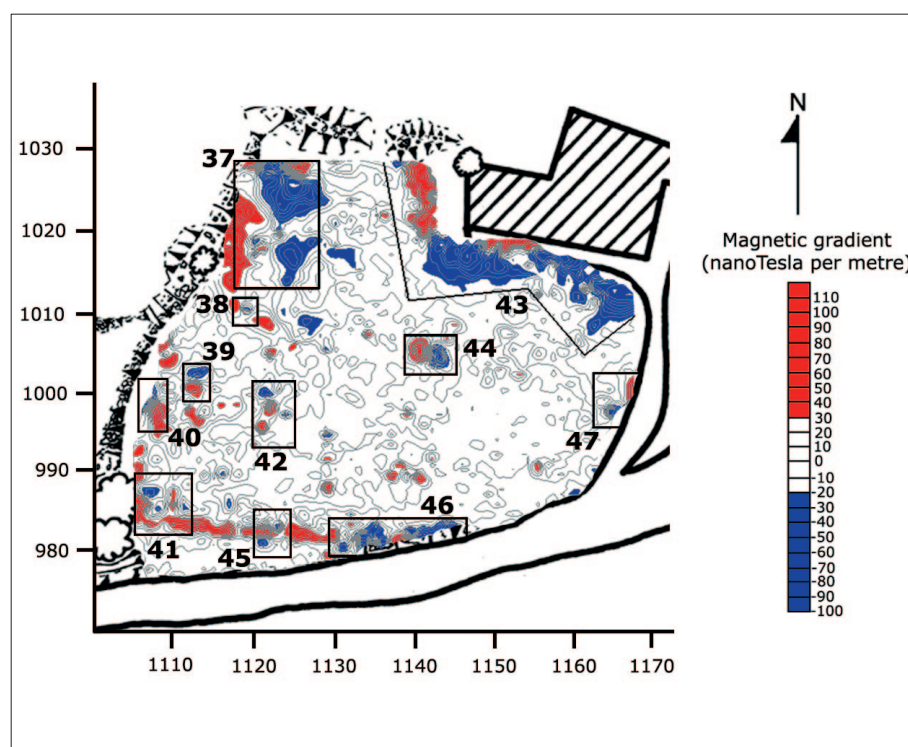


Fig. 8. Geophysics results for field 5.



Fig. 9. View to west over 1073.5/1000, showing architectural remains.



Fig. 10. Copper/copper alloy point.

belong to the same building, the surface possibly representing a courtyard area, or alternatively they could be the external walls of two adjacent buildings, separated by a passageway or open area.

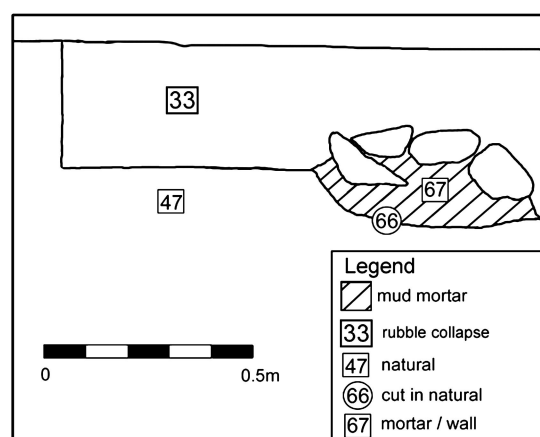


Fig. 11. East section, 1070/1005: walled stones laid in cut in natural.

The soundings in field 5 were too small to establish any architectural footprints of buildings; even so there was clear evidence for the presence of discrete structures in this area of the site. Rubble collapse was recognised running into the southern baulk of 1121/997. The trench was consequently extended 2m. to the south (1121/995), where a massive expanse of rubble was uncovered lying directly over the natural; beneath this, walled stones were identified in the southwest corner of the extension. The associated pottery was consistently LC IIC (Fig. 12). Other finds include a broken gaming stone. Two dentalia were found lying directly on the natural. Although we had interpreted similar finds of dentalia in the 2004 survey as beads, possibly of Neolithic/Chalcolithic date (Steel and Janes 2005, 236), further investigation of the area immediately surrounding the site has revealed a number of locations where ancient shell beds are eroding near to the surface. Therefore it is uncertain whether the occasional occurrence of shells on the site represents a geological phenomenon or the result of human activity, although the ones

in 1121/995 appeared to be in a sealed context. Nonetheless, several localities with macrofossils are indicated on the geological map for the region lying in the Pliocene marls (Bear 1960), including one within the Alouppos valley system adjacent to *Vouppes*.

Rubble running into the eastern baulk of 1143/1004 suggested the presence of architectural remains further to the east. The trench was expanded a further 3m. east to uncover a collapsed and robbed out wall lying in a cut in the natural. To the east of this wall there was a square pit [43]. There was intriguing evidence for EIA activity in this trench, which can be closely dated to the 11th-10th century B.C. This comprised Black Slip sherds (Fig. 13) mixed in with the rubble tumble and robbed out wall, and White Painted sherds, mixed with LC pottery, in the square pit. Although the pit appears to have been emptied in the Iron Age there is some evidence to suggest that it may form part of a larger tomb complex; a large flat stone disappearing vertically into a cut in the natural was discovered on the last day of excavation. This appears to be the blocking stone of a tomb *stomion* and would therefore suggest that burials at Arediou conform to the typical LC practice of intramural burial within the limits of the settlement.

No clear architectural remains were recognised in 1112/998, although a possible post hole was identified in the northern half of the trench. The upper fill of this comprised a circle of broken river pebbles. Associated with this was a broken stone weight (Fig. 14). Large diabase pebbles were identified in two scatters in the western half of the trench, at a depth of *ca* 2m. These were obviously intrusive to the site, and might indicate that we were beginning to come down onto architectural remains in the form of building collapse. This needs to be clarified by future excavation.

The test trenches opened in 2005 confirmed the presence of architectural remains in fields 3 and 5, corresponding to subsurface anomalies identified by geophysics and distinctive scatters of surface materials. The walls were of typical



Fig. 12. Plain ware jug *in situ* in building collapse in 1121/997.

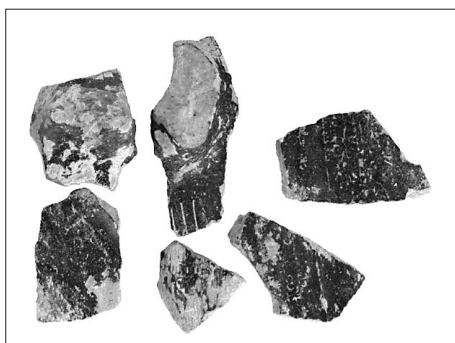


Fig. 13. Black Slip pottery found mixed in building collapse in 1143/1004 (1:2).

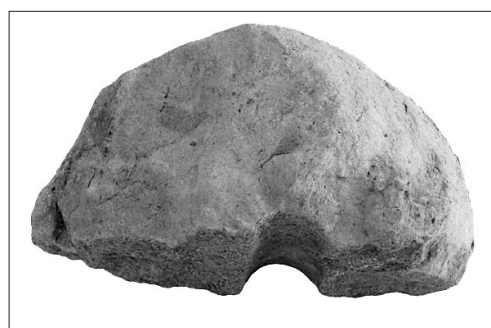


Fig. 14. Stone weight from 1112/998 (1:2).

BA construction, consisting of an inner and outer skin with a bedded rubble core. Where the natural surface is reasonably level the walls are laid directly on a thick mortar bed set on the natural. On sloping ground, however, the builders cut into the natural, where the stones were then laid in a mortar bed. Where surfaces have been identified these are either cut into the natural, or comprise a rude mud mortar. The architecture follows the norms identified for Cypriot BA constructions, albeit “ruder” than attested in the contemporary urban sites. Given the limited extent of the soundings, the nature and extent of the remains still need elucidation. Moreover, the probable archaeological deposits in field 4 remain unexplored.

2006 EXCAVATIONS

Excavation in 2006 concentrated on the rich archaeological remains identified in field 3 in 2005. The primary aim was to obtain an architectural footprint of Building 1 and to establish whether the structure identified in 1070/1005 belonged to this or represented a separate structure. Specifically, the excavations aimed to determine whether these remains conform to the norms of LC architecture identified elsewhere on the island. Another focus of enquiry was the possible tomb identified in 1143/1004 by the stomion blocking stone;² if the identification were correct this would place the mortuary practices at *Vouppes* within the expected range of LC funerary practices, in contrast to the conclusions initially drawn, which were based on the survey data. A third area of excavation was planned for field 4, where the greatest concentration of surface finds were collected in the survey and which appears to be the main area of settlement. The location of the trench was determined by the sub-surface anomaly 30 identified in the geophysics.

An open area trench (1069/998) measuring 12×12.5m. was opened in field 3, to explore Building 1, uncovering the two trenches that had been excavated in 2005 (Fig. 15). The wall [36] identified in 2005 was demonstrated to be a sub-

stantial external wall, measuring 0.5m thick. This continued into the southern baulk. The full extent of this wall and the south-eastern limits of the building remain to be explored in future seasons. The main entrance into the building appears to be the doorway marked by a white stone threshold. Excavation revealed that the interior surface in fact lay to the west of wall [36], contrary to the interpretation of the remains in 2005. The possible stone bench identified in 2005 similarly turned out to be a badly robbed out stone wall [119]. This continued 7m. into the east baulk and appears to continue west and joins up with the wall stones identified in 1070/1005 in 2005, continuing into the baulk in the northwest corner of the trench. A later pit [89] cut through the wall. The fill of this pit included one possible Iron Age sherd.

A series of small stone piers jutt out from the east of wall [36] and south of wall [119]; although possibly buttresses these are interpreted as supports for an external covered area analogous to a colonnaded porch. The column base identified in 2005 reinforces this theory, as it appears to support this porch at the corner where the two walls meet. The covered area was south facing and would have provided a shaded area for activities during the summer months and a warm, sheltered area in which to work during the winter. The tamped mud floor to the east of the main wall was extremely fragile and did not survive beyond the presumed covered area of the porch. A range of semi-restorable utilitarian wares were found *in situ* on this surface in 2005 and 2006, together with an upturned, well worn quern immediately by the doorway (Fig. 16), similar to the placement of a stone quern at the entrance to room 54 at *Maa-Palaiokastro* (Kara-georghis and Demas 1988, pl. XIII:6). Also in this area we found small quantities of copper slag. A very large stone pestle was found mixed

2. Excavation of the tomb and the remains in field 4 was made possible by funding from West Wales 2000 Ltd.

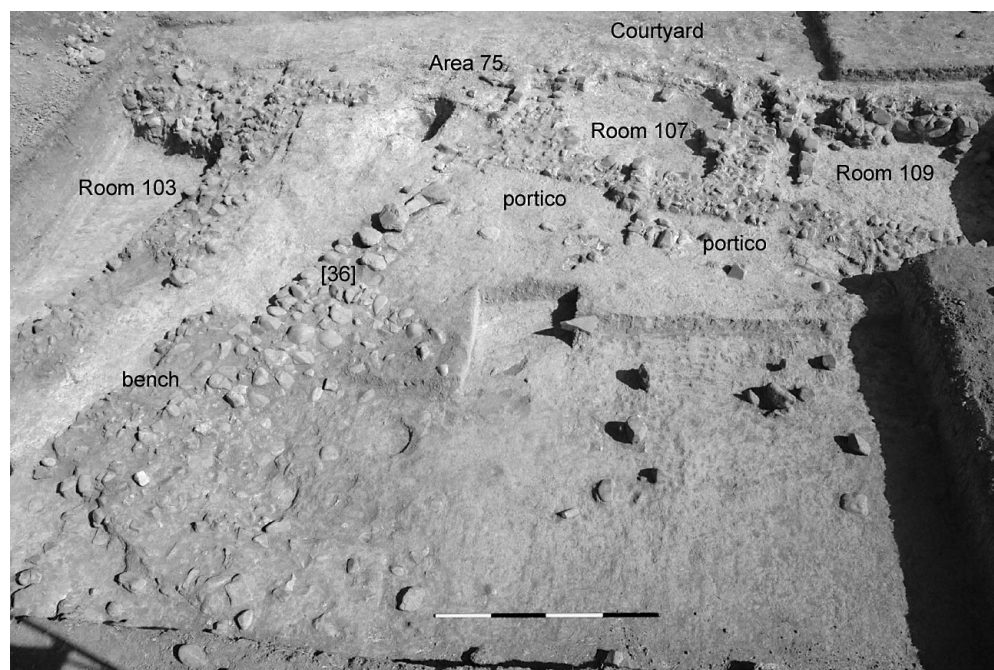


Fig. 15. View over Building 1 after excavations.

in with the rubble collapse from the wall. This range of paraphernalia suggests some heavy-duty processing of resources (possibly agricultural as well as metallurgical) took place in this immediate area. Inside the building, the floor surface was simply cut into the sedimentary natural; in places this had been patched with a basic mud mortar.

In addition to the small quantities of copper slag identified in the porch area in 2005, more slag (weighing *ca* 8kg.) was excavated immediately inside the building, to the north of wall [119] in 2006, together with a copper/copper alloy spiral ring (Fig. 17). This metallurgical debris was associated with a small pebble surface and a series of flat sedimentary stones set in a circular pattern, comprising an apparent work area (Area 75). The flat stones are intrusive to the site; a local historian working in the village indicated

that these came from a locality several kilometres away. These had clearly been selected by the community at *Vouppes* for certain specific properties deemed necessary within the work area, thereby underlining the effort that had been expended in the construction of the facilities at the site.

The floor surface in this area was cut into the natural sedimentary rock. This continued right up to the northern baulk of the trench and appears to run into field 4; here better preservation might be expected given the greater depth of deposit immediately behind the field boundary. This whole area at present appears to constitute a large courtyard area used for a number of activities that still need to be defined and which will be the focus of further research. Very few finds survived *in situ* on the floor of this courtyard, no doubt due to the shallow depth of deposit beneath the mod-

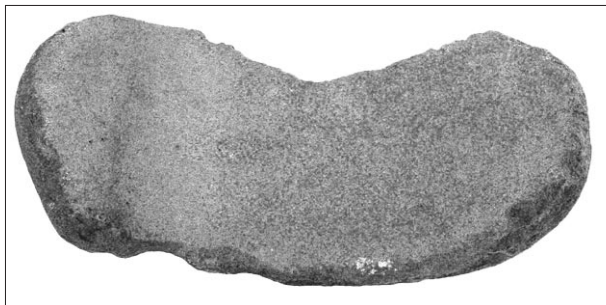


Fig. 16. Quern found adjacent to doorway into Building 1 (1:7).



Fig. 17. Copper/copper alloy spiral ring (2:1).



Fig. 18. Plain ware jug found on floor of courtyard (1:5).

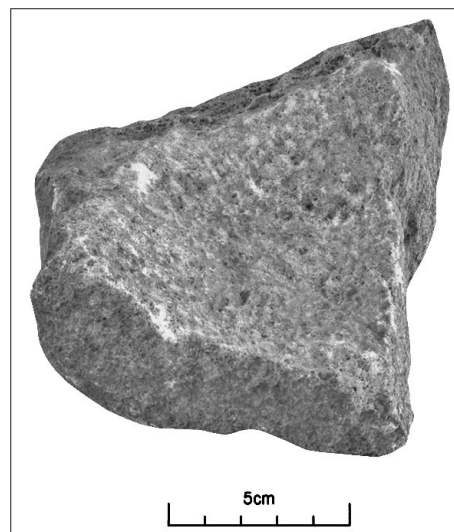


Fig. 19. Limestone basin found in field survey.



Fig. 20. Finds *in situ* on floor of Room 109.



Fig. 21. Hammerstone from floor of Room 109 (1:2).

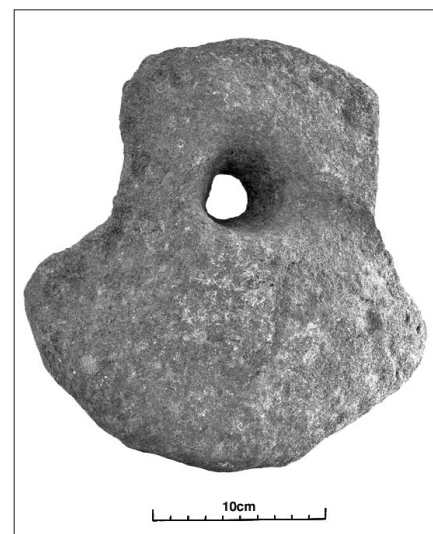


Fig. 22. Anchor/weight from floor of Room 109 (1:4).

ern surface. Nonetheless, the neck of a Plain ware jug (Fig. 18) and a polished stone pestle were found *in situ* on the floor. Moreover, it is worth noting that one of the survey finds from this immediate area, found in the field boundary, was a roughly hewn limestone basin (Fig. 19). Although such objects are rare in the LC contexts, this find has parallels in the limestone circular basins found scattered over the surface at Analiontas-Palioklichia, which were possibly involved in processing or storage of agricultural produce (Webb and Frankel 1994, 14-16).

Immediately to the east of Area 75 we excavated two rooms (107 and 109; Fig. 20), revealing significant artefactual remains *in situ* on the floor, associated with various activities. These included restorable Plain ware basins, a small wide necked pithos, various stone artefacts including a rubber/polisher, a circular stone hammer (Fig. 21; Swiny 1986, fig. 17; South 1989, 31, fig. 31, K-AD 608, pl. XIV, K-AD 417) and a possible anchor (Fig. 22). The restorable Plain ware basins are unique within a Late Bronze Age context, as these tend to only survive in a very fragmented condition, with only a few diagnostic rim sherds and no complete profiles. Consequently the examples from Voupes will illustrate the capacity and volume of these vessels and might help elucidate how they were originally used. Two badly robbed out benches might have served as work areas. As with the other restorable pottery from the site, these are currently awaiting restoration. The total range of artefacts indicates that these were work rooms. The nature of activities conducted in these rooms, and their relationship to the activities carried out in the nearby work area remain elusive.

The badly collapsed wall identified in 1070/1005 in 2005 was shown to belong to the western part of this building. It comprised a substantial north wall of a sunken room (*ca* 2m. deep) cut into the bedrock. The finds from this room included various LC IIC wares, an inscribed Canaanite Jar handle (Fig. 23), imported Mycenaean pottery, a rare import of a Syro-

Palestinian platter bowl and several wall bracket fragments. There was also a fragment of a painted Base Ring bull. Associated with the pottery and immediately overlying the floor was a reasonable quantity of charcoal.



Fig. 23. Inscribed Canaanite jar handle.

A 5×5m. trench (1147/1006) was opened at the east end of field 5, to explore a possible LC tomb identified at the end of the 2005 season. Here we uncovered a small elliptical chamber tomb, measuring *ca* 1.6×1.9m. (Fig. 24). The tomb was entered via a narrow semi-circular dromos at the north-east side of the chamber. The roof and upper part of the tomb chamber and the upper *dromos* had been removed, probably during the extensive terracing that has modified the topography of the site. The tomb was almost completely packed with rubble, presumably robbed out from the nearby buildings. Amongst the rubble there was a small saddle quern and a rubber. This fill clearly corresponded to a looting episode, which we were able to date to the Iron Age by a near complete Plain White jug. This relates to the clear evidence for Iron Age activity in this area of the site identified in 2005. The *stomion* blocking stone identified in 2005 had been thrown against the southern wall of the tomb, presumably during the looting phase (Fig. 25).

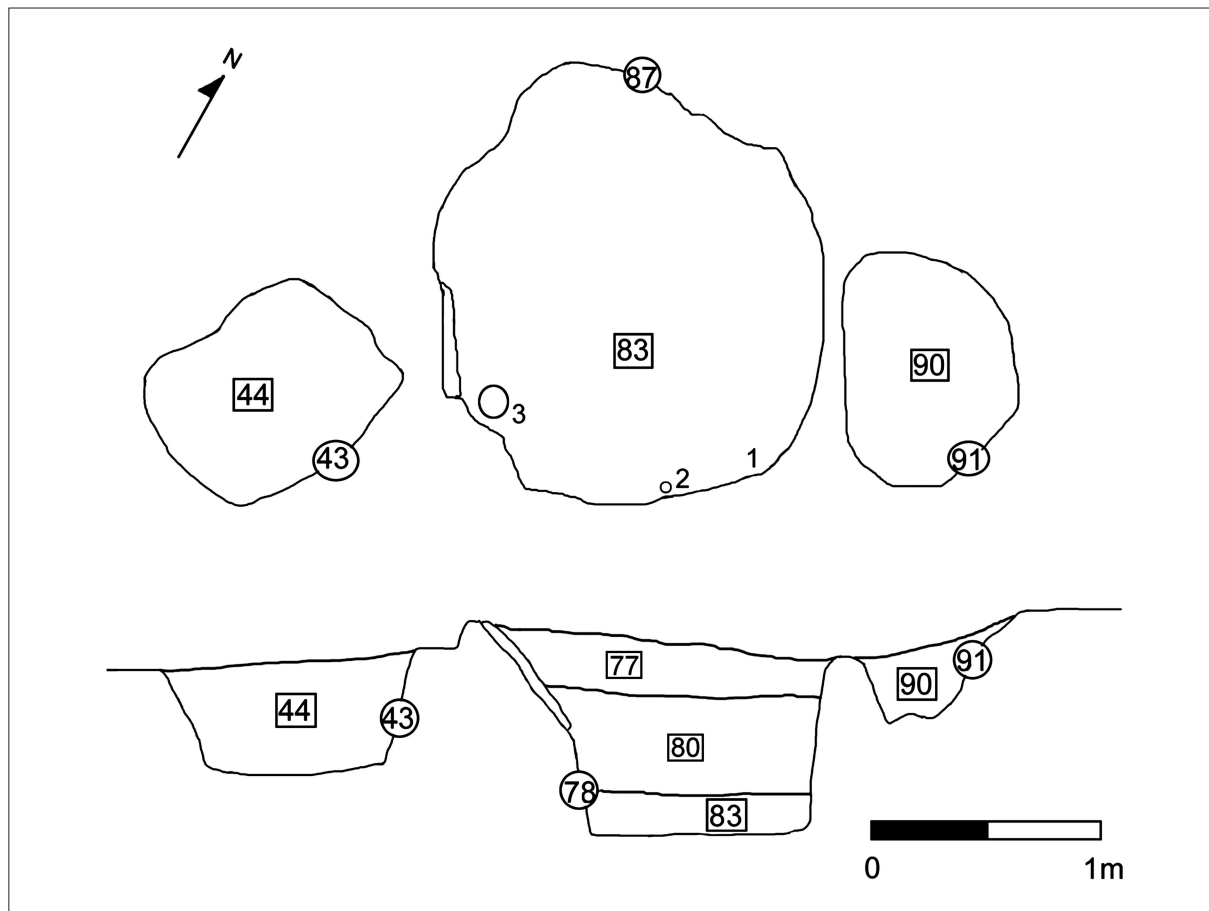


Fig. 24. Plan of tomb 1.

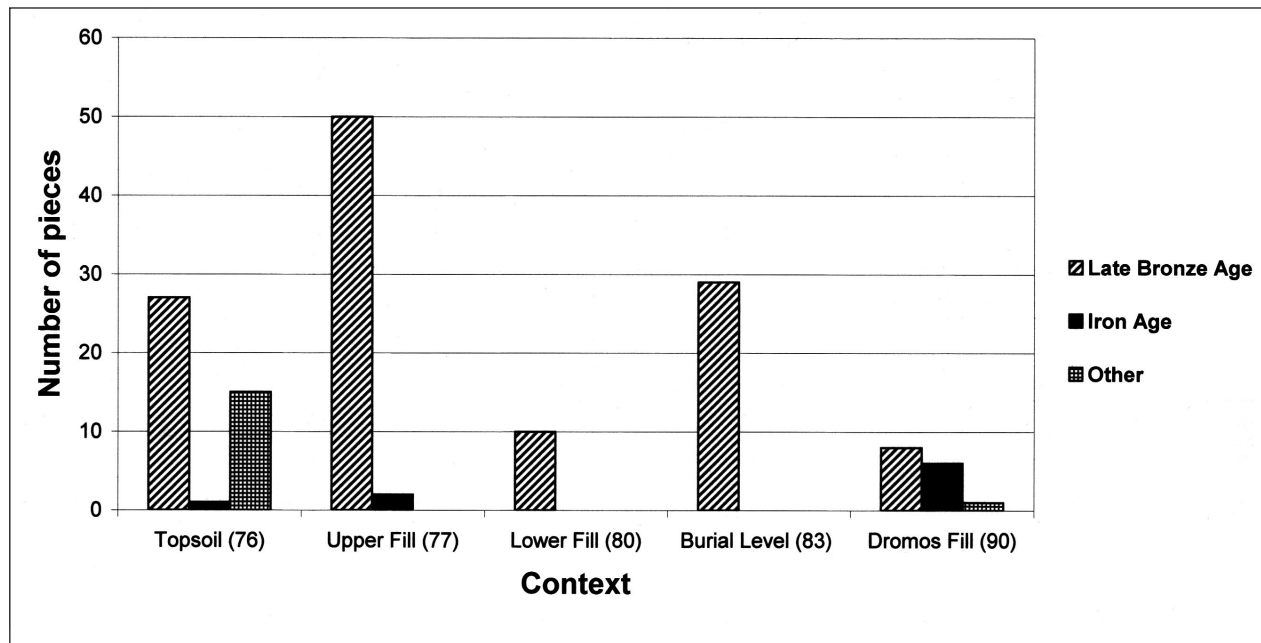
Fig. 25. Tomb 1, showing *stomion* blocking stone *in situ*.

Fig. 26. Finds from Tomb 1 (1:6).

Although the tomb had been badly looted in antiquity, a few remains from the original burial assemblage were uncovered on the floor. Several long bones, ribs and some mandibles were lying on the tomb floor. The skeletal remains appear to represent three individuals.³ The bones had been swept up against the eastern side of the chamber, possibly during the looting episode. Nonetheless, the possibility that some of these bones had been moved as part of Late Cypriot mortuary ritual cannot be discounted. Intriguingly, no crania were found; it is unclear whether these had been removed as part of the burial practices, in secondary funerary rites, or during the Iron Age looting episode. There are parallels for manipulation of the skeletal remains as part of secondary funerary practices at numerous Late Cypriot sites, most notably handling of the crania in tombs in the north-west of Cyprus. The skull was apparently removed from the final burial in Tomb 6 at Politiko-Agios Irakleidios (Karageorghis 1965, 11-14) but seven skulls had been piled up on the east side of the tomb in the upper level, and twelve skulls were heaped together in the lower level. Likewise, Tomb 6 at Morfou-Toumpa tou Skourou had an unusually large num-

ber of skulls in relation to the post-cranial bones (Vermeule and Wolsky 1990, 309). Other examples of LC mortuary ritual involving manipulation of the skeletal remains are discussed by Keswani (2004, 88-104).

Unusually, very few grave goods were recovered from the tomb, and there was very little sherd material in the fill (Graph 1). Three grave goods were found on the tomb floor, tucked into the east side of the chamber, and presumably had escaped the notice of the tomb looters. These comprised a complete LH IIIA2 stirrup jar (2), a Black Slip Wheelmade jug (3), and a perfectly preserved hook-tanged spearhead (1) (Fig. 26); the latter two illustrate initial use of the tomb in LC I, thereby supporting the survey data which indicated activity in this area of the site during the 16th century B.C. Given funding constraints, we were unable to explore the association of the tomb with the surrounding architectural remains. This will be the focus of future fieldwork. Nonetheless, it appears that the burial practices at *Vouppes*, most notably the placement of the tomb within the limits of the settlement area, follow typical LC practice (Keswani 2004, 87).



Graph 1. Distribution of Sherds in Tomb 1.

A new trench (1069/1035) was opened in field 4 to explore a significant subsurface anomaly 30, identified in the geophysics in 2004 (Fig. 27). Here a large structure, Building 2, was exposed (Fig. 28). This comprised a long room [96], 2×9m., a smaller room [95], measuring 1×2m., and an apparent courtyard [92]. Although very little pottery was found *in situ* the construction of the building was dated by a foundation deposit beneath the southern wall. Here a near complete Plain ware jug was found, dating the construction of the building to LC IIC (Fig. 29). Room [96] was open-ended, and there was no return to the wall at its north end. This was interpreted as facilitating ease of access for a pack animal and/or cart. Possible interpretations include a barn or a warehouse. The floor deposits in this room have been left *in situ* and will be excavated with a view to flotation in future seasons. The smaller room was furnished with a small pebble surface in the south-east corner and partially stone-lined well, 5.2m. deep. This had a configuration of flat stones set around the opening similar in construction to that identified in the work area of Building 1 (Fig. 30). A sump dug in the southern end of room [96] might have been to collect rainwater, which then filtered through the sedimentary rock into the well.

Finds from the building and the well were rare; however, a large saddle quern (*ca* 90kg.) was found at a depth of 3.3m in the well. Other finds from this building include a gaming stone (Fig. 31) found in the rubble collapse alongside the southern wall. Large quantities of animal bone were found in the fill outside the SW corner of the building, with evidence in the baulk for more. This was mixed with rubble and might comprise a midden. The activities associated with this building remain enigmatic and will be the focus of future research. Clearly water was important to some of the activities in this building, hence the elaboration of the well.

CONCLUSIONS

Excavations illustrate the importance of *Vouppes* for understanding the Late Cypriot peri-

od. The architectural remains are unique in terms of the range of LC buildings known and demonstrate that *Vouppes* does not correspond to any settlement type identified on the island to date. The geophysics results suggest that these buildings are widely spaced throughout the site; however, the few excavated building remains clearly indicate some form of central organisation, in that all the structures identified appear to be on the same alignment, possibly corresponding to some form of grid system. Moreover, there seems to be some evidence for discrete functional areas within different parts of the site: domestic/funerary, work areas, storage areas. More extensive excavations are necessary to test these hypotheses.

It is evident that Building 1 housed a range of specialist, non-domestic activities. The pestles, saddle querns, weights and utilitarian wares (basins, *pithoi*, jugs, Canaanite jars) indicate large-scale processing activities, possibly of agricultural materials. The quantities of slag are insufficient to illustrate large-scale copper production, but they demonstrate unmistakably some form of communication with the nearby mining sites. The consistent occurrence of small quantities of imported wares (Egyptian amphorae, a Syrian platter bowl, Mycenaean pottery, and the Minoan stirrup jar) illustrate that the inhabitants at *Vouppes* were in contact with the coastal trading communities and had access to luxury commodities. Building 2 remains enigmatic, but seems to illustrate some form of large-scale commodity storage, possibly agricultural.

The excavation of Tomb 1 clearly demonstrates that the inhabitants at *Vouppes* chose to follow conventional Late Cypriot practice in burying their dead within the limits of the settlement. Although the exact relationship of Tomb 1 with the associated architecture needs clarification, at present it appears that the tomb was located within the courtyard of a building, the footprint of which needs to be established. Although Tomb 1 had been extensively looted during the Iron Age, the *in situ* grave goods throw further light on the importance of the site. The spear-

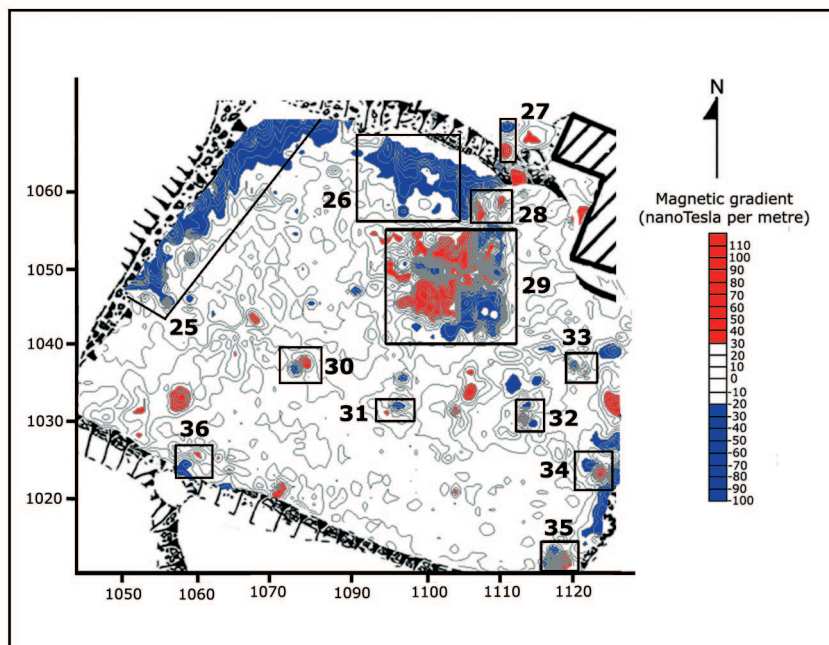


Fig. 27. Geophysics results for field 4.

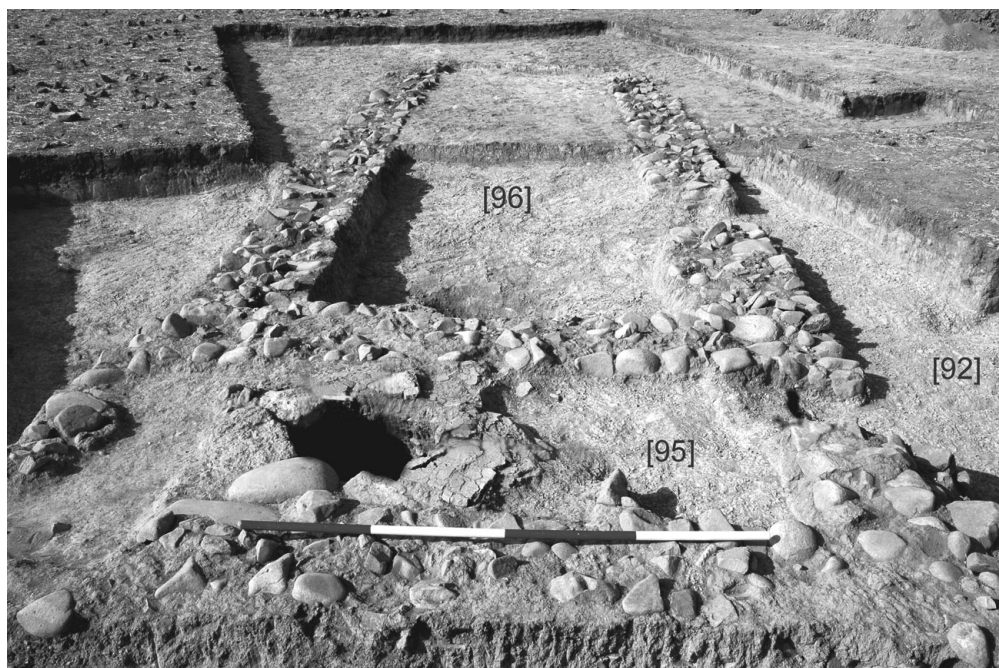


Fig. 28. View over Building 2.



Fig. 29. Foundation deposit with Plain ware jug.

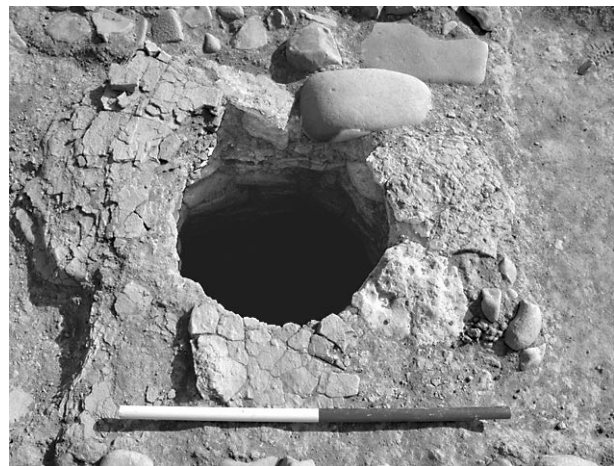


Fig. 30. Setting of stones around well in Building 2.

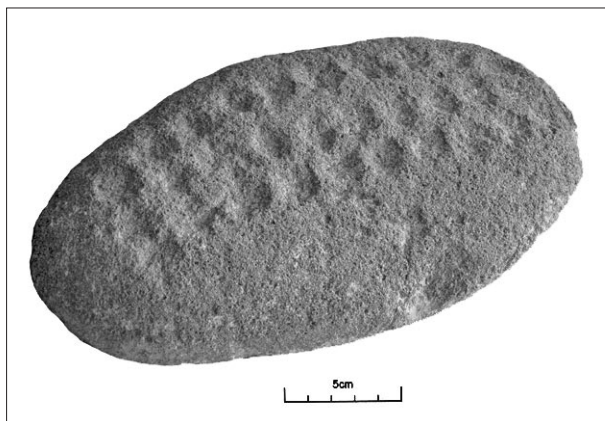


Fig. 31. Gaming stone from rubble collapse adjacent to Building 2 (1:3).

head, dating to the 16th century B.C., is an example of military equipment similar to that found in a number of warrior tombs of this date in the Tamassos–Politiko region. The wealth of the LC I burials in this region is typically attributed to control over copper procurement. Certainly the survey finds had suggested LC I activity in this part of the site. Together with the tomb material, these finds might serve to demonstrate some link between the earliest occupation of *Vouppes* and activities at the contemporary copper production site at Politiko-Forades.

The interpretation of *Vouppes* within a wider LC landscape is the goal of future research at the site. At present it would appear that the site functioned as a specialist production centre, as was originally put forward by Bernard Knapp (Knapp *et al.* 1994; Given 2002, 7; Given and Knapp 2003, 179-82; Keswani and Knapp 2003). Local knowledge indicates the presence of a storeroom, containing a row of *pithoi* in the fields immedi-

ately to the north of our original survey area –indicating possible centralised storage of agricultural produce analogous to Building A at Apliki-Karamallos (Taylor 1952; Keswani 1993). The two buildings excavated in 2006 illustrate different aspects of this specialist centre: one associated with large-scale production and the other apparently a storage facility. The presence of copper slag in a work area [75] in Building 1 demonstrates a probable link to the nearby mining areas, such as Mitsero, Agrokipia, and/or the LC I mining site at Politiko-Forades. Possible models of how these sites interacted might include seasonal workers moving from *Vouppes* to the mines. Likewise, the presence of imported goods indicates that certain members of the community at *Vouppes* were trading with the coastal towns, possibly of the Morfou region (Keswani and Knapp 2003, 218-20). Future excavations at *Vouppes* will be directed towards further exploration of these issues.

ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ

Το άρθρο αυτό παρουσιάζει περιληπτικά τις προκαταρκτικές ανασκαφές στη θέση Αρεδιού-Βούππες, μια θέση της Ύστερης Εποχής του Χαλκού που βρίσκεται στην άκρη των βόρειων προπόδων της οροσειράς του Τροόδους. Η θέση έχει χαρακτηριστεί ως αγροτικό κέντρο παραγωγής που θα προμήθευε τις κοντινές θέσεις εξόρυξης χαλκού της Ύστερης Εποχής του Χαλκού, αλλά και πιθανότατα και τα παραθαλάσσια αστικά κέντρα. Οι θέσεις στην ενδοχώρα όπως αγροκτήματα και χωριά, δεν αντιπροσωπεύονται επαρκώς στους οικισμούς της Υστεροκυπριακής περιόδου που έχουν ανασκαφεί μέχρι σήμερα, γεγονός που καθιστά τη θέση Αρεδιού-Βούππες πολύ σημαντική στην αρχαιολογική βιβλιογραφία. Οι ανασκαφές του 2005 και 2006 αποκάλυψαν αρχιτεκτονικά κατάλοιπα του 13^{ου} αιώνα π.Χ. Η έρευνα επικεντρώθηκε κυρίως πάνω σε δύο κεντρικά κτίρια στα οποία φαίνεται να λάμβαναν χώρα εξειδικευμένες εργασίες και πιθανόν να στέγαζαν αποθηκευτικές εγκαταστάσεις. Επιπλέον, ανασκάφηκε και ένας μικρός θαλαμοειδής τάφος ο οποίος είχε σε μεγάλο βαθμό συληθεί κατά την Εποχή του Σιδήρου, και στον οποίο διατηρούνταν τα οστά τουλάχιστον τριών ενηλίκων. Τα κτερίσματα χρονολογούν την πιο πρώιμη χρήση του τάφου στο 16^ο αιώνα π.Χ.

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