

8. Palaikastro: Building AM1, showing numbered rooms.
© BSA, Palace and Landscape of Palaikastro Project.



9. Palaikastro: Building AM1, showing grinding installation in Room 12.
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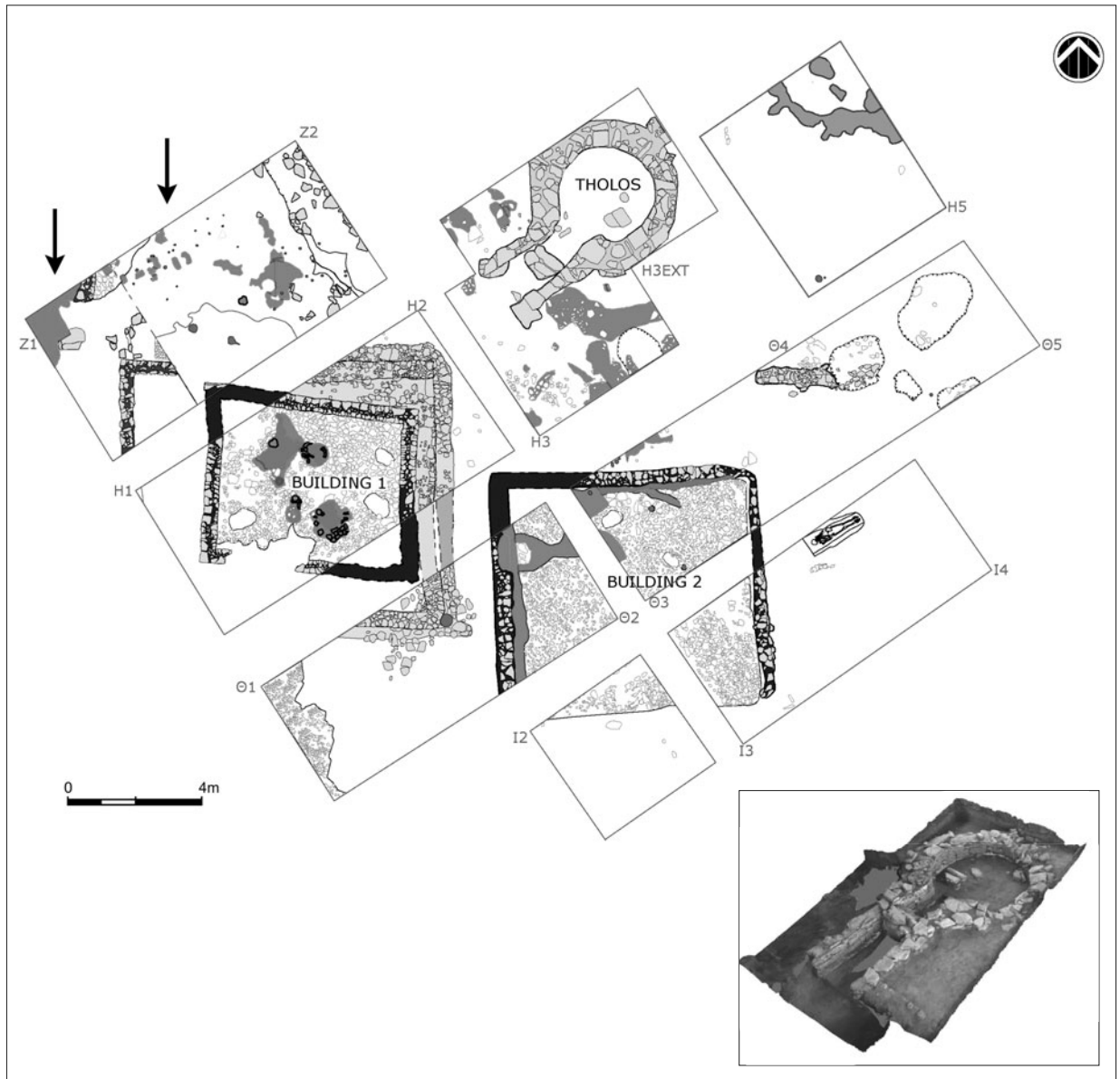
buildings from this period on the site (**Fig. 8**). There was a pre-existing structure, at least earlier in the Neopalatial, and there was Late Minoan III reuse in various areas of the building. Major reconstruction in LMIB fits the pattern elsewhere on the site, and AM1 resembles other LMIB buildings at Palaikastro in size, use of ashlar masonry, paved floors, plaster and so forth, and also an increased focus in LMIB on industry/trade at regional, local and domestic scales. Repeated finds of strainers, fireboxes or other incense-related vessels, storage jars, weights and small stone vessels could all be involved in the production of aromatics at an intermediate scale – somewhere between a cottage industry and a manufactory, benefitting the inhabitants/associates of that house. Likewise, the implied scale of the grinding installation (if it was for grain and not aromatic production) appears larger than necessary even for a house of this size (**Fig. 9**).

Evidence for violent and sudden collapse in Rooms 14 and 6, in the southern part, and for massive deposition of material in Rooms 10 and 13 marks the end of the Late Minoan IB building, perhaps the result of a seismic event, possibly after abandonment. The event here may be earlier than the final destructions elsewhere on the site, perhaps belonging more to Palaikastro period XI than XII in the overall site phasing.

Moving to the central Greek mainland, a second five-year programme of collaborative work (*synergasia*) commenced at the Middle Neolithic site of **Koutroulou Magoula** in Thessaly, directed by Nina Kyparissi-Apostolika (Director Emerita, EPS) and Yannis Hamilakis (Southampton), with the aims of refining our understanding of intra-site organization, including indoor and outdoor spaces, and of the extent and nature of human involvement from the Neolithic to the present. Additional goals are the

examination of people, plant and animal interaction, and of the production, circulation and consumption of all types of material culture, including the site's unique assemblage of figurines. The project continues to explore the site's role in local perceptions of antiquities and to develop community and public archaeology activities.

Limited excavation in 2015 exposed 38m² in two trenches (indicated with arrows on **Fig. 10**), an area extremely rich in finds both portable and architectural, and producing over 22,000 sherds and more than 60 figurines and five house models. Excavation in this area has thus shown the existence of further substantial buildings north of those previously revealed and reaffirmed the role and importance of unroofed spaces between houses as key activity areas and spaces of socialization for the community. In addition to excavation, a drone was used to record the topography of the tell as a whole and photogrammetric representations of architectural features were carried out, including the previously excavated Late Bronze Age tholos tomb (**Fig. 10** insert).



10. Koutroulou Magoula: plan of excavation, showing 2015 excavation (arrows). Insert: photogrammetric representation of the Late Bronze Age tholos tomb. © BSA, Koutroulou Magoula Project.

Soil micromorphological analysis has produced significant results, the most important of which is that a significant part of the deposit in the *magoula*, including inside the stone-built buildings, is very rich in animal dung. This shows that animals were kept in the settlement for at least parts of the year, probably sharing spaces with humans. Combined archaeobotanical, zooarchaeological, phytolithic and soil micromorphological analyses show that sheep, goats and cattle were maintained using diverse animal foddering practices (some on-site and some off-site), exploiting different ecological zones.

Finally, although the site's ceramics place it squarely within the Middle Neolithic, AMS dating situates a relatively short-lived Neolithic presence between the end of the seventh and the first two centuries of the sixth millennia, conventionally the transitional period between Early and Middle Neolithic in mainland Greece. The site thus contributes to a rethinking of Neolithic chronology in Greece, while the short-lived character of the Neolithic occupation contrasts with the evidence for extensive rebuilding and destruction.