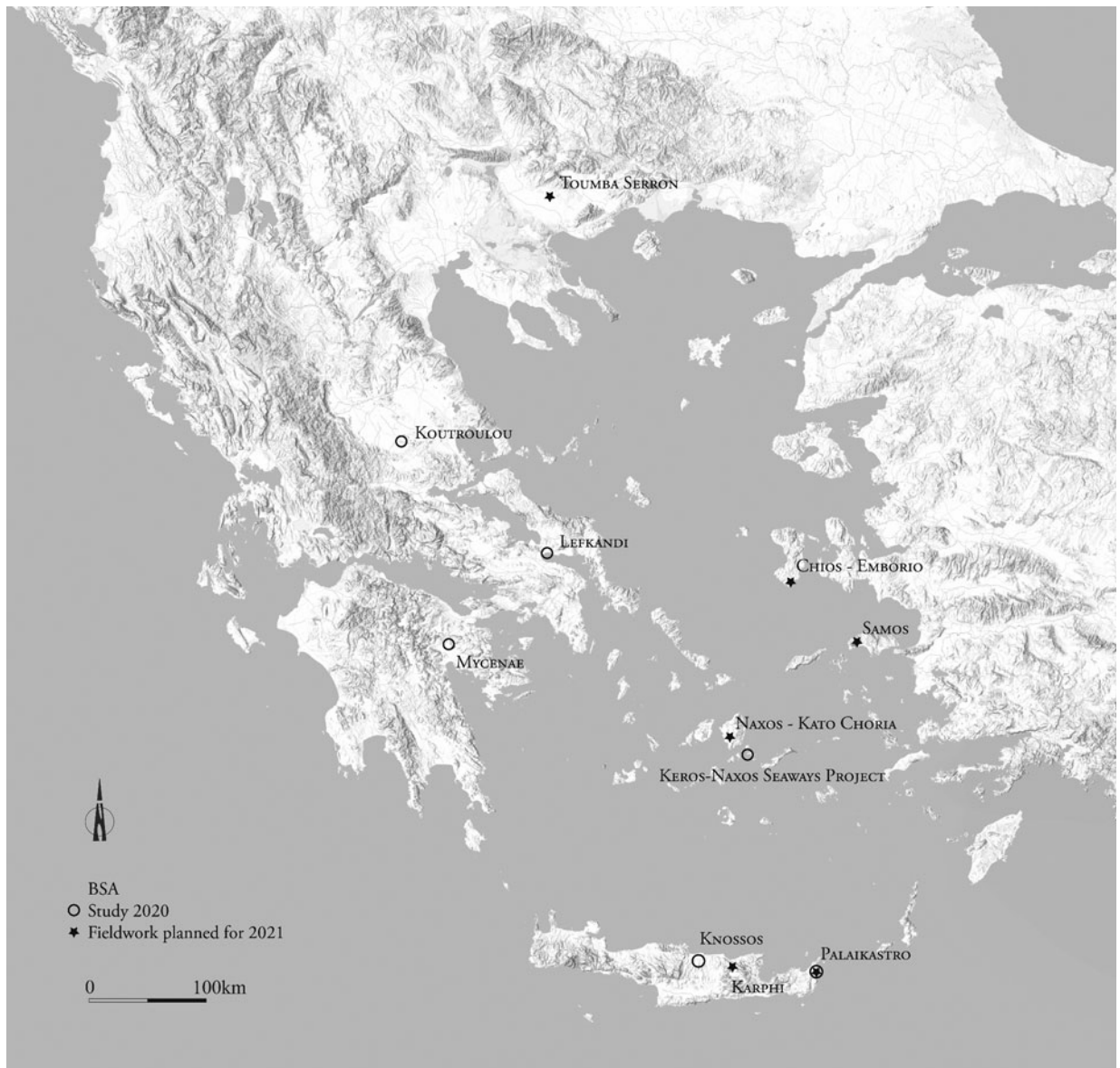


### Archaeological fieldwork

Archaeology normally forms a significant part of the BSA’s activities, but – like many other organizations – the intricate logistics of assembling teams in the field, often from multiple countries, proved too risky in the unusual summer of 2020. In one sense, the timing of the pandemic was opportune, because the BSA had planned only two fieldwork projects: an excavation and underwater survey at the eastern edge of the site of Palaikastro in eastern Crete and an archaeological survey on the island of Chios (**Map 1**). These projects rolled forward to 2021 and joined new excavation projects at Neolithic Toumba Serron, Late Antique Kato Choria on Naxos and Karphi, at the Bronze to Iron Age transition in east-central Crete, plus a multi-period survey project in western Samos. Information on the results of these projects will be provided in next year’s report.

Other recent projects had already progressed to study mode. Olynthos, Koutroulou Magoula, Keros-Naxos Seaways and Knossos Gypsades joined other long-running projects now in this phase. While study may seem less exciting than active fieldwork, it is the most crucial stage of any project, when raw fieldwork



Map 1. Sites of BSA study in 2020 and fieldwork planned for 2021. © BSA.

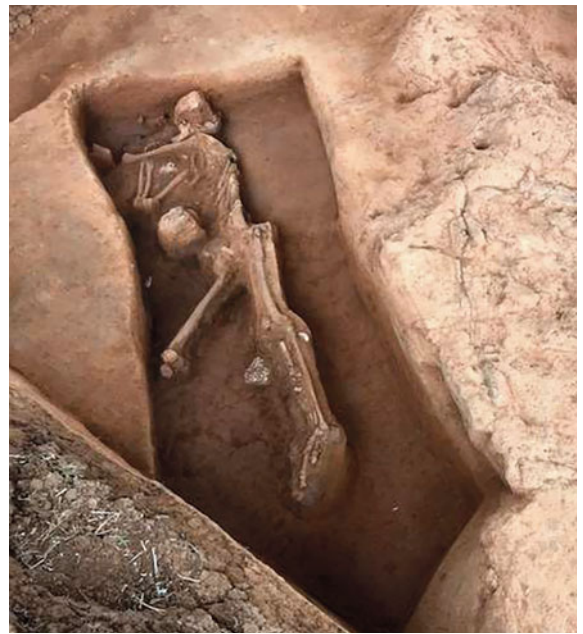
data are turned into a coherent format, suitable for dissemination to a wider audience, academic and otherwise. While the Olynthos, Gypsades, KULP and Kenchreai teams were unable to carry out study in Greece, but used teleconferencing to maintain momentum towards publication, the Keros-Naxos Seaways, Koutroulou Magoula, Lefkandi, Mycenae and (earlier) Palaikastro projects ran study seasons, as travel and availability of personnel allowed. In the case of Koutroulou, study produced a major surprise: after  $C^{14}$  dating, the well-preserved burial excavated in 2018 proved not to be Byzantine, as originally thought, but returned a date in the late seventh millennium BC, i.e. the Middle Neolithic (**Fig. 22**).

Although no fieldwork took place, communication with colleagues in the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports continued, and the BSA expresses its gratitude, as always, to colleagues there for their support and collaboration in very trying times: Georgios Didaskalou, Secretary General of the Ministry, Polyxeni Adam-Veleni, Director General of Antiquities, and Elena Kountouri, Director of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, as well as numerous others in the Ministry and those in charge of the relevant Ephorates of Antiquities. We also recognize the generous financial support, from a wide range of bodies and private individuals, that sustains our projects in the field.

On Euboea, the Lefkandi project had a short study season in 2020, both in its own storeroom in Lefkandi and in the Eretria Museum. A highlight was a visit by the Minister of Culture and Sports, Lina Mendoni, to the new Museum of Chalkida and the site of Toumba, where she was guided by Irene Lemos (Oxford), director of the Lefkandi project. Lefkandi was not the only site to receive a distinguished visitor: in August 2020 the President of the Hellenic Republic, HE Katerina Sakellariopoulou, visited Keros and Dhaskalio, accompanied by Michael Boyd (Cambridge) on behalf of the Keros-Naxos Seaways project. The President also took in an exhibition on the island of Kouphonisi – *Impressions* – which includes material excavated on Keros (**Fig. 23**). The project was otherwise highly visible with the two television documentaries mentioned above.

### The Fitch Laboratory

The repercussions of the pandemic changed work patterns and interactions in the Fitch Laboratory, making 2020 an unusual year, but neither a quiet nor a less-productive one. It was a year of solitary work in the laboratory, wearing masks and maintaining physical distance, but also a year of vibrant online discussions, meetings, lectures and seminars. The need to work mainly from home conditioned the practicalities of research, shifting the emphasis towards areas such as the preparation of pending publications. Many papers were submitted for publication; some have appeared already.



22. Koutroulou Magoula: burial in Trench  $\Xi 15$  (2018). © BSA/Koutroulou Magoula Archaeological and Archaeological Ethnography Project.



23. HE Katerina Sakellariopoulou, President of the Hellenic Republic (centre), at the Impressions exhibition on Kouphonisi. © Pavlos Kotsonis, reproduced with permission.