

North Euboean Gulf

Mitrou seen from the east (Photo T. Dabney 2005)

Rise and Decline of Mycenaean Civilization from a Central Greek Perspective: Results of Recent Studies at Mitrou



Mitrou (balloon
photo K. Xenikakis
and S. Gesafidis 2008)

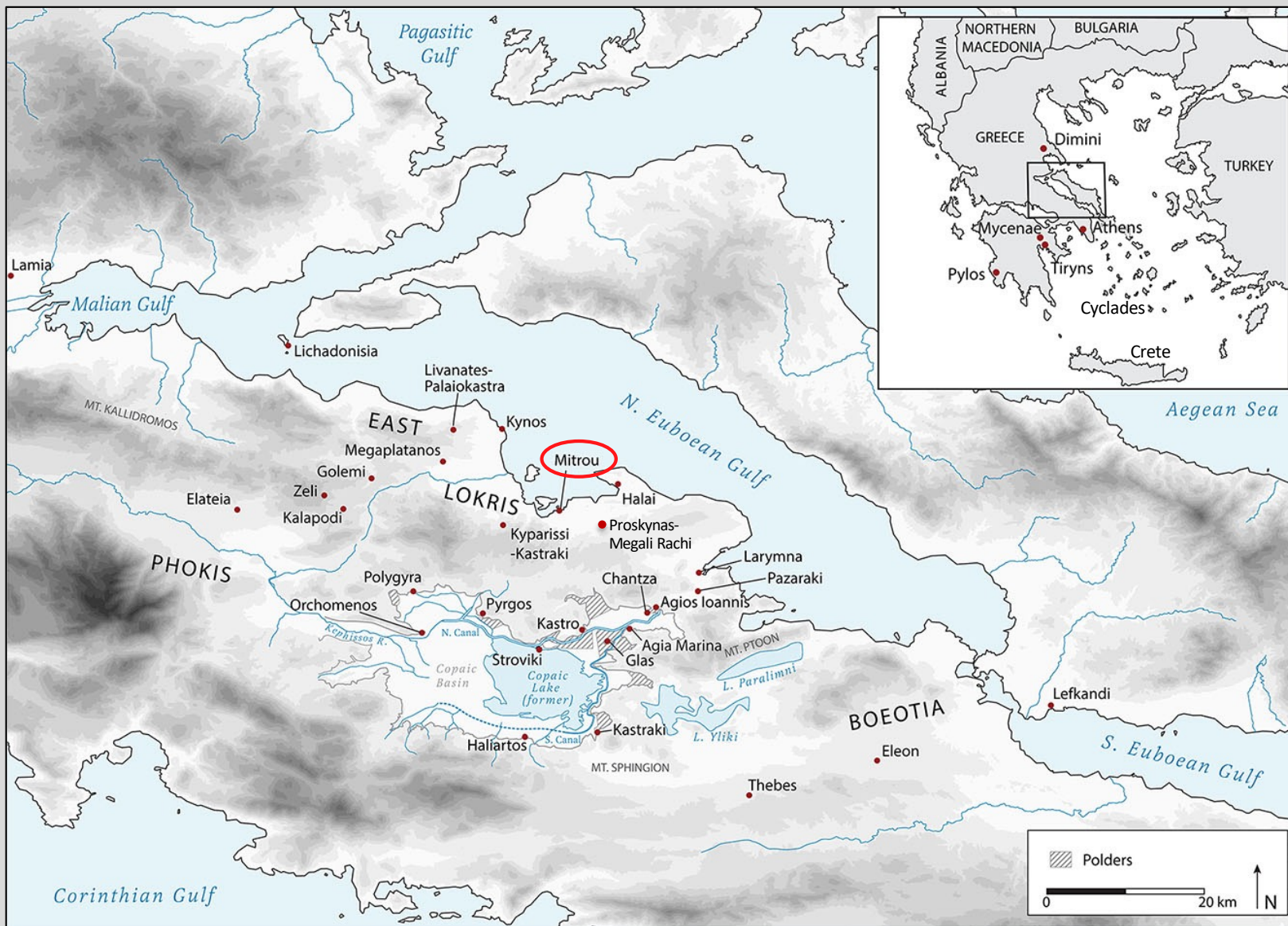
Aleydis Van de Moortel
Department of Classics



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE



Mitrou's Northeast excavation sector
(balloon photo K. Xenikakis & S.
Gesafidis 2008)



Location of Mitrou on North Euboean Gulf in Central Greece (T. Ross and A. Van de Moortel)

Mitrou is one of only three systematically excavated prehistoric settlements in East Lokris (with Kynos and Proskynas-Megali Rachi). Only site with excavated settlement evidence of Prepalatial and Palatial periods. There probably were several more important settlements of these periods in East Lokris: Livanates – Palaiokastra, Megaplatanos-Palaiokastra, Atalante?, Kyparissi-Kastraki?



Mitrou 1988-1989 surface survey
Cornell University

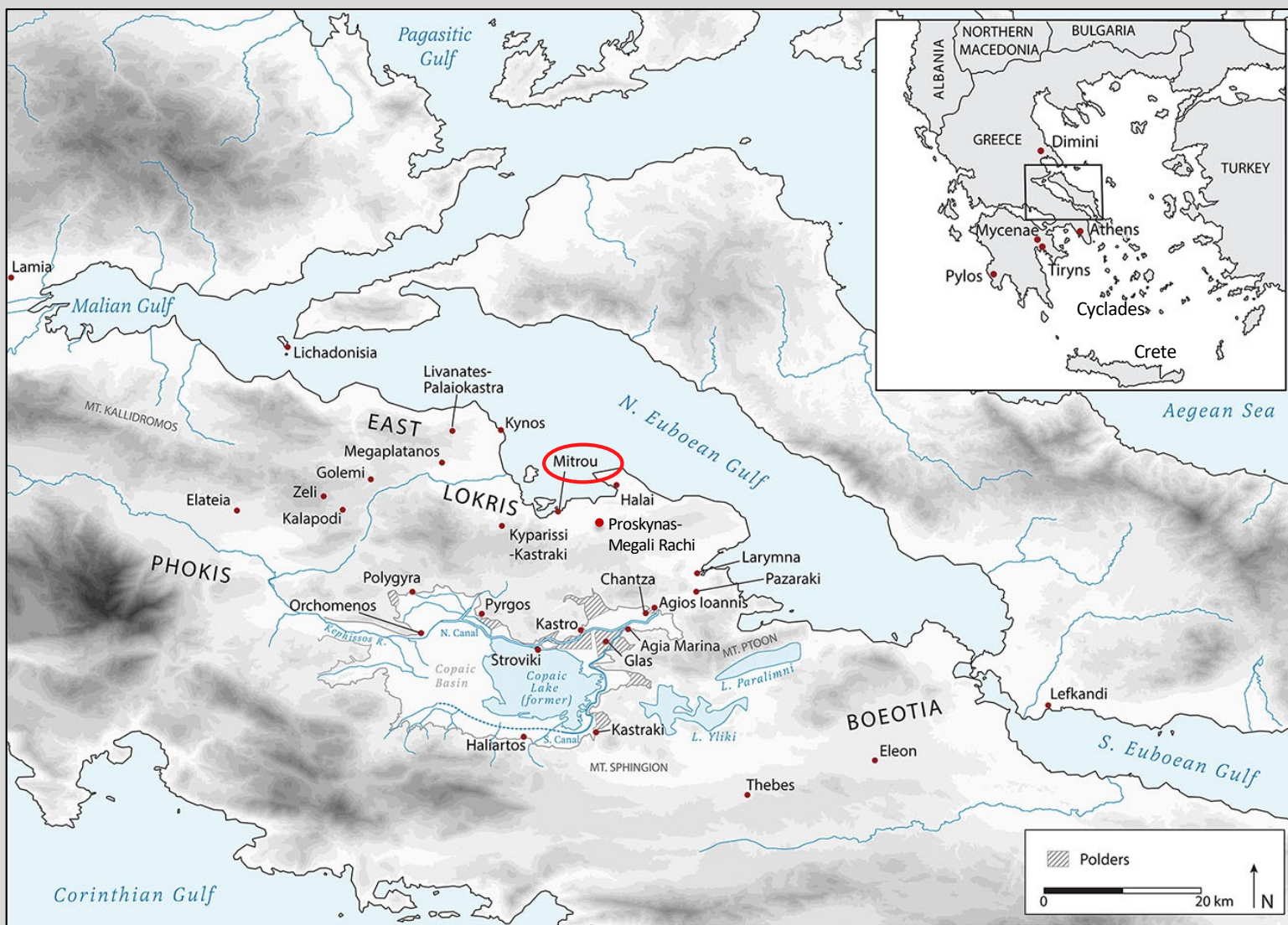
(Kramer-Hajos and O'Neill, *Hesperia*, 2008)

Scarps: many stratified occupational levels

Pottery: Neolithic, Bronze Age, Early Iron Age, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, post-Byzantine.

Mostly Bronze Age, including much high-quality Mycenaean-type pottery from the beginning of the Late Bronze Age, the period of the rise of Mycenaean civilization





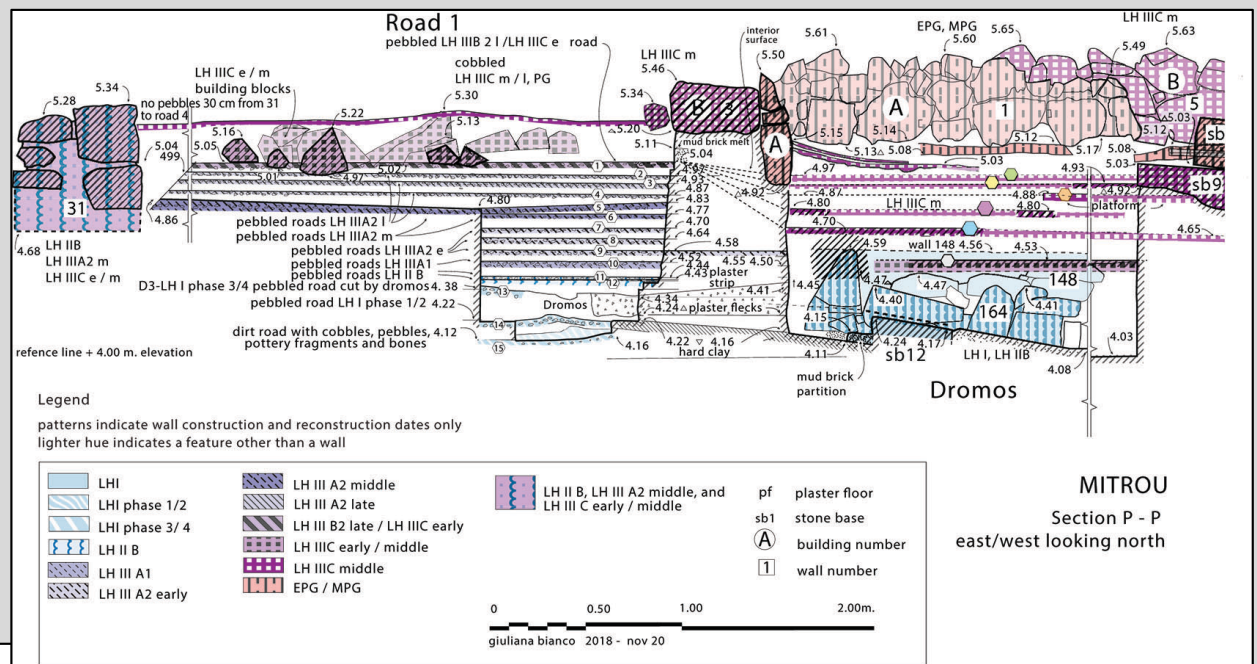
Location of Mitrou on North Euboean Gulf in Central Greece (T. Ross and A. Van de Moortel)

Three major goals of project:

- Study the rise and decline of complex society in East Lokris in the Late Bronze Age: indigenous vs. externally stimulated; role of Mycenae and Minoan Crete?
- Evaluate impact of trade on these socio-political processes. Mitrou is located on major maritime and terrestrial trade routes between northern and southern Greece.
- Study process of Mycenaeanization at Mitrou: When did it happen? Was it voluntary or coerced?

2004-2008 excavations and surveys by Archaeological Ephorate of Phthiotida and Eurytania and University of Tennessee, under auspices of American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

Co-directors: E. Zahouf, A. Van de Moortel, E. Karantzali



Section P-P showing LH I Phase 3 or 4 to LPG stratigraphy in northeast excavation sector (G. Bianco)

Mitrou: semi-submerged tell site with ca. 70 stratified levels
Early Helladic IIB – Late Protogeometric phase (ca. 2500-900 BCE)



Photo C. Hale 2021

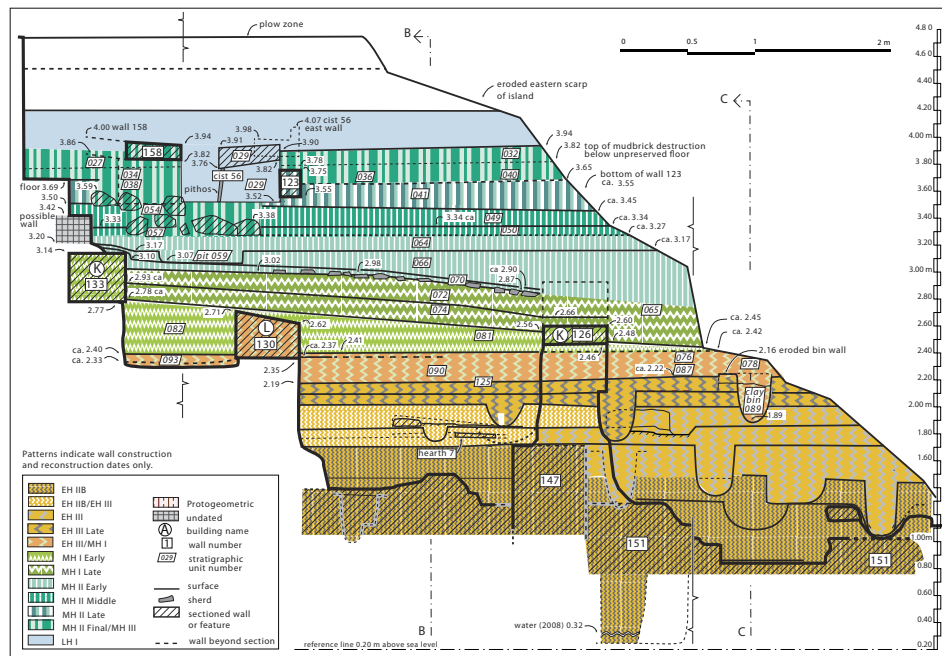


Figure 5. Trench LX784, schematic section A'-A', looking northeast. Drawing G. Bianco, A. Van de Moortel, and C. M. Hale

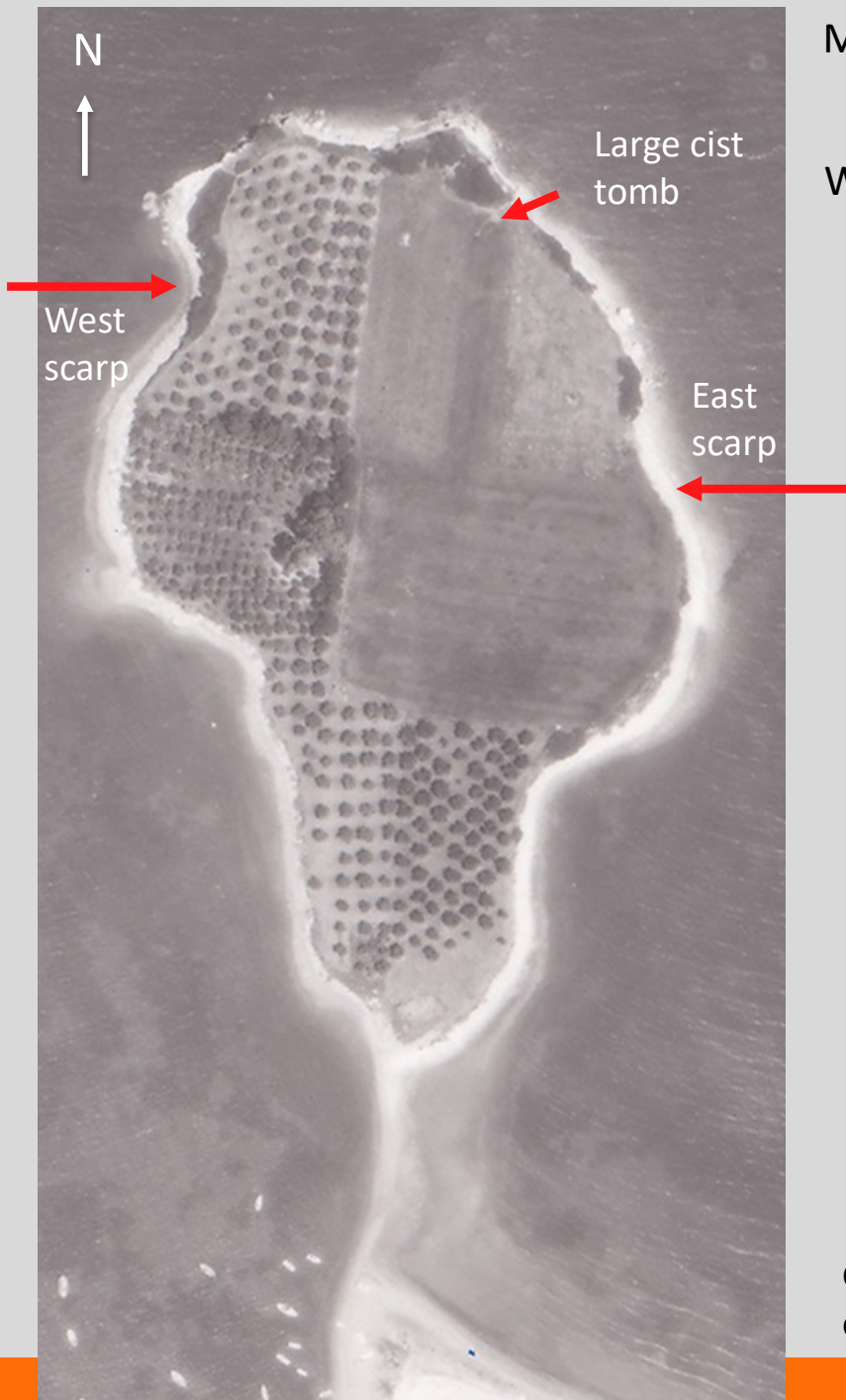
Schematic section of EH IIB – LH I Phase 2 stratigraphy in Trench LX784, eastern sea scarp (G. Bianco)



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Archaeological Ephorate of Phthiotida and Eurytania (Dir. E. Karantzali)
American School of Classical Studies at Athens (Dir. B. Wescoat)

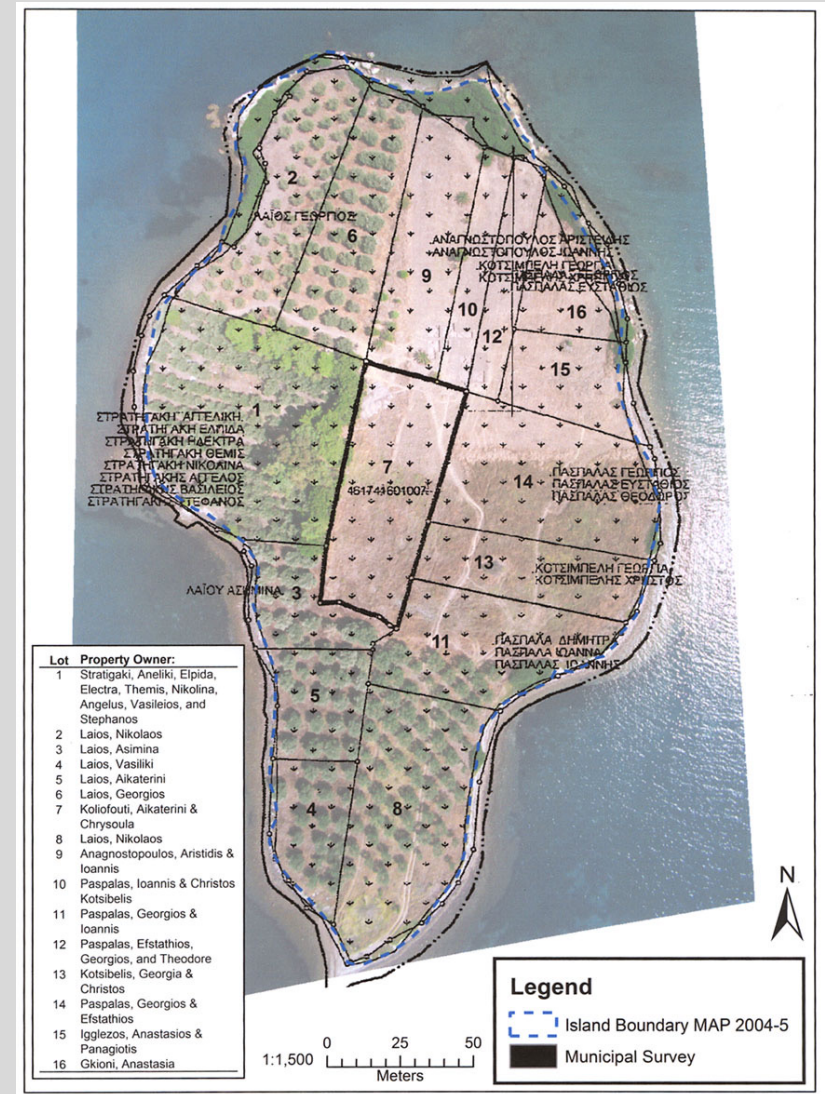
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The University of Tennessee
Archaeological Ephorate of Phthiotida and Eurytania
Other institutional and private donors





Mitrou surface area: 3.6 ha; few visible structures

Where to dig?



Greek Antiquities Law 2002: excavation plots must be expropriated on behalf of Greek state

Geophysical surveys 2003 and 2005:

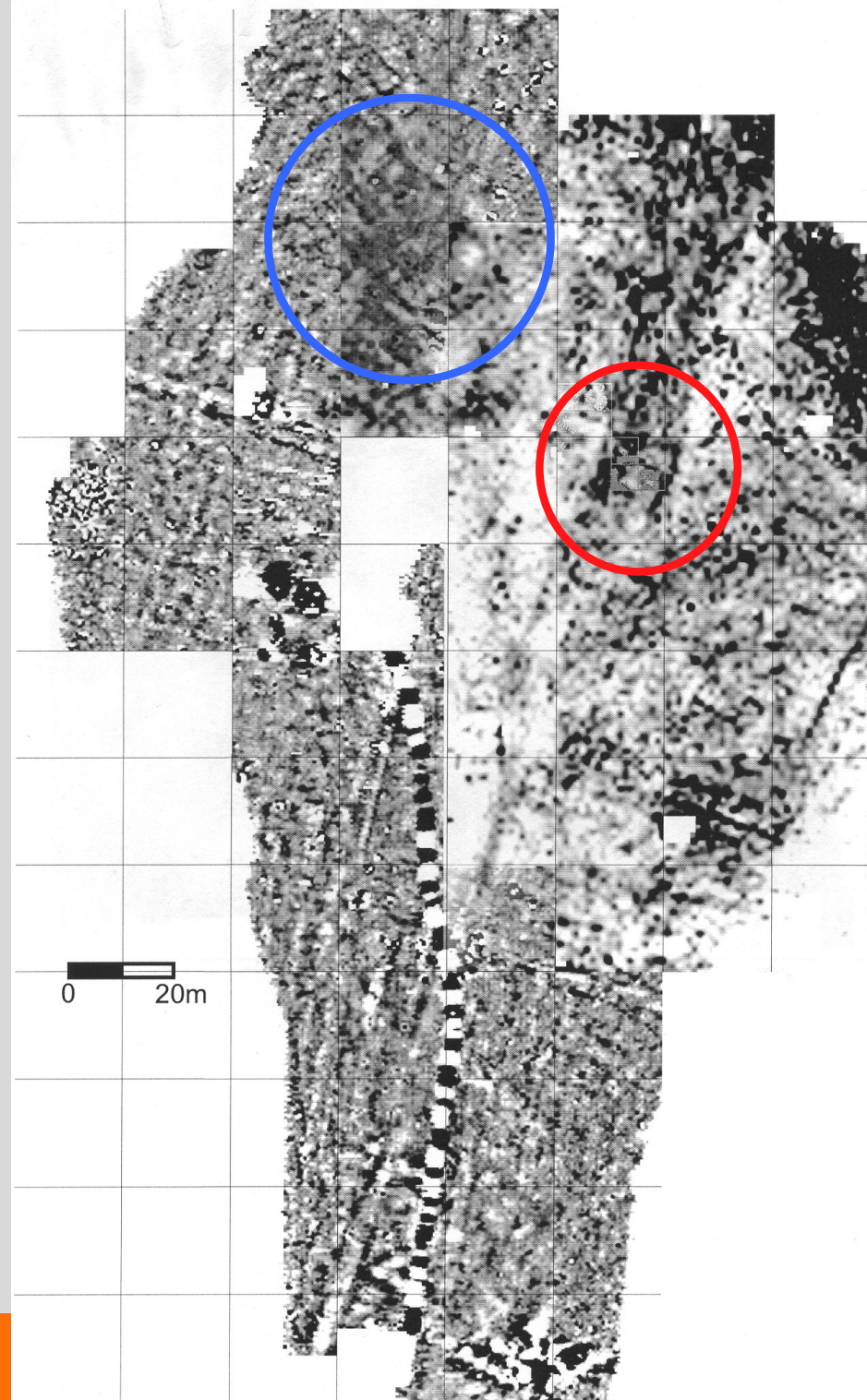
Two large architectural complexes in NE and NW of Mitrou islet



Electrical resistivity survey 2003

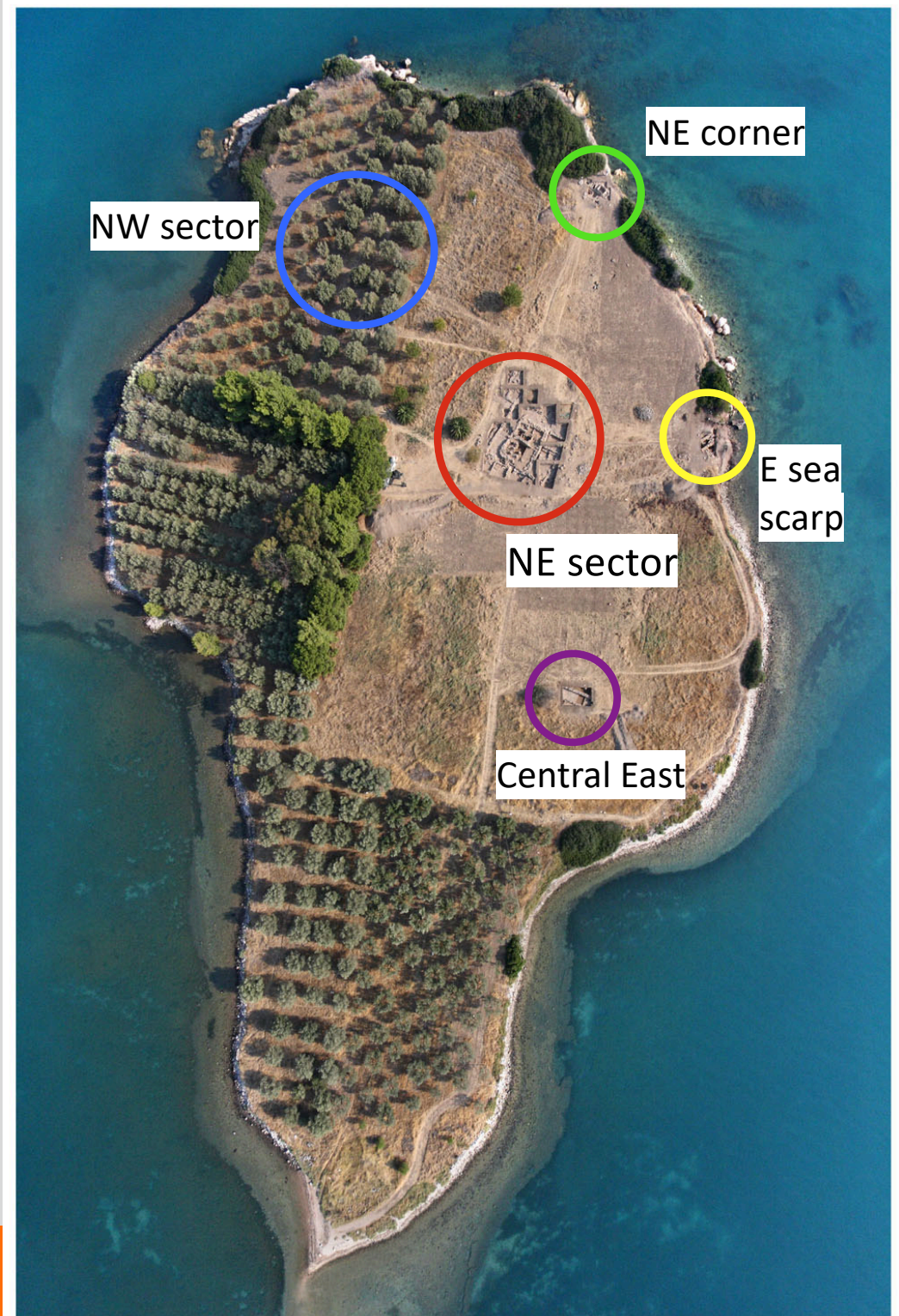
Magnetometry survey 2005

G. Tsokas
University of Thessaloniki



Mitrou
2004-2008 excavation sectors:
777.52 sq. m excavated
= ca. 2.2% of islet's surface

Balloon photo
K. Xenikakis
August 2008





Site surface survey (C. Belz and A. Iacobelli):

- 2.5 x 2.5 m grids
- 8900 sq. m = ca. 25% of islet surface, more than 11x the area excavated
- over 110,000 pottery fragments
- 1000s of other finds



50 25 0 50 Meters

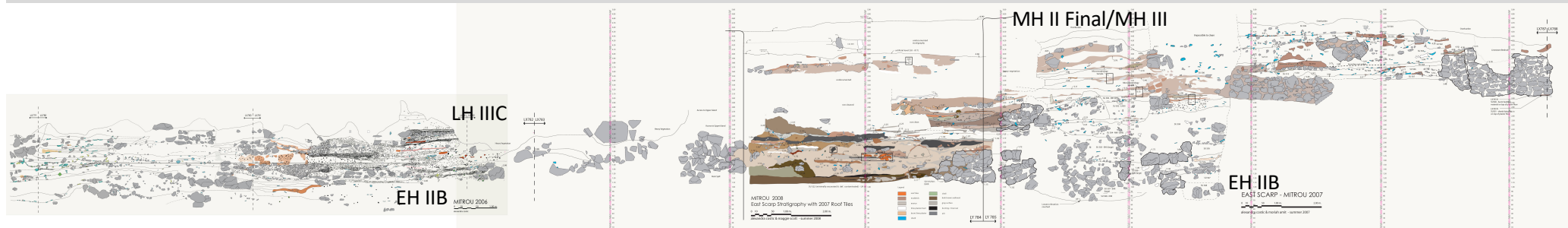
GIS overlay: N. Herrmann

Documentation and shallow stratigraphic excavation of eastern and western sea scarps through ancient settlement (A. Costic, G. Hill, M. Scott):

East scarp L = ca. 35 m:
25 strata, Early Helladic IIB – Late Helladic IIIC Middle
(ca. 2500 - 1100 BCE)



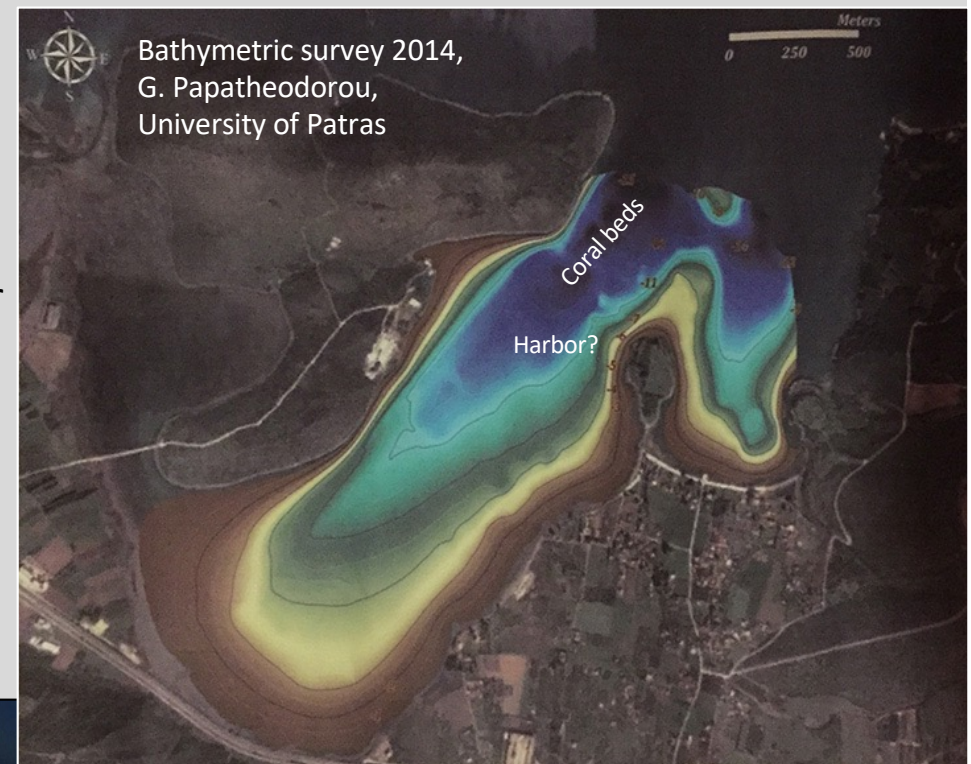
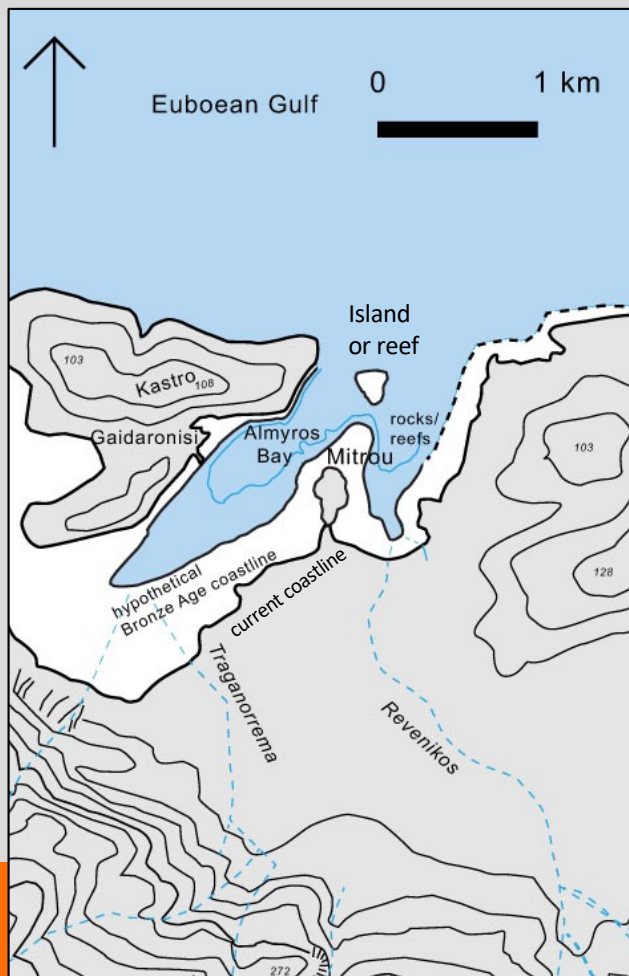
Eastern sea scarp



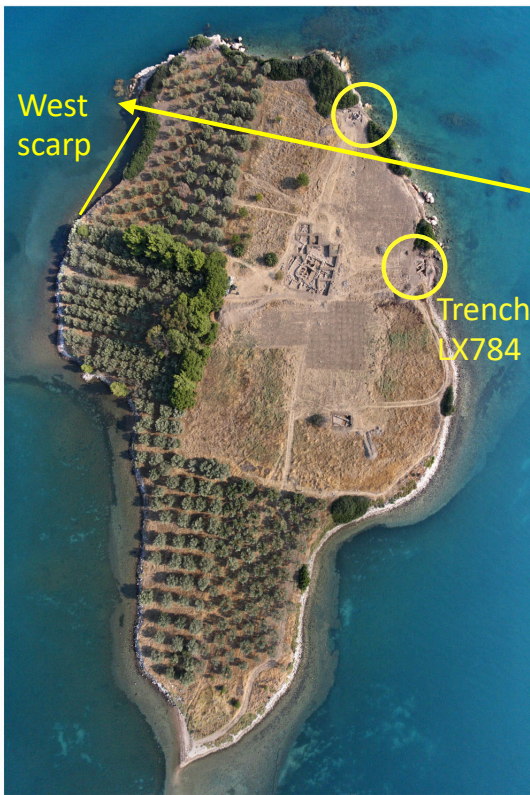
2014 underwater geophysical survey G. Papatheodorou, University of Patras

- 'Chirp' Kongsberg Geopulse Plus sub-bottom profiler
- Dual frequency EG&G side scan sonar

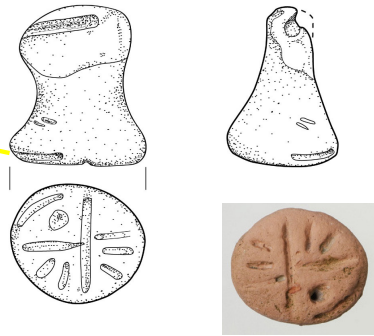
Mitrou with hypothetical Bronze Age coastline
at -7 m (G. Bianco and A. Van de Moortel)



- Mitrou was peninsula in Bronze Age
- Harbor most likely located to west of settlement
- Coralligenous formations would have created rich fishing grounds



EH II-III clay seal KY797-001-011



T. Ross

Early Helladic IIB (ca. 2500-2200/2150 BCE)

E scarp: Corridor Houses?

2 superimposed Buildings M and N with

- thick walls (70 cm); offset doorway Building M
- baked roof tiles
- much fine dining pottery (Korakou, Lefkandi I)
- many grinding stones
- many large spindle whorls

Roof tile LX784-155-069

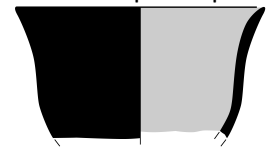


K. Jazwa

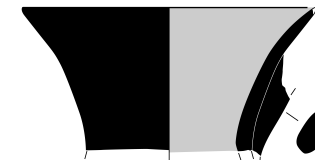
Lefkandi I beaked cut-away jug LX784-121-014



Bell-shaped cup

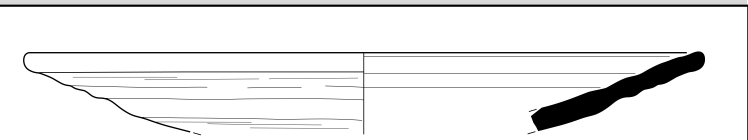
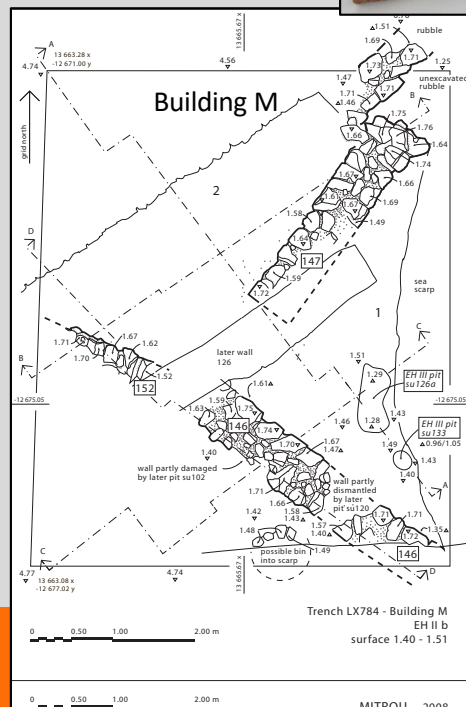
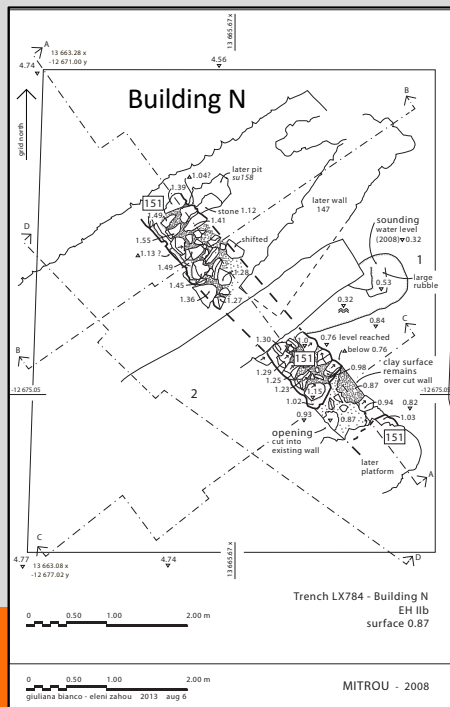


LX784-131-012



LR797-062-011

One-handed tankard



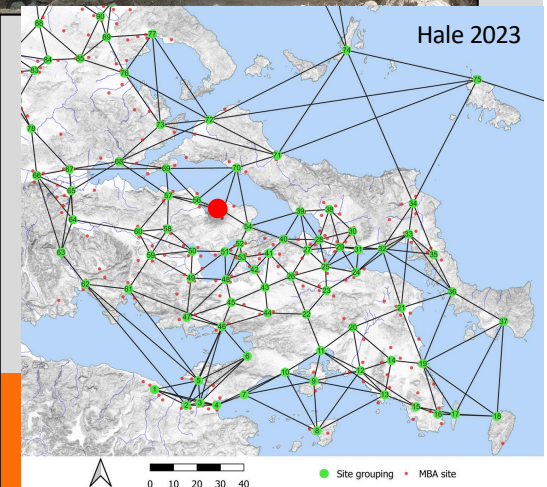
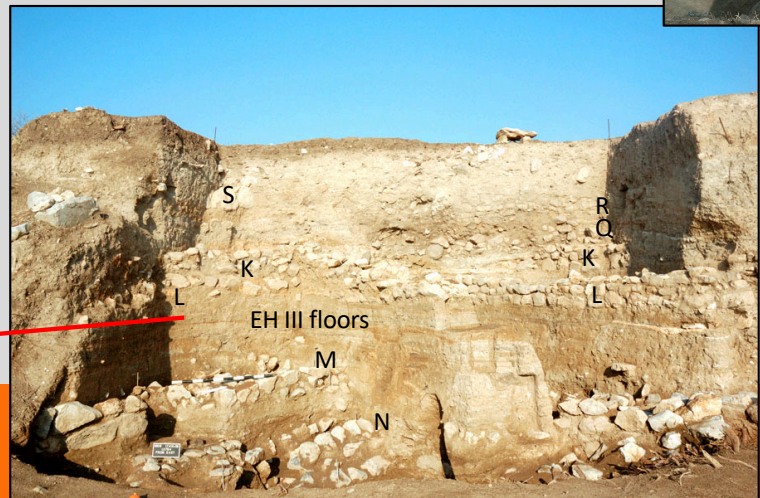
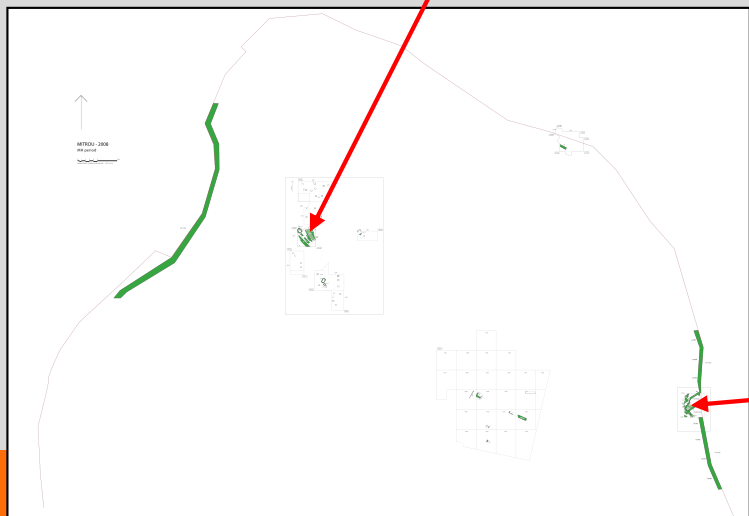
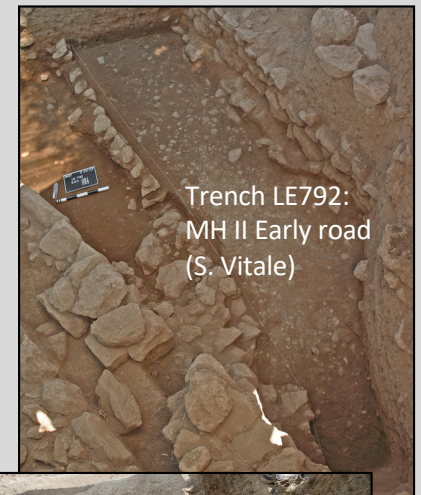
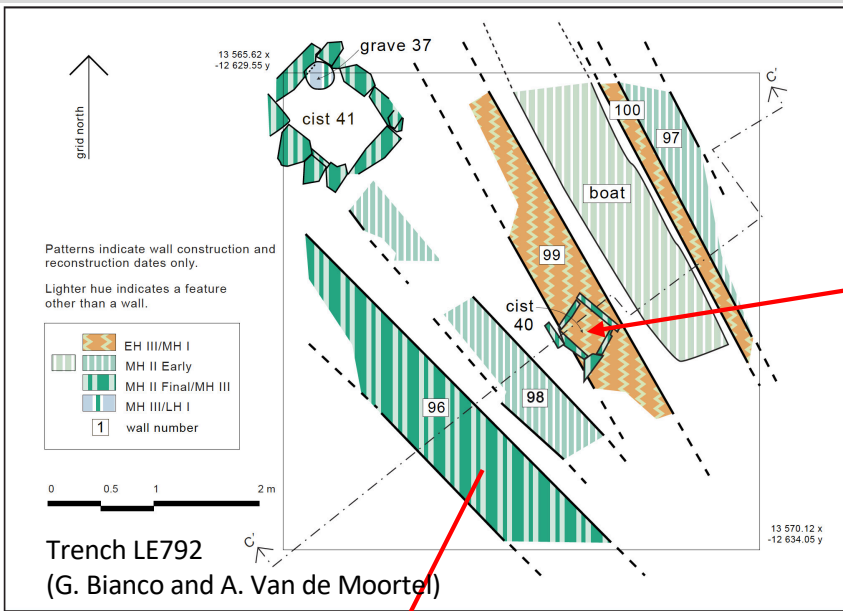
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Wheelmade Lefkandi I plate



EH III – MH II Final/MH III (ca. 2200/2150 – 1700 BCE): Mitrou is transegalitarian settlement

- “House series” with alternating residential and burial phases, typical MH (Worsham 2015)
- Thatched roofs, clay floors frequently repaired and patched: tell behavior (Karkanas and Van de Moortel 2014)
- Narrow dirt roads, 0.90 – 1.20 m wide, strewn with thrash
- MH II Early onwards: Mitrou part of Aeginetan maritime trade network



Late Helladic I period (ca. 1700 – 1530 BCE): rise of local elite, beginning of Prepalatial period; material construction of new ideology of power (Van de Moortel 2022; 2016)

Mitrou changes from a transegalitarian to a hierarchical town:

- Elite complexes H, T/D, W?/F
- Network of long, wide straight, white plastered roads creating elite-dominated townscape
- Elite tombs, mostly inside elite complexes
- Rich/exotic finds in elite contexts: gold, silver, electrum, bronze, amber, faience, purple dye, horse bridle piece, ...

Mitrou's elite separated itself from rest of population: networked elite (Galaty and Parkinson 2007)

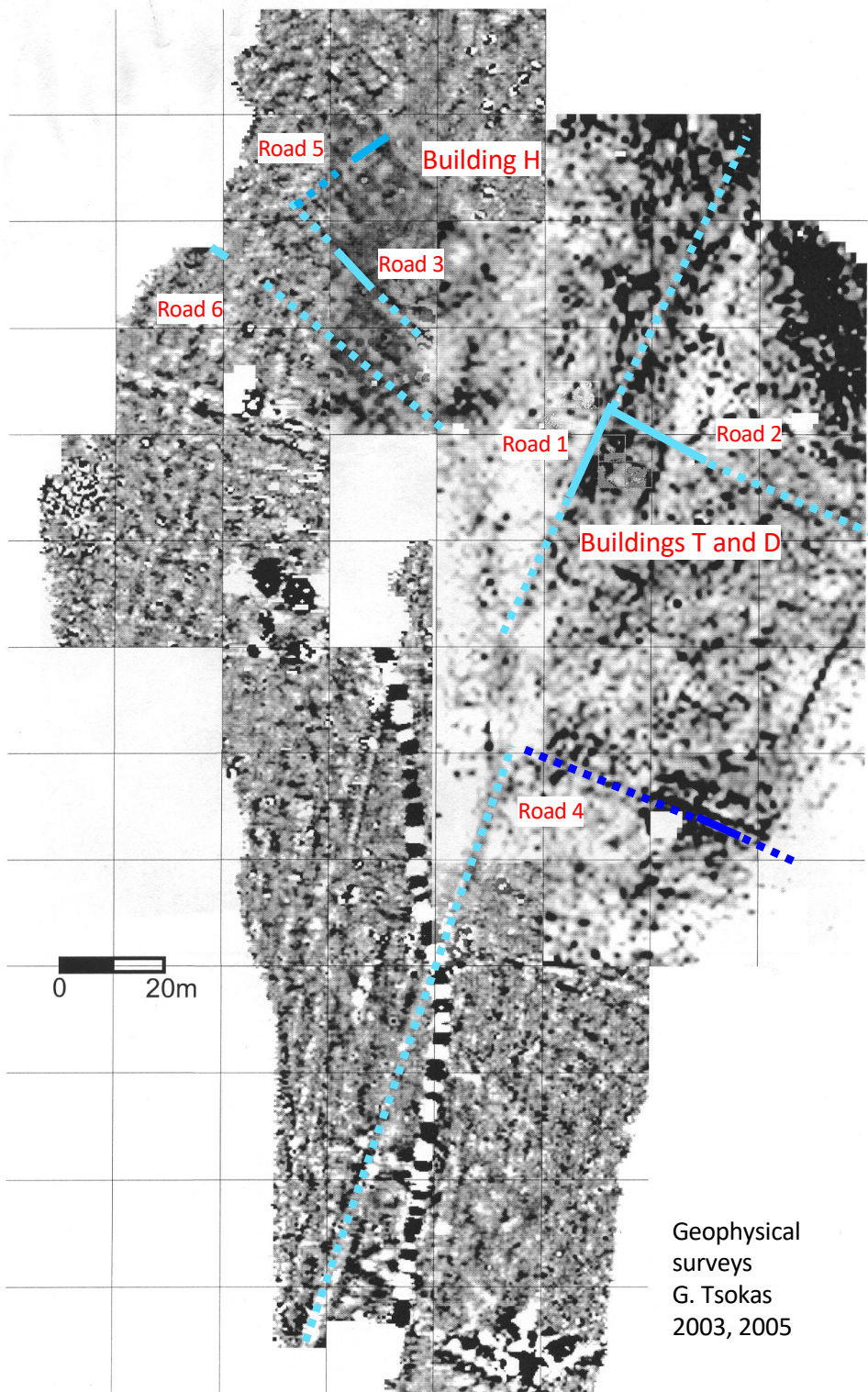
Indigenous development, inspired by trade contacts; Mycenaeanization began in LH IIA and was voluntary

Middle Helladic Mitrou

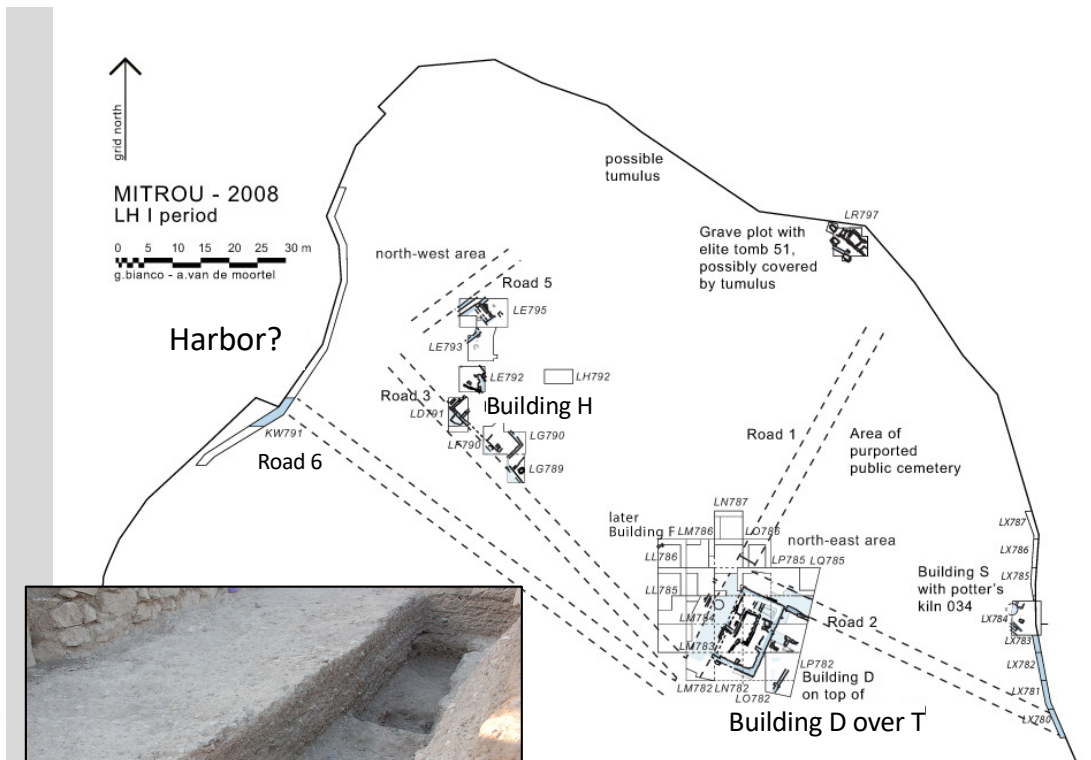
vs. Late Helladic I Phase 3 or 4 Mitrou



Largely hypothetical 3D models (D.K.)



Geophysical surveys
G. Tsokas
2003, 2005



Road 1: 13 major surfaces, ca. 80 cm thick
Micromorphology: ca. 25 plastered surfaces

Network of pebbled and white plastered roads developed over time: 5 roads in place by LH I Phase 3 or 4

- Road 3 (LH I Phase 1) earliest known thus far, on bluff at +4.00
- Road 1 (LH I Phase 2); by LH I Phase 3 was at least 80 m long and straight, ca. 3 m wide
- Road 6 (LH I Phase 3) visible in W scarp at +1.05: harbor?
- Road 2 (LH I Phase 3 or 4) at least 60 m long and straight, visible in E scarp (over MH bldg), met Road 1 at 90° angle
- Road 5 (LH IIA and probably earlier)
- Road 4 (LH IIB): earth and pebbles, only 2.5 m wide

Note: new roads are kept clean, no normal foot traffic!
(Karkanas and Van de Moortel 2014)

New wide, straight roads opened new vistas and connected all important elite places in settlement: creation of organized, clean world dominated by elite

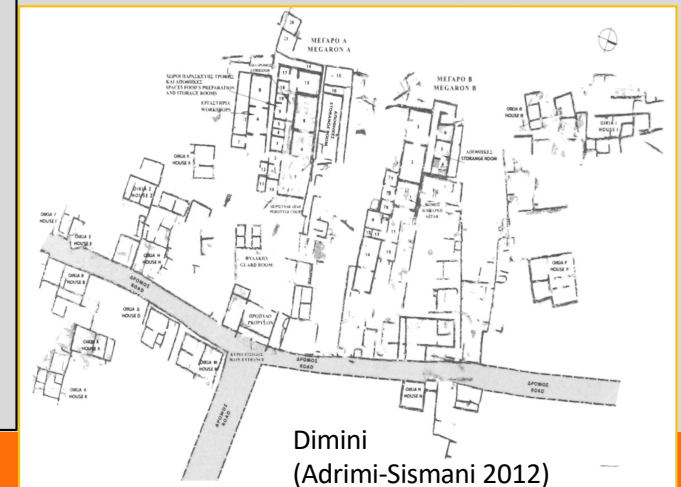
Wide pebbled and plastered roads are a Central Greek and Thessalian feature: thus far only found at Mitrou, Kalapodi-Kastro Souvalas, Dimini, Makrychori

Hypothetical view from possible harbor along Road 6 to Building D (D.K.)



Hypothetical view from Road 1 at Building D to probable tumulus over elite cist grave 51 (D.K.)

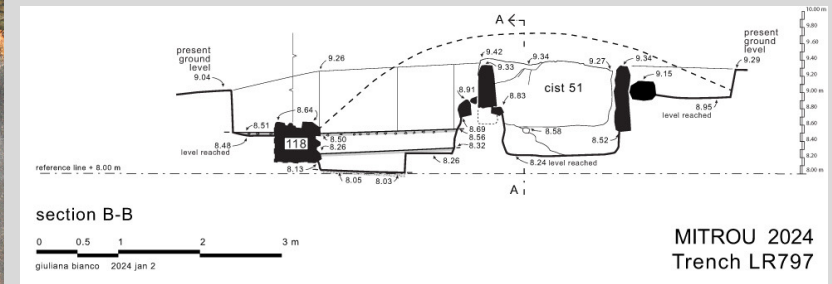
Roads at Mitrou little used: maybe restricted to elite as at LH IIIA-B Dimini?
Contributed to construction of elite power on a daily basis



Εικ. 3. Μυκηναϊκός οικισμός Διμηνίου-Ιωλκός. Γενικό τοπογραφικό.

Major change in burial practices in the course of LH I phase (cf. elsewhere in Greek mainland MH III/LH I):

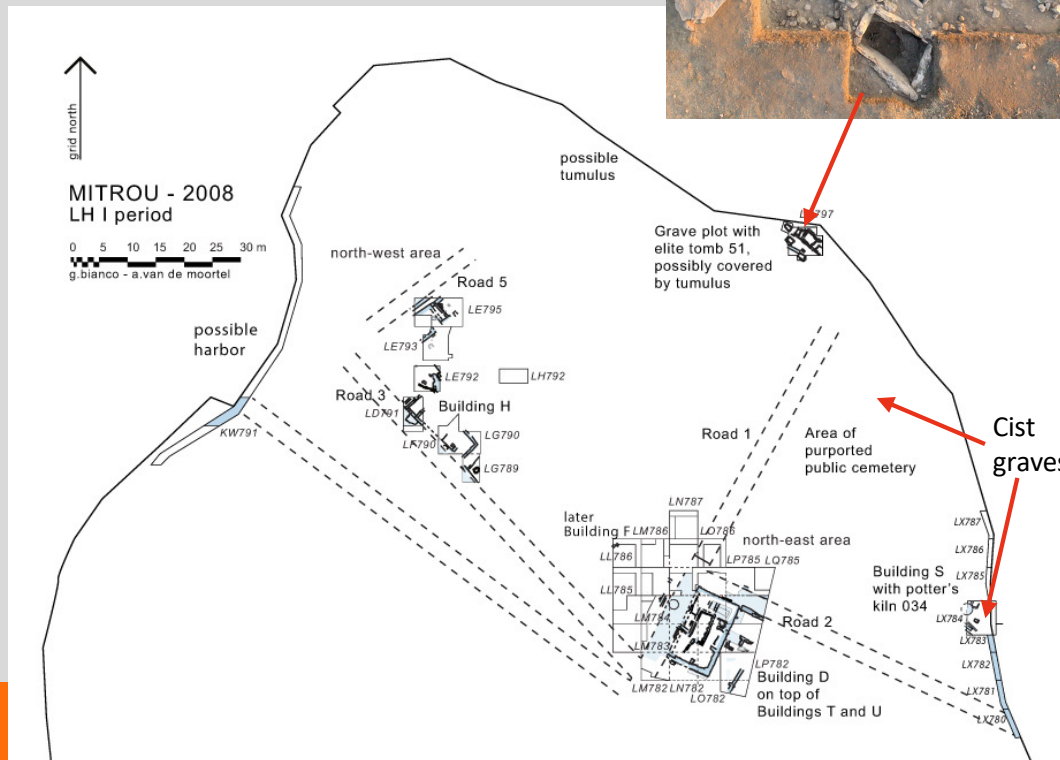
- Northeast area of islet abandoned by habitation, permanent cist graves : large communal cemetery?
But elite continued to bury dead inside elite centers in tumuli and built chamber tomb: highly visible exception
- Northeast corner of islet, near highest point: LH I Phase 1-2 burial plot with LH I Phase 1 elite cist grave 51, probably covered by tumulus, removed by later plowing; set over EH IIB settlement; highly visible from sea and land



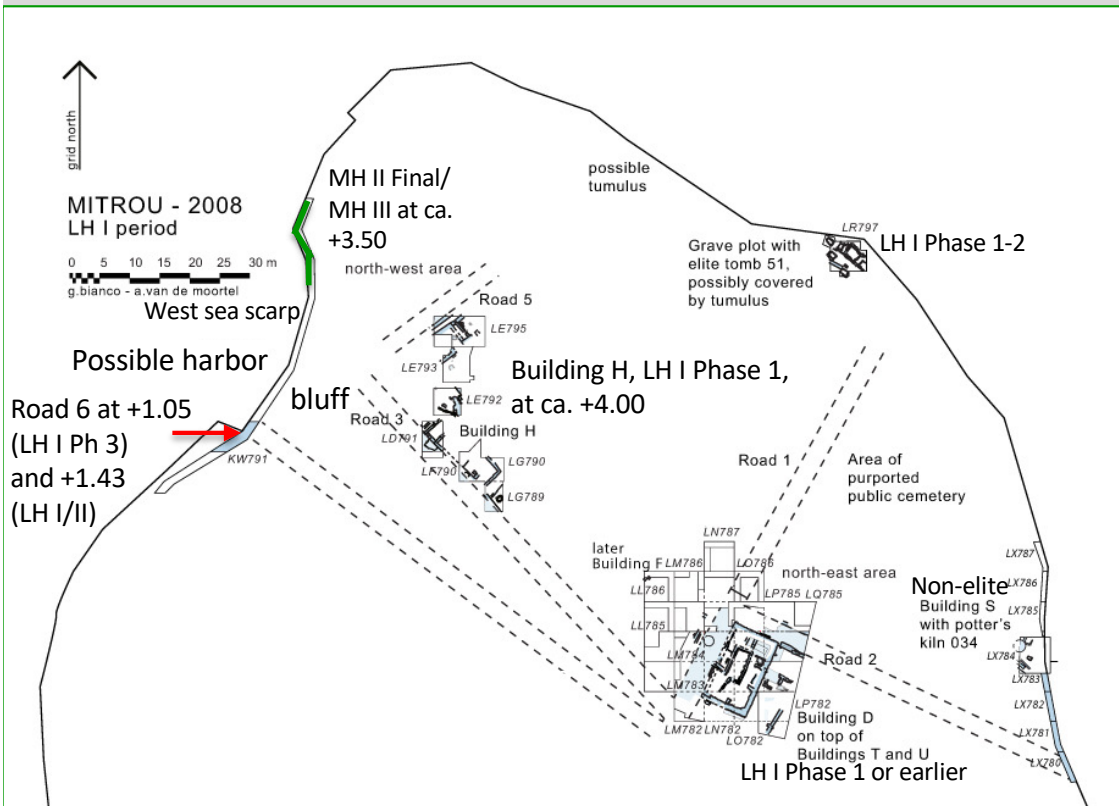
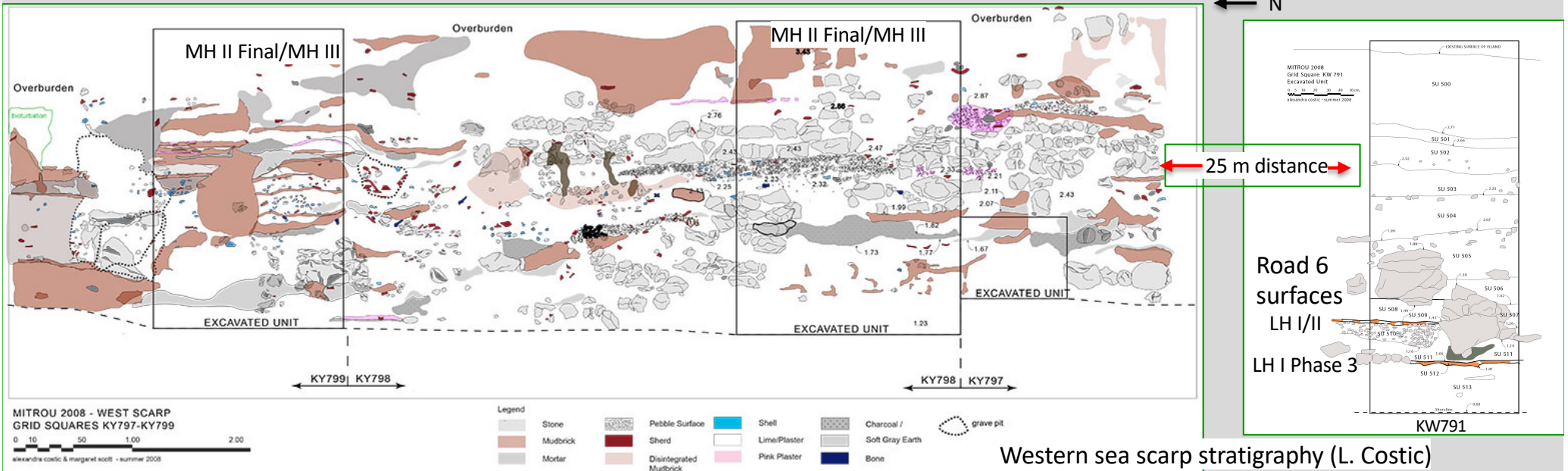
Hypothetical tumulus over burial plot,
at least 1.20 m high, 9 m in diameter



Drone photo J. Vanderpool 2018

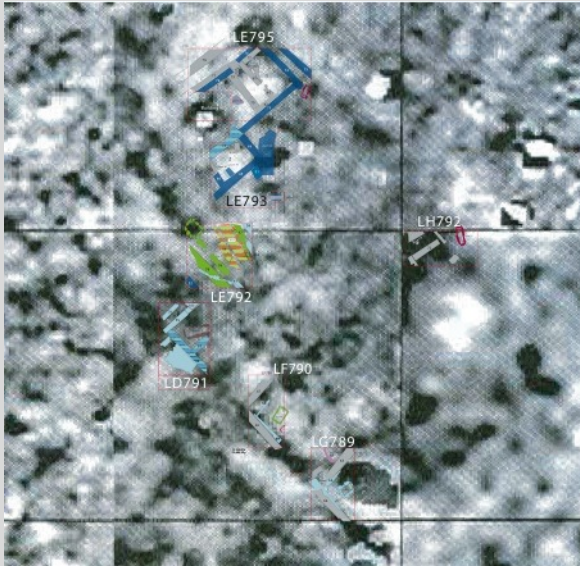


Earliest Prepalatial elite complex: Building H, LH I Ph 1 – LH IIIA1/2 Early, set on ca. 3 m high bluff overlooking poss. harbor



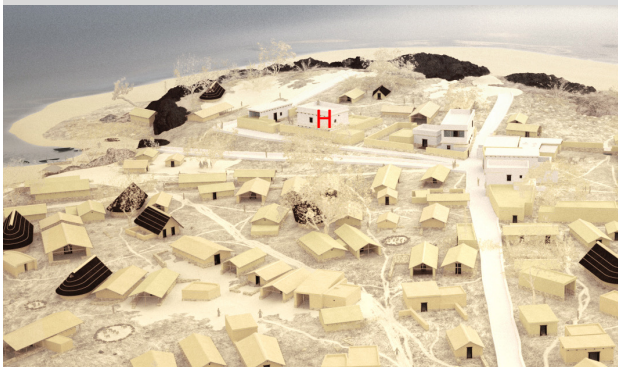
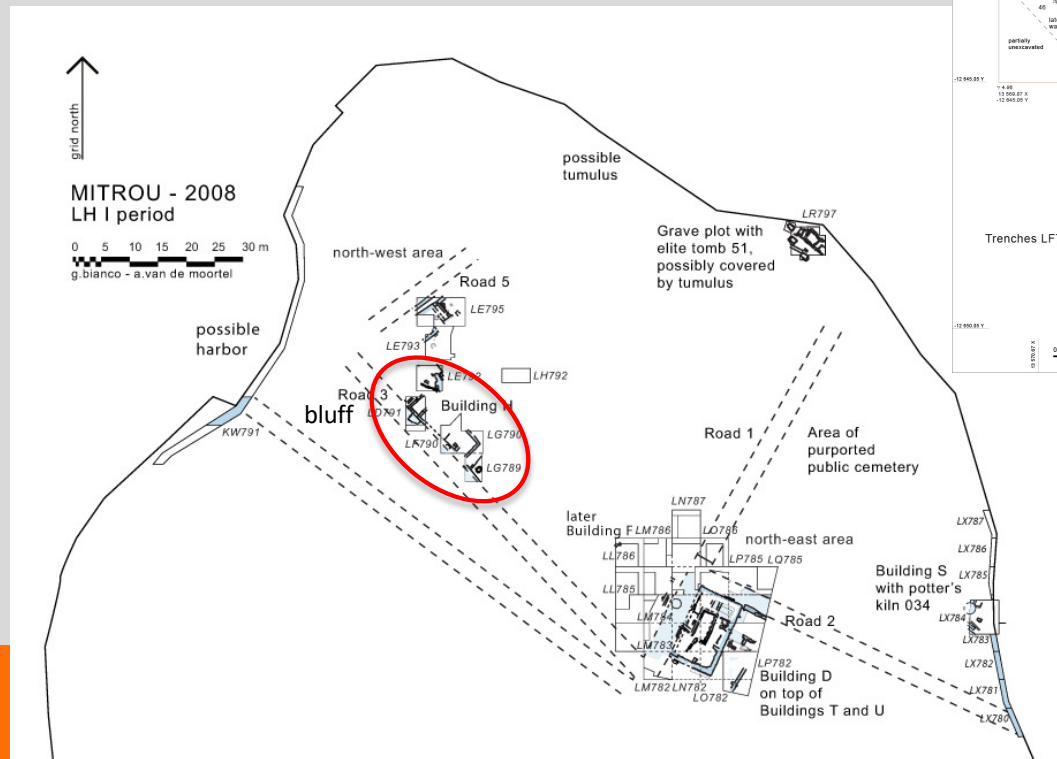
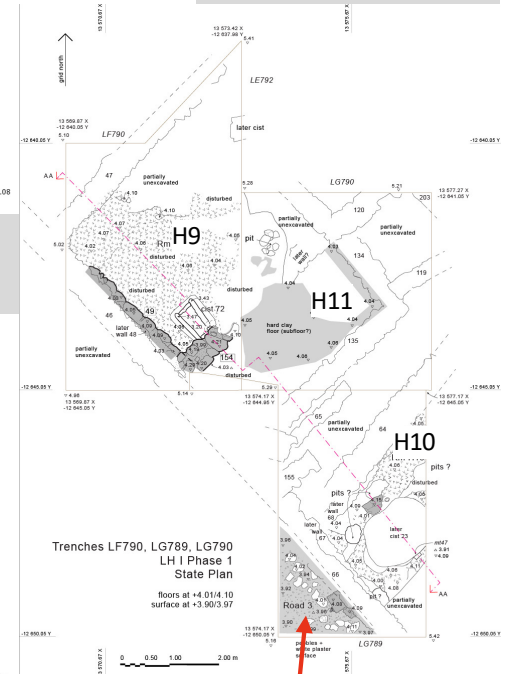
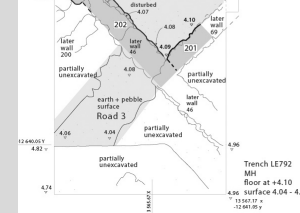
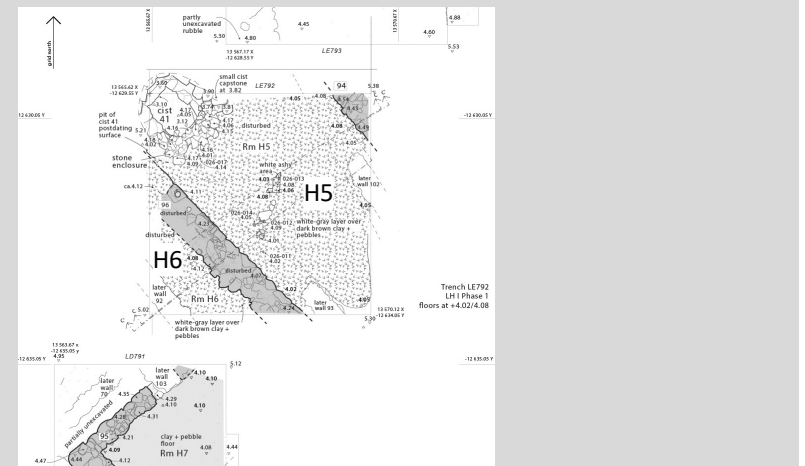
Largely hypothetical visualization of Mitrou in the late LH I phase (D.K.)

Building H: LH I Phase 1



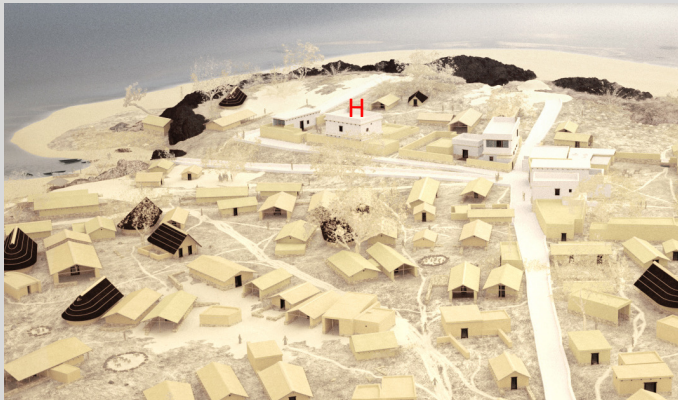
Building H remains superimposed on magneto-metry map G. Tsokas (overlay G. Bianco)

- Four or five rooms with nice white plastered floors
- Flanking pebbled and plastered Road 3 set at bluff side; may not go beyond Room H9

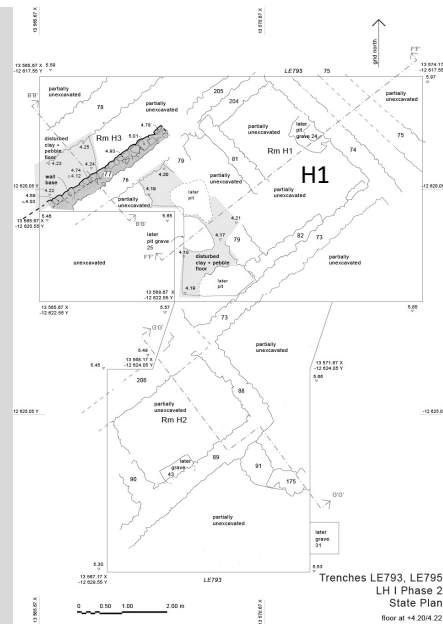


Building H set on ca. 3 m high bluff, overlooking possible harbor (D.K.)

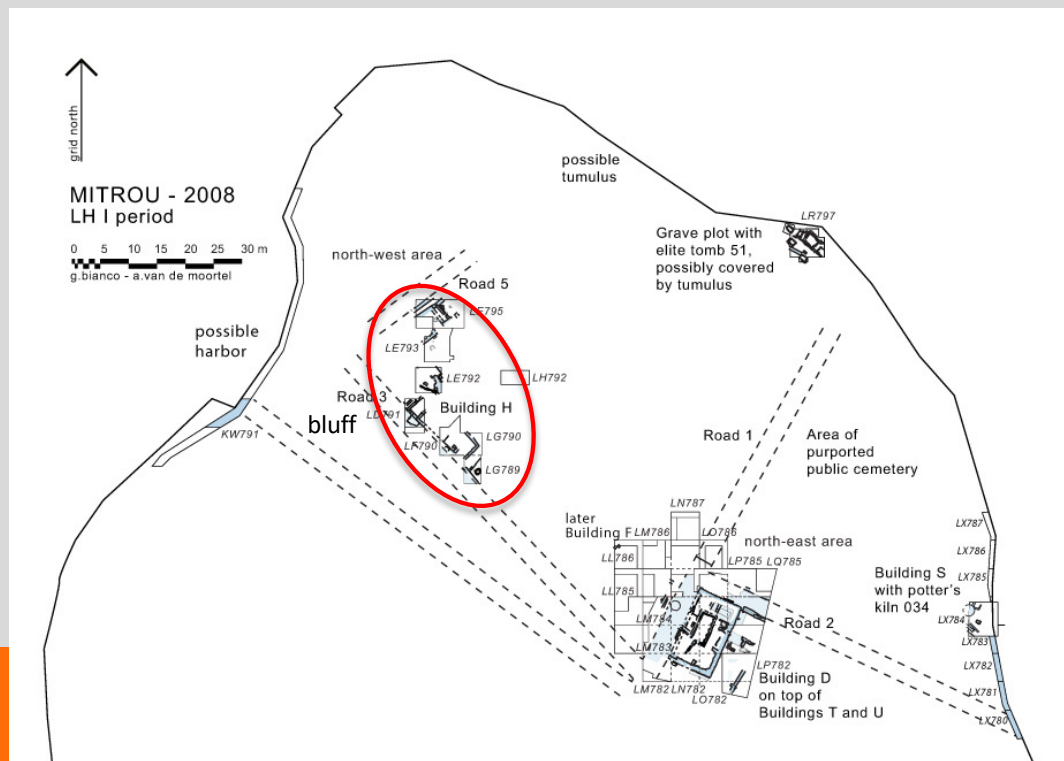
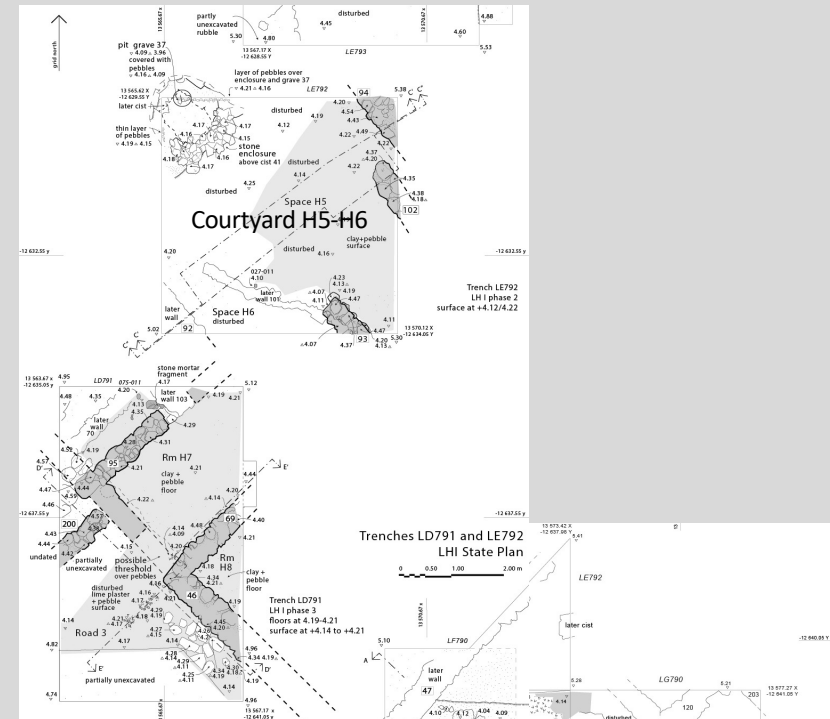
Building H: LH I Phase 2



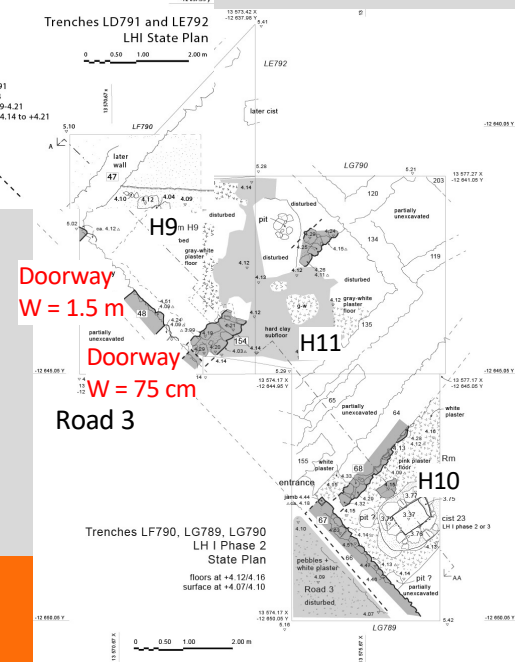
Building H set on ca. 3 m high bluff, overlooking possible harbor (D.K.)



Other excavated areas: utilitarian

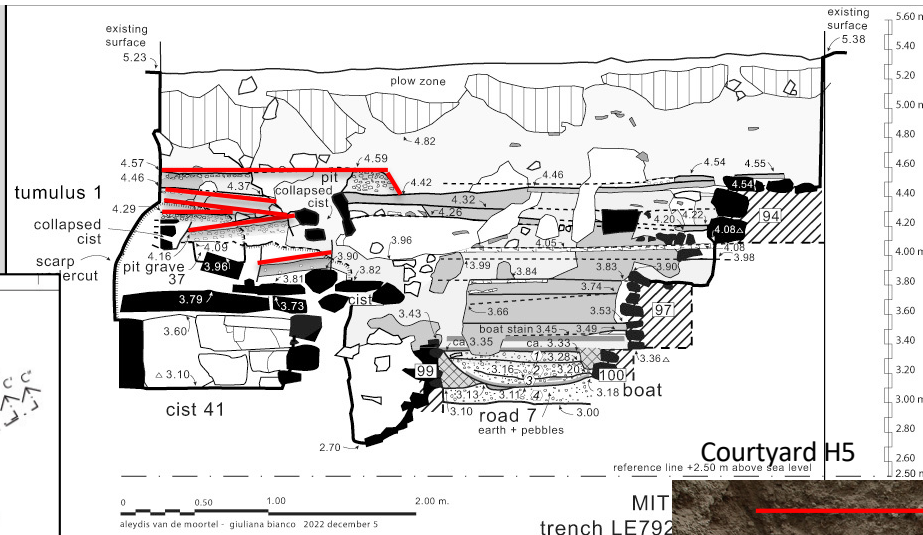


Rooms H9 – H11 again white plastered floors. H9 has two doorways to Road 3, overlooking bluff: reception suite?

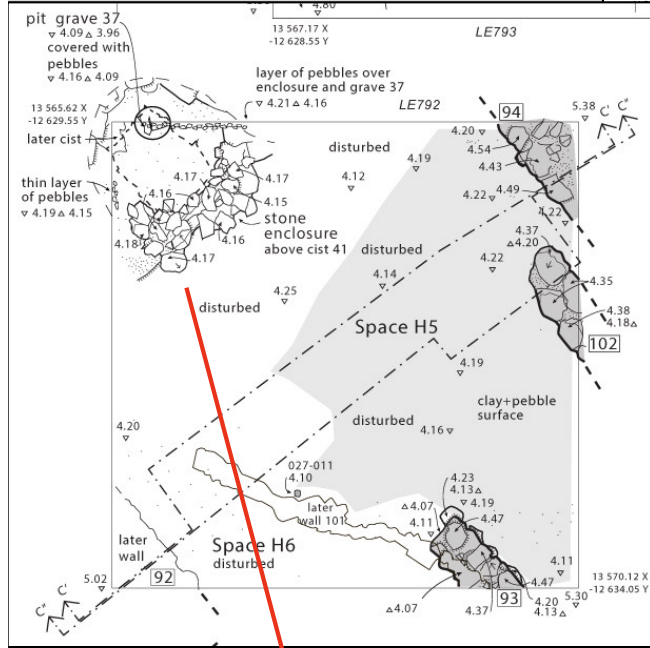


Doorway
W = 1.5 m
Doorway
W = 75 cm

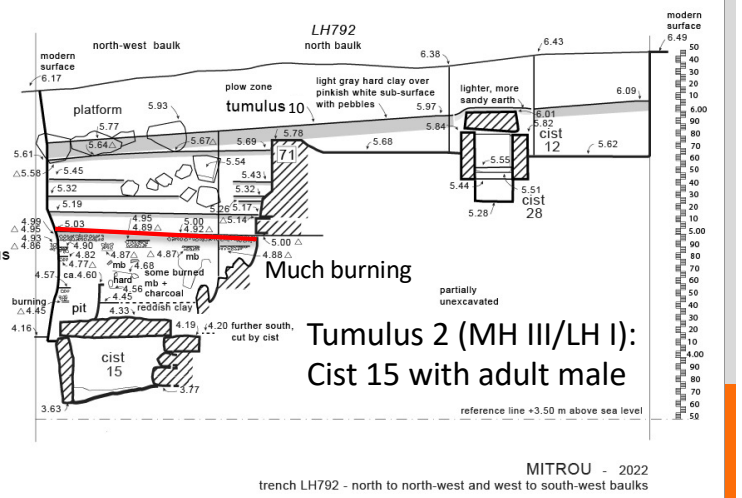
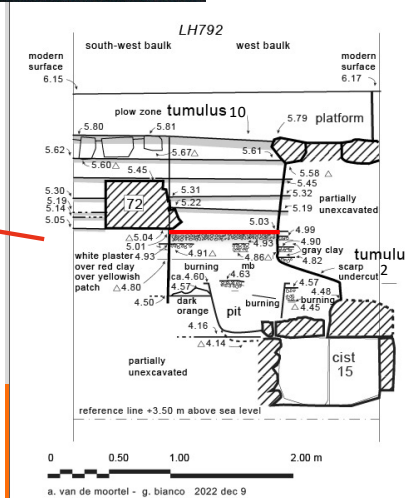
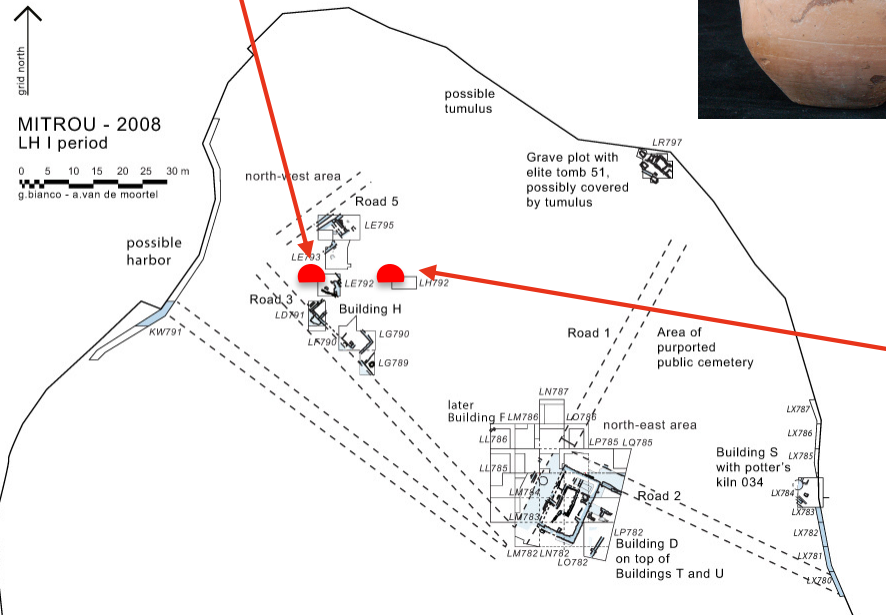
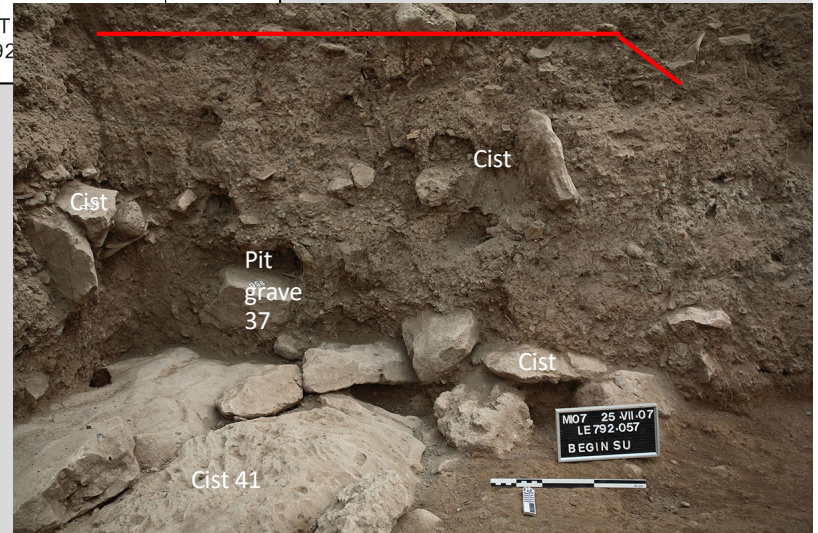
Two low burial tumuli with simple grave goods, visible only within Building H: permanent, elite?



Tumulus 3 (LH I Phase 1/2 – LH IIA) in courtyard H5: cist 41 with adult female, with spindle whorl); 3 small cist graves and 2-3 small pit graves of infants (infants normally rare in tumuli in Greece)



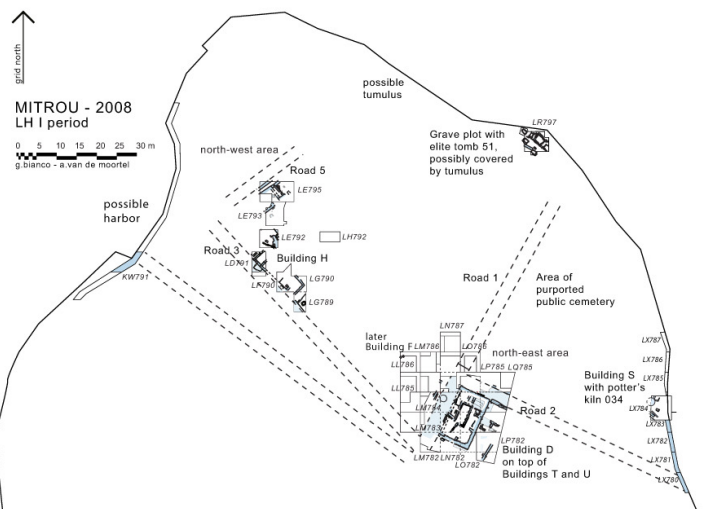
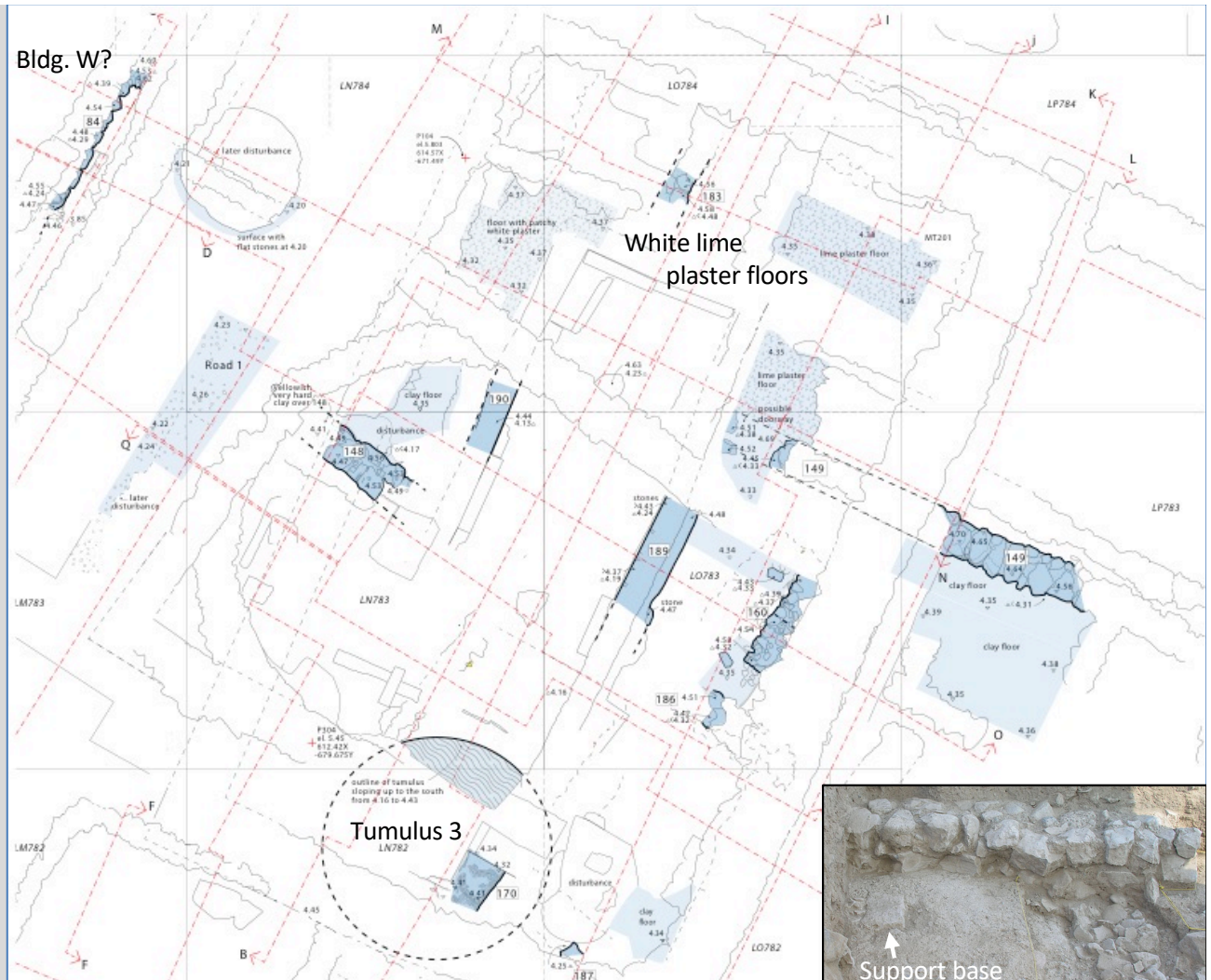
Juglet LE792-042-040 from Cist 15



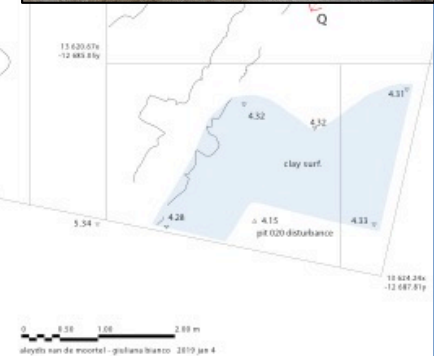
Much burning
Tumulus 2 (MH III/LH I): Cist 15 with adult male

NE excavation sector: elite Building T: 4 phases, all LH I Phase 2

- Complex at least 11 m x 12 m, possibly as large as later Building D
- Elite architecture:
 - Lime plaster floors in N part
 - Cut stone support bases
 - Same walls reused in various architectural phases: no longer “house series” but permanent building
- Tumulus 3 (LH I Phase 2 – LH IIIA2 Early): simple pit grave (two adult females), visible only within Building T?
- Road 1: horizontal pebbled surface (max. w = 2 m)

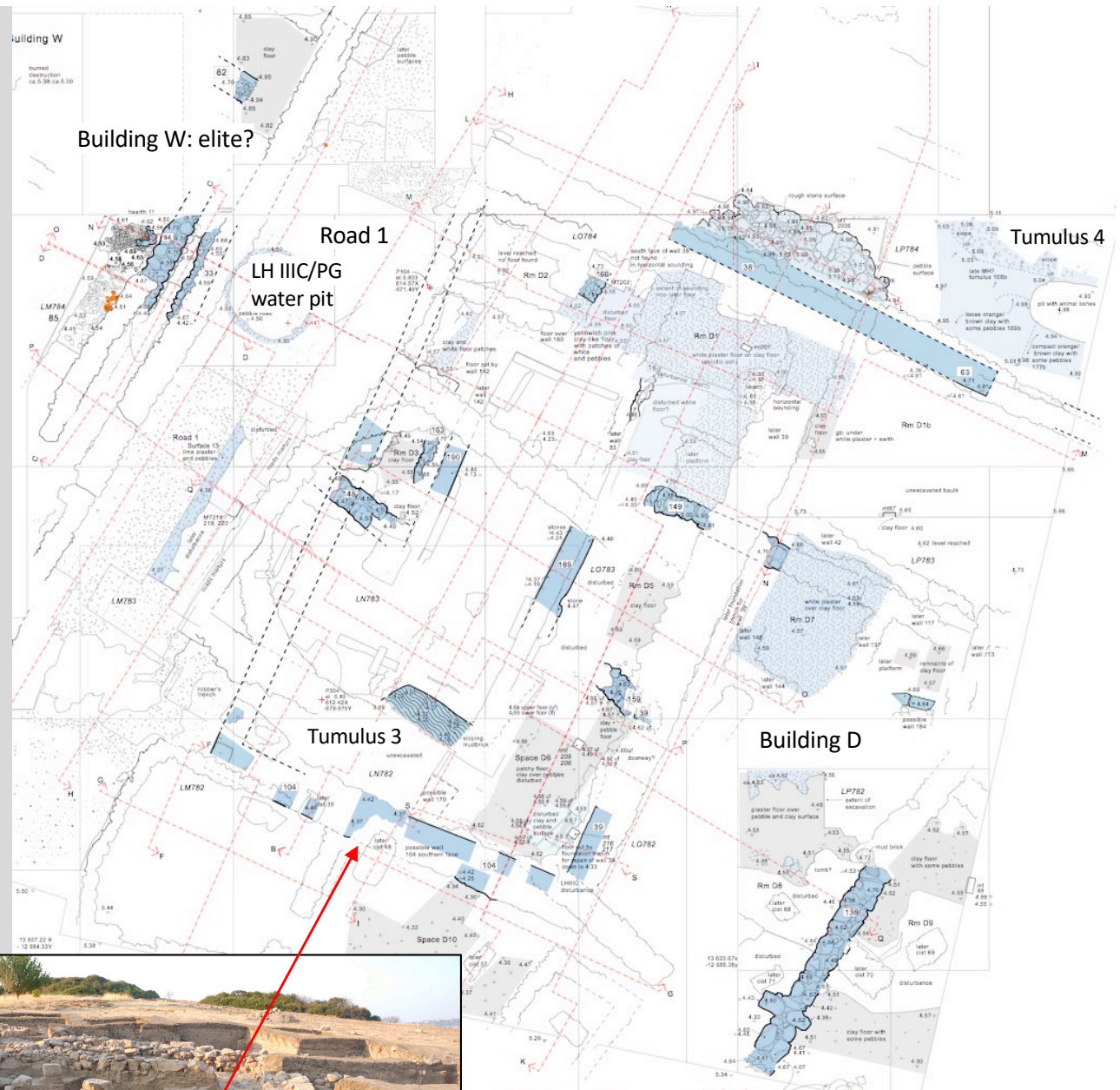


MITROU - 2018
north-east area
Building T phase 3 - state plan
LH I phase 2



NE sector, LH I Phase 3:
Elite Building D, phase 1:
Successor to Building T

- At least 16 x 17 m
- Expansion of elite architecture:
 - Lime plaster floors more extensive than in Bldg T
 - Grander space than in Bldg T
 - Wall 104 megalithic: inspired by Ayia Irini architecture? Trade with Aegina, Mycenae
- Road 1: expanded to ca. 3 m wide (seen in LH IIIC/PG water pit), sloping up to north towards burial plot with possible tumulus in NE: cont. development elite townscape

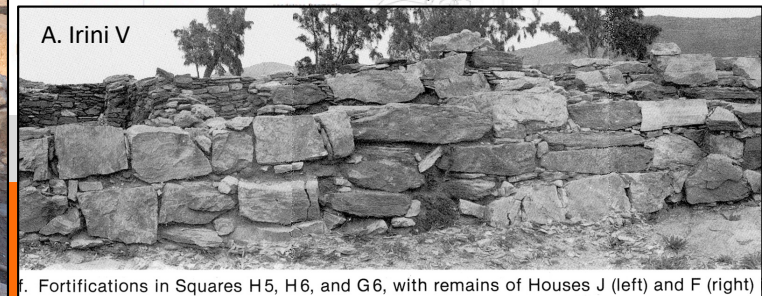


13 pebbled surfaces of Road 1 (LH I Phase 3 – LH IIIB2 Late), starting at +4.50, seen in LH IIIC/PG water pit on top of final MH building

MH building

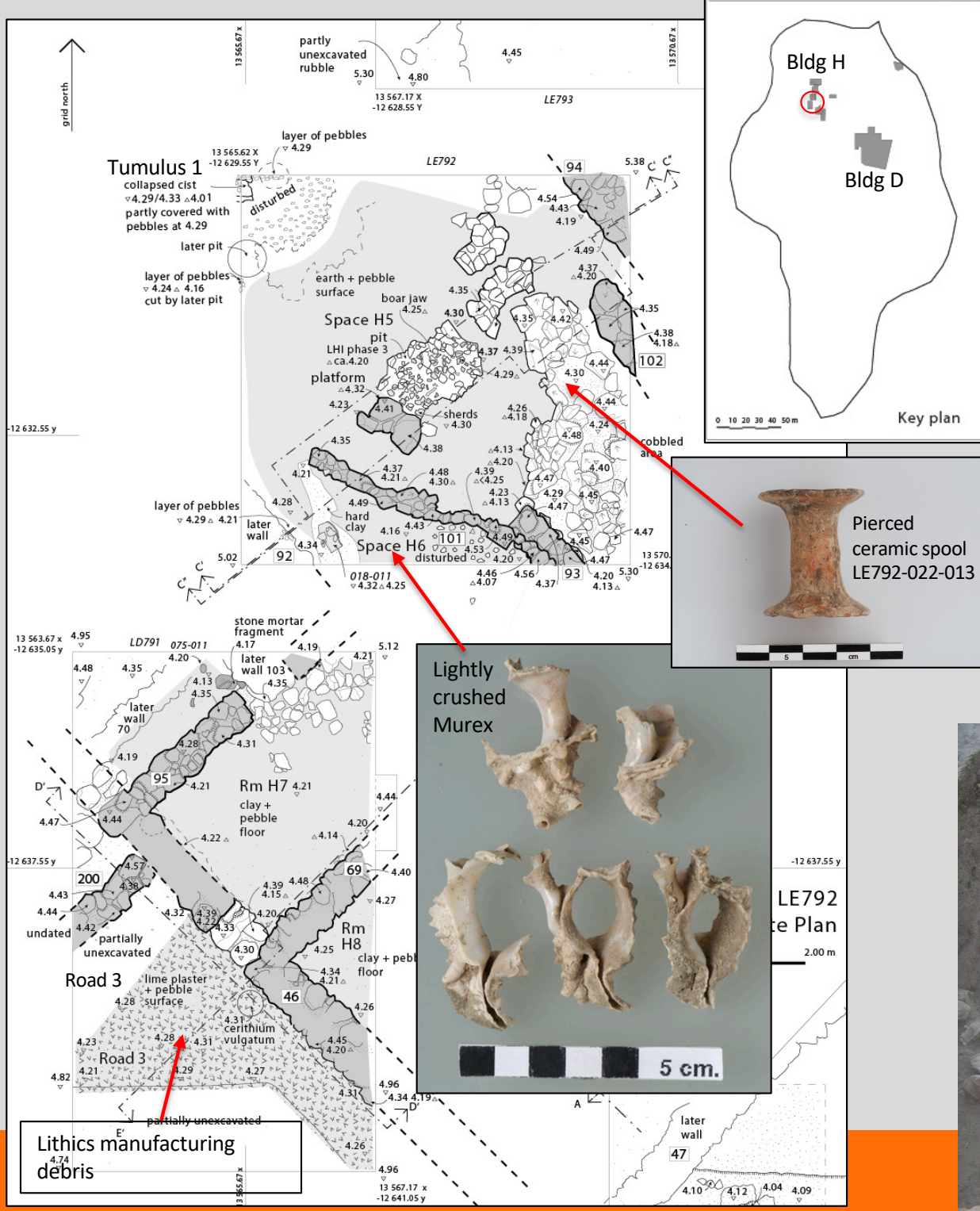


Wall 104



A. Irini V

f. Fortifications in Squares H5, H6, and G6, with remains of Houses J (left) and F (right)

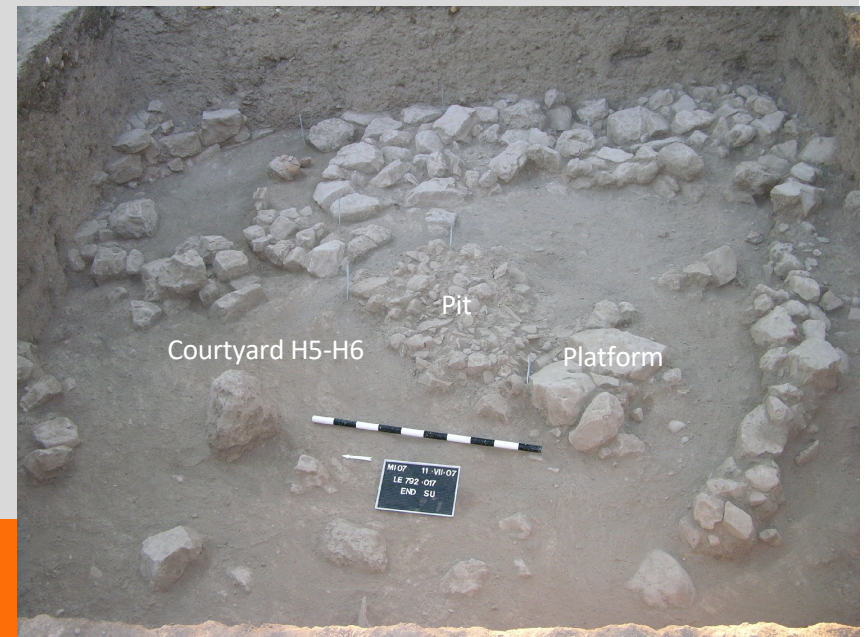


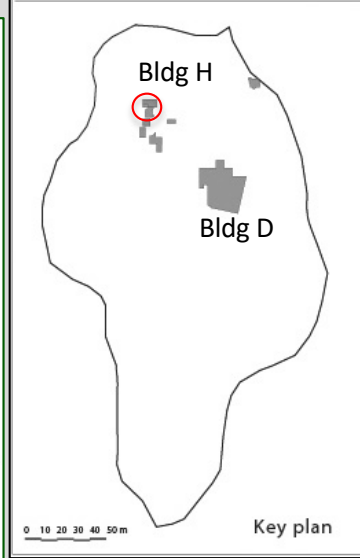
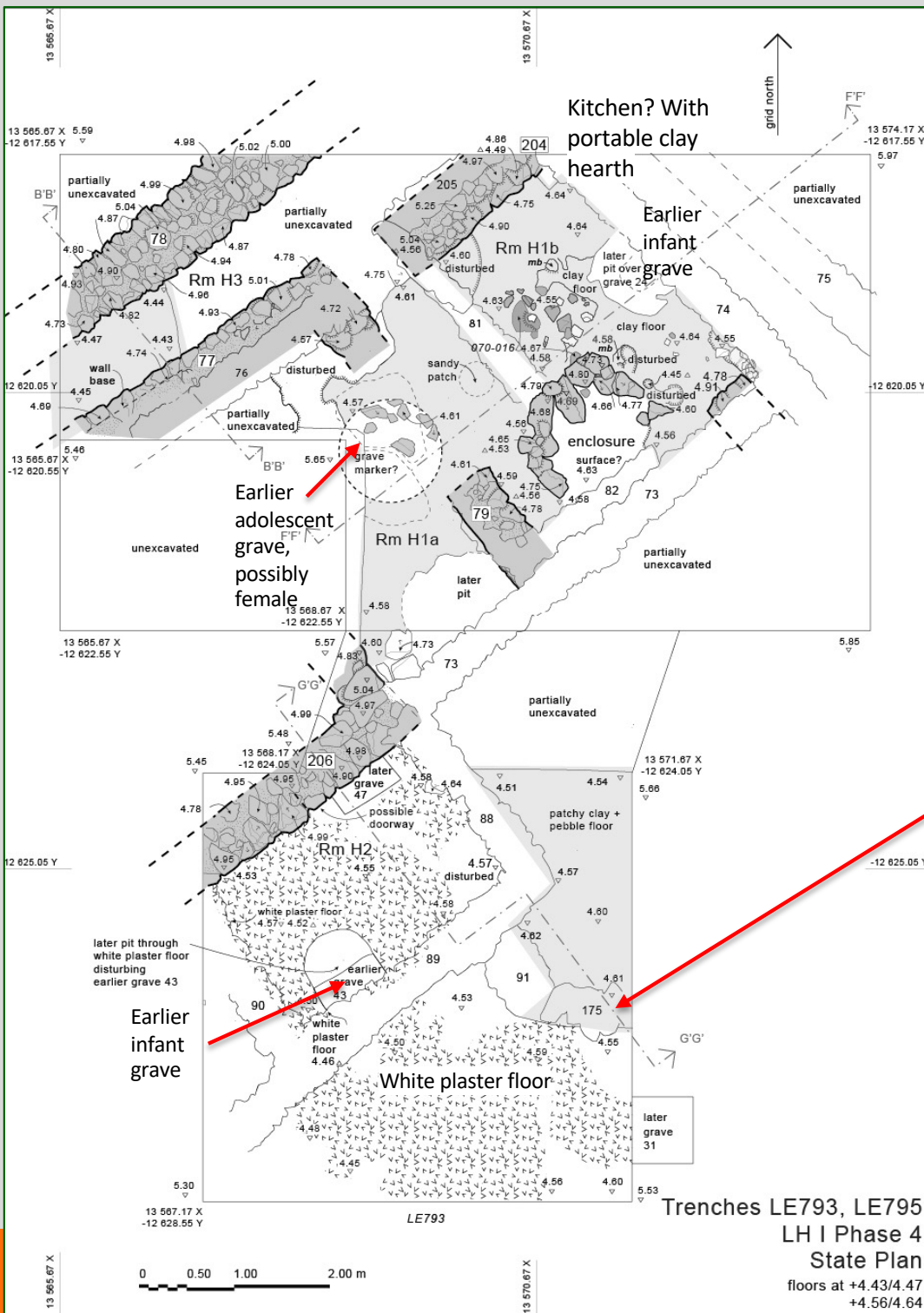
LH I Phase 3 activities in Building H

Courtyard H5 - H6:

- Purple dye manufacture increases dramatically
- Ceramic spools: decorated textiles? Elite technology
- Stone platform (altar?)
- Shallow pit with animal bones (including deer antler), pottery, lithics, cobbles: ritual related to Tumulus 1?
- Cobbled area: work space? tumulus?

Road 3: debris of lithics manufacturing (obsidian, flint, chert)





Late Helladic I Phase 4
fire destruction in north
part of Building H

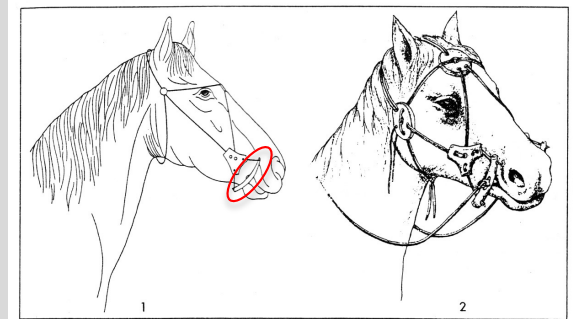
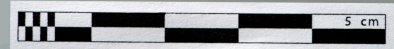


Abb. 14: 1 = Gábor Bándi's Rekonstruktionsversuch der dreieckigen Knochenplatten als Verteilerstücke für die Kopfriemen. Die eigentlichen Knebel stellt sich Bándi stangenförmig vor; 2 = Ähnliche Deutung von István Bóna, der auch die scheibenförmigen Platten als Verteiler interpretiert. - nach G. Bándi, in: Arch. Ért. 90, 1963, Abb. 14 und I. Bóna, Wagen und Wagenmodelle, 1992, Abb. 36.

Penner 1998

Horse bridle cheek piece LE793-081-011
made of deer antler



Photos S. Turner

Mitrou bridle piece with “Wellenband” decoration
has links with Carpatho-Danubian basin: elite trade
(Maran and Van de Moortel 2014; Maran 2020)

Zigzag re-cutting: horse
used to pull light chariot



Mitrou horse bridle piece LE793-081-011



Shaft Grave IV Mycenae

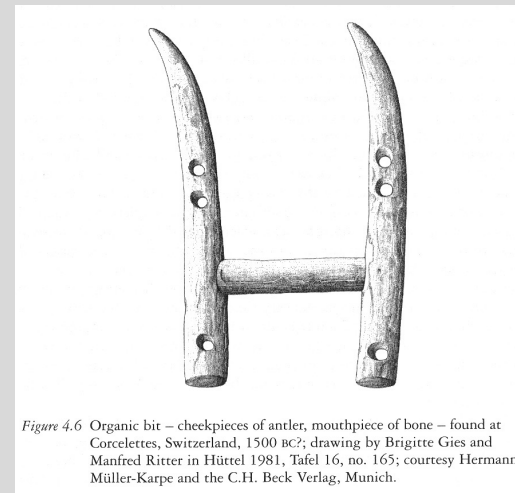


Figure 4.6 Organic bit – cheekpieces of antler, mouthpiece of bone – found at Corelettes, Switzerland, 1500 BC; drawing by Brigitte Gies and Manfred Ritter in Hüttel 1981, Tafel 16, no. 165; courtesy Hermann Müller-Karpe and the C.H. Beck Verlag, Munich.

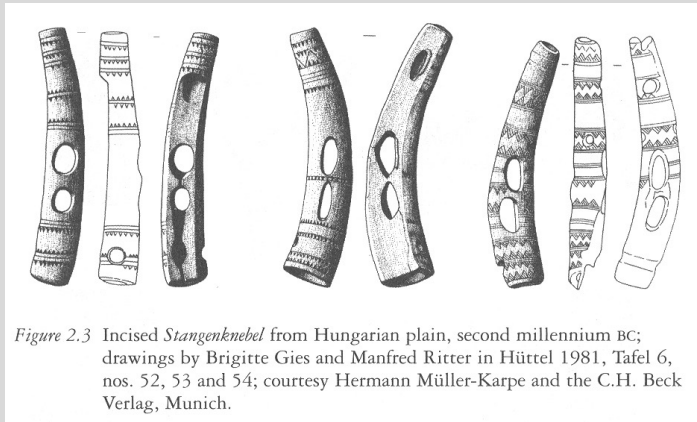


Figure 2.3 Incised Stangenkebel from Hungarian plain, second millennium BC; drawings by Brigitte Gies and Manfred Ritter in Hüttel 1981, Tafel 6, nos. 52, 53 and 54; courtesy Hermann Müller-Karpe and the C.H. Beck Verlag, Munich.

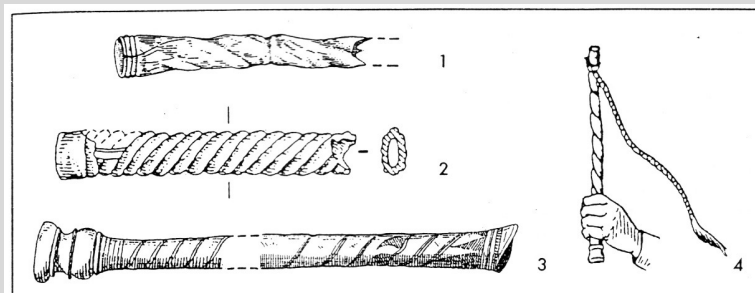
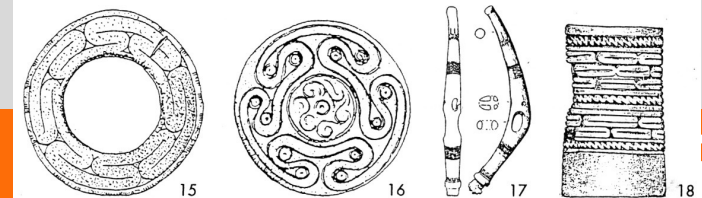
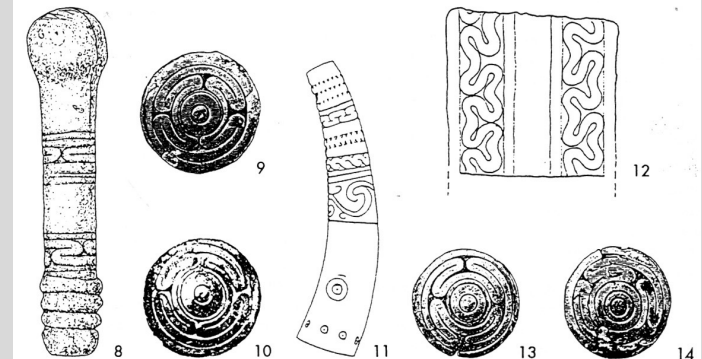
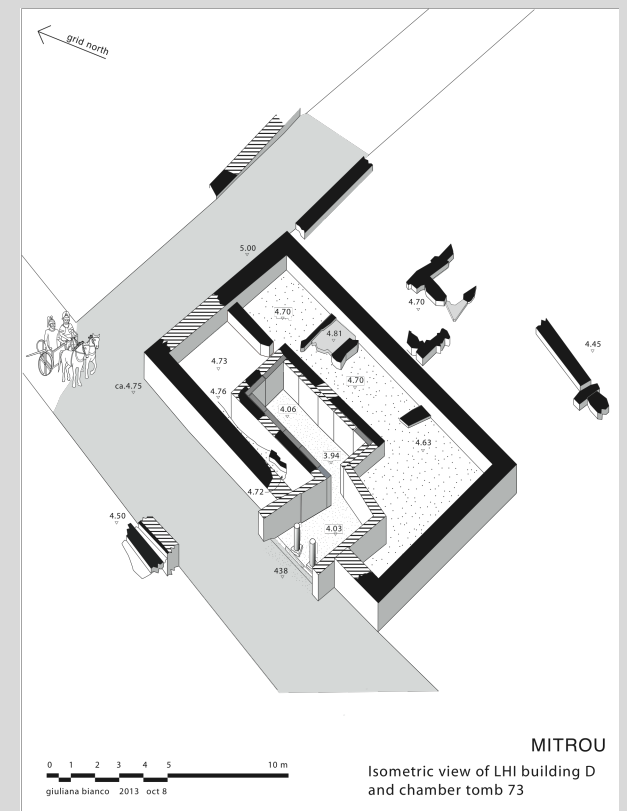


Abb. 21: 1 = Knöchernes Fragment der Nagaika aus Istomin. - M 1:2; 2 = Knöchernes Fragment der Nagaika aus Vil'no-Gruševka. - M 1:2; 3 = Goldene Peitschenhülsenfragmente aus dem vierten Schachtgrab von Mykene. - nach C. Schuchhardt, Schliemann's Ausgrabungen, 1891, Abb. 263. - o. M.; 4 = moderne Peitsche. - Nr. 1.2.4 nach V.V. Otroščenko, in: SA 1986,3, Abb. 1,4-5.

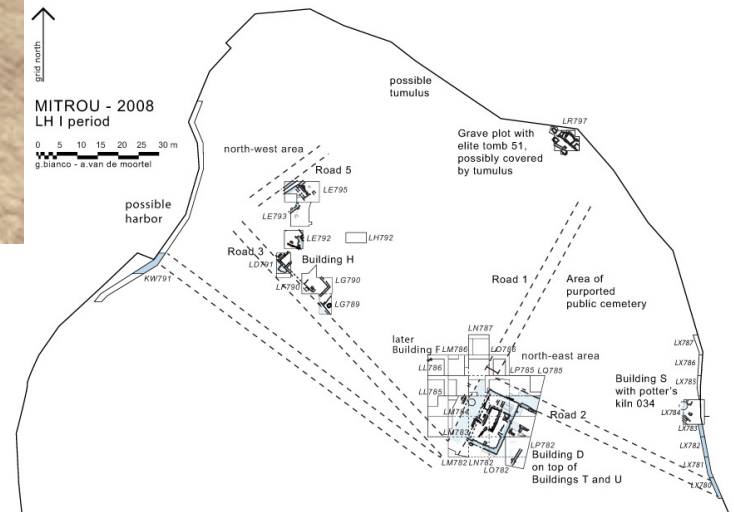
Penner 1998

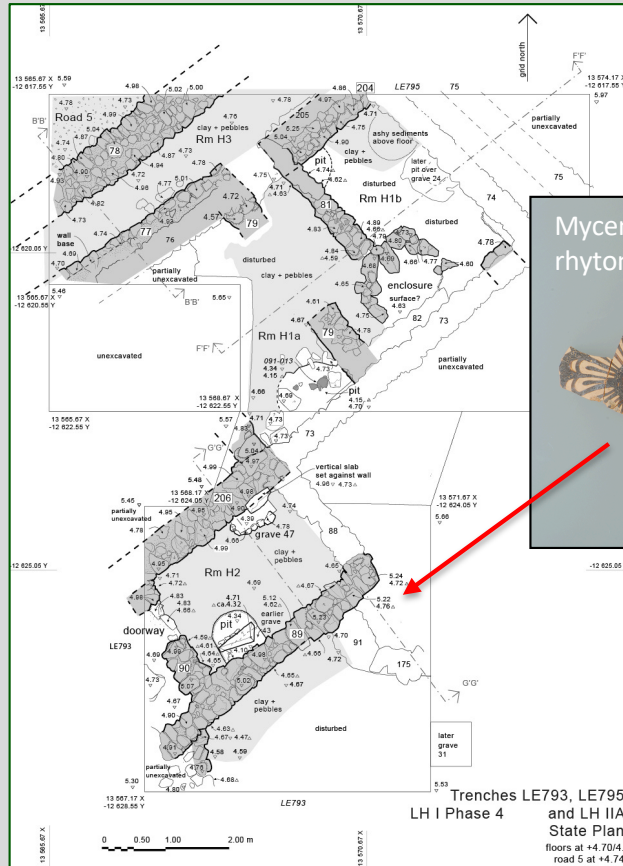
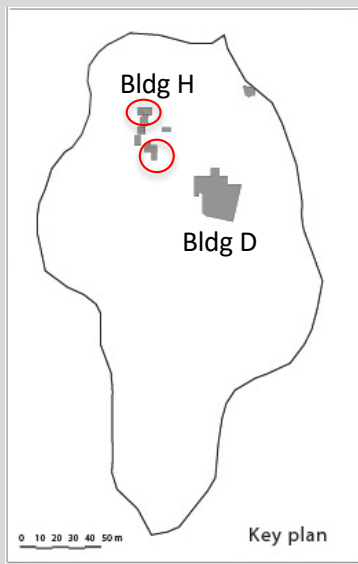
Mitrou roads probably used for chariot parades by elite



Location of Road 3 at edge of bluff of Building H:

Importance of pageantry, ritual processions, cf. Palatial Mycenae (Maran 2006, "Mycenaean Citadels as Performative Space")



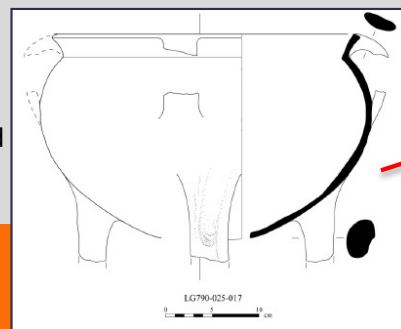


Late Helladic IIA destruction deposits:

Much imported pottery from area of Mycenae and Aegina: ca. 90% of fine drinking and dining pottery at Mitrou is of Mycenaean type: sudden increase in Mycenaean influence, cf. other sites in mainland Greece: why?

Beginning of Mycenaeanization
Mitrou elite

Very large tripod cooking pot:
appears in LH II





LH I Phase 3 or 4:
Elite Built Chamber Tomb 73 set
inside Building D: unique in
Helladic Greece, local feature

Funerary complex with reception
areas, platform 1.80 x 1.10 m
behind screen wall (for washing
body and *ekthesis*?); doorway to
Tumulus 3, other marked graves;
kitchen
Road 2 north of complex



2008 & 2009 balloon photos
K. Xenikakis and S. Gesafidis





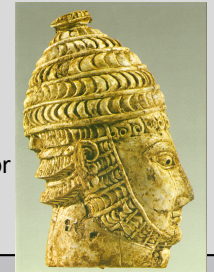
Built Chamber Tomb 73 is elite:

- 7 x 2 m: largest BCT in Greece
- Fine architecture: tomb chamber dug into MH levels, lined with mudbrick walls and imported, cut green sandstone slabs
- Rectangular enclosure 13.50 x 8.25 m; megalithic walls 75 cm thick; two reception areas with white plastered floors: for in-crowd and others?



Built Chamber Tomb 73 in first phase (LH I Phase 3/4 – LH IIA) at least one elite warrior and possibly female consort:

- Rich and exotic finds, weapons: gold, silver, amber, faience, 4 boar's tusk helmet pieces, obsidian arrowheads, mostly < water sieve
- 30 bone pieces of adult and subadult



Ivory head of warrior with boar's tusk helmet (Mycenae)



Mainland Polychrome vase LN783-432-013: 33 fragments, possibly locally produced



Perforated boar's tusk LN783-541-013

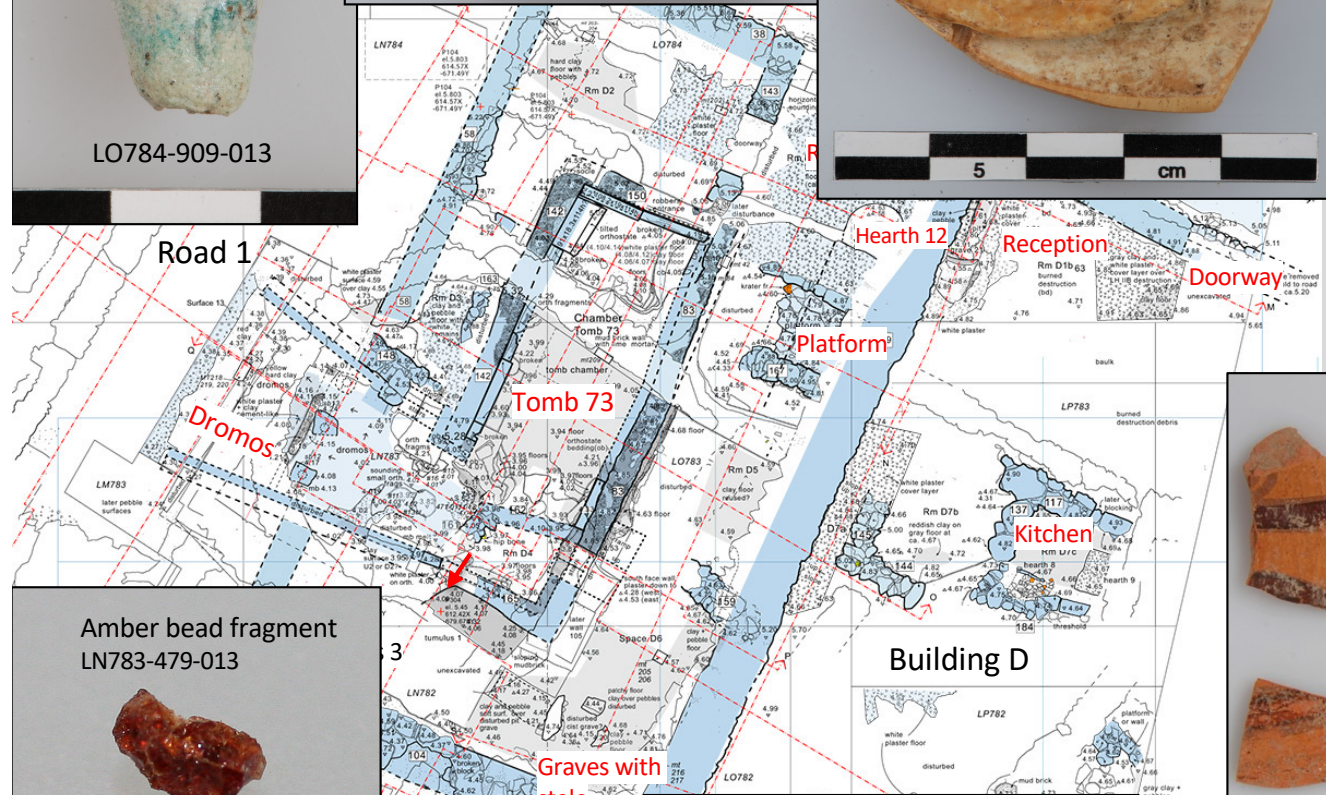


Perforated boar's tusk LN783-541-011



Faience spindle whorl LO784-909-013

LO784-909-013



Amber bead fragment LN783-479-013

L = 3 mm



Obsidian arrowheads LN783-541-019

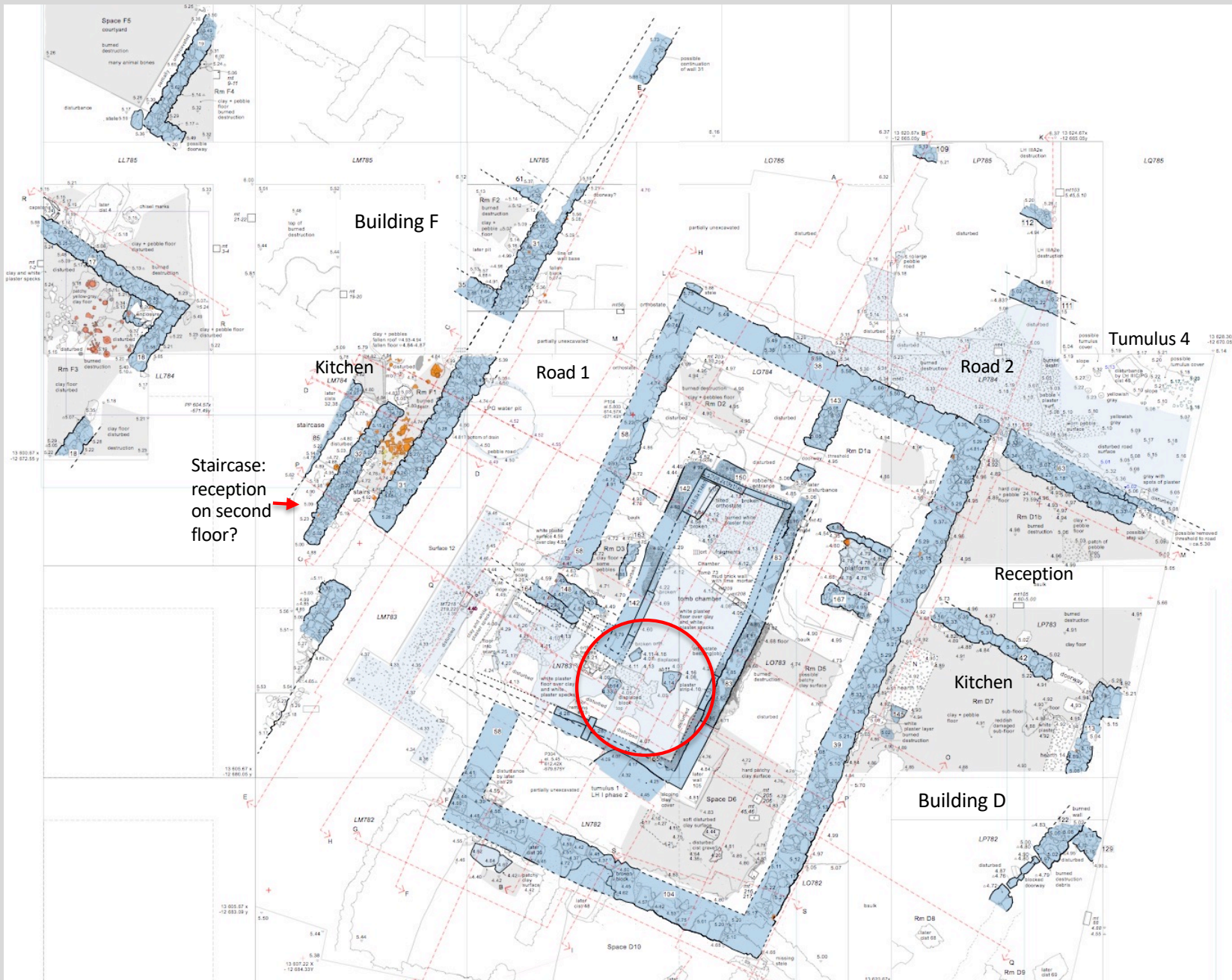


Gold nails for dagger or sword LN783-534-013



Silver nail for dagger or sword LN783-541-022

LN783-541-022



Built Chamber Tomb 73 in second phase (LH IIB-LH IIIA1):

- Rough pier-and-door arrangement
- Larger kitchen to east
- Building F: reception, related to tomb rituals?
- At least one elite warrior and possibly female consort: 2 adults (94+ bone pieces)

Gold ring with blue paste:
female?



LO784-837-011



Perforated boar's tusk
LN783-494-012



LN783-471-011



Built Chamber Tomb 73 in second phase
(LH IIB-LH IIIA1) held at least one elite
warrior and possibly female consort:

- *Standard Mycenaean elite burial goods:* gold, silver, electrum, bronze, 4 amber beads, 5 boar's tusk helmet pieces, bronze arrowhead, mostly < water sieve. Mitrou's elite Mycenaeanized
- 94+ bone pieces of at least 2 adults



Bronze ring (male?)
LO784-859-017



Rock crystal disc LO784-855-013

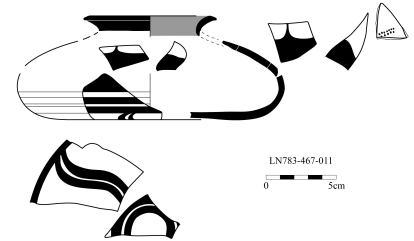


Tumulus 4

Electrum jug
LM783-036-011



LH IIB alabastron



Gold bracelet with blue paste LO784-837-012



Perforated gold foil: for shroud?



LN783-524-011



Bronze cup/goblet
LM783-035-011



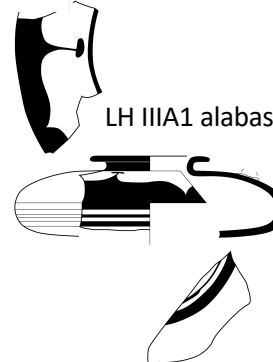
Amber bead
LM783-048-011



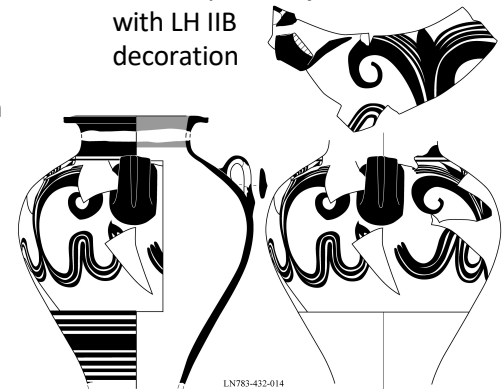
Bronze arrowhead
LN783-495-011



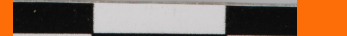
LH IIIA1 alabastron



LH IIIA1 piriform jar
with LH IIB
decoration



Gold beads
LN783-524-018

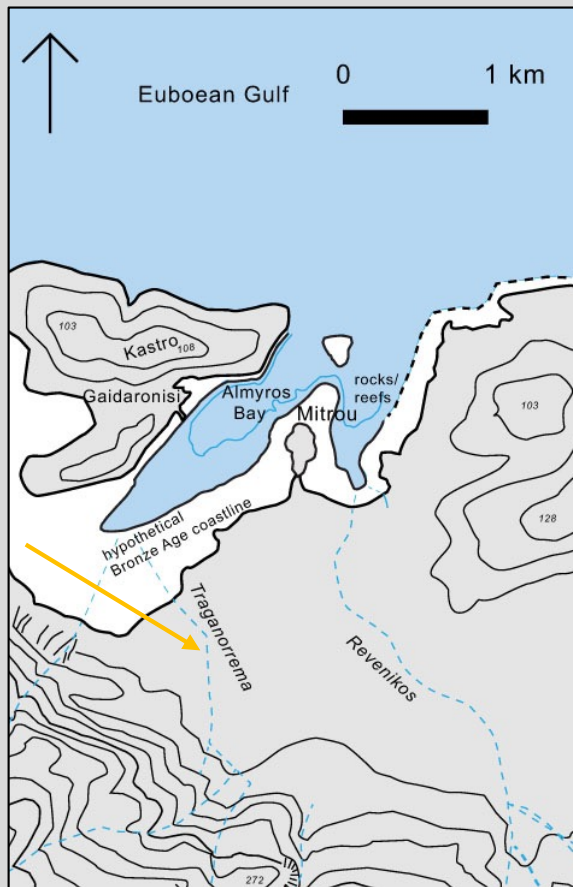


Basis of elite power: geopolitical location of Mitrou?

- Located in protected cove, could have carried out maritime attacks along Euboean Gulf or exacted toll
- Controlled narrow coastal passage from plain of Atalante to Copaic basin, could have exacted toll



Map T. Ross and A. Van de Moortel



Halai not occupied in Bronze Age

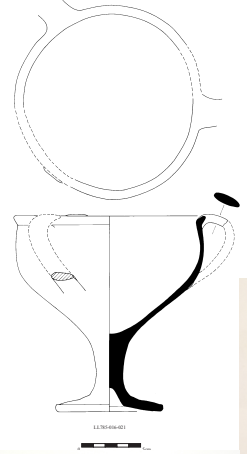
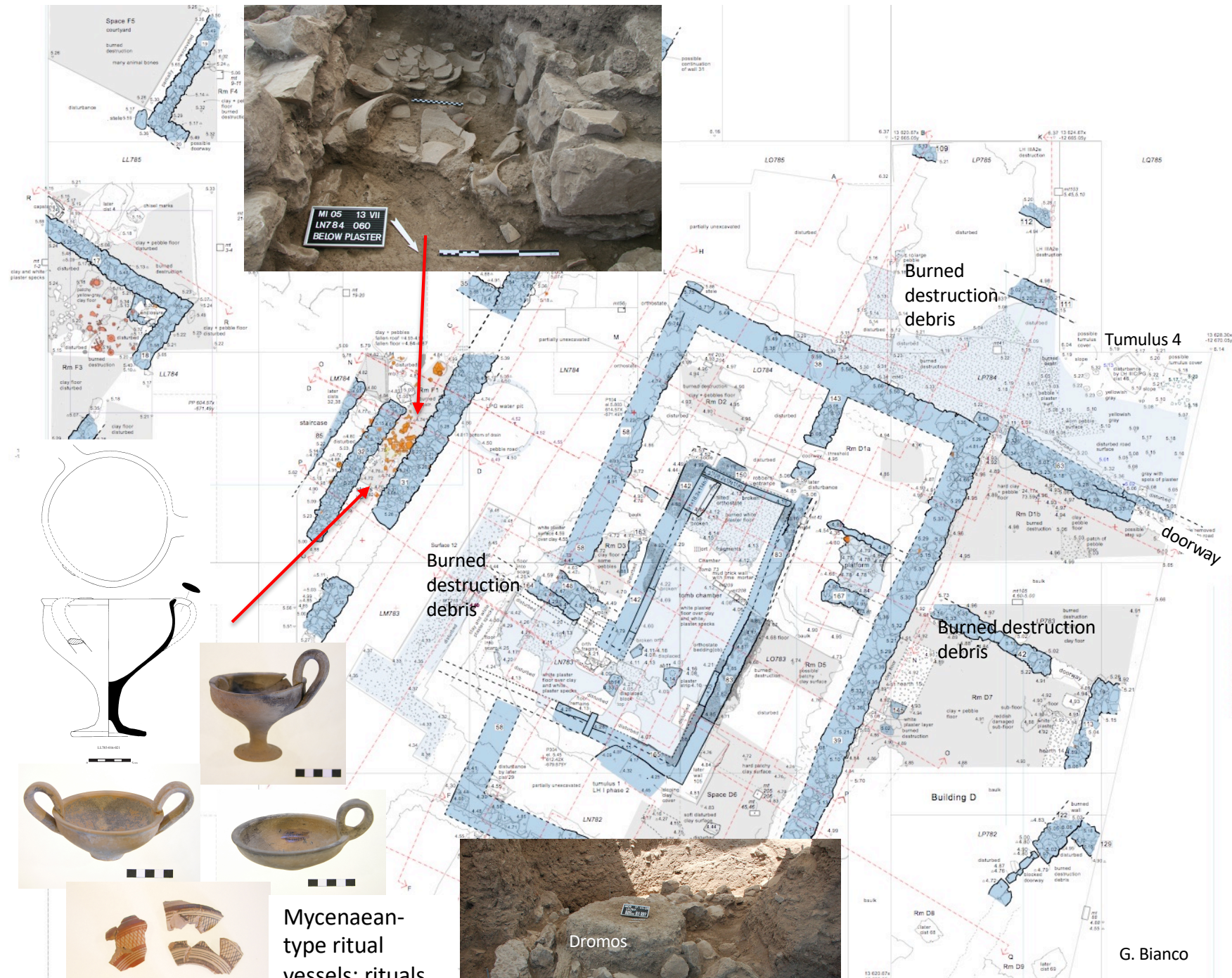
Proskynas: no LH elite center found

Google Earth Pro
2024

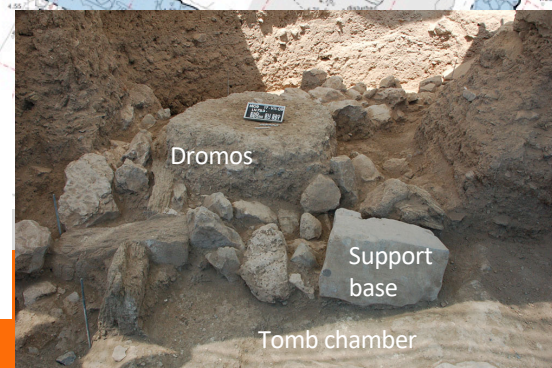
Prepalatial period at Mitrou ends in fire destruction, early in LH IIIA2 Early, ca. 1370 BCE

Tomb 73 and elite buildings are ransacked & destroyed. Elite buildings partially reused after this

Ostensibly take-over of Mitrou by outside power: most likely Orchomenos



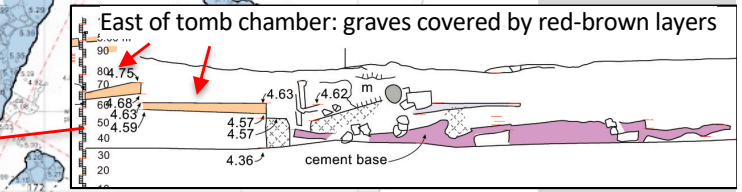
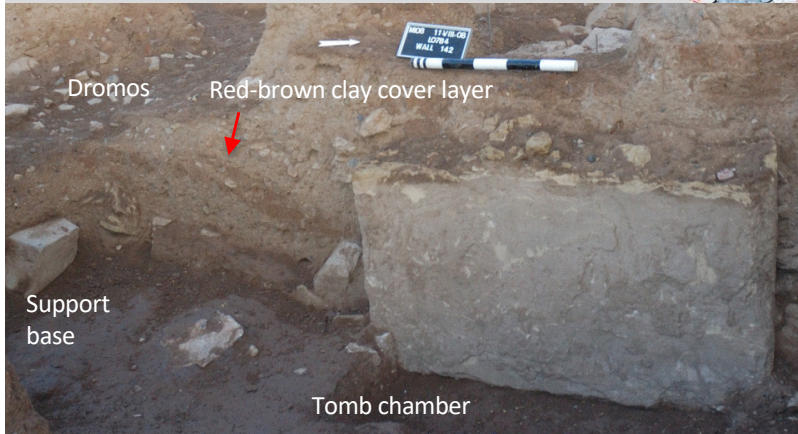
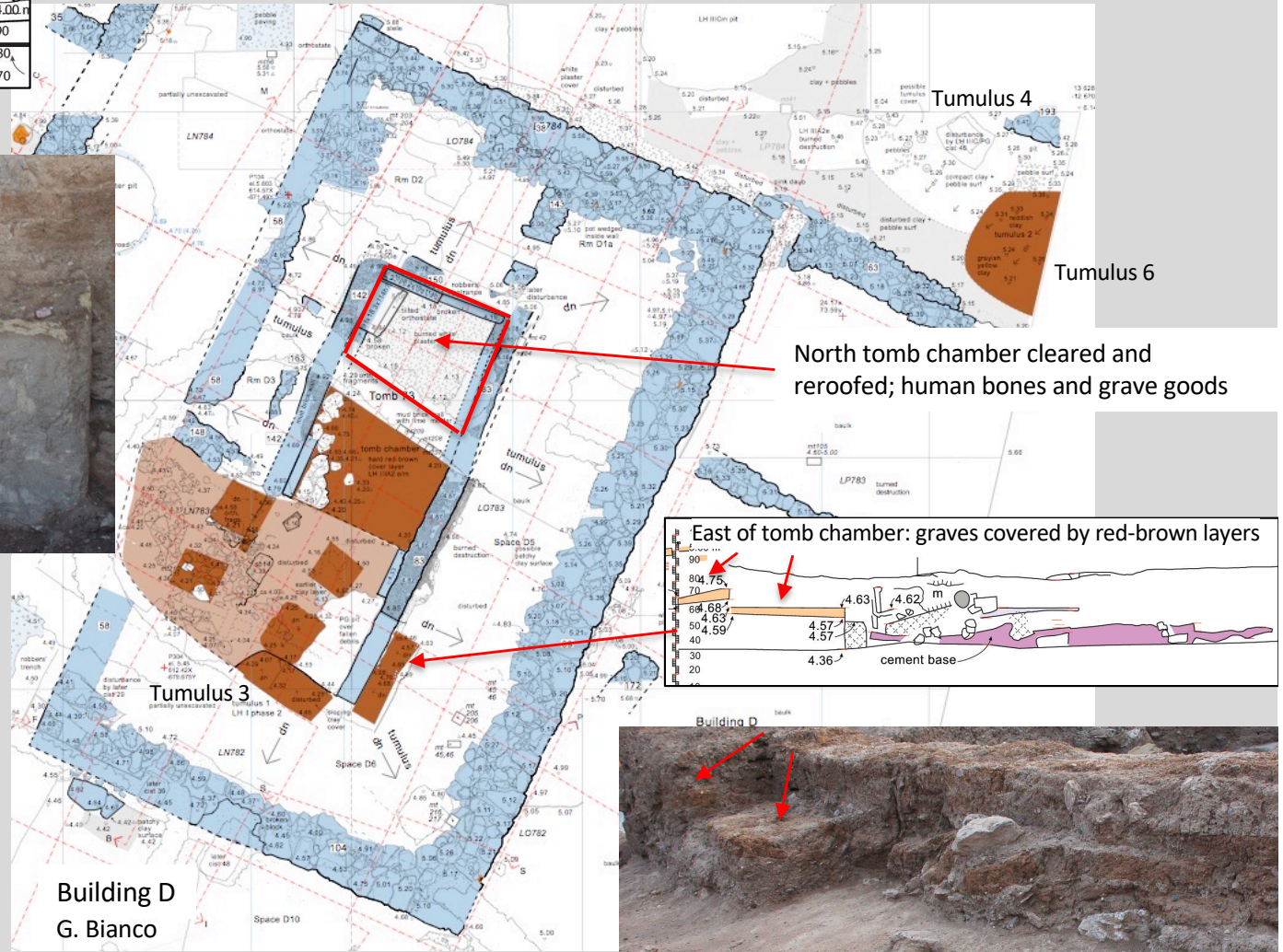
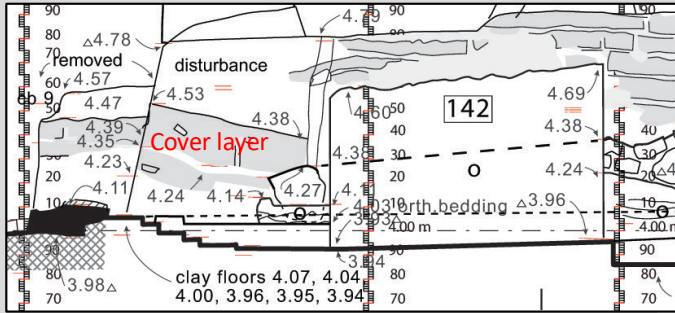
Mycenaean-type ritual vessels: rituals related to Tomb 73?



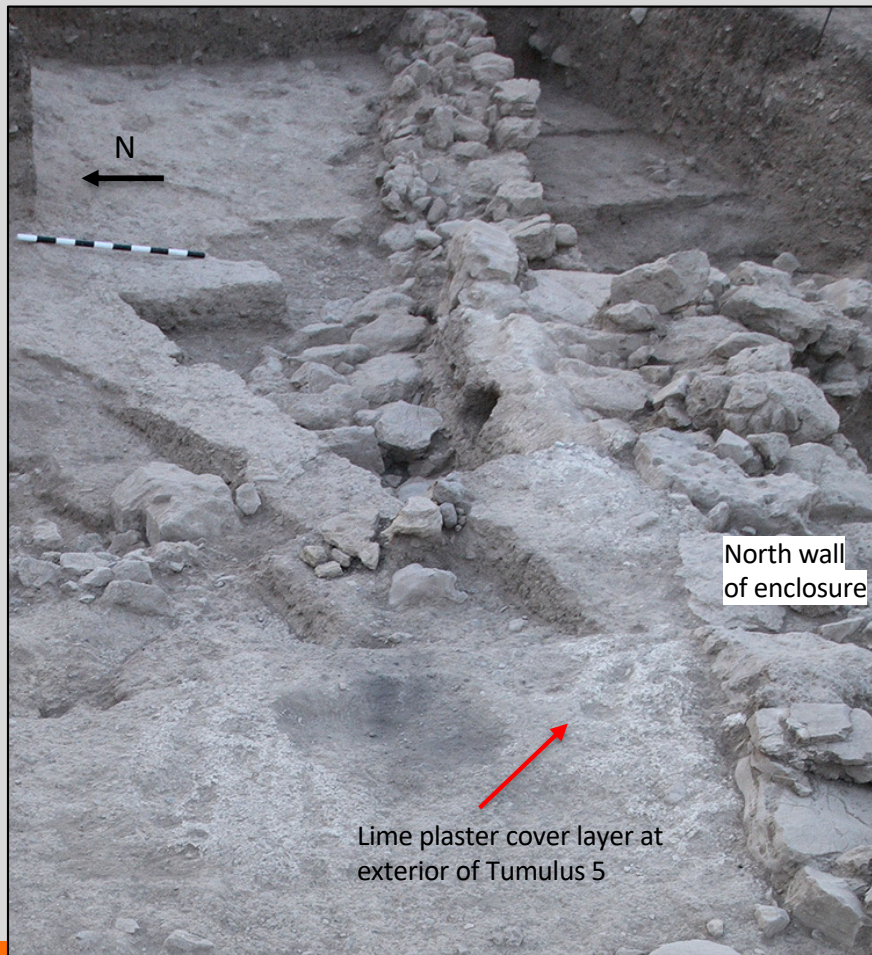
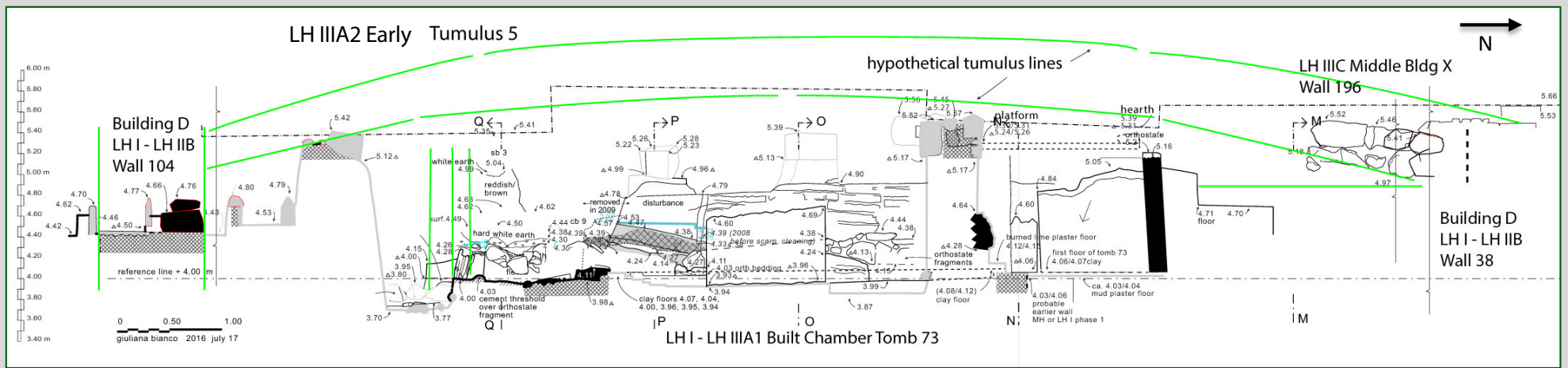
LH IIIA2 Early, after destruction:

Tomb 73 made into a funerary monument, covered by tumulus; beginning of 400+ years of memory and ritual (ca. 1370 – 950 BCE)

First: red-brown clay layer (th = 5 – 35 cm) covering debris in dromos and southern tomb chamber, east burials, Tumulus 3 & 6



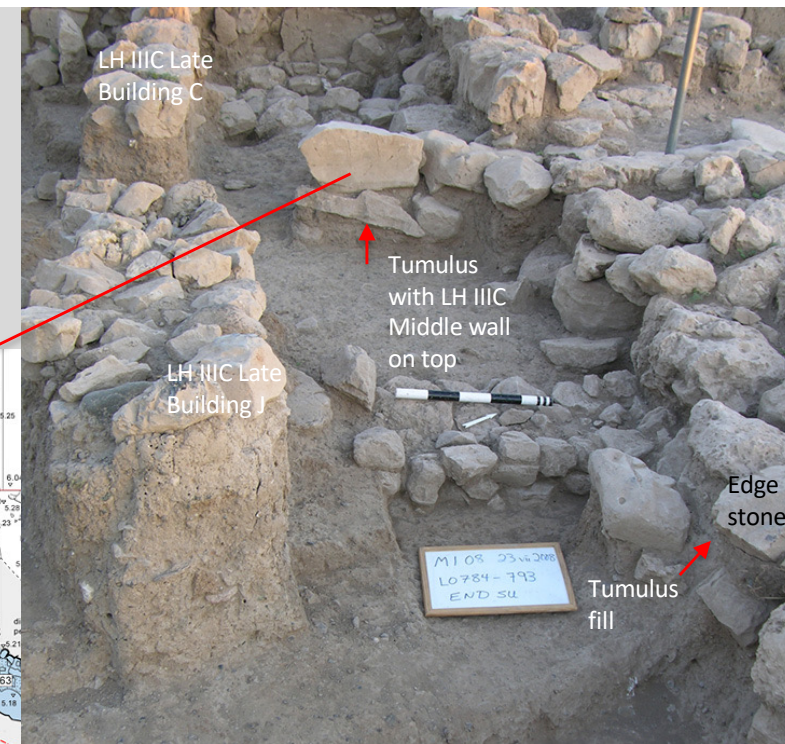
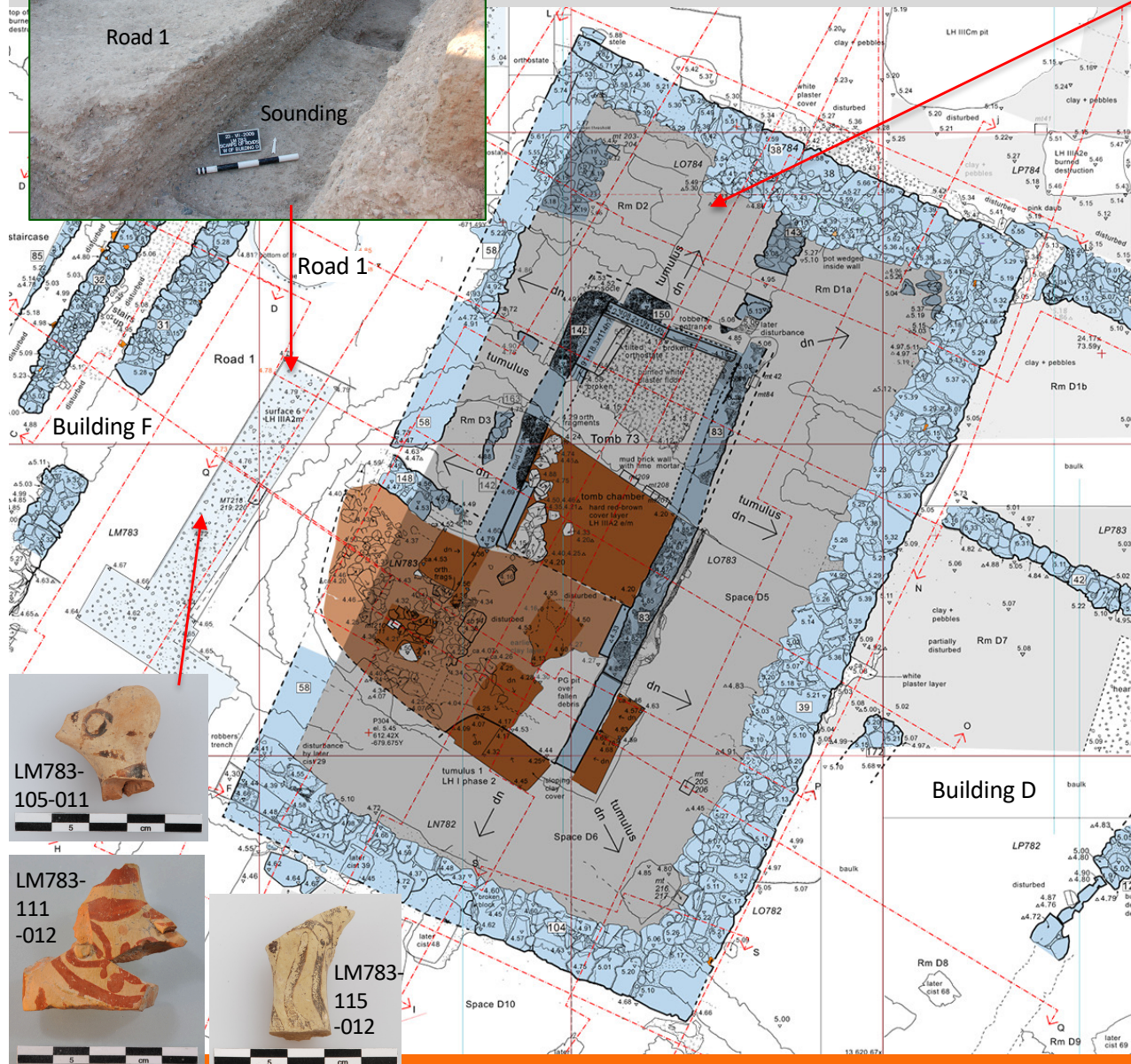
Building D
G. Bianco



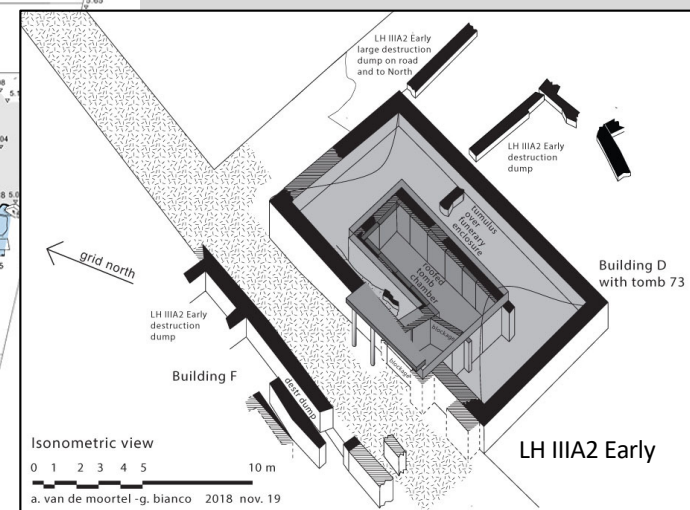
Tumulus fill on top, consisting of destruction debris. Sloping lime plaster layers at north and east walls of enclosure and on top of north wall, possibly covering entire tumulus, cf. LH I tumulus at Eleon (Burke et al. 2020)



- LH IIIA2 Early-Late: series of monumental porches on Road 1
- LH IIIA2 Early-Late: Road 1 resurfaced 7 times, replastered ca. every 5 yrs
- LH IIIA2 Middle: partial rebuilding and reuse Buildings D and F
- LH IIIA2 Middle-Late: 21 figurine fragments on Road 1



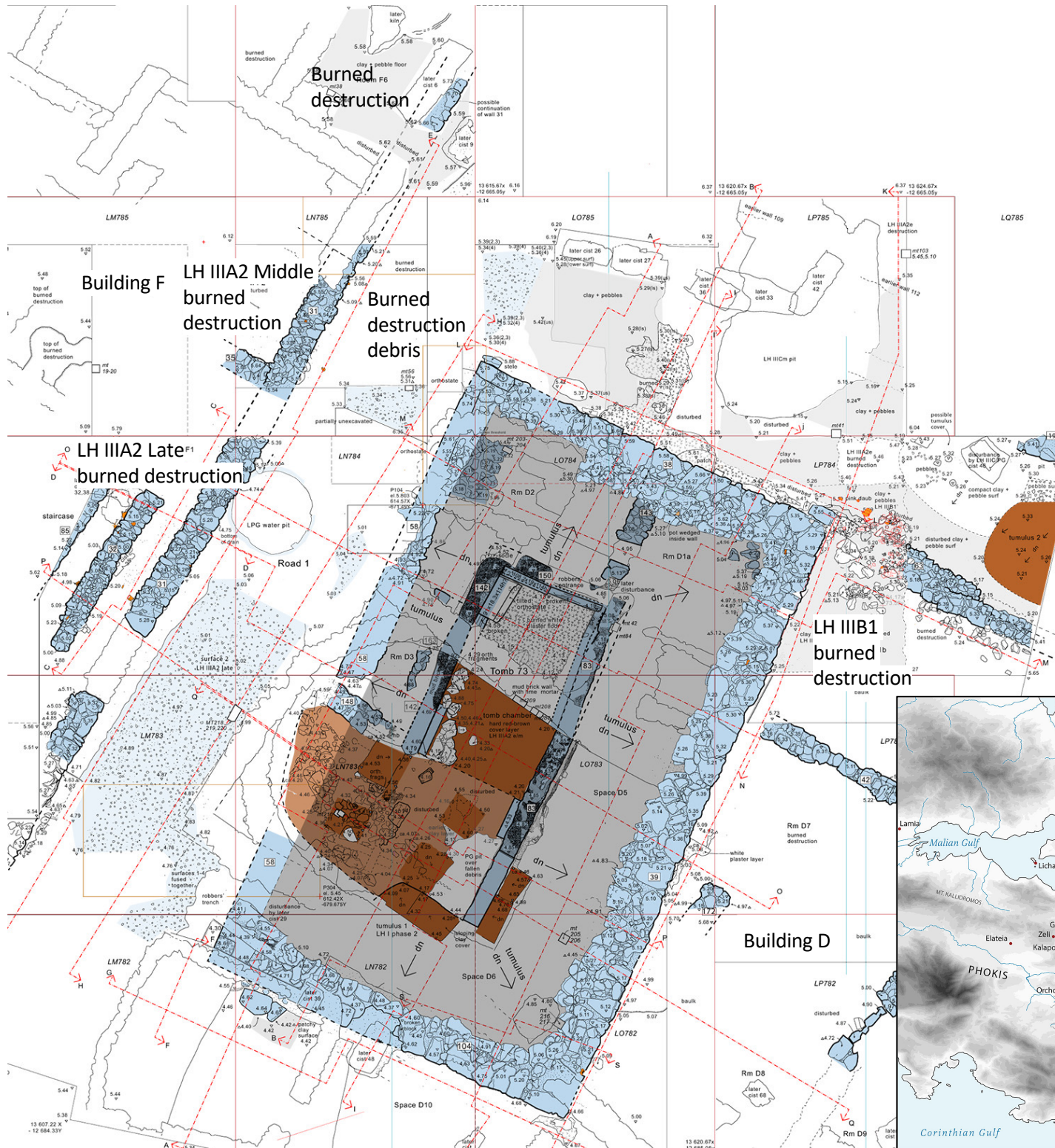
Looking west



G. Bianco

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KNOXVILLE



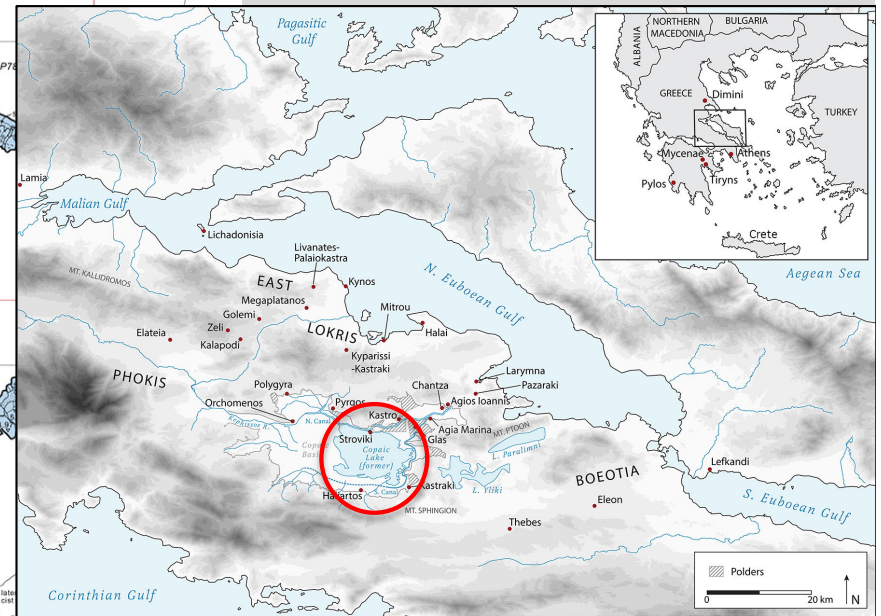


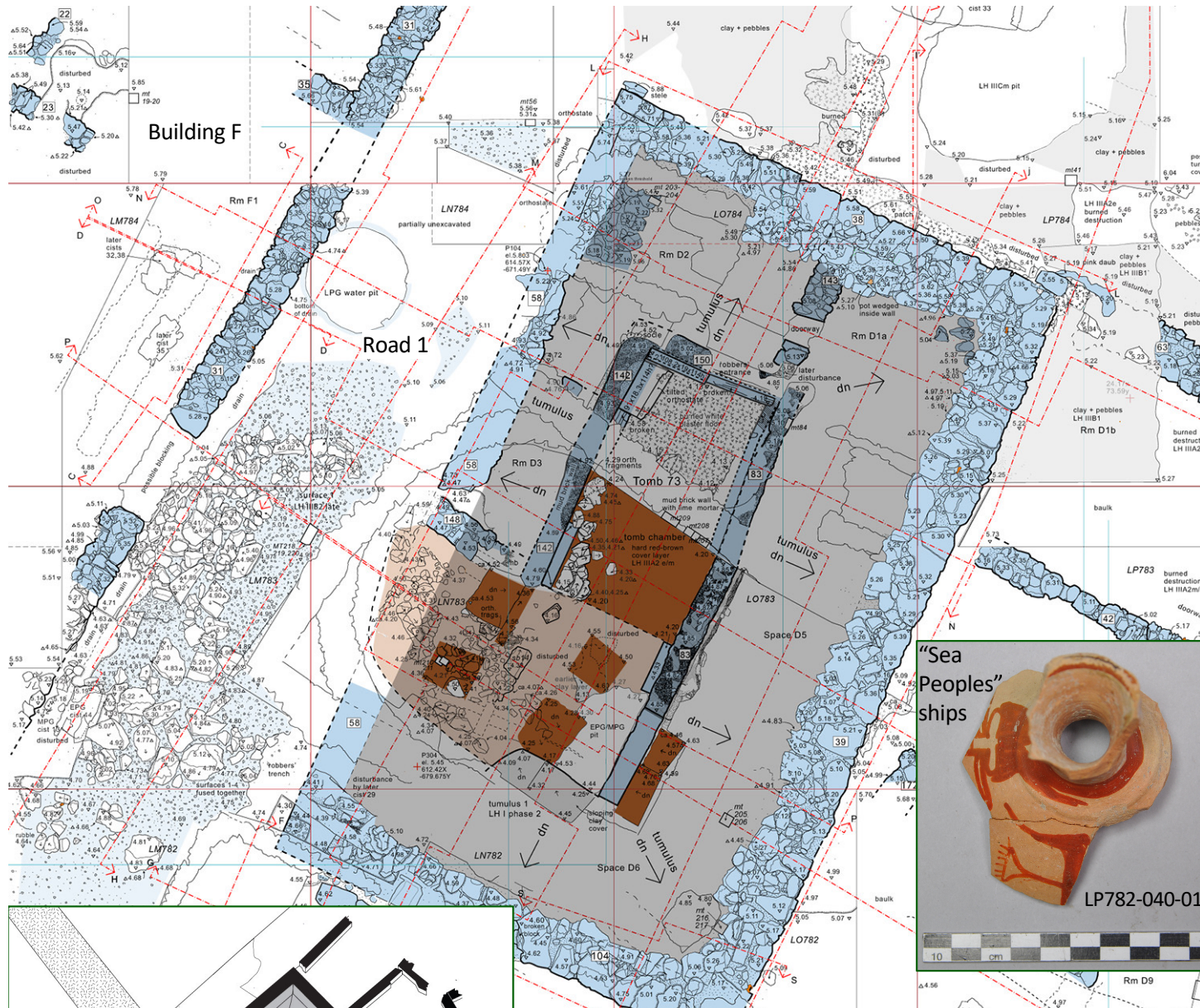
LH IIIA2 Middle: fire destruction

LH IIIA2 Late, LH IIIB1: one or two fire destructions

Followed by hiatus in architectural activities, road laying, and deposits of figurines for ca. 90 years (LH IIIB1 – LH IIIB2 Early, ca. 1300 – 1210 BCE)

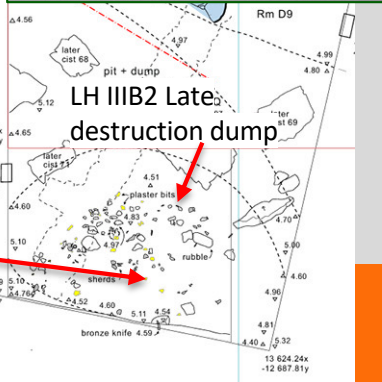
Most of population moved for drainage and cultivation of Copaic basin?



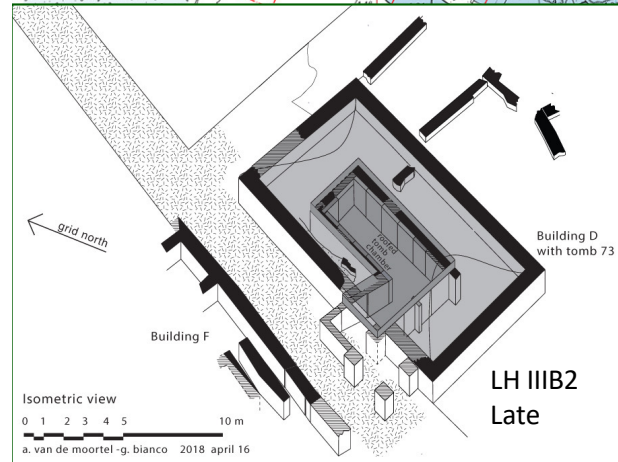
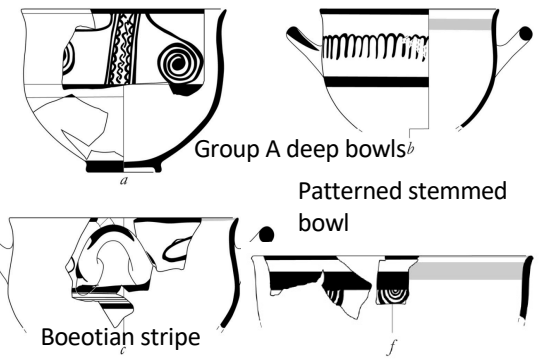


LH IIIB2 Late (ca. 1210-1200/1180 BCE):

- Road 1: last pebble and plaster coating
- Tomb 73: monumental stone façade
- Building F: façade and flimsy structure
- Ends in destruction Tomb 73, Buildings D and F; dump with baked roof tiles (palatial); pottery with possibly Theban character; dramatic increase in Aeginetan pottery: was Mitrou a harbor of Thebes in LH IIIB2 Late? (Vitale and Van de Moortel 2020)

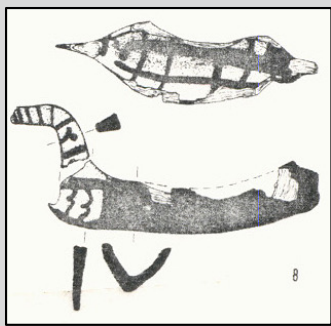
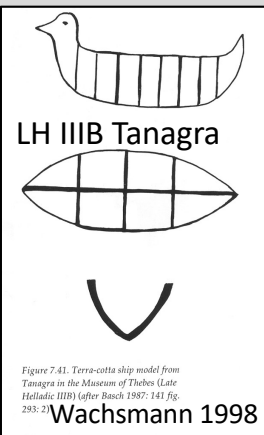


MITROU - 2020 north-east area

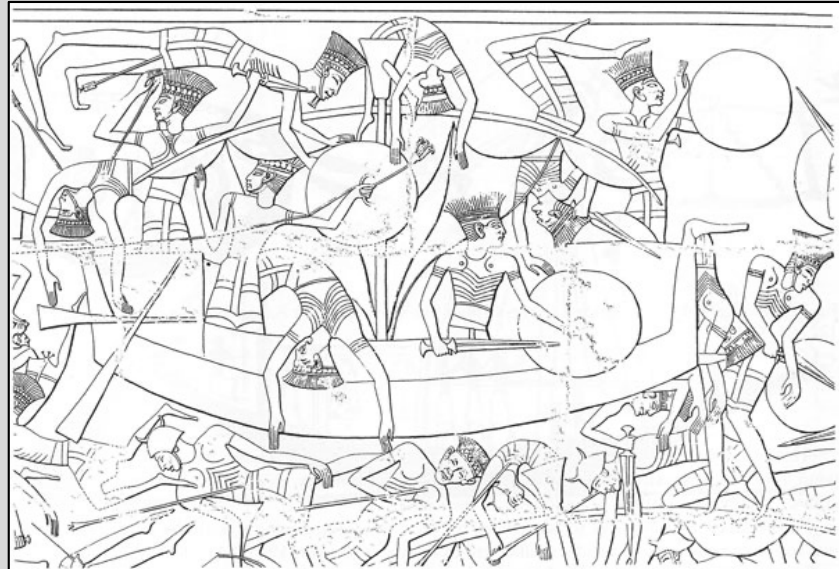




Ships with "Sea Peoples" features on ewer from LH IIIB2 Late destruction dump at Mitrou, ca. 1210-1190 BCE



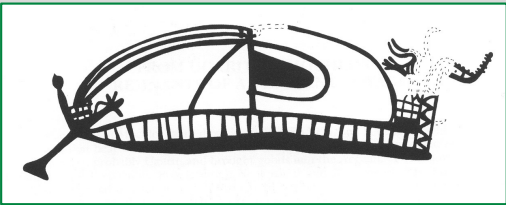
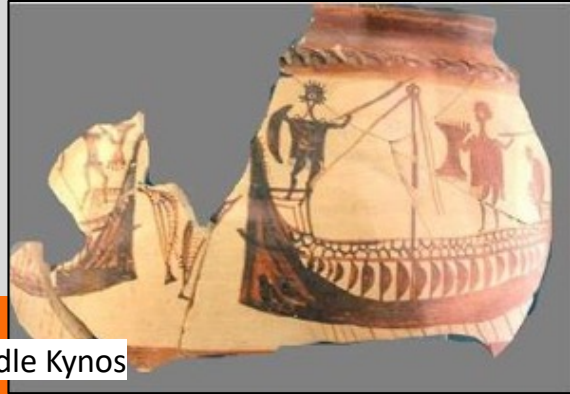
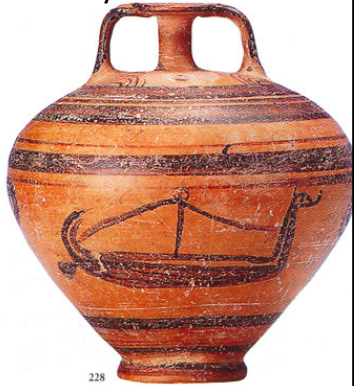
LH IIIB2 Tiryns (Kilian 1988)



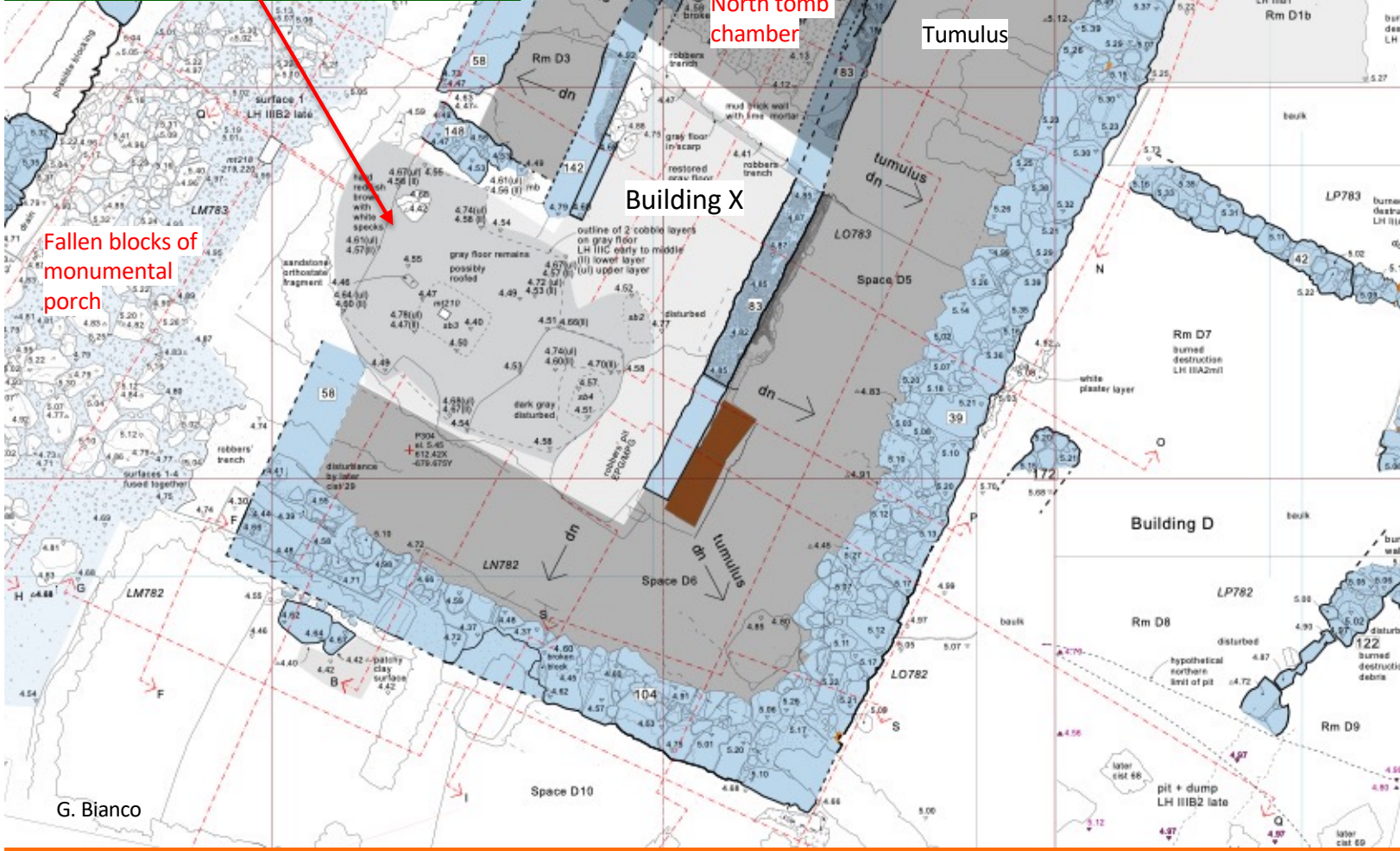
Medinet Habu, ca. 1190/1175 BCE

Fig. 6. Detail of a Sea Peoples' ship carrying a brailed sail in a naval battle scene on Ramses III's mortuary temple at Medinet Habu. The invention of the boomless brailed sail, which first appears towards the end of the Late Bronze Age, gave Mediterranean seafarers new-found freedom, and opened new possibilities for exploration and exploitation. From Nelson et al., *Medinet Habu I*, pl. 39. Reproduced by permission of the University of Chicago Press.

LH IIIC Skyros



LH IIIC Late Tragana, Messenia (Basch 1987)

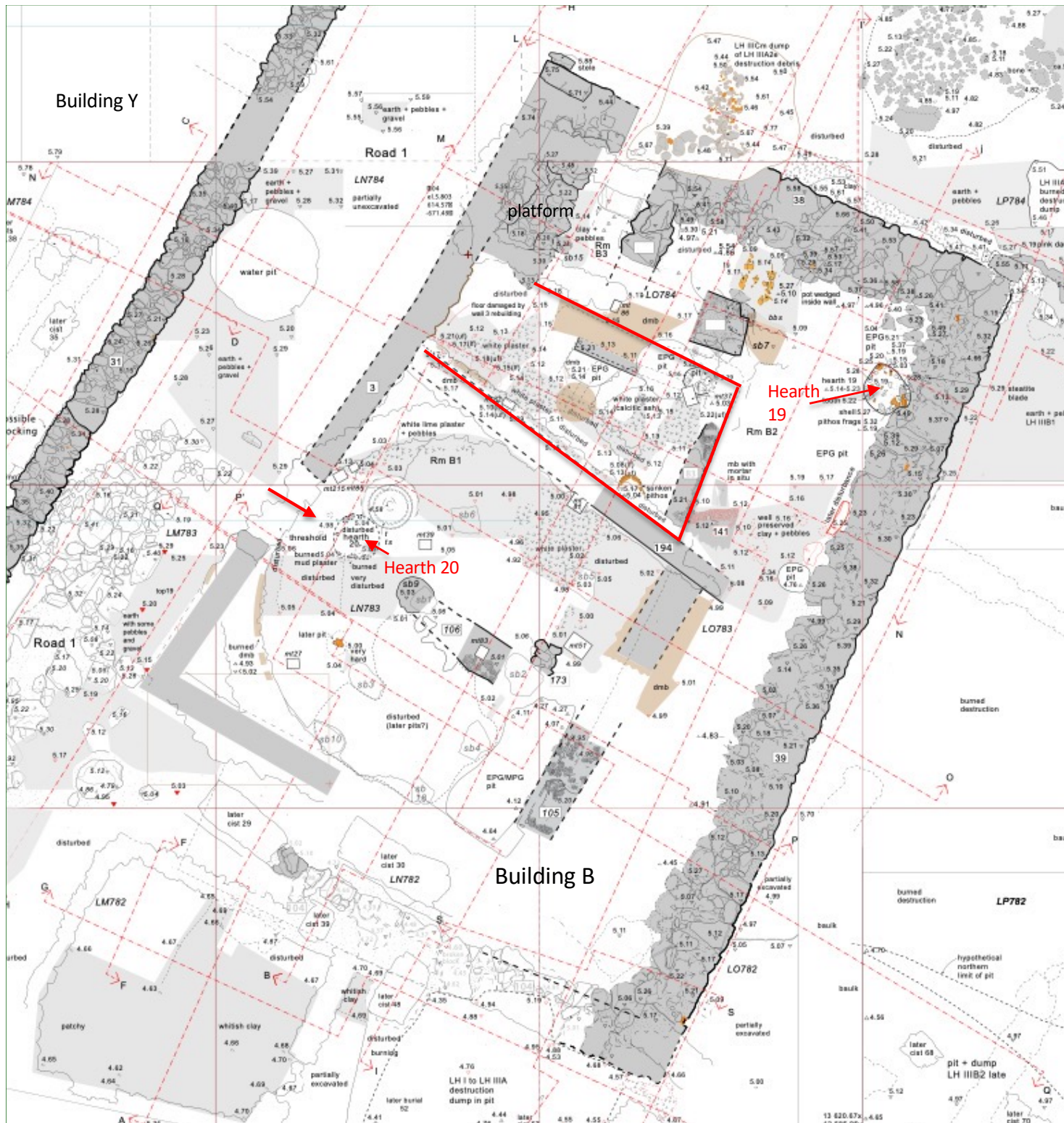


LH IIIC Early and Middle (ca. 1200/1180 - 1100 BCE): ritual Buildings X and B

Building X:

- Two gray cement floors in dromos and southern tomb chamber
- Many deer bones, animal extremities, cobbles; some pottery
- N tomb chamber re-roofed, projecting up to 70 cm above floor Building X
- Building X gradually expanded over entire tumulus

G. Bianco



LH IIIC Middle, late 12th century BCE:

Building B, phase 1:

- South room:
 - White plaster floor
 - Wide entrance
 - Support base
 - Hearth 20

- North room: commemorative space over N tomb chamber:
 - Tomb orthostate still visible
 - East wall of tomb chamber raised
 - White plaster floor
 - Remains of possible round mudbrick platform
 - Sunken pithos



LH IIIC Late (ca. 1100 - 1075/1050 BCE)

Mitrou again a rural settlement, but rituals related to Prepalatial elite Tomb 73 continue:

Small apsidal Building J, phase 1 (3.8 x 4 m) set over north tomb chamber

- Main room has sunken, white plaster floor
- Walls and ceiling white plastered
- Bones of cow, pig, sheep/goat, tortoise, red deer, probably European lynx (M. Dennison)



Tibia of large modern cat

Tibia of probable lynx from Building J

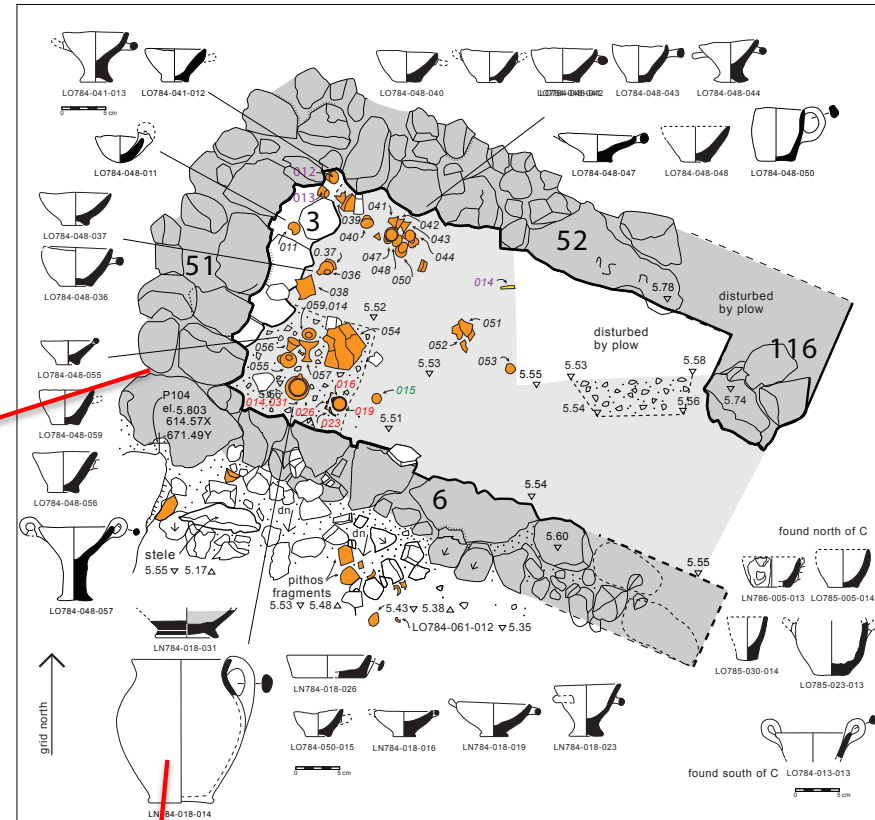
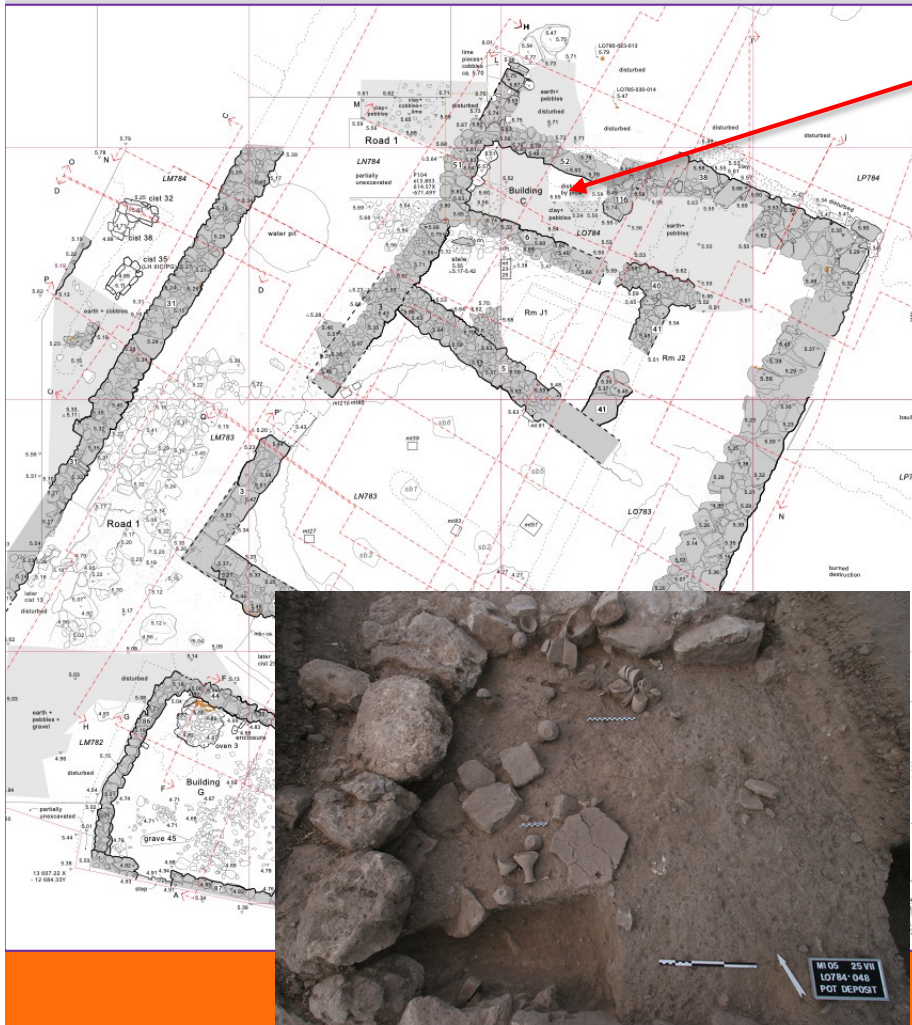
Photo M. Dennison

G. Bianco

LH IIC Late: ritual Building C set over NW corner of Building B (Van de Moortel 2009; Lis 2009)

- 22 miniature handmade vases
- Pithos fragment used as a slab
- Wheelmade cooking pot with thigh bones of 6 piglets
- Carnelian bead fragment
- Bone awl

Building C covered by ritual tumulus



- LO784-048 (2005)
- 052 5.61▽5.59 Δ
 - 053 5.63▽5.62 Δ
 - 054 5.63▽5.57 Δ
 - 055 5.65▽5.63 Δ two-handled bowl
 - 056 5.65▽5.59 Δ one-handled bowl
 - 057 5.66▽5.58 Δ kylix
 - 059 5.62▽5.58 Δ one-handled bowl
- LO784-050 (2005)
- 5.59▽ handle for 048-042
 - 015 5.59▽ 5.53Δ one-handled bowl

MITROU - 2021
Building C deposit



Rise and Decline of Mycenaean Civilization from a Central Greek Perspective:

- Rise of complex society at Mitrou was a largely *indigenous* process, interplay of local dynamics and external stimuli
- Local (non-Mycenaean) features: road network, large cist and built chamber tombs; tumuli. Networked elite as in other areas of Greek mainland
- Trade stimulated this process already in LH I phase (possibly elite enriching itself from trade; purple dye production; status symbols: exotica, monumental architecture; ideas)
- Mitrou's elite was gradually Mycenaeanized from LH IIA onwards, and this process was voluntary:
 - LH IIA: ca. 90% of fine drinking and dining pottery at Mitrou is Mycenaean-type (Vitale)
 - LH IIB-LH IIIA1: Mitrou's leaders buried with Mycenaean elite burial goods (Vitale 2012), but still in local type of built chamber tomb; earlier tumuli remain visible
 - LH IIIA2 Early: Mycenaean-type rituals carried out in Building F < destruction deposit (Vitale 2012)
 - LH IIIA2 Early – LH IIIB2 Late: Mitrou probably part of Mycenaean palatial state, first of Orchomenos, then possibly of Thebes (Vitale and Van de Moortel 2020)
- But Mitrou's inhabitants were not entirely Mycenaeanized; continued to adhere to local burial practices: built chamber tomb, tumuli, and other tombs set in living elite complexes; continuous use of tumuli (cf. Vranas Marathonos; Eleon)
- Mitrou's Prepalatial elite Tomb 73 focus of ritual and remembrance for 400+ year: hero cult? (Van de Moortel et al. 2019; Van de Moortel forthcoming)



- Decline of complex society at Mitrou:
 - LH IIIB2 Late destruction (ca. 1200 BCE)
 - LH IIIC Early-Middle rebuilding and rituals related to Tomb 73 (12th century BCE)
 - LH IIIC Late Mitrou again is a simple village, probably transegalitarian (ca. 1100 BCE). It continues through the Late Protogeometric phase without noticeable interruption in habitation, cf. other areas Euboean Gulf