

T E I R E S I A S

A Review and Bibliography of Boiotian Studies

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WORK IN PROGRESS

- 112.0.01 THE LEIDEN-LJUBLJANA ANCIENT CITIES OF BOEOTIA PROJECT 2011 REPORT

1) Koroneia - John Bintliff

In the summer of 2011 the Leiden team with the assistance of an international group of staff and students, and directed by John Bintliff with Assistant Directors Athanasios Vionis and Vladimir Stissi, completed the surface ceramic survey of this ancient city (*Figures 1-2*). Leon Theelen was the Finds Laboratory Manager. The GIS recording was taken care of by Bart Noordevliet and Janneke van Zwienen. Ceramic analysis was the responsibility of Kalliope Sarri, Gry Nymo, Vladimir Stissi, Mark van der Enden, Jeroen Poblome, Philip Bes, Rinse Willet and Athanasios Vionis. Epigraphy is in the care of Albert Schachter and Fabienne Marchand. The finds database is managed by Emeri Farinetti. The total area covered by the ceramic survey runs now to some 900 units of average 400 sq metres, although some parts of the city hill were left unsurveyed owing to precipitous slopes or dense scrub vegetation (left blank in the preceding two figures). Some units were overgrown sufficiently to disallow the counting of surface artefact

density, but still with care we could collect samples of ceramics (*Figure 3*). Our main aim this summer was to fill in all accessible areas not so far surveyed and to clarify the edges of the built-up town as well as extramural activity zones.

A series of major discoveries this year, added to key elements of previous years from the start of the urban survey in 2006, allows us with some confidence to identify critical evidence for the maximum boundaries and functional differentiation in and around the ancient city (*Figure 4*). Particular importance can be attached to further discoveries of stamped tiles with the city of Koroneia's monogram after those noted for 2010, and which we had suggested belonged to the Classical Greek city wall. Apart from examples found to the extreme northeast at the foot of the city hill and clearly in an extramural cemetery zone, and a new example by the earlier discovered Classical cemetery somewhat to the south of this near a rock-cut tomb, more spectacular finds of this artefact were revealed by a new agricultural bulldozing in the northwest high up on the steep edge of the city hill. Here the creation of small steep terraces for cultivation had cut through thick slopewash and archaeological deposits, revealing a significant sequence which could be interpreted by our geomorphologist Dr. Keith Wilkinson. A line of Classical city wall, including a square tower, was exposed, associated with a whole series of well-preserved stamped city-wall tiles. One of the clearest examples of the 2011 series is shown in *Figure 5*. The monogram combines the archaic form of 'K' for Koroneia (the Koppa, ϙ) and then a Delta and an Alpha for Damos or 'The People' of Koroneia. In *Figure 6* we can see the outer face of a wall tower.

Dr. Wilkinson's study of the hill sediments in this locality showed that the wall had been built atop a steep slope, which was subsequently coated with hillwash parallel to that slope and containing urban waste. Over this series came a horizontal thick layer of almost sterile recent soil now cut through by the modern terrace creation.

Evidence of a different kind but equally decisive for our final understanding of the plan of Koroneia came from the discovery of a new industrial quarter in the south of the city hill, close to a Classical and Roman cemetery, south of the earlier discovered potters' quarter on the eastern lower slopes of the city hill. This clearly allowed us to confine the borders of the town on the southeast, and made it clear that the southernmost sectors of our survey, covered in earlier seasons, although showing domestic activity and agricultural installations, must now be assigned to extramural and indeed rural settlement. This was supported by a tombstone in the southwest of the town near to a large sloping sector we had proposed as extramural cemetery in earlier seasons.

We are now able to define the maximum extent of the ancient city through combining wall indications (physical foundations and wall tiles), cemeteries, and what seem now clearly to have been immediately extramural industrial quarters on the east and southeast. The town was clearly even at its most expansive much smaller than previously envisaged, little more than 30 hectares. The uneven spread of the urban plan reflects today the very steep and unusable western hill edge and the more gentle slopes to the north, east and south, a distinction Dr. Wilkinson has shown this season due completely to a contrasted bedrock geology.

Another feature of the August season was the detailed planning of several built structures surviving on the surface of the site. This was carried out within the framework of a one-week European training school, the staff responsible being Hanna Stoeger and Eric Dullaart, working with Total Stations. Just outside the city to the northeast is a small hillock crowned by one face of a Crusader tower, around which giant fragments lie from its collapsed internal vaulting. Planning this monument adds an additional piece of evidence to our much older work on similar towers in Boeotia (Lock 1986). Inside the city itself this team planned two important ruins, both of

Late Antique date, at least in their final form. One is a series of rooms immediately inside the present entrance track in the far south of the acropolis. Speculation that this was a church has now been replaced, after clearance of concealing vegetation, by a series of interlocked rooms and spaces that either represents small houses or shops/workshops (*Figure 7*). The small rooms are built of varied materials, including recycled pillars, an altar or monument base, recycled fine cut blocks, small stones, tiles and mortar, and show more than one phase. Traces of similar ‘scruffy houses’ can be seen in the northern acropolis, also utilising spolia pillars.

The other major planning project on the acropolis was to try and make more sense of the extensive and complex, collapsed Late Roman structure almost at the summit of the acropolis and in its northern sector. Dr. Inge Uyterhoeven had already dated this structure to the 6th century AD from the massive tiles inset into its vaults, and informed us that earlier suggestions of a bathhouse (hence the local name for the acropolis ‘Loutro’) must be rejected. Vegetation clearance revealed a much larger building than was earlier apparent (*Figure 8*), although almost all the visible walls are in fact giant multiple collapsed vaults, probably from the building’s ground floor. The new plans, and the discovery that the largest standing section preserved a confluence of three vault lines, as well as evidence that some sections of vaults are in situ, should we hope allow Dr. Uyterhoeven to suggest the form of the building. Current theories are either an episcopal palace or the residence of the governor of the late antique town.

We currently propose that the Late Roman town was smaller not only than the Classical Greek but also the Early Roman city, and was largely focussed on the acropolis and an extramural suburb in and around the Forum/ Agora, which lay on a lower plateau below and east of the acropolis. The acropolis itself was rewalled, to judge from two exposures, whilst inside, the former public zones appear to have been given over to unpretentious domestic settlement (including agricultural processing from several finds of large receptacles and a large press base), and the impressive multi-storeyed central public building. It would then compare well to the class of *Kastra* which dominate the archaeological record of nucleated settlements in the Late Antique Balkans (Liebeschuetz 2007).

Ceramic analysis of the city grids has only begun, and we still await evidence for a clear focus for the dispersed finds of prehistoric ceramics and lithics, whilst the same goes for the interval after the Late Roman activity on the acropolis and nearby, the so-called Early Byzantine Dark Ages of the 7th-9th centuries AD. We might suggest that occupation could have continued within the *Kastro*, for which a parallel has been identified by our project at the fortified hilltop village of Aghios Konstantinos near ancient Tanagra in Eastern Boeotia. However this season did fill another gap in the occupational sequence of Koroneia, that which preceded and paralleled the Crusader tower in the northeast of the site. Immediately below this in the first flat ground of the northern Koroneia plain, amidst a Classical and Roman cemetery, we discovered a settlement of the Middle and Late Byzantine period. The existence of this village was already presupposed from the placing of a Crusader tower at the site, as these monuments are usually placed to exploit a pre-existing local village.

(2) Hyettos - John Bintliff

The Leiden team completed the mapping of surface architecture remains at this ancient city, covering in all 38.68 hectares of ground on the Acropolis and in the Lower Town and around it. More than 500 locations were identified and mapped where significant pieces of ancient architecture survive on the surface (*Figure 9*), a remarkable count when we consider that the city lies along a major route to the coast from northeast Boeotia, and also lies within view of

the modern village of Loutsi and not far from a second larger village, Pavlo. These pieces will be studied by Dr. Uytterhoeven. They include a capital which seems to belong to an urban sanctuary, whose plentiful finds of high quality Classical fineware and figurines were noted in the original surface survey of the city in the late 1980s and early 1990s (*Figure 10*). At the same time Janneke van Zwienen began to make a more refined surface topographic map of the city site with a differential gps device, since the existing 1:5000 map shows little detail in the rather flat lower town. The next illustration fits the vertical air photographs to our original survey grid and a first version of the new digital elevation model (*Figure 11*).

(3) Tanagra - Božidar Slapšak

The Ljubljana team of the joint Leiden-Ljubljana Ancient Cities of Boeotia project carried out field research at the site of ancient Tanagra between October 6 and 27, 2011. The research was directed by Prof. Božidar Slapšak, with Sara Popović, doctoral student at the University of Ljubljana responsible for architectural survey, and Rok Plesničar, BA in archaeology, for geophysical survey.

The goal of the architectural survey was to document surface structures pertaining to the city wall as known from previous publications. Somewhat less than one third (750 m) of the total wall outline could be recorded. Cleaning revealed unmistakably and invariably Late Roman building techniques - mixed (limestone and sandstone blocks, stone and brick in-between), with ample use of spolia (including blocks arguably from an earlier, Classical city wall), and regular use of mortar. All structural remains recorded are precisely georeferenced and integrated into the CAD and GIS database so we can now integrate the wall line properly into our base document (magnetometry map).

This city wall, previously published by Roller (1974) as Late Classical and now clearly in its current form defined as Late Roman, cuts off parts of the regular urban planning grid of the Classical city dated to the 4th century BC. In 2005, magnetometry survey revealed that situation in the North-West part of the town, and the goal of this year's survey was to check areas to the North-East and East of the present wall as well. In all parts surveyed (see *Figure 12*), the grid continues, so currently we estimate the extent of the Classical city to over 60 ha as compared to under 30 ha of the Late Roman walled city. However, at one point at least, the grid appears also to cross the assumed line of the walled Classical city in the East, so we must be cautious there and permit the possibility that we have the urbanized area or some suburbs descending all the way down to the Asopos river. Besides the stretch of the Classical city wall identified in the North-West in 2005, we found another stretch this year on the Acropolis, beyond the line of the Late Roman wall, and can arguably trace a separate Acropolis wall both outside and within the Late Roman city wall precinct.

The 2011 results call for continuation of fieldwork on Ancient Tanagra: we know now that the urban structure is detectable by geophysics also beyond the Late Roman wall where intensive land use caused much destruction during the last half century, and we expect to have just from this survey precious new data on urban dynamics. The acropolis plateau should be one of the privileged areas to survey fully because, while until now, we thought it comprised a miniscule area on the top of the hill, it is clear now that we have a considerable surface there, which may hide some of the most important religious buildings of Tanagra. On the other hand, further architectural survey is needed to complete the outline of the Late Roman wall, and to record the key functional areas not yet documented.

(4) Recording and 3D reconstruction of Byzantine – Early Modern monuments in Boeotia - Chiara Piccoli and Athanasios Vionis

A separate architectural project on a number of standing Byzantine – Early Modern monuments in the regions of Tanagra – Aghios Thomas and Haliartos was undertaken within the framework of the Leiden-Ljubljana Ancient Cities of Boeotia Project in late August 2011 by Athanasios Vionis (University of Cyprus) and Chiara Piccoli (University of Leiden). A permit was issued to Dr Vionis by the General Directorate of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Antiquities of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism for the architectural recording and study of six monuments in Boeotia: Aghios Thomas Oinophyton (1 km SE of the ancient city of Tanagra), Aghios Polykarpos (500 m NW of ancient Tanagra), Aghia Aikaterini (2 km SW of ancient Tanagra), Aghios Dimitrios (outside the contemporary village of Aghios Thomas – Liatani), the chapel of Zoodochos Pigi at Mazi (between the contemporary village of Mazi and the deserted village-site of Palaiomazi in the wider upland region of Haliartos town), and the Frankish tower of Haliartos (at the entrance of the contemporary town of Haliartos on the way to Livadeia). The recording of the first five monuments was completed between the 26th and 30th August 2011. The recording team consisted of A. Vionis, Ch. Piccoli, L. Theelen, and a number of students from the Universities of Leiden and Cyprus.

The aforementioned monuments were chosen because each one of them forms the most substantial part of deserted village- and hamlet-sites identified through intensive surface survey by (a) the “Leiden-Ljubljana Ancient Cities of Boeotia Project” in the region of ancient Tanagra in 2000-2005 (i.e. the Byzantine-Medieval sites of Aghios Thomas, Aghios Polykarpos, Aghia Aikaterini, and Aghios Dimitrios) and (b) the “Durham-Cambridge Boeotia Project” in 1979-1997 (i.e. the Ottoman deserted village of Dushia around the chapel of Zoodochos Pigi at Mazi, and the Frankish site around the tower of Haliartos). Apart from the immense and most vital contribution of archaeological surface field-survey to the study of post-Classical Greece, another way of examining traces of past human activity remains the standing building evidence (Vionis 2008). Remaining medieval and post-medieval monuments in Boeotia, still providing evidence from above (rather than below) ground, however, are primary sources of information to be combined with textual/historical or other references. Thus, the aim of this architectural project was (a) to produce detailed and accurate plans of the monuments (as a means of recording their state of preservation and making them available to the local community and other researchers in the field of Byzantine-Medieval rural architecture) and (b) to visualise in a 3D environment each monument in order to understand and interpret its interior use and movement within it.

For the recording of the standing structures we used a Reflectorless Total Station (Robotic Total Station), while the data was (and is still being) processed through AutoCAD, a CAD software application for 2D and 3D design and drafting. Although this is a precise method of producing the desired plans and 3D reconstructions, it is a time-consuming process, especially when it comes to the processing of the measurements with the aid of the computer software. So far, the 3D reconstruction of four of the churches (*Figures 13-16*), and the plans of all five of them have been produced (*Figure 17*).

This is not the first time that the Ancient Cities of Boeotia Project and its predecessor Durham-Cambridge Boeotia Project have shown interest in the post-Roman monuments and housing of the Boeotian countryside. The British historian Dr. P. Lock (1986), for instance, studied the surviving feudal towers of Boeotia and Euboea, and dated them in the 13th–15th centuries; similarly, N. Stedman (1996), Prof. F. Aalen (Aalen *et al.* 1999) and Dr. E. Sigalos (2004) examined standing examples of the traditional long-house in most regions of Boeotia. Recently,

more advanced recording techniques were employed for recording and studying traditional housing in Boeotian villages. Joep Verweij (former student at Leiden University) recorded in 2007 two surviving longhouses in the village of Aghios Georgios through stereographic photographing and produced an AutoCAD 3D model of these structures (Bintliff *et al.* 2009, 37-42). Additionally, Chiara Piccoli (Ph.D. researcher at Leiden University) further developed this approach by using a Robotic Total Station for recording in 2009 ten traditional houses in the villages of Mazi and Evangelistria (Piccoli *forthcoming*).

The church of Aghios Thomas (dedicated to St. Thomas) is located in the middle of the hamlet site with the site-code TS5, 1 km SE from the ancient city of Tanagra. It is approximately 1.5 ha in size, while the study of its ceramic assemblage suggests that the site was occupied from the 11th to the middle of the 14th century, reaching its peak from the middle of the 12th to the middle of the 13th century. It has been suggested (Simatou and Christodouloupoulou 1993) that the church was constructed in the mid 12th century and converted into a Frankish feudal tower with chapel in the 14th century. The church of Aghios Polykarpos (dedicated to St. Polycarp) is located in the middle of the tiny hamlet-site of TS21 of 0.5 ha in size, 0.6 km NW of the ancient city. The church is dated to the 12th century, while large ancient square blocks (from ancient Tanagra?) have been used for the construction of its apse. The church of Aghia Aikaterini (dedicated to St. Catherine) is located in the middle of the large hamlet-site of TS15, 2 km SW of ancient Tanagra. The site occupies an area of approximately 2 ha, while surface ceramic finds are also dated from the 11th to the 14th centuries. The church was rebuilt in Early Modern times, while architectural observation of the eastern apse has revealed an earlier phase of Aghia Aikaterini (Middle Byzantine?). The church of Aghios Dimitrios, rebuilt in Early Modern times, is located on the top of a gentle hill, in the middle of the large village-site TS30, occupying an area of 2.3 ha, in the upland Guinosati valley, W of the contemporary village of Aghios Thomas (Vionis 2008, 33). Architectural observation on the north and east wall has revealed that Aghios Dimitrios was also built on top of an earlier (Middle Byzantine?) church. Finally, Zoodochos Pigi, between the contemporary village of Mazi and the deserted site of Palaionmazi, is located at the site of Dushia, an abandoned *çiftlik* of the late 16th-18th centuries. The church was originally built in the Ottoman period (probably in the 16th century); the northern and western walls had collapsed and were rebuilt by local people recently. The southern and eastern walls preserve a remarkable series of fresco paintings of the Late Ottoman period, depicting Saints (on the southern wall), Church Fathers and the Virgin (on the eastern apse), while the stone-built temple-screen preserves fresco paintings of Christ enthroned and the Virgin, very good examples of Post-Byzantine provincial art.

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Figure 1: Survey units at Koroneia on the 1/5000 topographic map

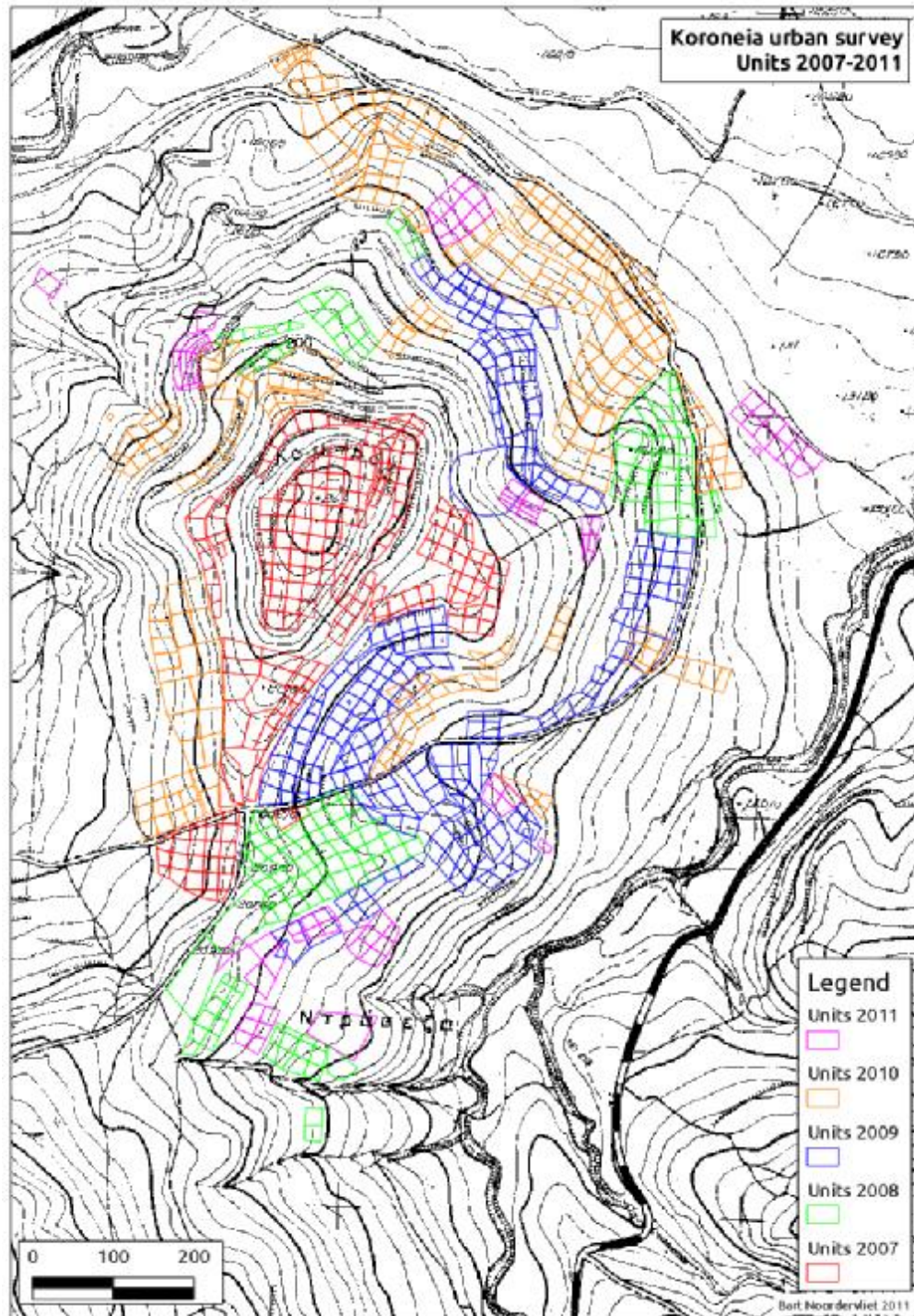


Figure 2: Survey units at Koroneia on an air photograph

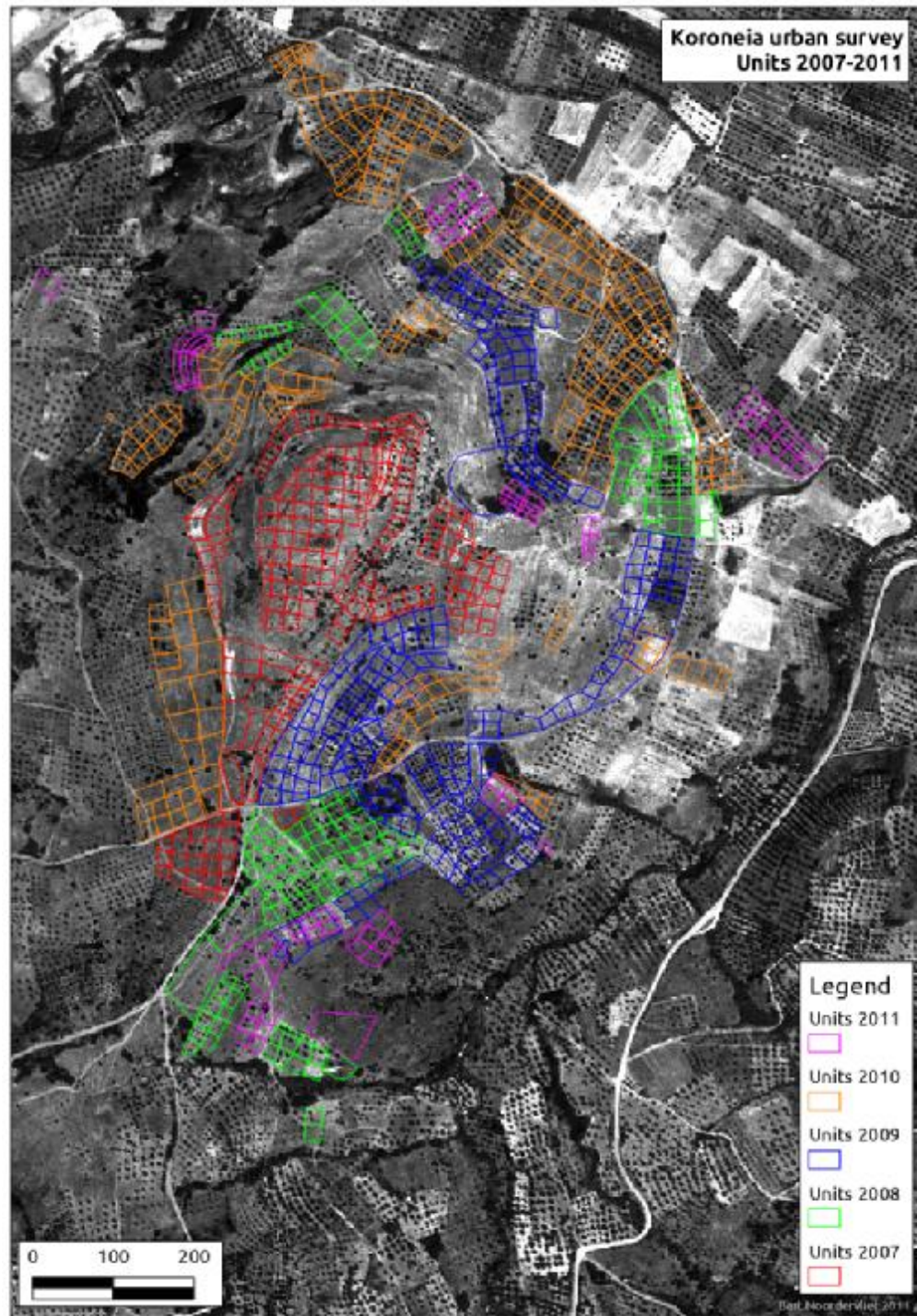


Figure 3: Units surveyed, with a distinction between those where density of artefacts could be measured and pottery collected, and those where vegetation only allowed the collection of ceramic samples.

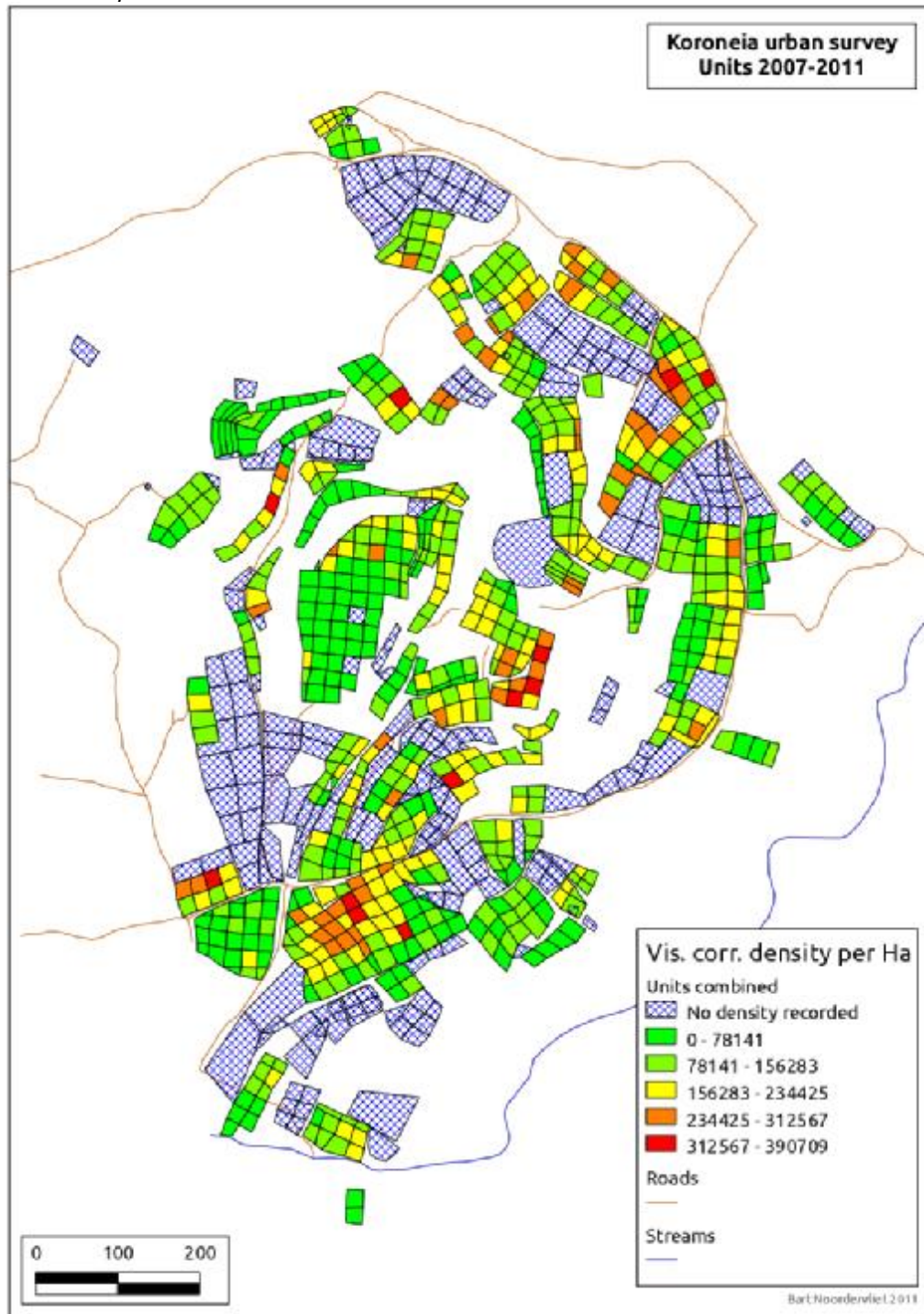


Figure 4: Key elements for identifying urban boundaries and urban infrastructure

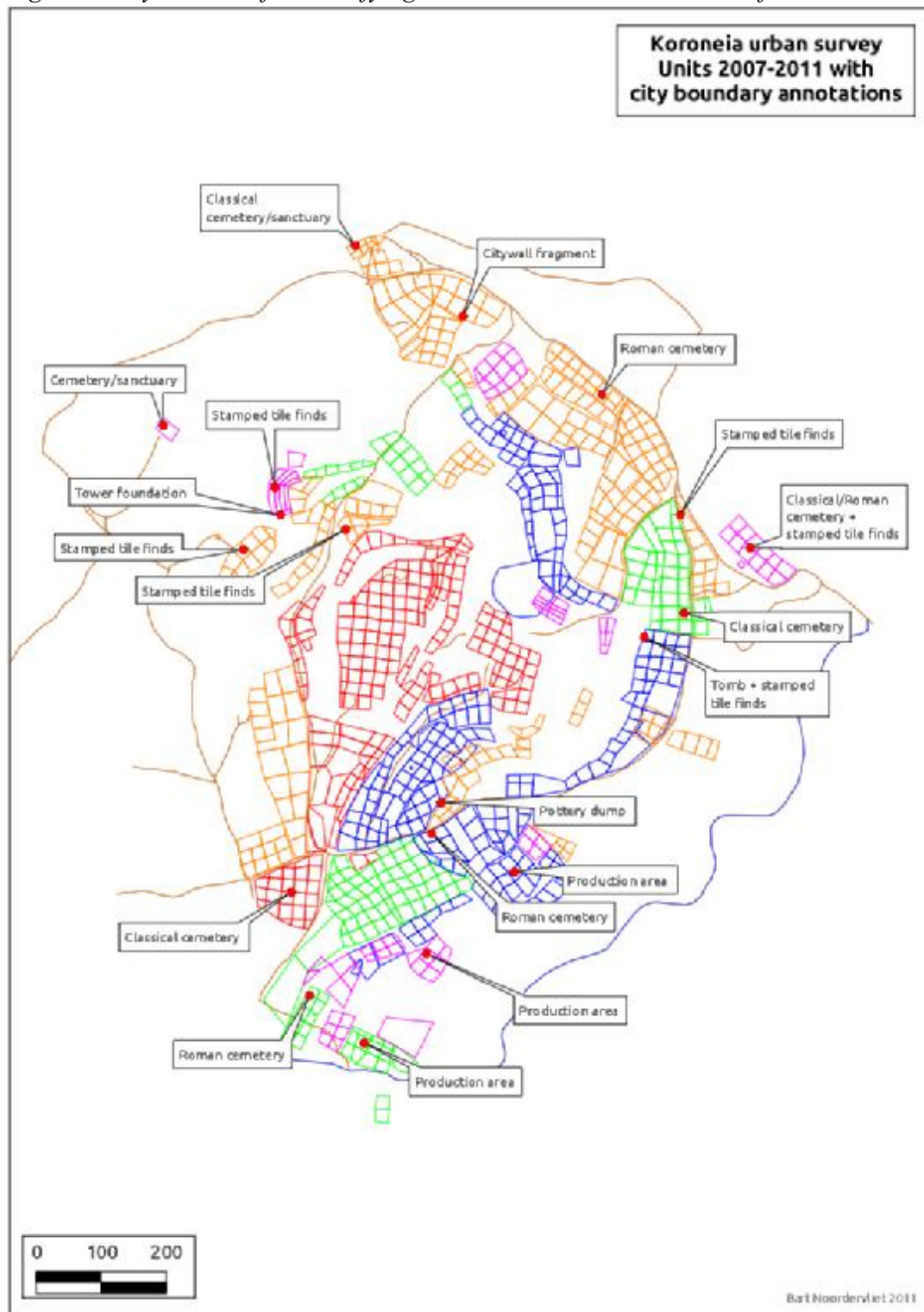


Figure 5: One of the 2011 stamped city-wall tiles



Figure 6: The outer face of a city wall tower on the northwest upper city hill



Figure 7: The 'scruffy houses' of the south acropolis



Figure 8: One line of collapsed vaulting of the extensive 6th century AD public building near the summit of the acropolis



Figure 9: Location of gps-located points where significant surface architectural pieces are present at Hyettos



Figure 10: An ancient capital adjacent to the surface ceramic finds of an ancient intramural sanctuary, Hyettos lower town.



Figure 11: A digital elevation model of Hyettos acropolis and lower town with the original surface survey grid overlaid as well as the vertical air photograph.

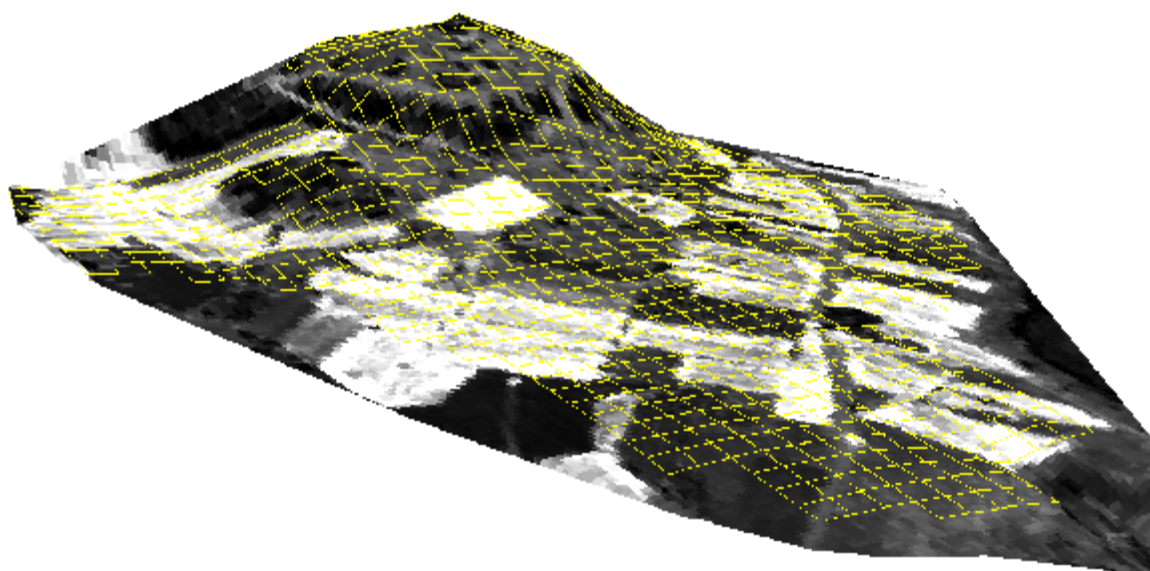


Figure12: 2011 extramural geophysical results at Tanagra with provisional suggestions of the line of the Classical city wall and its Acropolis outside of the standing Late Roman urban fortifications.

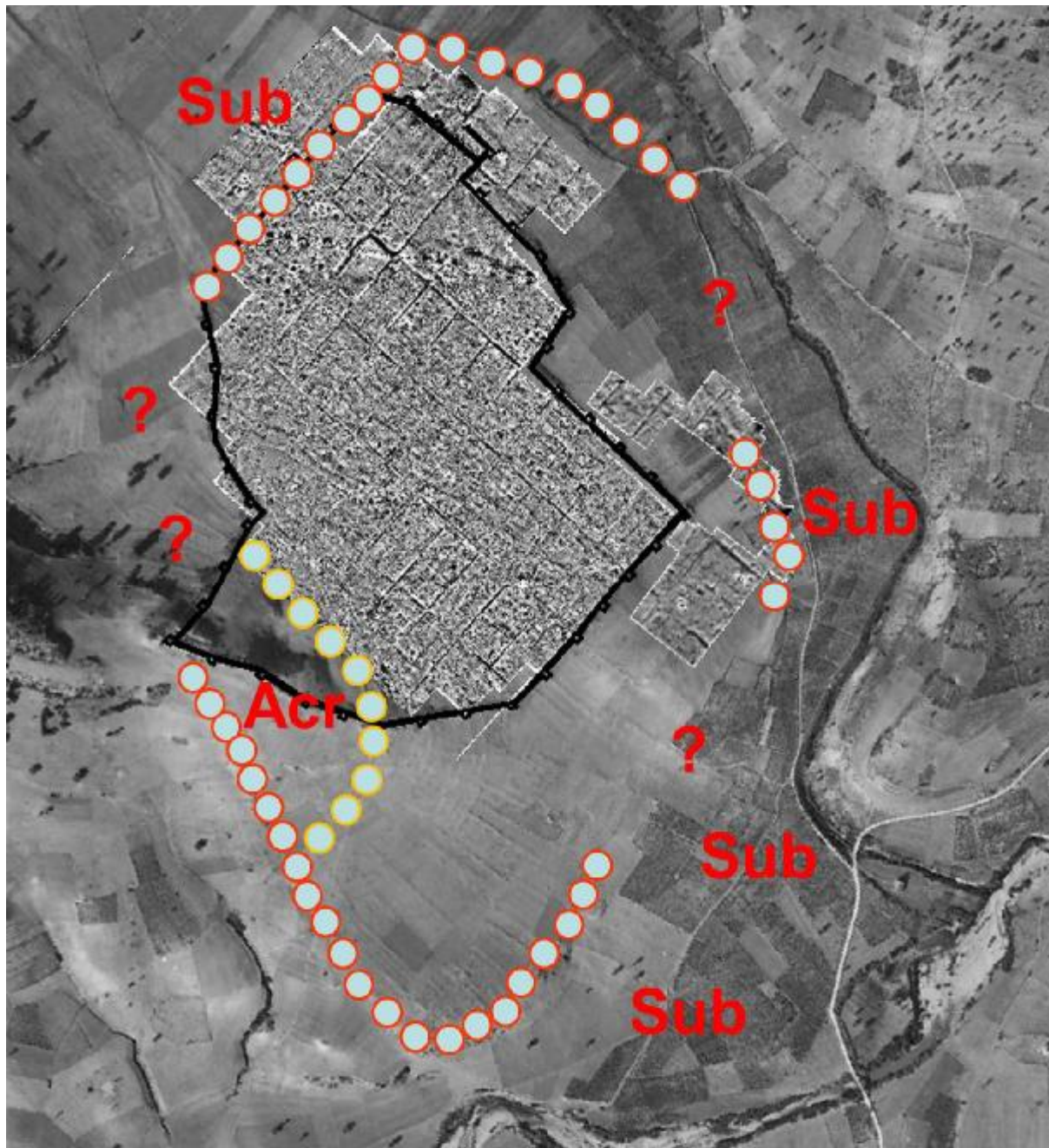


Figure 13: Zoodochos Pigi: The point cloud captured with the Robotic Total Station (top left), the CAD model (top right) and the textured model

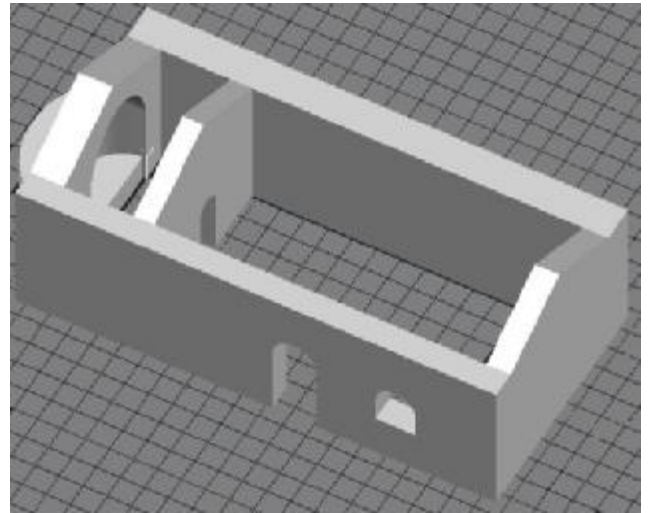
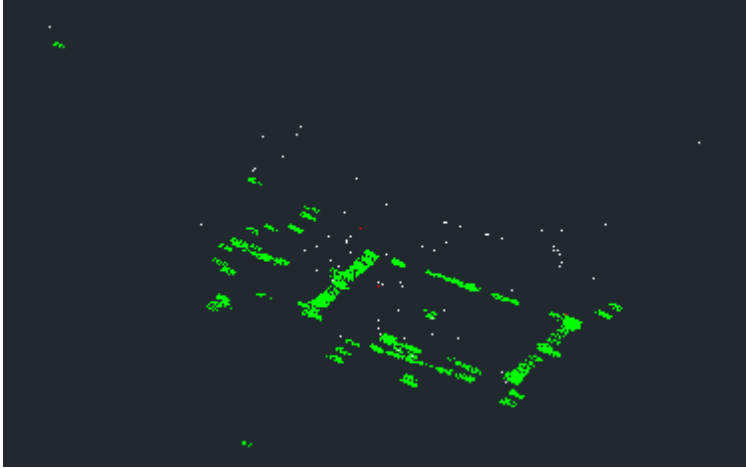


Figure 14: The 3D model of Aghia Aikaterini before and after rendering

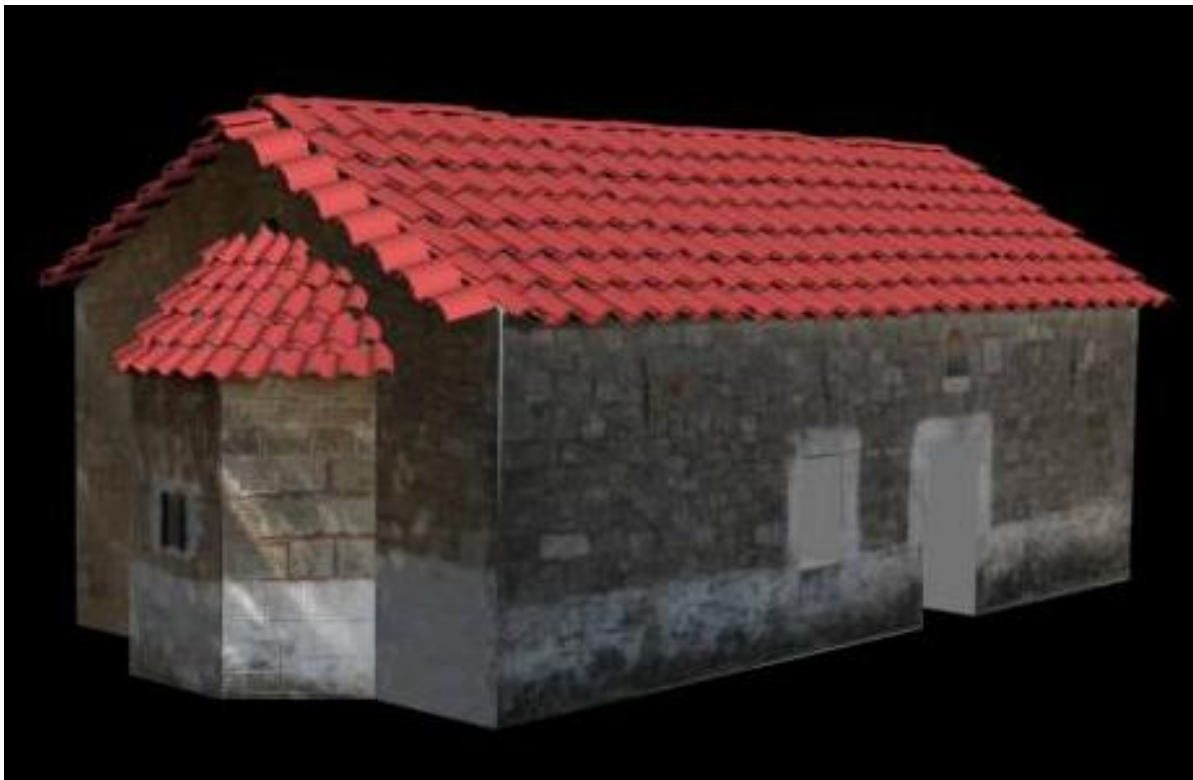
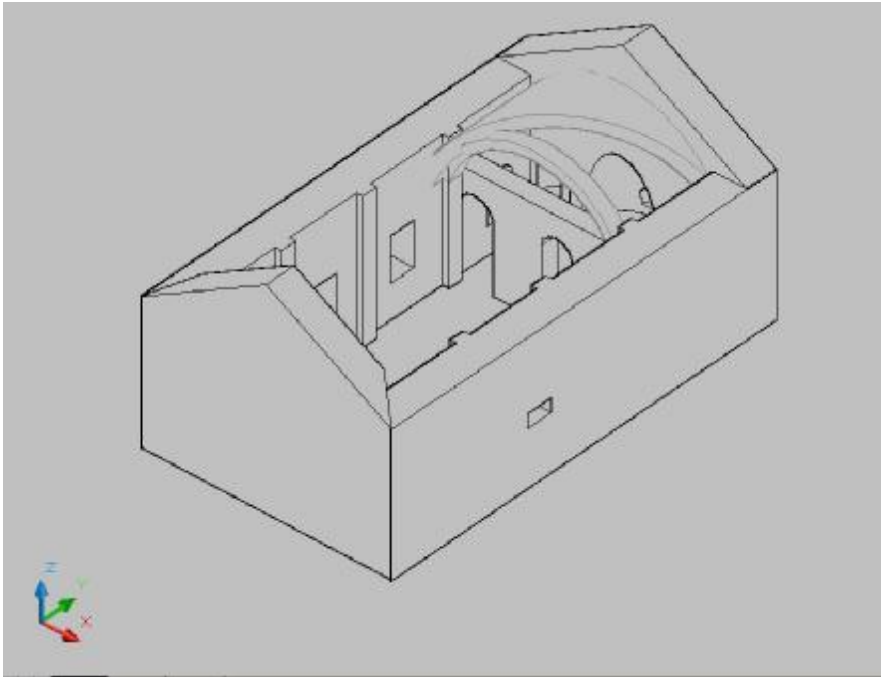


Figure 15: The 3D model of Aghios Dimitrios before and after rendering

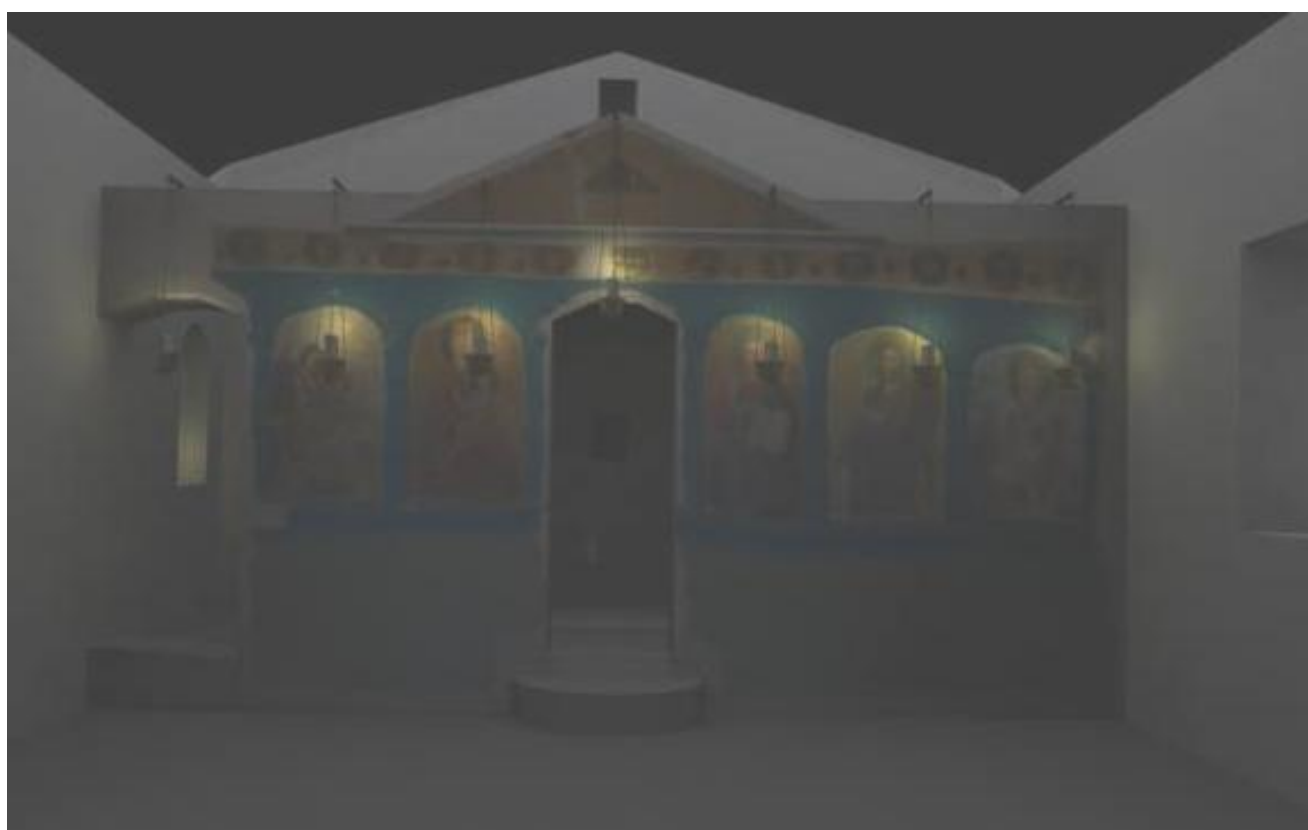
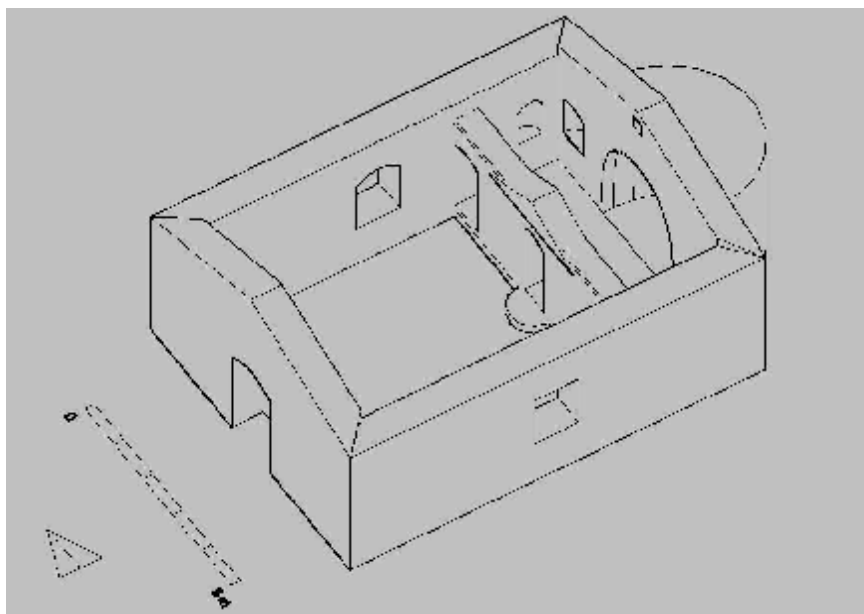
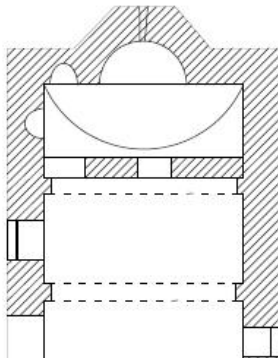


Figure 16: Aghios Polikarpos: rendering of exterior and interior

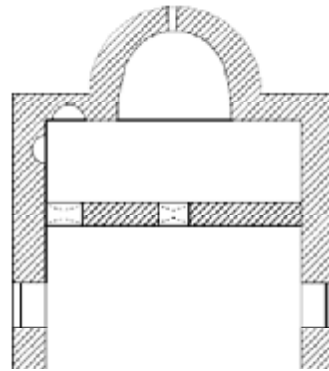


Figure 17: The plans of the recorded churches

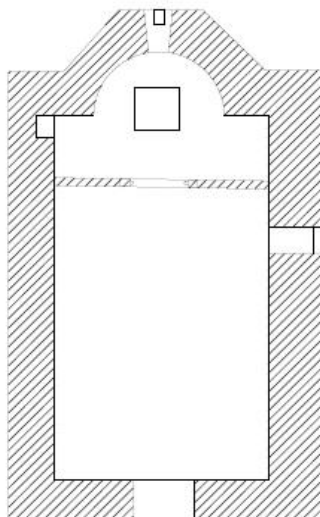
Agia Aikaterini



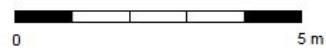
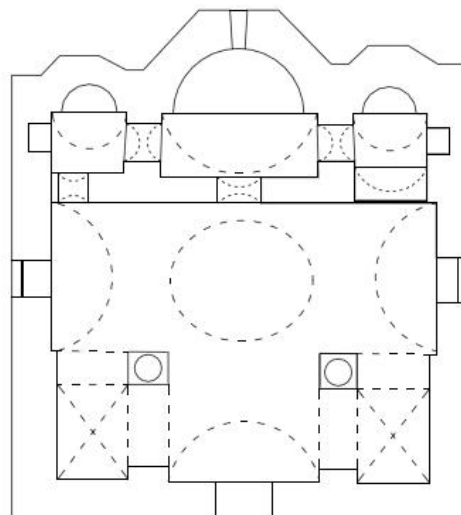
Agios Dimitrios



Agios Polikarpos



Agios Thomas



Zoodochos pigi

