

PAPERS AND MONOGRAPHS OF THE FINNISH INSTITUTE AT ATHENS VOL. XXII

# THESPROTIA EXPEDITION III LANDSCAPES OF NOMADISM AND SEDENTISM



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Helsinki 2016

ISSN 1237-2684

ISBN 978-952-68500-0-9

Printed in Finland by Vammalan Kirjapaino

Cover: The Bronze Age site of Goutsoura seen from the south. Photo: Björn Forsén

Layout: Esko Tikkala

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# The Gouriza Field: Looking beyond the Surface Scatter

Tommi Turmo

The site of Gouriza (PS 29) is situated to the north of the village of Agora. It lies in the middle of the fertile Kokytos valley, in a landscape consisting of alternating olive groves and cultivated fields.<sup>1</sup> The fields slope down gently towards the Kokytos, running at a distance of about a km towards the southwest. In the close neighbourhood of Gouriza there are another three similar rural sites (PS 30, PS 48 and PS 49), which all were discovered during the intensive field survey work of the Thesprotia Expedition and which have been interpreted as farmsteads or villages. The sites are located close to each other on a ridge in between two ravines originating close to Agios Donatos on the lower slopes of the Paramythia mountain range (Fig. 1).<sup>2</sup>

A series of further sites of major archaeological interest lie in the close vicinity (1-2 km) of Gouriza; the fortresses of Agios Donatos and Kioteza to the north and northeast respectively, and the monumental tomb of Marmara to the west (Fig. 1). All these sites date chiefly to the Early Hellenistic period,<sup>3</sup> when the valley experienced an unprecedented prosperity peaking during the reign of Pyrrhus 297-272 BC. The resulting increase of population gave rise to towns like neighbouring Elea, but it is equally observed in the rural environment with a large number of villages and other rural communities.<sup>4</sup>

Gouriza was discovered in spring 2006 in connection with the intensive survey, when a clearly visible surface scatter was detected on a freshly ploughed field, which was walked as tract C 7 (Fig. 2). The surface finds consisted of tiles and pottery, concentrated in the southeastern part of C 7. A similar, although less thick surface scatter was noted in the northern corner of field C 8, some 20-30 m to the south of C 7. Furthermore, large limestone blocks could be seen covered by bushes in the northernmost corner of the olive grove between C 7 and C 8. These remains all seemed to belong to one and the same site, an assumption which was confirmed in 2013 when the olive grove was newly ploughed, revealing that the surface scatter of C 7 and C 8 also extends to a large part of the olive grove,<sup>5</sup> thus creating a site covering in total at least 80x120 m.

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<sup>1</sup> A number of individuals have contributed to this article. First of all I would like to thank B. Forsén for his advice and encouragement throughout the writing process. The magnetometer maps were provided by T. Smekalova and all the information related to the excavation was based on notes by S. Silvonen, who functioned as trench master during the excavations in 2007. The photographs for Fig. 4 were taken by E. Tikkala, N. Heiska, L. Haikonen and S. Silvonen, the profile drawings in Fig. 5 were made by S. Silvonen and H. Lehto and finally, most of the pottery drawings (Nos. 1, 3-7, 9, 13-15) by A. Patteri. All other illustrations are by the author.

<sup>2</sup> Forsén *et al.* 2011, 116-119.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. Forsén *et al.* 2011, 109-113 (Agios Donatos), 114 (Kioteza), 115-116 (Marmara), in addition to which Pietilä-Castrén 2008; Riginos and Lazari 2007; Suha 2011.

<sup>4</sup> Forsén 2011, 15.

<sup>5</sup> The extensive surface scatter covers in particular the northwestern corner of the olive grove between C 7 and C 8. Moreover, the large dump derived from the excavation of the building had been spread over the surface of the northeastern and northern parts of the olive grove. The surface is therefore artificially peppered by newly excavated material, an issue which needs to be taken into consideration when carrying out possible future observations.

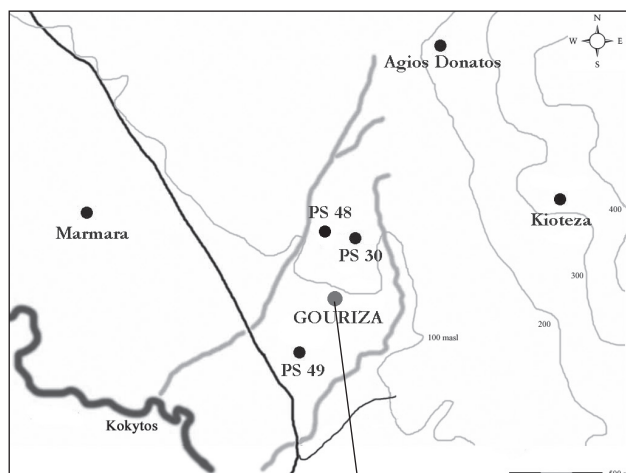


Fig. 1. The location of Gouriza in relation to the Kokytos and other neighbouring archaeological sites.

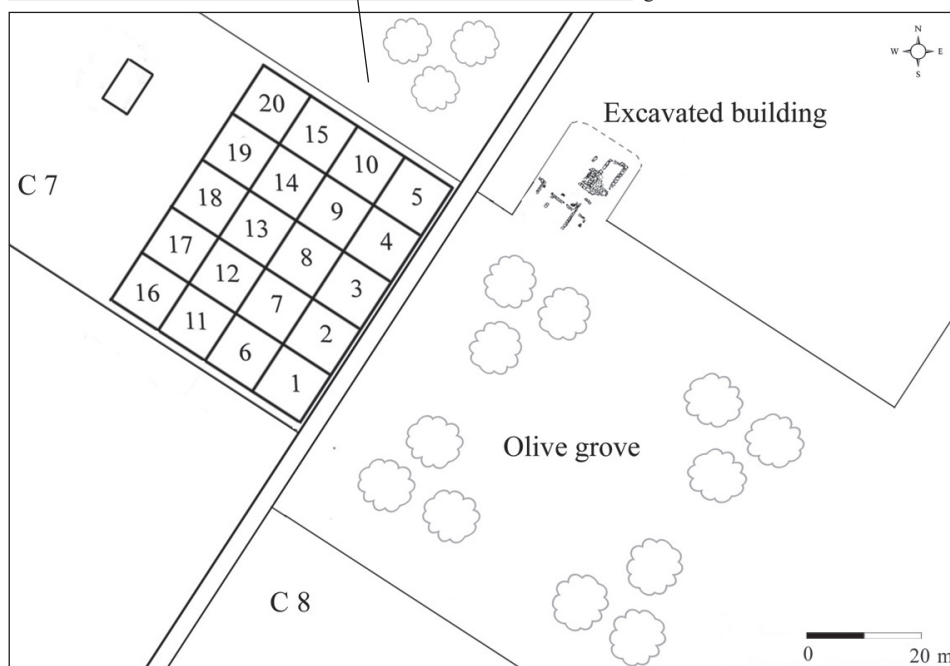


Fig. 2. Map showing the location of the fields C 7 and C 8 and the olive grove, as well as the gridded part of C 7 and the excavated building in the northern edge of the olive grove.

The following two years, i.e. in 2007 and 2008, the field C 7 and its immediate vicinity was a target of active archaeological research. Part of C 7 was gridded and intensively surveyed, then prospected by magnetometer and finally studied by trial trenches. Further, the limestone blocks were revealed to belong to the large building structure at the northern edge of the olive grove. It was first studied by trial trenches as part of the Thesprotia Expedition and later excavated in its entirety by the Greek Archaeological Service. The site as a whole was subsequently interpreted as a Late Classical to Early Hellenistic village.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Forsén *et al.* 2011, 116-119.

The various studies implemented in the field C 7, where the site was first observed, are tied together in this chapter. The existence of several different datasets obtained through different methods makes this tract, the Gouriza field, into a good case study of comparing the results drawn on the basis of the surface scatter with the real subsurface remains. The excavated building in the northern edge of the olive grove will be the subject of another forthcoming study.<sup>7</sup>

## Surface finds and magnetometer prospection

After the initial observations in connection with the walking of tracts, the southeastern half of C 7 was gridded in order to collect more refined information on the distribution and extent of the topsoil finds. 20 squares measuring 10x10 m each were marked out in four rows covering a total area of 2000 m<sup>2</sup>. The find density was calculated in 5 m<sup>2</sup> circles at the centre of each square. The results indicate a concentration of finds along the very southeastern edge of the field (Figs. 2-3), with the squares bordering to the dirt road showing the highest find density numbers. The surface finds consisted of badly preserved pottery sherds, fragments of Laconian roof-tiles and a loom-weight. Tiles were found in large amounts in every square, their number being in average about five times higher than that of pottery (Fig. 3).<sup>8</sup>

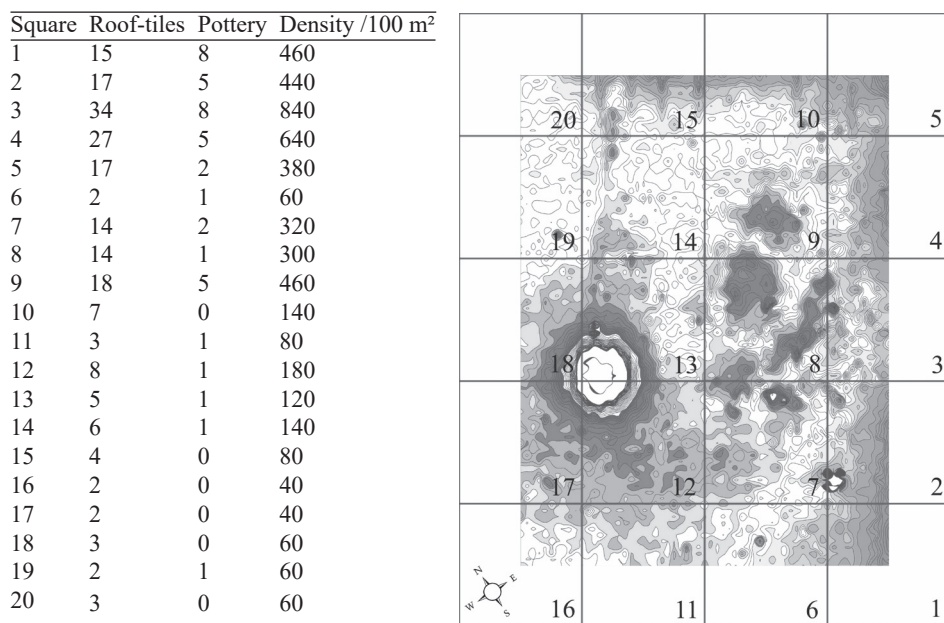


Fig. 3. Surface finds from the squares in comparison with the magnetometer map.

<sup>7</sup> Turmo, forthcoming.

<sup>8</sup> Occasional flint fragments form a small part of the assemblage. They occur in nearly all fields of the Kokytos valley. Further cf. Forsén *et al.*, this volume.





Fig. 4. Work in progress in the Gouriza field (C 7) in the years 2006 and 2007.

Once the surface finds had been documented, the part of the field that had been gridded was surveyed by magnetometer. Due to magnetic disturbances caused by the iron fence surrounding the field no measurements could be taken closer than 5-10 m to the fence.<sup>9</sup> The circumstances for conducting a geophysical survey were considered promising, since the subsurface remains were covered by an unobstructed flat field.<sup>10</sup>

The magnetometer survey gave interesting results (Fig. 3). Magnetic anomalies referring to concentrations of ceramic material and possible underground structures could be seen particularly in the eastern half of the detected area, very much as evidenced by the surface finds. Squares 8 and 9 were considered most promising, where the dark areas in the magnetometer map were assumed to indicate concentrations of ceramic material and were interpreted as possible rooms. The areas in various shades of grey delimiting these dark areas were thought to indicate traces of walls. The large round anomaly at the border between squares 12 and 13 is caused by an underground pipeline of the modern irrigation system with a standpipe. The installation of the pipeline had largely contaminated most of the western half of the prospected area.<sup>11</sup>

If assumed, that the magnetic anomalies of squares 8 and 9 represent the centre of the site, then the find density falls off sharply only some 10 m from the centre of the site, something that can be considered a rather low lateral displacement in a field actively

<sup>9</sup> The magnetometer survey was conducted by T. Smekalova in 2007. See Smekalova 2009, 18-20 for the methodology used.

<sup>10</sup> Cf. Cavanagh *et al.* 2005 for geophysical prospection on rural sites in Greece in general.

<sup>11</sup> The underground pipeline is faintly visible running towards the north from the standpipe.

under cultivation.<sup>12</sup> This observation seemed to indicate that the actual site was buried deep, almost out of reach of the traditional ploughing. This was also confirmed by coring with a geological auger, whereby a cultural layer was found ca. 40-50 cm below the surface.<sup>13</sup>

Although the highest density of the surface finds had been found in the squares bordering the dirt road (especially squares 3 and 4), no magnetic anomalies could be detected here. This may depend on the iron fence surrounding the field or the construction of the dirt road, which disturbed the magnetometer data. The detected distribution of topsoil finds in squares 3 and 4 may alternatively result from continuous ploughing, which could have accumulated the artefacts to the southeast end of the field. The field is located on relatively level ground, which is sloping down towards the south with less than half a meter in 10 m length. The measured changes in the altitude did not seem significant for the distribution of the surface finds (Fig. 4).

## Excavation and stratigraphy

In 2007 a trial excavation was launched in C 7, targeted at the magnetometer anomalies observed in squares 8 and 9. Because the augering samples from the site had indicated that the cultural layer was located at a depth of 40-50 cm below surface, the uppermost 30-40 cm was removed with the help of a back-hoe. This first layer comprised the ploughzone of mixed hard packed light brown clayish soil (Fig. 5).

After the topsoil had been removed a narrow test trench (12x1 m, divided into A1, A2 and A6) running parallel to the dirt road through squares 8 and 9 was opened

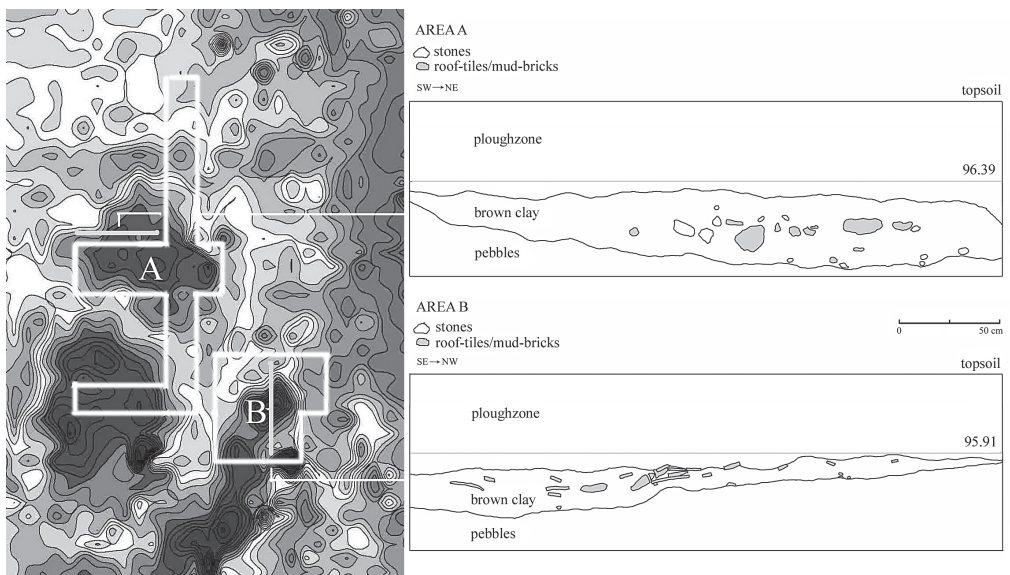


Fig. 5. Excavated areas and stratigraphy of the Gouriza field. The drawn profiles are indicated as light grey bars.

<sup>12</sup> Terrenato 2004, 40-41.

<sup>13</sup> Unpublished results of the geo-archaeological work conducted by M. Lavento and M. Lahtinen in 2007.



in order to reveal the possible wall structures and ceramic remains anticipated by the magnetometer survey. Consistent with auger measurements, roughly 45-50 cm below surface, two to three concentrations of ceramic material were detected. The finds were clustered in clearly limited areas and correspond well with the dark areas highlighted in the magnetometer map. However, the lighter areas between the concentrations did not provide fixed structures as tentatively interpreted. Instead they appeared to correspond to sections of either very little ceramic material or no finds at all.

The first long trial trench was later extended in order to cover more of the anomalies visible on the magnetometer map. The total excavated area in the field C 7 eventually amounted to 39 m<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 6), being divided into 14 subareas of different size (A1-A8 and B1-B6). Three different concentrations of ceramic material were localized, all apparently corresponding to the magnetic anomalies detected in the survey squares 8 and 9 (Fig. 5). Two of these concentrations were studied in more detail (mainly located in subareas A2-A5 and A7 and subareas B1-B6 respectively). The finds from these concentrations are here considered as assemblages A and B. Subarea A8 verified the existence of a third ceramic concentration, which however due to time restrictions could not be studied in detail.

Despite of the variety in the thickness of the cultural layer and in the composition of the ceramic material, the general stratigraphy for both areas can be reconstructed as comprising three basic layers (Fig. 5). The topsoil mixed by ploughing extends down to 35-45 cm below surface. This ploughzone consists of hard packed light brown clay with random fragments of roof-tiles and pottery. The following second layer includes the cultural debris; ceramic concentrations mixed with much darker and denser clayey soil. The soil was in places found very compact and difficult to remove. This layer was detected only in connection with the ceramic material and it varied in thickness between 10 and 35 cm. In those subareas where no ceramics were detected the soil turned into a layer of white pebbles mixed with gravel immediately after the ploughzone. This same third layer without finds also formed the sterile bed below the layer containing ceramics.

The find concentration assemblage A covered an area of 10-12 m<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 6). Finds included a large number of fragmented roof-tiles and mudbricks, pottery sherds and occasional bronze objects. The composition of the finds which at first appeared as the typical assemblage of a destruction layer commonly encountered within ancient buildings, revealed characteristics which call caution in the interpretation. The change in the soil was not directly connected to the layer of finds, but appeared well before the ceramic concentration emerged. Furthermore, no clear layer of collapsed roof-tiles was discerned. Instead, the roof-tiles of the assemblage appeared to be incorporated in a rather haphazard manner into an accumulation of various ceramic materials together with pottery and mudbricks. The find layer was broadest at the middle, reaching a thickness of 35 cm and narrowing steadily towards the edges.

The ceramics of assemblage B were located closer to the dirt road covering an area of approximately 12-14 m<sup>2</sup>. Again, the finds were accumulated directly above the pebble layer.<sup>14</sup> The ceramic layer (in average 15-20 cm) is clearly thinner than in assemblage B. Here the assemblage provides characteristics which can be considered typical of the remains of a collapsed building. Roof-tiles form a thin, although very restricted horizontal

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<sup>14</sup> It should be added that the excavation notes do not make any mention of a detected floor level other than the pebble layer mixed with gravel.

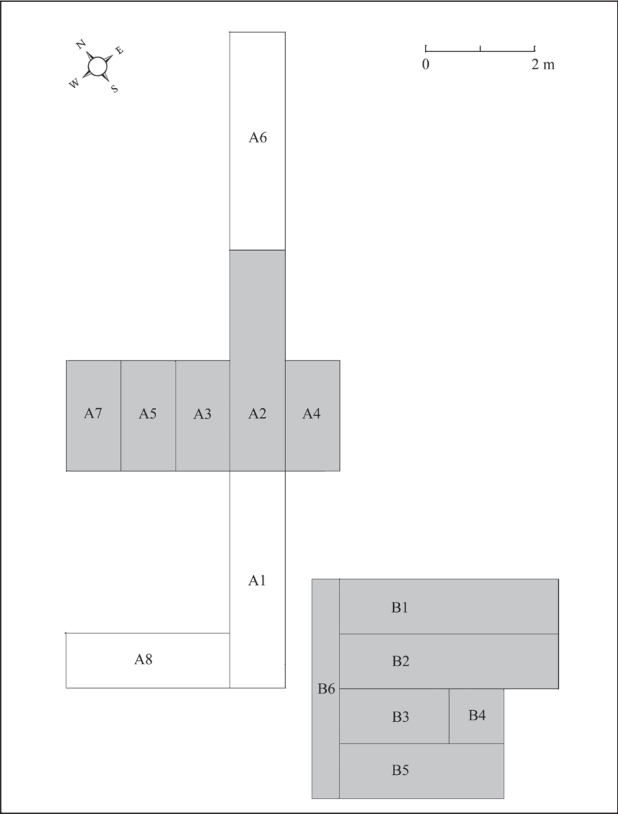


Fig. 6. Map showing the location of the excavation subareas in the field C 7 together with statistical data pertaining to pottery and roof-tiles found in each subarea.

Pottery							Tiles	
sq	m <sup>2</sup>	n	g	Dens./m <sup>2</sup>	g/m <sup>2</sup>	MNV	n	Dens./m <sup>2</sup>
A1	4	39	203	10	51	1	132	33
A2	4	187	2 708	47	677	9	264	66
A3	2	185	3 361	93	1 681	15	148	74
A4	2	138	796	69	398	4	92	46
A5	2	102	5 473	51	2 737	5	121	61
A6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A7	2	72	398	36	199	0	39	20
A8	3	170	782	57	261	0	112	37
	23	893	13721			34	908	

	m <sup>2</sup>	n	g	Dens./m <sup>2</sup>	g/m <sup>2</sup>	MNV	n	Dens./m <sup>2</sup>
B1	4	68	348	17	87	0	81	20
B2	4	593	2 289	148	572	7	173	43
B3	2	129	529	65	265	4	146	73
B4	1	93	355	93	355	0	180	180
B5	3	189	787	63	262	3	158	53
B6	2	53	164	27	82	1	33	17
	16	1125	4472			15	771	

carpet, which allows a cautious interpretation as a destruction layer of a collapsed roof. A change in soil matrix can be associated more directly with the layer of roof-tiles and unlike in Area A the finds, which were recovered either right below or incorporated into the layer of roof-tiles, were mixed with charcoal indicating destruction by fire.

Therefore, although no fixed structures or walls could be found, the remains of Area B appear to belong to a building covered with a roof. A stone foundation for the building may originally have existed, but later been demolished and removed in connection with subsequent agricultural clearing operations. Examples of severe damage on fixed foundations inflicted by deep ploughing are common all around Greece.<sup>15</sup> Yet, not all rural buildings necessarily were built on a foundation made of stone. In particular, buildings which were not in the first hand meant for permanent habitation, like stables or outhouses, stood frequently on plain soil. The thick gravel bed which was detected in the field C 7 could have served as an adequate foundation for a mudbrick superstructure and a lighter roof construction. In any case, domestic buildings without stone foundation must have been much more common than the current meagre archaeological evident refers. In fact such a simple construction, which leaves a weaker foot print in the landscape, is probably more typical for the small rural sites found by survey projects than e.g. the Attic houses (Dema and Vari), which have become paradigms when interpreting surface finds.<sup>16</sup>

## Finds

In the absence of wall structures, the closer analysis of the finds and ceramics in particularly proved decisive for the interpretation of the site. The two excavated find concentrations showed a markedly different composition of pottery shapes. Moreover, the preserved fragments provided characteristics which gave some indication of the possible origins of the material.

In general, assemblage A included a much larger bulk of pottery than assemblage B (Fig. 7), both in number of vessels (33 vs. 15) and in the variety of shapes (12 vs. 4). Yet the category of fine wares in both assemblages looks quite similar. Both assemblages are dominated by bowls and cups. The number of bowls is especially conspicuous. The bowls occur in various sizes (rim 5-16 cm), the smallest examples corresponding to the category of salt cellar. The fabric appears very homogenous, with fine, well-fired buff clay. The bowl category may include examples of one-handlers which, due to a similar looking profile without preserved handles, can easily be misclassified as bowls. The shapes of fine ware used for the pouring of liquids (jug, lekythos and lagynos) are only found in assemblage A.

The fundamental difference of the two assemblages becomes evident when looking at the plain wares and the cooking wares. The plain wares of Area A are dominated by container vessels like pithoi and amphorae (Nos. 9 and 10). Their high number is notable in particularly in relation to Area B, where they were not found at all. A similar situation prevails concerning cooking wares, which belong only to assemblage A.

The plain wares of assemblage A, while covering by far the largest bulk of the material in both weight and the number of sherds, do not offer any dominating ceramic

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<sup>15</sup> Cf. Haagsma 2003, 60-62, 65-68 for examples from Thessaly.

<sup>16</sup> Foxhall 2001, 217; Galaty *et al.* 2004, 303.

Summary of Finds			Pottery by ware			
	A	B	A	%	B	%
<i>Pottery:</i>			<i>Fine ware</i>			
Number of sherds	684	1 125	Cups	2	4	
Weight (g)	12 736	4 472	Bowls	9	5	
MNV	33	15	Jugs	2	0	
<i>Other artefacts:</i>			Lekythos	1	0	
Number of tiles	664	771	Lagynos	1	0	
Loom-weights	0	1		15	45.4	9 60,0
Bronze objects	3	0	<i>Plain ware</i>			
Iron fragments	1	0	Amphorae	2	0	
<i>Organic remains:</i>			Pithoi	7	0	
Bones	27	0	Jugs	0	2	
			Lekanai	1	4	
			Basin	1	0	
			Mortaria	1	0	
				12	36.4	6 40,0
			<i>Cooking ware</i>			
			Lopades	2	0	
			Lids	2	0	
			Others	2	0	
				6	18.2	0 0
			Total	33	15	

Fig. 7. Map showing the location of the excavation subareas in the field C 7 together with statistical data pertaining to pottery and roof-tiles found in each subarea.

fabric. Quite on the contrary the vessels show a large variety in clay matrix. Another noted characteristic, evident in particular concerning the large container vessels, is the lack of body sherds. Pithoi and amphorae were generally represented only by diagnostic rim fragments, while the body sherds, which constitute by far the largest percentage of complete vessels, were mostly missing. Amphora No. 9, for example, provided both handles, parts of the rim and base, but nothing else from the full body of the vessel.<sup>17</sup> The phenomenon is further emphasized in comparison with assemblage B where the number of vessels remained significantly lower than in assemblage A (15 vs. 33) despite the fact that the number of sherds was much higher (1125 vs. 684).

The peculiar over-representation of diagnostic sherds makes it highly likely that assemblage A must have gone through a process where part of the fragments of the vessels has been reused or discarded elsewhere. The large rim fragments cannot possibly represent the accidental residue in the floor, nor can they without body sherds be part of any preserved assemblage of a destruction layer. The composition of the assemblage fits much better the characteristics of a secondary deposit, strengthening the observations made already on the basis of the stratigraphy. Being located close to a domestic building, such a pile can be associated with the provisional discard of domestic household material waiting for a suitable recycling use.<sup>18</sup> Rubbish heaps and the existence of household refuse for practical ends are often encountered close to domestic buildings both in urban and rural contexts.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>17</sup> The total weight of the pithoi provides another example, where the lack of body sherds is reflected. Whereas the Sevasto assemblage with 11 pithoi weighed nearly 120 kg (Turmo 2011, 189), the eight pithoi of assemblage A weighed only 9 kg.

<sup>18</sup> LaMotta and Schiffer 1999, 21-22.

<sup>19</sup> Alcock *et al.* 1994, 145-147; Pettegrew 2001, 198-199.

Further evidence concerning the different character of the two find assemblages was offered by the analysis of animal bones.<sup>20</sup> The bones were in general badly preserved probably due to a same wet-dry cycle irrigation system, which badly deteriorates ceramic fabrics in the field. The small size and fragile condition of the bones prevented the identification of exact species, but, comprising mostly ribs and vertebrae, they could in general be classified as belonging to mammals of medium to large size. The bone finds can be considered as a typical waste from feasting. All the 27 bone fragments come from assemblage A. This makes sense if assemblage A is indeed interpreted as a rubbish dump. The floors of the ancient buildings were usually kept clean and they were swept from time to time. Organic material together with fragments of broken artefacts was dumped in a rubbish heap. The metal finds can be assumed to have ended up in the pile under similar circumstances. Although bronze handles and precious metals in general are clearly not commonly thrown away in rubbish heaps,<sup>21</sup> their inclusion can be explained by their broken nature.

Assemblage B shows a much more homogenous picture both concerning shapes and the fabric(s) of the vessels. The number of different shapes is in fact very limited (4). The fine ware fragments are generally very small (average length and width ca. 1-2 cm) and joins are rare, each shape represented only by one small fragment. On the basis of these characteristics they can be described as possible residue from breakage and they can be considered as primary refuse. Consisting of fragments small enough to have avoided detection during periodic clean-up, in time they probably became incorporated into the earth floor of the building.

The large jug No. 8, on the other hand, was found broken into a total of 78 sherds and spread inside a wide area of several excavated squares B1-B5 (for data on the excavated squares, see Fig. 6). These sherds provided clear breaks, which allowed the vessel to be mended from the rim to the belly. As an individual vase this large jug dominates assemblage B, constituting nearly 10% of the total weight of the ceramics. The greatest bulk of the pottery, however, both in terms of weight and number of sherds, was provided by the fabric of reddish yellow clay with small quartz inclusions. Easily breakable, it is fragmented into hundreds of sherds providing evidence of approximately 3-4 vessels of open shape, which find their closest parallel in a lekane or shallow bowl (No. 12).

The jug and the lekane can be considered part of the final systemic assemblage (*de facto* deposit) buried under the destruction layer of the roof-tiles. Broken and scattered over the floor, the vessels provide evidence for the final function of the room, which probably involved food production or storage. If not a small roofed construction on its own, the excavated Area B may well represent part of a larger building, which was partly destroyed and covered by the current dirt road. The thick topsoil scatter detected on the other side of the road may thus belong to the same building.

Because of the short distance between Area A and Area B it seems highly likely that the two assemblages are somehow related to each other. This is evident already on the basis of the fact that the fabrics of the fine ware look very similar in both assemblages. However, no sherds or joins from vessels can be detected that would directly connect the

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<sup>20</sup> The bones were analysed in 2010 by V. Deckwirth.

<sup>21</sup> The rarity of the bronze fragments found in the post-depositional context is testified in rubbish heaps excavated in the city of Halieis, where otherwise rich town context provided only one coin and unrecognized odd fragments of metal in two large excavated rubbish piles (Ault 1999, 567-568).



two assemblages. Rather than expecting a one-to-one relationship, the rubbish dump, comprising a wide array of pottery shapes, can be interpreted as a representative selection of ceramics used in a domestic context. Very little is missing from the pottery shapes generally associated with domestic assemblages. The great variety of fabrics present, in particularly in the plain wares, nevertheless reflects the fact that the dump received waste from not just one, but several sources. It can therefore be better interpreted as a mixed assemblage of the village, including rubbish probably deriving from several buildings and households belonging to the Gouriza site.

## Catalogue

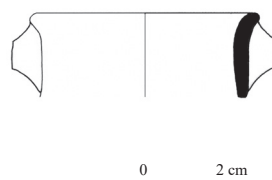
### *Pottery*

1. Skyphos. Rim diam. 5.9 cm. Small fragment of rim with handle attachment preserved. Fine reddish yellow buff clay (Munsell 5YR 6/6) with small white inclusions. Black glazed.

Find context: B2, Loc. 2, p. 3.

Cf. Edwards 1975, 76-82; Pemberton 1989, 34-36; McPhee and Pemberton 2012, 176-177.

Date: 350-275 BC.



2. One-handler. Rim diam. 8.8 cm. Base diam. 4.0 cm. Est. height 4.7 cm. Strong inward curve of the wall. Ring base. Rim and base restored from four fragments. A shallow boss below rim indicates attachment point for a handle. Very fine reddish yellow buff clay (7.5YR 7/6) with small white inclusions. Black glazed.

Find context: B2, Loc. 2, p. 2; B3, Loc. 2, p. 2-3.

Cf. McPhee and Pemberton 2012, 180-183, nos. VI-75-89; Andreou 2009, 129-139.

Date: 350-275 BC.



3. Echinus bowl. Rim diam. 16 cm.

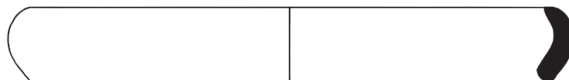
Strong inward curve of the wall.

Preserved in one small fragment. Very fine reddish yellow buff clay (7.5YR 7/6) with small white inclusions. Black glazed.

Find context: B5, Loc. 1, p. 1.

Cf. Sparkes and Talcott 1970, 131-132, nos. 825-842; Andreou 2009, 129-139; McPhee and Pemberton 2012, 105-107, nos. IV-7-15.

Date: 350-300 BC.



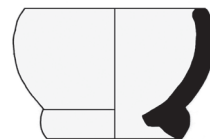
4. Salt cellar. Rim diam. 4.6 cm. Base diam. 3.4 cm. Height 3.4 cm.

Inturned rim. Ring base. One-half complete, restored from eight fragments. Very fine reddish yellow buff clay (7.5YR 8/6-7/6) with small white inclusions, possible mica. Black glazed. With a rim diameter of just 4.6 cm the vessel could also be interpreted as a miniature vessel.

Find context: A3, Loc. 2, p. 6.

Cf. Gauer 1975, 198-202, no. 30,15; Sparkes and Talcott 1970, 137-138, nos. 947-950; Rotroff 1997, 167, nos. 1075-1076.

Date: 375-300 BC.

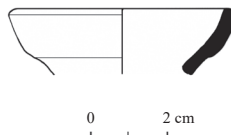


5. Lekythos. Rim diam. 5.6 cm. Preserved in one fragment. Pale yellow buff clay (2.5YR 8/3-8/4). Black glazed.

Find context: A4, Loc. 2, p. 1.

Cf. Sparkes and Talcott 1970, nos. 1107-1108; Rotroff 1997, 155-156.

Date: Fourth century BC.



6. Lagynos? Rim diam. 3.0 cm. Preserved in one fragment. Pale yellow buff clay (2.5YR 8/2). Black glazed. Small white/red inclusions.

Find context: A3, Loc. 2, p. 1.

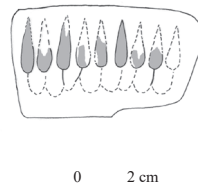


7. Crater. Rim diam. 35 cm. Preserved in two fragments. Strongly projecting rim. Top side of rim decorated with a chain of lotus buds. On overhang traces of ivy decoration. Painted in glossy black glaze. Reddish yellow sandy very fine buff clay (5YR 7/6) with small grey inclusions.

Find context: Removal of the topsoil; A5, Loc. 1, p. 1.

Cf. Hidri 1994, 154, Tab I.1.; Forsén *et al.* 2011, 118-119.

Date: 525-450 BC.

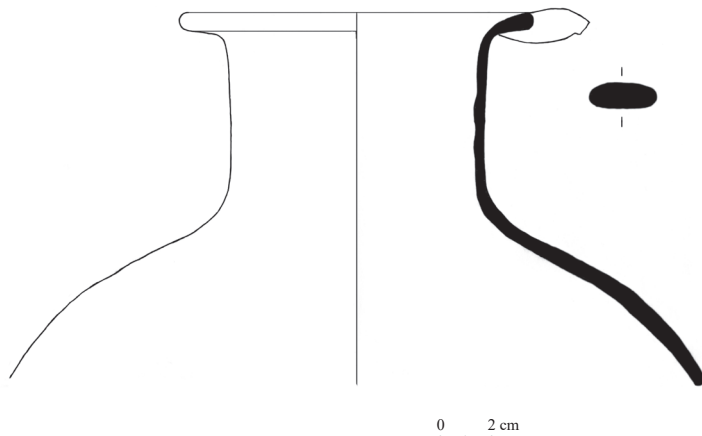


8. Jug/Pitcher. Rim diam. 14 cm. Restored height from belly to rim 15 cm. Projecting rim. Strap handle from shoulder to rim. 78 fragments. Light yellow buff clay (7.5YR 8/6-7/6) with small grey inclusions, reddish spots on surface.

Find context: B1, Loc. 1-2, p. 1; B2, Loc. 2, p. 1-7; B3, Loc. 2, p. 2; B4, Loc. 2, p. 1; B5, Loc. 1, p. 1; B5, Loc. 2, p. 4.

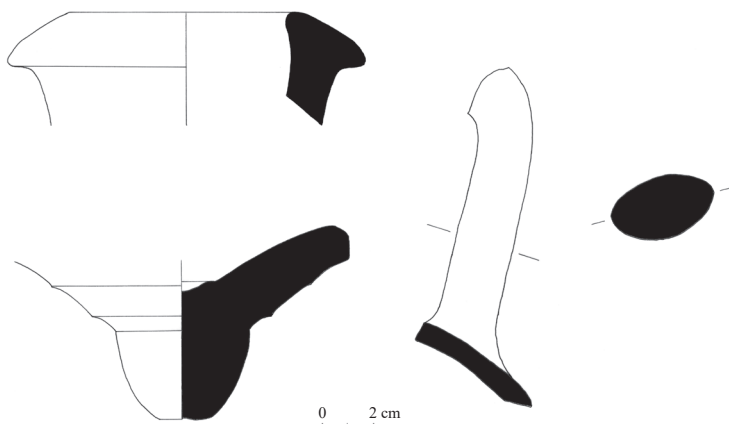
Cf. McPhee and Pemberton 2012, 146-147; Pemberton 1989, 18-19.

Date: Fourth century BC.



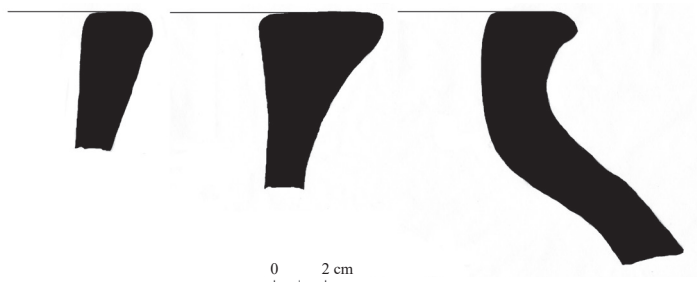
9. Amphora. Rim diam. 8.8 cm. Down-turned rim with inner edge. Handles oval in section. Preserved with rim, handles and toe. Pale yellow clay (2.5YR 8/2) with inclusions of quartz and ceramics. Light pinkish stripe in core.

Find context: A2, Loc. 1, p. 1; A3, Loc. 1, p. 1; A4, Loc. 1, p. 1.



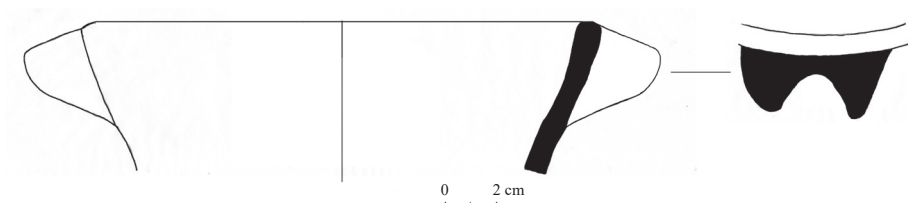
10 a-c. Pithoi. Rim diam. from 26 to 40 cm. a and c: Light red coarse fabric with black core with a lot of large white gravel inclusions, badly burnt and crumbles easily. b: Similar fabric to basin No. 11 with reddish yellow clay with a lot of large white inclusions, gravel.

Find context: A2, Loc. 2, p. 2; A3, Loc. 2, p. 1; A3, Loc. 2, p. 4.



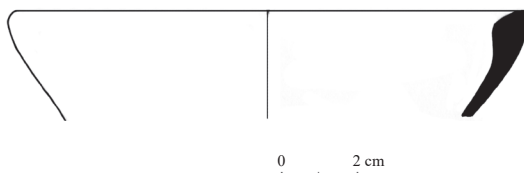
11. Basin. Rim diam. 19 cm. Handle and part of rim restored. Handmade. Spool handle. Coarse reddish yellow clay (5YR 7/6) with a lot of white gravel inclusions.

Find context: A3, Loc. 2, p. 1.



12. Lekane. Rim diam. 22 cm. Slightly incurved rim. Preserved in one fragment. Reddish yellow clay (5YR 7/8-6/8) with a lot of inclusions (large white and grey with ceramics and occasional shells), well-fired, surface scraped.

Find context: B6, Loc. 1, p. 2.

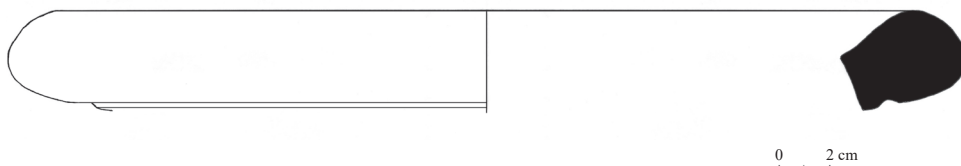


13. Heavy-rim mortar. Rim diam. 34 cm. Almost horizontal rim. Articulated by strong groove on underside. One fragment preserves part of rim. Pale yellow buff clay (2.5YR 8/2), light pinkish stripe in core. No grits. Red and grey inclusions.

Find context: A5, Loc. 2, p. 6.

Cf. Villing and Pemberton 2010, 590-594; Turmo 2011, 189-191, no.17.

Date: Late fifth to third centuries BC.



### *Small finds*

14. Bronze handle (possibly of situla). Thickness 0.2-0.3 cm. Diameter 4.5 cm. Weight 4 g. Semicircular swinging handle ending in buds.

Find context: A2, Loc. 2, p. 2.

Cf. Gauer 1991, 279-280, E133, 144; Kanta-Kitsou *et al.* 2008, 118.

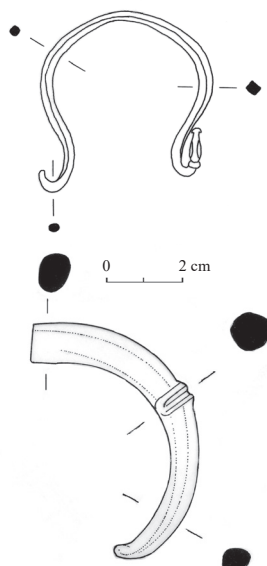
Date: Mid-fourth century BC.

15. Bronze handle. Thickness 0.4-1.0 cm. Estim. diam. 9.0 cm. Weight 33 g. Octagonal cross section with notched pearl. Roughly half preserved of the original length.

Find context: A5, Loc. 2, p. 6.

Cf. Gauer 1991, 232, Le 547-551, 554; Turmo 2011, 194, no. 29.

Date: Late Classical to Early Hellenistic.



## Date

The dating of rural structures more closely often turns out to be a difficult task. One of the problems lies in the composition of ceramics dominated by cooking ware and container vessels which are generally difficult to date more precisely. The problem is emphasized in survey projects which normally collect only a handful of badly preserved ceramic fragments as surface finds.<sup>22</sup> The surface finds from cultivated fields are exposed to several processes of which abrasion and dry-wet cycles particularly are known to cause serious damage to the ceramic fabric.<sup>23</sup> The collected topsoil ceramics from the gridded area C 7 identified, for instance, only two shapes, including a rim of black glazed drinking cup and a possible lekane rim.<sup>24</sup> Based primarily on these diagnostic sherds, the site was dated to the Late Classical to Early Hellenistic period.

The trial excavation provided a much larger, yet still very fragmentary, ceramic assemblage. The fineware, which commonly provides more closely dated shapes, is represented in very fragmentary condition. Given the absence of joins, vessels could only rarely be reconstructed to provide fuller profiles. Nevertheless, a few distinctive shapes together with the bronze objects give a reasonable broad base for dating the site. Moreover, rather than looking at a single vessel for a date, the larger and more balanced assemblage of the excavation offers general characteristics which help to place it into a narrower time frame. The recently studied and published Hellenistic assemblage of the Sevasto house (275-220/200 BC), located some 8 km to the north in the Kokytos valley, is, for instance, a useful point of reference.<sup>25</sup>

A notable difference can be seen in cup shapes. Whereas the Sevasto assemblage is dominated by the Hellenistic kantharos, a prevalent shape of Hellenistic sites in the valley, the Gouriza field assemblage relies largely on the Classical skyphos.<sup>26</sup> Small fragments can allow only a relatively wide dating, but in general the skyphoi represent a late example of the shape dating to the Late Classical or the Early Hellenistic times (350-275 BC). Another distinctive feature of the Gouriza assemblage is the complete lack of plates. Instead, the category for serving and eating is represented only by bowls. This feature is typical of the late fourth century<sup>27</sup> and stands in a clear contrast to the Hellenistic assemblage (of Sevasto), where bowls and plates were present in much more equal numbers. The echinus bowl and the salt cellar also suggest a post mid-fourth century date.<sup>28</sup>

The bronze finds fit well with the time horizon suggested by the pottery. The only coin of the assemblage comes from the neighbouring region of Molossia and dates between 360 and 330/325 BC.<sup>29</sup> The elaborate bronze handle (No. 14), with a good parallel from

<sup>22</sup> Sanders 2004, 163-167; Foxhall 2004, 259; Bintliff 2008, 26-27.

<sup>23</sup> Taylor 2000, 19-23.

<sup>24</sup> Forsén *et al.* 2011, 118.

<sup>25</sup> Turmo 2011.

<sup>26</sup> Two small fragments from assemblage B could tentatively belong to a Hellenistic kantharos. They are made from a markedly different fabric of gray buff clay. The one-handler is here considered multifunctional both as a drinking cup and a food bowl.

<sup>27</sup> Anderson-Stojanović 1993, 266.

<sup>28</sup> See discussion on bowls: McPhee and Pemberton 2012, 103-109; Sparkes and Talcott 1970, 128-138; Rotroff 1997, 157-168.

<sup>29</sup> Talvio 2011, 314.



Dymokastro, can be dated to the mid-fourth century BC.<sup>30</sup> The fragment of a semicircular handle (No. 15) represents a type which, although generally dated to the Late Classical period, also shares some characteristics with a handle from Sevasto. The lack of kantharoi and various distinctive shapes of plates introduced later on during the Hellenistic period gives a *terminus ante quem* for the Gouriza assemblage of ca. 275 BC.<sup>31</sup> In conclusion, the assemblage on the whole seems to date to between 350 and 275 BC.

A notable exception to the relative unity of finds is a crater of Late Archaic to Early Classical date. A large rim fragment was collected from the removed topsoil and, having no precise find context, it was not possible to relate it directly to the excavated units. Yet, a closer look at the fabric and glaze revealed another possible fragment of the same vessel, thus connecting the vase to assemblage A of the rubbish dump. The crater, by far the oldest dated find from the field, adds historical perspective to the Gouriza site. It also hints to the possibility that very fragmentary material includes other shapes, which although not identified, may belong to the previous and older period of habitation rather than the dominating assemblage of the Late Classical to Early Hellenistic period.

## Discussion

Surface scatters of various density and extent are frequently encountered during intensive survey work and present one of the most common indications of archaeological sites. Most of the smaller scatters found in rural contexts (without related architecture) are generally interpreted as farmsteads, with various survey projects sharing much the same methodology in defining the sites.<sup>32</sup> Due to the humble nature of the finds and the fact that they are usually located in actively cultivated fields, such surface scatters rarely attract any further research activity, with excavations being almost non-existent. Nevertheless the great variety and complexity behind the generic term 'farmstead' is not, and probably cannot be tackled relying only on studies of surface finds.

Initially, without subsequent studies of magnetometer and excavation, the surface scatter in Gouriza field was no doubt positively classified as a rural building belonging to the small village which was assumed to be located in the neighbouring olive grove. All the common find categories associated with rural structures were already present on the surface. Plenty of roof-tiles, coarse and plain ware pottery, combined with a few sherds of black glaze fine wares and an occasional loom-weight, covering an area of ca. 40x50 m, making a good case to justify the classification.

Nevertheless, the following magnetometer prospection and the trial excavation in the field made it possible to distinguish and separate two archaeological phenomena which on the topsoil appeared as one uniform ceramic scatter. Moreover, while surface finds are often considered a reliable representation of the ceramics originally associated with the site, the excavation in this occasion was clearly able to reveal ceramic categories and metal finds which were not observed among the surface finds. This is probably to be explained by the fact that the site was fairly deeply buried, unlike the majority of rural

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<sup>30</sup> Kanta-Kitsou *et al.* 2008, 118.

<sup>31</sup> For example: James 2010, Appendix iii.

<sup>32</sup> Pettygreave 2001, 190.

sites, which are usually shallow sites subjected to more rigorous erosional processes.<sup>33</sup> The larger and more versatile find assemblage expanded the archaeological basis for the interpretation, revealing characteristics which were beyond the capabilities of the survey assemblage. The case provides evidence of how different ancient activities may leave almost identical fingerprints in the landscape.

The majority of survey projects in Greece have revealed some kind of population peak during the Classical and/or the Early Hellenistic period. The rural landscape has been scattered with numerous small sites interpreted as isolated farmsteads.<sup>34</sup> In the Kokytos valley isolated farmsteads seem to be rare. The rural population instead appears to have lived in settlement clusters consisting of small villages like the one detected in Gouriza and adjacent satellite farmsteads. Such settlement clusters were found scattered in the valley at a distance of approximately 2-3 km from each other.<sup>35</sup> The population peak observed in the larger Epirus region seems to occur slightly later than usual, i.e., not until the Early Hellenistic period.<sup>36</sup>

The site of Gouriza has been the target of various campaigns of archaeological field work during the years 2006 to 2008. Together with the forthcoming publication of the excavated building in the olive grove, the site has a clear potential to test and refine the conclusions perceived on settlement patterns. The majority of the finds connects the habitation to the Late Classical to Early Hellenistic period, beginning around 350 BC which is somewhat earlier than the general flourishing and the subsequent population peak in the valley. Nevertheless, as a fine black glazed crater indicates, the activity around the olive grove probably originates much earlier.

The present study, although providing evidence of the benefits of magnetometer prospection, also reveals challenges to be faced when dealing with rural sites with limited or no preserved architecture. The magnetometer data relies on stone structures in limiting the areas of ceramic material into separate spaces or rooms, but the interpretation of data, which may work well in an urban context, probably needs to be further refined when applied in a rural environment.

It is also vital to understand how various disturbances during the quite recent past have contributed to the damage and consequent difficulties of interpretation of sites located in or near cultivated fields. The Gouriza field is limited in the northwest by the irrigation pipe dug deep under the cultivated soil. In the southeast the dirt road at least partly cuts through the site. In addition we have decades of continuous agricultural processes involving ploughing and possible bulldozing. We learnt to recognize the severe damage caused to rural sites particularly by bulldozing on several occasions during the field work in the Kokytos valley: not just the levelling of sites, but sometimes their entire truncation and transfer to a completely different field! Rural sites exposed to modern rigorous agricultural practices are in immediate danger of, if not being completely destroyed, at least having their find contexts seriously damaged. A large number of newly discovered sites located by archaeological surveys are therefore in great need of further study before their potential is permanently lost.

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<sup>33</sup> Foxhall 2004, 260.

<sup>34</sup> Alcock *et al.* 1994, 142.

<sup>35</sup> Forsén 2011, 15.

<sup>36</sup> Galaty *et al.* 2004; Forsén 2011.

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