

NOTION ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY, 2018

A. Introduction

The fifth season of the Notion Archaeological Survey began on 22 June and ended on 29 July 2018. The average size of the staff was 10 persons. The director was Christopher Ratté. The Representative of the Ministry of Culture was Elvan Tarakcıođlu, for whose collegiality and helpfulness we are very grateful.

B. Current Work

As noted in previous reports, Notion is a coastal site approximately 35 ha in area, surrounded by 3 km long fortification walls (see fig. 1). It occupies a ridge running east-west and parallel with the coast, framed by two promontories projecting southward into the Aegean Sea. It is clear from the visible remains and from satellite imagery that Notion is a grid-planned city, oriented according to the cardinal directions. The promontories and the north and south slopes of the site are occupied by residential areas. The central ridge is dominated by a chain of public and sacred building complexes, set on terraces largely carved out of the native rock. These include, from west to east, the Temple of Athena, the Temple of "Apollo," the Agora, the Theater, and the "Gymnasium." The highest point on the site is the hill east of the Theater, which rises to an elevation of 85 m asl.

Work in 2018 had the same major emphases as in previous seasons:

- 1) Geophysical prospection of the "Gymnasium" and other areas
- 2) Documentation of civic, religious, and hydraulic architecture
- 3) Documentation of quarries and local geology
- 4) Collection and study of surface finds; study of objects found in 1994 by Mustafa Büyükkolancı, now in the Efes Museum
- 5) Site management plan and conservation

- 1) Geophysical prospection

The ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey begun in 2017 was continued in 2018. Survey was conducted in the "Gymnasium," the residential terraces west of the "Gymnasium," and the large peristyle structure south of the Bouleuterion (see Fig. 2). A total area of approximately 0.5 ha (5000 sq m) was surveyed with a GSSI 400 MHz antenna. Data were processed with Reflexw software by Sandmeier Geophysical Research. The "Gymnasium" is of particular interest. Very little is visible on the surface in this area, but the GPR survey revealed numerous buried features which are consistent with the identification of this area as a major public building complex (see Fig. 3). The GPR survey was carried out by Fırat Yiđit and G. Tucker.

2) Documentation of civic, religious, and hydraulic architecture

Architectural documentation focused on continued cleaning and surveying of the Theater (F. Rojas and A. Marko), the precincts of the Temples of “Apollo” (“Heroon”) and Athena (C. Ratté), and five previously undocumented cisterns (A. Commito and C. Kürtze). A laser scan of the Theater provides the most complete record made to date of this important and well-preserved building (see Fig. 4). Research on the Temples of “Apollo” and Athena included study of pieces of architectural ornament and sculpture originally collected by Mustafa Büyükkolancı in 1994, including fragments of the cult image of Athena from the Temple of Athena, and pieces of very fine architectural ornament, possibly from a door frame, from the Temple of “Apollo” (see Fig. 5). Laser scans were made of the previously undocumented cisterns.

3) The documentation and study of local quarries and geology begun in previous seasons by C. Steidl and P. Knoop was completed in 2018. In addition, study visits were made for comparative purposes to other marble quarries in the regions of Ephesus (Belevi and Kuş İni) and Sardis.

4) Continued collection of surface finds was a major emphasis of this season’s research, designed to complement the work of previous years so as to ensure consistent coverage of the entire site. To this end, we divided the site up into 30 m by 30 m squares; then, in areas which we had not previously sampled, we collected all surface finds in 6 m by 6 m squares within those larger units (omitting only areas where visibility was very poor). On Fig. 6, the red dots mark the corners of the 30 m by 30 m squares; the green dots mark the locations of the 189 6 m by 6 m collection units. The finds collected this summer are consistent with those collected in earlier seasons, corroborating our hypothesis that intensive occupation of the site was limited to the period extending from the third century B.C to the first century AD. Finds of particular interest included the figural handles of two terracotta braziers of a type manufactured in Knidos and other sites during the Hellenistic period (3rd-1st centuries BC) and widely exported around the Mediterranean world (see Fig. 7). The program of surface collection was supervised by A. Commito, with the participation of the entire survey team.

In addition to collection and study of surface finds, we also studied and documented all the inventoried finds from Notion in the Efes Museum in Selcuk. The results of this work are presented in a separate report. It is worth noting here, however, that these objects were of the same types as those collected in the course of our survey (including Hellenistic mold-made bowls, Ephesus-type lamps, terracotta loomweights, marble grave stelae, and fragments of several terracotta braziers comparable with that illustrated in Fig. 6), further corroborating our interpretation of the results of the survey. Museum research was carried out by C. DiFabio, A. Commito, and C. Ratté.

5) Work in 2018 on site management and conservation had two components: a) interviews with local residents and other stakeholders (S. Ness and F. Rojas), b) testing of a possible tourist path through the site (K. Velikov and S. Davis). The purpose of conducting interviews was to learn from local residents, business owners, students,

colleagues, and museum personnel about their perspectives on Notion, so as to plan for the future use and preservation of the site in cooperation with a variety of different stakeholder communities. An important component of such planning will be the implementation of a system of circulation through the site, designed both to elucidate the archaeology of ancient Notion and to capitalize on the natural beauty of the location (see Fig. 9). Many of the cities of ancient Ionia owed their prosperity to the sea, but in few cases is that relationship so strikingly present. We envision a path that will bring visitors into Notion from the northeast, and take them through the site along the lines of ancient streets in such a way as to draw their attention to the city plan and to major residential, civic, and religious buildings, concluding with the Temple of Athena. The path also provides lookout points toward Ephesus and Samos, the harbors of Notion, and the inland Sanctuary of Apollo at Claros. We undertook to visualize and test the effectiveness of this path in 2018 by staking it out on the ground, mowing the grass in the area of the path, documenting it through still and video photography (see Fig. 9), and showing it to visitors from the various stakeholder communities discussed above.

C. Conclusions

It has been a great privilege to inaugurate a program of archaeological research at Notion. Work on the final publication of the results of the survey of the site is underway. We will now apply for permission 1) to extend the survey to the surrounding region, 2) to begin excavation at the site in order to build in the results of the survey, and to improve the security and accessibility of this invaluable cultural and ecological resource. We have secured funding for this project from the University of Michigan, the US government, and various private foundations, and we hope to have the opportunity to continue our work in cooperation with the responsible authorities of the Republic of Turkey, and with Turkish colleagues and students.

Illustrations

- Fig. 1 Plan of site
- Fig. 2 Overall map of results of GPR survey
- Fig. 3 Detailed map of results of GPR survey in area of “Gymnasium”
- Fig. 4 Laser scan of Theater
- Fig. 5 Architectural block from Temple of “Apollo”
- Fig. 6 Map showing surface find collection areas
- Fig. 7 Handles of terracotta braziers (surface finds)
- Fig. 8 Site management plan
- Fig. 9 Proposed tourist path

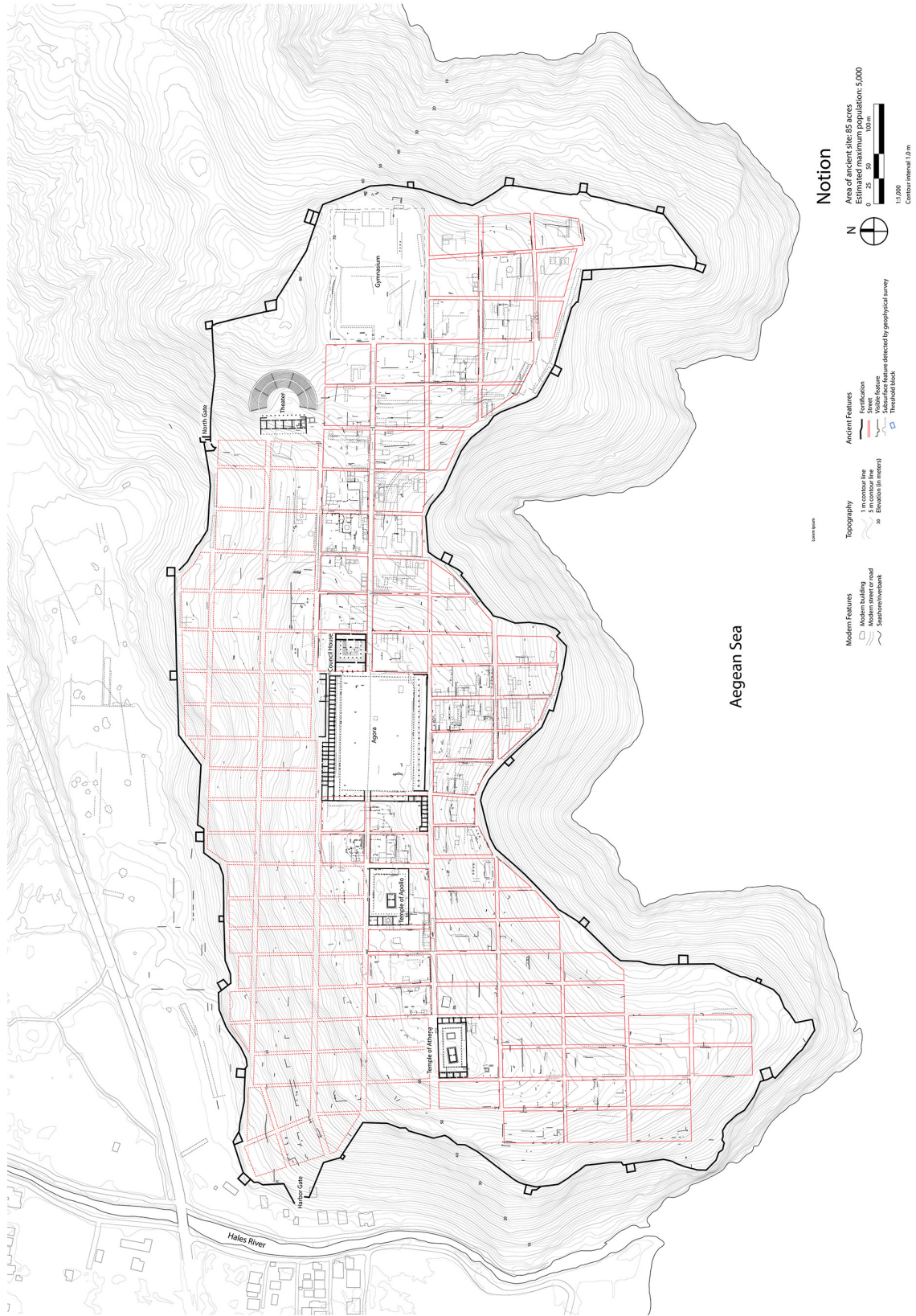


Fig. 1 Plan of site

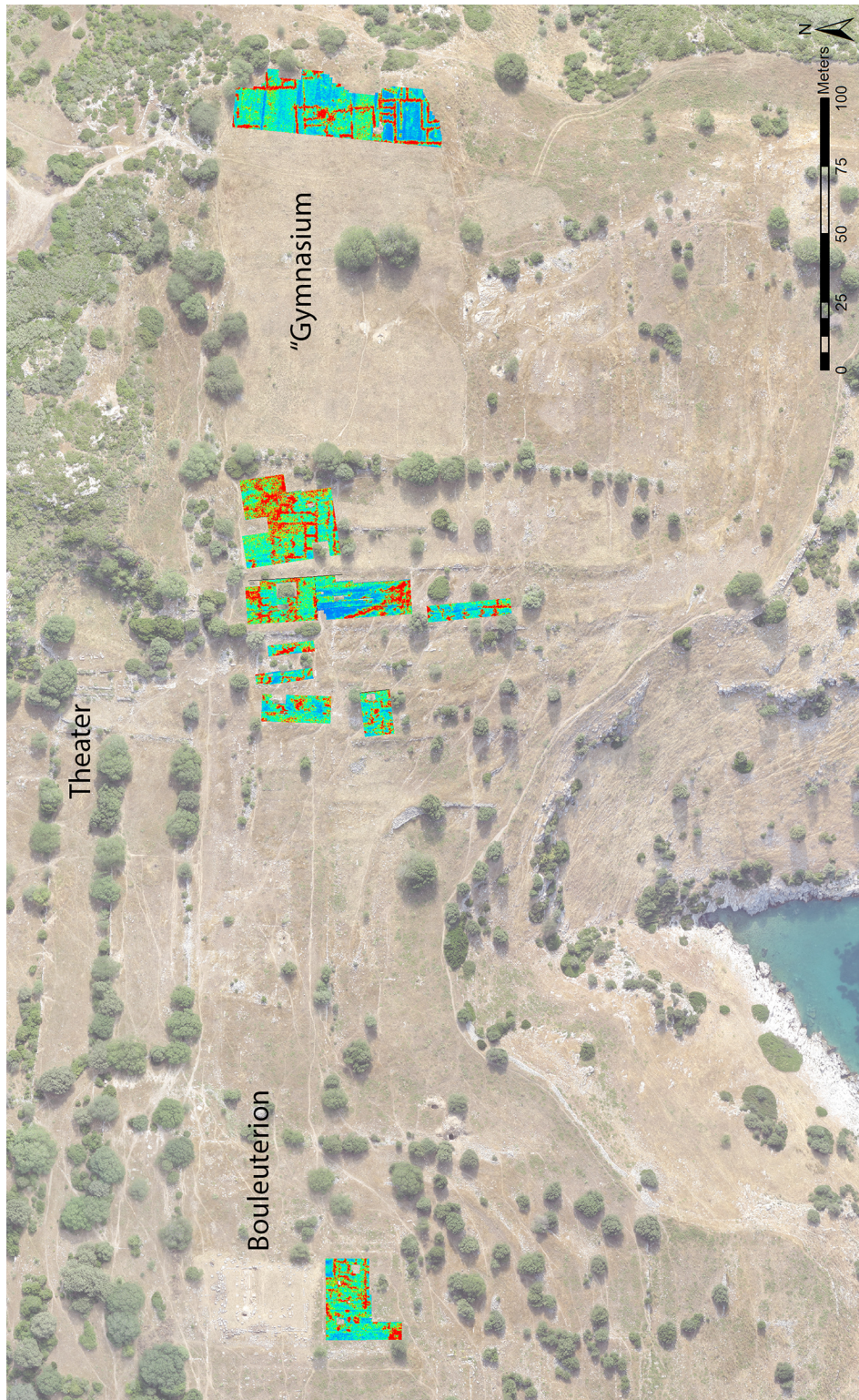


Fig. 2 Overall map of results of GPR survey

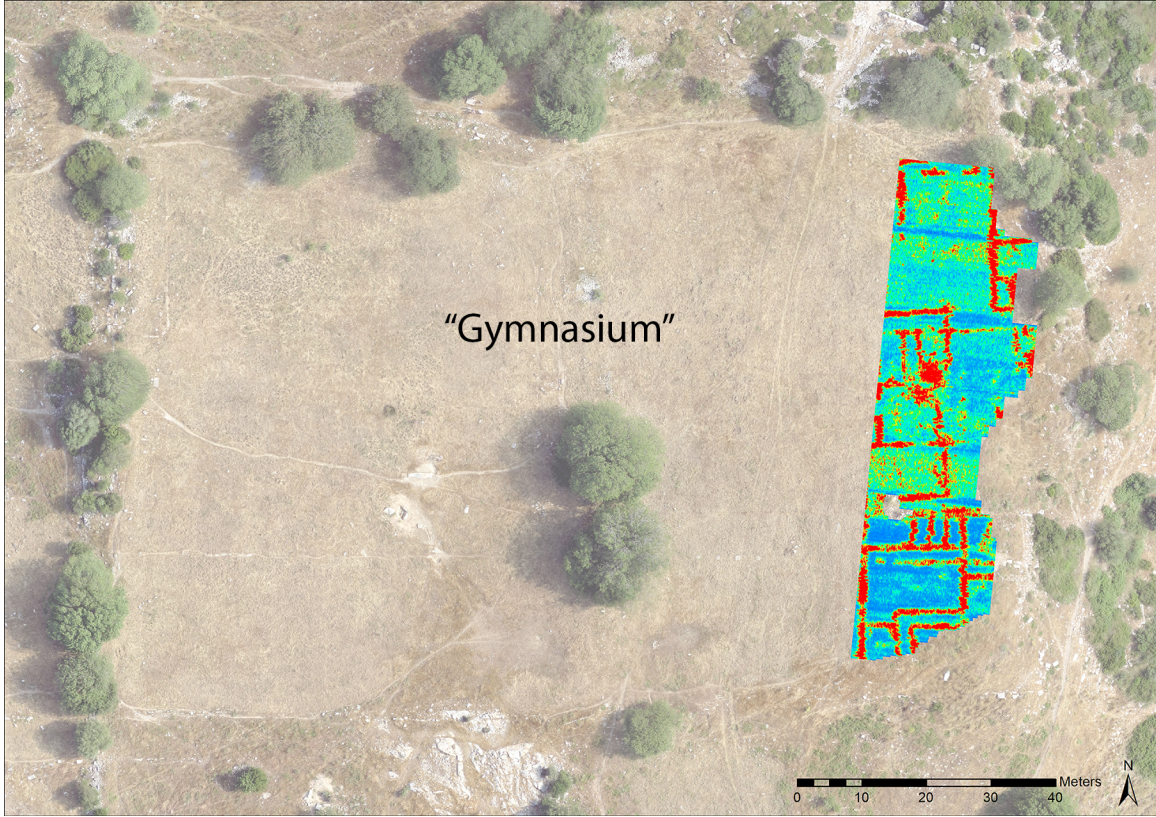


Fig. 3 Detailed map of results of GPR survey in area of "Gymnasium"

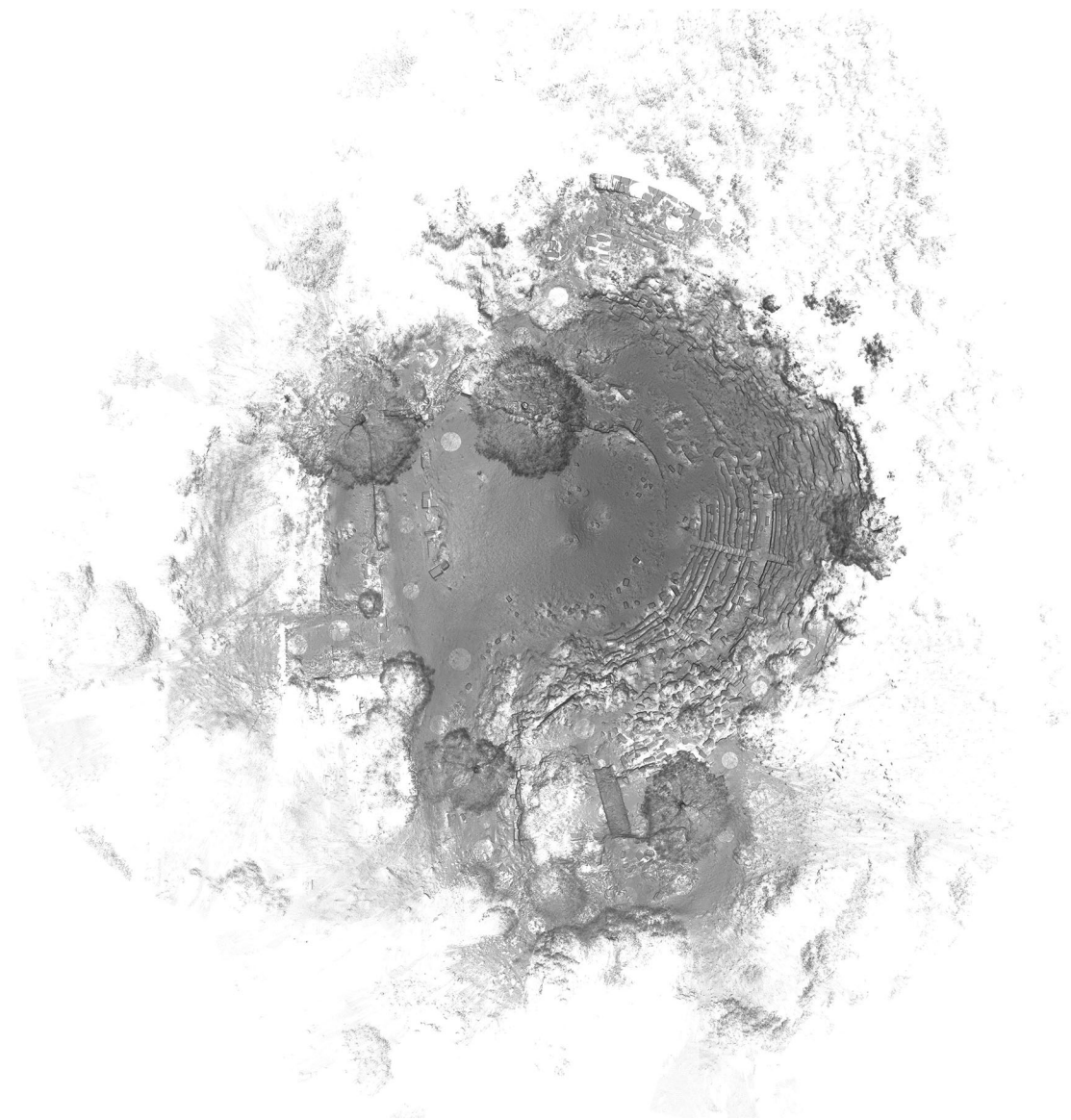


Fig. 4 Laser scan of Theater



Fig. 5 Detail of architectural block from Temple of “Apollo”

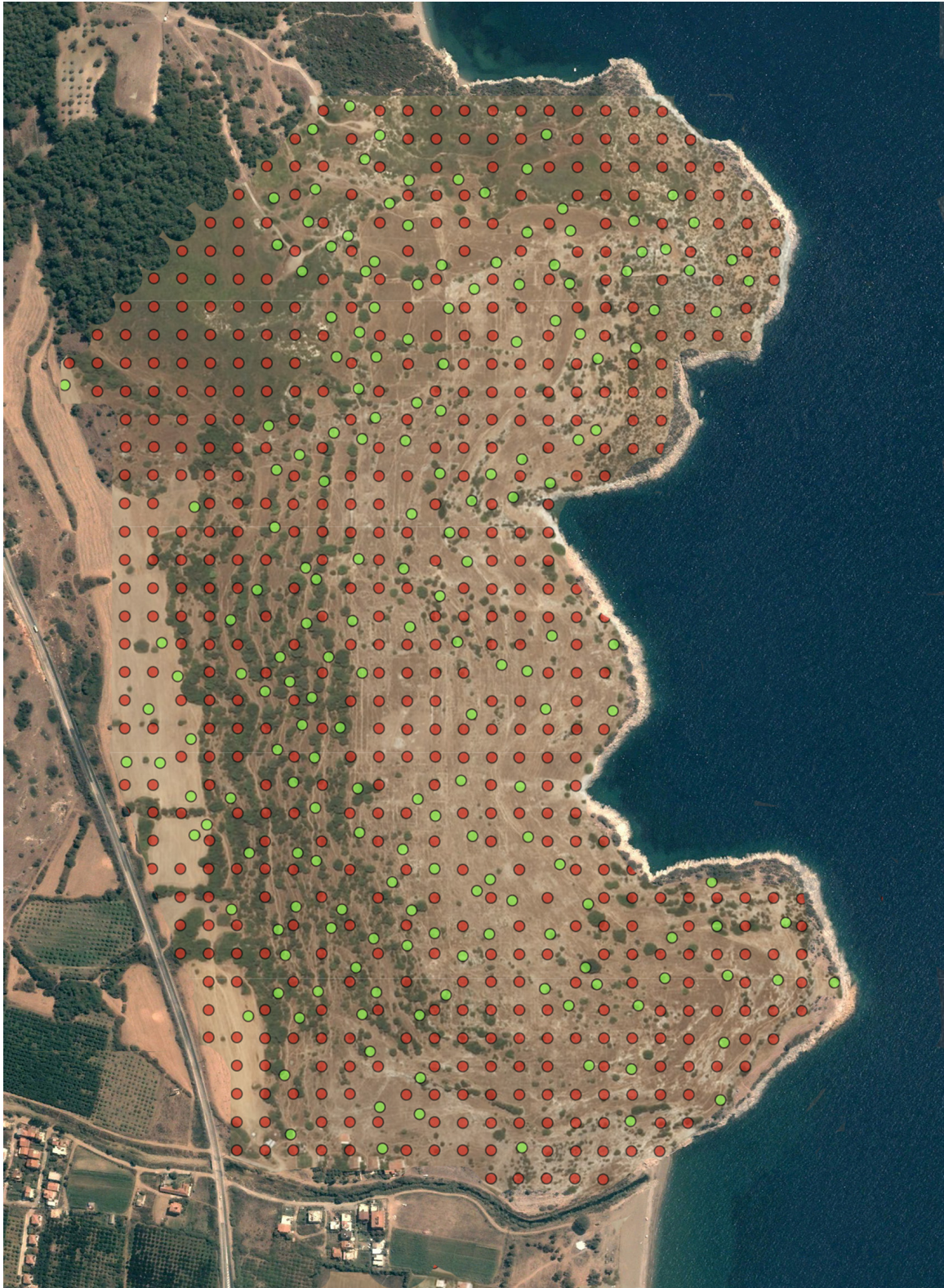


Fig. 6 Satellite image showing surface find collection areas



Fig. 7 Handles of terracotta braziers (surface finds)

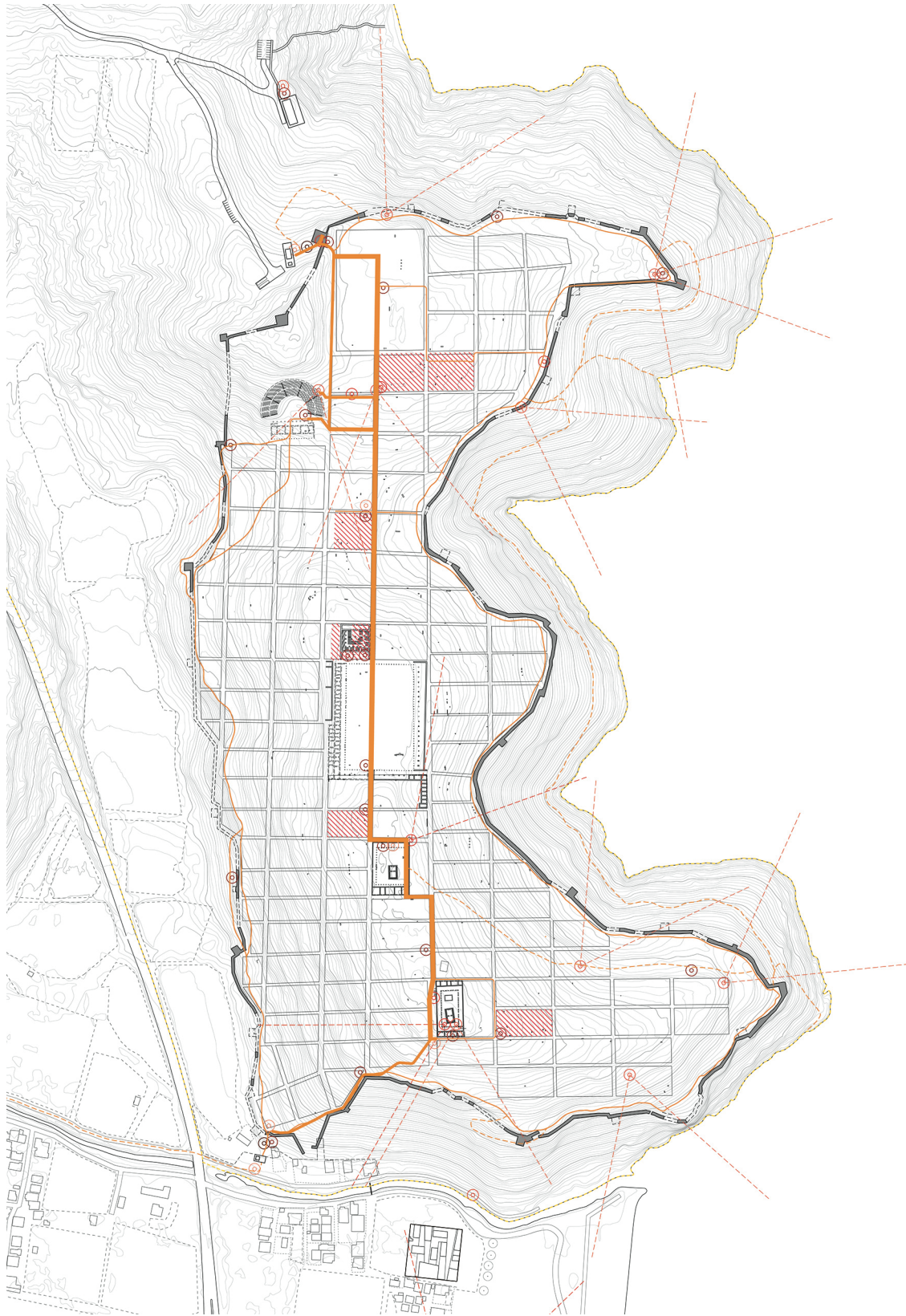


Fig. 8 Site management plan



Fig. 9 Proposed tourist path