

# Visit to Archaeological Dig and Minoan tombs

BY Kalie Zervos

On a very hot and steamy Saturday morning in September Victor Kepreotis, Penny Tzortzopoulos, who is studying archaeology, and I, were invited to visit a dig site by the Director of the Ephorate of Archaeology responsible for Kythera, Ms Stella Chryssoulaki.

The site, located in the Paleopoli region is on private property but the owners have been gracious enough to allow the archaeologists to dig there. The big flood a few years ago caused erosion and washed a lot of debris downstream, this uncovered various things of interest and thus a dig site was established.

There were three labourers on site to dig in the trenches and every shovel full was carefully inspected by Ms Chryssoulaki. Mostly they found broken pieces of pottery and roof tiles. The day before they uncovered a small part of an interior wall of an ancient building, which was of extreme interest to the archaeologist.



As Penny and I looked on from the near the trenches we decided to start picking at the side and to our surprise uncovered the base of a small pot. So we carefully dug some more and found two broken handles, but probably



from a slightly larger pot. We were so excited! Then I too found a fragment of an interior wall with paint on it. Further down, but also on the side, Victor found the base of a bigger pot. Ms Chryssoulaki was very impressed with our finds, so much so, she was going to have the men dig carefully into the walls of dirt which we had picked at on the following day to see what else they could find. What we found were believed to be Minoan, as the whole area was inhabited by Minoans.

The dig site will continue to be investigated, but is off limits to the public, due to its location.

Ms Chryssoulaki advised us of a site which was cleared recently and of great interest, easily accessible and with a great view. The site of the Minoan tombs is very close to the restaurant of Skandea. We drove to the base of the small incline and walked up a little path which led us to a rocky outcrop. There in the side of the hill are Minoan tombs caved into the rock resembling caves. There are many tombs there all empty, not even any signs of bones. Further over and right on the point is another carved structure with the most stunning views of Paleopoli beach. This was obviously not a tomb but had some other purpose. The area had been to referred to us by locals as the “Baths of Aphrodite”

I guess that is another story about the history of Kythera I will need to uncover next trip!

