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The Boeotia Project 1997 field season

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THE BOEOTIA PROJECT 1997 FIELD SEASON

J L Bintliff

The season ran for six weeks and was the final period of survey fieldwork for the Cambridge-Durham Project. The attached figures show (Fig 1) the Province of Boeotia with the location of the two intensive survey zones (the Thespieae Survey Area and Hyettos Survey Area), and the complete distribution of archaeological sites for each intensive zone on separate detailed maps (Figs 2 and 3). Additional sites outside the intensive survey areas but which have been studied by the Boeotia Project are underlined on the general province map. A bibliography of publications up to the end of 1997, and those in press at that time, originating from the Boeotia Project and its data, is attached to the end of this report.

The chief tasks carried out by a team of 15-20 individuals during the 1997 summer season were as follows:

CERAMIC STUDY OF THE FIELD SURVEY FINDS

Dr Oliver Dickinson, Professor J Hayes, Miss J Vroom and A Vionis carried out analysis of the prehistoric, Greco-Roman, medieval and post-medieval finds from the collection of survey finds held in the Thespieae apotheke (museum store). There remain a number of sites, especially the major Frankish-era rescue site of Klimmataria, still to be given intensive ceramic analysis by Miss Vroom - a task that will be carried forward to summer 1998.

SURVEY OF STANDING BUILDINGS AT DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGES

(See attached location maps). The following medieval surface sites, studied in previous seasons by the Project - Harmena, VM4 (within the Thespieae Survey Area), Rhadon and CN4 (near and within the Hyettos Survey Area, respectively) exhibit ruined standing domestic structures. As part of a sub-project concerned with the development of vernacular architecture in Boeotia a sample of houses from each site were planned and photographed. This was done using a total-station under the direction of myself, Professor F Aalen (Dublin University) and Miss J Bell. Their age spans the sixteenth to late nineteenth centuries AD and the data collected will be invaluable in outlining the origin of traditional house types in the region, as well as complementing the information available for

these abandoned villages from ceramic analysis and the Ottoman archives.

THE CITY OF HALIARTOS

In preparation for the full and final publication of the surface survey of Boeotian cities which the Project carried out during the 1980s (preliminary analyses have appeared in several articles hitherto), it was felt necessary to prepare a more accurate map of the ancient walls of the city of Haliartos than the sketch-maps available in existing publications of the site. This was done using a total-station under the direction of myself and Miss J Bell.

THE CITY OF HYETTOS

Likewise in connection with the publication of the surface survey of the city of Hyettos, we completed a detailed topographical map of surface features in the Lower Town at Hyettos, using a total station, under the direction of the author and Miss Bell.

GEOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

Dr R Shiel (Newcastle University) led a team of soil scientists in a final season of sample area study of soil series in the districts surveyed by the Project, and also conducted interviews on traditional farming in the Valley of the Muses to compare with the account of Hesiod for that locality. The author of this report will undertake a final season of geographical work in summer 1998 with a study tour of the different sub-regions of Boeotia in order to set the areas intensively-surveyed by the Project into a broader framework of the regional landscapes and types of land-use.

THE BOEOTIA PROJECT: PUBLICATIONS TO 1997

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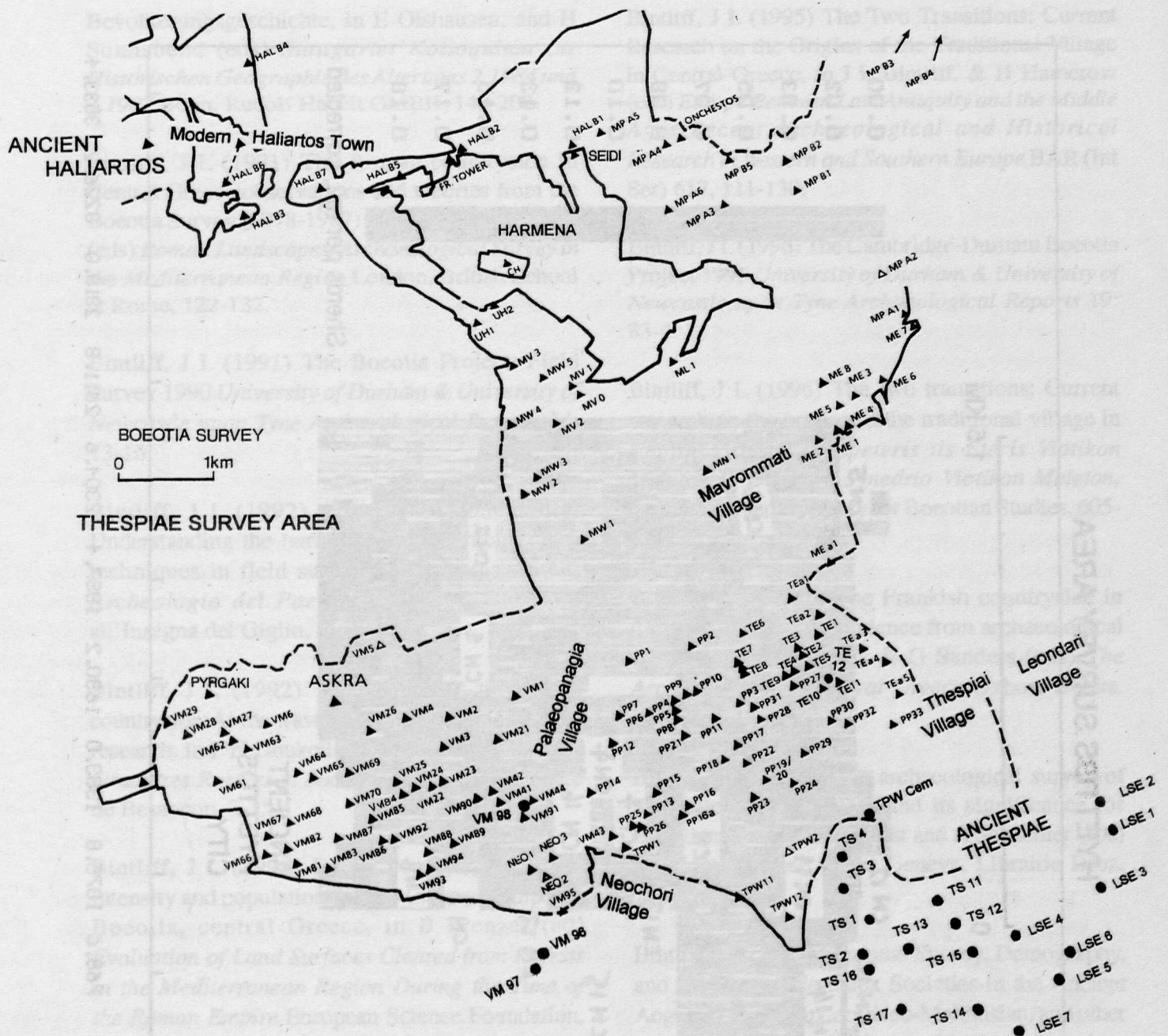


Figure 2: Thespieae survey area

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HYETTOS SURVEY AREA

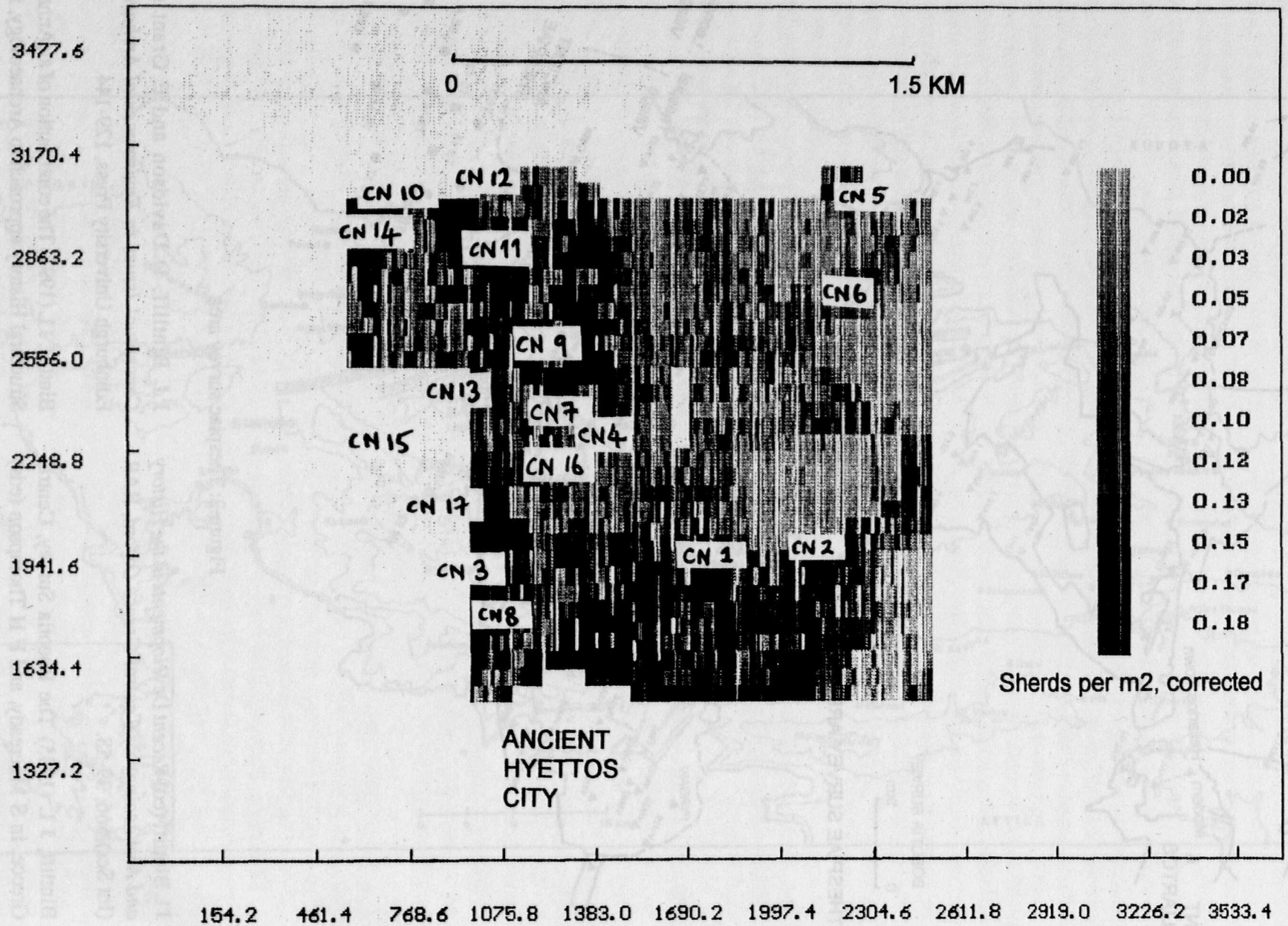


Figure 3: Hyettos survey area

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