An Anchorage Beyond Its Anchors: The Maritime Landscape of Petounda Anchorage, Cyprus

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Introduction

This poster presents the results of the underwater survey that took place at Cape Petounda on the Southern Coast of Cyprus in Summer 2016. A total of forty-five stone anchors were found, marked on a georeference map, and classified according to their shape and number of holes. The underwater survey lifted two lead stocks of wooden anchors, while a brief survey on the coast found scattered pottery sherds, which were dated to the Late Roman period.

To place these findings into their maritime context, this poster presents the surrounding coastal sites that were active during Late Roman period based on pottery evidence and the architectural ruins of an Early Christian Baptistery that stands at the edge of the cape. Particular focus is placed on the topography of the modern landscape and the impact of erosion to coastal changes, as demonstrated by aerial orthophotos (1963, 1993 & 2014) from the Deparment of Lands and Surveys in Cyprus.

Fig.1: Map of Cyprus

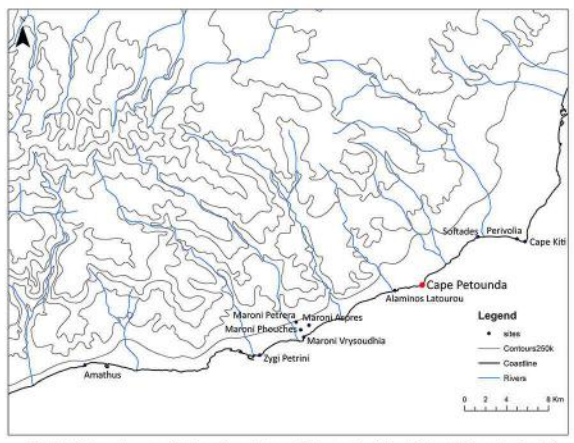


Fig.2: Petounda map with location of Cape Dolos on the West, Cape Kiti on the East & Stavrovouni Mountain in the North (Map & GIS by Niki Kyriakou, University of Cyprus)

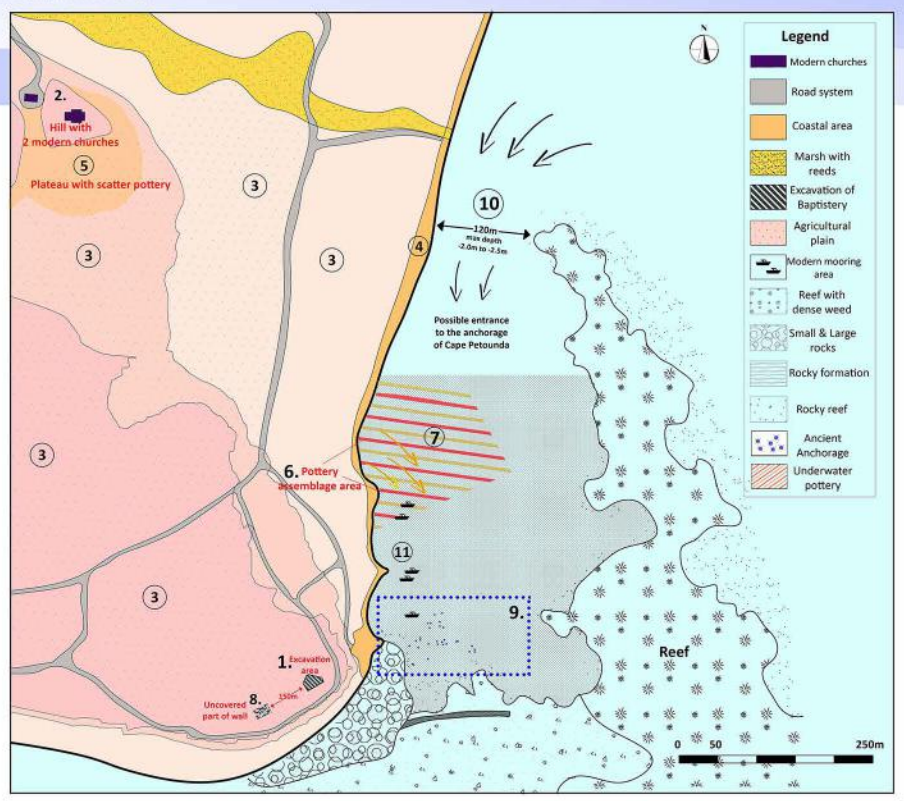


Fig.3: Map of the Cape Petounda area marking sites of special interest: **1.** the excavation of the Baptistery; **2.** the hill with the 2 modern churches (NW); **3.** agricultural plains; **4.** accessible coastal area; **5.** area with scattered pottery at the base of the hill; **6.** pottery assemblage by the sea (E); **7.** area of the drift material from the erodible shore to the sea; **8.** site with the uncovered part of a wall on the SW of the excavation; **9.** Ancient Anchorage; **10.** possible entrance to the anchorage; the gap between the reef and the coast is ca. 120m and the depth varies between 2.0 to 2.5 m; **11.** modern mooring sites (Drawing & illustration Lefkothea Papakosta, University of Cyprus)

Costal Changes

Fig.4: Orthophotos 1963, 1993 & 2014. The layering of the shoreline has been drawn for three different periods (1963 in red, 1993 in blue, 2014 in magenta) (Department of Lands and Surveys)

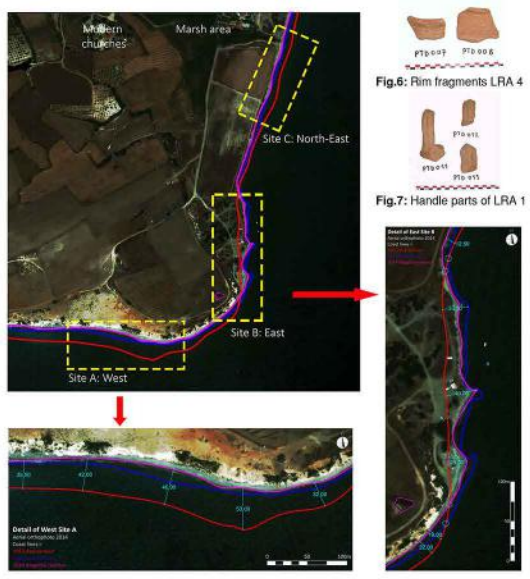


Fig.5: Aerial orthophoto (2014) of Cape Petounda, highlighted are the three coastal sites under examination (Site A, B & C). (Drawing & illustration Lefkothea Papakosta, University of Cyprus)

Fig.6: Rim fragments LRA 4

Fig.7: Handle parts of LRA 1

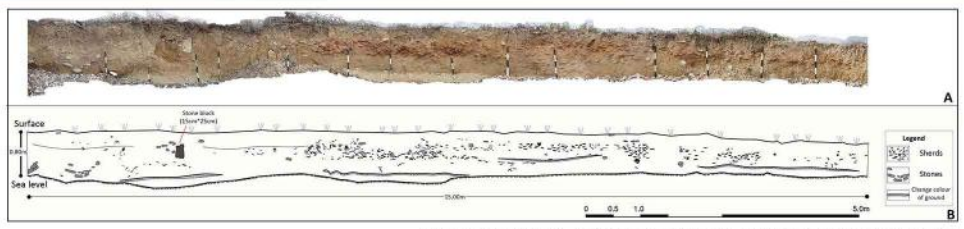


Fig.8: A. Photomosaic and **B.** Drawing of the section with the pottery assemblage (nº6)

- Average 0.5 meters erosion per year in the area
- Classified as high erosion site
- In the past the coastline could have extended into the sea

Cliff erosion around the cape

Scattered architectural parts in the area of the anchorage (nº9)

Coast erosion

- Erodible coastline, northeast of the Baptistery (nº4)
- Density of sherds found underwater (nº7)

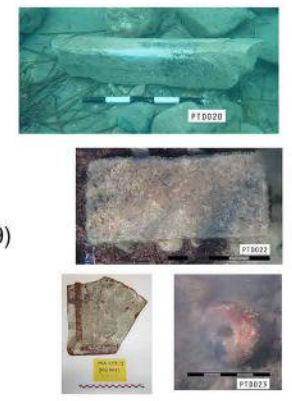
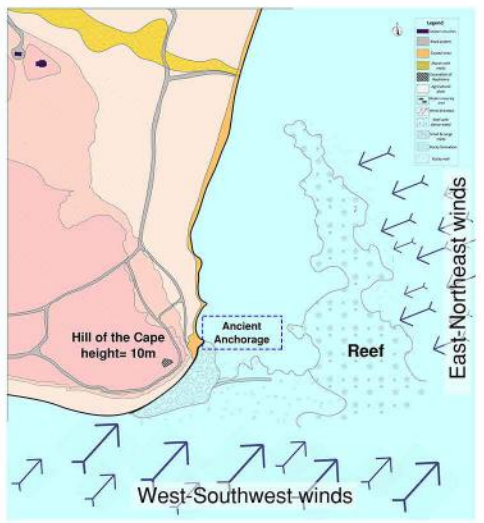


Fig.9: Scattered architectural fragments (broken piece of marble, ashlar stone block, stone column drum, Roman roof tile)

Topography



-The 10 meters high cape offer protection from the West winds.

-The reef formation minimise the impact of rough sea from the East winds.

45 Stone Anchors

Composite anchors with two holes (2)

Composite anchors with three holes (4)

Weight stone anchors, with one hole (39)

39 Single-hole stone anchors

divided based on their shape:

Group A: Rectangular (11)

Group B: Triangular (13)

Group C:

Irregularly shaped or roughly cut (15)

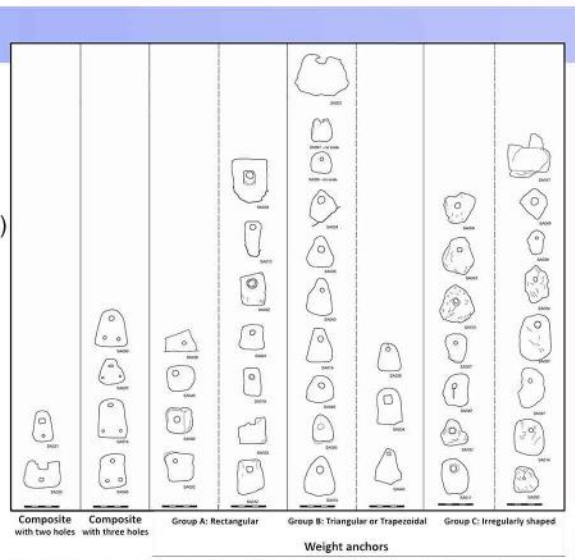


Fig.10: Typological classification of the stone anchors found at Cape Petounda (Drawing & illustration Lefkothea Papakosta, University of Cyprus)

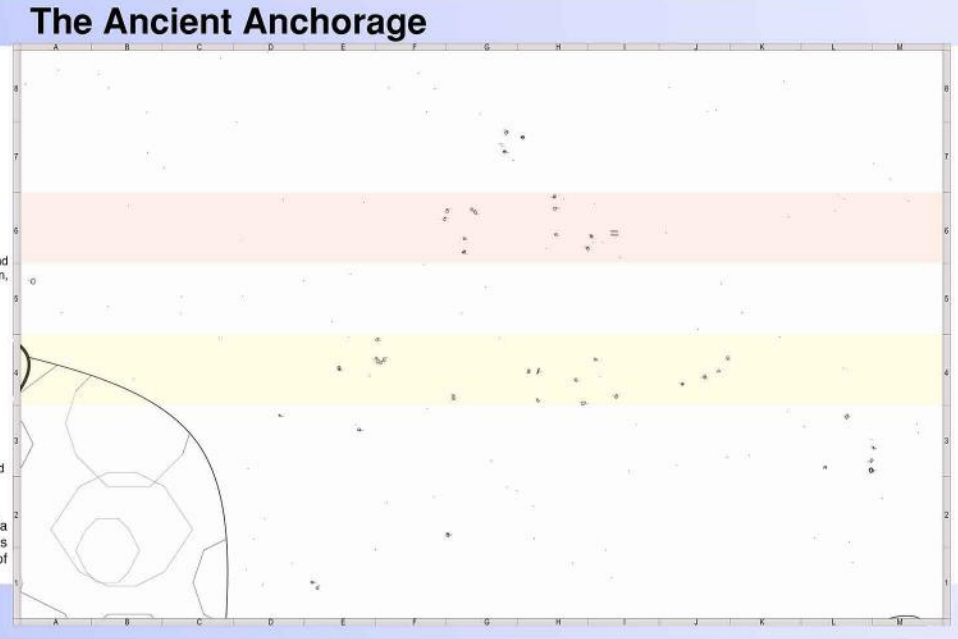
2 Lead Stocks

Fig.11: Reinforcement collar from a two-armed anchor (2nd cent. BC- 3rd cent. AD) with schematic drawing (Kapitan, 1984:33,Figure 1)

Fig.12: Bow-shaped removable lead stock (2nd cent. BC- 3rd cent. AD) with schematic drawing (Kapitan, 1985:393,Fig.12)

Fig.13: Plan of the ancient anchorage of Cape Petounda with grid, and marked the two concentrations areas (Drawing & illustration Lefkothea Papakosta, University of Cyprus)

The Ancient Anchorage



Conclusions

Petounda as part of maritime network during Late Antiquity

Small harbours or anchorages, such as Petounda, could be part of a cluster of maritime facilities that served different needs of trade in the south coast of Cyprus during Late Roman.

Other Late Roman coastal sites that have been marked in the vicinity are (fig.2): Alaminos-Latourou Chiftlik, Zygi Petrini, Maroni Vrysoudhia, and the sites Softades and Perivolia in the east of Petounda.

The activity in this area associated with the economic growth attested on the island during the Late Roman period and the seaborne trade activities that this entailed, on a local, regional and international level.

Existence of a settlement in Cape Petounda

- Baptisteries were typically found in large cities or urban settlements
- Baptisteries were important bishopric buildings
- Widespread pottery was found in the vicinity of the Baptistery excavation and on the shoreline
- The anchorage could be associated with a settlement and its ecclesiastical complex

The anchorage of Cape Petounda

47 anchors (45 stone anchors and 2 lead parts)

Natural landscape offers a safe shelter

Possibly serving small ships as shown by:

- Size of anchors
- Depth of the anchorage ranges between 2.0 and 4.0 meters

Evidence of stone anchor use in Late Antiquity

- Dating of stone anchors is problematic (stone cannot be dated with scientific methods)
- Long life use of stone anchors span from Early Bronze Age until recent times
- Late Roman diagnostic underwater sherds were found underwater in Cape Petounda
- Two lead parts of wooden anchors dated to the 2nd century BC to 3rd century AD