

Souskiou-Laona Human Bioarchaeology Field School
Cyprus
12-25 July 2009



THE CYPRUS
INSTITUTE

&

Archaeology, University of Edinburgh



The Souskiou-Laona Chalcolithic cemetery is one of four discrete Middle Chalcolithic cemeteries in an elongated arc around the settlement of Souskiou-Laona, 2.5 km inland from Palaepaphos, modern Koukليا, in the southwest of the island of Cyprus. The burial facilities and human remains recovered from the Souskiou-Laona cemetery during five seasons of excavations (2001 – 2005) date to c. 3000 BC.

Souskiou-Laona cemetery is a topographically well-defined burial precinct, on a rocky outcrop, with views west over the Dhiarizos Valley to the Ktima Lowlands and the Mediterranean, and east to the Troodos Mountains (Crewe *et al.* forthcoming, 2002; Peltenburg 2002, 2003, 2004, forthcoming). The most common tomb type consists of a deep (c. 1.5–2 m), sub-rectangular shaft widening to an oval base (c. 0.8 x 1.5 m), either with or without a circular cut to receive arrangements of capstones. The mortuary programme at Souskiou-Laona consisted essentially of a multiple burial rite with a degree of secondary treatment, including double and triple burials. In addition to primary burials, the cemetery contains secondary mortuary remains. These multi-stage treatments typically involve the disarticulation of individuals and the movement of body parts to bone stacks with superimposed skulls.

The archaeological excavations at the Souskiou-Laona cemetery were conducted by University of Edinburgh (Prof. Peltenburg, Dr Crewe). The Souskiou Laona Human Bioarchaeology Field School is directed by Dr Kirsi O. Lorentz (Science and Technology in Archaeology Research Center, The Cyprus Institute).

The analysis of the Souskiou-Laona human skeletal remains has been ongoing during the previous human bioarchaeology field schools arranged in conjunction with the excavation seasons. Now it is time to focus entirely on the inventory and analysis of the human skeletal remains, in the Lemba Archaeological Research Centre (LARC) in the southwest of Cyprus, near Paphos.



As a participant in the Souskiou-Laona Human Bioarchaeology Field School you will be assisting in the post-excavation processing, inventory, and analysis of human skeletal material excavated from this important site during previous field seasons. Souskiou-Laona cemetery is the only Chalcolithic cemetery in Cyprus where human skeletal remains have been excavated, recovered and recorded with the latest bioarchaeological techniques, and thus holds the key to understanding Chalcolithic populations in Cyprus.

For further information on the site and the Lemba Archaeological Research Centre (LARC), please see:

<http://www.arcl.ed.ac.uk/arch/field/cyprus2004/report.html>

<http://www.arcl.ed.ac.uk/arch/lemba/homepage.html>

Further reading

- CREWE, L., K. LORENTZ, E. PELTENBURG AND S. SPANOU forthcoming: Treatments of the dead: preliminary report of investigations at Souskiou-Laona Chalcolithic cemetery, 2001-2004, *Reports of the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus (RDAC)*, 2005.
- CREWE, L., E. PELTENBURG AND S. SPANOU 2002: Contexts for cruciforms: figurines from prehistoric Cyprus, *Antiquity* 76, 21–2.
- PELTENBURG, E. 1993: Souskiou-Laona, 730–2 in D. Christou, *Chronique des fouilles à Chypre en 1992*, *Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique* 117.
- PELTENBURG, E. 2002: Souskiou-Laona, 725–6 in S. Hadjisavvas, *Chronique des fouilles à Chypre en 2001*, *Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique* 126.
- PELTENBURG, E. 2003: Souskiou-Laona, in S. Hadjisavvas, *Chronique des fouilles à Chypre en 2002*, *Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique* 127, 2003.
- PELTENBURG, E. 2004: Souskiou-Laona, in S. Hadjisavvas, *Chronique des fouilles à Chypre en 2003*, *Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique* 128, 2004.
- PELTENBURG, E. (ed.) forthcoming: *The Chalcolithic Cemetery of Souskiou-Vathyrkakas, Cyprus. Results of the Investigations of Four Missions, from 1950 to 1997*. Nicosia: Department of Antiquities.

Costs: The Cyprus Institute/STARC has made a substantial contribution towards the costs of the field school (including cost of tuition), and the University of Edinburgh provides basic accommodation at LARC (please see below). Therefore, the costs incurred by the field school participants during their stay in Cyprus consist solely of their own food costs. A cooking rota will be organised, and those field school participants wishing to take part in this rota are requested to come prepared to contribute c. 250-300 Euros to cover **their own food costs** for the duration of the field school. Each field school student is required to arrange and pay for their **own flights and travel** to the Lemba Archaeological Research Centre (in the Lemba village, nearest international airport: Paphos), **any visa if required** (UK and EU citizens do not require one), **travel and medical insurance**, and any costs incurred during any recreational trips during any days off they wish to make.

Accommodation: LARC is our base camp. The centre is located in the village of Lemba, 4km from Paphos. The centre has open-air, rooftop sleeping facilities, workroom, showers and kitchen. Mattresses are provided but students are requested to provide their own sleeping bag, linen and pillow. There is room in the garden for the pitching of tents (BYO), and those who require a little more personal space may choose this option. Students are requested to bring a water bottle, sunhat, sunblock, insect repellent, sturdy walking boots, clothing for both warm/hot and cold weather, lightweight sandals/flip flops, own towels, and a sliding calliper, and a cloth tape measurer. There is a fully equipped supermarket only 5 minutes walk from the centre.

Other information: It is important to realise that the weather in July in Cyprus is hot. It will be necessary for students to bring clothing and other supplies (such as sun screen, hat, etc) suitable for hot weather conditions, and to be reasonably fit and very enthusiastic. Cyprus has two airports: Larnaca and Paphos. Paphos airport is much closer to Lemba but those wishing to spend time travelling in Cyprus before or after the field school may wish to fly into Larnaca. Please ensure you have a current Anti-tetanus vaccination. Further information will be supplied upon acceptance to the field school.

Requirements

You should

- have a good knowledge of human skeletal anatomy, and be able to reliably identify human skeletal elements
- be responsible and independent, taking responsibility for your own work, and willing to work the hours required to complete the work
- be enthusiastic and able to work in an international team
- be willing to adjust to new cultural environments and culinary variety
- be able to commit yourself to the full length of the field school

Cultural awareness: You are expected to conduct yourself with a manner that reflects well on the project, taking into account local customs and sensibilities.

Applications

To apply, please complete the attached application form and send it together with an up-to-date CV to Dr Kirsi O. Lorentz (k.o.Lorentz@cyi.ac.cy). Please indicate your **initial interest ASAP**, and **definite participation by Monday 1st June 2009 by 4 pm (GMT) at the very latest. Please note that you should apply as early as possible - places are limited.**

Further information

Dr Kirsi O. Lorentz (k.o.lorentz@cyi.ac.cy)

Science and Technology in Archaeology Research Center (STARC), The Cyprus Institute
(www.cyi.ac.cy), P.O. Box 27456, Nicosia, Cyprus
and

School of Historical Studies, Newcastle University

APPLICATION FORM

Please return via email (k.o.lorentz@cyi.ac.cy) or fax (+357-22208625), with a hardcopy to follow by post (Dr Lorentz, STARC, The Cyprus Institute, P.O.Box 27456, Nicosia, Cyprus)

Souskiou-Laona Human Bioarchaeology Field School 12-25 July 2009, Cyprus



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Archaeology, University of Edinburgh

Name	
Email address	
Telephone number (mobile preferred) for quick contact during May/June 2009	
Referee (please give the name and position of the person who you have asked to provide a reference for you)	
Referee's address & email	Address: Email:
Special dietary requirements (note that it may not be possible to cater for all special dietary requirements in a Cypriot village)	
Medical conditions (for Health and Safety reasons you must state all medical and/or health conditions that may affect you during the project)	
Previous excavation experience (please state project, exact dates, country, name of project director, and briefly describe the tasks you conducted – please attach an additional sheet if required)	
Previous experience of human skeletal analysis: (please state project, exact dates, country, name of project director, and briefly describe the tasks you conducted – please attach an additional sheet if required)	

I hereby declare that if offered a place on the Souskiou-Laona Human Bioarchaeology Field School I will accept it for the full duration of the field school, and will not fail to take part in the field school.

Date:

Signature (electronic; hardcopy to follow):