

Cape Lykopoulo

Within the framework of a study of the network of coastal settlements and nautical stations of an Early Helladic II “thalassocracy” in the Saronic Gulf and in the wider area to the south, a survey by the University of Ioannina has been carried out at Cape Lykopoulo, between the area of Peristeria and the Bay of Kolones; the aim of the survey has been the fuller documentation of the fortified Early Helladic II settlement, which was recognised in the 1990s (see Y. G. Lolos, in *The Argosaronic, Proceedings of the A' International Conference on the History and Archaeology of the Argosaronic, Poros, 26-29 June 1998*, Volume I, Municipality of Poros, Athens 2003, 90). This is the second settlement of the flourishing Early Helladic II culture on a promontory, after the one at Mertzani, which has been located on the south coast of Salamis.

At Lykopoulo, the Early Helladic II settlement extends on the upper terraces of a high and rocky promontory, which is so far free of any building activities. The east and south sides of the promontory are extremely steep.

The settlement is protected by a peribolos wall, the thickness of which varies from 1 m. to 1.40/1.50 m. It can be followed among vegetation and basically defines the upper terrace of the promontory, protecting the inhabited area from the north, northwest, west and southwest. It extends to a point where the natural limestone falls down abruptly, on both the east and south side of this high promontory.

On the north side of the enclosing wall, where the entrance to the settlement is situated, a defensive curving tower, with a cord (of the arc) of 4.30 m., is formed. It is built with large and medium size stones, which are preserved in 3-4 courses (to a height of 1.20 m.). This tower may be compared with other horse-shoe shaped examples at fortified settlements of the Early Bronze Age in the wider Aegean area.

On the south side of the estimated inhabited area and on the upper level of the promontory, the foundation of a wall (with a thickness of 0.55 m. approximately), is visible on the ground. It runs for 9.40 m. in the E.-W. axis and probably defines the long side of a relatively large building.

Small and very worn sherds of Early Helladic II vases (including sherds from sauceboats of the well-known Urfirnis category) are sporadically visible on the upper level of the promontory.



Cape Lykopoulo. View of the promontory with the Early Helladic II settlement, from the east. © University Excavation of Salamis Archives.



Cape Lykopoulo. View of the curving tower on the north part of the defensive circuit wall of the Early Helladic II settlement, from the north. © University Excavation of Salamis Archives.