

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**THE PYLA-KOUTSOPETRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT (PKAP)**  
**EXCAVATIONS AT PYLA-VIGLA**

The Department of Antiquities, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works, announces that the Pyla-Koutsopetria Archaeological Project (PKAP) completed its 15<sup>th</sup> season on 14 June 2019 under the direction of Dr. Brandon R. Olson of Metropolitan State University of Denver, Dr. Tom Landvatter of Reed College, and Dr. R. Scott Moore of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

PKAP has excavated a series of small soundings at the site of Pyla-Vigla in the summers of 2008, 2009, 2012, and 2018. These excavations revealed the presence of a previously unknown early-Hellenistic fortification. Vigla is located on a steep plateau overlooking Larnaca Bay, which provided both a strong defensible location and an advantageous view of the coastal road between ancient Kition and Salamis. The military nature of the site was demonstrated by the discovery of an extensive fortification system, projectile points, and lead sling bullets. The architectural, ceramic, and numismatic evidence discovered during previous seasons clearly date the occupation of the fortifications on Vigla to the late 4th and early 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries B.C., a period not well documented in Cypriot history. PKAP's previous seasons' results can be found in *Pyla-Koutsopetria I: Archaeological Survey of an Ancient Coastal Town*, published by the American Schools of Oriental Research in 2014, while the results of the 2018 season can be found in a recent article in the *Journal of Hellenistic Pottery and Material Culture*.

PKAP's 2019 field season was focused on further understanding the site's fortification system, as well as getting a clearer picture of the domestic/industrial areas within. Excavations around the north fortification wall revealed the continuation of an impressive in situ mudbrick wall first discovered in 2018. The northern edge of the wall, was identified but its full extent remains elusive, and appears to be over 5m thick. Soundings placed on the south fortification wall, built on the slope, revealed a substantially well-preserved fieldstone wall with an important deposit of early Hellenistic ceramics found at the wall's base. Excavations in the centre of the plateau exposed several rooms with pottery sitting in situ on floors. Finds continued to show the military character of the site, including projectile points, iron weapons, and lead sling bullets. Future work planned for Vigla will focus more on the fortification's interior architecture and the nature of activity within the residential/industrial areas.

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