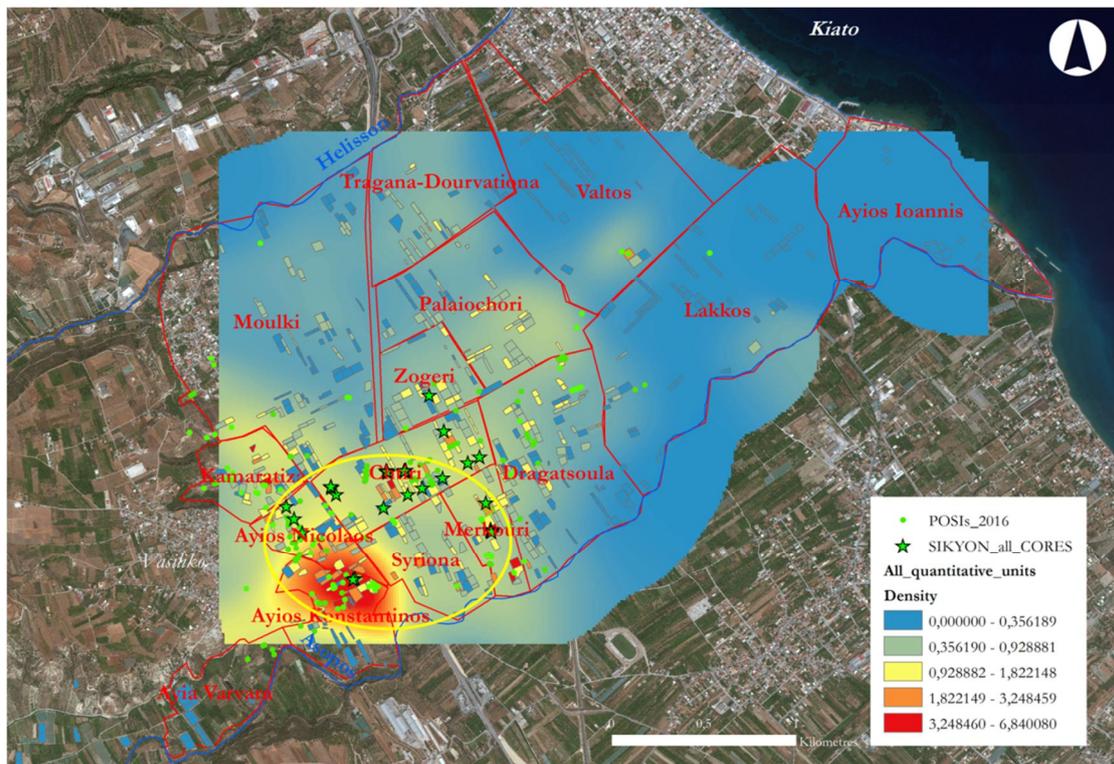


Preliminary Report on the Results of the Archaeological Survey of 2015-16

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Archaeological survey is a methodologically distinctive sub-discipline of archaeology which interprets the past based on surface observations. This is a complex idea because the surface is dynamic, ever changing due to cultural and natural processes. We overcome this by establishing a strict methodology in order to be able to recreate consistently the conditions of observation.

The methodology is based on a large body of studies on the relationship between the surface and the sub-surface. In the case of Old Sikyon we knew from the emergency excavations that the landscape has undergone many changes, and augering (marked with green stars on the distribution map) was done to evaluate the results of the archaeological survey.



Interpretative extrapolated distribution map: raw counts per m²

The distribution map clearly shows a single discrete area of high densities in the southwestern corner of the study area west of the old highway. In this area the archaeological structures are closer to the surface, and the correlation between this high density area and the location of the Classical city is supported by the results of emergency excavations.

The distribution of architectural fragments (marked with green dots on the distribution map) seems to radiate outwards from the high density area in the southwest corner. The full

extension of the Classical city is, however, difficult to demonstrate from the surface finds since the area east of the old highway is partly covered in very thick colluvial and alluvial sediments and other parts have suffered from heavy loss of soil.

The two field seasons were devoted to the collection of data, and we have only a very rough chronological outline ranging at least from the Final Neolithic period until modern times. Black glazed pottery loom largely, but it is premature to make any comments on the chronological composition and finer points of this material.

