

Lithics at Petras - Heidi Dierckx (1997-present)

The study of the lithics at Petras comprises the examination of the ground stone implements from the palatial site and surrounding buildings, House 1 and House 2. Over one thousand tools have been catalogued and several have been drawn and photographed. Full analysis of the tools is still in progress. The tools consist of various types: pounders, grinders, whetstones, weights, mortars and querns. Most are made from limestone and quartzite cobbles and boulders/slabs, but examples of andesite, phyllite, sandstone and conglomerate also occur. A paper concerning the preliminary discussion of House 1 at the Cretological Congress of 2001 at Elounda, Crete, included a section on the distribution of the ground stone implements associated with the house (M. Tsipopoulou & H. Dierckx, “Υστερομινωικο ΙΑ Σπιτι Ι.1 Στον Πετρα Σητειας: Δομη, Λειτουργια, και Κατανομη των Ευριματων,” in Ε.Κ.Ι.Μ. Πεπραγμενα Θ’ Διεθνους Κρητολογικου Συνεδριου, Ελουντα, 1–6 Οκτοβριου 2001. Τομη Α1. Προιστορικη περιοδος. Εταιρια Κρητικων Ιστορικων Μελετων: 197–315, Ηρακλειο 2006). Both chipped and ground stone tools from the Petras Cemetery are also being studied. A preliminary analysis of the tools was presented at Petras 2010 - A two day Symposium: 25 Years Of Excavations And Studies at the Danish Institute in Athens 2010, entitled “Size Does Matter: The Significance of Obsidian Microliths and Querns at Petras Cemetery”.