

Michael Loy (Classics) - Archaeological excavation, Greece, Summer 2017

Between July and mid-August 2017, I joined the international team of archaeologists excavating Tomb 2 near Prosilio, Boeotia, central Greece. This project was a joint venture between the Ministry of Culture & Sports of Greece/Ephorate of Antiquities of Boeotia and the British School at Athens/University of Cambridge, co-directed by Dr Yannis Galanakis and Dr Alexandra Charami.

Tomb 2 is in form a prehistoric monumental rock-cut chamber tomb, the ninth largest of its type out of all tombs found in the Aegean basin and dating to the Bronze Age. The excavation was in two stages, the first of which dealt with clearing the 20m rock-cut passageway in front of the tomb, and the second of which involved clearing the tomb chamber itself down to the floor level. In total, 75m³ of soil were removed over the course of six weeks, all of which were dry-sieved in a methodological first for Aegean archaeology. The finds and situation of the tomb chamber are described in detail within an international press release report, which can be found here: <https://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/pdfs/news/prosilio-press-release>

I was present at the excavation for the full six weeks of activity, and my primary duties were on the dry-sieve team. Once the chamber was opened in the final few weeks of excavation, however, I was also involved in the digital topographical recording of the tomb, along with photogrammetry and 3d model production for small finds and the tomb architecture. The processing and studying of this material is ongoing.