

“The White Marble of Paros”

**Protecting and promoting
the Ancient Marble Quarries of Paros
and their cultural heritage**

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Non-profit organisation

LDnet webinar 26 March 2025

Rescuing the ancient underground marble quarries of the Island of Paros and ...

Placing them at the heart of cultural tourism and a sustainable model of local development.

1. A snapshot of the quarries and their history
2. A participative approach – Establishing a working partnership
3. A participative approach – The local community in the lead
4. Lessons learned so far ...

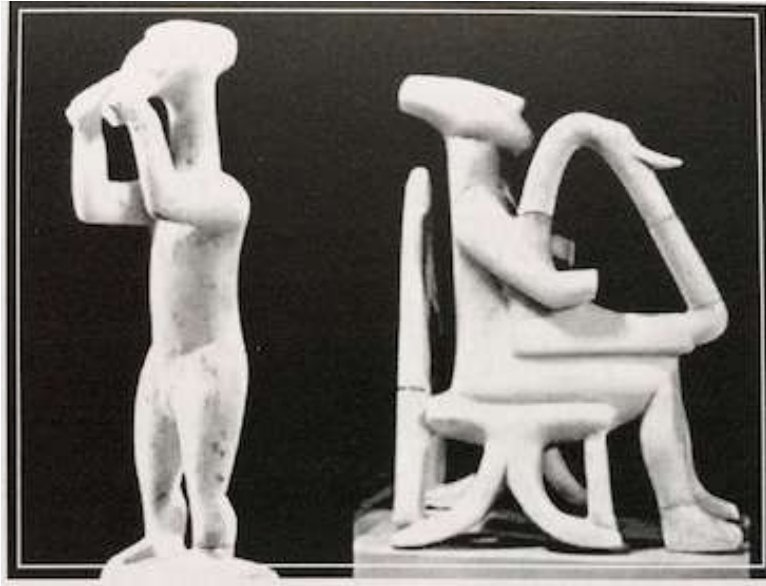
Quarries everywhere, ancient and modern

- Archaeological site (200 Ha)
- Ancient surface quarries
- Underground quarries (Nymphs' & Pan's quarries)
- More underground quarries, not yet located
- (Industrial buildings, 19th c. complex)

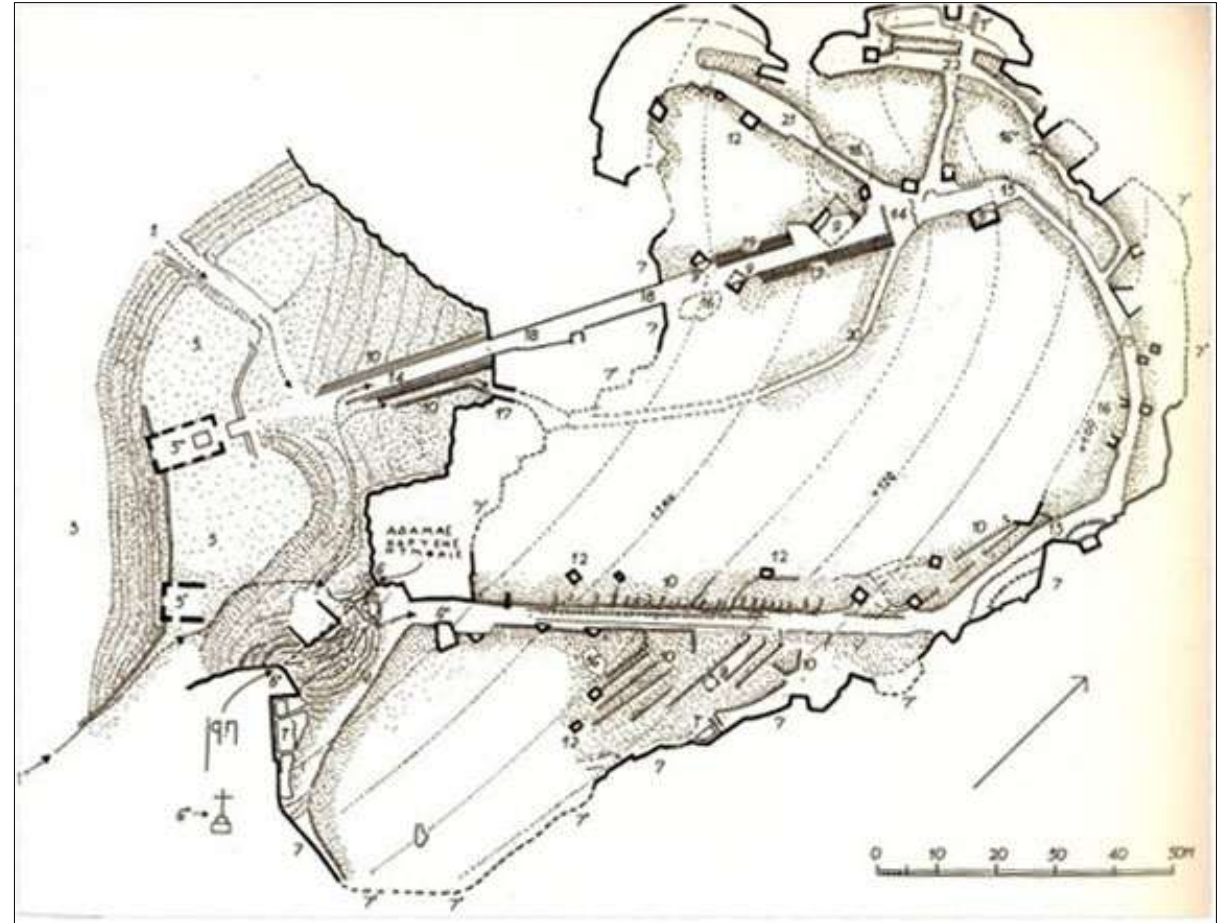


The famous 'lychnitis', Underground quarries

- 'Lychnitis', the best quality Parian Marble: white, smooth, translucent (35 mm)
- In use since 3,000 BC for works of art -> Pebbles -> Surface quarrying
- Underground Nymphs' & Pan's quarries, from 7th c. BC



The quarry of the Nymphs





Renown works of art



Cultural influence & Economic importance: 'Parian Soft Power'



Works in Parian marble have been located throughout the Mediterranean

Motya Charioteer, 470-460 BC

Frieze of Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, 350 BC

The long middle ages



Relics of 19th c. exploitation of the ancient quarries

19th c. massive investment, industrial complex



Designated as protected archaeological site in 1974, but years of neglect

- Visitors leave disappointed
- Missing opportunity for this unique cultural heritage to contribute to an alternative development model for the island



2. Participative approach - partnership

From protests by local associations to working in partnership

- 2019: 2 workshops led by local associations ->
 - > **Coordination Committee:**
 - Municipality (the Mayor and Opposition) +
 - Directorate of Antiquities of Cyclades (Min. of Culture) +
 - Local associations (the “junior partner”)
- Discussions on problems and what needs to be done but up to each partner to implement
- Little action ... (tokenism / placation)

3. Participative approach – the community in the lead

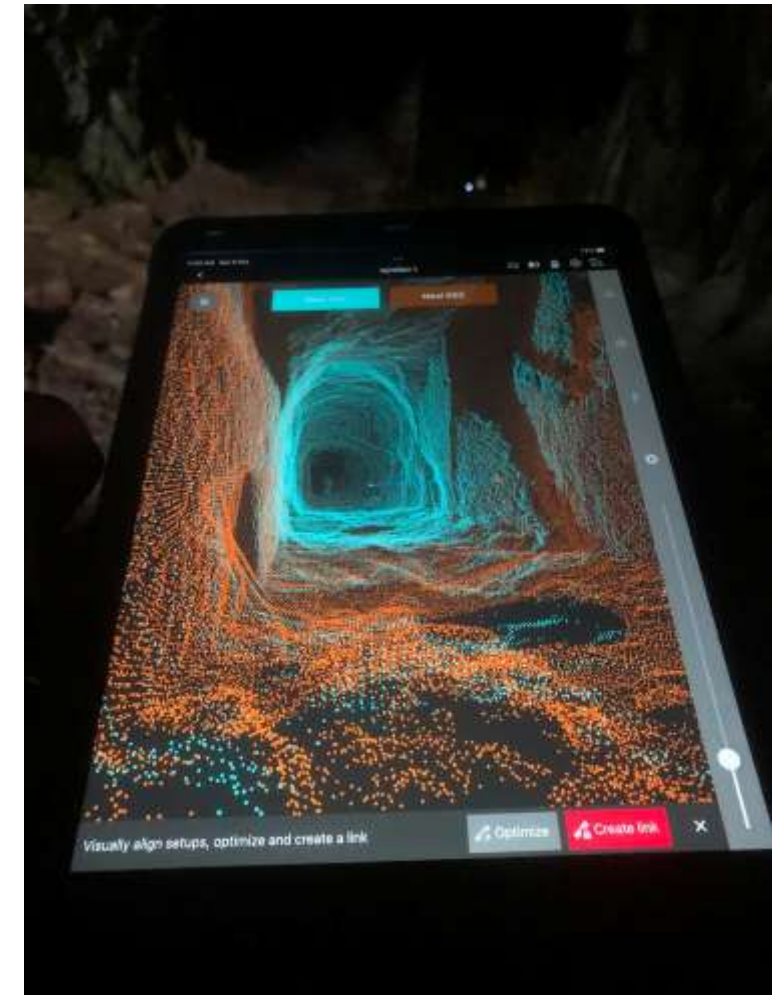
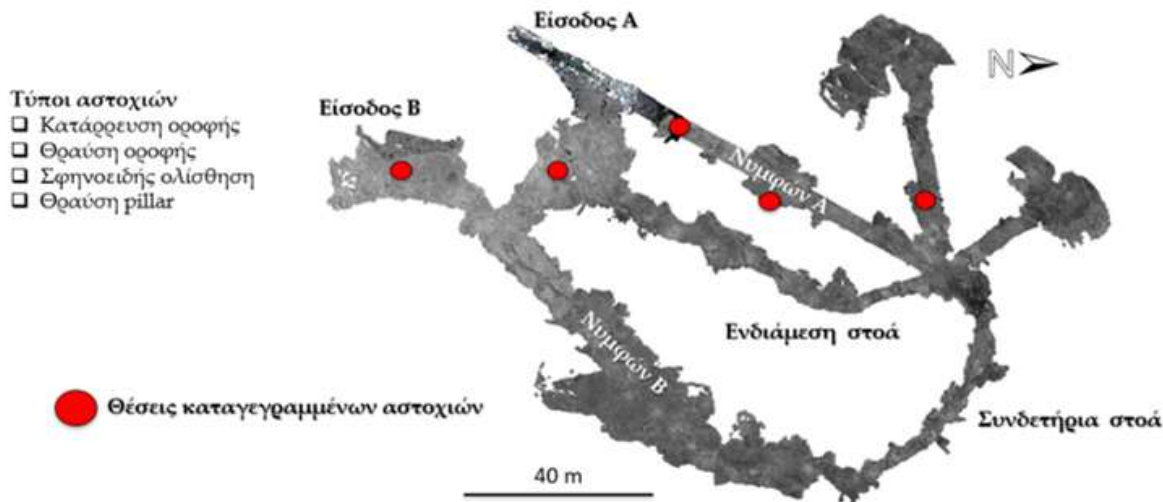
- **2022: Non-profit organisation set up by 6 local associations**
 - > vision (Archaeological & Cultural Park -> World Heritage status)
 - > 7 board members + other members / volunteers + c. 300 friends
 - > some capacity + lots of motivation to drive the process
 - > informative website in GR & EN
 - > initiating / taking action ...



Examples of actions and initiatives since 2022

Save the underground galleries

3D digital survey and geotechnical investigation of Nymphs' and Pan's quarries



Detailed technical specification of stability measures for parts on Nymphs' quarry by specialist consulting engineers



Improve visitors' experience



Plan & implement improvements:

- Main entrance of arch. area
- Central 'square' and main footpaths
- Entrance and 1st section of Pan's quarry
- Improvements outside the Nymphs' entrances

Prepare and promote major projects:

- Digital solutions (virtual visits to the underground quarries project launched)
- Stabilisation of underground galleries and 19th c. buildings



Fundraising



Concerts & other events

Over 60 donors
& sponsors / in kind
contributors

Local businesses, residents
and friends of the quarries
from Paros & Antiparos

Stay close to the local community



Talks in schools & visits



Photo contest

Cooperation

Work with official bodies and other institutions that can help:

- Directorate of Antiquities of Cyclades / Cooperation Protocol (priorities, funding, permits)
- Newer Monuments Service (use & preservation of 19th c. buildings)
- Municipality of Paros (land acquisition, financing the master plan)
- Athens Polytechnic (technical support)
- University of the Aegean (digital solutions)
- Museum of Cycladic Art (financial support)

4. Lessons learned so far ...

- **Claim “ownership position” for the community**, backed by longer term vision and lasting commitment.
- **Take the lead in proposing specific actions**, backed by (some) technical and financial resources. **Cooperate with and motivate** other players (be inclusive).
- **Stay credible: “get things done”**.
- **Stay relevant:** keep the appreciation and valorisation of the cultural inheritance **at the heart of the development and prosperity of the island**.
- **... and still unanswered:** the challenge of managing the ‘product’ of all these efforts.

Thank you!

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www.parianmarble.com