

Κοντά Τολι

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- A Κατο Τολι
- B Ρανο Τολι
- C Λουρια
- D Ακροτιρι Τολι
- E Κατο Κοκκινόμομα



Konda Toli

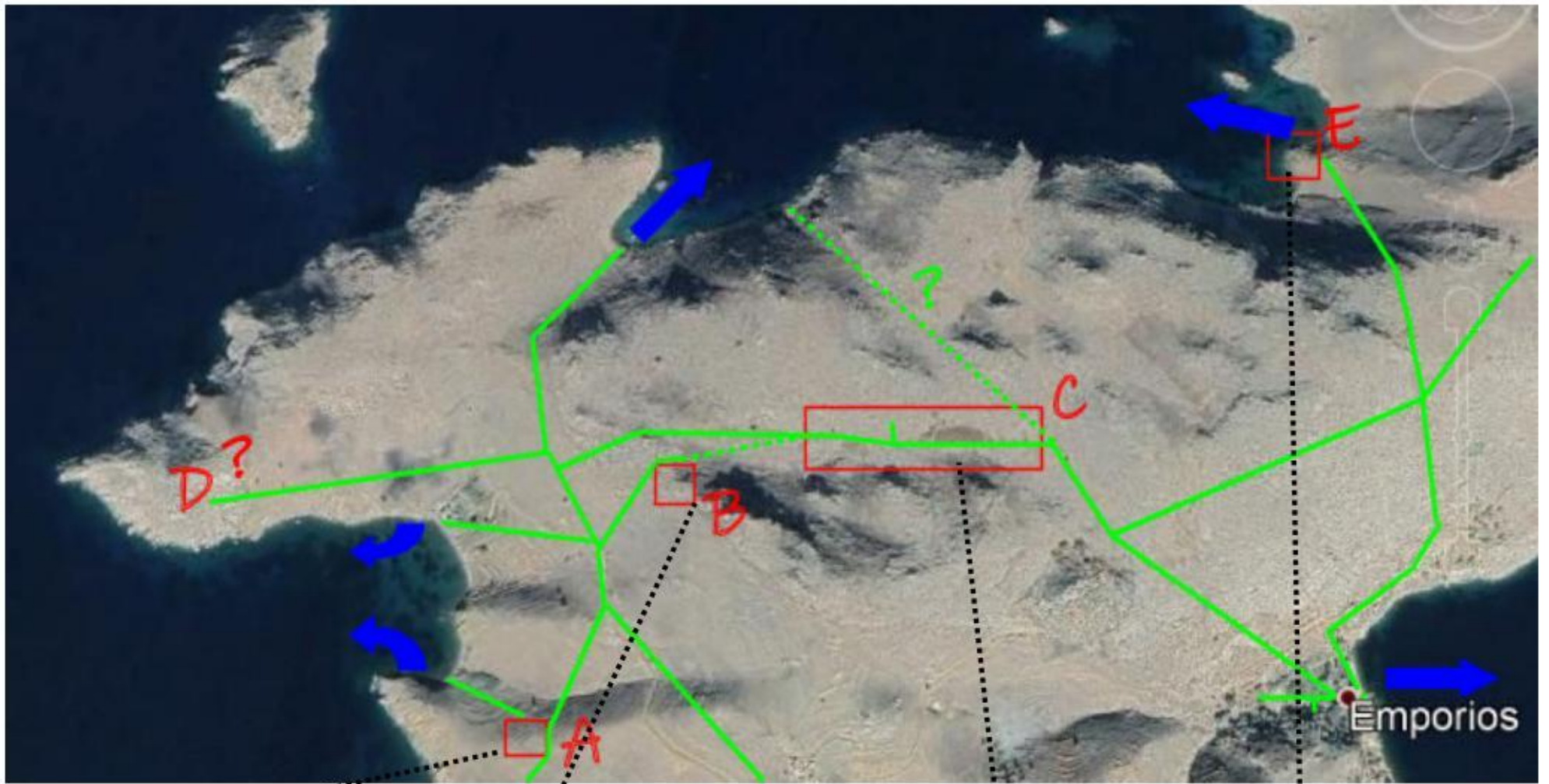
This a preliminary look at some of the old settlement features in an area in the north west of Symi which I have dubbed 'Konda Toli' because it's near Toli Bay. The sites can only be visited on foot and there are now only vague remnants of footpaths so in all cases access must be classed as DIFFICULT.

In times past a great deal of transport and communication would have been by sea rather than overland so it is quite possible that footpath/kalderimi networks were secondary outside of the local area. This is especially true of trade.

There is clear evidence of sea-trade, for example with Nisyros, in the beach material at Nimborio/Emborios and a basalt basin fragment at Pano Toli. Thousands of terracotta shards would need expert assessment.

I had hoped to do more research during the summer of 2020 but that did not prove possible. Gaps in information will hopefully be filled in during 2021.

This is not based on historical research – I'm not a historian – but on observation and interpretation of remaining ground and settlement features. Basically asking "Why is that there?" and "Why does it look like that?"



Kato Toli (A)

Location: Lat. 36:37:13.9709
Long. 27:48:04.2211

Altitude: XX metres ASL

Access: DIFFICULT. No footpath, steep downhill, loose underfoot
leave track downhill to the left at Lat. 36:37:15.3552
Long. 27.48:10.7812

Marked as 'Classical Period Ruins' on SKAï map of Syri

Fortification. Dimensions: 36 x 20 metres

160 metres from the beach, 460 metres from Pano Toli



Google Earth



Apple Maps



Looking down to the site from the track to Toli



Zooming in on Corner A



Close up to Corner A



Entrance 2

Looking towards Agios Emilianos in the far distance



Looking along the seaward side from B to C

Track to Toli on the hillside behind



On top of the seaward wall looking from B to C



Looking from D to C to Toli Bay past entrance 2



Looking towards A from entrance 1



Looking along the seaward side from C to B

Pano Toli (B)

Location: Lat. 36:37:28.4059

Long. 27:48:07.4381

Not marked on SKAİ map of Symi

Fortification. Dimensions: 36 x 20 metres

Altitude: XX metres ASL

Access: DIFFICULT. No footpath, steep uphill, loose underfoot

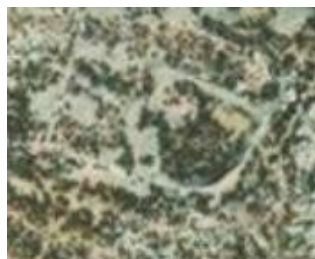
leave track uphill to the right at: Lat. 36:37:24.7887

Long. 27.48:04.7649

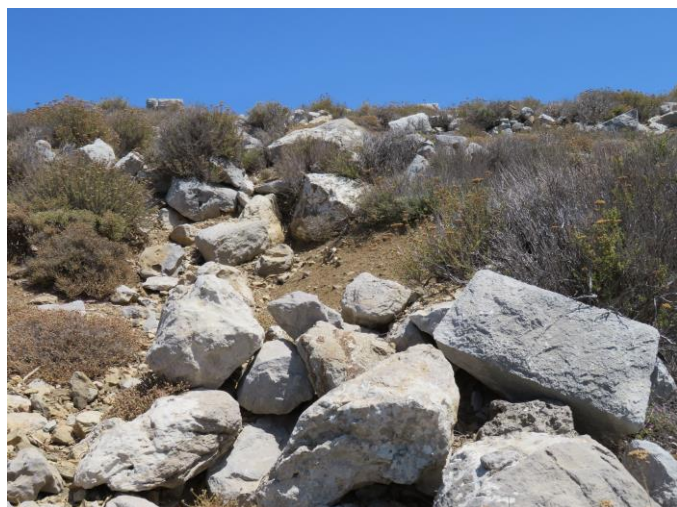
460 metres from Kato Toli



Google Earth



Apple Maps



Approaching corner A, past demolished blocks



The wall A-D comes into view



Corner A, 1.5 metres high



Looking along the wall from **A** to **D**



Looking along the wall from **A** to **B**



Looking from entrance **1** to corner **B**



The dressed stones of entrance **1**



Looking from corner **B** to **A**



'Trophy' from a different era



Fragment of basin from Nisyros

Louria (C)

Location: Lat. 36:37:28.4059
Long. 27:48:07.4381

Altitude: **XX** metres ASL

Access: Either from the Toli track or from Nimborio.
Both ways **DIFFICULT** but that from Nimborio. slightly less

Dimensions: Area **A** 55 x 28 metres; Area **B** 40 x 30 metres; Area **C** 84 x 36 metres plus another 100 metres of terraces outside enclosure



Google Earth



Apple Maps

Not shown accurately on the SKAİ map, the area marked as Louria is a hidden 'valley'. 280 metres from Pano Toli over very rough ground and **XX** metres lower, though it is certainly hidden, critically important in some periods of history, it's not really a valley. The land rises on all sides, so unlike either fluvial or glacial valleys there is no outflow channel for water. There are similar configurations on nearby Nisyros but they are vestiges of volcanic eruptions, sunken calderas such as high-level Nifios, Kato Laki and of course the main 3-kilometre long Laki. Despite earth tremors from the nearby

tectonic plates, there have not been any eruptions on Symi (as far as I know). Rather, the rock is porous limestone not volcanic. My guess is that a seismic tremor caused a localised downwards shift along a fault line. So, instead of a stream bed draining the valley in times of heavy rainfall, there is what can best be described as a geological plug-hole at the lowest point, a cave entrance. The cave is likely a 'fault' cave rather than water eroded so may well be blocked by dislodged rocks - but I hope to explore and confirm.

Both areas **A** and **C** are surprisingly flat and level. I suspect that this because water was channelled onto them in times of flood, depositing silt as the water level sank giving a greater workable depth and increasing fertility of the soil. Area **A** is unfenced, edged and divided into 'fields' by a single layer of stones. Area **C** is fenced to exclude goats and is still farmed for a fodder crop cut in early summer after the main growing season of winter and ripened in spring. A series of shallow terraces lead down to it at its eastern end. A few isolated olive trees remain.

Area **B** is barely discernible either on the satellite image or on the ground where it is a confused jumble of stones. I suspect it was either an animal enclosure or possibly even a dwelling. There is a narrow path leading to it from the northeast corner of area **A**, marked by a large, pointed, 'stone-on-a-rock', the traditional way of marking paths.

The lowest point of the valley is at the northeast corner end and there may be a way down to the sea from here. I had planned to explore this and take more photographs and readings Summer 2020 - but it didn't happen.



Looking eastwards down to areas **A** and **C**



Area **A** with stones marking out 'field' boundaries



The 'cave 'plughole' at the lowest point of the valley. The tree at the top of the photo is the one on the left of the first photo showing the height difference

Akrotiri Toli (D)

The SKAİ map of Symi marks 'RUINS' towards the end of Akrotiri Toli. A visit there some years ago found only what seemed to be a single small agricultural dwelling with no enclosure. To be revisited and further explored and photographed.

Kato Kokkinohoma (E)

Location: Lat. 36:37:55.5453 Altitude: **XX** metres ASL Access: DIFFICULT, steeply downhill, very rough and loose underfoot from 'fields' below Ag Nikolaos Stenou
Long. 27:48:52.4380

Marked inaccurately on SKAI map of Symi

Walled agricultural settlement: Dimensions: 40 x 50 metres.

40 metres from the beach



Google Earth



Apple Maps



The site contains a derelict single-room stone-built house (4), quite possibly occupied into the 20th Century, and a communal bread-oven near the centre of the site (3). At the bottom of the site, what is probably the main entrance (1) leading to the beach, is flanked by large 'significant' stones. An upper entrance (2) opens to what is now a very 'thin' path leading up to the small chapel of Agios Nikolas Stenou **XX** metres above. There is a height difference between the upper and lower entrances of **XX** metres. Built into the random-stone wall on the west side of the enclosure, close to the house, is a dressed and shaped stone of much higher quality, very similar to the one at Pano Toli. This one has a number spray-painted onto it so is probably logged by the Greek Archaeological Service (Αρχαιολογική Υπηρεσία) - **check**



Looking down to the site



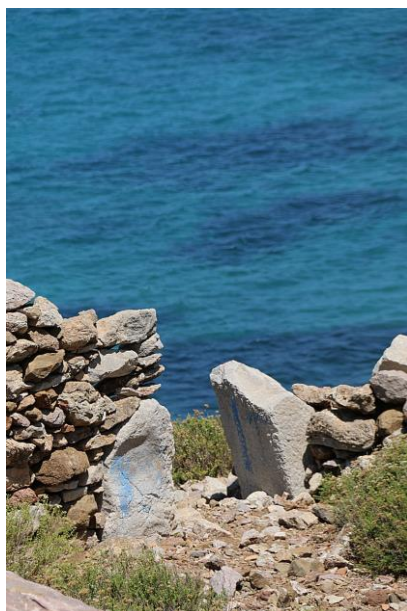
Approaching the top entrance **2**



Looking past the bread-oven **3** to the house **4**



Looking back up to the landward entrance **2**



The seaward entrance **1**



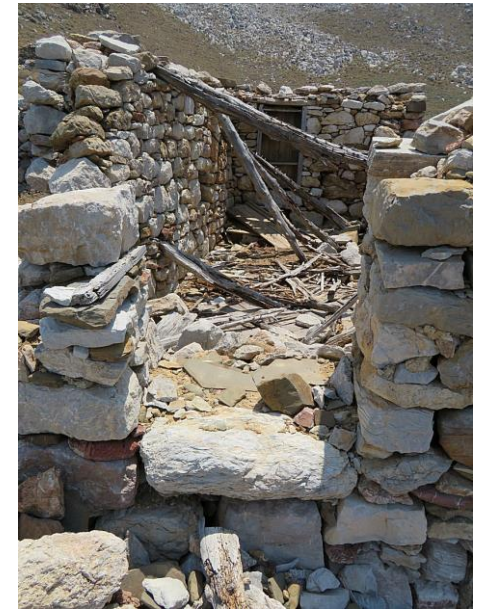
From the seaward entrance **1**
to the top of the site



Perimeter walls of the enclosure are random stone



..... except for this dressed piece which is identical to the one at Pano Toli nearly 1.5 kms away



Looking into the house from the window



... and from the doorway, showing the 'cupboards'



The communal bread-oven at the centre of the site



... a closer look