Phaleron Delta – The archaic necropolis at the southern edge of the city

Phaleron necropolis is extended along the North-South axis in the area between Athens and Piraeus known as Phaleron Alipedon – a salty marshland - in the Ancient Greek Literature. Recurrent hydrogeological episodes were identified as well as traces of streams that turned occasionally the area into a coastal marshland. So far have been excavated about ten acres (9,300 square meters) though we estimate that the Necropolis occupies a greater area. The cemetery gives us a terminus post quem the latest decade of 8th century B.C. while the last period of use is placed at the beginning of 5th century BC with main use identified at the Archaic period.

Most graves are found into sand between -0,40m – 1,20m below current sea level. Most of the 1500 graves uncovered until now are burial pits and pots, while funeral pyres, stone-lined cist graves and larnakes are also present along with a burial in a wooden coffin.

The archaeological context refers to a large scale cemetery used mainly by lower social groups. Nevertheless, exceptions are present, including burials with wealthy offerings, horse burials as well as individual and mass graves of men that they were executed.

Yet, the excavations on the site are ongoing.