

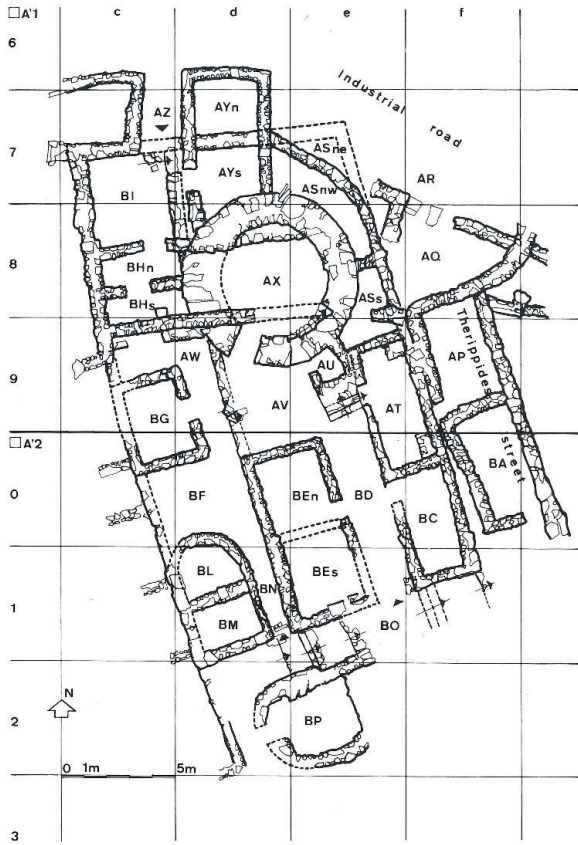


Tower 3 in the 1890s
(photo: courtesy of DAI Athen, No. D-DAI-ATH-Attika-055).

17. The Towers

Four towers of the 5th and 4th centuries BC are preserved in Thorikos (a fifth is hypothesized): one is a square edifice, and three are round. Only Tower 1 in the so-called Tower Compound has been excavated so far. With walls 1.25-1.5 m thick and a diameter of 7.50 m, it may originally have reached a height of 15 m, and preserves the remains of an interior stairway. Situated within *Insula 3*, it formed part of a living- and working area of c. 22.5x13 m around a courtyard. The square Tower 3, with sides of c. 6.40 m, still reaches 3.82 m in height and stood much taller even as late as the 19th century. Its masonry is best compared with that of the 4th-century retaining wall or *analemma* of the theatre. A study of ancient towers in the Greek world suggests that these features relate to the exploitation of the landscape, protecting specialized slaves working in mines, vineyards and stone quarries. Two questions on the Thorikos towers remain: their chronology in relation to the development of extensive mining on the Velatouri in the Classical period, and their precise function within the urban landscape. The construction of Tower 1 has been dated to 480/450 BC. If the function of the towers was indeed related to mining activities, this means that the start of Classical-period





mining at Thorikos may be dated earlier than commonly thought. The planned excavation of Tower 2 and re-examination of Tower Compound 1 may provide answers to these questions.

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References: Spitaels 1978; Thielemans 1994; Morris and Papadopoulos 2005.

*Plan of Tower Compound 1
(after Spitaels 1978, 40, fig. 13).*

18. Mines and Mining

Five km of galleries have been explored and surveyed in Mine no. 6 and nearly one km in Mine no. 3 under the Velatouri hill. Neither has been fully prospected; the same goes for the opencast mines, some of which are still visible, but the recovered data are nevertheless considerable. The network is exceptional in its layout and extension, and several phases of activity have been observed. Archaeological data including pottery and stone



Quadrangular shaft of the Classical period being explored: connecting shaft between two main levels of mineralizations/access to lower levels (photo: DM).

