

# BRITISH SCHOOL *at* ATHENS

AN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH



## Knossos 2025 Project

# **Knossos is one of the most important archaeological sites in the world**

Continuously occupied for almost 9,000 years,  
it is the oldest settlement in Europe

The Knossos 2025 Project will renew  
the BSA Knossos Research Centre to offer  
world-class facilities for international researchers  
and attract new generations of academics and others



# Knossos 2025 Patron Victoria Hislop

*“ This is a very exciting moment in the development of archaeology at Knossos, a site of world importance. Creating a 21st-century research centre for the study of this 9000 year old settlement will allow ever deeper understanding of this unique and precious site in its local and regional context ”*

## BSA Chair Dr Carol Bell

*“ The BSA’s long history at Knossos has played an important role in the academic development of generations of archaeologists. We now embark on the next chapter of its history, building on the vision of our predecessors at the site, to provide generations to come with a modern Knossos Research Centre whose facilities match the importance of the artefacts it will preserve.*

*“ Not only will this benefit our community of scholars from all over the world but also it will offer a platform for extensive and frequent local engagement. We shall be able to provide opportunities for the interested public of Crete and beyond to engage with the distant past of Knossos in a way that is impossible at our current facilities.*

*“ Achieving this ambitious project will require planning, participation and partnership. Much of the planning has been completed, in partnership with our colleagues on the Central Archaeological Council and in the Ephorate of Antiquities of Herakleion. Many of you are already supporters of the BSA’s work in Greece. We now ask for your participation in this important project which will open a new chapter in Knossos’ illustrious history and protect its legacy for all ”*





# Our history at Knossos

**1900**

Sir Arthur Evans' excavations begin at Knossos

**1941**

Villa Ariadne used as Nazi command post

**1966**

Inauguration of the Knossos Stratigraphical Museum

**1906**

Villa Ariadne built by Evans

**1945**

Surrender of German and Italian forces signed at Villa Ariadne

**1976**

Excavation of the Knossos North Cemetery

**1926**

Evans gifts his estate at Knossos to the BSA

**1998**

HRH The Prince of Wales visits Knossos

**1952**

BSA transfers Evans' Knossos estate to the Greek State

**1930**

John Pendlebury appointed BSA Knossos Curator

**2005**

Knossos Urban Landscape Project begins

**1939**

Excavation of the Kephala tholos tomb

**1957**

Excavations of the Neolithic settlement at Knossos begin

**2018**

HRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall visit Knossos

K 67-72  
Cup, bowl, jar, jug, pyx  
SMP11810  
Various locations

# The story so far

*1900–2025 | reimagining a unique legacy*

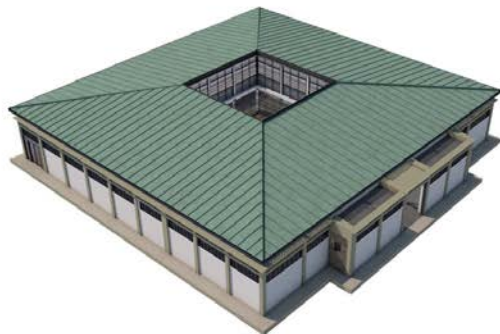
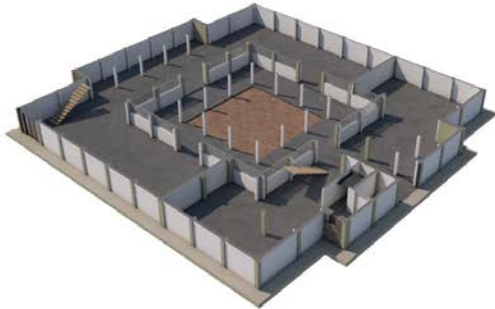
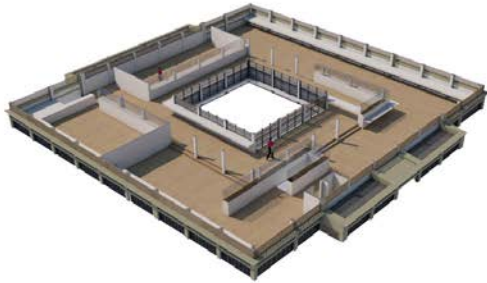
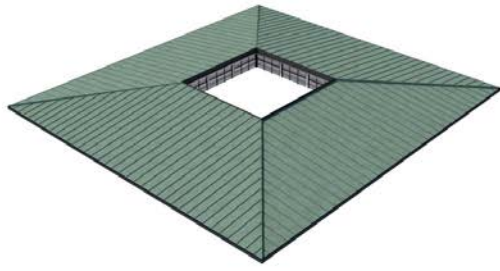
Knossos has been continuously occupied for almost 9,000 years. This enduring settlement is central to our understanding of human history, offering unrivalled opportunities for research.

Ever since Sir Arthur Evans began his pioneering excavations in 1900, Knossos has been a major focus of British School at Athens (BSA) engagement with Greece. Over a century of systematic exploration has revealed some of the most important finds in the history of archaeology. Many of these are on display in the Herakleion Archaeological Museum. However, a substantial sample representing all periods of occupation remain in the Knossos Stratigraphical Museum which lies at the heart of the BSA Knossos Research Centre, making it a vital study base for scholars from around the world.

The Centre has played a critical role in understanding the emergence and development of European civilisation. Many leading archaeologists trained at the Knossos Research Centre and the finds kept there have generated influential studies into every aspect of Cretan and Mediterranean history. Knossos is so widely recognised that the Palace is the second most popular archaeological site in Greece, attracting over 1 million visitors in 2019.

After almost a century of activity, the Knossos Research Centre needs urgent renovation and updating to meet the needs of 21st-century researchers. In close collaboration with the Greek authorities, the BSA has developed an ambitious plan: the **Knossos 2025 Project** will transform the Knossos Research Centre by providing world-class facilities for future generations of researchers, ensuring the best possible storage and conservation conditions for the precious archaeological materials, and attracting new academic and local audiences.

*Established in 1886, the BSA is the UK's academic hub for the humanities and social sciences in Greece and its wider Balkan and Mediterranean contexts. Our mission is to conduct, facilitate and promote interdisciplinary cutting-edge research into all aspects of Hellenic culture from the Palaeolithic to the Present.*



*“ The accumulated finds in the Knossos Stratigraphical Museum have outgrown the available spaces for decades. Working in close collaboration with the Greek authorities the BSA has prepared a detailed plan for all necessary repair and rebuilding. Behind this is a transformational concept for the long term, the creation of a thoroughly equipped Knossos Research Centre, that is a scheme wholly appropriate for the status of the site of Knossos itself ”*

Peter Warren FBA  
Professor Emeritus of Ancient History and Classical  
Archaeology and Senior Research Fellow  
University of Bristol

# Our plan

One of Sir Arthur Evans' priorities was the safe storage of the finds from his excavations. He initially stored these on-site before moving them to the nearby Villa Ariadne in 1906. The post of Knossos Curator was established in 1926 to manage the collections, followed in 1966 by the building of the Knossos Stratigraphical Museum, a storage and study facility for BSA finds. Redevelopment of the Knossos Stratigraphical Museum — central to the BSA Knossos Research Centre — is key to our plans to reimagine Evans' legacy.

When the Project is completed:

- the Knossos Stratigraphical Museum will have a new mezzanine floor offering over 700m<sup>2</sup> of study and storage space for researchers complementing the existing ground floor store
- scholars will enjoy state-of-the-art facilities for 21st-century archaeology, including laboratory space for ceramic analysis and bioarchaeological research
- refurbished storerooms for architectural, ceramic and bioarchaeological finds will ensure the proper preservation of Knossos' material remains
- the collections will be digitised and become available online to researchers
- the Knossos Research Centre will offer a rich programme of workshops, lectures, performances and other outreach events engaging scholars, visitors and the local community more directly with Knossos' 9,000-year history

Plans commissioned by the BSA have already been approved by the Central Archaeological Council. Approval of the final building plans developed by Professor Nikos Skoutelis & Associates is currently expected by the Museums Directorate of the Ministry of Culture & Sports and the Herakleion Planning Authority towards the end of 2020.



*“ The Knossos Research Centre enabled me to take part in fieldwork in Crete as a postgraduate and since then has provided an ideal place to study material. It is an invaluable resource which allows recent finds to be compared with published, stratified pottery deposits. My time there has enhanced my knowledge of Minoan archaeology and pottery, experience which has undoubtedly helped my career development: I have gone on to curate the Aegean Bronze Age collections at the British Museum, and now the Ashmolean Museum. I hope that others will continue to benefit from the BSA’s facilities at Knossos as I have ”*

Andrew Shapland  
Sir Arthur Evans Curator of Bronze Age and Classical Greece,  
Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford





# Our vision

The Knossos 2025 Project will enhance and enrich study of Knossos from the Neolithic to the Byzantine periods and bring the site to life for a wider public.

These are its key strands:

**Fieldwork:** to implement a research plan for archaeological exploration in and around Knossos, informed by the results of recently completed fieldwork. This will take full advantage of the enhanced provision at the BSA Knossos Research Centre, ensuring that new projects will deliver exciting new data on the region's history.

**Publications:** the BSA's research on Crete and at Knossos in particular has generated a long series of influential publications. The next 2–5 years will see major publications of legacy data such as the Knossos Masons' Marks as well as the results of recent projects like the Knossos Urban Landscape Project. Future publications will profit from improved access to finds in the redeveloped Knossos Stratigraphical Museum, ensuring that the latest research from Knossos is promptly made available in-print and digitally to researchers and the wider public.

**Training:** to build on our existing, highly successful course in Prehistoric, Greek and Roman pottery and offer further training opportunities for students and professionals, while also developing our internship programme associated with the Knossos Research Centre. New research projects will also offer practice-based professional training to new generations of archaeologists, museum specialists and archivists.

**Events:** to bring Knossos vividly alive for the academic and local community on Crete and beyond by continuing and expanding the current programme of lectures and performances, together with regular academic workshops on key themes in the history of Crete and the eastern Mediterranean. Through these events we intend to reach new audiences and further encourage interdisciplinary engagement.



*“ I first encountered the Knossos Stratigraphical Museum in 1981, when it formed the base for excavations at Knossos in which I participated as a research student. As I matured as a scholar, I came to appreciate its quasi-legendary status; not only as a home-base for BSA fieldwork, but also as a collection of materials documenting the 9,000-year history of the site of Knossos. Almost 40 years later, I hope I have an even deeper understanding of the value of the Knossos Stratigraphical Museum in the context of our Knossos Research Centre: as a base, and as a research and teaching resource that continues to engage generations of scholars, students and others — in fact anyone with an interest in the deep history of humanity ”*

Professor John Bennet FSA, Director, British School at Athens

# How you can help

The Knossos 2025 Project offers a unique and exciting opportunity to support archaeological research at Knossos well into the 21st century. Our plan envisages a redevelopment of the Knossos Stratigraphical Museum and the equipping of the BSA Knossos Research Centre to the highest standards for study and storage. The cost of the overall project is estimated at £2 million.

All donors to the Knossos 2025 Project will be acknowledged on a special donor board to be displayed in the Knossos Research Centre after completion. They will also be acknowledged on our website and in publications.

For higher level donors, including trusts and foundations, we will provide the following recognition:

**Principal Benefactors:** £100,000 or more

**Fellow Benefactors:** £50,000 to £99,000

**Associate Benefactors:** £10,000 to £49,000

**Sir Arthur Evans Circle:** £2,500 or more

## Privileges

Amongst the entitlements of higher level donors to the Knossos 2025 Project are:

- Opportunities to organise private dinners or receptions at the Knossos Research Centre
- Dedicated tours of the Knossos Research Centre and the Palace led by the Director and Knossos Curator
- Copies of the latest publications on the BSA's activities on Crete

## Room naming

Additional opportunities for acknowledgement of major donors will include naming rights for some of the storerooms and study spaces in the redeveloped Knossos Stratigraphical Museum. Please contact the Director, Professor John Bennet, for details: [director@bsa.ac.uk](mailto:director@bsa.ac.uk)



*“ The Knossos Research Centre and its Stratigraphical Museum constitute a unique and world-class facility for bioarchaeological research into ancient economy in Crete and the wider region. They have supported a level and pace of bioarchaeological research that would otherwise be impossible, making Knossos a world-leading centre for studying ancient land use and economy over the long term. These facilities have directly shaped my own career development, including the award of a major European Research Council-funded project and promotion to Professor ”*

Amy Bogaard  
Professor of Neolithic and Bronze Age Archaeology  
University of Oxford



# Contact us

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To arrange a tour of the BSA Knossos  
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Donations received from UK taxpayers are generally eligible for Gift Aid. We also welcome donations in euros and dollars. US-based supporters may donate in a tax-efficient manner through the BSA Foundation.





1. Knossos Stratigraphical Museum (architectural rendering)
2. Tool and Pithos Store
3. Fortetsa Apotheke
4. Lapidaria
5. Unexplored Mansion and Little Palace
6. Villa Ariadne



**1900–2025 | reimagining a unique legacy**



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