

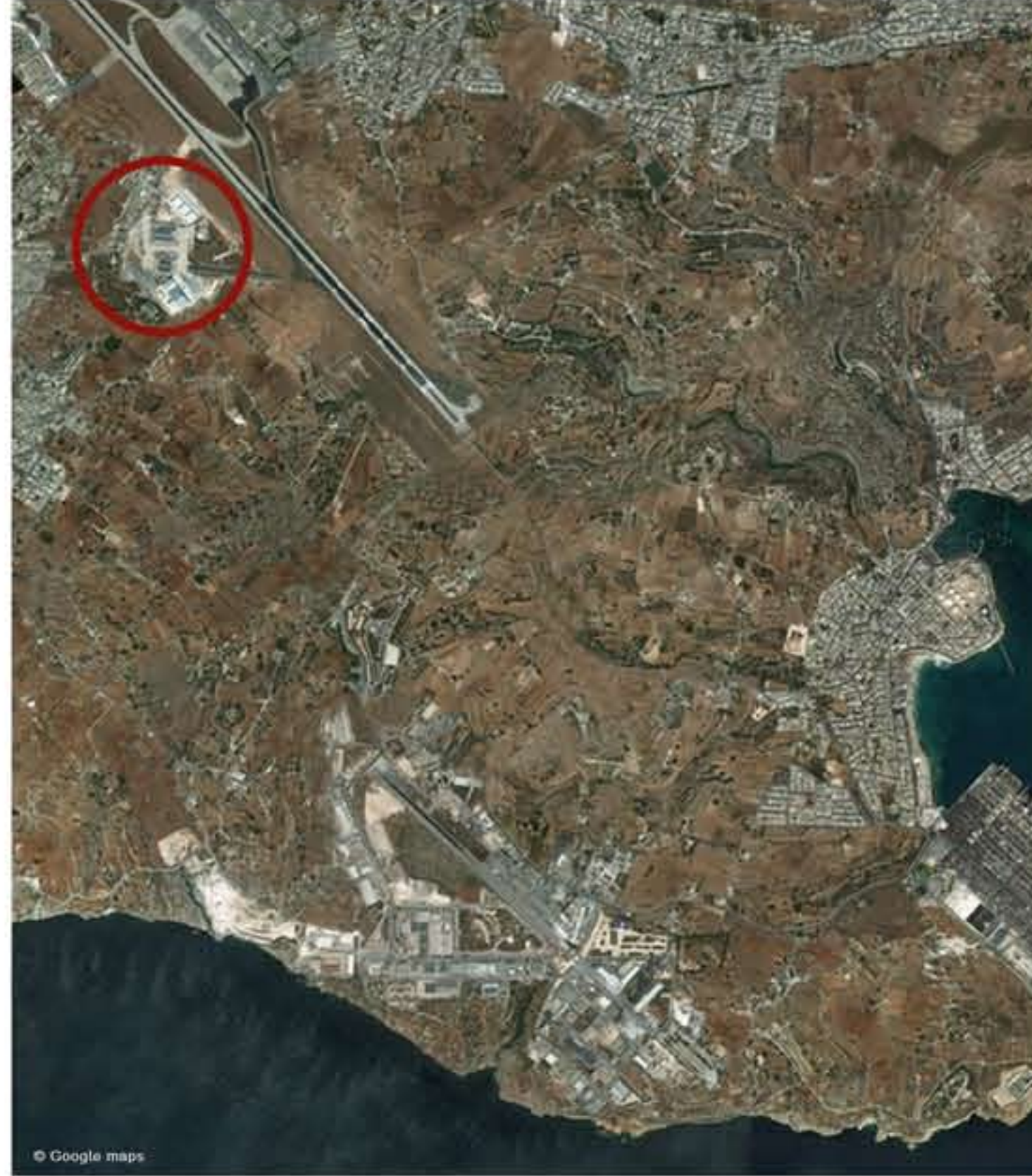
Hal Safi fil-bidu tas-seklu 10: kuntest rurali

Sors storiku wiehed biss jirreferi (indirettament) għal insedjament rurali f'Malta medjevali bikrija.

- Fil-590 il-Papa Girgor il-Kbir jirreferi għal proprjetajiet tal-Knisja tal-Afrika fil-gżejjer Maltin. Probabbilment dawn kienu patrimonji agrikoli, bħal proprjetajiet oħra tal-Knisja fi Sqallija.

Huwa kważi daqslieku l-insedjament rurali ma kienu importanti; iżda l-arkeoloġija qed tindika mod ieħor.

Xi wħud mill-*villae* qodma - djar tal-kampanja Rumani fiċ-ċentru ta' proprjetajiet agrikoli - komplew joperaw sal-Medju Evu Bikri. Investigazzjonijiet fil-vilel ta' San Pawl Milqi (Burmarrad) u Ż-Żejtun ikkonfermaw li huma kienu attivi fis-sekli 8/9.



Dehra mill-ajru tal-lbiċ ta' Malta, bil-post fejn sar l-iskav f'Hal Safi fl-2015, qrib il-mitjar.

Aerial view of the south west of Malta with the location of the Hal Safi 2015 excavations, close to the airport runway.

Safi in the early 10th century: a rural context

Only one historical source refers (indirectly) to rural settlement in early medieval Malta.

- In 590 Pope Gregory the Great referred to properties held by the Church of Africa in the Maltese islands. Probably these were agricultural estates, like other Church properties in Sicily.

It is almost as if the rural settlement was unimportant; but archaeology is indicating otherwise.

Some of the old *villae* - Roman country houses at the centre of agricultural estates - continued operating into the Early Middle Ages. Investigations of the villas of San Pawl Milqi (Burmarrad) and Żejtun have confirmed that they were active into the 8th/9th centuries.

Fl-2015 depożitu rurali importanti f'ċisterna qadima tal-ilma forma ta' qanpiena ġie identifikat f'Hal Safi. Fiha nstabu bosta frammenti ta' amfori u għadam tal-animalli.

Dan l-iskav offra evidenza importanti dwar il-kontinwazzjoni ta' insedjament rurali f'Malta fil-perijodu Gharbi bikri - l-ewwel nofs tas-seklu 10.

L-iskavar emfasizza wkoll xi aspetti tal-ekonomija tas-siti rurali f'dan il-perjodu.

Sezzjoni tal-bir forma ta' qanpiena.



Section drawing of the bell-shaped water cistern.

Il-ftuħ tal-bir forma ta' qanpiena waqt l-iskav tal-2015 mis-Sovrintendenza.



Opening of the bell-shaped cistern during the 2015 investigations of the Superintendence.

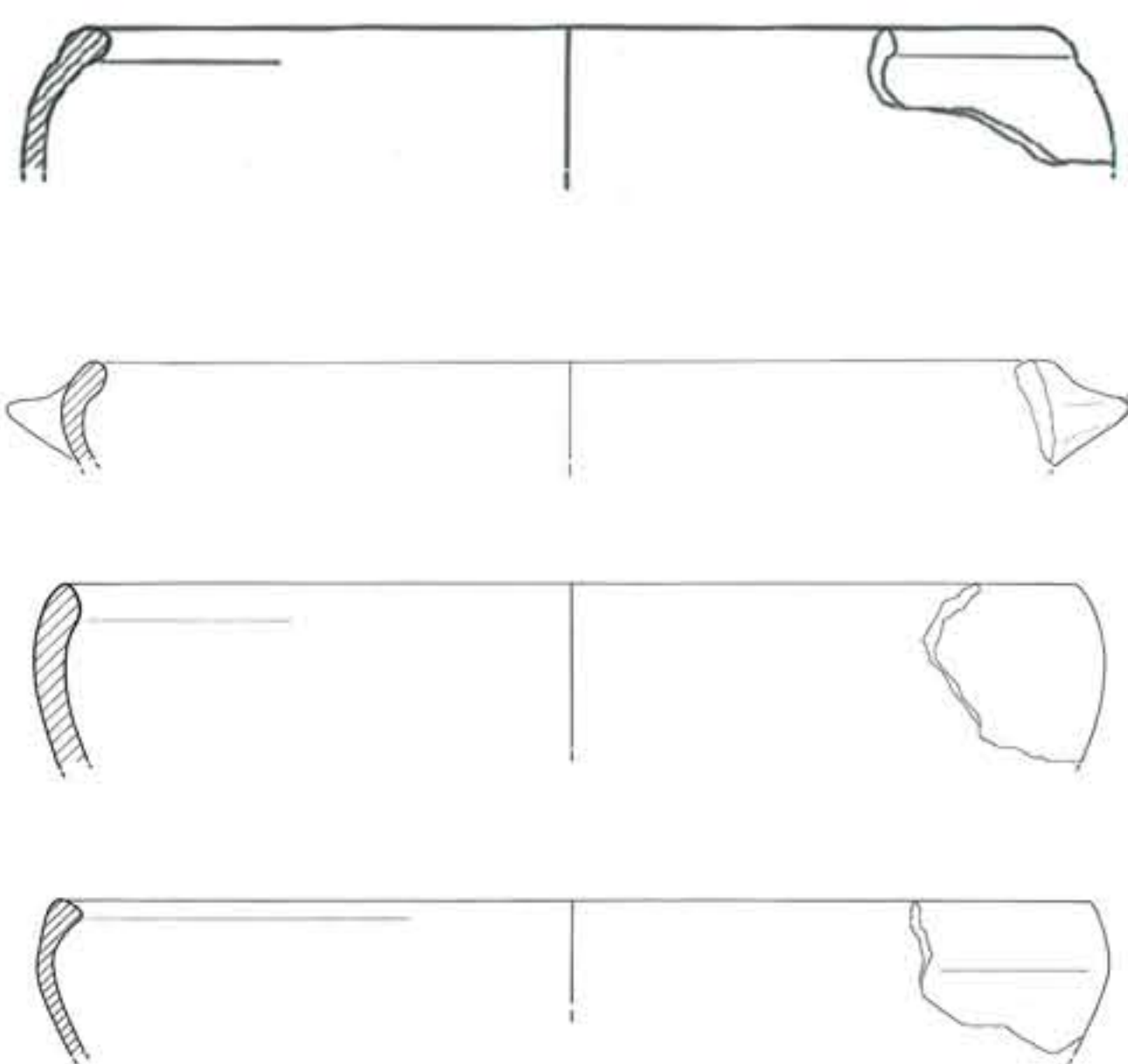
In 2015 an important rural deposit in an ancient bell-shaped water cistern was identified at Hal Safi, in which numerous amphora fragments and animal bone were found.

This excavation yielded important evidence on the continuation of rural settlement in Malta into the early Arab period - the first half of the 10th century.

It also highlighted some aspects of the economy of rural sites in this period.

KAZZOLA TAL-IMDINA 1

Tpingġija tal-kazzola tat-tisjir baxxa li tinstab tipikament f'depożiti Bizantini tas-seklu 9 fl-Imdina.



MDINA COOKING POT 1

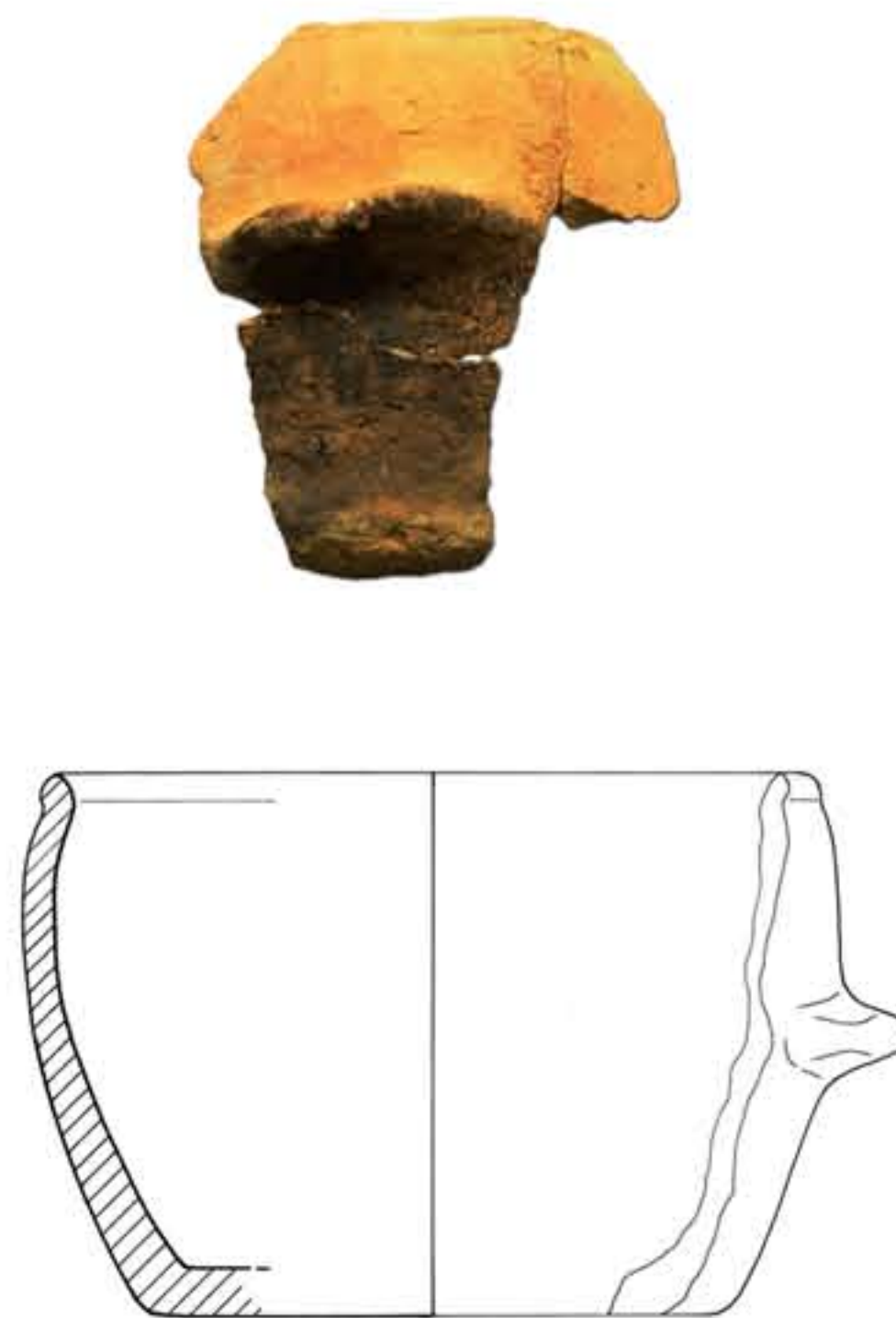
Drawings of the shallow, casserole type of cooking pots typically found in 9th century Byzantine deposits in Mдина.

KAZZOLA TA' HAL SAFI

Ritratt u tpingġija tal-kazzola magħmula bl-idejn mill-iskav ta' Hal Safi tal-2015. Il-metodu ta' produzzjoni u l-forma ta' din il-kazzola huma tipiċi tat-tradizzjoni tal-Afrika ta' Fuq, u juru bidla ċara mit-tradizzjoni Bizantina ta' qabel.

HAL SAFI COOKING POT

Photograph and drawing of the handmade cooking pot from the Safi 2015 excavations. The method of production and the shape of this pot are typical of the North African cooking traditions, and mark a clear shift away from the earlier Byzantine tradition.



MDINA COOKING POT 2

Photos of cooking pots found in 11th century deposits in Mдина. The method of construction and general shape of this vessel is a continuation of the typology found at Hal Safi. This hand made type of domestic pottery remained very popular in Malta till the end of the Middle Ages, and in some aspects till even later.



MDINA COOKING POT 2

Photographs of cooking pots found in 11th century deposits in Mдина. The method of production and general shape of this vessel is a continuation of the typology found at Hal Safi. This hand made type of domestic pottery remained very popular in Malta till the end of the Middle Ages, and in some aspects till even later.