Jessica Watkins

*BA (Hons) Ancient History*

**The Ancient Dead: A Re-Examination of the Knossos North Cemetery in Iron Age Crete**

Knossos, also known as Europe’s oldest city, is the largest Bronze Age archaeological site on Crete. It has long been believed that, like other Minoan settlements, Knossos significantly declined at the end of the Bronze Age. However, recent research has revealed that the settlement continued to thrive into and throughout the Iron Age, revolutionising our understanding of Knossos and settlement patterns in the region more generally. In light of these new discoveries, a reconsideration of the Iron Age Knossos North Cemetery, conducted through a re-evaluation of the excavation reports, is necessary. Our knowledge of Iron Age Greek society is heavily dependent on a clear understanding of burials. Therefore, this research is key in allowing us to readjust our interpretations of contemporary social systems and structures, including specifically the emergence of the city state, in the light of new evidence from the settlement.

Funding source: Newcastle University
Project Supervisor: Dr Matthew Haysom