Dear Arthur,

I visited Karpathos in about 1975 (I have not consulted my field notebooks) and examined a number of rock cuttings, quarries, tanks, and other structures at sea level.  Near the airport, at the strip of coast shown on the attached Google image, I found a number of small slipways.  I may be able to find the original drawings if you want them. It would take time.

The resolution of Google at this point is very bad.  I had hope to be able to see them but I cannot.  You can see that the rocky slope of the shore here is horribly rough, with sharp points and little ridges and holes.  It is very difficult to walk on.  If you dragged a boat up onto this rocky surface it would be very difficult to avoid damage. You would scratch the planking badly, and if the boat fell sideways it could actually puncture the planking.

To my surprise I found several areas that had been deliberately smoothed out, 2-3m wide, and perhaps 10m long.  They are not at all sophisticated, and could be 100 years old, or 5,000 years old, I have no idea. But they are certainly artificial slips designed for pulling a boat out of the water without damage.

I have since found “primitive” slipways like this at Son Real in northern Majorca, the slips may be Bronze Age, or 19th century AD.  I don’t know!

I have a map showing the location and a longitudinal profile-section of the slips, but not the location to an accuracy of +/-5m.  I am not sure if I have any photographs.  It would take time to find them.

Does this help?  I hope so,

Best regards, Nic.

**From:** Arthur DE GRAAUW [<mailto:arthur.degraauw@outlook.fr>]   
**Sent:** 25 April 2016 18:35  
**To:** [n.flemming@sheetsheath.co.uk](mailto:n.flemming@sheetsheath.co.uk)  
**Subject:** Karpathos

Hello Nic,

I hope you are both OK at Sheets Heath …

You are quoted on page 571 of David Blackman’s book on shipsheds: 5 slipways at Makriyalo bay on the southern coast of Karpathos island near the airport.

Can you provide an accurate location of these slipways (e.g. using Google Earth)?

Cdlt/BRgds, Arthur de Graauw

