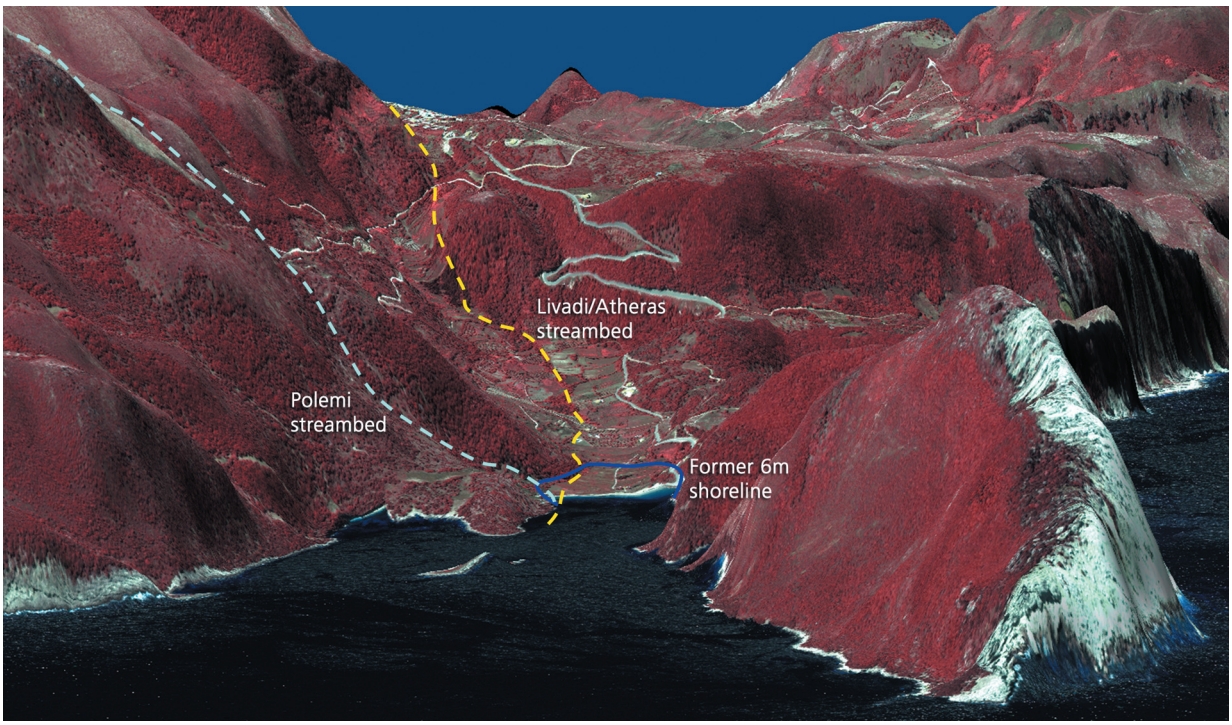

FIGURE 31.3
Intersecting spring lines at Atheras Bay
The intersection of the Polemi spring with the former harbour is at its eastern extremity in Figure 30.6 and about 120 metres north-east of where we were looking for the cave previously.
[Image credits: Digital Globe Quickbird 60 cm resolution false colour satellite image. Data source: DEM data from Hellenic Military Geographical Service. Processing: OziExplorer 3D.]

waves. The visible region of the wall at that time was 1.45 m high and the exposed base of the wall was measured (with some difficulty and imprecision) as about 2 m above present sea level and about 4 m below the top of the beach cliff.

Would anyone attempt to build a wall beneath an existing landslide? Presumably not, so this means that the rockfall must have come down after this wall was built. That in itself demonstrates that one or more rockfalls in this region did take place and also that they must have occurred at a date after the human habitation of this area. But it also demonstrates another crucial point.

This is the precise location at which John had previously observed the layers of material that have been reworked by the sea at a height of about 2 m above today's sea level. We discussed these in Chapter 27 and in Chapter 30; they were once underwater and they consist of at least two bands: a 9 cm band of 'grey clast supported conglomerate' towards the top of the exposed apex of the wall and above that a 35 cm region of 'bedded aqueous deposits'. So this tells us that someone built a wall here with its foundations underwater at a time when this part of the island was formerly 2 m lower in the sea.[1] If we can find out when the wall was built it will provide us with an earliest date for earthquake 2.

What else can we deduce about these rockslides? Strabo observed 'Where the island is narrowest it forms a low isthmus, so that it is often submerged