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HISTRIA 100 DE ANI DE CERCETĂRI ARHEOLOGICE
HISTRIA 100 ANS DE RECHERCHES ARCHEOLOGIQUES
HISTRIA 100 YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH



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HISTRIA. THE BASILICA “PÂRVAN” SECTOR (II). LATE ROMAN BUILDINGS WEST OF THE CHRISTIAN BASILICA (2001–2013)

VALENTIN BOTTEZ*

Keywords: Histria, Late Roman period, Basilica Pârvan, urban development, city plan.

Abstract: This paper focuses on the results of excavations undertaken in the southern part of the so-called acropolis of Istros since 2001, by the team led by Mircea Victor Angelescu and the author of the present paper¹; more precisely we will present the data obtained on the area W and NW of the Christian basilica, conventionally called *Basilica Pârvan Sector*. Research in this part of the sector has not been completed, so our paper will be based on the present state of the research. We have also chosen to exclude from this article the data concerning the Christian basilica, a large Late Roman building located N of it (CR02), as well as most of the information on **street d**, which runs between the two previously-mentioned structures and descends westwards into the area that concerns us, as these three complexes – the basilica, the street and CR02 – will be the subject of a future article.

Cuvinte-cheie: Histria, perioada romană-târzie, Basilica Pârvan, evoluție urbană, tramă stradală.

Rezumat: Articolul de față tratează rezultatelor săpăturilor arheologice efectuate de către o echipă condusă de M. V. Angelescu și de autorul prezentului articol, în zona sudică a așa-zisei acropole histriene cu începere din anul 2001. Sunt valorificate informații obținute până în prezent în zona de la vest de bazilica creștină, numită convențional *Basilica Pârvan*. Cercetarea în această parte a sectorului nu a fost finalizată, așa că lucrarea se va baza pe rezultatele pe care le avem la dispoziție în acest moment. Din analiză sunt însă excluse informațiile referitoare la bazilica creștină, la clădirea de la nord de aceasta (CR02) și majoritatea informațiilor despre **strada d**, care desparte cele două monumente menționate și coboară către vest, dat fiind faptul că aceste trei complexe arheologice vor constitui subiectul unui viitor articol.

STATE OF THE RESEARCH: OLD DIGS

This part of the acropolis was first excavated by V. Pârvan, who concentrated on the exterior of the Late Roman defence wall and on the Christian basilica that came to bear his name². Research was continued by Marcelle Flot-Lambrino in between the two World Wars. Her excavation notes have not yet been published, but in her work on the Archaic pottery discovered at Istros³ she mentions having excavated in the area and having spared the uncovered Late Roman walls. Also, on the aerial photograph published in the same book, we can see that part of the area around the Christian basilica, including the perimeter in question, had been excavated⁴. In the first monograph dedicated to Istros, without mentioning their name – as Scarlat Lambrino and Marcelle Flot-Lambrino were designated *personae non gratae* by the communist regime – Gr. Florescu mentions that after Pârvan's research, the excavation extended 120m² westwards from the basilica. Also, that the walls uncovered then, made of stone bound with earth and exposed to the elements for a long time, were in a very poor state of preservation at the moment the volume was published (1954)⁵. Concerning the defence wall in this area, Gr. Florescu mentions that its entire inner (northern) face was “cleared” at the moment of publication⁶.

¹ I would like to take the opportunity to thank M. V. Angelescu for the permission to publish the results presented in this article.

² Pârvan 1923–1924, p. 2; *Histria I*, p. 154–155.

³ Flot-Lambrino 1938, p. 14.

⁴ Flot-Lambrino 1938, p. 10, Fig. 1.

⁵ *Histria I*, p. 155.

⁶ *Histria I*, p. 92.

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Research was resumed in this area starting with 2001, focused primarily on the Christian basilica and its relation with the defence wall, but also extended west of the Christian building.

CURRENT EXCAVATIONS: SECTIONS AND STRATIGRAPHICAL DATA

The sector covering the southern part of the acropolis, conventionally named *Basilica Pârvan Sector*, is limited to the S by Phase B of the Late Roman defence wall; it stretches approximately 25 m W, 15 m N and (for now) 20 m E of the basilica (Fig. 2)⁷. In the area W and NW of the Christian basilica, several sections were excavated⁸. Their primary aim was to identify the level reached by previous excavations and extract as much data as possible. Also, several areas where ruins were visible were cleaned, in order to obtain the trajectory of the walls. It is clear now that the current ground level was created by modern excavations that eliminated the last Late Roman layers, and we have no indication of how the terrain initially looked at the beginning of excavations in Istros. The following excavation units were started (Fig. 3):

S007 (7×1.5m), located immediately west of the basilica, starting from its SW corner, is oriented ENE-WSW. To the S it is delimited by the N face of Phase A of the Late Roman defence wall, to the W by Z090. It was excavated in 2002, from a level of approximately -1m to -1.80m. No undisturbed layers were identified, as the area was previously excavated by M. Flot-Lambrino⁹.

S008 (7.35×2m), located west of S007, is oriented WSW-ENE, as it follows Phase A of the Late Roman defence wall that changes its direction in this area and delimits it to the S. To the E it is

delimited by Z090, to the W by Z067 and to the N by Z064. It was excavated in 2001 and 2002, from approximately -0.80 to -2.50m, where a layer of yellow clay¹⁰ and a Greek wall (Z089) were identified. Again, no undisturbed layers were discovered down to the yellow layer, as the area was previously excavated by M. Flot-Lambrino.

S009 (13.5×2.5m) is located W of S008, where we tried to identify Florescu's 1952 excavation, and is oriented ESE-WNW. It is delimited to the S by Phase B of the Late Roman defence wall, to the E by Z067 (E limit of CR04) and to the N by Phase A of the Late Roman defence wall (in the W part of the section) and by Z097 (part of CR04, in the E part of the section). It was excavated in 2001–2002, from approximately -2 to -4.40/4.70m depth, where we reached the natural bedrock. No undisturbed layer was identified, as the area was previously excavated by M. Flot-Lambrino and then by Gr. Florescu in 1952. The information for this area is that after Flot-Lambrino excavated the first layer, which contained the debris from the destruction of the city's last construction phase (dated at the beginning of the 7th c. A.D. by the author of the report), Florescu excavated the next two, down to the first plinth of Phase B of the Late Roman defence wall, on a height of 2.30m¹¹. This gives us a relatively clear point of reference, as we know the height of this plinth. Therefore, calculating the data according to our reference system, Florescu started excavating from a level of -0.10m, through a layer of "blackish earth, mixed with stones and fragments of brick, pottery and glass". At -0.80m he discovered a series of yellow clay treading levels that extended down to -1.20m. As the present day walls of CR04 are preserved starting as high as -0.74m (and we must assume that 60 years ago they were even higher), we can assume that these yellow clay floors were in fact the treading levels of CR04, as Florescu asserts. Underneath these layers there was a massive layer of filling (1.20m high), made up mostly of mortar, sand, pottery (some Hellenistic), small stones and, occasionally, large ones. In between Z096 and Z071 there was domestic pit, containing five fragmentary amphorae, ash and charcoals that came from an upper level, excavated by M. Flot-Lambrino, and that descended down to the first plinth of Phase B of the late Roman defence wall. The pit was sealed with yellow clay.

⁷ For a general description of the sector and the main discoveries up to 2009, see Angelescu, Bottez 2009.

⁸ All heights were measured from a certain fixed point, conventionally called "point 0", located on the NW corner of the westward projection of the basilica's altar; this point is located 4.63m above the sea level. We must always keep in mind that the entire sector follows a E-W and N-S slope. For designating a section we used the standard abbreviation of the Romanian word "secțiune" – S (e.g. S001) –, for designating a wall the abbreviation for the Romanian word "zid" – Z (e.g. Z089) –, for designating a Roman building we used the abbreviation of the Romanian "clădire romană" – CR (e.g. CR02) – and contexts are numbered using the number of the section, followed by the number of the context (e.g. 8001 is context 001 from S008).

⁹ For all the excavations made by Gr. Florescu in 1952 in the area covered by our S009 and references to previous excavations made in the area covered by our S007, S008 and S009, see *Histria I*, p. 314–324 and Pl. I on p. 64.

¹⁰ This could be the same natural layer found throughout the sector, and on which seem to have been built the first Greek structures (Flot-Lambrino 1938, p. 14–15 and Angelescu, Bottez 2009, *passim*).

¹¹ *Histria I*, p. 315.

S021¹² (11×6 m) is located immediately W of the Christian basilica, and is oriented NNW–SSE. To the N it is delimited by **street d**, to the W by Z063 (part of CR05) and to the S by Z015 and Z064. It was excavated in 2007, from a depth of –0.25 down to –1.35m. Again, the layers were disturbed by modern excavation, and only in the S part of the section we identified the debris of a Late Roman roof (–0.94m), a compact layer of *tegulae* and *imbrices* (context 21003, see Fig. 4) 4m long, bordering S007 to the S and superposed by Z064. We stopped the excavation on this level.

S023 (4×3m) is located between CR02 and CR03, is oriented NNW–SSE and is delimited to the S by **street d**. It was excavated in 2008, from the level of approximately +0.06 down to –1.20m. The only level identified is that of a modern excavation (which we did not finish excavating). As the (already-mentioned) aerial photograph in Marcelle Flot-Lambrino's book shows, the area was excavated in between the two world wars.

S031 (9.50×2m) is oriented N–S and is delimited to the N by Z074, to the S by Z064 and to the E by Z063. It was excavated in 2011 from approximately –0.60 down to –1.50m. On the section's entire surface a yellow clay layer (context 31001) was identified at –0.70m, in which was discovered the lower part of a Late Roman *dolium*. This indicates that the upper part (including the treading level of CR05) was lost to modern excavations. This layer ended at –1.50m, where a level of brown soil (context 31006) was identified: this is where we stopped the excavation.

Unfortunately, as we can see, the stratigraphic data are virtually non-existent and makes it impossible to determine an elaborate chronology for the structures identified in the sector. Therefore the only way to understand the evolution of this urban district during the Late Roman period is to obtain a relative chronology with the help of the structures identified in this area, their relation to one another and their orientation.

THE STRUCTURES

The research undertaken in this part of the sector led to the discovery of a large number of walls, some of which clearly belong to the same structures. Three such structures were identified, even if their plan could not be completely established. No treading level was identified for any of the walls discovered in this area.

CR03 (Figs. 2, 5 and 6)

The structure¹³ is located 4.70m NW of the Christian basilica's NW corner, immediately N of **street d** and approx. 3m W of CR02. The available data indicates that it was an almost rectangular structure, oriented W–E (the inner surface is of approx. 6.40×5.75m), but up to the present moment we identified only the N (Z081; preserved L 6.50m; identified at a height of –0.10m to the E and –0.22m to the W), S (Z080; preserved L 6.30m; identified at a height of +0.01m to the E and –0.45m to the W) and E (Z055; L 7.35m; identified at a height of +0.01m to the S and –0.04m to the N) sides. We have not yet started excavating the interior of the building, but all evidence (photograph from M. Flot-Lambrino's book, as well as our own observations made at the moment we cleared up the walls) points to the fact that it had been previously excavated, probably by M. Flot-Lambrino.

The three walls preserved are all 0.65m thick, made in general of medium-sized, non-fashioned stones (mostly green shales, mixed with occasional limestone *spolia*) bound with earth. The structure is preserved only at a foundation level (its E side is preserved on 6–7 courses); only its S side rises a few centimetres above the street level. We also have no indication of where the entrance into CR03 was positioned, or what the building's functionality was.

As we have yet not excavated the areas to the W and N, we are unable to specify how this building related to other structures in this part of the sector. To the E there seemed to be no direct connection with CR02, so we can suppose that a smaller street (approx. 3m wide) ran northwards between them. The three walls that were identified in the area between these two buildings (Z057, Z058 and Z059) are part of earlier structures that did not function anymore at the moment CR02, CR03 and **street d** were built. To the S, CR03 borders phase I of **street d** (Figs. 5 and 6), which is made of large, fashioned slabs of stone, so the two complexes were contemporary.

As far as dating the structure is concerned, our only clue is its direct relation to the first phase of **street d**, which was probably constructed before first Christian basilica was raised. Therefore it can be dated at the earliest to the 5th, but more probably to the beginning of the 6th c.

CR04 (Figs. 2, 7 and 8)

This building¹⁴ is located along Phase B of the Late Roman defence wall, 14m W of the Christian

¹² Angelescu, Bottez 2008, p. 164.

¹³ Angelescu, Bottez 2010, p. 82.

¹⁴ Angelescu, Bottez 2010, p. 82.

basilica's SW corner. It has a rectangular shape (10.50×5.70m, with an inner space of 8.70×5m) and is oriented ESE–WNW; the structure is in a very bad state of preservation, with the highest preserved walls in its NE corner, at –0.36m, and its S half destroyed. Its limits are Z071 (3.80×0.90m; preserved on 6–8 courses, totalling a height of approx. 1.35m; identified at –1.63m to the N and –2.43m to the S) to the W, Z069 to the N (10.40×0.75m; preserved on 6–8 courses, totalling a height of approx. 1.35m; identified at –1.63m to the W and –0.36m to the E), Z067 to the E (5.85×0.90m¹⁵; preserved on 10–13 courses, totalling a height of between 1.30–1.50m; identified at –0.36m to the N and –2.34m to the S) and the S limit was Phase B of the Late Roman defence wall, against which the building was raised. The building's interior is divided into two spaces, a larger room called Room A and a smaller one, set against the building's northern wall, called Room B (inner surface of approx. 5.50×1.85m). Room B was created by using the building's N wall (Z069) to which was added the room's W (Z096; 2.40×0.75m; preserved on 6–8 courses, totalling a height of approx. 1.35m; identified at –1.46m to the N and –1.87m to the S) and S limit (Z097; 6.35×0.70m, preserved on 6–8 courses, totalling a height of approx. 1.35m; most of the wall was destroyed in time; identified at –1.66m to the W and –1.25m to the E).

The entrance to the building, into Room A, was made from the W through Z071, whose S limit ends 1.85m away from Phase B of the Late Roman the defence wall. There is no indication where the entrance to Room B was located.

CR04's E limit was set on Phase A of the Late Roman defence wall, which is much better preserved here (–3.42/–1.98m) than in other areas. Its W limit actually tore through Phase A (Fig. 9), while its N limit was dug in a dark-brown filling layer containing a large quantity of Archaic Greek pottery (see **context 26006** in Fig. 10). The construction technique used is medium-sized, non-fashioned stones (mostly green shales, mixed with occasional limestone *spolia*) bound with earth. The quality of the masonry though is visibly higher than in other buildings, as many more large rectangular limestone blocks were used, especially at the corners.

We have no indication concerning the building's functionality. As far as its chronology is concerned, it is clear that, as it was set against Phase B of the

Late Roman defence wall, we must use the age of Constantine¹⁶ as a *terminus post quem*.

CR05 (Fig. 2, 11 and 12)

The building is located S of **street d**, N of CR04 and Z064 and 3.20m W of the Christian basilica, covering an area maybe as far as CR04's E limit. Although its plan is less clear than in the case of the two previous buildings, it is by far the largest and most complex of them and is oriented N–S.

Its N limit is Z074 (WSW–ENE; 3.65×0.55m; preserved on 4–6 courses, totalling a height of 0.30/0.50m; identified at –0.54m to the W and –0.08m to the E). At its E end, Z074 turns south (Z063; N–S; 10.85×0.65m; preserved on 2–4 courses, totalling 0.30/0.50m; identified at –0.08m to the N and –0.60m to the S) and is destroyed 0.50m short of its junction with Z064, which is also destroyed in that area. Z064 (0.65m wide) started from CR04's NE corner (identified at –0.45m), ran for 5.60m on a WNW–ESE direction (this segment of the wall is almost gone at the present moment), then turned ENE for another 5.60m (identified at –1.03m to the W and –1.00m to the E), where the wall is destroyed; we suppose though that it ran up to the SW corner of the Christian basilica (Z016, which we think represents all that is left of the basilica's S side, is on the same trajectory as the last segment of Z064), reaching a total estimated length of 14.50m.

To the E, two other wall seems to have been part of the same building, namely Z049 (4.35×0.65m; located starting 3.70m S of Z063's N end; identified at –0.39m to the W and –0.70m to the E), which is built at the same time as Z063 and ends up in Z047; the latter is a wall that, together with the fragments of Pavement no. 2, was part of the Christian complex. Z047 was built over Z049, but we must assume that another N–S wall existed in that area, to enclose the area used by CR05.

The functionality of this building remains unknown, as does its precise plan. The connection to **street d**¹⁷ (whose first stone phase should be connected to the construction of the basilica), as well as the fact that its E end was covered by Z047 (part of the basilica complex) suggest that this building, as well as CR06, should therefore be dated to the 5th or more probably early 6th c. A.D.

¹⁶ Domăneanu, Sion 1982, p. 382.

¹⁷ CR05 is aligned to Phase I of **street d**. Also, immediately N of Z074, we discovered the small segment (1.90m long) of what seems to be a sewer (Sewer no. 1; 0.32m wide), which ran W down the street, along CR05's N limit.

¹⁵ The wall is now only 4.70m long, but before the winter of 2002–2003, when it was destroyed, it extended all the way to the defence wall.

CR06 (Figs. 2 and 13)

This building is located 3m W of **CR05**, is set against the N wall of **CR04** and probably S of **street d**. Z065 (5.75×0.70m; identified at –0.38m to the N and –0.36m to the S) started northwards from **CR04**’s NE corner, then turned WSW (Z066; 3.15×0.65m; identified at –0.38m to the E and –0.60m to the W) and probably intersected **CR04**’s NW corner (the last segment is now partially destroyed; it would have initially covered a length of precisely 10m). In the triangular space formed by walls Z066 and Z065 of CR05, together with Z069 of CR04, we identified what is left of Pavement no. 1, made up of medium non-fashioned and semi-fashioned stones (2.85×1.90m; identified at approx. –0.87m).

All of the building’s walls were built using the same technique, namely small- and medium-sized, non-fashioned stones (mostly green shales, mixed with occasional limestone *spolia*) bound with earth. Its walls are in a bad state of preservation and no further observations could be made. The structure’s orientation indicates that it is certainly contemporary to CR05, and the fact that it was built using CR04 as its S limit indicates that CR04 continued to exist in this period.

CR07 (Figs. 2, 14, 15 and 16)

Very little is left of this building, which was located under the S part of the basilica’s W side, extending up to 4.20m to its W and 2.40m to its E; it seems to have been oriented WSW–ENE. What remains of it are walls Z015 (6.50×0.60m; preserved on 4–6 courses, on a height of approx. 0.80m; identified at –1.04m to the W and –0.76m to the E) to the S, a parallel wall 2.40m N of it (Z085; 1.25×0.60m; identified at –0.68m), and a N–S wall that intersected the first two (Z084; 3.80×0.65m; preserved on 4–6 courses, on a height of approx. 0.60m; identified at approx. –0.65m). The structure’s walls were built using small- and medium-sized, non-fashioned stones (mostly green shales, mixed with occasional limestone *spolia*) bound with earth. There is no clear plan and the only dating evidence is a coin from the reign of Maximianus, discovered when clearing up the wall, which dates it to AD 285–315, therefore largely at the moment when Phase B of the Late Roman defence wall was built.

CR08 (Figs. 2, 17 and 18)

This structure is in an even worse state, as only two walls are preserved NW of CR05 and SW of CR03, on the trajectory of **street d**. Z072

(1.40×0.55m; *preserved on 1–2 courses that superpose Z076*; identified at –0.22m) is oriented NNW–SSE, then turns ENE–WSW as Z073 (2.95×0.60m; preserved on at least 2 courses; identified at –0.28 to the E and –0.60m to the W). The structure’s walls were built using small- and medium-sized, non-fashioned stones (mostly green shales) bound with earth.

The only important information concerning this building is that it is located on the trajectory of **street d**. This dates it to the second half of the 6th c. A.D., when the street did not function as such anymore and Sewer no. 1 was replaced by Sewer no 2 to the E, which ran over at least part of CR05 (Z049 namely), S towards the defence wall.

CR09 (Figs. 2 and 19)

This building is located in S031, between Z063 and Z065. What is preserved of it is Z092 (context 31003; 4.25×0.60m; preserved on 1 course; identified at –1.00m to the N and –1.31m to the S), oriented NNW–SSE and superposed by the lower part of a yellow clay floor – context 31002 –, that may have belonged to CR05. On its W side, 1.70m S of its N preserved limit starts Z093 (0.60m wide, uncovered on a length of 0.75m; preserved on 1 course; identified at –1.31m), which is perpendicular on it. We have no information concerning its functionality, and the relative chronology we were able to establish dates maybe to the early 3rd c. A.D.

CR10? (Figs. 2 and 20)

This building is located in S008 and Z031, N of Phase A of the Late Roman defence wall, to which it seems to have been connected, as it was set against it and used it as its S side.

Z068 is oriented N–S (preserved L 2.20m, preserved W 1m; 10–12 courses were uncovered, totalling a maximum height of 1.20m up to the present moment, but the excavation did not reach the lower part of the wall; identified at –1.45/–1.84m).

Z090 is oriented N–S (preserved L 1.80×1.20m; uncovered on 10–12 courses, totalling a maximum height of approx. 1.20m up to the present moment, but the excavation did not reach the lower part of the wall; identified at –1.89m). Its dismantling trench could be followed approximately 1m N of Z064

Z091 is oriented E–W (preserved L 0.50, preserved W 1.06m; uncovered on 5–7 courses, totalling a maximum height of approx. 0.60m up to the present moment, but the excavation did not reach the lower part of the wall; identified at –1.59m).

It is not clear if this building had any special relationship with the Roman defence wall

(functionality-wise), but the structural connection to the latter dates it to the second half of the 3rd c. A.D.

We chose to treat these walls as belonging to the same building, as they are the only walls, apart from the fortifications, which are built of small- and medium-sized green shales (only Z091 also uses bricks) bound with mortar, and seem to form three sides set against the defence wall, to which they were obviously contemporary. However, until we complete research on these walls, this remains only a hypothesis.

WALLS WITH THE SAME ORIENTATION

Several walls were discovered in this part of the sector, which could not be connected to any of the buildings we were able to identify and describe.

S021

Z050 (Fig. 11; 0.60m-wide and it is preserved on 4.04m; identified at -1.49m to the W and -1.01m to the E) is parallel to and located 2.45m S of Z049.

S023 (Figs. 2, 5 and 21)

Z057 (1.25×0.7; oriented WNW-ESE; preserved on a height of 0.7m; identified at +0.15m);

Z058 (3.65×0.65m; oriented WNW-ESE; preserved on a height of approx. 0.4m; identified at -0.35m);

Z059 (0.8×0.55; perpendicular to Z058; preserved on a height of 0.5m; identified at -0.08m).

All three walls seem to belong to an alignment existent just prior to the construction of the street, which covers Z059.

S031 (Figs. 2 and 19)

Z094 is oriented N-S (3.00m×0.65m; identified at -1.20/-1.40m; excavation incomplete) and was destroyed when Z092 was built.

WALLS THAT WERE NOT DISCOVERED IN SECTIONS

Z070 (Figs. 2 and 13) is oriented NW-SE (discovered L 3.10×0.60m; only the first identified course was delimited at -1.10m). Its orientation seems to correspond to that of Z092, to which it might be contemporary.

Z076 (Figs. 2 and 17) is oriented NNW-SSE (discovered L 3.35m×0.60m; identified at -0.39/-0.60m), its S end was superposed by Z074 of CR05, probably it was covered by **street d** and finally by Z072 of CR08. Its alignment corresponds to that of Z092.

Z075 (Figs. 2 and 19) is oriented NNW-SSE (discovered L 2.15m×0.65m; uncovered on a height of approx. 0.30m; identified at -0.37m). Its alignment seems to correspond to that of Z072 of CR08.

Z078 (Figs. 2 and 13) is oriented WNW-ESE (discovered L 1.85×0.60m; only the first identified course was delimited at it was identified at -0.75m), seems to have turned S (Z095), which means that the entire structure was destroyed by CR06

All walls in S021, S023, S031, as well as the other walls we could not connect to a specific building, are built of small- and medium-sized, non-fashioned stones (mostly green shales) bound with earth.

FINAL REMARKS

Due to the degree of destruction the monuments in this sector underwent in Antiquity, as well as to their repeated modern excavation and long exposure to the natural elements, the only information we can extract is by considering a relative chronology of the walls. Using this highly inaccurate method we therefore established the following hypothesis for the phases of urban evolution in this area in the Roman period¹⁸:

1) 1st – 2nd c.? (Fig. 22): the only structure susceptible of being dated to this period is Z094. At that moment the Hellenistic defence wall was the only fortification that *could* have existed in the area (but we have no absolute proof it was still in use);

2) early 3rd c.? (Fig. 23): CR09, as well maybe as Z070 and 076 were built (that have roughly the same alignment), destroying the previous level. Again, the only candidate for a defence wall in that period is the Hellenistic fortification. This construction level must have been destroyed by the Gothic attack in the middle of the 3rd c.;

3) late 3rd c. (Fig. 24): Phase A of the Late Roman defence wall was built (reign of Probus), and N of it were raised the walls made of stone bound with mortar, that we consider as being part of the same structure (CR10?). This level of construction must have destroyed most of the previous ones, as the S end of Z092 from the previous phase is visibly destroyed;

4) early 4th – 5th c. (Fig. 25): Phase B of the Late Roman defence wall was built (reigns of Diocletianus-Constantinus). To this period we can date CR04 (set against the defence wall) and CR07 (dated by a coin), and maybe Z057, 058 and 059 (which were built over in the next phase). Due to the fact that CR04 was built on Phase A of the defence wall, it is clear that at that moment a new urban grid was applied, which covered the previous one. There is no indication that **street d** existed at

¹⁸ On the plans for the first five phases we also presented the location of the Christian basilica as a point of reference.

that moment, even though we can presume that a street must have connected this part of the acropolis to the small gate in the S part of Phase B of the Late Roman defence wall;

5) 5th? – early 6th c. (Fig. 26): CR03, CR05 and CR06 were built all using the same orientation; CR06 is set against CR04, which must have been still in use at the time. Also, Z064, which continues eastwards CR04's N wall, seems to have represented these structures' S limit, and could have delimited an open space between it and the defence wall. This seems plausible, as the absence of any connecting walls between CR05 and CR06 (which also constitutes an argument for differencing the two buildings) and the parallel space left between the two indicates the presence of a small road (which we can name **street d₄**) leading S towards a possible gate under the SW part of the basilica. Also, the parallel space left between CR03 and CR05, which will later be covered by the pavement of **street d**, indicates that the road already existed in that period;

6) first half of the 6th c. (Fig. 27): the most impressive monuments of the sector were raised – the Christian basilica, together with CR02 and the pavement of **street d**. In this phase CR03, CR05, CR06 and maybe CR04 still existed, as the street is well aligned to these buildings (the pavement is perfectly fitted along CR03, while along CR05's N wall **Sewer no. 1** conducted the flow of rainwater downwards along **street d**);

7) second half of the 6th c. (Fig. 28): the trajectory of **street d** was blocked by CR08, which is a situation often encountered in Late Roman levels. We have no information concerning CR03, CR04, CR06 and we can assume they continued to exist in that period, but CR05 was clearly not in use anymore, as **Sewer no. 2** was built over part of CR05 (Fig. 11), changing direction southwards.

This implies that **street d** did not always connect, as everyone assumed, the Christian basilica to the small gate in the W side of the Late Roman defence wall. This initial idea became generally accepted due to the present state of the ruins in this area, which were affected by modern excavations and two sets of reconstructions done without verifying the original plans of the buildings. On the other hand, we have no indication as to which of the buildings described above were still standing at the moment **street d** was blocked. Access toward the small gate to the W could have been provided by a secondary street or flights of stairs around the buildings in the area.

Another conclusion to our observations is the fact that, which each reconstruction phase, the new

city plan in the area adapted to the configuration of the S side of the acropolis. Thus, CR010(?) was set against Phase A of the Roman defence wall. In the next period CR04 was set against Phase B of the Late Roman defence wall, while afterwards CR06 was built using CR04 as its S side. The trajectory of CR05 and CR06's walls create a dwelling space adapted the two main determinant urban elements in the area, namely **street d** and the defence wall. This is also visible from the fact that Z064, starting from CR04's NE corner, became the S limit for the two buildings mentioned above, while at the same time creating an empty (probably uncovered) space that probably connected **street d₄** to the small gate S of the basilica.

From the data available in this area, the most extensive building period was clearly the 6th c., although we must also take into account the possibility that many previous buildings may have been destroyed in Antiquity. Nevertheless, it is clear that it is in this century that street d followed the trajectory it follows at the present moment, with large buildings (CR03, CR05 and CR06) raised on both sides. The most impressive phase is when the Christian basilica was built, although with the presence of so many buildings around it the monument clearly did not have much of a perspective – perhaps we should consider the disappearance of some of these buildings? Such is the case for CR05, whose Z049 was destroyed at the moment the basilica was built (it is superposed by Z047). So on a distance of at least 7m to the W there were no structures standing when the church was built; this and the monumentality of the complex proves that from that moment the basilica became the main point of interest in the area.

The current state of the research raises several questions that we will try to clarify following future excavations. First, there is the question of the street that must have existed in the area prior to the moment **street d** ran over Phase A of the Late Roman defence wall. A street must have existed along the N side of Phase A of the same wall in order to provide access westwards. Then there is the question of how access was provided from the basilica to the small gate to the W during the last phase. Was the road only partially blocked by CR08 (in this case we would have to assume that CR05 was not standing anymore)? Was another route used? Was that a normal street or were there staircases?

Finally, all the urban development phases we managed to identify in this area of the sector will have to be connected to the different phases of the Christian basilica and especially of its NE annex (which has survived modern excavations largely

intact and can provide stratigraphic data after its research will be completed) in order to obtain a more chronological refined picture of the urban development in the entire sector.

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Fig. 1. Location of the Basilica Pârvan Sector.

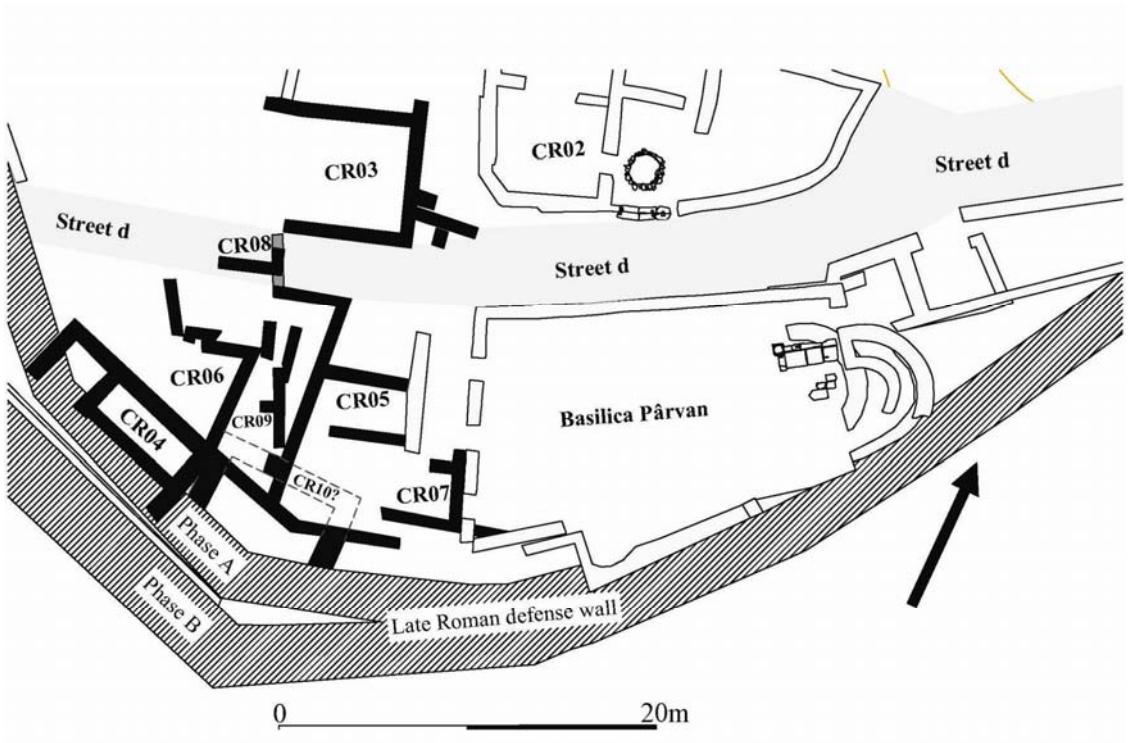


Fig. 2. General plan of sector.

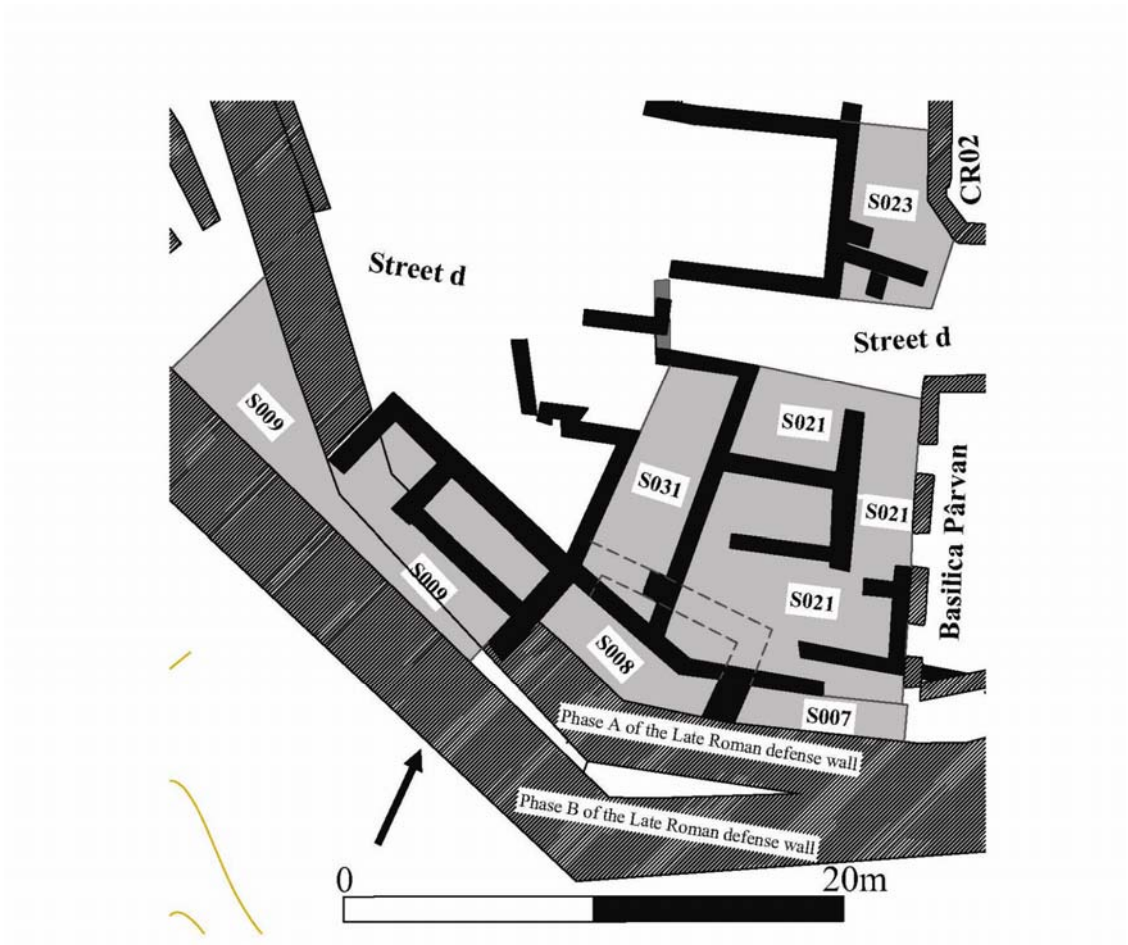


Fig. 3. Section limits.



Fig. 4. S021, Context 21003.

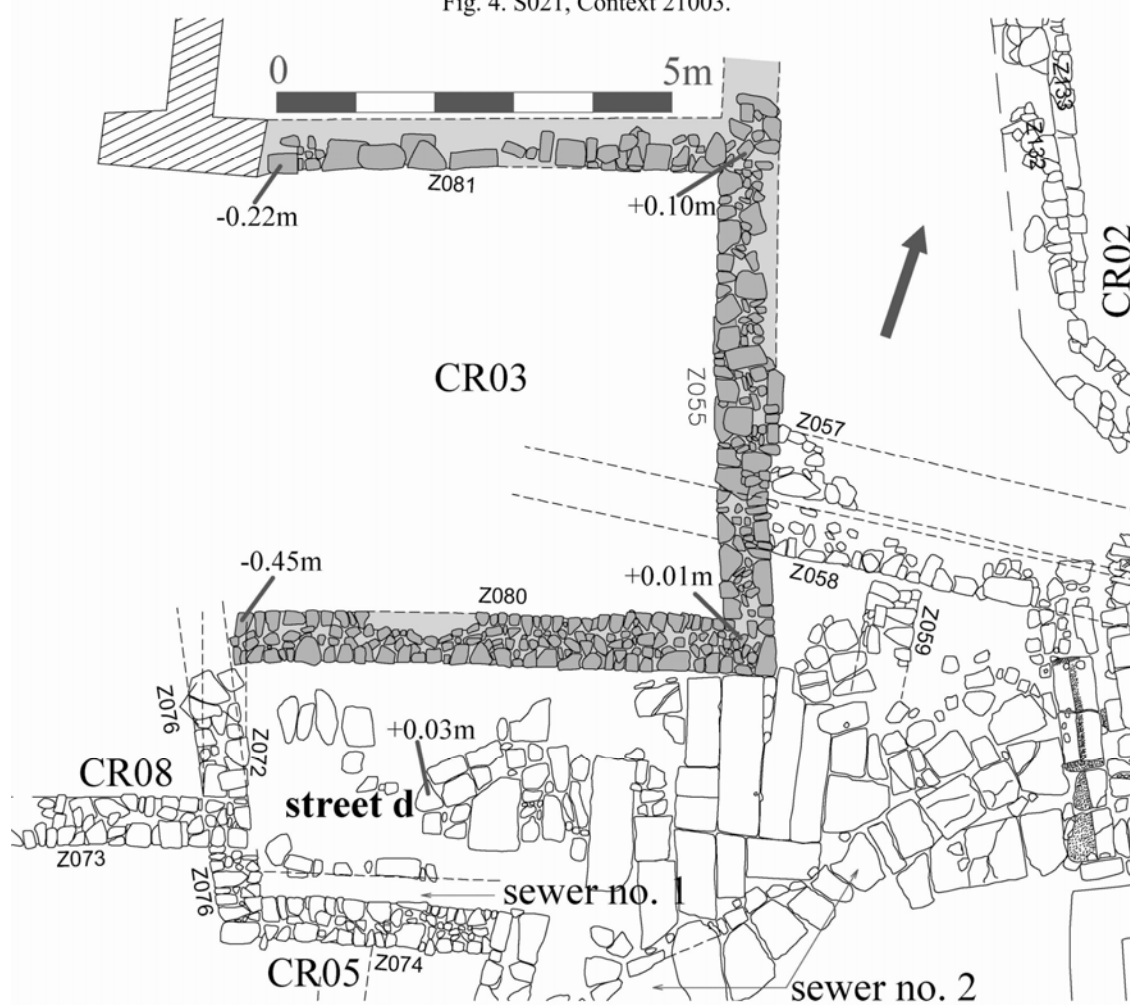


Fig. 5. CR03 plan.



Fig. 6. CR03 photo.

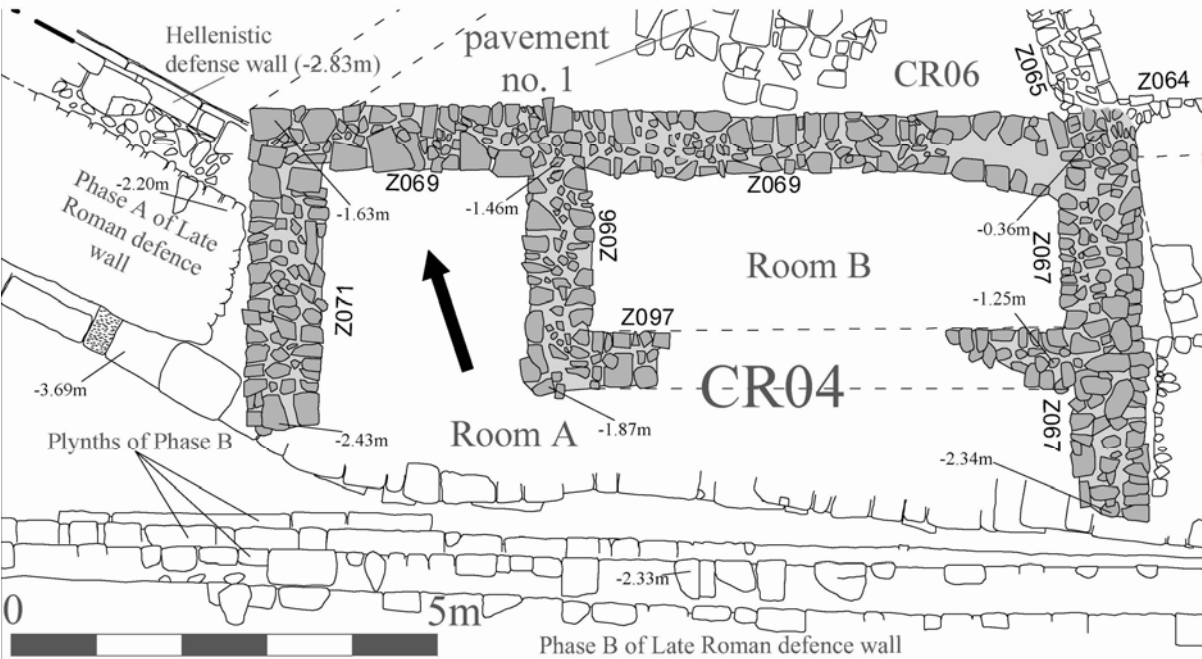


Fig. 7. CR04 plan.



Fig. 8. CR04 photo (NW-SE)

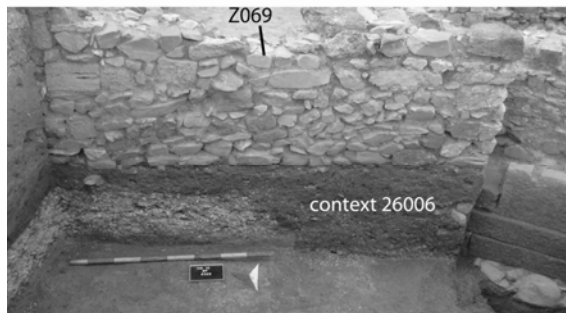


Fig. 10. CR04 detail.

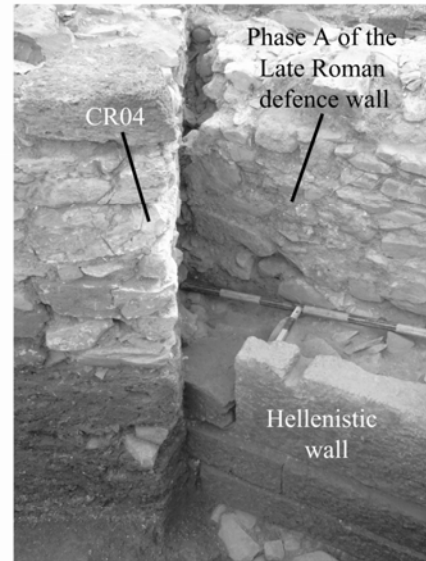


Fig. 9. CR04 detail.

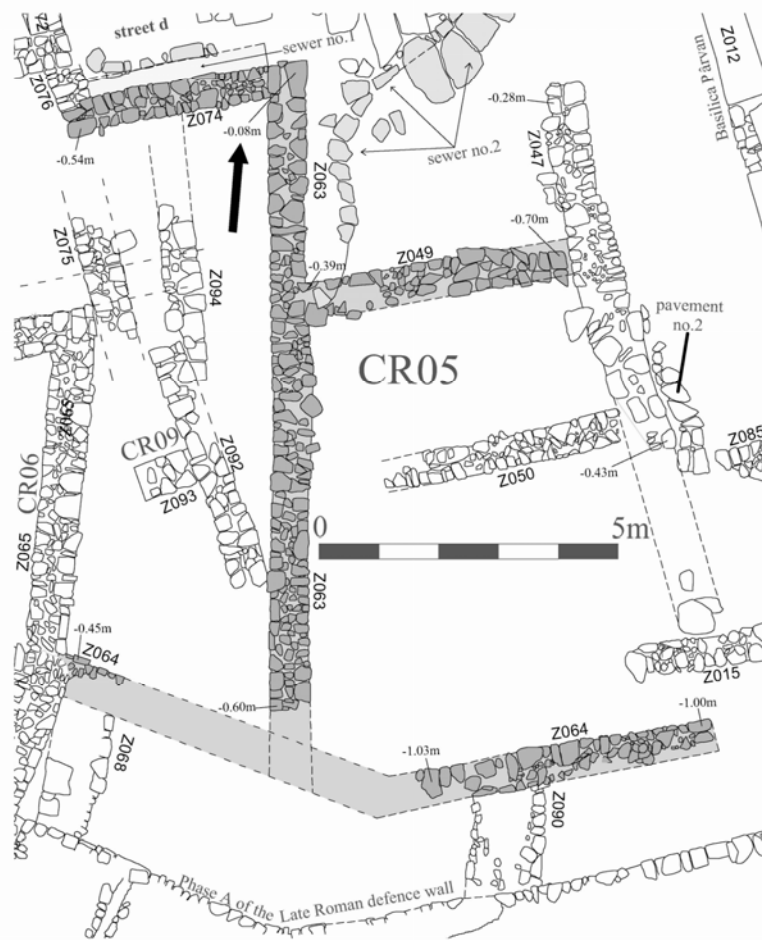


Fig. 11. CR05 plan.

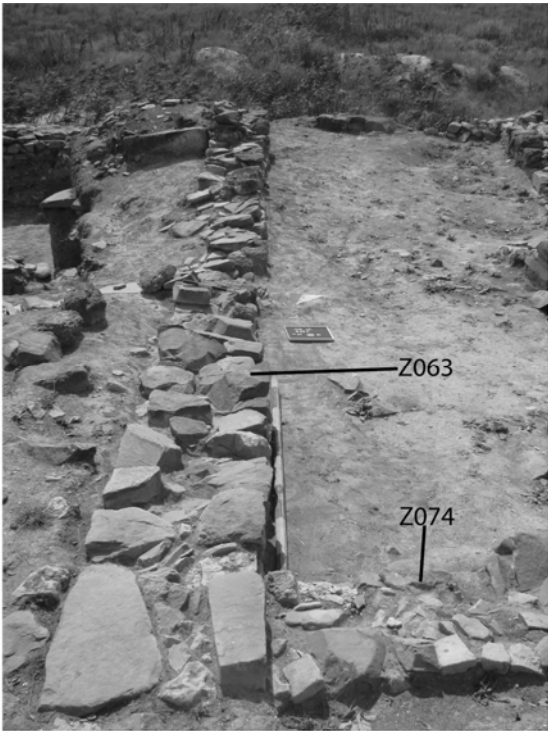


Fig. 12. CR05 detail.

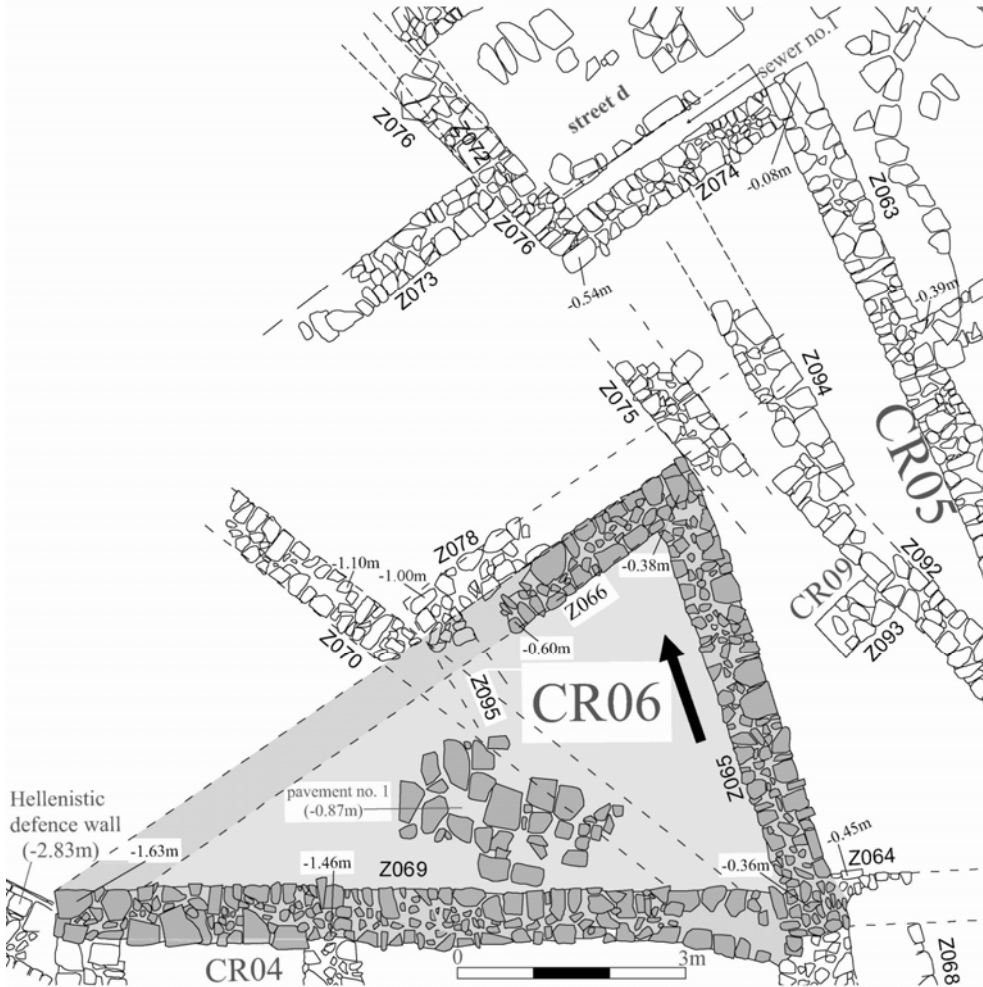


Fig. 13. CR06 plan.

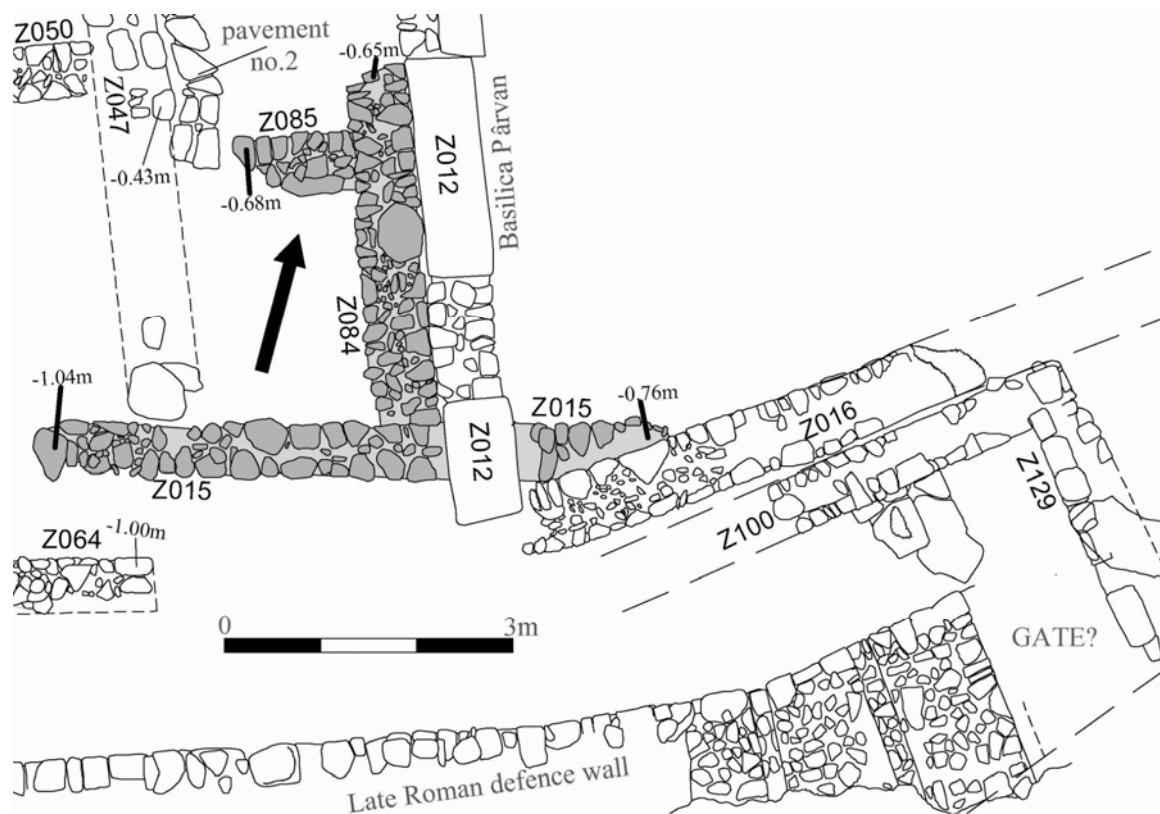


Fig. 14. CR07 plan.

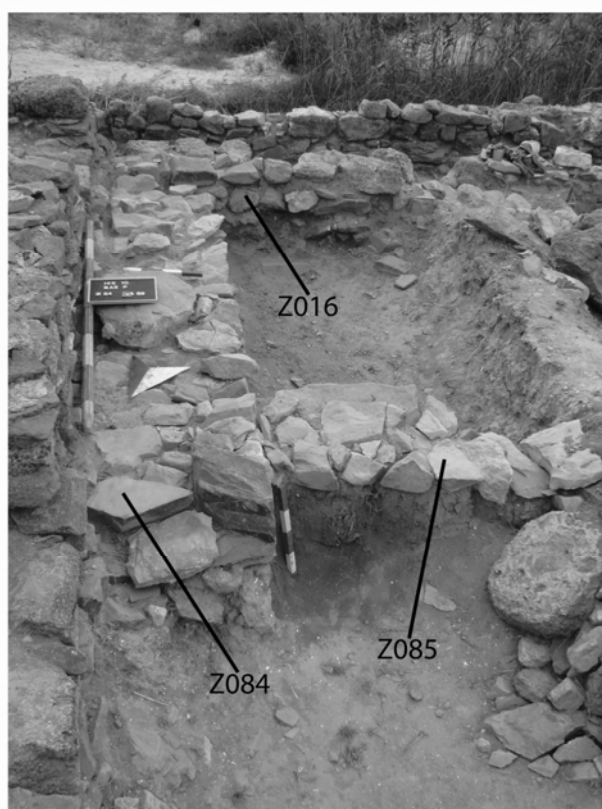


Fig. 15. CR07 detail.

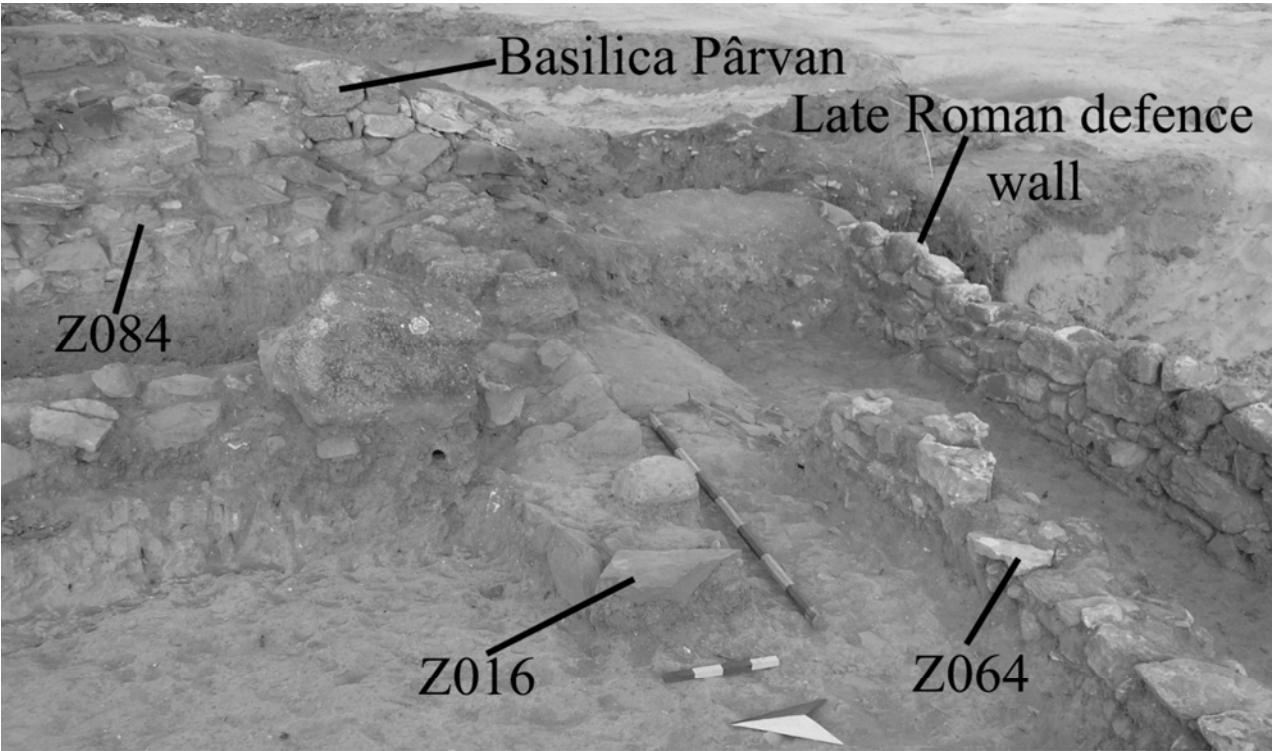


Fig. 16. CR07 detail.

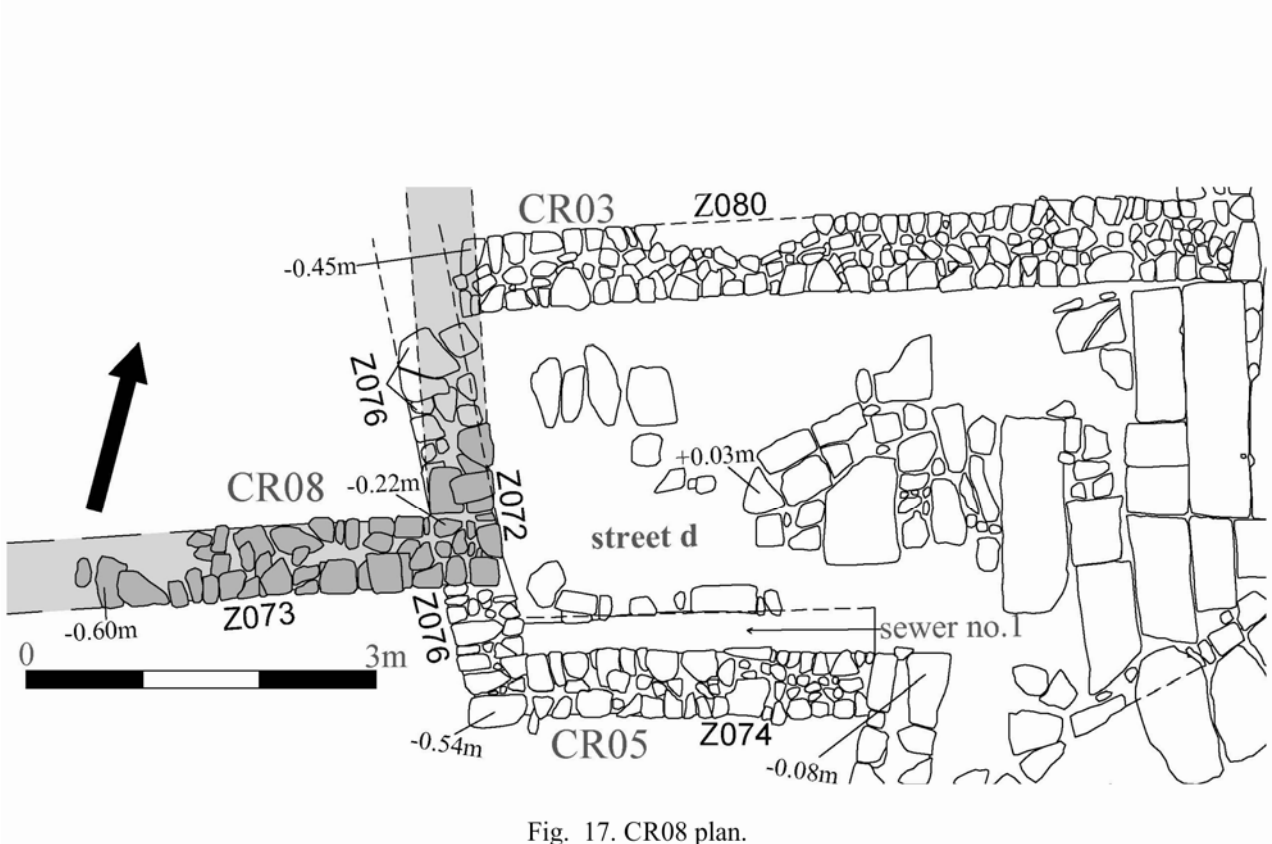


Fig. 17. CR08 plan.

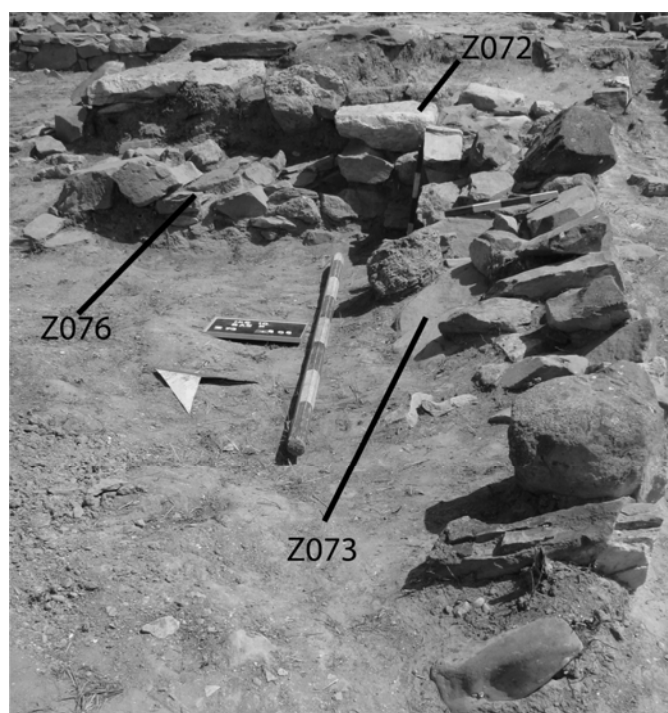


Fig. 18. CR08 detail.

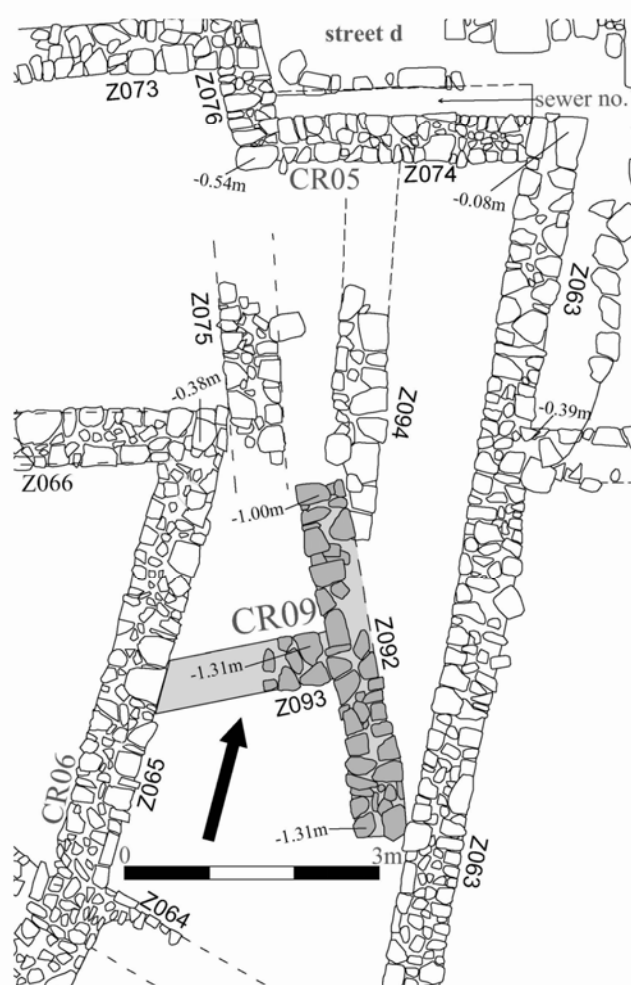


Fig. 19. CR09 plan.

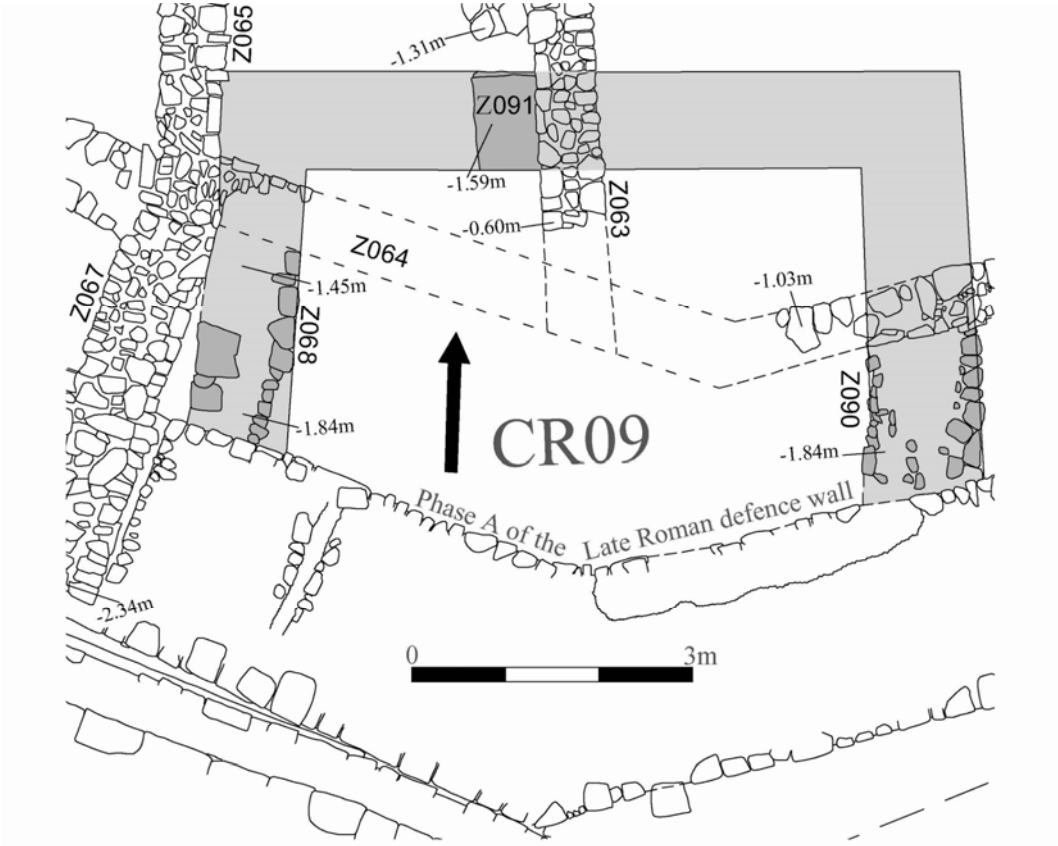


Fig. 20. CR10 plan.

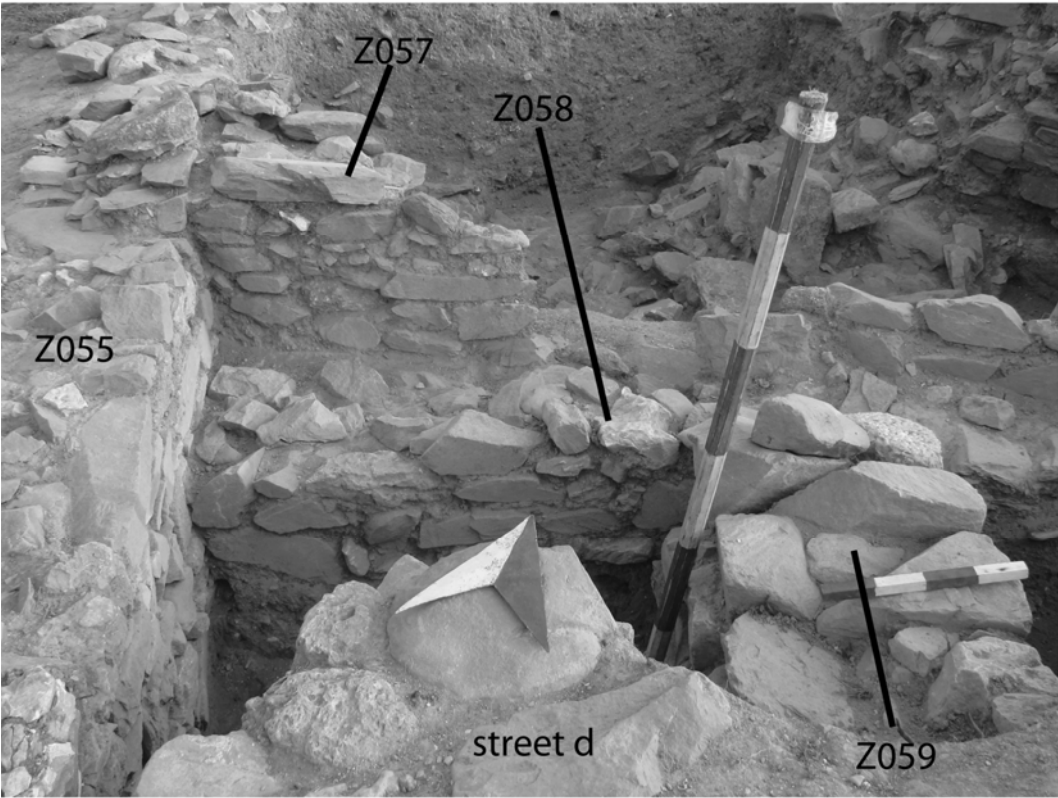


Fig. 21. Walls in S023.

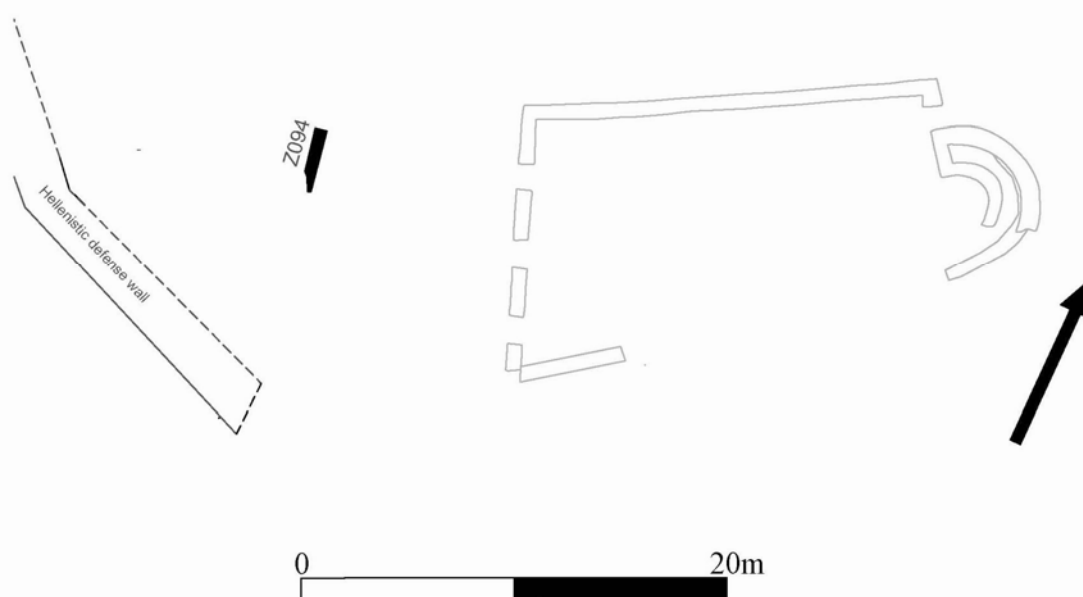


Fig. 22. Phase 1. 1st-2nd c.

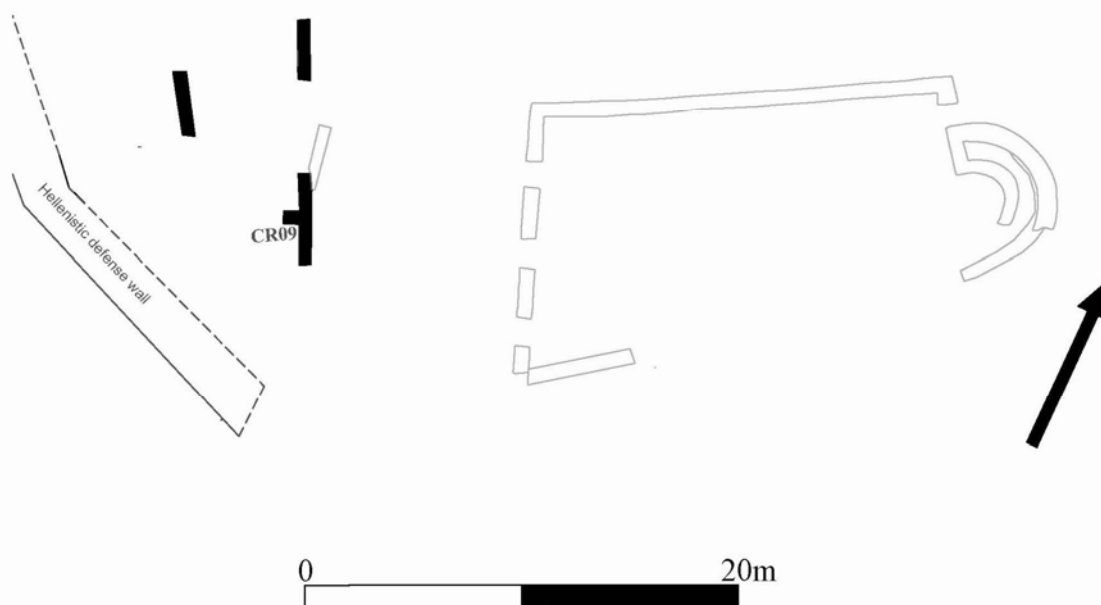


Fig. 23. Phase 2. Early 3rd c.

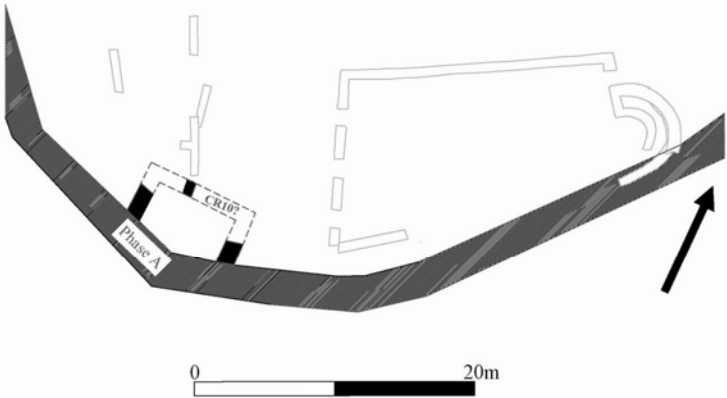


Fig. 24. Phase 3. Late 3rd c.

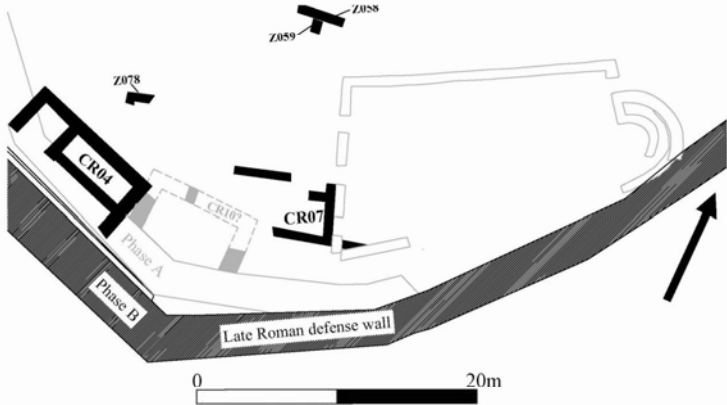


Fig. 25. Phase 4. Early 4th - 5th c.

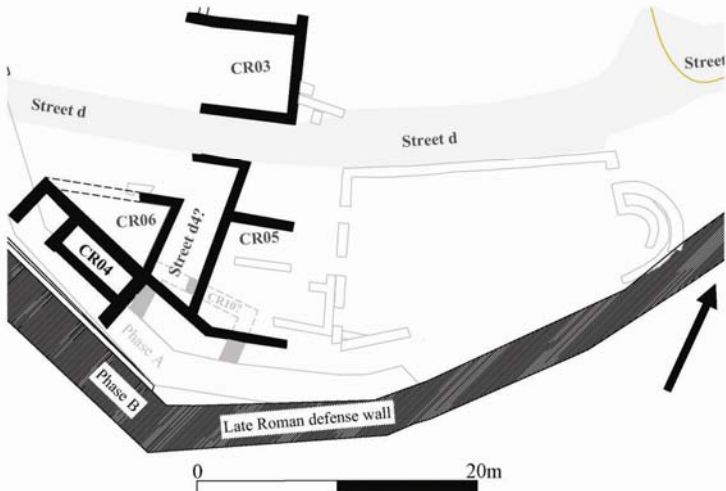


Fig. 26. Phase 5. Late 5th – early 6th c.

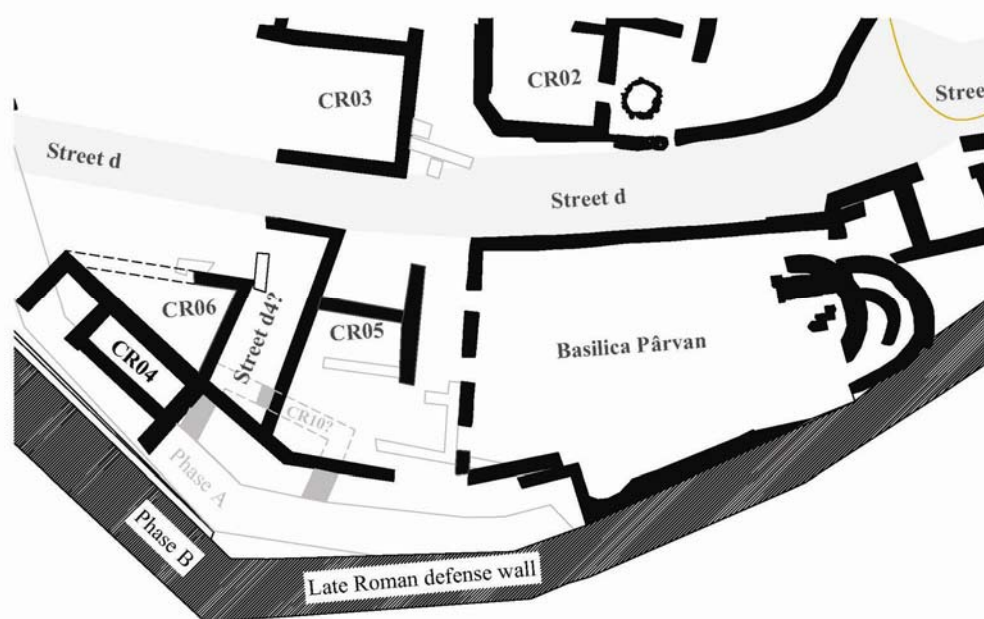


Fig. 27. Phase 6. First half of the 6th c.

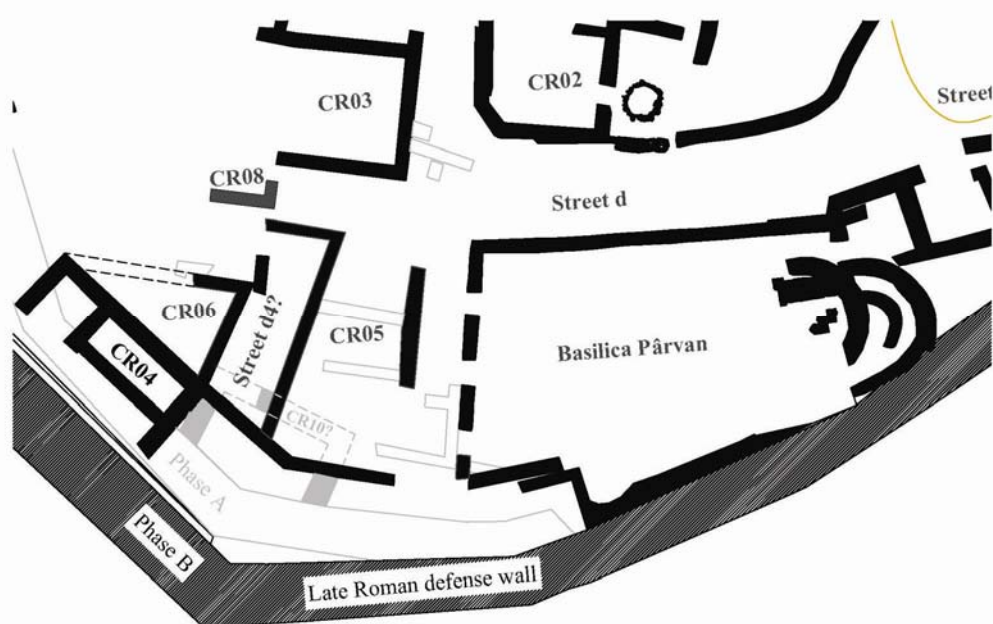


Fig. 28. Phase 7. Second half of the 6th c.

