

# THE MILITARY VICUS OF THE LARGE CAMP ON THE POMET HILL AT POROLISSUM. INTERNAL STRUCTURE

DUMITRU GHEORGHE TAMBA\*

tambadan@hotmail.com

## VICUSUL MILITAR AL CASTRULUI MARE DE PE DEALUL POMET DE LA POROLISSUM. STRUCTURA INTERNĂ

**ABSTRACT:** *The large camp on the Pomet hill, a basis for the development of the military vicus, was built by the Roman military units arrived here after the conclusion of the second Dacian war (105–106 AD). The camp site with stone wall has been erected in 213 BC, when it seems Emperor Marcus Aurelius Antoninus–Caracalla made a visit. The fortification had the dimensions of 230 × 300 m, therefore, has increased its size. The settlement was founded by civilian attendants of the coh. I Ulpia Brittonum, coh. I Ituraeorum and coh. V Lingonum, which have been stationed at Porolissum from the beginning. The settlement structure was designed and developed taking into account the roads that came out of the camp from the porta praetoria and the two gates principalis sinistra and dextra, linked to other secondary roads. In most cases, the investigated buildings of the military vicus were considered to be houses. In general, they are lined on both sides of the main roads. In the settlement structure at the military vicus of Porolissum was: shops, pubs, ceramic workshops, workshops for glass processing, ceramic workshops, temples, amphitheatre, bath.*

**KEYWORDS:** Porolissum, military vicus, settlements, structure, houses, pub, amphitheatre, bath.

**REZUMAT:** *Castrul mare de pe dealul Pomet de la Porolissum reprezenta baza dezvoltării vicusului său militar. A fost construit de armata romană la finalul celui de al doilea război dacic (105/106 p. Ch.) Castrul în faza sa de piatră a fost ridicat în anul 213 p. Chr cu prilejul vizitei împăratului Marcus Aurelius Antoninus. Așezarea sa civilă a fost fondată de însoțitorii unitatilor militare: coh. I Ulpia Brittonum, coh. I Ituraeorum, coh. V Lingonum, ce au staționat la Porolissum de la început. Structura așezării a fost trasată și s-a dezvoltat în raport, în primul rând, de drumul ce ieșea din castru pe poarta praetoria și prin cele două principale: dreaptă și stângă, precum și cu alte drumuri apreciate ca fiind secundare. Cele mai reprezentative clădiri cercetate în vicus sunt clădirile locuință. În general, ele erau aliniate la structura stradală a așezării. Din structura sa internă mai făceau parte, conform cercetărilor: magazine, cârciumi, ateliere de prelucrat sticlă, ceramica, temple, amfiteatru, baie.*

**CUVINTE-CHEIE:** Porolissum, vicus militar, așezare, structură, locuințe, cârciumi, amfiteatru, baie.

**The large camp on the Pomet hill, a basis for the development of the military vicus.** The large camp of Porolissum (Fig. 1), a basis of its military vicus, was built by the Roman military units arrived here after the conclusion of the second Dacian war (105–106 AD). Its location was well chosen, on the two upper terraces of the Pomet hill, which provided a great strategic position. The hill's height as well as the land configuration, the dominant position over other forms of relief in the area (except the peaks of the Meses Mountains) were the elements considered in the site's selection. The hill's height enables it to dominate

\* Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Artă, Zalău.

the surroundings, and offers the possibility of direct views towards the S and SE (inside the region), and towards the N-NW (toward the limes) over long distances of 50–60 km.

The fortification has several construction phases. The land phase had dimensions of 225 × 295 m. Its corners were oriented towards the main compass points. The defense elements of the fortification were the palisade wall and the berm, two ditches of defence, one of which was double (at least for the NE side, the portion between *porta praetoria* and the N corner bastion). *Porta praetoria* was on the NE side, therefore the side oriented towards the border. In this case, they have complied with the orientation rule of a border camp, according to which *porta praetoria* was on the side facing the border. Tegular stamps confirm the presence of several ancillary units and vexillations of some legions (Tamba 2008, 43–44 Fig. 15–24). The presence at Porolissum of legions through vexillations is attested for a short period of time. During an early stage of the Roman presence at Porolissum, coinciding with the construction of phase I, from earth, the presence of detachments of the *legion IV Flavia*, *leg. XIII Gemina* and auxiliary units which were *coh I Ulpia Brittonum*, (*coh V Lingonum*, *coh II Brittanorum*, *coh. III Dacorum*), *coh VI Thracum*), *coh I Augusta Ituraeorum* is confirmed (Gudea 1997, 28).

The camp site with stone wall has been erected in 213 BC, when it seems Emperor Marcus Aurelius Antoninus–Caracalla made a visit. The fortification had the dimensions of 230 × 300 m, therefore, has increased its size. *Porta praetoria* remains on the NE side, respecting the original orientation taken, the corners for this phase are oriented towards the main compass points. The defensive system elements of the camp remain the same as in the earth phase. The camp site with stone wall has three sub-construction phases. These phases are distinguishable in the *principia* and the *pretorium*. The demarcation between sub-phases is given by the color and the quality of the mortar used (Gudea 1997, 35).

The military units permanently stationed were *coh. V Lingonum*, *coh. I Ulpia Brittonum*, *coh. I Ituraeorum Sagittariorum*), and *numerus Palmyrenorum*. For short periods were present *coh. II Britannica*, *coh. VI Thracum*) and vexillations of *leg. III Gallica*) and *leg. VII Gemina Felix*, *leg VI Flavia*, *leg XIII Gemina*. The replenishment of the military units, by bringing in new units, had of course, as noted above, these effects which were reflected upon and influenced the population of *vicus*. The carers and companions of the military units stationed in the camp were the basis of the population in the settlement. This was due primarily to the relationship of interdependence between the vicane population and the garrison, taking into account the services that the civilians from the *vicus* provided to the military in the camp. Secondly, the connection was created by the relationship between the military and some of those who lived in the settlement. Thirdly, the *vicus* was a source of replenishment in the number of troops stationed in the camp. Fourth, the relationship existed due to the defensive role of the settlement, at least during a certain stage, to the elements of its defense system, namely the wall and its own defence ditch. Fifth, the street structure in the *vicus* was determined by the roads that exited and entered the fortress. In the case of the military *vicus* camp on the hill of Porolissum, they were the ones that went out on three of the four gates of the fortress, namely through *porta praetoria*, *porta principalis dextra* and *porta principalis sinistra*. Finally it should be borne in mind that the military *vicus* arose and developed under the direct coordination of the military authority, which is of the commander of troops stationed in the camp.

Although we suspect that the initial configuration of the terrain was quite different at Porolissum than the one which can be seen today, extensive land development projects had been completed by the time the site was chosen for the future *vicus*, which have resulted in archaeologically discovered terrace, all under the coordination of the Roman military authority. Therefore, layers of earth fillings were discovered brought over in order to achieve some leveling or even terracing. Terraces were arranged facing N, NW and NE of the camp, where the location of the future vicane settlement was established.

**General structure of the *vicus*.** The military *vicus* of the large camp of Porolissum (Fig. 2) is currently, in our view and without exaggeration, the largest and most sought objective of this kind in the Dacian provinces.

The military *vicus* of the large camp on the hill nowadays called Pomet (Tamba, 2008), was on the first terraces that were in front of the inside walls NE, N, NW and also SW of the camp. The settlement was founded by civilian attendants of the *coh. I Ulpia Brittonum*, *coh. I Ituraeorum* and *coh. V Lingonum*, which have been stationed at Porolissum from the beginning. The other certified military units have had shorter stages in the Porolissum garrison. Over time, especially at the end of the second century AD, there have been a series of troop movements (Gudea 1997, 29). The phenomenon has certainly produced mutations in the renewal of civil population in the *vicus*. Therefore, at Porolissum at least four military units were stationed at all times, a situation that was present in the garrisons at Tibiscum and Micia. In this situation, there must have been four *vici* or the settlement area was divided according to the carers of the units stationed in the camp. The so-called safe area around the camp belonged to the Roman state and managed by the army. Around the fortress there must have been an area of about 1 km in depth, where the civil settlement of the camp could have developed. The current state of research does not permit us to elaborate on the locations of the *vici* or on a possible division of the settlement area. Future research will clarify this issue and related issues.

The settlement structure was designed and developed taking into account the roads that came out of the camp from the *porta praetoria* and the two gates *principalis sinistra* and *dextra*, linked to other secondary roads. Therefore, in the case of the *vicus* of the large camp of Porolissum, there was a large street network system, in accordance with a pre-determined road network, which was the basis for its development. Taking into account the land configuration, it is difficult to accept the idea that there was a development that was based on a pattern of streets and not the ribbon type development. Roads coming out of the camp on the three main gates mentioned represented the basis of the settlement's structure. Terracing made in order to implement the urban development plan, and the presence of successive parallel alignments of buildings, testify for the existence of roads and side streets anchored to the main ones, thus achieving a road pattern.

Currently, based on the data held and as a result of field research, it is estimated that the total area of the *vicus* was of approximately 4.50 to 5.00 ha. This area was occupied during the maximum growth phase. Its evolution was archaeologically questioned, both from the point of view of the expansion of the settlement, and of the expansion of some constructions by modifications to the initial structure. With regards to the evolution of the *vicus*, we believe that, due to the land configuration, the settlement developed as a ribbon, taking into account the road coming out of the camp through *porta praetoria* and heading N to the Sanctuary Terrace, to exit the city, where there was the customs. Later on, the road network was based on other roads coming out of the camp on the *porta principalis dextra* and *porta principalis sinistra*, as well as so-called secondary roads, which have contributed to a street network.

On the SE terraces of the camp, following the first terrace in the immediate vicinity of the fortress, but at a level difference of 15 to 20 m, a surface which is considered to belong to the city, research has uncovered a network of parallel streets, with spaces between them ranging from 10.00 m to 12.00 m, something we believe to be the case for the *vicus* as well. Land configuration and the dimensions of the buildings (especially in length) permitted that. In the case of the *vicus*, we cannot agree with the idea of having only a line of buildings located on both sides of the main roads. Such a building pattern could not be valid taking into account the large number of the population consisting of "army attendants" of the garrison. In a few cases successive lines of buildings have been found, that support the idea of the existence of a network of streets. Future research will provide more data on this issue.

Therefore, the area of the *vicus* is quite large, based on the field research and archaeological discoveries made so far. Primarily, for the first phase of its existence, the archaeologically identified traces of the ditch and of the wall belonging to the defensive system of the *vicus* were considered. Initially the wall and the ditch came from N to NE towards the camp on the Citera hill, enclosing the settlement to the E. This defensive element was abandoned at some point and was covered. Over the filling of the ditch various buildings were built, constructions, this aspect proves the expansion of the *vicus* area outside its original

boundaries. Regarding the general evolution of the settlement, there are few data (Gudea 1989, 115–119). It can be argued that this arised at the same time with the camp on the Pommet hill (106 AD) and developed with this (Mann 1974, 516–517). At one point, there is even proof of a *civitas Porolissensium* (CIL III, 2866). It is not clear, it is unknown whether this *civitas* is the military *vicus* type civilian settlement of the camp, or if it is, as would be natural, another settlement that has evolved and reached the rank of town (CIL III, 7962). In terms of layout, *mensores* respects the formula of its choice position with regard to the location of the camp, as well as the roads that came out on *porta praetoria*, *porta principalis dextra* and *porta principalis sinistra*. Therefore, in our opinion, the military *vicus* of the large camp on the Pommet hill of Porolissum, arises and develops in front of the NE part of the camp, partially in front of the SE part (the part between *porta principalis dextra* and the area to the E) and the NW part (the part between *porta principalis sinistra* and the bastion's tower of the N corner of the camp). An extensive development of the *vicus* is recorded from the archaeological point of view on the N terraces of the camp as well, one both sides of the road that climbs to the fortifications of the Roman customs.

**Components of the settlement: housing.** In most cases, the investigated buildings of the military *vicus* were considered to be houses. In general, they are lined on both sides of the main roads. Surprisingly though, from the data known so far, they are not in all cases in the category typologically known as *Streifenhaus* or *Striphouse*. The classic shape of the house building type found in the military *vici* is found only in certain situations in the *vicus* of the large camp of Porolissum, where such builings have been investigated. From the data known so far, the rule does not seem to be found here. The buildings conventionally named L7 (Fig. 3) and LM3 (Fig. 4) are the only ones so far that are tipologically included in the *Streifenhaus* category. Otherwise, buildings whose destination was determined as a home fall in the category of constructions which kept a balance of architectural proportions and dimensions (i.e. buildings L3 and L4). Therefore, the buildings houses in the military *vicus* of Porolissum have different shapes. In some cases, they have different construction phases. Therefore, successive stages of construction through changes and extensions were recorded archaeologically. In such a situation are the buildings conventionally called OL6 (Fig. 5) and LM3. In their case, the recorded extensions are under from the point of view of construction, and have different chronological dates. In the case of the objective OL6 (Fig. 5) the annex characterized by the *porticus* was built later on. Its walls were found on the NE wall of the building (Tamba 2008, 82–116). The LM3 building was in the same situation, with an evolution in three stages (Tamba 2008, 247–296). In its case there was an increase in length to the original structure, on the NE direction in two stages. The extension was made on the entire width of the building by adding walls to the wall of the original site.

Therefore, in some cases in terms of structure, buildings of the military *vicus* of Porolissum have undergone changes by additions. Construction stages are revealed by differences in building techniques and by endorsement of walls.

If the case of the LM3 building, the first expansion phase, LM3/2 respectively, was made over the defense ditch of the *vicus*'s defensive system after it was covered, thereby abandoning its defensive utility. The fact that the expansion of LM3/2 was achieved over the covered defense ditch shows that the building's evolution has distinct chronological stages. Different stages can be assessed in the settlement's evolution, and even late stages in its existence. For example, the building conventionally called OL6 was erected at the E part of the corner area of the camp, on the first furnished terrace, after giving up the defense ditch of the camp which was covered in that area. The fact that the OL6 objective has been built over the covered ditch appears clearly from the data obtained in the research. Large boulders, used to stabilize the slope and the terrace were archaeologically uncovered in the filler level.

Also as regards the purpose of the house buildings, from the point of view of the construction a *hypocaustum* central heating system was discovered in almost all cases (objectives OL3 and L7 are an exception). The system intended and achieved the heating of the room during the cold season, representing an effective technical solution. *Hypocaustum* heating system wasn't used in all the houses in the *vicus*, but only



in some buildings entirely or in certain rooms. Its development, maintenance and functioning involved large costs, which is why the presence of central heating indicates the existence of social strata in the vicane society (i.e. the OL1–OL5, OL6, L7, LM3/2 buildings). The *hypocaustum* central heating system represented an advanced way to adapt and achieve comfortable climate conditions in this northern part of the Empire, where winter temperatures dropped way below 0° C.

The central heating system with *hypocaustum* identified and investigated in dwelling buildings of the military *vicus* of the camp on the Pomet hill at Porolissum presents various ways of manufacturing. The first way was such that the smoke and hot air were conducted under the floor spaces, by building walls according to the *opus incertum* technique which created routing channels. Such a type of central heating system through channels made by walls supporting the actual floor of the rooms, existed at the objectives L4, L3, LM1, LM3/1, OL6. A second way was that the hot air and smoke, conducted under the floor which was based on alignments of pillars made of rectangular or round bricks of various sizes, or ceramic tubes that had the same role (in this case we have the example of the LM3/2 extension). The archaeological excavations discovered situations where the presence of channels for directing the hot air and smoke through walls by the *opus incertum* technique and by alignments of ceramic pillars, therefore a mixed system. Such a situation was observed in the case of objective OL6 and LM1 room B. Another way that was used was that by which the channels were rudimentary made of stones glued together with earth (the case of annex OL6 and room B, LM1)

Based on the current state of research we can argue that there is a difference in time between the two technical ways of creating a *hypocaust* heating system. A first phase of the system would be represented by the stage at which the system was made of neatly made walls in *opus incertum* technique. An intermediate phase was that in which, apart from walls they used columns made of ceramic elements which supported the floor of the rooms above. The most advanced stage of *hypocaustum* type central heating system identified in the military *vicus* of Porolissum we consider to be the one in which the pillars supporting the floor of the room are made out of brick, square or round, in standard size (18 × 18 × 7 cm), or ceramic tubes which supported the floor and recovered the heat. For this stage, the procedure for covering the actual walls with *tegulae mamatae* is also valid. Their presence allowed warm air to circulate under the walls and warm up the surface, thus allowing a more efficient heat exchange.

Regarding the existence of the two ways of achieving the central heating system with *hypocaustum*, we do not exclude the possibility that the first variant was operated in the rooms with a smaller surface, and if they had larger areas, they would have resorted to the second way presented above.

In the case of the heating system, we can make a clear chronological difference for the third type which is considered to be a late achievement from the chronologically point of view, when hot air was directed under the floor by means of walls made of large and medium stones, glued together with earth. Their rudimentary technique points out the existence of a late phase of living in the *vicus*. A rudimentary heating system was also encountered in the case of objectives LM3/1, LM1 room B and the annex to the OL6 building, which is clear evidence of a late habitation in the *vicus*, sometime after the mid-third century, perhaps at some point after 275 AD, at a time when the Roman authority represented by the Roman army and administration had left the Dacian provinces.

**Components of the settlement: shops, pubs.** Buildings incorporating rooms that were also running businesses (shops and pubs) were identified and archaeologically researched in the military *vicus* of the camp on the Pomet hill at Porolissum. For now this is the case of the objectives conventionally named L7, LM1, N6, and LM3 where we have shops for the first three and taverns in the fourth and fifth case. Generally, the spaces with such a destination are located towards the road in the internal structure of the building. The contact between the cargo and the seller on the one hand, and the potential client on the other was made through the direct access from the street. It is possible that, again for commercial purposes, the space under the *porticos* was exploited in this manner, an aspect encountered in other parts of the Empire as well (Tarpin 1999, 120).

Building L7 was a house building with commercial spaces and basement storage space. Following investigation it was established that there were storage spaces in the basement, and the first rooms above, towards the road, were destined for the shop. The internal structure of the building, its location in the side of the camp next to *porta praetoria*, justifies its destination. In our opinion, only the rear half of the building was residential space. At the time of the research, no separation walls were discovered in that area. It is possible that, if they existed, they were made of wood or had a wood and adobe structure. We support this because, in the case of the spaces in the basement, there was a subdivision by walls made of a structure of wooden beams and unburned bricks, parts of which were discovered during research.

The building conventionally called N5 was also destined as a shop. It lay on the so-called “Terrace of the Sanctuaries”, left of the road climbing from the customs to the camp on the Pomiet hill. The researcher of this objective (Al V Matei) considered that it was a shop. Location was put forward in support of this idea, which was in the immediate vicinity of the main arteries of the settlement, as well as the fact that the building had no interior subdivision. The construction thus falls in the category of hall buildings, and was rightly regarded as commercial space.

The LM3 building had a *porticus* towards the road. In the first rooms to the road an unusually large number of glass beads have been discovered (Tamba 2008, 247–295), as well as the arm of a balance in a special typological variety, together with glass casting scrap. Data from research shows that there is a possibility that in this case we have a workshop for manufacturing glass beads. But we do not exclude the possibility that the product may have been marketed on the spot. In this respect we mention the scale. Therefore, in the case of the LM3 objective we also have a house building in the structure of which an area of production operated (workshop for manufacturing glass beads) and commercial premises (shop). The rest of the rooms were living quarters provided with *hypocaust* heating system, both for LM3 /1 and for LM3 /2.

During research of the military *vicus* at Porolissum, a building was identified and investigated where a different kind of business took place, that of pubbing (the case of building LM1). The destination of *taberna* for the space referred to is indicated by the inscriptions found (Fig. 6). *Taberna* operated in a complex architectural structure which also included a temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus Dolichenus (Tamba, 2008, 149–195).

The presence of commercial premises in military *vici* in general, such as the *vicus* site at Porolissum, either destined as pubs or shops, is justified in such a setting by the relationship between it and the troops stationed in the camp. The military in general required the presence of such establishments.

**Components of settlement: temples.** Archaeological research conducted in a civil settlement of the large camp of Porolissum identified the existence of several buildings whose destination was considered to be temples, judging by the inscriptions discovered on that occasion, which suggest this. The temple was in general regarded primarily as the home of the god. Processions could occur inside or outside the building itself.

N of the camp, at about 350 meters from the plateau called “Terrace of the Sanctuaries” the traces of several buildings, believed to be temples or sanctuaries, have been investigated a fact which accounts for the name of the area, “Terrace of the Sanctuaries” (Macrea 1961, 377; Matei 1980, 92–95, Matei 1983, 130–136; Gudea 1986, 145).

Between 1939 and 1940, to the right of the Roman road that goes from the Roman custom to the camp on the Pomiet hill, a temple attributed by discoverers to Bel was discovered during the excavations carried out by C. Daicoviciu and L. Ghergariu. The ascription of the temple was made by the items discovered, one inscription.

During the years 1979–1981, when resuming archaeological excavations, the area was researched. Thus the building conventionally called N2 was researched, and considered by the discoverers to be the temple of Liber Pater. The building underwent three construction phases. The first phase was considered by the discoverer as the temple of Liber Pater. In Phase II, another building was built also with a sacred role,

whose life ended by a serious fire. In Phase III, the net area of the building was reduced, although another room was added to the E. The lateral surface was reduced by building the wall instead of the *porticos* column alignment. On the length, the building changes its size by the extension discovered on the E side. The technical formula of construction adopted aimed to reinforce the resistance of the building affected by landslides. The instability of the terrain, the position of the building near the edge of terraces, and landslides that seem to have occurred in antiquity, were all considered. This phase of the building was considered by the discoverer to be the temple of Bel. Other buildings (N3 and N4) have been found in the vicinity of the temple, which were regarded as annexes to the temple (Matei 1980, 92–95; Matei 1983, 130–136). The archaeologically identified altar and ritual pits are also related to the existence of the temple (Matei 1980, 92–95; Matei 1983, 130–136). In the IV century AD the temple was destroyed, and a paleochristian basilica was built in its place.

Another building N5 was also investigated on the “Terrace of the Sanctuaries” in two phases, 1958–1959 and 1977–1979, which is believed to have been a temple (Macrea 1961, 257; Matei 1980, 92–95; Matei 1983, 130–136). In our opinion, taking into account the data obtained during 1958–1959 at the research objective, the building was intended for housing. The full unravelling of the objective in the years 1958–1959 made it impossible to recapture the initially snapped elements in 1979–1980, when research was resumed on this objective. The interior partitioning walls and traces of the hypocaustum central heating system show that the destination was that of home building or commercial space. The presence of the heating system is not justified in the case of a temple. The interior partition captured in research in the years 1958–1959 also does not correspond to that of a temple. In these circumstances, in our opinion the building was certainly destined for home or commercial space.

The presence of a well was discovered in the immediate vicinity towards northwest, 4 m away. The discoverer appreciated at the time that the fountain had a ritual purpose. The presence of wells that had a protective roof, be it monumental, is justified in such an area. The large number of items recovered from wells at the research, are nothing but things carved inside it and not yet recovered. Therefore, we have in this case, in our view, a simple well common for a wide ritual area such as that of “Terrace of the Sanctuaries” *vicus* at Porolissum. In support of this idea comes the building identified in the immediate vicinity, which was not the temple, but a house building that could have incorporated retail spaces in its structure.

Another building called LM1S (Fig. 7) destined as temple for Jupiter Optimus Maximus Dolichenus has also been identified and investigated on the left side of the Roman road which climbs from the “Terrace of the Sanctuaries” to the camp on the Pomet hill, 30 m N of the northern bastion of the fortification (Tamba 2008, 196–246). Its destination is clear from the inscription discovered during research. The term *templum* in the text of the epigraph is known, it is generally used to define Dolichenian sanctuaries (Merle 1961, 166–167). The temple was built around 240–244 AD. Discoveries related to the cult of Jupiter Optimus Maximus Dolichenus made in time at Porolissum (statues, statuettes, votive plaques, etc.) places them on the first place in terms of numbers among all three Dacian provinces. The presence of a large number of Dolichenian discoveries is justified if we consider the military importance of the settlement and that god was so popular in the military. On the other hand it is justified by the large number of military units from the East: *numerus Palmyrenorum Porolissensium* (Gudea 1989, 174–175), *numerus Ituraeorum*, respectively *coh. I Ituraeorum Augusta* (Gudea 1989, 159; Ardevan 1988, 291–295) or even *coh. III Dacorum* (Gudea 1989, 168–169). In addition to this there was the eastern component of the inhabitants of the *vicus* (Gudea 1989, 180–189; Ardevan 1988, 135–142; Paki 1988, 216–226). In addition, one must take into account the origin of the settlers who came from the highly Romanized provinces, Pannonia Inferior and Moesia Superior, where the cult of Jupiter Optimus Maximus Dolichenus was very present (Gudea Tamba 2001, 55).

The cult of Jupiter Optimus Maximus Dolichenus at Porolissum followed typical mode of development of Dolichenian religion in general. The first manifestations date back to the second century AD,

where somewhere there must have been another temple. In the first half of the third century AD there was a full flowering of the cult, when at least two such temples were operating in Porolissum. The phenomenon is considered as generally valid in the Empire (Hörig 1984, 2173). The peak of the cult evolution was marked by the destruction by the Persians of the sanctuary of Dolichos.

The decline of the cult is marked by the destruction of the temples of Jupiter Optimus Maximus Dolichenus from the third century AD (Tóth 1973). In the Rhine and Danube provinces, the phenomenon took place under Maximus Thrax during 235–238 AD (Speidel 1978, 72–78). Destruction of the temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus Dolichenus of Porolissum was made later, sometime between 253 and 255 AD, and can be seen as a result of the disgrace the cult fell into during that period. Traces of secondary combustion of some materials recovered during research, the large amount of archaeological material and the degree of burning encountered, all support the upper limit of thesaury as well as the idea of sudden interruption of its existence. The latest temple coins are dated 251–253 AD. Therefore, the destruction must have occurred after this date, which marks the interruption of its existence. The reason is not fully elucidated. In this respect several hypotheses have been launched (Gudea Tamba 2001, 62–64).

The complex architecture in which the rituals were taking place in relation to the cult of Jupiter Optimus Maximus Dolichenus was an imposing edifice in size. Inside the premises there was a *taberna*, as resulted from the text of the epigraph found. The presence of the *taberna* is explained by the rituals and processions that took place in relation to the cult of the deity.

**Components of the settlement: ceramic workshops, workshops for glass processing. Ceramic workshops.** In the provincial Dacian world Porolissum is recognized as an important manufacturing center. Commodity production here primarily sought to cover freight demand on the porolissensis market, with imports not being able to cover the stock of required products.

Porolissum was recognized as an important center of ceramic production, from building materials (bricks, tiles, ridge tiles, pavement elements etc.) to pottery (pottery for common use or luxury). Both military and civilian workshops for ceramic building materials were functioning in Porolissum. The ceramic vessels are characteristic for the porolissensis center by the quality of the paste, decor elements and forms adopted (TSP, CDL, imitations TS). These also occur outside the borders of the province (Gudea 1980, Gudea Philip 2004), evidence of its penetration into the barbarian environment, and of the huge volume of goods produced in Porolissum. Moreover, they were models, being reproduced outside the province in the ceramic workshops of “barbarian communities” (Matei 1979, 123–126).

Following research and accidentally due to landslides, traces of several pottery kilns have been discovered at Porolissum. Findings argue for the existence of the important porolissensis manufacturing center. The place of discovery, although not right next to camp, does not always fit inside the area attributed to the military *vicus*. From the accounts of the former guard at the archaeological complex of Porolissum – Peter Deneş, we know that at 250–300 m SE of the camp, on the very steep slope that follows the flat surface believed to have been the location of the *municipium*, there were traces of pottery kilns. Two brick kilns were dug in the area (Matei 1988, 173). In the earth wall under Citera, other ovens were uncovered that proved to be pottery kilns.

**Glass processing workshops.** As a result of the investigations, specialized workshops on glass products have been identified and researched. We have the situation of building LM3 (space LM3/1). An unusually large amount of beads and glass casting scrap have been recovered during the research. The typological diversity of the discovered beads, their large number and the casting scrap have led us to believe that within the building structure, inside the rooms towards the road there was a manufacturing shop for glass beads. As stated above, it is possible that they have been sold on the spot, with the space we refer to possibly being a store.

**Components of the settlement: the amphitheater.** Porolissum amphitheater, along with those of Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa and Micia, are the most well-known objectives of this kind in the Dacian provinces.



Therefore one of the most representative buildings of a Roman settlement, be it military *vicus*, and why not the one in Porolissum, was the amphitheater. The Porolissensis Amphitheater was built on the third terrace, which was at 150 m SW of the west corner of the camp from the Pomot hill. The presence and location of the building was known by the traces that could be seen on the surface until the first half of the twentieth century. The presence of the amphitheater was attested by the inscription discovered in 1858 (*CIL III*, 836) that refers to restoration works in stone of the edifice.

Imposing building, the auditorium from Porolissum was completed in accordance with the classical formulas used for construction of such an objective, and knows both the wooden stage, and the stone. Amphitheatres, as a general function, are built for shows. The building represented from the architectural point of view an emblem of the Roman Empire. Holidays in Roman society were marked by games (*ludi publici*), gladiator fights or animal fights to satisfy the passion for show in Roman society (*Juvenalis X*, 75 sqq). In terms of size, the building of Porolissum falls into the category of large places with a capacity of 5,000–5,500 (*Forni 1961*, 154; *Alicu 1997*, 68; *Bajusz 2003 – PhD thesis*). One of its features is the oversized arena compared to the capacity of the stands. The elliptical arena had the major axis of 66.50 m and the minor one of 51.80 m. The capacity of the stands could not be calculated accurately, it was estimated at 5,000–5,500 seats being the highest capacity of an amphitheater in Dacian provinces (*Alicu 2004*, 23).

The configuration of the terrain was the first to be exploited, particularly the cavity from the area of the arena and the natural slope of the hill. The amphitheater of Porolissum, as a building, is believed to have a military origin. The first phase was one in which it functioned with an exclusively wooden structure (110–157 AD), with the stone phase dating from 157 AD when it was rebuilt with stone walls.

The amphitheater, at least during its wooden phase, belonged to the military *vicus*, being built immediately after the arrival of the Romans here. The Porolissensis Septimium Municipality was founded later to give the amphitheater strictly to it. In connection with the affiliation of the amphitheater to one of the porolissensis civil settlements, we not exclude the possibility of its joint affiliation at a certain point, both to the *vicus* and the *municipium*. Further research is to elucidate this problem. The current state of knowledge prevents us from ruling in connection with a possible line of demarcation between the two settlements, if there was any. The evolution of the *vicus* to the stage of *municipium* excludes the existence of such topographical divisions. If there was a division, however, we consider that the first element taken into consideration was the configuration of the terrain, which for Porolissum is very rough, something which has been taken into account when implementing the urban plan. In our opinion the valid formula for Porolissum is that of the existence of an evolution of the *vicus* to the stage of *municipium*.

**Components of the settlement: the bath.** Roman society has also imposed special standards as regards hygiene. Bath as an institution was from this point of view, an objective with a special role in the life of Roman society in general and of course in that of the provincial. The role lies in what the institution had represented in society and secondly as an architectural element of reference in designing the urban development plan of the settlement (*Sommer 1988*, 79).

The bath location in the military *vici* was envisaged as early as designing the development plan of the settlement. In relation to the place designed especially for the bath, in the vast majority of cases a unitary urban development plan was conceived in advance. Typically, the location of the bath was chosen to be in front of the *gate praetoria*. But the rule was not always respected. For the current stage of the research, we argue that in the case of the military *vicus* of the camp of Porolissum, the rule is not valid.

During the investigations made during the years 1958–1959 (*Macrea 1961*, 377) an impressive edifice was identified on the first terrace, 30 m SW of the W corner of the camp and 50 m NE of the amphitheater, viewed by the discoverers as a bath. The objective was only briefly surveyed. The palestrae are also believed to have been situated in the area alleged to belong to the bath. Data provided by the excavation did not allow us to know the size and subdivision of the construction. We have no data on the archaeological

material recovered on that occasion. At present we know only that one of the rooms benefit from a heating system with *hypocaustum*.

With the current state of knowledge we believe that the building with a bath function identified towards SW, at the W corner of the camp, could belong to the military *vicus*. Future research will clarify the issues raised by this construction.

Information relating to discoveries made on the plateau that is S from the S corner tower of the camp leads us to believe that there is another bath. According to the researcher (Matei 2002) the archaeologically identified traces in the respective area belongs to *the municipality*. The survey however does not provide data to enable further assessment. The results of the research have not been published. It is possible that the two baths were ongoing at the same time. We are not ruling out the possibility, which can be verified by further research, that the two belonged to different chronological housing phases at Porolissum. We are not ruling out the possibility that the presence of several *therme* is fully justified, given the number of troops in the Porolissum garrison (see the case of Micia- Alicu 2004).

**Components of the settlement: the graveyard.** Currently the locations of two such targets are known at Porolissum. The first was identified and investigated by several surveys during the years 1958–1959 (Macrea 1961, 376), in a place called today “Ursoieș”, at a distance of approximately 1,500 m SE of the Pomiet hill camp. On Ursoieș cremation graves in the pit were discovered, as well as inhumation graves within built graves. The second cemetery apparently was E of the large camp, about 2,500 m away, in the place called “Leanca”. The position of this cemetery is located at approximately 1,500 m to the E from the Citera hill camp, where a funerary monument (burial lion) was discovered. We suspect that its presence was linked to the camp on Citera or to its *vicus*. The current status of research prevents us from speaking about the affiliation of the two cemeteries. We can have in this case, civil or military cemeteries belonging to the two camps or civil settlements. The possibility of existence of two or more *vici* with different location sites at Porolissum, each with its cemetery, is not excluded, nor is their military affiliation.

The current stage of research compels us to resume to indicating the location of the two currently known (Macrea 1959, 376; Gudea 1989, 148–158).

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Tamba – Gudea 2004	D. Tamba, N. Gudea, Cercetări arheologice în vicus-ul militar de la Porolissum, în <i>Cronica cercetărilor arheologice</i> , 2004, 204–205
Mann 1974	J.C. Mann, The frontiers of the Principate, în <i>ANRW</i> II, 1, 1974, 508– 533

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ACMIT	Anuarul Comisiunii Monumentelor Istorice. Secția pentru Transilvania. Cluj
ActaArch	Acta Archeologica Hungarica, Budapesta
ActaMN	Acta Musei Napocensis. Cluj Napoca, I (1964) și urm.
ActaMP	Acta Musei Porolissensis. Zalău, I (1977) și urm
AEM	Archäologisch – epigraphische Mittheilungen aus Österreich – Ungarn. Wien
IAIA	Institutul de Arheologie și Istoria Artelor Cluj-Napoca
AIIA	Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie. Cluj –Napoca
AISC	Anuarul Institutului de Studii Clasice. Cluj, I (1928) – V(1949)
AnB	Analele Banatului. Studii și cercetări din istoria și arta Banatului. Timișoara, I (1928) – IV (1931)
Apulum	Apulum. Buletinul Muzeului regional Alba-Iulia. Alba-Iulia, I (1939–1942), II (1943–1945), III (1947–1949), IV (Studii și comunicări, Acta Musei Regionalis Apulensis), V (1965) și urm
ANRW	Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt, Berlin – New York
ArchErt	Archaeologiai Értésítő. Budapest, I (1869) și urm.
ArhMold	Arheologia Moldovei. București, I (1961) și urm.
Banatica	Banatica. Muzeul Banatului Montan Caraș-Severin. Reșița, I (1971) și urm
BAR	British Archaeological Reports. Oxford
BJ	Bonner Jahobucher, Bonn
Britannia	A Journal of Romano-British and kindred Studies. London
CIL	Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum. Berlin
Chiron	Chiron mitteilungen der Kommission fur Alteeischihte und Epigraphik des Deutschen archeologischen institutes. Munchen
Coll Roum-Suisse	Actes du I er Colloque Roumain Souisse, Deva 1993
Dacia	Dacia. Recherches et découvertes archéologiques en Roumanie. București, I (1924) – XII (1948); N.S., Revue d' archéologie et d' histoire ancienne. București, I (1957) și urm.
DissPann	Dissertationes Pannonicae. Budapest
Dolg Cluj	Dolgozatok az Erdélyi Muzeum érem- és régisegatárabol. Travaux de la Section numismatique et archéologique du Musée National de Transylvanie à Kolozsvár. Cluj
EAA	Enciclopedia dell' Arte Antica Clasica ed Orientale. Roma.
Eph Nap (sau EN)	Ephemeris Napocensis. Cluj – Napoca
ErdMuz	Erdélyi Múzeum. Kolozsvár. Cluj
Germania	Germania. Anzeiger der römisch-germanischen Kommission des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts. Frankfurt a. Main I (1971) și urm.
IDR	Inscripțiile Daciei Romane. București, I (1975), II(1977), III,1 (1977), 2 (1980), 3 (1984), III, 4 (1988), III/5, Paris 2000
IMCD	In memoriam Constantini Daicoviciu. Cluj 1974
IstRom	Istoria României. București, I (1960)
Istros	Istros. Revue roumaine d' archéologie et d' histoire ancienne. București, I (1934) și urm.
JÖAI	Jahreshefte des Österreichischen Archaeologischen Institutes. Wien
Marisia	Marisia. Studii și comunicări de istorie, Târgu-Mureș
MCA	Materiale și cercetări arheologice. București, I (1953) și urm (MCA, începând cu sesiunile anuale de rapoarte arheologice, XIII, Oradea, 1979)

OmD	Omagiu lui Constantin Daicoviciu cu ocazia împlinirii a 60 de ani. București 1960
OR	D. Tudor, Oltenia romană. Ed. a III-a, București, 1968, Ed. a. IV-a București 1978
Potaissa	Potaissa. Studii și comunicări. Muzeul de Istorie Turda. Turda, I (1978), II (1980), III (1982)
RCRF Acta	Rei Cretariae Romanae Fautores Acta
RE	Real Encyclopädie der klassischen Altertumswissenschaft (Pauly Wissowa-Kroll), Stuttgart
RFS 1997	Roman Frontier Studies, Zalău, 1997
RevBis	Revista Bistriței – Bistrița Năsăud
RevMuz	Revista Muzeelor. București, I (1964) și urm.
RRH	Revue Roumaine d'Histoire. București, I (1962) și urm.
Sargetia	Sargetia. Buletinul Muzeului regional Hunedoara. Deva, I (1937), II (1941), III (Contribuții la cunoașterea regiunii Hunedoara, 1956), IV (1966) și urm.
SCIV	Studii și cercetări de istorie veche. București, I (1950) – 23 (1973). Vezi și SCIVA
SCIVA	Studii și cercetări de istorie veche și arheologie. București, 25 (1974) și urm. (continuă publicația SCIV)
StComC	Studii și comunicări de etnografie – istorie Caransebeș. Caransebeș, I (1977) – IV (1984). Vezi și Tibiscum
Tibiscum	Studii și comunicări de etnografie – istorie. Muzeul Județean de Etnografie și al regimentului de Graniță Caransebeș. Caransebeș, V (1986) și urm. (Continuă publicația STComC)
Tibiscus	Tibiscus. Muzeul Banatului Timișoara. Timișoara, I (1971) și urm.
Ziridava	Ziridava. Studii și cercetări. Muzeul Regional (apoi Județean) Arad. Arad, I (1967) și urm.
ZPE	Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik. Bonn

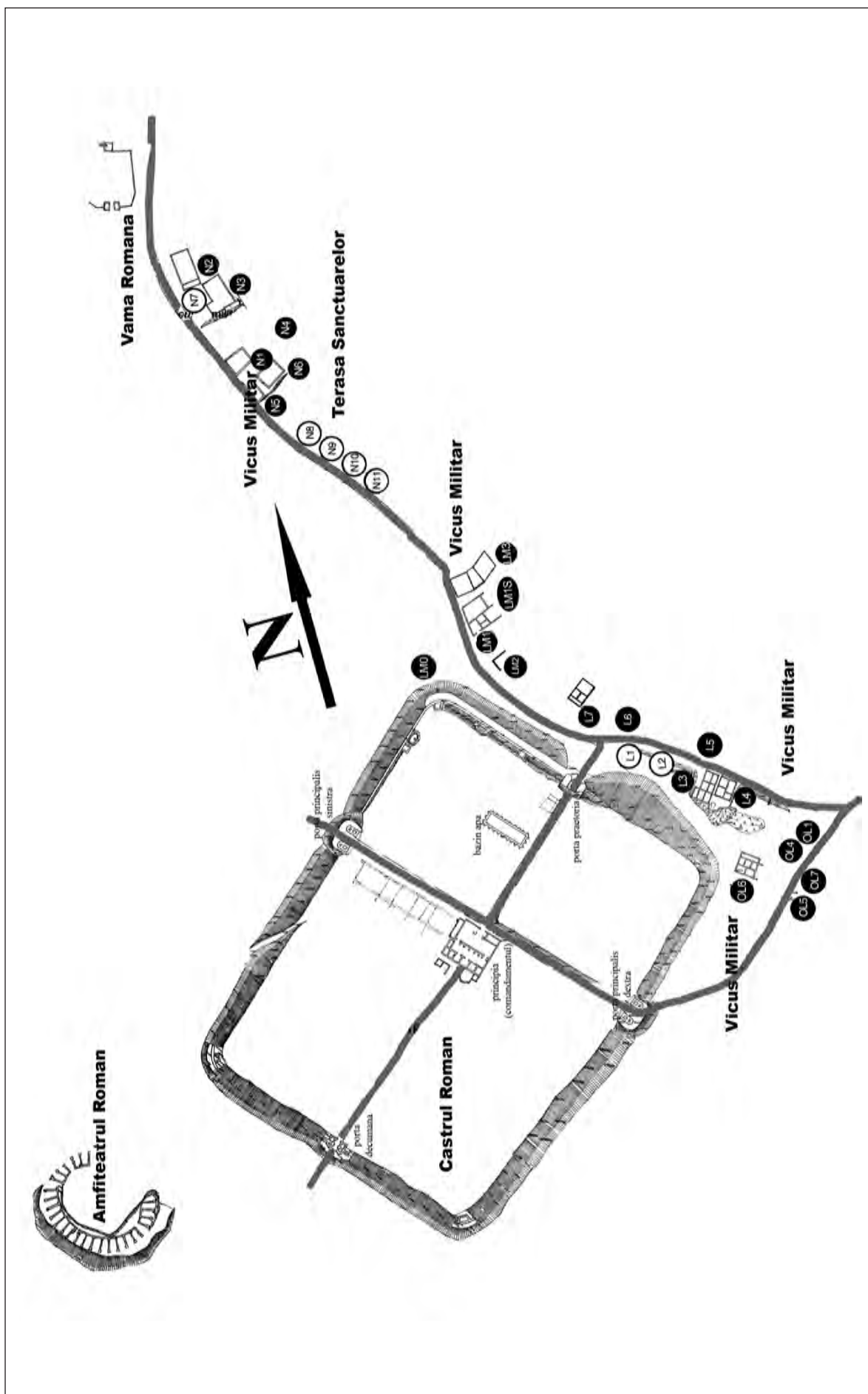


Fig. 1. Plan of the camp and the vicus

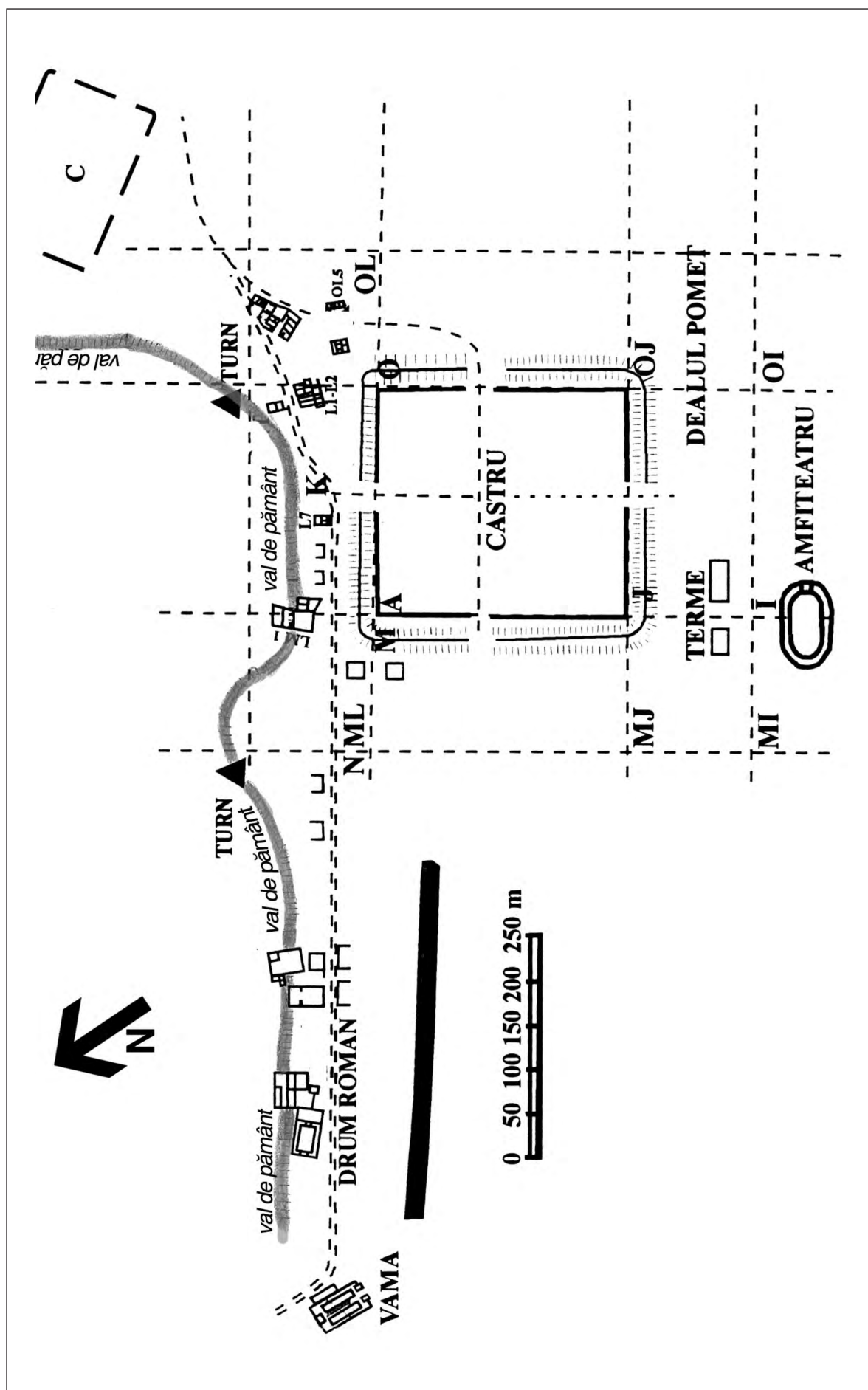


Fig. 2. Plan of the military porolissensis vicus with the researched archeological objectives.



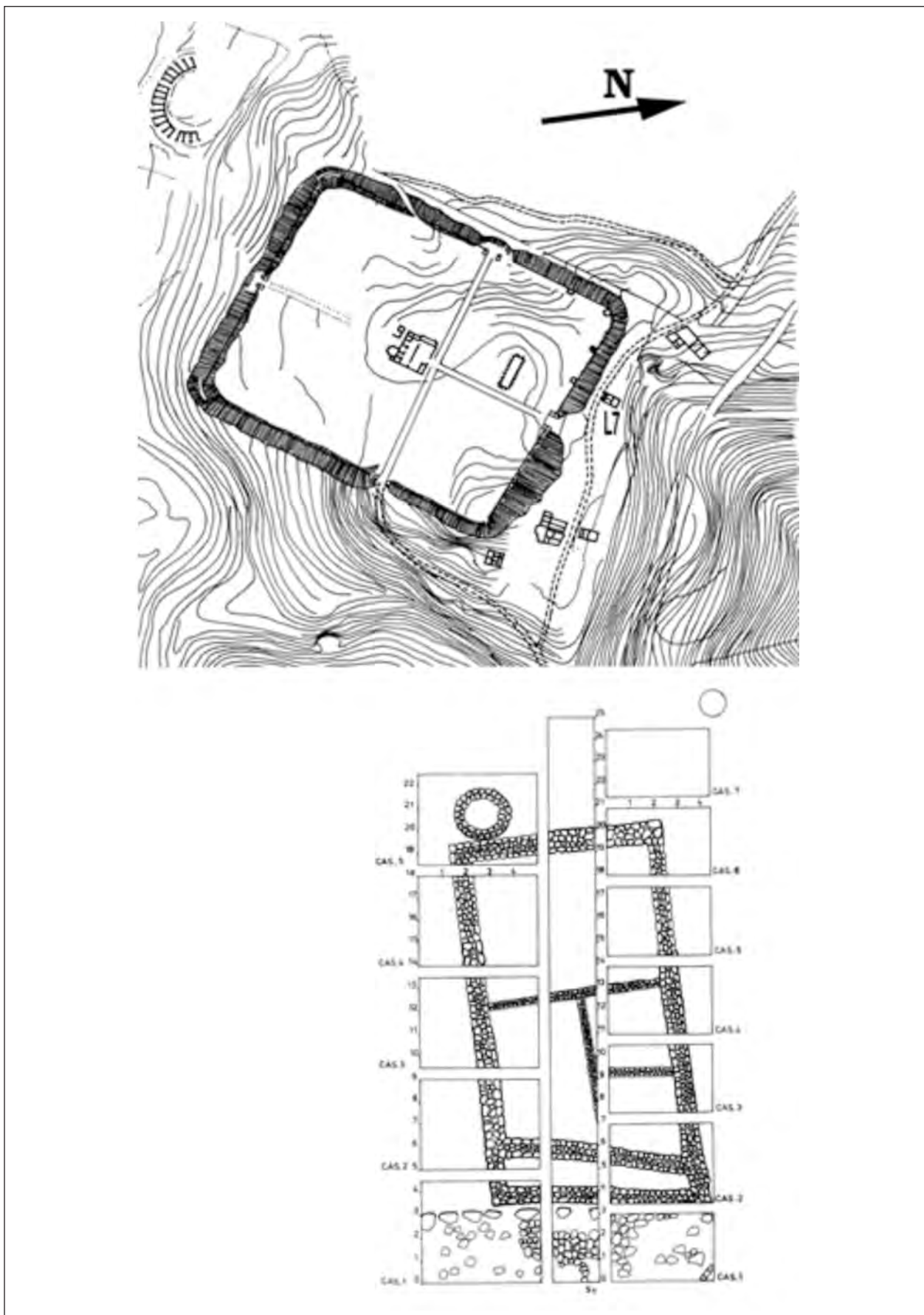


Fig. 3. Plan of building L7 with position in vicus

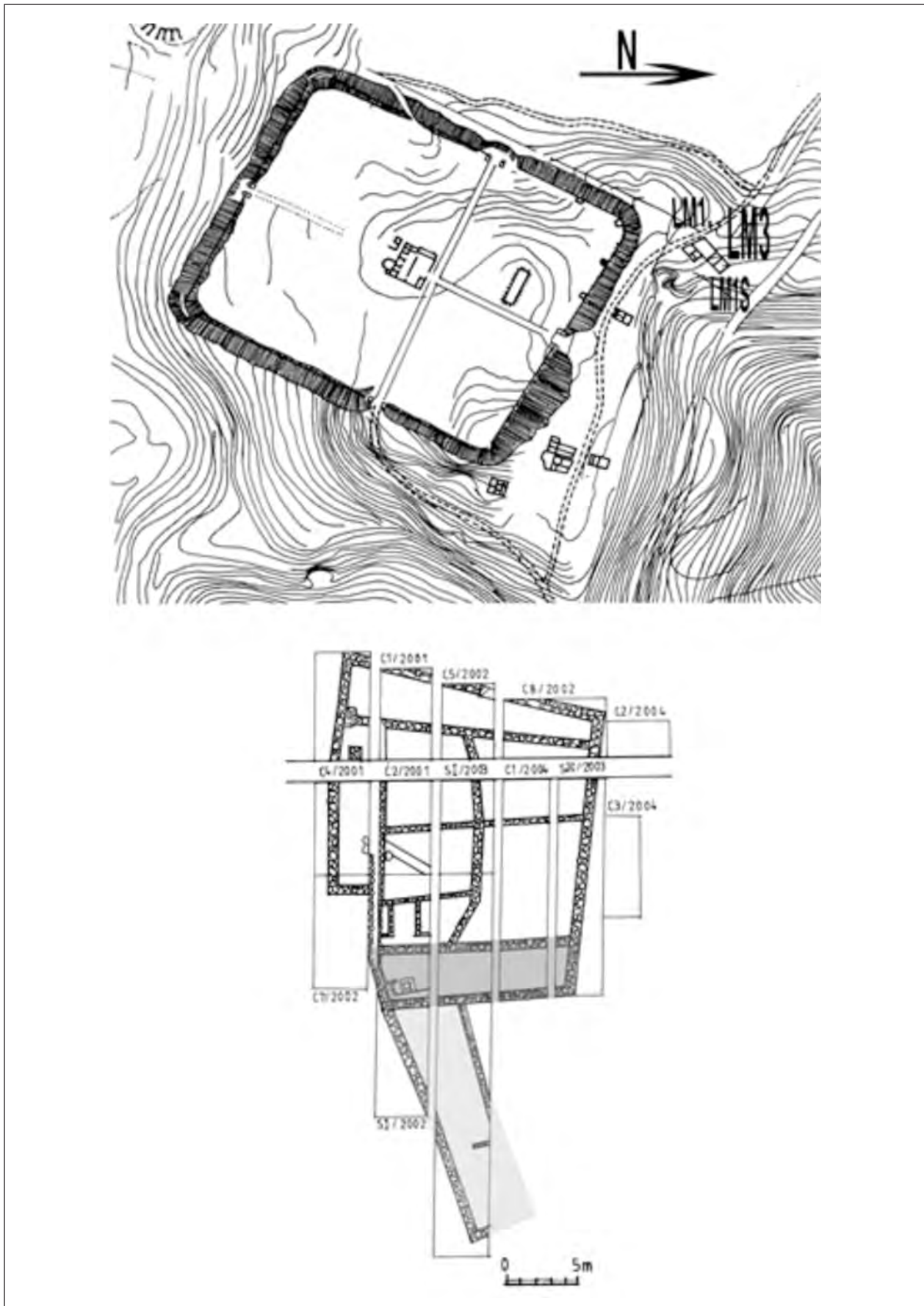


Fig. 4. Plan of building LM3 with position in vicus

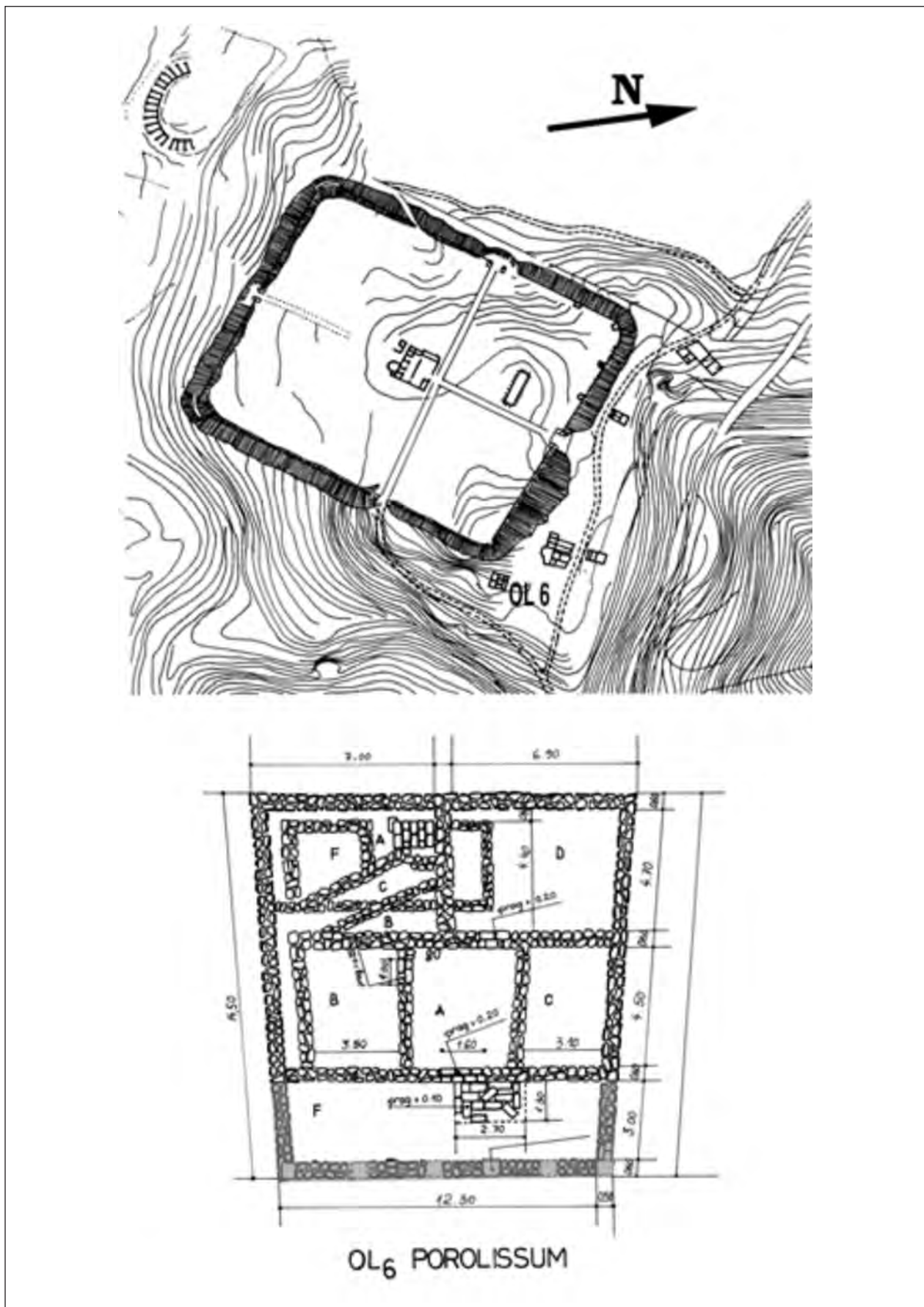


Fig. 5. Plan of building OL6 with position in vicus



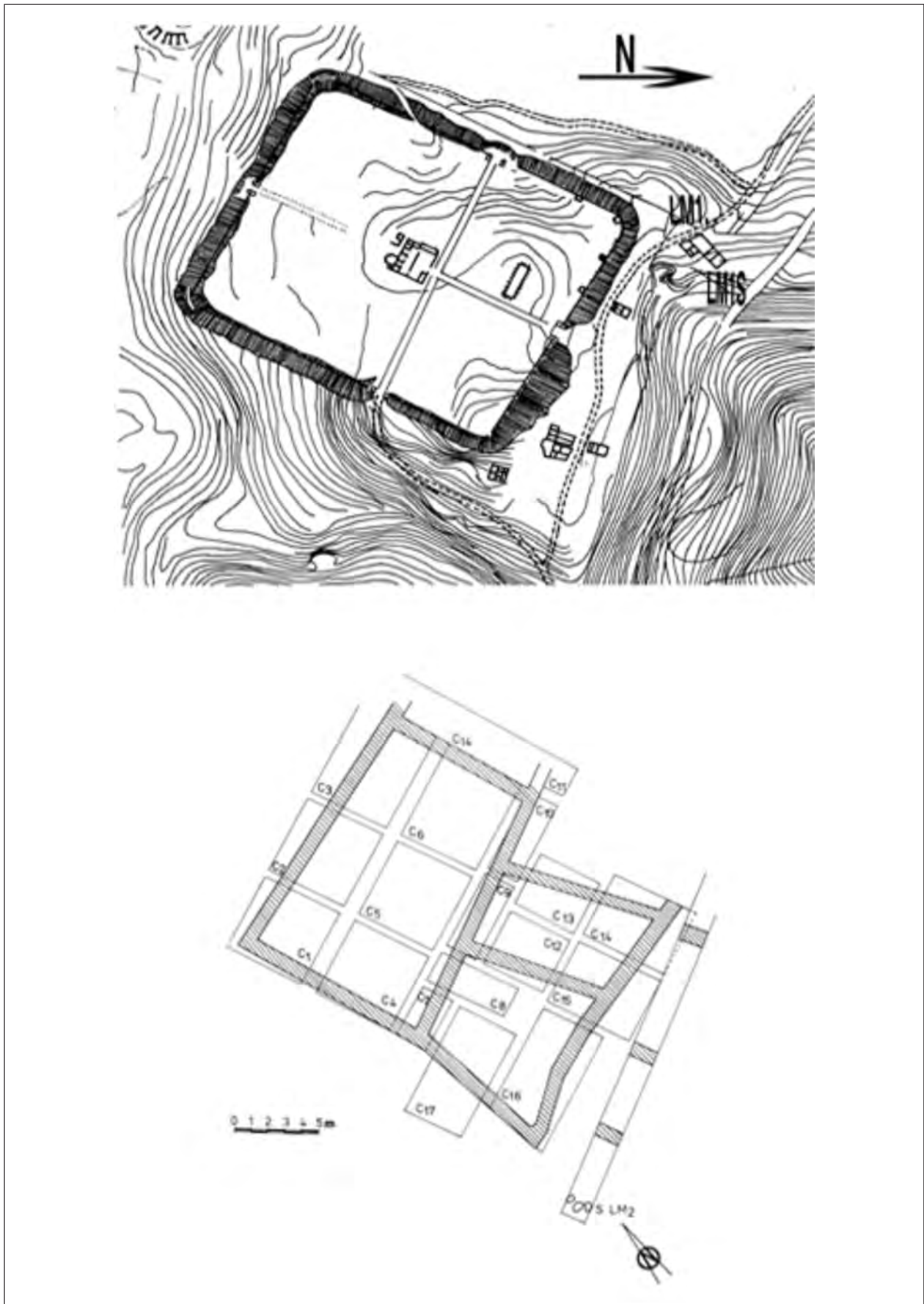


Fig. 6. Plan of building LM1 with position in vicus