

Archaeological Data Concerning the History of the Evangelical Church in Dealu Frumos, Sibiu County

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Abstract: Most historians agree that the original planimetry of the church in Dealu Frumos consisted of a hall church with nave and two aisles, a square choir, a semicircular apse and a western tower. All these were built during the 13th century, before the Tartar Invasion. During the 14th and 15th centuries (but continued during the 16th century as well) the church undergoes major modifications that would fortify it against attacks: the western side of the aisles were dismantled in order to free the western tower, heightened and enhanced from all points of view; the eastern side of the church was dismantled as well, here being built a second defensive tower, over the square choir. The church fortification was completed by surrounding it with an approximately elliptic curtain wall with three towers. A second enclosure on the eastern half of the ensemble and an impressive moat were also built in order to fortify the church. All these elements are meant to confer a maximum resistance to any types of attacks. The archaeological research in 2009 had three main goals: solving the problem of the existence of a semicircular apse on the eastern side of the church, which was discovered in trench 3. Trench 2 was established on the eastern wall of the western tower in order to identify the area where the original 13th century portal might have been and possible recovery of some parts of it laying underground, as well as establishing the existence of a threshold that could point to the original walking level. Traces of a semicircular portal on the elevation of the eastern wall are still visible today, but under the current walking level we have unveiled a uniform masonry, in which we could distinguish neither the northern mullion of the portal, as expected, nor the trace of any threshold. The excavation revealed a regular stone structure bound with mortar. Taking into account the different construction manner as in the naves, the logical hypothesis is that the western church wall was reconstructed at the same time when the western tower was being built. Another major goal of our research was successfully achieved: the discovery of the remains of the western aisle, dismantled at the moment of fortification. Studying the general stratigraphy revealed by the excavations we have to take into consideration the fact that the terrain was at a certain point levelled down (possibly to better protect the inner enclosure). This hypothesis is also supported by the diminished number of graves discovered here (a lot less than at other similar monuments)

as well as the discovery of the improvised ossuary in the former lime pit. We have discovered a total of 19 graves, none of them providing datable material. Further research is needed in order to clarify some important aspects of the monument: the original entry into the church, complete unveiling of the remains of the semicircular apse and of the aisles, as well as establishing other stratigraphy data that would help set the evolution of the walking level during the different historic periods of the Evangelical church in Dealu Frumos.

Cuvinte cheie: biserică evanghelică, Dealu Frumos, jud. Sibiu, planimetrie, cimitir

Rezumat: Cei mai mulți istorici sunt de acord că planimetria originală a bisericii din Dealu Frumos consta dintr-o biserică hală, cu navă și două colaterale, un cor de plan pătrat, o absidă a altarului semicirculară și un turn vestic, construite în secolul al XIII-lea, înainte de invazia tătară. În decursul secolelor al XIV-lea și al XV-lea biserica trece prin modificări majore (continuate și în secolul al XVI-lea), menite să o fortifice împotriva eventualelor atacuri: demolarea părții de vest a colateralelor pentru a degaja turnul vestic, înălțat și eficientizat din toate punctele de vedere; demolarea părții estice a bisericii și ridicarea aici, peste corul de plan pătrat a încă unui turn. Fortificarea bisericii a fost completată prin construirea unei incinte de plan aproximativ elipsoidal, întărită și ea prin trei turnuri de apărare. Tot în vederea fortificării sunt construite o a doua incintă în jumătatea estică și un impresionant șanț de apărare. Totate aceste elemente sunt menite a conferi ansamblului o rezistență maximă în fața oricărui tip de atac. Cercetarea arheologică din anul 2009 a avut trei mari scopuri: rezolvarea problematicei existenței unei abside semicirculare pe partea estică a bisericii (absidă care a fost decoperită în S3); S2 a fost trasată pe zidul estic al turnului de vest pentru a se putea identifica zona portalului original, cel de secol XIII, precum și pentru identificarea unui posibil prag al acestui portal, ceea ce ar fi fost un mare ajutor în stabilirea nivelului de călcare din secolul anterior menționat. Urmele unui portal semicircular sunt încă vizibile în elevația zidului estic, dar sub nivelul actual de călcare nu s-a distins vreun menou al aceluia portal și nicio urmă a pragului. Săpătura a revelat un zid uniform, legat cu mortar. Luând aceste fapte în considerare, precum și maniera de construcție diferită față de rămășița zidului contranavei descoperită în S1, concluzionăm că acest zid estic a fost refăcut în totalitate la momentul edificării turnului. Un alt scop major al cercetării

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noastre a fost atins în această campanie: descoperirea rămășițelor contranavei vestice, demolate la momentul fortificării monumentului. Studiarea stratigrafiei generale ne-a făcut să concluzionăm că la un moment dat terenul din interiorul incintei a fost coborât (probabil pentru a îngădui o mai bună supraveghere a lui). Această ipoteză este de asemenea susținută de numărul foarte mic al mormintelor (mult mai mic decât în cazul unor monumente asemănătoare) precum și de descoperirea osuarului improvizat în fosta groapă de var. Au fost descoperite 19 morminte, însă nici unul nu a adus elemente de datare a cimitirului. Sunt necesare cercetări viitoare asupra acestui monument, în vederea clarificării anumitor aspecte importante: descoperirea completă a rămășițelor absidei semicirculare și a celor două contranave precum și stabilirea unor coloane stratigrafice detaliate, care să arate evoluția nivelului de călcare în diferitele perioade istorice ale bisericii evanghelice din Dealu Frumos.

The Evangelical church in Dealu Frumos¹ preserves one of the most unusual planimetries of a medieval church in the Saxon colonization area in southern Transylvania. It is a hall church with two towers on its longitudinal axe. The eastern tower was built on the place of the choir while the western tower, a massive one, served as belfry. This strongly fortified building, almost unbreakable from outside, was surrounded by a curtain wall that encloses an approximately oval surface. The curtain wall was also fortified by three towers, on its western, northern and southern sides. The community fortress is strengthened by a secondary enclosure, in the eastern half and by an impressive moat. All these elements confer a maximum resistance to any attacks. This structure is obviously the result of a long evolution over centuries that transformed the typical 13th century church into a stronghold that would protect its community from almost any external attacks.

The church wall and planimetry² bear traces of many interventions even though some of the

construction stages have disappeared and can only be recognized through detailed archaeological and architectural research. The structure of the building still preserves the basilica plan, with a western tower framed by the aisles, a square choir and an apse that most scientists have presumed semicircular. Most historians date this stage during the first half of the 13th century, preceding the Tartar Invasion. The stages of fortification are still known only within a general frame: the demolition of the western side of the aisles so that the western tower would be free and therefore more efficient from all points of view. Also the demolition of the eastern side and the building of a tower over the choir was a vertical transformation with the main goal to unify the inner space by creating a hall. Chronologically, all these must have happened mainly during the 14th to 15th centuries, with some probable minor alterations during the 16th century. A sacristy was added on the northern side of the eastern tower at some unknown time, while the southern entry through a vestibule is thought to have been added during the 18th century.

The church in Dealu Frumos is currently in a poor state of conservation and some parts of the exterior ensemble are even collapsing. Once the monument passed in the custody of the "Architecture and Urbanism «Ion Mincu» Faculty" in Bucharest, it was included in a plan of scientific research and emergency interventions³. Within the plan, the first archaeological investigations were conducted in the summer of 2009. The research was limited to three surveys outside the church, the main objectives being to obtain information on the stratigraphic sequence and on the original planimetry of the site.

General stratigraphy

The stratigraphy outside the church is harder to decipher due to later interventions which upset the historical layers.

The virgin soil is represented by a compact, clayish, black layer. In certain areas this layer also contains feeble amounts of ceramic pigment (adobe?), probably belonging to a prehistoric habitation developed somewhere around the area. The next deposit is a clayish, yellowish-brown layer, pigmented with adobe, likewise connected to the prehistoric habitation. Its maximum upper level is at -2.4 m (about 0.7 m under the current walking level).

¹ For a detailed history of the village see: M. Schnabel, *Schönberg in Siebenbürgen. Ein Heimatbuch über diese Gemeinde*, Eigenverlag Martin Schnabel, Sacsernheim, 2002. The first mention in documents is in 1320 as Pulchro monte., according to: Gernot Nüssbächer, *Allgemeine Deutsche Zeitung für Rumänien*, Year 1, No. 225, 17.11.1993, p. 7. H. Fabini, *Atlas der siebenbürgisch-sächsischen Kirchenburgen und Dorfkirchen*, Sibiu, 1999, p. 678–682.

² One of the reference monuments for the Saxon civilization in southern Transylvania, the church is highly documented in literature, but direct archaeological and architectural researches started here only several years ago. G. Oprescu, *Bisericele cetăți ale sașilor din Ardeal*, București, 1957, p. 163. V. Vătășianu, *Istoria artei feudale în Țările Române*, București, 1959, p. 67–68. T. Sinigalia, *Biserica fortificată din Dealu Frumos*, RMM-MIA, București, 1976, p. 65–72. I. Fabritius Dancu, *Sächsische Kirchenburgen aus Sieben-bürgen*, Sibiu, 1980, p. 18. H. Fabini, *Atlas der sieben-bürgisch-sächsischen Kirchenburgen und Dorfkirchen*, Sibiu, 1999, p. 678–682.

³ For the history of the custody and current works see Sergiu Nistor, *Transilvania, un patrimoniu în căutarea moștenitorilor săi*, Ed. Fundației Arhitect Design, București, 2010.

Next over the adobe layers there is one of clayish, black soil, weakly pigmented with mortar. This is the layer in which the grave pits were dug. Toward the curtain wall this layer is directly overlapped by the current vegetal soil but toward the church we see agglomerated several interventions connected to the construction alterations: partial demolition of the aisle, building of the western tower, organization of different construction sites, specifically, places where mortar was being made and preserved.

The analysis of the uncovered structures, the low density of the cemetery and the lack of deposits corresponding to the time before the dismantling of the northern aisle determine us to assume that during the Middle Ages the terrain configuration was slightly different than the current one. We presume that the church was built on a terrain with a relatively accentuated slope from north-west to south-east. In its northern side the church was partially buried, with a difference of about 1 m from the interior (as suggested by the enclosure foundation); this difference in level could be even greater near the church. The walking level must have been raised progressively along the Middle Ages.

During the church fortification, an unknown moment in the current stage of research, we presume a vertical systematization that was supposed to level down the terrain, making it easier to supervise. It is possible that this operation is connected to the buildings of some structures inside the enclosure, such as the larders. This is the time when the upper layers of tombs were dislocated and the bones were thrown in an improvised ossuary and partially in the loose filling of a lime pit. The fashion in which the bones were placed in total disarray also suggests that this intervention happened in a relatively late stage, when things such as placement of bodies in the grave pit were unimportant, therefore at the time of the Reformation.

The stratigraphy inside the aisle is relatively simple. The first floor was placed directly over the virgin soil, on a bedding of compacted, yellow clay. The floor is overlapped by layers of debris resulted during the dismantling of the aisle and the building of the tower. On certain areas (see eastern profile drawing of Trench 1) the floor is overlapped by a layer of compressed, clayish dirt, deposited there after the construction of the belfry.

Main discoveries

Northern aisle

Trench 1 was traced on the northern side of the enclosure, between the current church wall and the curtain wall, thus allowing us to study the evolution

of the walking level and to discover the ruin of the northern aisle. The aisle used to have an interior width of 2.6 m, with a brick floor (brick measurements: $26 \times 12 \times 5$ cm), set on a bedding of yellow clay, bound with a thin mortar blanket. At the time of discovery the floor was extremely uneven (probably because of the unequal compaction of the filling of some earlier graves); most of the bricks were damaged⁴.

The ruin of the outer wall of the aisle was partially preserved. Next to the wall that westward closes the current aisle, where the demolition actually begun, we have discovered a consistent fragment of this wall; its upper part was immediately under the walking levels. The greatest part of the wall was completely demolished and maybe its components were re-used in constructions.

The first foundation row was made of boulders, bound with sandy, yellow clay; it was 1.2 – 1.3 m wide. This is the basis on which the elevation was built; the wall elevation was bound with mortar and it was thinned to about 1 m wide. The same manner of construction was used for the pillar of the arch between aisle and nave; its basis was likewise a row of boulders, not bound with mortar⁵. The foundation ditch was lowered at – 3.1 m and the first walking level on the inside was at – 2.88 m (as suggested by the highest level of the floor and the upper part of the pillar foundation). Obviously, looked at from the inside, the basilica had on its northern side extremely superficial foundations.

This was the reason why, at the moment when the belfry was being built, the supportive walls were also heavily consolidated, their infrastructure included. The arcade that separated the naves was closed with a masonry structure made of boulders bound with mortar; this wall had a much deeper foundation than the one of the older church⁶. This foundation has reached under the foundation of the pillar between the naves, like an underpinning of sorts, but the proportion of this intervention is unknown to us because of the small working space.

⁴ The floor fragment was not dismantled, its *in situ* preservation being under advisement.

⁵ This manner of construction is not foreign to the Saxon environment. The 12th century church in Drăușeni was built without using mortar; likewise, the 13th century basilica foundations are placed on several rows of boulders bound with sandy, yellow clay. D. Marcu, *Biserica fortificată Drăușeni, jud. Brașov*, in: A.A. Rusu, P.L. Szöcs (coord.) *Arhitectura religioasă medievală din Transilvania*, II, Muzeul Județean Satu Mare, 2002, p. 41–78. The same situation was noticed at the church in Hălmeag, Brașov County. Novel research in 2006 by D. Marcu Istrate.

⁶ The depth of this foundation was not determined due to a very small working space. The excavation was stopped at – 4 m (– 2.80 m from the current walking level).

It appears that the northern aisle was demolished in several stages. The over structure was eliminated at first, and this is when the brick floor was covered with a layer of debris mixed with roof tiles. The ruin of the outer wall was probably demolished at the level of the exterior walking level, while the interior was used (at least in the researched area) as lime storage a long enough period for the lime to leave traces even on the filling wall of the arch between the nave and the aisle. After the lime was exhausted the surface was levelled with a layer of yellowish, sandy debris. From the upper level of this layers (at a point we cannot predict) the builders dug the ditch for the dismantling of the aisle foundation. Today this ditch can be traced right under the vegetal soil.

The lime pit

The lime deposited inside the aisle ruin was manoeuvred outside: on a large surface (its maximum length is 3 m) but with an irregular shape, we could identify a concave lime crust (its lower part is at -2.7 m). The lime pit was used before the complete demolition of the aisle wall, its southern limit being exactly the ditch of the foundation dismantling. The fillings of the lime pit appear immediately bellow the vegetal layer (at -1.84 m). This is the reason we assume that at the time of its digging the terrain level was close to the current one.

After its obsolescence, the lime pit was mainly filled with human bones, only its upper level containing more soil. The fact that the human remains appear right under the current walking level supports the hypothesis that the walking level was not greatly modified after the building of the tower and the dismantling of the aisle.

The human bones are mixed with very loose dirt and debris. Because of the moisture they show signs of strong weathering.

The bones' pit

Before the creation of the lime pit, important amounts of human remains were thrown on the surface, partially in a 0.6 m wide ditch, partially in a shallow pit. These large amounts of human bones contrast with the very low number of graves discovered in situ.

The curtain wall

Trench 1 also unveiled the foundation of the building on the northern side of the enclosure (the new bastion), presumed to have belonged to the 15th century curtain wall. We noticed the masonry made of raw stones, bound with yellowish-white mortar, made of sand of different granulations and lime of good quality. Immediately under the current

threshold, on this segment of the fortress, the wall presents a repair with contemporary brick. The wall sits on the archaeologically sterile ground, compacted, black, clayish soil, with weak traces of ochre. The bottom of the foundation was identified at -3.35 m. Practically touching the foundation, was the mandible of M.4 (totally lacking the neurocranium and facial complex, probably removed when the wall was built; the other parts of the skeleton were intact, even preserving traces of the coffin). Around -2 m a small widening of the foundation could suggest a walking level from the time of the wall construction. The stratigraphy next to the wall was disturbed by graves, a larger pit (that also contained a lot of debris, including stones and bricks) and by a drain ditch.

The semicircular apse

We traced a cassette (Trench 3, of 2 by 2 meters) on the eastern side of the church in order to identify its original apse. It appeared immediately under the vegetal soil, regularly dismantled. As it was constantly foreseen in the specialty literature, the basilica had a semicircular apse, very likely dismantled at the stage of the eastern side fortification.

Next to the apse wall, probably disturbed by the lightning rod, we could distinguish a grave, but because of the small working space the trench was not finalized, pending another archaeological campaign.

The western tower

In order to identify the area of the original portal and eventual traces of the threshold of the main entry that could help in establishing the old walking level, we have traced Trench 2. We excavated at a depth of about 1.6 m from the current walking level, into the virgin soil.

We could see traces of a semicircular portal on the elevation of the eastern wall, but under the current walking level we have unveiled a uniform masonry, in which we could distinguish neither the northern mullion of the portal, as expected, nor the trace of any threshold. The excavation revealed a regular stone structure, bound with mortar, set on a strongly thickened foundation (the thickening of the foundation has reached on the inferior level of the trench to 0.5 m); splayed as it lowered.

The bottom of the foundation is set in the virgin soil, at -2.8 m, made of small and medium sized stones bound with the same type of mortar as the elevation. Considering the different construction manner as in the naves, we have to take into consideration the hypothesis that the western church wall was reconstructed at the same time when the western tower was being built.

The level of the construction is a layer of black, clayish dirt, mixed with a lot of mortar and stone fragments; it partially covers the thickening area of the foundation at a depth of – 2.19 m. This layer overlaps another one weakly pigmented with debris, probably deposited here at the stage of the building of the church. Under this layer is the virgin soil. The later layer, chronologically, is made of deposits of construction materials, including a lot of mortar, about 1 m thick.

Other complexes

We have uncovered 19 graves, most of them fragmentary. The oldest of them are shown by the fact that the pit filling is clean, without mortar. Generally, this kind of graves appearing near a construction containing mortar signifies that there probably was an older church, made of wood or one that was built on dry foundations. The density of the cemetery is reduced on the researched surface, with rare obvious overlapping. This situation flagrantly contrasts the usual. Generally, around this type of church, there were burials up until the middle of the 16th century, thus resulting very crowded cemeteries (it is a common occurrence that a medium sized trench could contain several dozens of graves). The fact that in Dealu Frumos the graves are rare and predominantly discovered at great depths, supports the hypothesis that the cemetery was disturbed, its upper layers and later graves (from the 15th and 16th centuries) being eliminated at some point. The improvised ossuary in Trench 1 and the high quantity of bones thrown into the lime pit shows that a large number of graves was deranged, very likely by vertical systematization and lowering the level on the northern side of the enclosure. Considering the reduced density of the cemetery, we exclude the fact that those human remains could come only from digging the foundation ditches for the western tower or other buildings around the church. Still, future excavations on larger surfaces could support this theory.

Unfortunately none of the graves provided us with datable artifacts, so at the current stage of research the problem of chronology remains an open one. Only two graves can be relatively dated. M.4 was partially disturbed by the construction of the curtain wall. Another grave was made after the filling of the arch between the central nave and the northern aisle of the church. The skeleton was set on the thickening area of the foundation of this filling, disturbing the brick floor of the aisle. This burial certainly dates after the construction of the western tower and it is probably one of the few allowed inside the enclosure after its fortification.

From a statistical point of view*, the graves were discovered at variable depths, between 0.75 m and 1.10 m (noted from the current walking level). The dead were deposited in a dorsal decubitus; minimal differences were registered in the position of members as well as the head, but this is because of the decomposition processes, as well as soil pressure. The orientation was the classical one, west-eastward (looking eastward), with only two exceptions: M.13, east-westward oriented (looking westward) and M.18 north-southward oriented (looking southward). These exceptions could be caused by the Reformation, during which time position of the body and its inventory were no longer important.

Archaeological artifacts

The material resulted in this campaign is reduced. It consists of pottery shards from the Middle and Modern Ages and coffin nails.

Conclusions

Although the excavation was a small one we can safely say that all our initial objectives have been reached.

The problem of the eastern side planimetry was solved by the discovery of the ruins of the semi-circular apse. We have registered important details connected to the functionality of the northern aisle (walking level, flooring system) and to the stages of the partial dismantling of its western bays. We could also notice that the original foundations of the basilica did not contain mortar, a construction manner often seen on the first Saxon construction sites after their installation in Transylvania.

Because the basilica had shallow foundations (maybe even unequal ones) when the western tower was being built, the constructors also decided a structural consolidation. Thus, the arcade separating the central nave from the northern aisle was closed with masonry going approximately 1 meter deeper than the older foundation.

The analysis of the deposited layers offered important information on the natural terrain configuration (a clayish, black soil), on older habitation stages (vague traces of prehistoric habitation) and on the evolution of the walking level in different stages of the architectural ensemble.

Summing up all data we can formulate conclusions, but mostly hypotheses, their confirmation being conditioned by future, extended, excavations.

The 2009 excavations could be considered an introduction into the problem of the fortified church in Dealu Frumos. In order to clarify all our

* We have not included in our statistic the isolated human remains and neither the former lime pit re-used as a mass grave.

questions and uncertainties connected to the evolution of this monument we should consider the following: expansion of the excavation on the western side in order to clarify the problem of the original entry into the church; extension of the excavation on the western side, complete unveiling of the dismantled section of the aisle, its preservation and restoration; extension of the excavation on the southern side of the church, a trench to establish stratigraphy and the evolution of the walking level; extension of the excavations on the eastern side and thorough research of the semicircular apse, its conservation and restoration; surveys inside the church. Also, a vertical systematization by slightly lowering the level in the north-western corner of the enclosure could be considered valuable.

List of graves

Abbreviations: M-code; P-pit; Fill.-filling of pit; Cons.-state of skeleton conservation; Der.-if the skeleton is deranged; Orient.-orientation; Poz.-position; Inv.-inventory items; Obs.-observations; Strat.-stratigraphy.

M.1

Trench 1, – 0.75 m (from the western trench profile); **P.:** unidentified; **Fill.:** black, clayish soil, containing brick and mortar pigment and bits of brick-yellow ochre; **Age:** mature; **Cons.:** good; **Der.:** left side destroyed upon discovery; skull, left scapula, neck remained in the profile; **Orient.:** W–E; **Poz.:** dorsal decubitus, right arm on pelvis, bent from the elbow; **Inv.:** no inventory; upon removal vague traces, probably of the coffin, were noticeable.

M.2

Trench 1, – 0.8 m (from the western trench profile); **P.:** unidentified; **Fill.:** black, clayish soil, containing brick and mortar pigment and bits of brick-yellow ochre; **Age:** mature; **Cons.:** good; **Der.:** right tibia broken in the old age, slipped downward; left tibia destroyed upon discovery; skull, left scapula, neck remained in the profile; **Orient.:** W–E; **Poz.:** dorsal decubitus, right arm placed on pelvis, bent from elbow; left humerus discovered upon removal (although it appears in anatomical connection it is much shorter than the right one, missing radius, ulna and palm); **Inv.:** no inventory; upon removal vague traces, probably of the coffin, were noticeable.

M.3

Trench 1, – 0.96 m (on the skull, from the western trench profile), – 1.06 m (on tibias, from the eastern trench profile); **P.:** rectangular with rounded corners; set in the lime pit; **Fill.:** loose soil, with construction materials; **Age:** mature; **Cons.:** relatively good; **Orient.:** W–E; **Poz.:** dorsal decubitus, arm bent at elbows, palms on pelvis;

mandible and crania-facial features destroyed by tree roots; still preserving part of the phalanges; femurs; tibias remained in the eastern profile; **Inv.:** 2 iron nails, probably from the coffin, in the head area; **Obs.:** overlapped by other human bones (resulted from the pit digging?)

M.4

Trench 1, square 7, – 0.8 m (from the eastern trench profile); **P.:** unidentified; **Fill.:** compacted, moist, clayish, black soil, containing brownish ochre pigment; **Age:** mature; **Cons.:** very good (left side slightly more degraded in the pelvis area), neurocranium and facial complex missing, probably removed when the curtain wall was being built; **Orient.:** W–E; **Poz.:** dorsal decubitus, humeri stretched next to the body, radii and ulnae on pelvis, legs close in the knee area; **Inv.:** consistent traces of coffin; the wood was preserved as a thin film overlapping the bones; the wood gave the bones a reddish colour; **Obs.:** obvious deformation of mandible; deep set infection of the right femur, with slight traces of healing (probable cause of death – sepsis due to the documented infection); Datable pre- 1500, before the construction of the curtain wall.

M.5

Trench 1, – 0.92 m (from the eastern trench profile); **P.:** unidentified; **Fill.:** clayish, black soil with brownish ochre; **Age:** child or adolescent; **Cons.:** good; in trench discovered skull, thorax, arms; all rest remains in the eastern profile; skull crushed by earth pressure; **Orient.:** W–E; **Poz.:** dorsal decubitus; skull fallen rightward; arms stretched next to the body; left humerus slightly away, forearm right on the profile; right arm next to the body, bent at elbow, forearm on the chest area; **Inv.:** iron coffin nails in the head area; **Obs.:** next to its mandible a solitary humerus and a vertebra.

M.6

Trench 1, – 1.00 m (from the eastern trench profile); **P.:** unidentified; **Fill.:** clayish, black soil with brownish ochre; **Age:** mature; **Cons.:** very good, discovered skull, clavicles, upper part of humeri; rest of the skeleton remains in the western profile; **Orient.:** W–E; **Poz.:** dorsal decubitus; skull fallen rightward; **Inv.:** no inventory; **Obs.:** on the same level with M.5 – contemporary.

M.7

Trench 2, – 0.85 m (from the western trench profile); **P.:** unidentified; **Fill.:** clayish, black soil with few anthropic traces; **Age:** child; **Cons.:** good; skull crushed by earth pressure; **Orient.:** W–E; **Poz.:** dorsal decubitus, legs close at ankle area; **Strat.:** probably overlaps another grave, deranged by the digging of the tower foundation; skull of this

skeleton next to the foundation wall; **Inv.:** iron nails spread around the body

M.8

Trench 1, square 1, – 1.80 (W0); **P.:** rectangular with rounded corners; **Fill.:** soil mixed with few construction materials; **Age:** mature; **Cons.:** good; discovered fragmented skull, right arm, legs; rest remains in profile; **Orient.:** W–E; **Poz.:** dorsal decubitus; right arm bent at elbow, placed on chest; legs close at ankle area; **Strat.:** left pelvic bone overlaps the tower foundation (arch filling masonry); its pits deranged the brick floor (C1); **Inv.:** no inventory.

M.9

Trench 1, square 5, – 0.5 m (from the eastern trench profile); **P.:** rectangular; noticeable on the eastern profile; **Fill.:** clayish soil with few stones and mortar; **Age:** mature; **Cons.:** good; discovered 1 femur (part of it remains in profile), part of pelvis; skull is destroyed; left femur destroyed upon discovery.

Orient.: E–E; **Poz.:** dorsal decubitus; **Inv.:** no inventory; **Obs.:** in the skull area discovered solitary fragmented humerus and one phalange.

M.10

Trench 1, square 4^{1/2}; **P.:** unidentified; **Fill.:** –; **Age:** child; **Cons.:** deranged, probably overlaps another skeleton; **Strat.:** 10–12 cm away from the bones' pit bottom.

M.11

Trench 1, square 4, – 1.52 m (from the eastern trench profile); **P.:** unidentified; **Fill.:** black clay with prehistoric pottery shards in the ankle area and skull; **Age:** mature-old; **Cons.:** good, discovered almost complete (missing 1 patella, 1 vertebra, 1 phalange; 2 skull fragments loosed on cleaning; left scapula, vertebrae and part of the ribs are almost destroyed by the moist soil); **Orient.:** W–E; **Poz.:** dorsal decubitus; mandible fallen on chest; skull looking slightly downward right; humeri next to the body; radii moved slightly; left clavicle under the mandible, on chest; palms on pelvic bone; left phalanges moved under the femur; legs close at the knee area; **Inv.:** no inventory; **Strat.:** in the western profile a solitary bone, not connected with M.11; **Chronol.:** pre-lime pit re-used as "ossuary".

M.12

Trench 1, square 4; **Age:** child; **Disturbed.**

M.13

Trench 1, – 0.75 (from the western trench profile); **P.:** unidentified; **Fill.:** soil mixed with construction materials; **Age:** mature?; **Cons.:** good; discovered left femur, right tibia; all rest remain in profile; **Orient.:** W–V; **Poz.:** dorsal decubitus, disturbed, no longer in anatomical connection;

Inv.: no inventory; **Strat.:** immediately above femur of M.14; M.13 and M.14 are disturbed by M.15.

M.14

Trench 2, – 0.8 (from the western trench profile); – only right femur.

M.15

Trench 2, – 0.85 – 0.9 (from the western trench profile); **P.:** rectangular; **Fill.:** soil mixed with construction materials; **Age:** child?; **Cons.:** good; discovered tibias, fibulae, femurs; missing tarsals, metatarsals and phalanges; all rest remains in the profile; **Orient.:** W–E; **Poz.:** dorsal decubitus; closed legs; **Inv.:** two iron coffin nails to the right side of the skeleton; **Strat.:** overlapped by M.13 and M.14.

M.16

Trench 1, square 6, – 1.1 m (from the western trench profile); **P.:** unidentified; **Fill.:** clayish brown soil, with traces of ochre; **Age:** adolescent; **Cons.:** good; discovered legs from knees down; all rest remains in profile; **Orient.:** W–E; **Poz.:** dorsal decubitus; legs close at the ankle area; **Inv.:** no inventory.

M.17

Trench 1, square 6, – 1.2 m (from the western trench profile); **P.:** rectangular; **Fill.:** brown, clayish soil mixed with traces of mortar; **Age:** child; **Cons.:** relatively good; disturbed; 1 rib in the skull area, others in the knee area; **Orient.:** W–E; **Poz.:** dorsal decubitus; **Inv.:** no inventory.

M.18

Trench 2; **P.:** rectangular; **Fill.:** compacted soil mixed with construction materials; **Age:** mature; **Cons.:** good; discovered legs; all rest remains in profile; **Orient.:** N–S (skull northward); **Poz.:** dorsal decubitus; **Inv.:** no inventory.

M.19

Trench 3, – 0.85 m (from the northern trench profile); **Skull:** mature; preserved in trench in order to be entirely discovered during a future, larger excavation.

Stratigraphy legend

1. Vegetal layer. 1a. Vegetal, sandy layer. 1b. Vegetal layer, reddish, mixed with construction materials on the western side of the enclosure
2. Lime
3. Sandy, levelling layer
4. Compacted, yellowish-chestnut soil
5. Sandy, yellowish debris, with a print of lime also preserved on the elevation of the arch filling masonry
6. Sandy, yellowish debris, with roof tiles
7. Virgin soil (archaeologically sterile), black, clayish

8. Aisle wall demolition ditch
9. Black, clayish soil, with weak traces of abode.
- 9a. Grave filling: black, clayish soil, clean, without any trace of mortar
10. Very loose filling, with human bones
11. Lime pit, reused as ossuary
12. Yellowish-brown soil, with abode pigments
13. Compacted pit with a lot of debris
14. Soil mixed with clay and traces of construction materials. 14a. Pit of M9, with mortar pigment
15. Black, clayish soil, mixed with mortar pigment
16. Prehistoric layer, clayish, yellowish soil
17. Drain ditch, black soil mixed with different sorts of gravel
18. Black, clayish soil, mixed with mortar deposited on the surface at the moment of the western tower construction
19. Black soil mixed with a lot of mortar; leveling of the surface after the construction of the western tower. Slightly overlaps the thickening area of the tower foundation
20. Black soil mixed with fragments of stones and bricks and mortar; deposited on the western side of the enclosure after the tower construction. The grave pit of M18 was dug in this layer
21. Brownish soil mixed with construction materials; recently deposited on the western side of the enclosure
22. Lintel of a lot of debris; probably connected to some repair works of the western façade of the belfry
23. Chestnut filling mixed with stone fragments and rare brick fragments
24. Yellowish, compacted clay, levelling over the brick floor; probably deposited after the filling of the arch
25. Black soil mixed with yellow clay; print of the brick floor
26. Layer of debris overlapping the arch filling foundation
27. Compacted deposit of human bones, thrown in disarray

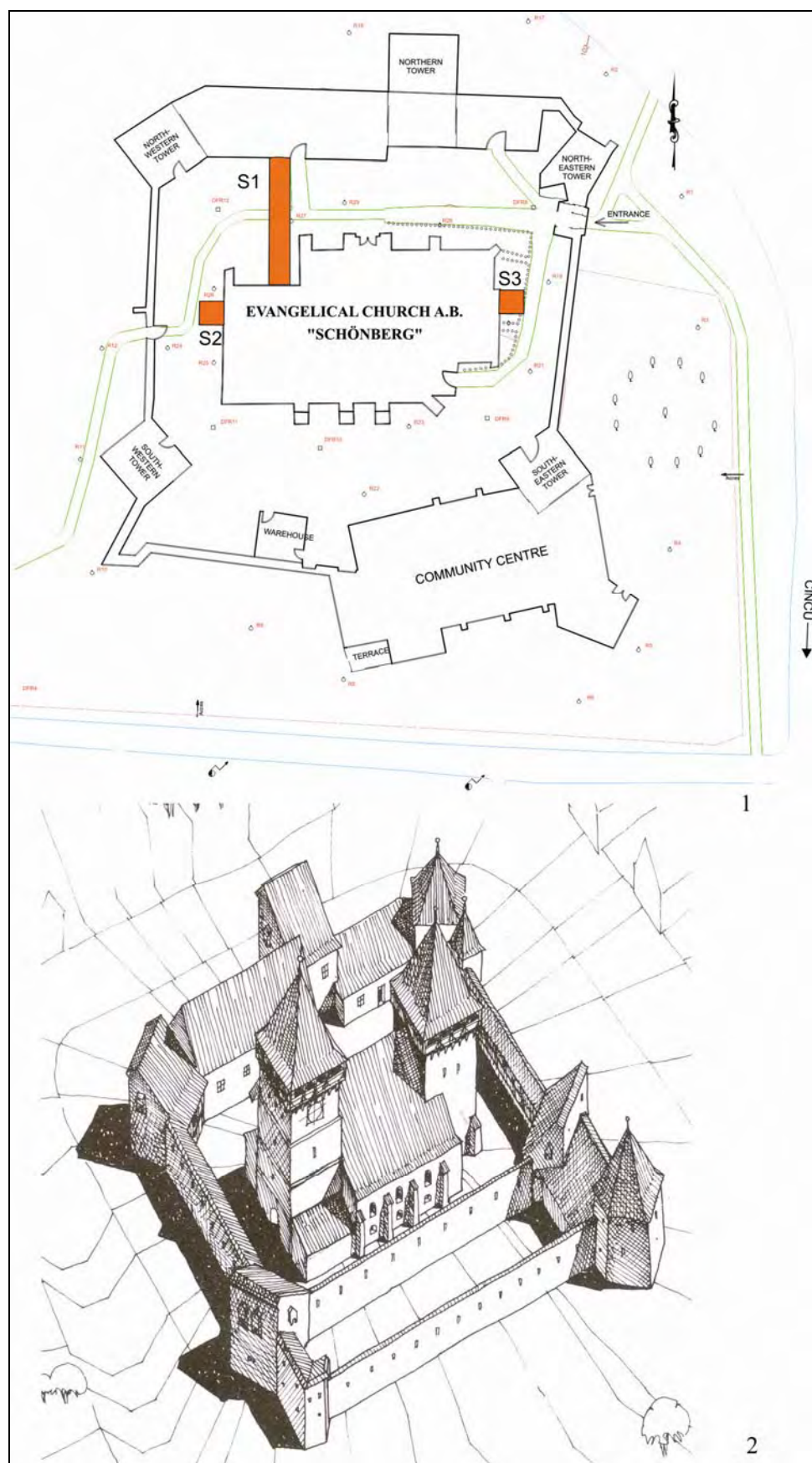
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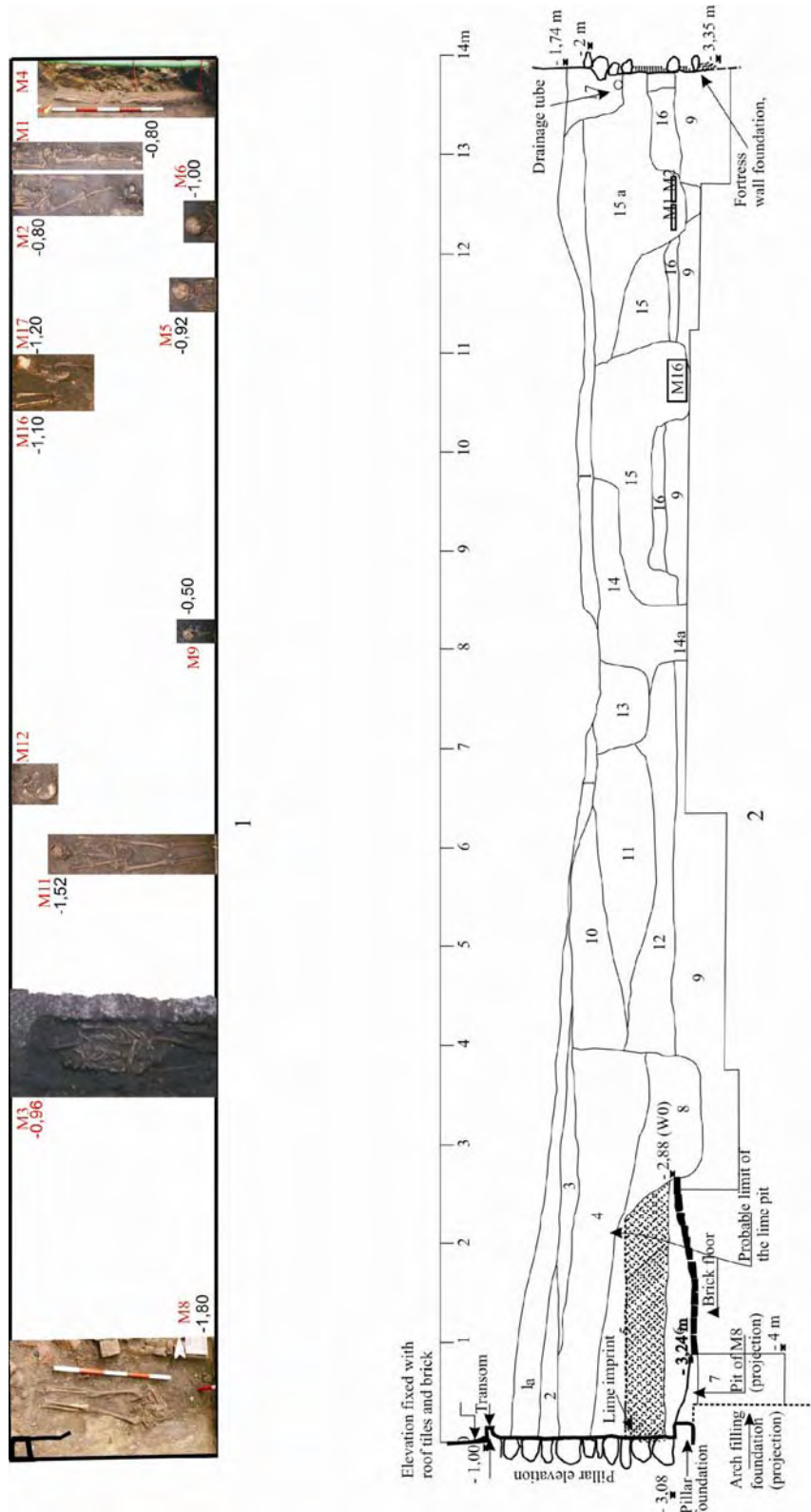
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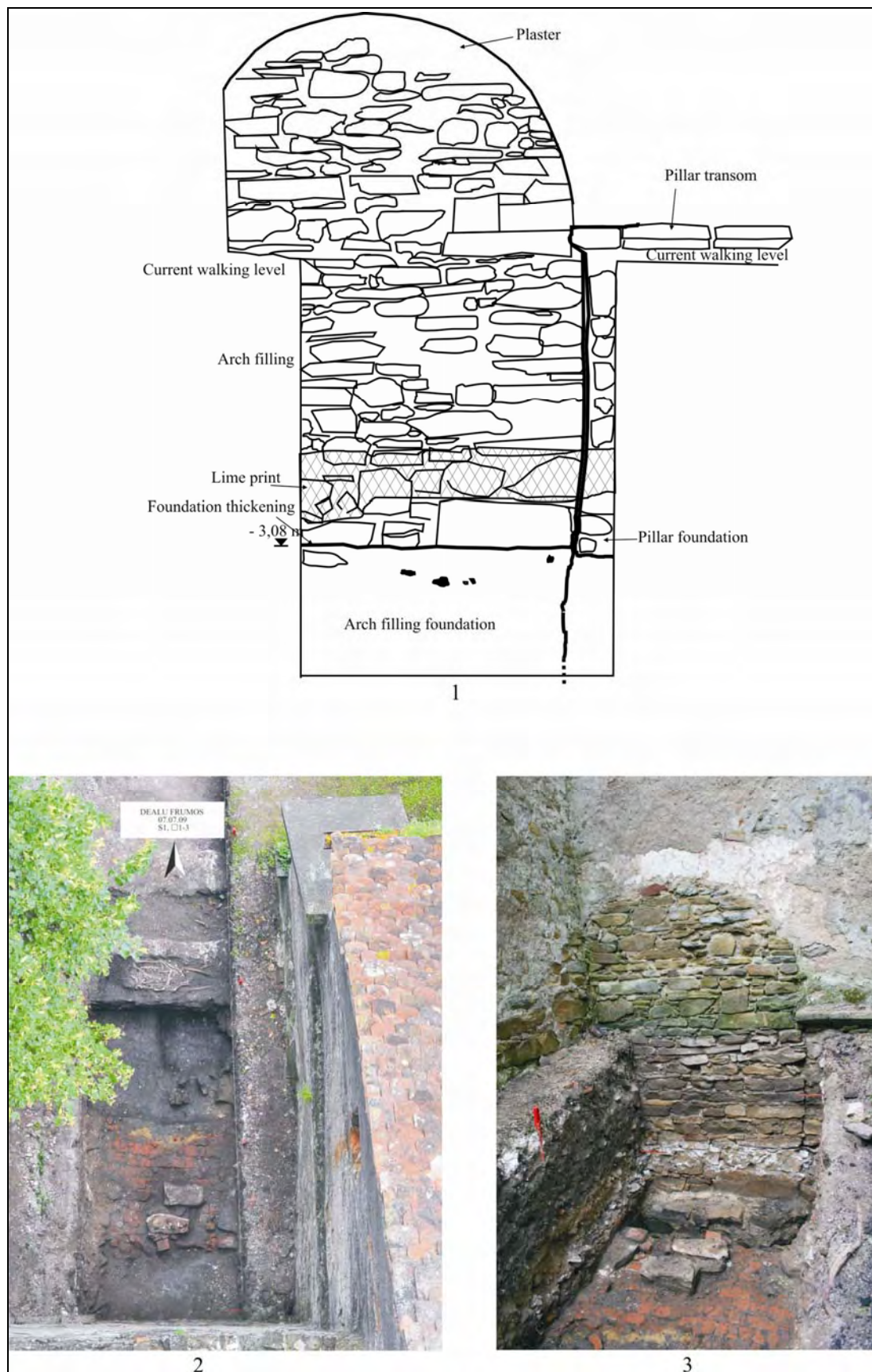


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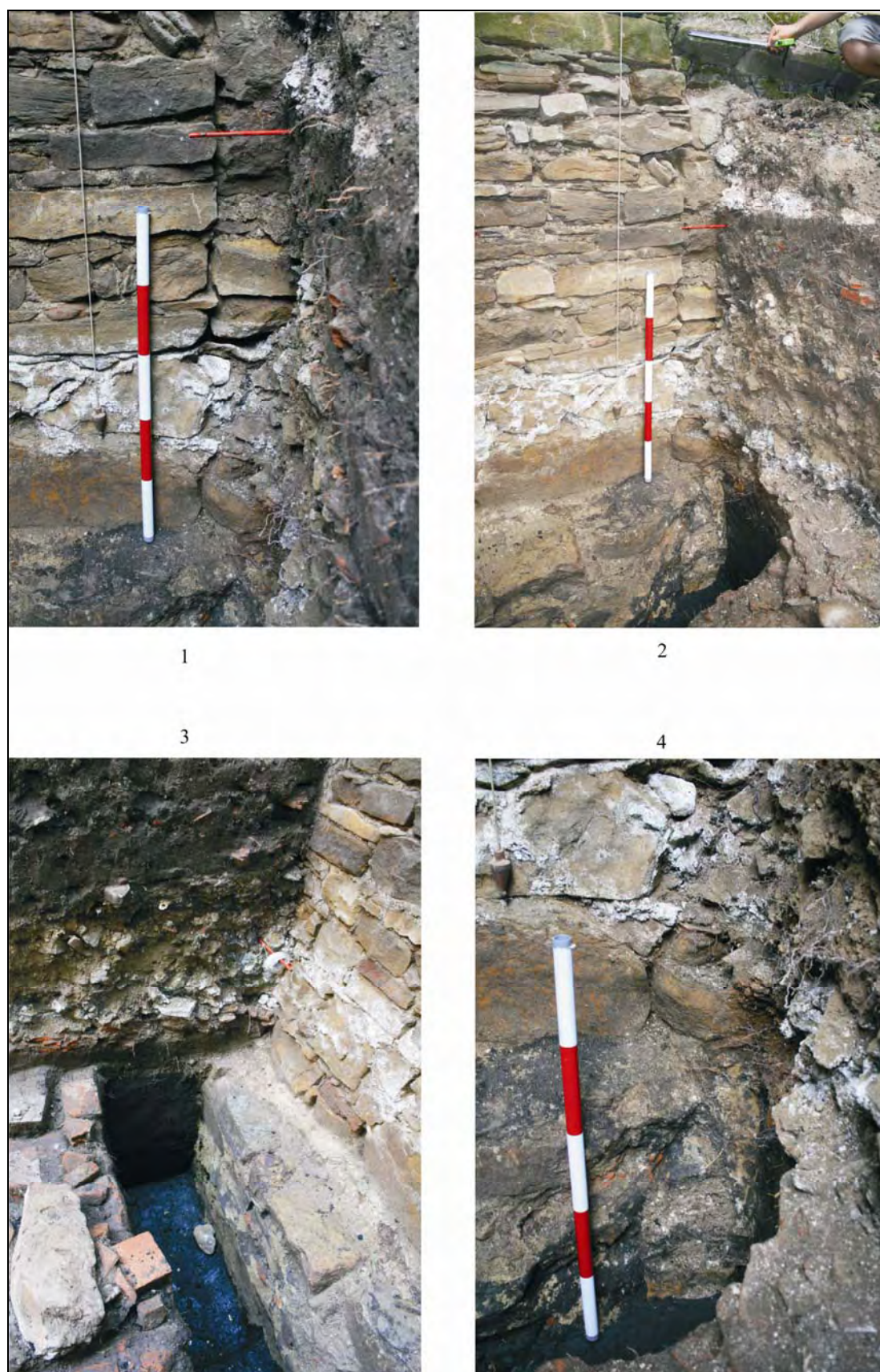


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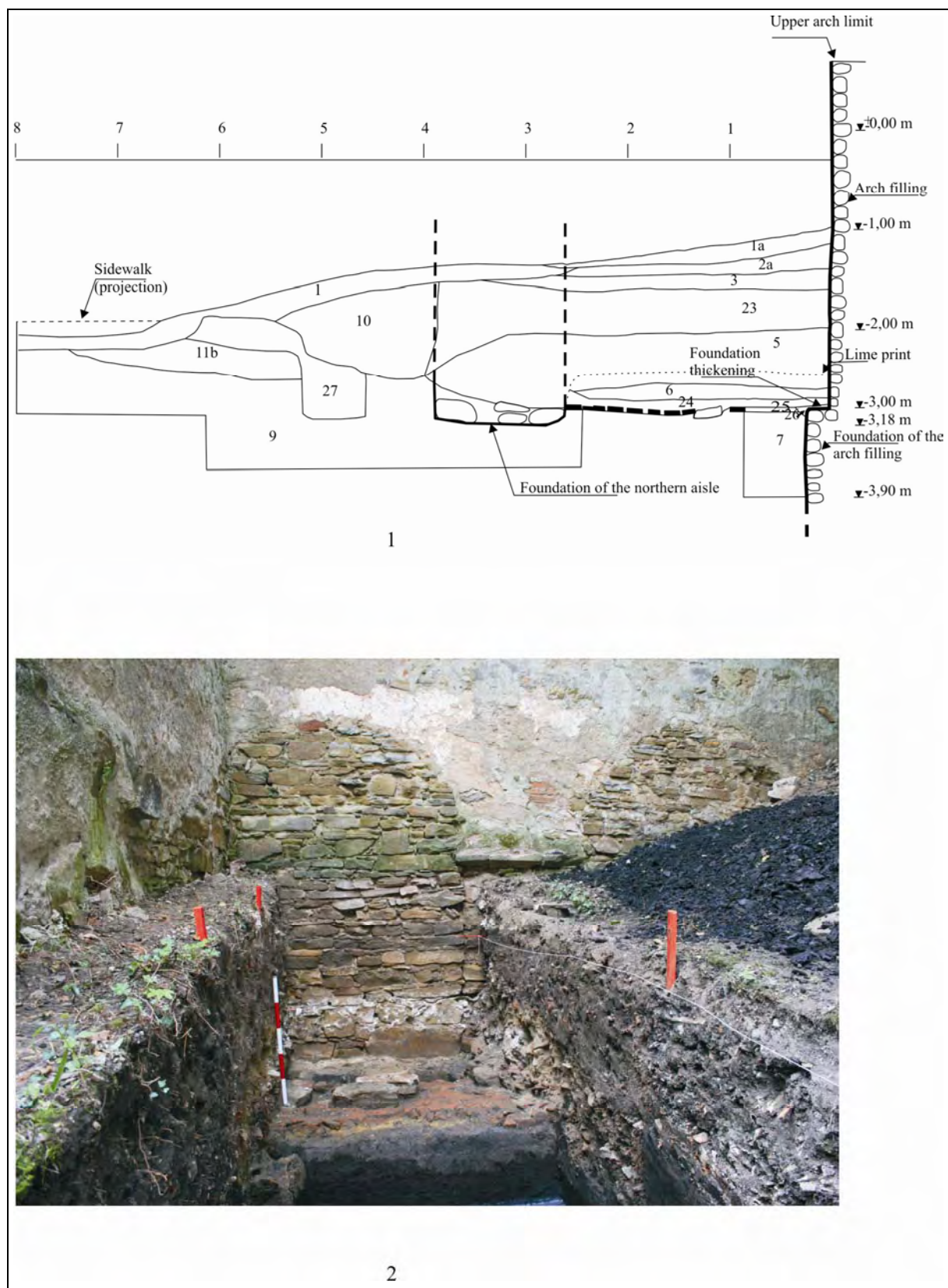




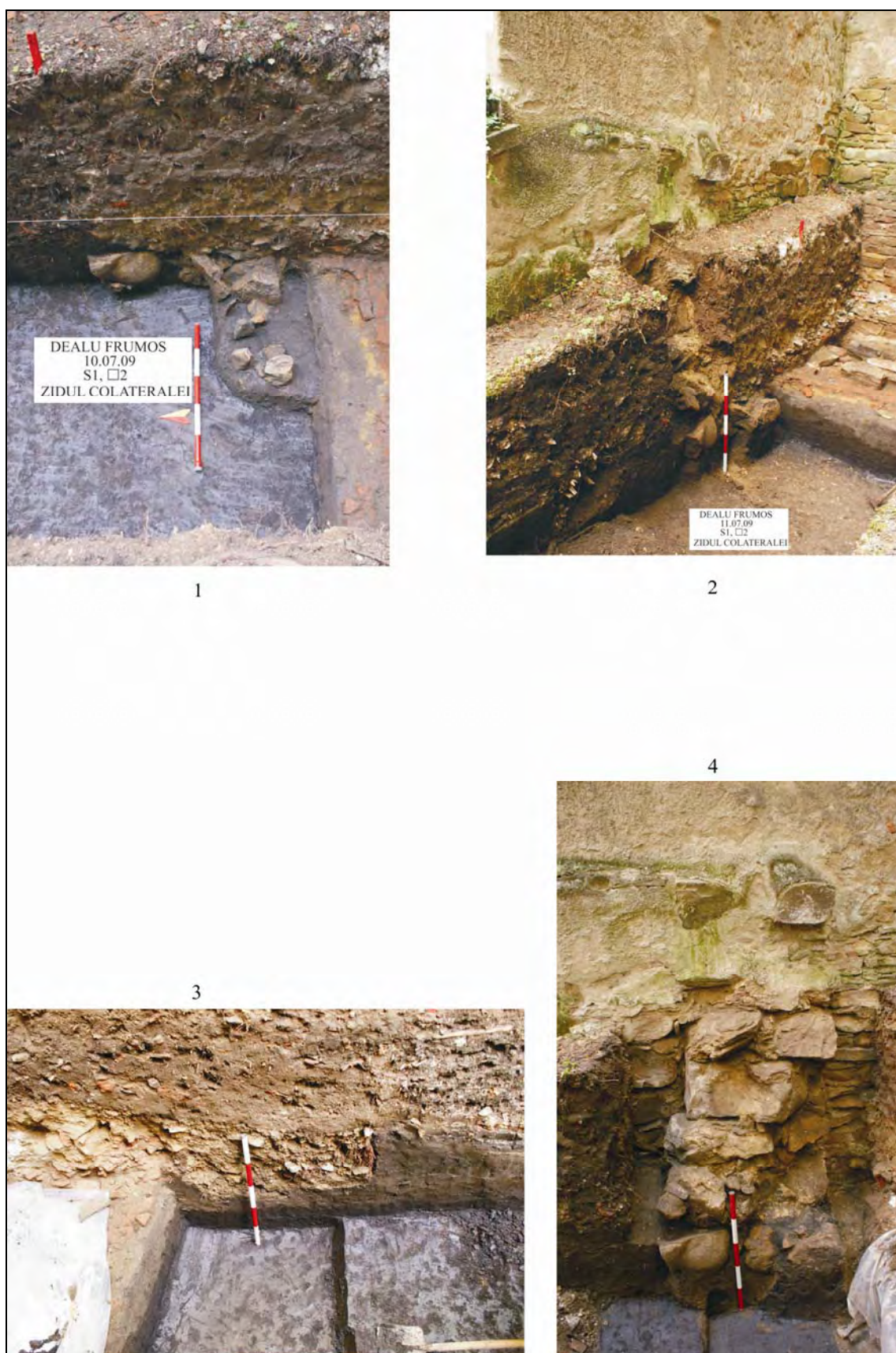
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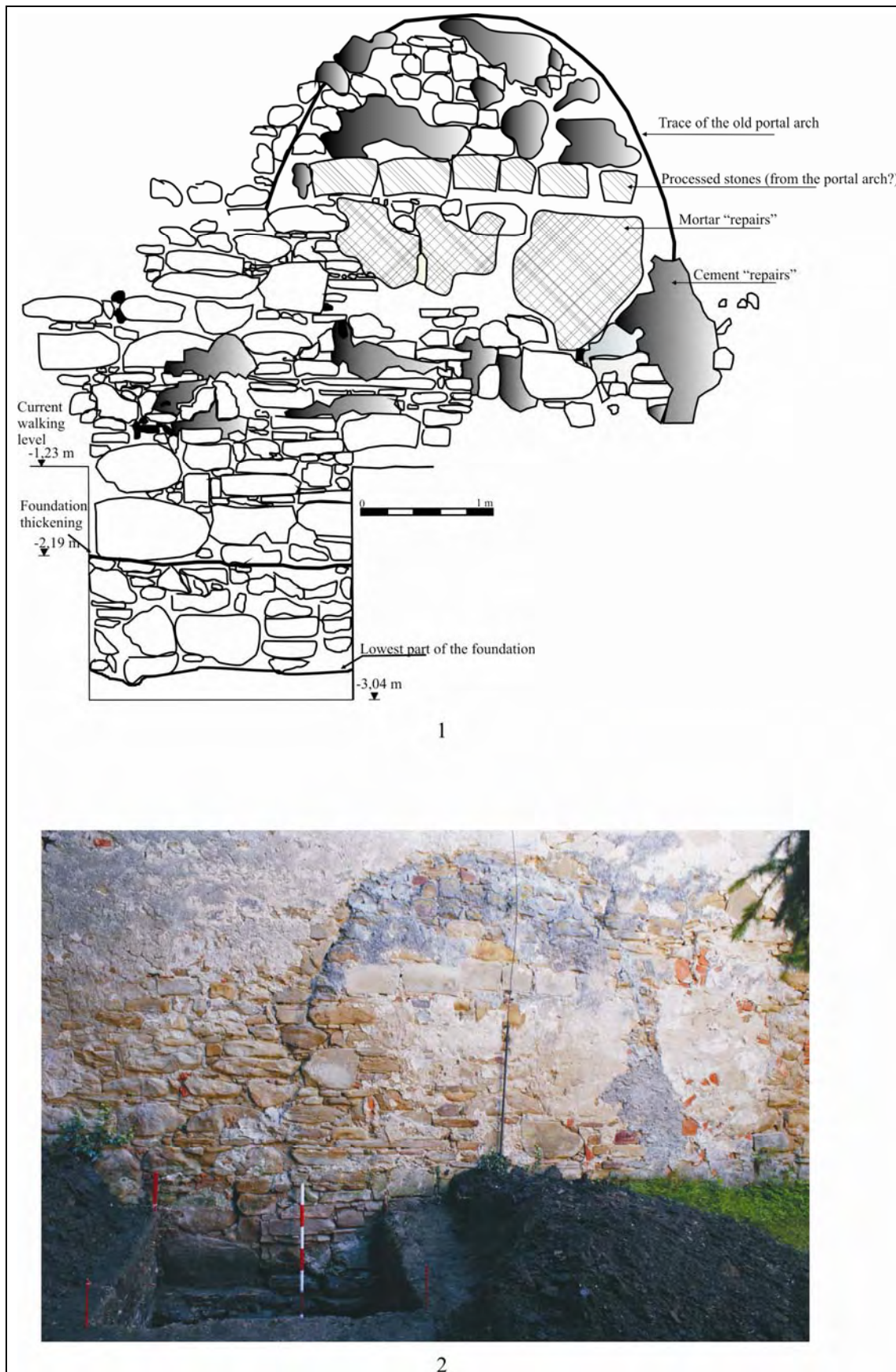
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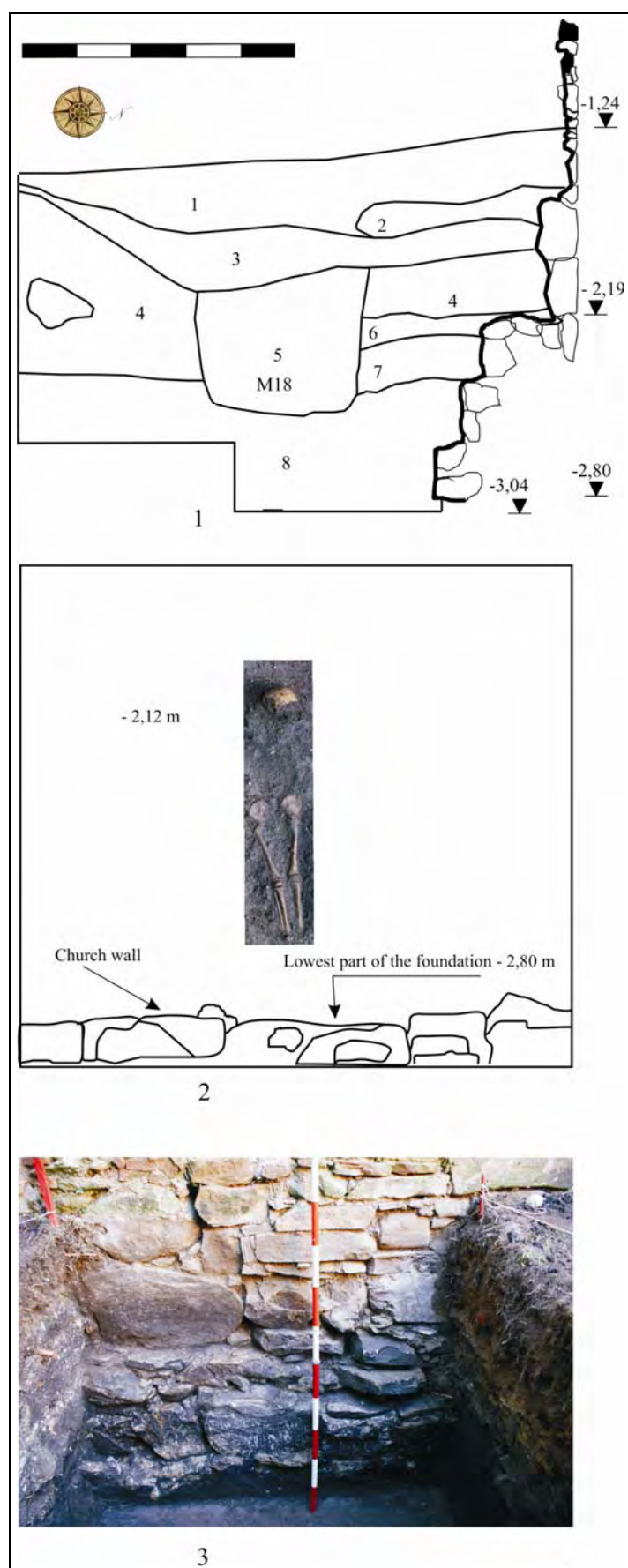
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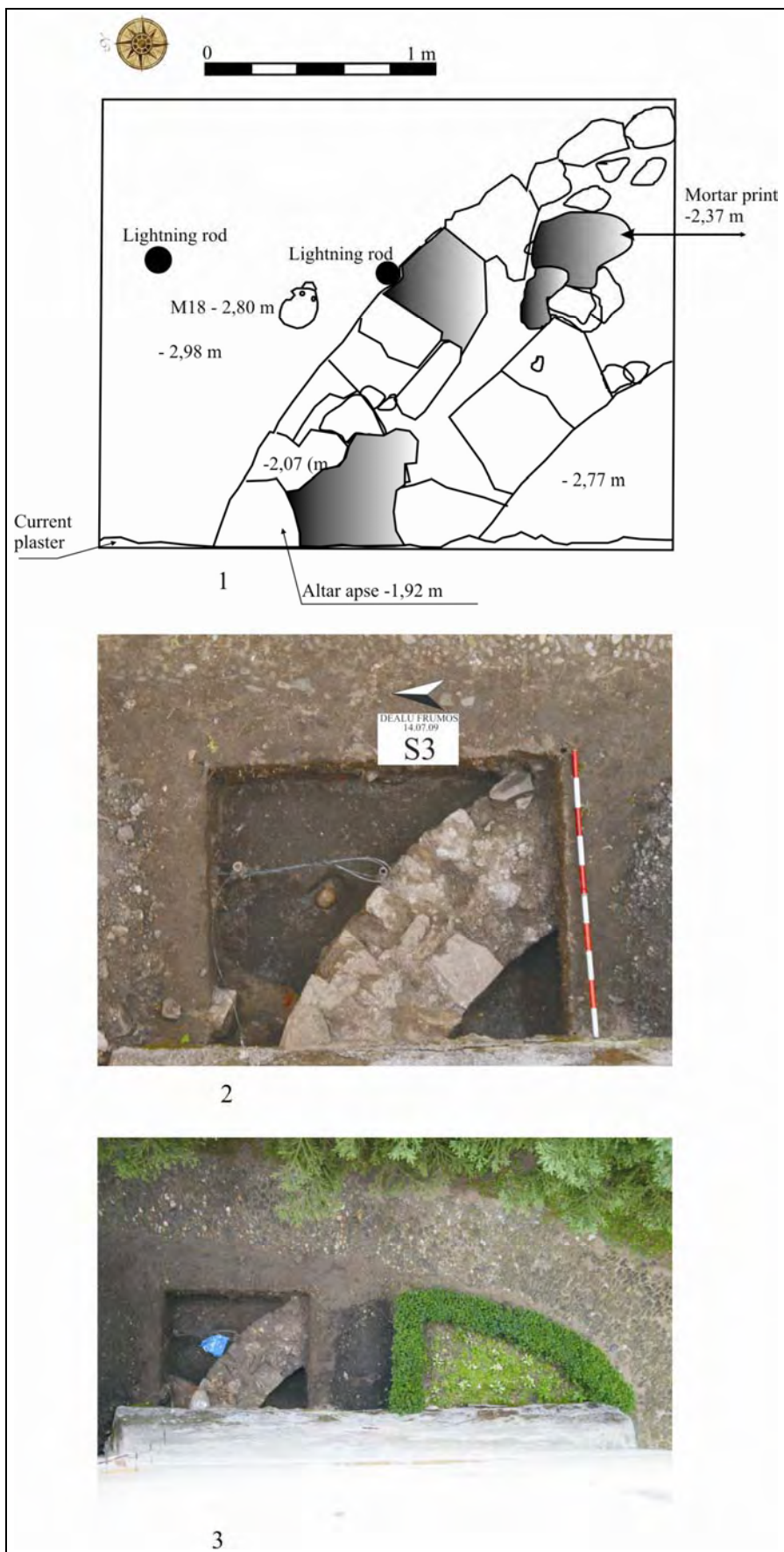
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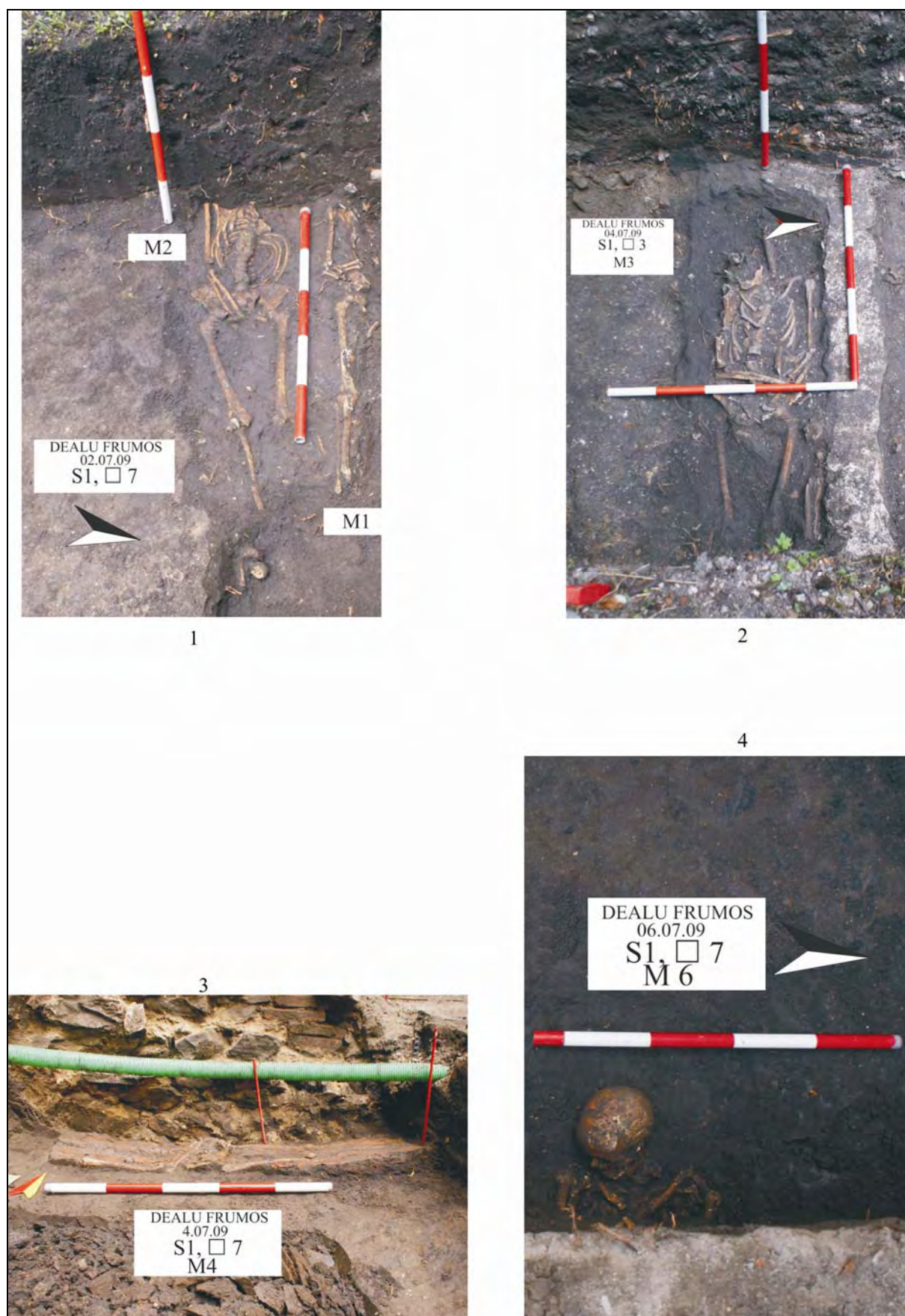
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Pl. 12. Graves discovered during the excavations.