

PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE EXCAVATIONS AT HISTRIA, THE ACROPOLIS CENTRE-SOUTH SECTOR (2013–2014)

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Abstract: This paper focuses on the results of excavations undertaken by the team of archaeologists of the University of Bucharest in the Acropolă Centru-Sud Sector at Histria (Constanța County). The general stratigraphy so far consists of the vegetal layer, under which there are two layers of debris marking the initial moment of destruction and the moment of the final collapse after the abandon of the buildings affected by the fire. Underneath we identified the living surfaces of the last dwelling level, of which we have identified a large Late Roman building (*CR01*) S of *street c*. The latter has at least two construction phases, as well as two streets to its E and W (*ST01* and *ST02*). *ST02* also has two construction phases; the first is perpendicular to *street c*, and was probably paved with large stone slabs, while the second is oblique to it and it is made up of a highly solidified layer of stones bound with earth, covered by a highly solidified layer of yellow clay (the same structure was identified in *ST01*).

Cuvinte-cheie: Histria, perioada romană târzie, Acropolă Centru-Sud, arhitectură domestică romană târzie, urbanism roman târziu, străzi romane târzii.

Rezumat: Articolul prezintă rezultatele săpăturilor efectuate de către echipa arheologică a Universității din București în Sectorul Acropolă Centru-Sud, la Histria (jud. Constanța). Până acum, stratigrafia generală a sectorului constă în stratul vegetal, sub care au fost identificate două straturi de dărâmtură, cel inferior din momentul inițial al distrugerii ultimului nivel constructiv, iar cel superior din momentul ruinării finale a clădirilor distruse, după abandonul și, eventual, spolierea clădirilor din zonă. Dedesubt au apărut nivelurile de călcare ale ultimului nivel constructiv de la Histria, din care am descoperit o clădire de epocă romană târzie de mari dimensiuni (*CR01*) la S de *strada c*. Aceasta din urmă are cel puțin două faze constructive și este flancată de două străzi la E și V (*ST01* și *ST02*). *Strada ST02* are și ea două faze constructive; prima este perpendiculară pe *strada c* și era probabil pavată cu dale mari de piatră, în timp ce a doua este oblică (are o deviație către V) față de prima fază și are o substrucție puternic solidificată de pietre legate cu pământ, suprapusă de un strat puternic solidificat de lut galben (această structură a fost identificată și la *ST01*).

THE PROJECT

In 2013 the authors of this paper obtained financing from the University of Bucharest for an initial four-year archaeological research program at Histria (Constanța County). This includes the excavation proper, as well as student training. The permanent team is formed by the authors of this paper; there are also members from other institutions, with different specialties (Late Roman pottery, architecture, numismatics etc.) who will rotate according to the historical period reached by the excavation. In 2013 three students took part in the excavation, as well as fifteen workers, and in 2014 twelve students and sixteen workers.

One of the reasons for starting this new excavation is the fact that, in spite of its important contribution in specialists and students to the research at Histria ever since the beginning of excavations, the University of Bucharest never coordinated its own sector on the site. Also, the three authors of this paper, all employed by the University, have been excavating for over 10 years at Histria, on sectors coordinated by other institutions. The University's sector will help consolidate its own research team, as well as one of practice for its undergraduate and graduate students.

LOCATION OF THE SECTOR (Fig. 1)

The sector's location is extremely important, as it covers a surface of approximately 50×40 m (2000 m²), just S of the centre of the acropolis of Histria (and of *street c*), hence the sector's

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conventional name – Acropolă Centru-Sud (Acropolis Centre-South – acronym *ACS*). More precisely, the research takes place in an area of maximum civic importance for the city during all thirteen centuries of its existence. This aspect is also confirmed by the presence of highly-important monuments around the sector: to the N lies the Episcopal Basilica¹ (immediately N of the sector starts the N–S street through which one gained access to the Basilica), the most imposing monument identified at Histria up to the present moment and centre of the civic and religious life during the Late Roman period²; to the E lies Sector *Domus*³, where a series of large buildings are concentrated, dating to the same period as the Episcopal Basilica, one of which could have represented the bishop's residence⁴; to the S the sector is delimited by the Late Roman defence wall; to the south-west lies another Christian basilica (in a sector conventionally named *Basilica Pârvan*)⁵, another important civic and religious centre in the city; finally, to the W lies the *Cetate* Sector, probably a residential area during the Late Roman period⁶. Therefore, research on the *ACS* Sector should yield results important for understanding the evolution of the southern part of the acropolis at Histria. Also, given the fact that, according to our research, the area was practically unaffected by modern excavations, the monuments in the sector should be very well preserved. The only zone affected by modern excavations seems to be the southern limit, where Vasile Pârvan excavated in his effort to uncover the Late Roman defence wall. In the aerial photograph of 1938, published in Marcelle Flot-Lambrino's book on Archaic pottery discovered at

Histria⁷, we can see Pârvan's excavation (Fig. 2); therefore, we expect the stratigraphy to be affected near the defence wall. This is very important, as we chose the sector's location in the narrowest area between *street c* and the Late Roman defence wall, in order to quickly obtain stratigraphic data for the area that lies between these two complexes.

OBJECTIVES

The sector's general objective is to bring to light the Late Roman district between the *Cetate* and *Domus* sector, following which we will continue by uncovering what is left of the Early Roman district underneath and the Greek one further down, until we reach the bedrock.

The sector's specific objectives are the following:

1. Obtaining a main N–S stratigraphic profile connecting *street c* to the N with the Late Roman defence wall to the south;
2. Identifying the Late Roman *insulae* and comparing them with those from previous periods, in order to understand the area's urban development;
3. Identifying the N–S and E–W streets in order to understand how the area covered by the sector was connected with the surrounding complexes.

METHODOLOGY

The excavation units we use are 4×4 m trenches, numbered from *C001* onwards; each trench is divided into 1×1 m squares, numbered A–D on a S–N direction and 1–4 on a W–E direction⁸. We are registering the layers and complexes that we uncover as contexts on sheets developed by the MoLAS⁹. Each context receives a name that contains the number of the trench (maximum of three digits) and that of the context (three digits)¹⁰. All depths are taken with the optical level from the

¹ Suceveanu 2007.

² Although the basilica proper was built during the reign of Justinian, underneath lies an older (4th c.) Christian basilica (Suceveanu 2007, p. 10; Bounegru 1993; Băjenaru 2003–2005) which suggests, as in the case of the basilica to the SW (Angelescu, Bottez 2009, p. 202; Achim 2012, p. 128–131), a continuous presence of a church on the spot during the Late Roman period. For the most comprehensive and complete description of the Christian basilicas at Histria, see Achim 2012.

³ Condurachi *et alii* 1954, p. 324–349; Bounegru, Lungu 2003–2005.

⁴ Bounegru, Lungu 2003–2005, p. 171, fig. 2; Sodini 1997, p. 452 interprets it as a *triclinium*.

⁵ For the results of recent, as well as old excavations in this area see Angelescu, Bottez 2009, Bottez 2014; an article written by V. Bottez on the Greek building discovered in this area will appear in the BARIntSer volume with the proceedings of the International Pontic Studies Congress held in Belgrade in 2013.

⁶ Munteanu 2011a, p. 33–42.

⁷ Flot-Lambrino 1938, Pl. B; the image we present is a scan of the original photograph from the archives of the Archaeological Institute in Bucharest, provided by Mircea Angelescu – whom we would like to thank.

⁸ We will be using the following abbreviations: *C* for square trench (*casetă* in Romanian), *Z* for wall (*zid* in Romanian), *P* for pavement, *T* for sidewalk (*trotuar* in Romanian), *ST* for street, *CR* for Roman building (*clădire romană* in Romanian), *pL* for present length, *pW* for present width.

⁹ Museum of London Archaeology Service.

¹⁰ For example the first context in *C001* is *1000* and in *C018* it is *18000*.

same point (conventionally called *point 0*), identified in the terrain by a nail set between two large slabs in *street c*, with the Romanian national topographic coordinates (STEREO70) 799964.3467, 345599.9315.

We would also like to mention that all the discovered material is marked with the inventory number, followed by the site's initials, the year and context (which includes the number of the trench and of the context); e.g. *I43 HIS14 10002*.

EXCAVATION UNITS (Figs. 3, 4)

In order to fulfil the first specific objective (obtaining a N–S profile) we opened in 2013 four trenches on a N–S direction (*C001–004*), followed in 2014 by another four (*C009, 010, 011* and *018*). In 2013 we opened another four trenches (*C005, 006, 007, 008*) W of the first four, trying to identify the W limits of *CR01*. In 2014 we tried to identify *CR01*'s E limits and opened *C012, 013, 014, 016* and *017* to the E, along what proved to be a street (*ST01*). We also opened *C015* to the W in order to identify *CR01*'s W limit, which we finally succeeded by discovering a second street, *ST02*.

Until the present moment we have also excavated several baulks between the different trenches, in order to better understand certain layers or structures:

- between *C001* and *street c* (the contexts in this baulk were identified with and numbered as those in *C001*, with the new ones continuing the numbers of those identified in 2013);

- between *C001* and *C002* (the contexts in this baulk were identified with and numbered as those in *C001*, with the new ones continuing the numbers of those identified in 2013);

- between *C001–C007* (the respective contexts were numbered according to the context in both trenches, e.g. context *1000–7000*);

- between *C003–C004* (the respective contexts were numbered according to the context in both trenches, e.g. context *3002–4002*);

- between *C009–C010* (the respective contexts were numbered according to the context in both trenches, e.g. context *9000–1000*);

- between *C011–C018* (the respective contexts were numbered according to the context in both trenches, e.g. context *11000–18000*).

In all excavation units we stopped digging once we reached the latest living surface (second half of

the 6th c. AD), as we intend to first delimit the *insula* from that period and only afterwards to continue down to previous periods.

EXCAVATION RESULTS

In the following pages we will present each context we have identified, grouped on A) stratigraphic layers discovered in each of the trenches and B) building structures.

A) Stratigraphy

C001

1000: +0.67 – +0.43/0.32 m: brown-greyish loose layer, containing inclusions of medium stones, pottery and bone fragments, covering the entire surface of the trench. It represents the vegetal layer, also formed of earth deposited here following modern excavations. It contains pottery fragments dated to different time periods, mostly Late Roman. In this layer, in the baulk between *C001* and *C007* (context *1000–7000*) we discovered coin no. 14/2014 (dated to the reign of Philip II of Macedon, 359–336 BC);

1001: +0.43/0.32 – 0.00 m: brown-greyish loose layer, containing mostly medium and large stones, construction material and pottery fragments, as well as several bone and glass fragments. The layer covered the entire surface of the trench, was superposed by context *1000*, it superposed *1002* and represents the debris layer of the last construction phase, fallen after the initial destruction (see *1002*) and abandon. The pottery can mostly be dated to the Late Roman period, but some fragments can be dated to other time periods (a Greek stamped amphora handle was identified in this layer);

1002: 0.00 – -0.61 m: yellow, loose layer containing a high degree of medium and large stones, construction material and pottery fragments, as well as several bone and glass fragments. The layer covered the entire surface of the trench, was superposed by context *1001*, it superposed *1003* and probably represented the debris of the last Late Roman construction phase, fallen at the initial moment of destruction. The pottery can mostly be dated to the Late Roman period, but some fragments can be dated to other time periods;

1003: -0.61 – unknown depth (we stopped the excavation in *C001* on this level): highly-solidified yellow clay layer, preserved in the trench's W, SW

and NE part, partially destroyed by 1002 in the trench's centre and SE parts. In squares A₁–A₂ the layer, probably a living surface, had burn traces, and in squares A₁–B₁ we discovered the mouth (maxd = 0.65 m, mind = 0.38 m)¹¹ of a *dolium*, partially contained by the W baulk. On and embedded in the living level we discovered Late Roman pottery fragments and roof tiles from the moment of the final destruction. In 2014 we identified the same layer in the baulk between C001–002, at -0.50 m, preserved on an E–W length of 1.60 m and a width of approx. 1m along Z005. It was also discovered in the baulk between C001–street c (1007)¹². It is part of the 1003–1007–7014 living surface (Fig. 5);

1005: identified at -0.15 m in the W part of the baulk between C001–street c; initially we treated it as a separate context, but in fact it is part of the 1001–1002 debris level;

1007 (Fig. 5): -0.38/-0.41 m – unknown depth (we stopped the excavation on this level): highly-solidified yellow clay layer, with traces of burn, identified along Z014, with a width varying between 0.40/0.20 m. On this layer we identified coin no. 4/2014 (dated to the reign of Licinius, in 313–315 AD). It is part of the living surface 1003–1007–7014.

C002

2000: +0.87 – +0.79 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing medium stones, pottery and bone fragments, covering the entire surface of the trench. It represents the vegetal layer. It contains pottery fragments dated to different time periods, mostly Late Roman, and worked marble fragments;

2001: +0.79 – +0.41 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium and large stones, construction material and pottery fragments, as well as several bone, shell and glass fragments. The layer covered the entire surface of the trench, was superposed by context 2000, it superposed 2002 and represents the debris layer of the last construction phase, fallen after the initial destruction (see 2002) and abandon. The pottery is mostly Late Roman, but there are also fragments dated to other time periods;

¹¹ Maximum and minimum diameter.

¹² The same living level may have been identified in 2014 in the baulk between C001–007, as we discovered there a very small area of hard yellow clay (Fig. 6), at the same level with 7014, covering a structure (yet to be researched) E of Z010. We also discovered there, in a secondary position, two bricks with traces of the same hard yellow silt layer, which could indicate that this floor may have had in some places a substructure made of bricks.

2002: +0.41 – -0.11 m: yellow, loose layer containing a high degree of medium and large stones, construction material and pottery fragments, as well as several bone and glass fragments. The layer covered the entire surface of the trench, was superposed by context 2001, superposed 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and probably represented the debris of the last Late Roman construction phase, fallen at the initial moment of destruction. The pottery can mostly be dated to the Late Roman period;

2006 (Fig. 7): +0.14 – +0.05 m: highly-solidified yellow clay layer, superposed by 2002 and 2005; it probably functioned in connection to 2003. The layer is preserved between Z002 (2003) and the S limit of C002. It is probably the living surface of Z002 (2003) and implicitly CR01's first construction phase. The excavation was stopped on this level;

2007 (Fig. 7): -0.22/-0.13 m – unknown depth (the excavation was stopped on this level): highly-solidified yellow clay layer, superposed by 2002 and probably functioned in connection to Z002 (2003). The layer is preserved between Z002 (2003) and Z005 (2008). It is probably the living surface corresponding to the first functioning phase of Z002 (2003) and CR01 implicitly.

C003

3000: +0.85 – +0.78/0.74 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing medium stones, pottery and bone fragments, covering the entire surface of the trench. It represents the vegetal layer. It contains pottery fragments dated to different time periods, mostly Late Roman;

3001: +0.78/+0.74 – +0.46/+0.43 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium and large stones, construction material and pottery fragments. The layer covered the entire surface of the trench, was superposed by context 3000, superposed context 3002 and probably represents the debris of the last Late Roman dwelling level. Most of the pottery fragments discovered in it are Late Roman. Underneath we discovered P001 and stopped the excavation in this level.

C004

4000: +0.80/0.63 – +0.72/+0.41 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing medium stones, pottery and bone fragments, covering the entire surface of the trench. It represents the vegetal layer and contains pottery fragments dated to different time periods, mostly Late Roman;

4001: +0.63 – +0.10/-0.10 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium and large stones, construction material and pottery fragments, as well as several metal, bone and glass fragments. The layer covered the entire surface of the trench. It was superposed by context *4000*, it superposed *4002*, *4003* and *4004* and represents the debris of the last Late Roman dwelling level. Most of the pottery fragments discovered in it are Late Roman. In this layer we discovered a bronze coin (no. 2/2013; dated to the reign of Diocletian)¹³ at +0.47m and a bronze *fibula* (no. 1/2013) at +0.22m;

4005: +0.10/-0.10 m – unknown depth (we stopped the excavation on this level): yellow, solidified clay layer, uneven probably due to the destruction of the corresponding construction level; preserved between *Z003* (*4003*) and *Z004* (*4004*). Superposed by context *4001*, it probably represents the living surface corresponding to *Z003* and *Z004*.

C005

5000: +0.88/+0.77 – +0.54 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing medium stones, construction material, pottery and bone fragments, covering the entire surface of the trench. It represents the vegetal layer and contains pottery fragments dated to different time periods, mostly Late Roman;

5001: +0.54 – -0.05 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium and large stones, construction material and pottery fragments, as well as several metal, bone and glass fragments. The layer covered the entire surface of the trench. It was superposed by context *5000*, it superposed *5002* and *5003* and represents the debris of the last Late Roman construction level. Most of the pottery fragments discovered in it are Late Roman. In this layer we discovered two bronze coins (no. 3/2013 in B₁ at +0.09 m, dated to the reign of Constantine I; no. 4/2013 in C₃ at +0.02m, dated to the reign of Justin II), a fragmentary marble Hellenistic inscription (no. 1/2013), re-used, discovered near *Z005* (*5003*);

5002: -0.05 – -0.31 m (2014 – the excavation was stopped at this level): yellow, solidified clay layer, uneven due probably to the destruction of the corresponding construction level; preserved W of *Z006*. Superposed by context *5001*, it probably represents the

living surface corresponding to *Z006* and seems to be roughly at the same level with layers *2006*, *2007* and *4002*. In *C005*'s SE we identified a layer indicating a dismantling (see *5004*), which suggested that *5002* was also used to level the terrain after the dismantling of the unknown structure (*Z015*?) and at the same time formed the new living surface. In this level we discovered a bronze coin (3/2014; dated to 450–350 BC);

5004: yellow, solidified clay layer, identified at -0.32 m in *C005*'s SE. It has a square (2×2 m) shape and seems to represent the cause of the destruction of *Z015* (*5005*)'s southern part;

5008: +0.03 m – unknown depth (we stopped the excavation on this level): yellow, solidified clay layer, identified between *Z015* and the baulk separating *C005*–*002*. Given the level at which it was discovered and despite their proximity, it could be a context different from *2007* in *C002*, which appears only at -0.13 m. This hypothesis will be verified when we will excavate the baulk between the two trenches.

C006

6000: +0.80 – +0.45 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing medium stones, construction material, pottery, glass and bone fragments; it covers the entire surface of the trench. It represents the vegetal layer and contains pottery fragments dated to different time periods, mostly Late Roman. In this layer we identified a gem ring-stone (2013).

6001: +0.45 – +0.10 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium and large stones, construction material and pottery fragments, as well as several metal, bone and glass fragments. The layer covered the entire surface of the trench. It was superposed by context *6000*, it superposed *6004* and represents the debris of the last Late Roman dwelling level. Most of the pottery fragments discovered in it are Late Roman.

6004: +0.10 – unknown depth (we stopped the excavation on this layer): yellow, solidified clay layer, uneven due probably to the destruction of the corresponding construction level; preserved W of *Z007* (*6002*) and *Z008* (*6003*), it was superposed by context *6001*.

C007

7000 (Fig. 8): +0.81/0.61 – +0.46 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium stones and pottery fragments and covering the entire surface of the trench. It is the vegetal layer,

¹³ The coins discovered in 2013 and 2014 will be fully analyzed in an article to be published in the second half of 2015 by Aurel Vălcu and Alexandra Țârlea.

which contains pottery fragments dated to different time periods, mostly Late Roman;

7001 (Fig. 8): +0.46/+0.24 – -0.55 m: yellow, loose clay layer, containing mostly medium and large stones, construction material and pottery fragments, as well as several metal, bone and glass fragments. The layer covered the entire surface of the trench, was superposed by context *7000*, it superposed *7002* and *7004* (unclear if also *7003*) and represents the debris of the last Late Roman dwelling level (it is the equivalent of *1002* in *C001*, with the difference that in *C007* the debris' upper – grey – part, the equivalent of *1001*, was not preserved). Most of the pottery fragments discovered in it are Late Roman. In this layer we discovered three bronze coins (no. 5/2013 at -0.33 m, dated to the reign of Justin II; no. 6/2013 at -0.33/-0.55, dated to the reign of Justin II; no. 7/2013 at -0.55 m, dated to the 4th – 5th c. AD), a bronze cruciform item at -0.39 m and a golden bead at -0.55 m. In the same layer we identified fragments from dozens of wattle and daub bricks, as well as dozens of iron nails (among which a consistent group, discovered at -0.38 m in the trench's SE corner). These discoveries indicate the presence of other wattle and daub structures (such as *Z010* and the collapsed wall *7013*), as well as wooden structures fixed with iron nails (door? support beams? wooden floor?);

7004 (Fig. 8): -0.55 m – unknown depth (we stopped the excavation on this level): yellow, highly-solidified clay layer, with burn traces, on which we discovered many pottery, metal, bone and glass fragments. Superposed by *7001*, it was probably the living surface used prior to *1003–1007–7014*, which was mostly destroyed in *C007*. On its surface are preserved the traces of other wattle and daub (walls?) and wooden (threshold?) structures that have yet to be researched, as are a series of layers that were identified only in the trench's S profile;

7013 (Fig. 9): a collapsed wall made of wattle and daub bricks (-0.07 – -0.37 m), discovered in the E part of the baulk separating *C007* from *street c*; it was superposed by *7001* and it superposed *7014*; the wattle and daub bricks (0.50×0.20×0.10 m) are similar to those *Z010* (*7002*) is built of, and, similar to the latter, was covered by a ½ cm-thick yellow clay plaster. Given the direction the wall collapsed, we consider that it was oriented E–W and it intersected the N extremity of *Z010*. In the same

debris layer we identified fragments of a Late Roman amphora;

7014 (Figs. 5, 10): -0.37 m – unknown depth (we stopped the excavation on this level): yellow, highly solidified clay layer, preserved only partially in the baulk separating *C007* from *street c*, along all its length (4 m) and on a variable width of 30/40 cm S of *Z014*. It is part of the living surface *1003–1007–7014* mentioned above. In this area the floor is made up of a first layer of highly solidified clay, covered by wooden planks and superposed by the 3/5 cm-thick yellow clay layer that constitutes the proper living surface. The wooden planks were laid on an E–W direction (maybe also N–S to the S, as we identified the trace of a N–S beam going underneath *Z010*, along the entire length of *C007*). On the floor's surface (but in *7001*) we identified a bronze coin (no. 17/2014; dated to the reign of Justin II, 570–571 AD).

C008

8000: +0.88/+0.75 – +0.72/+0.55 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing medium stones, construction material and pottery fragments, covering the entire surface of the trench. It is the vegetal layer, containing pottery fragments dated to different time periods, mostly Late Roman;

8001 (Fig. 11): +0.72/+0.45 – +0.10 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium and large stones, construction material and pottery fragments, as well as several metal, bone and glass fragments. We discovered a large number of fragments from a *dolium* lying on *8006*. The layer covered the entire surface of the trench (it appears almost at the surface), was superposed by context *8000*, it superposed *8006* in *C008* 3/4 NW, *8008* in its S and V, as well as *Z028* (*8007*), *Z004* (*8003*), *Z012* (*8004*), *Z013* (*8005*) and *Z008* (*8002*). It represents the debris of the last Late Roman dwelling level. Most of the pottery fragments discovered in it are Late Roman;

8006 (Fig. 12): +0.10 – unknown depth (we stopped the excavation on this level) yellow, solidified clay layer, probably the living surface or substructure of a living surface corresponding to the plinths of *Z012* (*8004*) and *Z008* (*8002*);

8008: yellow, solidified clay layer (identified at +0.18 m), probably the living surface between *Z028* (*8007*), *Z004* (*8003*), *Z012* (*8004*) and *Z008* (*8002*). Given the fact that this layer was identified at a higher level than *8006*, we currently treat it as

an inside space of *CR01*, while *8006* could have been an outside space. This layer was not excavated;

C009

9000 (Fig. 13): +0.76 – +0.67 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium stones and pottery fragments and covering the entire surface of the trench. It is the vegetal layer, which contains pottery fragments dated to different time periods, mostly Late Roman. In it we discovered a bronze coin (no. 1/2014; dated to the 4th–3rd c. BC). It superposed *9001*;

9001 (Fig. 13): +0.67 – +0.18 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium and large stones, construction material and pottery fragments, as well as several metal, bone, charcoal and glass fragments. The layer covered the entire surface of the trench, was superposed by *9000* and it superposed *9002*, *Z020* (*9003*) and *9004*. It represents the debris of the last Late Roman dwelling level;

9002 (Fig. 13): +0.18 – -0.01m: yellow, solidified clay layer (levelling layer / living surface?), identified mainly in the S part of *C009* (squares *A*_{1–4} and *B*_{3–4}); in the N part of *C009* it was destroyed by *9001*; it continues in *C010*, where it is named *10002*. On the surface of this layer we discovered a bronze coin (no. 5/2014; dated to the reign of Valentinian I). Given the level at which it was identified, it seems to represent the living surface of *Z020* (*9003*), and it superposed *Z019* (*9005*) and *Z018* (*10003*) in *C010*, both walls destroyed at the moment the area was levelled by *9002*. Also, in the lower part of *9002* and under *Z020* (*9003*), we discovered bricks and roof tiles that constitute the destruction level for the living surface *9004* and *Z019* (*9005*);

9004 (Fig. 13): -0.01 m – unknown depth (we stopped the excavation on this level): yellow, highly solidified clay layer, identified in squares *A–B*_{1–4} (in the rest of the trench it was destroyed by *9001*). It is the living surface for *Z019* (*9005*) and *Z020* (*9003*).

C010

10000: +0.64/0.23 (N/S) – +0.46/-0.05 m (N/S): loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium stones and pottery fragments and covering the entire surface of the trench. It is the vegetal layer, which superposed *10001*;

10001 (Fig. 14): +0.46/-0.05 (N/S) – +0.20/-0.40 m (N/S): loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium and large stones, construction material and pottery fragments, as well as several metal, bone, charcoal and glass fragments; it represents the

debris of the last dwelling level and it covered the entire surface of the trench. Superposed by *10000* and it superposed *10002* and *10003* (*Z018*) in the N of *C010*, but in the S half the layer it continues deeper, as it destroyed the living surface *10004* (-0.40 m), of which only a few areas are preserved. We have not finished excavating the layer in the S part of *C010*;

10002: +0.30 – 0.0 m: yellow, solidified clay layer (levelling layer / living surface?), identified mainly in the N part of *C010* (squares *C*_{2–4} and *D*_{2–4}), destroyed in the S part of the trench by *10001*; it is the layer identified in *C009–9002*. Given the level at which it was identified, it seems to represent the living surface of *Z020* (*9003*), and it superposed *Z019* (*9005*) and *Z018* (*10003*) in *C010*, walls destroyed at the moment the area was levelled by *9002*;

10004 (Fig. 14): -0.40 m – unknown depth (we stopped the excavation on this level): yellow, highly-solidified clay layer, identified in squares *B–C*₃ (in the rest of the trench it was destroyed by *10001*). It is the same layer as *12005* in *C012* and *11003* in *C011*, probably representing the substructure of or the living surface proper, corresponding to *Z018* (*10003/12003*), *Z017* (*12002*) and *Z021* (*11002*).

C011

11000 (Fig. 15): +0.41 – -0.03 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium stones and pottery fragments and covering the entire surface of the trench. It is the vegetal layer and it superposed *11001*;

11001 (Fig. 15): -0.03 – -0.56 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium and large stones, construction material and pottery fragments, as well as several metal, bone, charcoal and glass fragments; it represents the debris of the last dwelling level and it covered the entire surface of the trench. It was superposed by *11000* and it superposed *11002* (*Z021*), *11003* and *11005* in the S part of *C011*;

11003 (Fig. 15): -0.56 m – unknown depth (we stopped the excavation on this level): yellow, highly solidified clay layer, identified in squares *B–C–D*_{1–4}, as in the NW and NE corners it was destroyed by *11001*. It is the same layer as *12005* in *C012* and *10004* in *C010*, representing the living surface corresponding to *Z018* (*10003/12003*), *Z017* (*12002*) and *Z021* (*11002*).

C012

12000 (Fig. 16): +0.47 (E)/+0.04 m (V) – +0.04 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium stones and pottery fragments and covering the entire surface of the trench. It is the vegetal layer and it superposed *12001*;

12001 (Fig. 16): +0.04 – -0.44 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium and large stones, construction material and pottery fragments; it represents the debris of the last dwelling level and it covered the entire surface of the trench, with different depths, function of the complexes it covered. It was superposed by *12000* and it superposed *12003* (*Z018*), *12002* (*Z017*), *12006* (*T002*), *12004* (in the E of *C012*) and it destroyed *12005* (in the W of *C012*);

12005 (Fig. 16): -0.36 m – unknown depth (we stopped the excavation on this level): yellow, highly solidified clay layer, identified in squares *A₂-C₁₋₂*, as in the W part of *C012* it was destroyed by *12001*. It is the same layer as *11003* in *C011* and *10004* in *C010*, representing either the substructure of or the living surface proper, corresponding to *Z018* (*10003/12003*), *Z017* (*12002*) and *Z021* (*11002*).

C013

13000 (Fig. 17): +0.64 – +0.51 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium stones and pottery fragments and covering the entire surface of the trench. It is the vegetal layer and it superposed *13001*;

13001 (Fig. 17): +0.51 – +0.32 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium and large stones, construction material (here we identified a fragmentary Hellenistic marble inscription, no. 1/2014)¹⁴ and pottery fragments, as well as several metal, bone, charcoal and glass fragments; it represents the debris of the last dwelling level and it covered the entire surface of the trench. It was superposed by *13000* and it superposed *13002* (*Z017*), *13003* (*P001*), *13004*, *13005* (*ST01*) and *13006* (*ST01*);

13004 (Fig. 17): +0.33 – +0.27 m: highly solidified layer of shells, identified in the centre of *C013*, near *Z017*. It is probably a repair of the yellow clay layer covering *ST01*, and it was superposed by *13001*;

13005 (Fig. 17): +0.27 m – unknown depth (we stopped the excavation on this level): yellow, highly solidified clay layer, identified in the NE

corner of *C013*. It superposes *ST01* and was covered by *13001* and *13004*. This layer of clay constitutes the living surface of street *ST01*. The layer has not been excavated yet. On its surface we identified pottery, bone, glass and metal fragments.

C014

14000 (Fig. 18): +0.81/+0.75 – +0.62 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium stones and pottery fragments and covering the entire surface of the trench. It is the vegetal layer and it superposed *14001*;

14001 (Fig. 18): +0.51 – +0.32 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium and large stones, construction material and pottery fragments, as well as several metal, bone and glass fragments; it represents the debris of the last dwelling level and it covered the entire surface of the trench. It was superposed by *14000* and it superposed *14002* (*Z017*), *14003* (*Z003*), *14004* (*T001*), *14005* (*ST01*), *14006* (*Z004*) and *14007* (*P002*).

C015

15000 (Fig. 19): +0.81 – +0.63 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium stones and pottery fragments and covering the entire surface of the trench. It is the vegetal layer and it superposed *13001*;

15001 (Fig. 19): +0.63 – -0.23 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium and large stones, construction material and pottery fragments, as well as several metal, bone and glass fragments; it represents the debris of the last dwelling level and it covered the entire surface of the trench. Superposed by *15000*, it bordered *15002*, *15004* (*Z024*) and superposed *15005* (*ST02* phase II), *15006* (*ST02* phase II), *15007* (*Z025*), *15008* (*Z026*) and *15009* (*ST02* phase I). It is the debris of the last dwelling level, different from *15002* only through the fact that the burn marks are less intense in this layer;

15002 (Fig. 19): +0.13 – -0.10/-0.23 m: yellow, loose clay layer with many red burning traces; it mainly covers the centre, E and SE part of the trench. It contained many well preserved pottery, glass and charcoal fragments, metal objects (among which bronze coins no. 6/2014, dated to the reign of Valens, 367–375 AD; 12/2014, dated to the reign of Galerius, 295–296 AD and 16/2014, dated to the 2nd c. AD, maybe from the reign of Commodus) and construction material. Superposed by *15001*, it bordered *15003* and superposed *15005* (*ST02* phase II), *15006* (*ST02* phase II), *15007* (*Z025*) and *15008* (*Z026*). The layer marks the destruction by fire of the last dwelling level, being different from *15003* only through the fact that the burn marks are much more intense in this layer;

¹⁴ The epigraphic discoveries in the ACS Sector will constitute the subject of a future article, coordinated by Alexandra Lițu.

15003 (Fig. 19): initially considered a separate context, it was later discovered it was part of *15001*.

C016

16000 (Fig. 20): +0.74 – +0.40 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium stones and pottery fragments and covering the entire surface of the trench. It is the vegetal layer and it superposed *16001*;

16001 (Fig. 20): +0.40 – +0.25 m (in squares A–B_{3–4} it reached as far deep as -0.07 m): loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium and large stones, construction material and pottery fragments, as well as several metal, bone and glass fragments; it represents the debris of the last dwelling level and it covered the entire surface of the trench. It was superposed by *16000* and it superposed *16002* and *16003* (Z023);

16002 (Fig. 20): +0.25 m – unknown depth (we stopped the excavation on this level): yellow, solidified layer of clay identified in squares A–B₂ and C–D_{1–4}. It probably was a living surface that we can only link at the present moment to *16003* (Z023). In the trench's SE corner the layer was destroyed by *16001*. We did not finish the research of *16001* in the trench's SE corner.

C017

17000 (Fig. 21): +1.09/+0.86 – +0.69 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium stones and pottery fragments and covering the entire surface of the trench. It is the vegetal layer and it superposed *17001*;

17001 (Fig. 21): +0.69 – +0.37 m (depending on the complexes it covers the depths range): loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium and large stones, construction material and pottery fragments, as well as several metal, bone and glass fragments; it represents the debris of the last dwelling level and it covered the entire surface of the trench. It was superposed by *17000* and it superposed *17002* (ST01), *17003* (T002), *17004* (Z017), *17005* (Z002), *17006* (Z005), *17007* (P001) and *17008* (P003).

C018

18000 (Fig. 22): +0.20/+0.02 – -0.49 m: loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium stones and pottery fragments and covering the entire surface of the trench. It is the vegetal layer and it superposed *18001*;

18001 (Fig. 22): -0.49 – -0.91 m (depending on the complexes it covers the depths range): loose brown-greyish layer, containing mostly medium and large stones, construction material and pottery fragments, as well as several metal (bronze coins no. 7/2014, dated to the reign of Justinian, 554–555 AD; 8/2014, dated to the reign of Phocas, 603–610 AD

and 9/2014, dated to the reign of Tiberius II Constantine, in 578 AD), bone and glass fragments; it represents the debris of the last dwelling level and it covered the entire surface of the trench. It was superposed by *18000* and it superposed *18002*, *18003* (Z022), *18004*, *18005* and *18006*;

18002 (Fig. 22): -0.42 m in the N part of *C018* and at -0.49 m in the S part (in the middle it was destroyed by *18001*) – not excavated yet: yellow, solidified clay layer, probably representing the living surface corresponding to Z021 in *C011*; it may have been covered by a stone pavement (*11005?*). On this level we discovered pottery, glass, bone, charcoal and metal (bronze coin no. 13/2014, dated to the reign of Constans, in 347–348 AD) fragments. The excavation was stopped on this level, where it is preserved, and it continued where it is destroyed by *18001*. Superposed by *18001*, it superposed *18003* (Z021), *18004* and *18005*;

18004 (Fig. 22): -0.91 m – not yet excavated: yellow, highly solidified layer of clay, identified (until now) only in the centre of the trench (squares C_{2–4}). It seems to be a living surface corresponding to Z022 (*18003*). Superposed by *18001* and probably *18002* to the S;

18005 (Fig. 22): -0.87 m – not yet excavated: dark brown loose layer, identified in squares D_{2–4}. It is probably the layer created by the dismantling of *18003* to the E and was superposed by *18001*.

B) Building structures

B.1. Walls (Figs. 23, 24)

Z001 (3003; Fig. 25): a wall (pL = 1.30 m; W = 0.65/0.34 m; preserved on one course – maybe it had a wattle and daub upper structure; identified at +0.62m) of which three large, not-bound stones were discovered (*spolia*: one inversed capital and two fashioned limestone stones with clamp holes for attachments), with an approximate N–S orientation, identified in squares C–D₂, +0.62m. It was superposed by *3001*, and it was built on *P001* (3002); it was probably an internal dividing wall in the inner open-air courtyard paved by *P001*;

Z002 (2003, 2004 and 17005; Figs. 7, 21): wall (L = 6.53 m; W = 0.80 m; identified at +0.40/0.44 m; up to five rows have been uncovered of the wall and two of the threshold) with an E–W orientation, located in *C002*, *C005* and *C017*; built of medium stones (mainly green shale and limestone; also *spolia*) and bricks, bound with earth. In the middle of the *C002* segment there is an entrance (L = 1.30 m) with a threshold made of stones and bricks, slightly displaced southwards (up to 17 cm). The entrance was blocked (2004; Fig. 7) with a filling made of

earth, stones, bricks, roof tiles and fragments of pottery. We also discovered one bronze coin in this filling (no. 2/2013, discovered at +0.14 m; dated to the 4th–5th c. AD); unfortunately, the date of the coin is of no real importance, as it first have to be corroborated by the date of the pottery, and even if they correspond, it could have still been earth/material dug from an area where structures from that specific period were visible. To the NW, on a length of 0.40m, the filling was set on a layer of fine sand; Z002 was also identified in C017 (17005), where it intersects Z017, and in C005, where it turns S and becomes Z006. It is still not clear if it represents the N limit of CR01, or just the limit of the open-air courtyard paved by P001;

Z003 (4003 and 14003; Figs. 18, 26): wall (pL = 5.68 m W = 0.60 m; identified +0.46/+0.38 m; up to four rows have been uncovered) with an E–W orientation, located in squares D_{2–4} of C004 and in D₄ of C014. Made of medium and large stones (mainly limestone, green shale and *spolia*) bound with earth. Superposed by 4000, 4001, probably it functioned with 4005 and represents the S limit of P001;

Z004 (4004, 8003 and 14006; Figs. 18, 27–28, 40): wall (L = 8.90 m; W = 0.70 m; identified at +0.63 m) with an E–W orientation, located in squares A_{1–4} of C014, A₁ of C014 and A_{3–4} in C008. It is made up of stones (mainly green shale) bound with earth. The N face of Z004 in C008 is badly damaged;

Z005 (2008, 17006; Figs. 7, 21): wall (pL = 5.03 m; W = 0.60 m; identified at +0.09 m) with an E–W orientation, made of medium and large stones (mainly limestone and green shale) bound with earth. The segment in C017 seems to have a slightly different orientation from the one in C002, which can be explained by a possible change of trajectory in the baulk between C002–C017, or by the fact that they are two different structures – the situation will be explained after we excavate the baulk; this will not happen any time soon, as the latter is on the main N–S profile. On the wall's N side there probably existed a pilaster base/buttress (0.76×0.43 m) that resembles the similar architectural elements in Z018 and Z021, and all have an analogy in the N wall of the NW room of *Domus* I. The resemblances continue, as in *Domus* I near that wall a *dolium* was found¹⁵, and it is the exact same

situation as with Z005 in CR01 in the ACS Sector (Fig. 6). For *Domus* I that room was interpreted as a kitchen, so we will consider the same possibility for the room covered by C001 and C007;

Z006 (5003; Fig. 29): wall (pL = 2.00 m; pW = 0.33 m; identified at +0.64 m; up to 13 rows have been uncovered) with a NE–SW orientation, made up of pebbles and medium stones (mainly green shale);

Z007 (6002; Fig. 30): wall (pL = 1.56 m; W = 0.60 m; identified at +0.52/+0.37 m; up to five rows have been uncovered) with a NW–SE orientation, made up of unfashioned pebbles and medium stones (mainly green shale) and *spolia*, bound with earth. It is located in squares D_{3–4} of C006. Its W limit is neatly built, and it could have marked an N–S entrance/passage (in this case Z009 could represent the blocking of this entrance, which would correspond to the two phases noticed in Z002 and Z021);

Z008 (6003, 8002; Figs. 12, 30): wall (L = 6.80 m; W = 0.65 m; identified at +0.13 m in C006 and +0.52 m in C008; up to five rows uncovered) with a NNE–SSW orientation, located in squares A₄–C₄ in C006, and B_{3–4}–C₄–D₄ in C008, made up of medium and large stones (mainly green shale, also limestone and *spolia*) bound with earth. It was superposed by 8000 and 8001. It intersects Z012 (8003) in square B₃ of C008 and Z007 in square D₄ of C006. In C008, on its W face, at -0.11m, we discovered a plinth protruding 5/15 cm westwards that has the same level as the yellow layer 8006 (living surface? pavement substructure?), which indicates that the two contexts functioned together;

Z009 (6005; Fig. 30): wall (pL = 0.70 m; pW = 0.41 m; identified at +0.45 m; up to five rows uncovered) with a NW–SE orientation, located in square D₃ of C006. It is partially in the baulk between C006–C005 and it is set against Z007;

Z010 (7002; Figs. 8, 31–32): wall (pL = 1.84 m; W = 0.25 m; identified at +0.02 m, on a height of at least 0.57 m) with a N–S orientation, made of wattle and daub bricks (0.20×0.50 m) covered by a yellow clay plaster (1–2 cm thick), located in squares A₄–D₄ of C007. Superposed by 7001, it could be linked to the living surface 1003–1007–7014. Part of the massive debris containing many wattle and daub bricks could have come from this wall and similar ones such as those collapsed to its E (7013);

Z011 (7003; Fig. 32): wall (pL = 1.94 m; pW = 0.35 m; identified at +0.52 m; up to five rows uncovered) with a WNW–ESE orientation, located in squares A_{1–2} of C007, made up of pebbles and medium unfashioned stones (mainly green shale)

¹⁵ Condurachi *et alii* 1954, p. 342–343 and Pl. XXXIII. There are similar bases in the NE room of the so-called “Constantinian house” that superposed the Greek sacred area (Condurachi 1954, p. 272; Munteanu 2011a, 25), but which is dated to the 4th–5th c. AD.

and *spolia*, bound with earth. For now this wall's relation to *Z010 (7002)* and the living surface *1003–1007–7014* remains unclear, as it is located above it and it has an entirely different orientation (corresponding more to that of *Z006, Z007, Z008, Z024, Z027* and phase II of *ST02*);

Z012 (8003; Fig. 12): wall (pL = 3.24 m; W = 0.65 m; identified at +0.57 m; up to five rows have been uncovered on a height of 0.83 m) with a W–E orientation, located in squares *B_{1–4}* of *C008*, made up of pebbles and medium unfashioned stones (mainly green shale) and *spolia*, bound with earth. It was superposed by *8000* and *8001*. It intersects *Z012 (8003)* in *B₃* and *Z013 (8005)* in squares *B_{2–C₂}* and continues W of *C008*. At -0.08/-0.15 m we identified a plinth made of stones protruding northwards by 5/15 cm. The level of the plinth corresponds to the yellow living surface *8006*, which indicates that they functioned at the same time;

Z013 (8005; Figs. 12, 27): wall (pL = 1.35 m; W = 0.60 m; identified at +0.55 m) with a N–S orientation, located in squares *A_{2–B₂}* in *C008*. It is made up of pebbles and medium unfashioned stones (mainly green shale) and *spolia*, bound with earth. It was superposed by *8000* and *8001*. It intersects *Z012 (8003)* in *B₂* and continues S of *C006*.

Z014 (1004, 1006 and 7012; Fig. 33): wall (pL = 7.85 m; W = 0.70 m; identified at +0.26 m; up to four rows uncovered on a height of 0.56 m) with a WSW–ENE orientation, identified in the baulk between *C001/ C007* and *street c*. The wall borders the street, is built of large and medium unfashioned stones (limestone and green shale) and *spolia* bound with earth, with large, re-used (the dimensions indicate a large structure, maybe a defence wall) fashioned limestone blocks at the base (the largest reaches 0.90×0.70 m); similar blocks were identified in *C018 (Z022 = 18003)*, with the fashioned surface facing southwards – there is a possibility that these structures pertain to the same construction moment, in which maybe the entire *insula* was modified or even created. In the W part of the segment of *Z014* identified until now, pebbles and medium stones (green shale and limestone) complete the thickness of the wall towards the interior, where the fashioned stones were not wide enough. If the E part (on a length of 5.05 m) of *Z014* the upper structure is made of large fashioned stones, the W part (2.80 m) is made of medium stones (green shale and limestone) bound with earth, which can indicate a repair of the wall (maybe corresponding to the two construction phases identified in several parts of *CR01*);

Z015 (5005; Fig. 29): wall (pL = 1.16 m; W = 0.50 m; identified at + 0.03 m; up to four rows uncovered on a height of 0.34 m) with a NNW–SSE orientation, located in *C005*. It is made up of pebbles, medium and large unfashioned stones (mainly green shale and grit stone) and *spolia*, bound with earth. Superposed by *5002*, we have not identified the living surface linked to it (assuming that it was preserved). The wall seems to have been destroyed prior to the levelling of the area by layer *5004*; it seems to have functioned at the same time with *Z016* (they have the same orientation and were identified at roughly the same depth);

Z016 (5006, Fig. 35): wall (pL = 3.41 m; W = 0.50 m; identified at -0.16 m; up to two rows uncovered on a height of 0.15 m) with a NNW–SSE orientation, identified in *C005*. It is made up of pebbles, medium and large unfashioned stones (mainly green shale and limestone) and *spolia*, bound with earth. Superposed by *5002*, we have not identified the living surface linked to it (assuming that it was preserved). It seems to have functioned at the same time with *Z015* (they have the same orientation and were identified at roughly the same depth). To the N the wall is breached by what seems to be an entrance with a threshold to the W, which can indicate the existence of a street in the same area. There is little data on *Z015* and *Z016*, but the two walls seem to pertain to a previous construction phase, to which the structures in *7004* may also be connected;

Z017 (12002, 13002, 14002, 17004; Figs. 16–18, 21): wall (pL = 23.89 m; W = 0.70 m; identified at +0.04 m in *C012*, +0.60 m in *C013*, at +0.67 m in *C014* and at +0.57 m in *C017*; up to five rows were uncovered) with a NNW–SSE orientation, located in *C012, C013, C014* and *C017*. It is made up of pebbles and medium unfashioned stones (mainly green shale and limestone), bricks and *spolia*, bound with earth. The wall's trajectory is not straight, because it goes slightly westwards between *C013* and *C014*. Also, in *C013* the wall has a 2.08 m segment that is wider (0.90 m) than the rest, which seems to correspond to an entrance into *CR01* (the wall's state of preservation does not allow us to be certain), aligned to the basin for collecting rain water in *CR01's* inner courtyard. Also, in *C017, Z017* was destroyed in the trench's S part when the inner courtyard pavement, *P001 (17007)* was built, which means that in the building's second construction phase an entrance existed in this area (we will obtain more details when we will excavate the baulk between *C017–*

C013). *Z017* represents *CR01*'s E limit, and is bordered by two sidewalks (*T001* and *T002*) and *ST01* to the E. It is superposed by the *001* layer of debris in all trenches and it functioned together with *Z002*, *Z003*, *Z004*, *Z005*, *Z018*, possibly *Z019*, possibly *Z021*, with *P001*, *P002* and *P003*, with context *12004* and with *ST01*. We do not yet know the entire trajectory of the wall, which will be uncovered during the following campaigns;

Z018 (*10003*, *12003*; Figs. 14, 16): wall (pL = 6.31 m; W = 0.80/0.90 m; identified at +0.20 m in *C010* and +0.24 m in *C012*; up to 10 rows uncovered on a height of 0.77 m) with a WSW–ENE orientation, located in *C010* and *C012*. It is made up of pebbles and medium stones (green shale, limestone), bricks and *spolia*. In *C012* the wall has a plinth, discovered at -0.41 m (5–15 cm wide), which corresponds to the yellow clay layer *10004–11003–12004*; as the plinth rises above this layer, we may suppose that the latter represented the substructure of a pavement, now lost. In *C010* the wall has a 0.66 m long pilaster base/buttress, protruding southwards 0.36 m; this, together with the pilaster base/buttress of *Z021* could indicate a certain monumentality of the room they were delimiting. This is also supported by the discovery there of several fragments of marble wall tiles in *C011* (nos. 251/2014 and 266/2014). We also notice a certain architectural symmetry with the pilaster base/buttress of *Z005*, of similar dimensions; internal buttresses of 0.60×0.40 m were also discovered in the N wall of the NW room of *Domus I*¹⁶, which suggests that the two structures were possibly contemporary. We must also mention that the S face of *Z018* is badly preserved in *C010*, where the wall slides southwards. Superposed by the debris layer *001* and the living surface *10002*, the wall functioned with layer *10003* (and with the possible pavement that covered the latter), as well as with walls *Z017* and *Z021*;

Z019 (*9005*; Fig. 13): wall (pL = 4.00 m; W = 0.70 m; identified at +0.30 m; four rows have been uncovered on a height of 0.30 m) with a WSW–ENE orientation, located in *C009*. It is made up of pebbles, medium stones (green shale, limestone) and *spolia* bound with earth. Superposed by the living surface *9002–10002* (that functioned with *Z020*), it probably functioned with the living surface *9004* and probably pertains to *CR01*'s first construction phase;

Z020 (*9003*; Fig. 13): wall (pL = 3.90 m; W = 0.95 m; identified at +0.30 m; preserved on up to four rows on a height of 0.45 m) with a NNW–SSE orientation, located in *C009* and in the baulk between *C004–009*. It is made up of medium stones (limestone, green shale) and *spolia* bound with earth, built in a rather low-quality workmanship, which indicates a later dating (end of the 6th c. AD?). Superposed by debris layer *9001*, the wall functioned with living surface *9002* (built after *Z018*, *Z019* and living surface *9004* were destroyed, upon the latter's debris) and with *Z004*. It is probably an internal dividing wall built in *CR01*'s second (last?) construction phase;

Z021 (*11002*; Figs. 15, 36): wall (pL = 3.72 m; W = 0.70 m; identified at -0.04 m; up to six rows uncovered on a height of 0.52 m) with a WSW–ENE orientation, located in *C011*. It is made up of pebbles, medium stones (green shale, limestone) and *spolia*, bound with earth. On the wall's N face, in the E part of the trench, it has a 0.55×0.45 m rectangular pilaster base/buttress. Also, in the centre of the trench the wall has an entrance (1.20 m long), blocked in the building's second construction phase with stones and earth (*11004*). The entrance is perfectly aligned with the one in *Z002*, which indicates that they were part of the same construction phase (and probably both blocked at the same time), on an axis perpendicular on *street c*. *Z021* was covered by debris layer *11001*, functioned with living surface *10004–11003–12004* to the N (possibly the substructure of a pavement), *Z018* and *Z017*, delimiting a room with a certain monumentality (see description of *Z018*). To the S it functioned with *18002*, the substructure of *P004*, with the latter and with *18006* (*T003?*);

Z022 (*18003*; Figs. 22, 37): wall (pL = 0.87 m; pW = 0.50 m; identified at -0.50 m; one row uncovered on a height of 0.40 m) with a WSW–ENE orientation, located in *C018*. It is made of large fashioned limestone blocks (0.50×0.40×0.40 m), bound with earth. These probably are, as in the case of *Z014*, *spolia* from a defence wall. The wall was superposed by *18002* and functioned with *18004*. Given the construction technique, it could be the *insula*'s S limit;

Z023 (*16003*; Fig. 20): wall (pL = 2.70 m; W = 0.65 m; identified at +0.37 m; up to two rows uncovered on a height of 0.30 m) with a NNW–SSE orientation, located in *C016*. It is made up of pebbles, medium stones (green shale, limestone)

¹⁶ Condurachi *et alii* 1954, p. 342–343.

and *spolia*. It is probably the wall bordering *ST01* to the E. Superposed by *16001*; it functioned with *16002* and *ST01*;

Z024 (*15004*; Fig. 19): wall (pL = 2.81 m; W = 0.60 m; identified at +0.21 m; up to two rows uncovered on a height of 0.15 m) with a N–S orientation, located in *C015*. It is made up of large (L = 0.60 m) and medium (green shale, limestone) stones and *spolia*, bound with earth. Superposed by debris layer *15001*, it is the wall that borders to the W phase II of *ST02*; as it was built directly on the pavement of phase I of *ST02* (*15009*), *Z024* marks a clear change of direction for *ST02*, a change also confirmed by the oblique (to *street c*) direction of *Z006*, *Z007*, *Z008*, *Z011* and *Z027*;

Z025 (*15007*; Fig. 38): wall (pL = 2.66 m; W = 0.50 m; identified at -0.11 m) with a NNW–SSE orientation (perpendicular on *street c*), located in *C015*. The wall is made up of pebbles and medium stones (green shale and limestone) and was dismantled down to the level where *ST02*'s phase II stone pavement (*15005*) was built. Superposed by debris layer *15003*, it functioned together with phase I of *ST02*, which it borders to the E (as indicated by the presence of a 1.90×0.42 m gutter separating it from the street and by *Z026*, which is perpendicular on it and with which it must have formed another building (that functioned before *CR01*), which we will give the conventional name *CR02*;

Z026 (*15008*; Fig. 33): wall (pL = 2.00 m; W = 0.50 m; identified at -0.11 m) with a WSW–ENE orientation (parallel to *street c*), identified in *C015*. The wall is made up of pebbles and medium stones (green shale and limestone) and was dismantled down to the level where *ST02*'s phase II stone pavement (*15005*) was built. Superposed by debris layer *15003*, it functioned with phase I of *ST02* and with *Z025* (see description);

Z027 (*7015*; Fig. 34): wall (pL = 2.28 m; pW = 0.50 m; identified at -0.37 m) with a N–S orientation (the orientation specific for phase II of *ST02*), located in *C007*. The wall is made up of pebbles and medium stones (green shale and limestone). Superposed by living surface *1003–1007–7014* and by debris layer *7001*, the wall intersects *Z014* and is probably to be associated with the first phase of *CR01*, followed by the second phase (reparation of *Z014* using pebbles and medium stones). It is not yet clear if *Z027* functioned with living surface *7004*, which could in fact be part of *CR02*;

Z028 (*8007*; Fig. 27): wall (L = 0.70 m; W = 0.70 m; identified at +0.36 m) with a NNW–SSE

orientation, located in *C008*. It is a threshold between *Z004* and *Z012*, which indicates that the two functioned together (also indicated by the living surface *8008* that functioned with both) and that *Z013* was added later, practically blocking this entrance.

B.2. Pavements

P001 (*2005*, *3002*, *4002*, *13003*, *17007*; Figs. 21, 39): pavement (identified at +0.43/+0.22 m, sloping on a W–E direction; it covers a surface of 7.90×5.35 m) located in *C002*, *C003*, *C004*, *C013* and *C017*, where it partially destroyed *Z017*. It is made of large, medium stones (mainly green shale, limestone) and *spolia*, bound with earth. It is superposed by debris layer *001*. The pavement covered an inner courtyard of *CR01*. In the E of *C003*, in squares B₄–C₄, we identified a basin for water drainage (dm = 1.20 m), with what seems to be a structure inside, made up of three stones (stairs?). The fact that this is actually a basin and not just an area where the pavement is destroyed is indicated by the fact that the stones in the pavement form a circle around the basin, as well as the fact that debris layer *3001* also fell inside the basin. We must mention that the basin's walls are not of stone and the first layer identified under the debris is a yellow clay layer (which we cannot yet be sure it represents the bottom of the basin) at -0.21m. In *C002* the pavement is preserved only by a few stones in the S profile (*2005*; in the SW part of *C002* the stones have as a substructure a thin layer of shells), and the connection between *P001* and *Z002* is broken;

P002 (*14007*; Fig. 40): pavement identified only in the SW of *C014* (at +0.19 m; preserved on a 0.85×0.80 m surface); built (in a rather poor workmanship) of pebbles and medium stones (green shale and limestone). Superposed by *14001*, it functioned together with *Z003*, *Z004* and *Z017*;

P003 (*17008*; Fig. 21): pavement identified only in the SW of *C017* (at +0.36 m; preserved on a surface of 0.41×0.41 m); built of pebbles and medium stones (green shale and limestone). Superposed by *17001*, it functioned together with *Z002*, *Z005* and *Z017*, but we do not yet know in which phase of *CR01*;

P004 (*11005*; Fig. 41): identified only in the S of *C011* (at -0.20 m; preserved on a surface of 2.54×0.82 m); built of medium stones (green shale, limestone) and *spolia*. Superposed by *11001*, it functioned together with *Z021* and *T003*, and

probably had layer *18002* as a substructure. It is not clear if this is a pavement inside *CR01*, the pavement of a street or the pavement in front of *CR01* on the street.

B.3. Sidewalks

T001 (*12006*, *14004*; Figs. 16, 18): sidewalk (pL = 10.90 m; W = 0.64/1.10 m; identified at +0.22 m in *C012* and +0.40 m in *C014*) located partially in squares D₃₋₄ in *C012*, approx. 0.37 m above *ST01* and in squares A–D₃ of *C014*, approx. 0.20 m above *ST01*). It is made of pebbles, medium, large stones (green shale, limestone) and *spolia*, bound with earth;

T002 (*17003*; Fig. 21): sidewalk (pL = 2.20 m; W = 0.50 m; identified at +0.63 m): identified partially in squares C–D₂ of *C017* (approx. 0.25 m above *ST01*). It is made up of large limestone slabs (two identified up to the present moment; 1.35×0.50 m), probably *spolia*, bound with earth;

T003 (*18006*; Figs. 22, 42): sidewalk (pL = 1.13 m; W = 1.50 m; identified at +0.04 m) identified partially in *C018*. It is not yet clear if this is a sidewalk or another type of structure – this will be cleared in the next campaigns. It is made up of pebbles, medium and large stones (0.60×0.60 m), mainly green shale and limestone.

B.4. Streets

ST01 (*12004*, *13005*, *13006*, *14005*, *17002*; Figs. 16–18, 21): street (pL = 24.00 m; pW = 3.90 m; identified at -0.14 m in *C012*, +0.19 m in *C013*, at +0.11 m in *C014* and +0.37/+0.40 m *C017*) with a NNW–SSE orientation, that (probably) connected *street c* to the S side of the Late Roman defence wall (or with a possible street that went along it). The street has two main construction elements: a highly solidified substructure made of pebbles and medium stones, bound with earth, identified in squares A–D₃₋₄ of *C013*, squares A–D₄ of *C014* and squares A–D₂₋₄ of *C017* and a highly solidified yellow layer of clay that superposed the substructure and represented the proper living surface. This layer was partially destroyed, and was identified in squares A–C₃₋₄ and D₄ in *C012* and squares B–D₂₋₄ in *C013*. The street is bordered to the W by *Z017*, *T001* and *T002* and to the E by *Z023*. The street probably climbed southwards from *street c* and then followed a descending slope starting from *C017*;

ST02: street that connected *street c* and (possibly) the S side of the Late Roman defence wall (or a possible street that went along it). Up to

the present moment we have identified two constructive phases of the street. Phase I (Figs. 19, 33, 38) was perpendicular on *street c* and was made up of large slabs of green shale and grit stone (*15009*; identified at 0/-0.10m) and was bordered to the E by *Z026*, *Z025* and the latter's gutter. In phase II (Fig. 19) *Z025* and *Z026* have been partially dismantled and integrated in the pavement of phase II (*15005* – Figs. 19, 33, 38; identified la 0/-0.07 m). Above the pavement of phase II was identified a highly solidified yellow clay layer (*15006*; Fig. 43; identified at -0.10m in squares A–D₁). Up to the present moment, the street seems to follow a slight slope southwards. Also, the street's trajectory in phase II was modified¹⁷, becoming oblique to *street c*, as the trajectories of *Z024* (built directly on phase I – see Fig. 19) show. The similar orientation of *Z027* (which could constitute the E limit of the street), *Z006*, *Z007* and *Z008* could mean that *CR01* was contemporary only to phase II of *ST02*.

OTHER DISCOVERIES

As the sector covers an area where very few modern excavations (if any at all) were undertaken, we discovered a significant quantity of pottery (32 crates). All of it was washed, marked, registered and is being researched by Alexandru Bădescu (MNIR), helped by MA student Alexandra Bivolaru. Another article on the pottery discovered in this sector is published in this volume.

In 2013 we discovered seven bronze coins and in 2014 we discovered seventeen, four of which were found outside the excavation, in a secondary position (nos. 2, 10–11, 15/2014). All coins are being cleaned and researched by Aurel Vâlcu (IAB). The first lot is to be published soon.

In 2014 we discovered nine architectural elements, all of which are being researched by architects Monica Mărgineanu Cârstoiu and Virgil Apostol.

All small finds (small objects, glass, metal and charcoal fragments) are being researched by Alexandra Țârlea, who will coordinate their publication.

We have also discovered three epigraphs (two inscriptions and one graffito) and several stamped amphora handles, as well as a large quantity of construction material, whose research and publication is being coordinated by Alexandra Lițu.

¹⁷ For now we will treat it only as a second phase of the same street; if we discover that its trajectory is radically different from that of the first phase, we will consider it a different street.

FINAL REMARKS

Stratigraphy

Beneath the vegetal layer, whose thickness varies, we identified a grey layer of debris (generally registered as context 001 in all trenches), under which sometimes appeared a yellow layer of debris (identical in composition and generally registered as context 002 in all trenches). Given the similitude of the two layers we consider that layer 002 represents the debris caused at the moment of destruction (and therefore contains many traces of intense burning), while layer 001 represents the debris caused by the final collapse after the abandon of the buildings affected by the fire. The best example for differentiating these two layers was found in C015, where 15001 borders 15002 (Fig. 19).

Under these massive layers of debris, which mark the destruction of the last Late Roman dwelling level, we reached the living surface of *Roman Building no. 1 (CR01)*, namely four pavements and a series of highly solidified yellow clay layers.

As far as the living surfaces are concerned, they were identified at different depths and are generally highly solidified yellow clay layers, some of which had a complex structure (e.g. 7014). Such examples are 1003–1007–7014 (Fig. 5; dated after 570 AD), 2006 (Fig. 7), 2007 (Fig. 7), 8006 (Fig. 12), 8007, 9002–10002 (Fig. 13), 9004 (Fig. 13), 10004–11003–12005 (Figs. 14–16), 16002 (Fig. 20), 18002 (Fig. 22), 18004 (Fig. 22). In the case of 8006 and 10004–11003–12005, these layers correspond to plinths of the walls they functioned with, which could indicate that they initially were substructures of pavements already destroyed at the moment of excavation and on which we therefore have no information. Apart of these two cases, stone pavements were identified in C002, C003, C004, C014 and C017 (P001), C014 (P002), C017 (P003) and C011 (P004?). This situation could radically change our image of CR01 (at least in its second construction phase) to a building in which a large proportion of the living surface (five rooms) was in fact covered by pavements. In C001 and C007 we discovered a clay floor (1003–1007–7014) approximately 0.70 m lower than the living surface of phase I of CR01 (2006) and 1.40 m lower than the living surface of phase II of CR01 (P001). Given the fact that this structure is located below the contemporary street level and buried in it was identified a large *dolium*, we can adopt a working

theory according to which this space functioned as a provisions cellar. On the other hand, the difference in level between the clay floor and the street level is rather small, so the cellar theory can work only if we are dealing with a lower ground floor. Given the analogies with *Domus I*, we will also consider the possibility of it being a kitchen (the two wattle and daub walls Z010 and 7013 could have delimited an oven?).

Building structures

As far as the building structures are concerned, we have identified a large structure, conventionally named *Roman building no. 1 (CR01)*, probably a residence similar to those in the *Domus* Sector to the E. CR01 has been identified in C001, C002, C003, C004, C005, C006, C007, C008, C009, C010, C011, C012, C013, C014, C017 and C018. We have identified until now two phases; to the first probably belong Z002, Z004, Z005, Z006, Z007, Z008, Z012, Z014, Z017, Z018, Z019, Z021, Z027 and Z028 (Fig. 44), maybe also P002, P003 and P004. Access to the building was provided through entrances in Z002, Z021 and Z017. In the second phase (Fig. 45) the entrances in Z002 and Z021 were blocked (maybe Z009 blocked an entrance in Z007?) and P001 was added, as well as Z001, Z003, Z010, Z011 and Z020. It is not yet clear to which phase belong sidewalks T001, T002 and T003¹⁸.

We have also identified walls from previous structures (Z015, Z016, Z022, Z025 and Z026 – the latter forming CR02), as well as contemporary ones (Z023 and Z024), all of which are still to be researched.

Two very important discoveries were the streets we identified E (ST01; Fig. 46) and W (ST02) of CR01. We identified two phases of ST02, with the earliest perpendicular on *street c* and the second oblique to it (Fig. 46). This change of the street plan supposes a major reorganizing of this part of the Histrian acropolis, which could indicate the appearance of a new element of interest in the urban network to the S.

Taking into account that we are only in the early stages of the research in this part of the city, we are launching a hypothesis according to which phase II

¹⁸ Sidewalks were also identified along the S wall of *Domus I* (Condurachi 1954, p. 326), in *streets D* and *C* that are located N of the Basilica Florescu and E of the Late Roman defence wall immediately N of the Great Gate (Munteanu 2011b, p. 236).

of *ST02* follows a trajectory that leads to the Christian basilica to the S, in the Basilica Pârvan Sector (Fig. 47). The street reaches this basilica E of a large Roman building (the *CR02* of the Basilica Pârvan Sector); if this hypothesis will be confirmed by future excavation results, it will constitute an argument for the reorganizing of the street plan function of the local high-profile monuments, in this case the Episcopal basilica (N of *street c*) and the Christian basilica in the Basilica Pârvan Sector, in order to create a new, monumental Christian identity of the city¹⁹.

As far as the structure of the streets is concerned, we identified a highly-solidified sub-structure made of stones bound with earth (*ST001* and phase II of *ST02*), covered by a highly-solidified layer of yellow clay. Phase I of *ST02* seems to have been paved with large slabs of stone. Up to the present moment there is no indication that any of these two streets were used by carts (*ST01* resembles the small streets in the so-called “economic district” to the SW²⁰, which offered access from the main road to the houses near the Late Roman defence wall). The complete research of these streets delimiting the *insula* will provide important data on the Late Roman urbanism at Histria.

Chronology

Regarding the chronology of the structures we have uncovered, all considerations must take into account the fact that, apart from the coin lots of 2013 and 2014, no other material has been dated yet, so any proposal for a precise chronology would be flawed. The available stratigraphic data, as well as architectural similarities with structures in the *Domus* Sector, only support a general chronology for the 6th c. AD²¹, with phase I of *CR01* to be dated possibly to the first half of the century, and phase II to the second – these are the two phases established for the contemporary Episcopal Basilica N of the sector²². If for *ST01* data indicates only the 6th c. AD, phase I of *ST02* has an orientation different from phase II of the same street, which in turn seems to be contemporary to phase I of *CR01*. Thus, phase I of *ST02* could have preceded *CR01* and therefore be dated prior to the 6th c. AD.

¹⁹ Achim 2012, p. 155.

²⁰ Condurachi *et alii* 1954, p. 159–162 and Pl. I.

²¹ *Domus* I is dated to the first eight decades of the 6th c. AD (Condurachi *et alii* 1954, p. 349).

²² Suceveanu 2007, p. 12–30.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2015–2016

In 2015 we will reach the S side of the Late Roman defence wall, thereby completing one specific objective concerning the stratigraphy of the area between *street c* and the Late Roman defence wall. We will continue updating this profile once we will excavate earlier layers.

Another objective is to delimit the Late Roman *insula* by completing research on the streets and walls delimiting it, as well as on its internal structure (especially on the issue of the entrances).

As far as the material discovered in the excavation is concerned, it is being researched and we intend to gradually publish it (as individual articles and as a final volume in the monographic series *Histria*), so that all research will be published 1–2 years after the end of the first research project.

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Fig. 1. Location of the ACS Sector.



Fig. 2. Pârvan's excavation (photo in Flot-Lambrino 1938).

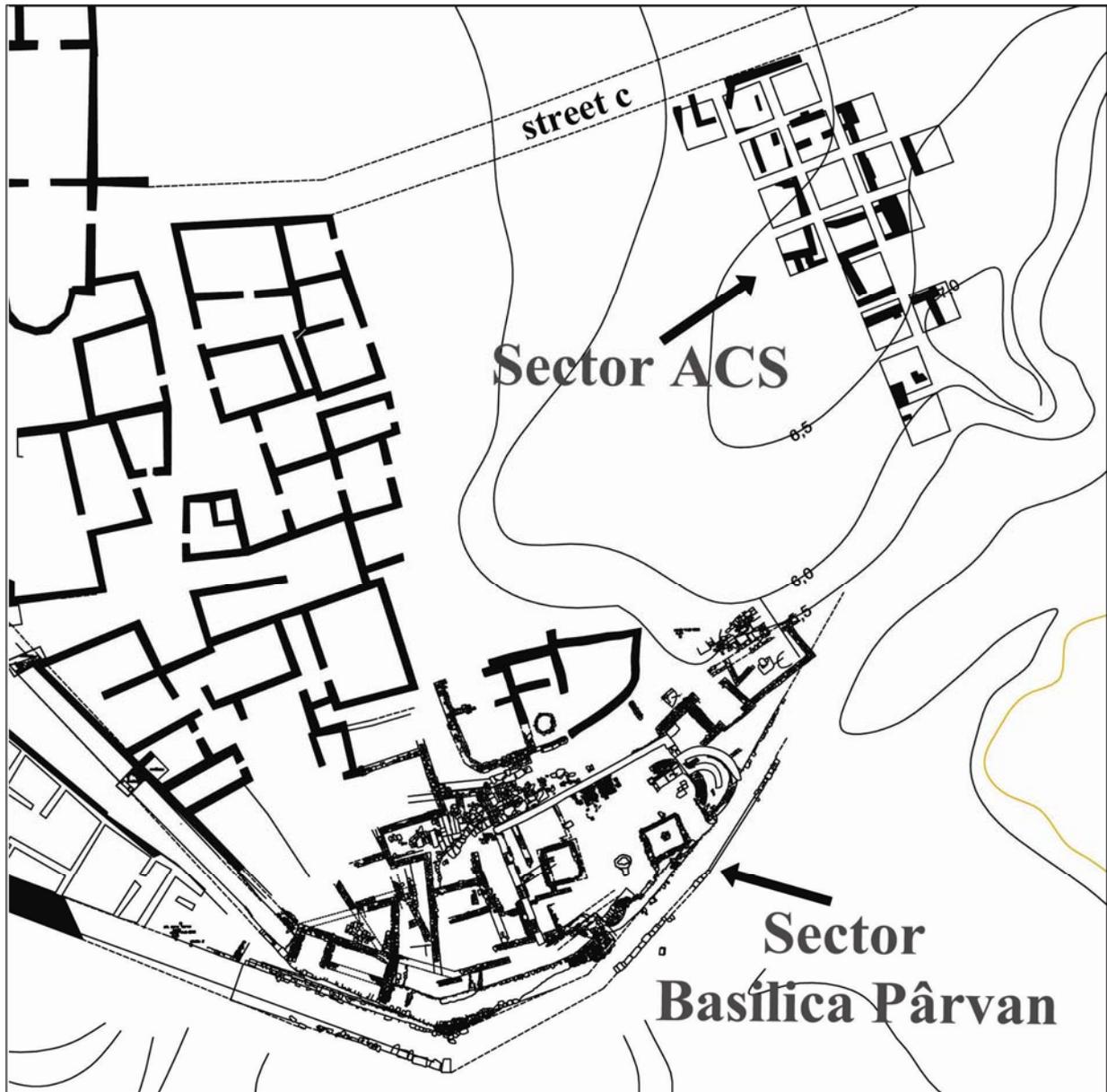


Fig. 3. Location of ACS trenches.

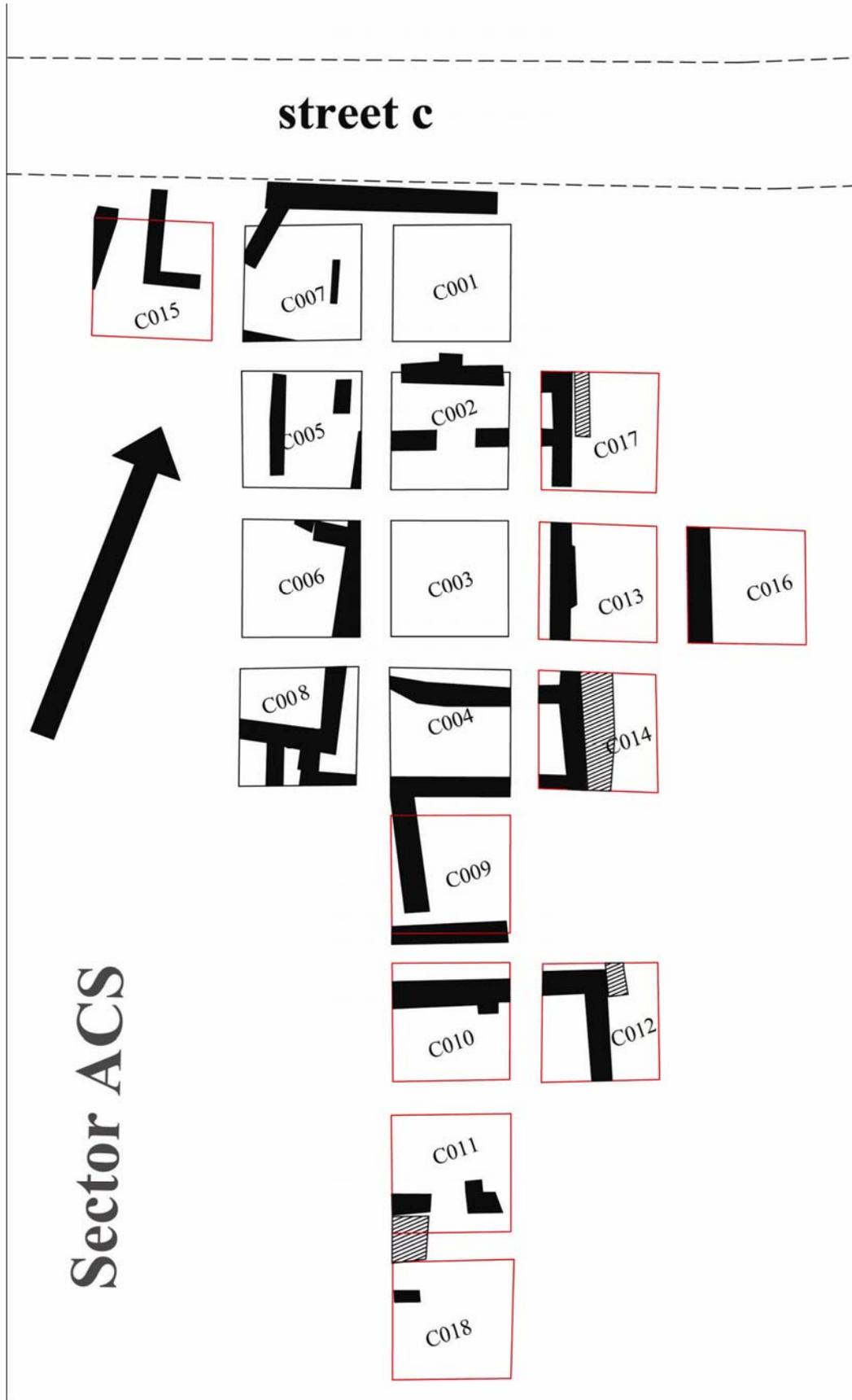


Fig. 4. ACS trenches.

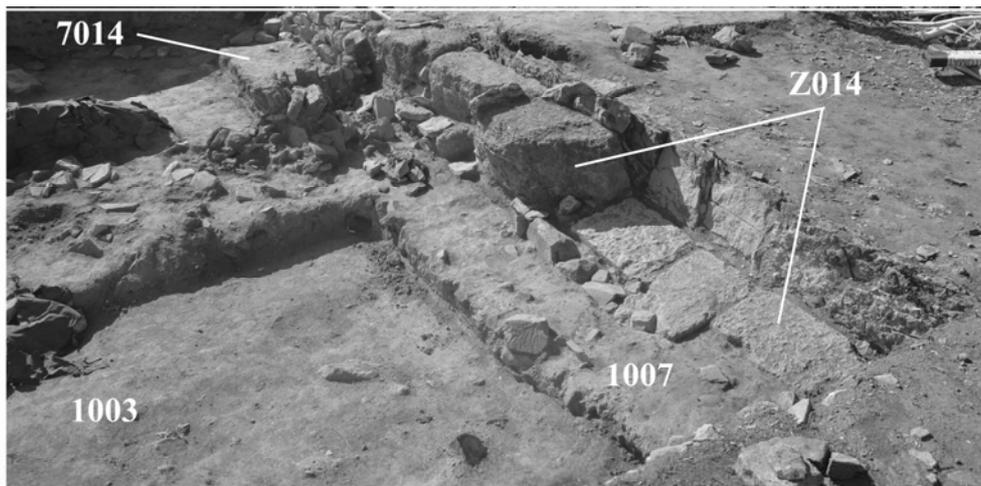


Fig. 5. Living surface 1003–1007–7014.



Fig. 6. Possible fragment of 1003–1007–7014 in the baulk between C001–C007.

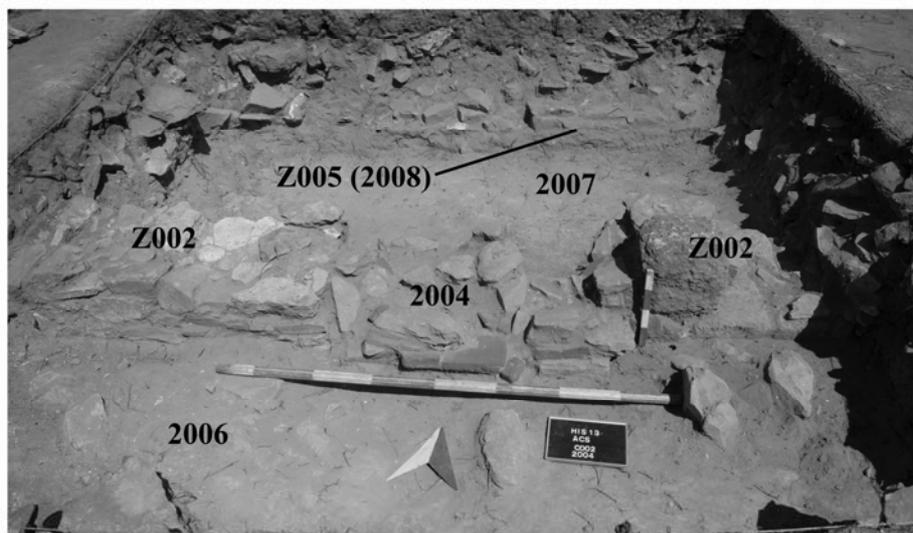


Fig. 7. 2004, 2006, 2007, Z002 (2003) and Z005 (2008).

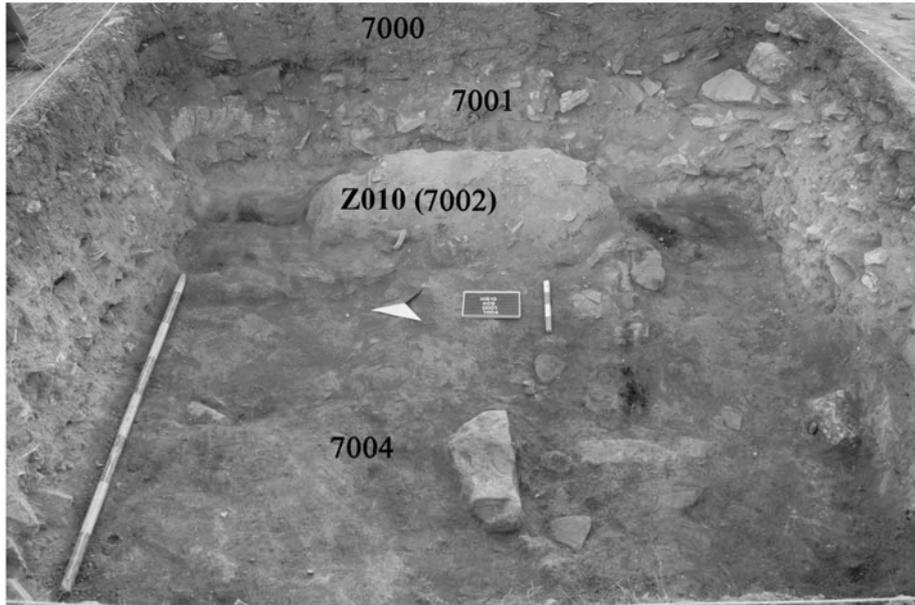


Fig. 8. 7000, 7001, 7002, 7004.



Fig. 9. 7013.

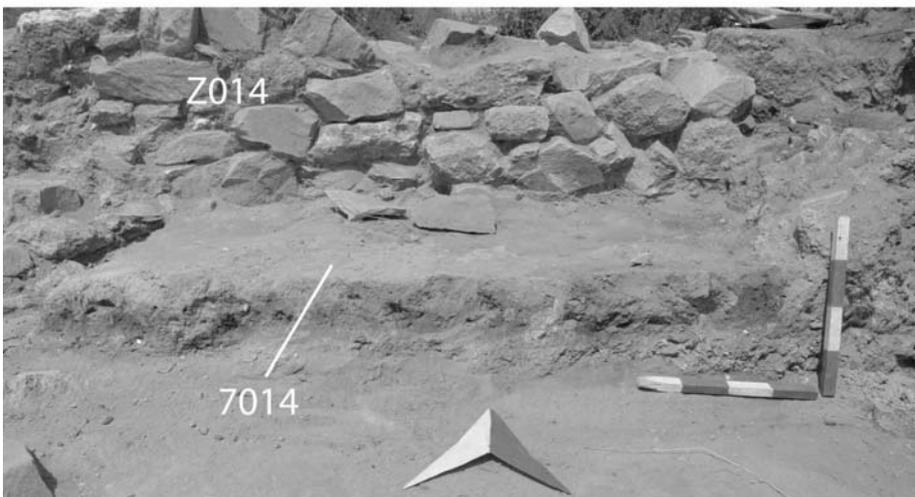


Fig. 10. 7014.

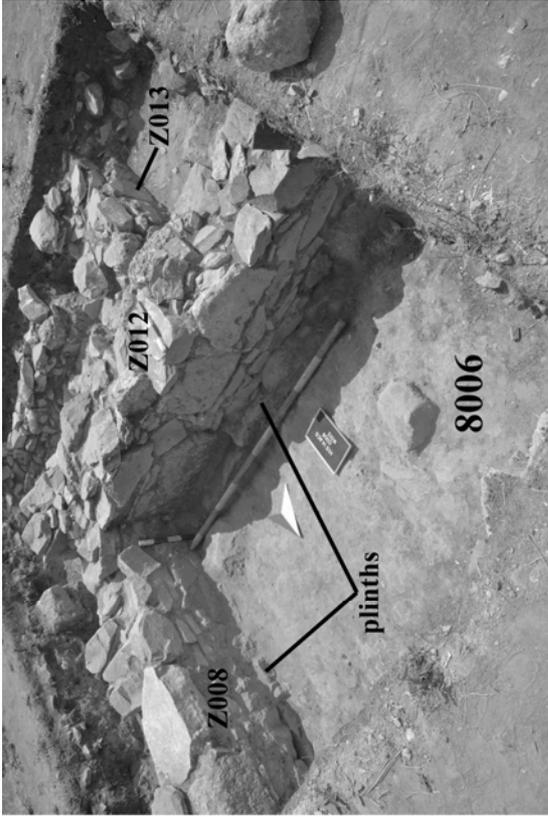


Fig. 12. 8006, Z008 and Z012 and plinths.

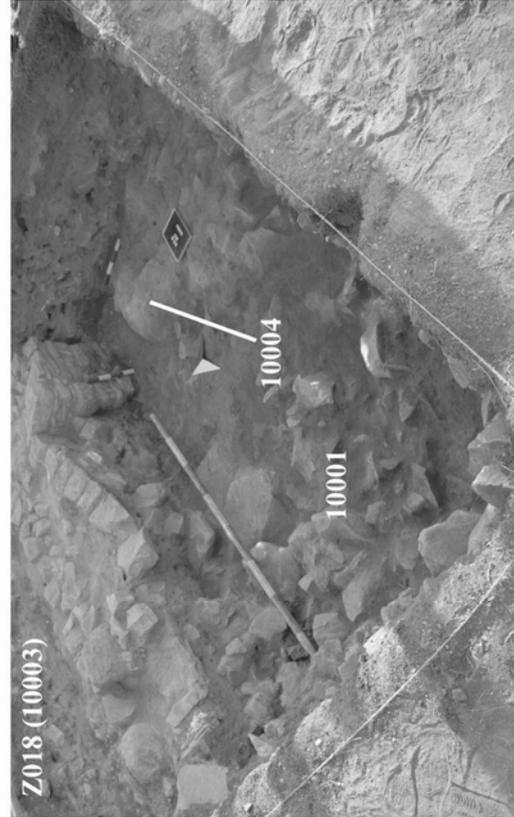


Fig. 14. 10001, 10004 and Z018 (10003).

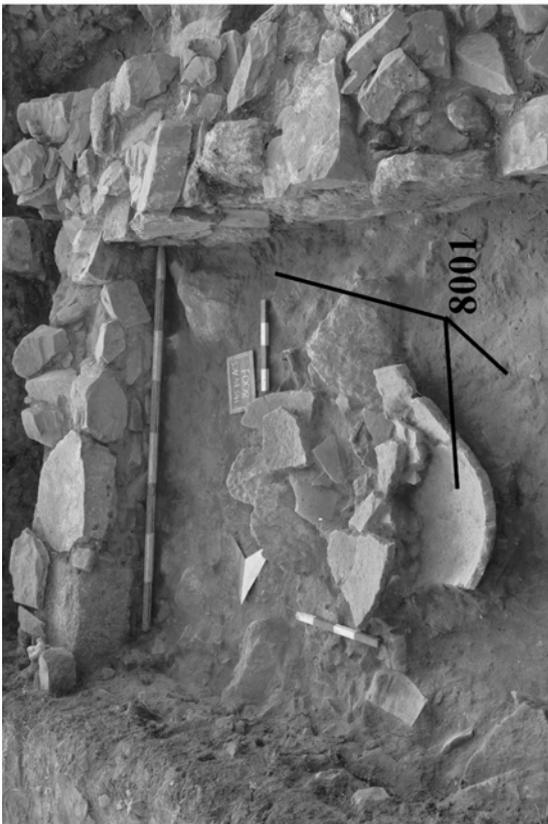


Fig. 11. 8001.

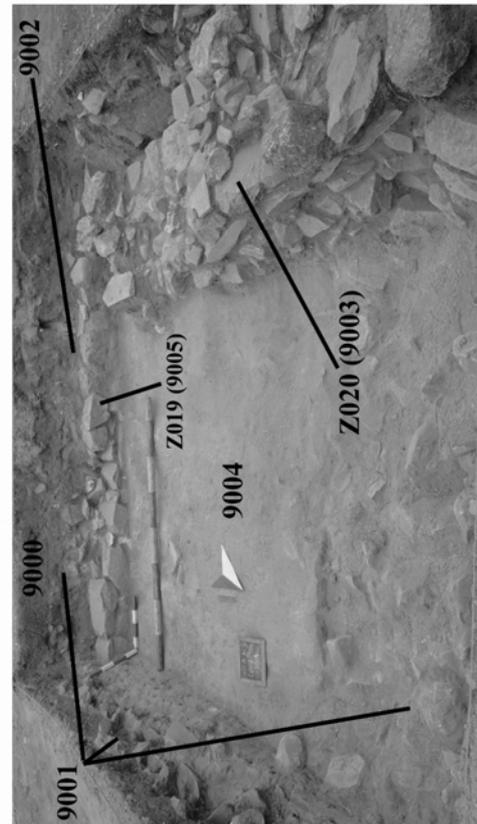


Fig. 13. 9000, 9001, 9002, Z020 (9003), 9004 and Z019 (9005).

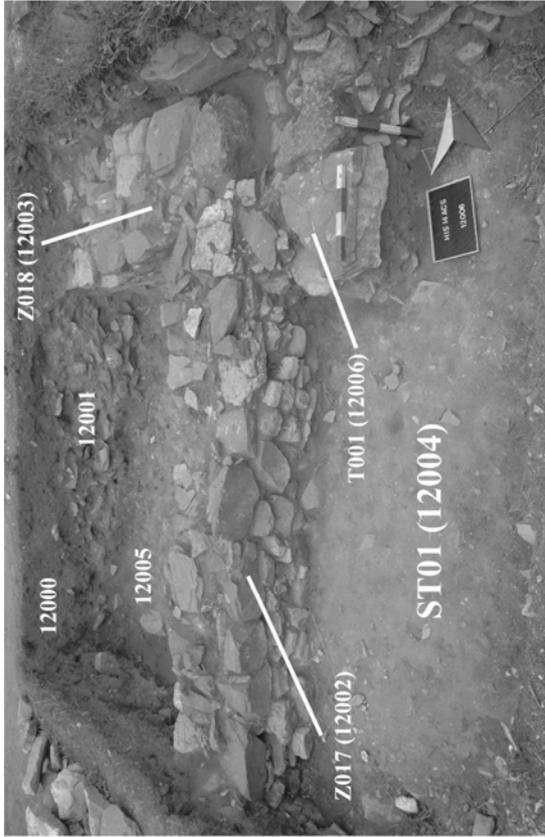


Fig. 16. 12000, 12001, 12005, ST01 (12004), T001 (12006), Z017 (12002) and Z018 (12003).

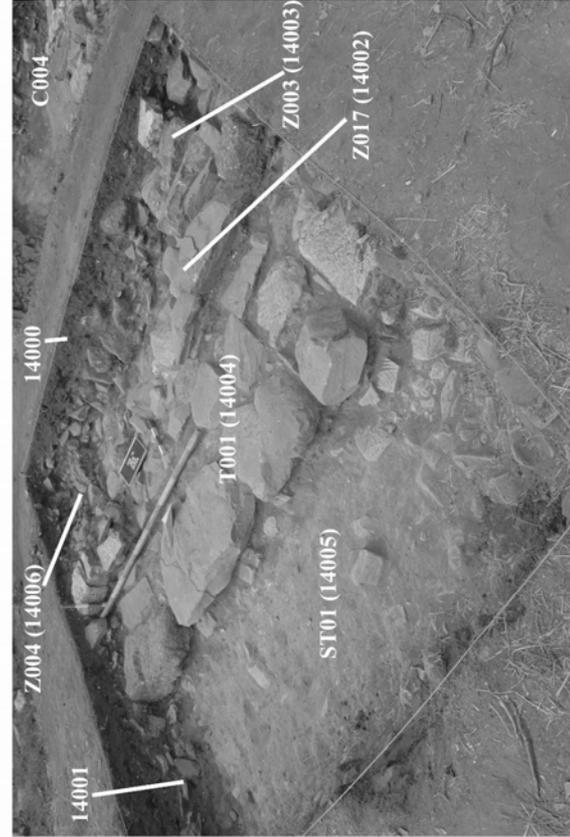


Fig. 18. 14000, 14001, ST01 (14005), T001 (14004), Z017 (14002), Z003 (14003) and Z004 (14006).

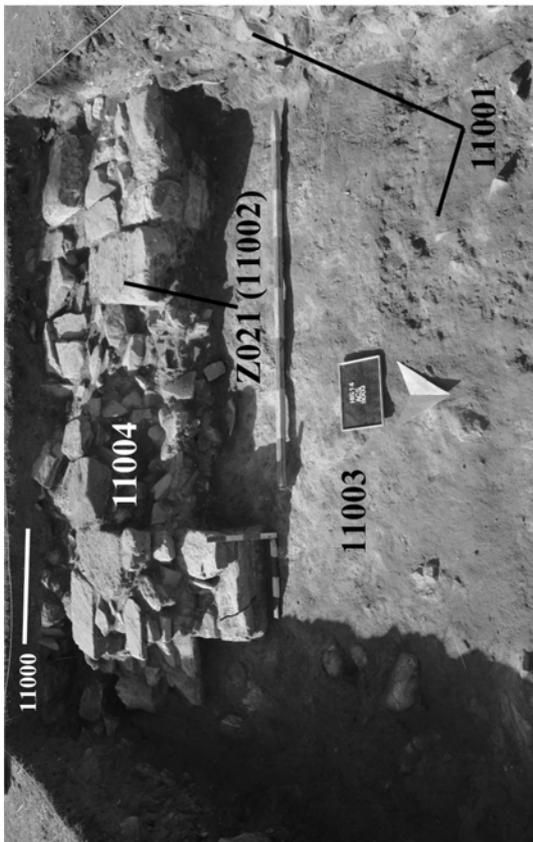


Fig. 15. 11000, 11001, 10003, Z021 (11002) and 11004.

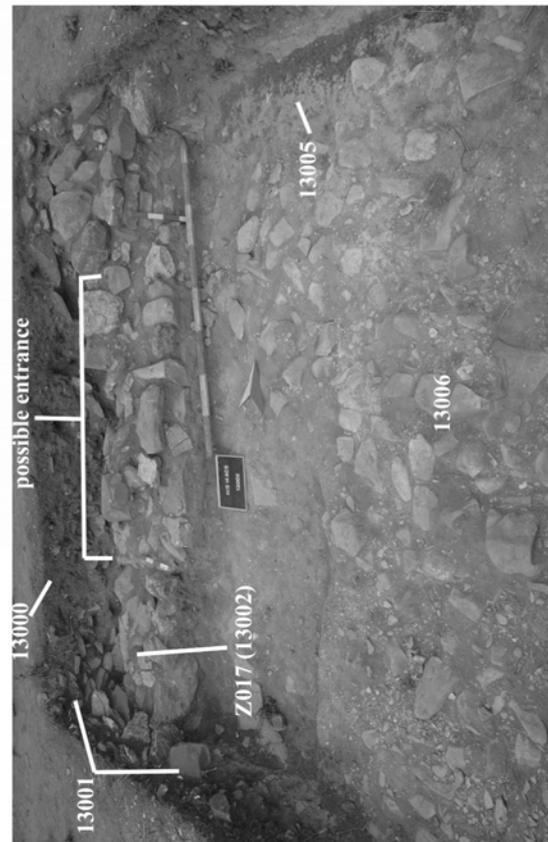


Fig. 17. 13000, 13001, ST01 (13005 and 13006), Z017 (13002).

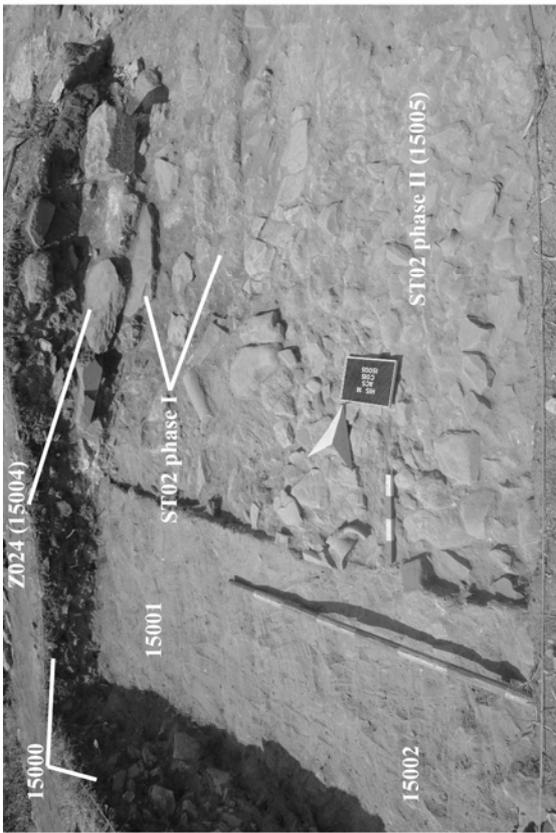


Fig. 19. 15000, 15001, 15002, ST02 phase I (15009) and II (15005) and Z024 (15004).

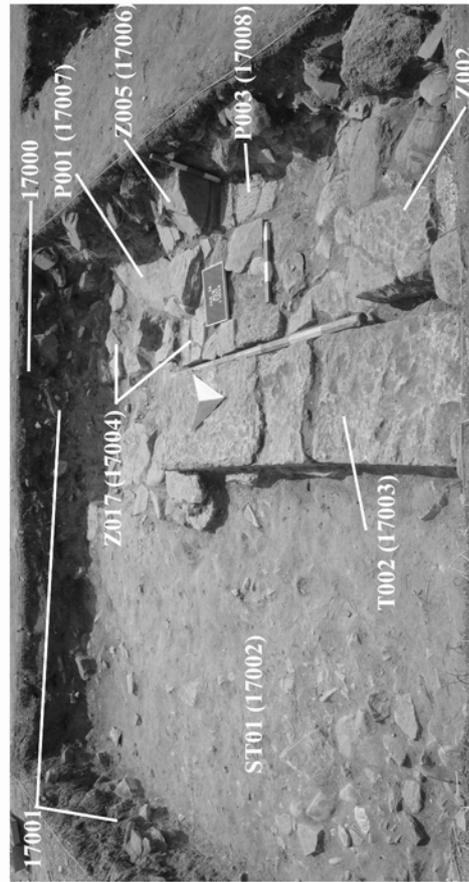


Fig. 21. 17000, 17001, P001 (17008), P003 (17008), ST01 (17002), T002 (17003), Z002 (17005), Z017 (17004) and Z005 (17006).

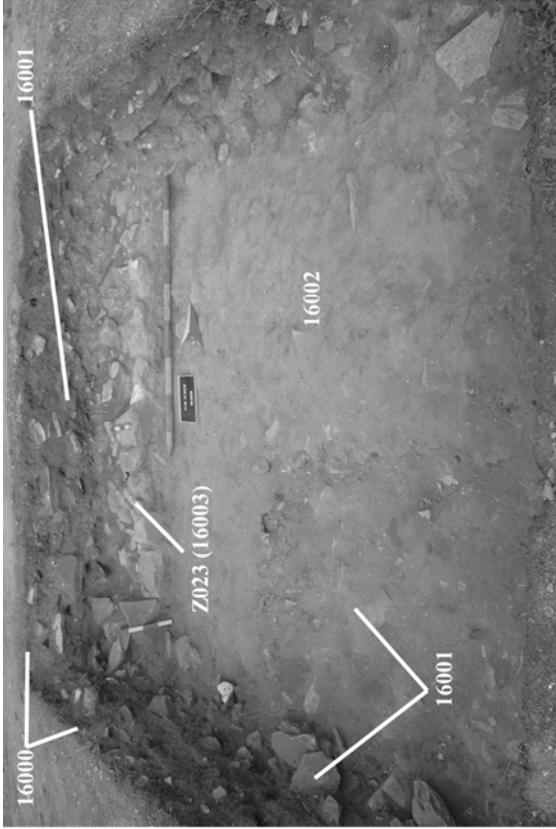


Fig. 20. 16000, 16001, 16002 and Z023 (16003).

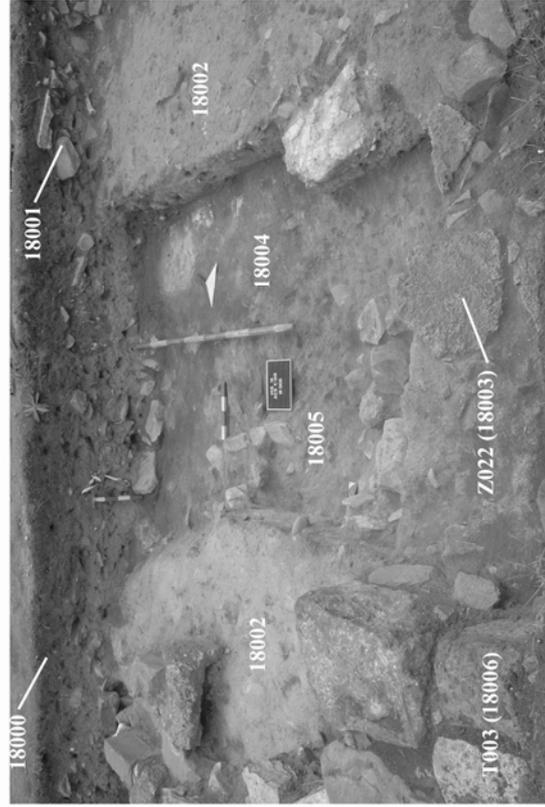


Fig. 22. 18000, 18001, 18002, 18004, 18005, T003 (18006) and Z022 (18003).

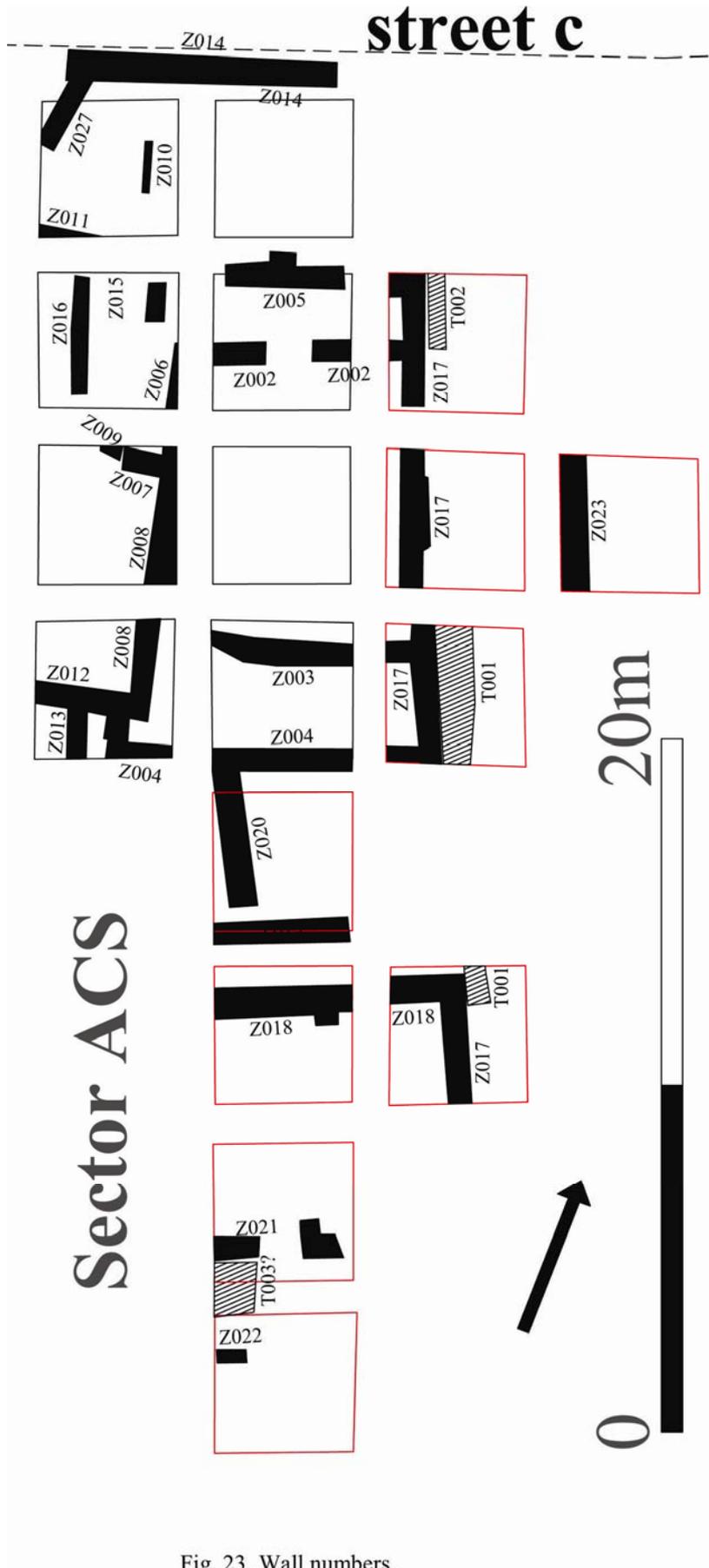


Fig. 23. Wall numbers.

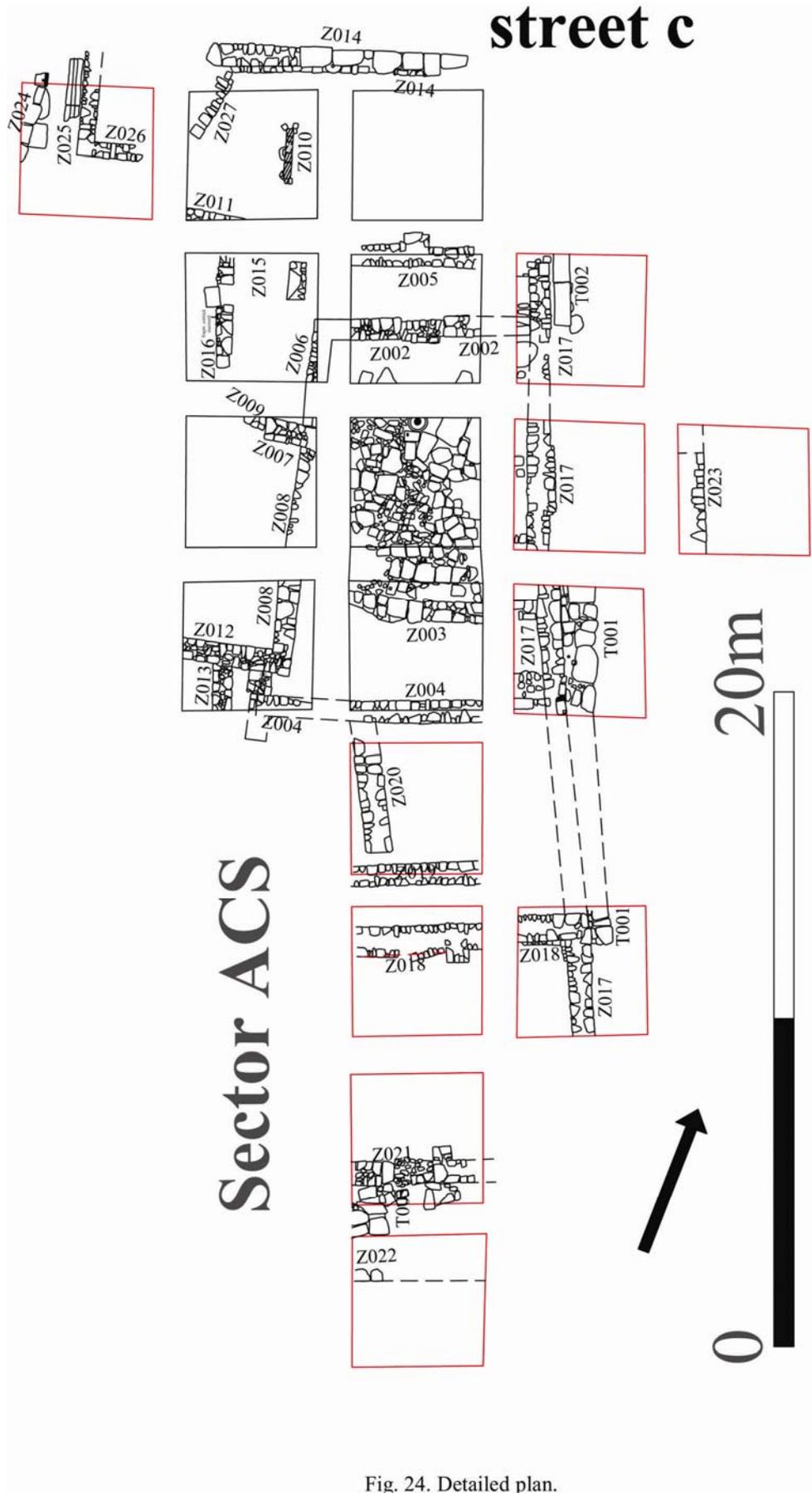


Fig. 24. Detailed plan.

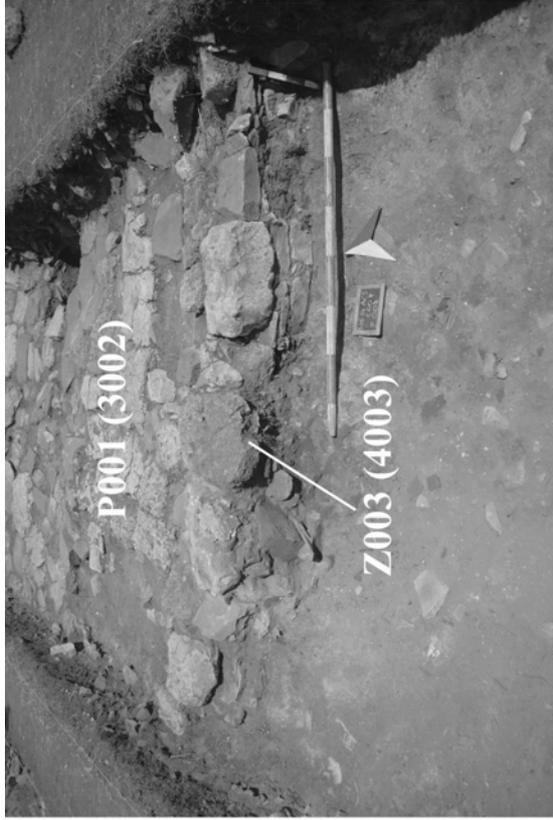


Fig. 26. Z003 (4003).



Fig. 28. Z004 (4004).

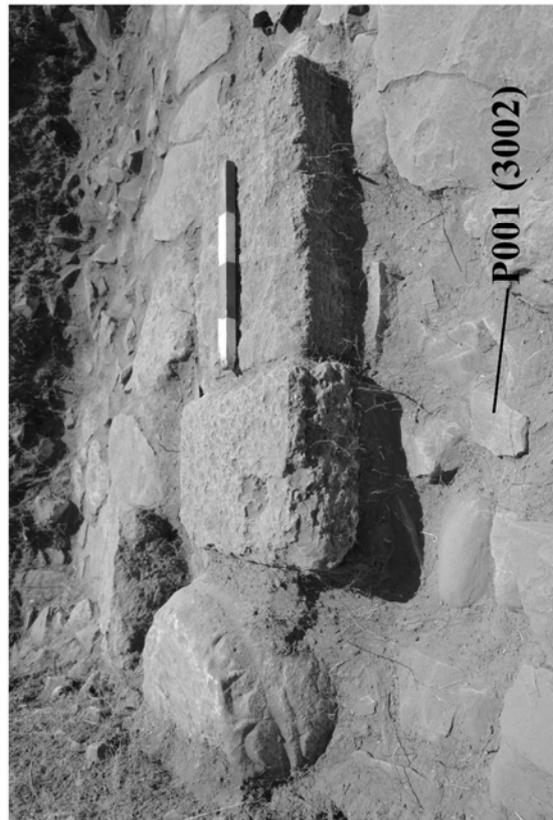


Fig. 25. Z001 (3003).

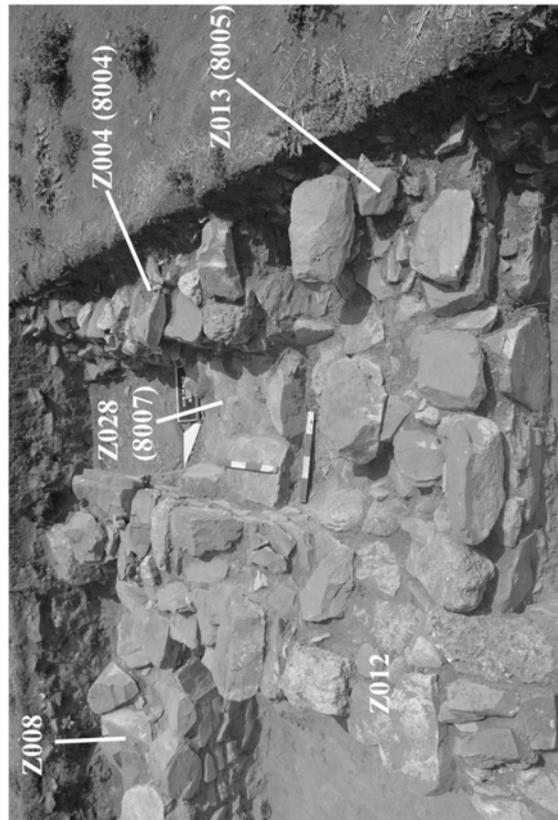


Fig. 27. Z004 (8004), Z013 (8005) and Z028 (8007).

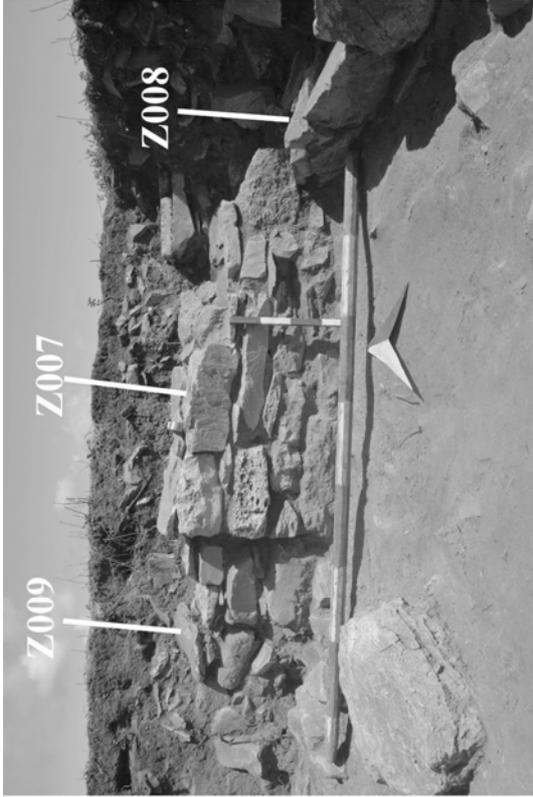


Fig. 30. Z007 (6002) and Z009 (6005).

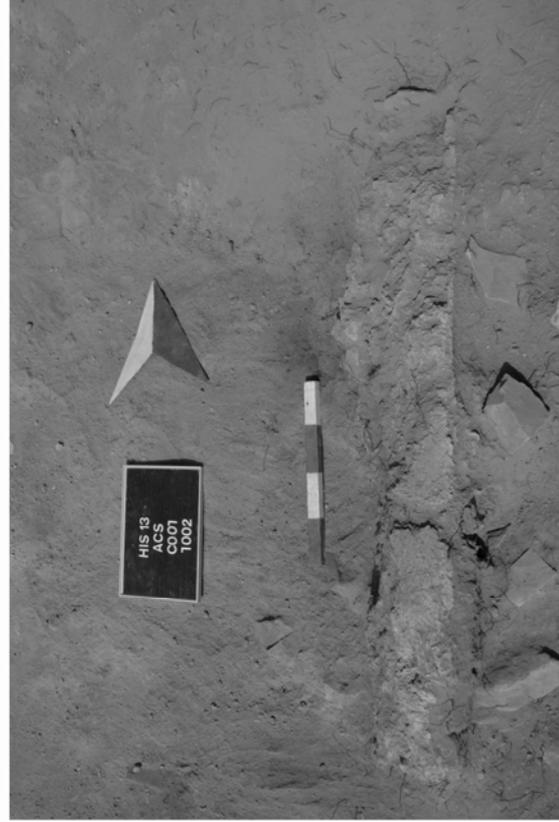


Fig. 32. Z010 (7002) and Z011 (7003).

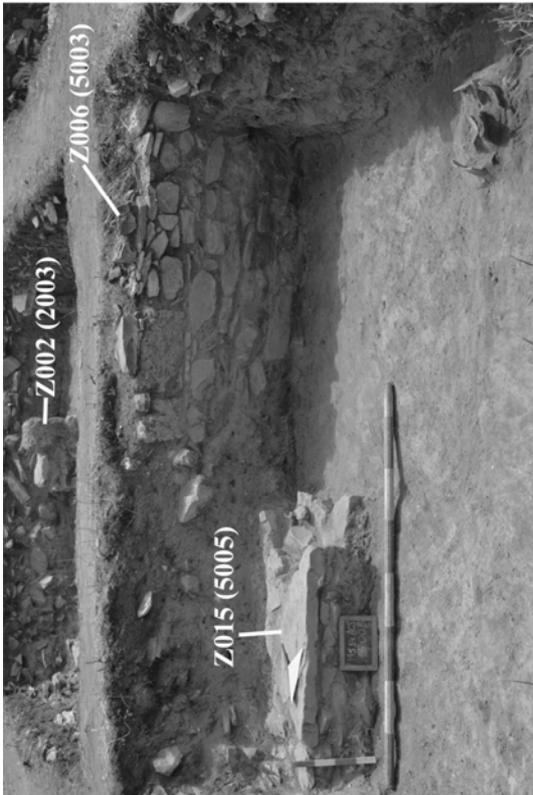


Fig. 29. Z002 (2003), Z006 (5003) and Z015 (5005).

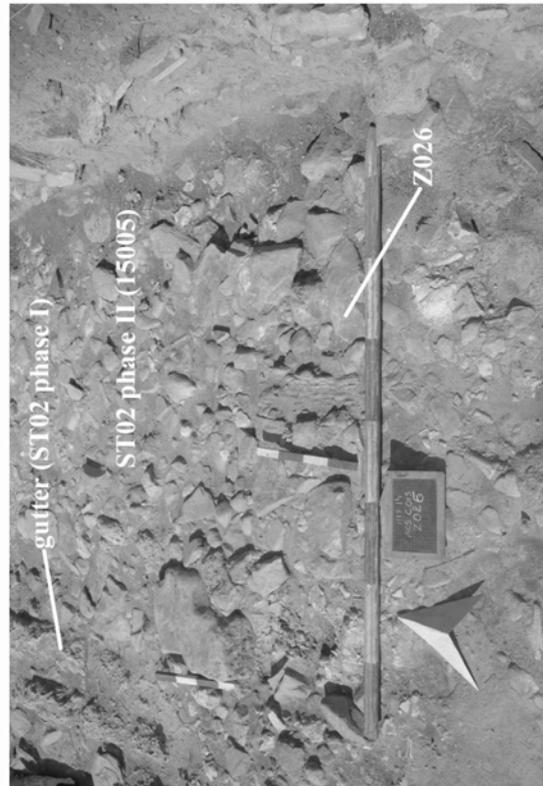


Fig. 31. Z010 (7002).

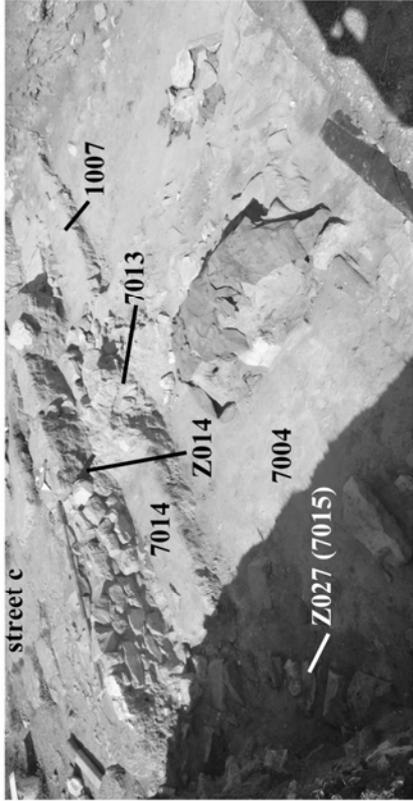


Fig. 34. Z014 (1004, 1006 and 7012) and Z027 (7015).

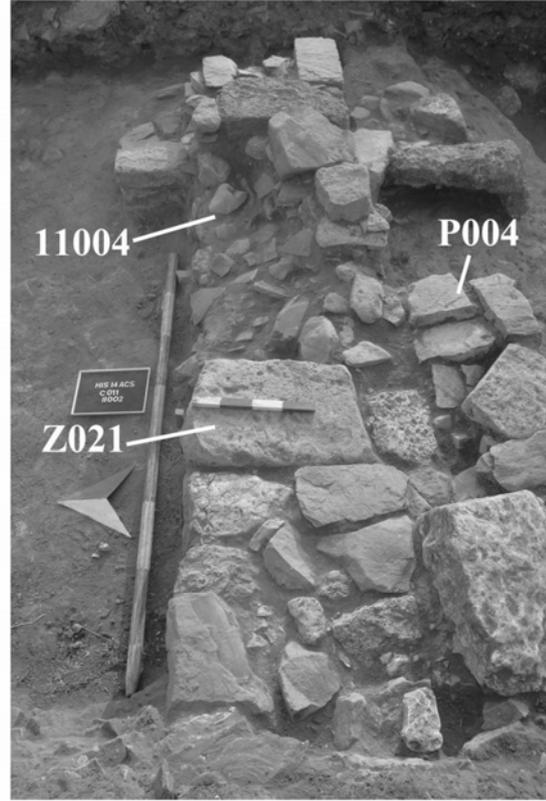


Fig. 36. Z021 (11002).

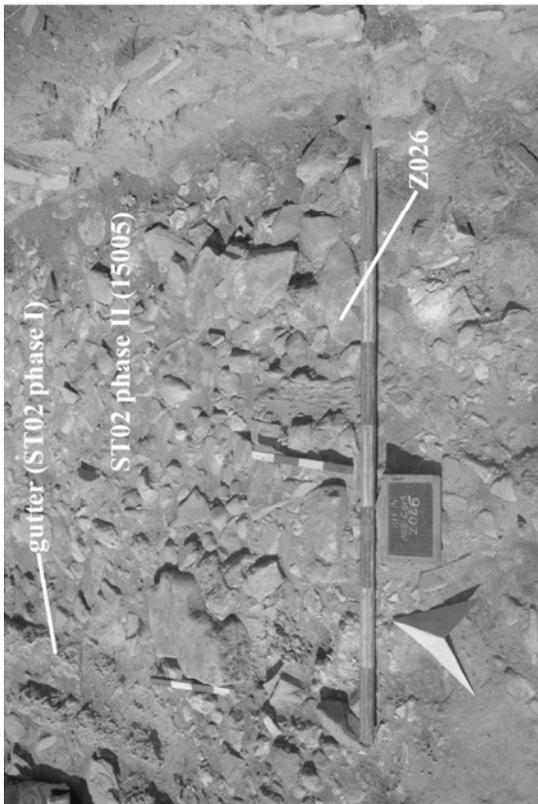


Fig. 33. Z026 (15008).



Fig. 35. Z016 (5006).

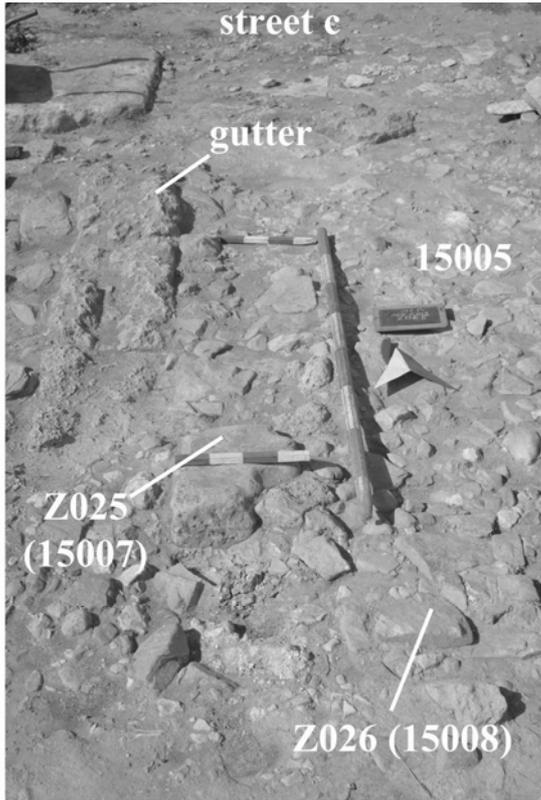


Fig. 38. Z025 (15007).

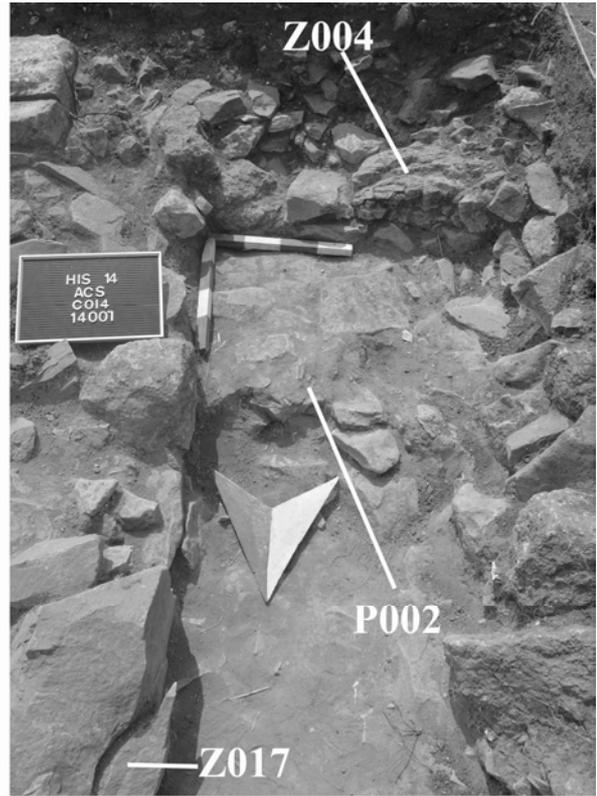


Fig. 40. P002 (14007) and Z004 (14006).

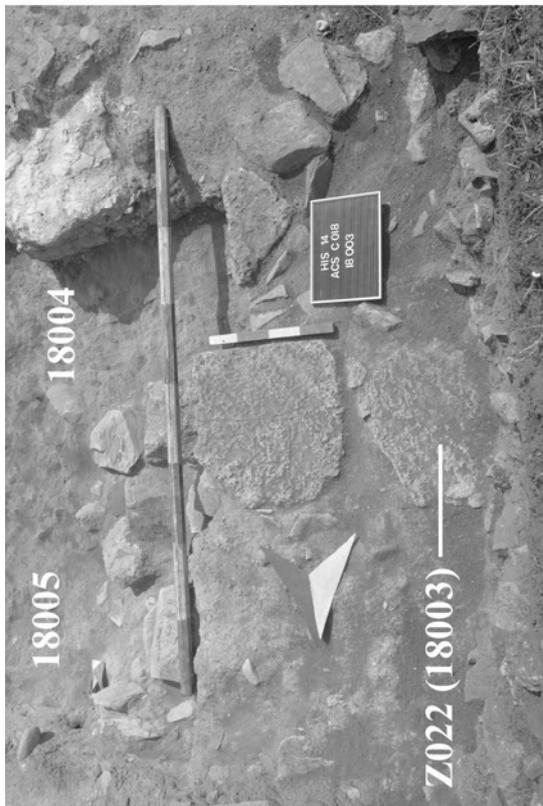


Fig. 37. Z022 (18003).

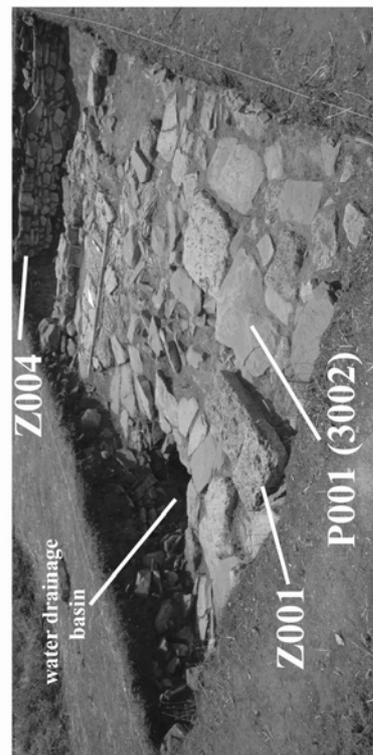


Fig. 39. P001 (3002).

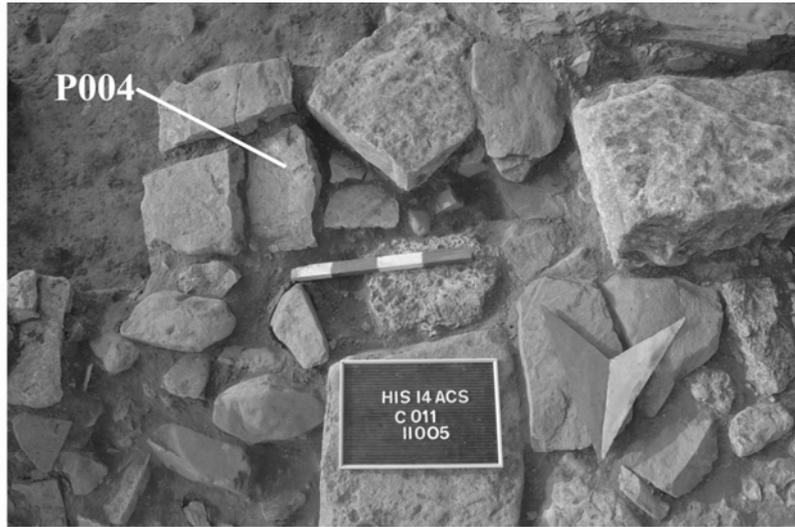


Fig. 41. P004 (11005).

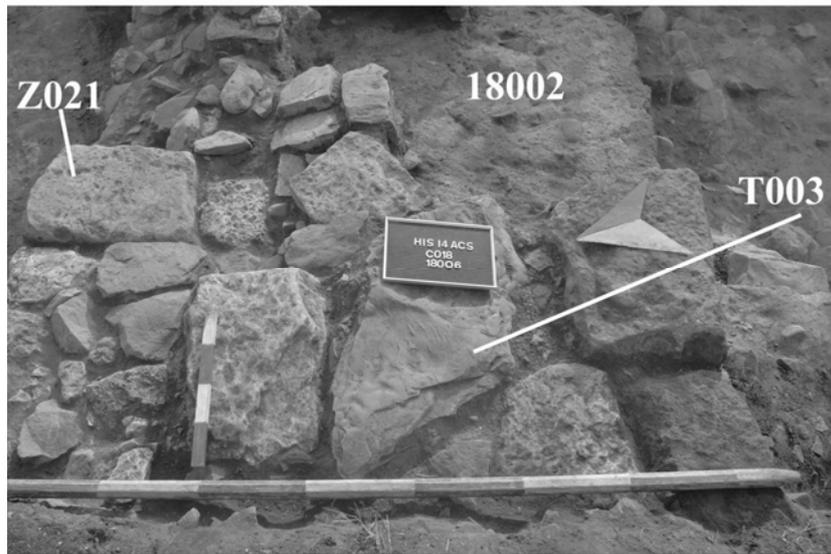


Fig. 42. T003 (18006).

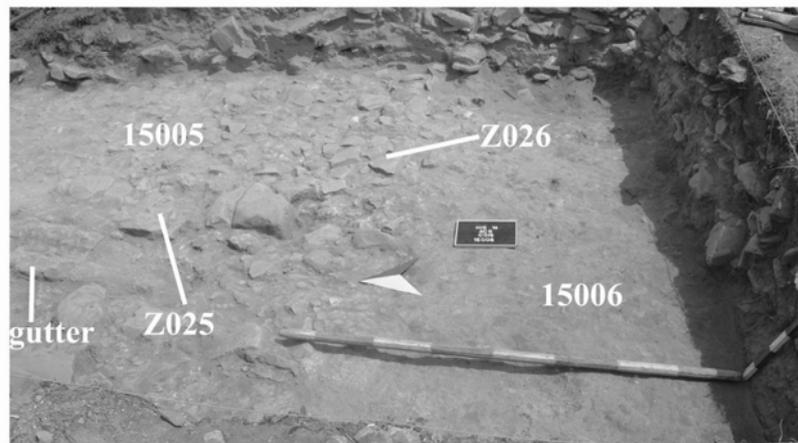


Fig. 43. ST02 phase II (15006).

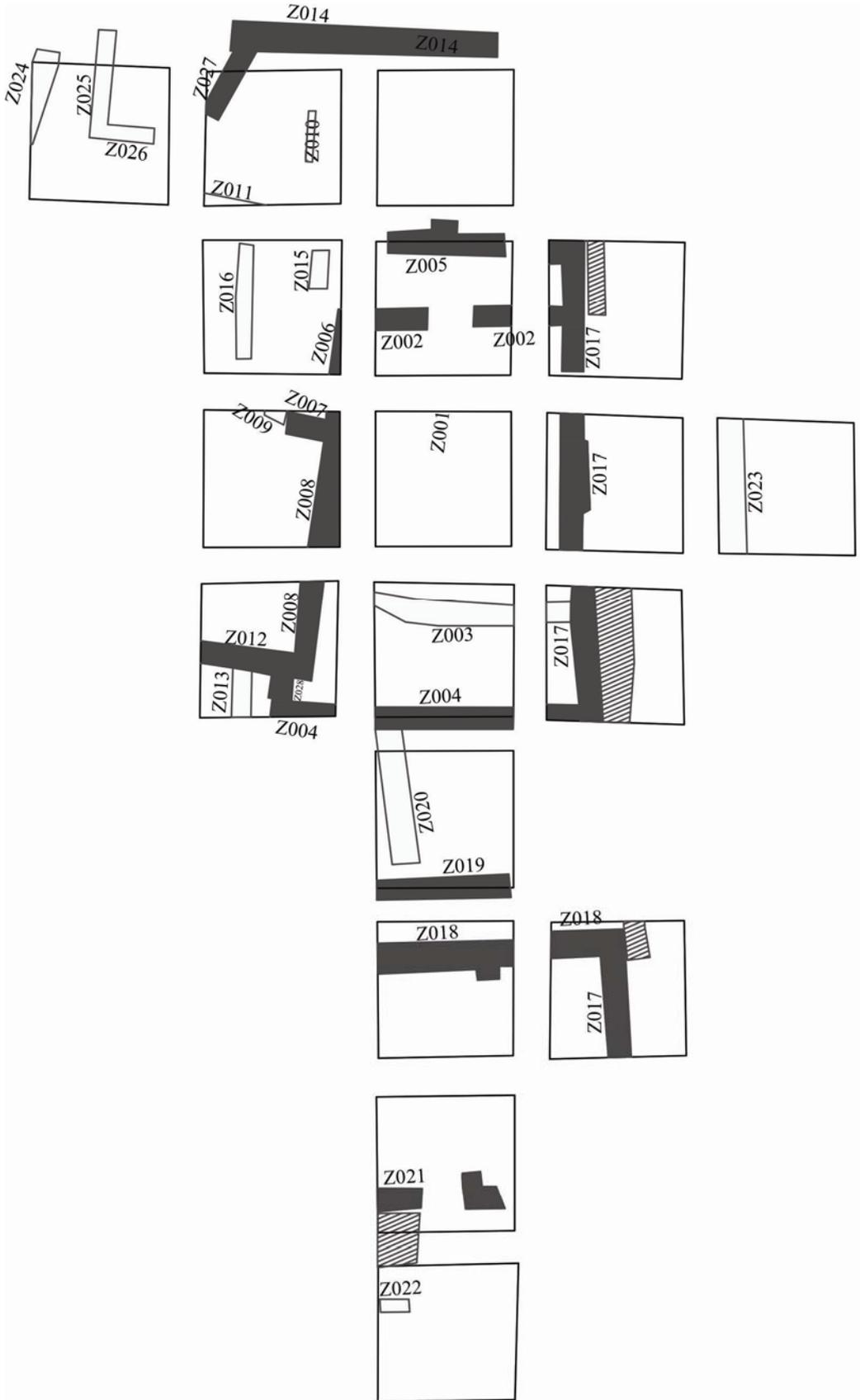


Fig. 44. CR01 phase I.

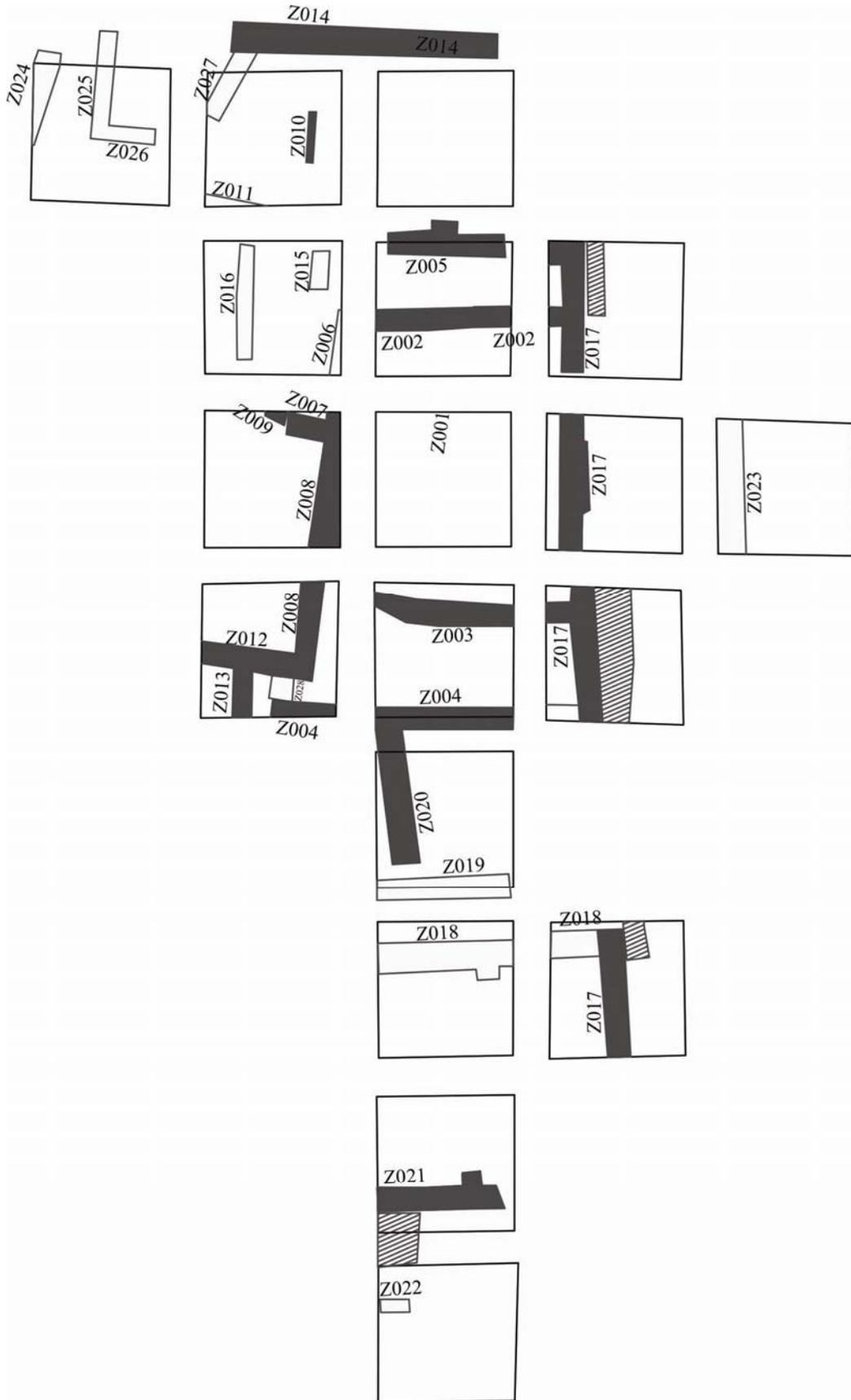


Fig. 45. CR01 phase II.

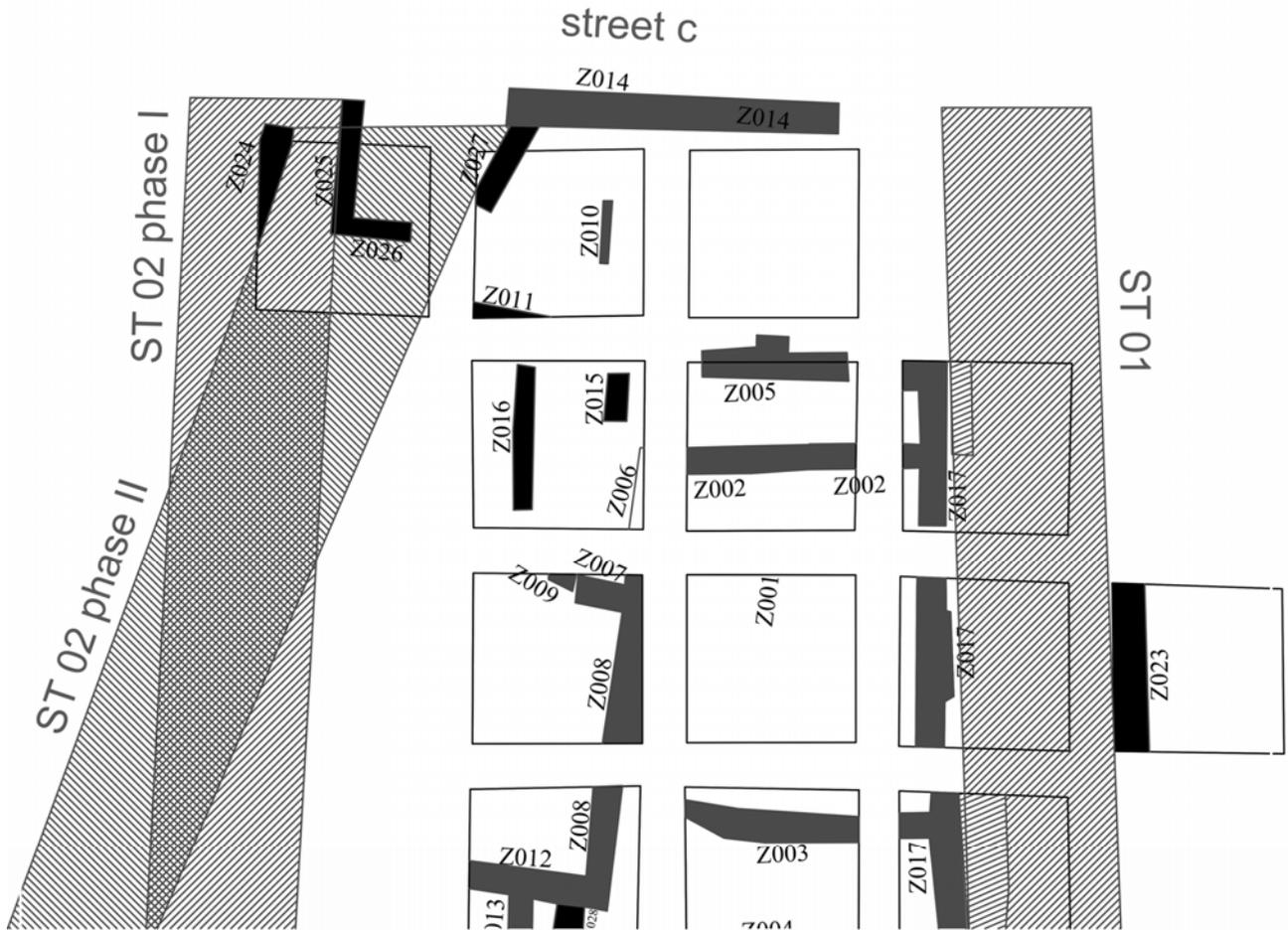


Fig. 46. ST 01, and phases I and II of ST 02.

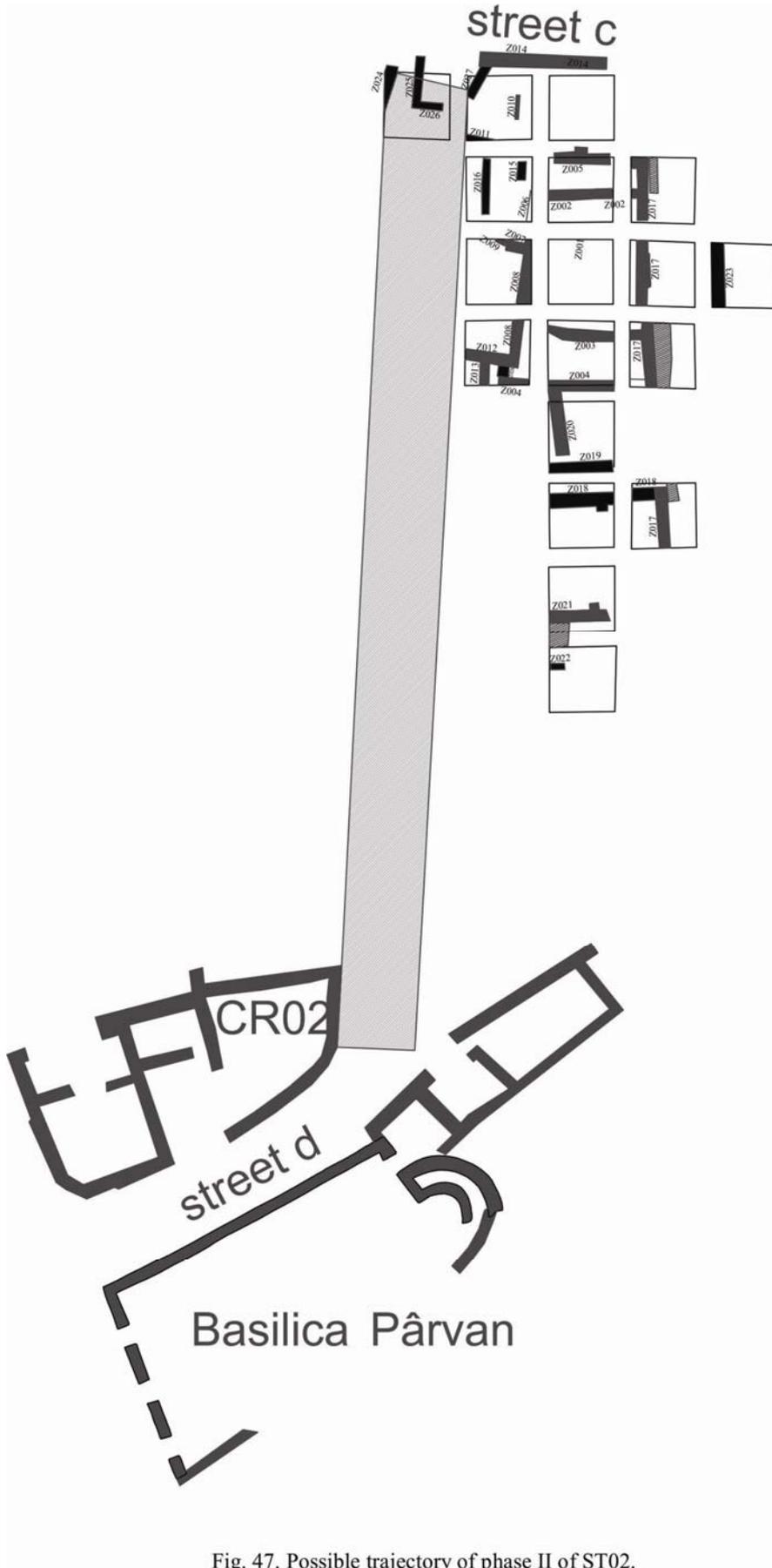


Fig. 47. Possible trajectory of phase II of ST02.