

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF ORAȘUL DE FLOCI ROMANIA

Dana Mihai



Fig. 1. The map of Romania with the placement of medieval archaeological site “Orașul de Floci”, Giurgeni, Ialomița county.



Fig. 2. The map with the placement of the “Orașul de Floci” town - Specht, 1791

1. Introductory page

Name of Organization compiling the information: The National Institute of Heritage, 16 Ienăchiță Văcărescu Str., IV, Bucharest, Romania.

Name and address of site: Orașul de Floci, Giurgeni, Ialomița county, Romania

Inventory reference number(s): Position in the List of Historical Monuments/2204. IL-I-m-A-14501

Site type: Medieval archaeological site “Orașul de Floci”

Main dates: Giurgeni commune. Archaeological site, extinct medieval town, 15th-18th centuries.

Current function: Archaeological site

2. Executive Summary: the site and its management

This town appears to have been created during the rule of the Prince of Walachia, Mircea the Elder, at the beginning of the 15th century. Laying by the mouth of Ialomița River, the establishment used to be a significant harbour and a customs house for the foreign merchants coming from Brașov (Transilvania), as indicated in historical documents. A periodical fair used to be organized in the proximity of the customs for purpose of merchandise exchange; inhabitants of surrounding villages must have taken part in

such events.

After a careful study of all texts available and also in the light of the results of the archaeological research undertaken on site for more three decades, we could understand the significance of this medieval town, its appearance, the locals occupations, different aspects concerning the commercial life, the social position of the town's inhabitants, political events, as to find out the way of the life style of the inhabitants of this medieval town. The development of some important political and military events in the history of Walachia province between the 16th and 18th centuries included the Orașul de Floci located on the border of the province - a fact which had negative consequences upon the socio-economic evolution of the settlement during its historical existence. A brief review of events will help us understand the emergence of a process of slow regress of the town, which resulted into its disappearance during the last decades of the 18th century.

The results of the intense archaeological research carried out on this site are reflected by the approx. 200 adobe civil dwellings built on a structure of wooden beams and pillars, sometimes covered in reef or in gutter tiles; one dwelling erected on a stone foundation dating from the second half of 16th century, 4

dwelling built on cellar, a large foundation of a civil construction, 3 foundations of churches, 5 necropolis, 6 workshops where animal bones used to be processed in order to obtain various objects, such as buttons, buckles, knife handles, arrow points, ceramics, ornaments.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Although there have been several attempts to present the archaeological site, they have never been properly completed. The restoration projects were strictly limited to the construction of car parking on the national road and setting of the statue of Michael the Brave (Mihai Viteazul).

The restoration of the church wall no. 1 has never been considered or the problem has been dismissed on grounds of the lack of supervision for the archaeological site.

Therefore, the general appearance of the site has been neglected and its current condition is very poor. It is a priority and a matter of emergency to resume consolidation - conservation - restoration works, otherwise the site faces the major risk of destruction of most of its investigated and non-investigated areas.

After 1990 there has not been any coherent programme meant to present the site, in spite of its obvious potential. The only works performed have been maintenance (grass trimming, cleaning), yet even these actions have been done on very limited funds. New guide posts have been installed on the tourist route, yet they are not satisfactory from a neither aesthetical, nor functional point of view. There is no archaeological base, though the site has been investigated for 35 years, and supervision of this major archaeological site, so important for the medieval history of Romania, is inadequate.

There is no museum on the site.

The proposed project will have as a result the radical improvement of the presentation of the archaeological site, implementation of a management plan and a significant increase of public awareness with respect to this medieval site.

The preliminary intentions for the future management of the monument/site are to transform it into a pilot-area for the training of archaeologists specialized in investigation of urban environments.

3. Administrative Information

3.1 Responsible authorities

Scientific responsibility: Ph. D. Anca

Păunescu, the National Museum of History, Romania

In charge with administration of the funds and overseeing of the works: the National Institute for Historical Monuments

National - Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, National History Museum of Romania

Regional - the County Museum, Ialomița - Slobozia

Local - Townhall of Giurgeni commune, Ialomița County

3.2 Site - name and address

Floci Town, com. Giurgeni, Ialomița County, Romania

3.3 Geographic details

Coordinates - longitude and latitude Longitude = 27° 50 y latitude = 44°5fJ

3.4 Monument Type

Archaeological site Function: medieval settlement

Existence of a combination of characteristics - architectural and archaeological research is easy to conduct as no contemporary settlement has been constructed. It is the only medieval archaeological site which could allow reconstruction of the former image of a medieval commercial town and urban organization. Geophysical studies undertaken during several years of research have indicated the possibility of a long-term strategy of archaeological research.

Also, the possibility of investigation carried out on different types of materials, their historic dating, domestic glazed ceramics, the funerary rites and rituals, and the identification of different



Fig. 3. The plaque project. Representatives of the local authorities and from the Council of Europe. Archaeological site Giurgeni, Ialomița county

plans of religious edifices make the site a very important one.

3.5 **Property**

- Type of property: public domain of the state
- Function, degree of occupation: archaeological site
- Current use of the location: archaeological site

3.6 **Statutory protection / Constraints**

- level/degree of protection or constraints limiting possible actions
- the need to obtain official approvals and authorizations for performance of works
- Protected by Governmental Ordinance. no. 43 on protection of the national archaeological heritage, Law 422/2001 on the protection of historical monuments.
- all restoration works may be performed on condition of obtaining the approval of the National Commission for the Historic Monuments (Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs).
- all construction works may be performed on condition to obtain a building permit from the Constanța City Hall.

4. **Summary of current state of affairs**

Elements indicated in the PIL are repeated, in further details or under a review of the initial evaluation.

- ❖ The potential priority level is High level.
- ❖ Primary conservation of the discoveries.
- ❖ Development and continuation of important archaeological researches.
- ❖ Installation of signposts for the archaeological site, different sectors
- ❖ Cultural tourism Cultural routes including site tours in Hârșova, Capidava,

4.1 **Evaluation of the physical status** - from worse to better

Fair, with some structures claiming urgent interventions

4.2 **Risk evaluation** - from A level to H level

Permanent risks facing the sites are those caused by invasive farming methods

4.3 **Priority of intervention** - High

5. **Existing Information**

5.1 **Documentary sources**

- Availability of reports, drawings, photos, videos, publications
- Accessibility, location, applicability and quality of documents
- The main archive is held by the National

Museum of History, Bucharest. Accessibility is insured by:

- The District Museum Ialomița - Slobozia
- The Low Danube Museum - Călărași, Călărași county

5.2 **References**

Information available in publications is mostly in the form of the archaeological reports, as well as articles in specialized literature and magazines.

Ioan Bogdan, *Documente privitoare la relațiile Țării Românești cu Brașovul și cu Țara Ungurească în sec. XV și XVI*, vol. I, Bucharest, 1905 *Documente privind istoria României*, B, Țara Românească *Documenta Romaniae Historica*, B, Țara Românească, vol. I-XXV,

M. Popescu Spineni, *România în izvoarele geografice și cartografice. (Din antichitate până în pragul veacului nostru*, Bucharest, 1978

The main discoveries have been published in the volumes Archaeological Investigations, III-XI, 1979-2000. Bucharest

A. Păunescu, *Orașul de Floci. Un oraș dispărut din Muntenia medievală, (Scurtă monografie istorico-arheologică)* Târgoviște, 2005.

D. M. Iliescu, *Cetatea de Floci. (Încercare de monografie)*, Bucharest, 1930 I. Provianu, *Monografia Orașului de Floci*, Călărași, 1897

Documentation and bibliographic references:

<http://www.cimec.ro/Arheologie/orasuldefloci/index.html>

<http://www.cimec.ro/Arheologie/cronicaCA2005/cd//index.html>

<http://www.cimec.ro/Arheologie/cronicaCA2004/cd//index.html>

<http://www.cimec.ro/Arheologie/cronicaCA2002/cd//index.html>

5.3 **Works performed**

Fit-out works for installation of a guide-post for the archaeological site

5.4 **Projects in progress**

Indication of projects under conception: N/A

5.5 **Projects developed**

Indication of the current status of the projects developed: N/A

6. **Purposes of the PTA**

6.1 **Extent/Nature of the assessment**

The Team

- Dana Mihai, PhD, Archaeologist, Scientific Director of the National Institute

- for Historical Monuments, Expert
- Anca Păunescu, researcher, National Museum of History, Bucharest, PhD, Archaeologist, Expert
- Irina Ene, Archaeologist, National Museum of History, Bucharest, specialist

Time spent: 14 Days

Experience of the persons involved:

The specialists are professionals with experience in the field, who have attended advanced specialty courses in the country and abroad. They are the authors of several programs and projects on conservation, restoration, consolidation and enhancement, rehabilitation and tourist development of historical monuments.

It is essential to form multi-disciplinary teams for assessment of the monuments and the archaeological site, for development of a coherent management plan. The teams must be made up of archaeologists, architects, geo-physicists, topographic engineers who could together draft the strategy proposed for the objectives mentioned above. The absence of coherent management plans for the archaeological sites makes it necessary to form a partnership with international experts.

The Romanian experts are experienced, but there can be international collaboration with respect to certain monuments

Duration of the PTA elaboration phase: 1 month

6.2 *Limitations of the study*

There have been no difficulties in accessing the necessary data, however documents are still scattered among the three museums: Slobozia, Călărași and the National History Museum of Romania.

7. The PTA

7.1 *Generalities: Form, Function and Evolution*

7.1.1. *Brief description of the site*

The archaeological research conducted in the medieval town - Orașul de Floci - represents a significant contribution to our knowledge on the urban environment in the Romanian Province (Țara Românească). The town was built in the mid 15th c. at the North-East border of the upland state, at the point where the Ialomița River flows into the Danube, where, from ancient times, there was a point of shallow river depth for the merchant road from Transylvania to the mouth of the Danube and the Black Sea coast. During the 16th-17th c., the urban settlement was among

the first commercial towns in the Romanian Kingdom.

The town went through a slow regression process mainly caused by political and economical causes which started to become apparent after the second half of the 17th c. By the end of the 17th c., the town had been completely deserted.

The location of the deserted centre of the former urban settlement was identified at the end of the 19th c. At that moment the ruins of two church walls were still preserved. In the town centre, turned into a farming area, discoveries of light arms, copper or ceramic vases, jewelry, coins, stones, and bricks were found bound in mortar from former buildings.

The site area covers approx. 76 ha. according to the cadastral plans and the topographic survey. Since 1992 the area has been declared an archaeological site and excepted from the agricultural exploitation regime. The site includes raised areas of irregular shapes, where archaeological remains are concentrated. Such areas are separated by a wide valley, the former bed of the Ialomița River, as well as by shallower valleys which are tributaries of the river. Such configuration of the land justifies the open appearance, non-fortified of the former town, different from the point of view of its evolution in the medieval urban space in the Romanian provinces. The site retains only one of the medieval buildings, a fragment of a northern wall of a church erected between the 15th-16th centuries.

The special importance of that archaeological site was also acknowledged in the latest regulation on priority archaeological sites, Law 463/2003, by which the above-mentioned site was declared an archaeological site of priority.

7.1.2 *Historical background*

Among the towns erected after creation of the medieval state “Țara Românească”, at the beginning of the 15th c, there was also the Orașul de Floci. The town was located at the Eastern border of the state, at the place where the Ialomița River flowed into the Danube, as indicated in the medieval maps. At that place there was an important crossing spot, with a customs office operated by clerks, insuring passage towards Dobrogea and farther on, to the Black Sea port.

The main factor which contributed to the development of the settlement was economic, the point where the merchant road came from

Transilvania through Braşov to the Danube.

For the goods transported by foreign merchants through the place by the Danube they used to pay tolls. Initially, close to the customs office, there used to be a regular fair for exchange of different products, where the inhabitants of neighboring settlements would take part. During the first half of the 15th c., the fair was turned into a town. Fish was the main merchandise offered by local merchants enjoying princely privileges.

That fact is also attested by the symbol engraved on the town seal: a fish in a vertical position surrounded by four stars.

The town was led by a local provost and 12 council members, elected every year from among wealthy locals. Besides such representatives of urban authority, there were also the representatives of the central authority: masters, county captains, county guardians or the servants who used to watch the dome's property. From an administrative point of view, during the second half of the 17th c., the town became capital of the historic Ialomiţa county and the administrative residence of the county guardian, as well as the headquarters of the proximity captaincy which used to insure protection of the state borders. A team of courtiers (reds) and riders was based in the town for local protection. The captain of the team was also county guardian.

Just like in other medieval towns, the local community was made of squires, merchants, craftsmen and freemen.

The political and military events occurring in the history of the Romanian state in the 15th - 17th c., also affected the Oraşul de Floci, with negative repercussions on the economic and social life of the settlement. An analysis of such aspects explains, in part, the slow regression of the town which led to its disappearance in the last decades of the 18th. The memory of the Oraşul de Floci was somehow preserved in the administrative organization of the county in certain regions (plăşi). After certain modifications to the administrative organization in 1831, the memory of a medieval town at the Eastern border of the Romanian province disappeared completely.

The centre of the abandoned town was turned into a farming land. We have a description of the ruins of the medieval town dating from the end of the 19th c. It speaks of the ruins of two churches and indicates the existence of remains of brickwork, clay or copper houses or other artifacts. The only ruin which still stands nowadays is a fragment of the northern wall of

church no. 1, investigated, the planimetry of which has been reconstituted from archaeological investigations.

From the journey which was undertaken before commencement of the systematic archaeological research, in 1975, it was established that the former town's traces covered an area of approx. 80 ha. Nowadays, that area is limited, to the North, West and South, by long, deep channels, dug to irrigate the rice paddies in the neighbour areas. To the east it is crossed by the national road Bucureşti - Constanţa.

The archaeological investigation started in 1975 has been continuously carried out until present days, having the advantage that no later construction was superposed on the hearth of the former town.

The archaeological investigation undertaken in the period 1975-1990 had a salvaging character, due to the fact that the land was permanently affected by farming activities. After 1991, the land was declared archaeological site under custody of the Local Hall of Giurgeni commune, Ialomiţa County.

During the 30 years of archaeological excavations, there have been important discoveries which indicate that the town was open, with no fortifications, while plot-planning location of dwellings, workshops and churches surrounded by cemeteries determined by the layout of the land, grouped on the higher areas, separated by the former bed of Ialomiţa river and its tributaries.

7.2 Importance

This is one of the few medieval archaeological sites which enjoy the unique chance of not having any contemporary settlement on it, which makes it easy to perform archaeological research, a detailed investigation of its urban characteristic.

The complex, multidisciplinary investigation of the urban settlement contributes to the knowledge and evolution of the urban habitat in the Romanian province, a place where there are still many unknown features.

The fact that the history of the town covers the 14th -17th centuries could also contribute to analysis and dating of the archaeological materials uncovered, local and imported ceramics, jewelry, coins, funerary rites and rituals, unique architectural plans of medieval religious and commercial edifices, aspects concerning the construction techniques and materials used, etc.

Importance for the community

The community is very closely connected



Fig. 4. Church no .1. Aerial view



Fig. 5. Church no.2. Aerial view

to the site, as; apart from agriculture it constitutes one of the few sources of revenue.

7.2.1. *Degree of importance*

Category of importance: high Next to the historical-documentary investigation, archaeological research on the site has a great relevance for establishing facts concerning evolution of the urban space of medieval towns in the Romanian Province.

- The results obtained contributed to the clarification of the factors significant for the urbanization process
- Identification of chronology of pre-urban and urban stages of some town areas, interdependence village-town,
- Characteristics of civilian architecture or monuments of worship,
- Street planning, plot-planning extension of the inhabited areas by opening of secondary squares.

7.2.2 *Checklist of categories, which may be considered in the evaluation*

- Historical - High
- Artistic/Aesthetic - Low
- Religious/Spiritual - Medium
- Symbolic/Identity - Medium
- Scientific/Research - High
- Social/Civic - Medium
- Natural - Medium
- Economic - Low
- Category of significance - National importance.

7.3. *Evaluation under vulnerability/Risk*

In recent years the site has been affected by the human factors which have made the situation worse. The most important threat remains agriculture, i.e. farming of the land on which the archaeological site lies.

The integrity of the archaeological site is threatened by farming, annual work on the land, and mechanization. Unfortunately, the lack of a proper demarcation and protection of the archaeological site has led to pollution of the environment, mainly due to the proximity of the national road and disposal of a lot of waste.

Another factor which represents a threat to the archaeological site is the lack of surveillance and maintenance, which leads to acts of vandalism and environmental pollution.

Attempts have been made to remove the foundations of church no. 1 for use by locals.

With respect to pollution, the proximity of the national road from Bucharest to Constanța leads to a lot of waste being left on the site by visitors.

Lack of planning measures:

Isolated diggings have been practiced as well, also due to the fact that before 1989 access to the site was restricted; now several elevations of the ground (grinds) are defined the exhaustive research of which is a priority. There have never been temporary enclosures; the only method applied was covering the finds in soil to protect them.

Impact of social actions

There have been instances of vandalism, for example church no. 1 where people tried to remove stones from their foundations. Also, attempts have been made to pull down the wall.

Before 1989, there was a path leading to church no. 1, which was totally destroyed afterwards.

Archaeological excavations as a detrimental factor
Inappropriate interventions as a detrimental factor

Unqualified personnel
obsolete methodology
Incompatible materials

Undocumented reconstruction disguised as restoration

Irreversible and incorrect reconstructions from an ethical point of view

No proper maintenance of the site

Absence of protection, guarding services and demarcation of the archaeological site, as well as its considerable size - approx. 80 ha - render it impossible to provide proper maintenance services of the location, especially considering the excessive vegetation, accumulation of waste, etc.

Lack of availability of administration and an appropriate legal framework

Local authorities have not been involved in protection of the site; for two years excessive farming of the land has resulted in destruction of the archaeological levels.

From a legislative point of view, the above-mentioned site is classified under the A value-group, i.e. site of national and international interest, and the second legal provision which underlines its particular importance, is the fact that it has been declared an archaeological site of priority.

The protection area for the site has not been clearly established.

Also, the site has not been introduced in the county tourist tours, although there are other archaeological sites in the county which could be visited, and the closest ones are very popular: Hârșova, Capidava, Histria, etc, together with the historical monuments in the region which could attract a lot of tourists.

Function
Function improper Contradictory usage
Resources
Lack of funding for maintenance and repairs.

7.4. **Technical condition.** Current physical condition

7.4.1. *Church No. 1* has stone foundations and the elevation is made of bricks, with large splashing of mortar. Between them are traces of wooden bars, covered in tiling. (fig. 4)

The church is rectangular, with one aisle only, and consisting of altar, nave and narthex. The altar apse is of a semi-oval shape, while the narthex was rectangular. The first stage was built at the end of the 15th c. and beginning of the 16th. During the second stage, the church has been totally rebuilt in brick, on the former stone foundation, adding afterwards a porch which would extend the building by 4 m. On the south side of the narthex there were inlaid bricks set on the width. The church did not have a spire, nor a belfry, since there was no supporting element for such additions. The only element preserved out of the elevation of that church is the narthex wall, more than 3 m high and approx. 2.5 m wide, which is not consolidated, renovated and has never been restored. The foundations of the building are covered in soil.

7.4.2. *Church No. 2*

The second monument was discovered approx. 300 m north-west from the first church, on the left bank of the old bed of Ialomița River. The building is built in a triconch plan, 18 x 11 m in size. The nave is in a rectangular shape and separated from the narthex by a thick wall, of 0.70 m. Foundations are partially preserved and covered in soil. (fig. 5)

The stone-foundation dwelling

7.4.3. *The stone-foundation dwelling*

Like many medieval towns, dwellings would be adapted to the climate conditions and the building materials available in the area. For the construction of over above-the-ground 150 dwellings in the Orașul de Floci, partially investigated or fully uncovered, during the successive campaigns they would use especially wood, adobe and, very rarely, stone available in the area. Above ground dwellings are of a rectangular plan, their sizes 7 x 4.50 m, divided into two rooms.

The above-the-ground dwelling with stone foundation is unique among the dwellings discovered in the central area of the town. The dwelling was divided in two rooms, one with

stone block foundations, the second with broken stone foundation, fashioned with light mortar. The building had brick walls and in the firsts room was discovered a stove, dated in the second half of the 16th c. Proximity of the dwelling to the church generated the hypothesis of a princely dwelling or manor house. Archaeological investigations resulted into discovery of a dwelling above ground with a cellar, of 8.25 x 5.20 m in size, which functioned between the 16th - 17th centuries. The imprint of the foundations is well preserved and covered in soil.

7.4.4. *The buttressed edifice*

The foundations of which have been uncovered in the church no. 1 area (grind 6) used to have a rectangular plan of great sizes: 14.50 x 7.15 m. The walls were 0.70-0.80 m thick and wrought in brick and mortar, braced with 8 buttresses arrayed at the corners and on the long sides, at even distances. The archaeological inventory indicates the existence and operation of that edifice in the second half of the 17th c. and the following century. The edifice found in the Floci Town could have been used as a storage place for merchandise or a cereal barn.

7.5. **Outline summary of required repairs**

Levels and types and interventions Emergency works

1. Entrenchment and restoration of churches Nos. 1 and 2.
2. Emergency conservation and restoration of the edifice with buttresses, as well as of the stone-foundation dwelling at the foundation level.
3. Demarcation and enclosure of the archaeological site, as well as insurance of protection services for the site

Proposals on the required repairs

It is absolutely necessary to establish visitor access to the site, with the most visible and important objectives as priorities, as well as to create an access-system to the site, paths, descent of the treading level, etc. The main activities would be the following:

1. Uncovering of the foundations of churches no. 1 and 2, their restoration at the foundation level, as well as addition of several layers of the elevation.
2. Uncovering and restoration of the buttressed constructions and of the stone-foundation dwelling.

7.6. **Conservation/rehabilitation policy and proposals**

The conservation policy for the archaeo-

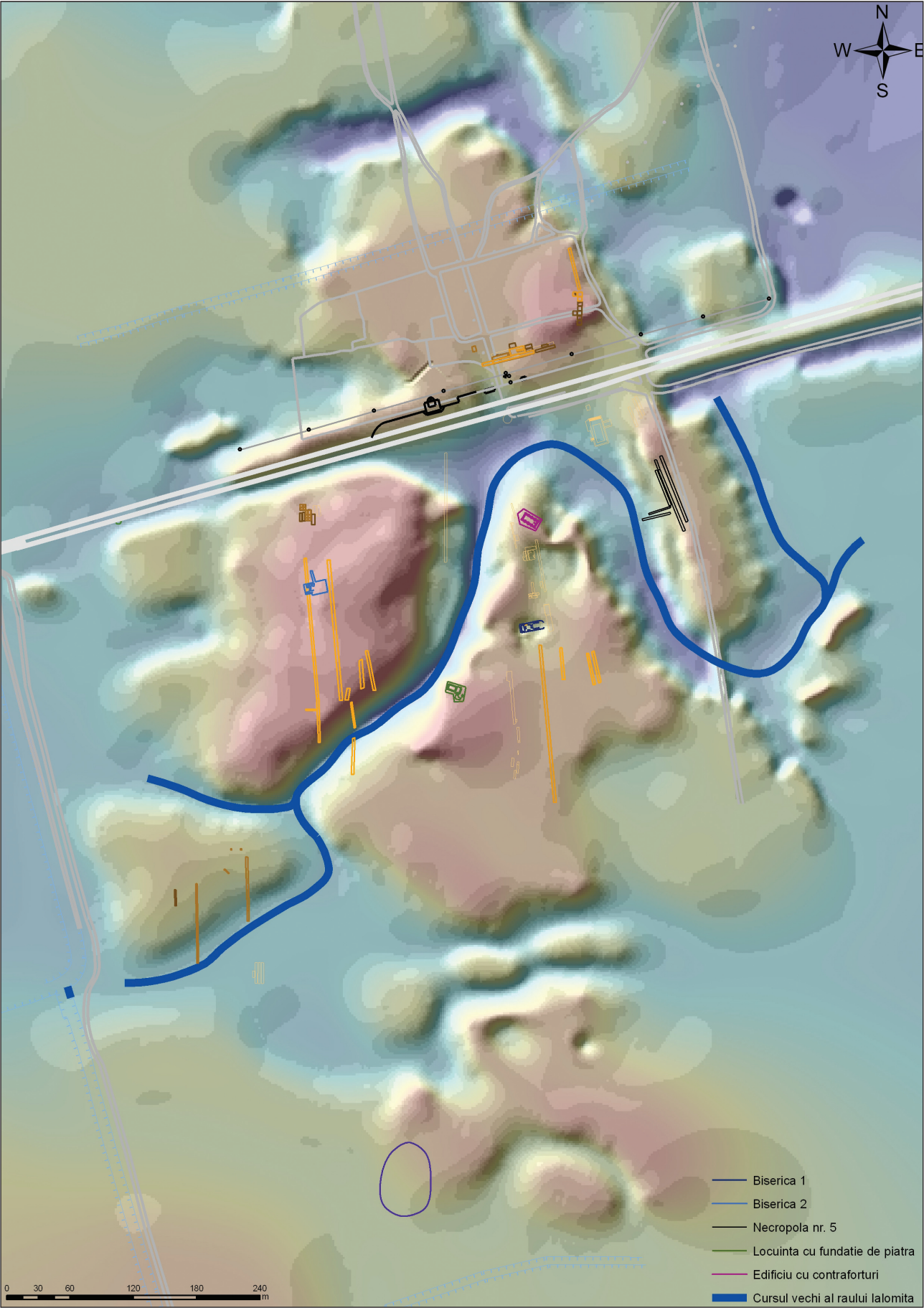


Fig. 6. 3D reconstruction. Medieval town Orașul de Floci

logical site could be summarized as annual primary conservation of the buildings which carry such interventions, brick foundations, stone, etc, followed by restoration and presentation to reach the final target creation of an archaeological park.

7.6.1 *Presentation of the view on the monument/site in terms of sustainable development.*

Proposal concerning future management to insure continuity and viability of the monument/site.

The location of the archaeological site close to the national road could present an important tourist attraction and, consequently, could give rise to several employment opportunities alongside with creation of tours, as well as revival of old traditional crafts in the area, cribwork, twines and fishing nets.

Action plan

Signaling of the archaeological site in all visible places, by guide posts translated into a minimum two foreign languages

1. Creation of new employment opportunities by opening small gift shops which would sell traditional products for the area.
2. Demarcation and insurance of permanent protection services for the site.

7.6.2 *Conservation philosophy*

Proposals, purpose, intentions; authenticity

of materials, structure, etc shall be presented. The intention of the project is rehabilitation in terms of sustainable development.

Description of the entire structure (summary).

The few objectives pointed out for restoration purposes are public and religious edifices which are preserved at the foundation level, except for one wall, of the church no. 1, which is still preserved in elevation. Buildings are generally laid on stone foundations, with brick walls (religious edifices).

7.6.3. *Level of interventions*

a. Description/constraints

Constraints refer to limited financial possibilities, lack of cooperation of local authorities, lack of a viable management for protection and restoration of the objectives.

Causes for decay of the current structures - lack of a coherent restoration plan, of permanent guarding services of the site. Though the primary conservation of such objectives has been attempted several times, lack of protection and, especially, of permanent guarding of the site is the main reason why its presentation could not be achieved.

b. Character/Nature of proposed intervention. The type of intervention is primary conservation and restoration.



Fig. 7. 3D reconstruction. Medieval town Oraşul de Floci

c. Priority of intervention. Repair of the wall at church No. 1

1. Uncovering, completion and restoration of the foundations at churches No. 1 and 2
2. Uncovering, completion and restoration of the buttressed- edifice
3. Uncovering, completion and restoration of the stone - foundation dwelling.

No	Indicative costs		Period
	Action	Amount in EUR	
1	Guide posts and signaling	15.000	2007
2	Studies - magnetometers and ground resistance	20.000	2006 - 2007
3	GIS for gathering the information on different sectors, the years 1975-2005	25..000	2006
4	Uncovering, completion, entrenchment and restoration of wall at church No. 1	40.000	2008 - 2009
5	Uncovering, completion, entrenchment and restoration of foundation at church No. 2	40.000	2009
6.	The buttressed construction, full uncovering of foundations.	40.000	2009
7	Reconstruction of the edifice and addition of a few layers of the elevation	40.000	2010

B. TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION -

Archaeological sites

1. Characteristics of the region/the environment

This town appears to have been created during the rule of the Prince of Walachia, Mircea the Elder, at the beginning of the 15th century. Lying by the mouth of Ialomița River, the establishment used to be a significant harbor and a customs house for the foreign merchants coming from Brașov (Transilvania), as indicated in historical documents. An occasional fair used to be organized in the proximity of the customs for purpose of merchandise exchange; inhabitants of surrounding villages must have taken part in such events. (fig. 2)

This site is very accessible, near to the national road to Constanța County.

On the other hand, in the region there are some important archaeological sites like Hârșova, medieval fortress, Capidava, etc.

The site has no protection.

2. The site

Borders, limits, surrounding, guarding and security

Security is one of the most important objectives - there is no surveillance and enclosure to protect the site.

Accessibility to the site is very good, as it is close to the national road; however the absence of any tourist guide posts makes it unattractive.

Accessibility, circulation inside the site (access of persons with disabilities)

Excavated areas (%), condition of the areas.

Due to the configuration of the land, i.e. risk of flooding and to the creation of the 12 grinds of the ground, approx. 10% of the total area of 80 ha. has been excavated.

Indications concerning non-excavated monuments (areas not investigated containing archaeological remains)

Protection systems for the site - protected areas (covered, etc.)

3. Monuments

4. Public facilities / presentation of the site

Access by vehicle, parking

Access to the archaeological site can be achieved very easily, as it is located very close to the national road from Bucharest to Constanța, therefore it is heavily trafficked, and also there is a parking already constructed.

Unfortunately, except for one guide post and the wall from church No. 1, there is no archaeological base, nor a museum which could present the archaeological site.

Signing of the site has been done by a recent guide post which presents the history of the site together with some important information, only in Romanian.

Tourist centre and facilities - do not exist

Exhibits and educational areas, museum - do not exist.

Circulation (roads, paths, observation areas)

7.6.4 Preliminary proposals on functionality

Restoration as an archaeological site.

7.6.5. Opportunities regarding social use and sustainable development

- creation of employment opportunities could be achieved when the archaeological base is created, permanent surveillance insured, as well as development of a site museum.

- also, considering the above-mentioned objectives, the site would be integrated into cultural circuits which could be easily developed, under due consideration the neighboring sites: the medieval fortress at Hârșova, the Roman - Byzantine fortress at Capidava, the Greek fort at Histria

7.6.6. General assessment of intervention priorities

(Repairs, conservation, restoration and rehabilitation)

7.6.7. *Public access*

Access of public shall be controlled and regulated in order to ensure correct use of the site.

The conservation and the preservation of the site shall bring great profit to the community by its integration into the national and international cultural tourism circuits.

7.6.8 *Other benefits*

The rehabilitation of the archaeological site could be a part of a special research programme of the medieval cultural itineraries.

7.7. *Finance*

7.7.1. *Assessment of possibilities for attracting investments:* Not applicable.

7.7.2 *Assessment of possibilities for recovering investments:* Not applicable.

7.7.3 *Have you already tried to raise funds for this site or monument?* No.

7.7.4. *Have you already received funds for this site or monument?* No.

7.8. *Management*

Analysis of the current situation constitutes the starting point for the project management planning process. Such an undertaking, i.e. project management, has never been applied so far on the site, due to the more and more serious situation concerning human and natural factors with n influence on the site. The problem of a coherent management has been raised, which could offer the expected scientific results, yet, on the other hand that could attract visitors to the site.

INSTITUTIONAL ORGANISATION AND RESPONSABILITIES - NATIONAL OR LOCAL

- National, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

- The National History Museum of Romania The County Museum in Slobozia

- Local Institutional philosophy. Administration - who is in charge, who is competent, who is to take care of the monument/site

- Scientific liability - The National History Museum of Romania

- Project management - membership and liabilities

- Scientific Site Manager. Anca Păunescu, Ph.d
Sector charge - grind 8. Dana Mihai, Ph. D, NIHM

- Gh. Matei - housing sector, grind 1 - County - Museum Ialomița Members

- Irina Ene, NMHR

- Silviu Oța

- Ciprian Sandu, NIHM

- Students Faculty of History, Bucharest

Proposals on site/monument long-term management with a view to insure continuity.

Management Plan

Development of management plans for archaeological sites is still at an early stage in Romania.

Consequently, the management plan offers a policy framework with a guiding character. Realization of targets, i.e. conservation and sustainable development of the site, are strictly dependant on how all involved parties coordinate their actions according to the directions outlined in this document.

DEMARCATIION AND PROTECTION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Realization and implementation of a management plan and a GIS application that will insure monitoring of the site

Performance of geophysical prospecting works

Uncovering and restoration of the 4 buildings: the two churches, the stone-foundation dwelling and the buttressed building

- i. urgent interventions for the conservation of some archaeological settlements restoration works for the remains of the medieval churches

A program of public information and advertisement on the values of the site through a web site and publications (guides, leaflets etc); a system of informative panels in the commune

Strengths

- Tourism and natural resources, as well as historical heritage existing in the area make it possible to develop several forms of recreational tourism (there are several springs of sulphur water in the area), fishing, etc.
- There is a motel close to the site, also car parking
- Location of the site, close to the national road from Constanța to Bucharest
- Other archaeological sites in the area: Hârșova, Capidava, etc.
- A system of informative panels installed on the archaeological site
- Organization of two national exhibits focused on the discoveries made at the Orașul de Floci.

Weaknesses

- aggression of human and natural factors on the site
- absence of an archaeological base and a site museum
- no demarcation and watching services on



Fig. 8. Images from the new site museum Giurgeni

site

- lack of an organized tourism system and implementation of an integrated development concept;
- absence of documentation needed to develop the area urban plan for the site, or for restoration of site monuments.
- Absence of promotional materials and appropriate management programs in the local tourist agencies.
- Absence of a published scientific monograph
- No cooperation between local and central authorities
- The local community is not aware of the great importance of the site

8. Documentation

See the attached photographs. (provide references)

9. Feasibility Study

To be elaborated based on the schedule of accommodation.

Starting from this documentation drafted in 2006, when all the issues relating to the above-mentioned archaeological site were

presented, significant steps were taken towards establishing measures aiming the rehabilitation and valorisation of the medieval settlement.

The partnership among the four central institutions (the National Heritage Institute, the National History Museum) and central authorities (the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the Local County of Ialomița) have taken considerable efforts over the last three years to rehabilitate and return the value of this archaeological site.

The Plate

The archaeological site is treated with the right attention, and this is attested by the plate unveiled under the Program coordinated by the Council of Europe, Integrated Rehabilitation Project Plan/Survey on the Architectural and Archaeological Heritage (IRPP/SAAH) 2003 – 2008. The ceremony was recognition of the efforts taken by the central and local authorities to offer support and valorise the national archaeological site of major priority at Orașul de Floci, Giurgeni commune, Ialomița County. (fig.1.)

The initiative of local authorities to support and promote the archaeological site, in protection works, signalling plates and valorisation of the objective represented by churchy no. 1, as well as for the investment approved for construction of an archaeological basis and a tourist information centre, a multi-annual valorisation project.

Establishment of an archaeological park and museum

The conservation policy of the discoveries made inside the archaeological site could be reduced to the annual primary preservation of the edifices prone to such intervention, brick or stone foundations, etc, followed by consolidation, restoration, valorisation, to reach the final objective- establishment of an archaeological park.

The only possibility to valorise an archaeological site, in our case of a medieval town, is to create an archaeological park, i.e. give people the chance to visit it, to see items which are explained on bilingual boards (there are 3 bilingual boards already). The preservation and valorisation policy of the remains discovered at Orașul de Floci, is a relatively recent aim, which has been pursued for only 2 years. This shall be followed by protection measures of the preserved objectives.

The initiative to create an archaeological park began with uncover and preservation of the main edifices discovered at Orașul de Floci, on grindul 6. Obviously, this action shall need

to be continued, part of a consistent strategy. The easy access from DN 2, the lack of another superposed settlement, the ownership title of the site ensuring its protection, are good enough reasons to make us believe that the site shall become a major point on the tourist map of Ialomița district.

Opening of the site museum and archaeological basis

In November 2009, starting from the Programme initiated by the Council of Europe, the museum was finished and officially opened to the public. The centre is based on the image of a medieval town, of the other edifices discovered during the investigations, the major attraction of the museum being the 3D reconstructions of the most important religious and civil edifices discovered at Orașul de Floci. (fig 7, 8) Also, besides the site museum, the investment plan approved by the local council includes operational spaces for accommodation of archaeologists, as well as for processing and storage of archaeological artefacts. It is important

to mention that this is the only archaeological basis and museum opened in Romania over the last 10 years. The financial effort made by the local authorities was huge (approx. 200,000 euro), while the proper understanding of the need underlying the investment for its rehabilitation and vaporization is laudable¹.

The implementation of cultural tourism in Ialomița County can only happen in relation with other issues of cultural interest that is a cultural itinerary that can bear the premises of such a development, i.e. easy access to various tourist objectives, well-established marketing and promotion policy, existence of memorial museums on site.

The perspective of such tourism can be extended to other districts, also - a possible transhumance route including Transylvanian districts.

PTA report carried out by:

Dana Mihai, PhD, Archaeologist, scientific researcher, National Institute of Heritage

¹ We like to mention the great support of the local authorities from Ialomița county, especially the great help of the President Mr. Silvian Ciupercă.