

Butrint Foundation written reports

Title: The Butrint Foundation Interim Excavation Report, 2003 (Butrint and Diaporit)

Author:

Date submitted/written: 2003

Status and recipient: The Butrint Foundation

Copyright details: BF

Brief description of content/ keywords: 2003 Interim report; outlines the excavations at Diaporit and Butrint (Triconch) and includes a report on the Student Training Programme

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The Butrint Foundation

Interim Excavation Report, 2003

Butrint and Diaporit



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Cover illustration: The monumental honorific column base on the Vrina Plain looking towards the walled city of Butrint. The foundations of an earlier monument can be seen in the foreground and the later apse of a probable church in the background.

FOREWORD

The 2003 season was the largest and most ambitious campaign in the ten-year history of the Butrint Foundation. Beginning at Diaporit in an early April snowstorm and concluding in late July in the hottest summer on record, an international team conducted three major excavations at ‘Atticus’s villa’, at the Triconch Palace, and in the Augustan colony on the Vrina Plain. The four-month season brought together a large team of professional excavators, with summer school teams from the universities of Elbasan, Gjirokastra, Prishtina and Tirana. In addition, a small army of workmen from the local villages of Shën Dëlli and Vrina and pot-washers from the village of Ksamili assisted us in making the season an outstanding success.

The archaeological excavations were focused on three principal areas (**Fig. 1**):

- At the so-called villa of Atticus at Diaporit on the shore of Lake Butrint we continued to uncover the great multi-period country house. This season was notable for the discovery of Hellenistic and late Republican phases of the villa.
- The largest excavation was at the Triconch Palace, where, after consultation with the project’s conservation architect, Richard Andrews, and the Institute of Monument’s architect, Reshad Gega, it was decided to complete the excavations by clearing many of the trees and exposing the courtyard of the great palace in order to make it much more accessible to future visitors.
- On the Vrina Plain we continued to explore the dimensions and character of the colony first conceived by Julius Caesar but actually created following Augustus’s victory at the battle of Actium in 31 BC. The Vrina Plain excavation was also the site of the training excavation where 30 Albanian students were introduced to the techniques of modern field archaeology.

In addition to the excavations, the project hosted several other activities. In April a scoping mission from the Getty Conservation Institute visited the site to plan a future conservation training programme. In June the project hosted a workshop on the sculpture found in Butrint (organized by Dr Inge Lyse Hansen and Dr Iris Pojani) comprising a number of distinguished Roman archaeologists. These included Professors Neritan Ceka, Sandro De Maria, Shpresa Gjongecaj, Muzafer Korkuti, Charles Brian Rose, Roland Smith, Eric Varner, Susan Walker and Konstantinos Zachos. The season also saw the return of a marble statuette of Aphrodite from the neighbouring village of Vrina (**Fig. 2**), and the repatriation by the Greek authorities of three Roman marble heads, stolen in the early 1990s. In July we obtained a 13th-century Frankish coin hoard of over 100 rare pieces, found near Butrint, for the Institute of Archaeology (**Fig. 3**). During July a film about Butrint was made with Eclipse Films, an independent American film-maker, and the Foundation commissioned Eyetoeye TV to make a short retrospective on its work over the past decade. During the course of the project we were visited by a number of archaeologists. These included Professor James Wiseman (Boston University), co-director of the Nikopolis survey project, Professor Klavs

Randsborg (Copenhagen University) who visited the site to examine the fortifications at Butrint, Çuka i Aitoit and Kalivo, Dr Melina Melfi (Italian School at Athens) who examined the temple of Asclepius in the heart of Butrint and Dr Shelley Hales (Bristol University) who advised us on the interpretation of the Roman town houses.

The project was directed by Professor Richard Hodges, Dr William Bowden and Dr Ilir Gjipali; Sally Martin served as Project Manager, aided by Gjoni Marko together with Jerry O'Dwyer and Muço Laze. The excavations at Diaporit were directed by William Bowden and Dr Luan Përzhita; Andrew Crowson, Oliver Gilkes and Ryan Ricciardi directed the excavations on the Vrina Plain; Karen Francis aided by Dr Ylli Cerova directed the excavations in the Triconch Palace. Oliver Gilkes assisted by Sidorella Golemi organized the training excavations. The finds were managed by Dave Boschi and Ilir Papa. Pippa Pearce of the British Museum returned for the tenth time to conserve the finds. The pottery was studied by Dr Paul Reynolds and Dr Joanita Vroom; the coins were catalogued and studied by Dr Shpresa Gjongecaj, Dr Sam Moorhead and Pagona Papadopolous. The small finds were studied by Dr Etleva Nallbani and John Mitchell. The faunal remains were studied by Adrienne Powell, while the human skeletal remains were studied by Professor Todd Fenton and his team from Michigan State University. Finds illustration was undertaken by Sarah McDowell. Special thanks to our site supervisors Peter Crawley, Simon Greenslade, Emily Glass, Benen Hayden, Sarah Leppard, Jerry O'Dwyer and Riley Thorne who worked with great dedication in blazing temperatures. Thanks too to Jimmy and Leta Jazenxhi who, as ever, looked after the team with great dedication.

The Butrint excavations would not be possible without the continued support of the Packard Humanities Institute, which has provided generous sponsorship for the project since 1999. The sculpture workshop was made possible through the support of the International Centre for Albanian Archaeology.

Finally, the success of the 2003 excavations was due in no small measure to the commitment and support of the Albanian Institute of Archaeology and its Director, Professor Muzafer Korkuti.

DIAPORIT ('ATTICUS'S VILLA')

Introduction

2003 saw the largest campaign of excavation thus far at the Roman villa and early Christian church of Diaporit, with teams of up to 45 people working throughout April and May. For the first time the remains of buildings relating to the Hellenistic and Republican periods were uncovered, together with further elements of the huge villa bath complex of the first and second centuries AD. Investigation of the early Christian phases of the site was also expanded and it now appears increasingly likely that Diaporit was an important centre of Christian pilgrimage during Late Antiquity.

The Hellenistic and Republican villa

Despite the discovery of residual Hellenistic and early Roman pottery and coins in later archaeological deposits, buildings relating to this period have proved elusive, with the earliest structures found up to now dating to the first century AD (*c.* AD 40-80). However, the 2003 excavations identified two phases of a substantial complex of buildings that clearly predates the villa of the first century AD (**Figs. 4 and 5**).

Continued excavation on the lower terrace of the site found the fragmentary remains of a single wall and a line of three cross-shaped pier bases, buried beneath first-century AD deposits. Both the wall and the piers were built in a distinctive style using large unmortared limestone blocks, reminiscent of Hellenistic buildings excavated elsewhere in the region. A coin minted at the Greek colony of Apollonia and dating to the third century BC was discovered in deposits that lay under the wall and it is likely that this earliest phase of buildings belongs to this period. Walls built in a similar style were also found in excavations further to the east. Like the wall and piers identified to the west, they were associated with a thick layer of poorly fired tiles that were significantly different to those used in the villa of the first century AD. In both excavation areas these structures were stratigraphically earlier than any of the other buildings.

These earliest buildings were orientated due west, facing towards the present village of Ksamili. Their alignment was shared by three mortared stone walls that appear to represent alterations and additions to this early phase, which were found in a large trench that was opened on the immediate foreshore of the lake in order to locate further elements of the Hellenistic/Republican phase. The westernmost of these walls, which were probably garden terraces, lay beneath one of the main structural walls of the first-century AD villa and was clearly cut by its foundations.

It has now been demonstrated, therefore, that there are at least two phases of buildings dating to between the third century BC and the first century AD. Elements of this earlier complex have been found in two areas and it is likely that it covers a substantial area. The distinctive alignment of the earlier phases is shared by a large right-angled wall (probably the corner of a building) that lies beneath the surface of the lake and which

was noted in 2002 as probably representing an earlier structure.

At present it would be unwise to draw too many conclusions from these fragmentary remains. While there is little sign of the ostentation of a major Republican villa (as we might expect from the house of Atticus), it is worth noting that Atticus prided himself on his humble lifestyle and lack of ostentation, although protesting one's simple lifestyle was a common conceit among the Roman aristocracy that may not have been reflected in reality.

The early Imperial villa

The discovery of the early buildings described above has also highlighted the transformation that occurred on the site in the middle of the first century AD when an entirely new and much larger villa was built on the site. It is particularly interesting that this reconstruction entailed changing the orientation of all the buildings on the site (including the terraces that shaped the landscape) from a position facing due west across the lake to one that directly faced the town of Butrint. This was a colossal work of rebuilding that clearly reflected the changing relationship between the villa and Butrint and presumably the increased significance of the town in the eyes of the villa owner. It is of note that this seems to be contemporary with the second phase of expansion on the Vrina Plain, perhaps dating to around the reign of Nero whose interest in the towns of Greece is well known.

The 2003 excavations clarified some important aspects of the first-century villa. It seems to have partly utilised the terrace line of the villa that preceded it, suggesting that there was no hiatus in occupation. Its foundations were built in an undulating fashion, following the slope of the terrace of the earlier site and creating new terrace lines. The new main terrace wall was a quite elaborate structure, articulated with brick-faced pilasters that may have created a decorative blind arcade that formed a backdrop for a sheltered central garden. Further rooms were discovered on this upper terrace including one paved with an elaborate floor in which a black and white geometric mosaic surrounded central panels made of exotic imported marble (**Fig. 6**).

Between the middle of the first century AD and the start of the second century AD the villa underwent continuous alteration and construction, including the construction of the massive bath complex of which further elements were excavated in 2003 (**Fig. 7**). This architectural embellishment formed the medium through which the owner expressed his wealth and status. The terrace line was extended to the west, thereby emphasising the height of the structures on the eastern part of the villa, which would have been highly visible from Butrint, and which would have dominated the vista on the site itself. At the start of the second century the foundations of a large new room on the upper terrace bisected the mosaic pavement described above.

Despite the use of these and other architectural devices, the building of the villa appears to have been carried out in a rather *ad hoc* fashion, as opposed to following a coherent design. This is particularly noticeable in the bath complex, where the drains (an essential feature on the site due to the slope and the heavy rainfall experienced by the area) were seemingly inserted as an afterthought. They are clearly the latest element in

the complex and as a result follow an often haphazard route through doorways and around the ends of pre-existing buildings. Other parts of the building were also poorly constructed and it is tempting to imagine an absentee owner (as would have almost certainly been the case) vacillating over the design of his holiday residence, while unscrupulous builders took advantage of his absence to cover up poor-quality work. Detailed examination of this second villa therefore allows a fascinating insight into the processes of building a luxury residence in the Roman period.

Abandonment and reuse

During the first half of the third century, the villa was abandoned as a luxury residence and areas of the complex were taken over for other purposes. The great apsidal room of the bath complex was turned into a kitchen and a hole was knocked through the west wall into the adjacent heated room, allowing it to be used for the dumping of domestic rubbish which was found concentrated in the area of this makeshift door.

On the upper terrace, meanwhile, one room of the villa was used for the production of pottery. A small pottery kiln was found built into the northeast corner of the room, while the west half was filled with waste from this activity, including pottery that had become malformed during the firing process. A series of post-holes dug through the mosaic floor of the earlier room also attests to the presence of a succession of wooden structures built within the remains of the earlier building during the period AD 200-250 (see **Fig. 6**). Although wooden structures are widely known from the late Roman period, it is particularly interesting to find them in a securely dated and relatively early context as here. Equally, the discovery of local pottery production will be of particular importance for the archaeology of the wider area of Butrint. “Diaporit ware” has already been noted, for example, in the Vrina Plain excavations, allowing the dating of the Vrina excavations to be further refined.

The early Christian pilgrimage centre

The excavations of the early Christian complex associated with the church were greatly enlarged in 2003. The results further reinforce the impression that the site functioned as a major regional pilgrimage centre during the later fifth and early sixth centuries, based around veneration of the three tombs found in the apse of the church in 2001. Investigation focused on two points; a large tile kiln and the complex of buildings associated with the church.

The tile kiln was found dug into the terrace line of the Roman villa, cutting through the pilastered terrace wall and presumably positioned to take advantage of the prevailing west wind (**Fig. 8**). Two phases were identified, where an earlier kiln had been demolished and replaced with a slightly larger structure. The kiln was clearly associated with the construction of the church, a date which was confirmed by late antique pottery recovered from its interior. All the waste material from the kiln appeared to be roof tile and it is possible that it was built for the purpose of re-roofing the church in a later phase. The discovery of a tile kiln of a well-known Roman type in such a late context is important in that it confirms the impression that commercial brick and tile production

had ceased in the Butrint area with the result that tiles had to be produced for specific projects. The fabric of the tiles is unusual in that it does not appear to derive from a local clay source, suggesting that the kiln may have been built by itinerant tile manufacturers who brought their own supply of weathered clay from elsewhere.

Excavations to the south of the church also revealed a remarkable complex of buildings (**Fig. 9**). The south side of the church was embellished with a portico, represented by a line of stone piers that would have supported an arcade. This portico was not accessible from the church itself and therefore must relate to a garden or courtyard to the south of the church.

To the south of the portico, although not accessible from the garden, lay a small chapel. This was a rectangular building with an apse or niche in its northern wall that clearly served as the focal point of the room. We were particularly fortunate to find a rare example of a complete window pane in the base of the niche, where it had clearly been placed as part of the decoration in the late fifth or early sixth century. The chapel was paved with tiles laid in a style that imitated a more costly *opus sectile* floor. A rectangular marble slab in the centre of this pavement marked the point at which the visitor would turn to face the niche.

The southern end of the chapel was connected (probably by a wide archway) to a two-storey structure that was almost certainly a tower. Its walls (one of which was found almost in its entirety where it had fallen to the east) were more than 1 m thick, built on massive foundations of mortared rubble. Much of the ground floor was occupied by a large water tank or basin that had clearly been repaired on several occasions. This may well have functioned in tandem with a small bath-house which was built against the south wall of the tower and which was contemporary with the early Christian complex. Its size is compatible with the increasing Christian ambiguity towards bathing, which many regarded as decadent and contrary to Christian teaching. A greater desire for privacy also resulted in smaller bath buildings as bathing became a personal rather than social activity.

The discovery of this complex reinforces the idea that Diaporit functioned as a pilgrimage centre, perhaps supporting and being maintained by a small monastic community. That Diaporit was a site of pilgrimage was already indicated by the presence of the three large tombs in the church and the clearly delineated access routes into the church, with the principal entrances into the narthex apparently designed for two different groups of people or as a circular route for visitors to the church. It is possible that the small chapel and bath were intended for the use of wealthier and more distinguished visitors, whose patronage would obviously be advantageous for the custodians of the site. As a pilgrimage site Diaporit probably supported a small associated monastery. Late antique monasticism in the west is known from documentary sources although there has never been any systematic excavation of a fifth-century monastic site.

Whatever its precise nature, the Christian site at Diaporit was relatively short-lived. Previous excavations (in 2002) demonstrated that the church dated to the second half of the fifth century. Analysis of the 2002 material also identified a rare coin of the Vandal king Thrasamund, dating to the year AD 493, found in the floor make-up levels of the

church, which may provide a more precise date for its construction. None of the material recovered in 2002 and 2003 from the buildings associated with the church was dated much later than AD 550, suggesting that the life of the complex was not much longer than 60 years. No evidence was found of the later seventh-century phases identified in 2000 and 2001.

Conclusion

The 2003 excavations at Diaporit added important new elements to our understanding of the Roman and late antique site and further refined the archaeological sequence constructed in previous years. The importance of Diaporit, which is the only site of its type in the Balkans to have been the subject of controlled stratigraphic excavation, lies in the detailed chronology of events that has been recovered, which allows us to identify the myriad of changes and transformations that occurred at the site during relatively short periods of intensive activity. It is this which will enable a much greater depth of understanding of life in the hinterland of Butrint and the ways in which changes in the town were reflected in the countryside and vice versa.

BUTRINT

THE TRICONCH PALACE

Introduction

The great late Roman residence known as the Triconch Palace, situated on the bank of the Vivari Channel, has been a focus of archaeological research at Butrint since the start of the project in 1994. Ten years of excavation and research have revealed a remarkable sequence of occupation which has placed Butrint in the forefront of the debates that surround the end of the Roman Empire in the Mediterranean.

The excavations have demonstrated how a late Roman townhouse was dramatically enlarged in the early fifth century AD. Among the additions was the triconch dining room after which the palace has been named. However, this grandiose construction project was never completed, and during the later fifth to seventh centuries the different rooms of the building were used for more prosaic purposes such as the processing of shellfish and blacksmithing. Hearths and ovens were built over the mosaic pavements of the formerly luxurious reception rooms, while other areas of the site were used for burial. The area of the palace was also intensively occupied in the later medieval period, and remained in use until the 15th century.

The 2003 excavations were carried out on a grand scale and were aimed first towards the conservation of the monument and its eventual presentation to the public, and second towards the clarification of particular aspects of the site prior to the preparation of a final publication. They entailed the total excavation of the central courtyard and further investigation of the western and southern wings of the palace (**Fig. 10**). The results contributed greatly to our understanding of the late Roman house that preceded the Triconch Palace and its position within the wider context of the town. A particular highlight was the identification of buildings dating to the ninth-eleventh centuries, a period of Butrint's history hitherto known only through sporadic coin finds.

The late Roman *domus*

The Triconch Palace was preceded by a more modest, although still luxurious, Roman town house (**Fig. 11**), owned by a local grandee whose name survives in part in a mosaic inscription that greeted visitors to the building as they entered from the west. The inscription records that the owner was of senatorial rank, although by the fourth century these titles were often purely honorific. Beyond this inscription lay a peristyle - an elegant colonnaded courtyard that formed the heart of the building. The excavations of this courtyard in its entirety during 2003 allowed us to understand the ways in which the building developed over time and how the changes in the house reflected wider changes within the city, a process that culminated in the construction of the Triconch Palace itself.

The peristyle was paved with geometric mosaics that survived in the west portico (which was fully excavated in 2003) (**Fig. 12**), while the central courtyard was paved with limestone slabs. A centrally placed well allowed access to a cistern that collected rainwater from the roofs of the building. Although only the stone structure of the well head now survives, it was probably originally decorated with marble veneers.

After entering the peristyle, the visitor probably turned right, proceeding towards the southern wing of the building where the principal public rooms were situated. The central room of the southern wing allowed access to a long gallery or portico which constituted the southernmost part of the building (**Fig. 13**). This gallery (excavated in 2002) probably faced out onto a small garden beyond which was a view of the channel. At its western end was the large apsidal reception hall or dining room, revealed during the 2000 season. The gallery was paved with an elaborate geometric mosaic, which survives in a fragmentary state and is often underwater owing to the high water table. One of the key elements of the 2003 campaign was the cleaning of this mosaic, before it was covered with a fine mesh netting and 30 cm of sand, which will provide protection in advance of full conservation.

The total excavation of the courtyard also revealed elements of the eastern rooms of the *domus* and the northern portico of the peristyle, but more importantly it allowed us to examine the development of the building and the ways in which it functioned as a space that articulated the social hierarchies that characterised aristocratic life in Late Antiquity. Late Roman houses were used to define the status of the visitor in relation to the owner, using a complex architectural vocabulary with which all members of the Roman aristocracy would have been familiar. The extent to which visitors were allowed to enter particular parts of the building and the routes that they were permitted to use would vary according to their position in this social hierarchy. The excavation of much of the remaining part of the *domus* in 2003 has shed considerable light on these processes at Butrint.

The late Roman house could certainly be entered from streets that lay to both the east and the west (see **Fig. 14**). The only entrance on the eastern side allowed access directly into the long gallery with its opulent mosaic, via a small vestibule that was paved with the finest mosaic discovered thus far in the complex. The walls of the vestibule were painted with an architectural scheme depicting a colonnade with a garden beyond, thereby creating the impression of a much larger space. From this vestibule the visitor would gaze down the long gallery, as light from the south played on the mosaic pavement and the painted decoration. Equally, those merely passing the eastern door would perhaps be afforded a glimpse into this opulent corridor, the apparent length of which was increased and emphasised by its architecture and decorative scheme. The western entrance meanwhile was via an elaborate colonnaded vestibule which led into the western portico of the peristyle as described above.

Were these entrances intended for different groups or classes of people, with one (perhaps that to the east) allowing access to the more public rooms of the building, while the second allowed more exalted guests into the more private areas of the complex? It is also possible that the entrances reflect changes in the focus of the building over time, rather than social differentiation. The peristyle certainly dates to a later period than elements of the southern wing (with its eastern entrance). It is

possible therefore that the architectural focus of the building shifted northwards over time, away from the channel side and towards the centre of the *domus* and the town of Butrint itself, a process which finally culminated in the construction of the Triconch Palace phase, in which the principal entrance shifted to the north. These issues will be further examined as part of the post-excavation process.

The Triconch Palace

The massive expansion of the *domus* around AD 420 resulted in the construction of the triconch dining room, and the creation of a new northern wing after the earlier northern rooms of the *domus* were demolished to allow the peristyle to be extended to three times its original size (**Fig. 14**). Although the main elements and the chronology of this expansion have been well established during previous seasons, it was only in 2003 that the true scale of the expansion became apparent with the excavation of the courtyard, which was deemed essential if the Triconch Palace was to become a monument that would be visually meaningful to visitors to Butrint.

The excavation of the peristyle was also significant in that it confirmed our long-held view that the palace was never completed in its final form. Although the earlier buildings had been levelled to their foundations to allow the construction of the expanded peristyle, it was clear that the porticoes had never been paved. Rough beaten earth surfaces were found where the earlier mosaics had been removed, while the flagstone courtyard of the earlier *domus* remained as a rather incongruous island in the new and much larger courtyard, which was otherwise unpaved (**Fig. 15**).

Excavations were also continued to the west of the palace, where the colonnaded entrance vestibule of the earlier *domus* was blocked by a series of new walls that were built contemporaneously with the triconch. This meant that the principal entrance of the complex was probably moved to a point immediately to the north of the triconch dining room, indicated by a massive threshold block. This entrance worked in tandem with the double-apsed vestibule to the south that allowed access directly from the channel side. The new rooms that blocked the old western entrance were erected immediately above the earlier street, which was found to be a sunken track-way that clearly curved to avoid the apsidal reception hall of the earlier *domus*. This was a particularly important find, as it is the first time that the Butrint excavations have identified one of the city's roads, which seem to have been unpaved (and thus rather muddy) tracks, as opposed to the paved streets commonly associated with Roman towns. That the owner of the Triconch Palace was able to block streets to the west and the east (where a further road is thought to have existed) indicates both the changes that occurred in the topography of the town during Late Antiquity and the ability of the local aristocracy to control and manipulate their environment.

Abandonment and decline

Following the abandonment of the grandiose construction scheme of the early fifth century, the shell of the building was used for other purposes, both domestic and industrial. Previous seasons of excavation have uncovered numerous kilns and hearths

in all areas of the building, used for cooking shellfish and smithing, as well as tanks and working areas associated with these activities. The final excavation of the southern wing in 2003 revealed further evidence of these activities in all the rooms, the only exception being the western-most room which was used for entirely different (probably domestic) activities. A large storage jar was found set into the floor, while five complete oil lamps were found against the walls and in the corners of the room (**Fig. 16**), together with two bone gaming pieces.

Meanwhile the room to the north of the colonnaded western entrance vestibule was used to house a large (and rather enigmatic) circular structure, which filled the earlier room entirely, replacing a hearth or oven which was found below. The circular structure had no entrances at ground level and must have been entered from higher up, in a manner reminiscent of a Victorian ice house, and indeed it is possible that this structure also served as a kind of cold store.

As noted in previous seasons, the Triconch Palace was used for burials in its final phase, an activity that continued into the mid-seventh century. The 2003 excavations revealed further graves inserted into the southern wing of the building, including a number of infant burials inserted into amphorae. Interestingly, no burials were found within the area of the courtyard, reinforcing the idea that the individual rooms of the palace were used as mausolea.

The medieval period

From the later seventh to the mid-ninth centuries, no occupation is attested in the area of the Triconch Palace. The period from the ninth to twelfth centuries, however, has remained enigmatic. Frequent finds of coins from this period indicate activity but, until the 2003 season, no structures had been identified. The historical sources are also confused. While the Arab geographer al Idrisi, writing in the mid-twelfth century, mentions Butrint as a small and well-populated town with markets, Benedict of Peterborough describes it as a *castellum desertum* later in the same century. The 2003 excavations, however, produced significant material relating to this period, including a gold *nomisma* of Basil II dating from 977-989 (**Fig. 17**), together with other high denomination coins of the ninth to twelfth centuries that could suggest significant commercial activity in the area of the Triconch Palace. Also, for the first time, post-built structures dating from the ninth to eleventh centuries were identified, built above the demolished remains of the palace buildings (**Fig. 18**).

Conclusion

After ten years of excavation and research the Triconch Palace has become a model for the changes that occurred within Roman and medieval towns in the Mediterranean. While there are many excavated examples of late Roman palaces, none have produced the finely nuanced and precisely dated archaeological sequences that have been recovered from Butrint. The excavations of the Triconch Palace have revealed the historical complexity of the changing rhythms of life in a Roman town, and have enabled us to chart precisely the rise and decline of a great Roman residence. The story

of the palace, however, is only one aspect of the history of this part of Butrint, as the area of the Triconch saw a further 1000 years of intermittent occupation after its senatorial owner abandoned the last and most grandiose phase of his building project. The final publication of this long and complex history will give the excavations of the Triconch Palace a resonance that goes far beyond the story of Butrint itself.

SOUTHERN BUTRINT - THE VRINA PLAIN

Introduction

The Vrina Plain stretches to the south and east of Butrint and is a flat alluvial landscape, criss-crossed by modern drainage ditches, which lies between the present villages of Vrina, Shën Dëlli and Xarra. Although Roman remains have long been known from the Plain, they were always considered to be outlying villas situated along the line of Butrint's aqueduct. Only when the Butrint Foundation carried out a sustained programme of geophysical prospection was it realised that the standing remains visible in the fields were in fact small elements of a much larger entity – an entire undiscovered quarter of the city that lay buried beneath the silts of the Plain (**Fig. 19, 20**).

The results of the geophysics suggested that the buildings on the Plain lay within an orthogonal street grid. This led to speculation that they represented a planned extension of the city contemporary with the foundation of the Augustan colony in the aftermath of the battle of Actium in 31 BC. Trial excavations in 2002 indicated that this area of Butrint has a long and complex history. These initial excavations concentrated on the clearance of a long drainage ditch that had cut a swathe through the archaeology of the Plain, despite taking a diversion in an attempt to avoid the large areas of masonry encountered by the drainage engineers. Cleaning this ditch therefore provided us with a cross-section through the buried buildings of this Roman suburb. Excavations were also focused on one of the visible standing buildings, and were used as a venue for the student training excavations described below. In order to continue this assessment of the archaeology of the Plain, several excavation areas were opened up on either side of the drainage ditch in order to investigate some of the more intriguing buildings encountered in 2002. The investigation of the standing buildings also continued, with particular emphasis on locating these structures within the city's planned street grid, the existence of which had been hypothesised based on the results of the geophysics.

The Roman colony – planning, boundaries, streets and buildings

The extension of Butrint probably formed an integral part of the fundamental physical changes that were wrought in the city with the establishment of the Augustan colony. However, the density of later Roman occupation on the Plain has meant that, because of the relatively small scale of the excavations, it has been difficult to locate features relating to the late Republican phases on the Vrina Plain. Despite this it is possible to reach certain conclusions regarding the planning and extent of these earliest phases.

The street grid of the new area of Butrint appears to have been aligned on the aqueduct, which may be depicted on the coins of the Augustan colony and which was certainly a key element of the revised Roman town. The aqueduct also seems to have formed a physical and symbolic boundary of the expanded town, indicated by the cemetery area found in the continued excavation of the drainage ditch to the east of the aqueduct (discussed below).

The only building found thus far that may be contemporary with the foundation of the colony is the monumental base found in 2002, which was investigated further in 2003 (**Fig. 20, 21**). Excavation was carried out in the surrounding area and in the monument itself. This revealed that the monument was the base for an honorific column of which the circular foundation was revealed. This monument, moreover, appears to have replaced or been placed alongside an earlier though similar structure that was found immediately to the south. This second monument was of a similar size to the first, although only parts of a substantial ashlar plinth survived. The function of these monuments is unclear although it is likely that they faced onto a major public space or thoroughfare and were built at the same time that the colony was laid out or shortly after. This suggests that the southern extension of Butrint was conceived not as a residential suburb, but as an integral part of the urban landscape with its own public spaces and monumental architecture.

While the gridded street system was quite clearly defined by the geophysical survey, the 2002 excavations failed to find conclusive proof of its existence. Accordingly, one aim of the 2003 campaign was to identify and excavate a section of one of these roads. A long linear trench was excavated to the south of the area of standing remains (the large cistern described below). This revealed a short length of a track, *c.* 4.30 m wide, which showed traces of wheel ruts. Doors from buildings opened out onto this roadway, which, like that discovered to the west of the Triconch Palace, appears to have been unpaved. A further narrow alley was identified running north-south between two of the adjacent excavated buildings. These roads correspond to a grid system based on the Augustan unit of land division, the *actus*, normally a square of 35.80 m. In the case of Butrint, the *actii* appear to have been slightly larger at 36.58 m. The narrow north-south alley lies at a distance of *c.* 109 m from the line of the aqueduct, corresponding almost exactly to a measurement of 3 *actii* (109.74 m) and indicating that this area of the city was indeed laid out on a grid based on the *actus* (**Fig. 22**). The grid indicates that the honorific column base and its predecessor both lay on a street frontage, while the header tank of the aqueduct was situated on a junction between these land divisions. The grid plan would also have been extended out into the surrounding countryside, dividing the landscape into regular plots that would be allotted to the colonists.

The changing Roman town

Although it is possible that the street grid and the public spaces were laid out as a result of the foundation of the colony, it is likely that several of the *insulae* of the new urban area were not occupied with buildings until two or three generations later, perhaps as late as the reign of Nero (AD 54-68). Indeed, the earliest coins found in the excavations thus far date to the mid-late first century AD. However, by the end of the first century

AD there were clearly a number of substantial buildings on the Plain. These included a substantial bath-house (bath-house 1) together with a large cistern that supplied it with water (**Fig. 20, 23**). This cistern was an elaborate vaulted structure that still survives to a height of more than 2 m. Four rooms of the bath-house were revealed in a long trench that was excavated to the north of the standing cistern building. Although the building had been subsequently quarried for building materials, the surviving elements, which included a plunge bath and an intact hypocaust, indicate that it was a major public bath complex that was elaborately decorated with marble and painted plaster, fragments of which were found in the excavations.

During the later second and early third centuries AD, the occupied area seems to have expanded to the east of the aqueduct. This expansion encroached on the area of a cemetery that had previously lain beyond the limits of the urban. This is characteristic of the ways in which the symbolic boundaries of Roman towns could change over time, meaning that tombs that were originally constructed outside the boundaries of the town could end up within the urban area as it expanded. Evidence of later structures, probably for residential use, was found close to a large second-century tomb, which was the earliest feature found in this part of the excavation. This tomb was a monumental square or rectangular structure built of well-cut mortared limestone blocks and standing on an ashlar plinth (**Fig. 20, 24**). Although no grave goods or skeletal material were found within the tomb (it having been apparently robbed in Antiquity), pottery recovered from the foundation levels indicates that it dates to the second century AD.

A further grave was found close to the west side of the tomb, where an infant was found interred in a so-called *cappucino* grave, in which tiles were laid to form a tent-like structure over the body (literally the ‘hood’ which gives this type of tomb its name). A grave marker was also found in this area, reused in a later building, while a similar stone was found reused in a floor in the bath building that lies further to the east (see below). Together with the evidence of the standing tomb further to the northeast, these finds demonstrate that the area to the east of the aqueduct was used as a cemetery until at least the second century AD. By the latter half of the second century, however, other buildings, probably residential, were clustered around the monumental tomb, although these buildings appear to have been themselves abandoned during the fourth century. This abandonment may have been the result of an earthquake. Certainly elsewhere on the Vrina Plain there is evidence suggesting that a number of buildings collapsed in the fourth century.

Two further bath-buildings were also revealed by the 2003 excavations, as part of the continued investigations of structures revealed by the cleaning of the drainage ditch in 2002. That to the west (bath-house 2) (**Fig. 20, 25**) was clearly a late building, replacing an earlier bath (which may be visible on the geophysical plot). The circular tiles used for the *pilae* (the tile stacks on which the raised floor was suspended) were obviously second-hand, with tiles of different sizes and varied manufacture being used simultaneously. It probably lay close to the Roman shoreline and may be associated with the large townhouse described below.

The third bath (bath-house 3) (**Fig. 20, 26**) lay much further to the east and was part of an outlying complex identified by the geophysics, although the bath itself was clearly visible in the sides of the long drainage ditch. Six rooms were located, which could be

separated into hot rooms on the west side and warm and cold rooms on the east side. The bathers would have proceeded from warm to hot rooms before finishing in the cold plunge bath with its stone floor that was located in an apse at the eastern end. Windows in the north wall would have probably allowed the bathers a panoramic view over Lake Butrint and the surrounding hills. This third bath was also composed of reused materials and may be relatively late, perhaps dating to the fourth century AD. The accompanying unexcavated complex is distinguished by a large semi-circular entrance, probably marked out by a fence or box hedge (clearly visible as a ditch-like feature in the geophysical plot). The bath may therefore be part of an outlying villa, although the buildings revealed by the geophysics suggest a relatively compact complex, possibly a *mansio* or road station lying on the outskirts of the town and close to the road that connected Butrint with the main north-south route to Aulon and Nikopolis.

Late Antiquity

Town houses

A particularly interesting aspect of the excavations on the Vrina Plain was the fact that the archaeological sequence appears to resemble closely the sequence identified in the Triconch Palace. On the Plain also there are indications of the existence of a large town house that occupied most of one of the large urban *insulae*. This can be clearly seen on the geophysical plot, where what appears to be a building based around a large peristyle courtyard is clearly visible to the south-east of the large cistern and bath-house 1. An apsidal structure at the eastern end of the peristyle may well be a *triclinium*, functioning in the same way as the triconch *triclinium* in Butrint. The excavations of the bath and cistern were extended to coincide with the northern wing of this building, revealing small sections of three rooms, one of which was paved with a well-preserved polychrome geometric mosaic, perhaps dating to the third century AD (**Fig. 20, 27**).

Traces of a grandiose residence were also identified to the west of the cistern, where a massive apse dating to the fourth century or later was built over the remains of earlier structures (**Fig. 20, 28**). This apse, which still stands to a height of 3.80 m, is clearly part of a substantial audience hall or dining room that may be as long as 25 m (suggested by the discovery of late Roman walls on a similar alignment further to the west), indicating, therefore, the presence of a further major late Roman house. The fifth century also saw the conversion of the standing cistern into a small bath-house, which may be connected with one of these residences.

It is apparent therefore that, as at the Triconch Palace, local grandees were investing their resources in high-status residential buildings, using the same range of architectural devices to create elaborate audience halls and *triclinia*, in a style that is now widely recognised throughout the later Roman world.

An extra-mural suburb?

The construction of the city wall around the peninsula of Butrint *c.* 475-500 may have considerably altered the status of the parts of the town that lay outside the new defences. However, activity certainly continued on the Vrina Plain into the sixth century. This is attested by coins of Justinian (527-565) found in the large cistern and by a late fifth- or early sixth-century Corinthian capital found in 2002, that indicates the

presence of a church. An apsidal structure that may well be a church was also discovered to the north of the monumental column base, which during the preceding centuries had become surrounded by later buildings on three sides, leaving only one of its faces visible.

On the western limit of the archaeological area (to the south of bath-house 2), a room that was probably associated with the massive apsidal audience hall described above was apparently converted into a mausoleum that contained an unusual double grave (**Fig. 20, 29**). Two individuals had been buried side by side in the same grave in a way that differs markedly from standard Christian burial practice in Late Antiquity. One was lying face down and both were wearing finger rings. At the same time an access route to the room was demarcated, allowing egress only from the area of the audience hall, which may have been serving a religious function by this late period. The grave itself was overlain by deposits containing substantial quantities of fifth-century pottery.

It is clear therefore that the buildings on the Plain continued in use long after the area was cut off from the main city by the late antique wall. Indeed, sporadic finds of tenth- and eleventh-century coins and other material in the area of the cistern indicate that a number of the buildings were also partly reused in the medieval period.

Conclusion

The 2003 excavations considerably refined our knowledge of the southern part of Butrint. In particular, the discovery of two probable roads that apparently correspond exactly to an orthogonal street grid laid out using the Augustan *actus* measurement reinforces the idea that this was a planned suburb. However, as at other Roman towns (probably including Augustus's victory city of Nikopolis) it seems that the *insulae* that lay between the streets were not filled with buildings until considerably later, perhaps in the latter part of the first century AD. The area then developed in a piecemeal fashion until, during the late second century, it grew eastwards beyond the line of the aqueduct that had previously formed both a physical and symbolic limit to the city. Occupation expanded over the earlier cemetery areas, and the larger monumental tombs became part of the residential landscape, while less substantial grave markers were unceremoniously removed and used within the new buildings.

Occupation apparently clustered along the waterfront, which was occupied by monumental public buildings, the dwellings of the wealthy and, further to the east, substantial tombs. These tombs were built along the edge of the channel, much as elsewhere in the Roman world they were built along the main roads out of the city. The fact that the tombs of local elites were built along the channel-side reiterates the importance of these waterways to the town.

The 2003 excavations have also reinforced the impression that life in the southern part of Butrint mirrored that within the earlier city on the peninsula, continuing as it did into the late sixth century and beyond. More than anything this has underlined the extent to which the settlement on the Vrina Plain should be considered as an integral part of the city of Butrint.

THE STUDENT TRAINING PROGRAMME

During June and July, 32 Albanian students from the universities of Tirana, Gjirokastra, Elbasan, Prishtina and Istanbul participated in the training programme which took place as part of the Vrina Plain excavations (**Fig. 30**).

Each student undertook a two-week programme that provided them with experience of excavation, surveying, drawing, documentation, and stratigraphic analysis. We were fortunate in having the assistance of the experienced archaeologist Professor Risa Hasa from the University of Elbasan, who accompanied his student group. Professor Bektash Mema paid regular visits to observe the progress of the students from Eqrem Bey University of Gjirokastra.

This was the fourth year that Albanian students have received formal archaeological training as part of the Butrint Project. A key objective is for Albanian students to gain real archaeological experience, which they can then pass on to subsequent groups. In 2003, we began to see the results of this process as students from previous years formed a significant component of the experienced team who worked on the Triconch Palace (**Fig. 31**) and also assisted in the training excavation itself on the Vrina Plain. This worked well as a means of providing focused one-to-one supervision for the new students while offering the older students an opportunity to exercise responsibility and authority. Together with a number of younger members of the Institute of Archaeology who are undertaking MA programmes in the UK, the USA, Italy and France, these students will form the next generation of archaeologists to work at Butrint. Through the training programme and through working alongside the experienced international volunteers they have gained a thorough grounding in modern excavation and recording techniques, and basic archaeological theory.

In the future it is hoped that the training programme can be expanded to include related subject areas, such as analysis of material culture, standing building survey, environmental analysis, geophysical prospection and field survey, which are also important aspects of modern archaeological practice. An important step forward in 2003-2004, however, will be the full integration of Albanian students into the post-excavation process, as part of an initiative funded by the International Centre for Albanian Archaeology. This will provide a valuable opportunity for students to participate in the processing and analysis of the excavated data, and thereby gain insights and experience in other key aspects of the archaeological process.

THE SCULPTURE WORKSHOP

The impetus for the workshop was provided with the discovery in 2002 of a monumental togate statue in the Forum at Butrint. The workshop examined this singular work, as well as its context in view of all the previous sculpture found at Butrint. This, we hoped, would help us understand the Roman period at Butrint. That a wider discussion of the nature of the Roman city can now be attempted is intimately linked to the archaeological and archival work carried out by the Butrint Foundation in recent

years. The results of the recent excavations at Butrint have provided important elements for a better understanding of the contextual relationship between the centre of the city of Butrint and its immediate hinterland, just as the reassessment of Ugolini's excavations of the theatre have shed new light on its associated sculptures.

The workshop took place on 4-8 June 2003 and brought together a series of international experts - each with an outstanding knowledge of Roman sculpture as well as experience of the archaeology and identity of Roman colonies in the east. The group was made up of Neritan Ceka (Institute of Archaeology), Sandro De Maria (University of Bologna), Shpresa Gjongecaj (Institute of Archaeology), Richard Hodges (Butrint Foundation), Muzafer Korkuti (Institute of Archaeology), Charles Brian Rose (University of Cincinnati), Roland Smith (University of Oxford), Eric Varner (Emory University), Susan Walker (British Museum) and Konstantinos Zachos (12th Ephorate, Ioannina) (Fig. 32). The format consisted of a series of site and museum visits in both Corfu and Albania, with presentations by the supervisors of the current excavations at Butrint and by presentations on the Greek and Roman sculpture from Albania by Iris Pojani. In addition visits to Corfu, Phoenicê, Byllis, Apollonia and Durres were included in the programme in order to establish wider cultural reference points for the Butrint material.

The monumental togate statue

The statue is of outstanding importance; not least because it gives a dual view of the use of sculpture at Butrint, and for the political implications it offers for the earliest period under Roman rule (Fig. 33).

The original aspect of the statue would have been a portrait of a high-ranking Roman man wearing a toga and patrician boots. The style of the toga (of *exigua* type without *sinus*) indicates a date of the late first century BC; that is, contemporary with the Caesarian and Augustan interest in Butrint. However, the most spectacular aspect of the figure is its monumental size (original height 240+ cm) indicating that it depicted a major political figure in/for the city. Statues on this scale were normally reserved for depictions of emperors, and most likely it would originally have represented Augustus. Another person who could possibly have received honours on this scale may be Augustus' general and proposed successor, Agrippa. The statue can therefore be tied ideologically to the foundation of the Augustan colony - as well as to the portraits of the imperial family found near the theatre - as a visual representation of the new rule.

At some later date, and certainly no earlier than the early fourth or fifth century AD, attempts were made to reuse the statue for new figurative purposes. Initially the intention was to create a new figure of reduced proportions. The alteration of the statue may have been to create a figure wearing a late antique costume, which, like that of the late Republic, is short and reveal the patrician shoes. However, this was abandoned and a second reworking attempt sought to create a bust out of the torso of the original figure. This, too, was abandoned. A reconfiguration on this scale is extremely unusual, and may even indicate the presence of a sculptor's workshop at Butrint in late antiquity.

The Roman city of Butrint

The results of the workshop have been significant, and have provided the impetus for a new model for the history and significance of Butrint. Contrary to what has been proposed by Ugolini, the imperial portraits found near the theatre did not adorn its *scaenae frons* - but must rather have been erected within the sanctuary of Asklepios with which the theatre is associated. The central role played by the sanctuary in the status and organisation of Butrint, is further reinforced by the interlinking of political and religious offices and structures in the Hellenistic city as well as by the later imperial promotion of the sanctuary and the god. Since the imperial portrait sculptures would have been erected as honorific dedications to the imperial family by the city or by individual patrons within it, their presence is indicative of an influential Roman (or Romanized) elite at Butrint. Indeed, the epigraphic and numismatic evidence suggests that Butrint was favoured by some of the most powerful families in Rome: the Pomponii and Ahenobarbii - both with very close ties to the Emperor.

Several factors would have influenced the decision to establish a colony at Butrint: the rich rural hinterland, its tradition of a developed administrative system, the patronage of it by outstanding Roman families, and especially the trade-route links it provided to the Ionian Islands and between Greece and Rome. With the establishment of the Roman colony, the political importance of the sanctuary is transposed into a system along Roman constitutional lines and Butrint, like Phoenicê previously, gains the right to mint coins. Ideologically Butrint is linked with Nikopolis (and the victory of Augustus at Actium), Troy (the 'mother city' of Rome) and Aeneas (the ancestor of the Romans). Like Troy and Aphrodisias, with whom Butrint shares the mythological links to Aeneas and Venus, Butrint may have exploited this to obtain benefaction or as part of establishing a new public identity. Indeed, an Augustan coin minted at Butrint depicting Aeneas was found at Diaporit this season. Imperial patronage is particularly evident during the Julio-Claudian period through to the period of Hadrian. Though no sculptural portraits of Nero or Hadrian exist at Butrint, other evidence indicates an imperial interest in the city in these periods, which may be linked to imperial visits to Butrint and to imperial benefactions. The absence of imperial portraits from the mid-second century onwards still seeks an answer. It is possible that civic patronage from this period was directed at areas away from the sanctuary and that more portraits may come to light in further excavations.

THE FUTURE

The scale of our operations in 2003 and the excavation results confirmed that it is a great opportunity and equally a great privilege to work at Butrint. In these three large-scale investigations we have the chance to re-configure important aspects of the history of the central Mediterranean in later Greek, Roman and medieval times. Examined through this wide-angled prism, it is clear that until Caesar arrived Butrint was a relatively small sanctuary site that was held in high esteem, as evidenced by its prominent role within the *koinon* of the Prasaiboi (the league of tribes in this part of Epirus). With the creation of the Roman colony, Butrint benefited from connections with the imperial court. The sculpture workshop held in June made us re-examine this history. Not only were we compelled to reconsider the function of the famous sculptures found by Luigi Ugolini, but we have come to recognize the importance of Butrint as a place in the Julio-Claudian period, the striking investment in public monuments and, notably, the creation of the colonial settlement on the Vrina Plain. The Vrina Plain excavations, executed on a massive scale in murderous temperatures, show that Butrint became an increasingly important port with fishing and agriculture - in short a thriving town benefiting from its situation within the network of trade routes along the Ionian coast between Italy and mainland Greece. The history of Butrint is intimately linked to its close relationship to Corfu; similarly, Corfu almost certainly suffered as a result of the growth of Butrint. It will be interesting to see the impact of these changes at Phoenicê where the Bologna University team is digging. The discovery of a probable monastery at Diaporit, occupying the site of a major late Hellenistic and Roman villa, is a first in the central and western Mediterranean. Here we can put some scale on the world of late Roman authors like Cassiodorus. The issue of scale is also apparent in the triconch area where the unfolding transformation of the palatial *domus* into timber tenth-century buildings - charted century by century - is particularly illuminating. Indeed, with the 2003 excavations we have finally understood the rhythms of a Mediterranean centre from Greek through to Ottoman times.

The project, however, amounted to much more than these digs. We trained a large group of Albanian students in field archaeology; increasingly they are now taking responsibility in the trenches. We must build upon this, instructing students from all over the Balkans in these methods as well as providing training in writing up the results.

Quite as important was the conservation of the Triconch Palace - a programme that involved considerable collaboration between the Institute of Monument's consultants and the digging team. This, we hope is the first of many successful collaborations. Preliminary studies were made of Diaporit and the Vrina Plain to envisage how these too might be presented to the public.

As we look ahead, clearly Butrint is a wonderful resource for understanding and teaching the rhythms of Mediterranean archaeology. Our goal over the coming years must be to exploit this fully by ensuring the appropriate facilities are in place. Butrint needs to have its museum re-opened; it needs new storage and teaching spaces. With these, given the size and scope of our activities, this collaborative project promises to grow in importance with each year, especially if we continue to be as fortunate as we were in 2003.

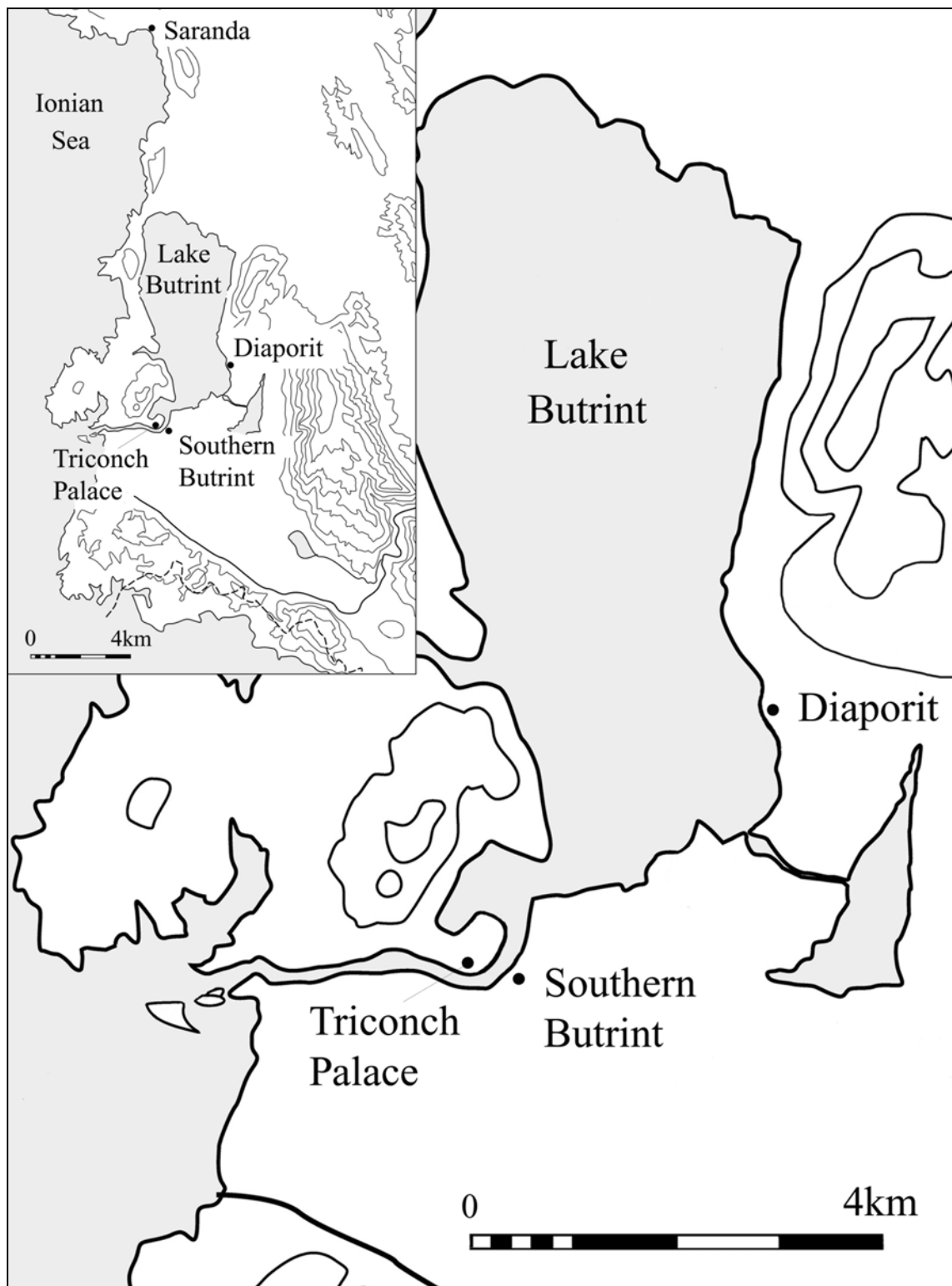


Fig. 1. The location of the 2003 excavations.



Fig. 2. Statue of Aphrodite, stolen from the museum in Butrint in 1997. The statue was returned to the excavation team in June 2003.



Fig. 3. Shepherdess from Shën Dimitri near Xarra with the hoard of Frankish coins that she discovered near her farm. The coins, pictured on the large handkerchief in which they were stored beneath her mattress, were purchased by the Butrint Foundation on behalf of the Albanian Institute of Archaeology.

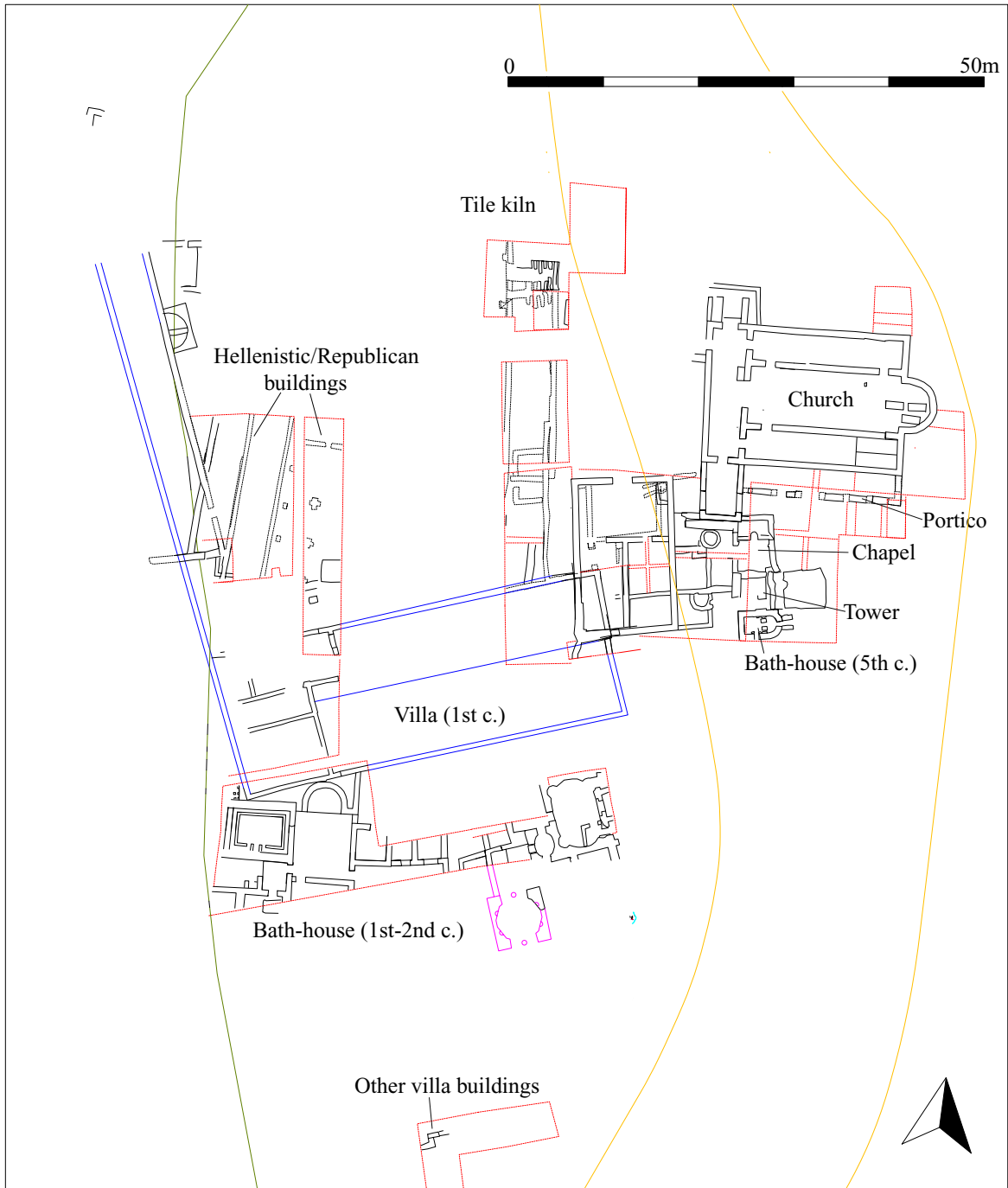


Fig. 4. Plan of the excavations at Diaporit.



Fig. 5. Hellenistic/Republican walls close to the lake at Diaporit. The wall on the right-hand side (which dates to AD 40-80) can be clearly seen to overlay the earlier buildings. The later building is constructed on an entirely new alignment, to face Butrint directly, perhaps demonstrating the town's increasing importance during the latter part of the first century AD.



Fig. 6. 1st-century AD mosaic at Diaporit, cut by second- to third-century post-holes. The mosaic, which consists of a black and white geometric border enclosing large slabs of imported marble, was truncated by the wall of a later building in the late first or second century. A third-century pottery kiln can be seen in the bottom left.



Fig. 7. The great late first- to early second-century villa bath-house, which was abandoned in the early third century.



Fig. 8. Late antique tile kiln, cut through the pilastered terrace wall of the Roman villa. The kiln, which was rebuilt at least once, provided roof tiles for the church. The waste tiles (immediately in front of the kiln) are made of clay that is not found locally, suggesting that the kiln was built by itinerant tile makers who brought their own supply of weathered clay.



Fig. 9. Part of the probable monastic complex to the south of the church during excavation. The small bath in the immediate foreground, and the paved chapel beyond, were probably intended for the use of wealthier pilgrims visiting the site. The mass of masonry to the right of these buildings is the fallen wall of a tower.



Fig. 10. The Triconch Palace after excavation of the central courtyard.

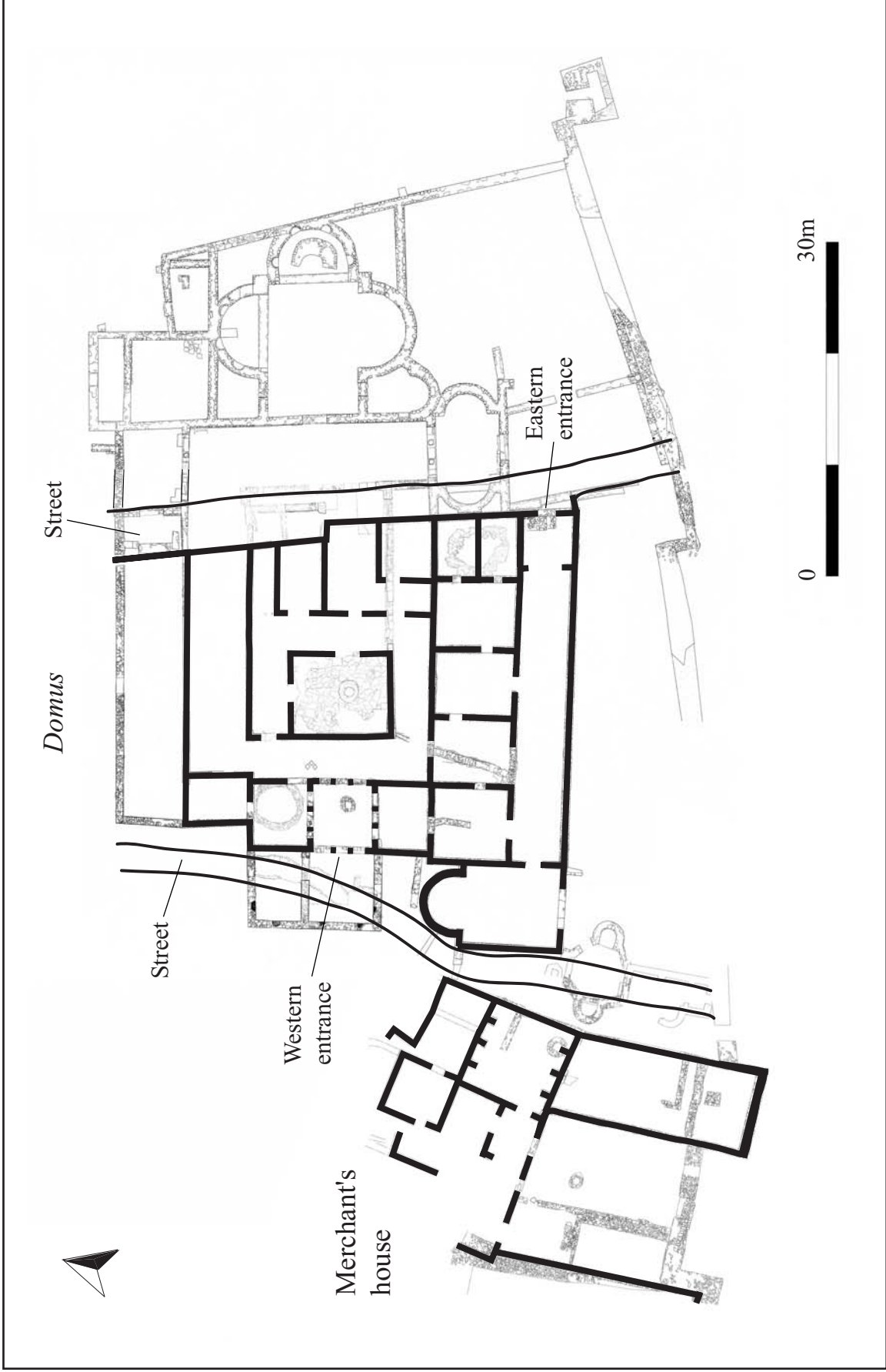


Fig. 11. Plan of the fourth-century *domus*, with its two probable entrances.

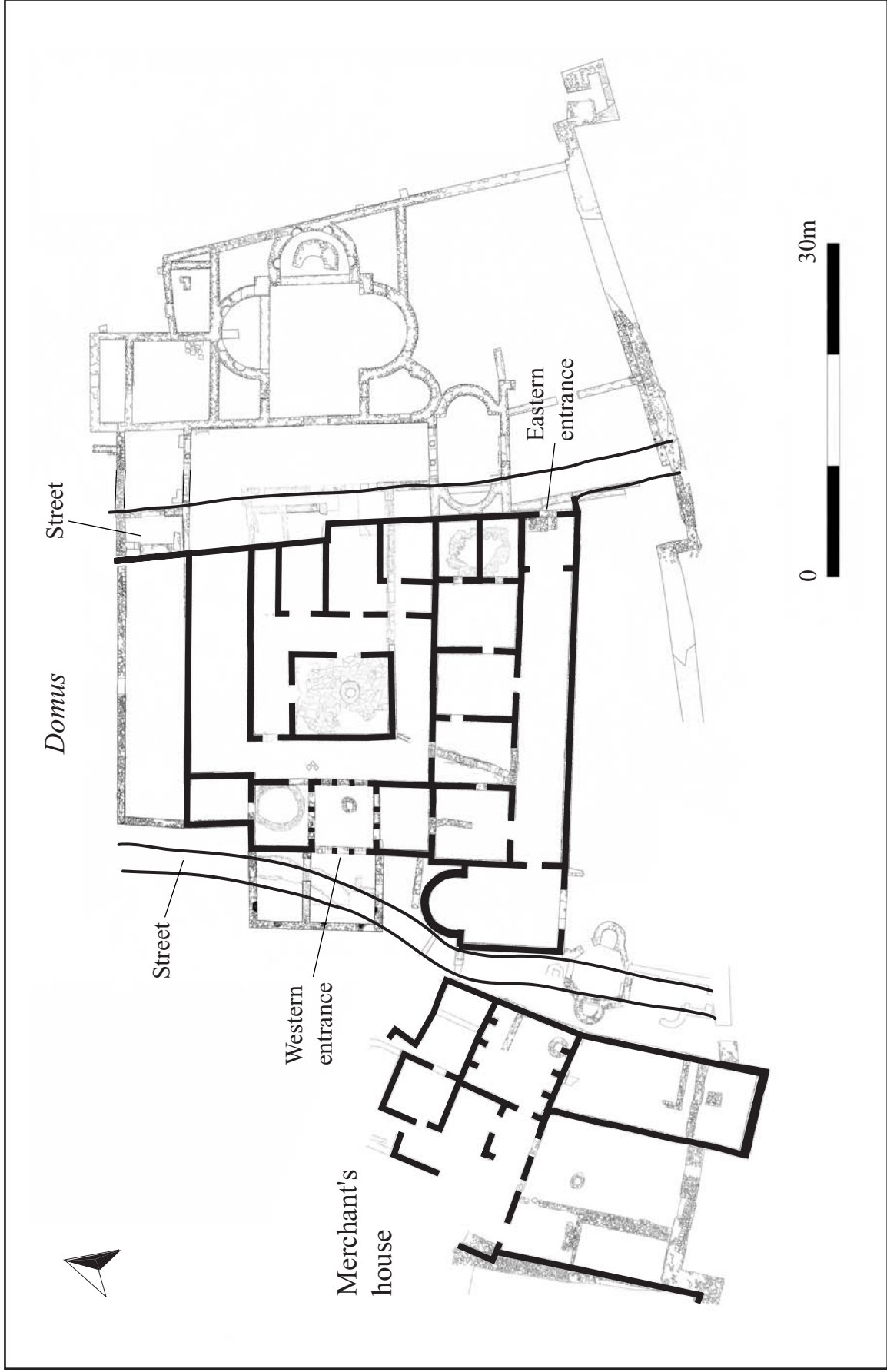


Fig. 11. Plan of the fourth-century *domus*, with its two probable entrances.



Fig. 12. Recording the mosaics in the western arm of the peristyle.



Fig. 13. The long corridor or gallery, seen from the west.

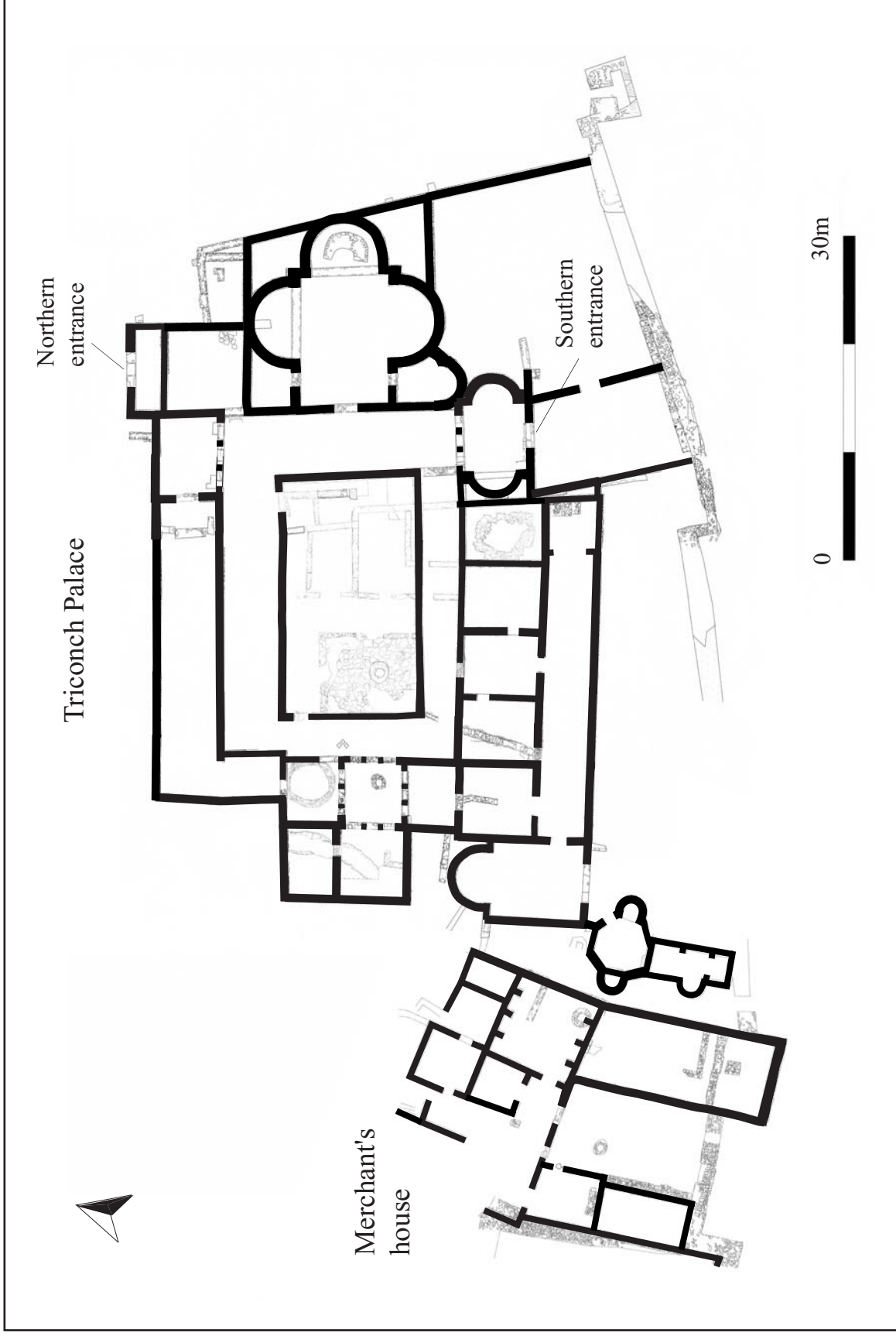


Fig. 14. Plan of the early fifth-century Triconch Palace, showing the changes in access.



Fig. 15. The courtyard of the Triconch Palace. The smaller paved courtyard of the earlier *domus* and the foundations of the surrounding buildings can be clearly seen within the boundaries of the expanded Triconch peristyle, showing that the final phase of the building was never completed.

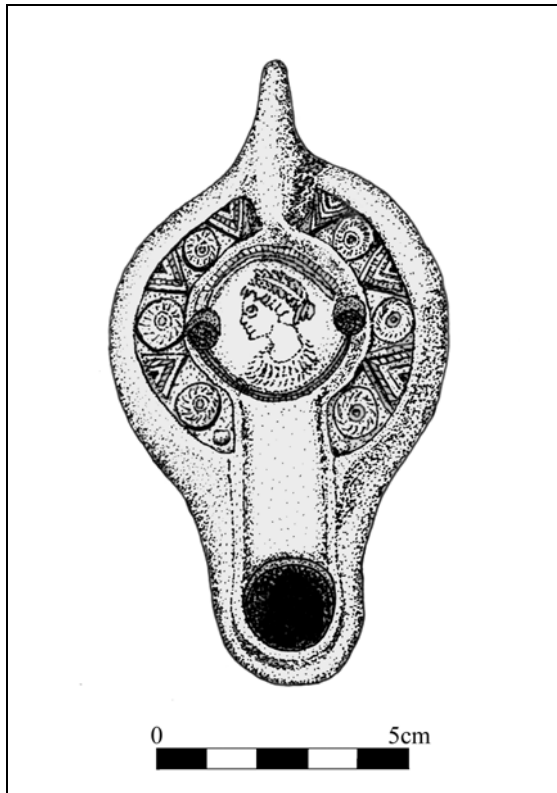


Fig. 16. Pottery lamp from the late fifth- to sixth-century occupation of the Triconch Palace, in which the formerly luxurious rooms were used for industrial purposes and small dwellings.



Fig. 17. Gold *nomisma* of Basil II dating to 977-989, showing the emperor (on the left) accompanied by his brother and co-emperor Constantine VIII.



Fig. 18. Post-holes from a ninth- to tenth-century building built above the southern wing of the Triconch Palace.

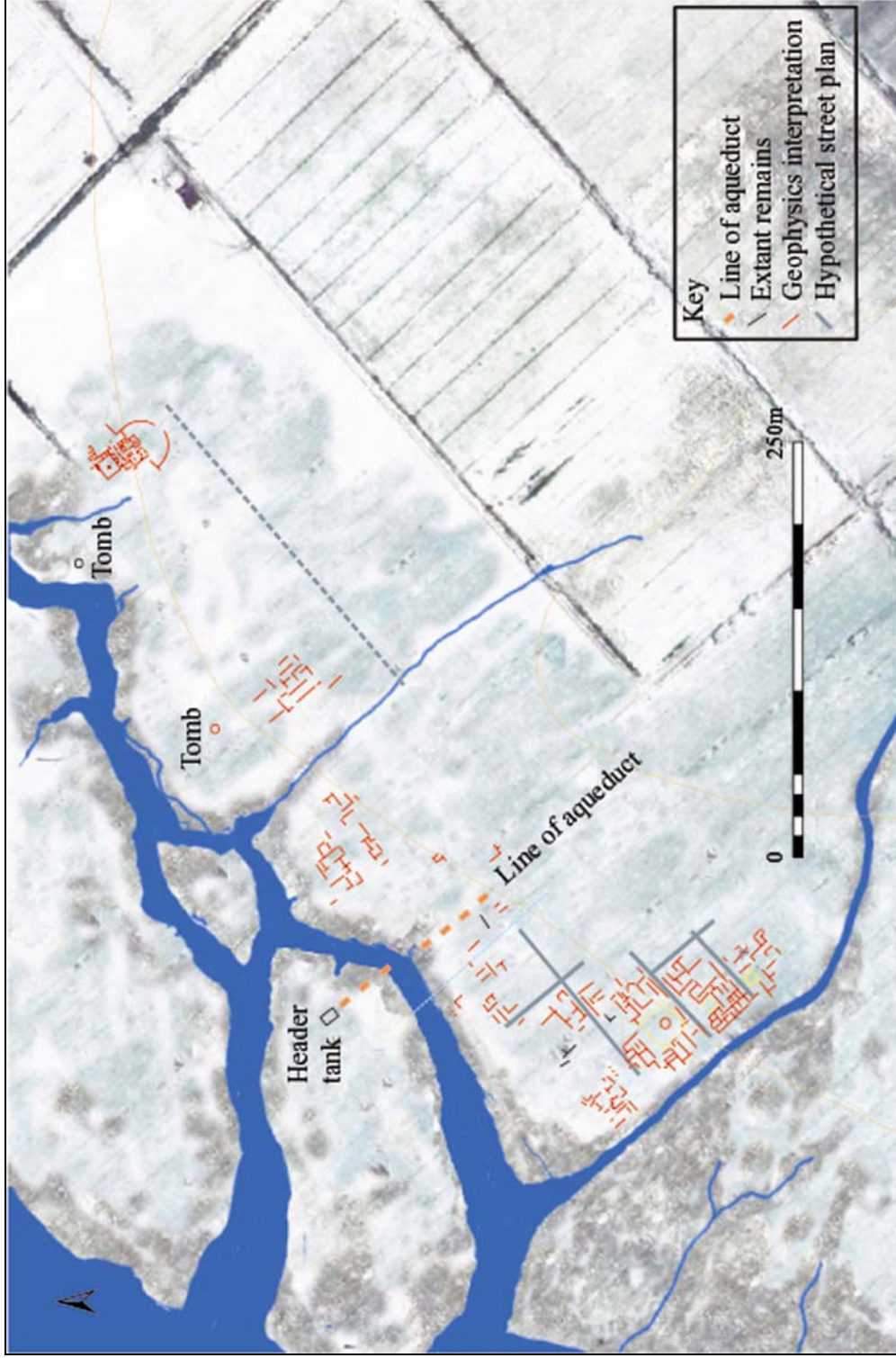


Fig. 19. The Vrina Plain with the results of the earlier geophysical survey.

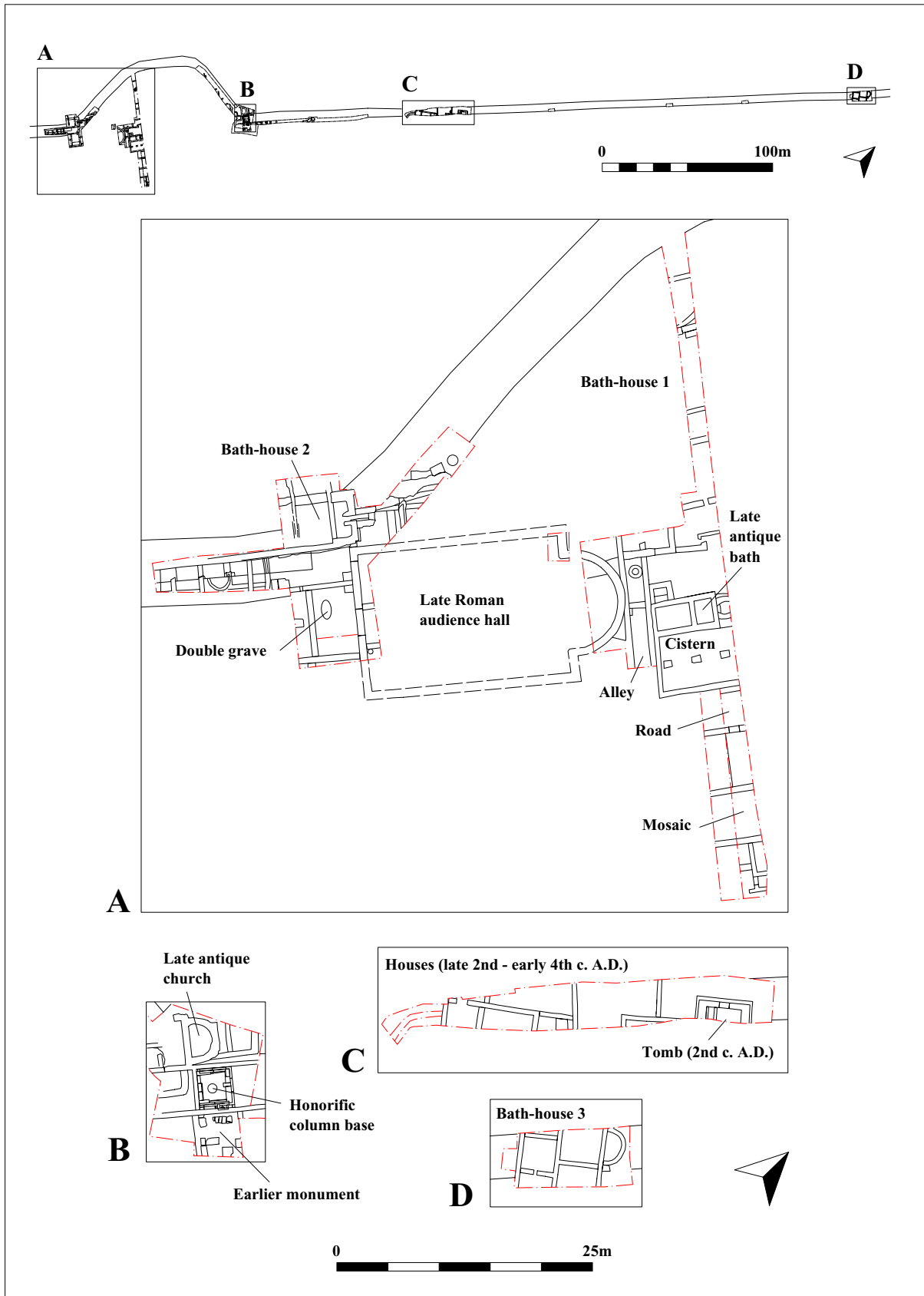
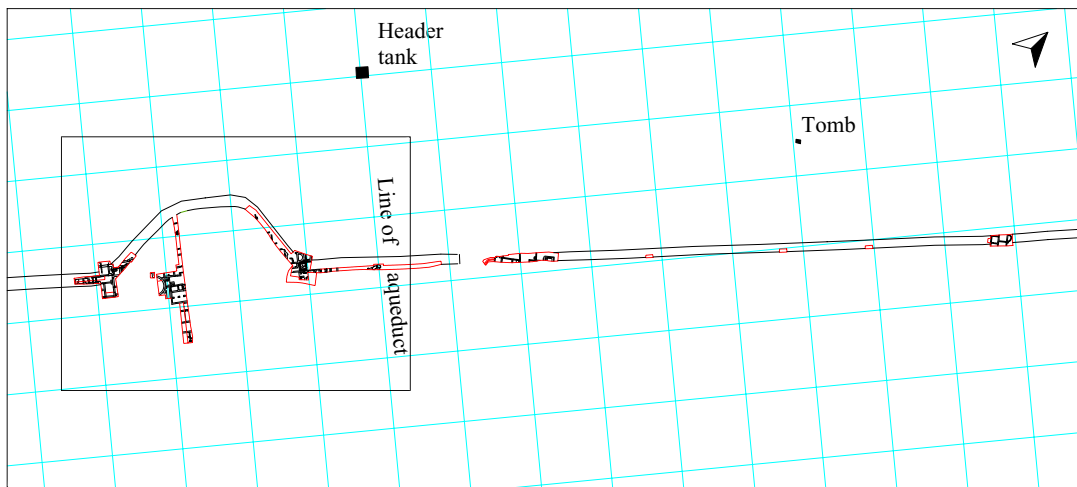


Fig. 20. Plans showing the individual excavation areas on the Vrina Plain.



Fig. 21. The excavations around the monumental honorific column base. To the left of the column base can be seen the apse of a later building (probably a church), while the foundations of an earlier monument lie to its right.



Actus division 36.58m

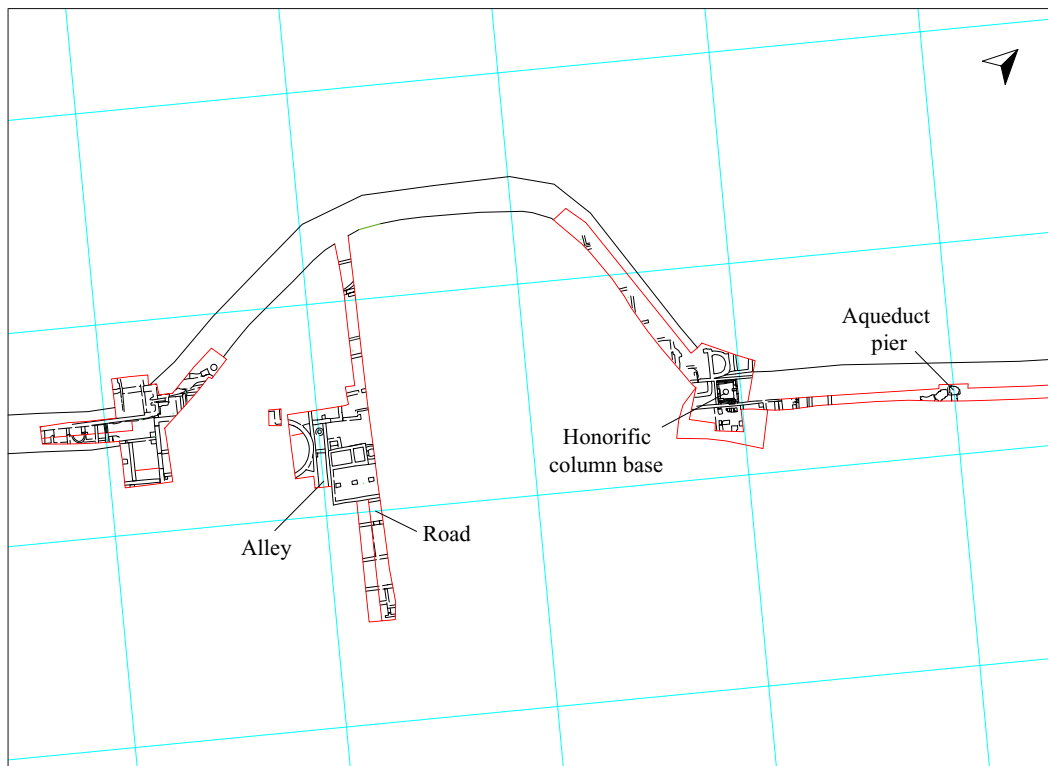


Fig. 22. Plan of the Vrina Plain with hypothetical street grid based on an *actus* measurement of 36.58m.



Fig. 23. The cistern and bath-house 1.



Fig. 24. Monumental tomb of the second century. Later buildings that gradually encroached on the cemetery area can be seen beyond the tomb structure.



Fig. 25. Bath-house 2, looking towards Butrint. The bath is the structure on the far side of the trench, while in the foreground can be seen structures that are probably connected to one of the Roman town-houses. A later double grave can be seen as a dark oval in the nearest structure.



Fig. 26. Bath-house 3. This lies at some distance beyond the main area of southern Butrint and probably belongs to an outlying villa or road station.



Fig. 27. Mosaic pavement probably belonging to a Roman town-house.



Fig. 28. Section of a massive brick-built apse, probably belonging to a late Roman *triclinium* or audience hall.



Fig. 29. Unusual double grave inserted into a room perhaps associated with a late Roman town-house.



Fig. 30. The training excavations looking towards the cistern and bath-house 1.



Fig. 31. Nevila Molla, a recent graduate of the University of Tirana, who participated in the first season of training excavations in 2000, recording archaeological deposits in the Triconch Palace.



Fig. 32. Participants at the Sculpture Workshop in June 2003. From left to right William Bowden, Sandro De Maria, Susan Walker, Charles Brian Rose, Eric Varner, Konstantinos Zachos (seated), Roland Smith (standing), Neritan Ceka (at rear), Iris Pojani (kneeling), Inge Lyse Hansen, Richard Hodges and Shpresa Gjongecai.



Fig. 33. The monumental togate statue.