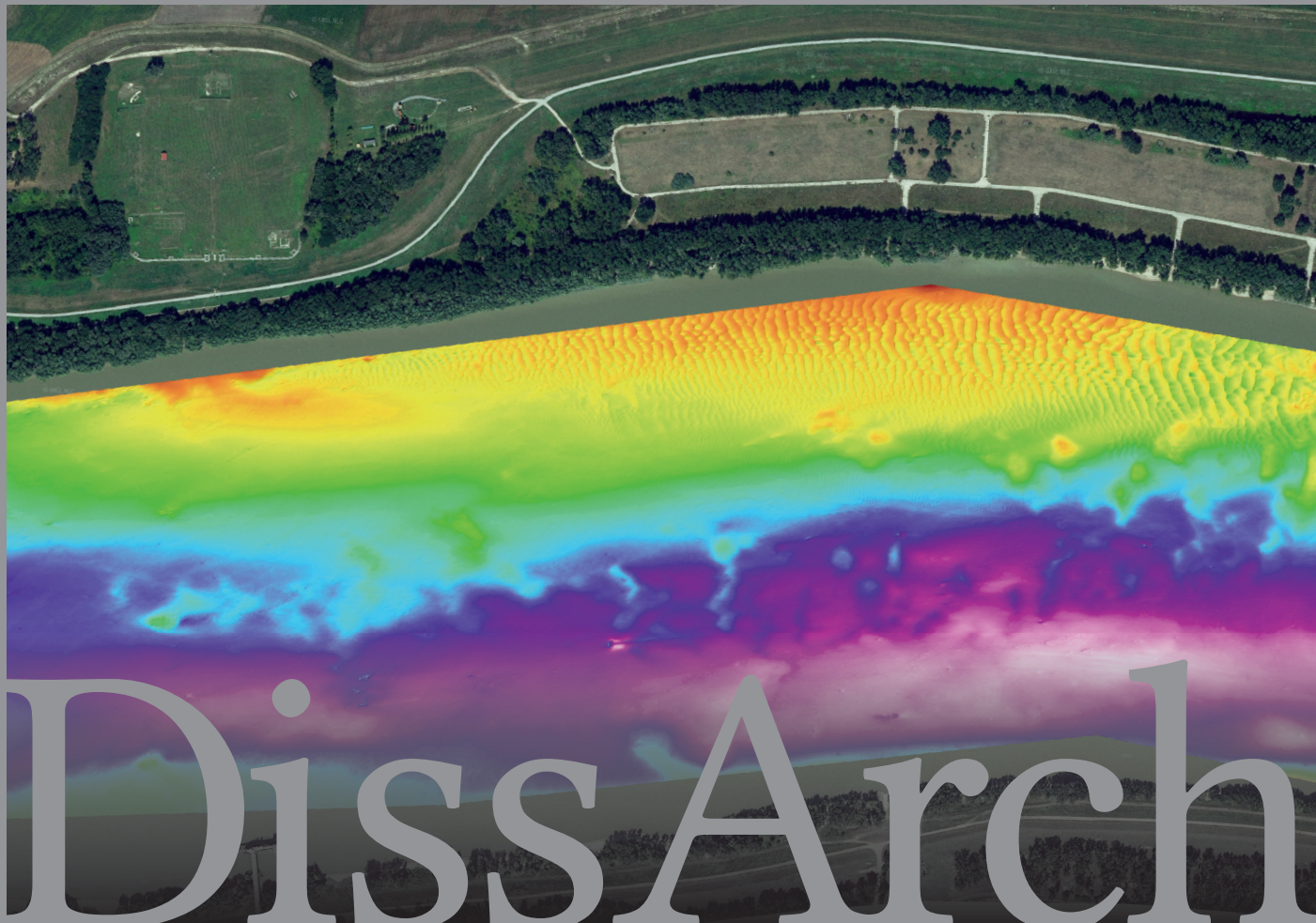


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ex Instituto Archaeologico

Universitatis de Rolando Eötvös nominatae



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Excavations in the legionary fortress of Brigetio in 2025

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Abstract: Research of the legionary camp at Brigetio began in 2015. Over the past 10 years, excavations have extended to the *principia*, a Late Roman apsidal basilica-type building, and the military bathhouse. During the 2025 season, a surface area of 7,100 m² was excavated. The surfaces were situated relatively far from one another, functioning as test trenches across the *praetentura*. Ground-penetrating radar surveys had revealed the locations of several buildings, and on this basis we were able to open trenches specifically aimed at examining the *valetudinarium*, the *horreum*, the barracks and the *scamnum tribunorum*. Additional trenches were also opened in areas that could not be clearly identified through the radar imagery. In these areas, a large surviving section of *opus spicatum* flooring, several channels, and a 17th–18th century cemetery came to light.

Keywords: Brigetio, legionary camp, valetudinarium, scamnum tribunorum, horreum, Roman army

Introduction

Systematic research of the legionary camp at Brigetio began in 2015. The initial excavations focused on the area of the *principia* and were followed in 2017–2018 by the unearthing of an *aula-type* building and by the verification excavations of earlier work conducted at the northern gate of the camp. Between 2021–2024, excavations of the legionary baths were carried out, covering a total area of 2,200 m² (Fig. 1).¹ As a result, the bath complex is currently the part of the camp about which we possess the most detailed information. Although its layout cannot yet be reconstructed in its entirety, certain features are already discernible. Construction of the baths began during the building of the camp itself, at the turn of the 1st–2nd century AD and was followed by several observable phases of reconstruction and renovation. The initial structure was most likely oriented along an east–west axis of symmetry; later modifications substantially altered its originally regular ground plan. Nevertheless, its functional arrangement remained consistent throughout these phases of reconstruction: cold-water rooms situated in the eastern section, while heated-water rooms occupied the western part of the complex. A noteworthy constructional peculiarity is the series of lime-settling basins discovered beneath the later courtyard, originally used during the construction of the building.

Geophysical surveys have been conducted regularly since 2018, focusing primarily on the area of the *praetentura*. As a result, certain aspects of the layout of the bath building were already known prior to excavation. The camp gate, the bath complex, the adjoining *basilica thermarum*, the *via praetoria* together with the *valetudinarium* situated to its east, and the *horreum*, were all clearly visible on the geophysical images (Fig. 2). These results formed the basis for determining the precise trench layout for the 2025 excavation season. The aim of this research was to gain a more precise understanding of the location, phasing, function and state of preservation of the structures in the *praetentura*. During the summer of 2025, seven excavation surfaces were opened (Fig. 1), six of which yielded meaningful results. The first surface was opened in the area of the *valetudinarium*, and the second in the southern part of the *horreum*. The third and fourth surfaces aimed to clarify the functions of the structures located in this area. Surface 3 was particularly important for refining our understanding of the northern boundary of the baths and the *basilica*. The fifth excavation surface, like the third, was established in an area with an unknown layout, situated near the presumed western boundary of the baths. In the case of the sixth surface, the humus layer was not removed

1 For details about the earlier excavation of the legionary camp see BARTUS *et al.* 2021; BARTUS *et al.* 2022; BARTUS *et al.* 2023; BARTUS *et al.* 2024.

across the entire area, as archaeological remains were either almost completely destroyed or the designated area fell within the courtyard between the barracks. The seventh surface was situated over the westernmost residential building of the *scamnum tribunorum* building row. Each surface covered 100 m², consisting a regular 10 × 10 m excavation grid.

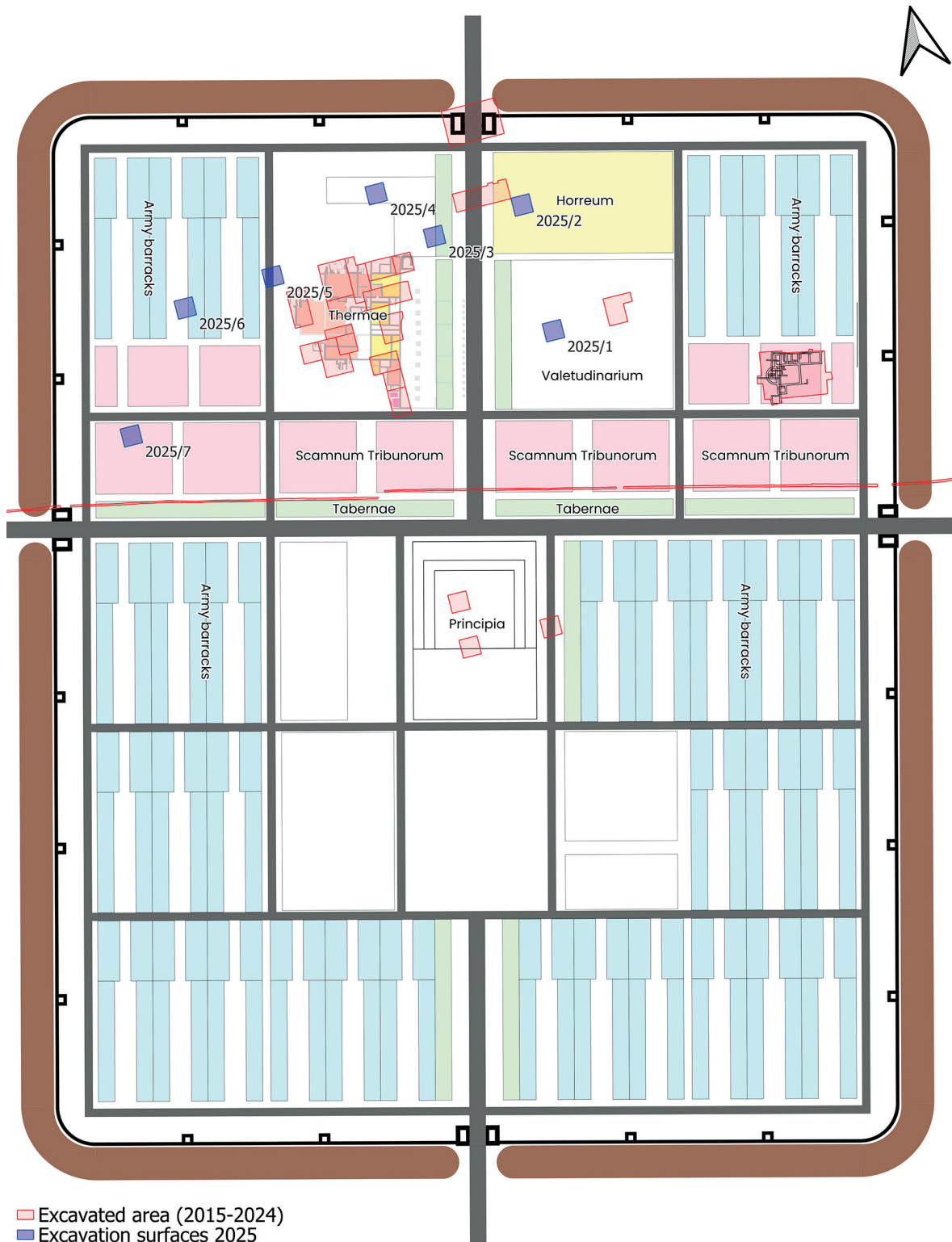


Fig. 1. Layout of the legionary camp highlighted the excavated areas.

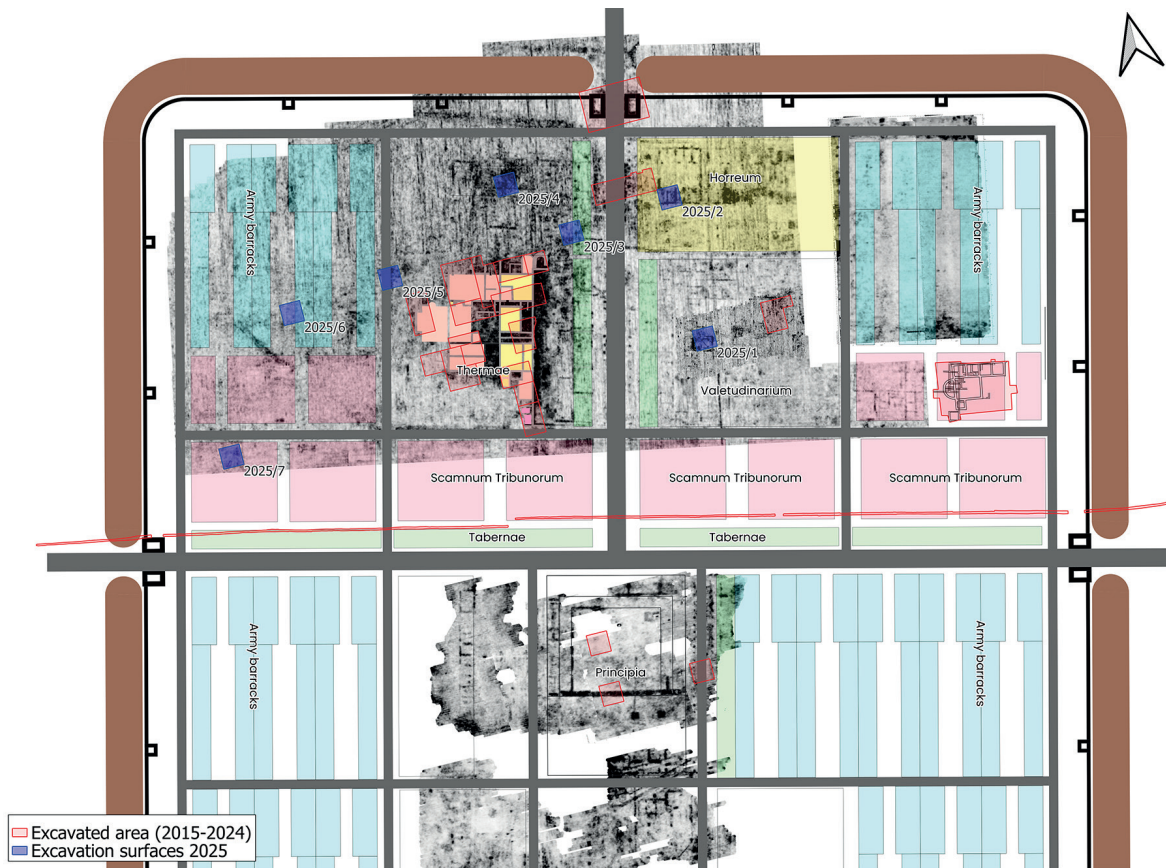


Fig. 2. Layout of the praetentura with the geophysical images and excavated areas.

Surface 2025/1

The excavated surface covered the area of the camp hospital (Fig. 3). When determining the layout of the excavation units, the primary point of reference was the anomaly visible on the geophysical images, which did not correspond precisely to the ground plan of the *valetudinarium*. It was later established that this structure was a product of a subsequent construction phase, unrelated to the *valetudinarium*, and its function remains unknown.

The earlier phase in this surface belonged to the *valetudinarium* building. Only relatively small sections of this structure fell within the excavated area; this phase was observable in the south-western corner of the surface (Fig. 3.1). Here, the hypocaust *pilae* of a smaller chamber equipped with under-floor heating were uncovered, along with the lines of the walls (Fig. 3.2), bordering this space. In some cases, wall remnants were preserved, while in others only the traces of the walls that had been removed were visible. The remains of the earlier room's bounding walls observed beneath the flooring of the later structure, along the line of their removal. In addition, it is possible that the courtyard of the *valetudinarium* extended into this surface.

The remains of the later structure were observed across much of the surface; however, its walls were only preserved through the trenches left by their removal (Fig. 3.4–5). The northern bounding wall of a large chamber paved with terrazzo (Fig. 3.3), survived in the form of a substantial, deep wall-removal trench. The room's eastern bounding wall could likewise be identified only through its removal trench, and it was evident at this point that another terrazzo-paved room lay to the east (Fig. 3.6). The two rooms—although their periods of use may have overlapped—were not constructed simultaneously. The foundation of the eastern chamber's wall was found at a lesser depth and can therefore be regarded as a later addition to the already existing western chamber. In the western

part of the terrazzo floor, a renewal layer was identified; this may relate either to the construction of the heating channel or to later maintenance works. A large portion of the terrazzo flooring had been destroyed, exposing the underlying structures. Two heating channels ran in a V-shaped arrangement (Fig. 3.7); these were of relatively weaker construction. At the junction of the channels, *tubuli* and bricks (possibly reused pieces) supporting the covering slabs were preserved (Fig. 4). The channel presumably continued through the wall to the north. Although this area was considerably disturbed, the line of the channel (Fig. 3.8) was still visible. Heavily ashy layers were preserved in its immediate surroundings, suggesting the possible location of furnace room nearby. The western branch of the V-shaped channel extended into another heated room (Fig. 3.9), where columns made of circular bricks formed a part of the heating system. The full extent of this system remains uncertain, as only a small portion of it fell within the excavation area.

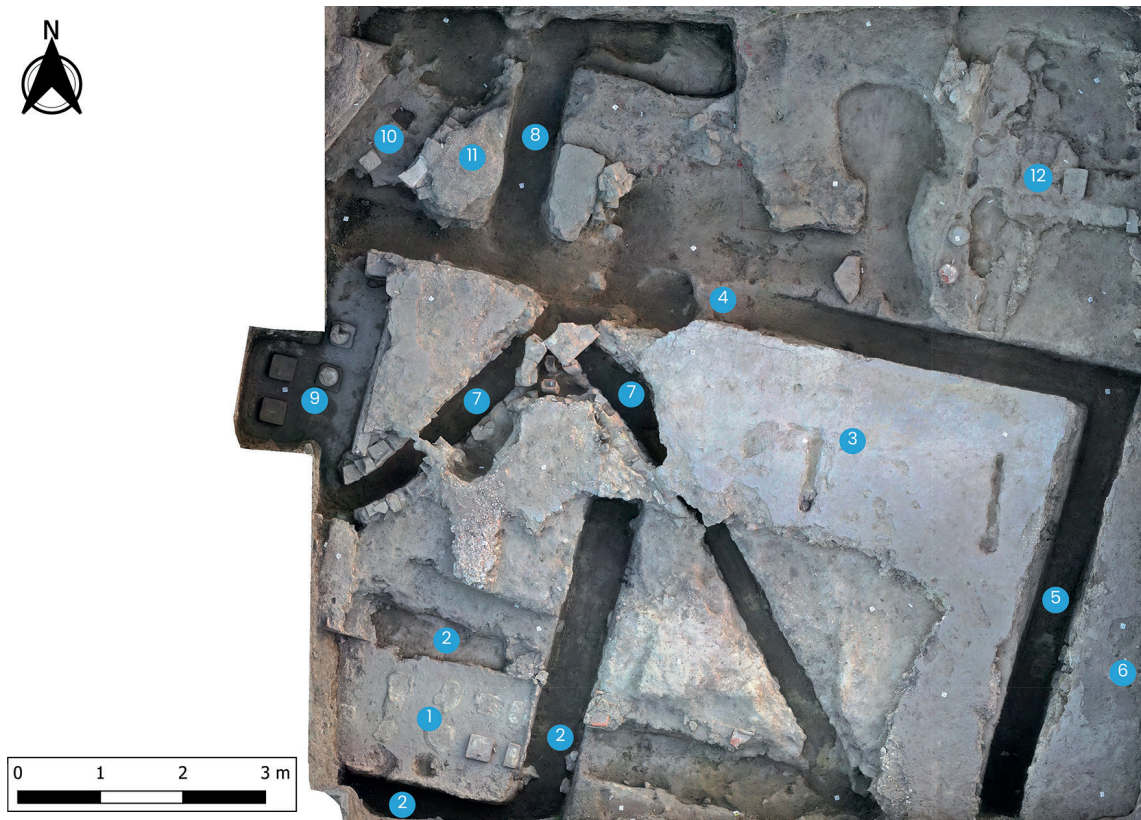


Fig. 3. Orthophoto of surface 2025/1.

The northern section of the surface was subject to considerable disturbance; preventing definitive determination of the structures and phases present here. In the north-western area of the surface, a fragment of a heating channel (Fig. 3.10) was preserved which—compared to the other heating channels observed in this area—was of noticeably finer construction. One carved stone column supporting the flooring was preserved at its centre. Adjacent to it, the surviving floor level (Fig. 3.11) corresponds to the elevation of the terrazzo floor from the later period. The area north of the massive east-west oriented wall-removal trench was covered by an extensive layer of *tegula*-filled debris, which cannot be attributed to any building with certainty. Beneath this, in the north-eastern part of the surface, the remains of a heating channel were preserved in significantly poor condition (Fig. 3.12). Its construction was of distinctly poor quality. Its foundational layer consisted of brick—presumably reused, including a piece bearing the stamp of the *legio XI Claudia*—and mortar mixed with terrazzo fragments, in which the positions of the bricks (and in some cases even the impressions of their stamps) as well as the impressions left by the heating *pilae*, were clearly visible.

Surface 2025/2

During the designation of Surface 2 (Fig. 5) the objective—based on the results of the ground-penetrating radar survey—was to investigate the *horreum* of the legionary camp. The established trenches covered the south-western corner of the *horreum*. After removing the cleaning layer and the heaps of debris, the foundations of the western (Fig. 5.1) and southern (Fig. 5.2) bounding walls of the *horreum* were revealed along the full length of the surface. In some areas, only the trenches left by the removed walls indicated the line along which they had originally run, but this was sufficient to reconstruct their original position. The remains of two supporting buttresses (Fig. 5.3) survived, attached to the exterior of the southern wall. Perpendicular to this wall, and extending toward the interior of the building, remains of several wall foundations were preserved (Fig. 5.4),



Fig. 4. The reused tubuli and bricks supporting the slabs of the channels.

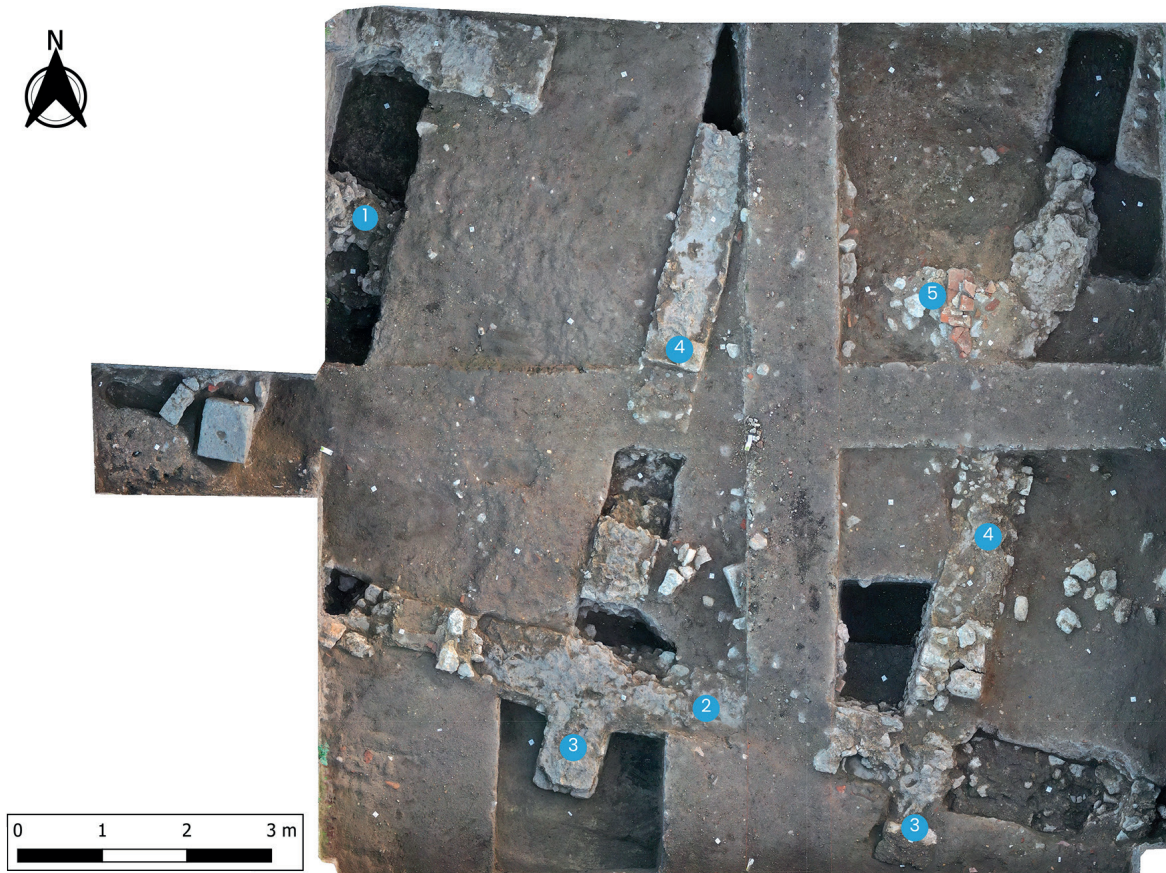


Fig. 5. Orthophoto of surface 2025/2.

spaced 2.8 m apart. These belonged to the raised floor system of the *horreum*. In the north-eastern section of the surface, a structure made of mortar and masonry brick (Fig. 5.5) was found adjacent to the wall, but it was not *in situ*. On this basis, it may be inferred that the wall structure incorporated a levelling course of brick. No roof debris or other building material was observed in the excavated area; the *horreum* building had been dismantled and removed almost in its entirety.

Surface 2025/3

Surface 3 (Fig. 6) covered the area west of the *via praetoria*, the function of which is unknown at present. Directly beneath the humus layer, a previously unknown cemetery dating to the 17th–18th centuries came to light. No church or chapel is documented in this area, raising the possibility that it may have served as an epidemic burial ground. In the excavated portion of the cemetery, the graves had been dug close to one another, arranged in rows, and oriented west–east. As the graves (Fig. 6.1) appeared without clear and visible outlines, and because intensive agricultural activity had taken place in this area, many of the graves were disturbed, and the number of skeletal remains cannot be determined.

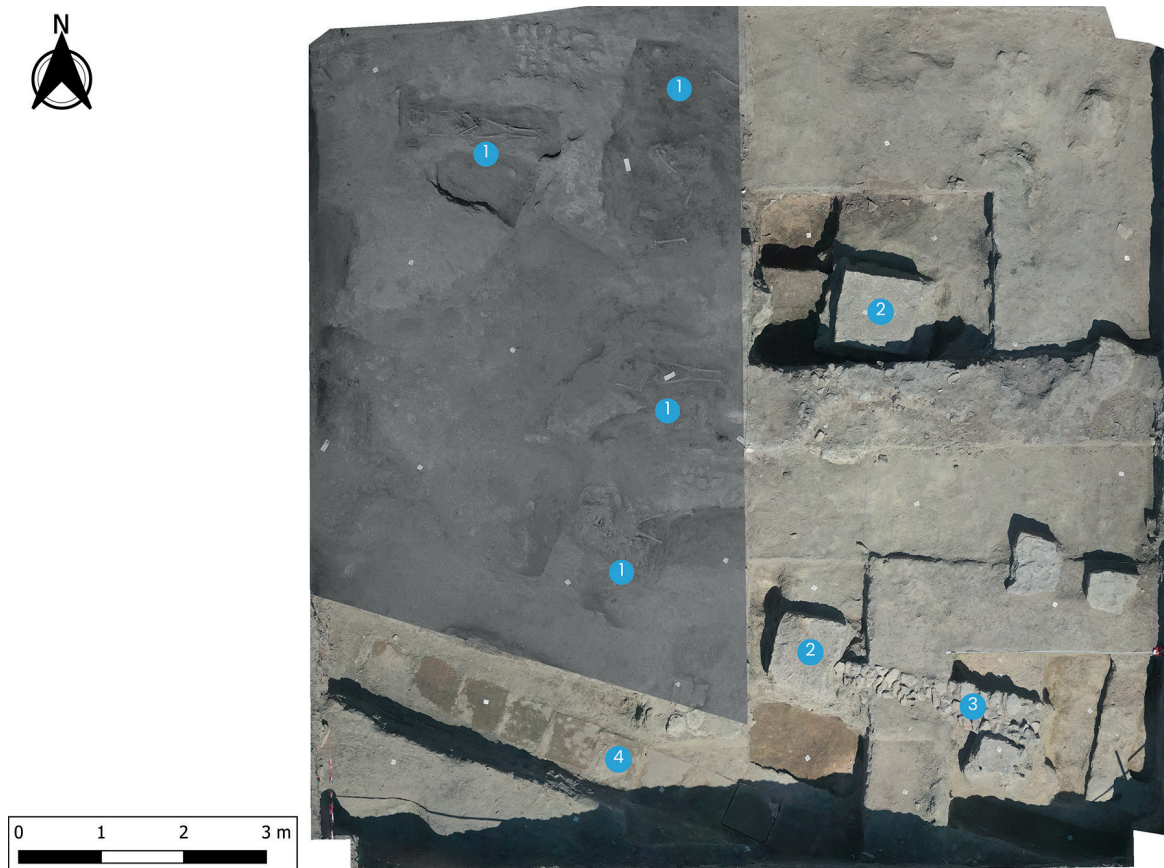


Fig. 6. Orthophoto of surface 2025/3.

Nineteen graves were excavated; in addition, the remains of 2–3 individuals came to light without associated graves within the excavated area. The majority of the burials lacked grave goods, and only a few datable finds were recovered: bronze book fittings, a pilgrim badge, minimal textile remains, buttons from the Early Modern period, and the fragmentary remains of a headdress made of braided iron wire, preserved on the skull of a female individual. Beneath the Early Modern graves, within the layer dating to the Roman period, only a few building structures were observed. In the eastern half of the surface, two large rectangular pillar foundations (Fig. 6.2) were recorded, spaced

3.3 m apart. These may represent two elements of the row of pillars running along the eastern side of the *via praetoria*; elements of the western row had previously been excavated in 2019.² Finds dating to the 2nd century AD were recovered from the test trenches opened beside the pillars. Attached to the southern pillar on the east were the remains of a dry-laid Late Roman wall (Fig. 6.3). At the southern end of the surface ran a massive channel (Fig. 6.4) from east to west. This channel exhibited a far more substantial covering system than those previously uncovered in the area of the legionary camp. The large cover slabs were bonded both to one another and to the sides of the channel with a thick layer of mortar. At one point, a covering slab had cracked; here, signs of maintenance work were visible, involving the application of an additional large quantity of mortar. We removed the damaged slab, exposing the contents of the channel. Unlike the collapsed channels observed elsewhere, the sediment within this one appeared intact; preserved in moist, rectangular blocks (Fig. 7.a–b). Based on its alignment, the channel had run from the northern part of the legionary baths to the larger collector channel along the *via praetoria*. One of the cover slabs bore the stamps of the *legio XI Claudia*; on this basis, the completion of this channel—like that of the baths—can be dated to the initial construction phase of the legionary camp. Taken together with its exceptionally substantial closure, these observations raise the possibility that the channel uncovered in Surface 3 formed a part of the drainage system of the latrine adjoining the baths.



Fig. 7. The channel and its contents of surface 2025/3.

Surface 2025/4

Surface 4—like Surface 3—was opened above a section of a building of unknown function west of the *via praetoria*, in the *insula* closest to the northern wall of the camp (Fig. 8). A building and its adjoining courtyard came to light in this surface. Here, a wall (Fig. 8.1) was uncovered that preserved a large a threshold (Fig. 8.2) carved from a single stone, belonging to a doorway leading into the courtyard. Another threshold (Fig. 8.3)—albeit preserved only in a fragmentary state—led south into a separate room. In some areas, the traces of the walls survived only as the trenches left by their removal, but their lines could nevertheless be easily reconstructed. The entire room was paved with *opus spicatum* (Fig. 8.4). Before the laying of the *opus spicatum*, the room had been floored with a simpler terrazzo surface. In the north-eastern corner of the surface, this earlier terrazzo layer was intersected by a large pit. A quern stone (Fig. 8.5) was recovered from the southern part of the room. Although it was not necessarily *in situ*, it may be related to the building's agricultural use during the Late Roman period.

2 BARTUS *et al.* 2021, 185.

Beneath the flooring, a drainage channel (Fig. 8.6) of substantial depth and narrow width was positioned directly in line with the threshold. During the channel's period of use, maintenance and cleaning would have required dismantling the overlaying flooring. Rectangular cut floor tiles were observed in line with the edges of the channel. Following renovation, the channel was covered with a simpler terrazzo surface, traces of which are still visible along the line of the threshold. The channel exited the building beneath the threshold and was fully traceable and excavated (Fig. 8.7) across the full width of the surface below the courtyard level. The section of the channel running diagonally beneath the courtyard was considerably wider than the portion located inside the building beneath the flooring. Several phases were present in the courtyard area. The earliest was a terrazzo surface (Fig. 8.8), a fragment of which was uncovered at the junction of the excavated walls. It remains unclear whether this surface functioned as a floor level or the base of a hypocaust system. It was likely not contemporary with the adjacent walls: the walls of the building visible on the surface appear to cut into this earlier terrazzo layer. On this basis, the later structures have no connection to the earlier flooring. The courtyard subsequently became filled in, and the later floor level is indicated by the cover slabs of the channel running across it and by the line of the interior floor level.

Reconstructions in this area also took place in the Late Roman period. Two dry-laid, approximately north–south oriented walls (Fig. 8.9) were uncovered within this surface, one situated in the courtyard and the other built atop the *opus spicatum* floor. Several floor levels were identified along the courtyard wall, some of which may be interpreted as earlier courtyard floor levels predating its construction.

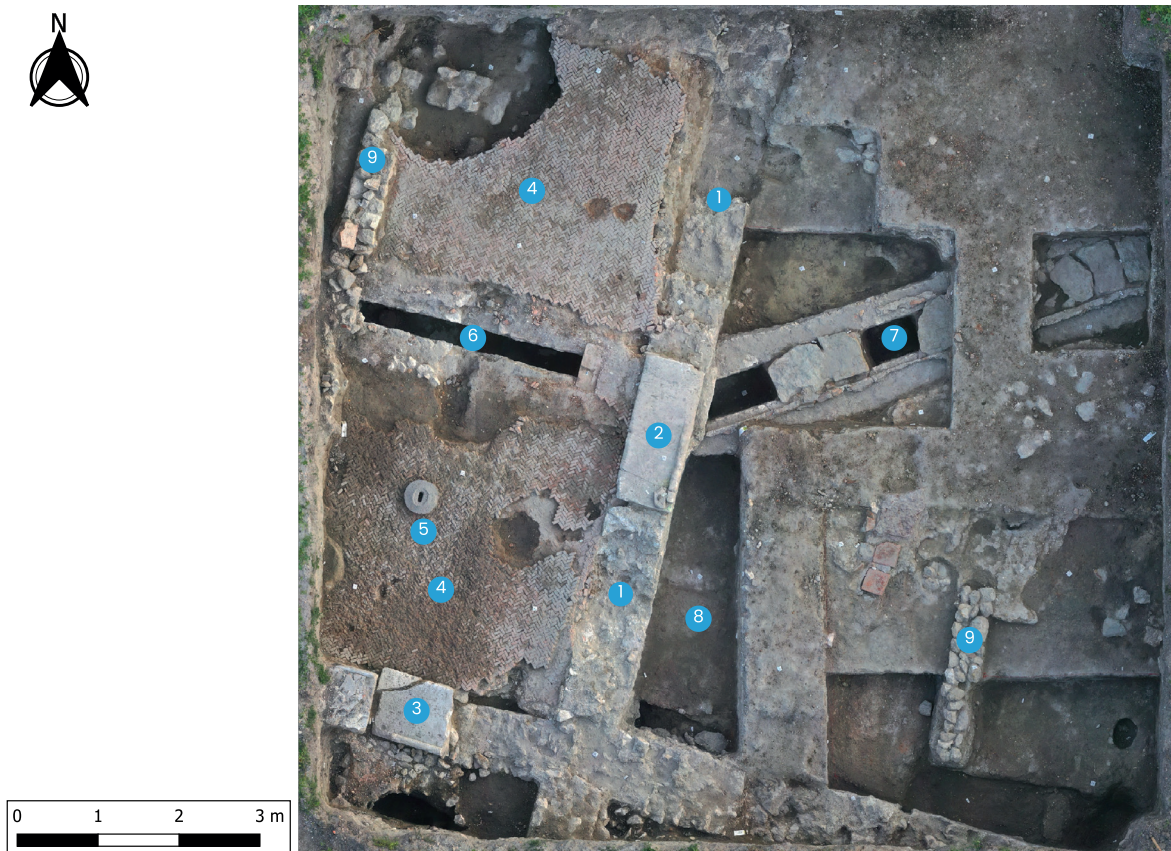


Fig. 8. Orthophoto of surface 2025/4.



Fig. 9. Orthophoto of surface 2025/5.

Surface 2025/5

Surface 5 (Fig. 9) was likewise opened in an area of the legionary camp with an undetermined function. The surface is situated west of the bath building, clearly outside it. The structures preserved within this area could not be clearly associated with any specific building; several smaller remains from different periods were observed, seemingly independent of one another. The northern half of the surface was clearly overlain by a burnt destruction layer. Among the large quantity of roof tiles, some bearing the stamp of *Lupicinus tribunus* were present, indicating that reconstruction was still taking place in the 4th century. Beneath the continuous layer of *tegula* debris, a homogeneous black burn layer was observed. Under the debris lay the connected remains of an east–west (Fig. 9.1) and a north–south (Fig. 9.2) oriented, presumably heating, channel. Neither the western wall nor the bottom of the north–south section was preserved, raising the question of whether a channel or possibly a heated room had originally connected to the east–west oriented channel. The base of the channel was not uniform in its construction: certain sections were finely built of brick, whereas in others the dismantled, mortared remains of a pre-existing wall (Fig. 9.3) formed the bottom surface. To the north of the channel, running parallel to it, were the remains of a



Fig. 10. Remains of a presumably late Roman burial.

Late Roman wall (Fig. 9.4). Later, a smaller structure (Fig. 9.5) was built directly above the channel, reusing its building materials (Fig. 10). As only small parts of this feature survived, it cannot be fully reconstructed; it may be interpreted as the surviving remains of a Late Roman burial. The foundations of walls (Fig. 9.6) belonging to a very early period were uncovered much deeper than the rest of the archaeological features observed within this surface. At present, they cannot be attributed to any building of specific function.

Surface 2025/6

Surface 6 was opened in the area where the barracks were located, in the north-western half of the camp. Already during topsoil removal, it became apparent that the archaeological remains where either completely destroyed or that the excavation trenches had been placed over a section of a courtyard beside the barrack buildings. During the striping of the topsoil, only a few ditches or foundation cuts of removed walls were visible in the subsoil. At present, these cannot yet be integrated into the building structure of the legionary camp, as the elements of these dismantled building remains—belonging to a very early period—were found only scattered in a few excavation trenches.³

Surface 2025/7

Surface 7 (Fig. 11) encompassed the westernmost house of the *scamnum tribunorum* row of buildings. Several slightly irregularly arranged rooms were identified in the excavated area, which had undergone multiple different phases of reconstruction. The slightly irregular ground plan can be explained by the complex function of the building: it served simultaneously as the residence of the *tribunus* while also accommodating offices and storage rooms. In the south-eastern corner of the 100 m² excavated area was a heated room (Fig. 11.1–2) with a terrazzo floor. The *pilae* did not survive in good condition; only the rectangular bricks forming their bases were preserved *in situ*. Only a single corner of the heated room lay within the excavated area, yet even in this small section several reconstruction phases were visible. The walls enclosing the room survived only in the form of the trenches left by their removal (Fig. 11.3–4). These trenches likewise indicate that, during one reconstruction phase, the wall was built thicker than in the earlier phase of the building. The hypocaust was already present in the earlier phase and was later aligned to the new, increased wall thickness (Fig. 12). Possibly at the same time, or in a subsequent phase, the area occupied by the hypocaust was reduced. In the western strip of the room, it was completely discontinued, and here its remains were preserved up to the *in situ* height of the terrazzo flooring (Fig. 11.2). The flooring also preserved evidence of multiple construction phases: beneath the terrazzo layer an earlier floor of rectangular bricks was identified, constructed when the hypocaust system was rebuilt. In the earliest phase, the room was paved with terrazzo, and at this time the enclosing walls were thinner. To the west of this room lay another space of larger floor area (Fig. 11.5). Here too, several phases of renovation were present. The earliest flooring was likewise made of rectangular bricks, and in some areas the traces of repair were observable. The later floor was also built of brick, but its orientation differed from that of its predecessor. In the latest period, the floor was no longer constructed in such a regular manner; instead, the space was paved with a white mortar and gravel-filled layer. Among the bricks, only stamps of *legio I Adiutrix* were present. Since this legion was stationed at Brigetio throughout the entire lifespan of the camp, these stamps are not suitable for dating the structure. It is possible that this space—first paved with brick and later with a gravel-filled mortar surface—functioned as an inner courtyard, although the absence of a complete ground plan prevents this

3 BARTUS *et al.* 2024, 628, Fig. 2.8.

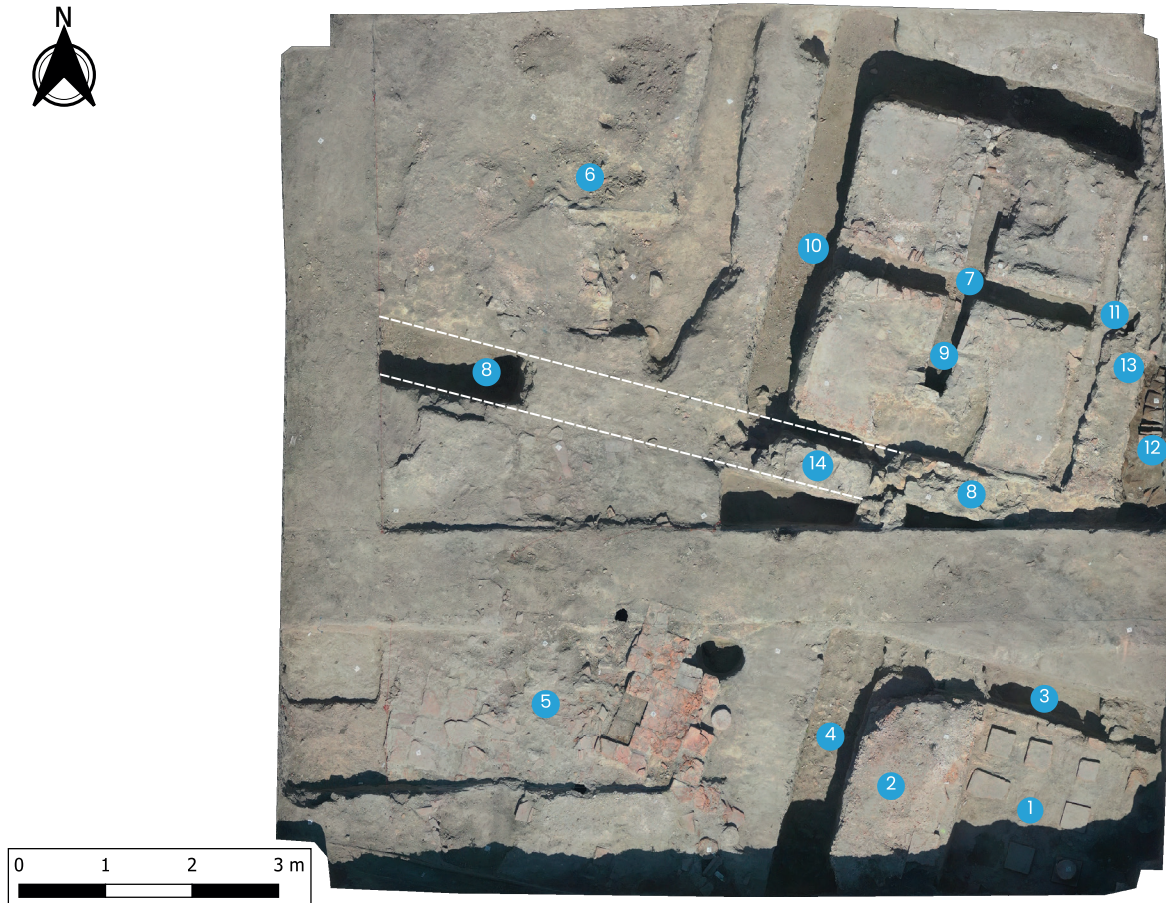


Fig. 11. Orthophoto of surface 2025/7.

from being stated with certainty. Two rooms were identified in the northern part of the surface. In the more western of these, a terrazzo floor (Fig. 11.6) in an exceptionally poor state of preservation was uncovered; it had collapsed in several areas, construction debris, hypocaust bricks, and fragments of fresco and stucco were found in the resulting depressions. The southern bounding wall (Fig. 11.8) of this space was visible in places only through the trenches left by its removal, while in other areas its foundation was preserved. In the north-eastern corner of the excavated area, a room likewise paved with terrazzo (Fig. 11.7) was uncovered. Here, the floor was divided into four sections by a channel (Fig. 11.9) running through it in a cross-shaped arrangement. The channel's walls were constructed of brick (Fig. 13.a), were not watertight, and patches of ash were visible on their inner surfaces. On this basis, the feature may be interpreted as a heating channel; however, its northern and southern branches did not extend to the wall but terminated in bricked closures (Fig. 13.b) Although its eastern and western branches reached the bounding walls (Fig. 11.10–11), they display no evidence of having been connected to a heating chamber. The wall at which the western branch terminates survived only in the form of the trench left by its removal, making it impossible to determine



Fig. 12. Adjusted circular *pilae* of the hypocaust system during the reconstruction of the heated room.

the extent to which it enclosed the channel; the eastern branch, however, is completely closed off by the room's wall. It is not inconceivable that in an earlier period the eastern branch continued into a separate heated room, as a relatively large number of *tubuli* (Fig. 11.12) were found on that side, suggesting heating activity in this neighbouring room beside the space in question. The eastern bounding wall of the room in question was dismantled during the Roman period, and a narrower Late Roman wall (Fig. 11.13) was erected atop it. The space itself is a product of reconstruction; its southern wall clearly reached its full length through a later extension. On the southern face of this added section, traces of red paint were observed.

Coins and the *terra sigillata* finds

This year also proved quite fruitful in terms of the coin finds, similarly to the previous campaigns. In total we collected 953 Roman pieces, 662 (69.5%) of them without context primarily with the help of our metal detectorist hobbyists.⁴ In addition to these we also uncovered a denar of Stephen I of Hungary, which in itself is not a rare coin, but is surprising at our site, where post-Roman coins do not occur. Thanks to the on-site cleaning we managed to identify the majority of the coins with archaeological context and also some without. Not surprisingly, the trend of the previous years continued with the overall domination of Late Roman bronze coins. The majority were minted between 350 and 358 AD, followed by those dating to 364–378 and 330–335 AD. We also have a considerable number of the lowest quality *antoniniani* from the 260s. Interestingly, this year we uncovered a few coins from the last two decades of the 4th century which were mostly lacking in previous years. This is a joyous occurrence, since the legionary camp was surely in use, but the latest coins were usually the ones ending in 378 AD. These pieces make up 2.8% of the single finds in the Bíró-Sey's monograph on the coin finds in Brigetio, so their absence was a mystery to us.⁵

We have around a dozen Early Imperial bronze denominations, usually quite worn. Two were stuck together, one of them a cast copy of a 2nd-century piece, the other a completely worn as. This also shows that the official and unofficial pieces were being used simultaneously without any reservations by the soldiers in times of small change shortage. The only silver coins recovered were 2-3 *denarii*, however further uncleaned pieces may yet prove to be of this type. The coin uncovered in the infill of the grave (SE 4429) can be dated to 364–378 AD.

4 We are most of all indebted to András Szalai for his unwavering hard work.

5 BÍRÓ-SEY 1977, 16.



Fig. 13. a–b – The channels in the north-eastern part of surface 2025/7.

Unfortunately, we did not have the pleasure of discovering coin hoards or provincial medallions as in previous years.⁶ Nonetheless, we were not left entirely without any interesting pieces. The most peculiar being the CONSTANTINIANA DAFNE reverse minted by Constantine I in 328–329.⁷ This piece, according to the published material and our knowledge, was not previously found in Brigetio, and certainly not in the legionary camp. The reverse shows Victory seated left on cippus, holding palm and laurel branch, looking right; in front, trophy; at feet, kneeling captive, turned head. Its interpretation is still debated, already summarized by J. Eckhel.⁸ The now traditional view, supported by the scholar, is that it honoured the fortification on the left bank of the Danube by the name of Dafne, built by Constantine. Daphne was the Greek word for laurel, named after the nymph, who in her desperate flight from Apollo's love, transformed into this plant.⁹ Thus, it became the symbol of the god and later for victory in general. It only adds to the confusion that, because of Daphne's statue, a part of Constantine's palace in Constantinople was also called Daphne. Both interpretations would be uniquely specific for Late Roman coins, thus it is more likely that the reverse generally alludes to Constantine's victoriousness, one of the key prerequisites of a true emperor.

A total of 333 fragments of *terra sigillata* came to light during the excavation. This number is not surprising, as in the vicinity of legionary sites a generally high proportion of *terra sigillata* use is observed.¹⁰ All fragments can be attributed to identifiable workshops. Among the material produced by the earlier centres, only pieces from southern Gaul are represented, more specifically five fragments from the *officina* of La Graufesenque. In addition, three fragments can be attributed to an eastern Gaulish workshop. The largest quantities within the assemblage derive from Central

Tab. 1. Distribution of *terra sigillata* fragments by workshop.

	Number of fragments	Percentage distribution
Southern Gaul	5	2%
Eastern Gaul	3	1%
Central Gaul	81	24%
Rheinzabern	202	61%
Westerndorf	38	11%
Pfaffenhofen	4	1%

Gaul (81 fragments) and from Rheinzabern (202 fragments). Alongside these, products of later *officinae* are also present: 38 fragments presumably from Westerndorf, and 4 from the workshop of Pfaffenhofen (Tab. 1). Beyond the diversity of workshops represented, the vessel forms likewise span a wide spectrum. The most diverse group consists of the fragments of *terra sigillata* vessels produced in the Rheinzabern *officina*, this is also due to the large number of this group. A total of 62 fragments could not be classified by form due to their lack of distinctive features (Tab. 2). Of the *terra sigillata* assemblage, 82 fragments were decorated. The largest group within the decorated pieces comprises the mould-made relief bowls. Nevertheless, fragments with *appliqué* ornamentation also occur (Fig. 14.1), as well as a fragment of a vessel produced in a Rheinzabern workshop, that was decorated using the *barbotine* technique (Fig. 14.8). Of the 333 fragments, only four preserve visible potter's stamps (Fig. 14.5–7), all of which can be attributed to workshops in Central Gaul. Several decorated fragments can be linked to specific potters. The assemblage includes vessel fragments from the potters most prominently importing wares into Pannonia: *Germanus*, *Cerialis*, *Comitalis*, *Ianuaris*, *Cinnamus*, *Cobnertus*, *Reginus*, *Helenius*. Among the earliest fragments produced in southern Gaul, one particularly noteworthy piece stands out (Fig. 14.1), reflecting the continued use of the North Italian, Po Valley vessel form (Consp. 20). The *appliqué* ornamentation, characteristic of this form,

6 BARTUS *et al.* 2024.

7 It was also minted in gold and silver (RIC VII, Constantinople 38).

8 ECKHEL 1798, 81–82.

9 CAZA 2021, 75–76.

10 GABLER 2006, 8.

Tab. 2. Distribution of *terra sigillata* fragments by their form.

Forms	Southern Gaul	Eastern Gaul	Central Gaul	Rheinzabern	Westerndorf	Pfaffenhofen
Consp. 20	1	—	—	—	—	—
Drag. 18	—	—	—	1	—	—
Drag. 18/31	—	—	11	24	2	—
Drag. 30	—	—	1	—	3	—
Drag. 31	—	—	—	1	—	—
Drag. 32	—	—	5	18	2	—
Drag. 33	—	—	9	13	3	—
Drag. 37	3	3	24	59	20	3
Drag. 40	1	—	—	—	—	—
Drag. 43	—	—	9	—	—	—
Drag. 54	—	—	—	14	—	—
Lud. Tb.	—	—	—	2	—	—
Niederbieber 1	—	—	—	36	1	—
Undefinable	—	—	21	34	7	—

is visible on this vessel, however it cannot be linked to a specific potter. Two fragments were likewise produced in southern Gaul (Fig. 14.2–3), more specifically in the *officina* of La Graufesenque. These pieces were decorated with figures typical of the potter *Germanus* and can be dated to between 90 and 100 AD. The former depicts the combat of two gladiators,¹¹ the later shows the body of a donkey,¹² unfortunately, both survive only in fragmentary condition. A particularly noteworthy piece is the fragment of a Drag. 54 type *terra sigillata* flask decorated with the aforementioned *barbotine* technique, as well as the Drag. 32 type plate whose underside bears the signature of the master potter. This plate was produced by *Costio*, a potter of Rheinzabern, around 170–240 AD. One relief-decorated fragment could not be attributed to a specific potter (Fig. 14.4,6). It displays the image of a peacock surrounded by smaller plant motifs resembling palm trees. A fragment belonging to a Drag. 37 type vessel, depicting Victoria, was attributed to the potter *Comitalis*. Among the *terra sigillata* fragments recovered during the 2025 excavation campaign, the earliest pieces from southern Gaul and the latest fragments associated with the Pfaffenhofen workshop are represented only in small numbers within the assemblage. These two groups frame the chronological range of the assemblage between the 1st and the late 3rd century AD. The majority of imported wares arrived at the legionary camp of Brigetio between the mid-2nd and mid-3rd century AD.

Summary

The 2025 excavation season shifted in a new direction compared to our work of the previous four years. Instead of continuing our research on the baths, the focus of our most recent campaign was to gain a better understanding of the topography of the legionary camp and to map the observable differences across the site in the preservation of archaeological material and building remains. All six surfaces—although opened over vastly different areas of buildings—revealed several observable construction phases; in some cases, a shift in the function of the buildings may be presumed.

11 MEES 1995, Taf. 85.2.

12 MEES 2014, GLA-r 001; MEES 2014, GLA-l 001.

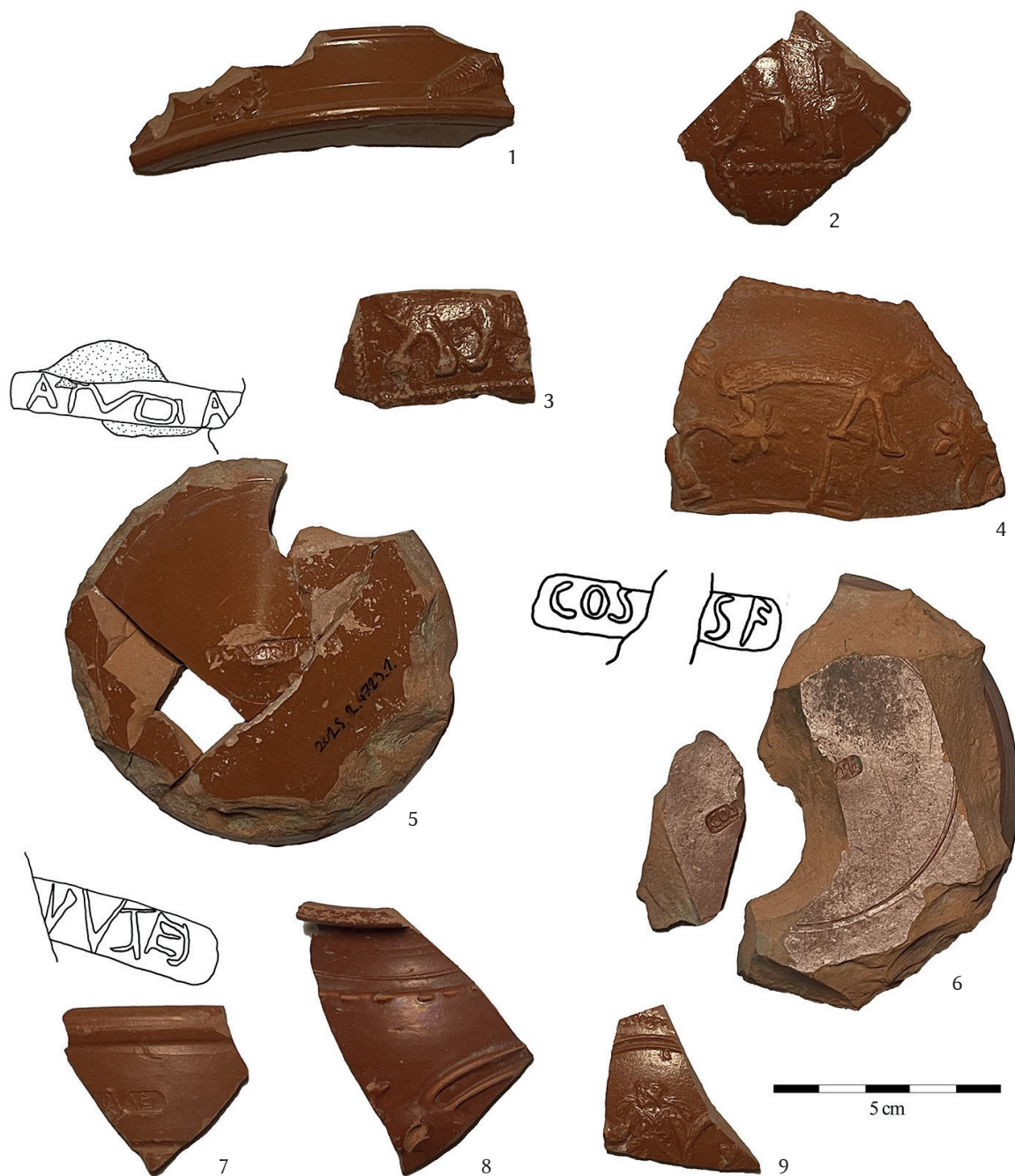


Fig. 14. 1–9 – Selection of decorated and stamped *terra sigillata* fragments.

In Surfaces 1, 2, 4, and 7—consistent with our pre-existing expectations based on the radar imaging—complex building structures were uncovered. Only a small section of the row of infirmary rooms that made up the *valetudinarium* lay within the excavated area. However, it became apparent during excavation that the surroundings of the hospital, as well as its courtyard, continued to be used even after the dismantling of the traditional hospital structure. At this time, new buildings of unknown function were erected in the courtyard area. We successfully excavated the foundations of the *horreum*, which correspond to the typical ground plans of such structures. Its surrounding area was notably sparsely in terms of finds, and no traces of rebuilding could be identified. Based on the assemblage of coins recovered from its vicinity, it may be assumed either that the structure was built in the 4th century AD, or that, in its excavated form, it bears the traces of a complete 4th century reconstruction. The building structures excavated in Surface 4 raise several questions. The presence of

the finely constructed opus spicatum flooring prompts further inquiry into the building's function, which can only be clarified through continued research. The terrazzo floor uncovered beneath its courtyard level raises additional questions about possible structures that may have been in use in this area during earlier phases of the camp. In Surface 7, the trenches opened revealed the remains of a building that had undergone multiple renovations and reconstructions. The presence of wall painting fragments, heated rooms, and the rectangular bricks employed as flooring support the notion that this area provided accommodation for high-ranking military officials. In Surfaces 3 and 5, we were unable to excavate any identifiable building structures. However, the intact channel uncovered in the lower layers of Surface 3 was most likely constructed during the early stages of the camp's development, at the time the baths were built. In Surface 5, wall foundations were discovered at surprisingly great depths, which—supplemented by further research—will aid us in clarifying the layout of the early phases of the camp.

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