

BĪR-KOṬ-GHWANḌAI INTERIM REPORTS, XI  
ACT-FIELD SCHOOL PROJECT REPORTS AND MEMOIRS  
SPECIAL VOLUME 7

# VAJIRASTHĀNA

## ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE BARIKOT HILLTOP (SWAT, PAKISTAN)

Volume 1



Luca M. Olivieri  
In collaboration with Elisa Iori, Michele Minardi and Marco Pinelli

Foreword by Abdul Samad

Edited by Alice Casalini

“SAVE THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF BAZIRA” PROJECT



International alliance  
for the protection  
of heritage  
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“Save the archaeological site of Bazira” is a project of ALIPH (International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas), ISMEO International Association for Mediterranean and Oriental Studies, and Directorate-General of Archaeology and Museums, Govt of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (DOAM KP).

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## Fieldwork on the acropolis

We started investigating the summit on the hilltop (Trenches BKG 14 and 15) in 2020. Although a general survey in 2003 had mapped some structures (Sector 8 in Olivieri 2003a and Olivieri<sup>3</sup>, this volume), the area had been virtually unexplored until then.<sup>82</sup> The excavation began by clearing the trenches and the rudimentary casemates dug and used by the Pakistani army between 2007 and 2012. The investigation revealed that the summit was a terraced space overlooking both Terraces E and W and the lower city. There, an architectural complex was structured around a reservoir, which is the only feature that lasted throughout the life of the monument and until the Ghaznavid retreat. Only during the following campaign in 2021, we realised that the whole complex was a Śāhi stronghold that was later reused in the Ghaznavid period (Figs 1–2).

The construction of the Śāhi period dry-stone masonry structures on the terrace resulted in the complete demolition of the previous buildings: only scant structural remains of these earlier structures could be documented on the massive ballast that filled the uneven natural shape of the rocky phylladic outcrop of the hill. This bedrock outcrop sharply descends northwards at a 45° angle and then falls almost vertically for over 200 m down to the bank of the Swat River on the N border of the site. This limited surface, marked by such rocky outcrop, had already been artificially enlarged and terraced before the Śāhi period, and an elevated area existed in the same spot during the Kushan time – and possibly even earlier. Massive Kushan-time structures still mark the N side of the summit (BKG 15). The preparation of the pinnacle terrain with ballast in the Kushan period must have disturbed previous stratigraphic accumulations. Mixed in the ballast, in fact, we found material evidence belonging to earlier stages, such as fragments of Iron Age ceramics, a terracotta figurine of the ‘fiddle-shaped’ type, and a reused stele depicting a mask-like figure in the ‘dot-marks’ system, whose direct parallels can be found in materials from protohistoric necropolises (cf. Minardi, Olivieri, Vidale, this volume). Additionally, we identified shapeless stucco fragments – perhaps decorative elements? – of uncertain chronology (possibly belonging to a historical phase = Period 0).

## The Fortress on the hilltop, the reservoir-related complex and the donjon (BKG 14)

The excavation area BKG 14 initially extended over a flat surface of approximately 200 sqm. It was nearly elliptical in shape with a major axis of about 25 m and a minor of about 10 m. Approximately 125 sqm were excavated to the floor levels of its main phase (Period 2, i.e., the Śāhi period). In the following campaigns, the area was primarily extended towards the E to complete the archaeological investigation of the complex. Furthermore, the hillsides were cleared of debris and the four corner towers of the castle were located and investigated (PLATE XVI).

## The pre-Śāhi phases (Periods 0 and 1)

Regarding the pre-Śāhi phases of BKG 14, significant data was obtained through the excavation conducted within the E part of Building A, which faces the reservoir (PLATE XVI). The foundation walls of a construction obliterated by Building A came to light below the floor level of the latter. What remains of this earlier construction is a ‘grid’ of structures consisting of four walls with a preserved height of less than 0.5 m – foundations, rather than elevated walls.<sup>83</sup> They are oriented EW with transverse dividers but are slightly offset from later structures that partially rest on them. These walls represent the modest remains of a pre-Kushan (Period 0) construction phase undertaken on a large scale and possibly relate to a first external terracing of the hill (cf. BKG 15 below). The four surviving walls overlain by

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<sup>82</sup> Preliminary results of the 2020 campaign have been published by Olivieri, Minardi 2023.

<sup>83</sup> The N-facing side of one of these foundations, namely the EW oriented wall delimiting BKG 1420, is roughly built against the terrain and functions as a retaining wall.

Building A are not only built directly on bedrock toward the S part of the hilltop (where the top of the sharp outcrop of the summit described above still emerges), they also rest directly on boulders. These latter were intentionally detached from the rocky wall of the mountain and conveniently used as filling for the terrace in its first stage of construction (i.e., ground preparation). During the Kushana times (Period 1) these walls were razed and incorporated within a massive fill of stones of various dimensions which extended N for ca. 11.5 m from the southernmost wall of the group. This ballast, which raised the N slope of BKG 15 by more than 5 m (thus doubling its extent), is nothing more than a substantial layer of filling that was carefully levelled; it is contemporary with the main retaining walls of the area. In the ballast, we found medium-sized and large stones (0.20–0.50 m of maximum length) mixed with soil, but also fragments of ceramics and artifacts from the Protohistoric period, stucco fragments, and other diagnostic materials such as a sealing with a *tamga*, possibly dating to the first century CE.<sup>84</sup> Most likely, the stucco specimens were part of the décor of the pre-Kushan structures, which were entirely erased along with the associated stratigraphy due to a radically new building program. The reservoir seemed to have already been dug and built in Period 1.

### The Śāhi phases (Period 2)

The small, artificially enhanced plateau of BKG 14 follows an EW orientation and is occupied by two main dry-stone masonry structures: Building A to the W is dominated by a large square-shaped reservoir; and the adjacent Building B, to the E, is a later Ghaznavid structure, possibly a donjon. All these structures were razed in correspondence to the elevation of the modern floor level, marked by the presence of machine gun nests, casemates and military trenches dating to the 2000s. Surprisingly, no considerable accumulations of debris belonging to the ancient structures were found in situ. It is likely that the collapsed material was removed for reuse in post-abandonment periods.<sup>85</sup>

During the Śāhi phase, Building A primarily consisted of an irregular trapezoidal enclosure formed by a thick wall (averaging 1.2 m) constructed with unwrought stones in a diaper-masonry pattern and thin layers of clay-based mortar. Initially, the enclosure surrounded an area of approximately 45 sqm, which was divided into two parts by a transverse wall orthogonal to the N perimeter wall of the building.<sup>86</sup> The largest area to the W contained the reservoir. Another narrower ‘courtyard,’ of which only fragmentary evidence remains, was likely adjacent to the S. Possibly, this situation was mirrored by a similar space to the N, located in the partially investigated area facing BKG 15. In Period 2, the W portion of Building A was built around an earlier massive square water reservoir (side: 3.5 m), which was rebuilt for the occasion in the same technique as its trapezoidal enclosure, without openings, and equipped with a central chamber bearing traces of lime plaster. The bottom of the water reservoir was partially excavated into the bedrock.<sup>87</sup> The reservoir is currently preserved for a depth of 3 m from the highest preserved point of its preserved wall. The S side of the corridor around the reservoir’s enclosure (BKG 147) gives access to a natural rocky passage that descends vertically for about 50 m. It was possibly used as the main water supply to feed the tank when necessary. This access point to the complex was protected by the wall of the S ‘courtyard’ which later collapsed as well as much of the S side of the hillock.<sup>88</sup>

Access to the E courtyard facing the reservoir was provided by two openings located on the E side of the complex. The opening on the internal NS transverse wall is only presumed, as in this area the structure is poorly preserved. The main access to the complex, however, is still well preserved: the narrow passage, approximately 0.6 m wide, would have

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<sup>84</sup> The sealing finds a direct comparison with similar ones excavated in the late phases of the Buddhist monastery in Badalpur (Taxila), now displayed at the Taxila Museum (Khan 2019).

<sup>85</sup> Only a minor part of this material was reused for the military defensive casemates and trenches.

<sup>86</sup> This wall was partly founded on a preceding Kushan wall with the same orientation (see PLATE XVI).

<sup>87</sup> Thick concretions due to the original presence of water filled the bottom of the vertical chamber. Inside the reservoir, (132), the deepest among the layers containing wasted material, returned nearly intact ceramic forms whose surfaces had been weakened by a prolonged immersion in water or in the damp deposits at the bottom.

<sup>88</sup> The natural crevice allowed to lift water from the nearby Kandak River through a pulley system that likely made use leather containers. The rock walls show man-made cavities and recesses at various heights used to attach beams to facilitate the lifting system.

closed towards the outside (to the W) through two wooden jambs.<sup>89</sup> The layout of the E area at this stage remains virtually unknown, as the Ghaznavid-era Building B overlays most of the earlier complex.<sup>90</sup>

### The post-Śāhi phases (Period 3)

The chronology of the fortified complex of Barikot and its attribution to the Śāhi phase are mostly determined by its reuse during the temporary Ghaznavid occupation of the site (Period 3). Over a short period of time, the E portion of Building A was gradually filled in its entirety with the waste from the garrison – whose command post was Building B. The mass of waste came from the SE corner of the complex near Building B, where they must have been discarded in clusters from above, and mostly consisted of a stratigraphic accumulation of trunco-conical bowls (Class ABC 1.1.1 in Callieri, Olivieri 2020). In particular, seven stratigraphic units of discharged ceramic in association with short-lived floor levels clearly developed within a limited temporal range. Many of these bowls were found intact, or broke after being thrown out, and several ones stacked on top of each other inside the dump area. Other material in this medieval fill included numerous used undecorated terracotta lamps, clay dice, and dozens of tokens for board games made from pottery fragments and from stone, as well as arrowheads and several millstones.

When the demolition of Temple 6 began in the Ghaznavid period, guard post Building B was constructed within the restored fort on the summit of the acropolis; it was conveniently located next to the summit's water reservoir, which remained in use. The donjon clearly had a close relationship with the hundreds of discarded trunco-conical bowls and the small lamps forming the stratigraphic accumulations inside the abandoned Śāhi-period courtyard that I mentioned above. During this time, the courtyard was apparently considered of no use. Moreover, during the excavation of Building B and adjacent areas, fragments of fine pottery (painted pottery and yellow glazed sherds), blue glass fragments, incense burners, and other medieval material were found, suggesting, as mentioned above, the presence not only of a guardhouse, but more specifically of a command post.

In layer (94) of the dump, we also found two Buddhist votive stupas with four flights of stairs) (*tsha tsha*) (Baums, Minardi, Prota, this volume) moulded in unbaked clay. Due to their intrinsic fragility, they must have been thrown into the Ghaznavid dump shortly after being crafted (Fig. 3).<sup>91</sup> We also retrieved a lapis lazuli (?) ring bezel bearing the effigy of a moustached man in profile (Callieri, this volume). Other special finds give us a glimpse on the activities on the hilltop in these later phases: a ceramic applique depicting Narasiṃha was found in the area of Building B (Fig. 4), while terracotta animals and a ceramic jar with incised *triśūla* (Fig. 5) were found in the filling of the reservoir, which probably fell in disuse and was filled only upon the retreat of the Ghaznavid contingent.

Whatever the exact history of these objects might be, they represent evidence of a long (albeit still unclear) phase of cultural overlapping. Some bilingual inscriptions – foremost the Zalankot cenotaph, now unfortunately lost (Rahman 1998; Shavarebi, Strauch 2022) – also testify to this cultural mixture, in which the Islamic element, despite representing the supreme ruling power, coexisted with other previous traditions and/or was perhaps not yet culturally predominant.

### The external sides of the Śāhi Fortress (BKG 15)

In 2020, we used BKG 15 to mark the sector corresponding to the Kushan retaining walls and the terracing of the N slopes of the summit. We widened the scope of the label in 2021 when we exposed the remaining retaining walls and

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<sup>89</sup> Two symmetric indentations are still visible in the masonry of the W wall of the water tank enclosure. The area was designed to be accessed primarily from the outside, with openings facing outward.

<sup>90</sup> But evidence of earlier walls, of the same orientation as Building B, suggests that its foundation incorporated elements of a pre-existing structure. This earlier construction may have been repurposed during the Islamic phase.

<sup>91</sup> These objects are very popular in Buddhist contexts from Afghanistan, Central Asia, and the Himalayan region. Several examples have been discussed by Taddei 1970 – in particular, refer to 'Type B' (74).

towers of the Śāhi castle. Part of the ruined retaining walls of the top terrace had been reused in Late Antiquity for the structural support of a new significant functional defensive system. Before clearing the vegetation and debris, and prior to excavating the terrain at the base of the N slopes, the imposing fortified complex was almost completely invisible. In the same year, we also deemed it necessary to consolidate those curtain walls which had lost their front stonework.

#### The pre-Śāhi phases (Period 1)

The Fortress originally extended for about 380 sqm and occupied all the available space left by the partial ruin of the Kushan substruction walls. The general reorganisation of the volumetry of the hill with its new artificial extensions must have occurred under the Kushan (Period 1), in conjunction with the construction of a new architectonic complex, as mentioned above. While we unfortunately know very little about this complex, it certainly obliterated earlier structures and their relative stratigraphic accumulations. Some time intervened between the abandonment of the Kushan structures and the Fortress construction, but the total absence of relevant stratigraphic accumulation, due to the continuous spatial rework and the reuse of the available construction materials, makes it hard to say more about this period of lag time. As mentioned earlier, what remains on the N side of the hilltop is a multi-level (possibly multi-phase) curtain wall with partially preserved stepped sections, which currently extends for a length of about 17 m on the EW axis and for 5 m towards the N, and for a height of at least 6 m. It is evident from observing the NE corner of the castle that the Kushan terrace originally had square corners, a feature common to the substructures of the rest of the hilltop as well. The layout of BKG 14-15 was later changed when its ruins were re-arranged between two round solid towers with an original diameter of c. 6 m.

#### The Śāhi phases (Period 2)

It had already been noticed during the 2020 campaign that some Period 2 walls in BKG 15 had partially collapsed, and we found a coin of Vakka Deva or Samanta Deva (Shavarebi, this volume) on a floor which was obtained by partly levelling the collapsed Period 2 structure. We reckoned a seismic phenomenon of significant magnitude, possibly the same that contributed to the end of the urban phase of the lower city, could be responsible. In 2021 and 2022 we confirmed this initial hypothesis, as the towers of the castle are clearly overlying older and partially collapsed structures, and they were built beyond the maximum original extent of the ruined curtain wall to better exploit the rock outcrops for new foundations.

The S side of the Fortress, which would have been roughly symmetrical to the N one and better protected by a ravine, has mostly disappeared because of landslides (Fig. 6).<sup>92</sup> Nonetheless, the remains of the foundation (dry-stone masonry made of roughly cut stones) of two round towers are still somewhat visible. They are of approximately the same dimension as the N ones but are set at a slightly wider distance from each other (approximately 19 m as opposed to 15 m), making the castle layout trapezoidal. As in the case of the N towers, the terrain morphology is the cause of this phenomenon. We do not have enough data to say with certainty whether the towers were still in use during the Ghaznavid occupation, nor can we accurately describe the relation between the donjon of Building B and the rest of the fort.<sup>93</sup> What we know comes from two elements: 1) Counterfort 1, located next to the NE corner tower on the N side of the castle; 2) the multi-stage drainage system discovered in correspondence to the main access to the Fortress on its W side.

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<sup>92</sup> One of these major events occurred in the autumn of 1990, when the S flank of the hill was struck by lightning during a severe electrical storm, causing a massive boulder to collapse. In 2020, L.M. Olivieri and I had to interrupt the excavation during one of these electrical storms that often hit the hilltop in late summer. On that occasion, we experienced a storm of static electricity in the air, which, had it been night, would have caused the phenomenon known as St. Elmo's fires.

<sup>93</sup> The SE tower, adjacent to Building B, has almost completely disappeared.

Counterfort 1 [17] was erected to support the construction of tower NE. This semi-circular architectural feature (d. c. 3 m) overlies both the bedrock and the ruins of the Kushan curtain walls and can definitively be ascribed to the Śāhi period. At some point in the life of the structure, the counterfort must have been damaged, as tower NE was then rebuilt over it with a slight modification in plan (cf. Tower 1 in the plan of Period 2 in PLATE XVI). With its stratigraphic position, this feature is one of the few but significant elements that help us clarify that the tower, and generally the entire fort, was restored or partially rebuilt in the two centuries that preceded the Islamic occupation, or perhaps even by the Ghaznavid power when the donjon (Building B) was erected. Likewise, in this scenario, the trapezoidal Counterfort 2 located on the opposite corner of the same tower NE could be either a late Śāhi or a later Ghaznavid buttress, as it also overlies both the final building stage of the tower and the E curtain wall of Period 2 (Fig. 7). In the Śāhi/Ghaznavid periods, the entrance to the Fortress was located on its W short side. It consisted of a stepped ascending path, 1.9 m wide, defended by two round towers. The Śāhi builders adapted their stonework to the pre-existing structures and to the irregular nature of the terrain made of fractured boulders and bedrock.

The drainage system in this area (Drain 1 in PLATE XVI) was in line with the steep access and was implemented both for the water tank overflow and for the ordinary drainage of clean waters. The drainage shows two stages: in Period 2, it consisted of ceramic pipes (Fig. 8). It was then redone as a standard dry-stone gutter system by the Ghaznavids, who also raised the floor level of this area for reasons that were possibly related to the modification or the restoration of the access towers – this is quite likely, but precise stratigraphic data is missing due to the spoliation of the summit after its final abandonment and the absence of relevant stratigraphic accumulations. Another drainage system (Drain 2, reused in Period 3, and Drain 3 belonging to Period 3) has been documented in BKG 1415, located to the S, yet parallel to the main Drain. It served the lost S portion of Building A, as it likely discharged fluids from the natural well, used for the provision of the Kandak River water to the reservoir, into Drain 1.

#### Conclusive remarks

The summit of the hilltop was one of the most significant areas in Bazira's acropolis throughout time. It is likely that pre-Kushan constructions once existed in this space, although we have little evidence for this. As the Kushans did before them, the Śāhi, too, undertook a comprehensive reorganisation of this area. While strategically important, however, the summit has always been constrained by its lack of a flat plateau and a relatively small workable area.

The strategic value of the summit is underscored not only by its elevation, but also by the presence of a water reservoir. This reservoir could have been replenished both by capturing rainwater and by hauling river water from the Kandak, as indicated by the distinct terrain morphology, which was exploited for this purpose throughout the site's history. Evidence suggests that this utilitarian structure – initially established in Period 1, partially rebuilt in Period 2, and still in use during Period 3 – is the only feature that remained functional throughout the entire occupation of the area.

It is plausible that the reservoir was used for ritual purposes associated with the sacred area (BKG 6) during the pre-Islamic period. In contrast, during Periods 2 and 3, it likely also served as an essential water supply during sieges. In the Ghaznavid period, while certain sections of Building A were decommissioned, the cistern was repurposed and its drainage system upgraded. These changes were undertaken alongside the construction of a donjon and other minor structures, as well as restoration work on the fortifications of the Śāhi castle, the strongest in Swat.

Building A (Period 2), consisting of two—possibly three—architectural units (e.g., two courtyards flanking a central courtyard with a bipartite layout enclosing a cistern), appears as a large utilitarian structure. However, its scale seems unusually large given the spatial constraints on the summit. This consideration, coupled with the scant debris from walls in situ – likely more elevated – raises the possibility that the structure served as a base for wooden architecture. The use

of wood, potentially comparable to the elaborate woodwork seen in Temple 6 (cf. Olivieri<sup>6</sup>, Casalini<sup>1</sup>, this volume) may have complemented the stone foundations.

This hypothetical wooden upper floor may have been dismantled towards the end of the Ghaznavid period, as suggested by the accumulation of truncated-conical bowls, used lamps, and other refuse discarded from the donjon in the westernmost section of Building A. In this scenario, the two dry-stone square bases located near the centre of the E ‘courtyard’ of Building B—one smaller base from Period 2, and a larger one from Period 3 overlaid by later dumps—might be interpreted as the remains of wooden support pillars.

Fig. 1 – The acropolis from N

Fig. 2 – The Fortress BKG 14-15.

Fig. 3 – One of the two *tshas* (BKG 5667)

Fig. 4 – Part of a vessel: applied lion/*Narasimha*. (BKG 5767)

Fig. 5 – BKG 4767

Fig. 6 – The rock of the acropolis from S

Fig. 7 – Counterfort 2 of the NE tower

Fig. 8 – Detail of the ceramic piping system of the Period 2 tank drainage

PLATE XVI – BKG 14 -15, general plan (updated 2023).

Drawing by MM

PLATE XVII – BKG 14 -15, section N-S (updated 2024).

Drawing by MM

PLATE XVIII – BKG 14 -15, section E-W (updated 2024).

Drawing by MM

BKG 6  
(Sacred Area)

PLATE XVI – a) BKG 14 –15, general plan periods 0–3 (updated 2023) (drawing by MM)



# BKG 14-15

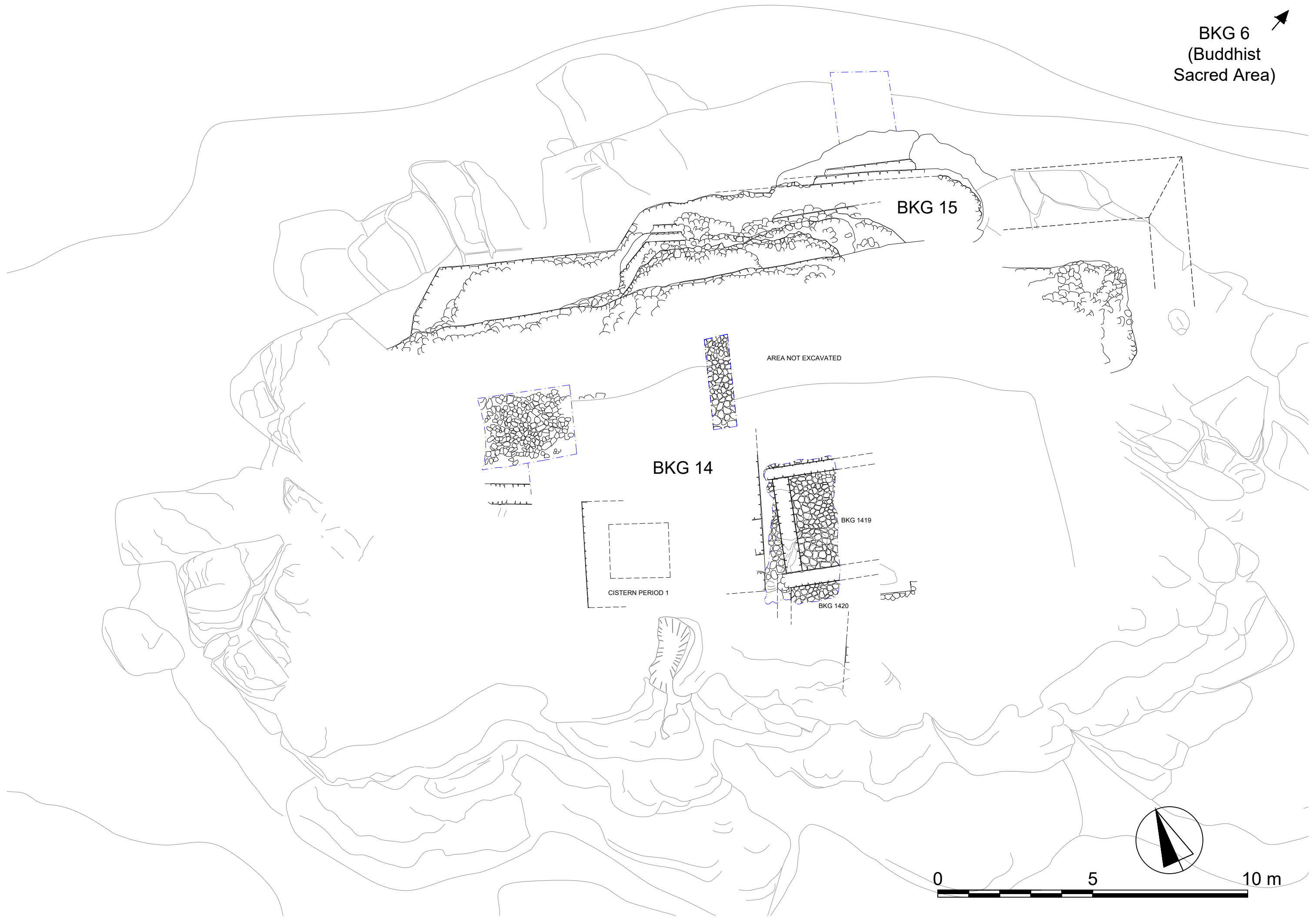
ISMEO/Ca' Foscari Italian Archaeological Mission 2023

## General plan of periods 0-3

M. Minardi

BKG 6  
(Sacred Area)





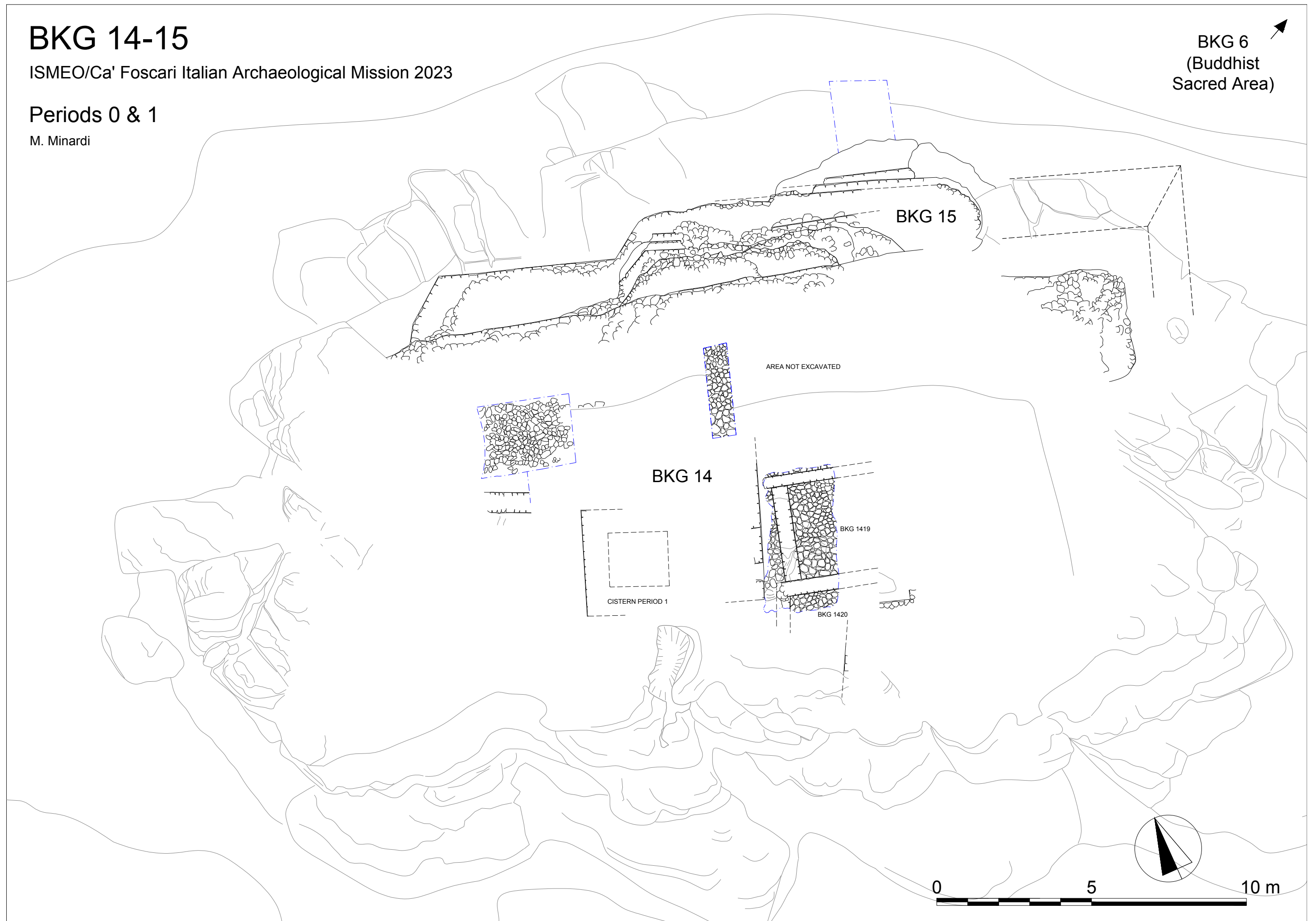
# BKG 14-15

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Periods 0 & 1

M. Minardi

BKG 6  
(Buddhist  
Sacred Area)



BKG 6 ↗  
(Śāhi Temple)



PLATE XVII - a) BKG 14 -15, general plan period 2 (drawing by MM)

# BKG 14-15

ISMEO Italian Archaeological Mission 2023

Period 2

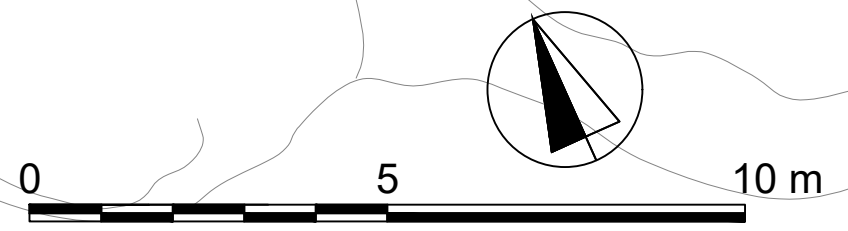
M. Minardi

BKG 6  
(Śāhi Temple)





PLATE XVII - b) BKG 14 -15, general plan period 3 (drawing by MM)



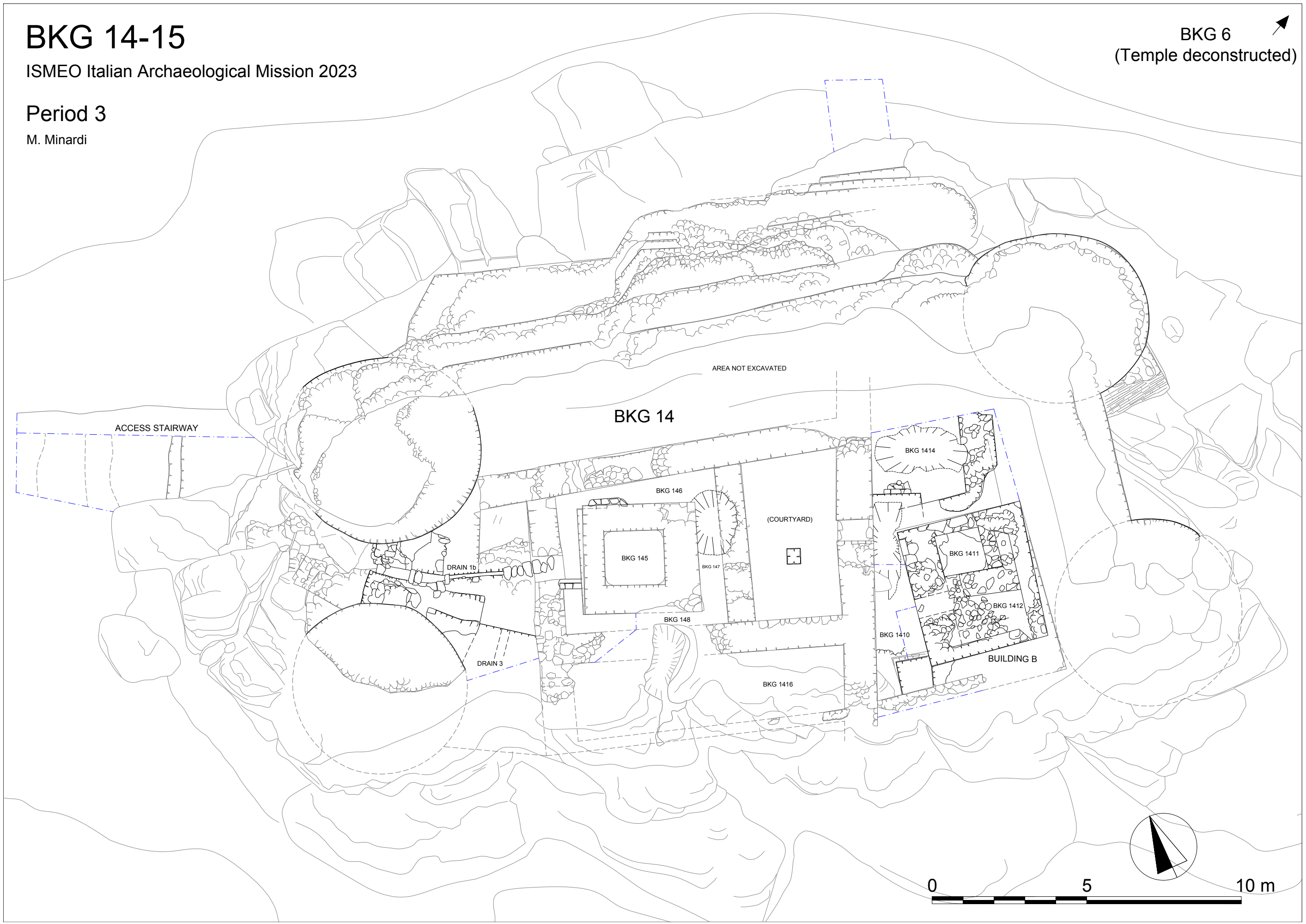
# BKG 14-15

ISMEO Italian Archaeological Mission 2023

Period 3

M. Minardi

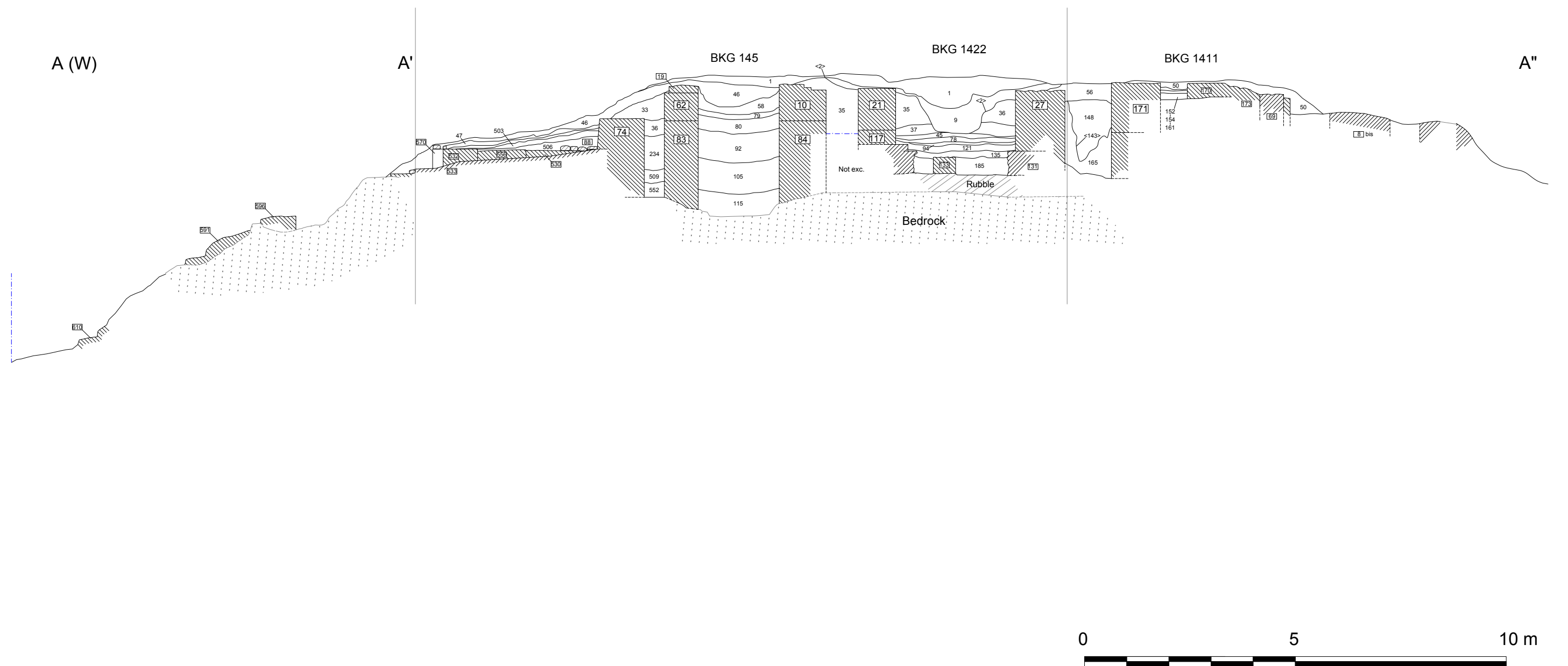
BKG 6  
(Temple deconstructed)

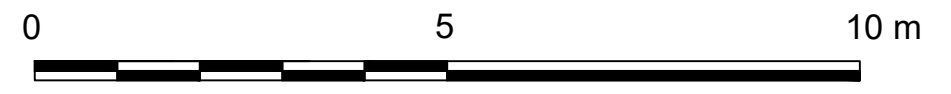
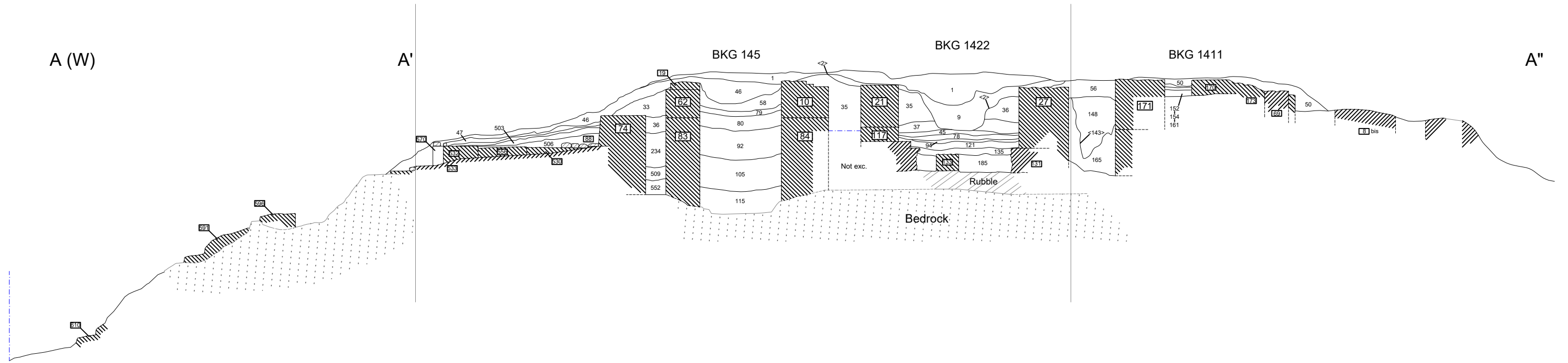


# BKG 14-15

ISMEO/Ca' Foscari Italian Archaeological Mission 2023

Section W-E (A-A'-A'')

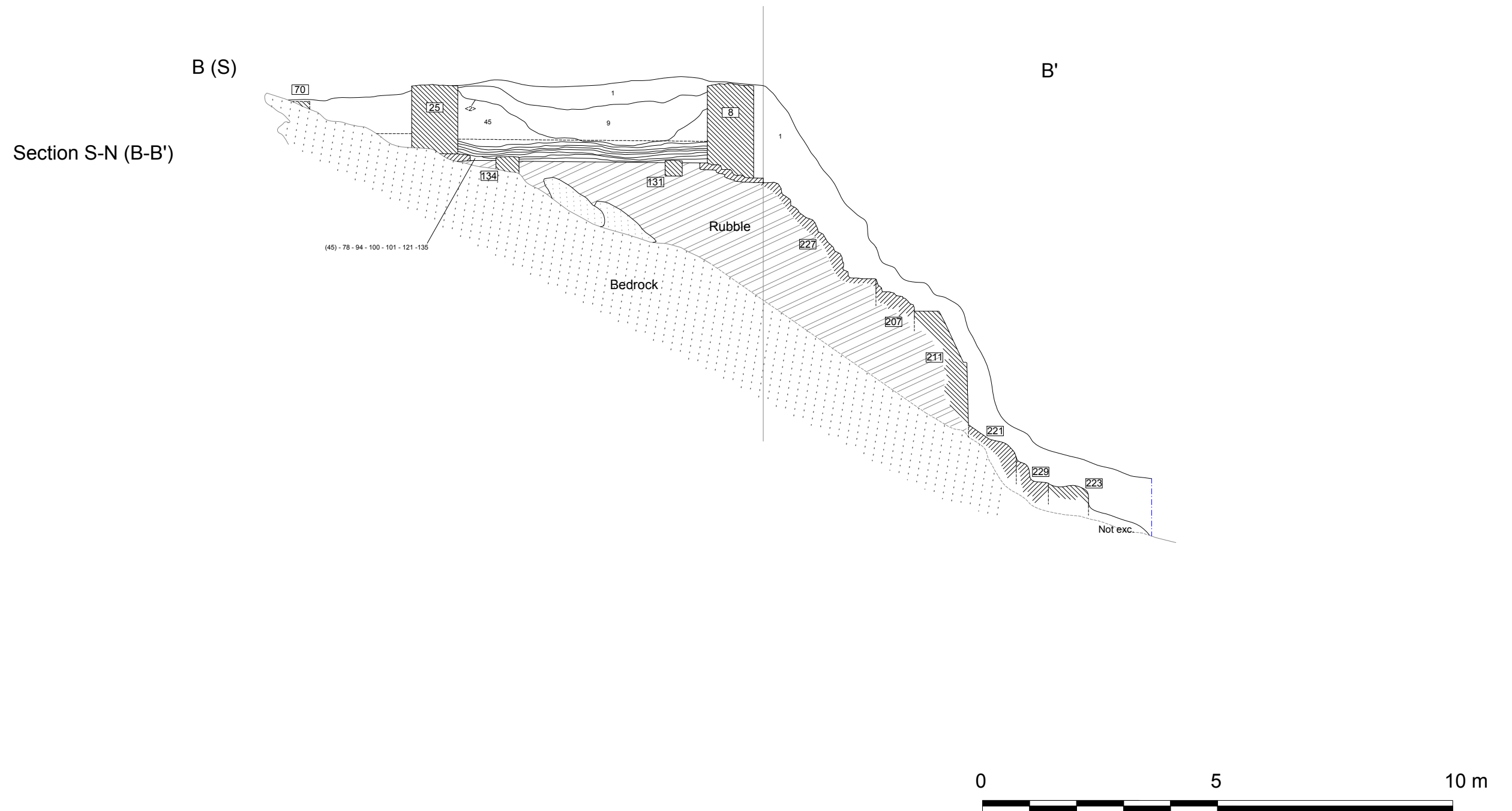


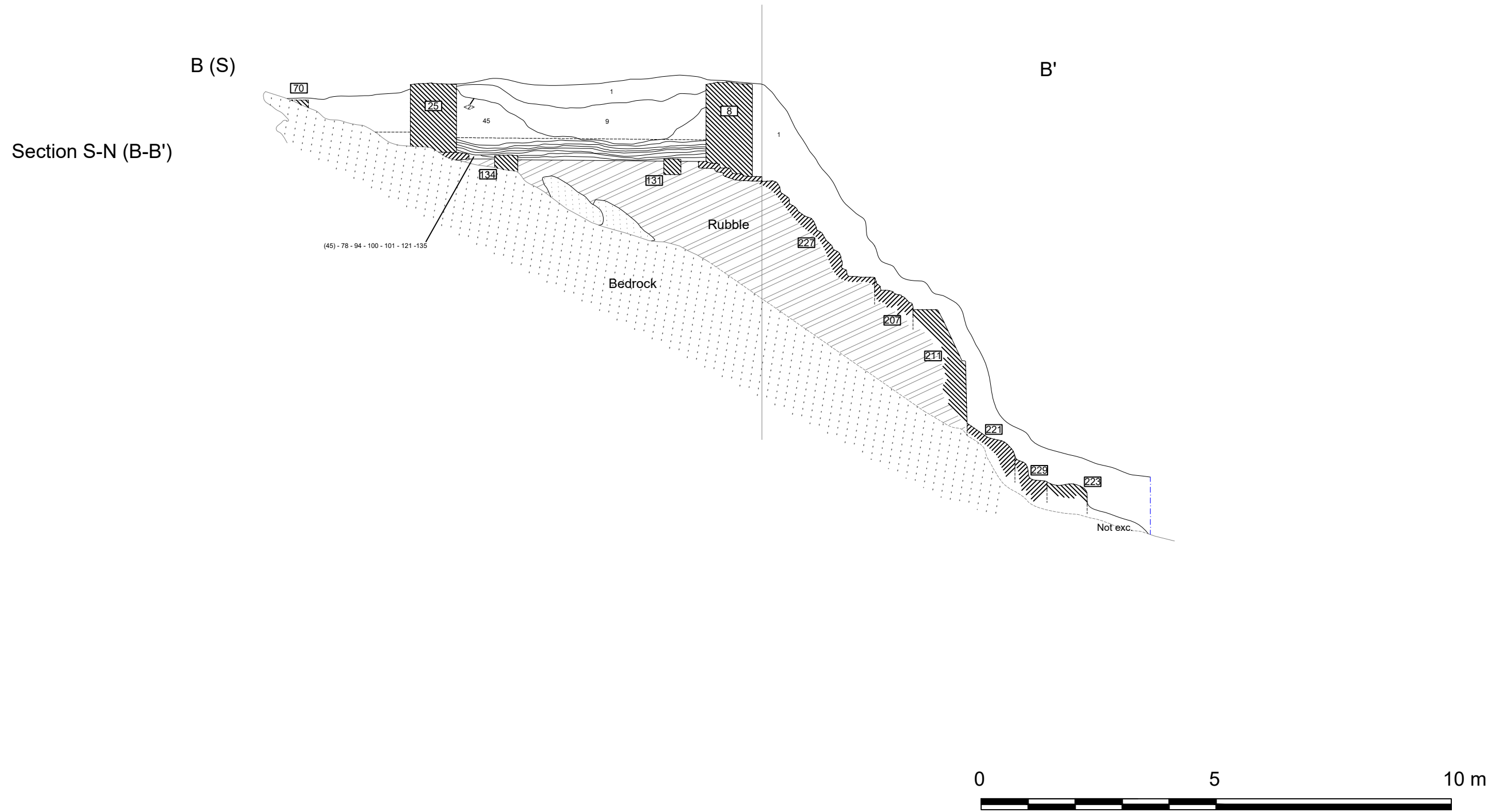


# BKG 14-15

ISMEO/Ca' Foscari Italian Archaeological Mission 2023

Section S-N (B-B')





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Arr. *Anab.* = Arrian, Ἀλεξάνδρου Ἀνάβασις

Curt. = Q. Curtius Rufus, *Historiae Alexandri, libri qui supersunt*

SAA = *South Asian Archaeology Conference*

SAAA = *South Asian Archaeology and Art Conference*

\* \* \*

\* \* \*

ARA = *Archaeological Research in Asia*

AION = *Annali dell'Istituto Orientale di Napoli*

AUON = *Annali dell'Istituto Universitario Orientale di Napoli*

AMIT = *Archäologische Mitteilungen aus Iran und Turan*

BAVA = *Beiträge zur Allgemeinen und Vergleichenden Archäologie*

EA = *Eurasia Antiqua. Zeitschrift für Archäologie Eurasiens*

EI = *Epigraphia Indica*

EMSCAT = *Études mongoles et sibériennes, centrasiatiques et tibétaines*

EW = *East and West*

JA = *Journal Asiatique*

JIABS = *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies*

JAC = *Journal of Asian Civilizations*

JRAS = *The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland*

ONS = *Journal of the Oriental Numismatic Society*

RET = *Revue d'Études Tibétaines*

SAS = *South Asian Studies*

ACT = Archaeology Community Tourism - Field School Project

ACT RepMem = ACT Reports and Memoirs

ANP = Antiquities of Northern Pakistan: Reports and Studies

ANU = Australian National University Press

ICCROM = International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property

IGNA = Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts

IsMEO RepMem = IsMEO Reports and Memoirs

IsIAO RepMem = IsIAO Reports and Memoirs

KNAW = Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen

MANP = Materialien zur Archäologie der Nordgebiete Pakistans

MASI = Memoirs of the Archaeological Survey of India

MDAFA = Mémoires de la délégation archéologique française en Afghanistan

ÖAW = Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften (Verlag)

SOAS = School of Oriental and African Studies

SOR = Serie Orientale Roma

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BĪR-KOṬ-GHWAṆḌAI INTERIM REPORTS, XI  
ACT-FIELD SCHOOL PROJECT REPORTS AND MEMOIRS  
SPECIAL VOLUME 7

# VAJIRASTHĀNA

## ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE BARIKOT HILLTOP (SWAT, PAKISTAN)

Volume 2



Luca M. Olivieri  
In collaboration with Elisa Iori, Michele Minardi and Marco Pinelli

Foreword by Abdul Samad

Edited by Alice Casalini

“SAVE THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF BAZIRA” PROJECT



International alliance  
for the protection  
of heritage  
in conflict areas



Università  
Ca' Foscari  
Venezia

ACT FIELD SCHOOL REPORTS AND MEMOIRS, SPECIAL VOLUME, 7

BKG INTERIM REPORTS, XI

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## Volume 2 – Illustrations (Figs)

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N.B.: Some figures are intentionally left without captions; see descriptions in Volume 1.

1.3.4 - THE CONSERVATION PROJECT "SAVING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF BAZIRA" (2022-2024) - The local staff (Photos by M. Minardi)



Ajab Khan



Fazal Azim



Momin Khan



Bakht Wahid



Saheb Shah



Bakht Gual



Arshad Ali



Hussain Zada



Sajjid Khan



Dil Nawab



Khan Muhammad



Muhammad Farooq



Adnan Khan



Sanah Ullah



Fawad 2



Muhammad Rashad



Irfan



Fawad 1



Jawad Khan



Ayub Khan



Abdul Khaliq



Arshad Ali



Fazal Hayat



Asif Khan



Asghar Ali



Kelim Ullah



Adnan Khan



Bakht Hussain



Maaz



Sana Ullah



Furqan



Haji Nawab



Imad Khan



Fazal Kerim



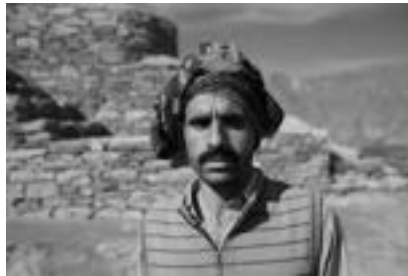
Raza Khan



Afsar Khan



Muhammad Nawab



Faqir Said



Umar Wahid



Rezwan



Fazal Amin



Hazrat Rahman



Kaiser Rahman



Mohammad Ibrahim



Mohammad Wahid



Momin Dregira



Momin Kohistane



Muhammad Kalim



Naik Muhammad



Rahimzada



Razia Khan



Wahid Khan



Wasim Sajjad

II.1.2 - THE FORTRESS ON THE HILLTOP (Trenches BKG 14 and 15) (M. Minardi)  
(PLATES XVI-XVIII)

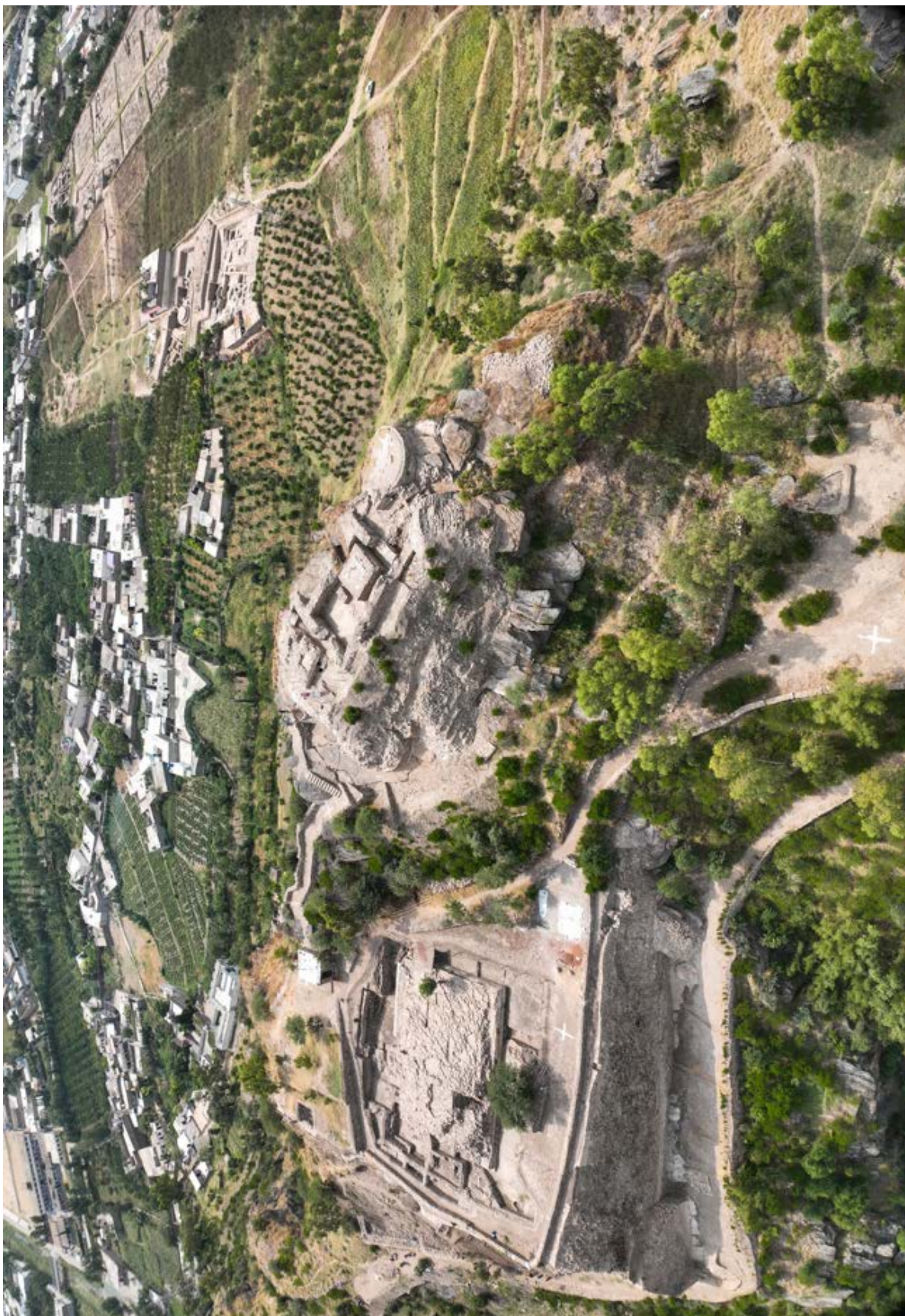


Fig. 1 - The acropolis from N



Fig. 2 – The Fortress BKG 14-15.



Fig. 3 – One of the two *tshas* (BKG 5667)



Fig. 4 – Part of a vessel: applied lion/Narasimha. (BKG 5767)



Fig. 5 – BKG 4767



Fig. 6 – The rock of the acropolis from S



Fig. 7 – Counterfort 2 of the NE tower



Fig. 8 – Detail of the ceramic piping system of the Period 2 tank drainage