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NUMISMATICS

COINS IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT (III). THE VICUS OF THE AUXILIARY FORT FROM SUTOR (ROMANIA, SĂLAJ COUNTY)

Abstract: The paper presents another case study provided by archaeological investigations following the building of a motorway in the vicinity of the archaeological site of Sutor. The research area targeted the vicus adjacent to the Roman auxiliary fort of *Optatiana* in the province of Dacia (today, Sutor, Sălaj County, Romania). The analysis of coin finds, issuers, types, denominations, within the archaeological contexts reveal the fact that only one-two coins may lead the archaeologist into a chronological pitfall, while a group of more than five single coin finds may provide a better chronology of the context(s).

At the same time the analysis of coin finds by contexts may reveal certain human behaviour in coin use for daily transactions as well as various monetary policies at certain times.

Keywords: *Archaeological context, Roman single coin finds, vicus, Sutor, Roman Dacia.*

INTRODUCTION

In two previous studies, we have presented both the benefits and the limits of the numismatic evidence coming from archaeological contexts.¹

The rescue excavations following the building of a segment of the motorway A3, Braşov-Borş, have led to the discovery of almost the entire area of the archaeological site of Sutor (hypothetically identified with the ancient *Optatiana* mentioned on the Peutinger's Tabula): the auxiliary fort, the bath complex and the vicus.

As previously mentioned, the accurate archaeological investigation with precise location of the artefacts within contexts, was an excellent first step for a new case-study of coins in archaeological contexts. It must be mentioned here, that the use of the metal detector has highly increased the number of coins. Certainly, the use of this tool was carried out without any disturbing of the archaeological context.

Apart from the technical aspects, a tricky procedure was used in order to avoid the 'traditional' dating of the context according with the coin minting date. On the basis of stratigraphy, the archaeologists were establishing the number of building-use phases of the complex without knowing the coin minting date.

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¹ GĂZDAC/COCIŞ 52-42, 2020; GĂZDAC/LĂZĂRESCU/COCIŞ/SOCACIU 2021, 74-101.

THE SITE

To familiarize the reader with the site under study we are reproducing here the presentation of site of Sutor included in the previous study mentioned above.²

The Roman site at Sutor (Sălaj County) is located on the NW part of modern Romania (Map 1) and the same location within the Roman Dacia, subdivision Dacia Porolissensis (Maps 2-3). In the archaeological literature it was well-known due to the military auxiliary camp mentioned since late 19th century. Starting with K. Torma in 1864, who has based his research on the discovery of several tile stamps and inscriptions,³ all the following archaeologists have hypothetically placed the Roman fort roughly in the same area, namely the place known as “Gura Căpuşului”.⁴ However, the few inscriptions found here, together with the reconstructed name of the main unit stationed here (Numerus Maurorum Optatianensium)⁵ also mentioned the civilian settlement identified with the ancient *Optatiana*, that is present on the Tabula Peutingeriana.⁶

Despite being known for a long time, the site received little attention and it was only in 2001 that systematic works were carried out here.⁷ On that occasion, the main stratigraphy of the site and its chronological span were established. Apart from the structures belonging to the Roman period, two other settlements were discovered, one belonging to the Bronze Age and the other one to the Early Medieval Period (7th-8th century AD) (Fig. 3). Right from the beginning, the aim of the archaeological research was to determine in a first stage the exact location and extent of the Roman fort and its civilian settlement, and afterwards to establish, as much as possible, their inner structure.⁸ Beginning with 2006, the team involved in the excavations at Sutor successfully managed to establish the exact position and extent of the fort, concluding that the military garrison was 165 x 220 m wide.⁹ Due to the technical advance in the field of near-surface geophysics, such non-invasive surveys proved to be highly efficient in the case of this site. A first series of geophysical surveys coupled with aerial imagery was performed in 2010 being able to pinpoint the location of the principia¹⁰ followed by massive surveys (magnetometry, ERT and GPR) covering both the area of the fort and civilian settlement starting with 2012 up to date.¹¹ Fortunately, these recent surveys have highlighted both the extent, position and inner structure of the Roman fort discovered here. The identification of a smaller earth and timber fort in the north-western corner of the larger stone camp discovered based on the geophysical results came as a surprise, this reality being further investigated also archaeologically in

order to establish the chronological relations between the two structures (Fig. 1).¹²

The fact that the site at Sutor is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List¹³ dossier for the Dacian limes together with the A3 highway project gave a real bolster to the research of the site (Fig. 2). The rescue excavations performed since 2021 focused primarily upon the civilian part of the site that was not very well documented until now. Apart from few excavations in the military baths of the site,¹⁴ not much was known concerning the spread, structure, chronology, habitation and function of the military vicus that naturally developed in the shadow of the Roman camp. In February 2021 a massive rescue excavation campaign started at Sutor in order to assess the impact that the A3 highway infrastructure works (a massive project that covers an area of approx. 8.8 ha) would have upon the Roman site.

The geophysical surveys performed in the area of the A3 highway highlighted the existence of an intense habitation area situated north-east from the Roman fort, this reality being also confirmed by the archaeological excavations that covered a total of 1.1 ha (Fig. 2). We managed to document a densely populated area comprising both stone and timber structures despite the fact that the pedological studies performed recently showed that during the Roman time this region had the aspect of a swampy area especially due to the general aspect of the Almaş River that had several meanders that shaped the local landscape. Basically, we can imagine that the military vicus's spread was determined by the topographical aspect of the landscape that created a sort of “island” type of habitation that could be still observed by studying the Austrian military maps elaborated in the late 18th century. We were able to determine that the civilian habitation had a more linear development, being situated on a SW-NE axis determined by the Almaş River. (Figs. 3-4)

THE VICUS

In 2001, the first systematic archaeological research within the site was carried out.¹⁵ During the archaeological campaigns of 2001-2002, a series of five trenches were carried out in the area of the *vicus*, destined to document the stratigraphy of the settlement, as well as its limits. From a chronological standpoint, two stages were established back then: an initial stage to which the traces of several wooden structures belonged, and a second stage to which a series of stone walls belonging to a building, partially covered by the current Zimbor – Cuzăplac road, corresponded.¹⁶ The excavations in the civilian settlement were resumed in 2014, when the stone building identified in 2001 was targeted by extending the older trench to the north. After another interruption of seven years (2021), the archaeological research of the *vicus militaris* at Sutor were once again a hot topic due to the construction of the “Transylvania Highway”.¹⁷

² GĂZDAC/LĂZĂRESCU/COCIŞ/SOCACIU 2021, 74-76.

³ TORMA 1864, 10-11.

⁴ PANAITESCU 1932, 89; RUSSU 1968, 459-461; GUDEA 1997, 101-102.

⁵ MARCU 2009, 114; PISO/DEAC 2016, 281-282 with references.

⁶ FODOREAN 2014, 99-115.

⁷ ILIEŞ *et alii* 2002; ILIEŞ *et alii* 2002a.

⁸ ILIEŞ *et alii* 2007.

⁹ ILIEŞ *et alii* 2009.

¹⁰ CUPCEA/MARCU 2010, 94-95.

¹¹ Most of the results are unpublished due to the attempt to present a comprehensive study that would encompass all the non-invasive results. Few information concerning especially the magnetic surveys reached the scientific community, see COCIŞ/ONOFREI 2019, 88-89.

¹² COCIŞ *et alii* 2014.

¹³ <https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6447/>, (accessed on December 12, 2022).

¹⁴ COCIŞ *et alii* 2015; COCIŞ/ONOFREI 2019, 89-91.

¹⁵ ILIEŞ *et alii* 2002; ILIEŞ *et alii* 2002a.

¹⁶ COCIŞ/LĂZĂRESCU/SOCACIU 2021, 88-91.

¹⁷ COCIŞ/LĂZĂRESCU/SOCACIU 2021, 91-94.

The excavations in 2021 confirmed the stratigraphy of the settlement observed during the previous researches, managing to document a continuous evolution of the *vicus* from its wooden phase up to its stone phase. Extremely relevant for the chronology of the stone phase of the *vicus* are the civil baths, identified and entirely excavated in 2021. The analysis of the numismatic material recovered from the baths highlighted two different monetary spectra; the first being characterized by an abundance of coins dated to the time of Septimius Severus, while the second one showing an increase of coin inflow during the reigns of Elagabalus and Severus Alexander. Thus, the function of these baths can be pushed back towards the middle of the 3rd century AD, making this structure one of the latest civil baths known in Dacia.¹⁸

In 2022, the excavated area reached its maximum, summing up a surface of almost 3 ha positioned in the core area of the Roman settlement. Several new features were documented (over 3000 archaeological features), increasing both the number of the wooden and stone structures known thus far. Among the stone structures, few of them are of utmost importance from an architectural perspective as well as for the evolution and understanding of the development of the site. The stone structures exhibit an interesting building technique involving a pebble layer placed beneath the stone foundations used for draining the water infiltrating the soil. Most of the structures are in fact wooden structures having a stone base necessary for the construction of its upper part, especially given the absence of stone debris coming from possible stone walls. Unfortunately, the functionality of the majority of these stone buildings cannot be established with certainty since few archaeological materials were recovered from their interior coupled with the fact that their planimetry did not allow for clarifications in this respect. (Figs. 5-6, 9-10)

A third stone building is much better preserved, presenting a more complex structure of 10 rooms to which some additional structures seem to be added (room XI?) and a portico on its western side composed of an alignment of 6 rectangular stone bases (Figs. 6-7, 11-12). The building was equipped with a hypocaust system that could be identified in rooms II and VIII. The stepping layer was established with certainty in rooms VII and VIII, where a *cocciopesto* (*opus signinum*) floor was identified. The function of the building cannot be determined with certainty, but due to the position, structure and variety of the recovered archaeological material we can identify it as a working hypothesis with a possible office of the *beneficiaries consularis*. What is certain is that all the stone structures correspond to the second residential phase of the settlement, repeatedly overlapping several traces belonging to the older wooden structures. (Fig. 7)

In close connection with the inner structure and development of the Roman *vicus* are the two sections of the Roman road identified within the site, namely the Roman imperial road leading from *Napoca* towards *Porolissum* and a second segment connecting the fort at *Bologa* with the one at *Sutor*, then joining the imperial road (Fig. 4). Regarding the construction technique of these two road segments, we can

state that they are visibly different, using, in the case of the *Bologa - Sutor* road, a mixture of stone coming from at least four different quarries. This technique seems to be similar to that used in the construction of the buildings dated to the second stone phase of the *vicus*, suggesting a chronological difference between the already mentioned roads. Among these, the earliest seems to be the *Napoca - Porolissum* road, probably built in the early years of the province, as the milestone at *Mera* seems to prove.¹⁹ In support of the later dating of the *Bologa - Sutor* road comes a series of coins dating to the middle of the 2nd century AD, issued during the reign of *Antoninus Pius*.

A new element of the civilian settlement is represented by the identification of a pottery-production quarter, located towards the northern limit of the settlement and belonging to the settlement's first habitation phase (Fig. 4). This dating is based upon the fact that all the pottery kilns were contoured at the bottom of the Roman level, and in some cases, were in a stratigraphically overlapped by several wooden and stone structures belonging to the second phase of Roman habitation of the site. The analysis of the archaeological material recovered from inside the kilns revealed that they were all decommissioned and transformed into 'rubbish pits' at some point. The recovered material is thus extremely diverse, comprising numerous fragments coming from various types of pottery, *terracotta* statuettes and even animal bones in some cases. We cannot rule out the hypothesis that some of the kilns were used for the production of oil lamps given the fact that two ceramic lamp molds were recovered from the vicinity of a cluster of kilns.

In light of the information gathered so far concerning the civilian settlement developed around the Roman fort at *Sutor*, several conclusions can be drawn. From what has been observed so far, the central element of the settlement is obviously represented by the two roads that intersect in the immediate vicinity of the *vicus* (Fig. 4). All the structures identified within the settlement are oriented towards one or the other of the two roads, developing along them. The presence of the settlement at the intersection of important routes within the province must have contributed decisively to the economic development of the *vicus*. This explains the presence and development here of a pottery production center, the workshops operating here benefiting most likely from numerous advantages derived from their position in connection to the main road system of *Dacia Porolissensis*. Because of the same two roads, we can now say that the location and position of the second stone fort at *Sutor* is not at all accidental, and it most likely had the role of supervising the road junction and controlling the transit as well as the information flow on the two road arteries. Therefore, we can consider that the civil settlement developed at *Sutor*, together with the fort to which it belonged, represented an important logistical hub and a prosperous economic center in the area. In addition to all this, the nature of the structures within the settlement and their orientation in connection with the two roads that pass through it, manage to give the *vicus* at *Sutor* a quasi-urban aspect.

¹⁸ GĂZDAC *et alii* 2021.

¹⁹ DAICOVICIU 1928-1932; FODOREAN 2002, 65; FODOREAN 2006, 70; PISO 2011, 313.

NUMISMATIC COMMENTS

During the archaeological campaign on the area of the vicus, 56 coins were found (see catalogue; table). Beside the full description, technical data, photos, and catalogue reference, each coin was labelled with the technical details of the archaeological context it came from (catalogue).

The coin evidence reveals a large chronological segment of issuers starting with Nero (AD 62-68) and ending with Trajan Decius (Herennia Etruscilla) (AD 249-251) and a variety of denominations: 2 antoniniani, 21 denarii (11 plated), 15 sestertii, 2 dupondii, 14 asses and 2 provincial coins (catalogue; table).

The spectrum of the single coin finds from the vicus reveals the Roman imperial monetary policy through daily coin losses. The largest number of coins (33) belong to the bronze denominations (sestertius, dupondius, as, provincial issues) indicating that the coins with lower value were the most frequently used in daily transactions and more likely to be the ones to be lost and not worthy picking up. An indirectly argued on this direction the number of plated silver coins retrieved (11) which is slightly higher than the genuine ones (catalogue; table 1).

The strong presence of plated denarii found at this archaeological complex is not a specific pattern of coin circulation but a general one of an epidemic phenomenon known for the Roman monetary policy at the beginning of the 3rd century AD.

As already demonstrated, “the outbreak of copying Roman coinage in Dacia is similar with the western frontier provinces where the largest number of the false coins belongs to those pieces depicting the emperors of the period AD 193–238. At the same time, it seems that this phenomenon was closely associated with the army.”²⁰

Thus, the dominance of plated coin finds – bearing portraits of 3rd century AD issuers – at the baths complex under study is a normal characteristic for a site located within a military environment.

At the same time, other common patterns of the coin circulation within the Roman Empire noticed for the first three centuries AD and reflected by the spectrum of the single coin finds from the vicus Sutor (*Optatiana*) are: the large presence of bronze denominations among the finds of the 1st and 2nd centuries AD – 26 coins out of 35; on the contrary, for the first half of the 3rd century AD, the largest presence among the coin finds at this vicus are the silver denominations (denarius and antoninianus) (14 coins out of 21) (catalogue; table 1).

These aspects just follow general patterns of coin production and circulation within the central-western part of the Roman Empire. The increase of silver denominations starting with the reign of Septimius Severus and the emperors after him is connected with the increase of denarius-production at the end of the Civil War in AD 197/198.²¹ At the same time, the decrease in the quantity

of bronze denominations under the same emperor has been interpreted as a possible interruption or diminution in the bronze supply by the government.²²

Therefore, the large number of bronze denominations minted in the 1st-2nd centuries AD; on the contrary, the frequent presence of the silver denominations – including the plated denarii – simultaneously with the scarce number of bronze denominations in the first half of the 3rd century AD are all consequences of a general pattern of the Roman imperial monetary policy.

At first sight, the two provincial bronze coins – issued by the *Koinon* of Bithynia for Hadrian and in Antioch (Syria) for Antoninus Pius (catalogue nos. 15, 24) – may look like an exotic presence among the imperial issues. However, such monetary series were documented in Roman Dacia from the conquest till the mid-3rd century AD, as in the rest of the Roman Empire. These coins never played a significant role in the monetary circulation from this province. The highest frequency of finding is documented for the issues bearing the portraits of Severus Alexander and Gordian III, period of AD 222-244, when these coins were circa 14% of the single coin finds found in Dacia.²³

Similar, the latest bronze coins found in the vicus of Sutor (*Optatiana*), four sestertii, are minted at Viminacium (Moesia Superior, nowadays Serbia) (1) and in Dacia (4) (catalogue nos. 52-55).

From the reign of Septimius Severus, the whole area of the Middle and Lower Danube, and other parts of the Empire, such as Britannia,²⁴ were confronted with the lack or scarcity of bronze coinage. As possible solutions to the need for bronze coinage, “limesfalsa” (the cast coins) bronze coins were issued in the area of the Middle and Lower Danube and beyond. At the same time in Moesia Superior and Inferior the production of the Roman provincial/Greek civic coins increased. For the same reason, Gordian III opened in AD 239 the mint of Viminacium. The bronze coins issued at Viminacium soon became the most common bronze monetary finds coin in the territories of Pannonia Superior and Inferior and Moesia Superior and Dacia. Confronted with intense military activity in Dacia due to the Carpic war, the emperor Philip I opened a new mint in Dacia in AD 246, following the model of the mint of Viminacium. Comparing Dacia with the adjacent provinces indicates that the PROVINCIA DACIA coins are mainly found in this province and very scarce in the surrounding ones.

Both coinages were destined to the army and they were minted according to the official denominations and with similar size and weight.²⁵ At the same time, the distribution was coordinated from the center following the movement of the army in the area. Practically, these two coinages covered the shortage in bronze coin supply from the mint of Rome.²⁶

²⁰ GĂZDAC 2009, 1495; GĂZDAC/LĂZĂRESCU/COCIȘ/SOCACIU 2021, 77.

²¹ DUNCAN-JONES, 1994, 142; GĂZDAC 2010, 96.

²² WALKER 1988, 299; CLAY 1989, 219–220; DUNCAN-JONES 1994, 108; GĂZDAC 2010, 116.

²³ GĂZDAC 2010, 154.

²⁴ WALKER 1988, 299; CLAY 1989, 219–220.

²⁵ ALFÖLDY-GĂZDAC/GĂZDAC 2004, 249–252; GĂZDAC 2010, 188.

²⁶ GĂZDAC 2010, 186-188.

COINS IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS

(catalogue, tables 1-2; graphs 1-2a-c; Figs 8-14)

Coming back to the topic of the present study – coins in archaeological context –, it can be noticed, that most of the coins belong to the issuers of the 1st and 2nd centuries AD (35) mainly Hadrian (8), Antoninus Pius and Faustina I (12), and Marcus Aurelius and family (6) (see catalogue, tables 1-2). The rest of the coins (21) are all issues of the first half of the 3rd century AD (see catalogue, tables 1-2). At the same time, one should not ignore the fact that the plated denarii (see catalogue, table 1) may be regarded as coins that may have been produced at a later date than the genuine prototype. The fashion of minting plated or cast denarii at the beginning of the 3rd century AD with portraits of Roman emperors from the 1st and 2nd centuries AD is a well-known fact nowadays.²⁷

Following the stratigraphic approach – even before the coin restoration and cataloguing processes – two main phases of activity (I, II) each one with two subphases (I.1-2; II.1-2) have been established by the archaeologists for the vicus from Sutor (Figs: 8-14)

- Phase I.1 (Trajan – Hadrian): first half of the 2nd century AD when the province of Dacia is being organized by the Roman administration;
- Phase I.2 (Antoninus Pius – Commodus): mid-2nd century AD to the Marcommanic wars when the site is developing and began to expand once it was systematically organised;
- Phase II.1 (Septimius Severus – Caracalla): end of the 2nd - beginning of the 3rd centuries AD, the reorganization of the province Dacia Porolissensis to which the site of Sutor (*Optatiana*) belonged;
- Phase II.2 (Severus Alexander – Trajan Decius): mid-3rd century AD to the withdrawal of the Roman administration and army from the province of Dacia.

At the same time, the spatial distribution of these 56 coins within the area of the military vicus reveal two strong concentrations of numismatic evidence in the area of the stone buildings 1 and 3 (figs 8-14).

Once the identification of coins was completed, they were placed on the contexts based on the description label provided at the moment of retrieving from excavations (table 2; graphs 1 and 2a-c; figs 8-14).

The analysis of coins by archaeological context table and graphs (table 2; graphs 1, 2a-c) reveals an interesting spectrum on the period of coin circulation. The earliest sub-phase (I.1) provides only one coin of Nero. As the structures of this phase were either removed or overlapped by the later phases, not only the numismatic evidence but also the other categories of artefacts are extremely scarce presented in the excavation.

The next subphase (I.2), Antoninus Pius – Commodus, marks the wooden phase development of the vicus correlated with the first stone phase of the nearby auxiliary fort. The rich building and the following inhabitation period of the

vicus is marked by the retrieving of 17 coins. The highest number belong to the issuers of this subphase – Antoninus Pius (6) and Marcus Aurelius (4). However, other six coins belong to earlier issuer such as Trajan (3) and Hadrian (3) and only one to a later issuer, Commodus (1).

From the spatial distribution of coins, this subphase is showing a higher frequency of coin finds on the area of the stone building no. 3 (Figs. 8-13)

Subphase II.1, Septimius Severus – Caracalla, witnessed the building, development and inhabitation of the stone vicus at Sutor. Such a large dynamics is testified by the highest number of coins found at this site (24). Like in the previous subphase, the largest number belong to the issuer credited with starting of this subphase, with a long period and a strong coin production (genuine or plated) – Septimius Severus (9). In contrast with the previous stage, the majority of coins belong to earlier issuers (15), including some of the 1st century AD (3). The last ones present a strongly worn-out consequence of a long period of circulation (catalogues nos. 2-4). One important aspect that must be mentioned here is that from the fifteen coins of earlier issuers than Septimius Severus found in the contexts of subphase II.1, thirteen are bronze denominations (catalogue, table 1). Practically, it is suggesting that in the first half of the 3rd century AD, the inhabitants of the vicus were mainly using 1st and 2nd centuries AD bronze coins for daily transactions. This aspect may confirm the above-mentioned Roman monetary policy at the beginning of the 3rd century AD when the supply with new bronze coins was low/poor in the favour of silver coinage.

At the same time the spatial distribution shows a strong increase on the frequency of coin finds for this subphase on the area of the stone building no. 3. (Figs. 8-13)

Fourteen coins were provided by contexts associated with the last subphase identified for the site of the vicus at Sutor – II.2 (table 2). This subphase is dated at the mid-3rd century AD and represent the last phase of existence of this vicus. The large majority of coins (11) belong to issuers with a reign shortly before or of AD 250: Severus Alexander (5), Gordian III (2), Philip I (3), Trajan Decius (1). One can easily notice that in this subphase, the number of much earlier issues is extremely scarce (3): Antoninus Pius, Commodus, Septimius Severus (catalogue; table 2; graphs 1-2a-c).

A particular aspect is offered by the numismatic evidence combined with archaeological contexts and spatial distribution. The map of the spatial distribution of coins by contexts for subphase II.2 shows the presence of coin finds almost only for the stone building no. 3. (Fig. 13).

CONCLUSIONS

The case study of the coins in archaeological contexts provided by the excavations at the military vicus of Sutor (*Optatiana*) reveal both scientific and methodological results.

The stratigraphical display of coins suggests that the coins could stay in circulation long after the minting date. In the case of this vicus, it was quite common to use coins of the early and mid-2nd century AD issuers (e.g. Hadrian, Antoninus Pius) in contexts dated at the beginning of the

²⁷ GĂZDAC/OARGĂ/ALFÖLDY-GĂZDAC 2015, 12-13 with references.

next century, almost hundred years later. The fact that most of these coins are bronze denominations may point out a pattern of coin use in daily transactions, when the old bronze coins may be used when there was a shortage for the new ones, as the silver coin production has increased with Septimius Severus.

This pattern of coin use at the beginning of the 3rd century AD seems to have changed in the following decades, as the coins found in last subphase of the vicus (II.2) are predominantly issues of rulers from this period (Severus Alexander – Philip I). It must be pointed out here, that in this subphase even the bronze coins are bearing the portraits of imperial family members of this period (Severus Alexander, Gordian III, Philip I, Otacilia Severa).

Furthermore, the bronze coins from the last subphase at Sutor confirm the theory that at mid-3rd century AD the main mints supplier for Dacia were the closest ones: Viminacium (Moesia Superior) and Apulum/Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa (Dacia).²⁸

The apparently large presence of plated coins (*denarii*) – 11 coins, representing almost 20% of the total number of coins and more than 50% of the *denarii* found at this site – is another aspect of the numismatic evidence that must be circumscribed within the endemic phenomenon in the western parts of the Roman Empire. The large presence of plated silver coins indicates a massive production of such coins, leading to the theory of a monetary policy mutual agreed by authorities in the moments of shortage of genuine coins.²⁹

Methodologically, this case study indicates that the coins are indeed very useful for dating archaeological, especially in the absence of other more accurate dating artefacts (e.g. brooches, jewellery, certain pottery types). However, one must be aware that the coin offers only a relative dating of the context(s). The more coins you retrieve from the same context the more accurate/less relative dating may be acquired.

On the same line, apart from the chronological data offered by the coin itself, we must take into account the historical background of the site as well as the monetary politics of the time.

Another significant benefit from analysing the numismatic evidence by archaeological context together with the spatial distribution of coins within the site under study, one can identify the fluctuation of the dynamics (various activities) of different units of the same site.

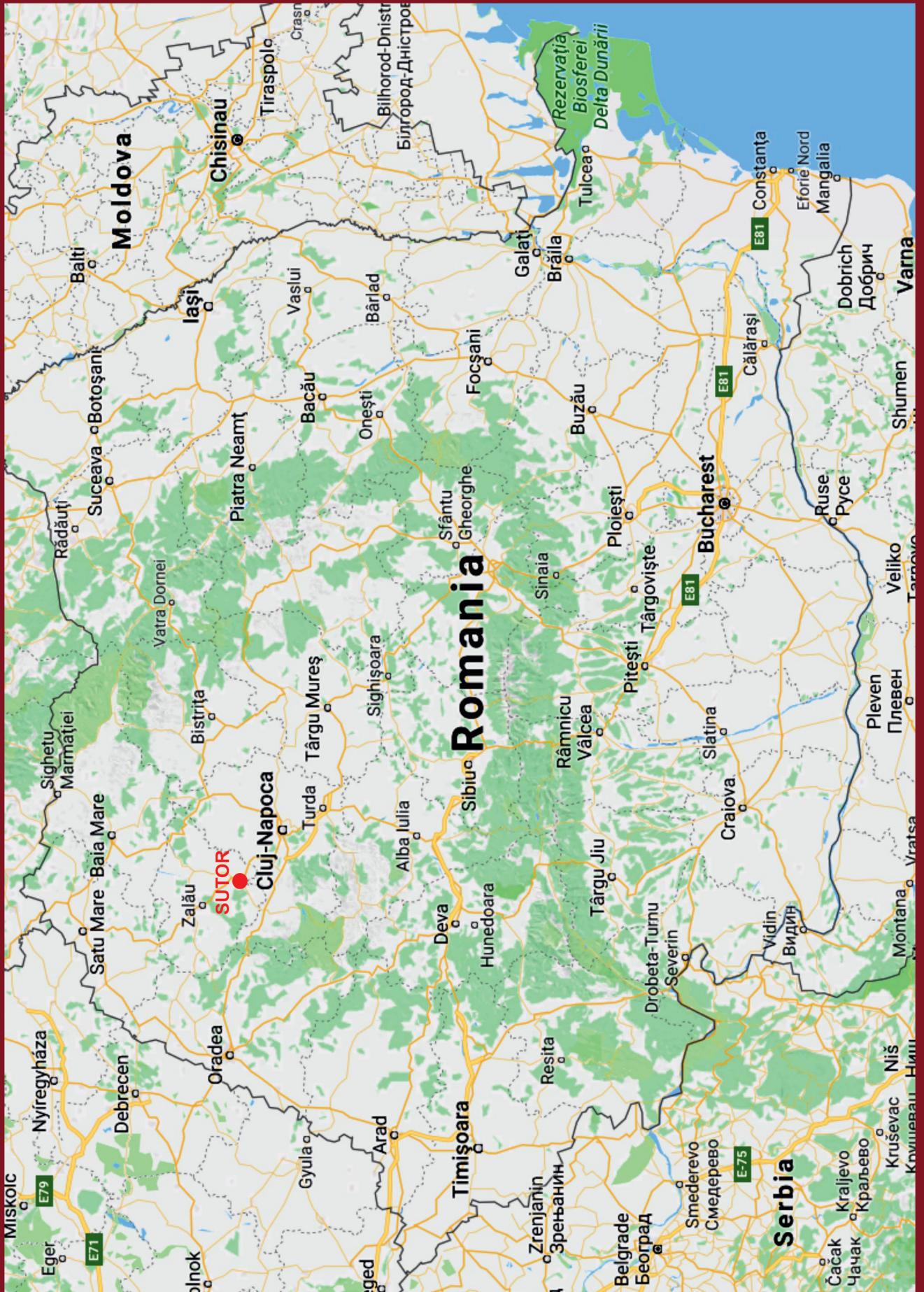
²⁸ GĂZDAC/ALFÖLDY-GĂZDAC 2008, 144-146; GĂZDAC 2010, 186-188, 190-191.

²⁹ GĂZDAC/ALFÖLDY-GĂZDAC 2001, 152-153; GĂZDAC 2009b 1495-1496 with references; GĂZDAC 2010, 151, 200.

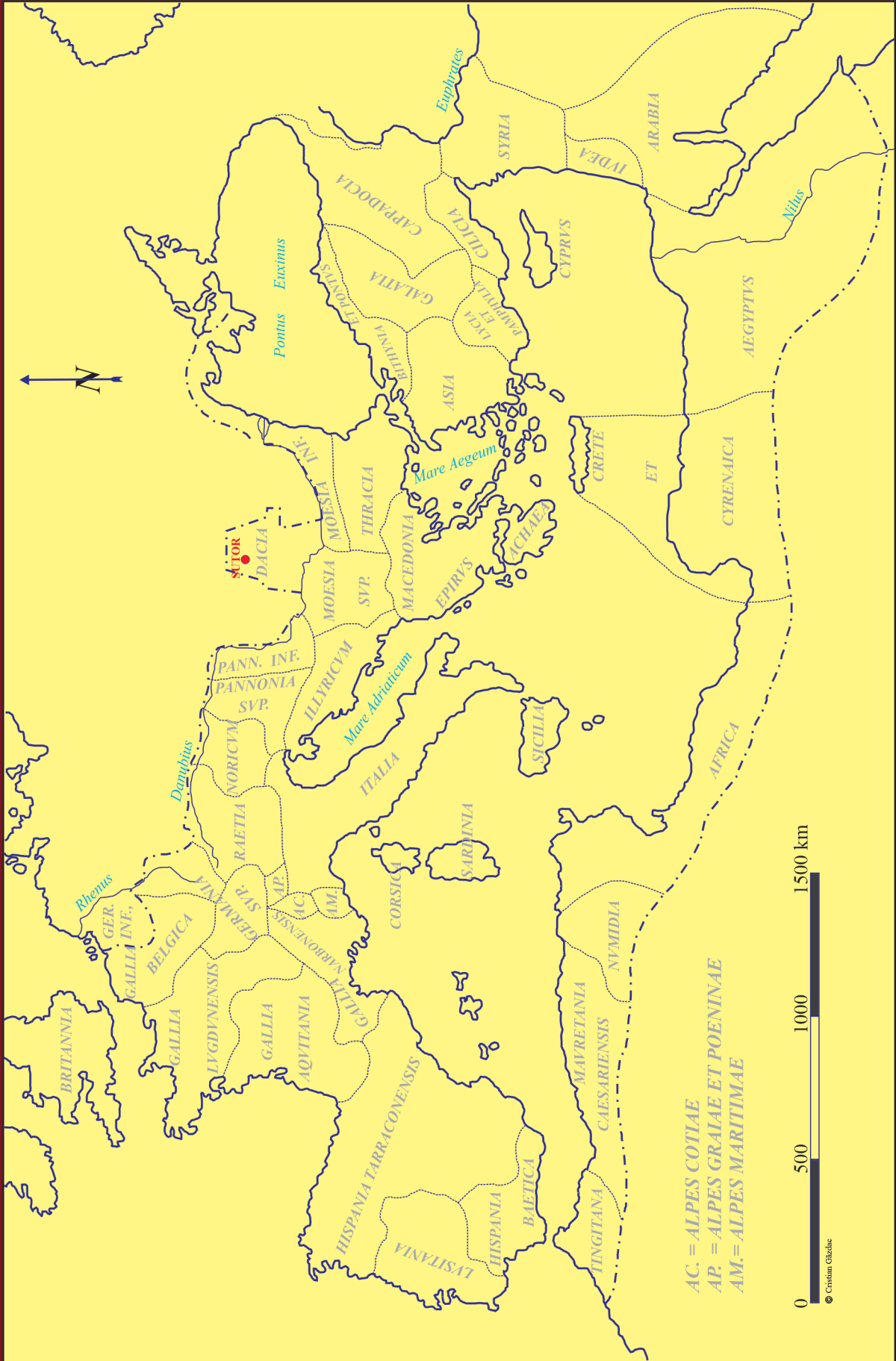
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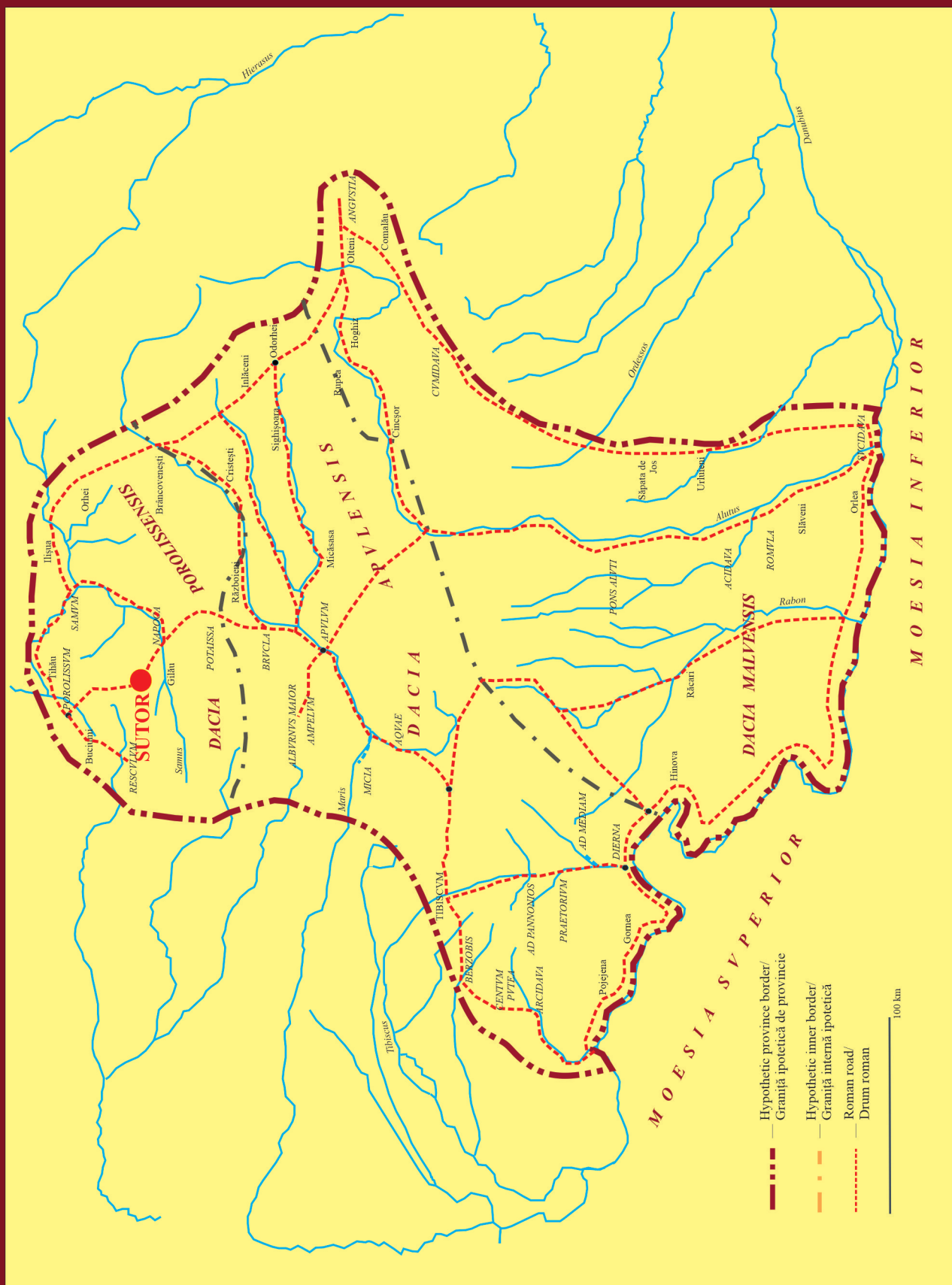
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Map 1. Romania, the location of Sutor (Google Maps).



Map 2. The Roman Empire, mid-2nd century AD, pointing the location of Sutor.



Map 3. Roman Dacia, pointing the location of Sutor.



Fig. 1. Geophysical surveys at Sutor (2013-2021).



Fig. 2. Map of the rescue excavations at Sutur (2021).



Fig. 3. Old river course of the Agrij River as observed on satellite imagery (2011) and 1st Austrian Topographic Survey.

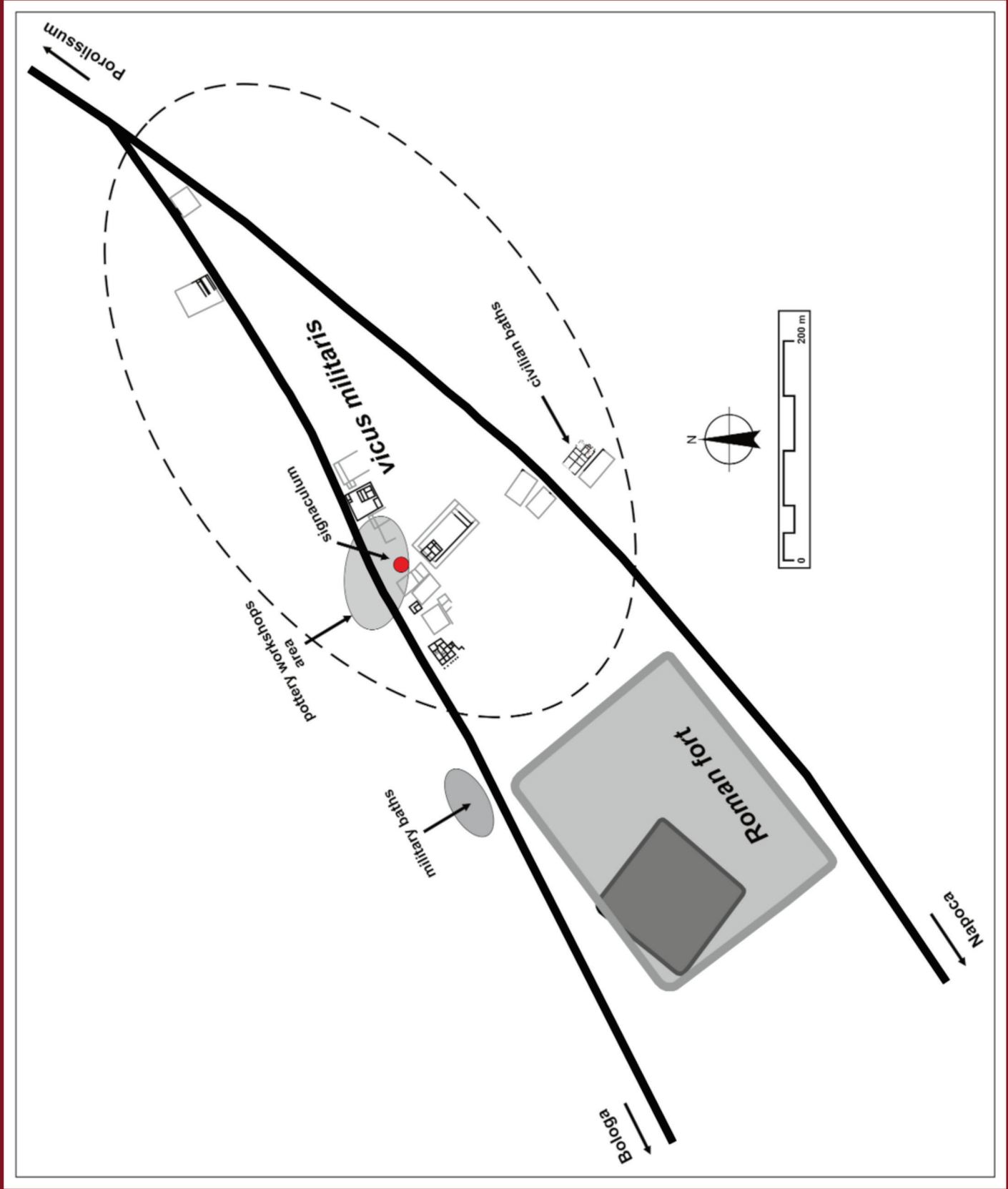


Fig. 4. Map of the archaeological units discovered at Sutor.



Fig. 5. Aerial image of the rescue excavations at Sutor in 2022.



Fig. 6. Sutor 2022, vicus. Aerial image and topographic map of the features identified in 2022.



Fig. 7. Sutor 2022, vicus. Aerial image and topographic map of the archaeological features in the area of the stone building no. 3.

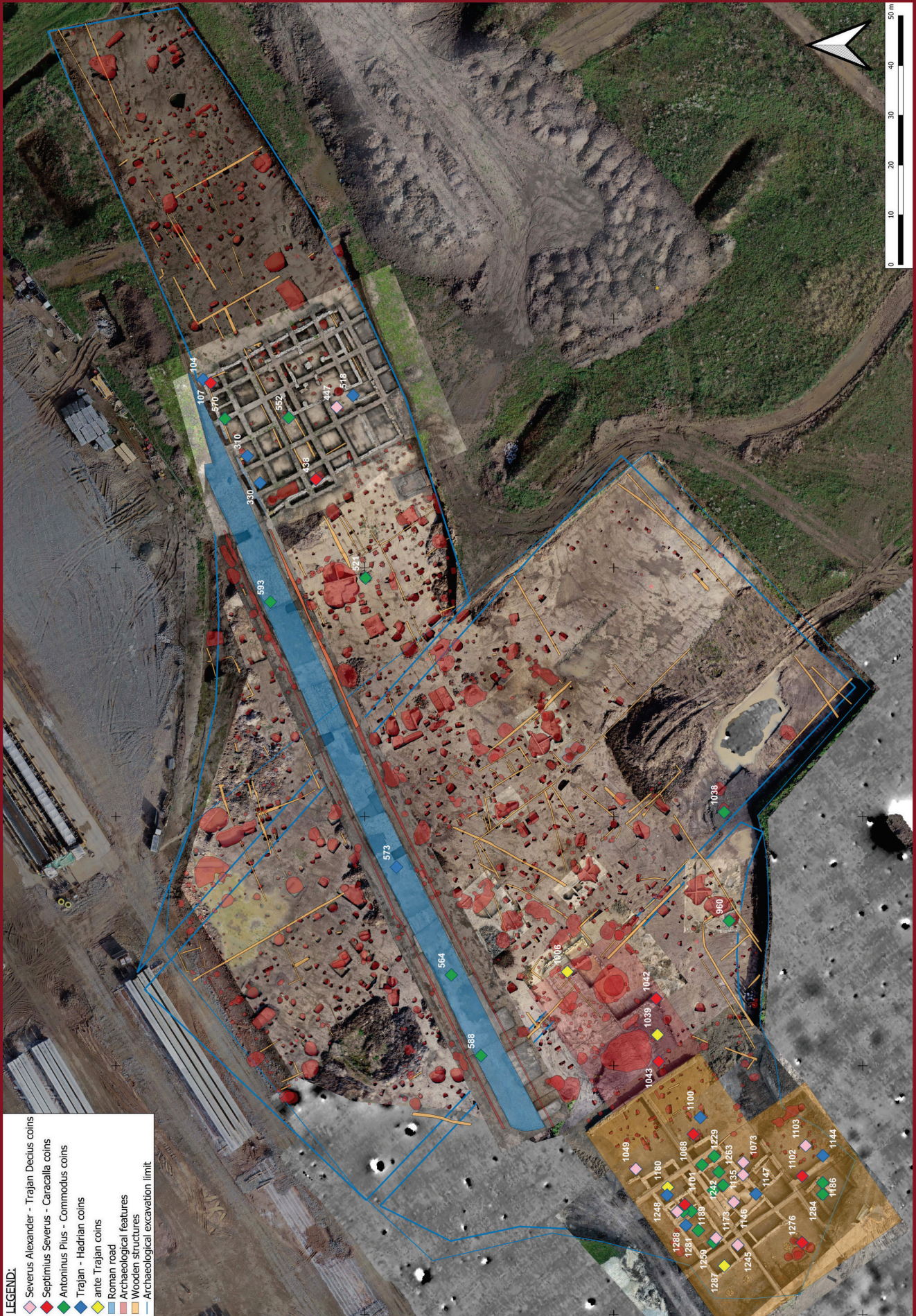


Fig. 8. Sutor 2022, vicus. Spatial distribution of the coins by issuers.



Fig. 9. Sutor 2022, vicus. Detail of the spatial distribution of coins by issuers from the area of stone building no. 1.



Fig. 10. Sutor 2022, vicus. Detail of the spatial distribution of coins by chronological phases from the area of stone building no. 1.



Fig. 12. Sutor 2022, vicus. The spatial distribution of the coins by chronological phases within the area of the stone building no. 3.

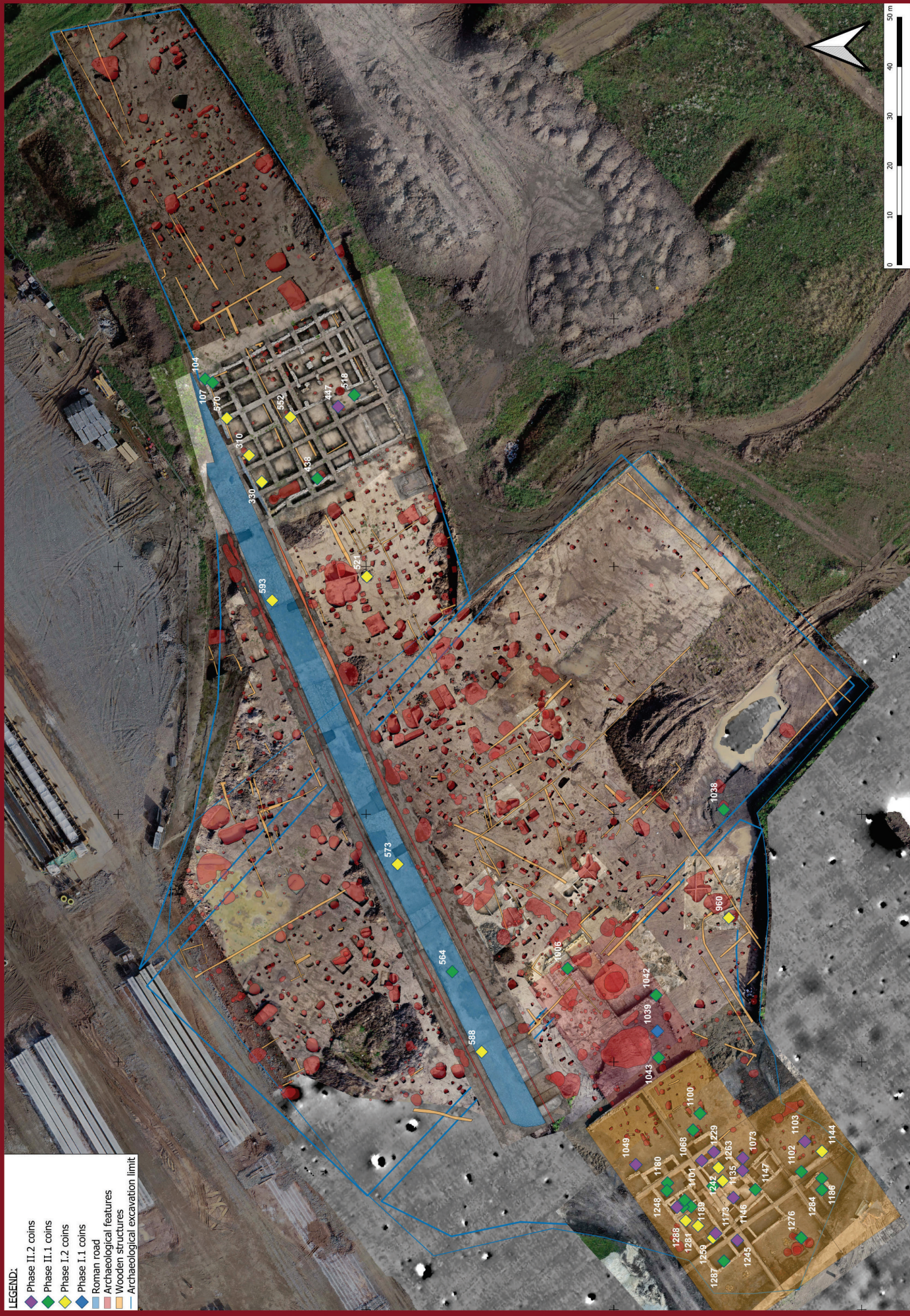


Fig. 13. Sutor 2022, vicus. Spatial distribution of the coins by chronological phases.

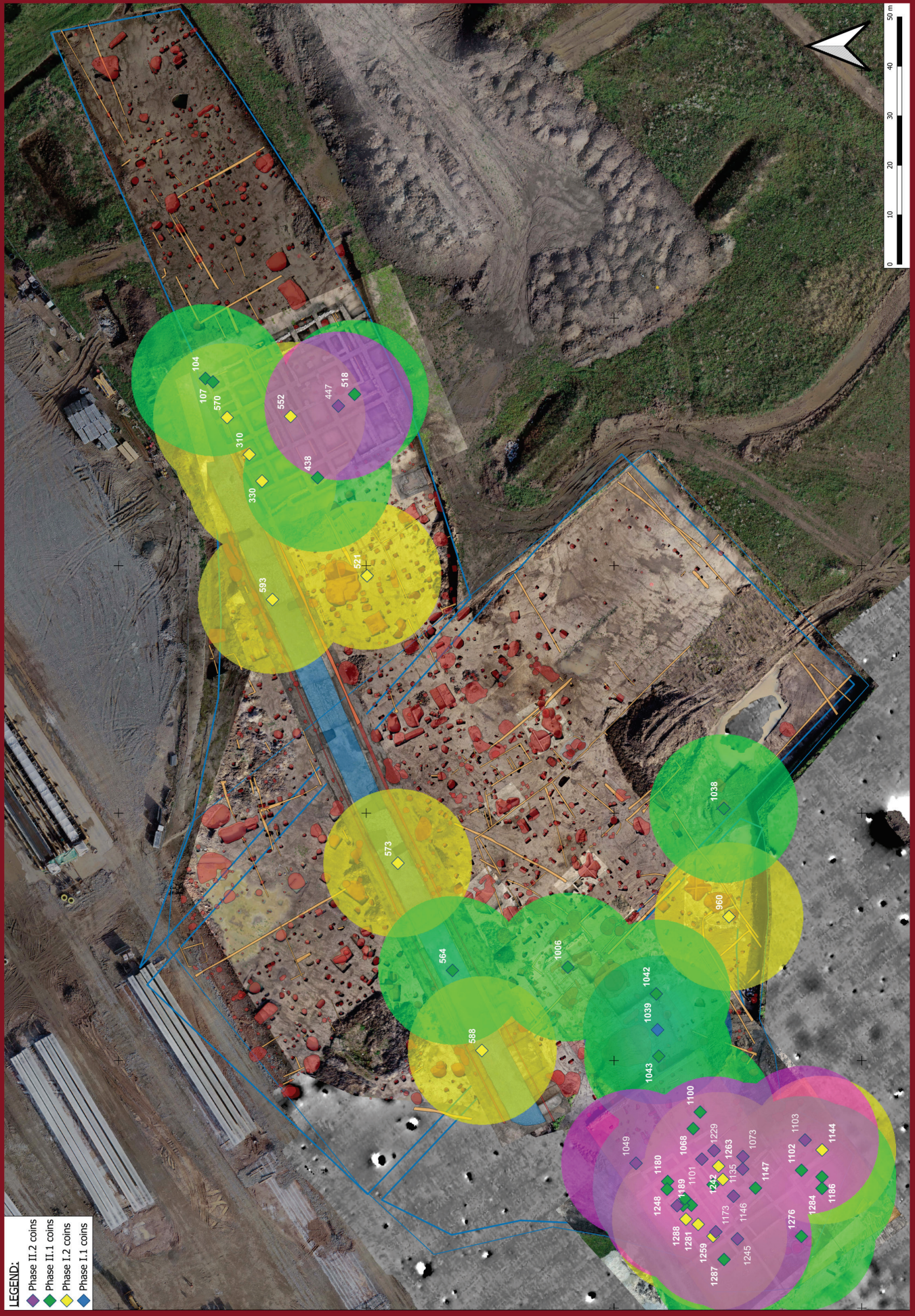


Fig. 14. Spatial distribution of coins by phases from the vicus at Sutor, archaeological campaign 2022, and the Kernel Density Estimation model.

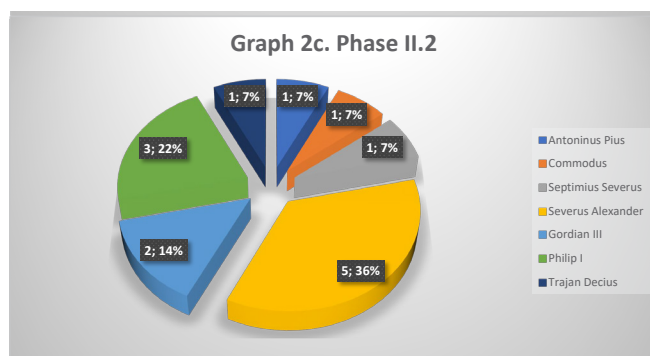
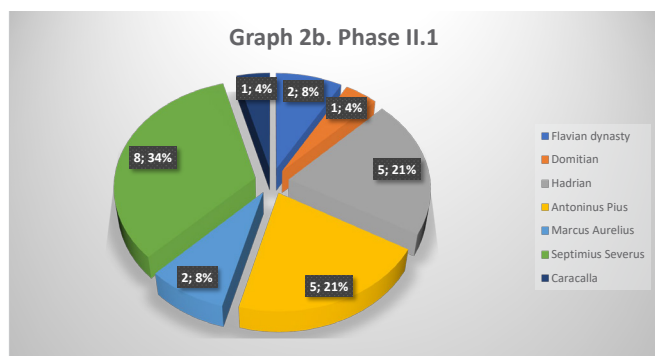
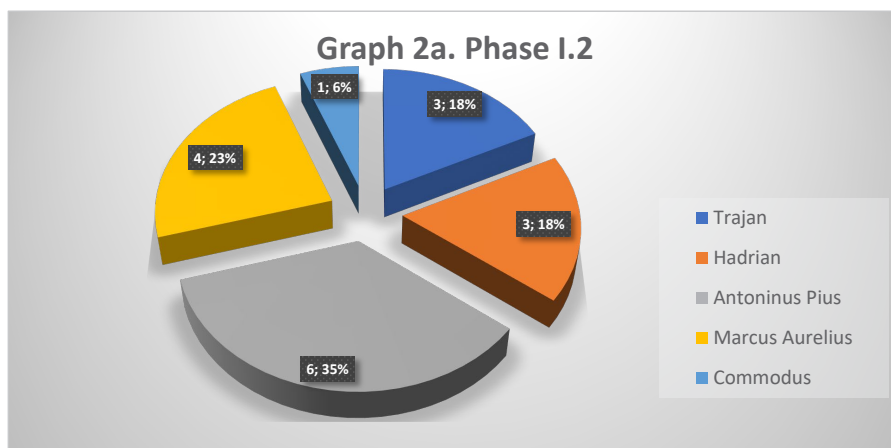
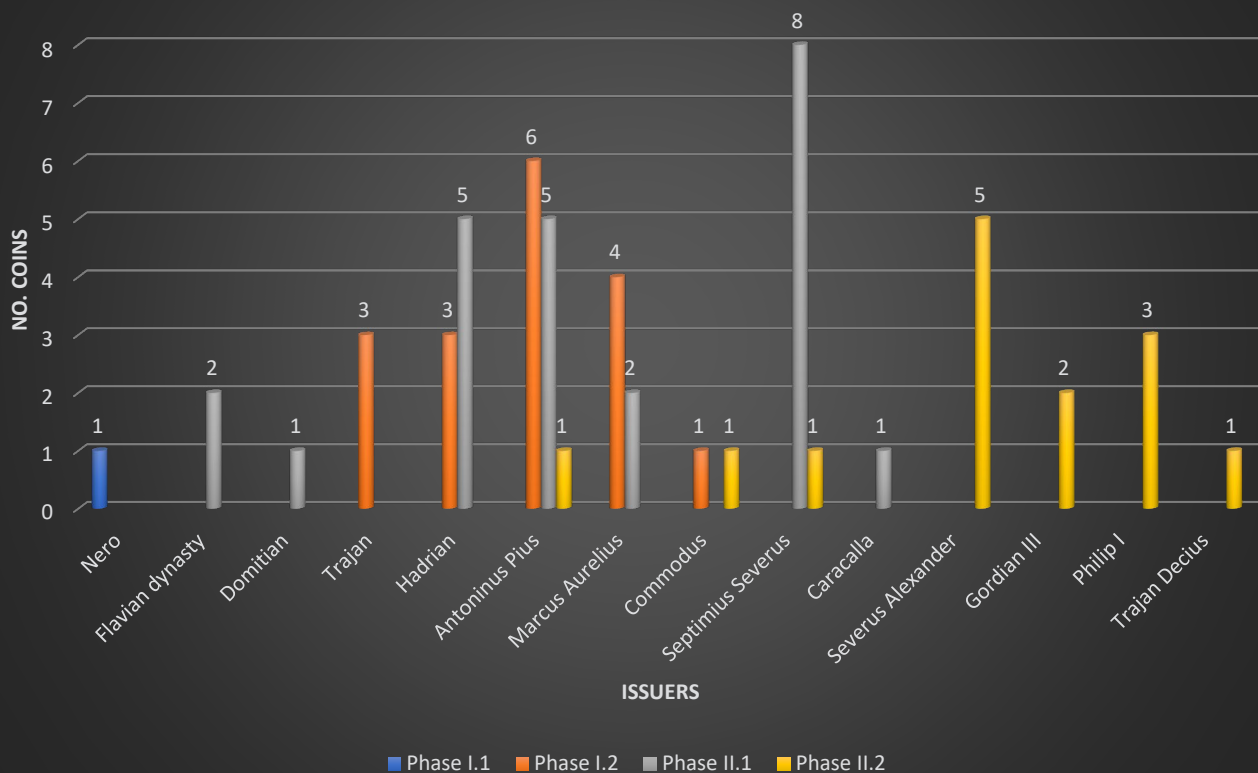
Tab. 1. Sutor, vicus. The distribution of coins by issuers and denominations

ISSUER	AR		AR+AE		AE			TOTAL
	Antoninianus	Denarius	Plateddenarius	Sestertius	Dupondius	As	Provincial	
Nero						1		1
Flavian dynasty				1		1		2
Domitian			1					1
Trajan			1	1		1		3
Hadrian				3		4	1	8
Antoninus Pius		3	1	1	2	4	1	12
Antoninus Pius		3	1		1	3	1	9
Faustina I (Diva)				1	1	1		3
Marcus Aurelius		2		2		2		6
Marcus Aurelius				1				1
Lucius Verus (Augustus)		1						1
Antoninus Pius (Divus)		1						1
Faustina II (Augusta)				1		1		2
Lucilla (Augusta)						1		1
Commodus		1		1				2
Septimius Severus		2	6	1				9
Septimius Severus		2	4	1				7
Julia Domna (Augusta)			1					1
Caracalla (Caesar)			1					1
Caracalla			1					1
Severus Alexander		2	1	1		1		5
Gordian III	1			1				2
Philip I				3				3
Philip I				2				2
Otacilia Severa				1				1
Trajan Decius	1							1
Herennia Etruscilla (Augusta)	1							1
TOTAL	2	10	11	15	2	14	2	56

Tab. 2. Sutor, vicus. The distribution of coins by issuers and phases

ISSUERS	Phase I.1	Phase I.2	Phase II.1	Phase II.2	TOTAL
Nero	1				1
Flavian dynasty			2		2
Domitian			1		1
Trajan		3			3
Hadrian		3	5		8
AntoninusPius		6	5	1	12
MarcusAurelius		4	2		6
Commodus		1		1	2
SeptimiusSeverus			8	1	9
Caracalla			1		1
SeverusAlexander				5	5
Gordian III				2	2
Philip I				3	3
TrajanDecius				1	1
TOTAL	1	17	24	14	56

**Graph 1. Sutor (Optatiana) - Vicus
Coins by phases**



CATALOGUE SUTOR - VICUS

NERO



1. *Denomination:* as

Metal: AE

Axis: 6; D: 23.4 x 22.3 mm; W: 4.22 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 62-68

Obv: [nero claud] CAESAR AV[g ger p m tr imp p p]

Head of Nero, radiate, right.

Rv: [geni]O – AVGVSTI; in field: S - C

Genius Populi Romani standing left, holding patera over flaming altar in right hand and cornucopiae in left.

Catalogue: RIC 215

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; area 2A, quadrant 4; inv.no. temp. SF 1039; 14.10.2022. Phase I.1

FLAVIAN DYNASTY



2. *Denomination:* sestertius

Metal: AE

Axis: -; D: 32 mm; W: 19 g.

Mint: uncertain

Dating: 69-96

Obv: legend erased

Silhouette of a Flavian head, right.

Rv: legend erased

Silhouette standing.

Catalogue: -

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; quadrant 7; the room in the center of the quadrant, SW side; inv.no. temp. SF 1180; 24.10.2022. Phase II.1

FLAVIAN DYNASTY



3. *Denomination:* as

Metal: AE

Axis: 12; D: 25.7 mm; W: 7.62 g.

Mint: uncertain

Dating: 69-96

Obv: legend erased

Silhouette of a Flavian head, right.

Rv: legend erased

Silhouette standing.

Catalogue: -

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 4392; area building no. 2; inv.no. temp. SF 1006; 10.10.2022. Phase II.1

DOMITIANUS



4. *Denomination:* denarius - plated

Metal: AE

Axis: 6; D: 18.7 mm; W: 2.13 g.

Mint: uncertain

Dating: 95-96/post

Obv: IMP CAES DOMIT AVG GERM P M TR P XV

Head of Domitian, laureate, right.

Rv: IMP XXII C[os xvii c]ENS P P P

Minerva standing left, holding spear.

Catalogue: cf. RIC II.1 790

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; area 2A, quadrant 7; room 4; on the wall, western side; inv.no. temp. SF 1287; 31.10.2022. Phase II.1

TRAIANUS



5. *Denomination:* denarius - plated

Metal: AE

Axis: 6; D: 17.7 mm; W: 2.24 g.

Mint: uncertain

Dating: 107-108/post

Obv: IMP [tra]ANO AVG GER D[ac p m tr p]

Bust of Trajan, laureate, draped, right.

Rv: COS [v p p s p] Q [r optimo princ]

Trophy. Only the round shield is visible.

Catalogue: cf. RIC 147B; MIR 268

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; area 2A, quadrant C9; inv.no. temp. SF 1144; 21.10.2022. Phase I.2

TRAIANUS



6. *Denomination:* sestertius

Metal: AE

Axis: 6; D: 32.1 mm; W: 18.94 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 103-117

Obv: legend erased

Silhouette of Trajan's head, laureate, right.

Rv: legend erased

Silhouette of a female person standing left.

Catalogue: -

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; area 2A, quadrant 7; room 3; the testing quadrant, NE corner; adobe layer; inv.no. temp. SF 1288; 31.10.2022. Phase I.2

TRAIANUS



7. *Denomination:* as

Metal: AE

Axis: 6; D: 27.4 x 26.2 mm; W: 8.33 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 103-117

Obv: legend erased

Silhouette of Trajan's head, laureate, right.

Rv: legend erased

Silhouette of a female person standing left, holding cornucopiae in left hand.

Catalogue: -

Remark: coin was pierced.

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 2302; area 2B; inv.no. temp. SF 310; 15.07.2022. Phase I.2

HADRIANUS



8. *Denomination:* as

Metal: AE

Axis: 5; D: 28 x 26 mm; W: 11.09 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 125-127

Obv: legend erased

Head of Hadrian, laureate, right.

Rv: legend erased

Salus standing left, holding patera and sceptre; to left, snake coiled around altar.

Catalogue: cf. RIC II.3, 828

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; area 2, walking level of the road; inv.no. temp. SF 573; 03.08.2022. Phase I.2

HADRIANUS



9. *Denomination:* sestertius

Metal: AE

Axis: 5; D: 34.2 mm; W: 24.98 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 128-129

Obv: HADRIANVS – AUGUSTVS P P

Head of Hadrian, laureate, right.

Rv: HI-LARITAS; in field: S – C

Exergue: COIS III

Hilaritas, rarely naked to waist, standing left, holding palm and cornucopia; flanking her, male and female children grasping her palm and dress respectively.

Catalogue: RIC II.3, 988

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; area 2B, quadrant E5; topo no. 354; inv.no. temp. SF 104; 05.07.2022. Phase II.1

HADRIANUS



10. *Denomination:* as

Metal: AE

Axis: 6; D: 26 x 24.3 mm; W: 7.86 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 129-130

Obv: HADRIANVS – [august]VS

Head of Hadrian, laureate, right.

Rv: legend erased; in field: S – C

Silhouette of Tranquillitas standing left.

Catalogue: RIC II.3, 1254

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; area 2A, the bystander 11-12; inv.no. temp. SF 1100; 19.10.2022. Phase II.1

HADRIANUS



11. *Denomination:* sestertius

Metal: AE

Axis: 6; D: 31.8 mm; W: 25.34 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 133-135

Obv: HADRIANVS – AVG COS III P P

Bust of Hadrian, laureate, draped, right, viewed from side.

Rv: [felici]TAS - AVG; exergue: S - C

Hadrian standing right, holding scroll and clasping hands with Felicitas, standing left, holding caduceus.

Catalogue: RIC II.3, 2082

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; area 2B, quadrant A5; inv.no. temp. SF 330; 18.07.2022. Phase I.2

HADRIANUS



12. *Denomination:* as

Metal: AE

Axis: 5; D: 29.5 mm; W: 20.17 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 136

Obv: HADRIANVS – AVG COS III [p p]

Head of Hadrian, bare, right.

Rv: FELICI[ta]S - AVG; in field: S - C

Felicitas standing left, holding branch and long caduceus.

Catalogue: RIC II.3, 2256

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; area 2B, excavated ground; inv.no. temp. SF 956; 24.09.2022. Phase I.2

HADRIANUS



13. *Denomination:* sestertius

Metal: AE

Axis: 5; D: 29.5 mm; W: 20.17 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 137-138

Obv: [hadrian]VS – [aug] COS III [p p]

Head of Hadrian, laureate, right.

Rv: AEQ[vitas aug]; in field: [s] - C

Aequitas standing left, holding scales and sceptre.

Catalogue: RIC II.3, 2371

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; area 2A, quadrant 7; room 1; inv.no. temp. SF 1248; 27.10.2022. Phase II.1

HADRIANUS



14. *Denomination:* as

Metal: AE

Axis: -; D: 25.6 x 23.9 mm; W: 9.06 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 117-138

Obv: legend erased

Head of Hadrian, right.

Rv: erased

Catalogue: -

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; area 2A, quadrant 8; outside big room, near the southern wall; inv.no. temp. SF 1147; 21.10.2022. Phase II.1

HADRIANUS



15. *Denomination:* provincial coin

Metal: AE

Axis: 6; D: 28.5 mm; W: 11.44 g.

Mint: Koinon of Bithynia

Dating: 117-138

Obv: legend erased

Head of Hadrian, radiate, right.

Rv: [κοι-voν] BEIΘYNIAC

Temple with eight columns on podium of two steps.

Catalogue: RPC III, 1016

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; area 2B, bystander A1'-A'1'; inv.no. temp. SF 518; 28.07.2022. Phase II.1

ANTONINUS PIUS



16. *Denomination:* denarius - plated

Metal: AR+AE

Axis: 7; D: 17.6 mm; W: 1.78 g.

Mint: uncertain

Dating: 140-143/post

Obv: [antoninus a]VG PI-VS P P TR P [cos iii]

Head of Antoninus Pius, laureate, right.

Rv: [conco]RD [ia a]VG

Concordia, standing right, holding sceptre in right hand and corucopiae in left.

Catalogue: cf. RIC 65c

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; area 2B; from the bystander C5-D5; inv.no. temp. SF 570; 03.08.2022. Phase I.2

ANTONINUS PIUS



17. *Denomination:* denarius

Metal: AR

Axis: 6; D: 18.2 mm; W: 2.90 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 143-144

Obv: ANTONINVS - AVG PIVS P P

Head of Antoninus Pius, laureate, right.

Rv: COS III - [d]ES IIII

Virtus, helmeted, in military dress, standing front, head left, holding vertical spear reversed in right hand and parazonium upwards in left.

Catalogue: RIC 118

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; area 2B, top soil on the road, second stone level; inv.no. temp. SF 564; 03.09.2022. Phase II.1

ANTONINUS PIUS



18. *Denomination:* As

Metal: AE

Axis: 5; D: 24.5 x 23.7 mm; W: 9.05 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 140-144

Obv: [Antoninus] AVG PI-VS P [p tr p cos iii]

Head of Antoninus Pius, laureate, right.

Rv: ANN[ona aug]; in field: S - [c]

Annona, draped, standing right, holding two corn-ears in right hand over modius and corn-ears and cornucopiae in left; at feet right, prow right.

Catalogue: RIC 675

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; quadrant 7; room 3; walking level with fired traces; near the room's western wall; inv.no. temp. SF 1259; 27.10.2022. Phase I.2

ANTONINUS PIUS



19. *Denomination:* denarius

Metal: AR

Axis: 6; D: 19.7 x 16.6 mm; W: 2.82 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 151-152

Obv: IMP CAES T AEL HADR ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P

Head of Antoninus Pius, laureate, right.

Rv: TR POT XV – C-OS IIII

Exergue: PIETAS

Pietas, draped, standing right, in front of altar, holding with right hand fore-legs of hind and holding dish of fruit on left hand.

Catalogue: RIC 217

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; area 2A, quadrant 8; room 6; walking level consisting of burning bits and adobe; inv.no. temp. SF 1263; 28.10.2022. Phase I.2

ANTONINUS PIUS



20. *Denomination:* denarius

Metal: AR

Axis: 6; D: 18.9 x 17.1 mm; W: 3.20 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 153-154

Obv: ANTONINVS AVG PI-VS P P TR P XVII

Head of Antoninus Pius, laureate, right.

Rv: COS IIII

Annona, draped, standing left, holding two corn-ears downwards in right hand and setting left on modius set on prow, right.

Catalogue: RIC 231

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; area 2A, quadrant 7; room 8; opus signinum floor; between the wall and the quadrant SE bystander, in front of the gravel floor; inv.no. temp. SF 1220; 25.10.2022. Phase II.1

ANTONINUS PIUS



21. *Denomination:* as

Metal: AE

Axis: 12; D: 26 x 22.4 mm; W: 9.67 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 138-161

Obv: ANTONINVS – [pius] AVG P P

Head of Antoninus Pius, laureate, right.

Rv: TR [pot c]OS IIII; in field: S - C

S Ceres, standing left, extending right hand and holding torch.

Catalogue: RIC 830

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; area 2A, quadrant 4; inv.no. temp. SF 1038; 14.10.2022. Phase II.1

ANTONINUS PIUS



22. *Denomination:* dupondius

Metal: AE

Axis: 12; D: 25.3 x 23.9 mm; W: 14.37 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 138-161

Obv: [anto]NINVS – PIVS AVG P P

Head of Antoninus Pius, laureate, right.

Rv: [c]OS IIII

Salus, seated left, feeding snake coiled round altar and resting left elbow on rudder.

Catalogue: RIC 799

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; area 2A, quadrant 12; inv.no. temp. SF 1284; 29.10.2022. Phase II.1

ANTONINUS PIUS



23. *Denomination:* as

Metal: AE

Axis: 6; D: 26.9 x 25.4 mm; W: 8.07 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 138-161

Obv: ANTONINVS AVG PIVS P P

Head of Antoninus Pius, laureate, right.

Rv: legend erased

Female silhouette standing.

Catalogue: -

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; area 2A, quadrant 9; metal detecting within the building; inv.no. temp. SF 1101; 19.10.2022. Phase II.2

ANTONINUS PIUS



24. *Denomination:* provincial coin

Metal: AE

Axis: 12; D: 24.5 x 22.8 mm; W: 12.30 g.

Mint: Antioch (Syria)

Dating: 138-161

Obv: legend erased

Radiate head of Antoninus Pius, right.

Rv: S C and below, letter Δ, in laurel wreath.

Catalogue: RPC IV.3, 7002

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; area 2A, quadrant 7; room 3; inv.no. temp. SF 1281; 29.10.2022. Phase I.2

ANTONINUS PIUS: FAUSTINA I (DIVA)

25. *Denomination:* sestertius

Metal: AE

Axis: 11; D: 33.9 x 31.4 mm; W: 24.715 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 141

Obv: DIVA FAVSTINA

Bust of Faustina I, draped, right, hair elaborately waved and coiled in bands across head and drawn up at back and piled in a round coil on top.

Rv: [i]V-N[o]; in field: S – C

Juno, diademed, veiled, standing left, holding patera and sceptre.

Catalogue: RIC 1143

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; area 2B; bystander B3-C3, near the wall corner on the outer side; inv.no. temp. SF 552; 30.07.2022. Phase I.2

ANTONINUS PIUS: FAUSTINA I (DIVA)

26. *Denomination:* as

Metal: AE

Axis: 5; D: 24.5 x 23.4 mm; W: 9.59 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 141

Obv: DIVA FAVSTINA

Bust of Faustina I, draped, right, hair elaborately waved and coiled in bands across head and drawn up at back and piled in a round coil on top.

Rv: [aeter]NIT[as]; in field: S – C

Pietas, standing left, raising right hand and holding box of incense.

Catalogue: RIC 1161

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; area 2B; Roman road level; inv.no. temp. SF 593; 04.08.2022. Phase I.2

ANTONINUS PIUS: FAUSTINA I (DIVA)



27. *Denomination:* dupondius

Metal: AE

Axis: 6; D: 26.5 x 25.5 mm; W: 12.20 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 141

Obv: [div]A FAVSTINA

Bust of Faustina I, draped, right, hair elaborately waved and coiled in bands across head and drawn up at back and piled in a round coil on top.

Rv: [augusta]; in field: S – C

Vesta, veiled, draped, standing left, holding palladium on extended right hand and long sceptre, sloping slightly to left, in left hand.

Catalogue: RIC 1179

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; area 2A; quadrant 12; while cleaning the E-W wall; inv.no. temp. SF 1186; 24.10.2022. Phase II.1

MARCUS AURELIUS



28. *Denomination:* sestertius

Metal: AE

Axis: 12; D: 30.4 x 28.6 mm; W: 24.45 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 174-175

Obv: M ANTONINVS AVG - GERM [tr p x]IX

Head of Marcus Aurelius, laureate, right.

Rv: legend erased; in field: S - C

Fides, draped, standing left, holding caduceus in right hand and standard.

Catalogue: RIC 1138

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; area 2A; quadrant 7; in the second room from west, near the wall; inv.no. temp. SF 1189; 24.10.2022. Phase II.1

MARCUS AURELIUS: LUCIUS VERUS (AUGUSTUS)

29. *Denomination:* denarius

Metal: AR

Axis: 6; D: 16.8 mm; W: 2.82 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 163

Obv: L VERVS AVG ARMENIACVS

Head of Lucius Verus, bare, right.

Rv: [tr p iii] IMP [ii] COS II

Exergue: ARMEN

Armenia seated left on ground, surrounded by arms, resting left hand on bow and quiver; before her, standard.

Catalogue: RIC 501

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 4584; inv.no. temp. SF 960; 29.09.2022. Phase I.2

MARCUS AURELIUS: ANTONINUS PIUS (DIVUS)

30. *Denomination:* denarius

Metal: AR

Axis: 12; D: 18.1 mm; W: 2.47 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 161

Obv: D[ivus] - ANTONINVS

Head of Antoninus Pius, bare, right.

Rv: DIVO - PI[o]

Square altar.

Catalogue: RIC 441

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; area 2A; quadrant C8; room 6; inv.no. temp. SF 1242; 26.10.2022. Phase I.2

MARCUS AURELIUS: FAUSTINA II (AUGUSTA)



31. *Denomination:* sestertius

Metal: AE

Axis: 6; D: 32.4 x 30.4 mm; W: 27.35 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 161-175

Obv: FAVSTINA [augus]TA

Bust of Faustina II, draped, hair elaborately waved in nearly vertical lines and fastened in a low chignon at back of head, down cheek, curls, right.

Rv: FECVN-DITAS; in field: S – C

Fecunditas, draped, standing right, holding sceptre in right hand and infant in left arm.

Catalogue: RIC 1638

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; area 2A; excavated ground; inv.no. temp. SF 1065; 18.10.2022. Phase I.2

MARCUS AURELIUS: FAUSTINA II (AUGUSTA)



32. *Denomination:* as

Metal: AE

Axis: 5; D: 24.5 x 23.3 mm; W: 11.17 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 161-175

Obv: [faust]INA AVGV[sta]

Bust of Faustina II, draped, hair elaborately waved in nearly vertical lines and fastened in a low chignon at back of head, down cheek, curls, right.

Rv: [ven]V[s]; in field: S – C

Venus, draped, standing left, holding apple in right hand and adjusting hair with left hand.

Catalogue: RIC 1684

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; inv.no. temp. SF 588; 04.08.2022. Phase I.2

MARCUS AURELIUS: LUCILLA (AUGUSTA)

33. *Denomination:* as

Metal: AE

Axis: 6; D: 26.2 x 22.9 mm; W: 10.36 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 164-169

Obv: [lucil]LAE AVG AN[tonini aug f]

Bust of Lucilla, hair waved and fastened in a low chignon at back of head, draped, right.

Rv: V-E[sta]; in field: S – C

Vesta, veiled, draped, standing left by altar, holding simpulum in right hand and palladium in left hand.

Catalogue: RIC 1780

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; area 2A; quadrant C7; second room from west; inv.no. temp. SF 1199; 24.10.2022. Phase II.1

COMMODUS

34. *Denomination:* denarius

Metal: AR

Axis: 12; D: 17.6 mm; W: 3.33 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 183

Obv: M COMMODVS - ANTON AVG PIVS

Head of Commodus, laureate, right.

Rv: TR P VIII IMP VI COS IIII P P

Providentia, draped, standing left, holding wand in right hand over globe on ground left and vertical sceptre in left hand.

Catalogue: RIC 65

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus, context 1188; Area 2A; quadrant 8; room 5, floor; the mortar with pebble stones; inv.no. temp. SF 1229; 26.10.2022. Phase II.2

COMMODUS



35. *Denomination:* sestertius

Metal: AE

Axis: 5; *D:* 30.6 mm; *W:* 25.58 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 183

Obv: [m co]MMODVS ANT[oninus aug pius]

Head of Commodus, laureate, right.

Rv: PRO[v aug p m tr p viii imp vi cos iiii p p]; in field: S – C

Providentia, draped, standing left, holding wand in right hand over globe on ground left and vertical sceptre in left hand.

Catalogue: RIC 379a

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus, context 2004; Area 2B; inv.no. temp. SF 521; 28.07.2022. Phase I.2

SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS



36. *Denomination:* denarius

Metal: AR

Axis: 5; *D:* 17.6 mm; *W:* 2.73 g.

Mint: Emesa

Dating: 194-195

Obv: IMP [cae l sep se]V PERT AVG COS II

Head of Septimius Severus, laureate, right.

Rv: BONI E-V-ENTVS

Bonus Eventus, draped, standing left, holding up basket of fruit in right hand and two corn-ears in left hand.

Catalogue: RIC 369

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus, context 1188; Area 2A; quadrant 6; inv.no. temp. SF 1068; 18.10.2022. Phase II.1

SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS



37. *Denomination:* denarius - plated

Metal: AE

Axis: 12; D: 18.3 mm; W: 2.82 g.

Mint: uncertain

Dating: 200-201/post

Obv: legend erased

Head of Septimius Severus, laureate, right.

Rv: RESTITVTOR - VRBIS

Septimius Severus, in military attire, standing left, sacrificing out of patera in right hand over tripod and holding spear in left hand.

Catalogue: cf. RIC 167a

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus, context 1188; Area 2A; quadrant 7; second room from west; inv.no. temp. SF 1205; 24.10.2022. Phase II.1

SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS



38. *Denomination:* denarius - plated

Metal: AR+AE

Axis: 6; D: 16.7 mm; W: 1.89 g.

Mint: uncertain

Dating: 196-197/post

Obv: [I sept sev pert aug] I[m]P VIII

Head of Septimius Severus, laureate, right.

Rv: [fortuna]E AVG[g]: Fortuna, draped, seated left on low seat, holding rudder set on globe in right hand and cornucopiae in left hand; under seat, wheel.

Catalogue: cf. RIC 77

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus, context 1188; Area 2B; quadrant E5; topographic no. 355; inv.no. temp. SF 107; 05.07.2022. Phase II.1

SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS



39. *Denomination:* denarius – plated - hybrid

Metal: AR+AE; fragmentary

Axis: 10; D: -; W: 2.46 g.

Mint: uncertain

Dating: 200-202/post

Obv: legend erased

Head of Septimius Severus, laureate, right.

Rv: [n]O[b]ilitas?

Nobilitas, draped, standing right, holding sceptre in right hand and palladium in extended left hand.

Catalogue: cf. RIC 13a for revers (Geta)

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; Area 2A; top soil; inv.no. temp. SF 701; 29.08.2022. Phase II.1

SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS



40. *Denomination:* denarius

Metal: AR

Axis: 7; D: 18.4 x 17.8 mm; W: 2.72 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 202-210

Obv: SEVERVS – PIVS AVG

Head of Septimius Severus, laureate, right.

Rv: FELICI-TAS AVGG

Felicitas, draped, standing left, holding caduceus in right hand and cornucopiae in left hand.

Catalogue: RIC 261

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus; context 1188; Area 2A; quadrant 9; inv.no. temp. SF 1102; 19.10.2022. Phase II.1

SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS



41. *Denomination:* denarius - plated

Metal: AE

Axis: -; D: 17.7 x 16.6 mm; W: 2.16 g.

Mint: uncertain

Dating: 193-211

Obv: [...] SEPT SEV AVG [...]

Head of Septimius Severus, laureate, right.

Rv: legend erased

Silhouette of deity seating left.

Catalogue: -

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus, building; Area 2A/2; inv.no. temp. SF 944; 23.09.2022. Phase II.2

SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS



42. *Denomination:* sestertius

Metal: AE

Axis: -; D: 24.5 x 23.3 mm; W: 11.17 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 193-211

Obv: [...] SEPT[...]

Head of Septimius Severus, laureate, right.

Rv: erased

Catalogue: -

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus, context 1188; Area 2B, A'3; inv.no. temp. SF 438; 22.07.2022. Phase II.1

SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS: Julia Domna (Augusta)



43. *Denomination:* denarius - plated

Metal: AR+AE

Axis: 7; D: 16.7 x 15 mm; W: 2.03 g.

Mint: Laodicea ad Mare

Dating: 196-211

Obv: IVLIA – AVGV[sta]

Bust of Julia Domna, hair waved and coiled at back, draped, right.

Rv: LAE[ti]TIA

Laetitia, draped, standing left, holding wreath in extended right hand and rudder in left hand.

Catalogue: RIC 641

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus, context 1188; Area 2A; quadrant 4; inv.no. temp. SF 1042; 14.10.2022. Phase II.1

SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS: Caracalla (Caesar)



44. *Denomination:* denarius - plated

Metal: AR + AE

Axis: 12; D: 18.6 mm; W: 2.08 g.

Mint: uncertain

Dating: 196-198/post

Obv: [m aur a]NTON CA[es pontif]

Bust of Caracalla, bare-headed, draped, right.

Rv: [pri]NC[ipi ivventu]TIS

Caracalla, in military attire, standing left, holding baton in right hand and spear in left hand; to right, trophy.

Catalogue: cf. RIC 13A

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus, context 1188; Area 2A, quadrant 4; inv.no. temp. SF 1043; 14.10.2022. Phase II.1

CARACALLA

45. *Denomination:* denarius - plated

Metal: AR+AE

Axis: 6; D: 19.1 mm; W: 3.07 g.

Mint: uncertain

Dating: 215/post

Obv: ANTONINVS PIVS AVG GERM

Head of Caracalla, laureate, right.

Rv: P M TR P XVIII COS I[*iii* p]l

Fides Militum, draped, standing left, holding a standard in each hand.

Catalogue: cf. RIC 266

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus, context 1188; Area 2A, quadrant 11; outside building, near the kiln; inv.no. temp. SF 1276; 28.10.2022. Phase II.1

SEVERUS ALEXANDER

46. *Denomination:* denarius

Metal: AR

Axis: 6; D: 18.4 mm; W: 2.94 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 222

Obv: IMP CAES M AVR SEV ALEXAND AVG

Bust of Severus Alexander, laureate, draped and cuirassed, right.

Rv: P M TR P - C-O[s] p] P

Jupiter, cloak behind and over right arm, standing left, holding thunderbolt in right hand and sceptre in left hand.

Catalogue: RIC 5d

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus, context 1188; Area 2A, quadrant 4; inv.no. temp. SF 1049; 14.10.2022. Phase II.2

SEVERUS ALEXANDER



47. *Denomination:* denarius

Metal: AR

Axis: 1; D: 18.8 x 17.3 mm; W: 2.86 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 228-231

Obv: IMP [sev] ALE-XAND AVG

Head of Severus Alexander, laureate, right.

Rv: [abund]AN-TIA AVG

Abundantia, draped, standing right, emptying cornucopiae with both hands.

Catalogue: RIC 184a

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus, context 1188; Area 2A, quadrant 8; inv.no. temp. SF 1073; 18.10.2022. Phase II.2

SEVERUS ALEXANDER



48. *Denomination:* as

Metal: AE

Axis: 12; D: 22 mm; W: 4.46 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 222-231

Obv: [imp caes m aur sev alex]AND[er aug]

Bust of Severus Alexander, laureate, draped, right.

Rv: SEC[uritas perpetua]; in exergue: S C

Securitas, draped, seated left, by lighted altar, holding sceptre in right hand and supporting head with left hand.

Catalogue: RIC 613c

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus, context 1188; Area 2A, quadrant 12; inv.no. temp. SF 1103; 19.10.2022. Phase II.2

SEVERUS ALEXANDER



49. *Denomination:* sestertius

Metal: AE

Axis: 12; D: 27.5 x 26.8 mm; W: 15.03 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 231-235

Obv: IMP ALEXANDER PIVS AVG

Bust of Severus Alexander, laureate, draped over left shoulder, right.

Rv: PROVIDENTIA AVGV; in field: S - C

Providentia, draped, standing front, head left, holding two corn-ears in right hand over modius and cornucopiae in left hand.

Catalogue: RIC 648b

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus, context 1188; Area 2A, quadrant 7; room 9, beneath the tiles' debris; inv.no. temp. SF 1245; 27.10.2022. Phase II.2

SEVERUS ALEXANDER



50. *Denomination:* denarius - plated

Metal: AE

Axis: 12; D: 17.8 x 16.9 mm; W: 1.69 g.

Mint: uncertain

Dating: 222-235

Obv: IMP C M AVR [sev alexand aug]

Bust of Severus Alexander, laureate, draped, right.

Rv: C[oncordi]A

Concordia, draped, seated left, holding patera in right hand and cornucopiae in left hand.

Catalogue: RIC 275d

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus, context 1188; Area 2B, quadrant B1; inv.no. temp. SF 447; 22.07.2022. Phase II.2

GORDIANUS III



51. *Denomination:* antoninianus

Metal: AR

Axis: 5; D: 23.7 mm; W: 2.14 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 242-244

Obv: [imp gordian]VS PIVS FEL AVG

Bust of Gordian III, radiate, cuirassed, seen from behind, right.

Rv: [orie]-NS AVG

Sol, radiate, nude except for cloak around shoulders, standing left, raising right hand and holding globe in left hand.

Catalogue: RIC 213

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus, context 1188; Area 2A, quadrant 7; found in the second room from west; inv.no. temp. SF 1202; 24.10.2022. Phase II.2

GORDIAN III



52. *Denomination:* sestertius

Metal: AE

Axis: 12; D: 29.5 mm; W: 19.48 g.

Mint: Viminacium

Dating: 239-240

Obv: [imp caes] M ANT [gordia]NVS AVG

Bust of Gordian III, laureate, draped and cuirassed, right.

Rv: P M S CO-L VIM

Exergue: AN • I •

Moesia standing front, head to left, extending her hands to bull and lion standing on either side.

Catalogue: Martin 1.05.1

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus, context 1188; Area 2A, C7, big room, near W profile; inv.no. temp. SF 1173; 22.10.2022. Phase II.2

PHILIP I



53. *Denomination:* sestertius

Metal: AE

Axis: 7; D: 29.1 x 27.4 mm; W: 15.18 g.

Mint: Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa

Dating: 247-248

Obv: IMP M IVL PHILIPPVS AVG

Head of Philip I, laureate, right.

Rv: PROVINC[ia dacia]

Exergue: AN • II •

Dacia standing between eagle and lion, holding standards inscribed V and XIII.

Catalogue: Martin 2.57.1

Context: Sutor 2001, vicus; Area 2; excavated ground; 05.10.2001. Phase II.2

PHILIP I



54. *Denomination:* sestertius

Metal: AE

Axis: 7; D: 26.3 x 25.4 mm; W: 13.37 g.

Mint: Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa

Dating: 247-248

Obv: [i]MP M IVL PHI[lippus] AVG

Head of Philip I, laureate, right.

Rv: PROVINCIA DACIA

Exergue: AN • II •

Dacia standing between eagle and lion, holding standards inscribed V and XIII.

Catalogue: Martin 2.57.1

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus, context 1188; Area 2, C8, inside big room, near the N wall; inv.no. temp. SF 1146; 21.10.2022. Phase II.2

PHILIP I: Otacilia Severa (Augusta)



55. *Denomination:* sestertius

Metal: AE

Axis: 1; D: 29.4 x 29.1 mm; W: 16.07 g.

Mint: Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa

Dating: 246-247

Obv: [marci]A OTA[cil sev]ERA AVG

Bust of Otacilia Severa, diademed, draped, right.

Rv: PROVINCIA DACIA

Exergue: AN • I •

Dacia standing facing, head left, holding curved sword and vexillum inscribed D F; at feet to left, eagle standing left, head right, with wings displayed, holding wreath in beak; to right, lion standing left.

Catalogue: Martin 2.69.1

Context: Sutor 2001, vicus; trench 3; m 17-18; depth -1 m. Phase II.2

TRAJAN DECIUS: Herennia Etruscilla (Augusta)



56. *Denomination:* antoninianus

Metal: AR

Axis: 12; D: 22 x 20 mm; W: 3.34 g.

Mint: Rome

Dating: 249-251

Obv: [her] ETR[uscilla aug]

Type: Bust of Herennia Etruscilla, diademed, draped, on crescent, right.

Rv: PVDICITIA AVGG

Pudicitia, draped, veiled, seated left, drawing veil with right hand, holding sceptre in left hand.

Catalogue: RIC 60

Context: Sutor 2022, vicus, context 1188; Area 2A, C8, metal detecting; inv.no. temp. SF 1135; 20.10.2022. Phase II.2