



Interim Report

September 2015

1. BF15/14: Conservation of the Western Surrounding Walls (West Gate to Western Defences), Butrint

This project was focused in the western area of the main archaeological site of Butrint, from the West gate to the Western defences. This intervention was continuance of the overall consolidation of the lower circuit of the surrounding walls that has started since 2005 from the Butrint Foundation.

The focus was not only on the wall structures, but it considered the intervention for the whole broader area around the western defence walls. In this area are located some of the most outstanding sections of the surrounding walls including phases from Hellenistic, late antique, medieval and Venetian period. As well the conservation of this area facilitates the creation of an alternative route for special groups of visitors, avoiding the use of the stairway that presents difficulties for going downhill from the castle.

This wall represented considerable difficulties and required increased volumes of work for the conservations as in several sections had lost the face work and the unstable inner core was exposed. In some area the wall serves also as terrace wall withstanding pressure and tensions from the hillside, therefore penetration and consolidation in the depth of the wall was considered crucial and so a lot of injections of lime mortar was made. Also due to the several phases of construction special attention has been given to preserve the lines and joints of different phases.





2. BF15/16: Archaeological Reassessment and Preventive Conservation of Roman Structure near the Forum

This monument located in the adjacent east of the Forum was totally isolated in the forest of Butrint. An extensive vegetation clearance was undertaken in and around the monument. After that the structure was exposed a detailed cleaning of the topsoil and material was done inside the building in order to expose elements that were already excavated in the past and impressive tiled floors were found in two of the rooms. More difficulties were faced for cleaning the sections of the trenches, which were discovered to be remains of material thrown there from other digs and presented no stratigraphy, also showing that the size of excavation from Ugolini or other later researches was probably not restricted only for the interior area of the structure.

Considering the limited resources of the project for extending the survey and excavation, it was decided that the work will only be limited in documenting the existing exposed structure and a preliminary conservation of unstable structure elements.

The detailed documentation and condition report will be used to produce a conservation project that will be submitted to the park for implementation.





3. BF14/07: Stabilization and consolidation of the structure of the North West Spur Wall

This season were successfully completed some unfinished works, which remained from last year due to the change of permits procedures, for the consolidation of the structure of the the North West Spur Wall. This section was one of the major challenges of any conservation works that have been undertaken so far at the medieval surrounding walls, due to the fact that in some sections the damage of the growing trees had undermined the wall structure and several rows of stones had to be removed and reinserted with the anastylosis technique. As well this wall has some of the highest sections reaching about 8 meters.

The successful implementation of this intervention is an evidence highly professional skills of the conservation team of the Butrint Heritage Centre.









4. BF13/06: Reappraisal of the Roman bathhouse transformed into a funerary monument – Preliminary Conservation Interventions –

In this season, the work undertaken at this monument was focused in the consolidation of the structure in the northern side and the archaeological reassessment.

Prior to the archaeological documenting a detailed cleaning was done in the monument so that all lines of phases, wall joining, and other elements that bear interpreting clues were exposed. This was done in such a way not to disturb the stability of the structure. Following the photographs from Ugolini's excavations, the mosaic pavement was also cleaned and documented and properly backfilled with sand.

As part of the archaeological reassessment the monument was documented including structure plans, phasing and detailed drawings of the wall sections and context sheets were filed for the masonry elements. Also a general plan of the monument was produced using TST and GPS for coordinates.

A detailed report including all conservation issues is being elaborated and will be submitted to the park authority for follow up of the current works. As well an article will be produced and which will include the results of the study.

Some of the major issues of the discussions that will be brought up as part of the archaeological reassessment are:

1. Existence of a former roman bathhouse mentioned by Ugolini?
2. The dating issue of the complex?
3. The right terminology to use for the description of the funerary complex so far known as the columbarium?
4. Relationship between the funerary structure and the adjacent monuments?







5. *BF15/13: Creation of an Educational Centre at Butrint National Park*

In the framework of the project for the Educational Centre, it was undertaken a questionnaire with the teachers from the schools in the local area for defining materials useful for the topics of the curricula dedicated to Butrint.

Following the findings of this survey, it was reprinted the school book “Welcome to Butrint” (1000 copies) and a drawing work book with the mosaics motifs is being prepared and will be soon printed and made available for the schools.

All this material will be distributed during the planned school visits that will be defined into a periodic calendar.



One of the issues that the project is facing is the dedication and establishment of an area in the existing buildings in the main Archaeological site. Initially it was planned that one of the rooms in building of the “Cafeteria” in the acropolis castle would be used for the Educational Centre, but the park authority is temporary using it for equipments storage. The park has completed the restoration of the interior space of the venetian towers where they will move the park offices, and the current space of the offices in the castle will be the most potential area for the educational centre. Hopefully, this will be defined within end of September, so that the work for the educational centre can be completed within this calendar year.

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