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Archaeological fieldwalking in Berliște, Milcoveni, Rusova Nouă, Rusova Veche and Iam (Caraș-Severin County)

Constantin Adrian Boia

Abstract: The archaeological fieldwalking conducted in Berliște commune, Caraș-Severin county, has aimed at identifying the archaeological points of interest in the area. Thus, a number of 23 archaeological sites that currently benefit of GPS and Stereo 70 coordinates have been identified or re-identified. The most important aspect of the non-intrusive field research is that the 23 archaeological sites will enter scientific circulation. Furthermore, each identified archaeological point will benefit of an individual recording sheet listing the site in the National Archaeological Repertory so that the local authorities would be able to take protection measures in what these are concerned with the support of the specific rules and regulations in force.

Keywords: Berliște; Milcoveni; Rusova Nouă; Rusova Veche; Iam.

Introduction

The Berliște commune is composed of villages Rusova Nouă, Rusova Veche, Milcoveni and Iam, located in the south-western part of Caraș-Severin County. It is crossed by County Road 573A. From the point of view of physical geography, the landscape in the studied area consists of lowlands (Câmpia Carașului or Câmpia Oraviței¹) of ca. 90 m average elevation – for the region lying to the north of the previously mentioned village centres and of a more elevated plain located to their south, towards the border with Serbia, of ca. 100 m average elevation. The area is part of the hydrographical basin of river Caraș, while river Vicinic lines the boundaries of these villages on a SE-NW direction, flowing into the Caraș River (Fig. 1) on Serbian territory.

The archaeological field walking in the Berliște village area was initiated with the goal of re-identifying the archaeological sites listed in the National Archaeological Repertory and the academic literature. These count 20 and chronologically date to different archaeological periods (the Neolithic, the Iron Age, the Roman period, the post-Roman period and the Middle Ages). From the point of view of find types, these include settlements, burials, workshops, cemeteries and bronze assemblages². It is necessary to mention that we succeeded to partially identify the archaeological sites listed in the National Archaeological Repertory, however we have identified new archaeological points, which complete the overall picture of this geographical area (the Vicinic area). The total number of the identified points of archaeological interest within the cadastre boundary of these villages is 23 (Fig. 2, Pl. 1).

Field walking was conducted between February – May 2022, while the discovered archaeological materials were photographed in the field. We shall present below each discovered archaeological site. We believe that the most important contribution of these fieldworks is that the identified or re-identified archaeological sites would be better protected under the rules and regulations in force subsequent to the mapping of their perimeters and the fact that each of the archaeological points will be known by their geographical and Stereo 70 coordinates.

History of research

We attempt here to provide as systemised and compact information as possible so we shall briefly present the bibliographical references of the archaeological sites from our area of interest, either discovered by field walking or investigated by intrusive archaeological excavations.

The archaeological points in the area have been originally discovered subsequent to the field

¹ Ianoș *et al.* 1997, 49.

² <http://ran.cimec.ro/sel.asp>

surveys conducted by the archaeological team of the Museum of Highland Banat in Reșița after 1964³. In the case of Milcoveni village, surveys were conducted between 1963–1964⁴.

Within the boundary of the Berliște village, the National Archaeological Repertory records four archaeological sites (settlements)⁵, namely: the medieval settlement of *Săliște*⁶ (51396.03 – RAN code), the Hallstatt settlement of *Picături*⁷ (51396.01 – RAN code) chronologically framed also during the 3rd–4th centuries AD, the Roman date settlement of *Spărdovița*⁸ (51396.02 – RAN code) and the medieval and Hallstatt settlement of *Valea Morii*⁹ (51396.04 – RAN code). Other archaeological finds are mentioned in the academic literature at: *Izlaz* and *Legumicol*¹⁰, *La Poieni* and *Drumul Viilor*¹¹. Archaeologically, the settlements of *Picături* and *Valea Morii*¹² were investigated by two 10 × 2 m trenches (Fig. 3).

Within the boundary of Rusova Veche, a village related to the Berliște commune, the National Archaeological Repertory registers the presence of a Roman settlement of the 3rd–4th centuries in the former CAP (Agricultural Production Cooperative) stables area (51430.01 – RAN code)¹³. Also, slag¹⁴ is mentioned in this settlement's area, indicative of metalworking operations¹⁵. Another archaeological point is recorded by the junction of the Rusova Veche – Berliște road with Iertof village, where flint was identified¹⁶.

Within the boundary of Rusova Nouă village, the National Archaeological Repertory mentions the presence of three archaeological sites¹⁷: burials complex in the toponymical point *La Zăcătoare* (51421.03 – RAN code), a Roman settlement of the 3rd–4th century AD at *Dealul Morii* – 51421.01 – RAN code and a Roman settlement of the 3rd–4th century AD and medieval of the 12th century (51421.02 – RAN code). The archaeological investigations conducted at point *Dealul Morii* yielded two houses which belonged to a 2nd–4th centuries AD settlement¹⁸.

In the Milcoveni village area, the National Archaeological Repertory records a number of seven archaeological sites¹⁹, namely: the medieval settlement from point *Grădinile din Vale*²⁰ (51412.07 – RAN code), the medieval settlement from point *Canton*²¹ (51412.06 – RAN code), the medieval settlement from point *Bileat*²² (51412.05 – RAN code), the Daco-Roman settlement of *Drumul Mare*²³ (RAN code – 51412.04), the Roman and medieval settlement of *Grădinile din deal*²⁴ (51412.03 – RAN code), the Hallstatt, Roman and medieval settlement of *Prâsleaua*²⁵ (51412.02 – RAN code), the Hallstatt and Neolithic settlement from point *Vână*, which subsequent to the dating of the pottery materials was framed to the Vinča and Basarabi cultures²⁶. Other archaeological finds within the village boundary are mentioned in point *Pripor* (materials framed as belonging to the Hallstatt yet also to the 3rd–4th centuries and 8th–9th centuries²⁷ and a Dyrrhachium type coin²⁸).

³ Țeicu 1987, 318.

⁴ Petrovsky 1977, 442.

⁵ <http://ran.cimec.ro/sel.asp>

⁶ Luca 2010, 34; Țeicu 1987, 338.

⁷ Luca 2010, 33; Țeicu 1987, 338; Țeicu 2000, 453; Radu, Țeicu 2003a, 53.

⁸ Luca 2010, 33; Țeicu 1987, 338.

⁹ Luca 2010, 33; Țeicu 1987, 338; Radu, Țeicu 2003a, 53.

¹⁰ Luca 2010, 34; Țeicu 1987, 338.

¹¹ Luca 2010, 34; Țeicu 1987, 338; Mare 2004, 158.

¹² Radu, Țeicu 2003a, 53; Radu 2005, 89 – 106.

¹³ <http://ran.cimec.ro/sel.asp>

¹⁴ Țeicu 1987, 338.

¹⁵ Luca 2010, 214.

¹⁶ Luca 2010, 214; Țeicu 1987, 338.

¹⁷ <http://ran.cimec.ro/sel.asp>

¹⁸ Țeicu 1987, 336.

¹⁹ <http://ran.cimec.ro/sel.asp>

²⁰ Luca 2010, 169; Mare 2004, 189.

²¹ Luca 2010, 169; Mare 2004, 189.

²² Luca 2010, 169; Mare 2004, 189.

²³ Luca 2010, 169; Iaroslavschi, Lazarovici 1978, 256; Mare 2004, 189.

²⁴ Luca 2010, 169; Iaroslavschi, Lazarovici 1978, 256.

²⁵ Luca 2010, 168 – 169; Țeicu 1987, 338; Petrovsky 1977, 442.

²⁶ Petrovsky 1977, 442; Luca 2010, 168.

²⁷ Petrovsky 1977, 442.

²⁸ Luca 2010, 169.

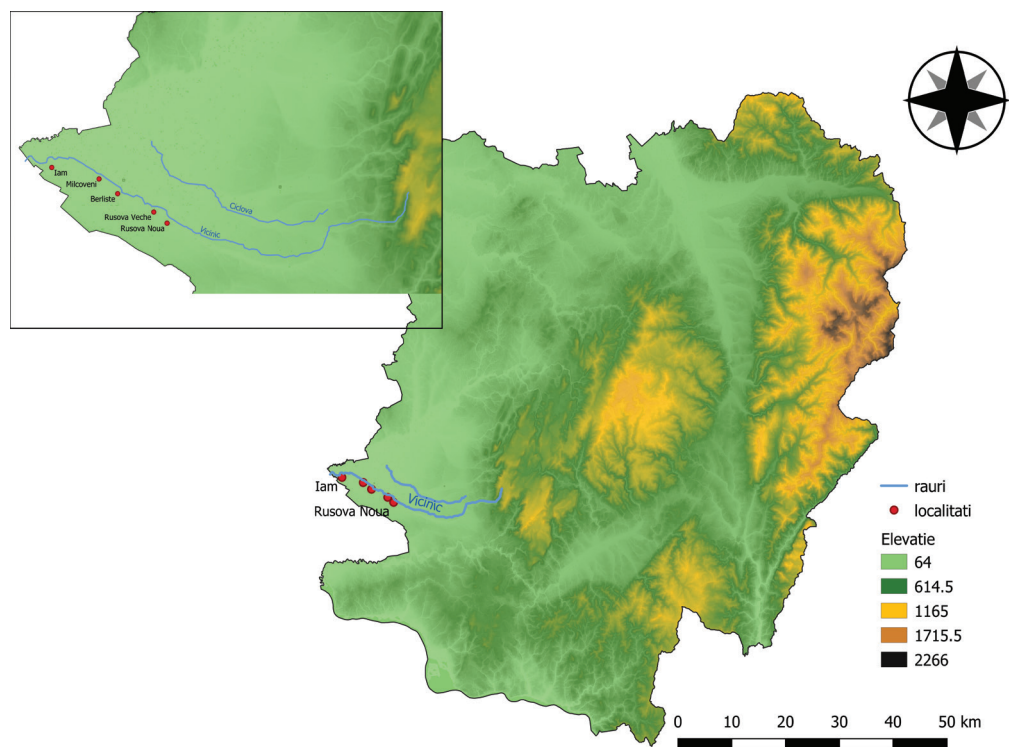


Fig. 1. Map of the Caraș-Severin County, marking the villages investigated by archaeological field walking.



Fig. 2. Archaeological points identified subsequent to the archaeological field walking.

Within the cadastre boundary of Iam village are mentioned a number of five points of archaeological interest²⁹, namely: the Roman settlement of *Stația CFR*³⁰ (51403.05 – RAN code), the Hallstatt and La Tène/3rd–4th centuries settlement of *Prigor*³¹ (51403.04 – RAN code), the settlement and cemetery of *Sat Bătrân*³² dating to the Bronze Age and the Hallstatt (51403.02 – RAN code), the settlement from

²⁹ <http://ran.cimec.ro/sel.asp>

³⁰ Luca 2010, 137 – 138; Țeicu 1987, 338.

³¹ Luca 2010, 137.

³² Luca 2010, 137; Țeicu 1987, 338.

point *La Castel*³³ of medieval, Roman and Modern date (51403.01) and a bronze assemblage of the Hallstatt period (51403.03 – RAN code). Archeologically, in the village were excavated two trenches in the toponymical points of *La Castel/Legumicol* and *Sat Bătrân*³⁴ (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3. Performed archaeological excavations (approximate location).

Presentation of the archaeological sites discovered subsequent to the archaeological field walking

Berliște 1

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 19.02.2022 by Boia Constantin.
2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 45° 0'20.36"N 21°26'12.35"E, 219189.93396 (X) 395724.96902 (Y), 97 m, 0.49 ha.
3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site lies on the right side of County Road 573A Nicolinț – Iam, at ca. 500 m NW the Milcoveni village, at 1.15 km NW from the Orthodox Church of Milcoveni and 600 m E from the junction of Oravița – Iam railway with County Road 573A. It is situated on the terrace of Vicinic River at 150 m S from it.
4. Archaeological material: dark-gray fine pottery, oxidation firing, with fine sand in the fabric. The coarse pottery is reddish-brown, fired in oxidising atmosphere, with sand and large pebbles in the fabric.
5. Chronological framing: the 2nd–4th centuries AD.

Berliște 2

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 19.02.2022 by Boia Constantin.
2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 45° 0'19.26"N 21°26'21.03"E, 219378.38406 (X) 395682.63437 (Y), 98 m, 1.1 ha.
3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site lies on the right side of County Road 573A Nicolinț – Iam, at ca. 300 m NW of Milcoveni village, 960 m NW the Orthodox Church of Milcoveni and 750 m E the intersection of Oravița – Iam railway with County Road 573A. It is situated on the terrace of Vicinic River, at 100 m S from it.
4. Archaeological material: dark-gray fine pottery, fired in oxidising atmosphere, with fine sand in the fabric. The coarse pottery is reddish-brown, made by oxidation firing, with sand and large pebbles in the fabric.

³³ Luca 2010, 137.

³⁴ Radu, Țeicu 2003b, 145 – 146; Radu 2005, 89 – 106.

5. Chronological framing: the 2nd-4th centuries AD.

Berliște 3

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 19.02.2022 by Boia Constantin.
2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 45° 0'15.39"N 21°26'40.83"E, 219806.41349 (X) 395544.10901 (Y), 89 m, 0.16 ha.
3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site lies at 570 m NW from the Orthodox Church of Milcoveni, at 150–170 m S the railway stop and the village's railway and 50 m N from the Vicinic stream, on its first terrace.
4. Archaeological material: coarse reddish-brown pottery, reduced, with sand used as degreaser, while the fine pottery is dark-gray, oxidised, with fine sand used as degreaser in the fabric.
5. Chronological framing: the 2nd-4th centuries AD.

Berliște 4

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 19.02.2022 by Boia Constantin.
2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 45° 0'18.26"N 21°26'29.60"E, 219564.56541 (X) 395643.49648 (Y), 94 m, 0.1 ha.
3. Location and geographical description: the site lies at 800 m NW the Orthodox Church of Milcoveni, at 150 m N the County Road 573A Nicolinț – Iam and 50 m S the Vicinic stream, on its first high terrace.
4. Archaeological material: a dark-brown potshard was discovered, reduced, with sand used as degreaser. The fragment is decorated by an incised wave and is part of the semifine pottery class. Other potshards were also identified, reddish-brown and orange-brown, with a large sand quantity in the fabric and reduced. The other pottery fragments are represented by painted kaolin pottery and fine pottery, oxidised, with very fine sand in the fabric.
5. Chronological framing: early Middle Ages and the Modern period.

Berliște 5

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 19.02.2022 by Boia Constantin.
2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 45° 0'25.03"N 21°26'19.41"E, 219350.80405 (X) 395862.19150 (Y), 91 m, 0.2 ha.
3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site lies at a distance of 1.1 km NW from the Orthodox Church of Milcoveni, in the railway's junction area with the Vinicic river, on its high terrace. Currently, the area is forested and overgrown. Farming works are no longer carried out there, the pottery material being discovered on the surface of molehills.
4. Archaeological material: a few coarse pottery fragments were discovered, oxidised, dark orange, with a poor quality fabric, with pebbles and sand as degreasers, the core of pot walls remaining unfired. Another pottery class is that semifine, incomplete oxidation firing, reddish-brown, with sand in the fabric.
5. Chronological framing: The first pottery class described dates to prehistory, however because of the small size potshards and lack of decoration, it cannot be more securely framed. The previously described second pottery class dates the settlement to the early Middle Ages.

Berliște 6

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 19.02.2022 by Boia Constantin.
2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 44°59'52.96" N 21°27'12.52"E, 220469.45491 (X) 394821.61811 (Y), 100 m, 0.66 ha.
3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site lies by the entrance into the Milcoveni village from Berliște, at 420 m SE the Orthodox Church of Milcoveni. It extends on both left and right sides of County Road DJ 573A Nicolinț – Iam, mostly on fallow land and a slightly elevated area.
4. Archaeological material: oxidation firing, orange-red semifine pottery, with fine sand in the fabric. The coarse pottery was fired in a reducing atmosphere, brown, with sand in the fabric.
5. Chronological framing: the 2nd-4th centuries AD and the Middle Ages.

Berliște 7

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 20.02.2022 by Boia Constantin.
2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 45° 0'27.35"N 21°24'13.32"E, 216594.75924 (X) 396056.38931 (Y), 84 m, 0.45 ha.
3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site lies at 200 m S from County Road 573A Nicolinț – Iam and 550 m SW from the Orthodox Church of the Iam village. It is located in a bend of Iam stream, on its bank. At present, waste is discarded there. The archaeological fragments were discovered in molehill soil.
4. Archaeological material: a pottery rim in the semifine class was discovered, dark-brown, reduction firing, with fine sand in the fabric and a space for the lid on the internal side. There were also identified small daub fragments.
5. Chronological framing: the 2nd–4th centuries AD.

Berliște 8

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 20.02.2022 by Boia Constantin.
2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 45° 0'31.17"N 21°25'46.41"E, 218637.05711 (X) 396083.57301 (Y), 93 m, 7.16 ha.
3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site lies at 150 m N from County Road 573A Milcoveni – Berliște and at 1.76 km NW the Orthodox Church of Milcoveni village. Most part stretches on fallow land, while geographically, it is situated atop a hill that represents the first high terrace of Vicinic river.
4. Archaeological material: the most spread semifine pottery class is dark-gray, fired in oxidising atmosphere, with fine sand in the fabric. To this class belongs a handle identified on the surface, the remaining fragments being represented by atypical pot walls, undecorated. The second pottery class is represented by incompletely oxidised fragments (black core), with coarse fabric and pebbles in its composition, incomplete firing and large thickness. The third identified pottery class is represented by reddish-brown pottery fragments, incompletely fired in an oxidising atmosphere, with sand in the fabric.
5. Chronological framing: the first and third pottery class described above date to the 2nd–4th centuries AD. Owing to the small, atypical fragments, the second previously described pottery class dates to prehistory, without more accurate chronological framing.

Berliște 9

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 20.02.2022 by Boia Constantin.
2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 45° 0'45.29"N 21°24'20.74"E, 216781.83168 (X) 396602.53639 (Y), 91 m, 2.86 ha.
3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site lies at 400 m N the County Road 573A Nicolinț – Iam, at 820 m NE from the Orthodox Church of the Iam village. It is located on the first high terrace of Vicinic River.
4. Archaeological material: the pottery fragments are fired incompletely in a reducing atmosphere (black core), dark-brown and orange, having sand as degreaser in high quantities. Daub fragments were also identified.
5. Chronological framing: the 2nd–4th centuries AD.

Berliște 10

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 20.02.2022 by Boia Constantin.
2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 45° 0'46.54"N 21°24'37.49"E, 217150.05524 (X) 396624.74564 (Y), 89 m, 4.13 ha.
3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site lies at 450 m N the County Road 573A Nicolinț – Iam, at 1.13 km NE from the Orthodox Church of Iam village. It is located on the first high terrace of Vicinic river.
4. Archaeological material: the pottery fragments are fired in an oxidising atmosphere, however incompletely (black core), orange-red, with a high quantity of sand in the fabric used as degreaser. Daub fragments were also identified.

5. Chronological framing: the 2nd–4th centuries AD.

Berliște 11

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 26.02.2022 by Boia Constantin.
2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 45° 0'28.23"N 21°24'18.14"E, 216701.44605 (X) 396078.82485 (Y), 84 m, 0.47 ha.
3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site lies at 70 m S the County Road 573A Nicolinț – Iam, at 660 m SE from the Orthodox Church of Iam village, in a bend of Iam river, on its terrace. The archaeological materials were discovered in molehill soil.
4. Archaeological material: the first pottery class is represented by coarse pottery, fired incompletely in oxidising atmosphere (black core), orange-red, with sand used as degreaser in high quantities. The second pottery class is represented by a pot base, made by oxidation firing, completed, with fine fabric whose composition includes fine sand in small quantities.
5. Chronological framing: The first pottery class dates to the 2nd–4th centuries AD, while the second to the Modern period.

Berliște 12

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 26.02.2022 by Boia Constantin.
2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 45° 0'29.21"N 21°24'26.93"E, 216895.14350 (X) 396100.47036 (Y), 86 m, 0.32 ha.
3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site is located 1.38 km E from the Orthodox church of Iam, 60 m N from DJ 573A Nicolinț – Iam and 500 m S from the Vicinic river, on its terrace.
4. Archaeological material: there were identified three gray fragments, in the fine pottery class, with a fabric that used fine sand as degreaser, fired completely in oxidising atmosphere. A second pottery class is coarse, fired incompletely in an oxidising atmosphere, in whose fabric large grain sand and pebbles were used as degreasers.
5. Chronological framing: The fine pottery frames to the 2nd–4th centuries AD, while that coarse to prehistory, a more accurate framing being impossible owing to the lack of decoration and small size surviving pottery fragments.

Berliște 13

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 26.02.2022 by Boia Constantin.
2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 45° 0'34.76"N 21°24'55.78"E, 217534.07784 (X) 396243.53726 (Y), 90 m, 5.97 ha.
3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site lies at 1.38 km E the Orthodox Church of the Iam village, at 60 m N the County Road 573A Nicolinț – Iam and at 500 m S the Vicinic river, on its terrace.
4. Archaeological material: the fine pottery is represented by dark-gray fragments, fired in oxidising atmosphere completely, fine sand being used as degreaser. The coarse pottery is represented by fragments made by incomplete oxidisation firing (black core), whose fabric contains large grain sand and pebbles as degreasers. Daub fragments were also discovered.
5. Chronological framing: The previously described pottery frames to the period of the 2nd–4th centuries AD, while the coarse pottery dates to prehistory, a more secure chronological framing being impossible owing to the lack of decorated typical fragments.

Berliște 14

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 26.02.2022 by Boia Constantin.
2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 44°59'9.83"N 21°29'7.93"E, 222937.35303 (X) 393380.41599 (Y), 103 m, 2.11 ha.
3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site lies at 1.5 km SE the Orthodox Church of Berliște, at 40 m N the County Road 573A Nicolinț – Iam, on the second high terrace of Vicinic river and at 200 m S from it.
4. Archaeological material: a small gray knob made of a porous fabric, with fine sand in small

quantity, in incomplete oxidation firing. The remaining archaeological fragments are made of a coarse fabric, whose composition includes sand and pebbles, fired in oxidising atmosphere.

5. Chronological framing: since only a typical pottery element could be collected, we shall ascribe this archaeological site most definitely to prehistory. Nevertheless, it might have belonged to the Iron Age as well.

Berliște 15

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 26.02.2022 by Boia Constantin.

2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 44°59'15.76"N 21°29'15.23"E 393556.37177 (X) 223105.13881 (Y), 95 m, 0.7 ha.

3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site lies at 1.65 km SE the Orthodox Church of Berliște village, at 300 m N the County Road 573A Nicolinț – Iam, on the first terrace of Vicinic river.

4. Archaeological material: the semifine pottery is orange in colour (orange-red), fired incompletely in an oxidising atmosphere (dark gray core), with sand in the fabric. A rectangular stone fragment (fine sandstone) was identified, faceted, fine to touch, with straight angles of 90°, that may be interpreted as a sharpening whetstone.

5. Chronological framing: the 2nd–4th centuries AD.

Berliște 16

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 26.02.2022 by Boia Constantin.

2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 44°58'49.23"N 21°30'3.37"E 224123.41373 (X) 392692.10604 (Y), 103 m, 0.93 ha.

3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site lies at 550 m NW the Orthodox Church of Rusova Veche village, at 150 m N the County Road 573A Nicolinț – Iam, on the high terrace of river Vicinic.

4. Archaeological material: the semifine pottery is represented by a few atypical potshards of a dark-gray colour, fired completely in oxidising atmosphere, which contain fine sand in the fabric in small quantities. The second pottery class discovered at this point is semifine, orange-red and light-brown, both fired incompletely and with much sand in the fabric. The remaining finds comprise a large iron slag piece and daub fragments.

5. Chronological framing: the 2nd–4th centuries AD.

Berliște 17

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 27.02.2022 by Boia Constantin.

2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 44°59'12.85"N 21°26'20.44"E 219274.88711 (X) 393634.63231 (Y), 96 m, 2.37 ha.

3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site lies at a distance of 1.7 km SW the Orthodox Church in Berliște village, on the high terrace of Iam stream (Crivaia valley).

4. Archaeological material: coarse pottery is dark-brown and orange with oxidised, incomplete firing and a high sand quantity in the fabric. Among the semifine pottery class we identified kaolin fragments as well as a wall of an orange pot, made by incomplete oxidation firing (gray core) with sand in fabric, decorated with two parallel incisions.

5. Chronological framing: the coarse pottery dates to the period of the 2nd–4th centuries AD and that semifine to the Middle Ages.

Berliște 18

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 27.02.2022 by Boia Constantin.

2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 44°59'1.45"N 21°29'32.33"E, 223460.24801 (X) 393098.62543 (Y), 102 m, 1.26 ha.

3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site lies at a distance of 1.3 km NW the Orthodox Church of Rusova Veche village, at 50 m N the County Road 573A, on the high terrace of Vicinic river.

4. Archaeological material: an orange handle was identified, fired in oxidising atmosphere

incompletely (with black core), having large grained sand and small pebbles as fabric degreasers. Other atypical potshards were also discovered (pot walls), described as the above.

5. Chronological framing: prehistory (the late Bronze Age?, Hallstatt?)

Berliște 19

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 17.02.2022 by Boia Constantin.

2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 44°59'11.36"N 21°28'30.82"E, 222127.02588 (X) 393463.11488 (Y), 103 m, 5.18 ha.

3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site lies at a distance of 750 m E the church in Berliște village, by the entry into the village and at 50 m S the County Road 573A Nicolinț – Iam. It lies on the high terrace of Vicinic River, at 300 m S from it.

4. Archaeological material: the coarse class of the pottery material is represented by atypical potshards, orange, incompletely fired in oxidising atmosphere (black or gray core), with high sand quantity in the fabric.

5. Chronological framing: the 2nd–4th centuries AD.

Berliște 20

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 17.02.2022 by Boia Constantin.

2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 44°59'30.08"N 21°28'29.07"E, 222113.99295 (X) 394042.25968 (Y), 92 m, 1.37 ha.

3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site lies at 620 m NW the church of Berliște village and 50 m N, on the first terrace of Vicinic River, within a fallow land area.

4. Archaeological material: the coarse pottery is represented by orange-brown and orange-red potshards, incompletely fired in an oxidising atmosphere (with black or gray core) and a high sand quantity in fabric. There were also repertoried orange-red and orange potshards, pertaining to the fine class, thin-walled, well-fired, made by oxidation firing, with fine sand in very small quantities in the fabric.

5. Chronological framing: the coarse pottery dates to the 2nd–4th centuries AD and that fine to the Modern period.

Berliște 21

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 21.04.2022 by Boia Constantin.

2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 44°58'1.74"N 21°31'35.00"E, 226066.37376 (X) 391140.29675 (Y), 113 m, 0.92 ha.

3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site lies at a distance of 550 m SE the Orthodox Church of Rusova Nouă village, at 40 m N the County Road 573A Nicolinț – Iam and 40 m S the Vicinic river, on its high terrace.

4. Archaeological material: the fine pottery is represented by dark-gray pot wall fragments, fired incompletely in an oxidising atmosphere, with a fabric that contains fine sand in little quantity. The coarse pottery is represented by orange and light-brown potshards, fired in oxidising atmosphere, yet without fired core (incomplete firing), while sand in high quantities and small pebbles were used as degreasers (Fig. 4).

5. Chronological framing: the fine pottery class dates to the 2nd–4th centuries, while that coarse to prehistory.

Berliște 22

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 21.04.2022 by Boia Constantin.

2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo 70, elevation and surface area: 44°58'7.81"N 21°31'33.63"E, 226044.44745 (X) 391328.83822 (Y), 106, -.

3. Location and geographical description: the site lies at a distance of 460 m E the Orthodox Church of Rusova Nouă village, on the steep slope of the left bank of Vicinic river.

4. Archaeological material: the archaeological feature (kiln) was noticeable in the profile, with a maximum diameter of ca. 150 cm. The red burning layer of the walls was 4–5 cm wide and by its base, below the burning layer, there was a 3–4 cm thick layer with small pebbles (Fig. 5). From its



Fig. 4. Pottery material of Berliște 21.



Fig. 5. The kiln identified at Berliște 22.

dark-brown filling come two light brown potshards, with burning on their surface, made of a semifine fabric which also contained sand.

5. Chronological framing: prehistory.

Berliște 23

1. History of research: the archaeological site was discovered on 21.04.2022 by Boia Constantin and Ritivoi Oana.

2. Geographical coordinates, Stereo70, elevation and surface area: 44°59'17.61"N 21°27'3.71"E, 220228.57846 (X) 393739.65527 (Y), 95 m, 1.41 ha.

3. Location and geographical description: the archaeological site lies at 1.3 km SW the Orthodox Church of Berliște village, on the Iam stream terrace (Crivaia valley).

4. Archaeological material: coarse pottery made of a fabric which contains a large sand quantity, fired incompletely in a reducing atmosphere (black core), dark-brown. A slag fragments was also identified.

5. Chronological framing: the 2nd–4th centuries AD.

Conclusions

The boundaries of the Rusova Veche, Rusova Nouă, Milcoveni, Berliște and Iam villages have been inhabited since prehistory, over the course the 2nd–4th centuries AD, during the Middle Ages and in the Modern period. We have also attempted to correlate the archaeological sites identified by archaeological field walking with the archaeological points known in the academic literature from the National Archaeological Repertory (Fig. 6).

Most numerous settlements frame to the period of the 2nd–4th centuries AD, circumstances also evidenced in the case of the archaeological field walks we conducted in the Răcășdia village, at only a few kilometres NE the Berliște commune, where out of a total of 32 novel archaeological sites discovered between 2014 – 2015, 14 were dated based on the archaeological material to the period of the 2nd–4th centuries AD³⁵, representing a percentage of 44% comparative to 55%, the percentage valid for the Berliște commune (Fig. 7).

The finds from this period are numerous in the Banat, namely: Grădinari – *Săliște*³⁶, Vraniuț – *Ulița Popii*³⁷, Banloc, Biled, Beba Veche, Dejan, Deta, Dudeștii Noi, Gătaia, Ghiroda, Igrăș, Jebel, Pădureni, Parța, Pișchia, Remetea Mare, Sânpetru Mare, Șag, Șemlacu Mare, Sânanđrei, Sânmartinu Sărbesc, Timișoara, Uliuc and Utvin³⁸.

³⁵ Boia 2018a 505 – 513; Boia 2018b 323 – 337.

³⁶ Bozu 1990, 147 – 159.

³⁷ Țeicu, Rancu 2000, 241 – 250.

³⁸ Micle, Rogozea 2020, 319 – 374.

Prehistory settlements rank second in terms of diffusion and dating. As previously mentioned, we did not more accurately frame these since during the field walks, only two typical fragments (a knob and a handle) were discovered. Future archaeological investigations shall be able to make more secure chronological framings on the basis of identified material.

The Middle Ages and the Modern period count for 12%, respectively 9%, these being little represented in the total archaeological sites discovered within the range of Berliște commune. The archaeological materials dated to the Middle Ages were also discovered at Gornea (Zomonită³⁹ and Țărmuri⁴⁰), Dudeștii Noi, – 46 Giulvăz – 6, Giulvăz – 8, Crai Nou – 3, Săcălaz – 5 and Utvin – 1⁴¹.

Site indicative identified by fieldwalking	Site indicative from RAN and academic literature
Berliște 21	<i>Dealul Morii</i> (Rusova Nouă) – RAN code 51421.01
Berliște 22	<i>La Zăcătoare</i> (Rusova Nouă) – RAN code 51421.03
Berliște 16	Nearby the CAP stables (Rusova Veche) – RAN code – 51430.01
Berliște 18?	<i>Valea Morii</i> (Berliște) – RAN code – 51396.04?
Berliște 19	<i>Picături</i> (Berliște) – RAN code – 51396.01
Berliște 5	<i>Prâslea</i> (Milcoveni) – RAN code – 51412.02
Berliște 8	Pripor (Iam)
Berliște 6	Grădinile din Deal (Milcoveni) – RAN code – 51412.03
Berliște 1, Berliște 2, Berliște 4?	<i>Drumul Mare</i> – RAN code 51412.04 Grădinile din Vale – RAN code – 51412.07?
Berliște 9	<i>La Castel</i> (Iam) – RAN code – 51403.01
Berliște 12?	<i>Sat Bătrân</i> (Iam) – RAN code – 51403.02?

Fig. 6. Correlation of the sites identified subsequent to field walks and sites from the National Archaeological Repertory and academic literature.

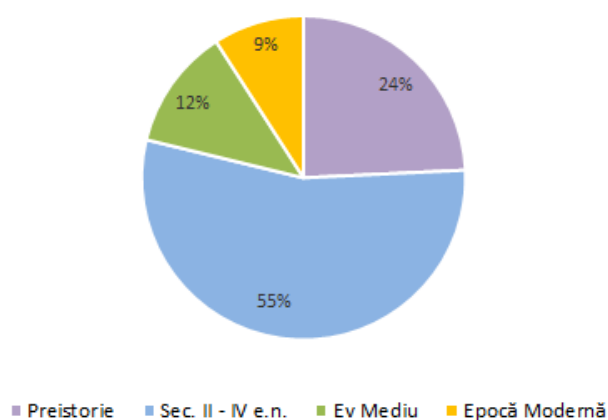


Fig. 7. Division by periods of the archaeological sites discovered by field walking.

Table 1. Archaeological sites identified subsequent to field walking.

Site indicative	GPS coordinates	Stereo 70 coordinates	Elevation	Surface area	Dating
Berliște 1	45° 0'20.36"N 21°26'12.35"E	219189.93396 (X) 395724.96902 (Y)	97 m	0.49 ha	the 2 nd –4 th centuries AD
Berliște 2	45° 0'19.26"N 21°26'21.03"E	219378.38406 (X) 395682.63437 (Y)	98 m	1.1 ha	the 2 nd –4 th centuries AD
Berliște 3	45°0'15.39"N 21°26'40.83"E	219806.41349 (X) 395544.10901 (Y)	89 m	0.16 ha	the 2 nd –4 th centuries AD
Berliște 4	45°0'18.26"N 21°26'29.60"E	219564.56541 (X) 395643.49648 (Y)	94 m	0.1 ha	Early medieval, the Modern period

³⁹ Uzum 1983, 249 – 267.

⁴⁰ Uzum 1977, 215 – 221.

⁴¹ Craiovan, Rogozea 2016, 111.

Site indicative	GPS coordinates	Stereo 70 coordinates	Elevation	Surface area	Dating
Berliște 5	45° 0'25.03"N 21°26'19.41"E	219350.80405 (X) 395862.19150 (Y)	91 m	0.2 ha	Prehistory, the early Middle Ages
Berliște 6	44°59'52.96" N 21°27'12.52"E	220469.45491 (X) 394821.61811 (Y)	100 m	0.66 ha	the 2 nd –4 th centuries AD, the Middle Ages
Berliște 7	45°0'27.35"N 21°24'13.32"E	216594.75924 (X) 396056.38931 (Y)	84 m	0.45 ha	the 2 nd –4 th centuries AD
Berliște 8	45°0'31.17"N 21°25'46.41"E	218637.05711 (X) 396083.57301 (Y)	93 m	7.16 ha	the 2 nd –4 th centuries AD, prehistory
Berliște 9	45°0'45.29"N 21°24'20.74"E	216781.83168 (X) 396602.53639 (Y)	91 m	2.86 ha	the 2 nd –4 th centuries AD
Berliște 10	45°0'46.54"N 21°24'37.49"E	217150.05524 (X) 396624.74564 (Y)	89 m	4.13 ha	the 2 nd –4 th centuries AD
Berliște 11	45°0'28.23"N 21°24'18.14"E	216701.44605 (X) 396078.82485 (Y)	84 m	0.47 ha	the 2 nd –4 th centuries AD, the Modern period
Berliște 12	45°0'29.21"N 21°24'26.93"E	216895.14350 (X) 396100.47036 (Y)	86 m	0.32 ha	the 2 nd –4 th centuries AD, prehistory
Berliște 13	45°0'34.76"N 21°24'55.78"E	217534.07784 (X) 396243.53726 (Y)	90 m	5.97 ha	the 2 nd –4 th centuries AD, prehistory
Berliște 14	44°59'9.83"N 21°29'7.93"E	222937.35303 (X) 393380.41599 (Y)	103 m	2.11 ha	Prehistory (the Iron Age?)
Berliște 15	44°59'15.76"N 21°29'15.23"E	393556.37177 (X) 223105.13881 (Y)	95 m	0.7 ha	the 2 nd –4 th centuries AD
Berliște 16	44°58'49.23"N 21°30'3.37"E	224123.41373 (X) 392692.10604 (Y)	103 m	0.93 ha	the 2 nd –4 th centuries AD
Berliște 17	44°59'12.85"N 21°26'20.44"E	219274.88711 (X) 393634.63231 (Y)	96 m	2.37 ha	the 2 nd –4 th centuries AD, the Middle Ages
Berliște 18	44°59'1.45"N 21°29'32.33"E	223460.24801 (X) 393098.62543 (Y)	102 m	1.26 ha	Prehistory (the late Bronze Age?, Hallstatt?)
Berliște 19	44°59'11.36"N 21°28'30.82"E	222127.02588 (X) 393463.11488 (Y)	103 m	5.18 ha	the 2 nd –4 th centuries AD
Berliște 20	44°59'30.08"N 21°28'29.07"E	222113.99295 (X) 394042.25968 (Y)	92 m	1.37 ha	the 2 nd –4 th centuries AD, the Modern period
Berliște 21	44°58'1.74"N 21°31'35.00"E	226066.37376 (X) 391140.29675 (Y)	113 m	0.92 ha	the 2 nd –4 th centuries AD, prehistory
Berliște 22	44°58'7.81"N 21°31'33.63"E	226044.44745 (X) 391328.83822 (Y)	106	-	Prehistory
Berliște 23	44°59'17.61"N 21°27'3.71"E	220228.57846 (X) 393739.65527 (Y)	95 m	1.41 ha	the 2 nd –4 th centuries AD

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Abbreviations

AB	Analele Banatului, I-IV 1928–1931; S.N. I 1981-, The Museum of Banat/The National Museum of Banat, Timișoara.
ACTA	Yearbook of the Székely Museum in Csík and the Székely National Museum, Miercurea Ciuc – Sepsiszentgyörgy.
ActaArchHung	Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest.
AÉ	Archaeologiai Értesítő, Budapest.
Acta Historica	Acta Universitatis Szegediensis (Szeged).
ArchHung	Archaeologia Hungarica.
ArhMed	Arheologia Medievală.
AM	Mitteilungen des Kaiserlich Deutschen Archaeologischen Instituts, Athenische Abteilung (Athenische Mitteilungen), Athen, (1876-).
AMM	Acta Moldaviae Meridionalis (Vaslui).
AMN	Acta Musei Napocensis, The National History Museum of Transylvania, Cluj – Napoca.
AMP	Acta Musei Porolisensis, County History and Art Museum of Zalău.
ArhMold	Arheologia Moldovei, Iași.
BCH	Bulletin de Correspondence Hellénique, Paris, 1 (1877-).
BerRGK	Berichte der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission. Roman-Germanic Commission. Frankfurt am Main.
EphNap	Ephemeris Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca.
CCA	Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România, Ministry of Culture.
CCCA I	M. J. Vermaseren, Corpus cultus Cybelae Attidisque (CCCA), I. Asia Minor, Leiden, New York, København, Köln, 1987.
CIG	Corpus Inscriptionum Graecarum, I-IV, (ed. A. Boeckh), Berlin, 1828–1877.
CIL	Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum, consilio et auctoritate Academiae litterarum regiae Borussicae editum. (1863-).
Dacia	Dacia. Recherches et découvertes archéologiques en Roumanie, S.V. I-XII; N.S. Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne, I. 1957 și urm., Vasile Pârvan Institute of Archaeology, Bucharest.
DAGR	Dictionnaire des Antiquités grecques et romaines, I-X, sous la direction de Ch. Daremberg et E. Saglio, Paris, 1877–1929.
DolgSzeged	Dolgozatok a Szegedi Josef Tudományegyetem Archaeologiai Interzetbol (I, 1925...XIX, 1943).
IGB V	Inscriptiones Graecae in Bulgaria repertae, (ed. Georgi Mihailov), vol. V: Supplementum, addenda et corrigenda. Sofia, 1997.
IGDOP	Inscriptions grecques dialectales d'Olbia du Pont, (ed. L. Dubois), Genève, 1996.
IGRR IV	Inscriptiones Graecae ad Res Romanas Pertinentes, IV (ed. G. Lafaye), Paris, 1927.
ISM I, II	Inscriptiones Scythiae Minoris – Inscriptiile din Scythia Minor, I: Histria și împrejurimile (ed. D. M. Pippidi), Bucharest, 1983; II: Tomis și teritoriul său, (ed. Iorgu Stoian), Bucharest, 1987.
LIMC	Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae, I–VIII + index vol., (eds. J. Ch. Balty, E. Berger, J. Boardman, Ph. Bruneau, F. Canciani, L. Kahil, V. Lambrinoudakis, E. Simon), Zürich, München, Düsseldorf, 1981–1999.
LSJ	Liddell H. G., Scott R., Jones H. S., A Greek-English Lexicon, with a revised supplement. Oxford, 1996.
MAA	Monumenta Avarorum Archaeologica.
OM	<i>Orbis Mediaevalis</i> .
PBF	Prähistorische Bronzefunde, München.

RA	Revue Archéologique, Paris (1844-).
RAC	Rivista di archeologia cristiana, Rome (1924-).
RevBistr	Revista Bistriței, Bistrița-Năsăud Museum Complex, Bistrița.
RH	Revue historique, Paris, (1876-).
RIG	Recueil d'inscriptions grecques, par Ch. Michel, Bruxelles, 1900.
Sargetia	Sargetia. Acta Musei Devensis, Deva.
SCIV(A)	Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche, tom 1–25, Bucharest, 1950–1974; începând din 1974 (tom 25): Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche și Arheologie, Bucharest.
SCN	Studii și Cercetări de Numismatică, Bucharest.
SEG	Supplementum epigraphicum graecum, Lugdunum Batavorum, Leiden, 1923–1971; Alphen aan den Rijn 1979–1980; Amsterdam, 1979–2005; Boston, 2006-.
StCl	Studii Clasice, Bucharest.
Syll ³	Sylloge inscriptionum Graecarum, (3rd edition), (ed. W. Dittenberger), 1915–1924.
Terra Sebus	Terra Sebus, Sebeș.
ThesCRA	Thesaurus Cultus et Rituum Antiquorum, I–V + index vol., (eds. J. Ch. Balty, J. Boardman, Ph. Bruneau, R. G. A. Buxton, G. Camporeale, F. Canciani, F. Graf, T. Hölscher, V. Lambrinoudakis, E. Simon), Basel, Los Angeles, (2004–2006).
UPA	Universitätsforschungen zur Prähistorischen Archäologie, Institut für Ur-und Frühgeschichte der Universität Kiel.
ZSA	Ziridava. Studia Archaeologica, Arad Museum, Cluj-Napoca.