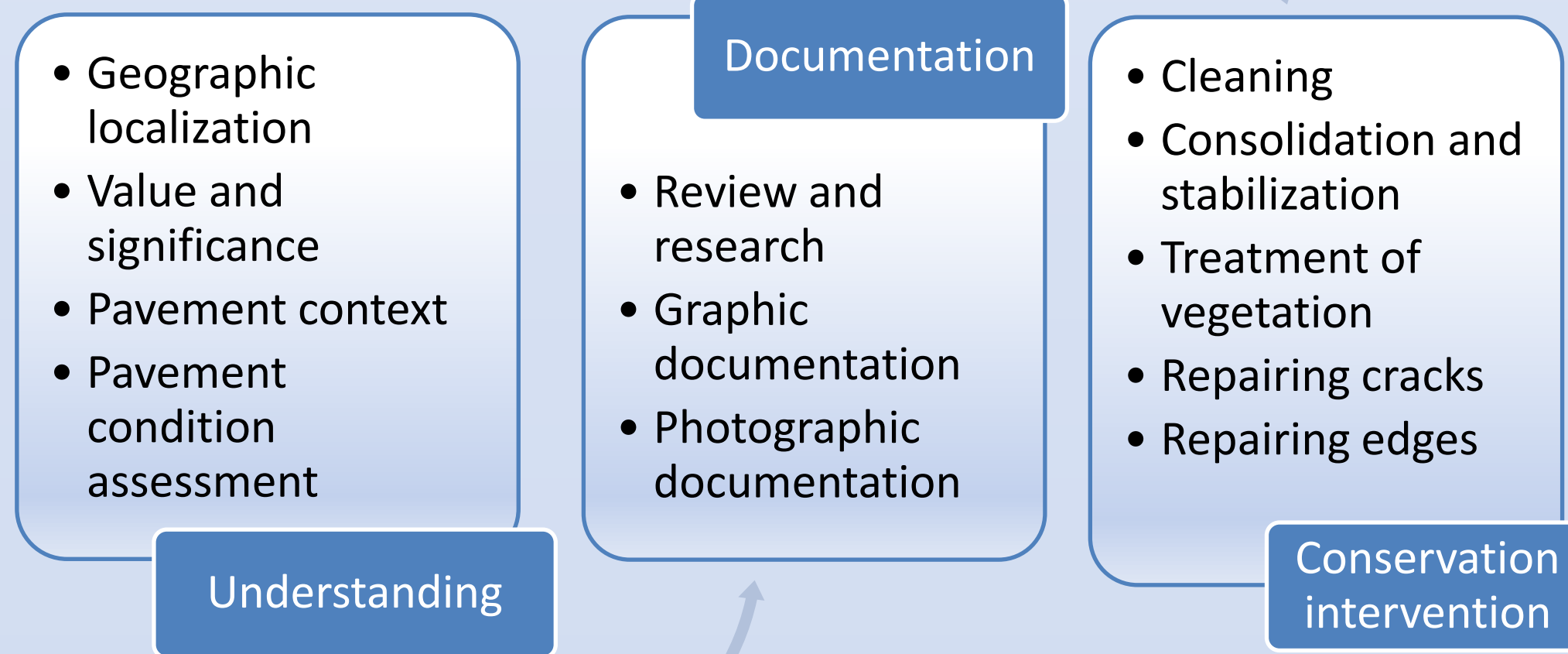


In the light of MOSAIKON program in Tyre, Lebanon – May 2010 , we identified several mosaics in Al-Bass Site, Tyre. All mosaics are of high significance. Among them, The Blue team pavement is chosen as a final project.

### Methodology



### Values and significance

- \* The Al-Bass site contains more than 50 pavements;
- \* They reflect the social way of life of Roman and Byzantine periods which enhances their historical and economical values;
- \* The variety of the techniques used shows their cultural value;
- \* Most of the mosaics are *in situ* on their original bedding and they are still integrated into their structural context;
- \* The Blue Team pavement contains rare inscriptions of the games that used to take place in the hippodrome.

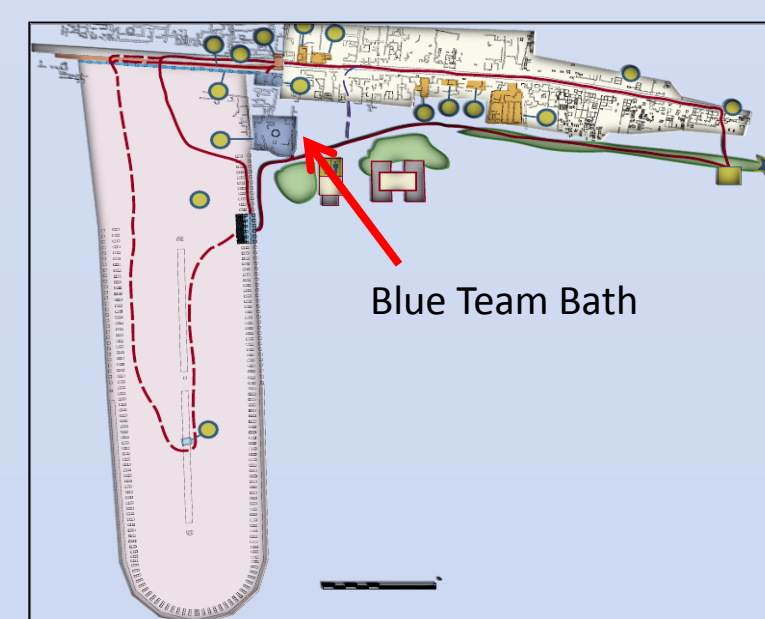
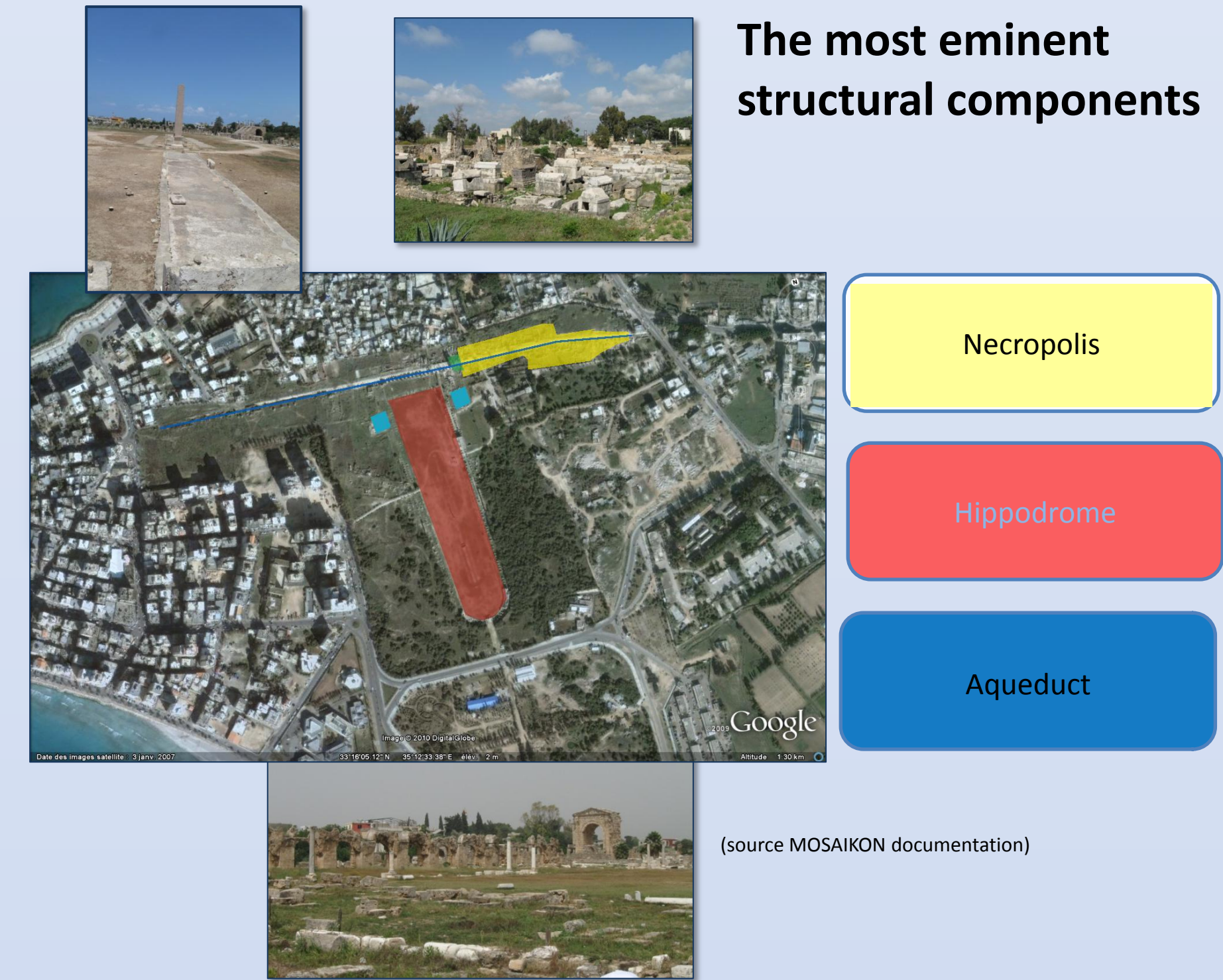


MOSAIKON documentation, prepared by Nesreen Bouza, May 2010)

### Geographic localization

Situated along the Mediterranean coast, Tyre is the fourth-largest city in Lebanon. It is situated 80 km South/West of the Lebanese capital, Beirut, and 26 km North of the International Border.

The land site is dating back to the quaternary geological formation (Walley, 1997), it consists of dunes and lake deposits.



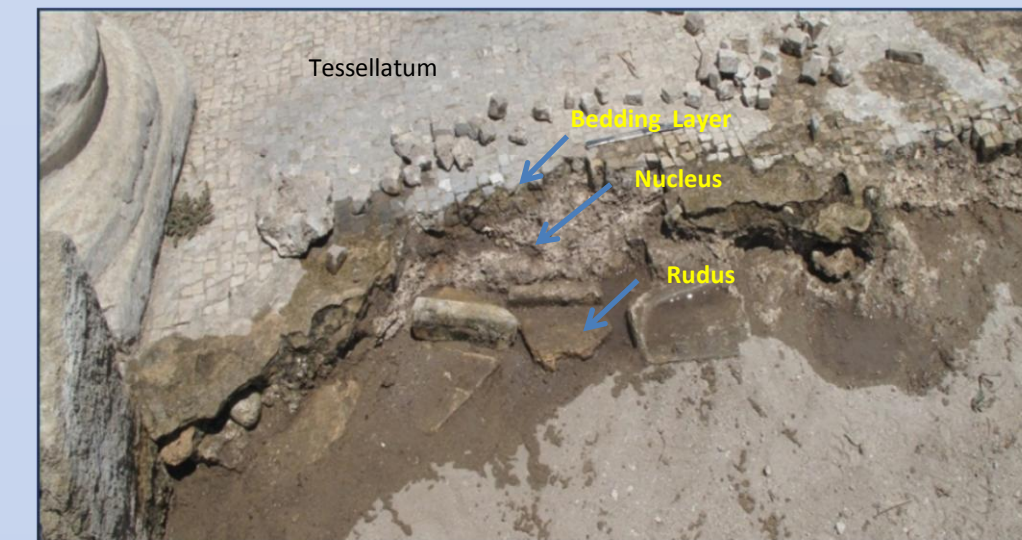
The Blue Team Mosaic

The Blue Team context  
Circular circuit: vestibule **V** -> apodyterium **A** -> frigidarium **F** -> tepidarium d'entrée **Te** -> sudatorium **S** -> caldarium **C** -> tepidarium de sortie **Ts** -> frigidarium **F** -> apodyterium **A**. (Kahwagi-Janho , 2006)



### Pavement description

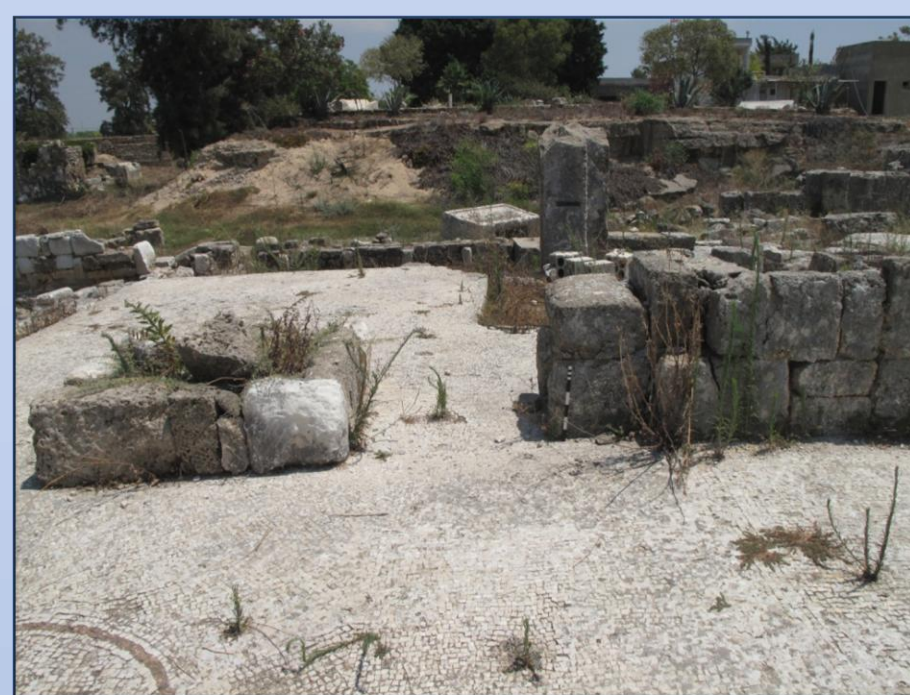
- Monochrome pavement of 54.5 m<sup>2</sup>
- Medallion of 123 cm of diameter
- Tesserae roughly cubic (1x1x4cm)
- White tesserae are Lime stone
- Red tesserae are ceramic
- Technic: Tesserae arrange in circle shape  
Tesserae arrange obliquely  
Tesserae arrange horizontally
- It is an *Opus tessellatum* pavement
- It is laid in its original bedding



### Condition assessment

#### Surface Conditions

- Vegetation and micro-biological organism present a critical condition.
- The tesserae condition is acceptable in term of flaking and erosion. In specific places, certain fracturing are noted on the surface of tesserae.
- Three patches of discoloration of tesserae is recorded.
- In many places, the surface of the pavement is covered by a calcareous deposit.
- The tesserae condition at the edges is very poor.
- The mortar between tesserae is in moderate state.



#### Structural Conditions

- Moderate state represented in the cracks and the bulging, but a specific structural crack is extremely critical at the small corner South/East the medallion.
- Many depressions are moderate, but the one between the *Frigidarium* and the *Apodyterium* is poor because it is pooling water and soil.



It is an open site for visitors and animals that present a deterioration risk.

Many problems led to the destruction of the Blue Team pavement, and to its deterioration that diminishes its archaeological and historical values:

- Vegetation is damaging the mortar between tesserae and is dislocating tesserae;
- The North edge and the Est edge of the pavement are losing their foundation which causes major cracks and lots of depressions on the pavement;
- The big depression on the pavement between *Fridigarium* and *Apodyterium* is due to leveling problem, the mosaic is lower than the *Apodyterium*.

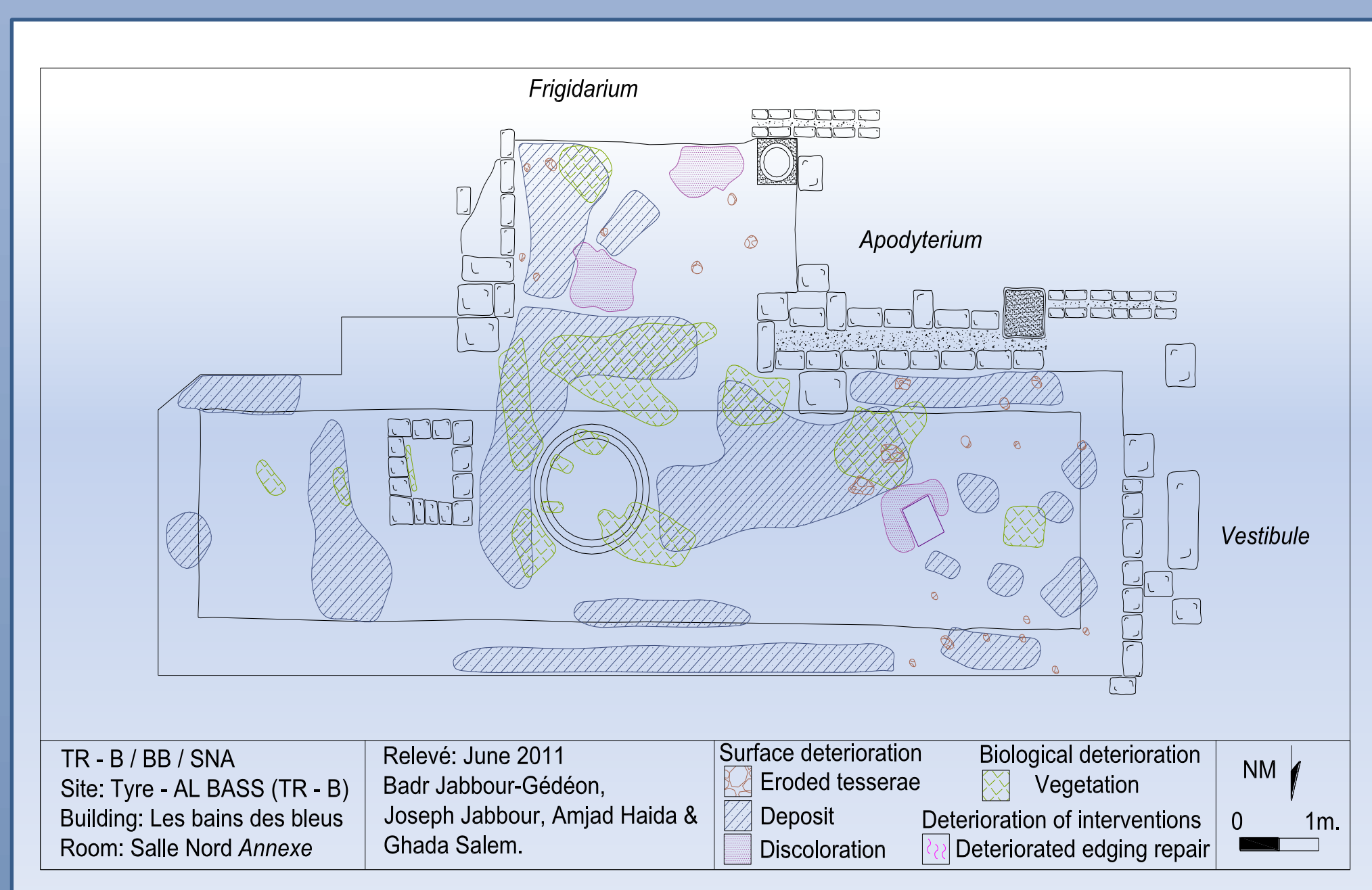
#### Previous Interventions



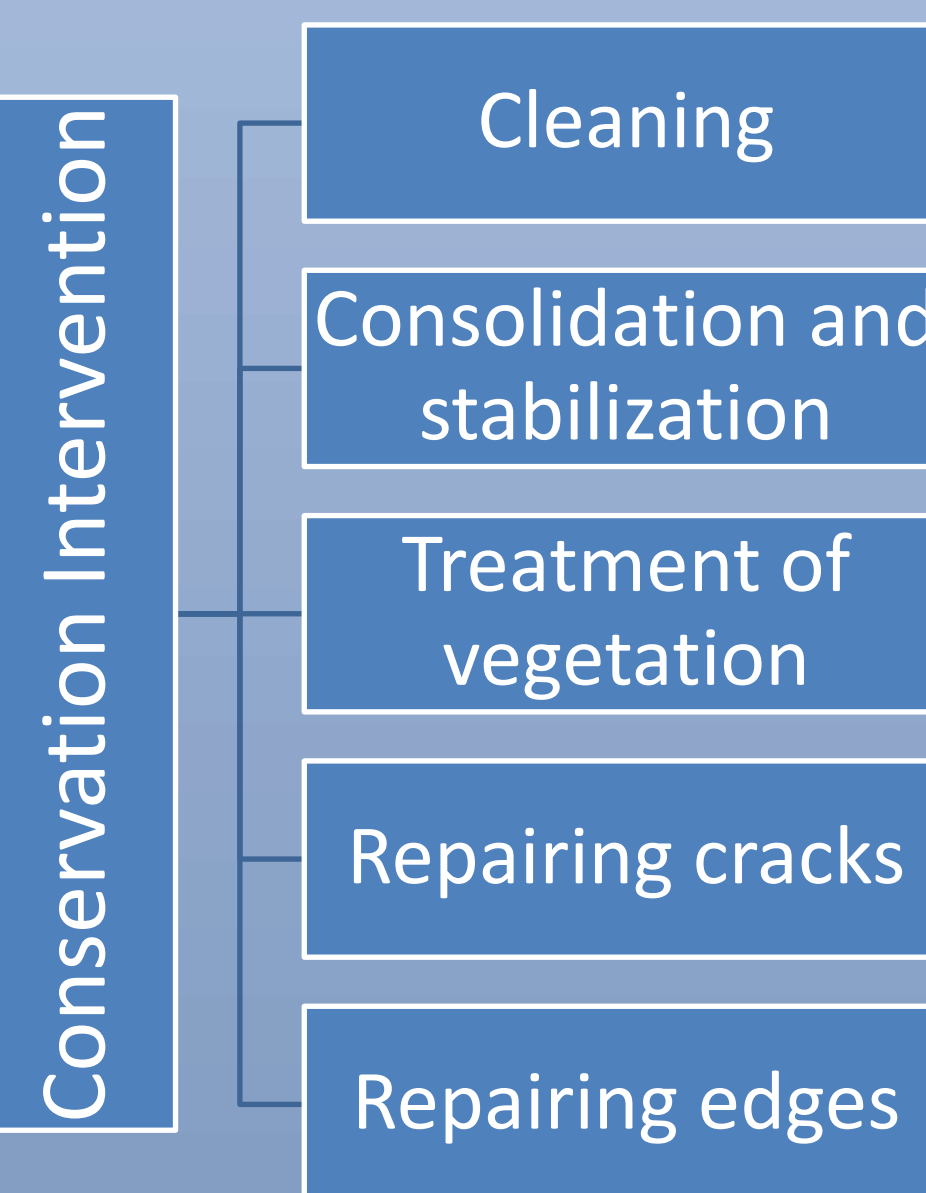
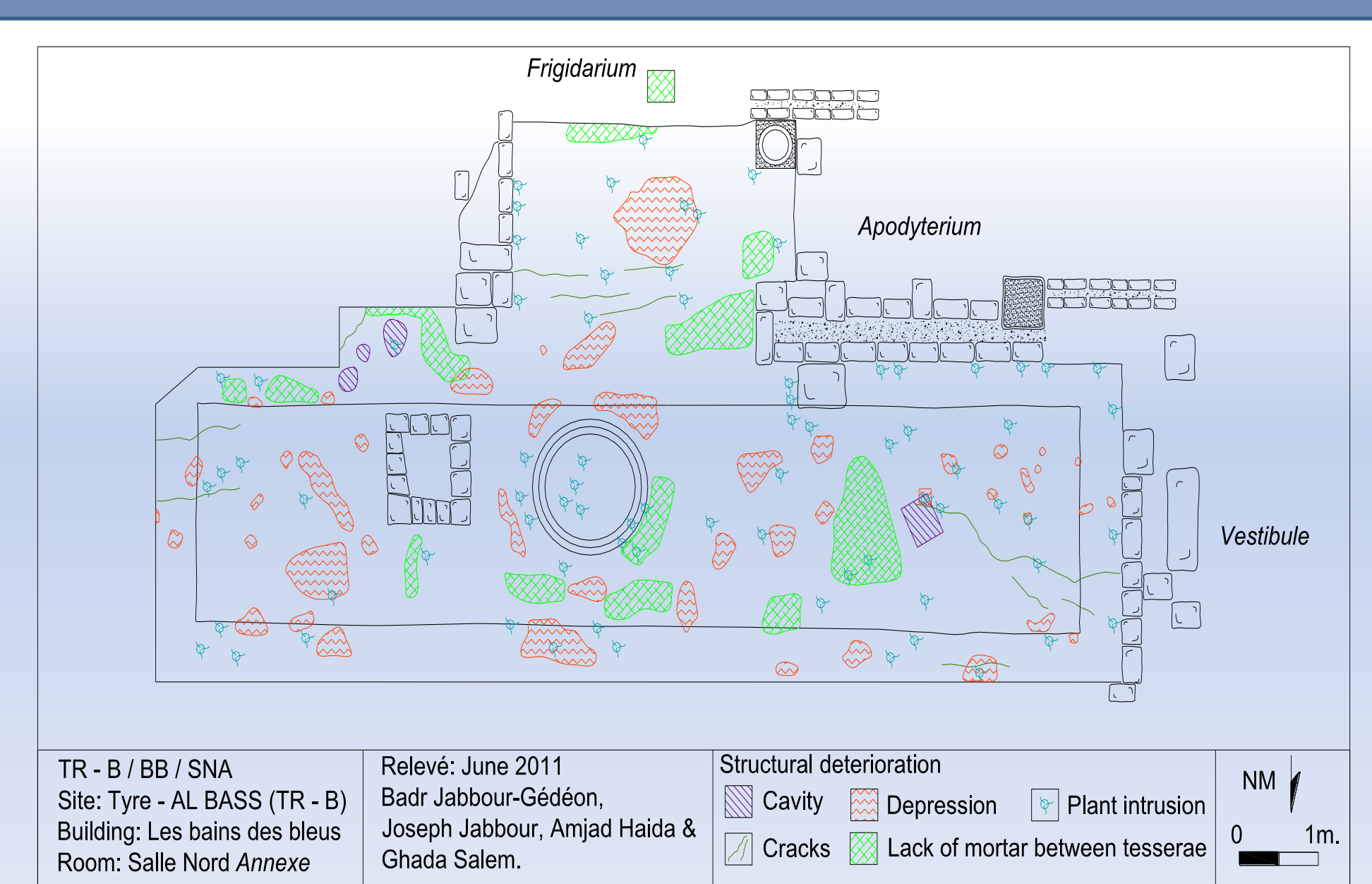
Critics by J.-P. Rey-Coquais in his publication « Inscriptions of the Hippodrome » in Baal, special issue III, 2006 : « The damages caused by weather led to the loss or the misplacement of some tesserae, the necessary consolidations did not abide to or restore a misunderstood link ».

### Documentation

#### Surface deterioration



#### Structural deterioration



Cleaning the surface of tesserae and the mortar between tesserae.



Mechanical removal of the weeds, grasses and bushes is done by removing some tesserae to be able to extract roots.



Chemical treatment of roots by using nonacid weeding product, *Glyphosate 48*.



Repairing edges and cracks is done by using hydraulic lime mortar.



Resetting tesserae, consolidation and filling gaps are done by using hydraulic lime mortar.

### Recommendations

#### Short term :

- Improve vegetation growth control;
- Promote preventive interventions;
- Resolve pooling problems due to pavement leveling ;
- Provide documentation on mosaics for the tourists.

#### Medium term :

- Ongoing training of technicians on the site;
- Take into consideration the maintenance and monitoring agenda that will be implemented in the future management plan.

