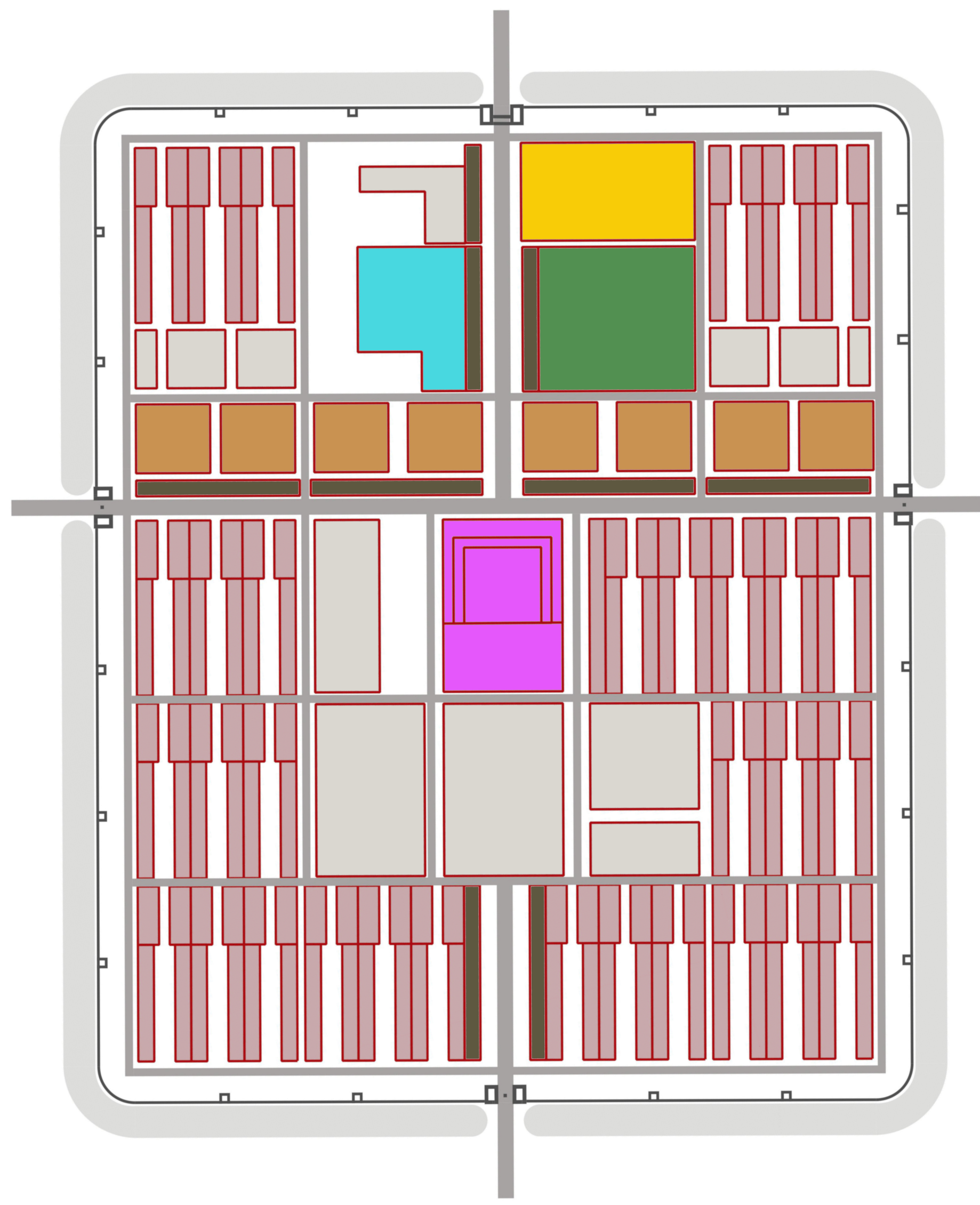


Bathing soldiers in Brigetio

Dávid Bartus - Melinda Szabó

ELTE Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest, Hungary)

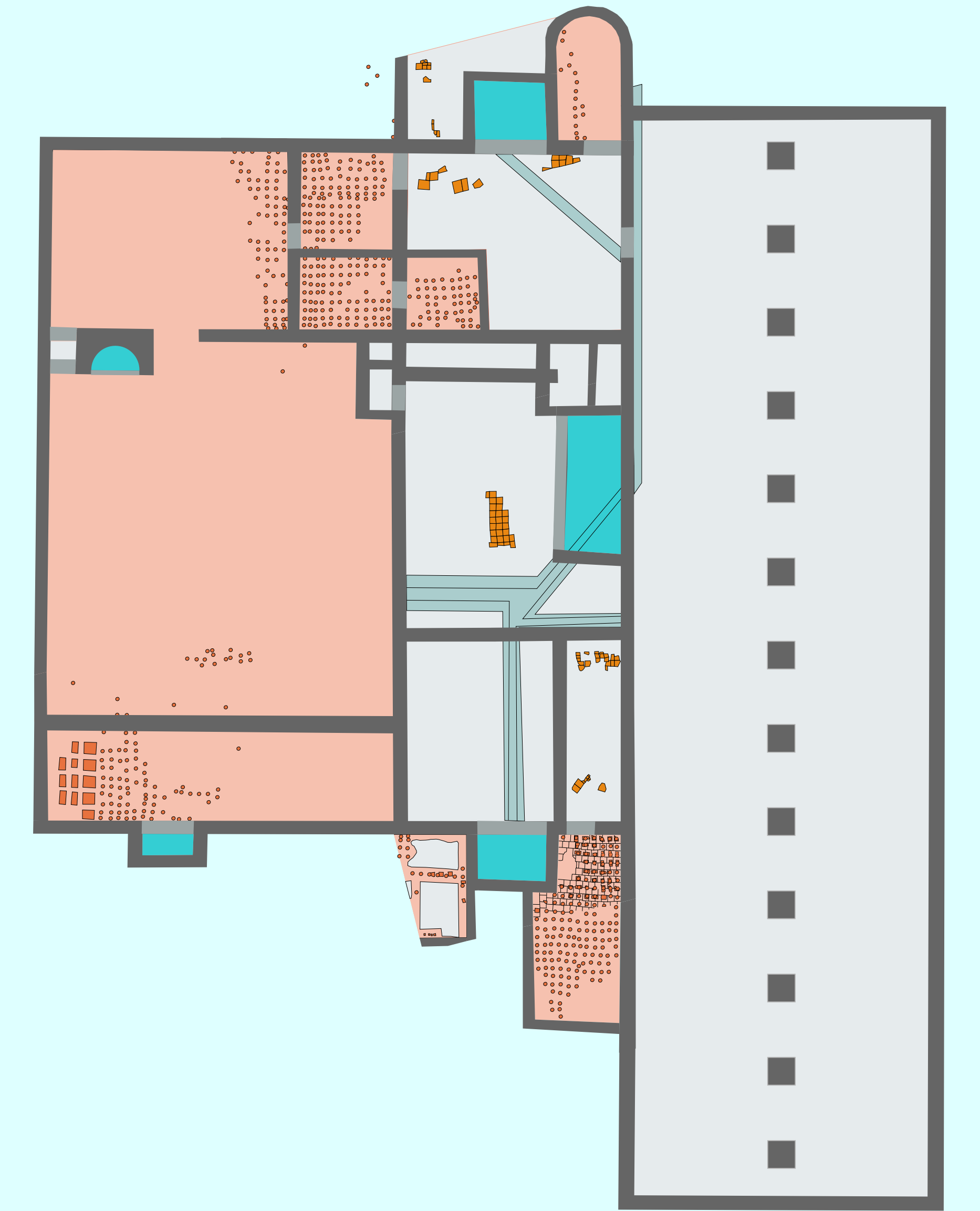


How do we know about this bath?

While the legionary fortress of Brigetio is one of the key sites in the province of Roman Pannonia, its inner structure and buildings are almost unknown. Over the past few years, systematic excavations took place in the praetentura, based on the results of geophysical surveys. A large building complex was identified as the bath of the legionary fortress, with an area of at least 6,000 m². In the excavation seasons between 2021 and 2023, about 1,800 m² of the bath was unearthed.

What do we know about the plan of the bath?

Several cold and hot rooms and pools were unearthed in the legionary bath. On the eastern side situated three unheated pool, the southern surrounded by a huge heated room. In the western part of the bath mostly heated rooms were found with pools in different shape. Praefurnia, sewers built with various technique and an almost 4 meters long lead pipe were found in situ.



Who built the bath?

In the present state of research, the chronological periods and building phases of the bath are mostly unknown. Different units' brick stamps were found all around the bath, a big percentage of them in situ. The earliest builder units were the legio XI Claudia, vexillationes of the legio XIII Gemina and the legio XV Apollinaris, then the legio I Adiutrix and the legio XXX Ulpia Victrix. From the 3rd-4th centuries AD, the stamps of the cohorts VII Breucorum, the so called Bommius immunis, Terentianus tribunus and Frigeridus dux are known. We know a certain Aurel[ianus], who scratched his name to a brick which was used in one of the hypocaust systems.



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Who used the bath?

More than 140 military personnel is known from Brigetio, who all used the bath in their time. From the debris layers of a hypocaustum system an iron aryballos and a strigilis came to light, proving the high quality equipment of the bathing soldiers. From the territory of the bath a few hairpins came to light, which leads us to the question: whether women were allowed to use the legionary bath? One of the bathing soldiers was a certain Ulpus Sabinus. His name is survived on the rim of a mortarium in the praetentura of the legionary camp, with the cursive Latin inscription VLPSAB, which refers to the owner of the pot. This soldier could be the same person, as the Ulpus Sabinus, soldier of the legio I Adiutrix, who left behind a bronze tessera in Brigetio, dedicated to Mithras. Besides bathing, the territory of the bath was used in many different ways through ages. In later times, coin hoards and jewellery were hidden in the understructures of the building. A well was dug into the pavement of the earlier bath, filled with half-finished and broken objects of an antler workshop. After the abandonment of the fortress, some Germanic grave was dug into the ruins of the Roman bath. From the 18th century, the remains of the bath were used as a quarry.

