

**Northeast Church Project
2005 Excavation Plan**

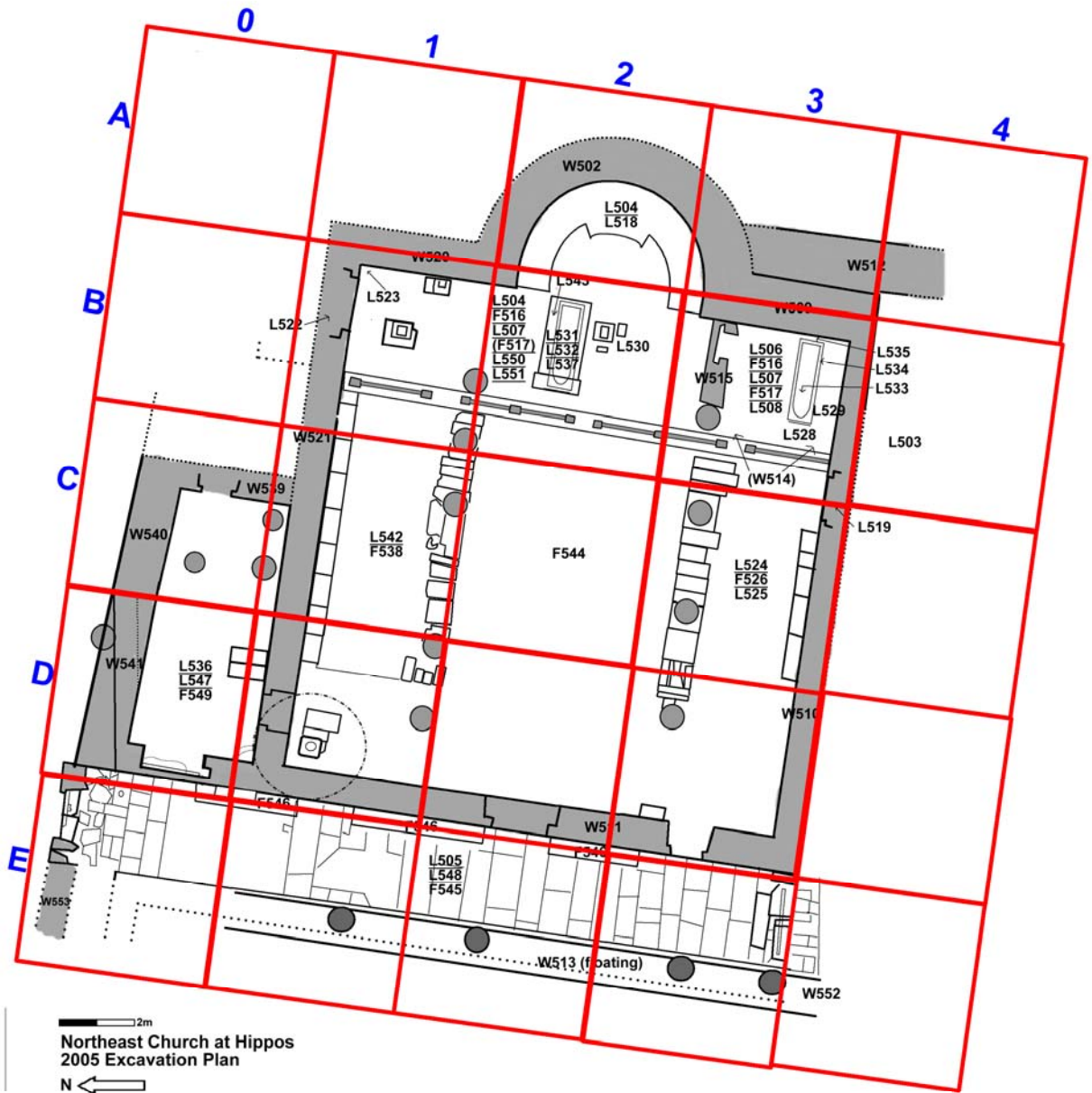


Figure 1

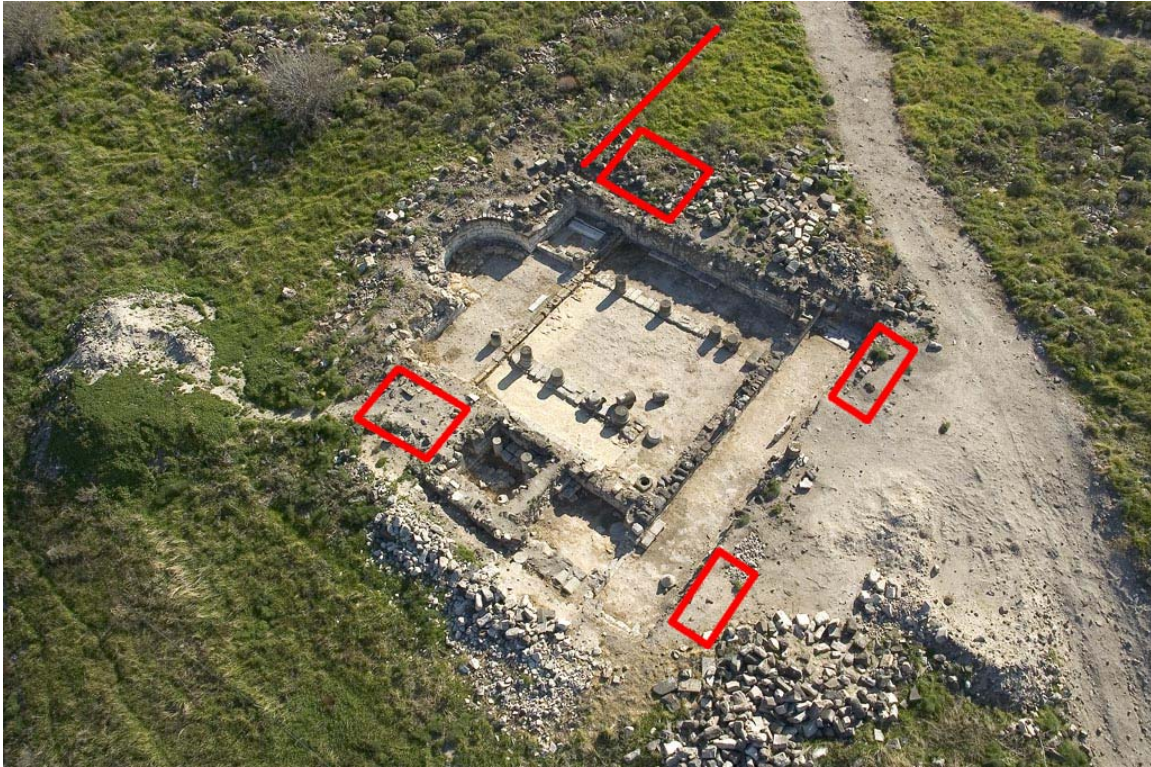


Figure 2

General Approach

In the 2005 season, the Concordia team will explore the relationship of the Northeast Church (NEC) to surrounding walls, rooms, and or structures. We are taking this approach in order to identify what will be necessary to finish the project.

Specific Plan for 2005

The Concordia team will generally work in two groups. Work will begin in B0 and B4 (Figure 1). The group in B0 will expose the room(s) east of the north lateral chamber and clarify the northeast corner of the church. The group in B4 will begin work on the south side of the church clarifying the corner between the south wall (W510) of the church and W512 which seem to proceed south. (The red line at the top of figure 2 indicates its direction as suggested by surface indications.)

Early in the season, we would request the use of the tractor to move the pile of reconstruction stones northwest of the church and the rubble directly north of the church. These removals are necessary to allow further exploration of the atrium.

Once work is completed in B0 and surrounding squares, we will excavate the western half of E0 in an attempt to identify further the atrium. If work proves fruitful, we will also excavate the western half of E3. Upon completion of E0 and E3, we hope to have a sense of the size of the atrium.

If the atrium expands to the west in any way typical of Byzantine churches, the current route of the road presents a problem. If the excavation of E0 and E3 so suggest, we will propose digging a probe on the west side of the road in an attempt to identify the western boundary of the atrium. The probe should provide data necessary to evaluate the necessity of relocating the road.

The crew working in B4 will proceed west to C4 and D4, subject to data generated by work in B4.

Conservation in 2005

In 2004, we were not able to complete conservation and cleaning of the fragmentary mosaics in the nave. In 2005, we will uncover the nave, further stabilize remaining mosaic, thoroughly clean and document the mosaic.

The Masonry Tomb

Completion of work on the masonry tomb and probes beneath the church will await future years. However, during the 2005 season we wish to develop a plan for removal of the sarcophagus box from the masonry chamber. The removal is necessary to finish the excavation of the chamber and to access the coffin below.