TREA: INTEGRATED NON-INVASIVE SURVEYS OF A ROMAN TOWN IN PICENUM

Since 2000, the abandoned Roman town of Trea has been object of a geoarchaeological research project, set up by a team of the University of Ghent with the aim of actively investigating the human occupation of the Potenza river valley in the central part of the Italian region Marche.

Information about the precise location, extent and urban organization of the Roman municipium of Trea, which ancient sources situated on the via Flaminia per Picenum Anconam, a diverticulum of the major Roma-Arininum road, was very limited and partly hypothetical, notwithstanding the important Italian research work of the past thirty years. After nine years of fieldwork carried out by the Potenza Valley Survey team (UGent), in collaboration with the invited team of geophysical experts from the University of Ljubljana, this situation has radically changed. The combined results of the remote sensing investigations, consisting of intensive aerial photography surveys, followed up by surface artefact and topographical surveys and geophysical prospections allow at present a near complete mapping of the main urban structures of this town, unquestionably located on a dominant plateau. The town defences, including several towers and two of the town gates, the internal street network and the main public and private buildings have been accurately located and reproduced, also through an innovative and fast method of orthophoto generation and georeferencing of the oblique aerial photographs.