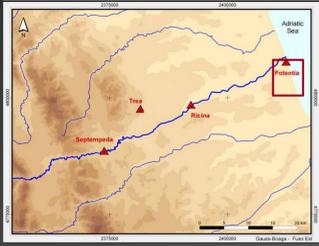


Francesca Carboni\*, Frank Vermeulen\*, Geert Verhoeven\*\*, Patrick Monsieur\*

\*Ghent University, Department of Archaeology, \*\*Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology, Vienna

# POTENTIA: INTEGRATED SURVEY AND MAPPING OF A ROMAN COLONY ON THE ADRIATIC COAST

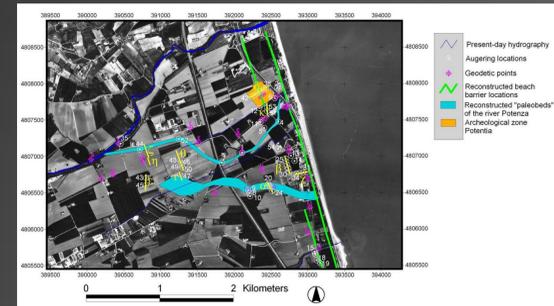


Potenza valley and surrounding area with indication of main Roman centres

The intensive archaeological field survey in and around the Roman coastal colony *Potentia* is part of the geo-archaeological research project 'Potenza Valley Survey', carried out since 2000 by a team of the University of Ghent, in central Adriatic Italy (Marche region). Over the years, this abandoned town, founded in 184 BC at the mouth of the *Flosis* (Potenza) river, has been investigated through a large set of intensive interdisciplinary operations, consisting of low altitude aerial photography, systematic archaeological field walking, artefact studies, re-study of excavated evidences, detailed geomorphological field mapping, geophysical surveys and fine topographic mapping. On this particular case study, quite spectacular are the results of combined remote sensing work which led to a detailed plan depicting the urban layout, with the gridded street networks perfectly defined inside the rectangular defence circuit and the majority of public and private buildings, as well as a large segment of the suburban settlement system, comprising of three extramural funerary areas, the roads connecting the city to the *territorium* and the original position of the river bed.



Aerial photograph with the location of the city wall and the *decumanus maximus* leading out of the city.



Restitution of the coastal line and the river bed in pre Roman and Roman age

These intrasite and peri-urban surveys have also been checked in the field by a focused excavation carried out between 2007 and 2010 on the west gate of the Roman town. The excavations perfectly confirm what is known from recent prospections of the general topography and plan of the late Republican and Imperial city. They also provide good chronological and stratigraphical evidence about the two main building phases of the gate, the development of the main East-West street and the character of the defences, with their ditch, wall and *agger*.



Aerial photograph of the western sector of the city with crop marks of the regular street network



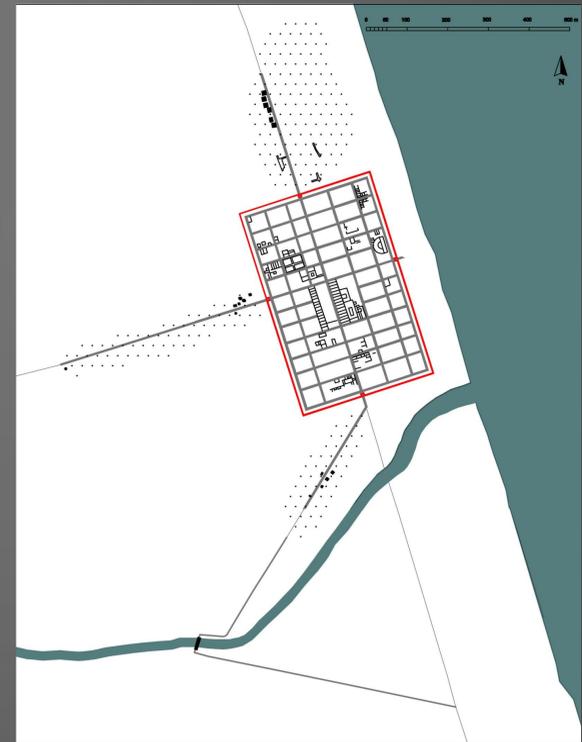
Aerial photograph with the location of the excavation of the western gate.



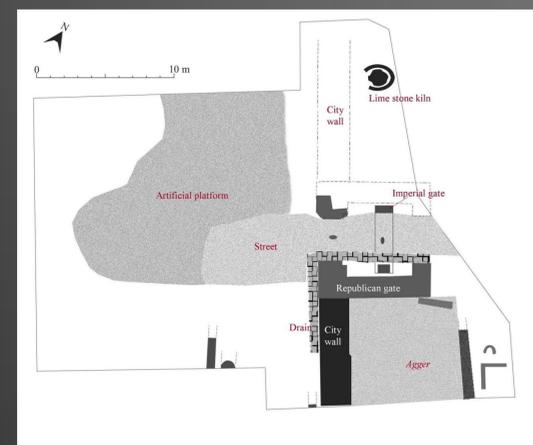
View of the excavated area, from East



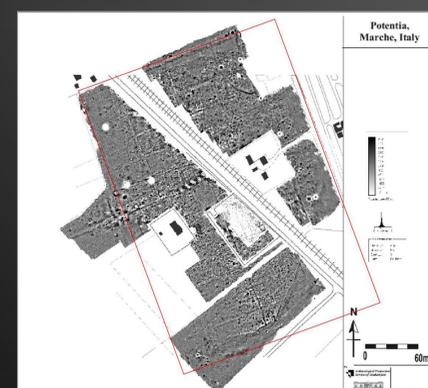
View of the excavated area, from South.



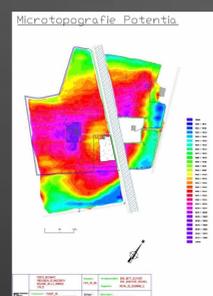
General plan of the town of *Potentia*, with its surrounding roads and cemeteries and the presumed Roman mouth of the river *Flosis*



Plan of the excavated area



Results of magnetic surveys (Archaeological Prospection Services Southampton)



Results of microtopographic survey on the site of *Potentia*



Results of intra mural artefact surveys.

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