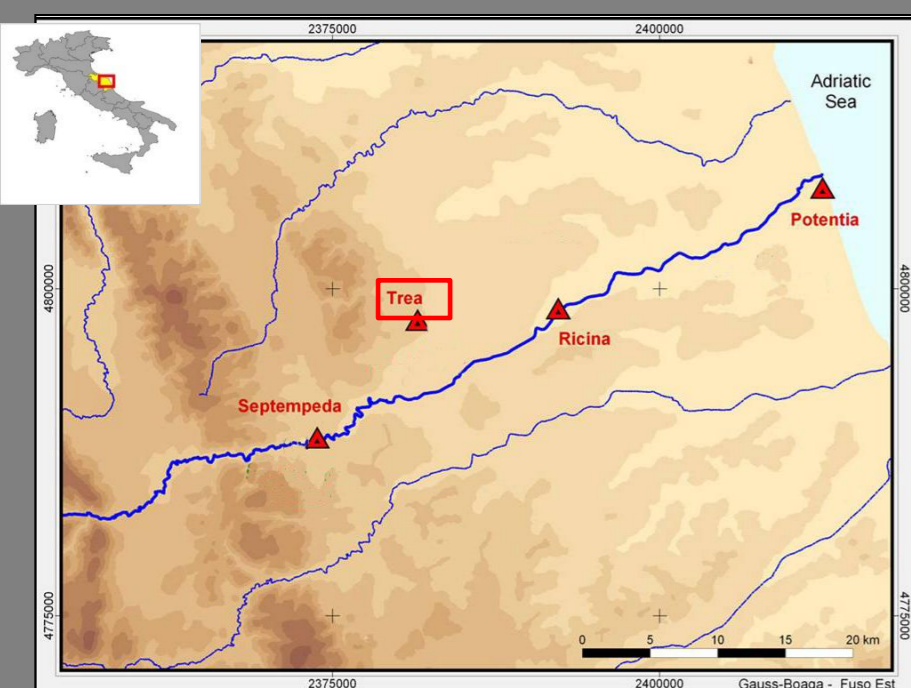


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TREA: INTEGRATED NON-INVASIVE SURVEYS OF A ROMAN TOWN IN PICENUM



Potenza valley and surrounding area with indication of main Roman centres.



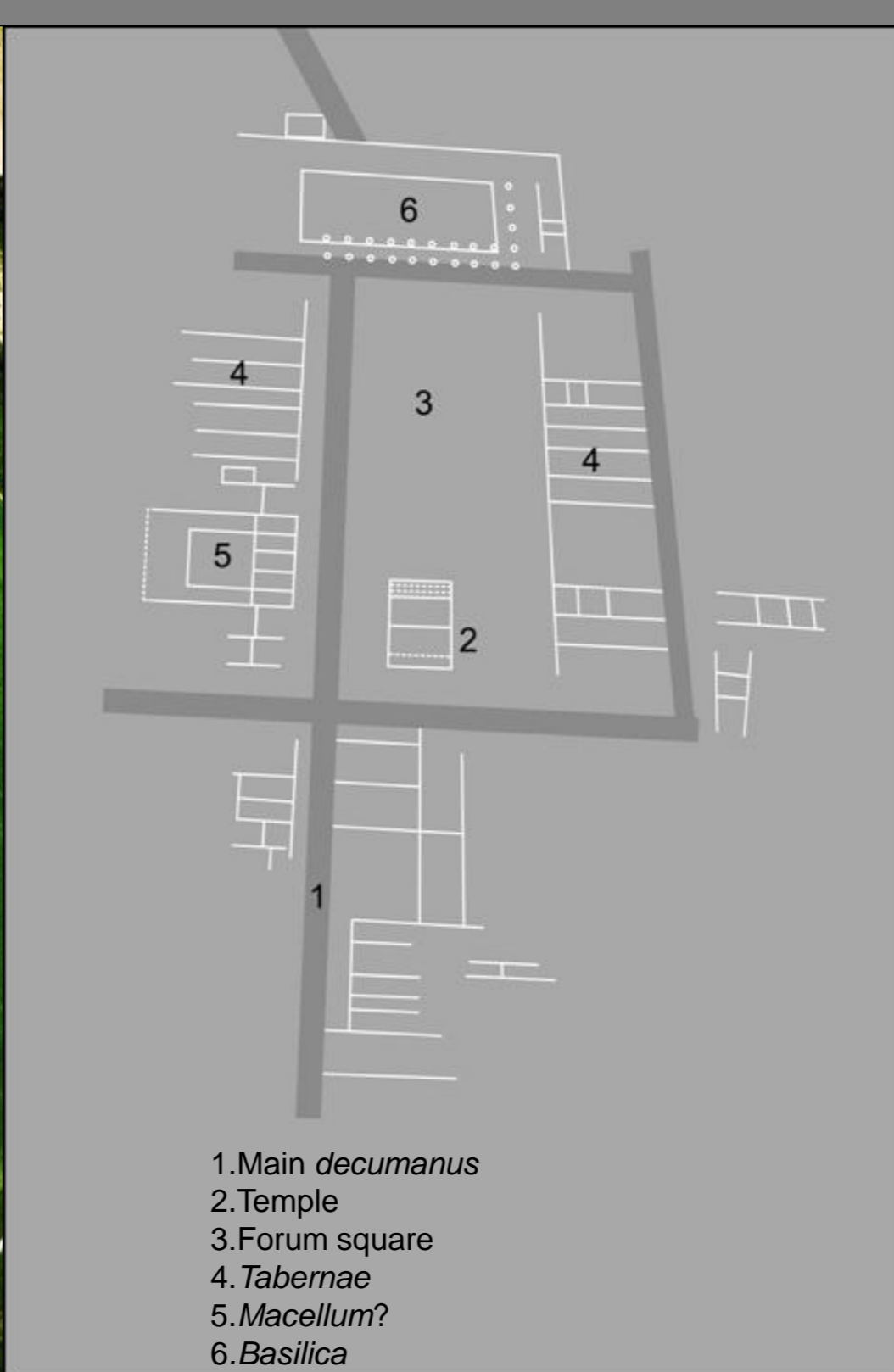
General view of Trea and surrounding area.

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.

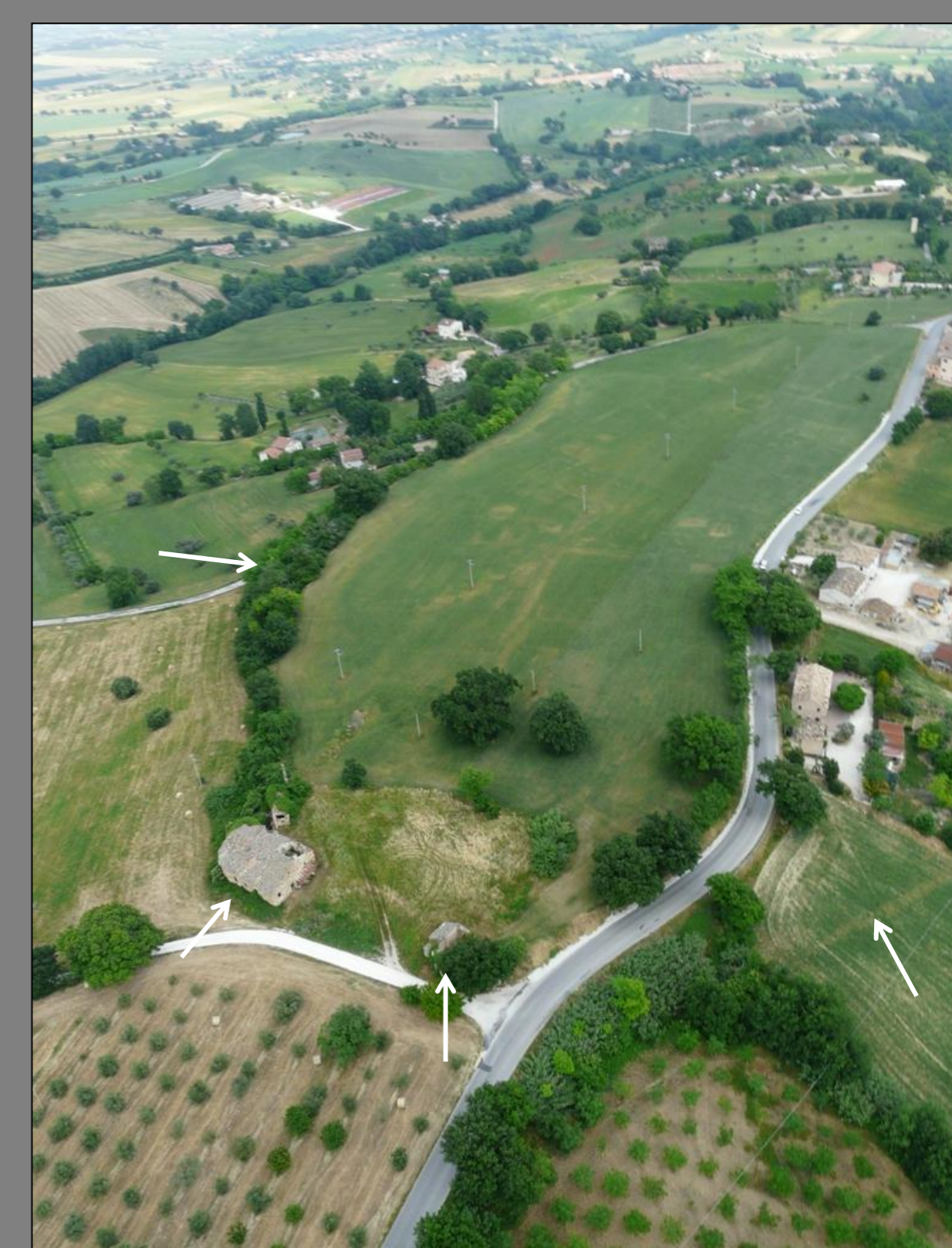
Information about the precise location, extent and urban organization of the Roman *municipium* of *Trea*, which ancient sources situated on the *via Flaminia per Picenum Anconam*, a *diverticulum* of the major *Roma-Ariminum* road, was very limited and partly hypothetical, notwithstanding the important 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.



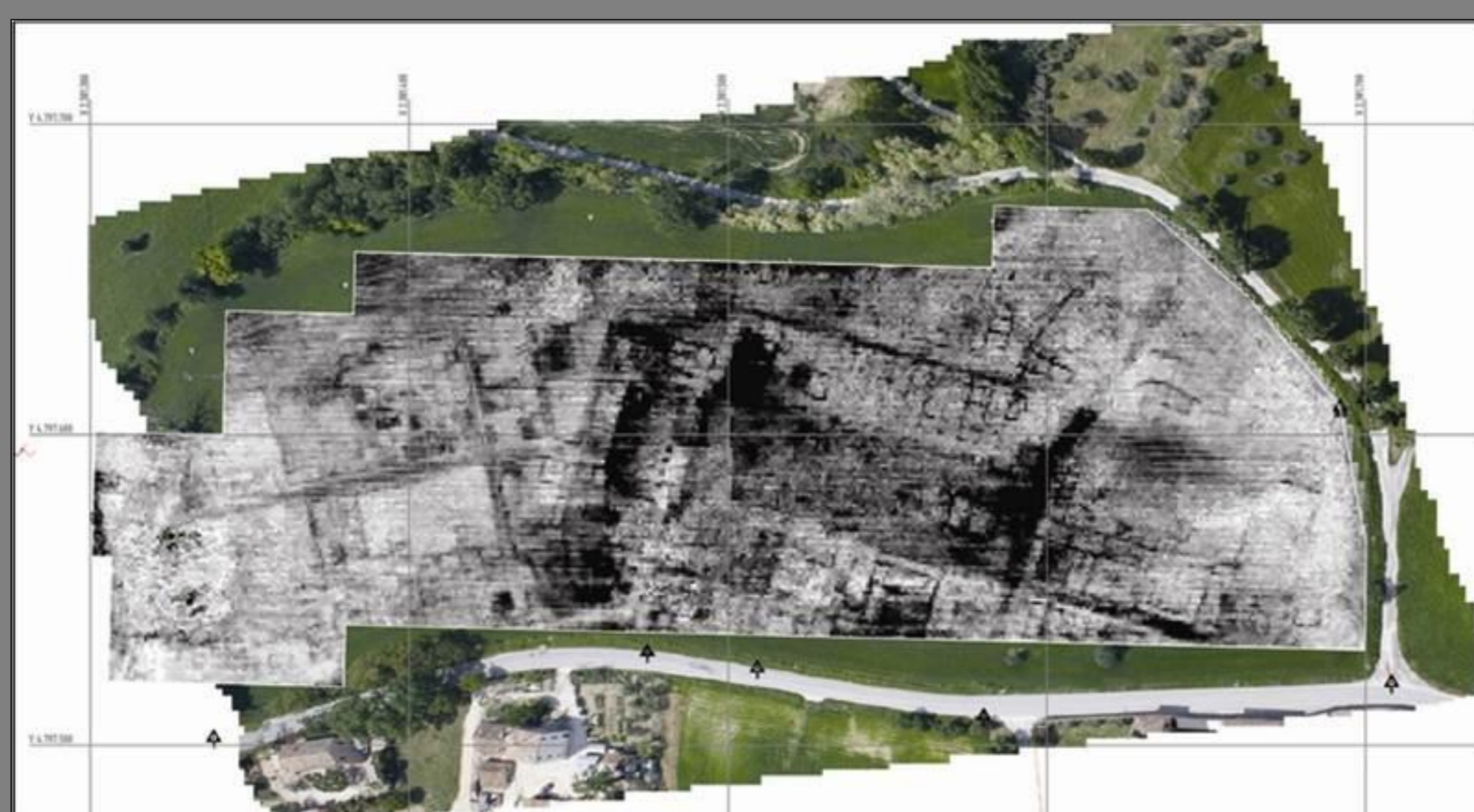
Oblique aerial view (2003) and transcript of the crop marks of the regularly organised east-central zone of the town.



1. Main *decumanus*
2. Temple
3. Forum square
4. *Tabernae*
5. *Macellum*?
6. *Basilica*



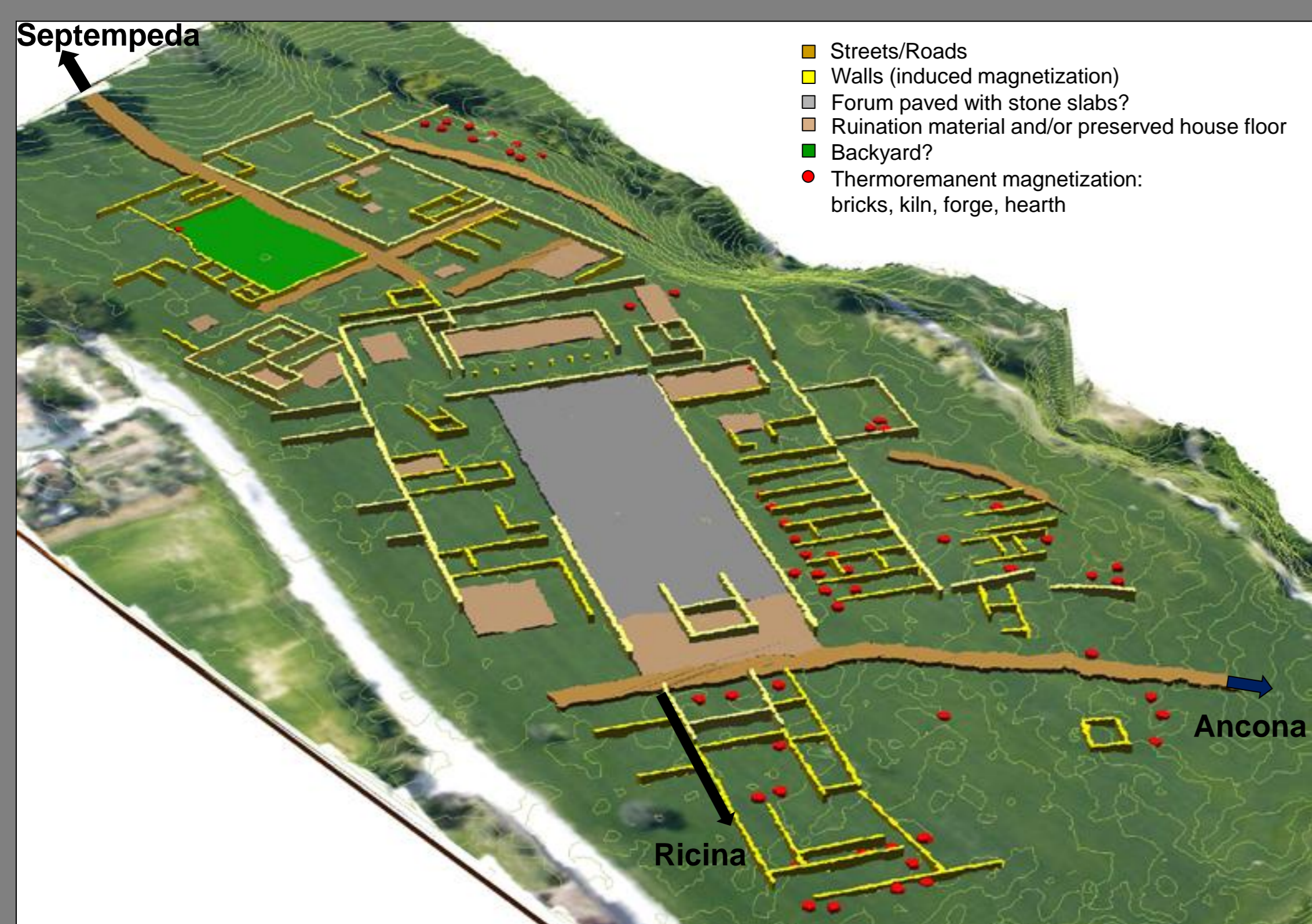
The town wall with arrows indicating the remaining structures and crop marks.



Central area of *Trea* (results of the resistivity survey *Geoscan RM15*).



Central area of *Trea* (results of the magnetic survey *Geometric G-858*).



3D visualization of architectural remains interpreted on the basis of geophysical survey.

Tentative reconstruction of the urban topography with position of the town wall, the urban grid, the forum (A) and the *Serapeum* under SS. Crocifisso (B). Possible road network preceding the Roman development of the town indicated in red.

