



The Laurentine Shore Project

Year-by-year history of fieldwork at Castelporziano
by the British School at Rome, Oxford University,
Royal Holloway University of London, Loughborough University *et al.*

1984 – 2009

compiled by A. Claridge, P. Rose and J.N. Andrews

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THE BRITISH SCHOOL AT ROME
ACCADEMIA BRITANNICA DI ARCHEOLOGIA, STORIA E BELLE ARTI

1984

May 24–31, June 6–9, 1984

Area(s) examined

Vicus general survey 1:100

Vicus Bath building A, vano I and II, and small test at SW corner of A2

Report

The estate woodcutters cut the major vegetation from the large bath building A, the most visible part of the site, adjacent to the road, and a firm employed by the Soprintendenza archeologica di Ostia began work on the consolidation of the upstanding walls, also cleaning out two old excavations ('vano I' and 'vano II'), which were studied and recorded by the BSR team. A pegged survey grid was laid out over the rest of the excavated remains of the Vicus, with a 150 m baseline along the south side of via del Telefono and three orthogonal offsets from it at 50, 75 and 120 metres respectively.

Personnel:

Amanda Claridge, John R. Patterson, Michael Vercnocke, Caroline Mauduit, and others

Specialists

Ancient historians: Nicholas Purcell, St John's College, Oxford; John R. Patterson, Magdalen College, Oxford

Published

Claridge A. 'Castelporziano: La zona del vicus augustanus 1984' *Archeologia Laziale* VII, 1985, 218-223

Claridge A. 'Il Vicus di epoca imperiale nella tenuta di Castelporziano: indagini archeologiche 1984' in *Castelporziano I. Campagna di scavo e restauro 1984*. Viella, Rome 1985, 71-75

Patterson J. R. 'Il vicus di epoca imperiale nella tenuta di Castelporziano: contesto storico' in *Castelporziano I. Campagna di scavo e restauro 1984*. Viella, Rome 1985, 67-69

Funding bodies

British School at Rome

Soprintendenza archeologica di Ostia (in kind)

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

1985

April/October 1985

Area(s) examined

Vicus general survey 1:100

Vicus: Building A, test trenches in rooms A8/10, room A18-19 and A24

Vicus: Trench S

Vicus: Resistivity squares 1-5

Castelporziano Survey: site D10 (Via Severiana)

Report

General survey:

work proceeded on 1:100 survey of the visible upstanding walls in zones C, D and H.

Building A

Test excavations were made to establish the level and nature of floors.

Trench S:

In April 1985 a trench 16 x 1.5 m. was opened in order to examine a section of the Via Severiana, perpendicular to a shallow depression which was presumed to indicate the course of the road. Excavation revealed that the road had been severely robbed, and uncovered a series of mortar surfaces which were further investigated. Subsequently, the western section collapsed, revealing a wall which the trench had narrowly missed, and indicating that the mortar surfaces represented a street leading into the vicus.

Geophysical survey:

A resistance survey at the Vicus was undertaken in order to supplement the ongoing architectural and archaeological survey of the site. A number of small areas (R 1-5) were surveyed adjacent to the standing remains to assess the potential of surveying subsurface features of archaeological interest. The small survey areas render full interpretation rather tentative, but time and the thick vegetation and tree cover restricted the possibility of a more detailed study.

Via Severiana test trench (CPS D10):

In connection with the excavation of Trench S at the Vicus, a small excavation cleaned a part of the Via Severiana already exposed on the surface beside the Via del Telefono – 120 m beyond the

intersection with the Via delle Riserve Nuove, in order to examine the nature of the road bedding for comparative purposes.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Nicholas Purcell, Laurence Davey, Michael Vercnocke, Tom Rasmussen, John Moreland and others

Specialists

Geophysical survey: Carl Heron, Department of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford

Published

Claridge A., 'Il Vicus di epoca imperiale: indagini archeologiche nel 1985 e 1986' in *Castelporziano II. Campagna di scavo e restauro 1985-1986*, Viella, Rome 1988, 61-73

Funding bodies

British School at Rome

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

1986

March 4–5, April 28, May 2, 1986

Area(s) examined

Vicus, area between Via del Telefono and Via Severiana

Geophysical surveys: resistivity and magnetometry

Personnel

Prof. Dario Monna, Lucio Versino, G.S. Morelli, Salvatore Espa, ITABC-CNR Monterotondo (RM)

Published

Cruciani A., Espa E., Monna D., 'Il Vicus di epoca imperiale: indagini archeologiche nel 1985 e 1986. Prospezioni ITABC' in *Castelporziano II. Campagna di scavo e restauro 1985-1986*, Viella, Rome 1988, 70-71

Funding body

ITABC- CNR

April 2–May 2, 1986

Area(s) examined

Vicus general site survey 1:100

Vicus Trench S extension to west

Vicus building H3 (northern part)

Report

General site survey 1:100:

The planning of the upstanding walls at a scale of 1:100 in zones E, F, K and G was completed.

Trench S:

The indecisive results of the 1985 season prompted further excavations in April 1986, designed to explore the interiors of the structure and to relate it to the stratigraphy which had been previously excavated. Accordingly, an adjacent area 2.50 x 13.50 m. was investigated, and obtained a section running across the building and the Via Severiana. In association with this area those parts of the 1985 trench which had not been completed were fully excavated, and integrated with the stratigraphy investigated in 1986.

Careful excavation recovered a complicated constructional sequence securely dated between the time of Claudius (AD 41-54) and that of Marcus Aurelius (AD 161-180), and enabled the interrelation of the walls with interior and exterior surfaces. Sealed groups of pottery were recovered from a series of construction trenches dating to the middle years of the first century AD. Four burials 'a cassone' were uncovered. A heavily robbed section of the Via Severiana revealed that its construction post-dated the entire building sequence. All accumulation deposits were sampled for archaeobotanic remains; however, the results were disappointing and only one barley grain was recovered; nevertheless many marine molluscs were recovered from the samples and these await analysis.

In outline the development of the site begins in the late Bronze age or Iron age, attested by a few residual sherds of 'impasto'. The site is then unoccupied until the Claudian period, though there is some accumulation of late Augustan and Tiberian material, presumably deriving from occupation elsewhere on the site. Subsequently there is a rapid and complicated sequence of building with at least three major phases, running up to c.150 AD. This development ceases with the construction of the Via Severiana and the conversion of a part of the building into a mausoleum. The area seems to have been abandoned by the beginning of the fifth century AD and not to have been reoccupied. The lack of any stratigraphy from this period onwards suggests that this area has been disturbed by robbing of building materials and the 'basoli' of the Via Severiana, and possibly also by the nineteenth century exploration of the Vicus.

Geophysical survey:

After the preliminary reconnaissance of the site in 1985 a larger geophysical survey was undertaken in the environs of Trench S. The main aim of the subsurface survey was to attempt to detect previously unknown features, to trace the direction of known ones and to assess a 'boundary' to the site with respect to the extent of detectable features.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Philip Perkins, Martin Hicks, Alison Hicks, John Giorgi, Nicola Terrenato, Stephen Spurr, John R. Patterson, Nicholas Purcell

Specialists

Geophysical surveys: Dr Carl Heron, Dept of Chemistry, University of Cardiff

Published

Claridge A., 'Il Vicus di epoca imperiale: indagini archeologiche nel 1985 e 1986' in *Castelporziano II. Campagna di scavo e restauro 1985-1986*, Viella, Rome, 61-73

Heron C. 'Il Vicus di epoca imperiale: indagini archeologiche nel 1985 e 1986. Prospezioni (sistema Bradford)' in *Castelporziano II. Campagna di scavo e restauro 1985-1986*, Viella, Rome 1988, 72-3

Public Events Convegno (May 13, 1986) at Castelporziano for publication of *Castelporziano I*

Funding bodies

British School at Rome

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

1987

May 28–June 15, 1987

Area(s) examined

Vicus Building C rooms C1-C48

Vicus Building A room A34

Vicus Trench L ('Dune trench')

Vicus Trench S (Via Severiana)

Vicus Resistivity Square '6'

Report

Building survey 1:50:

Work began on a more detailed study of the buildings identified in the 1:100 survey, cleaning and drawing elevations of the visible walls as well as making small test excavations to identify floor levels and clarify structural relationships. The northern sector of Building C and the peristyle (with the exception of the eastern wing) was surveyed and photographed.

Vicus A34:

A more detailed study was made of the room, which had been converted into a small church or chapel in the post-Roman phase of occupation in building A. The remnants of later floor levels, preserved in the apse and at the NW corner were cleaned and planned and the construction of the standing walls analysed.

Trench L:

was cut into the large dune along the southern (seaward) limit of the 19th century excavations in an effort to determine whether it was their spoil heap or of natural formation and if the buildings continued under the dune. The upper levels were composed of redeposited sand containing building debris, presumably excavation spoil, much disturbed by root action and burrowing animal, whereas the lower two thirds were much purer, apparently windblown sand. Samples were taken at regular vertical intervals for analysis. Remains of flooring were found beneath the dune, in association with walls reduced to the same level, but the excavation was unable to explore very far at this level without suitable shoring of the trench walls, and the operation was aborted.

Trench S:

Opened in 1985 and continued in 1986, the excavation was completed by a half-section of the via Severiana roadbed, and a 1.50 x 1.5 m. trench to the east, to find the width of the N-S street. Then the trench was backfilled (with the assistance of a bulldozer provided by the Castelporziano estate).

Resistivity square "6":

An area 10 x 20 m, west of Trench S was surveyed using the electro resistivity system being developed by Dario Monna and his colleagues at ITABC-CNR.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, John Giorgi, Alison Hicks, Martin Hicks, Judith Toms, Alison Rosewarne, and others

Specialists

Architectural reconstruction: Sheila Gibson, Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford

Roman building techniques: Janet DeLaine, University of Adelaide, Australia

Geophysics: Dr Dario Monna ITABC-CNR Monterotondo (RM)

Palaeobotanist: John Giorgi, British School at Rome

Published

Claridge A. 'Il vicus di epoca imperiale. Campagne di ricerche 1987-1991' in Castelporziano III. Campagne di scavo e restauro 1987-1991 (1998), 115-136

Public events

Convegno at Castelporziano (Feb 12, 1988): Presentation by A. Claridge on 1987 fieldwork

Funding bodies

British School at Rome

ITABC-CNR

October 21/December 1st, 1987

Area(s) examined

Vicus Forum H and Zone on north side of Via del Telefono (east of Building A)

Report

Magnetometer surveys were attempted over a 20 x 10 metre grid on the flat ground to the west of building A, between the temples H1-3 and the via del Telefono, and on a 6 x 50 metre grid on the north side of the via del Telefono, east of Building A . Results from both surveys were problematic.

Personnel

Martin Hicks, Alison Hicks, Amanda Claridge

Specialists

Geophysics: Dr Dario Monna ITABC-CNR Monterotondo (RM)

Published

Gabrielli R., Monna D., Pifferi A. 'Indagini geofisiche nell'area archeologica del Vicus Augustanus' in Castelporziano III. Campagne di scavo e restauro 1987-1991 (1998), 151-155

Funding bodies

British School at Rome

ITABC-CNR

1988

February 12, 1988

Convegno at Castelporziano, including A. Claridge, presentation of results of 1987 fieldwork

October 31st–November 17, November 25, 1988

Area(s) examined

Vicus Building C rooms C43, C49-C67

Vicus Forum H, test trenches 1-4

Report

Building Survey: the detailed 1:50 survey of Building C was extended to its East wing, containing a bath suite. The cover of forest debris and topsoil was almost entirely removed to expose the floors of the two northern rooms and in the baths. A trench (4) was also cut into the street levels on the east flank of the building.

Area H (Forum) test trench 1, located close beside the via del telefono, tested geophysical survey results of 1986, which indicated a possible N-S street, and identified a hard mortar surface. Test trenches 2 and 3 tested magnetometry survey of 1987, finding walling in correspondence to high anomalies. Test trench 4 looked for a continuation of the 'street' found in trench 1, but found instead the brick arch of a collapsed portico wall (?).

Personnel

Ken Smith, Jon Dunkley, John Wigley, Andrew Hanasz, Justin Brown, Robert van der Noort, Douglas Welle, and others

Published

Claridge A. 'Il vicus di epoca imperiale. Campagne di ricerche 1987-1991'in *Castelporziano III. Campagne di scavo e restauro 1987-1991* (1998), 115-125

Funding bodies

British School at Rome

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

December 13–15, 1988

Area(s) examined

Building A

Report

Samples were taken of the concrete foundations of Building A for analysis as part of a EU-funded project on the water-resistant properties of ancient concrete

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Susan Jull

Specialists

Dr Susan Jull, chemical engineer, Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd

Funding bodies

British School at Rome

Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd

1989

March 17–April 12, 1989

Area(s) examined

Vicus Building A: Trench M

Report

In an effort to establish the date of the post-Roman re-occupation of Building A, trench M, measuring 1.50 by 14 metres, was laid out across the large spoil heap on the western margin of building A in the hope that it might find undisturbed levels from the later period of occupation, otherwise destroyed by the 19th century excavators. Walling of the later period was found, and the remnants of several burials, but no definite evidence for dating.

Personnel

John Moreland, Cathy Coutts, Jon Dunkley, John Wigley, Rex Garniewicz, Louise Barnes, Wendy Tocci

Specialists

Human bone: Dr Marshall J. Becker, Westchester University (USA)

Published

noted in Claridge A. 'Il vicus di epoca imperiale. Campagne di ricerche 1987-1991' in *Castelporziano III. Campagne di scavo e restauro 1987-1991* (1998), 115, 117 fig. 3

Funding bodies

British School at Rome

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

April 29–June 2, 1989

Area(s) examined

Vicus Building A: Trench M (re-examination)

Vicus Building A: room A13, north end

Vicus Fountain D1: Trench D1b

Vicus Street B and Forum H east side: Trenches H3E, H3S, Trenches N (between D1 and A40), P (between C5 and A33), Q (at door from A13 to A39), R (from NE corner of H3 to the west face of A) and T (between D1, A40 and C1/C2). Trench Q-R joined up the two trenches Q and R.

Report

Building survey 1:50:

The 1:50 survey continued in the central part of the old excavations, westwards along street B and north along the western side of Building A - the presumed Forum area - and also all around the fountain building D1. Seven trenches were opened in the process, to clarify features obscured by deep accumulations of forest soil. The main drain from bath building A was traced into street B (trench P) and down Avenue D; another drain leading from the direction of the Forum was traced from the NE corner of H3 (Trench R), joining the main drain at the NE corner of the fountain building D1, whose overflow also drained into the main drain. Several brickstamps were recorded on the bipedales forming the roofs of the drains.

Along the western side of Building A trench Q-R revealed the plinths of eight statue bases: seven square in shape, presumably for standing figures mounted on pedestals; one was an elongated rectangle, perhaps for a seated figure or a small equestrian image. The last in the line, no.9, a much larger square base at an angle and veneered in marble, predated the bath-building A, which was built hard up against it from the rear. In the passage serving the praefurnium of the baths (A13), the floor of the passage and the steps leading down from the north end were cleaned and recorded.

Trench T, between the fountain building and the shop or tavern (C1) at the NW corner of building C, uncovered an arrangement of shallow surface drain channels connecting with the main drain, associated with quantities of oyster shells and amphorae fragments on which the oysters had been grown, fish hooks and broken drinking vessels of glass and pottery. Trench H3S, on the south side of H3, exposed a sequence of concrete (*cocciopesto*) surfaces belonging to the later phases of street B, while trench P, between the south entrance to the baths A and the front door of Building C, recorded some of the earlier horizons in the life of the street.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Richard Buckley, Sarah Jones, Martin Hicks, Alison Hicks, D'Arcy Green, Astrid Hudson, Robert Buckmaster, Gavin Williams, Susan Kane.

Published

Claridge A. Il vicus di epoca imperiale. Campagne di ricerche 1987-1991' in *Castelporziano III* (1998), 125-127 figs 28-31

Funding bodies

British School at Rome

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

June 7–9, 1989***Area(s) examined***

Vicus, Trench P, Dune ridges inland

Report

Samples for experimental luminescence dating of sand were taken from sand deposits sealed beneath dateable archaeological levels at the Vicus and also from one of the fossil dune ridges several hundred metres inland from the Vicus.

Specialists

Geomorphologist: Dr Helen Rendell, Geography Laboratory, Sussex University

Published

Rendell H. M. 'Datazione con la termoluminescenza della sequenza sabbiosa di Castelporziano: risultati preliminari' in *Castelporziano III* (1998) 161-163

Funding bodies

British School at Rome

Sussex University

October 10/November 6, 1989***Area(s) examined***

Vicus Forum H and east of K

Report

Magnetometer survey was carried out in the Forum H on a 20 x 10 m grid square, laid out at 45° to site N (i.e. aligned true north), to the west of the 90 m. N-S grid line. Two points of high readings were tested by two 1.50 x 1.50 metre trenches (tests 2 and 3) and proved to correspond to two wall junctions. A second grid (20 x 10 metres) was surveyed to the east of building A starting 35 metres south of the via del Telefono, with less success - one high anomaly proved to coincide with a large coil of steel wire buried in the ground.

Personnel

Dario Monna, Augusto Pifferi, Amanda Claridge, Douglas Welle

Specialists

Geophysics: Dr Dario Monna, ITABC-CNR Monterotondo (RM)

Published

Gabrielli R., Monna D., Pifferi A. 'Indagini geofisiche nell'area archeologica del Vicus Augustanus' in *Castelporziano III* (1998), 151-55

Funding bodies

British School at Rome

ITABC-CNR

December 8–11, 1989**Area(s) examined**

Castelporziano Survey: site C2 (Villa Magna),

D1 (Bronze Age/Early Iron site),

D5 (western fish farm (?),

F2 ('Sea wall' at Tor Paterno).

Report

Geomorphological survey: preliminary fieldwork was carried to out to produce a map of the dune system along the Laurentine shore, including a series of geological cores taken with a Russian hand-corer from swampy areas located within and behind the archaeological zone.

Personnel

James Hansom, Darren Comber, Amanda Claridge

Specialists

Geomorphologist: Dr James Hansom, Department of Archaeology, Sheffield University

Published

Hansom J. 'Insediamenti costieri di età romana ed evoluzione della linea di costa a Castelporziano. Rapporto preliminare' in *Castelporziano III* (1998), 157-160

Funding bodies

British School at Rome

1990

January 15, 1990

Area(s) examined

Vicus, east of building A

Report

A second attempt at magnetometer survey was carried in the open space to the east of Building A, over a 20 x 25 metre grid, with no success.

Specialists

Geophysicists: Dr Dario Monna and Augusto Pifferi ITABC-CNR

Published

Funding bodies

ITABC-CNR

January 29–February 14, 1990

Area(s) examined

Castelporziano Survey: site F2 Tor Paterno 'sea wall'

Castelporziano Survey: site F8 road paving on edge of fosso dei Muraccioli

Castelporziano Survey: D1 Bronze Age site

Report

Small scale clearance excavations were made to clarify the structure at F2, a massive concrete wall, much eroded by wave action, and a line of basalt paving slabs visible in the section on the north side of the fosso dei Muraccioli. Little was learnt from the 'sea wall', but the road paving did not appear to be ancient, rather a re-use of ancient blocks to form a later road. This seems to be the road which is faintly marked on Pietro Rosa's map of the area and corresponds to that on the Catasto Alessandrino.

Sand samples were taken from the deposits in and around the sea wall for geomorphological analysis.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Cathy Coutts, Andrew Hanasz, Helen Rendell

Specialist

Dr Helen Rendell, Geography Laboratory, Sussex University

Published

Lauro M. G., Claridge A. 'Litus Laurentinum: Carta archeologica degli insediamenti litoranei a Castelporziano' in *Castelporziano III. Campagne di scavo e restauro 1987-1991* (1998), 48-49, figs 13-14; 52 fig 23; 55-56 fig 28

Funding bodies

British School at Rome

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

April 9–May 4, 1990

Area(s) examined

Vicus Zone F1-3, 9-16, 61-75; Zone E

Castelporziano Survey

Report

Vicus Building survey at 1:50

Work started on the northern sectors of F, from the building down the west side of avenue D (F1-3) across to the possible stableblock F9-F14 and then to the courtyard house F61-F70. Test trenches were made at numerous points to find floor levels and clarify structural relationships. A hoard of 88 Late Roman bronze coins was found when cleaning the step inside the door on the north side of F1. Following the discovery of several pieces of a monumental inscription scattered on the surface around the fountain in the centre of the courtyard (F66), the whole fountain was excavated.

Castelporziano Field Survey

In April 1990 the area to the north and south along the entire length of the via del telefono was surveyed for archaeological remains. The work carried on from the survey in February 1990 and sought to map scatters of building debris and selce (basalt paving) between Tor Paterno and the vicus. The purpose of the survey was to locate the spreads of selce that corresponded to the line of the Via Severiana and any other Roman roads, and to locate buildings in the area between Tor Paterno and the Vicus that had not been mapped by the Soprintendenza.

The survey was carried out by teams of three to six archaeologists across the variable terrain of this part of Castelporziano estate. In many areas the vegetation was too dense to allow for orthodox fieldwalking techniques, in most areas it was impossible to walk in a straight line. In general, the via del telefono was taken as the base-line and an area bounded by easily locatable features, such as fosse or tracks, would be chosen each day for survey. The area would then be walked by the team, and any features or scatters of material would be mapped.

Personnel

Cathy Coutts, Andrew Hanasz, Alison Hicks, Martin Hicks, Richard Buckley, Sarah Jones, Sophie Jackson, Douglas Welle, Kathy Kiefer, Sarah Longford

Specialists

Architectural reconstructions: Sheila Gibson

Historians: Nicholas Purcell, St John's College, Oxford; Federico Marazzi, Università "La Sapienza" Roma:

Numismatist: Philip Grierson, University of Cambridge

Published

Purcell N. 'Alla scoperta di una costa residenziale romana: il *litus Laurentinum* e l'archeologia dell'*otium*' in *Castelporziano III. Campagne di scavo e restauro 1987-1991* (1998), 17-32

Marazzi F. 'Proprietà pontificie lungo il litorale tirrenico laziale (secoli VIII-X)' in *Castelporziano III. Campagne di scavo e restauro 1987-1991* (1998), 33-37.

Lauro M. G., Claridge A. 'Litus Laurentinum: Carta archeologica degli insediamenti litoranei a Castelporziano' in *Castelporziano III. Campagne di scavo e restauro 1987-1991* (1998), 39-61

Claridge A. 'Il vicus di epoca imperiale. Campagne di ricerche 1987-1991' in *Castelporziano III* (1998), 127-136

Thomas V. 'AB URBE CONDITA TRI[...]: a new commemoration of the imperial tribunician powers from the imperial vicus (Castelporziano)' in *Castelporziano III* (1998), 137-149

Funding bodies

British School at Rome

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

1991

February 1991

Vicus: Building A north boundary wall,

Vicus: medieval tower in NE corner of A (A6 and A7) and limekiln (A40)

Cleared the northern boundary of building A and excavated a trench on the outside of the wall, in search of evidence to date the re-use of the building at a later period. The excavation found fragments of medieval pottery (ca. AD 1080-1120) associated with a clear occupation horizon. A limekiln at the SW corner of building A was also (re-) excavated, and the base of a tall tower at the NE corner of building A was cleaned and drawn.

Personnel

Cathy Coutts, Ken Smith, Brona Langton, Andrew Hanasz,

Published

Claridge A. 'A date for the medieval settlement at Vicus Augustanus Laurentium (Castelporziano)' in P. Delogu & L. Paroli (eds.) *La storia economica di Roma nell'Altomedievo alla luce dei recenti scavi archeologici*, Florence 1993, 287-293

April 6–May 6, 1991

Area(s) examined

Vicus: Zone F, rooms F4-F7; F16-F45,

Report

Continued detailed (1:50) survey of the buildings in Zone F, including a market hall or curia (F4-F7) and the bath building F16-F45.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Andrew Hanasz, Sheila Gibson, Robert Birbeck,

Specialists

Architectural reconstructions: Sheila Gibson, Oxford

Architectural draughtsman: Robert Birbeck, London

Published

Claridge A. 'Il vicus di epoca imperiale. Campagne di ricerche 1987-1991' in *Castelporziano III* (1998), 127-132 figs 32-33

Funding bodies

British School at Rome

Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, London

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

July 9–13, 1991

Area(s) examined

Castelporziano Survey: Tor Paterno

Report

Checking locations and details of visible structures for the carta archeologica

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Tara Walker, and another

November 18–21, 1991

Area(s) examined

Vicus zone E room E6

Report

Cleaned and recorded the details of E room 6 and explored subterranean passage serving its hypocaust system.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Oliver Gilkes, Kathy Keifer, Jane Joseph, Andrew Hanasz

December 3, 1991

Area(s) examined

Vicus: zone E, room E10

Report

Excavated a small trench in the NW corner of E10 to examine an area of its opus sectile floor, which was then photographed, drawn and backfilled with sand.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Andrew Hanasz, Edmund Thomas, Maurice Byrne

Funding bodies

British School at Rome

1992

January 31, 1992

Area(s) examined

Castelporziano Survey: C2 'Villa Magna' & B1 'Villa del confine'

February 26, 1992

Area(s) examined

Castelporziano survey: C4 'Villa del Fosso'

March 8, 1992

Area(s) examined

Castelporziano survey: E4-F16 Tor Paterno outlying

Report

Measured positions of buildings at Tor Paterno, Vicus limits to south and site between Vicus and Villa Magna.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Sally Cann, Ian Jenkins, Robert Birbeck

March 18, 1992

Area(s) examined

Castelporziano Survey: Tor Paterno end of the Aqueduct (site F9), the 'Daieta' (site F14)

Published

Lauro M. G., Claridge A. 'Litus Laurentinum: Carta archeologica degli insediamenti litoranei a Castelporziano' in *Castelporziano III. Campagne di scavo e restauro 1987-1991* (1998), 55, 59

Funding bodies

British School at Rome

1993

No fieldwork. Preparation of reports for *Castelporziano III*

1994

May 16–June 3, 1994

Area(s) examined

Vicus: Zone F rooms F45-F60

Vicus: Zone G1-2

Vicus: Building C room C21

Report

Building survey at 1:50:

This was completed, including numerous small test trenches (saggi) in zone F and an additional clearance in C21 to check presence of doorway to C16

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Andrew Hanasz, Oliver Gilkes, Will Bowden, Lisa Lentz, Bethany Maguire

Specialists

Architectural reconstructions: Sheila Gibson

Published

Funding bodies

British School at Rome

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

1995

August 28–September 30, 1995

Area(s) examined

Vicus: Trench X

Vicus: Building Y

Report

Trench X:

An initial 10 by 10 metre trench (X), with extensions and additions totalling an area of some 150 m², were examined in depth (trees permitting) and the outline of a large building (Y), covering a further 120 m², was explored on the surface. Only the far SE reaches, adjacent to the margin of the earlier excavations at F61, had been seriously invaded by previous digging operations. For the rest, the final occupation levels proved to be lying practically untouched beneath 10-50 cms of forest soil.

No sign of the postulated crossroads emerged but the line of the E-W street was duly picked up, with porticoes on both sides. In a relatively late phase (3rd/4th century AD) the southern portico was walled in and the floor level behind it was lowered, the flooring consisting of reused opus spicatum and mosaic tesserae laid without a proper foundation. Later still, the north portico was also blocked off (with reused tufa bonded only with clay) and the area of the street itself appears to have been converted into a yard for some industrial(?) activity involving a deep channel cut diagonally across the street. The later building (Y) to the NW, of uncertain function, probably dates from the late 3rd/early 4th century; it was very solidly built and the debris from its collapse include quantities of rare coloured marbles. An unexpected component in the late paving of the street were five fragments of an emblema mosaic of fine quality representing a theatrical scene.

Earlier construction levels, and some earlier walls and floors (apparently the remains of older porticoes), dating from the mid 2nd and early 1st century AD respectively, were reached in several places but the street needs to be fully excavated to make proper sense of the evidence. Consequently, the estate and local superintendency have agreed to allow the trenches to remain open so that the excavation can be continued next year.

Geo-physical survey:

Dario Monna of the ITABC-CNR surveyed the initial 10-metre square prior to excavation, with both magnetometry and geo-radar, but neither method met with any great success. The failure of the magnetometer was probably caused by a defect in the instrument itself.

The radar found the situation in the subsoil on the main site far too confusing, but it might provide useful information under simpler conditions.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Alison Hicks, Martin Hicks, Cassian Hall, Beatrice Cody, Terry Brown, Alex Murray, Andrew Sanderson, Giuseppe Di Spirito, Annabel Simpson, Claire Calcagno

Specialists

Radar survey: Dr Dario Monna ITABC-CNR

Published

(ready for press since 2000) Claridge A. 'Campagne di scavo al vicus di epoca imperiale 1995-1998' in *Castelporziano IV, Campagne di scavo e restauro 1992-1998*

English version online:

www.rhul.ac.uk/classics/laurentineshore/vicus/articles

Funding bodies

British School at Rome

Craven Fund, Oxford University

Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, London

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

1996

August 27–September 28, 1996

Area(s) examined

Vicus: Trenches X, YA, YB and YF

Vicus: Via Severiana rubbish dumps: Trench SA

Vicus hinterland: area HH

Report

Trench X:

The upper stratigraphy of the street turned out to be surprisingly deep and solid, with four main resurfacings in concrete and/or cocciopesto and multiple intermediary patchings and repairs, underneath which lie various levels of softer surfacings (made of amphorae- and pot-sherds), in their turn overlaying more ephemeral occupations levels, apparently associated with thick deposits of oyster-shells. These lowest levels, which have otherwise only been touched upon in soundings through the later structures flanking the street to the south, raise interesting questions regarding the genesis of the site and warrant careful excavations. Given the solidity of the upper levels, it was not possible to pursue them this year, but they are now accessible over a relatively sizeable open area, for investigation next year instead.

Trenches YA, YB and YF:

These three small trial trenches investigated the foundations of the eastern wall of Building Y and provided a date in the 3rd century AD or later, but shed no light on the question of the building's function. Its fill consisted of almost solid building debris, containing quantities of coloured marble veneer, but there was no trace of a proper floor, suggesting either that the building was unfinished or its preserved level represents an unfloored basement. Coins, pottery and other finds indicated considerable activity in the mid-late 4th century AD.

Vicus rubbish dumps Trench SA:

Rather than a series of smaller trenches, it was decided to open one quite large one, measuring 12 x 5 metres, running inland from the Via Severiana. One half of that area (40 cubic metres of deposits) was excavated down to natural sand. Under a thick black organic layer, possibly resulting from more recent farming activity, there were nine pits and a well-stratified series of contexts rich in pottery, amphorae, animal bones, shells, bronze, iron, worked bone and ivory, coins, and other items, dating from the first to the fourth century AD. The assemblage is the first of its kind excavated in the Ostia region.

Test areas were examined by Dario Monna (ITABC-CNR) with radar techniques on the seaward and western side of the Vicus (results unclear).

Hinterland site HH:

On Sept 14 a marble statue of Venus, missing head, both arms and legs below the knees, was discovered in a water-hole c. 50 m. further inland from Trench SA, where it had been used to form one side of a hearth in a shepherds' capanna (18th or 19th century?). For map of location see Zone West of Vicus resistivity 2002

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Alison Hicks, Martin Hicks, Cassian Hall, Jonathan Rudd, Zoe Hall, Sally Cheshire, Terry Brown, Lynne Lancaster, Tom Carpenter, and others

Specialists

Ceramics: Dr John Hayes, Institute of Archaeology, Oxford

Published

(ready for press since 2000) Claridge A. 'Campagne di scavo al vicus di epoca imperiale 1995-1998' in *Castelporziano IV, Campagne di scavo e restauro 1992-1998*, ed. M.G.Lauro

English version online:

http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Classics/LaurentineShore/VicusAugustanus/VC_Articles.html

Funding bodies

Craven Fund, Oxford University

British School at Rome

Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies

St John's College, Oxford

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

1997

February–March, 1997

Finds' study Dr John Hayes spent three weeks at Castelporziano and examined all the pottery and amphora from X (1995-6) and SA (1996) and most of the lamps and glass. He also studied a selected range of material from earlier seasons. His preliminary reports are in hand, the principal results being clarification of the dating of the latest occupation levels in X (around AD 400) and the somewhat surprising fact that the 40 cubic metres of rubbish deposits investigated in SA almost all date from the mid-1st century and were probably redeposited.

August 12–27, 1997

Finds' processing, study and drawing, based in the British School at Rome.

Four draughtspeople (three students and a professional) drew all the finds selected by John Hayes for drawing; John Hayes did some more detailed cataloguing of the pottery from 1995-6 context and examined more of the material from earlier seasons. Environmental samples from Trench SA were processed and a start was made on the recording and study of the metal finds.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, John Hayes, Alison Merry, Alexandra Merry, Emma Claridge, Harriet Impey

Specialists

Ruth Pelling, paleobotanist, University of Oxford

Dr John Hayes, ceramics, University of Oxford

Funding bodies

British School at Rome (in kind)

Craven Fund, University of Oxford

August 28–September 23, 1997

Area(s) examined

Vicus: Trench X

Vicus: Trench SA

Vicus: 'Mausoleum'

Report

Trench X and XL:

Continued the excavation of the deeply stratified street levels in X and opened a small extension onto the buildings on the north side of the street (Trench XL) to understand more of the physical character of the last phase of occupation. Another five street surfaces and the associated pavements were removed, but such was the complexity of the sequence of intermediary phases of potholes and patchings that the excavation had to go very slowly, especially since the make-up changed from concrete to compacted sand containing quantities of pottery and other finds. The excavation of the street as such is finished, but at least another metre of deposits remains to be explored, composed of black burnt organic matter overlying thick layers of oystershells, which presumably constitutes the destruction debris of previous settlement on the site, prior to the layout of the town to a gridded plan.

The extension on the north side of the street (Trench XL) established very clearly that the latest occupation levels overlay the partial collapse of the buildings themselves, apparently a sudden event possibly from an earthquake, in the late 3rd/early 4th century.

Trench SA:

Further sample trenches were made in other parts of the rubbish dumps (SB, SC) and the excavations in SA were extended to tie the stratigraphy of the deposits found in 1996 to that of the adjacent section of the Via Severiana. The latter confirmed that the rubbish deposits in the 1996 sample area did represent a coherent phase, certainly predating the basalt paving of the road (late 2nd/early 3rd AD). The lowest levels of excavation encountered structures and burnt organic deposits, very like those in the bottom of X, of an earlier phase, prior to the first phase of the road.

Mausoleum:

A structure on the north side of the via Severiana, 75 metres east of trench SA, was identified on the surface and surveyed at 1:50. Built of concrete faced with brick and tufa it abuts the kerb of the road but has no visible floor at that level. The location, the thickness of the walls, and the proportions of the building, suggest a tomb.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Cassian Hall, Terry Brown, Clare Brown, Luke Lavan, Alison Merry, Ally Merry, Holly Pattenden, Bryony Reid, Vaughn Wright

Specialists

Ceramics: Dr John Hayes, Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford

Published

(ready for press since 2000) Claridge A. 'Campagne di scavo al vicus di epoca imperiale 1995-1998' in *Castelporziano IV, Campagne di scavo e restauro 1992-1998*

English version online:

http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Classics/LaurentineShore/VicusAugustanus/VC_Articles.html

Funding bodies

Craven fund, Oxford University

British School at Rome (in kind)

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

1998

October 15–30, 1998

Area(s) examined

Vicus: Trench X

Vicus: Trench SA

Report

Trench X:

In the western sector of Street B within trench X, a metre of stratified deposits of sand, containing animal bone, oyster shells, and pottery, representing the earliest (Roman) occupation on the site, were excavated over an area of 6 x 2.5 m. down to the underlying clean beach sands. Samples of the beach sands were taken for luminescence dating. The overall chronology found in the excavation now runs from ca. 10 BC to ca. AD 430.

Trench SA:

Another quadrant of the Via Severiana was excavated to check upper-level relationships which had not been readily identifiable during the exceedingly dry conditions of 1997.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Alison Hicks, Martin Hicks, Cassian Hall, Ishbel MacDonald, Judith Toms

Published

(ready for press since 2000) Claridge A. 'Campagne di scavo al vicus di epoca imperiale 1995-1998' in *Castelporziano IV, Campagne di scavo e restauro 1992-1998*, ed. M.G. Lauro.

English version online:

http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Classics/LaurentineShore/VicusAugustanus/VC_Articles.html

Funding bodies

Craven Fund, Oxford University

British Academy, London

British School at Rome (in kind)

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

1999

March 8–24, 1999

Finds' study Dr Hayes' study of the pottery and amphorae from the 1994-8 excavations was completed and he began work on finds from earlier years.

Specialists

Ceramics: Dr John W. Hayes, Institute of Archaeology Oxford

Published

(ready for press since 2000) Hayes J.W. 'Excavations at the Imperial Vicus 1985-7 and 1996-8, Trenches S and SA: pottery finds and lamps' in *Castelporziano IV Campagne di scavo e restauro 1991-1998* ed. M.G.Lauro

Available online:

www.rhul.ac.uk/classics/laurentineshore/articles

Hayes J.W. 'Excavations at the imperial Vicus 1995-8, trench X: pottery and lamps' prepared for publication in the *Castelporziano* series (vol IV or V)

Available online:

www.rhul.ac.uk/classics/laurentineshore/articles

Funding bodies

British Academy, London

Craven Fund, Oxford University

British School at Rome (in kind)

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

October 1–12, 1999

Area(s) examined

Vicus: finds' study

Castelporziano Survey site G3: Villa del Discobolo (Capocotta)

Report

Finds' study:

Dr Cathy King studied the coin assemblage from all years (159 items), while Alison Hicks and Amanda Claridge catalogued the bone and metal objects.

Villa del Discobolo in Capocotta:

Recently cleared of vegetation by the Estate management, the ruins of the villa (which had been excavated in 1906-7 and partly published by Lanciani in 1906) were re-surveyed and recorded.

Personnel Amanda Claridge, Alison Hicks, Emma Claridge, Prof. Martin Goalen, Dr Diane Fortenberry

Specialists

Coins: Dr Cathy King, Heberden Coin Room, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

Published

Goalen M. and Fortenberry D. 'The Villa del Discobolo at Castelporziano on the Tyrrhenian coast of Central Italy' *Antiquity* vol. 76, no. 291 (2000), 29-30

Funding bodies

British Academy, London

Arts and Humanities Research Board

Craven Fund, Oxford University

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

2000

April 4–27, 2000

Finds' study

pottery and amphorae, architectural marble and veneer from the Vicus, all seasons to date.

Specialists

Pottery and amphorae: Dr John Hayes, Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford

Marbles: Amanda Claridge, Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford

Published

(ready for press since 2000) Claridge A. 'Nuovi scavi al Vicus di epoca imperiale 1995-8' in *Castelporziano IV Campagne di scavo e restauro 1991-1998* ed. M. G. Lauro

English version online:

www.rhul.ac.uk/classics/laurentineshore/vicus/articles

Funding bodies

British Academy, London

Craven Fund, Oxford University

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

2001

June 13–21, 2001

Area(s) examined

Vicus: Forum temples H1-H2

Report

The remains of the two temples H1 and H2, where visible above ground, were cleaned, planned and sectioned in detail at 1:50 to match the rest of the building survey. A deep modern pit cut into the junction between the two temples was also cleaned out and provided a useful cross-section of the relative foundation levels of the two buildings.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Chris Lyes, Jonathan Bardill, Emma Claridge

Published

Funding bodies

Royal Holloway University of London

British School at Rome (in kind)

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

2002

May 31–June 26, 2002

Area(s) examined

Vicus: Forum, trenches H1W, H2, H3,

Vicus Building Y, trench YG

Castelporziano survey: Surface survey to West of Vicus towards B3 (SS1)

Report

Trenches H1W, H2 and H3:

The three excavations were designed to examine respectively the stratigraphy to the west of Temple H1, a cross-section of the fill in the room at the south end of Temple H2, and the inner enclosure of H3 (previously obstructed by a juniper bush which had recently died) together with the south and part of the west aisle of the outer enclosure, not examined in 1986. Trench H1W encountered extensive disturbance, probably by the 19th century excavators, but established the foundation level of the temple and sampled some of the lower levels through which they had been cut. Trench H2 exposed one half of the small chamber, which had painted wall plaster preserved in situ on the north and east walls and a *cocciopesto* floor. Trench H3 found several slabs of white and greyish marble paving still in situ in places on the floor of the inner enclosure. A drain in the centre, leading out under the south wall, which indicates that the room was either not roofed or perhaps contained a fountain. The fill of the drain contained coins and fragments of glass beakers of the 4th century AD.

Trench YG:

Measuring 5 by 11 metres, the trench was laid out across the width of building Y and into the adjacent areas to east and west (possibly a street). The upper fill of both rooms consisted of earth and building debris, under which lay large sections of *opus vittatum* walling which had collapsed inwards from Building Y's own walls. In the eastern room the collapse lay at a higher level and the facing of tufelli and bricks lying uppermost had been stripped, exposing the core of the wall and the rear of the facing on its other side, which appeared to have been subsequently compacted by use into a roughly horizontal surface. Beside the northern section the fallen walling formed two low ridges on either side of a particularly hard and apparently levelled surface, suggesting an approach to some structure which lay beyond the limits of the trench.

Surface survey SS1:

This extended from the present limit of the vicus (at Building Y) to the largest of the mounds to the west (B3A) in the hope of establishing where the western limit of the Vicus might lie. An area of 200 x 20 m was gridded in 10 x 10 metre squares and first cleaned of leaves and deadwood, after which all the surface debris (bricks, tufelli, tufa reticulate cuboli, basalt, marble veneer, floor and roof tile, glass, pottery and lead) was sorted and quantified by weight before being removed, so as to facilitate the geophysical and topographical surveys. Resistivity and magnetometry surveys were carried out, but the results were inconclusive. Several concrete spreads and traces of walling which outcrop on the surface on the flat ground towards the Via del telefono were cleaned off and around and mapped with the Total Station. They do not appear to be ancient, and are perhaps the footings of a series of more modern huts. Two parallel tracks constructed of lightly mortared rubble were identified, first in the uppermost level of Trench YG, and then again towards the mound B3A, where they ran up the slope. Their course was also picked up in the geophysical surveys. Excavations at two points on the north east and north west side of mound B3A encountered compacted rubble debris and a human jaw, suggesting (given the presence of the tracks) that it is a spoil heap from the excavation of areas F and G of the Vicus.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Cassian Hall, Ishbel MacDonald, Coila MacDonald, Duncan McKay, Richard Cuttler, David Hopkins, Bethany Taylor; Emma Claridge, Heini Yännilä, Glynn Davis, Iain Farquharson, April Swain, Hannah Dennehy, Adam Corsini, Zoisa Pugh, Emmie Peryer, Andrew Kelly, Ian Madelin, James Caldwell.

Specialists

Palaeo-zoologist: Dr Michael MacKinnon, University of Winnipeg

Draughtsman: David Hopkins, English Heritage, Lincoln

Total Station survey: Richard Cuttler, Birmingham Archaeology

Geophysical consultant: Paul Johnson, British School at Rome

Published

Funding bodies

British Academy

Royal Holloway University of London

British School at Rome (in kind)

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

2003

May 28–July 4, 2003

Area(s) examined

Castelporziano Survey: Sites B3B and B3C and B2 (SS2), to west of Vicus

Vicus: areas H, K,

Vicus: Building Y Trench YG

Report

Sites B3B-C, B2:

As part of the new programme initiated in 2002, to refine the archaeological mapping and analysis of all the sites along the Roman shore (see *Castelporziano III*, 1998, 39-61 and tav. I), the intensive surface survey of site B3, immediately to the west of the Vicus, was extended over two of the mounds closer to the sea, where traces of Roman walls are visible above ground having already been exposed by past excavations. Both mounds proved to contain walls standing to considerable heights (3-4 metres), on the same orientation and constructed of coarse opus reticulatum of identical character (probably mid-late 1st century AD), suggesting they are parts of one building. The mound further to the west shows evidence of a suite of rooms added in brick faced concrete, in the first half of the 2nd century AD. A rich assortment of coloured marble veneer, including opus sectile in fine foliate designs, was collected during the analysis of the surface debris. The survey also included part of the adjacent Site B2, a long ridge scattered with Roman building debris extending under the forest westwards from B3 towards the Villa del Confine, on the boundary with Castelfusano (B1). Gridded surface analysis combined with detailed contour mapping, (including the positions of trees possibly rooted in buried structures) and geophysics (resistivity), tested by two small excavations (SS2/18A and B), identified the line of one continuous wall near the top of the ridge, constructed of reticulate of the same type as that found in the two adjacent mounds of B3, and probably the direct extension of one of the walls identified in the western mound. The geophysical survey (directed by Dr Kris Lockyear, UCL), indicated that there could be another wall running parallel lower down on the north side, perhaps constituting a porticus built along the shore like that in the villa of Pliny the Younger, which had windows over looking the sea in one direction and gardens in the other. The associated destruction debris included numerous fragments of pink/white breccia corallina marble paving.

Vicus: trench YG

Excavation continued on the site of building Y, the large rectangular structure first identified during the new excavations of 1995-8. The building (15 x 8 metres, divided lengthwise into two unequal

halves with doors at either end) dates from a very late period in the history of the vicus and is of particular interest for that reason. Its demolition in the late 4th/early 5th century appears to have taken place in tandem with the deposition of much wind-blown sand. The sand deposits are to be sampled (by Prof. Helen Rendell, Department of Geography, Loughborough University) to obtain a sequence of luminescence dates to set against the archaeological record as part of a wider study of the local dune morphology, which may hold important clues to the circumstances under which the Vicus (and other settlement along the Laurentine shore) was abandoned.

Geophysical and contour surveys:

With the help and advice of Dr Kris Lockyear (UCL), resistivity surveys using a variety of probe arrangements were carried out. New geophysical surveys were made in the area of the presumed forum (H) and another relatively open area on the eastern side of the site (area K), while on unexcavated areas of the Vicus (H, and open area to east of K) with some hopeful results despite very dry conditions. Magnetometry proved problematic (as it has on previous occasions). Under the direction of Dr Jari Pakkanen (RHUL) experiments were also made with fine resolution contour mapping to complement the resistivity survey results.

Finds' study

Dr J.W Hayes continued his study of the pottery and amphorae. Dr Cathy King spent a week in the British School in June 2003 doing additional weighing, photography, and research on the coin assemblage from the Vicus (193 items, including a small late Roman hoard of 86 coins).

Finds' drawing and photography

David Hopkins selected and drew some 100 pieces of glass during the June season, as well as a selection of stone and other objects. With the help of students he also sorted and drew over 300 fragments of painted fresco found in the 2002 excavation of H2, so that it is now possible to reconstruct the decorative scheme. Other finds were photographed.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Jari Pakkanen, Kim Ayodeji, Emma Claridge, Adam Corsini, Glynn Davis, Iain Farquharson, April Swain, Virginia Meszaros, Kat Mellins, Bianca San Martin, Daniel Joyce, Sarah Giles, Ray Kennedy, Julia Maier, James Hunt, Robert Mullen, Marina Perkins, Deborah Cording, Jennifer Thompson, Samatha Reidie, Saranne Bensusan, Tina Jaeger Hansen, Heidi Philipsen, Sophie Bergqvist, Miila Karvinen.

Specialists

Topographical survey – Dr Jari Pakkanen, Royal Holloway University of London

Coin specialist – Dr Cathy King, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

Finds' drawing and photography – David Hopkins, English Heritage

Geophysical survey – Dr Kris Lockyear, UCL

Geomorphology – Prof. Helen Rendell, Loughborough University

Funding bodies

Royal Holloway University of London

British Academy

British School at Rome (in kind)

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

2004

March 31–April 9, 2004

Finds' study

Glass finds were catalogued (almost 500 pieces) and further selections made for drawing in the June season.

Specialists

Glass specialist – Dr Angela Wardle, Museum of London Specialist Services

Funding bodies

British Academy

June 3–28, 2004

Area(s) examined

Castelporziano Survey: Site B2 (SS3)

Vicus: Trench YG

Report

Castelporziano Survey site B2:

The detailed surface survey of the porticus B2 continued with a second grid (SS3) of 10 metre squares to the west of the grid examined in 2003 (SS2). The surface was cleaned and the loose debris quantified by weight, as in the previous grids, but no geophysical survey was carried out on this occasion. Four trial trenches at intervals across the ridge at the eastern end of the grid (SS3/1-2, 21, 22) revealed the footings of four parallel walls, the seaward three forming a porticus and the fourth perhaps bounding a garden to the rear. Two phases were evident in the porticus, the first in reticulate dating from the 1st century AD; the second in brick, reticulate and tuffelli of the mid 2nd century AD, involved a rise in floor level on top of substantial deposits of clean sand, moving the façade closer to the sea. This later seaward elevation had multiple buttresses along its base and was embellished with semi-columns framing large windows. Four more small trial trenches in the area of SS2 (grid to the east, between SS3 and B3B) located the positions of two more of the buttresses on the seaward wall of the porticus and the two inner walls.

Vicus: trench YG:

The excavation proceeded in depth both inside and outside building Y. A drain running north-south was found under the floor level of the western room. Excavation outside the building to the west found a wall with a doorway running at right-angles to the west. An extension of the trench on the outside to the east demonstrated that on this side the building had been built up against the ruins of walls apparently brought down by earthquake. A deep pit of black ash (sampled) in the area produced numbers of almost complete pots and other vessels. The function of building Y remained unclear.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Jari Pakkanen, Kim Ayodeji, Adam Corsini, Emma Claridge, Aly Bowkett, Ray Kennedy, Bianca San Martin, Virginia Meszaros, Marina Perkins, Alex Bryan, Alex Binns, James Button, Debbie Bouch, Dan Joyce, Jennifer Thompson, Mae McCourt, Laura Laakso, Lucy Keys, Jo-Anne Hichens, Siobhan Morgan.

Specialists

Glass: Dr Angela Wardle, Museum of London Specialist Services

Roman pottery: Dr John Hayes, Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford

Medieval pottery: Dr Helen Patterson, British School at Rome

Draughtsman: David Hopkins, English Heritage

Geophysics: Dr Kris Lockyear, University College, London University

Geomorphologist: Prof. Helen Rendell, Loughborough University

Published

Rendell H.M., Claridge A.J. and Clarke M.L. 2006: 'Late Holocene Mediterranean coastal change along the Tiber Delta and Roman occupation of the Laurentine shore, central Italy' in *Quaternary Geochronology* vol. 2, Issues 1-4, 2007, 83-88

Funding bodies

Royal Holloway University of London

British School at Rome (in kind)

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

2005

June 3–27, 2005

Area(s) examined

Vicus Building Y, trenches YG-YH,
Vicus Building Z

Report

Vicus: Trench YG

A small area of the collapse of the central wall of building Y, which had fallen into the western half of the building, was removed to sample the material trapped beneath: several pottery and glass vessels and a variety of other objects were retrieved and the floor surface on which they lay was examined.

Trench YH:

Measuring 3.00 x 5.00 m, the trench was laid out on the north side of YG in order to expose more of the platform in the eastern half of Building Y and examine the stratigraphy of the overlying debris more closely, in case the excavations in YG had missed something. The upper strata were removed by trowel and their contents sieved (20 coins of the later 4th century were retrieved from the levels immediately above the wall collapse), but the excavation then had to be suspended for lack of time.

Vicus: Building Z:

Two 10 x 10 grid squares were laid out over traces of an apse and other walling emerging on the surface between Building Y and the via del Telefono and the forest soil removed. The apse turned out to be one of two heated plunge baths opening off a square room, to the west of which was another apsidal room. The building was apparently a small public baths, constructed in concrete faced with brick and *tuffelli* of the 2nd or 3rd century AD. Two brickstamps were found in the walls.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Jari Pakkanen, Emma Claridge, Virginia Meszaros, Jennifer Thompson, Laura Laakso, Nicola Wilkes, Joseph Broad, Ako Fukuda, Hee-Gyun Yu, Matthew Whelan, Julia Newton

Publication

in preparation

Funding bodies

Royal Holloway University of London
British School at Rome (in kind)
Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

September 15–30, 2005

Area(s) examined

Castelporziano Survey: Sites B1-B2-B3.

Report

An intensive Total Station survey to produce a DEM of the coastal zone from the Villa del Confine to beyond the Vicus, including the dune ridges further to the south of the visible remains. Some 800 points covering an area of ca. 80 x 150 m. were taken.

Personnel

Jari Pakkanen, Emma Claridge

Specialists

Total Station, DEM: Dr Jari Pakkanen, Royal Holloway University of London

Public events

Presentations by A. Claridge and J. Pakkanen at the University of Jyvaskyla, Finland, November 2005

Funding bodies

EU Culture 2000 programme grant '3-D Bridge: Transferring cultural heritage with new technology'
Royal Holloway University of London
Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

2006a

April 5–22, 2006

Area(s) examined

Vicus Building Y Trench YH,

Vicus Forum H, test trench 1

Castelporziano Survey: area from the westward boundary of the estate ('Villa del Confine') as far as the eastern limit of the *vicus Augustanus* – sites B1-B2-B3-B4.

Report

Vicus, Building Y, Trench YH:

The excavation started in 2005 was continued, identifying thin layers of hard, compacted mortar sand in the southern and northern sectors, forming a broadly horizontal surface, surrounding an area of disturbed rubble debris riddled with root action in the centre of the trench. Some possible post-holes, or footings of upright posts, were identified on the north side of the disturbed rubble, but they make no particular structural sense. Directly beneath the compacted sand lay a block of collapsed walling starting close to the central wall of the building (and presumably deriving from it) and extending across the trench for a distance of 3.5 metres. As in YG, much of its upper facing is missing. A Constantinian coin was found in the interface between the compacted layer and the core of the wall. The deposits directly beside and underneath the collapsed wall were partially sampled, but further work remains to be done to complete the excavation.

Vicus, zone H: test trench 1:

Zone H, between the via del Telefono and the temples at the centre of the Vicus, is likely to have been the forum. Two RM15 surveys were made with different arrays (see Geophysical report), and a trench measuring 3 x 2 m was excavated in order to test the results. Just below the surface on the western margin of the trench lay a wall of reticulate, 45 cms wide, running N-S, with another wall joining it at right angles from the west. To the east of the N-S wall a narrow strip of cocciopesto (15 cms wide) formed a gutter between the wall and a platform of large, irregular blocks of tufa, laid on directly on sand, presumably the foundation for paving. A slab of white marble at the northern limit of the trench, possibly in situ, and a number of loose fragments scattered in the topsoil indicate that the paving was of marble.

Castelporziano survey: Site B3D: test trench 1:

Site B3D is contiguous with site B3C to the west, but designates the area contained within a modern wire fence around the base of a modern watchtower. The ground is very uneven and

although large fragments of collapsed ancient Roman walling emerge on the surface, the disposition of the buried structures to which they relate is not clear. Superficial clearance was carried out at various points, and succeeded in defining the tops of four walls so that their position and precise orientation could be mapped as part of the ongoing detailed topographical survey of the area.

B3D Trench 1 (1.6 x 4.0 metres) was excavated in depth beside one of these walls, to examine the elevation of the wall and its construction, and to sample the associated archaeological stratigraphy. The wall, 60 cms thick, ran E-W, faced on the north in a combination of brick-and-reticulate (*opus mixtum*) and brick-and-tufelli (*opus vittatum*), containing a doorway 1.03 m wide, blocked in a later phase with irregular courses of brick-and-tufelli. To the west the wall joined a mass of concrete rubble running N-S, faced on the east side but of uncertain further extent to the west. Beside the north section of the trench a channel, perhaps secondary, cuts through the concrete mass. The fill on the north side of the E-W wall was excavated to a depth of 80 cms, finding a series of horizons beneath the topsoil, the lower two of which appear to represent some sort of occupation on top of compacted sandy deposits in the late Roman period (containing an almost complete fineware bowl, animal bones and a 4th or 5th century coin).

Castelporziano Survey site B2:

A new geophysical survey was carried out along the whole length of the B2 ridge as far as the Villa del Confine and three further test trenches were dug at the western end (in squares 14 and 16 of the SS3 grid used in 2004), to check that we were interpreting the results correctly and to establish the precise position of some more of the buttresses, so that the exact intercolumniation of the engaged colonnade they bore could be ascertained.

B2 Trench 1: SS3 grid square 14

Measured 2 by 3 metres and uncovered a section of the fourth wall with a buttress in rather fragmentary condition. Fragments of plaster attached to the east face of the buttress indicate that it was painted blue, whereas other fragments found loose in the fill suggest that the wall itself was painted in imitation of ashlar masonry – in white with red lines. The position of the buttress on the outside of the wall is marked by a change in the facing of the inner side, from brick-and reticulate (*opus mixtum*) to a row of four tufelli (possibly a vertical band of *opus vittatum*).

B2 Trench 2: SS3 grid square 14:

Measured 1 by 2 metres, designed to locate the next buttress to the west, which it duly did, giving an intercolumniation of 2.65 metres (9 Roman feet). Interestingly, the buttress was constructed directly on top of a demolished reticulate wall running N-S, i.e. at right angles to – and beyond – the B2 porticus, in the direction of the sea. The underlying wall is identical in dimensions and character

to the third wall of B2, suggesting that the earlier porticus could have turned a corner at this point. Deposits of almost clean sand were found on the western side of the reticulate wall, similar to those underlying the floor between walls three and four of the porticus. Excavated to a depth of c. 50 cms, the sand contained a few fragments of pottery.

B2 Trench 3: SS3 grid square 16, 1.5 by 2.0 metres, found the line of another N-S wall, about 40 cms wide but faced with brick-and-reticulate, distorted into an S by the pressure of two walls which join it at different points from east and west. The wall joining from the east aligns with the fourth wall of B2 but is possibly not of the same construction, being less than 40 cms wide (as preserved, perhaps missing its facing on the south side) and apparently faced with tufelli on the north. The position of the join for the wall from the west is marked on the face of the N-S wall by a vertical band of brick and tufelli (opus vittatum). The trench was so full of roots from the cluster of trees to the south – and the walling in so precarious a state - that no attempt was made to excavate further in depth.

Digital Elevation Model:

This fieldwork season also collected data for a high-precision topographic model of the area from sites B3-B4 as far as the eastern limit of the *vicus Augustanus*. The area surveyed now covers 600 by 150 metres, within which 11,500 points have been taken and used to create a three-dimensional digital elevation model (DEM) in the geographic information system ArcView. The DEM has already highlighted several areas which require further investigation by other means, such as test trenches, geophysical survey and geomorphological coring. The covered area might also serve in the future as test case for deriving a more extensive though less precise elevation model of the rest of the ancient coastline from satellite images. Work on integrating the three-dimensional data of the previously recorded archaeological features and new reconstructions of the model continued; this phase is carried out in CAD and the resulting models are imported to ArcScene.

Photogrammetry:

Data was also collected for experimentation with digital photogrammetry on the archaeological features excavated during the season (B3D Trench 1 and Vicus zone H trench 1).

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Jari Pakkanen, Peter Rose, Timothy Evans, Tom Hadow, Floriana Policastro

Specialists

Director Archaeology: Amanda Claridge, Royal Holloway University of London

Total Station, DEM: Dr Jari Pakkanen, Royal Holloway University of London

Total Station, photogrammetry: Dr Peter Rose, Royal Holloway University of London

Geophysical survey/excavation: Timothy Evans, Birmingham Archaeology/York Archaeological Trust

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Public events Presentations by Claridge A., Pakkanen J., Rose P. 'Modelling Rome's Maritime Façade' at the 3-D Bridge conference held at British School at Rome and Biblioteca Hertziana, Rome, June 19-20, 2006

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EU Culture 2000 programme

Royal Holloway University of London

British School at Rome (in kind)

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

2006b

September 11–October 4, 2006

Areas examined

Vicus building Y, trench YH

Vicus building Y, trench YGE

Vicus building Y, trench Y/XA

Vicus Forum H, test trenches 2-7

Castelporziano survey B2 portico test trench 4

Castelporziano survey B1 villa del Confine test trench 1

Report

Vicus:Trench YH (3.00 x 5.00 m)

In September 2006 a section of the fallen walling within the spit excavated in April 2006 was removed and the underlying deposits excavated to below the foundation level of the east wall. No further work is required on the trench and it can now be back-filled.

Vicus: Trench YGE (1.30 x 2.20 m)

The original section edge, left open after the excavations of 2004, was damaged in 2005-6, revealing quantities of pottery, glass, animal bone and metal objects. The section was straightened again and it was decided that it would be worth excavating a larger area of the deposits to examine their nature in plan. In September 2006 careful excavation examined the full depth of the deposits, which apparently formed in association with a succession of open hearths, down to an underlying horizon of earthquake debris.

Vicus: Trench Y (XA)

Continued the excavation of the south end of the eastern room of building Y, which had been started in 1996 (as XA) but remained at a level just above that of the rubble platform exposed in YG. The presence of a large tree in the area had compromised much of the upper stratigraphy, but the excavation clarified the sequence of deposits cut by, associated with, and overlying the foundation level of building Y.

Vicus, area H Forum: test trenches 2-7:

The trench opened in April 2006 as H tr 1 was extended 6.80 m. to the east, as H Tr 2, in which the rubble tufa foundations were found to continue to meet a parallel wall of similar reticulate

construction (45 cms wide). On the west side of this second wall the rubble foundation was disturbed, and there was no trace of a concrete gully like that found beside the wall in trench 1, but the rubble tufa was bonded with concrete around a sub-circular pit, possibly part of a drain or a ritual feature. The excavated fill of the pit contained quantities of lamp fragments, gaming counters, iron nails, sea shells and animal and bird (chicken) bones. On its east side the N-S wall was abutted by another wall, in opus mixtum-vittatum 30 cms wide, added at a right angle, in an equivalent position to that found in H tr. 1.

Five further surface trenches (H tr. 3-7) were subsequently undertaken to establish the northern and southern limits of the tufa rubble platform and its enclosing walls. The NW and NE corners of the west and east walls respectively were found by trenches 3-4 and 7, and the SW corner by trench 5.

The building thus defined (henceforth H4) measured 7.07 m. from east to west and 8.00 m. from north to south, with walls constructed of tufa blocks (tufelli) and reticulate, with occasional brick coursing. The technique is similar to that of the first phase in Building C, and could date from the second half of the 1st century AD. Along the interior of its north side H Tr 3 exposed two parallel rows of infill, the innermost 1.00 m deep and the outer one 0.35 m. deep. All four outer corners of the building were rounded, suggesting a freestanding building. On the east side the outer face of the wall preserved traces of plaster and three small stone spacers, possibly indicating that it was veneered with marble.

Attached to the front of the SW corner in a later phase was a concrete wall, again 45 cms thick, 3.16 m. long, faced on the outside with brick and on the inside with roughly dressed tufelli, ending in a right-angled return to the east. Traces of a similar extension on the east side, largely destroyed, were found when H. tr 2 was enlarged southwards.

The initial reticulate structure, to judge by the gutter on the inside of the west wall and the drain inside the eastern wall, may have been unroofed. The brick-faced walls attached to its south side, if symmetrical, added another platform measuring 7.00 by 3.16 m. The infill to the rear could be a platform or podium to which the second forms a step. The building presumably faced south, and is of suitable dimensions and position to have been a temple, a possibility reinforced by the quantities of lamps and chicken bones found in the drain. Alternatively, it was a *templum ordinis* or *curia* – a council chamber for the local governing body. The later extension to its south side could have contained a flight of steps.

The discovery of building H4 establishes the position of the northern side of the Forum, confirming that the NE corner is marked by the large statue base placed at an angle the public baths (A) The distance between H4 and the temples facing it from the south (H1 and H2) is about 26.5 metres, which the addition then reduced to 23.5 metres.

Zone west of Vicus, verification of DEM: CPS B2 Porticus: test trench 4

In September 2006 a fourth trench (CPS B2 tr.4) was dug to confirm the return of the portico in the direction of the sea, which it did, finding a reticulate wall running NS in line with that found in CPS B2 tr. 3.

Villa del Confine, verification of DEM: CPS B1 test trench 1

The trench was designed to investigate the nature of a circular mound in the centre of a large area of depressed ground beyond the end of the porticus B2, where the geophysical survey had indicated high resistance, possibly representing a circular building. Topographical survey indicated that the depression in which the feature was located had a regular rectangular shape, suggesting a peristyle. The trench revealed that the mound was formed of a pile of carbonized wood, presumably a charcoal burners platform, overlying a thin layer of bricks and tile, below which, at a depth of 70 cms, the subsoil changed to sand. It is possible that the geophysical results might refer to a still lower level (i.e. the charcoal burners exploited a mound of sand over some pre-existing ruin), but for the time being the evidence from the test trench is negative.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Jari Pakkanen, Peter Rose, Chris Hewitson, Philip Mann, Glynn Davis, Dave Hopkins, Virginia Meszaros, Floriana Policastro

Specialists

Archaeological draughtsman: David W Hopkins. English Heritage

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Funding bodies

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Royal Holloway University of London

British School at Rome (in kind)

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

2007 April

April 15–May 13, 2007

Areas examined

Vicus, forum area (CPV H, test trenches 8-10)

Castelporziano Survey, porticoed enclosure to west of Vicus (CPS B2 test trench 5 and 5A)

Castelporziano Survey, porticoed enclosure, seaward projection (CPS B2 test trenches 6-9)

Castelporziano Survey, Fish farms D5-6 (CPS D5 trench 1)

Report

Vicus, Forum H, trenches 8-10:

These trenches defined the eastern limit of the forum square and its adjacent portico beside temple/curia H4, and provided some detailed stratigraphical evidence for its construction. Closely dateable deposits were sampled on the outside (north) of what could be the northern edge of the forum.

Porticoed enclosure B2:

Trenches 5 and 5A examined the long ridge inland from the via del Telefono mapped by the topographical survey in 2006 and apparently forming the inland side of a large rectangular enclosure or peristyle. The excavations identified the entrance to the enclosure from the Via Severiana and two phases in the construction of a portico on the inner (south) side, with evidence of floor levels and their relative dates (later 1st cent AD/mid 2nd cent AD)

Trenches 6-9 traced the SW corner of an extension of the porticoed enclosure towards the sea, finding the corner of the building and also a possible beach in front of it.

Fish Farms D5:

Trench 1 was laid out to either side of a reticulate tufa wall already exposed on the surface at the top of the eastern bank of the depression D5 (the smaller, westernmost, of the two depressions) and extended the full length of the slope to the level of the lake. The exposed tufa wall is a retaining wall, forming the edge of a level platform laid out on the ridge between the two depressions. The slope below it was revetted with concrete laid in steps down the bank. Two phases in the concrete revetment were found. Pottery vessels of the late 2nd or early 1st century BC were recovered from the lower levels, together with residual Bronze Age sherds. Large quantities of fragmentary mosaic flooring with a diamond pattern in black on a white ground, and fine white stuccowork from a Doric entablature, were recovered from the uppermost strata.

Digital elevation model:

Fieldwork progressed on the survey of the area inland and to the east of the Vicus. Fixed points were laid out from the Vicus along the Via del Telefono to the Fish farms (D5-D6).

Geomorphological studies

Prof. Rendell and project doctoral student Fiona Brown took cores from the bottom of the pond in D6 and in the hinterland around Pozzo Napoliello

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Helen Rendell, Jari Pakkanen, Peter Rose, Chris Hewitson, Tim Evans, Fiona Brown, Kim Ayodeji, Virginia Meszaros, John Hayes

Specialists

Director Archaeology: Amanda Claridge, Royal Holloway University of London

Director Geomorphology: Helen Rendell, University of Loughborough

Total Station/DEM: Jari Pakkanen and Peter Rose, Royal Holloway University of London

Geophysical survey: Timothy Evans, Department of Archaeology, University of York

Ceramics: John Hayes, Institute of Archaeology, University of Oxford

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2007 September

September 13–18, 2007

Areas examined

Vicus area C, E and F

Dune system to either side of Roman coastline

Report

Vicus graphics archive: drawings selected and annotated for scanning

Finds' photography:

Stamped bricks from all seasons were photographed and entered into Excel spreadsheet

Terracottas from all seasons were photographed and entered into spreadsheet

Topographical survey:

Total Station fixed points were set on areas C, E and F

Geomorphology:

On site training and orientation for AHRC Project student Bicket, planning for 2008

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Peter Rose, Helen Rendell, Andrew Bicket

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2008

March 29–April 23, 2008

Area(s) examined

Vicus, building A room A21

Vicus, baths zone F35, apse

Vicus baths zone F50-51-52

Vicus, area west of buildings Y-Z

Castelporziano Survey, sites D5-6,

Castelporziano Survey, site D6, test trenches 1-10

Report

Vicus, building A room A21

A small operation cleaned, recorded and analysed the composition of the mosaic floor in room A21 of the bath-building A, not previously studied by us. It belongs to the type 'mosaico marmoreo a grand tessere irregolari', with close parallels in Rome dateable in the 4th or early 5th century AD.

Vicus Zone F baths

Two small trenches were excavated. One examined the form of the apse of the tepidarium room F35, which had resisted all attempts to reconstruct the curve of its apse from the evidence visible on the surface. A second trench sought a level in the palaestra F50 in relation to the west wing (rooms F51 and F52), and to take samples for luminescence dating of the sand beneath the palaestra surface.

Vicus, west of building Y-Z

A magnetometer survey by Tim Evans over an area of 20 x 30 metres was more successful than previous attempts. It registered a N-S wall running at a distance of some 15 metres to the west of building Y, with open ground between them. The gap lines up with the end of the parabolic dune west of building G, and could represent an avenue similar to avenue D on the main Vicus site and a suitable boundary for the hitherto elusive western limit of the Vicus.

Castelporziano Survey, sites D5-D6 'fish-farms' (*piscine*)

Test trenches D6 nos 1-11:

One large (1) and one small trench (3) examined the exposed concrete walling on the slope of the western bank. Three small trenches (2-6-7), traced the stylobate of a colonnade across the level plateau between D6 and D5. A trench at the NW corner (4) found the side of a pool or tank lined

with blue painted waterproof plaster. Four trenches examined exposed walling on the slope and top of the north bank (5-8-9-11) and one was cut in two parts across the full width of the southern bank. The concrete is of a hard sandy variety binding a core large irregular lumps of tufa aggregate, faced with irregular tufa nodules (*opus incertum*). Large sherds of black-glazed ware (*vernice nera*) are incorporated into the core in places, providing a general date of c. 150-50 BC, which makes the site (together with the adjacent D5) the earliest yet identified on this stretch of the Laurentine Shore.

Digital elevation model:

Peter Rose and Virginia Meszaros continued work on high precision topographic models of two transects across the Roman coastline and the coast road (Via Severiana), one from the boundary with Castelfusano (B1) to the next site east of the Vicus (C1), the other around the two depressions D5 and D6.

Geophysical survey:

A magnetometer survey by Tim Evans (ADS York) of the banks and perimeter of the larger and deeper of the two depressions (D6) produced some very clear results, complementing the traces of massive concrete walls and vaults which emerge from the sides and along the top of the depression and the results of trenches 1-11.

Two smaller magnetometer surveys were also carried out at the Vicus Augustanus, one to the west of buildings Y-Z, the other to the east of A-K. The results from the latter were illegible, due to a large dipole, but the other indicates a gap of about 15m on the west side of the Vicus, beyond which buildings start again.

Geomorphological studies:

Prof. Helen Rendell, Andrew Bicket and Fiona Brown (Dept of Geography, Loughborough University) undertook further geomorphological coring and sampling, both in D6 and its vicinity and in areas adjacent to the Vicus and Tor Paterno, for their study of the formation, chronology and environment of the Roman coastline.

Finds' study:

Dr John W. Hayes carried out further study of the pottery and amphorae.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, Peter Rose, Virginia Meszaros, Michele Johnson, Tim Evans, Christopher Hewitson, Helen Rendell, Andrew Bicket, Fiona Brown

Specialists

Dr J.W.Hayes, School of Archaeology, University of Oxford. Ceramics

Tim Evans, Department of Archaeology, University of York, geophysicist

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British School at Rome (equipment and other assistance in kind)

Soprintendenza archeologica di Ostia (in kind)

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

2009

March 30–April 28, 2009

Area(s) examined

Vicus, area west of buildings Y-Z, geophysical survey

Vicus, magnetometer test trenches 1 & 2

Castelporziano Survey, fish farms (sites D5-6), topographical survey

Castelporziano Survey, Imperial villa 'sea wall' site F2 (west), test trenches 1-3

Report

Vicus, west of building Y-Z and north of building A

A magnetometer survey by Tim Evans (ADS York) of two large areas at the Vicus produced some very clear results, which were confirmed in two places by small test trenches.

Imperial villa at Tor Paterno, 'sea wall' (site F2W):

A detailed study was made of the length of massive concrete walling exposed on the edge of the platform of the imperial villa, ca. 360 m SW of Tor Paterno. The pattern of erosion on its seaward face, apparently caused by wave action, is of particular interest for the study of the ancient sea level. Three test trenches identified an elongated fountain basin or cistern mounted on top of the walling and two walls, possibly breakwaters, projecting at splayed angles from its foot.

Digital elevation model:

James Andrews, Tim Evans and Amanda Claridge, continued work on high precision topographic models of the area to the east of the Vicus and around the fish farms D5-D6.

Geomorphological studies:

Andrew Bicket undertook further geomorphological survey (GPS) for his doctoral research on the formation and chronology of the Roman coastline.

Finds' study:

Dr A Wardle completed the study of the glass from seasons 2004-2009. Dave Hopkins drew the additional glass, various other finds, and also photographed all the coins.

Personnel

Amanda Claridge, James Andrews, Tim Evans, Andrew Bicket, Elizabeth McCarthy

Dave Hopkins, Angela Wardle

Specialists

Tim Evans, University of York, geo-physical surveyor

Dr Angela Wardle, Museum of London Specialist Services

David W. Hopkins, English Heritage, archaeological draughtsman and photographer

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British School at Rome (geophysical survey equipment and other assistance in kind)

Soprintendenza archeologica di Ostia (in kind)

Tenuta di Castelporziano (accommodation and other assistance in kind)

June-September 2009

Brickstamps study

All the brickstamps recorded by the project to date were identified on the basis of the photographs taken in 2007, together with those known from published sources, producing a searchable database to accompany the photographic record.

The stamped bricks recovered during the excavations at Villa Magna (CPS C2) and Tor Paterno (CPS F 12) and the Laghetti (CPS F 15) have not yet been incorporated into the database, pending cleaning and photography.

Specialists

Dr Janet DeLaine, School of Archaeology, University of Oxford.

Katia Schorle, DPhil candidate in Archaeology, University of Oxford

Prof. E.M. Steinby, Emerita University of Oxford (consultant)

Publication

in preparation

Funding body

Arts and Humanities Research Council of Great Britain, Research Grant 18211

July–November 2009

Coins study

Dr Cathy King, Heberden Coin Room, Ashmolean Museum, completed her study of all the coins recovered from the Vicus 1984-2009.

Publication

in preparation

October 28, 2009

Coins

Prof. A. Claridge and Dr M.G. Lauro carried out some additional photography and weighing of coins.