

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY (UNIT MEDITERRANEAN ARCHAEOLOGY)

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A ROMAN TOWN REVEALED

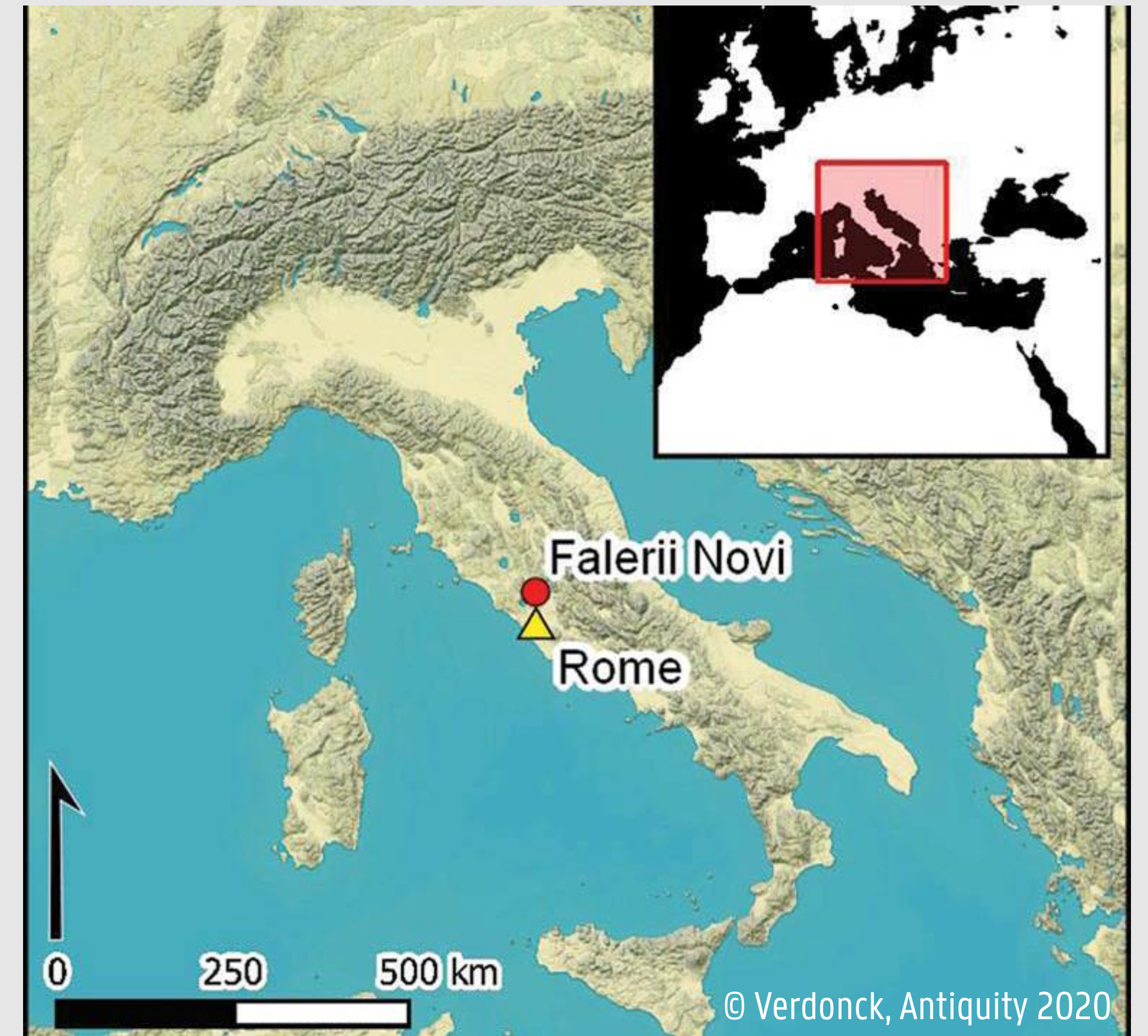
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT FALERII NOVI

A monumental gate and parts of an almost complete circuit city wall are two of the few visible archaeological remains at Falerii Novi. Initially founded in 241 BC, the town was occupied through Antiquity and to the 6th and 7th centuries AD. Today, the town's ruins lie buried beneath 30.5 ha of grass- and farmland. Recently, one of the newest technologies in archaeology, ground-penetrating radar survey, performed by our Department in collaboration with Cambridge University, has revealed much of the city's layout and buildings. This detailed map now allows for targeted archaeological investigation at the site for many years to come.

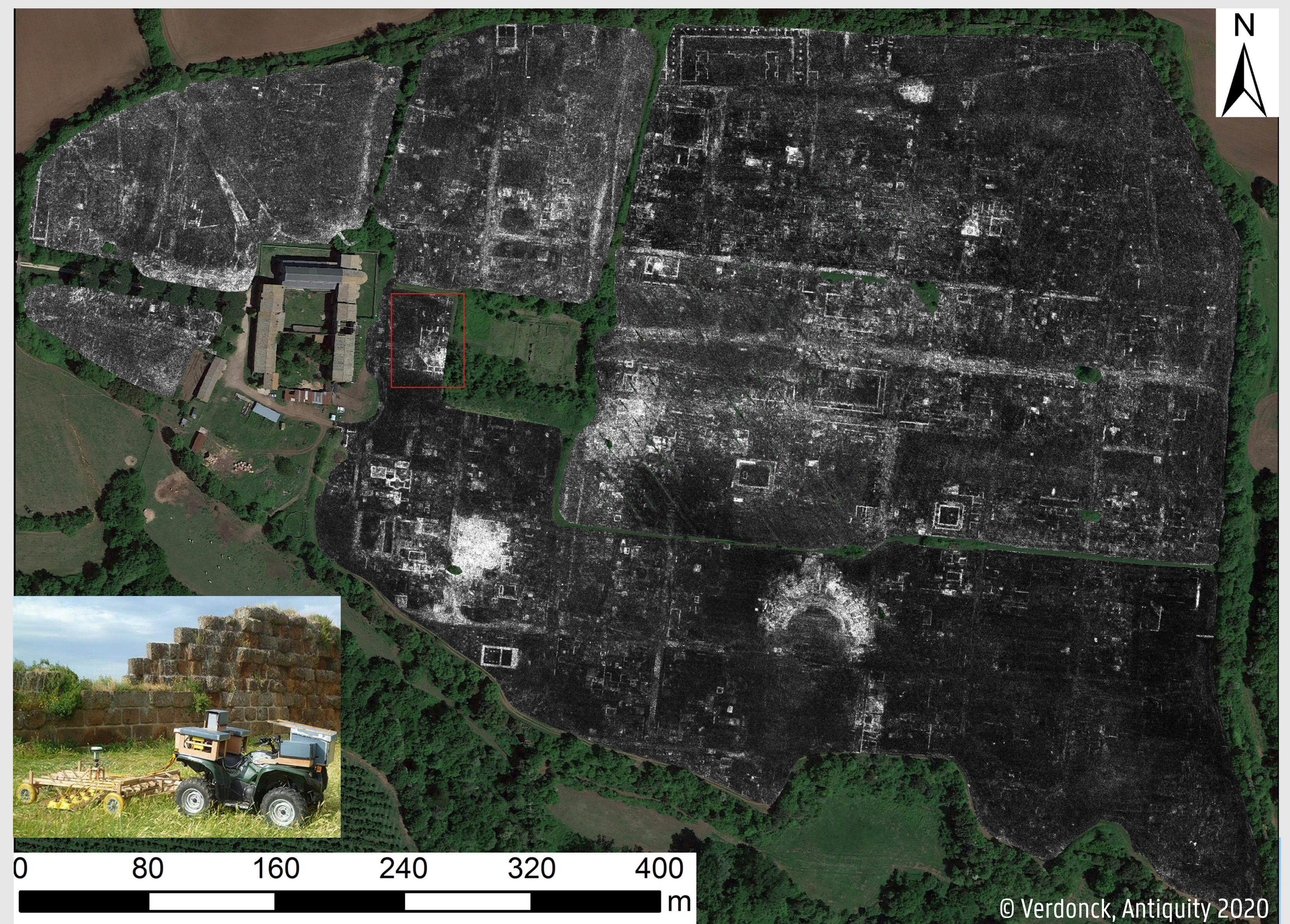


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Falerii Novi is located about 50 km to the north of Rome in the Tiber Valley, where it occupied a privileged position along a major Roman road, the *Via Amerina*.



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Ground-penetrating radar survey

During a GPR survey electromagnetic pulses are sent into the soil. These pulses are reflected when encountering discontinuities or archaeological features. The reflections are then measured by the receiving antenna(s) and can be converted into 3D visualisations. At Falerii Novi, this technique has provided high-resolution 3D images of many monumental buildings, both private (houses) and public (baths, temples, a theatre and a marketplace), and of other features related to the city's infrastructure, such as streets and water provisioning- and drainage systems.



This building is interpreted as *macellum*, a Roman type of fish-and meat market.

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Augering and excavating the *macellum*

The GPR has revealed a potential *macellum*, a Roman type of market complex. The market's typical architectural features, a courtyard with round structure and central basin surrounded by shops, appear clearly in the results. In June 2021, core sampling – the extraction of sections of the buried stratigraphy with a hand auger – has been carried out on this area. These samples help us reconstruct the site's evolution as well as its geomorphological situation. Fieldwork in 2022 will focus on the core sampling of several urban areas and on the excavation of the *macellum*, in collaboration with the Universities of Harvard and Toronto and the British School at Rome.



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