

Urbs: From the City to the Roman Campagna. A Project of the Appia Antica Archaeological Park (Rome, Italy) for the Complementary National Investment Plan

*Simone Quilici, Stefano Antonetti, Lorenza Campanella, Santino Alessandro Cugno, Sara Iovine,
Luigi Oliva, Francesca Romana Paolillo, Aura Picchione, Mara Pontisso, Michele Reginaldi,
Stefano Roascio, Raffaella Rocchetta & Clara Spallino*

Abstract – The Parco Archeologico dell'Appia Antica is an autonomous institute of the Italian Ministry of Culture, providing protection and enhancement of a vast territory that extends from the city center to the Roman countryside, in which archeology and landscape come together in an outstanding context. Following the COVID 19 pandemic, which caused a long period of difficulty, a new season of opportunities for scientific knowledge, conservation, and enhancement of the Parco Archeologico archaeological sites begins today. In the following years, the Parco will undertake a complex series of interventions that will include investigating new archeological sites, scientific research, restoration as part of a general project called “*Urbs. From the city to the Roman Campagna*”. The works will be implemented with funding from the National Plan for Complementary Investments to the NRRP between 2022 and 2026. The interventions will cover all the archaeological and monumental areas owned by the State in the Parco territory, located along the two main ancient roads of the region: the Via Appia and the Via Latina. This presentation aims to emphasize the contribution of archaeological sciences to a complex system of interventions and projects aimed at increasing the public's enjoyment of an archaeological context that is unique in the world.

Key words – Public archaeology; Landscape archaeology; restoration; NRRP; Italy; via Appia Antica; via Latina Antica

Titel – Urbs: Von der Stadt zur römischen Campagna. Ein Projekt des Archäologischen Parks Appia Antica (Rom, Italien) für den Ergänzenden Nationalen Investitionsplan

Zusammenfassung – Der Parco Archeologico dell'Appia Antica ist eine autonome Einrichtung des italienischen Kulturministeriums, die sich um den Schutz und die Aufwertung eines weitläufigen Gebiets kümmert, das sich vom Stadtzentrum bis zum römischen Umland erstreckt und in dem Archäologie und Landschaft in einem außergewöhnlichen Kontext zusammenkommen. Nach der COVID-19 Pandemie, die eine lange Zeit von Schwierigkeiten verursachte, beginnt heute eine neue Saison der Möglichkeiten für wissenschaftliche Erkenntnisse, Erhaltung und Aufwertung der archäologischen Stätten des Parco Archeologico. In den kommenden Jahren wird der Parco Archeologico eine Reihe komplexer Maßnahmen ergreifen, die die Erforschung neuer archäologischer Stätten, wissenschaftliche Forschungen und Restaurierungen im Rahmen des Gesamtprojekts “*Urbs. Von der Stadt zum römischen Umland*” umfassen. Die Arbeiten werden mit Mitteln aus dem Nationalen Plan für Ergänzende Investitionen zum NRRP zwischen 2022 und 2026 durchgeführt. Die Maßnahmen werden sich auf alle archäologischen und denkmalgeschützten Gebiete im Besitz des Staates auf dem Gebiet des Parks erstrecken, die entlang der beiden wichtigsten antiken Straßen der Region liegen: der Via Appia und der Via Latina. In diesem Aufsatz soll der Beitrag der Archäologie zu einem komplexen System von Maßnahmen und Projekten hervorgehoben werden, die darauf abzielen, der Öffentlichkeit ein weltweit einzigartiges archäologisches Ensemble näher zu bringen.

Schlüsselwörter – Archäologie; Landschaftsarchäologie; Restaurierung; Italien; NRRP; Via Appia Antica; Via Latina Antica

*Beyond that enormous historical and landscape
resource that we all know,
the Appia Antica is an indispensable reservoir
of pure air and accessible space, a bulwark for public
health.
(A. Cederna, 1977)*

Introduction

The Appia Antica Archaeological Park (PA-Appia) is an institute of the Italian Ministry of Culture that deals with the protection and enhancement of a large area that extends from the center of Rome, inside of the Aurelian Walls, to the municipalities of Ciampino and Marino, southeast of the city. It covers a protected area of about 4,580 hectares, and it is characterized by the persistence of an ar-

chaeological landscape that is still clearly legible, both in the portions closest to the city center and in the outermost ones, where the Roman countryside is preserved with extraordinary continuity in the destination of use (QUILICI, 2021).

Since the High Republican era, the land has been geographically characterized by the route of the Via Appia Antica, which runs southeast from the Capena gate of the Servian Walls (up to Capua and Brindisi), and by that of the Via Latina, which, with a further inland path, reached Capua. Some of the monumental areas that were located along these two significant road axes in Roman times are included today in the Italian state property and are managed by the Appia Antica Archaeological Park, which guarantees their protection, use, and enhancement according to the provisions of the

Italian Code of Cultural Heritage and Landscape (LEGISLATIVE DECREE NO°42 of 2004).

When, at the beginning of 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic violently struck Italy, the places of culture of the Appia Park, together with all the other monuments in the area, were suddenly closed, with a negative impact on their use and protection. Once the health emergency was over, with Decree-Law no° 59 of 2021, Italy approved a National Investment Plan complementary to the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), with a total budget of approximately 30.6 billion euros

from 2021 to 2026, intended to finance specific actions that integrate and complete the NRRP. The program includes a strategic investment plan for cultural heritage sites, buildings, and natural areas, allocating 1,455.24 million euros. It includes interventions of cultural redevelopment, recovery, and restoration of cultural heritage and has strict deadlines to be reached until completion by the end of the year 2026.¹

As part of the plan mentioned above, the Appia Antica Archaeological Park, together with the Roman National Museum and with the coordina-

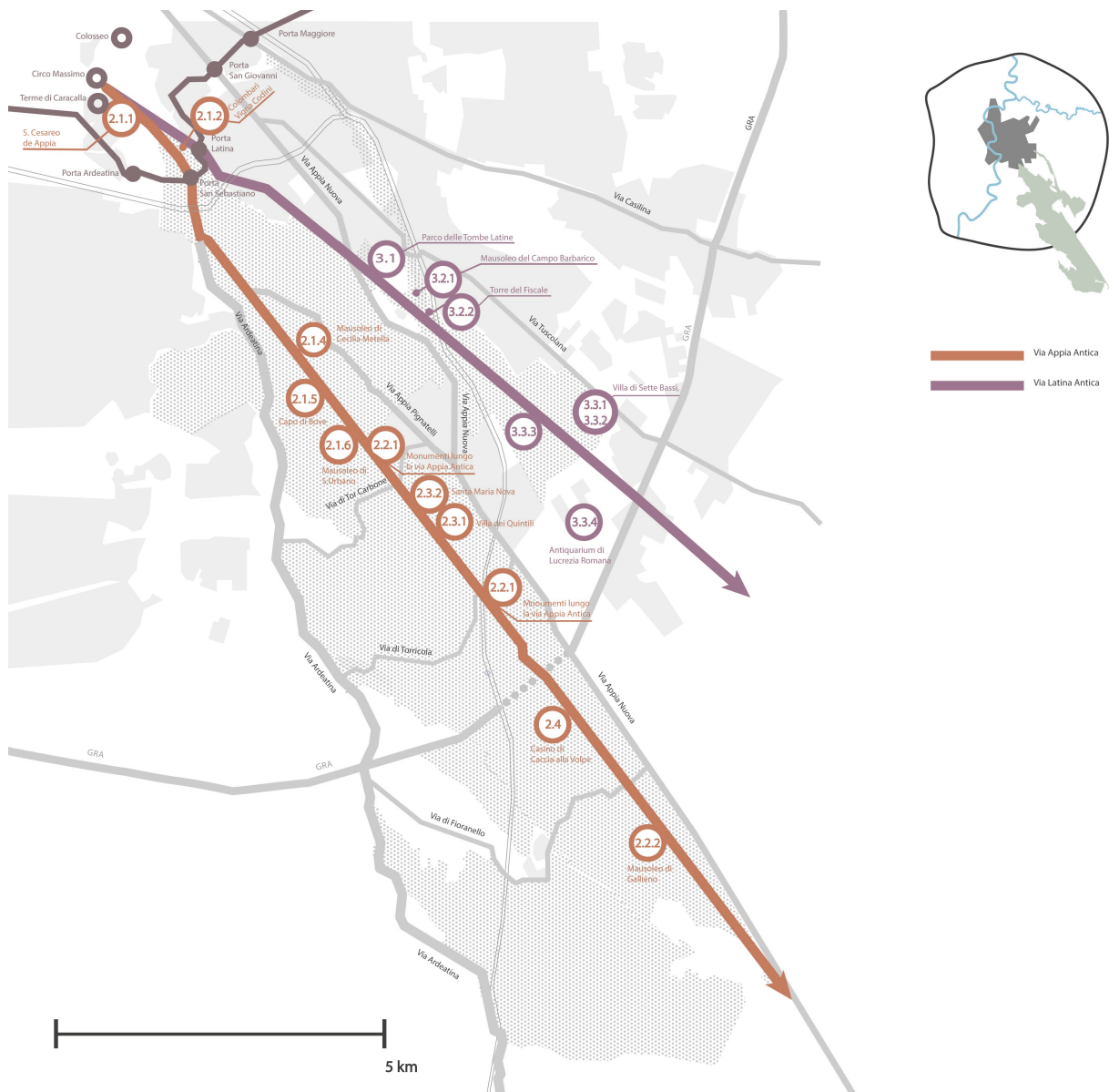


Fig. 1 General map of the Appia Antica Archaeological Park, indicating the intervention locations (PA-Appia Archive, graphic Takk studio, redesigned by F. R. Paolillo).

tion of the General Directorate of Museums and the Secretariat General of the Ministry of Culture, has proposed the intervention named: Urbs. From the City to the Roman Campagna. Specifically, the project intends to strengthen the existing connections between those two Institutions by implementing a museum network between the city and a significant part of the Roman countryside. The constitution of this widespread network on the territory intends to reveal the historical and cultural values and the different connotations of the landscape, from the historical and archaeological to the contemporary urban one. The fulcrum of the project is the knowledge and narration of the long-term stratification showed both in the landscape and in the museum collections, from the Roman era to the moment of crisis and transformation of the city, up to the Middle Ages and the modern age. In the latter period, the conspicuous archaeological finds, particularly appreciated in the Grand Tour, triggered the phenomenon of massive artistic collecting, of which evident elements are found in the museum collections, which also house works from the area between the *via Appia* and the *via Latina*. Punctual works have been identified, depending on the sites, which are essential for an overall recovery of the assets.

For the Appia Park, the main goal is to support and promote the revitalization of the territory between the Via Appia and the Via Latina, the aforementioned main road axes along which the occupation of the territory has historically developed. The project is divided into two actions, which concern, on the one hand, the consolidated and well-known territorial system of the Appia Antica and, on the other hand, the area of the Via Latina, which can reveal new and important cultural experiences² (fig. 1). The interventions are articulated on several levels: systemic interventions, archaeological excavations, restorations and re-functionalizations, with a view to a deeper knowledge of the territory and wider fruition by the public. [S.Q., F.R.P., M.R., S.R., L.O.]

Systemic interventions

The first systemic intervention "1.1. Web platform for knowledge and communication" focuses on the development of a digital space for the conservation, management, and promotion of the enormous knowledge from of the Appia Antica Archaeological Park.³ The web platform www.muviappia.it virtually aims to collect the huge cultural heritage belonging to the Appian sites, as well as the many findings from the area, still in situ or preserved in other Italian or foreign insti-

tutes. The findings are georeferenced on a digital cartographic base.

The web platform will offer various contents:

- virtual tours with 360° shots that allow to "walk" throughout our sites in order to plan a visit or to appreciate sites that are currently inaccessible to the public (due to lack of personnel, because they are on private property, for conservation reasons, etc.);
 - LIS video: the sites shared by means the Italian Language Sign in order to increase accessibility;
 - 3D reconstructions of various monuments of the park that allow to appreciate and better understand the sites;
 - photography: very high-resolution digital acquisition from cards, plates, stereoscopies and photographic historical archives will be available and directly connected to the original contexts in the Park;
 - art: a collection of works of art that show the Appia Park as seen through the eyes of famous artists with very high-resolution works of art and graphics, above all connected with the Grand tour;
 - archaeology: the main findings stored in our sites and in museums all over the world with a virtual relocation of the sculptures;
 - aerial images: the Park seen from above in the historical aerial maps and pictures;
 - cinema: the Appia Park in films, newsreels and documentaries;
 - literature: the Park according to writers and essayists;
 - advertisement: the Park as a brand;
 - press: archival newspapers and ancient articles.
- The MuviAPPiA digital library represents a new type of communication that helps to plan a visit, prepare a research or enhance an on-site visit with new contents, both of the park and of the Museums that host the collections. [L.C.]

The second systemic intervention "1.2. Sustainability and Efficiency" aims to improve the energy efficiency of the properties managed by the Appia Antica Archaeological Park, typical farmhouses and villas in the Roman countryside, which represent reserves of environmental quality and cultural poles within contexts partially attacked by urban development and indeed a testimony of the dominant agricultural landscape until the first half of the twentieth century. The project stems from the need to identify the technological solutions suitable for improving the performance and management costs of the structures. The goal is not simply to maximize energy savings but to identify and test which energy optimization modes are most

compatible with protected sites. The buildings will be subjected to an energy diagnosis (a systematic procedure which, from knowledge of the energy consumption profile of the building, identifies interventions to improve the energy performance and, accompanied by a cost-benefit analysis, classifies them in decreasing order of priority). Based on the energy inventory analyzed (consumption relating to energy vectors) and the energy diagnoses produced, in order of priority and objectives in improving performance, the compatible technical solutions that can be implemented will be identified, such as winter air conditioning, summer air conditioning, DHW production, lighting, ventilation, lifts. Considering possible interventions for the building envelope, the installation of shielding systems, internal insulation, and the replacement of windows with compatible types with thermal breaks will be evaluated. For the systems, the installation of a hydronic system/heat pump or condensing boiler, possibly supported by a renewable source production plant with photovoltaic tiles for the annexes to the farmhouses built in recent times, will be evaluated. For the lighting, new sys-

tems and equipment with low energy consumption (LED) are planned for both the offices and the reception areas dedicated to use and exhibition spaces. [M.R.]

The third systemic intervention “1.3. Access and Infopoint Enhancement” concerns the upgrading of rest stops and improving accessibility to state-owned areas. Specifically, it envisions the re-functionalization as info points of one or more buildings under the management of the Archaeological Park near the rest stops and access points to the state-owned areas from the local road system.

That intervention intercepts a number of critical elements:

- the possibility of connecting intermediate points of the long preserved route of the Via Appia Antica with the surrounding area (about 13 Roman miles to the confluence with the modern Via Appia Nuova, a high-speed highway);
- the need for intermodal interchange points that are also accessible to private cars and public transportation services to enable a wider public to frequent parts of the Roman section

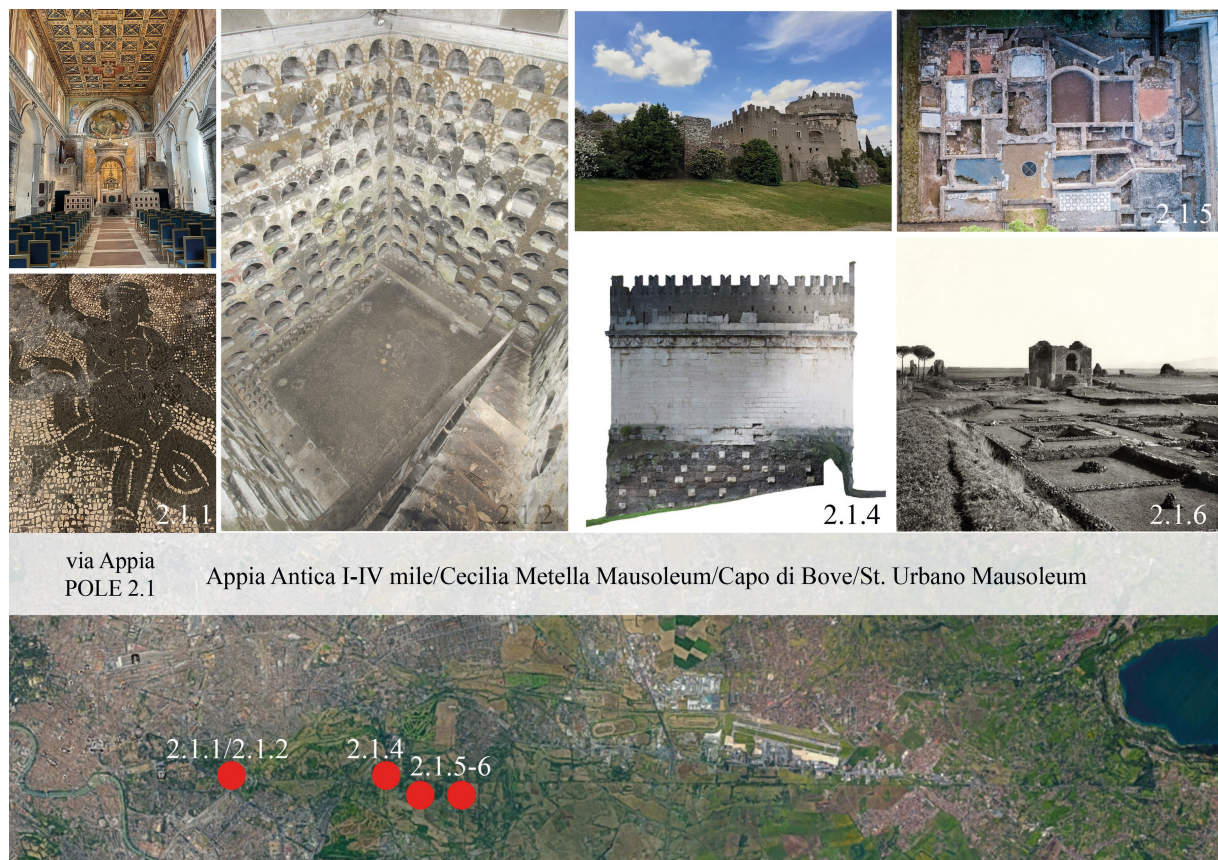


Fig. 2 Representative images of the pole of intervention 2.1 (PA-Appia Archive, S. Castellani).

of the Regina Viarum that are more distant but equally impressive;

- the need to provide visitors with some essential services that are currently not present for long stretches of the consular;
- the response to the request to make some areas more accessible to people physically unable to walk long stretches or with slow mobility;
- the observation that some degraded areas need extraordinary redevelopment work that cannot be financed from the ordinary budget.

Within the limits of a budget that cannot exhaustively meet all these needs, the proposed project focused on an area owned by the Park located at the intersection of the Appian Way and Aeroscalo Street. The area, with an extension of about one hectare, housed some disused military buildings, now in ruins. It is located just a 10-minute walk from Rome's second civilian airport, in the municipality of Ciampino, a destination for mainly European air connections. The degradation of the area is a serious detractor to the landscape of the Appian Way and offers room for uncontrolled forms of deviance.

The project aims to create a parking lot for intermodal exchange and visitor services built in the ruined structures that will be restored and equipped with sustainable technologies (info-point, refreshments, toilets, device and electric bike charging, bike rental, etc.). Archaeological investigations are also planned to check the presence of structures below the surface. The intervention is part of a wider program that includes a detailed survey of the Appian Way and the restoration of the last stretch (BRUMANA ET AL., 2023). The site is a potential gateway to the Appian Way and, once upgraded and equipped, will contribute to the enhancement of the entire surrounding area. [L.O.]

Via Appia Antica System

The Via Appia Antica System consists of four poles for a total of ten interventions. The first pole "2.1. Appia Antica I-IV mile/Cecilia Metella Mausoleum/Capo di Bove/St. Urbano Mausoleum" (fig. 2) concerns the intramural section of the road and the monuments along the stretch closest to the city (I-IV mile). The intramural section of the Via Appia Antica, corresponding to the 1st mile, was added to the Appia Park's jurisdiction following the expansion of the protected area (by Regional Law no° 7 of 2018, art. 7, paragraph 1). The site, within the Aurelian Walls, consists of an "urban triangle" between Piazzale Numa Pompilio to the north, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla to the west, Viale di Porta Ardeatina and Viale delle Mura

Latine to the south, via di Porta Latina to the East. This area, close to the city walls, is of considerable cultural interest and is characterized by a substantial density of archaeological, historical-artistic, and monumental sites distributed along the ancient Via Appia (current Via di Porta San Sebastiano) and Via Latina (current via di Porta Latina), confirming the importance of these roads for the development of the city outside the walls (MANACORDA ET AL., 2011; MANACORDA ET AL., 2017).

Along the first mile of the Via Appia, the church of San Cesareo de Appia "2.1.1. San Cesareo de Appia archaeological area: consolidation and conservative restoration", located in the space adjacent to the ancient Vigna Moroni and the Casina del Cardinal Bessarione, will be involved in some interventions aimed at consolidating the fixed point of view and at the conservative restoration of the floor mosaics, of the Roman and medieval wall structures of the underground rooms and of the seventeenth-century coffered ceiling, to the safety of the reinforced concrete system that covers the Roman evidence (acting as the floor of the basilica above) and to the return of the entire monument to public use, keeping account of its peculiar microclimatic conditions also linked to the hydrogeological characteristics of the foundation soil (MATTHIAE, 1955; TOMASSI, 1968; INSALACO, 1984; ESPOSITO, OLEVANO, 2015). [S.A.C.]

In the same intramural portion of the Park, between the via Appia and the via Latina, there are three notable collective funerary monuments, the columbaria of Vigna Codini (MANACORDA ET AL., 2017; IOVINE, 2022). The name derives from the toponym of the area at the time of discovery, owned by Codini until the beginning of the 20th century. The first columbarium, discovered by Pietro Campana in 1840, dates back to 14-34 AD. It has a quadrangular plan with a central pillar decorated with symbols linked to the cult of the dead: birds, peacocks, fruits, and garlands of flowers. The second columbarium was also discovered by Campana in 1847. Dating to the late Augustan age, it housed about three hundred burials of imperial servants and freedmen; the walls have two decorative phases, the first characterized by freshly painted plant shoots, masks, and drinking horns, the subsequent by small aedicules made of stucco. The cocciopesto flooring houses marble crustae and an inscription in tesserae, a dedication of two members of the funeral college of the Symfoniaci (musicians). The third columbarium is the largest, with a horseshoe plan. The decorations also express its richness: vine shoots, stuccos, vaults, and walls decorated with roundels, garlands, and

panels with figures of animals and plant motifs. The surfaces of the funerary monuments present severe degradation phenomena such as detachments, loss of cohesion, and widespread biological patinas. Due to the extreme microclimatic conditions and the lack of timed interventions and appropriate periodic checks, it will therefore be necessary to intervene inside with safety measures and reclamation of the rooms and surfaces "2.1.2. *Vigna Codini Columbaria: conservative restorations and improvement of fruition*". [S.I.]

Continuing along the Via Appia Antica, interventions are planned on the Mausoleum of Cecilia Metella, one of the most important funerary monuments in the suburbs of Rome, built between 25 and 10 BC at the third mile of the street (PICCHIONE, 2021): "2.1.4. *Mausoleum of Cecilia Metella and Castrum Caetani: maintenance interventions and improvement of the use of the main floor*". The Mausoleum is located on a hill that dominates the surrounding landscape in its orographically most prominent stretch due to the presence of the lava flow of the Latium Volcano. It rests on a square base whose dimensions are 100 Roman feet per side, made in opus caementicium. The base, originally covered with travertine blocks and almost completely spoliated, still shows some parts of the diatons inserted inside the core wall. The cylindrical body that constitutes the actual sepulcher (rotunda) has a diameter of 100 Roman feet, while the original height is about 11 meters (for a total height of 100 Roman feet). The rotunda is covered in travertine blocks, finished in a smooth ashlar and still perfectly preserved, and ended originally with a moulded frame, below which there is a continuous frieze bearing a decoration in festoons and bucrania from which the name of the locality derives, known as "*Capo di Bove*," already extended in the Middle Ages to the whole surrounding area. The frieze, in correspondence with the plaque bearing the dedication of the Mausoleum to the Roman noble Cecilia Metella, is interrupted by a figurative frieze depicting Celtic-style weapons and characters, celebrating the political and military fortunes of the deceased's family. Above the frame is a masonry built with blocks of peperino stone dating back to the first years of the fourteenth century, when the Mausoleum was incorporated into Palazzo Caetani.

The presence of significant and widespread degradation phenomena on the entire wall surface of the mausoleum requires an intervention extended to the drum, aimed at re-establishing the correct conservation conditions of the ancient materials and ensuring the most suitable surface

intervention to protect the visual perception of the monument. The most widespread degradation phenomena, mainly due to failure or insufficient removal of rainwater, are the presence of black crusts and patinas of a biological nature on the travertine cladding, upper and lower weeds, and water stains on the Peperino tuff structures. Furthermore, a stratigraphic excavation of the monument's upper part is planned. During the excavation operations, the upper masonry structures will be brought to light, and it will be possible to archaeologically document both the phase of the fourteenth-century settlement of the Caetani family and possible reuses of the top of the mighty mausoleum in modern times when it was used as a fortified stronghold on the Via Appia. Particular attention will be paid to maintaining the stability of the cypress grown on the top of the monument. At the end of the excavation operations, the initial configuration will be restored. [A.P.]

A specific intervention concerns the Capo di Bove complex: "2.1.5. *Capo di Bove: landscaping the garden and improving use and accessibility*", which overlooks the fourth mile of the Via Appia Antica, a short distance from the Mausoleum of Cecilia Metella whose frieze gave the name to the surroundings. It is a green area of approximately 8,600 square meters with a main building on three levels and an annex.

After the purchase, an archaeological excavation in the garden brought to light a thermal bath complex dating back to the mid-2nd century AD with building phases up to the 4th century and traces of agricultural-productive use referable to the late antique period, when the area was part of the so-called Patrimonium Appiae of the Church. The main building, originally designed and used for residential purposes, has been adapted to house offices and a conference room, photographic and art exhibitions, cultural events, educational meetings. It also hosts the Archive of Antonio Cederna, one of the fathers of the Italian environmental movement that fought for the protection of the Via Appia Antica from residential speculation. The annex has been converted into a reception point for visitors, equipped with toilets and drink vending machines (MAZZOTTA, 2021).

The richly planted garden, designed by arch. Massimo De Vico Fallani, is articulated into a meandering path leading to the main building and a series of secondary paths paved with basalt stones leading to the archaeological area and the reception. Almost twenty years after the realisation of the garden, new functional requirements have emerged that include:

- different ways of using open spaces and services that are more open to the public and inclusive;
- the need for accessibility extended to all outdoor areas;
- the changed institutional needs related to a different distribution of the Park’s activities on its territory;
- the need to reduce maintenance costs of the external areas.

The project aims to ensure greater permeability of the complex with the Via Appia, upgrading the garden as a place to welcome the public, not only during institutional events or exhibitions, but also on a daily basis. In particular, it is planned to break down existing architectural barriers by improving the accessibility of the paths. The outdoor spaces will be articulated as an “open-air museum” in which the visit to archaeological excavations will be included in a route among the archaeological finds exposed along the paths. Furthermore, a different set of plants and lights will define the spaces designed to accommodate individuals and groups, for contemplative breaks, group meetings or educational activities.

The project is coordinated with other ongoing activities on the site concerning energy efficiency and the enhancement of the archaeological excavations. [L.O.]

The last intervention of pole 2.1 concerns the so-called Mausoleum of Sant’Urbano at the fourth mile, acquired by the State on 15 January 2021: “2.1.6. Mausoleum of S. Urbano: restoration, musealisation, and configuration of the external areas”. It is a monumental brick tomb, datable to the 4th century AD, which preserves imposing walls over ten meters high, with an apse and lateral niches and remains of the front access staircase. The building, investigated at the end of the 19th century by Rodolfo Lanciani with the brothers Giambattista and Bernardo Lugari, who had bought the land by Prince Alessandro Torlonia, was accessible from a byway of the Via Appia and owed its name to an episode mentioned by Christian sources, according to which the body of the Saint was transported by the devout matron Marmenia to a building edified on one of her properties along the road. Consequently, the villa behind the sepulcher was defined as domus Marmeniae and the mausoleum



Fig. 3 Representative images of the pole of intervention 2.2 (PA-Appia Archive).

was attributed precisely to Saint Urbano (SPALLINO, 2021). The project involves the restoration of the building, preceded by a stratigraphic reading of the elevations and some archaeological investigations, and the planning of visit paths. [C.S.]

The second pole of the Appian Way system “2.2. Via Appia Antica. State Section and monuments nearby” (fig. 3) concerns the sepulchres along the state-owned stretch of the road (from street number 195 to the end of the Archaeological Park in the municipality of Marino, in the locality of Frattocchie).

The first intervention “2.2.1 Monuments along the ancient Appian Way, the Luigi Canina’s dry stone walls and the Arboretum: acquisitions, restoration, configuration, and improvement of fruition” will concern the funerary monuments along the fourth, sixth, and seventh mile of the Via Appia Antica. Many of these monuments (BRUNI ET AL., 2001, 112-133; SPERA, MINEO, 2004, 121-172), in a precarious state of conservation, currently require widespread and massive conservation actions ranging from the removal of weeds to structural consol-

idation, to securing the concrete cores and wall facings (blocking of mobile elements, additions of bedding mortar, pointing of joints, compensation for injuries and cracks, etc.), in addition to cleaning the surfaces, the final protection of the ancient structures, and the arrangement of the floor plans and the area around the monuments which would allow a better understanding and fruition. [R.R.]

A specific intervention “2.2.2 Mausoleum of Gallienus: completion of restoration and configuration of external areas” regards the sepulcher attributed to the emperor Gallienus (253-268 AD). The monumental tomb, a building with a central plan that stands on the ninth mile of the Via Appia Antica (PAOLILLO, ROCCHETTA, 2022), was in a dramatic state of conservation and, because of that, was the subject of a restoration and structural anastylosis of the vaults of the lower level between 2013 and 2014 (FILETICI, 2018, 106). The intervention was abruptly interrupted due to a lack of funds and will be completed to preserve the structures and allow safe access to the tomb. [F.R.P.]



Fig. 4 Representative images of the pole of intervention 2.3 (PA-Appia Archive, S. Castellani, F.R. Paolillo; drawing by C. Labruzzo).

The third pole of the Appian Way system “2.3 Villa of the Quintilii – Santa Maria Nova” (fig. 4) concerns the archaeological complex of Villa of the Quintilii and Santa Maria Nova (PARIS ET AL., 2019). In Roman times, it was a luxurious suburban villa that belonged to the two consuls in 151 AD, and then became imperial property at the behest of the emperor Commodus (177-192 AD). The project consists of two interventions. The first “2.3.1. Villa of the Quintilii: conservative restorations and interventions for improvement of the fruition” is specifically dedicated to the area acquired by the State in 1986, which will focus on the restoration and improvement of the use of some artifacts, including in particular the so-called Median cistern, located between the Nymphaeum at the Appia Antica and the so-called Great cistern. That building is fascinating for the Roman construction technique and the various phases of life and reuses over the centuries. The layout of this two-level rectangular structure dates to the first building phase of the Villa (phase 1: beginning of the 2nd century AD). The two levels are divided into two naves, respectively by seven and seventeen pilasters, some of which seem to be added in a second phase because of the enormous quantity of water in the upper room. The vaults of the underground level have a lowering which seems to be linked to the subsidence of the underlying earth during the construction phase. The foundations of the building are in opus caementicium of leucite bachelors and tenacious gray pozzolan mortar, and the walls in opus latericium. The wall structures are covered with a thick layer of opus signinum, on which the iron nails (claves muscarii) can be identified, which secured it to the wall, through the holes made to recuperate them, presumably in the Middle Ages. Seven counterforts are added to the pre-existing walls in the second building phase (phase 2, datable within the first half of the 2nd century AD). The nineteenth-century cartography shows a rectangular structure close to the Median cistern, defined as piscina by A. Nibby. Some archaeological surveys have identified its structures covered with cocciopesto. At that structure, a seasonal lake is formed, a destination of the passage of birds such as the heron, and the mallard, and the natural habitat for the crested newt. From the Commodian age (phase 3: end of the 2nd century AD), the cistern received water from the excess return of the Great Nymphaeum. The branch of the aqueduct of the villa grafts into a quadrangular structure, probably having the function of decanting and controlling the incoming water flow. In the late Middle Ages (phase 4: 13th-14th

c. AD), in the context of the activities of transformation that also impact the Great Nymphaeum, the Median cistern is the subject of a raising in stone blocks of tuff from Albano. The medieval elevation has a peculiar panel texture. The cover, completely missing, must have been trussed. In the late 15th century (phase 5: 15th c. AD), the area behind the Great Nymphaeum was involved in the construction of a fullonica. The Median cistern survives as a support structure for craft activities, continuing to preserve water on the lower level and, perhaps, as a deposit on the upper level. In medieval structures, curtain walls can be identified. Following the abandonment of the cistern function (phase 6: modern age), a passage was opened on the north wall of the building, which constitutes today’s access. A newly built partition divides the upper level of the original cistern into two distinct rooms. The structure is used, perhaps as a deposit, as part of the agricultural activities that involve the entire archaeological area and was frequented until recent times, as evidenced by the graffiti bearing the signatures of the visitors. The inside of the building cannot currently be visited, due to the deterioration of the structures, especially the medieval ones. Therefore, the intervention’s objective is a complete restoration intervention to ensure conservation and fruition. Further interventions will concern the structures of the two porticoes that delimited the complex’s garden and the related rooms. [F.R.P.]

The second “2.3.2. Santa Maria Nova: restoration, configuration of external areas, museum installations” is dedicated to the area acquired by the State in 2006, part of the medieval estate of Santa Maria Nova, in which the interventions will focus on the restoration and improvement of the use of the archaeological area, the remains of which belong to an independent pavilion of the property of the Quintili with function of district for the hospitality, and then, under Commodus, of barracks for the praetorian guard. The general objective of the new design intervention, currently underway, is the restoration and enhancement of the emerging structures that constitute the various sectors of the complex to facilitate the interpretation of the numerous service areas of the imperial age and mend, through punctual interventions, the current caesura between the Casale with its medieval cloisters and the sectors of the archaeological area, which in part cannot be visited today.

For this purpose, the restoration of the thermal sector and the excavation of the rooms distributed around the courtyards and towards the frigidarium will be completed to restore the connection



Fig. 5 Representative images of the pole of intervention 2.4 (PA-Appia Archive).

of the thermal sector, closest to the house used as a ticket office and reception, and included in the visit itinerary, with the residential and service ones, currently inaccessible. The construction of suitable hydraulic works will also accompany the conservation interventions to control and regiment the water in the pertinence area of the underground cistern.

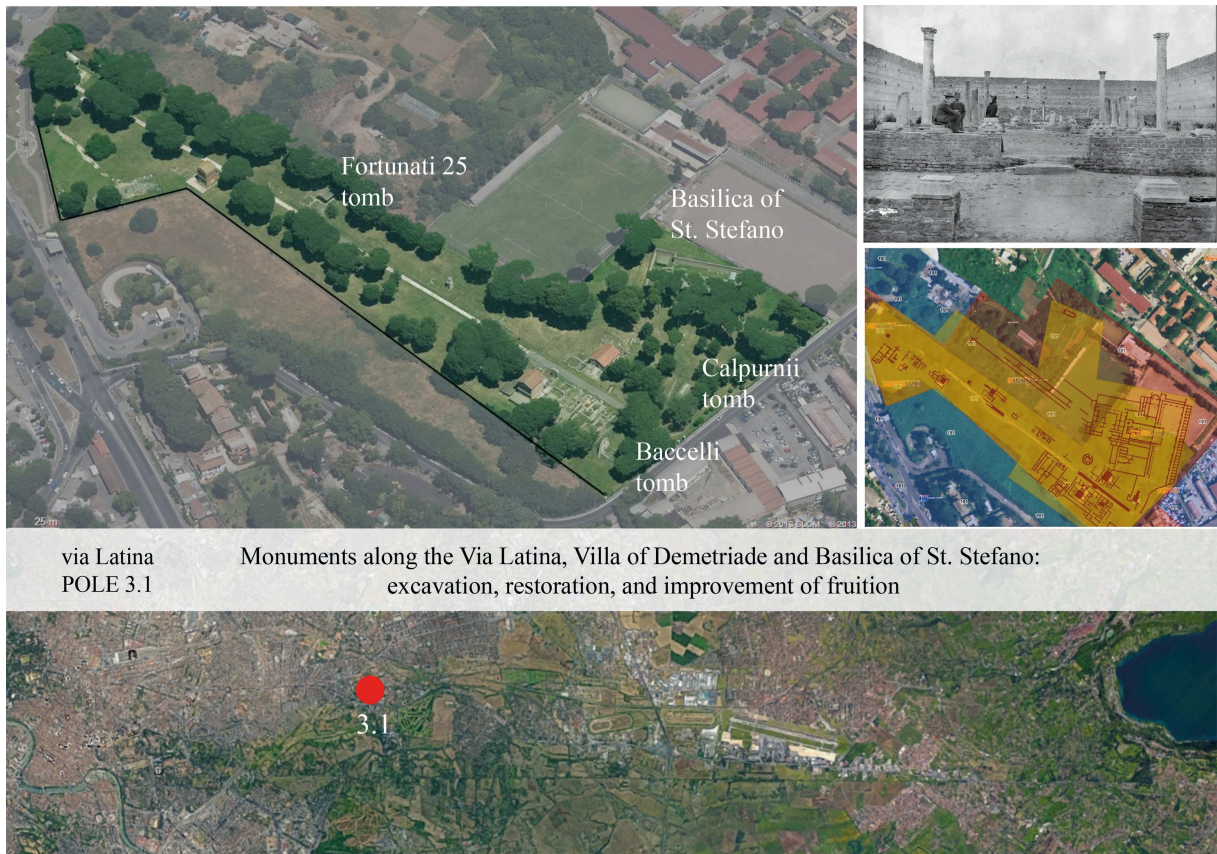
Finally, to ensure the improvement of accessibility and use of the entire archaeological area, the creation of additional visitor routes, new panels, and new lighting will increase the degree of accessibility of this currently marginal area, finally placing it in connection with the primary existing circuit between the Villa of the Quintilii and the Casale di Santa Maria Nova, now open to the public and subject to a significant restoration project completed in 2018. [C.S.]

The fourth and last pole "2.4. Casino di Caccia alla Volpe" (fig. 5) concerns the Casino di Caccia alla Volpe, a complex of buildings built between 1924 and 1929 to house the stables and kennels for hunting the fox, commissioned by the company that dealt with this sport to the architect

Lorenzo Corrado Cesanelli (ROCCHETTA, 2021). The complex, located on the eighth mile of the Via Appia Antica and close to Ciampino airport, will become one of the hospitality structures with an info-point, small shops for local food and wine along the Appian Way path. It will be a landmark for walkers, tourists, and locals. [R.R.]

Via Latina System

The Via Latina System consists of three poles, for a total of seven interventions. The first pole "3.1. Monuments along the Via Latina, Villa of Demetriade and Basilica of St. Stefano: archaeological excavations, restoration, and improvement of fruition" (fig. 6) is that relating to the Park of the Tombs of Via Latina (CUGNO, 2021; ANTONETTI, 2021), which encloses a vast portion of the area along the third mile of the ancient Via Latina. The rediscovery of the archaeological site is due to Lorenzo Fortunati, who excavated it in the years 1857-1858, following the route of the via Latina, and bringing to light monumental sepulchral structures of the imperial age along both sides of the road and the remains of the early Christian basilica of St. Stefano. Initially,



via Latina
POLE 3.1
Monuments along the Via Latina, Villa of Demetriade and Basilica of St. Stefano:
excavation, restoration, and improvement of fruition

Fig. 6 Representative images of the pole of intervention 3.1 (PA-Appia Archive).

the project envisaged interventions on three monumental tombs (Calpurni, Baccelli, Fortunati 25 tombs) and the Basilica of St. Stefano.

In the first planning phase, having assessed the complexity of the specific interventions on the Basilica of St. Stefano, it was decided to concentrate the activities only on that extraordinarily significant monument, in which conservative restorations and partial protective coverings of the excavated areas, which will be partially dedicated to museum installations, are planned. [S.A.]

The second pole of the Via Latina system “3.2 *Campus Barbaricus*” (fig. 7) has as its object the area conventionally defined as *Campus Barbaricus*, a site between the arches of the Claudius and Marcus aqueducts, where in 537 AD, the Goths led by Vitiges encamped to besiege Rome. In this context, we will intervene on a sepulchre along the Via Latina, known as the Mausoleum of *Campus Barbaricus* “3.2.1. *Mausoleum of Campus Barbaricus: archaeological excavation, restoration, and museum display*”, a temple tomb dating to the 2nd century AD located at the fourth mile of the road, which originally had a rich decorative apparatus

in stucco, minimally preserved but completely represented in a drawing of the second half of the sixteenth century. An archaeological excavation campaign preceded the project. In front of the sepulchre, the excavations brought to light a very well-preserved portion of the via Latina. The configuration of the burial chamber was investigated, and bichrome mosaics were found in correspondence with the arcosolia for housing the sarcophagi (ROASCIO, 2022, 143). The mausoleum had a mixed rite, and in addition to the arcosolia, the upper floor was characterized by niches containing cinerary urns.

The project involves a “restoration of light” of the original decoration, a video projection that will reconstruct and enhance the ancient decorated surfaces, starting from the precise reading of the preserved architectural elements and the superimposition of the sixteenth-century relief, in an immersive and emotional dimension, and also narrate the state of knowledge relating to the Via Latina. There are also plans to set up a small antiquarium in the burial chamber, which can display the finds found in the excavations in the area, in-



Fig. 7 Representative images of the pole of intervention 3.2 (PA-Appia Archive, elaborated by M. Reginaldi).

cluding the funerary decorated marble slabs from an adjacent mausoleum. [S.R.]

The other intervention of the pole concerns the Torre del Fiscale “3.2.2 Torre del Fiscale. Internal re-functionalization”, built in the 13th century AD above the structures of the Roman aqueducts. It was the subject of a recent, comprehensive structural restoration intervention, concluded in 2018 with the night lighting of the building (ROASCIO, 2021). The intervention aims to open the suggestive multi-layered complex to the public, with technical methods that will allow going up to the top, both as a panoramic point to be able to observe an extensive stretch of the landscape of the Roman countryside from a privileged position and to highlight the multi-layered palimpsest of the building. The intervention could be decisive for the definitive redevelopment of the Parco della Torre del Fiscale, located in a rather degraded area that already constitutes an element of positive and vital attraction, frequented by the local population. [S.R.]

The third and last pole of the via Latina system “3.3 Via Latina, Sette Bassi – Roma Vecchia, and

Aqueducts” (fig. 8) includes interventions on three sites with very distinguishable characteristics.

One of the interventions “3.3.1. The Aqueducts Park: acquisitions, excavations, securing, and restoration of sections of the Aqueduct, the Via Latina, and neighbouring monuments” concerns the area of the Aqueduct Park, within which the Appia Antica Archaeological Park owns the structures of the Claudian Aqueduct, the monumental aqueduct symbol of the Roman countryside and, in particular, of the park itself (FAGIANI, 2021). The project will include the restoration of the sections that are of greatest concern both for the conservation of the integrity of the monument and for public safety, as well as an arrangement of the area surrounding the monument. Constant instrumental monitoring of the structures will also be planned. Archaeological investigations will be carried out to investigate a residential context found through the study of aerial photos and territorial survey in the southern area of the Park and a stretch of via Latina in the northern area of it, where the sources place the temple of Fortuna Muliebris. [M.R.]



Fig. 8 Representative images of the pole of intervention 3.3 (PA-Appia Archive, elaborated by M. Reginaldi).

Two different interventions will concern the Sette Bassi villa, located between the fifth and sixth miles of the via Latina (ROASCIO & REGINALDI, 2022). The first one “3.3.2. *Villa di Sette Bassi – Roma vecchia: redevelopment, re-functionalization of buildings and museumization*” will concern the twentieth-century farmhouses, built for the agricultural management of the site by the Torlonia family. The project’s strategic objective is to enhance the complex of the Villa di Sette Bassi for a renewed and complete public use of the state-owned site. Priority design considerations will focus on the static-structural consolidation of Casale Torlonia and its functional recovery, on the creation of a restoration laboratory for prompt intervention on artifacts furniture, on the completion of the farmhouses used as warehouses, of the toilets, on the creation of paved and functional areas around the farmhouses for public use of the site. In addition, the project involves the functionalization of the former cowshed for the construction and future setting up as an Antiquarium (permanent exhibition space), the recovery and functionalization of the former barn for the setting up of temporary

exhibitions, multimedia projections, reception spaces, and conference rooms, all with special attention to environmental sustainability, and improvement of energy efficiency by experimenting with innovative technologies applied to the cultural heritage. [M.R.]

The second intervention “3.3.3 *Villa di Sette Bassi – Roma Vecchia: archaeological excavations and conservative restorations*” specifically concerns the archaeological structures of the Roman villa.

The main objective will be to finally open one of the most impressive villas in the Roman territory to the public through a restoration campaign and targeted archaeological excavations, which will also increase site knowledge.

The proposed action is mainly aimed at carrying out an extensive excavation, restoration, and conservation campaign, which will be capable not only of increasing the level of knowledge of an exceptional archaeological site but also of finally being able to reopen it to public visits through the creation of an adequate visit itinerary, which allows making the most of the relevant material evidence of the villa. For this objective, it will be

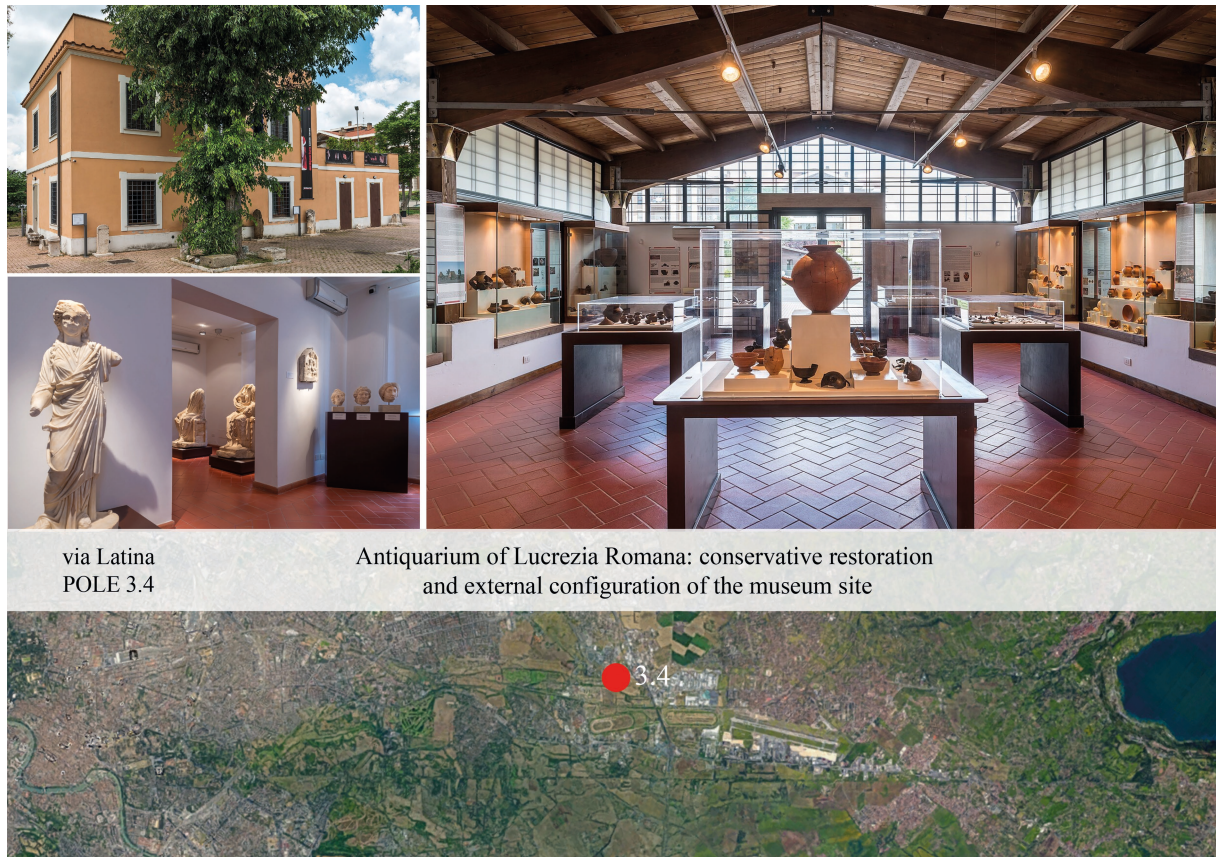


Fig. 9 Representative images of the pole of intervention 3.4 (PA-Appia Archive, S. Castellani, L. Campanella).

necessary to proceed with restoration activities of the impressive structures that constitute the main bodies of the villa, as well as bring to light again and consolidate the valuable pavements already identified by the previous excavations. Further archaeological excavation activities will be undertaken, especially in sectors A and B, to complete the earlier investigations and open new areas, according to an organic visit itinerary. Sector C, which represents the area where the collapse of the structures was most extensive, will be cleaned of weeds and adequately secured. Targeted research activities will also be carried out in the outbuilding to complete the research in that sector and ensure it is open to visits. The expected results are to offer a visit itinerary, which allows visitors to touch and understand the articulation of the main spaces that made up the ancient villa, adequately restored and secured, and to enjoy an extensive green area of about 40 hectares, characterized by an extraordinary landscape value. [S.R.]

The last intervention “3.3.4 *Antiquarium of Lucrezia Romana: conservative restoration and external configuration of the museum site*” will concern the

Antiquarium of Lucrezia Romana (fig. 9), a quite recent and small-sized archaeological museum (consisting of two buildings and four rooms, for a total of about 500 square meters) with a wide chronological span, located in the south-eastern quadrant of Rome (EGIDI, 2018; QUILICI ET AL., cds). A project was developed to improve the use of the external areas of the Museum and to restore some rooms, characterized by degradation phenomena due to rising damp. In particular, the works in the external area include a specially designed structure used as a ticket office and an information and reception point, for educational workshops or cultural meetings. New external signage will be prepared to enhance the Antiquarium (banners and panels) and besides the outdoor space of the Museum, characterized by a large green area with archaeological finds, will have a new arrangement. Therefore, the space usable by the public will be expanded through a raised wooden floor, enriched by flower boxes, with specific paths designed for visitors, new seats and a different set-up, after restoration, of some archaeological finds. [M.P.]

Procedures and state of implementation

A specifically constituted purpose office⁴ coordinates the project and ensures harmonization between the twelve officers responsible for the procedures⁵ and between the Institute and the other bodies involved.

Regarding the tender procedures, for the identification of the majority of the designers and all the companies executing the works, the Appia Antica Archaeological Park used the procedure envisaged by article 59 of the new Procurement Code (LEGISLATIVE DECREE NO. 36 of 2023), the Outline Agreement. Invitalia Spa carried out the tender procedures on behalf of the managing authority of the Ministry of Culture, the General Secretariat⁶. Stringent milestones and targets govern the procedure. It is mandatory to start all the actions by 31 March 2024 and conclude by the end of 2026. Currently (August 2023), the planning of the interventions is in progress. [S.Q., F.R.P., M.R., S.R.]

Conclusions

The Appia Antica Archaeological Park projects financed by the Complementary National Plan to the National Recovery and Resilience Plan consist of a complex series of activities of varied nature and distributed throughout the territory, substantially all aimed at improving knowledge, conservation, and public fruition of archaeological and monumental sites. The Appia Antica Archaeological Park will, therefore, find itself reinforcing its vocation as a place for experimenting with new ways of preserving and managing the cultural and landscape heritage, and as a place for new programs linked to the civil progress of the city and the quality of life of its community. It is a significant investment in terms of resources, also very challenging from a management perspective: an extraordinary opportunity for cultural growth, born from a dramatic moment in our most recent history, and for a reinterpretation of the cultural heritage of our territory. [S.Q., S.A., L.C., S.A.C., S.I., L.O., F.R.P., A.P., M.P., M.R., S.R., R.R., C.S.]

Notes

¹ For more information and to consult the specific legislation, see <https://programmazionestrategica.beniculturali.it/piano-nazionale-complementare-al-pnrr/> [2.11.2023].

² For space reasons, it is impossible to cite the immense bibliography on the sites subject to intervention. We will limit ourselves to some recent contributions produced during the Park's protection and enhancement activities. In addition to the references in the text, we mention the entries in the Lexicon Topographicum Urbis Romae. Suburbium, regarding the intervention sites, and the Document for the management and fruition of the Appia Antica Archaeological Park (R. Paris, last update 2018), which, however, is not updated with the current perimeter of the Park, defined by Regional Laws 7 of 2018 and 1 of 2020.

³ The web platform is developed by S.M.I. Technologies and Consulting S.r.l. as a project of the Appia Antica Archaeological Park coordinated by L. Campanella.

⁴ Responsible for the Purpose Office were Francesca Romana Paolillo and Michele Reginaldi until May 30, 2023; Stefano Roascio and Michele Reginaldi from May 31, 2023; the activities are coordinated by Simone Quilici. We are grateful to the members of the administrative office of the Appia Antica Archaeological Park, Stefano Lutri, Dario Canino, Giovanni Cubellotti, Domenico Lopardo, Francesca Turrini, Mirko De Rubeis, Fabiana Volpe to the Art Historian Officer Ilaria Sgarbozza, and to Assistant Francesca Cerrone and Maria Teresa Di Sarcina. We also thank the Ales Spa support structure members, Luigi Paglialunga, Leila Bochicchio, Livia Chianese, and Marta Zappalà. We are grateful to the Director General of National Museums, Prof. Massimo Osanna, to the members of the working group created within the Directorate General of National Museums (Anna Maria Mauro, Enrico Rinaldi, Luana Toniolo, Luca Mercuri, Chiara Matteazzi, Saveria Petillo, Elisabetta Scungio) and to Stéphane Verger, Director of the National Roman Museum. We also thank dr. Maria Taloni for the opportunity to share a first presentation of our projects.

⁵ Responsibility for procedures is assigned as follows. 1.1. Web platform for knowledge and communication, L. Campanella; 1.2. Sustainability and Efficiency, M. Reginaldi; 1.3. Access and Infopoint Enhancement, L. Oliva; 2.1.1. San Cesario de Appia archaeological area: consolidation and conservative restoration, S. A. Cugno; 2.1.2. Vigna Codini Columbaria: conservative restorations and improvement of fruition, S. Iovine; 2.1.4. Mausoleum of Cecilia Metella and Castrum Caetani: maintenance interventions and improvement of the use of the main floor, A. Picchione; 2.1.5. Capo di Bove: landscaping the garden and improving use and accessibility, L. Oliva; 2.1.6. Mausoleum of S. Urbano: restoration, musealisation, and configuration of the external areas, C. Spallino; 2.2.1. Monuments along the ancient Appian Way, the Luigi Canina's dry stone walls and the Arboretum: acquisitions, restoration, configuration, and improvement of fruition, R. Rocchetta; 2.2.2. Mausoleum of Gallienus: completion of restoration and configuration of external areas, F. R. Paolillo; 2.3.1. Villa of the Quintilii: conservative restorations and interventions for improvement of the fruition, F. R. Paolillo; 2.3.2. Santa Maria Nova: restoration, configuration of external areas, museum installations, C. Spallino; 2.4. Casino di Caccia alla Volpe, R. Rocchetta; 3.1. Monuments along the Via Latina, Villa of Demetriade and Basilica of St. Stefano: archaeological excavations, restoration, and improvement of fruition, S. Antonetti; 3.2.1. Mausoleum of Campus Barbaricus:

archaeological excavation, restoration, and museum display, S. Roascio; 3.2. Torre del Fiscale. Internal re-functionalization, S. Roascio; 3.3.1. The Aqueducts Park: acquisitions, excavations, securing, and restoration of sections of the Aqueduct, the Via Latina and neighbouring monuments, M. Reginaldi; 3.3.2. Villa di Sette Bassi – Roma vecchia: redevelopment, re-functionalization of buildings and museumization, M. Reginaldi; 3.3.3 Villa di Sette Bassi - Roma Vecchia: archaeological excavations and conservative restorations, S. Roascio; 3.3.4 Antiquarium of Lucrezia Romana: conservative restoration and external configuration of the museum site, M. Pontisso.

⁶ Responsibility for procedure for the General Secretariat is Dr. Nicola Macri, Director of Service V.

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Urbs: From the City to the Roman Campagna. A Project of the Appia Antica Archaeological Park

Nuova Grafica.

Corresponding author

*Francesca Romana Paolillo
Archaeologist Officer
Appia Antica Archaeological Park
Ministry of Culture, Italy
francescaromana.paolillo@cultura.gov.it*

<https://orcid.org/0009-0003-7522-1684>

Simone Quilici

Director

*Appia Antica Archaeological Park
Ministry of Culture, Italy*

<https://orcid.org/0009-0008-7613-428X>

Stefano Antonetti

Architect Officer

*Appia Antica Archaeological Park
Ministry of Culture, Italy*

Lorenza Campanella

*Promotion and communication Officer
Appia Antica Archaeological Park
Ministry of Culture, Italy*

<https://orcid.org/0009-0001-4795-4675>

Santino Alessandro Cugno

Archaeologist Officer

*Appia Antica Archaeological Park
Ministry of Culture, Italy*

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7335-8941>

Sara Iovine

Restorer Conservator Officer

*Appia Antica Archaeological Park
Ministry of Culture, Italy*

<https://orcid.org/0009-0000-6249-7268>

Luigi Oliva

Architect Officer

*Appia Antica Archaeological Park
Ministry of Culture, Italy*

<https://orcid.org/0009-0005-8460-8500>

Aura Picchione

Architect Officer

*Archaeological Park of the Colosseum
Ministry of Culture, Italy*

Mara Pontisso

Archaeologist Officer

*Appia Antica Archaeological Park
Ministry of Culture, Italy*

<https://orcid.org/0009-0009-5403-1949>

Michele Reginaldi

Architect Officer

*Appia Antica Archaeological Park
Ministry of Culture, Italy*

<https://orcid.org/0009-0000-1670-7498>

Stefano Roascio

Archaeologist Officer

*Appia Antica Archaeological Park
Ministry of Culture, Italy*

<https://orcid.org/0009-0004-3003-0603>

Raffaella Rocchetta

Architect Officer

*Appia Antica Archaeological Park
Ministry of Culture, Italy*

<https://orcid.org/0009-0004-3266-1695>

Clara Spallino

Architect Officer

*Appia Antica Archaeological Park
Ministry of Culture, Italy*

<https://orcid.org/0009-0007-7675-1686>