



# **Excavations at Villa Magna 2006**

Elizabeth Fentress, Caroline Goodson, Sophie Hay,  
Ann Kuttner, Marco Maiuro

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The first season's excavation at Villa Magna achieved all of its aims: most importantly, it created a sound footing for what we hope will be a long-term project, setting the basis for a training excavation that will prepare students for the wide range of skills needed in modern archaeology, initiating the investigation of both the Roman villa and the monastery built over it, and covering over half of the area of the villa with a geophysical survey whose results give us an extraordinary preview of the structures we are studying. This report gives a brief overview of the significant results of the project, followed by a proposal for next year's work. In appendix are found the detailed excavation reports from the two field supervisors, Caroline Goodson and Marco Maiuro.

First, however, we should mention the high level of collaboration between international research institutions and local authorities which the project already represents. The University of Pennsylvania and the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, represented by our associate director Ann Kuttner, supported the project financially with a generous contribution from the 1984 Foundation and provided us with three graduate students from its archaeology program. The British School at Rome, represented by co-director Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, provided us with a team that carried out the geophysical investigation. They also provided us with a van and most of the tools necessary for the excavation. The Soprintendenza Archeologica del Lazio, represented by co-director Sandra Gatti, organized the complicated legal side of the temporary occupation of the land, introduced us to specialists in a number of disciplines, and gave invaluable advice and assistance. The commercial archaeological unit LP Archaeology, creators of the software for the *Fasti Archeologici*, collaborated *pro bono* on the creation of a GIS based database for the site and provided us with a GIS specialist, Andrew Dufton. The Comune of Anagni provided us with excellent lodging in a State Boarding School, whose rector and staff gave us warm hospitality, underwrote much of our food budget and has promised further support for the project. This attention was echoed by the diocese of Anagni, which is interested helping with the restoration of the church, and by a team from the Consiglio Nazionale della Ricerca, which has offered to collaborate on the topographical, 3D Laser and Photogrammetric documentation of the site. Various local archaeologists and students took part in the excavation, or have volunteered for next year. Our one local problem remains the proprietor, who, although generally interested in the excavation (even to the extent of shovelling on the last day) feels that we should pay him stratospheric sums either to rent or to buy his property, and resented the low level of the rent paid for the temporary occupation of the land, a rent set out in the national code for this sort of operation. We are hoping to negotiate a more amicable arrangement for the future, but we are dealing with a very difficult character.

### The Geophysics (Sophie Hay)

#### *Introduction*

The magnetometer survey conducted in 2006 at Villa Magna covered approximately 8.5 hectares. The survey covered three areas: around the church, inside the courtyard in the main casale, and the large field to the east of the casale. Overall, the results proved to be highly successful and provided a clear plan and layout of the villa and its surrounding buildings. In some areas the extent and limit of the villa complex was identified.



#### *Area 1: Church*

The area to the north of the church consists of a flat terrace partially bounded to the north and east by a revetment wall constructed in *opus mixtum*. The results were extremely clear in this area and a clear plan of a main body of the villa was identified which lies on a north-south alignment covering an area of about 150m x 80m. In the northernmost part of the survey the strong positive linear anomalies indicate the presence of walls very close to ground surface that probably contain courses of brick within the build. Immediately evident is the presence of a large, mainly open area measuring 60m by 60m that appears to have some internal divisions particularly along the northern edge of this feature. This open area could represent a courtyard or peristyle. Bordering a corridor or portico that surrounds this feature there are a series of small rooms to the north and east. South of this the anomalies clearly reveal a continuation of the structure on the same alignment and many internal divisions indicating rooms can be seen. The remains of an underground cistern still remain today in the centre of the terrace and it is probable that some of the anomalies represent this construction.

The area to the south of the church rises gently southwards towards the farmhouse. The results from this area are very interesting. The linear positive anomalies are oriented NNW-SSE; a different alignment to those north of the church. The anomalies are slightly fainter than those to the north of church suggesting that either the remains are buried more deeply or that brick was not a principle building material in this area. At least one clear structure can be determined measuring about 45m by 30m with a potential apse-like western end in the centre of the area. Linear anomalies stemming from the ends of this structure seem to indicate the continuation of the structure, particularly to the north, with possible internal divisions. There are some faint traces of the continuation of this structure to the south.

In the area directly in front of the entrance to the church linear positive anomalies were detected and through the course of excavation were revealed to be walls associated with the various phases of the church. Small rectangular strong anomalies along one of the walls were exposed as brick lined tombs.

*Area 2: Casale courtyard*

The survey inside the casale courtyard was less successful in detecting archaeological subsurface remains as the small area contained a profuse amount of modern interference namely that of at least three modern pipes that trisected the area and the presence of a modern drain that ran along the edge of the farmhouse walls. The presence of ferrous material disrupts the results and obliterates the fainter traces of archaeological features.

*Area 3: Field east of Casale*

The area was partially bisected by a small water course and the field dived down steeply towards it. The only relatively flat area was the extreme south-western corner of the field adjacent to a modern building that occupied that area. Along the southern edge of the survey area were the standing remains of Roman cisterns.

The most striking results were located on the only flat ground in the south west corner of the area. Linear positive anomalies on a WSW-ESE alignment represent a long rectangular structure measuring about 40m by 20m. The north edge of this structure appears to contain small internal divisions. There may be a similar set of rooms to the south but the anomalies are very faint. Perpendicular and adjoining this construction is a larger structure (60m by 20m) lacking any internal divisions. This vast complex may relate to the cisterns that border the southern edge of the field.

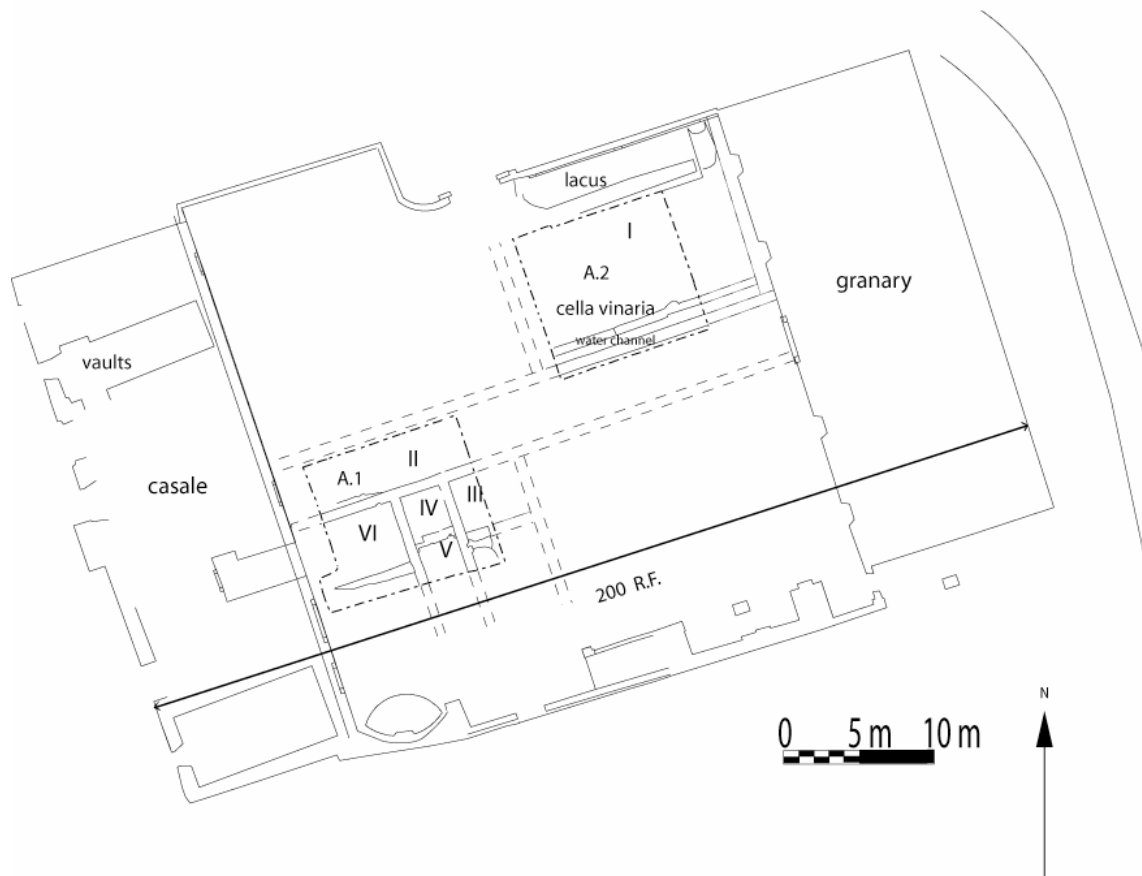
Along the western flank of the field that bordered the track leading to the farmhouse are a series of linear positive anomalies. They appear to form enclosures of varying size ranging from 30m to 10m in length. It is at present difficult to discern their function but they could represent a continuation of the built up villa complex as they share the same north-south alignment as the main complex to the north of the church. For the main part the eastern section of the survey area was devoid of any anomalies confirming the apparent extent and limit of at least the built up villa territory.

The next season of work at Villa Magna aims to complete the area to the north and west of the farmhouse in order to continue to reveal the extent of the villa complex. It would also be interesting to continue the survey to the north and east of the present survey coverage in order to establish the limit of the villa in these areas.



## The Excavation (Elizabeth Fentress)

### *The Casale*



Like our predecessors in the eighteenth and nineteenth century who carried out a certain amount of treasure hunting, we began our explorations in the courtyard of the casale, a wide open area measuring some 20 x 30 metres (area A). Here was already exposed a small stretch of *opus spicatum* pavement in yellow marble (*giallo antico* and *porta santa*), lying beside what appeared to be the base of a raised cistern. Expanding the trench to ca.10 x 10m, we exposed the entire extent of the paving, unfortunately heavily destroyed by previous

interventions. However, enough was preserved to allow us to reconstruct the nature and function of the room, which was certainly a *cella vinaria* (room I). It consists of a large rectangular space, 14 metres wide and at least 15 metres long. Along the north side lies the foundation of what is certainly a *lacus*, raised just under a meter over the floor surface. Below this on its south side at least one marble-lined vat, with a settling tank at its bottom, received the must from the

pressed grapes. From this tank the must was transferred into a number of *dolia* built into the floor. Under the floor level the *dolia* were encased in yellow clay, which creates ideal conditions for the fermentation of the wine, as it prevents the contents of the *dolia* from overheating. The *opus spicatum* floor was built on a mortar preparation over the clay, connecting with the *dolia* just below their necks. At this point hydraulic *opus signinum* plaster was laid to seal the area between the marble tiles and the jars: numerous fragments of thin, curved serpentine bands of the diameter of the shoulder of the *dolia* suggest that the join was articulated with these.

Between the jars the floor was pierced by a series of drains running vertically from the pavement, 20 cm. square and framed in the same yellow marbles. These were emptied of earth as far as we could reach, but we were unable to bottom them. As there are apparently as many of these as there are *dolia*, we suggest that they lead to a lower storey, on the basement floor of the *basis villae*, where another range of *dolia* would have been located.

A massive destruction deposit filled the areas where the floor and the *dolia* had been robbed out during what we assume to have been treasure-hunting excavations. Curiously, this contained enormous quantities of wall and floor veneers, as well as at least a cubic meter of the yellow marble tiles with which the *spicatum* pavement had been made. This deposit allows us to form an idea of the decoration of the room, whose walls were revetted in panels of yellow marble with serpentine edging, in a fashion similar to other second-century buildings. The deposit was so deep and extensive that we were unable to complete its excavation, thus a plan of the positions of all of the *dolia* will have to await next year, when we hope to be able to reach the lower edges of their cuts.



The second trench in the cortile was somewhat larger, 16 x 12m, and placed in the diagonally opposite corner. Here a corridor (room II) stretching towards the *cella vinaria* was revealed, as well as a series of rooms off it. The pavements of all of these rooms have been almost completely spoliated, but enough remains to show that the corridor was floored in a simple rectangular pattern carried out in white marble with yellow veining and *pavonazzetto*, while the large room, VI, was paved in a white marble, but with a pattern of rotated squares. From this room a staircase leads down west towards the vaults which are visible on that side of the *basis villae*. A second room, IV, appears to have been a vestibule leading to a second broad stair leading down towards the south. At some point in the late empire this stair was partially filled with earth, and floored at 60 cm. below the level of the rest of the rooms with a coarse white mosaic. To the east of it a small room without an apparent doorway seems to have served as a light well for the lower story. This, too, was redesigned in a later period. An apsidal wall was built, visible from a window cut into the room formed by the old staircase, and the light-well was filled with earth up to the level of the staircase mosaic and floored in the same way. We will understand these changes better next year. A final room, III, only partially excavated, revealed an *in situ* collapse of plaster from the ceiling. This is important in that it demonstrates that the marble pavement had already been spoliated when the ceiling fell, and thus that the robbing in this area dates to late antiquity.

Although only a quarter of the area has been excavated, it is already clear that we are dealing with a particularly glamorous *pars rustica*, the productive area of the villa. It appears to

have been built to a uniform plan, 200 RF x 150 RF, and decorated to the highest standard. A *cella vinaria* entirely paved and revetted in marble is, to our knowledge, unique.

Two brick stamps of C. Galerius Rest[itus], whose products are also known from the imperial villa of Praeneste, dating to the reign of Hadrian, connect this part of the villa to the imperial properties, as does the important inscription found over the door of the church, which reads “[...] Villae Magna”. There is no doubt that this is the villa from which Marcus Aurelius wrote to his tutor Fronto the letter in which he describes his participation in the grape harvest, together with his father, Antoninus Pius, and their dinner in the ‘torcular’, “... in torculari cenavimus... et rusticos cavillantes audivimus libenter.” (We ate in the press room and gladly listened to the joking rustics). Jean-Pierre Brun suggests that rather than actually eating with the rustics, the emperor and his heir were watching them press the grapes in the *lacus*, an activity which was normally accompanied by dancing and jests. Until we have a better candidate, we may assume that the room we are excavating is precisely this *torcular*. This is, of course, a rare example of the congruence of text and an archaeologically known space.



### The Monastery



The only surviving structures associated with the monastery are the church of S. Pietro in Villamagna, whose roof was removed in the 1970's, and a large defensive wall marked by a tower at its southwest corner which abutted the church. We carried out two exploratory excavations, trench CI in a small chapel at the northwest corner of the church, and a larger trench, B, just in front of and as wide as its west facade. We also cleaned a small clandestine excavation in the



presbytery of the church, C II, which revealed a fine 13<sup>th</sup>-century Cosmatesque pavement with evident traces of repair.



Excavation of the chapel revealed a plaster floor and threshold, possibly dating to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and cut by a number of tombs. Similar rings on two of the skeletons suggest that this was a family chapel: in all, 6 adults and 10 babies were found there. Visible in one of the cuts is an *in-situ* column base clearly removed from the villa, which probably formed part of the arcade of the nave at an earlier phase, perhaps related to the Cosmatesque pavement.

The trench in front of the church was cleaned down to the level from which the fortification wall was built, again, perhaps, in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. This construction seems to have entailed the removal of the original churchyard wall and of a structure which might be interpreted as a campanile. Against the churchyard wall was a series of three tombs built in brick. Two of these were robbed out, but the third produced fully 6 adult burials. It is clear from the cut of the foundation trench of the fortification that the churchyard itself was used as a cemetery, and we expect a large number of graves to emerge next year: these will certainly be earlier than the construction of the fortification, which appears to mark the last occupation of the site before the late nineteenth century, when the church was refloored and heavily reconstructed by the Balestra family.

### Architectural elements and other finds (Ann Kuttner)

In the fills and disturbed soils of the 2006 season emerged a large amount of fine stone decorations, both Roman and medieval. Typical of such contexts is **1076**, in the *cella vinaria* with 180-200 pieces. Both the church and the granary had piles of architectural marbles and veneers, heaped in corners; their provenance is unknown.

Elements of Roman construction come mostly from the granary deposits. They include, significant remains of monumental architecture on the scale of public constructions in white marble: these include five large pieces of heavy monolith column shafts up to 40 cm in diameter, one perhaps with entasis, and several pier fragments (including one cruciform in section), a fragment of a very large marble ceiling coffer, remains of modillions, a fine piece of upper pedestal 30 x 30 cm. in section with a well-finished upper torus; and an intact block from an extremely monumental cornice. The block is ca. 40 cm. high, ca. 41 cm. deep at its lower edge, 55 cm. at the top. Its rich, deeply drilled mouldings are intact with no breakage; in sequence from top to bottom these include deeply undercut bead and reel, acanthus, dentils, and egg and dart. The fine state of preservation suggests that this was uncovered relatively recently. Finally, these stone piles contained a number of pieces of a circular white marble rim probably for some purpose like the edging of a water feature.

Particular decors are signalled by three sets of remains. One is a set of pieces of an attached Ionic order, distinctive on two counts. First, the applied columns were not the typical half-round, but rather three-quarters columns, deeply undercut. Then, their fluting is complicated by a prominent half-round striping the arris. A similar Ionic column shaft has been found at Trajan's villa at Arcinazzo. There is also evidence for tall and wide attached pilasters,



represented by two different molding and dimension types, but each of two joining sections adding up to widths of ca. 41-2 and of ca. 39-40 cm. respectively. These are remains of decors on a monumental scale. A third set consists in two or three badly worn fragments of a highly decorative miniaturized columnar wall treatment, much-battered little capitals in one piece with their cornice block, like ornaments of an aedicula or nymphaeum.

#### *Floor and wall veneers:*

A large amount of *opus sectile* and plainer veneer emerged steadily from the fills of the casale trenches, particularly in the *cella vinaria*. The marbles represented include Proconnesian and other white marbles, *pavonazzetto*, *giallo antico*, and *porta santa*, the latter two used primarily in the *cella vinaria*. Less common is the granite found here, a very fine-grained white with close small black speckling; it occurs in small, very finely cut elements, including frieze bands for walls as well as possible floor inlays. Large pieces of porphyry, and curved fragments of *giallo antico*, suggest that at least one floor pattern in the villa consisted of dark red circles inscribed in yellow squares. The original range of floor patterns is also signalled by a chunk of mortar bedding with patterns of radiate fine stones in larger (and thicker) tiles. The granary stone piles yielded a fragment of ancient mortar with five hexagons still embedded, showing a patterning of lighter alternated with darker tiles.

Many other *opus sectile* pieces in *giallo antico*, as well as in other stones, are obviously wall treatments for large-scale patterns of framed panels. There are some smaller pieces, including a white volute of a fictive pilaster capital. Serpentine banding was clearly used for framing.

Given the imperial ownership of this villa, these decors of purple, red and gold can be correlated to imperial taste in public construction for colored stones like *giallo antico*, porphyry and pavonazzetto, whose quarries were imperially controlled. Our decors echo fashionable developments of the later 1<sup>st</sup> century AD like the fictive *opus spicatum* floors of *giallo antico* at the bath of Domitian's imperial villa at Circeo and the remains of large-scale wall panelling in use at Trajan's early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD villa at Arcinazzo.

#### *Fresco*

Decoratively colored plaster is not yet well represented for the Roman constructions at Villa Magna. Plain red-washed plaster occurs in the light-shaft, and there were many fragments red or white service-quarter plasters. Rough red painting was applied to some very large plaster elements, convex in section, sometimes curved, from the edging of some kind of vat for liquid, possibly the collection vat in the *cella vinaria*. The fallen ceiling plaster of room V, however, contained a greater range of colors, including (costly) blues and greens. Medieval or modern painted decoration recovered from the destruction layers consists of faux-marble patterning in cream, brown, yellow, ochre, red, and some green, on a ground ranging from white or cream to mustard or brown.

#### *Sculpture*

Only three fragments of figural Roman sculpture were found, all from the kind of very finely made miniatures, 1/3rd life size or less; known in the sub-elite houses of Pompeii: these all date from the Severan period at the earliest. In the casale was found the lower right torso, thigh and knee of an epicene plump body, leaning in marked *contrapposto* onto a tree trunk over which is slung a boar skin whose dangling head is well preserved. The hunt theme in combination with the very fleshy body tentatively suggests an *amorino* as hunter. A tiny fragment is circular in section and flaring above, probably a piece of the tree trunk. From the monastery comes a tiny fragment of human or animal hair, from a figure of the same scale.

#### *Mosaics*

The only *in situ* mosaic floors are of the coarse white tesserae typical of a late Roman context. However, rare fine blue-glass tesserae found in secondary deposits suggest water-display

architecture in the villa, as blue-glass mosaic typified walls and ceilings of Roman nymphaea from the Late Republic onwards.

#### *Other Finds*

Roman pottery from the villa was notable for its absence. Only a few fragments of late Roman pottery, including the toe of a *spatheion* amphora, were recovered from the whole excavation. Medieval and Renaissance pottery was somewhat more common, but hardly plentiful. Metal finds of significance were limited to two bronze belt buckles and two rings from cemetery contexts, and a few Renaissance coins.

#### **Proposals for the 2007 season** (Elizabeth Fentress)

As planned, this season was fairly limited, with an average of 20 excavators drawn from American, British and Italian graduate programs (listed in appendix 2). The purpose of this was to select and train next year's staff, so that we can enlarge the excavation team by taking on some undergraduates and graduate students without previous excavation experience. Almost all of the team is as eager to return as we are to have them back. We plan to excavate for 8 weeks during June and July, with 2 sessions separated by a long weekend. Staff will work for the whole two months, while new students will rotate in two four week seasons. We hope that these eight weeks will be followed by a further three or four weeks of restoration, again, arranged as a training project in collaboration with Professor Frank Matero of the University of Pennsylvania.

Our experience with the modern courtyard levels of the *casale*, which are hard, deep and uninformative, suggests that they would be better removed mechanically. We therefore intend to excavate the whole of the courtyard, revealing a maximum extent of the *pars rustica*. We will also place two smaller trenches to the north of the building, in order to establish its extent prior to the construction of the *casale*.

In the area of the monastery we plan to continue both trenches, using the chapel to establish the overall depth of deposit and date the construction of the church, while in area B we are more or less forced to undertake the excavation of the cemetery. Our physical anthropologist, Walter Pantano, proposes to use this opportunity to train students in cemetery excavation, an excellent plan. We will then open new areas to the west and north of the trench, in order to establish the position of the monastic buildings, and to learn more about the occupation of the fortified *borgo*, which so far remains ephemeral.

A project that should begin in October of this year is the field survey of the area around the monastery, directed by Hendrik Dey, a recent doctorate from the University of Michigan and fellow of the American Academy in Rome. This is intended as an exploratory season: depending on its results we will propose that it become a full-fledged branch of the project.

Talks are underway with the *Consiglio Nazionale della Ricerca* in order to program their intervention in the topographic recording of the site, in collaboration with our collaborators from LP Archaeology, which has been creating a GIS database for the excavation. This innovative research is aimed at creating a tool more generally applicable to excavations, in which all information is stored on a server available on the web or, on the excavation itself, through a LAN network.

A catalogue of the rare but important inscriptions from the site is in preparation by Marco Maiuro, field-director for the excavation of the *casale*. This should be submitted to *ZPE* by Christmas.

Finally, the study of the architectural fragments is being undertaken by Dirk Booms, who is writing a thesis on the architecture of the imperial villas of Lazio at Cambridge University. He will also be looking at those of Sperlonga and Arcinazzo this year.

## Stratigraphic Reports

### The Casale (Marco Maiuro)

#### Research Objectives

The location of the trenches was selected on the basis of known archaeological structures, visible in the *casale*. These consist of the vaulted chambers (5 with barrel vaults with masonry of *opus mixtum*, with subsequent interventions in the late antique and modern periods) atop which the 19th-century *casale* sits. There is a large exedra in *opus mixtum* located on the S side of the *cortile*, at a level higher than the vaults. What appeared to be a Roman cistern has always remained visible, constituting the N limit of the *cortile*. Abutting it is a square tub, lined on the interior with marble, with a small basin for decantation. Below this, a series of clandestine excavations have brought to light a pavement of *opus spicatum*, with marble *tesserae*.

The general topography of the area constituted largely a series of walls, of unknown relationship to one another, on two levels: that of the *spicatum* and that of the vaults. The 2006 campaign was designed to respond to two fundamental questions: what was the general topography of the Roman structures in the *cortile* and what were their intended functions?

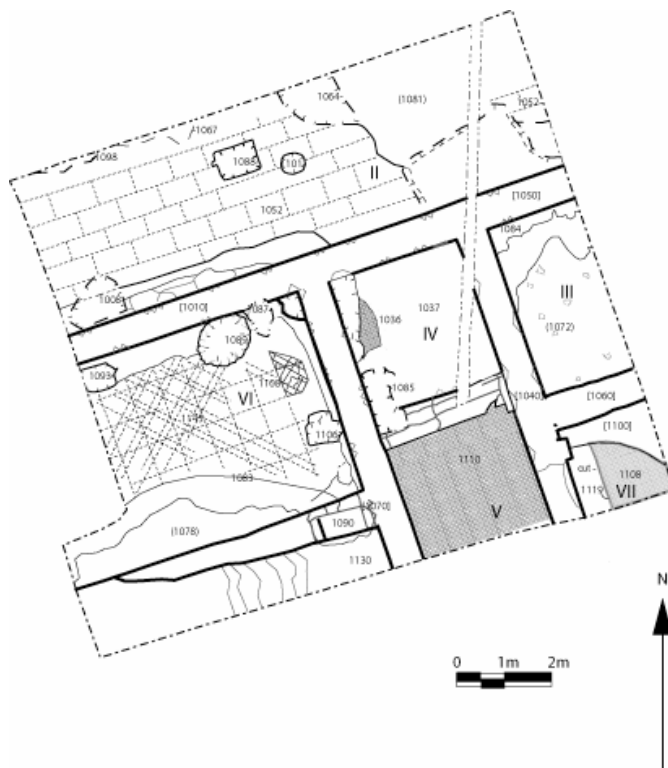
#### Areas and techniques of excavation

Three areas within the *cortile* were opened: A1, a quadrangular trench in the SW portion of the *cortile* (max 16 x 12, ca. 190 sq m) and a second, A2, also of rectangular form (9.8 x 10.4, ca 100 sq m) in the NE area. The second trench, A2 was located around the known pavement of *opus spicatum*. The location of the first trench, A1, was targeted to explore unknown topography. The two trenches are kitty-corner, with the N edge of A1 aligned with the S edge of A2. After the removal of the nineteenth-century deposits in A1 the area of the trench was reduced to 11 x 10 m. on the north side. Excavation was conducted by hand, with the aid of a back-hoe (with a 50 cm shovel, without tongs) for 10 work hours to remove the superficial overburden in A2 and the 20<sup>th</sup>-century levels in A1. Excavation reached Roman pavements in the N portion of A1, 19<sup>th</sup>-century pavements in the S. In A2, the removal of the destruction levels filling cuts in the Roman pavement was not completed.

At the end of the excavation, Ancient structures, exclusively, were covered with green plastic sheeting with a light layer of backfill.

#### Ancient structures:

##### A1



In the N portion of the trench ancient structures were uncovered, including a series of orthogonal walls, some 70 cm wide, all constructed in *opus mixtum*, with courses of 5 bricks and openings of *opus reticulatum* of limestone blocks 8-9 cm in length. These walls, bonded to each other, formed the architectural grid of the site. **1010-1050**, an E-W wall, which bonds with **1040** and **1070**, both N-S, are major elements of this grid. Wall **1060** (E-W) bonds with **1040**, while **1090** (E-W) bonds with **1070**. All of these walls extend beyond the edges of the trench, yet their orientation forms the articulation of the rooms: the N portion of the trench, N of **1010-1050**, is one room, II, of which the E-W limits are not known, but the N limits of which must be the wall continuing 1080 found inside A2 and whose continuation towards A1 is strongly suggested by the discoloration of surface foliage. This room has a single pavement of rectangular marble slabs (.50 x .80), of which only two pieces have been uncovered (white marble with yellow veining and *pavonazzetto* or Phrygian marble). Between **1010** and **1050** is a doorframe, in cement though perhaps originally lined with marble, through which one entered a small area, limited by walls **1010-1050**, **1040** and **1070**, which formed a vestibule, IV, paved with



white mosaic (**1036**), of which only fragments remain. The technique of the pavement is rather unrefined, the *tesserae* are large (2 cm) and laid in irregular courses, parallel to the N-S walls. All of this would suggest a service area, of secondary function to the other areas and of a later date, perhaps late antiquity.

From IV, three stairs lead down. Their structural relationship with the walls **1040** and **1070** is not clear – they appear to abut the bearing walls **1040-1070**, and to have been lined with marble. The stairs lead to a corridor, excavated for the length of two meters. This area, as well, was paved with white mosaic (**1110**) identical to the pavement described above **1036**, perfectly conserved. The corridor and the mosaic lead to the S, in the area not excavated. It is probable that the mosaic represents the later infill of the stair, which originally would have led down to the lower floor. In the area of the trench between **1010** (to the N), **1070** (to the E) and **1090** (to the S) is a single room (VI), whose W limits are not known. The room is paved in marble, which is conserved in two small fragments, both white marble of different types, not yet identified. The design is composed of squares of 60 cm with a central square placed diagonally and rectangular *tesserae* on the sides.



Stairwell and SU (**1110**)

The passage between VI and II to its north might have been located in the unexcavated area to the W of the trench. Wall **1010** is interrupted there, and on the basis of what has been determined above, this interruption might signify the presence of a doorframe of a passage. Within the room, at the edge of wall **1010**, an oval shaped tub, lined in brick, some 20 cm deep, is let into the floor, with apparent disregard for the marble floor. The small basin, whose function has not yet been determined, appears to be a later intervention in a phase after that of the marble paving. To the south of this room, reached through a doorframe with a limestone jamb is a staircase leading down to the vaults to the west. The stairs (**1130**) have steps 35 cm deep and 22 cm high (there were 4 steps excavated) and they bond with the masonry of **1090** and thus are contemporary to these and in phase with the rest of the walls. These served as the passage from the vaulted structures mentioned above and room VI.

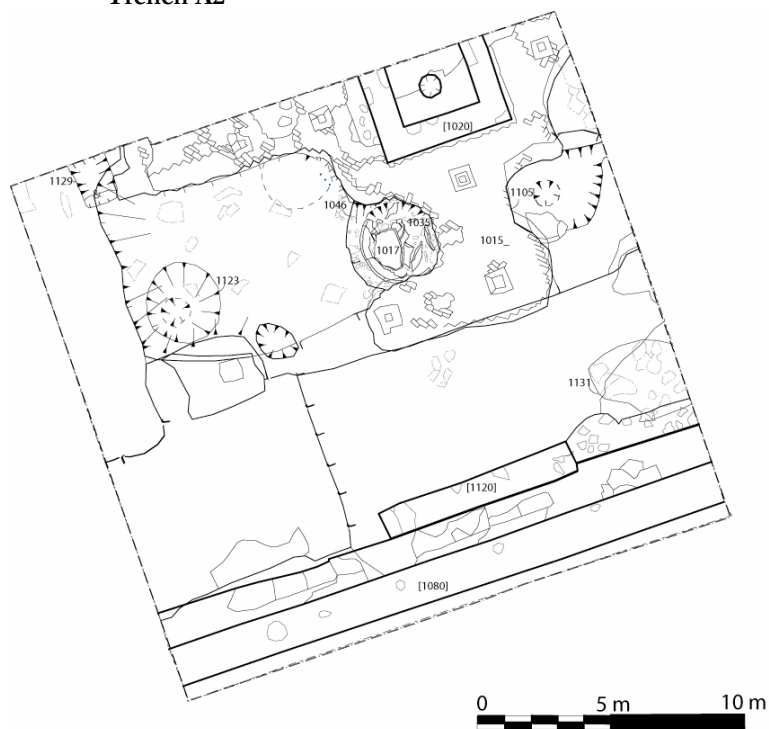
The passage between VI and II to its north might have been located in the unexcavated area to the W of the trench. Wall **1010** is interrupted there, and on the basis of what has been determined above, this interruption might signify the presence of a doorframe of a passage. Within the room, at the edge of wall **1010**, an oval shaped tub, lined in brick, some 20 cm deep, is let into the floor, with apparent disregard for the marble floor. The small basin, whose function has not yet been determined, appears to be a later intervention in a phase after that of the marble paving. To the south of this room, reached through a doorframe with a limestone jamb is a staircase leading down to the vaults to the west. The stairs (**1130**) have steps 35 cm deep and 22 cm high (there were 4 steps excavated) and they bond with the masonry of **1090** and thus are contemporary to these and in phase with the rest of the walls. These served as the passage from the vaulted structures mentioned above and room VI.

To the east of the staircase there are two areas, only partially excavated. Room III, delimited by walls **1050** to the N, **1040** to the E, and **1060** to the S and by the limits of the trench to the E, is a small room, the limits of which are visible from overhead photos (see photo 00). A collapse of colored plaster, still *in situ* (**1072**), covers the preparation for a marble pavement (**1084**). This indicates that this area was not disturbed after its collapse and abandonment, and also suggests that the marble was despoiled from this area prior to the collapse of the walls, in a relatively ancient period. Another area, VII, is delimited by walls **1060** (N) and **1040** (E), and with limits to the W and S unknown. A mosaic pavement identical to that of the stair/corridor but in a much worse state of preservation, is visible in this area (**1109**). The pavement here appears to pertain to a late antique restructuring of the area in which the masonry **1060** abuts a curved wall (**1100**), a small apse (?), constructed in masonry completely different from the ancient walls in the area. The face of the wall has irregular courses of rectangular local limestone, with thick beds of dark white mortar, all of which suggests a late antique date, perhaps contemporary with the mosaic pavement. The access to this apsed room was created by cutting the wall **1040** to make a window directly from the stairs paved in mosaic. At the interior of VII the mosaic pavement was cut (the fill of which has not been completely removed), at a relatively ancient time, nonetheless one when the abandon of the area was irreversible. Within the cut, the plaster surface of the western face of wall **1040** is visible, and this gives an indication of the decoration of the lower level of the wall: a plaster coating some 5 cm thick, with two bands of color, red above and yellow below. The function of this space seems to have been as a light well in both periods: in the first phase it would have brought light to the lower storey, while in the second it lit the corridor created from the staircase.

The preparation for the pavements in marble (**1052** and **1045**, in rooms II and VI, respectively) present a strong concavity in the centre, which could be interpreted as a structural subsidence of pavements in correspondence with subsidence of the underlying vaults. This correspondence would suggest the presence of

vaulted structures beneath the rooms II and VI, oriented as the structures above on an E-W axis and accessible by a passage not yet discovered. The walls **1010-1050** and **1080**, which continue the lines of the bearing walls of the vaulted structures below, would thus be part of the static armature of the Roman structure of the *casale*. A lower level, is also recognizable inside area VI, and thus to the W of the passage with steps and corridor (IV). We might suppose, thus, that at least the large part of the structures inside the *cortile* are built atop vaults.

### Trench A2



Excavation has brought to light the preserved extension of the pavement in *opus spicatum*, with marble *tesserae* and the edges of the paving. The E-W wall, **1080**, which continues one of the walls of the vaults, constitutes the S edge of the paved area, dividing it from the N edge of the corridor in area II. Immediately to the N of this runs a water channel along the wall. The covering of the channel, if it ever had one, is not known. One of the shoulders of the channel is constructed in masonry of slabs of limestone and tufa (**1120**), without surface treatment, and the wall runs immediately to the N of the bearing wall. The bottom of the channel is formed by a bed of *bipedales*, set into cement and bonded to the side walls.

The preparation of the pavement in *opus spicatum* is a bed of mortar spread across a layer of tufo and limestone fragments (**1041**), which covers the shoulders of the channel and implicates the two structures in a same construction phase and same

function, a relationship supported by the absence of surface treatment to the wall, which would not have ever been visible. The preparation for the *opus spicatum*, is preserved in a very fragmentary way inside the excavated areas. The N edges of the area must be the wall at the edge of the cistern, visible upon a cleaning of the standing remains, constructed in *opus mixtum* of the same techniques as the other Imperial period walls. The exterior walls of the courtyard, built atop the cistern, must form the N edges of the area, considered a single room (I). The E and W edges of the room are not known, even if a N-S wall circa one meter from the edge of the trench is indicated by differential growth in the lawn of the *cortile*, visible in the area photos. The pavement in *opus spicatum* is laid with *tesserae* of rectangular pieces of colored marble of variable width. cursory examination of the samples preserved indicated that the marbles used are *giallo antico* and *porta santa*. The density of *tesserae* is at least 320 per sq meter.

In the pavement, at regular intervals, are small drains constructed in brick and paved with a single piece of marble, with a squared hole in the centre, circa 20 cm per side. There are six of these drains currently visible, though none of them has been emptied. Removing the fill of a cut which destroyed the pavement, the key element to understanding the area was discovered: at least three giant *dolia* for the conservation and fermentation of wine were set in the pavement of the room, at least one is still in situ. These receptacles must have had a diameter of ca. 1,20 m, with a flat bottom and an articulated lip, and were set circa 1 meter below ground. The must have stood above the level of the *spicatum* ca 10-20 cm. The material collected in the collapse of the pavement allows us to reconstruct the joint between the pavements and the *dolia*: there was special band of *cocciopesto* to seal the *dolium* to the floor, and to make up the space between the corners of the *tesserae* of the *opus spicatum* and the convex surface of the *dolia*, specially cut pieces of *serpentino* formed the edges, which served to highlight the presence of the *dolia* by setting it off from the pavement. There are three preserved *dolia*, aligned along an E-W axis. The robber trenches of the pavement have damaged the clay surfaces into which the *dolia* were inserted, and thus it is difficult to reconstruct the

presence of other containers: a fourth would appear to have been located in the N limits of the trench, to the W of the marble-lined basin.

The structure is to be interpreted as a *cella vinaria*, with the drains must be seen as leading to wine *dolia* located in the substructures. Such an hypothesis, which resembles other known examples of the Roman period, remains to be verified in the next campaigns of excavations. The vat is lined in marble (1020), with a small basin for decanting, evidently connected with the collection of wine and its filtration prior to storing it in *dolia*. This must collect the wine from the superstructures, which means that the previous interpretation of the structure as a cistern is no longer tenable; it must be a vault over which was built the *lacus*, or a collecting tank for the pressing of grapes, probably the traditional pressing with feet, though the structure has only been partially explored. There is evidence of a pavement in *cocciopesto*, lined with bands, immediately above the marble tub. In any case, the structure could have also housed a mechanical press, either a lever, or that of a continuous screw. The entire area was a sumptuous and refined hall for the production and storage of wine.

### Stratigraphic sequence

In general, the ground layers of trench A1 and A2 are modest because the post-antique and contemporary interventions were so destructive to the stratigraphy.

To begin with trench A1, an highly compact layer of clay (1063), was visible in three place where holes in the Roman paving revealed the underlying stratigraphy. This appears to be a leveling layer between the vaulted substructures and the paved layer above. A similar context has been identified in trench A2, cut for the deposit of the sunken *dolia*. Above the paving levels the sequence of deposits is very complex. Excluding the collapsed plaster (1072), discussed above, the only place where intact stratigraphy might be preserved is the covering 1074 of the mosaic pavement 1110. In this area, deeper than the rest of the trench, the material of the deposit and the conservation of the mosaic suggest that this area was not penetrated in the modern period, even if there is an absence of Roman ceramics. It is difficult to establish a date for the spoliation of the marble pavements. As noted above, the area in which the collapsed plaster is preserved was already despoiled of its pavement, which must have occurred at a relatively early date. The dating of spoliation of other pavements is nearly impossible to establish because of the absence of intact collapses. Certain holes lie directly on the preparation: pits 1095, 1067, 1069, 1064 and 1099 all cut 1052 inside room II, and have not been excavated. The trench 1062 seems to be attributable to a recent intervention, perhaps 19th-century, on the basis of the materials found in it. The trenches 1093, 1087 and 1102 in the preparation 1045, which have only been partially excavated, do not furnish clear dating. It is clear, however, that the fill of the oval structure is 19th-century, because of the majolica ceramic of that period collected in the fill. Similarly, the large yellow and black clay layer which covers the staircase 1030 must be 19th-century in date, because of the conspicuous presence of ceramic and glass of that period.

The covering and definitive obliteration of the Roman pavements seem to be also 19th-century. These are small pockets of materials, inconsistent with one another and lacking in ceramic, which sit atop the Roman levels (1058). Above these, probably in a singular action, beaten earth pavements with yellow limestone and pebbles (1026 and 1023) were spread, and these cover definitively the tops of Roman walls, which were perhaps razed at that time.

The courtyard of the casale

The 19th-century pavement of the cortile is surely part of the large interventions having to do with the construction of the *casale*, dated to 1860 or 1870. A *terminus ante quem* for this is the construction of the water channel, running S-E/N-W, cast in blocks and covered with paving tiles bearing the dates 1894 and 1895. The channel (1027), which cuts the 19th-century pavement, intersects the mosaic pavement 1036 and the Roman structures 1030, 1040 and 1050, which were presumably no longer visible. Another cut, parallel to these but this time a simple trench to hold a lead pipe (1024), cuts the masonry of walls 1060 and 1100. The pavement 1026 is covered by a body of material S of the *casale*, posterior to the central area.





Under a thin layer of covering (1016), a second pavement was extended in gravel (1002), covered in turn by a pavement of pebbles (1003) and a thin layer of cement (1004) in the S-W area of trench A1. This intervention dates from the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century or shortly thereafter and it seals the 19<sup>th</sup>-century layers. Two deposits of rubbish (1008 and 1035) are posterior to the 19<sup>th</sup>-century pavement. Over the first 20<sup>th</sup>-century pavement is the topsoil of the cortile (1001), preserved in the unexcavated areas.

In Trench A2, the above-mentioned layer of yellow clay (1104) bears the marks of the placement of three *dolia* (1105 for *dolium* 1048, 1123 for *dolium* 1124, and 1038). The wall of the water channel 1120 does not bear weight, and it must be constructed in a cut in the same context. The paving 1015 with its preparation lies atop the same context 1104, after the placement of the *dolia*. The phase of destruction of the ancient buildings is not clear and leaves complex traces. The earliest cut is that which intersects the two *dolia* 1048 and 1124. The cut 1046 in the level of the *opus spicatum* pavement has a series of fills, more or less coherent. Late Roman ceramic has been found in the fill of one of the cuts and this context could be contemporary with the lowest deposit filling the cut 1046, that is 1114 and 1077. The former is a deposit of clay with inclusions of tiles and cement, the latter is an accumulation of marble panels and *tesserae* of the *opus spicatum* pavement. The total absence of ceramic inhibits a dating of these interventions, though they are certainly earlier than the cut 1125 which runs parallel to the wall 1080. Equally uncertain is the chronology of the cuts visible in the E margin of the trench (1053 and 1038), nearly at the same level as the *opus spicatum* pavement. The cut 1125, parallel to the walls 1080 and 1120, seems instead to be a large modern fill, perhaps 19<sup>th</sup>-century, filled with different materials than the deposits of clay above (1113, not entirely removed, covered by 1073, layers of plaster and tiles, covered by 1075, an accumulation of stones). Other interventions are visible in this accumulation, with the cut 1131 made in the fill 1113. On top of these contexts, a 19<sup>th</sup>-century pavement was laid (1022), equivalent of 1002, visible in Trench A1. Beneath these, visible in the W portion of the trench, is a pavement of fine pebbles (1021), spread on a yellow clay pavement (1077), which seems to be limited to the W portion of the trench. It is nonetheless difficult to date the cut of destruction of the pavement 1125, or to know whether it happened before or after the 19<sup>th</sup>-century pavement, since the S area of the trench has been disturbed by illicit excavation, compromising the stratigraphic sequence over pavement 1015.

#### Materials

The total lack of Roman ceramic material on the site, as well as the lack of coins and other chronological guides, is surprising. In the 2006 campaign, the majority of materials to emerge from the excavations are fragments of marbles, some extremely precious, which pertained to the wall decorations, the cornices, *opus sectile* walls, and a small quantity of contemporary materials which help to date the post-19<sup>th</sup>-century phases. Among the Roman materials, one important find is the brick stamp of C. Galerius Rest[itus] (CIL XV 00), datable to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, identifiable on two examples (1077, 1114) coming from one of the structures with brick courses inside the *casale*. Also of note is the statue of the hunter described above, found in the fill of cut 1056.



Tile stamp

#### Chronology and interpretation of the general topography

From the 2006 campaign, three phases of the life of the villa have been identified. The first is the construction of the Roman buildings and the creation of the entire plan. We do not possess elements to pin down the chronology with any exactitude: there is a coherence of the masonry techniques, their contemporaneity is clear from the stratigraphic relationships and the coherence of the architectural plan with an interconnection of two levels of occupation. The masonry techniques, the presence of the brick stamp, even if not *in situ*, suggest a date in towards the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. A second phase of the villa is the late antique interventions visible in trench A1. The semicircular wall and the mosaic pavements of a late antique technique are indications of new constructions within the imperial period buildings, to be considered a restoration or reorganisation of the functions of the building, to date somewhere between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> century. There is then the 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century life of the villa, which seals and covers in part and destroys in another part the archaeological deposits. The 2006 campaign, it has been impossible to find signs of the destruction, abandon, or reuse of the structures in the middle ages or Renaissance, with the possible exception of the cut in pavement 1046, the destruction of the pavement of *opus spicatum* 1046.

The interpretation of the entire area is clear: it is an extraordinary example of a production area built with unparalleled richness and splendor. In future campaigns, we intend to follow the exploration of this monument which, from the outset, has furnished excellent results.

## The Monastery (Caroline Goodson)

### *Objectives and position of trenches:*

The purpose of the excavation in the area of the monastery was to determine the phases of construction and use of the church and the relationship between the church and the Roman structures in the area. The position of the trench was determined by the position of the church: it extends 10 m from the front of the church, creating an open area of excavation 12,80 x 10 m, the edges of the trench corresponding to those of the church façade.

### *Excavation:*

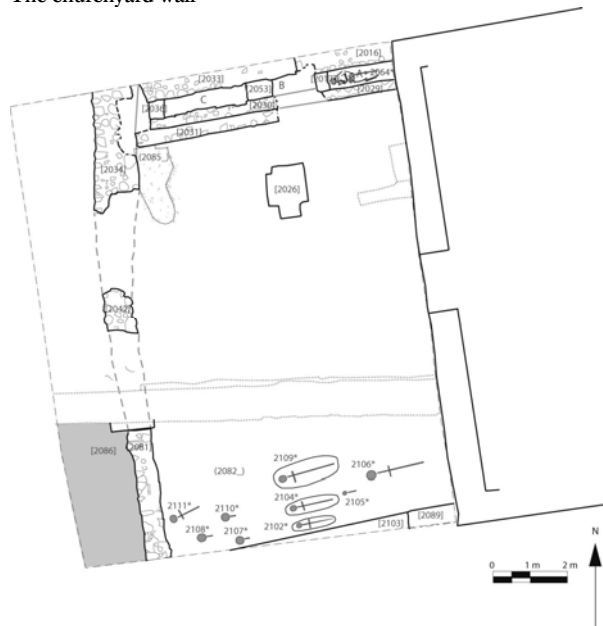
The topsoil was removed by hand. Visible already above the ground level was a major wall [2001] which had been partially cut back and knocked down, 2002. The area of N of [2001] was excavated removing the layers of occupation associated with the modern cutting of the wall, the use of the area in front of the church and the fill of the area after the abandon or destruction of the *borgo*. Excavation continued until the first pre-fortification pavement was reached. On the S side of [2001], a back-hoe was brought in to remove the overburden of agricultural use of the area, (2040), (2025) to a depth of -0.25 – -0.30 m. Here the débris of the construction of 2001 was cleared to reveal a cemetery which extended throughout the area of the churchyard.

### *A Note on Human remains:*

The vast quantity of human remains in advanced states of decomposition on site necessitated a clear policy and hierarchy of preservation or disposal of the remains. Articulated bones were given individual Human Remains Units, with the assumption that the remains were in their primary burial, more or less. HRUs are usually located in a tomb fill, or SU, which covers and is covered by the HRU, an inconvenient stratigraphic relationship, but one that nonetheless reflects the physical reality of these earthen tombs, whose fill above and below the body is nearly impossible to distinguish. Loose bones were on the whole not preserved outside the church, with the exception of those from tomb A where it was assumed that the loose bones pertained to earlier burials, displaced by the HRUs identified therein. Loose bones with no clear context were removed and placed on the spoil heap with the rest of the excavated earth.

## Area B

### The churchyard wall



Excavations revealed two major phases of use of the area in front of the church, roughly separated as the period prior to the construction of the defensive wall [2001] and the period after it. The chronology and the range of functions of the structures in the area prior to the wall remain to be further clarified by future excavations, but the major elements are a series of walls which delineate a churchyard. The earliest contexts identified in the area of in front of the church is a pavement of flat limestone flagstones, [2063], revealed at the bottom of a cut at a level of -1,20 m, though no structures have yet been associated with this pavement.

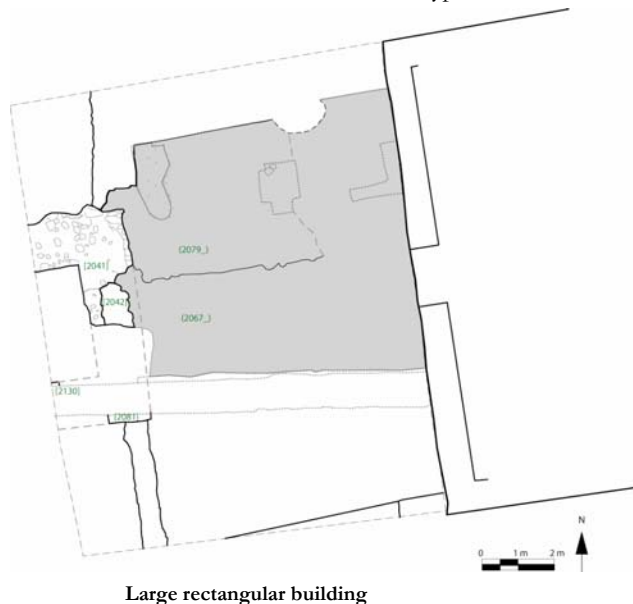
Above the flagstone pavement were constructed a number of walls, which ran N-S and E-W, forming a sort of churchyard wall. The most substantial component of the churchyard wall is [2034], some three meters in length and 1.25 m in width, which sits directly atop the flagstone pavement. [2034] corresponds in alignment to a pier/fragment of broken wall [2042], surrounded in a subsequent phase by a large wall [2041] which forms a sharp corner perpendicular to the main N-S line of the rest of the walls. [2034] was at some point cut by 2058, presumably for the construction of [2041] and its W extension.

Pier [2042] continues the alignment of [2081] in the S section of the trench, partially destroyed for the creation of [2001], and rebuilt as a sort of foundation support for same [2091]. In addition to their alignment, each of these walls and piers is associated by the use of roughly dressed blocks of limestone, reused bricks, and a mortar which includes clumps of hard blue-violet mortar, made of local *pozzolana*. This wall presumably joined up with an

E-W wall, [2103], visible just at the S edge of the trench and splayed so that its juncture with [2081], if it joins, is beyond the limits of the trench. [2103] is constructed in a sort of post-Roman *opus incertum*, with small blocks of limestone fitted together with a dark white mortar, indicating that it pertains to a different phase of construction than the main N-S running walls, perhaps predating it. The alignment of [2103] was extended to reach the façade of the church by the blocking wall [2089] and we can see this as part of the same action as the construction of the main N-S walls: to form an enclosing wall around the church yard. The N side of the church yard was formed by a row of tombs which abut both [2034] and the façade of the church, though it is possible that these tombs themselves abut an earlier wall which served as the exterior wall of the churchyard, which may lie outside the edge of the trench.

These tombs have been designated A, B & C, with A being closest to the church façade. They are constructed of reused Roman bricks, *bipedales* cut into triangles, blocks of limestone, and mortar. Their walls [2030], [2033], [2029], [2017] running N-S, [2056], [2052], [2016] running E-W all bond with each other and form part of the same phase of construction. They represent, however, the elevation and rebuilding of an earlier phase of these tombs, recognizable in the very different construction technique of lower walls along the S side of the tombs. The lower walls ([2099], [2100], [2101]) are made of blocks of limestone and dark white mortar, and they are actually some 10-15cm wider than the later phase of the tombs. In Tomb C, it is clear that the early phase of these walls sits on top of a flagstone, alike in size and level to [2063]. The later brick walls of the tombs were fortified on the S side by a continuous E-W wall, [2031], which abuts the plaster surface that covered the S face of [2030] and the E face of [2034]. Tomb C was discovered to be filled with 85 cm of rubble, earth and loose human bones (2054). The walls of Tomb B were partially destroyed and it was backfilled with rubble, earth and loose bones (2051)=(2052). Tomb A, however, had 5 consecutive burials. The first skeleton, 2087\*, was only partially preserved: a pelvis and the right leg of an adult were recovered. The burial was disturbed by the next one, 2084\*, which is a nearly intact skeleton of an adult, missing only the lower right leg and foot. A subsequent burial of an adult, 2080\*, is missing the pelvis, and the left lower leg and foot, and head. The fourth burial, 2066\*, is another adult, missing both arms, in the earth surrounding the burial a small bronze jinglebell was recovered. The last burial in the tomb, 2064\*, is intact except for the feet, though the individual was buried next to the cranium of another. The tomb was very casually reused and refilled and the earth surrounding the skeletons was not clearly stratified.

These were monumentalized burials in the forecourt of the church. The entire area, however was given over to human burials of a range of types. The beaten-earth surface (2067) of the churchyard, prior to the construction of [2001] and its preparations promises to yield at least dozens more inhumations. Some of these are visible in the cut stratigraphy, such as that made visible by the cut for the foundation of [2001], 2068, and the cut of the destruction of Tomb B, 2050. Two more tombs have been identified but not excavated to the west of [2041]. All of these follow the E-W orientation typical of Christian medieval burials, with head to the W awaiting the



Second Coming of Christ from the E. At least 13 more inhumations are visible in the surface to the south of [2001], (2082). While a number of these tombs were identified and numbered, only a few of them were excavated: 2109/(2123), 2104/(2116), 2102/(2118), 2105/(2117), 2061. Their position right at the surface of the layer covered by the materials deriving from the construction of 2001 suggests that they had been cut by a general levelling of the area for the preparation of the fortification (2013).

After the construction of the churchyard wall, it was partially destroyed for the creation of a large rectangular building, with thick masonry walls. [2034] was cut by 2058, [2042] may have been cut and was certainly surrounded by a much larger masonry wall extending N-S and E-W [2041]. This structure was built of reused limestone blocks, marble, brick and a very hard blue-violet mortar. Its SW interior corner is a perfect right angle, corresponding in alignment and position to a pier [2130]. The W extent of this structure is not known, as it passes beyond the limits of the section, and its

function is not known either. It is also not clear whether the churchyard wall still stood after its construction, as the construction deposits of neither of these buildings has been determined.

Other structures existed within the churchyard wall, though their functions are very difficult to determine. [2015], [2055] and [2026] are all masonry or rubble constructions in the NE quadrant of the trench, suggesting

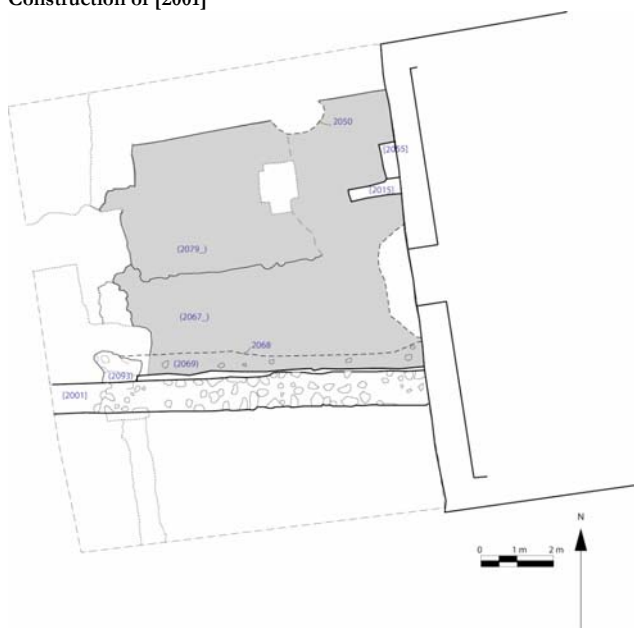


either further monumental tombs or a type of narthex or portico before the entrance to the church, and it is our hope that further excavation will explain their purposes. [2026], a monolithic pier, specifically suggests a major construction in front of the church, and its polygonal shape implied the presence of arches both to the S and to the W, though no corresponding piers have been discovered.

Against the large rectangular building to the N and abutting [2034] to its W, [2059] was constructed of coursed rubble. Parallel to it, 3 m to the N, runs [2131], constructed of limestone blocks. The W extent of these walls are not known. At a subsequent moment the spaces created by these walls was cut by a large ossuary pit. The rectangular area was filled with pulverized human skeletons (2032), (2039) and a rubble wall [2035] was constructed running E-W between the two main walls of the ossuaries. The upper contexts of the pits were also filled with collapsed walls (2038) associated with the eventual destruction of the ossuaries and the large rectangular building. The large rectangular building was destroyed by cutting through wall [2041], and whatever was left of [2042] if it continued to the N.

A pit (2071) was dug in the area to the SE of [2042] after the destruction of the large rectangular building, and it was filled with the same kind of pulverized bone (2072) as had filled the first ossuary, completely free of earth fill and materials. This ossuary was cut by the foundation trench of [2001].

#### Construction of [2001]



The end of the churchyard came through the construction of wall [2001]. At the time of construction of the wall, or just prior to it, the majority of the structures in the churchyard were destroyed, their destruction recognizable by the cuts to the major walls, eg 2037, 2050 and contexts of rubble of their knocked-down walls in (2027), (2078), (2079). For the construction of the wall a trench was cut through the last beaten earth surface associated with the cemetery (2067) along an E-W axis, not perfectly perpendicular to the façade of the church. A large dump of stones, and mortar, (2028) seems to relate to the construction, as some clear traces of mortar-mixing within it show. The foundations of the wall were built over those of [2130] to create the alignment. [2001] sits atop the pier [2130], the foundation/blocking [2091] and its own foundations. It measures 18,70 m in length, terminating in a polygonal tower. The masonry of the wall is coursed rubble, with many reused squared blocks and some tile. It has three original openings,

windows with splayed frames facing inwards to the N, and a more recent archway cut into the wall, propped by a wooden pole. [2001] has a ledge for a balcony or walkway at a height of circa 2.75 m from the projecting course over its foundation.

Running along the wall on its north side was a stone structure which might be interpreted as a low, irregular bench or, perhaps more likely, as the foundation for a wooden stair running up to the balcony at first story level. Apart from this, however, there are no contexts apparently contemporary with the use of the *borgo* after its fortification.

A number of contexts (2003), (2011), (2013) attest to the abandonment and destruction of the wall as the area was given over to agricultural use. Surface (2009) probably relates to the last phase of use of the church. In the yard in front of the church there were traces of a collapsed lean-to roof (2010) and other indications of use of the wall [2001] and floor (2009). Below the surface are a rubble preparation (2008), with work surfaces (2012) and traces of plaster/cement mixing, 2019/(2021). These are cut by a trench into which the existing step leading to the doorway was set. This may suggest that the door itself was reset by in the late renovations to the church, which include a reinforcement of the internal diaphragm arches.

#### Chronology:

At the current state of study, it is very difficult to establish anything further than a relative chronology of events. The scarcity of materials from excavated contexts prohibits any dating beyond the most general. The most significant clues come from the construction of the wall [2001] itself, which must have happened in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The typology of the windows and tower suggest a dating within the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and the few textual sources available to us corroborate such a dating. The site is referred to as a *castrum dirutum* in 1478, suggesting 1) that the borgo wall was constructed, 2) the site was nearly abandoned.<sup>1</sup> It is tempting to consider the construction of the fortification as a reaction to the attack on Villamagna by the inhabitants of Gorga in 1396, attested by documentary material in the Archivio Capitolare.<sup>2</sup>

A number of interventions to the church occurred in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century, though their extent both within and without the ecclesiastical buildings remains to be defined. The last phase of renovation to the church, the resetting of the steps and the portal of the church as well as the latest use of the borgo wall and its lean-to may be associated with the Balestra family's purchase of the property in ca. 1870.

## Area C

### C1

#### Excavation:

#### History of the Excavations:

A small trench, measuring ca 2,0 x 1,50, irreg., located in the N end of the presbytery of the church was opened as a unstratified excavation of December 1998, according to local records.<sup>3</sup>

#### Objectives and position of trenches:

The cleaning and re-excavation of the trench predicated the location of our intervention in the NE corner of the presbytery.

#### Excavation:

The clandestine trench, measuring circa 2,0 x 1,50 was cut through the terracotta floor and arrived at the Cosmatesque pavement some 35 cm below. In order to regain the stratigraphy, we opened the trench, cleaned its original limits, and then opened it as a regular square. The corners of the trench were excavated stratigraphically down to the level of the Cosmatesque pavement, preserving materials and documenting the levels.

#### Stratigraphy:

The Cosmatesque pavement, **(3017)** (see image above) of which a corner area is preserved, was laid in a grid pattern, with rectangular pieces of white marble squares surrounded by coloured marble bands. Two of these squares are preserved. The coloured marble bands have squares of white marble set off with triangles and squares of *serpentino*, porphyry, a yellow marble, and other unidentified whites. This patterned area is set off with wide bands of white marble to the E, and to the N a section of white squares alternating with smaller triangles of the same combination of coloured marbles and the addition of Carystian blue and green pieces. The pavement is poorly preserved, and there are indications that there was an attempt at consolidation of the floor prior to its repaving. The consolidation, **(3066)**, involved framing the preserved marble elements with tiles and cement. This was covered over eventually by a later floor, with a thick preparation of rubble and earth **(3016)**, which includes marble slabs and a piece of early medieval liturgical sculpture with characteristic *Kerbschnitten* carving and interlace motif. **(3016)** is the bedding for a level smooth surface of grey plaster **(3015)** mixed with ash, chalk and gravel. Comparable floors have been identified in the church of S. Andrea, Anagni, and in the crypt of S. Vito, Anagni, according to Tomassi (pers comm.). This floor then was covered by a light brown sandy mortar surface, with a thickness of 3-5 cm, mixed with brick fragments **(3014)**, which acted as a preparation of the terracotta floor **(3003)**. The terracotta floor **(3003)** was laid of bricks each measuring 26,50 x 13, 50 cm, with a white, hard mortar. The bricks were laid in diagonal patterns, and framed at the edges of the walls **[3012]** and **[3013]**, the N and E corner of the presbytery, respectively, with a row of straight bricks. This floor surface was cut by the modern excavation **3001** and the trench was backfilled with bricks and earth **(3002)**.

#### Chronology:

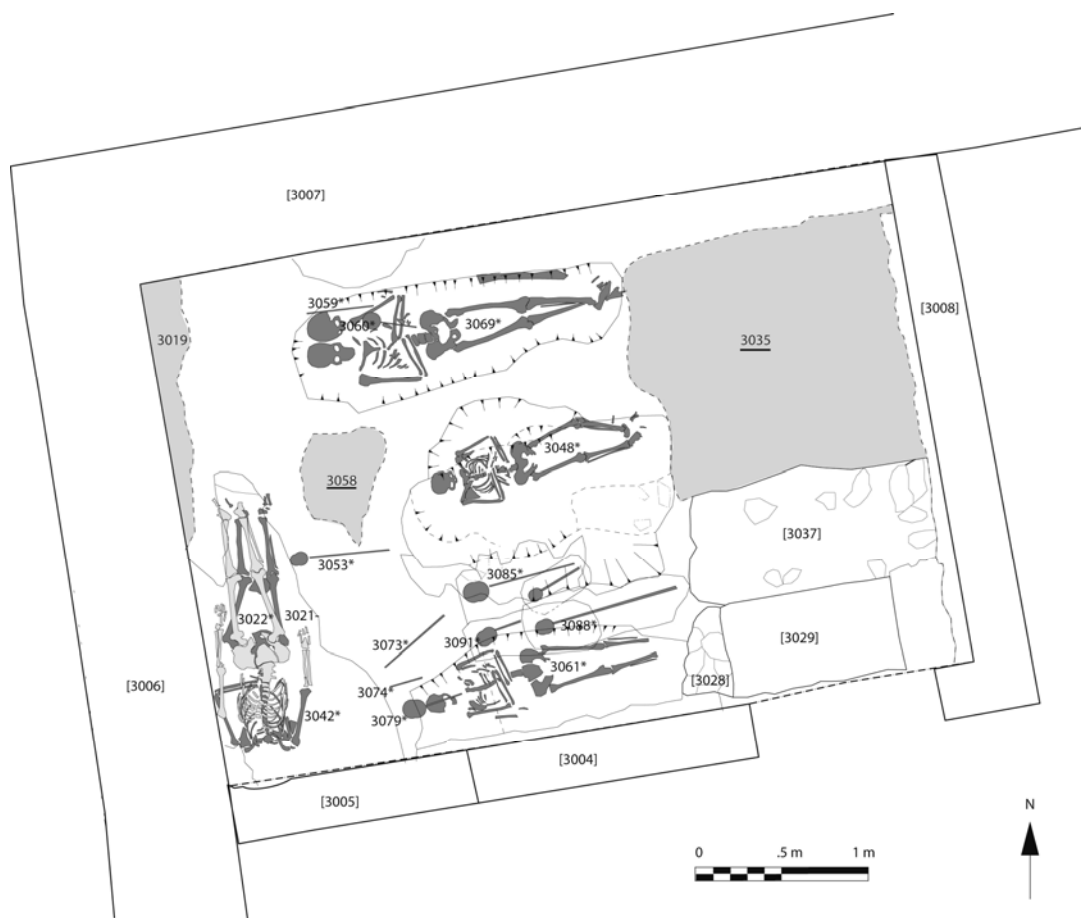
The typology of flooring provides the strongest chronological indicators. The Cosmatesque floor has strong affinities with floors in Rome (S. Clemente) and elsewhere in Lazio (the Duomo of Ferentino), both of which have

<sup>1</sup> ASV, Reg Vat 598, f. 265, cited in G. Raspa, in *Villamagna*, Documenti di Anagni, Anagni, 1999, p. 16.

<sup>2</sup> Archivio Capitolare di Anagni, Cartulario p. 75, cited in Raspa, p. 16.

<sup>3</sup> M. De Meo in *Villamagna*, Documenti di Anagni, Anagni, 1999, p. 29.

been dated to the first decades of the twelfth century.<sup>4</sup> This dating indicates that there was a phase of renovations to the church prior to the reconsecration of the altar by Gregory IX, attested by the inscription of 1217, and also prior to the major works by the Cosmati family at Anagni, which took place in the 1230s–50s.<sup>5</sup> At the current state of study, it is impossible to know whether the columns removal of the columns from the church (evident from Saggio C) happened before or after the laying of the Cosmatesque pavement.



## C II: The Northwest Chapel

The chapel is defined by four walls: [3007] (N), [3006] (W) are the main exterior walls of the church, while [3008] (E) and [3004]-[3005] (S) are internal dividing walls, built to create the chapel. The internal walls abut the church's exterior walls and it is clear that in an earlier phase the interior of the church was subdivided by a colonnade – or at least one column – placed ca 2,80 m S of the N wall [3007]; its base is still preserved, [3068]. The column was in situ when the wall [3005] was built, though it was later robbed out, 3023. The current state of excavation does not permit us to know the pavements which were used in association with the column (though (3067) seems to be a preparation for one), as its existence is only known through the cuts for burying two adults oriented N-S, along the N wall of the chapel, 3022\*.

The earliest recognizable floor surface to cover the chapel is (3056)=(3076), a large swath of yellow clay. It was cut for an infant burial 3051/3053\*, in the SW area of the chapel, above which the graves of Paolo and Paolina were laid ((3020), 3022\*, (3041), 3042\*). The yellow clay (3056)=(3076) was covered by a layer of compact earth (3057) and a context of brown earth, which served as a preparation for (3035)=(3058)=(3019)=(3100), the pavement which was the first pavement for the chapel as such, after the construction of the internal walls [3008] (E) and [3004]-[3005] (S). The first wall to be constructed was [3004], which abuts the W wall, the counterfacade of the

<sup>4</sup> Peter Cornelius Claussen, *Die Kirchen der Stadt Rom im Mittelalter 1050–1300*, A–F (Corpus Cosmatorum II, 1), Stuttgart 2002, sv S. Clemente. For Ferentino, see Dorothy Glass, *Studies on Cosmatesque pavements*, BAR (i) 82, Oxford 1980, pp. 65–69.

<sup>5</sup> The inscription from the church is now lost, for text see P. Zappasodi, *Anagni attraverso i secoli*, Veroli 1908, vol. I, p. 236. For the pavements of Anagni, see Glass, *Ibid.*, pp. 55–59.

church, but very shortly thereafter **[3005]** was constructed abutting it, as they share a foundation **[3031]**. The entrance to the chapel was formed by a large marble stone **[3029]**, which is abutted by a low masonry wall **[3037]**, whose function is still uncertain.

The mortar pavement of **(3035)=(3058)=(3019)=(3100)** was cut for the large central burial of Laura, **3048\***, and **3047**, which was covered by a large context of loose bones, earth, and stone (3046). The undisturbed state of this burial may suggest that she was an important individual. To the north, in the same E-W orientation, another cut **3049** was made for an inhumation, to the N, for **(3050)**, **3060\*** (Ivan), and **3059\*** (Anonymous baby). Those graves disturbed a series of infant burials, only some of which were discovered intact **(3086)/3025\*/3084=Dewey**; **(3089)/3088\*/3087=Huey**; **(3092)/3091\*/3090=Louie**; **(3093)/3094\*/3095=Daisy**; and two adults: **(3096)/3097\*/3099=Sheva**, and **(3104)/3102\*/3103=Mathilde**. Another group of burials were located to the S, cutting the same pavement **(3035)=(3058)=(3019)=(3100)**. The earliest of these burials was **(3078)/3074\*/3070=Bozo**, which was covered by **(3072)/3073\*/3071=Bobo** and **(3081)/3079\*/3080=Ralph**, in turn covered by **(3062)/3061\*/3063=Frank**. All of these burials were covered by the burned layer **(3040)** and subsequent pavements.

At the west end of the chapel were found a further two adult burials, **3022\*,3041\***, one on top of the other. At the time of excavation it appeared that they actually cut the burned layer, however, it now seems more likely that their tomb had been disturbed by a cut made to investigate the state of the foundations at the time of the repair of the chapel, and they may be considered contemporary to the other burials.. The fact that their heads would have rested on the column base shows that the column had been removed by the time of their deposition, some time after the construction of the chapel.

The burned layer seems to testify to a phase of abandonment, and may possibly represent the burning of the roof. Over it, a pile of tiles filled a hollow in the center of the layer, where it had subsided into the tomb pits. A thick layer of clean brown earth, **(3018)**, covered this, cut by the lateral trench **3010** which appears to have been cut to check the foundations of the south wall. This trench also disturbed the burials at the west end of the room, cutting off their heads and revealing the top of the column base along which they rested. Over the preparation layer was laid a cement floor, **(3009)** which represents the last construction inside the chapel.



**List of Participants, 2006**

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Sophie Hay (Southampton)	Geophysics
Rose Ferraby (BSR)	Geophysics
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Andrea Dimiceli (U. Matera)	Supervisor
Hendrik Dey (AAR)	Supervisor
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Costanza Vecchiet (U. Trieste)	Volunteer
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Simona Pirolli (U Viterbo)	Volunteer
Giovanni Foti (U Viterbo)	Volunteer
Federica Romiti (U Viterbo)	Volunteer
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Dirk Booms (Cambridge)	Volunteer
Corisande Fenwick (Stanford)	Volunteer
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