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Part 9 – Romania

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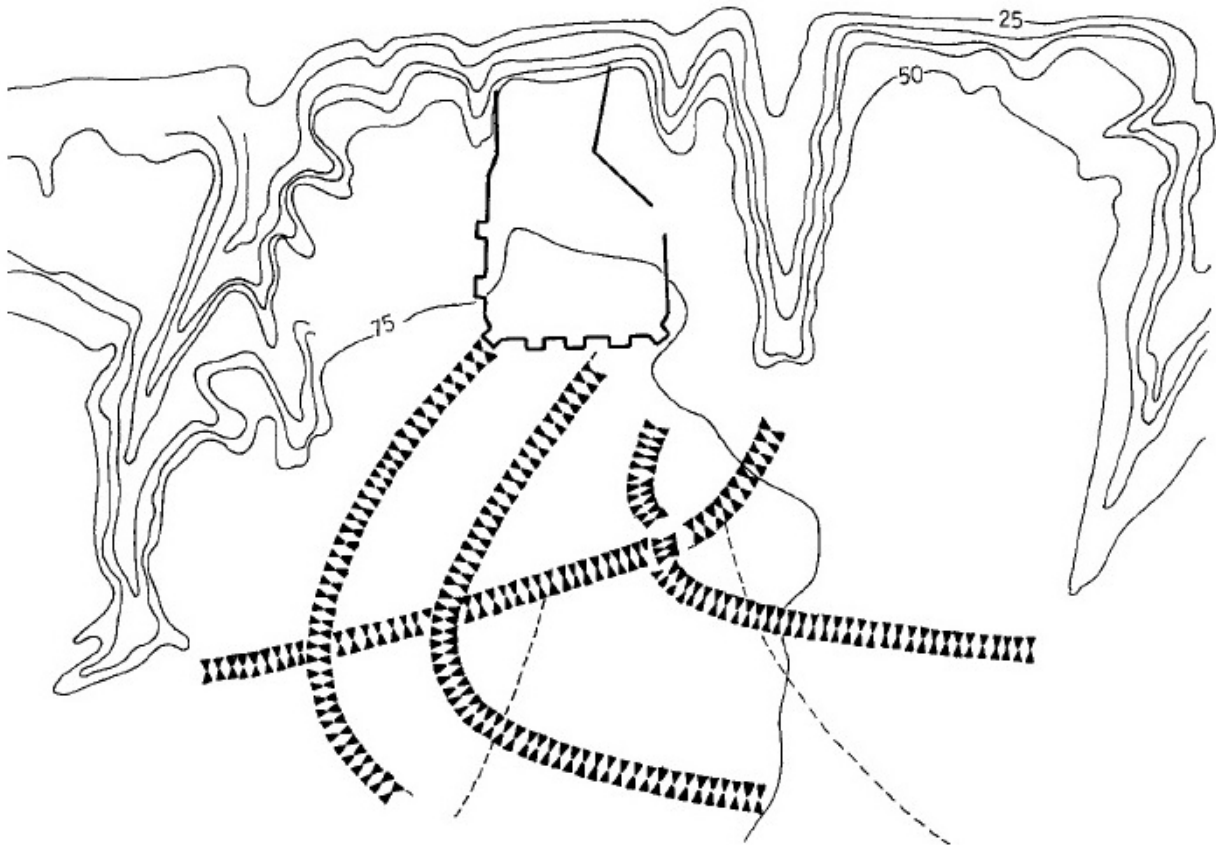
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1. Introduction

Characterisation of the pilot site Site identification (name): Sacidava

Site location: Romania, Dobruja region, on the shore of the Danube; Constanța county, Aliman commune;

Site plan (map):



Plan of the site, after Scorpan, C., Limes Scythiae. Topographical and stratigraphical research on the Late Roman fortifications on the Lower Danube, BAR IS 88, Pl. XIX, Oxford, 1980, 164

The territory of Sacidava is part of an elongated rectangle, a flat plateau above the Danube bank, at an altitude of 60-78 m AA, approx. 20,000 square meters, which descends in a rapid slope to the Danube. The site is situated approx. 5 km NE of the village of Dunăreni. The access it is made on the county road DJ 223 and the communal road DC 51.

There is no set of site surveillance measures. The main problem in the area is represented by the herds of animals that graze right on the territory of the fortress, which is not in any way fenced. Another problem is related to intensive agriculture, the arable / cultivated lands being extended very close to the walls of the fortress. Currently, the necropolis and the civil settlement, which would have been near the fortress, are in the area of agricultural land. The second main problem is the unclear legal status of the land on which the archaeological site is located.



2. Threat analysis pilot site

Likelihood	Almost certain					
	Likely			Climate		
	Possible	Theft		Vandalism	Fire	
	Unlikely		Deterioration			
	Rare	General security; Violence			Severe weather	
		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Impact						

3. Threat analysis for further selected Roman sites along the Danube

3.1. Capidava (Capidava)

Capidava castrum is one of the best „preserved“ and explored roman sites in Romania. Its location on the right bank of the Danube river, in the same named village, was the focus of many restoration interventions. The ancient ruins above ground and the archeological remains underground have been systematically excavated over the past century. Based on analysis, the *castellum* was built in 102 CE during preparations for the two Daco-Roman Wars. The construction phases of the 3rd and 4th century have been characterized by conversion phases and modifications as a result of the destruction of the fortress. The last peak of the fortification dates back to the Anastasius-Justinian period, in the south quarter of the fortress a small camp was constructed and used until 612/613 CE.



Figure 21: The east fan-shaped tower.

Carole Raddato/CC BY-SA 2.0
<https://flic.kr/p/RSWJ6m> (accessed on

Likelihood	Almost certain					
	Likely					
	Possible		Theft, Vandalism, Deterioration	Flood, Earthquake		
	Unlikely	Fire				
	Rare	General Security, Violence, Climate, Pests and Mold, Violence				
		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Impact						

3.2. Tulcea (Aegyssus)

The Roman fortification *Aegyssus* (*auxiliary castellum*) is located in the north-eastern area of the municipality Tulcea, on the so-called “Colnicul Hora”, or Hora-Hill. Today some of the late Roman archaeological complexes can be seen, as they were excavated and preserved during the last campaigns. The artefacts discovered during the excavations are housed in the permanent exhibition and deposits of the nearby History and Archaeology Museum. The dating of the early Roman fortress goes back to the 1st century, the dimension of the complex is not yet known (so far only a part of the fortification wall has been discovered). At the end of the 3rd or beginning of the 4th century the fortification was highly increased.



Figure 22: The Roman fortification Aegyssus, view to south.

Carole Raddato/CC BY-SA 2.0,
<https://flic.kr/p/2cCa4HF> (accessed on 05.01.2023)

Likelihood	Almost certain					
	Likely					
	Possible	Vandalism	Theft, Deterioration/wear and tear, Climate, Fire	Earthquake		
	Unlikely	Flood				
	Rare	Pests and Mold, Violence, General Security				
		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Impact						

4. Responsibilities in cultural heritage protection – case study pilot site

Romania doesn't have any conservation, interpretation, communication or management plan for archaeological sites or other cultural heritage.

The integrity and conservation of sites representing the Danube Roman limes depend to a large extent on the impact of external risk factors, natural and anthropogenic. On-site visits reveal that the natural risk factors that most often affect the sites include earth erosion caused by water flows, landslides and earthquakes.

Some of the sites were used in the past as a raw material for clay or stone used to other different constructions by the local inhabitants.

A major problem is represented by the intensive agriculture, taking into account that sites are located close to arable land.

Environmental pressures include: Climate change is mostly related to change of flooding. In the case of remains above ground, the chance of damage endangering building materials due to temperature swings (erosion, cracking) may increase and supercell storms or microburst storms may become more frequent. Animal and damaging plants damage remains above and

below the surface, although to differing degrees. Especially damaging plants have an impact worthy of mention on the construction materials; they also endanger the stratigraphy and the finds enclosed, therefore disturbing the original archaeological conditions. Air pollution and acid rain are assessed as not important.

With regard to the anthropogenic risk factors, farming activities and grazing have been identified as one of the major factor affecting the integrity of the ruins.

Other anthropogenic factors include public works-different types of investments projects, and treasure hunting.