

OUTPUT T3.5

Pilot Action (P13)

Roman Watchtower “Am Vorderen Schloßbuck” WT 14/4 and the small fort “Am Hinteren Schloßbuck”

Germany

Title Increasing the Visibility of the
Roman Danube Limes

Final version
12/2022

Author(s) FAU
Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg

Project ID DTP3-359-2.2

Contents

1. Introduction.....	2
2. General Information on the Pilot Site.....	2
3. Documentation of Selected Visibility Measure(s) Implemented On-Site.....	3
4. Visibility Workshop.....	7
5. Virtual Reality Reconstruction and 3D Models.....	8
6. Interplay between the 3D Models and Physical Visibility Measure.....	10
7. Further Project Initiatives and Activities Fostering the Visibility of the Pilot Site.....	10
8. (Future) Initiatives at the Pilot Site Triggered Through <i>Living Danube Limes</i>	10
9. Existing Synergies Capitalised and New Synergies Generated.....	10
10. Feedback of Participants.....	10

1. Introduction

This paper summarises the various efforts taken and activities organised in the framework of the project Living Danube Limes contributing to the increase of visibility and conveyance of the Roman past at the individual national project pilot sites (listed downstream the Danube): Gunzenhausen (Germany), Comagena/Tulln in combination with Cannabiaca/Zeiselmayer (Austria), Iža (Slovakia), Matrica/Százhalombatta (Hungary), Ad Labores/Kopačevo (Croatia), Lederata/Ram (Serbia), Bononia/Vidin in combination with Sinagovtzi (Bulgaria) and Sacidava (Romania).

2. General Information on the Pilot Site

The German Pilot Site consists of two archaeological sites, the Roman Watchtower “Am Vorderen Schloßbuck” WT 14/4 (4.5 x 6.4 m) and the small fort “Am Hinteren Schloßbuck” (approx. 20 x 20 m). Both sites are located in the Burgstallwald, a forest adjacent to the city of Gunzenhausen, and part of the *Limeswanderweg* between Gunzenhausen and Bad Gögging – a hiking trail along the Limes. The distance between both sites is approx. 600 m. The construction of the sites belongs to the 2nd century CE. The nearby archaeological museum of Gunzenhausen covers Roman history and Roman daily life in particular. The museum and the sites can easily be reached by car or means of public transportation.

The watchtower is listed in the Bavarian list of monuments under the entry: D-5-6830-0004 "watch tower 14/4 of the Raetian Limes".



WT 14/4 of the Raetian Limes, photo by Marcus Speck

Coordinates:

49.11707164523584, 10.771945829956419

<https://goo.gl/maps/pMNZZbohU144UgvF8>

The small fort is listed in the Bavarian list of monuments under the entry: D-5-6830-0007 "Roman small fort".



Ground elevations corresponding to the Roman small fort, photo by Alexander Hilverda

Coordinates:

49.116886288996426, 10.780911612715586

<https://goo.gl/maps/W27Mw5jWsQBxcZNb7>

The presentation of both sites is supported by a detailed information board giving information on the historical context and the research history as well as by a reference to the VR developed within the LDL-project.

3. Documentation of Selected Visibility Measure(s) Implemented On-Site

The German pilot site in Gunzenhausen, that shows the remains of a Roman watchtower and the ground elevations of a Roman small fort, is already well explored and documented by the Bavarian Office for the Preservation of Historical Monuments. At both sites, the watchtower and the small fort, there is a bilingual (German and English) information board that describes and contextualises the historical significance of the sites as well as the research history. Both signs visually reconstruct the site and thus offer the visitor support in imagining the site in its

original status. This offer is complemented by a palisade wall in the case of the watchtower and by ground markings suggesting the outlines of the time in the case of the small fort.

Therefore, the right strategy to raise awareness of the Pilot Site and of the Roman Limes heritage in general is to organise appropriate events in cooperation with local and regional stakeholders.

Such events, which focused on the event, were for example the Pilot Site Visit on 29 November 2021 or the Pilot Site Workshop on 21 June 2022. In addition, however, events were and will be important which are not limited to the Pilot Site itself, but which address the potential offered by the "Roman Gunzenhausen". The pilot site is to be linked with other attractions related to the Roman past. Outstanding in this context was the construction of the Roman boat Danuvina Alacris, which took place in a visible hall at the Altmühlsee on a popular cycle and foot path. But other activities, such as boat trips with the F.A.N. (a replica of an imperial Roman boat) or "Roman afternoons" where, for example, catapults and tools are shown by reenactors or Roman food is offered, are also intended to bring the Roman heritage to life. Furthermore, Roman guided tours with reenactors are conducted in Gunzenhausen and also in the Burgstallwald, i.e. at the location of the pilot site. All this took place several times during the project period. But the close cooperation with the local and regional stakeholders (city of Gunzenhausen, Special Purpose Association Gunzenhausen, Centre of touristic of Gunzenhausen, Limes Expert Advice and the Bavarian State Office for the Preservation of Monuments) should ensure that such events are also offered after the project period in the sense of a sustainable concept. Highlights of the cooperation with local and regional stakeholders were, for example, the first and second Local Focus Group Meetings (September 2020 and spring 2022).

The Living Danube Limes VR App is a useful addition to this concept. It adds a new dimension to the experience of the pilot site, namely that of virtual reality. This potential was also recognised in principle during the Pilot Site Workshop. The possibility that the app can be further developed was also welcomed. There was agreement that access to the app or virtual reality should be created via the pilot site. For this purpose, two signs with QR codes for the app and the browser version were installed on site. They were placed directly next to the existing info boards. On the one hand, this ensures a good view of the pilot site itself and, on the other hand, the connection between the info board and VR access is directly available. The implementation took place without any problems. The stakeholders (mentioned above) agreed with the implementation. The signs were installed at no cost by FAU on 26 June 2022. In addition, the Gunzenhausen Tourist Office is looking into further possibilities to provide access to the Living Danube Limes VR.

The visibility measures at site, the various events and the VR access, target the general public including children and in particular those people who are interested in the Roman or local history.



Roman Watchtower “Am Vorderen Schloßbuck” WT 14/4
49.11707164523584, 10.771945829956419
<https://goo.gl/maps/pMNZZbohU144UgvF8>



Photo by Alexander Hilverda



Photo by Alexander Hilverda

Small fort “Am Hinteren Schloßbuck”
49.116886288996426, 10.780911612715586
<https://goo.gl/maps/W27Mw5jWsQBxcZNb7>

The photos show the entrance to the site of the small fort which lies approx. 10 m further on.



Photo by Alexander Hilverda



Photo by Alexander Hilverda

4. Visibility Workshop

The practical approach was taken. The analysis of the pilot site by FAU in cooperation with local and regional stakeholders showed that the pilot site was already well prepared. Archaeological measures are no longer necessary. Furthermore, two detailed information signs have been installed on site to inform about the historical context and the research history. They also offer a 3D reconstruction. Both sites are easily accessible to the public and are part of the Limes hiking trail. From this state of affairs, it followed that an approach that focuses on events and programme offerings must be best suited to promote public and tourist interest in the Pilot Site. The workshop should help to determine how these measures (events, on-site programme) should be implemented.

Programme of the Workshop:

Workshop: Roman Gunzenhausen – Reviving the past through VR

21 June 2022

Altmühlseecafe Seestraße 17, 91710 Gunzenhausen, Germany

The workshop invites experts but also the general public to learn about the current plans of the town of Gunzenhausen to revive the Roman past and about the progress of the EU Interreg DTP project "Living Danube Limes". This project has been building a Roman patrol boat of the Lusoria type since 2020. It also aims to draw attention to Roman sites along the Limes.

The focus of the workshop will be the Roman sites "Watchtower 14/4 at the Vorderer Schloßbuck" and the "Small Fort at the Hinterer Schloßbuck" located in the Burgstallwald. The workshop will present concepts to increase the attractiveness of these sites. A recently developed app will be presented that allows the aforementioned Roman sites to be experienced in a virtual reality. The workshop participants will have the opportunity to discuss these plans constructively.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 3:30 p.m. | Start and lecture by Prof. Boris Dreyer: "Living Danube Limes" and the revival of the Roman past in Gunzenhausen |
| approx. 4:15 p.m. | Discussion: How can attention to the Roman past be sustainably improved (focus: the Roman sites "watchtower 14/4 at Vorderer Schloßbuck" and the "small fort at Hinterer Schloßbuck")? |
| approx. 5:30 p.m. | End |

The event is free of charge and no prior registration is required.

The hygiene regulations of the health authority for the district of Weißenburg-Gunzenhausen valid for 21 June 2022 apply to the event.

During the preparation time for the workshop, the relevant stakeholders were already known and had already been worked with in the course of other events. In addition to the Bavarian Office for the Preservation of Monuments, these were the special purpose association Altmühlsee, the centre of touristic of Gunzenhausen, the town of Gunzenhausen and the Limes expert advice of the district of Central Franconia. These groups of interest as well as the broad public were invited. All were present, apart from a representative of the town of Gunzenhausen and the tourism centre. Their absence was not serious, however, as close cooperation with them was established before, furthermore they were informed about and in agreement with FAU's plans regarding the pilot site. They were also informed about the results of the workshop.

The venue for the workshop was the Altmühlseecafe in Gunzenhausen (Altmühlseecafe Seestraße 17, 91710 Gunzenhausen, Germany), which is located in the immediate vicinity of the Danuvina Alacris boat building site. The pilot site in the Burgstallwald forest is a 10-minute drive from there. By public transport or on foot, the distance is about 30 minutes.

Since a central component of the workshop was the presentation of the VR app, FAU chose this venue. The technical requirements would not have been met at the pilot site itself. Furthermore, the focus of the workshop was to discuss future measures in relation to the pilot site. The aforementioned stakeholders were therefore to play a central role in this. However, they had already visited the pilot site on other occasions, so it was well known to them. A new visit within the framework of this workshop was therefore not necessary. Nevertheless, all relevant data and images of the pilot site were available during the workshop.

The presentation of the project and this approach met with general approval. The app was also viewed positively, such as the fact that it is easily accessible and provides an additional, complementary offering to the experience of the Pilot Site and Roman past in general.

At the same time, the workshop participants discovered the potential offered by further development of the app and integration into other apps.

As an implementation, it was agreed that a QR to the browser version and to download the app should be provided at the pilot site. Optionally, these QR codes can also be distributed at other locations in Gunzenhausen or on homepages.

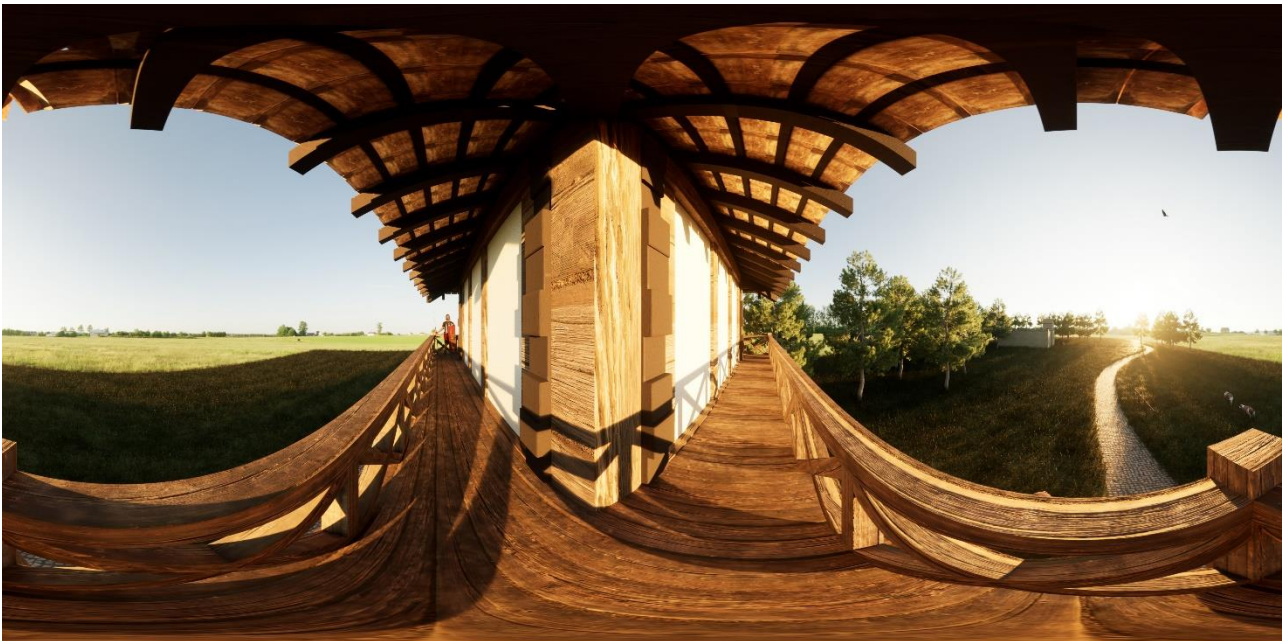
Attention was drawn to the problem that apps are no longer accessible as soon as they no longer meet certain standards set by Apple or Google, for example. This problem of aftercare presupposes continuous support, which is also associated with costs beyond the project period.

5. Virtual Reality Reconstruction and 3D Models

The pilot site itself, i.e. the Roman Watchtower "Am Vorderen Schloßbuck" WT 14/4 and the small fort "Am Hinteren Schloßbuck" was selected as the VR reconstruction.



Small fort „am Hinteren Schloßbuck“, view from the road



Watchtower 14/4, view from inside

The Roman Watchtower “Am Vorderen Schloßbuck” WT 14/4 measures 4.5 x 6.4 m, the small fort “Am Hinteren Schloßbuck” approx. 20 x 20 m. Both sites are located in the Burgstallwald, a forest adjacent to the city of Gunzenhausen. The distance between both sites is approx. 600 m. The construction of the sites belongs to the 2nd century CE.

6. Interplay between the 3D Models and Physical Visibility Measure

No above-ground remains of the small fort have survived, only the outlines are recognisable through ground formations. The lower stone formations of the watchtower have survived. The VR reconstruction offers an interpretation of the small fort on the basis of current research and, in the case of the watchtower, supplements the parts that have not survived.

7. Further Project Initiatives and Activities Fostering the Visibility of the Pilot Site

Previous events within the LDL project related to the pilot site in a narrower sense were the first and second Local Focus Group Meeting, as well as the Pilot Site Visit and the Pilot Site Workshop. Other events, such as those related to the construction of the Danuvina Alacris, are also relevant for promoting the visibility of the pilot site. This is because the concept designed by FAU for Gunzenhausen combines the Roman Centre at the Altmühlsee (boat building, boat trips and other events) and the Pilot Site. The mutual reference favours public interest.

8. (Future) Initiatives at the Pilot Site Triggered Through *Living Danube Limes*

With the help of the LDL project, the location of Gunzenhausen was favoured as a Roman centre. The local stakeholders are willing to continue the promotion of the Roman heritage with the help of FAU. Two boats, the Danuvina Alacris and the F.A.N., will be stationed at the Altmühlsee in 2023. In the following years, the F.A.N. will continue to be stationed. During the summer season, boat tours are planned in which the public can participate. During the winter season, repair work is scheduled. Volunteers can also help out here. Other events with reenactment elements, such as authentic dressing up, showing replicas of tools or catapults or preparing Roman recipes, are also planned as a continuous offer. Reference will also be made to the Pilot Site and generally to the region in Roman times. Furthermore, Roman guided tours in the Burgstallwald forest will focus on the Pilot Site.

9. Existing Synergies Capitalised and New Synergies Generated

See chapter 8.

10. Feedback of Participants

A short survey was conducted for the Pilot Site Visit in November 2021 and the Pilot Site Workshop in June 2022. In both cases, satisfaction with the event was asked. The pilot site visit achieved a satisfaction rate of 94.1%, the workshop a satisfaction rate of 90.1%. Furthermore, it was asked which parts of the event were particularly pleasing. There was a tendency to find those parts interesting where knowledge was communicated in a scientifically sound but also lively way and where participants had the opportunity to participate and ask questions.



Short surveys of this kind can also be used on a regular basis at future events. At the same time, it could be used to ask for suggestions for further developments.