

OUTPUT T3.5

Pilot Action (P13)

Roman Auxiliary fort Lederata and the section of the Roman road with legionary inscription at village Ram

Germany

Title Increasing the Visibility of the
Roman Danube Limes

Final version
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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/Zeiselmauer (Austria), Iža (Slovakia), Matrica/Százhalombatta (Hungary), Ad Labores/Kopačevo (Croatia), Lederata/Ram (Serbia), Bononia/Vidin in combination with Sinagovtsi (Bulgaria) and Sacidava (Romania).

2. General Information on the Pilot Site

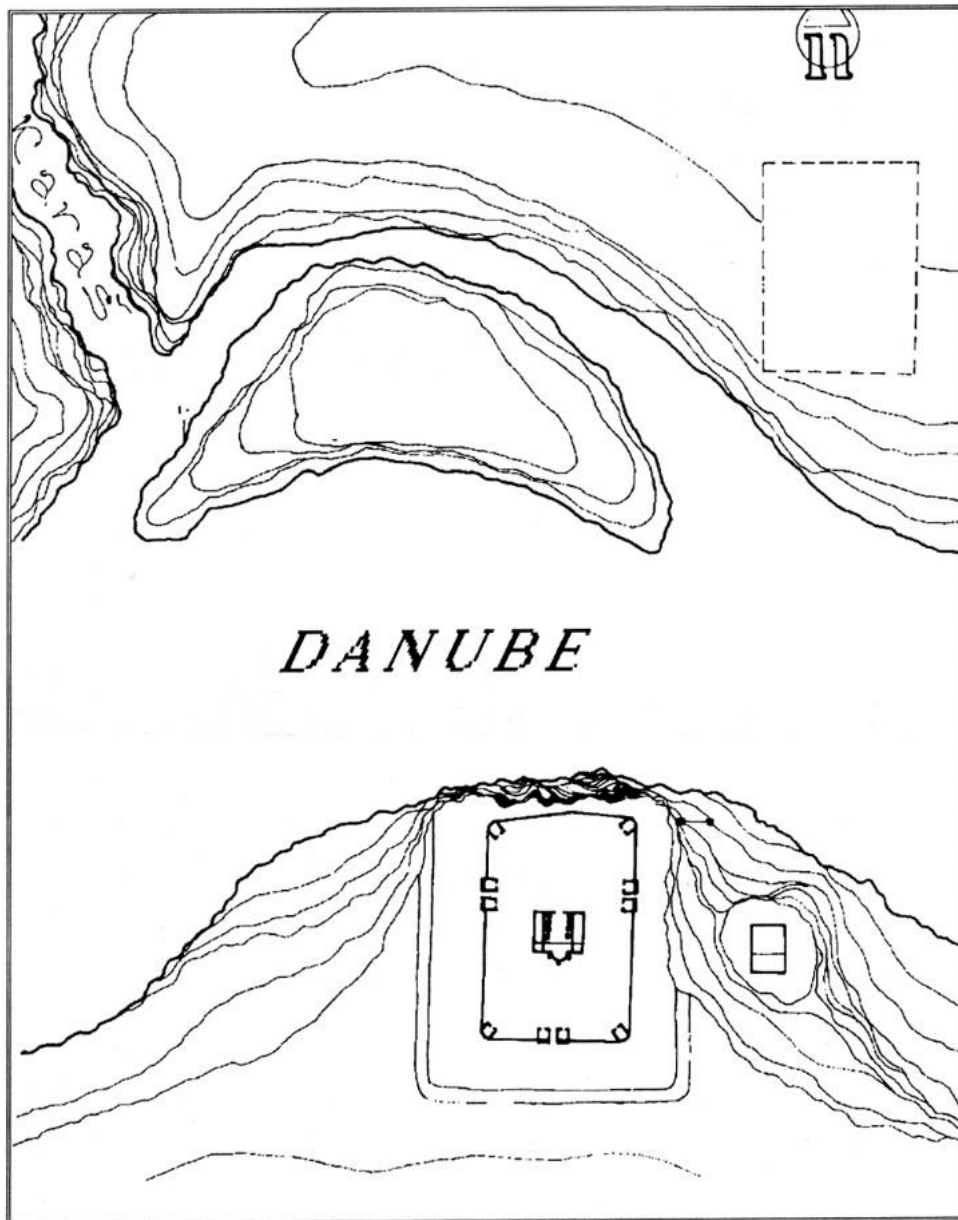
The Serbian Pilot Site consists of two archaeological sites and future UNESCO world Heritage components. The main efforts related to the project is Lederata auxiliary fort while section of the Roman road with the legionary inscription is related to the presentation of the later Ram fortress but it is directly related to the Lederata fort in the vicinity. Sites are located on the opposite outskirts of the modern village of Ram in the Municipality of Veliko Gradište (IAB AsP within the project). Both sites are part of the single defense section of the limes but existed with different purposes.

Section of the road was built by the sole purpose for towing ships upstream by the horse or human power. It is not part of the regular Limes road what makes efforts to build this section of the road even more important. Lederata fort, with excellent elevated view towards Barbaricum, was built to oversee large area from the dominant position and protect the important river crossing used even today (for the modern barge river crossing).

Today they are treated as one entity as they are under same municipal administration and part of the single presentation concept (even in the case they have different management institutions in the future) On the one hand Ram fortress has all infrastructure and is adjacent to the old village school that is turned into the museum by the municipality. This part has also video surveillance and security measures implemented. Lederata fort although is of much greater importance has no infrastructure at all, has limited accessibility and problem with looters.

Both sites belong to the same period from late 1st and early 2nd century till early byzantine period, with dominant Trajan phase and distinctive late Roman rebuilding phase.

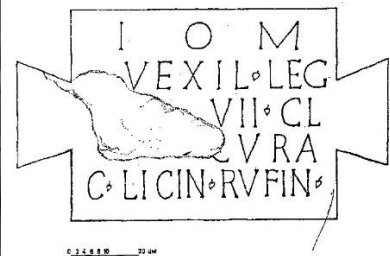
Lederata fort is listed as archaeological site by the decision No. 633_2_86_01 from 30.06.1986. and classified as a cultural heritage of great importance in the Official gazette SRS No. 47 from 5. December 1987. Both sites are on the UNESCO Frontiers of the Roman Empire – The Danube Limes (Serbia) Tentative list (Ref.: 6475) under the numbers 15. and 16 (revised submission from: 31/01/2020).



Plan of the Lederata fortress (earliest phases II century)

Coordinates:
Lederata fortress
44°49'0.42"N 21°20'22.86"E

Ram fortress with the Roman road
44°48'46.29"N 21°19'47.75"E



Part of the Roman road with traces of rope cut into the rock from towing, and a legionary inscription curved into the rock dedicated to Jupiter from the soldiers of the VII Claudia legion under the command of centurion Rufinus.

The presentation of both sites is initiated and worked on but a detailed information and the VR were done only on the Lederata fortress within the Living Danube Limes project.

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

Lederata fortress was excavated multiple times and by multiple institutions what means that documentation and research results are scattered between Belgrade, Smederevo, Požarevac and local institutions. Different institutes, universities and museums were involved what deepens problems in reaching documentation from excavations.

Only recent excavations with coordinated institutional efforts are now fully and well documented as well accessible. Thus made us to rely on visible remains, published papers and recent available documentation and interviews with elder colleagues now retired.

Nomination process and Living Danube Limes projects are the initial point for final merging of all knowledge, data and presentation plans related to the Lederata and Ram fortress. This has both enormous scientific and presentation potential that will be also exploited in the following years and process of the forming of the Lederata Archaeological Park.

Therefore, the right strategy to raise awareness of the Pilot Site and of the Roman Limes heritage in general is to organize appropriate events in cooperation with local and regional stakeholders. Stronger involvement of the National authorities and highest institutions is necessary as local authorities do not have tools for implementing everything that is needed for adequate site development. Strong funding from Serbian government is highly needed as local communities at this moment completely lack any financial support.

Pilot site of Lederata is being linked to the Archaeological park Viminacium only 25 km away (half an hour drive). Together with two tourist river ports these sites together can present a backbone of the archaeological heritage in Braničevo region. Both site clusters are on the same UNESCO tentative list. Although they have very different problems and challenges presentation concept will be the same with modifications due to differences in site access, terrain configuration and infrastructure availability.

Cycling paths and additional tourist attractions at Silver lake resort will provide Lederata with potential accommodation in near vicinity as Ram almost completely lacks accommodation facilities.

Ram fortress with its facilities is a good starting point until facilities at Lederata fort are build up.

Existence of tourist river ports at Kostolac and Ram¹ will provide safe harbor and possibility to link these two major sites with the Danuvina Alacris during its stay in Serbia after end of project. When both ports are to be operational boat trips between sites as well as Danuvina Alacris local cruise will be available to visitors.

VR App and its online availability will help visitors that are in close vicinity to be attracted to visit the site. Small boards with QR codes are shared to tourist agencies, hotels and Silver Lake resort to promote existence and importance of important sites in their vicinity.

All visibility measures at sites of Ramska tvrđava and Lederata, and the VR access, target the general public including children and in particular those people who are interested in the Roman or local history, foreign visitors on river cruises and recreational tourist at the nearby silver Lake resort.

¹ Ram tourist river port is announced to become operational by the Port Governance Agency in the 2023-2024 period. At the moment of creation of this document no building works at Ram begun and the project documentation was still being finalized.

4. Visibility Workshop

The practical approach was taken. The analysis of the pilot site by IAB in cooperation with local and regional stakeholders (mainly Veliko Gradiste municipality and the Tourist Organization of Veliko Gradiste) showed that the pilot site has very limited presentation capabilities and that it needs a lot of preparations, building of necessary infrastructure and management institution with its own independent financing. Archaeological and security measures are absolute necessity. Both sites have limited accessibility to the public and are planned to be included in local cycling or hiking trails. None of the sites has vehicle accessible road and the site under the Ram fortress is fully cut of the road approach and is accessible only on foot. Lederata has road capabilities but needs efforts to secure the road during heavy rain fall and to try to make it more usable for larger vehicles (buses).

Programme of the Workshop:

26 June 2022

Nemanja Mrđić, Snežana Golubović, Arheološki institut Beograd

Uvodno predavanje Living Danube Limes - Interreg projekat

Krstarenje replike rimskog broda kroz Podunavlje u septembru 2022 i šansa da se iskoristi za promociju kulturnog nasleđa

Lokaliteti na našem delu Podunavlja i vizija razvoja limesa kao kulturnog dobra u službi turizma

Milena Krklješ, Fakultet tehničkih nauka Novi Sad

Kulturno i graditeljsko nasleđe duž Dunava kao potencijal urbanog razvoja

Jelena Anđelković Grašar, Arheološki institut Beograd

Knowledge transfer and education - towards visibility and sustainability of cultural heritage

Smiljana Novčić, Turistička organizacija Srbije

Turizam Srbije i kulturno nasleđe

Marija Janjić, RAREI

Povezivanje dunavskog regiona istorijskim kulturnim rutama

Diskusija

Turizam Srbije i Podunavlja - vizija, problemi i iskorišćenost kulturnog nasleđa

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

Important stakeholders were present during the workshop including representatives of multiple tourist organizations and agencies that are participating in the actions related to Braničevo region. Important was presence of representatives of the national Port Authority Agency that is preparing setting up of the Tourist passenger terminal on the Danube just below the Ram and Lederata forts.

During the preparation time for the workshop, the relevant stakeholders were already known and had already been contacted and involved. Tourist organizations were involved since the beginning of the UNESCO nomination process, and this initiated and participation of Port governance agency who saw excellent opportunity to merge tourism and cultural heritage. At this moment all participants are looking forward to try to get the national ministry of culture more involved.

The presentation of the VR met with general approval. As there are very few architectural remains to see at the hilltop at the Lederata people liked to have the idea how all of that looked like in the roman period.

At the same time, the workshop participants discovered the potential for wider use of the app and integration into other apps they are developing. They also found potential in further cooperation in other fields as there was poor inter institutional connection among stakeholders before this meeting. Therefore we initiated through the project also and better cooperation among the stakeholders and institutions, as well as better understanding of the needs of local population by local and national authorities.

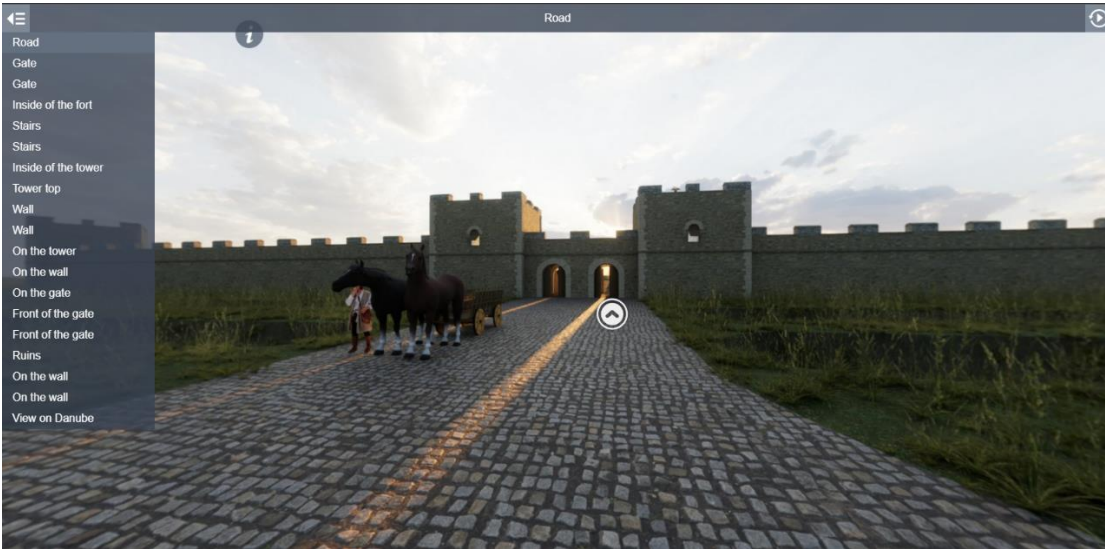
5. Virtual Reality Reconstruction and 3D Models

The main part of the pilot site auxiliary fortress Lederata was selected for the VR reconstruction.

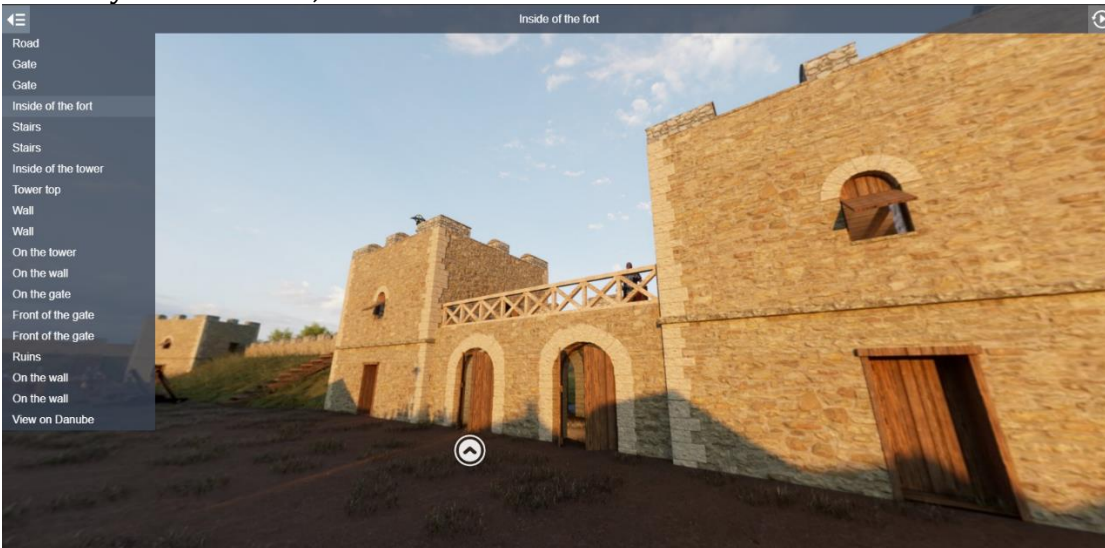
For the virtual reality model 2nd century AD phase was chosen as complexity of architectural changes that were significant in both shapes in sizes for more than six centuries could not be presented in this way.



Towers from the different phases of the Lederata fort.



Auxiliary fort Lederata, view from the road



Auxiliary fort Lederata, Interior of the fort



Auxiliary fort Lederata, interior of the tower

Lederata standing on the hill above the Ram village is among the bigger fortifications in this area of the Danube region. Although VR reconstruction covered only fort and not the surrounding areas of suburban settlements and cemeteries it is an excellent starting point for further development of the site's presentation.

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

As parts of the site are visible and conserved, these sections are valuable for comparative vision of the visitors – with limited preserved archaeological remains you have full reconstruction and much more beyond – complete fortification.

Very few above-ground remains are accessible to visitors. Northern corner towers are visible and reconstructed, some outlines are recognizable through ground formations – dominantly ditches in front of the fortress. Majority of other buildings within fort have survived but only the lower stone formations still in the ground. The VR reconstruction offers an interpretation of the fort on the basis of current state of the research and on the base of similarities with other forts of the same type that are in better state of conservation.

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

Previous events within the Living Danube Limes project and UNESCO nomination process greatly raised awareness on the importance of the site for both Serbia and local community. Events that involved public from abroad and region wide showed to the local community potentials of protection of cultural heritage and its exploitation within tourism of the region. Special events, such as those related to the cruise of the Danuvina Alacris, are also relevant for promoting the visibility of the pilot site. We aim that this situation and continuous efforts of the IAB, Municipality of Veliko Gradište and the Tourist Organization of the Veliko Gradište will change significantly situation for the site and involve local community into better understanding, protection and presentation of heritage located in their own area.

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

With the help of the LDL project, the location of Lederata together with nearby Viminacium can become the backbone for presentation of Roman cultural heritage in Braničevo region. The local stakeholders are interested to continue the promotion of the Roman heritage with the help of IAB and Archaeological Park Viminacium. Poor financial state of local communities remains a handicap and demands stronger involvement of the National level institutions and authorities. Development of both sites will continue. There is a need for more efforts to make events and to prolong the tourist season now narrowed to march – October periods. Dead season during winter months disrupts continuous exploitation, reduces presence on the sites and potentially makes a window for the looters to continue destruction of the parts of the site. Forming of the reenactment group is one of the priorities for the Serbia institutions in order to

enhance visibility beyond project periods. We strongly count on presence of Danuvina Alacris in the following years to boost promotion of the site for longer periods and not for single weekend events. Depopulation of villages in this regions reduced the base for recruiting of volunteers, but local populations will take part in all future actions. Expected opening of the tourist river port by the Ram fortress will definitely boost local tourism and enlarge number of foreign visitors. Focus should be made to attract large groups beyond regular school excursions.

Further development of the local museum is absolute necessity and employment of the local village people into the local tourist service facilities.

9. Existing Synergies Capitalised and New Synergies Generated

See chapter 8.

10. Feedback of Participants

A short survey and interviews during visits showed great interest in potential for developing tourism in the Braničevo region. With scarce agricultural events stuck in the field works or being employed with the power industry facilities this region demands more events that will wake up more or less generally dead cultural life. Problem for this remains lack of funding, especially regular and steady funding that will make enormous difference in the quality of life for the local population.