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Part 7 - Serbia

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1. Characterisation of the pilot site – Ram (Lederata)

The modern-day village of Ram is situated close to the municipality Veliko Gradište (roman *Pincum*). The site is situated on the north eastern edge of the village, on the high plateau overlooking the river Danube.

Towards the river (North side) there is a steep cliff that prevents any approach from that side. On both east and west sides two natural ravines prevent or make any access very difficult. The only easy land approach is from the south and southwest. Close to the opposite Danube bank before 1970 there was a river island Sapaja with small burgus and on the main area of the opposite bank there was contra Lederata fortress (Roman bridgehead in Barbaricum). Here in front of the Lederata was always easy crossing of the Danube and even today ferry exists carrying people and vehicles across the river.

Few hundred meters on the Danube bank there is a modern barge river crossing. Between the barges pontoons and the Ram fortress is location where a new modern tourist passenger terminal is to be set up, with the main roll to dock large river cruisers. Barge crossing has continuous tradition for hundreds of years. New passenger terminal is planned to be set up in 2023-2024.

Preliminary excavations were done by the Institute for protection of Cultural Monuments (M. Cunjak) and Faculty of Philosophy (A. Jovanović) in last decades of the 20th century. Some protective excavations were done by Museum of Požarevac in 2020 focused on parts of the cemeteries and northeast corner towers.

Most parts of the site are not excavated and therefore not visible on the surface. Northwest and Northeast corner towers are visible, conserved, and presentable.

The main risk for this site is systematic looting and destruction by metal detectorists what is going on for decades already. The main focus at present is to stop this and form Archaeological park in order to maintain protection and enhance presentation.



Figure 1: Lederata during protective archaeological excavations 2020
Photo: Dragan Jacanović



2. Threat analysis pilot site

| | | | | | | |
|------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-------|------------------|
| Likelihood | Almost certain | Climate | | | Theft | Vandalism |
| | Likely | Flood | | | | |
| | Possible | Pollutants | Severe weather | Accidents/malfunctions | | |
| | Unlikely | Fire | Violence | Deterioration/wear and tear | | |
| | Rare | Pests and mold | | Earthquakes | | General security |
| | | Insignificant | Minor | Moderate | Major | Severe |
| Impact | | | | | | |

Due to the fact that most parts of the site are currently underground, there is no immediate threat from pests and mold, fire, pollutants, severe weather and climate.

Being on the top of a high hill there are no danger of flood, but there is a potential problem of erosion in some areas, not that much on archaeological remains as on the access roads.

Anthropogenic hazards are crucial in relation to Lederata archaeological site. This is the largest and long-lasting problem. There is a potential danger of violence and vandalism, but not to the archaeological remains – only to tourist and supporting infrastructure as looters wish to keep visitors of the site. Significant danger remains theft of the chance finds from the area.

National power industry and electricity high power lines also have impact on site because of the major infrastructural lines are passing immediately next to the Roman fortification. Coordination with them is of crucial importance to prevent degradation of the site through industrial development.

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

3.1. Karataš - (Diana)

Diana fort is one of the most prominent and strategically located strongholds at the Serbian section of the Roman frontier.

It was located on the strategic entrance to the Trajan's canal (later known as Sip canal). This canal existed until 1970 and building of the power plant Djerdap I,

Site was occupied since early 1st century AD until early byzantine period (7th century AD) with the main phase belonging to the Trajan's conquest of Dacia in the late 1st and early 2nd century AD. This is one of the best excavated forts with high potential for presentation.

Different auxiliary units changed through time as the garrison of the fort. Presence of Cohors VI Thracum and Cohors V Gallorum are confirmed. Occasionally detachments of the IIII Flavia, VII Claudia and XIII Gemina were stationed here.

Site is located on a safe plateau without possibilities of flood and no erosion. The only potential danger could be fire during summer months with a dry grass problem. No other problems are foreseen on this site. Response team is a firefighter unit located at the Hydroelectric power plant Djerdap I, 2 km away from the archaeological site. There is a guard service 24/7 on site.



Figure 1: Diana, east gate 2007
Photo: Nemanja Mrđić

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|------------|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------|--------|
| Likelihood | Almost certain | Climate | | | | |
| | Likely | | | Fire | | |
| | Possible | | Theft | | | |
| | Unlikely | Flood, Vandalism, Severe Weather | Deterioration/wear and tear | | | |
| | Rare | Pests and mold, Flood, Violence | Pollutants, | Earthquakes | | |
| | | Insignificant | Minor | Moderate | Major | Severe |
| Impact | | | | | | |

3.1. Village Kostolac (Viminacium)

Viminacium was the first ever excavated site in Serbia. With excavations going back to 1882 and continuous excavation campaign since 2002 it is one of the best researched sites in Serbia.

With the TEKO B Kostolac Power plant and coal mine Drmno, located around the site Viminacium lies in the modern industrial zone with many hazards. Continuous cooperation with the power industry as the main stakeholders is of greatest importance to protect and present the site in challenging surroundings.

Being the capital of the province Moesia Superior and one of two legionary fortresses in the province it is the backbone of both frontier defense as well as the crucial urban, industrial and trade center of the Roman empire at the territory of Serbia.

It is located on the high ancient river bank and is rather safe from flooding and erosion. It was the worst example until 2008 of the systematic looting that was stopped with the rapid tourist development and forming of the active archaeological park. Today it is the largest Archaeological park in Serbia with Research and visitors centers, restaurants, Large congress complex (Limes Park). Parts of the site are covered by protective constructions and presentable 365 days a year. There is a continuous guard service, video surveillance and other elements of security.



Figure 13: Roman baths at Viminacium, 2010

Photo; archive of the IAB

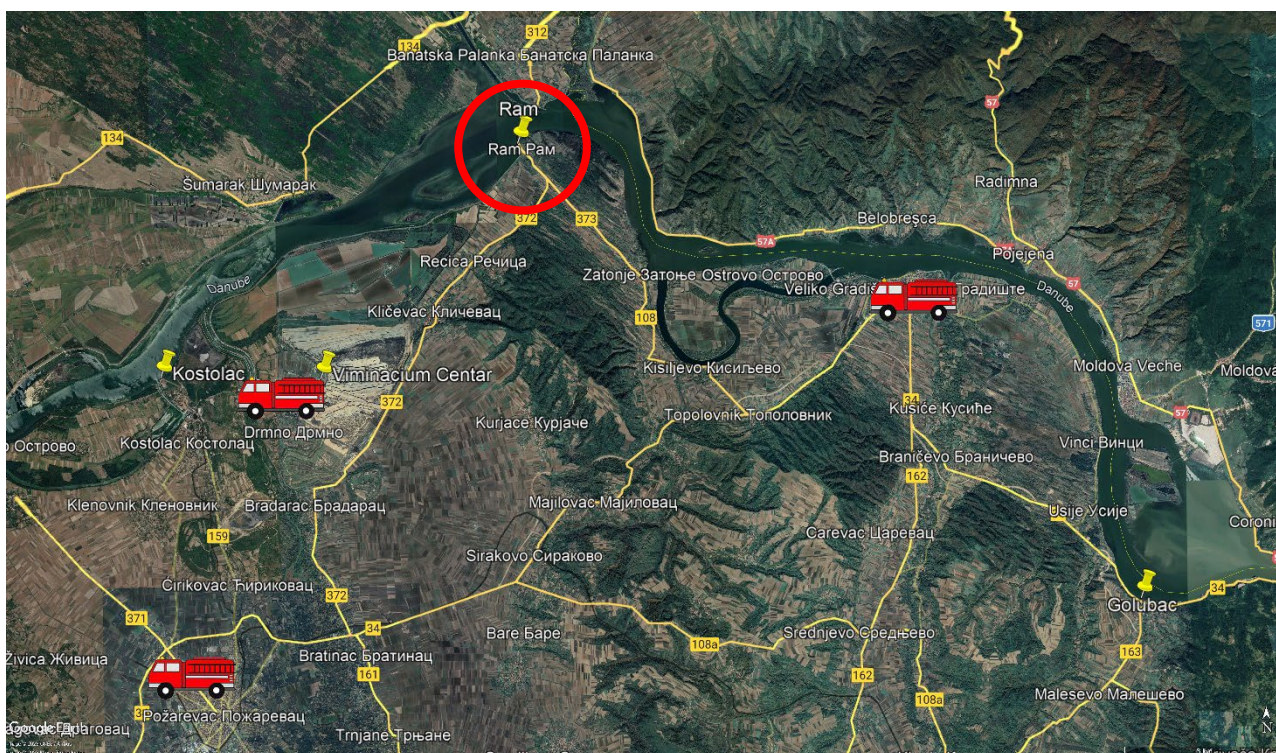
Viminacium was founded in early 1st century and was finally destroyed at the beginning of the 7th century. Legionary fortress was continuously garrisoned first by IIII Flavia and later VII Claudia legions. It was also the base for the river fleet operating in the central area of Upper Moesia.

| | | | | | | |
|------------|----------------|--|-------|----------------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| Likelihood | Almost certain | | | | | Polution |
| | Likely | | | Vegetation | | |
| | Possible | Earthquake | | Flood Theft | | Industrial zone development |
| | Unlikely | | Fire | | | |
| | Rare | Pests and Mold, Vandalism, Violence, General Security, Deterioration/w ear and tear | | | | |
| | | Insignificant | Minor | Moderate | Major | Severe |
| Impact | | | | | | |

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

During an emergency in the chance of existing threat to the cultural heritage (after the possible future extensive excavations) first level of the protection is with the first responders. Designated first responders, in this case, are firefighters and police, from Veliko Gradište and Požarevac (for the pilot site).

In case of emergency a special fire brigade from Drmno coal mine and TEKO B Power plant can help and intervene as well. In case of Viminacium this is primary and closest response unit, located less than 2 km from Archaeological Park facilities and generally at the edge of Viminacium site.



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| Firefighter unit of EPS | TEKO B Power plant |
| Regionalni zavod za zaštitu spomenika kulture Smederevo | Despota Đurđa 37 11300, Smederevo +381 26 46 22 309 +381 26 614 010 |