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1. Characterisation of the pilot site

The selected Living Danube Limes pilot site for Bulgaria is the Roman fortress of Bononia. The remains of a fortress wall and adjacent towers of the Roman city of Bononia are located on an area of 20 ha and date from the I-VI century. It is said to be the largest Roman fortress on the Lower Danube River. Bononia is located under the central part of the modern town of Vidin, whereas the newest findings are in the “Kaletó” neighborhood.

Bononia emerged at the end of the I and the beginning of the II century as a fortress and a road station within the province of Moesia. Most likely, an auxiliary military unit was stationed at this place (the First Cisipade Cohort, a horse cohort, as part of the elite Roman soldiers), engaged in the construction of the Danube Road, providing protection of the Danube border, and designed to stop barbarian attacks from the north and east.

The Western gate of Bononia was discovered in October 2020. It is in the residential area of “Kaletó”, town of Vidin and dates from IV-VI century. From this gate started the “Decumanus Maximus”, the main street of the city of Bononia.

The base of the Gate was reached at almost 5 m depth. The city of Bononia has a rectangle shape, extended in a north-south direction, with an area of about 20 ha. The length of the northern wall is about 365 m, and the western about 600 m. Nine round towers with a diameter of 19 m and a wall thickness of 3.7 m were discovered.

Since 2017 the archaeological site Bononia has the status of “Roman and Late Antiquity Fortress “Bononia” in the town of Vidin, Municipality of Vidin, District of Vidin, within the classification of a group archaeological immovable cultural site and within the category of “national importance” and are defined the conservation regimes - territorial scope and conservation prescriptions.¹

Major risks which could threaten the pilot site are flood/ severe weather, pollution, theft/vandalism, rarer: earthquake, etc.



Photo: Western gate of Bononia, Vidin (G.Jordanov, NTC BG Guide, April 2021)

¹ Order No RD-09-803 of 16 October 2017, Ministry of Culture, published in State Gazette issue 6 of 16.1

2. Threat analysis pilot site

Likelihood	Almost certain					
	Likely			Climate, Pests, and mold	Severe weather /Flood	
	Possible			General Security, Accidents	Pollution, Deterioration	Theft, Vandalism, Violence
	Unlikely	Light			Earthquake	
	Rare	Fire				
		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Impact						

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

3.1. Lom (*Almus*)

The ancient city of *Almus* (*Artanes*) and its military fortress (*castellum*) are located in the area of today's city Lom, on the right bank of the Danube river, close to the estuary of the Lom river. During excavations, parts of the fortification walls and its water supply system were discovered. The Roman settlement was founded in 29 CE and occupied the site of an older, Thracian settlement until its destruction in the middle of the 5th century. Parts of the ancient structures remained above ground and have recently been restored.



Figure 18: Roman spoils in front of the Lom Museum of History.

Roman Frontier within the cross-border region Romania-Bulgaria, Association of Danube River Municipalities. 2017 „Danube”. <https://danubelimes-robg.eu/images/broen.pdf> (accessed on 10.01.2023)

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

3.2. Riben (Ad Putea)

The Roman fortress and road station *ad Putea* was discovered along the main road „*Via Traiana*“ on the hill „*Gradishteto*“ near the settlement of Riben (14 km northeast of the city Dolna Mitropolia). Much of the fortress and the road station was excavated during archeological expeditions. Two towers, residential buildings (one with hypocaust) and outbuildings were discovered and preserved. The site is not covered under modern building structures.



Figure 19: Aerial picture of Ad Putea.

Photo; metalengine, http://haiduk-tourist.blogspot.com/2018/05/blog-post_9.html (accessed on 09.01.2023)

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

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

- Municipality of Vidin
- Ministry of Culture
- Regional Administration of Vidin
- National Archaeological Institute with Museum to Bulgarian Academy of Science
- Regional History Museum of Vidin
- Electricity supply system
- Police, etc.