

Sangro Valley Project: Report on 2001 Season

Summary

This year the work of the Sangro Valley Project continued, both at Monte Pallano and at a new location (Acquachiara). Again the excavation was organised by the Universities of Oxford, and Oberlin College, Ohio. We were supported and partnered in Italy by the Soprintendenza A.B.A.A.S. for Abruzzo, and supported by the British School at Rome.

At Monte Pallano we had hoped to attain a full stratigraphic sequence and close the site; but the discoveries have seemed so important that more work, perhaps over a number of years, now seems essential. The volume of excavated material has for the first time exceeded our ability to process it all in the same season, particularly in the area of ceramics. The old trench MP 7000/8000 has now been dug in such a way as to produce a complete stratigraphic sequence: some of the dating needs refining, either through further excavation or detailed study of the ceramics, but we are fairly confident that we can now tell a story which runs for more than four hundred years. It now seems certain that the main trench has cut the temenos wall of a sanctuary, although the temple structure itself is elusive. The terrace enclosed by the temenos wall contains religious debris of the third and second centuries, and architectural terracottas of the mid second, pointing to earlier phases of the sanctuary. The placement of more trenches has led to surprising new theories about the extent and direction of the big terrace wall. We also know that the temenos terrace was modified and restricted in the early empire; and that while various phases of collapse affected it from the early first century B.C. onwards, it was not definitively abandoned until the early second century A.D.

New trenches were opened up at Acquachiara, a sloping zone of arable land at about 500 m asl. This zone had produced five concentrations of surface material during in the course of John Lloyd's surface survey in the Sangro Valley (scatters 50-4). The aim was to investigate scatter 54 by excavation, following geophysical prospection. An open area excavation was projected, but in the end we were compelled to dig no trenches with a surface area greater than 2 x 2m. The excavations were an interesting commentary on the geophysical results, and while they located no ancient archaeological features securely in situ, they have produced stratification with potentially enormous implications for the taphonomy of rural sites and their recovery by survey.

March Season

A four person team (Susan Kane, Sam Carrier (Oberlin

College); Kent Schneider (U.S. Forest Service) and Erv Garrison (University of Georgia) undertook geophysical prospection in four separate locations at Acquachiara, and at two locations on Monte Pallano, one adjacent to our trench. A number of undefined anomalies were located in this way, and on the advice of the geophysical reports we were able to place one trench on Monte Pallano, and three trenches at Acquachiara. The geophysics thus provided an invaluable rationale for the selection of sites for keyhole trenches, which were in part dug with a view to testing the results of the geophysics.

Monte Pallano Trenches

This year work was continued on trench MP 8000. The primary aims were (i) to obtain a full stratigraphic sequence from sterile soil to topsoil, with appropriate dating evidence (trench MP 8500); (ii) to obtain environmental samples (a new aspect to the project); (iii) to obtain a larger sample of the architectural terracottas found in previous seasons, in order to assess more fully the number, date, decoration and other characteristics of the buildings from which they came; and (iv) to enlarge the assemblage of pottery, particularly of Black Gloss votive sherds. These aims were all achieved. In addition, other small trenches were laid out, on a new overall grid oriented on magnetic north, adjacent to MP 8000, in order both to verify the continuation (or otherwise) of known walls, and to investigate the possible presence of others, in one case suggested by geophysical anomalies (trenches MP 8100, 82000, 8300, 8400). Finally, in the last ten days of the season, another sondage was made within the area of the original 8000, stimulated by work in MP 8500, to investigate the relation to that complex of features of a putative Roman house with burnt destruction layer from the previous season (Trench MP 8600).

For the first time this year the trenches were both mapped by GPS technology (courtesy of Doug Luepke, U.S. Forest Service), and surveyed in by EDM (courtesy of John Percival, Norfolk Archaeological Unit).

The stratification can be resolved into a broad nine-stage phasing; it will first perhaps be apposite to consider additions to the known extent and plan of the site. MP 8000 had revealed (at trench north) a large polygonal terrace wall - the temenos wall (8010), and a smaller roughly mortared wall of uncertain stratigraphic relationship to the polygonal wall (8017). At trench south a corner of a building assumed from the assemblage of finds to be Roman, and containing a burnt destruction layer, was found. Between the walls was what had been characterised as a <garden> soil, overlying a spread of rubble associated with

the collapse of wall 8017 to the N., and the <Roman> house to the S.

MP 8100, not oriented on the new grid, lay a few meters to the East; the polygonal wall 8010 was found at some depth in this trench (= 8108), showing that, as suspected, it continues to trench W. It had however been substantially truncated. The wall seems to continue to the west, towards the area of the Soprintendenza's excavations. In its truncated state it was overlain by a rubble layer (the destruction horizon), and then three layers of clay soil build-up, one containing burnt debris. The lowermost contained lots of Black Gloss sherds, and one or two fragments of ITS. The uppermost (8106) contained an Augustan as (14 - 9 B.C.), and ITS form which seems to be Flavian (conspectus 20). The truncation of the wall seems (see below) almost certainly to be Augustan; the final build up of debris above the sealed destruction horizon is not later than the Flavian period. Above this clay layer four colluvial and topsoil deposits, and a modern field wall complete the sequence.

MP 8200 was the first trench to lie on the new grid for the site, and is thus slightly offset with respect to MP 8000. It lies between MP 8000 and MP 8100, and was intended to investigate the terrace fill behind the wall 8010. In the event, on the suggestion of Dott.ssa Amalia Faustorferri, it was extended to investigate soil anomalies on the side towards MP 8100. This was an inspired suggestion, since it revealed that the polygonal wall 8010 had been modified in the Augustan period, with a right-angle return running away to the north, the foundation cut being made into the old terrace behind the temenos wall. The dating of the new wall is provided by a stamped ITS base of not later than 10 B.C. (Conspectus II.1.3) in the fill of the foundation cut. This cut itself is an interface with one of a series of contexts of dumped material behind the terrace wall, which produced substantial quantities of architectural terracotta as well as terracotta statue fragments (8210, 8212), as well as above those (8207) a 4th - 3rd century B.C. (probably) Neapolitan coin, re-deposited there from an assumed original sacred deposition.

MP 8300, also on the new grid, was a larger square trench, placed to the east of the walls 8010 and 8017, to investigate the eastward extension of the walls 8010 and 8017; and also designed to cut a geophysical anomaly to the S., believed to be a possible southward return wall. Whether the geophysical anomaly was identified remains uncertain; the most likely explanation is that the edge of the trench just missed it, or that it represented wall collapse (8303 or 8308). In the trench the continuation of 8017 (here 8306), in a state of collapse in its upper courses. The polygonal wall 8010 was absent however, nor was there any sign that it had been robbed out (although

the eastward end of the section exposed in July 2000 had clearly suffered that fate. It therefore seems that this wall makes a N.ward return between MP 8000 and MP 8300, later paralleled by the Augustan wall uncovered to the W. in MP 8200. Sterile soil was not reached here; all contexts excavated were subsequent to, and seal, the building of the wall 8017. It seems plausible, however, on the basis of other evidence in MP 8500, that the foundations of the wall were not far below the level reached. The lowest layer investigated was a cobbled surface (8313), onto which building debris (8310), including large elements of cocciopesto flooring hacked up from another context, had been thrown; the pottery of this context was uniformly Black Gloss, suggesting a context not later than the middle of the first century B.C. for this deposit. Three layers of rubble sealed this building debris, above which were two spreads of wall collapse from 8017. A colluvial layer above contained a third century Larinate coin, probably moved by soil-creep from an upslope deposition within the temenos.

MP 8400 was inserted in an area of dense tree growth some dozen metres west of MP 8000. Its location was chosen to test a hypothesis made on the basis of GPS mapping, namely the some of the smaller walls found in MP 8000 ran E-W and linked our trench with the Soprintendenza's; thus implying a larger extent than previously thought for the built up area in the saddle of Monte Pallano. The trench came down on the corner of a building; this was thought to confirm sufficiently the GPS implications, and resources were returned to the main area.

These results collectively allow us to postulate that the temenos terrace extends uphill to the N.; and W.wards, perhaps to a prominent drop in the ground level some way off; but not far to the E. of MP 8000. On the other hand, the wall MP 8017 continues to the E, and MP 8300 showed that it was delimited to the north by a cobbled surface. Nearby was a building with a cocciopesto floor was destroyed, and the cobbled surface seems to have changed function, going out of use and becoming a rubbish dump at some point before the mid-first century B.C. We also know now that the terrace wall was added to with a return to the N. in the Augustan period. The truncation of the wall 8010 in MP 8100, sealed by a two clay layers themselves sealed by a layer with a terminus ante quem non of the Flavian period, and may be associated with this Augustan rebuilding, which may have substantially reduced the surface area of the original terrace for a building or purpose of unknown function. We also know that the area between our trench and the inhabited nucleus excavated by the Soprintendenza was not empty, and it may be that a unified complex of (?) imperial buildings linked the two

zones.

It will now be appropriate to add the results of the two sondages (MP 8500 and MP 8600) made within the original MP 8000, which was too extensive to be taken down to sterile soil in any but one selected zone.

MP 8500 aimed to reach sterile soil, and clarify the stratigraphic relationship of the wall 8017 to other contexts in the trench, and if possible to provide some dates for the sequence.

MP 8600 was dug, again within the existing trench, in order to establish the stratigraphic relationship of the <Roman house>, partly exposed in the S. extension of MP 8000 in the previous season, to the rest of the known features.

Monte Pallano Phases

As noted above, there are nine phases. It is important to note that not just MP 8200, but all contexts, associated with the temenos terrace fill or otherwise, produced substantial numbers of architectural terracottas.

Phase 0. Geological deposits (a palaeosol overlying sterile clay. These are interfaced by tree root holes; Black Gloss pottery was recovered.

Phase 1. This is a sanctuary building, whose existence must be inferred, as noted last year, from 4th to 2nd century votive objects (ceramics, loomweights, coins), and above all from the architectural terracottas and sculptural fragments. No structures survive from this phase, and the location of the sanctuary itself, apart from on the temenos terrace, must remain conjectural.

Phase 2a. This is represented by the construction of the polygonal temenos terrace wall. This wall is datable by the objects contained in the fill of the terrace, which seals it, and largely consists, as surmised last year, of <sacred rubbish>, ritually broken sculpture, archaic terracottas and other votive objects, all belonging to the sanctuary of Phase 1. The wall is 1.40 to 1.70 m thick, and stood over 2 m high originally. As observed above it seems to return to N. between MP 8000 and MP 8300; the W. terminus is unknown. A break of slope to the W. marked by a line of bushes may indicate a N. return. The wall is backed by a soak-away dump of stones, and a series of tips and dumps, the fill of the terrace, in which the architectural terracottas are mixed.

Phase 2b. A severely truncated EW dry-stone wall (8511) was found in the southern end of MP 8000, constructed over the palaeosol. This wall is associated with an activity surface, perhaps linked to its construction. Subsequently clay levelling layers (8504, 8517) seem to have been built up on either side of the wall. These are overlain by a rubble horizon representing the demolition of the wall 8511. This phase is not closely datable, although

8504 has produced nice diagnostic pieces of so-called <grands estampilles> Black Gloss which may be mid-second century (and are from shapes compatible with votive offerings); is probably contemporary with, or earlier than the temenos wall.

Phase 3a. The construction of a building with substantial foundations on the temenos terrace is hypothesised, perhaps running parallel with the terrace wall. No certain traces of such a structure have been found, and it may not have been completed. This phase is thought to be pre-Social War, but more work is needed.

Phase 3b. The polygonal wall 8010 is itself now masked by a slighter, lower wall of smaller stones (8017), roughly bonded with a yellow mortar. The wall stands on a wide bed or raft of stones, which acts as its foundations. To the N. of the wall, after its construction, the sequence of slow collapse and degradation from the polygonal wall starts to build up in the <corridor> now created, and we presume that the hypothetical building of 3a is now demolished. Associated with the wall 8017, to the south of it, is a trample surface containing burnt elements; this is then overlain by a clear occupation deposit, which covers the whole of the exposed area of MP 8000 S. of the wall 8017 (8514, 8515, 8027). These layers contain BG pottery and one piece of what looks like vernice rossa pottery (or a proto-sigillata misfire). This should provide a date of c. 70 B.C. as a terminus ante quem non for this occupation layer. One sherd of ITS was found, but since it joins another in the context above, it is probably to be considered intrusive. If there is no ITS in this occupation horizon, it seems to date between c. 70 and c. 50 B.C. The wall 8017 may be post Social War.

Phase 4. The buildings of the Phase 3a collapse are abandoned. The occupation horizon S. of 8017 is now sealed with a thick layer of pounded rubble and stones, which forms a cobbled surface (8502 / 8021). Again only one sherd of ITS came from this context, probably again intrusive from a later context (joining sherd in 8503). The cobbled surface thus seems to be datable before c. 50 B.C.

Phase 5. Later the polygonal wall (8010) was modified. As we have seen, the westernmost part so far known was severely truncated, and a new N. return wall inserted via a cut in the rubble revetment. This rebuild was identified above as Augustan on the basis of pottery.

Phase 6. Another sharp turn in the history of the area is marked by the partial collapse of the wall 8017 to the S. The cobbled surface is now covered over with a sequence of tips and dumps, including building debris. This is the fine, well-levigated soil characterised last year as a garden soil. The evening light this year showed clearly in the section the taphonomy of this deposit, with a series of tip

lines being clearly visible in the section (8503 = 8011 = 8016); the material dumped may nonetheless have derived from a garden midden complex originally. Late first century A.D. ITS (conspetus 34) and Flavian Thin Walled Ware pottery provide a terminus ante quem for the laying of this deposit. The tipping / levelling activity may be associated with the building of a (?) new structure at the southern end of the trench 8000 (the <Roman house>). The full stratification of this structure is not clear; the N. wall was exposed this year (8603), truncated and overlain by a clay levelling layer.

Phase 7. The southern building (the <Roman house>) was demolished, and its destroyed walls and roof (8008, 8501, 8601) were dumped over the top of a midden which had already built up against its north wall. The midden seems to have been in use until at least the Flavian period, to judge from TWW ceramics recovered. The demolition of the <Roman house> will thus post-date this period.

Phase 8. The final demolition of the polygonal wall takes place, not earlier than the start of the second century B.C., dated on the basis of joining sherds of ARS <A> in the topmost rubble context; at this point the <corridor> between 8010 and 8017 was finally filled and the wall levelled to its present height. It may be at this point the easternmost exposed section of the polygonal wall 8010 was robbed out.

Phase 9. As noted in my last report, there seems reasonable evidence for ephemeral activity surfaces as late as the fifth century A.D. on the basis of pottery forms, but there is no sign in our area that this constituted any sort of permanent occupation.

Colluvial deposits and topsoil complete the sequence.

Monte Pallano Conclusions

The story at Monte Pallano becomes clearer, although more dating evidence will be needed, and further work on the pottery. It is now beyond question that we are excavating the temenos and periphery of a Hellenistic sanctuary, whose cult building is as yet unlocated. The numismatic and ceramic evidence suggests that votive offerings go back as far as the third century B.C.; this is interesting in that the earliest levels of the Soprintendenza's excavation, uncovered this year, also seem to go back to this period. Like our terrace, they cluster against the northern side of the saddle below the peak of La Torretta.

The architectonic terracottas, and the fragments of draped statues, likewise in terracotta, some of very high quality for the Abruzzo in this period, seem to belong to a sanctuary of the middle of the second century B.C. While there could be more than one phase represented by the terracotta decorations, it seems that so far, from over a hundred terracotta fragments, we do not have duplicate

architectonic elements, e.g. more than one series of antefixes. The strongest evidence of more than one decorative cycle comes in the fact that while some of the material looks mid second century, other pieces are close to late second century material from Schiavi D'Abruzzo. On the whole however the single building, one-phase hypothesis seems more likely. The early wall found in MP 8500 might be associated with this phase of the sanctuary.

The destruction date of the building represented by this material and the other votive material re-deposited (after ritual breakage) in the terrace fill, is hard to be certain about. We can say that the destruction seems neither random nor violent, but deliberate. It is certain that a new terrace was built using the mid second century remains; we presume that it was intended to house a public building, in all likelihood a new temple (despite the fact that not structure, and no votive material securely attributable to this temple rather than its predecessor have been found). The wave of temple building in Samnium in the generation preceding the Social War (Schiavi, Pietrabbondante, Vastogiradi) is a likely context for the reorganisation of the sanctuary. It might be that case that the sanctuary was never actually completed before the Social War broke out.

Since the smaller wall 8017 screens, and in some sense thus <demotes> the terrace wall, it may imply that the sanctuary was less important at the time at which it was built, or indeed was out of use. A post Social War context has been inferred for this reason. The second and main occupation phase after the construction of the new wall not earlier, we think than 70 B.C., which allows for the first, slighter occupation horizon and the construction of the wall to fall after the Social War.

The first signs of degradation of the polygonal terrace wall seem to post-date the building of wall 8017, as does the dumping of building debris onto a cobbled surface in MP8300. One possible reconstruction is that the sanctuary was (?wholly ?partially) rebuilt in the last generation before the Social War. Of this rebuild the certain element is the terrace wall 8010. A period of (partial?) abandonment might then follow the Social War and the ensuing upheavals. A change in settlement and activity patterns on Monte Pallano with the restoration of peaceful conditions may have led to development of the area to the south of the sanctuary temenos, from which the abandoned sanctuary was screened off by the new wall. The new wall was bounded to north and south by a cobbled area, and onto the northern part, as shown in MP 8300, building debris was thrown at a time before c. 50 B.C. It might be that this debris was part of the sanctuary. The cocciopesto floor might even be that of the sanctuary: the sanctuary at Passo Porcari near Atessa had a similar floor; further, some of

the cocchiopesto seem to be quarter-round mouldings, and these may find a parallel in one of the altars at Schiavi D'Abruzzo. On this hypothesis there would be a period of total or partial abandonment after the Social War; followed by the decision to de-commission the sanctuary. It is hard to say whether this building debris dump would qualify as ritual breakage. If this hypothesis is right, then we would have important physical confirmation of a second temple, which would be otherwise lacking so far.

The next stages are not fully clear. The terrace does seem to come back into use, albeit in a truncated form, in the Augustan period. This revival seems to remain in operation until the final demolition of the upper elevation of the terrace wall in or after the early second century B.C. What the Augustan rebuild was for is uncertain, but no religious material of this period has appeared, and it may be that the smaller terrace served domestic purposes (such as the Augustan villa built over the abandoned Etruscan sanctuary at Punta della Vipera).

What is happening south of the wall 8017 at this time is unclear; the chronology of the <Roman house> requires further investigation to clarify this. The cobbled area between 8017 and the <house> seems to have lost any original function by the late first century A.D., when it is filled in and levelled over with the various tips (which sadly removes our Julio-Claudian garden from the story - although the tips may have been meant to make a sort of garden plot for the <Roman house>). After this levelling, conducted for unknown reasons, the <Roman house> suffers a fire, and seems to be demolished onto a midden, which may have served it when it was a functional residence.

The chronology of ARS <A> ware means that the terrace wall may still have stood into the third century A.D.; but in any event there is as far as we can see a serious break in continuity between this last sign of activity in the area and the ephemeral late antique presence already established.

Pre-third century occupation on the mountain still remain elusive; but the Hellenistic sanctuary, particularly in its architectonic decoration and its ceramic offerings, continues to take on ever more shape and solidity. The discovery of foundations, and of a stips uotiva, or remains of such a deposit, are desiderata.

On other levels, the Project has moved forward too, especially in terms of its archaeometric activities. Phytolith samples were taken from various Monte Pallano contexts, and have been sent to Lila Janik in Cambridge for analysis. Accurate surveying by EDM and GPS have produced more accurate and useful nuanced plans of the site in its context. Both forms of mapping tied the trenches into the major known features of the mountain top, and to the Italian excavations. Plotted onto aerial photographs,

the GPS data provide the most coherent map to date of the archaeological remains and their natural context. It is hoped that photographs with better resolution than the Carta Ortofotografica of the Regione Abruzzo, currently employed, will enhance the value of this data further.

Future work. The logical move now for the Project would be to link up its existing sondages, from a (hopefully) investigated <Roman house.> across the walls and terraces, up to the site of the first architectural terracotta discoveries on the bedrock in MP 7000. A complete section of the site would be very important, as well as tightening the dating and sequence. Recovery of more high quality architectural terracottas seems a high priority. Important work remains to be done on the shapes and decoration BG bowls and other forms.

Acquachiara

John Lloyd, Gary Lock and Neil Christie between them discovered over 100 significant spreads of ploughsoil debris (scatters) in the course of the Sangro Valley Survey 1995-98. Most of these have been provisionally identified as villages or significant farming establishments. The excavation of some of these sites would provide significant data on rural settlement in northern Samnium from the late Iron Age onwards; and more importantly provide some sort of assessment of the validity of the survey data themselves. The degree to which ploughsoil assemblages represent in any quantifiable way disturbed archaeological deposits has long been problematic.

This year the Sangro Valley Project begun its long-term aim of carrying forward John Lloyd's work, with excavations at scatter site 54, at Acquachiara / Piano San Giorgio. As stated above, clerical complications meant that the projected open area excavations had to be curtailed in favour of small key-hole investigations. On advice from Andrew Wilson in Oxford, the site had been selected as yielding significant amounts of impasto IA pottery, being beside an ancient communications route from the Sangro valley to the next river basin (the Sinello), and perhaps being in the vicinity of ancient burial tumuli: two fragments of archaic life size stone statues of the sixth / fifth centuries, poor cousins of the Capecrano warrior, were found nearby, close to Colle Archiano. The fields were gently sloping away from the treeline on the mountain slope, along which the ancient/modern route ran, towards a low saddle between the Sangro and Sinello valleys.

Three test pits were dug on two adjacent terraces, where heavy density of IA pottery after ploughing had been confirmed by extensive survey the previous summer. The area had been subjected to geophysical prospection, and the three pits were designed in part to test what the anomalies detected by GPR represented in terms of deposits. One

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pit (TP1) was located deliberately in a zone where no anomalies had been found. The methodology combined micro-survey of 1 m² grids on the surface of the geophysics blocks with augering; then selected grid squares were excavated, with excavated pottery being carefully counted and weighed by context.

The results are still the subject of analysis, but even initially they defied our expectations, and were interesting in their variety. We had expected, on the basis of research and personal experience in Molise, to excavate deep uniform contexts of promiscuously churned up ploughsoil overlying badly plough-scarred bedrock, with only negative rock cut features such as post holes surviving as undisturbed archaeology. This expectation was reinforced since the IA material on the surface of the fields was presumed to come from the lowest surviving deposits above bedrock; all Hellenistic and later deposits were assumed destroyed.

TP 1 registered no anomalies in the geophysical profile. To our surprise we found a very substantial layer of large rocks not far below topsoil. This context showed no sign of having been disturbed by the plough, although at its interface with the very shallow ploughsoil above there were substantial impasto fragments (including a nice fifth century base) which seemed to be a plausible source of surface material through gradual plough damage. The TP was in fact close to the terrace wall upslope, and as we discovered from conversations with the contadini, was ploughed to only half the depth of the soil lower down the slope, which was only ploughed to 50-60 cm. Beneath the substantial stone layer there were thick clay deposits mixed with more cultural debris, mainly IA pottery, above a sterile clay layer.

The stratigraphy was puzzling, and during the excavation we were uncertain how to interpret the layers recognised. At first we thought we had hit a buried tumulus, but the gods did not love us that much. The stone layer can be plausibly interpreted as a collapsed terrace wall, which would explain the different nature of the deposits overlying, abutting and underneath the stone layer very well. One conclusion is that the material ploughed into the field from above this layer of stones derives in part not from that field, but from the collapsed terrace fill of an adjacent field upslope. Another is that, at least at this point, deposits in this field, so far from showing on the surface, are protected from plough damage by the collapsed terrace wall.

TP2 was dug on the modern upper terrace above TP 1 and 3; it aimed to bisect two anomalies 1 m apart, detected at identical depth by geophysics. Here again expectation failed us. A churned up modern ploughsoil lay to a depth of 60 cm over a similarly deep, but much more compact layer, which was interpreted as a paleo-plough-

soil. Beneath this lay a series of ephemeral layers; the two anomalies seem to have been concentrations of stones at the margins of the trench, between which lay a diagnostic impasto handle of perhaps the fifth century or earlier. Again, assumptions about the processes leading to surface deposits, and the effect of ploughing on deposits below the soil proved unfounded. A genuine IA deposition was protected from ploughing by a compacted (?) Roman ploughsoil, itself beneath deep modern ploughsoil. The questions arise - what was the source of the impasto found in the field, and how can it be used to relate to subsoil conditions? One might like to speculate on the links between the material formerly contained by the collapsed terrace wall in the lower field, and the deeply sealed deposits in the upper field.

TP3 was laid in the lower field to cut a strong finger like geophysics signal running diagonally across the field. We expected the anomaly to be at some depth; but the soil above bedrock was shallow here. The anomaly was for once unequivocally identified as bedrock. It showed no clear plough damage, but was overlain by a powdery limestone deposit. The location of this TP was significant, as it lay close to the modern track into the fields, to the stony woodland soils, and to buried terraces in the wood, among which lay a stump of Samnite looking wall, repaired in modern times.

GPS mapping and an EDM survey were carried out at Acquachiarà; phytolith samples were recovered, but the soil proved to have too high a clay content and we too few chemicals to permit flotation.

Conclusions. The geophysics results were sometimes ambiguous, and there is clearly fine tuning to be done. Yet they were an invaluable bench mark for commencing sondages, and have allowed us to focus our enquiries in a more serious way. Analysis of the pottery from Acquachiarà has only just begun; but it seems already clear that two out of the three Test Pits must lead us to question the assumptions which underpin the interpretation of surface collection from the ploughsoil. The results for field survey will in the long run, we think, be very important. Acknowledgements

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