



DELIVERABLE D.T1.1.2

Title Identification Pilot Sites

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PP Country Serbia

Pilot Site Ram / Lederata

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1. Basic Information on the Archaeological Site and its Location

Modern name of the site	Ram
Roman name of the site, if known	Lederata
Country, Region	Serbia, Braničevo county
Municipality	Veliko Gradište
Type of the site (<i>e.g. fortification, settlement etc.</i>)	Fortification, Settlement, Cemetery, River crossing
Single site or multiple component site (cluster)	Single site
Dating of the Roman site	I-VI Century AD
Dating of construction phases, if known	Main construction phases can be dated into 1) I century / II Century (Domitian - Trajan), 2) late III Century, 3) VI Century (Justinian's restoration of the frontier)
Area of the site [in ha]	10 ha
Elevation of the site [in m AA] ¹	120 m
Coordinates of the site using WGS84 = EPSG:4326 (<i>if your site covers a large area, indicate a single point its centre</i>)	44°49'0.08"N 21°20'22.95"E
Cover with building structures	<input type="checkbox"/> fully/partly covered with modern superstructures <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not covered Short description:
Site visibility	<input type="checkbox"/> underground remains not visible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> underground remains uncovered and visible (excavated, conserved) <input type="checkbox"/> archaeological remains above surface until today <input type="checkbox"/> physical reconstructions above archaeological remains
State of research (<i>e.g. fully excavated, confirmed by geophysical surveys etc.</i>)	Partially excavated, parts of ramparts and towers visible as well as parts of the buildings within.
Conservation status, if known	Parts of ramparts and towers conserved, parts need urgent attention. Buildings inside visible need urgent attention. Constant problem with looting. Municipality now engaged in resolving this problem.
List of known remaining archaeological structures	Ditches and ramparts, Towers, and gates. Cemeteries according to excavated tombs Settlement to the south of the fortress (only basic research, no plan available yet)
List of Roman military force stationed at the site (<i>e.g. LEGIO, COHORS, ALA</i>)	LEGIO VII CLAUDIA (Stamped brick tiles, inscription carved in the rock nearby) COHORS I CRETUM (brick stamps) COHORS II HISPANORUM (brick stamps)

¹ m AA = Meters Above the Adriatic

	<p>ALA II PANNONIORUM (brick stamps) CUNEUS EQUITUM SAGITTARIORUM (Notita dignitatum) MILITES VINCENTIENSES (Notita dignitatum)</p>
Access to the Danube in ancient times	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Access to the Danube today	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Access to a tributary river in ancient times	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no If yes, please indicate the name:
Access to Roman Road Network	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no If yes, please indicate the name of the road: Road branching from Viminacium (X Roman miles) towards Apo fl (XII Roman miles) and Arcidava (XII Roman miles) in Dacia over river crossing at the foothill of this site (only source Tabula Peutengeriana, no archaeological evidence so far).
UNESCO status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tentative List status <input type="checkbox"/> World Heritage status <input type="checkbox"/> application process still ongoing <input type="checkbox"/> no UNESCO status
Legal protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> by national Monument Protection Law <input type="checkbox"/> by planning tools (e.g. protection of townscape, designation of areas, zoning etc.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> others Please list and describe: By national Monument Protection Law - Cultural property of exceptional importance, AS 102. Municipality plan for cultural tourism and development with Silver Lake Resort and Ram fortress (Turkish fortress).
Institutions involved in research on the site (today and in the past)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National museum in Belgrade • Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments Smederevo • Regional Museum from Požarevac • Institute of Archaeology
Institutions and stakeholders involved in the presentation of the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade • Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments Smederevo • Regional Museum from Požarevac • Municipality Veliko Gradište • Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Serbia • Tourist Organization of Veliko Gradište

2. Archaeological Remains

2.1. History of the Site

The site is located in an extraordinary strategic position, overlooking the first narrowing of the Danube before the Iron Gates Gorge. This is a place from which one could easily cross to the opposite side, to the river island Sapaja, which was along the left bank of the Danube. Roman fort called Lederata was located on a hill, an ideal place for monitoring the crossing of the river, while at its foot a bridgehead was placed. Parts of Roman necropolis were explored close to the fort.

Because of strategic location guarding important river crossing, site was occupied continuously from 1st to 6th century. Changes in architecture, reductions of ramparts and different phases of construction reflect changes and different historical events on the Upper Mesesian limes. All of them show features of particular periods in the construction and renovation of limes.

The triple ditch of the 6th century phase represents a rare and exceptional military structure along the Roman limes as this is rare example of this defensive system in our province.

Lederata was the base for Roman army during the preparations for the Dacian wars and the place from which, at the beginning of the First Dacian War under Trajan, the Roman army possibly crossed the pontoon bridge into the Dacian territory.

Lederata was military base and starting point to form a bridgehead in the initial phase of Roman expansion to Dacia and remained important monitoring and recruiting point until the late antiquity.

2.2. Composition and Appearance of the Archaeological Site

Archeological site is not visible from the distance as all archaeological remains are in low state of preservation. Walls preserved in foundations or low height (less than 0,5 m). Stone bedrock is close to the surface, often less than one meter. Problem is highly stratified site in low depth of soil. This had significant impact on preservation of oldest phases which although containing original materials have disturbed contexts. Many foundations are laying directly on the rocks below.

2.3. Architectural Structures

Walls were built mostly of stone and lime mortar, with typical roman roof tiles. Main building material was green slate (green shale) that is a local material as the complete terrain beneath the fort lies on thick layers of shale. This was most common building material as it was easy to reach locally and it was also widely used on other surrounding sites (Roman Viminacium, Margum, Pincum, Cuppae etc.) Ditches surrounding the fort are distinctive and clearly visible. Traces of the aqueduct and water pipeline were located although not in situ. Wooden pilars for which the pontoon bridge for river crossing seem to have been attached were visible 50 years ago on low Danube levels but no modern research were conducted in this direction. Further research on this is needed in order to identify this location as the main river crossing

for Trajan's first Dacian war. Earth and wooden palisade closed the only flat ground access to the fort in the narrowest part of the plateau. This is still clearly visible and identifiable defense element.

2.4. The Most Important Finds and their Message

NO distinctive finds belong to this site except regular inventory of typical roman fort, settlement, and cemetery. Regular findings evidencing the dating and interpretation of the site: fibulae, lamps, pottery, and glass vessels as well as standard military equipment.

2.5. Surrounding Area

The **buffer zone** covers the surrounding hills with the settlement and necropolis in the vicinity of the fort. Two steep gorges protect fortification from the flanks and steep bank towards Danube towards the river. There is only a narrow passage over the flat terrain from the south. There gorges are now dry but in the antiquity small water streams existed.

2.6. Literary sources

On Tabula Peutingeriana Lederata was marked at X miles away from Viminacium. As it was on a branch road going towards Dacia, Lederata was not marked on other Itineraries that are presenting the main road going eastwards to Cuppae and further along the Danube.

Notitia Dignitatum mentioned this fort as Laedenata as the base of cuneus equitum sagittariorum and praefectus militum Vincensium. The fort is designated to be under the command of dux Daciae Ripensis although this was probably mistake as Lederata is located in Moesia Prima in this late provincial organization system.

In Procopius text on restoration of the Danube limes (Procopii, De Aedificiis, IV, 5) it was mentioned as Literata (λίτερατά)

3. Research History

- 1980 systematic excavation lead by L. Trbuhović, National museum in Belgrade
- 1983-1988. systematic excavation lead by A. Jovanović, Faculty of philosophy Belgrade, M. Cunjak, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments Smederevo
- 2012 protective excavation lead by M. Cunjak, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments Smederevo
- 2019 Protective excavations of zone endangered by power lines Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments Smederevo and Požarevac Museum.
- 2021 Institute of Archaeology



4. Considerations for Touristic Exploitation

4.1. Practical Information

Closest urban community / city	Veliko Gradište / Požarevac / Golubac
Ownership	100 % public 0 % private
Limits of use of or activities at the site (e.g. due to the presence of strategic complexes, factories, companies, military etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no The overhead power line built in the immediate vicinity of the fort is affecting the view and the whole impression of the site. Could effect geophysical sutveys and drone imagery, low level flights.
Access to the site (<i>multiple choices possible</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> open to the public <input type="checkbox"/> controlled <input type="checkbox"/> entry fee <input type="checkbox"/> closed to the public <input type="checkbox"/> restricted (e.g. only on request, in summer time etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> others. Please describe:
Site connected to modern road network and public transport	Road network: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes, but partial. <input type="checkbox"/> no Parking available: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Public transport: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no Further connected via: <input type="checkbox"/> bicycle routes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ship cruises (in preparation for close future) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> others. Please indicate: Barge river crossing Please give a short itinerary: 120 km from nearest commercial airport Nikola Tesla Belgrade. 110 km from Belgrade via E75 (Exit Požarevac) and then Djerdap route towards Veliko Gradište, exit at Topolovnik toward Ram. 30 km from Požarevac following the local village roads to the NE. 18 km to the west from Veliko Gradište. No public transport. Site is on a Danube Bicycle Route Section 6 (R2090).
Tourist and visitor infrastructure available	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
Tourist and visitor infrastructure planned	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no

If there is an entrance fee to the site, indicate prices.	
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4.2. Presentation of the Site

Site visualisation, presentation and conservation on-site	<input type="checkbox"/> physical reconstructions for presentation <input type="checkbox"/> virtual reconstructions for presentation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> open air presentation <input type="checkbox"/> protections structures for architectural remains <input type="checkbox"/> museum <input type="checkbox"/> information boards <input type="checkbox"/> audio guides <input type="checkbox"/> guided tours <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> others. Please describe: Guided tour upon request until tourist infrastructure is finished on site.
Service	<input type="checkbox"/> souvenir shop <input type="checkbox"/> restaurant <input type="checkbox"/> others. Please describe:
Festivals and events held on-site in the past. Please list.	NO
Future festivals and events planned to be organised on-site. Please list.	NO
Media appearance (please list past and upcoming TV/radio broadcasts, newspaper articles etc.)	NO
Social media appearance	NO

5. Protection

Potential threats caused by nature and human	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic destruction by looter trenches has been a problem for years. • The overhead power line is built in the immediate vicinity of the fort.
Existing Cultural Property Protection (CPP) strategies and emergency plans	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no If yes, please list and describe them: In preparation with Veliko Gradište municipality
Existing cooperation with Emergency Responders (military, firefighters, civil protection etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no If yes, please list and describe them:

6. Further Practical Information

6.1. International Cooperation

EU funded projects	NO
Research projects	
International schools / camps	NO
Other types of partnership	Veliko Gradište municipality is AP in the Living Danube Limes project.

6.2. Information Relevant for Further Living Danube Limes Project Activities

Possibility to berth the LDL ship at the end of the project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no If no, is there a “partner site” where the LDL ship can land in 2022? Which? Viminacium near Kostolac, Special permission required
Site accessibility for visitors 2020-2022	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> accessible <input type="checkbox"/> not accessible <input type="checkbox"/> not known
Site availability for public LDL events and project activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes, for smaller events (30-50 people) at Ram fortress 1000 m from the Roman fort Lederata <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no, larger events should be organised at Viminacium If no, is there a “partner site” where the LDL events can be hosted? Which? Viminacium near Kostolac, Special permission required

7. Bibliography

- Cunjak / Jovanovic 2014: M, Cunjak / A. Jovanović. Ледерата у светлу досадашњих истраживања. (Велико Градиште-Рам 2014).
- Deroko 1950: A. Deroko, Kulič i Ram, kastrumi na dunavskom limesu. Starinar 1 1950, 169–173.
- Dimitrijević 1984: D. Dimitrijević, Sapaja, rimsko i srednjovekovno utvrđenje na ostrvu kod Stare Palanke. Starinar 33–34, 1984; 29–62.
- Jovanović 1996: Jovanović, A. The Problem of the Location of Lederata. In: Roman Limes on the Middle and Lower Danube. (Belgrade 1996). 69–72.
- Simić / Simić 1984: G. Simić / Z. Simić, Град Рам, Саопштења 16, 1984: 31-55.



8. Remarks

For years site was exposed to systematic looting until UNESCO Tentative list in 2015. From this point there are plans for site development and tourist visits in order to establish a permanent flow of people and 24/7 protection system.



Aerial image of the Lederata from the East (Source: archive of the Institute of Archaeology).



Granice Rimskog carstva - Limes na Dunavu (UNESCO WHS)
Ram - Ramska tvrđava i Lederata

Plan of the Lederata fort and its immediate vicinity (Google Earth 9 September 2020)



Plateau of the Lederata fort. View from the west (Source: archive of the Institute of Archaeology).



Plateau of the Lederata fort. View from the South East (Source: archive of the Institute of Archaeology).



Corner tower. State of preservation (Source: archive of the Institute of Archaeology).



Corner tower, inner fortlet. State of preservation (Source: archive of the Institute of Archaeology).



Corner tower, later phase. State of preservation (Source: archive of the Institute of Archaeology).



View towards Barbaricum and control of the zone of the river crossing (Source: archive of the Institute of Archaeology).

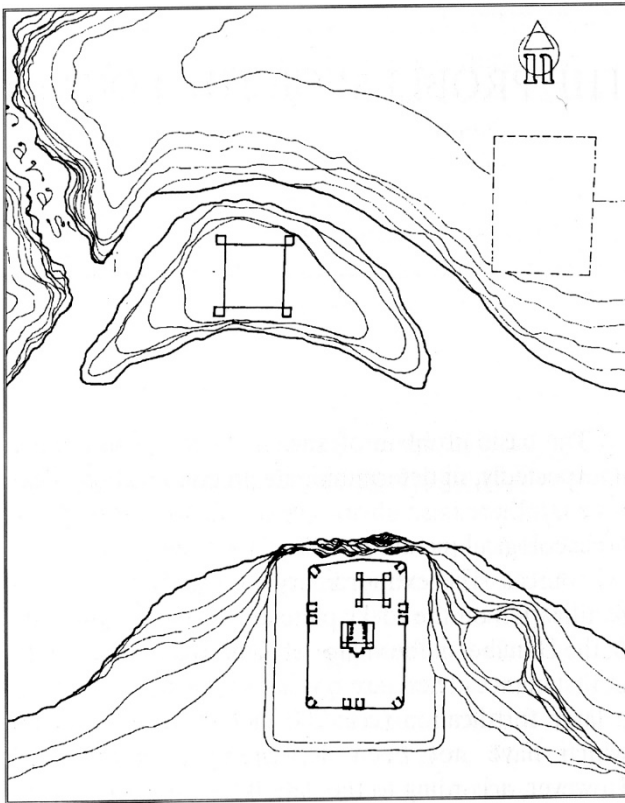
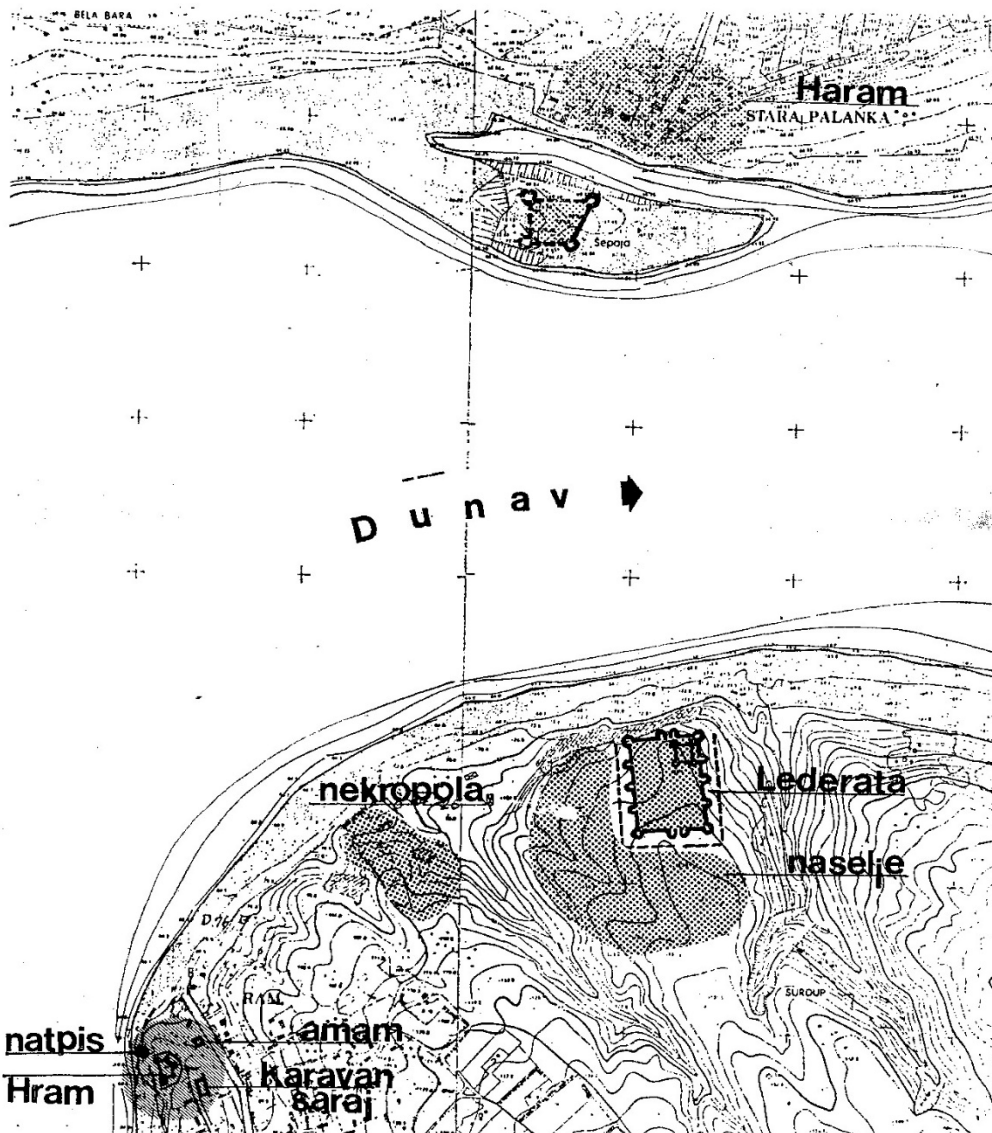


Fig. 2 - Lederata, the end of III and the beginning of IV century

Lederata with surrounding areas (Jovanović 1996: Fig 2)



Aerial image of the Lederata from the North West (archive of the Institute of Archaeology).



Ram and Lederata with surrounding areas (Source: Simić / Simić 1984, 32)