

Falerii Novi (Comune di Fabrica di Roma, Provincia di Viterbo, Regione Lazio)

As part of the AHRC-funded “Beneath the Surface of Roman Republican Cities” project (2015-17), our team is pursuing a full-coverage Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey of the entire intra-mural area of the Roman town of Falerii Novi, in combination with an assessment of the unpublished pottery from the excavations of 1969-75: our objective is to further our knowledge and understanding of the Roman town and its earlier phases of settlement (Launaro et al. 2016; 2017).

The 2017 fieldwork season brought to completion the GPR survey, taking the total coverage to 26.87 ha. A preliminary assessment of the results (whose analysis and interpretation is still in process) appears to broadly confirm the general plan of the town as outlined by the magnetometry of the 1990s (e.g. location of the forum, street network) (Keay et al. 2000). However, not only the general level of detail achieved is far beyond what was visible before, but the new survey has also produced a series of surprises, revealing a whole array of new monumental buildings that did not show up in the magnetometry. Notable are the baths complex with its octagonal central hall, a probable *macellum* (market hall), and a substantial three-sided portico (ca. 90 x 40 m) set just inside the North Gate, featuring a pair of internal structures, perhaps nymphaea. Other hitherto unknown buildings were identified, including a large temple on high podium (as suggested by the presence of a stairway on its front: Fig. 1). These examples illustrate how our work has completely remapped the town, and contributes a new dimension to the understanding of Roman urban centres more generally.

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References

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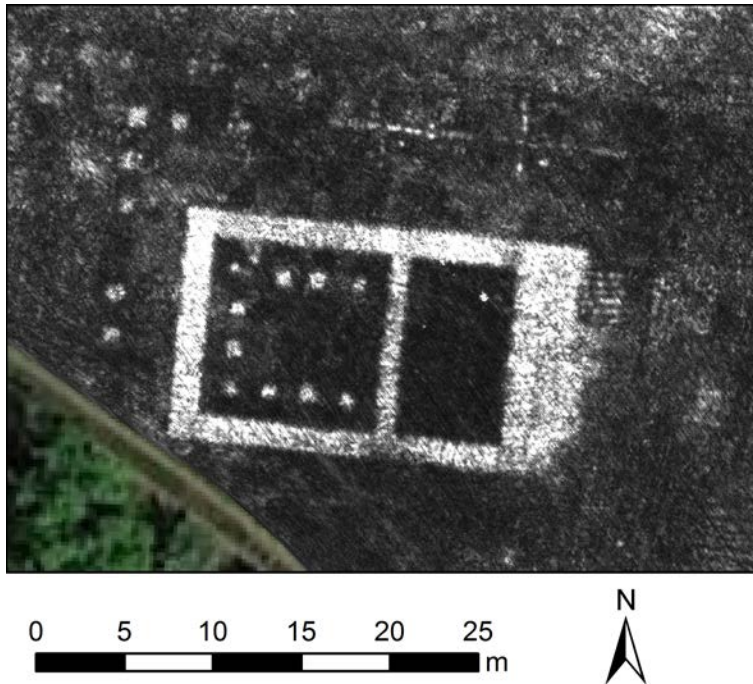


Figure 1: A previously unknown temple at Falerii Novi (depth: 110-115 cm).

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