



Preliminary notes on a survey in Vrsar, Istria, Croatia

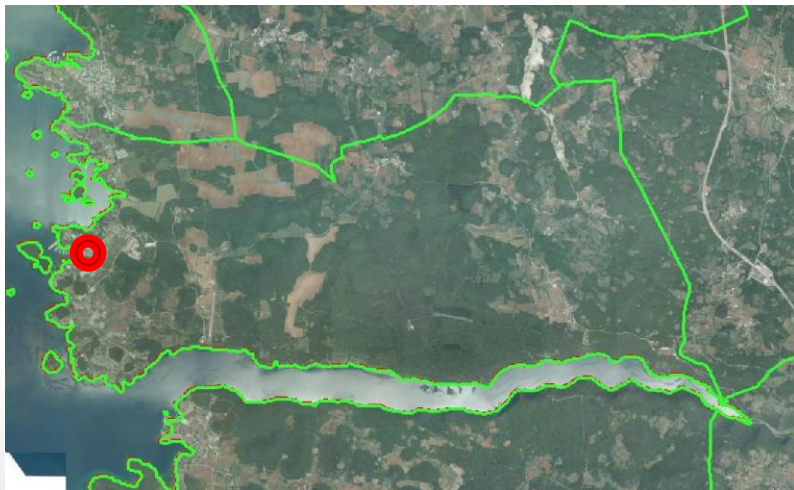
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Vrsar, Istria, Croatia



- The administrative centre, Vrsar (ital. *Orsera*) is situated on a hilltop, 50 m above sea level. It was a prehistoric (Bronze Age / Iron Age) settlement, while in Roman times a coastal settlement (a palatial villa?) was built in the harbour. The inhabitants of the open settlement returned to the hilltop in the Early Middle Ages, and the town existed continuously until today.

Roman Age Transformation and Reuse of Prehistoric Hillforts in Istria – Analysis and Case Study



The objectives of the micro-regional Vrsar area case study:

- identification of human influence and alterations of the landscape
- comprehension of the history of the territory by means of the analysis of a series of natural features and anthropogenic elements
- gathering new information on the spatial distribution of archaeological sites
- to increase the awareness of cultural heritage by public lectures, and by involving the local citizens in the process of data gathering and evaluation
- to fill the gap in the understanding of human-landscape interaction and human transformation of the land, with emphasis on Late Prehistory and Roman Age

The Project is financed by the Croatian Science Foundation (IP-11-2013-2370) and sponsored by the Vrsar Municipality and Montraker Ltd, Vrsar.

- The predominant form of settlement in the area is that of villas, both luxurious (*villa maritima* with mosaics in Vrsar) and productive (*villa rustica* with oil/wine presses in Valkanela).



Fig. 26. Architrave de Valkanela (© Damelet, CNRS-CCJ).

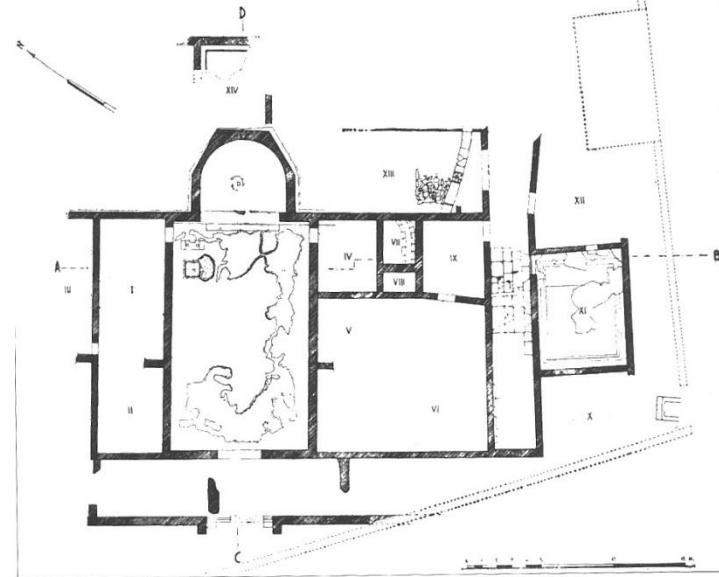
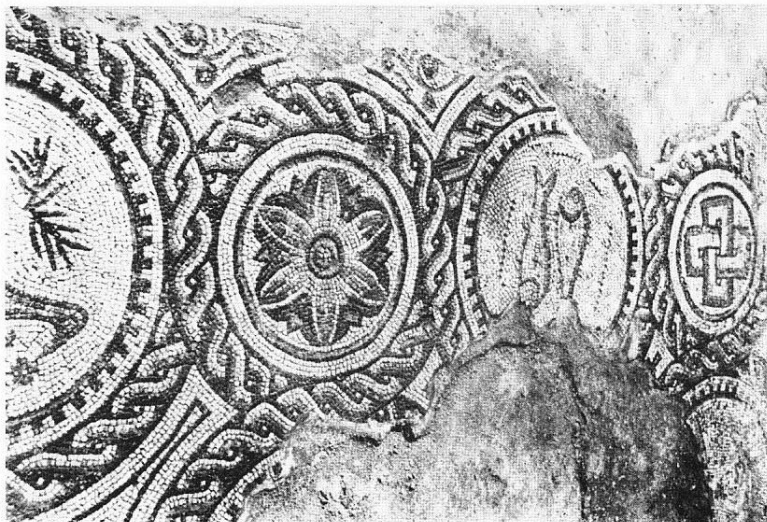


Fig. 33. Plan de la villa de l'Antiquité tardive (Mirabella Roberti 1944a = 1979, 80).

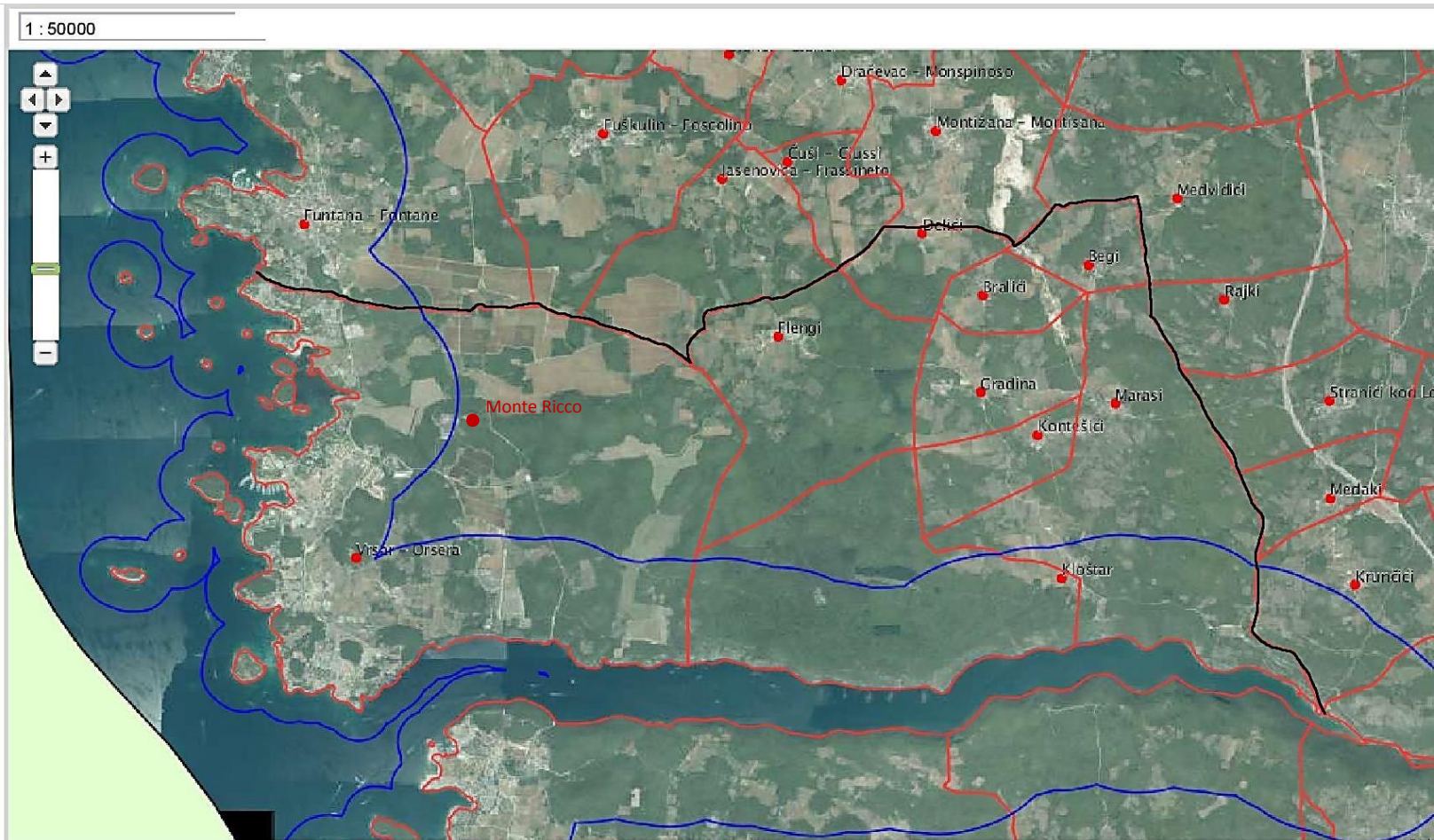


Monte Ricco

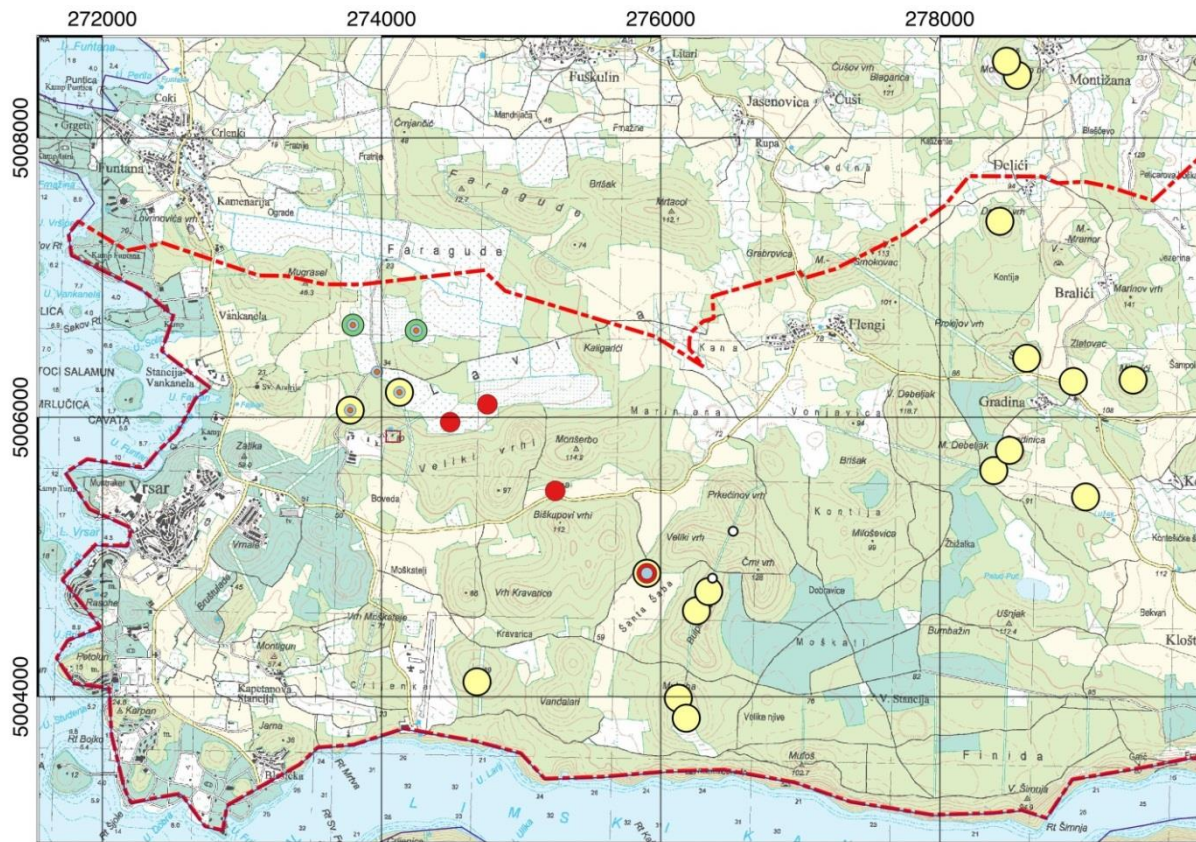


- in the Roman period settlements were of an open type, the known ones being only along the coast
- but no systematic surveys have been undertaken before
- the case study site of Monte Ricco is peculiar - preliminary results of two campaigns show that it was inhabited in the Early Bronze Age and then again at the end of the Iron Age/beginning of the Roman period, but was again abandoned soon after
- one of the goals is to identify anthropogenic landscape change at the time of the conversion of site function

- What happened to the prehistoric hilltop settlements in the transition between prehistory and roman times?
- Why and in what ways were some hilltops used in roman times?



The survey, October 2015



Legenda

— MR_Perim
 VrsarOpcinaPGon

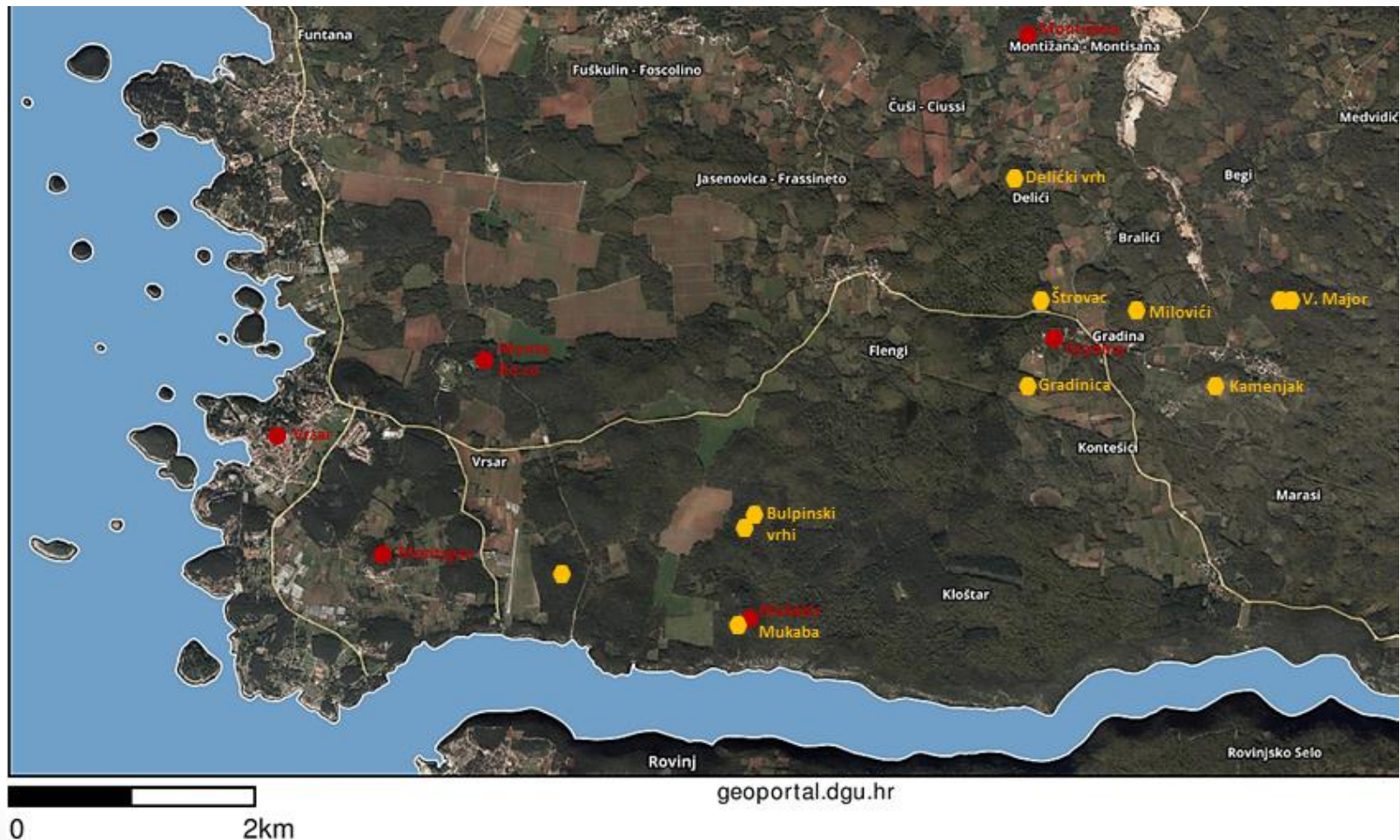
Ricognizione_MR15

- Preistoria
- Età Romana
- Post_Medievale
- Recente
- Venezia/austria
- Romano Possibile

TK25 - Topografiska Karta 1:30'000
 Državna geodetska uprava
 WMS Service <http://geoportal.dgu.hr/wms?layers=TK25>



Hillforts and Burial Mounds



Hillforts



Monte Ricco



Burial mounds



Deliće vrv



Milovići



Milovići



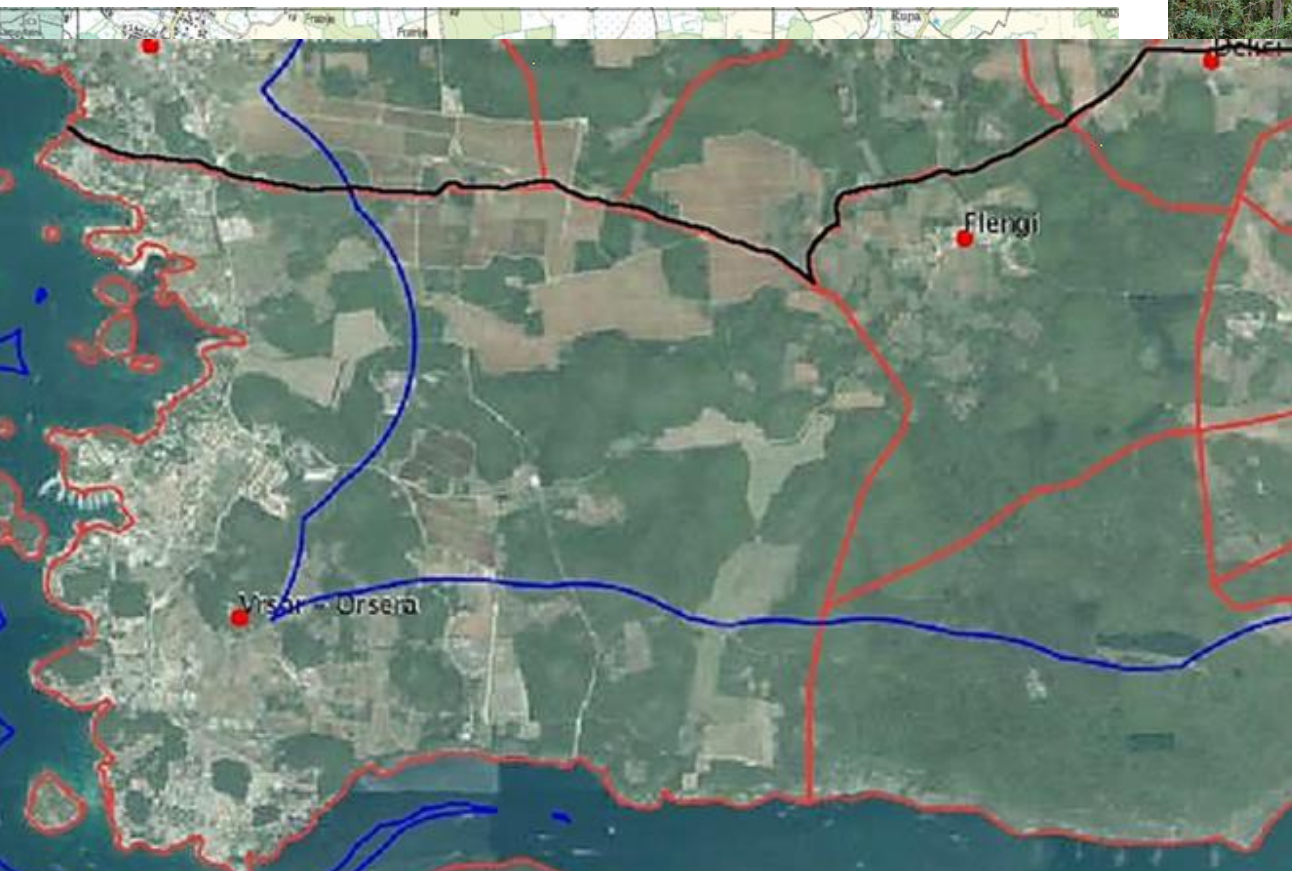
Mukaba



Gradinica

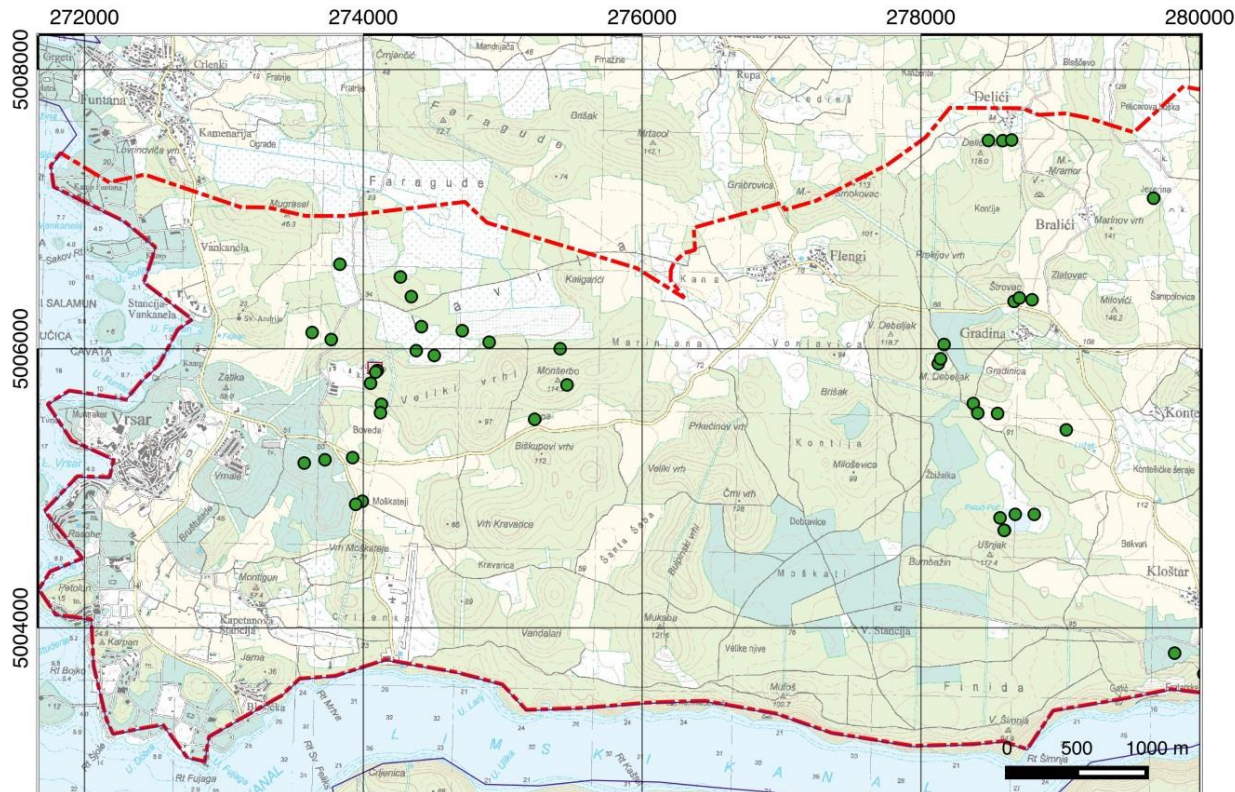
Boundary stones

- Venice, end 18th century
- Austria, after 1813



Soil augering, October 2015

- to identify the main types of soils outcropping in the municipality of Vrsar



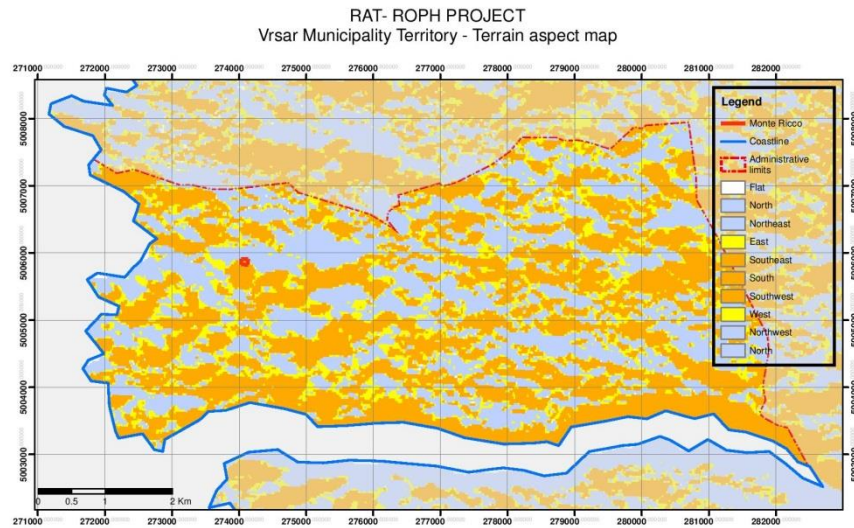
Legenda

- MR_Perim
- VrsarOpcinaPGon
- Soil augering

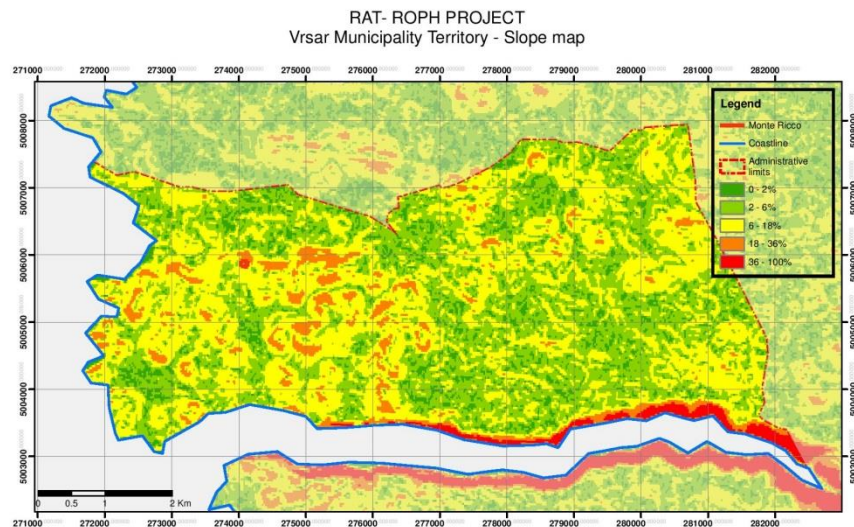


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Future work:



*Aspect indicates terrain exposition to direct Sun light, irrespective of slope



Slope values in percentage
Computed from medium resolution (30 m x 30 m) digital elevation model from global 1-ArcSec SRTM data
U.S. Department of the Interior - U.S. Geological Survey

- more surveying and augering in 2016 - 2018
- linking the spatial distribution of the soil types with the topography of the area - indicates what are the areas best suited to a particular type of crop (also in the past)
- integrating these data with the distribution of archaeological sites will give us a model of possible agricultural use of the land

<http://rat-roph.unipu.hr>

<https://www.facebook.com/hillforts>