

AdriAtlas
et l'histoire de l'espace adriatique
du VI^e s. a.C. au VIII^e s. p.C.

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The consolidation of Roman authority in the hinterland of the northern Adriatic

Jana Horvat

THE OUTLINE OF THE ROMAN ADVANCE

The inclusion of the south-eastern Alpine area into the Roman Empire was a process that took place over almost two hundred years. The main turning points are known from written sources, although overall the picture is still very fragmentary.

The Roman advance started with the foundation of the colony of *Aquileia* in 181 BC and with the occupation of *Histria* in 178/177 BC. The security of *Aquileia* and *Histria* demanded occasional military interventions in the territories of the *Carni*, *Taurisci* and Iapodes, who were settled east of the *Caput Adriae* – in the continental Alpine area and in the north-western Balkans. Only some dates of these campaigns are known, while their accurate geographical context is mostly unclear: the expeditions in 171 BC, 129 BC, 119 BC, and 115 BC, as well as the battle with the migrating *Cimbri* in 113 BC. The Romans ensured control of the Aquileian hinterland mostly by creating alliances with selected Celtic tribes and with expansive trade activities. The most important Roman ally in the area was the Norican kingdom. Until the mid-1st century BC, *Aquileia* was the only important Roman settlement in the area and it controlled a vast territory that extended deep into the Alpine valleys¹.

During Caesar's proconsulship in both *Galliae* and *Illyricum* (between 59 and 49 BC), a military and administrative reorganisation was introduced into the area. New colonies, *municipia*, and *vici* were founded in this period or shortly afterwards: *Tergeste*, *Forum Iulii*, *Concordia*, *Iulium Carnicum*, *Nauportus*, and *Emona*, as well as *Pola* and *Parentium* in *Histria*².

The Octavian war with the Iapodes (35-33 BC) was followed by the annexation of *Noricum* in 15 BC, the occupation of Pannonia in 14-9 BC, and the suppression of the rebellion in Pannonia and Dalmatia in 6-9 AD³. This period saw the concentration of the Roman army in the south-eastern Alpine area, changes in the administrative organisation of the territories, the construction of new communication routes, an intensive flow of immigrants from Italy, the foundation of new settlements, as well as the decline of the autochthonous settlement

- 1 Zaccaria 1992a, 75-83; Zaccaria 2003, 322; Šašel Kos 1997a, 21-31; *Ead.* 2005, 198-203, 321-334, 519-525; Horvat & Bavdek 2009, 132-135.
- 2 Zaccaria 1992a, 82; Vedaldi Iasbez 2000; Šašel Kos 2000a; *Ead.* 2005, 340-342; *Ead.* 2012, 89-90, 100-102.
- 3 Zaccaria 1992a, 86-90; Šašel Kos 1997a, 31-33.

structure⁴. In the first half of the 1st century AD the colony of *Emona* emerged as the most important administrative centre on the north-eastern border of Italy (fig. 1)⁵.

The Romanisation of the coast area differed in many ways from that of the continental region of the south-eastern Alps. In this article, the development of north-western *Histria* will be presented only briefly, while the situation in the hinterland will be discussed in more detail.

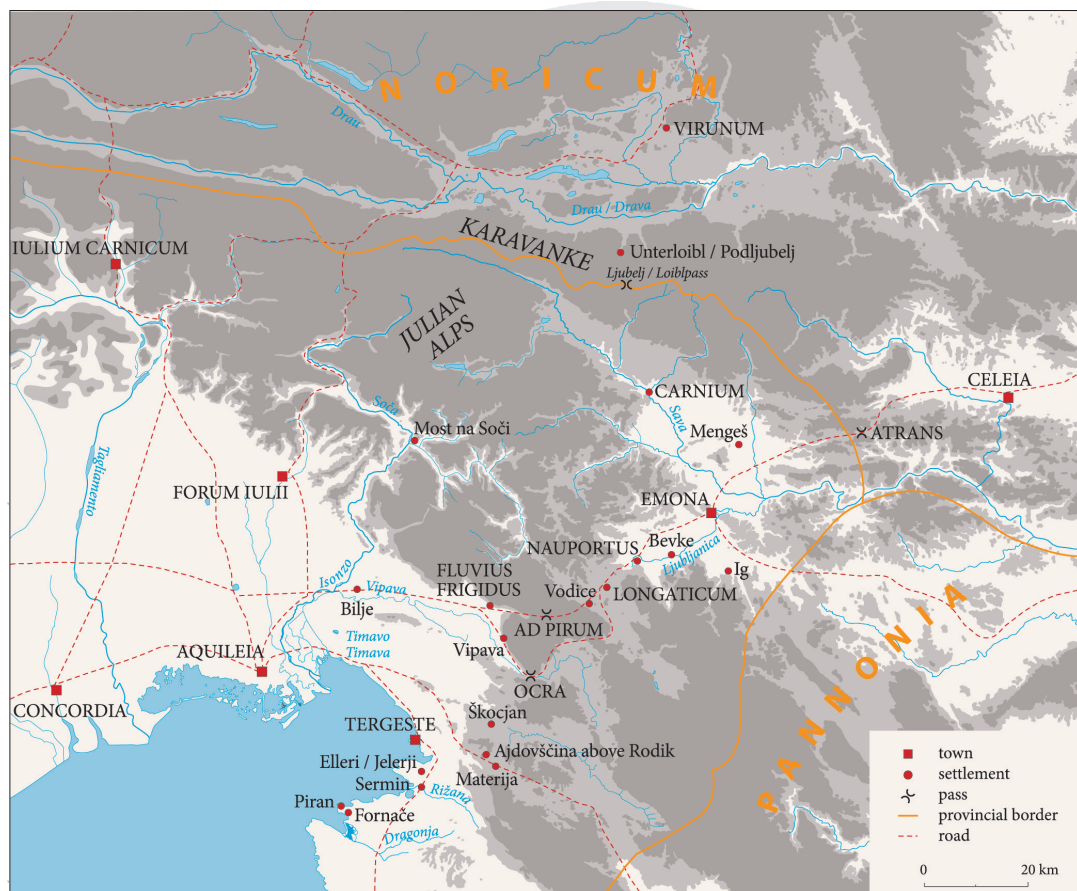


Fig. 1. Roman settlements, roads and passes mentioned in the text.

4 Zaccaria 1992a, 86-90; Šašel Kos 1997a, 33-42; Horvat 1999; *Ead.* 2009.

5 Šašel 1968; Šašel Kos 1995; Vičič 2003; Gaspari 2010; Šašel Kos 2012.

NORTH-WESTERN HISTRIA

Sermin, located at the mouth of the Rižana River, represented one of the strategic key sites on the coast after the Roman conquest of Histria. The site exhibits a long settlement continuity from the Neolithic period onwards. Roman material dominated among the archaeological finds from at least the middle of the 2nd century BC⁶. Several other sites on strategic positions along the coast (e.g. at the sources of the Timavo River⁷ and Piran⁸) that demonstrate a settlement continuity from prehistory to the early Roman period (2nd to 1st centuries BC) might have functioned in a similar way as Sermin – as early Roman emporia.

During Caesar's proconsulship (59-49 BC), a Roman colony was founded in *Tergeste*, at the site of an earlier autochthonous fortification⁹. At the end of the 1st century BC, the boundary of Italy was moved from the river *Formio* (Rižana / Risano) to the river *Arsia* (Raša).¹⁰ Thus all of north-western Histria was incorporated into the ager of *Tergeste*¹¹.

Roman settlements without earlier predecessors appeared along the coast at the end of the 2nd century BC and at the beginning of the 1st century BC (e.g. Fornače near Piran)¹². More or less luxurious *villae* that were centres of large estates had been constructed along the coast and in the fertile river valleys of the Rižana and Dragonja, especially from the middle of the 1st century BC to the first half of the 1st century AD¹³. Intensive cultivation of grapes and olives, and the manufacture of fish products for local and interregional trade prospered in the area during the early Imperial period¹⁴. Local production of ceramics (amphorae, bricks, coarse pottery) is documented as well¹⁵.

Villas with their harbours provide evidence for the importance of maritime communication¹⁶. The inland road from *Tergeste* to *Pola*, which most likely ran along a prehistoric transportation route, was set up during the Flavian period¹⁷. A stone inscription from Materija dated to the reign of Claudius mentions a dispute between C. Laecanius Bassus and the community of Rundictes about the course of the *Aquileia-Tarsatica* road¹⁸. This was the road that ran along the Dalmatian coast¹⁹.

6 Horvat 1997; Sakara Sučević 2008a; *Ead.* 2008b, 440-443.

7 Auriemma *et al.* 2008, 76-107.

8 Stokin & Karinja 2004, 46-48; Sakara Sučević 2008a, 49; *Ead.* 2008b, 444; Karinja 2013.

9 Zaccaria 1992b, 149-152; *Id.* 2001; Vedaldi Iasbez 1994, 406-426.

10 Vedaldi Iasbez 1994, 127-128; Starac 1999, 108-110.

11 Zaccaria 1992b, 163-164; Vedaldi Iasbez 1994, 421-423; the north-eastern frontier: Šašel Kos 2002a, 377-379; *Ead.* 2002b, 254-256.

12 Stokin 1992; Horvat & Bavdek 2009, 65-66.

13 De Franceschini 1998, 433-470, 694-752; Žerjal 2005; Gaspari *et al.* 2007; Poglajen 2008; Stokin *et al.* 2008; Stokin & Zanier 2011; Žerjal & Poglajen 2012.

14 Poglajen & Žerjal 2007; Stokin *et al.* 2008; Žerjal 2008; Žerjal & Poglajen 2012.

15 Zaccaria & Župančič 1993, 164-168; Žerjal 2008, 464-466.

16 Fontana 2001, 655-656.

17 Bosio 1991, 221-231; Žerjal 2005, 264.

18 Zaccaria 2009, 92.

19 Bosio 1991, 218-221.

The inscriptions dated to the second quarter of the 1st century BC provide evidence of an epichoric sanctuary at the indigenous settlement of Jelerji/Elleri²⁰. An important autochthonous centre was also located in Škocjan, probably the original site of a base for a sculpture of Augustus dated to 14 AD²¹. A 1st century BC Roman helmet from the cave of Mušja jama demonstrates the continuity of the sacred places of Škocjan from the Late Bronze Age²².

Many of the old autochthonous hill-top settlements were gradually abandoned during the 1st century AD²³. The cemeteries in the lowland and near the roads, which started at the beginning of the 1st century AD, can indicate shifts in settlement within a small area, from high- to low-lying locations²⁴. However, the central settlement of the tribe of *Rundictes*, which was located on Ajdovščina Hill near Rodik, was abandoned only in the middle of the 2nd century AD²⁵.

THE SOUTH-EASTERN ALPS

Roman military activities

The long distance transportation along the edge of the eastern Alps has been determined since early prehistory by two main routes utilizing the easiest and shortest passages through the hilly region. The so-called Amber Route connected the *Caput Adriae* with the central Danubian plain and the Baltic Sea. The so-called Argonauts' Route along the Sava River enabled transport along the river as well as over land. The two routes joined in the Ljubljana basin (fig. 2)²⁶. However, these routes were not the only possibilities for long-distance and regional traffic. There were many natural connections along river valleys and across mountain passes that have been used throughout time²⁷.

The pass of Razdrto (fig. 6), situated on the Amber Route and called *Ocra* in antiquity, represented a central crossroad on the eastern edge of the Alps. Literary sources, such as Strabo, indicate that intense transport across the pass took place in late prehistory and the early Roman period²⁸.

At the fortified Iron Age settlement of Grad near Šmihel (fig. 6), close to *Ocra* pass, a hoard of Roman weapons was discovered, as well as dispersed pieces of weapons of the same types as those in the hoard. All the weapons can be dated to the first half of the 2nd century BC. They probably represent the remnants of a siege of the settlement, which seems to have been abandoned afterwards. The Roman military action probably had two general

20 Zaccaria 1992b, 154-155, 240-243; Maselli Scotti 1997, 89-119; *Ead.* 2001; Zaccaria 2009, 88-89.

21 Šašel 1975-1976, 611; Zaccaria 1992b, 152, 235.

22 Crismani & Righi 2002, 92-93.

23 Horvat 1999, 225, 252; Žerjal & Poglajen 2012, 110; e.g. Socerb: Casari 2002.

24 Bavdek 2005; Žerjal & Poglajen 2012, 116.

25 Istenič 1987; Vedaldi Iasbez 1994, 272-274; Vidrih Perko 1997; Slapšak 2003, 248-250, 255-256.

26 Šašel Kos 1997a, 34-38.

27 Zaccaria 1992a, 83-84; Horvat & Bavdek 2009, 140-145.

28 Str. 4.6.1; 4.6.10; 5.1.3; 7.5.2. Šašel 1977. Šašel Kos 2005, 424-426. Horvat & Bavdek 2009, 19-22.

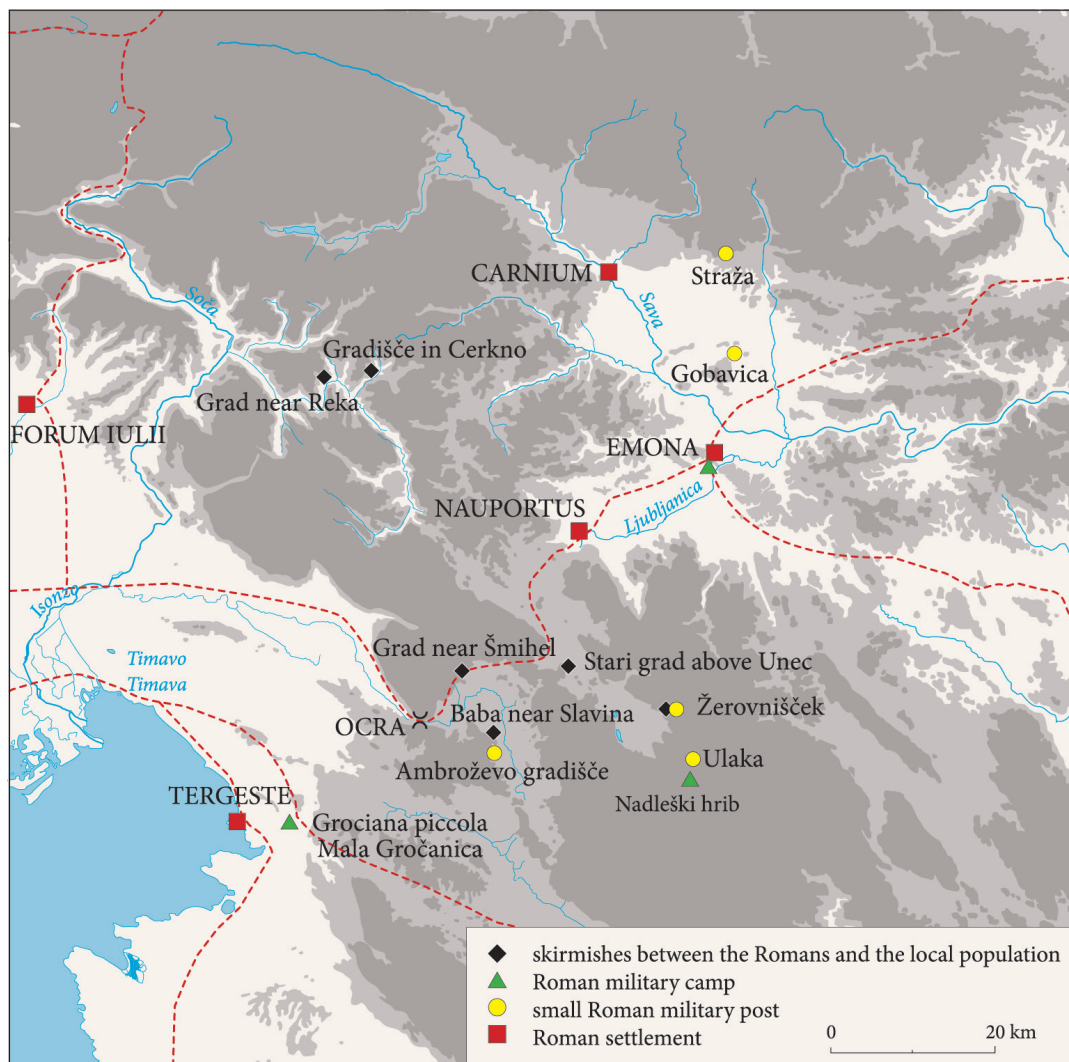


Fig. 2. Traces of Roman military activities in the 2nd and 1st centuries BC.

objectives, to protect the recently founded colony of *Aquileia* and to secure the route over the *Ocra* pass²⁹.

The Roman sites at the Razdrto / *Ocra* pass (Preval, Mandrga, Sušec), dated to the end of the 2nd century BC and to the first half of the 1st century BC, are further proof of the early Roman interest in controlling the pass³⁰. Evidence for mid-2nd century Roman trade con-

29 Horvat 2002; Laharnar 2015.

30 Horvat & Bavdek 2009.

nections in the region is represented by several hoards and individual finds of Roman coins (*victoriati*)³¹.

A pre-Augustan Roman military camp was positioned at Gročiana piccola /Mala Gročanica above *Tergeste*, controlling the transportation route from *Tergeste* to *Tarsatica*³². The camp at Nadleški hrib was located along one of the side routes across the Notranjska/ Inner Carniola region (south-western Slovenia) towards Pannonia and it was used for a short time. It may have been set up in the period of Caesar's proconsulship (the sixth decade BC), or during Octavian's wars in Illyricum, or during the Augustan period (fig. 2)³³.

Traces of skirmishes between the Romans and the local population dating to the second third of the 1st century BC were detected at autochthonous settlements along important routes traversing western Slovenia, specifically at Baba near Slavina – after 74 BC³⁴, Žerovnišček – after 47 BC,³⁵ Stari grad above Unec – after 42 BC³⁶, Grad near Reka and Gradišče in Cerkno – both around 35 BC³⁷. The pre-Augustan or early Augustan Roman army was present at two prehistoric settlements in the Ljubljana basin, Straža and Gobavica (fig. 2)³⁸.

The main army base in central Slovenia of the middle and late Augustan periods was situated at *Emona* (present-day Ljubljana). Two successive military camps have been discovered on the right (eastern) bank of the Ljubljanica River (Prule), in the area of the earlier indigenous settlement. A rampart made of stone and wood and a double defensive ditch belonging to the earlier camp have been excavated. The camp was demolished in the first decade of the 1st century AD. After that, the area was rebuilt with wooden barracks, which formed a part of the later military camp. It was also short-lived – abandoned during the Tiberian period³⁹. Both camps controlled the communication crossroads through the Ljubljana Gate as well as military transport along the Ljubljanica River towards the central Danube basin⁴⁰.

Several late Augustan military camps were also found further down the Sava River, in the area of the Brežice Gate (Obrežje, Čatež, Sv. Urh), along the main route leading to southern Pannonia and *Siscia* (fig. 3)⁴¹.

The presence of the Roman army continues to be detected into the middle and late Augustan periods at several autochthonous upland settlements in the Notranjska region as well as in the Ljubljana basin (Žerovnišček, Ulaka, Ambroževo gradišče, Gobavica, Straža). The existence of small military posts is presumed at these sites (fig. 2)⁴². Small finds of a mil-

31 Miškec 2003; Miškec 2007, 276; Kos & Šemrov 2003.

32 Bernardini *et al.* 2013, 2155-2159.

33 Laharnar 2013.

34 Laharnar 2011, 353, 369-370.

35 Laharnar 2009; *Id.* 2011, 353, 370.

36 Gaspari 2009; Laharnar 2011, 352-353, 369-370.

37 Istenič 2005.

38 Horvat 2015.

39 Hvalec *et al.* 2009; Vičič 2002 - the workshop of the Roman military equipment.

40 Šašel Kos 1995, 234.

41 Guštin 2002; Mason 2008; Istenič 2009, 861; Horvat 2009, 370-371.

42 Laharnar 2009; Laharnar 2012, 230-232, 239-240; Laharnar 2015; Horvat 2015.

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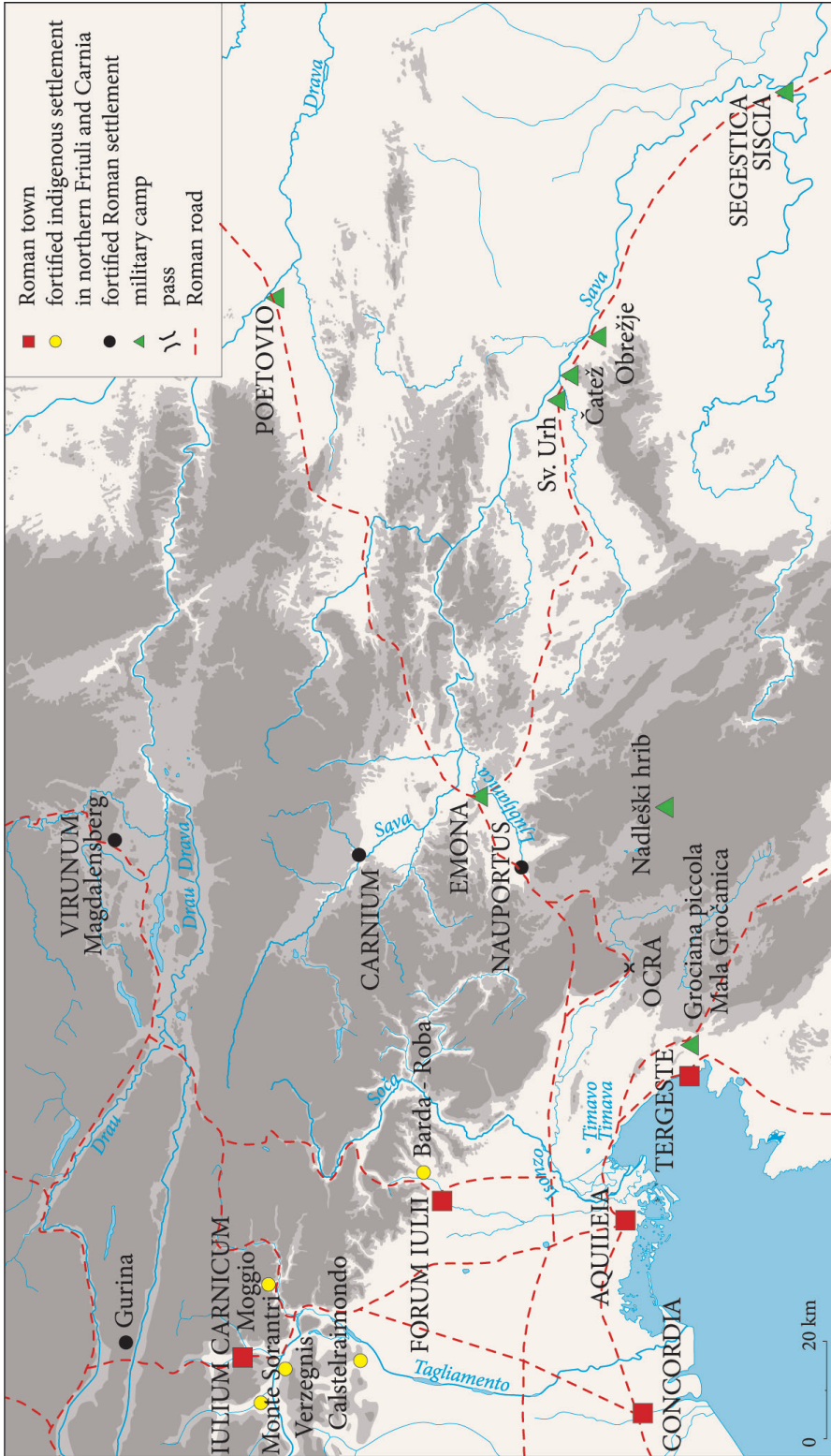


Fig. 3. Roman fortifications in the 2nd and 1st centuries BC.

itary character were also documented in civil settlements established by immigrants from Italy (*Nauportus*, *Emona*, Kranj)⁴³.

The earliest Roman settlements in central Slovenia

The intensive military activities of the 1st century BC probably favourably influenced the development of the first settlements of Roman immigrants and trade posts in the Alpine area, especially those along the Amber Route⁴⁴.

Nauportus

Nauportus was situated at the sources of the Ljubljanica River. Inland navigation along the Ljubljanica – Sava – Danube rivers and its importance for trade is mentioned by Strabo, referring to the 2nd and 1st centuries BC⁴⁵. As attested by the numerous military finds from the Ljubljanica, the river route was intensively used for military transport in the late Republican and Augustan periods⁴⁶. Two Roman barges of late Augustan date have been discovered between *Nauportus* and *Emona*⁴⁷. The rivers Ljubljanica and Sava also functioned as a prominent communication route later, throughout the whole era of the Roman Empire⁴⁸.

From the middle of the 1st century BC, *Nauportus* was a *vicus* under the control of the Italian immigrants. The Aquileian merchant families played the leading role. The fortification, which protected a large marketplace, storehouses and *tabernae*, was erected in the pre-Augustan or early Augustan period at the site of Dolge njive on the right bank of the Ljubljanica River. It functioned as a river port and a reloading trading post (fig. 4)⁴⁹.

A boundary stone, probably of Augustan date, which was found in the Ljubljanica River near Bevke between *Nauportus* and *Emona*, provides evidence that *Nauportus* was located in the territory of Aquileia and that both of the settlements, *Nauportus* and *Emona*, were situated in Italy⁵⁰.

Although transportation along the Ljubljanica was important throughout the entire Roman period, the role of *Nauportus* was greatly reduced from the 1st to the 3rd centuries AD. The fortification of Dolge njive was abandoned during the first half of the 1st century AD. The nucleus of the settlement was transferred to the left bank of the river – along the Roman road⁵¹.

43 Horvat 1990, 114-115, 217, pl. 9: 5-7; 23; Gaspari 2010; Sagadin 2015.

44 Horvat 2015.

45 Str. 4.6.10; 7.5.2; Šašel Kos 1990, 17-20, 143-147.

46 Istenič 2009; *Ljubljanica* 2009, 242-293.

47 Gaspari 1998a; *Id.* 1998b; Čufar *et al.* 2014.

48 Šašel Kos 1994, 110-113; *Ead.* 1997a, 34-36.

49 Horvat 1990; *Ead.* 2008; Šašel Kos 1990; *Ead.* 1998; Mušič & Horvat 2007.

50 Šašel Kos 2002a; *Ead.* 2002b; *Ead.* 2003.

51 Horvat 1990; Horvat & Mušič 2007; Mušič & Horvat 2007.

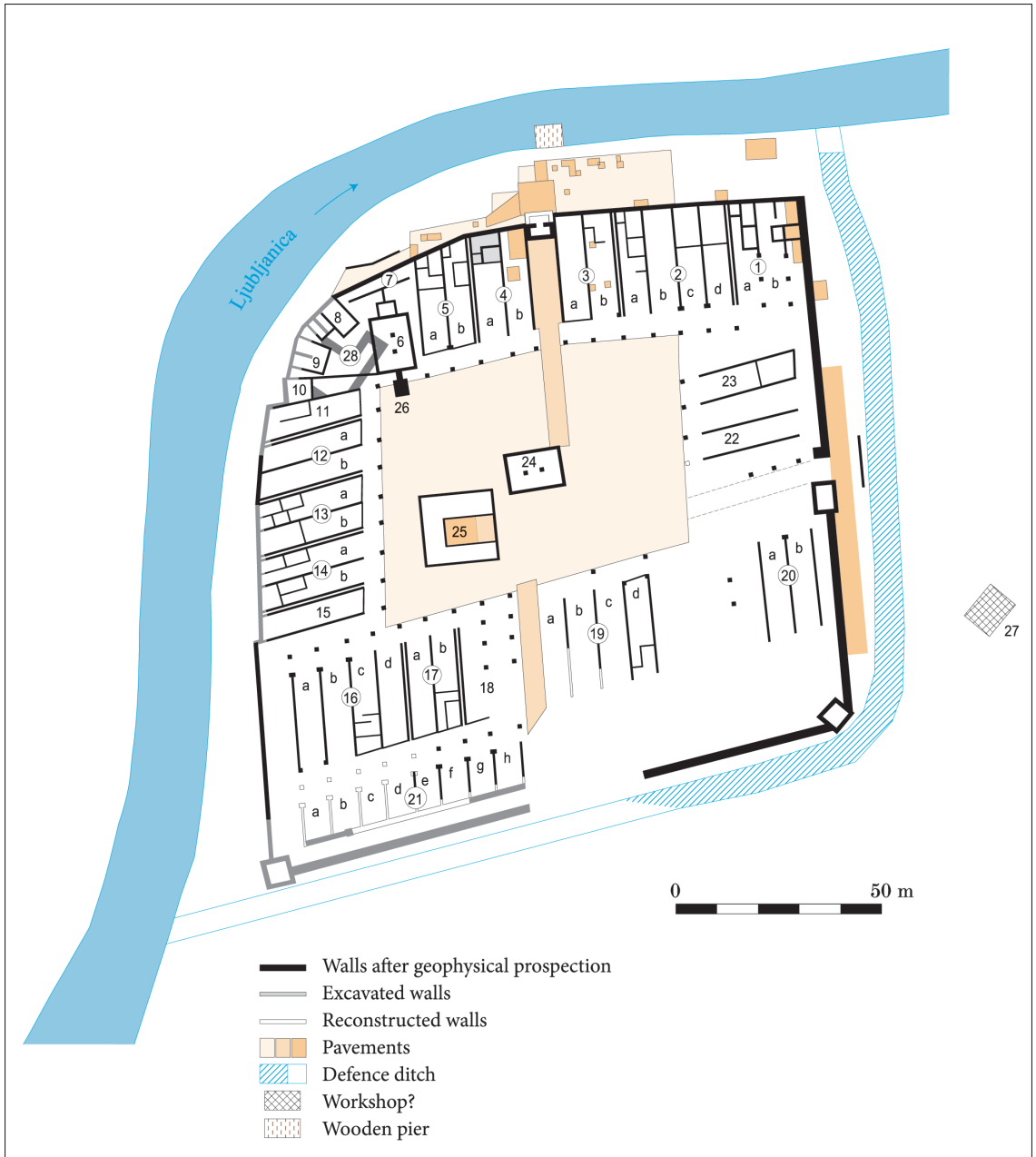


Fig. 4. Nauportus - Dolge njive. After Mušič & Horvat 2007, fig. 39 and Horvat 2008, n4, fig. 4.

Kranj

A settlement of Roman immigrants emerged in the mid Augustan period on a well-protected position above the confluence of the Sava and Kokra rivers. It was additionally fortified with stone defence walls and rectangular protruding towers⁵². Given its geographical position, Kranj controlled the routes from *Emona* to southern *Noricum* (Carinthia) and from *Forum Iulii* towards *Celeia*. It likely played a significant military and strategic role in the region north of *Emona* during the era of the consolidation of Roman authority. The settlement was abandoned after the Augustan period⁵³. Only in late antiquity did the important fortification of *Carnium* develop in the same location⁵⁴.

The early Roman defence system of Italy

The settlements of *Nauportus* and Kranj have special characteristics that connect them to Gurina and Magdalensberg in southern *Noricum* (fig. 3). All four were under the control of Roman immigrants, mostly merchants, from the mid-1st century BC (Gurina, Magdalensberg, *Nauportus*) or from the mid Augustan period (Kranj) onwards. They had naturally protected positions (on the top of a hill or protected by waters) and were fortified in a similar manner, with stone walls and protruding towers⁵⁵. The *Nauportus* fortification seems to be pre-Augustan or early Augustan, while the Magdalensberg and Kranj fortifications were erected in the mid Augustan period. *Nauportus*, Kranj, and Gurina do not seem to be regular bases for military units despite some finds of Roman military equipment⁵⁶. The presence of small military detachments is attested at Magdalensberg⁵⁷.

It is likely that *Nauportus*, Kranj, Magdalensberg, and Gurina formed part of a fortification system that made it possible to control the territory and the main transport routes between *Aquileia* and *Pannonia* or *Noricum* at the end of the 1st century BC. They were located in the hinterland of the camps for regular military troops that were positioned along the navigation route *Nauportus* - *Emona* - *Siscia* (*Emona*, Sv. Urh, Čatež, Obrežje, *Siscia*) and the Amber Route (*Poetovio*). The inner Alpine routes into the north Italian plain were also controlled by fortifications in Carnia that were mostly located at old indigenous settlements (Castelraimondo, Verzegnis - Colle Mazéit, Raveo - Monte Sorantri, Moggio - Colle di S. Spirito, Barda - Roba). The fortified towns of *Caput Adriae* (e.g. *Aquileia*, *Tergeste*, *Concordia*) formed the fourth line of the system (fig. 3)⁵⁸.

52 Sagadin 2003; *Id.* 2010.

53 Horvat 2009, 372.

54 Ciglencečki 1999, 294, 306.

55 Horvat 2010, 145-149; Gamper 2004, 159-163; Gamper 2007; Dolenz 2004.

56 Horvat 2010, 145-149.

57 Šašel Kos 1997a, 33.

58 Horvat 2010.

Roads across *Ocra* and *Ad Pirum*

The oldest road connecting *Aquileia* with *Emona* ran through the Vipava valley, the Razdrto / *Ocra* pass, the Postojna basin, and *Nauportus* (fig. 1)⁵⁹.

A gravel road that was discovered on the *Ocra* pass (600 m asl) can be dated to the period between the mid-1st century BC and the mid Augustan period (fig. 5). A modest building stood near the road in the Augustan period. The small amount of kitchen ware in comparison to fine pottery and common table ware could be a sign that the building functioned as a roadside station⁶⁰.

Sometime after the mid-1st century AD the post at *Ocra* was abandoned. Later archaeological finds are extremely scarce and written sources no longer mention *Ocra* at all. It seems that the transit traffic across *Ocra* declined heavily⁶¹.

According to written sources, a new road across the pass of *Ad Pirum* (Hrušica, 867 m asl) was constructed during the reign of Augustus, probably at the end of it⁶².



Fig. 5. Remains of the Roman road on the Razdrto / *Ocra* pass.
After Horvat & Bavdek 2009, fig. 72.

59 Horvat & Bavdek 2009, 144-147; Vidrih Perko & Žbona Trkman 2003-2004, 20-22.

60 Horvat & Bavdek 2009, 101-103, 126-128.

61 Horvat & Bavdek 2009, 146-147.

62 Rufius Festus, *Brev.* 7; Šašel 1975-1976, 604-606; Vedaldi Iasbez 1994, 101-103.



Fig. 6. View of the northwest part of the Pivka basin: the Razdrto / Ocra pass, the Hrušica / Ad Pirum pass and the prehistoric settlement Grad near Šmihel. After Horvat & Bavdek 2009, fig. 2.

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The section of the road across *Ad Pirum* avoided the *Ocra* pass and shortened travel between *Aquileia* and *Emona* by approximately 25 km (fig. 1, 6). It was constructed through a previously unsettled area – that remained almost unpopulated even after the road started to function⁶³. The earliest archaeological finds from *Ad Pirum* are dated to the second half of the 1st century. A roadside station existed there, presumably from the 2nd century AD onwards⁶⁴.

Two road stations in the foothills of *Ad Pirum*, *Fluvius Frigidus* (Ajdovščina) and *In Alpe Iulia* (perhaps Vodice near Kalce), already functioned at the beginning of the Imperial period. However, at the beginning they could also have been connected with the traffic across the *Ocra* pass as well⁶⁵.

Fluvius Frigidus was an important settlement centre in the fertile Vipava valley, already prospering in the early Imperial period⁶⁶. Massive foundations (the width of the walls was over 1.5 m) were discovered belonging to a building around 25 metres wide and with three

63 Bosio 1991, 201-211; Horvat & Bavdek 2009, 147-149; e.g.: *ANSL* 120-123, 191-192.

64 Ulbert 1981, 39-41; *FMRSI* IV, 13; Bosio 1991, 209.

65 Bosio 1991, 206-210; Horvat & Bavdek 2009, 148.

66 Horvat 1999, 225-226, 252; Vidrih Perko & Žbona Trkman 2003-2004, 45-60.

rooms⁶⁷. A 1st century building inscription on which a *sevir* is mentioned and fragments of stone decoration were probably connected to the same structure⁶⁸. The building could not be dated by stratified finds; however, it was demolished before the construction of the fortification *Castra* in the seventies of the 3rd century⁶⁹. The foundations have been interpreted as the remains of a sanctuary⁷⁰.

There were other relatively important settlements in the Vipava valley in addition to *Fluvius Frigidus*. The tile production centre and roadside station of *Ad Fornulos* was located at Bilje⁷¹, while another settlement emerged in the area of the present-day town of Vipava⁷². The valley was covered by a network of *villae rusticae*⁷³. A tombstone from Ajdovščina gives evidence of public territory (*saltus publicus*) that probably extended into the mountainous area above the valley⁷⁴.

The *mansio In Alpe Iulia* (perhaps Vodice near Kalce) was positioned in the eastern foothills of *Ad Pirum*. The architectural remains have not been investigated, so only a poor selection of small finds is known from the site. According to the coin finds, it seems that the station already started to function during the 1st century BC and prospered till the end of the 4th century⁷⁵.

Mansio Longaticum is located in the area of Dolenji Logatec; however, its archaeological remains are poorly known⁷⁶.

According to the border stone near Bevke, the Aquileian territory at the beginning of the Imperial period probably included both road connections to *Nauportus*, the earlier route across *Ocra* pass and the later one across *Ad Pirum*. Therefore the Vipava valley and perhaps also the Postojna basin would have belonged to *Aquileia*⁷⁷.

Emona

Because of its position on the crossroads of mainland routes and on the navigable Ljubljanica River, *Emona* represented the most important settlement in the region of central Slovenia⁷⁸. The late Iron Age *Emona* was located on the right bank of the river. The settlement strata from the pre-Augustan and early Augustan period and the tombstone of a member of the Caesernii family testify that *Emona* attracted settlers from *Aquileia* as early as the pre-

67 Osmuk 1997, 123-127, fig. 2.

68 Svoljšak & Žbona-Trkman 1986, 385-389, 395-396.

69 Osmuk 1997, 127; Osmuk 1990, 189-190.

70 Petru 1972, 350; Svoljšak & Žbona-Trkman 1986, 389; Vidrih Perko & Žbona Trkman 2003-2004, 48-49, fig. 11.

71 Vidrih Perko & Žbona Trkman 2003-2004, 39-45. Vedaldi Iasbez 1994, 430.

72 Tratnik 2012; *Ead.* 2014.

73 The *villae rusticae* around Loke: Vidrih Perko & Žbona Trkman 2003-2004, 23-31.

74 Šašel 1980, 183-185; Svoljšak & Žbona-Trkman 1986, 389; Zaccaria 2003, 323.

75 Bosio 1991, 209; Frelih 2003, 26; Horvat & Bavdek 2009, 148-149; *FMRSI* III, 95; *FMRSI* IV, 99; *FMRSI* V, 68.

76 Frelih 2002; Frelih 2003, 6-16.

77 Šašel Kos 2002a; *Ead.* 2002b; Zaccaria 2003, 323; *Id.* 2007, 138, fig. 7.

78 Šašel Kos 1995, 230-231, 234.

Augustan period. According to its official name, *Colonia Iulia Emona*, a colony had perhaps been founded already in the time of Octavian⁷⁹. It seems that the civil settlement and the short-lived military camp existed side by side during the mid and late Augustan periods⁸⁰.

In the second decade of the 1st century AD, a new Roman town with an orthogonal grid-plan, a forum, and defence walls was built on the left bank of the Ljubljanica River, outside the previous settlement areas⁸¹. The finds from the earliest layers show that the military was involved in the construction of the new town⁸².

In the first half of the 1st century, *Emona* started to prosper following large investments in construction, immigration from Italy, and the development of favourable social and political conditions in the broader area⁸³. In the same time, some of the nearby potentially rival centres lost their importance – *Nauportus* declined and Kranj was abandoned.

The south-western limit of the *Emona* territory was confirmed by a boundary stone at Bevke, while the boundary with *Pannonia* passed near Višnja Gora and that with *Noricum* near *Atrans*. It is presumed that the Karavanke Alps formed the borderline with *Noricum*⁸⁴. The lack of territory in the south might have been compensated with an extension towards the north. The deceased on a funerary inscription from Most na Soči, dated to the period of the Triumvirate or at the beginning of the Imperial period, was inscribed in the tribus *Claudia*, which was also the tribus of *Iulia Emona*. Claudio Zaccaria postulates the possibility that the *Emona* territory extended as far as the left bank of the upper Soča River, thus including all the Eastern Julian Alps⁸⁵.

North of *Emona*, the autochthonous upland settlements were already abandoned completely at the beginning of the 1st century AD. The strategically important prehistoric site at Gobavica above Mengeš was still frequented during the Augustan period. At the beginning of the 1st century AD, the settlement at Gobavica relocated to the lowland, in Mengeš itself, where an important settlement proceeded to evolve, probably a *vicus*⁸⁶.

A relatively important local centre, a large village, was located in the region of Ig. More than 100 stone monuments with inscriptions were discovered on which the names of the epichoric population are well attested. According to the tools depicted on some of the tombstones, the inhabitants seemed to have been engaged in stonemasonry, woodworking, farming, and metal working⁸⁷.

The fertile plain north of *Emona* (Gorenjska/Upper Carniola) was densely settled with *villae rusticae* between the 1st and 4th centuries⁸⁸. Celtic names and the small amount of stones

79 Vičič 1994; Vičič 2002; Šašel Kos 1998; *Ead.* 2000a, 294-297; *Ead.* 2012.

80 Šašel Kos 2012, 91, 103.

81 Šašel 1968; Vičič 2003.

82 Gaspari 2010.

83 Horvat 1999, 220-221, 249-250; Vičič 2003.

84 Šašel Kos 1997b, 287-288; *Ead.* 2002a; *Ead.* 2002b.

85 Zaccaria 2007, 137-138.

86 Sagadin 1995a; *Id.* 1999; Horvat 2015.

87 Šašel Kos 1997b, 255-286; Ložič 2009.

88 Sagadin 1995b; *Id.* 1999; Horvat 1999, 227-228, 253.

with inscriptions are indicative of the predominance of a poorly Romanised indigenous population⁸⁹. Dedications to gods found in Unterloibl/Podljubelj in the northern foothills of Loiblpass (Ljubelj pass in the Karavanke Alps) and at the pass of *Atrans* attest to the ancient cult practices. The epichoric deities were worshiped in caves and at springs of water⁹⁰.

Numerous small sites in the highlands of the Alps indicate the exploitation of the alpine region for pasturing and probably also iron ore mining⁹¹.

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89 Šašel Kos 1997b, 287-288.

90 Šašel Kos 1999, 20-24; *Ead.* 2000b, 30-35; Horvat 1999, 227, 253; Lovenjak 2007; Josipovič et al. 2012.

91 Cevc 2006; Horvat 2013.

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